

INSIDE/OUTSIDE

CONSERVATION NEWS AROUND THE NORTHWEST

Taking the higher road

Roads connect people to places, but they also deeply affect the connections of our natural systems and the health of fish and wildlife. Roads fragment habitat, help spread invasive weeds, and clog waterways with eroded soil. Yet the negative effects of roads can be lessened. Passages built over or under roads convey wildlife safely across roads, and temporary roads can be decommissioned.

Conservation Northwest is working to address the sometimes thorny topic of roads, from Washington's highway system to roads in our national forests. This summer we teamed with the Washington State Department of Transportation to begin developing a statewide wildlife connectivity plan to make roads safer for people and wildlife.

We're also working with the Wenatchee-Okanogan National Forest to address pressing restoration needs in the forest, creating a tool to help analyze the impact of temporary roads on public lands and wildlife.

Read more online at www.conservationnw.org/wildlife-habitat/roads-and-wildlife/

Cross-Base would pave prairie



The Regional Transportation Investment District project list (Proposition 1) going in front of voters in Pierce, King, and Snohomish counties this November 2007 includes \$30 million for a six-mile, four-lane highway development, the Cross-Base Highway—with another \$60 million for the project to be decided in 2009. All this through the last and best remaining oak-woodland prairie left in Washington, home to threatened wildlife and plants, including Mazama pocket gopher, streaked horned lark, Taylor's checkerspot butterfly, and water howellia.

Learn more at www.conservationnw.org/wildlife-habitat/crossbase/

Doing the right thing for lynx



Lynx, in Canada. Photo © Florian Schulz

Washington State is home to one of the last and largest populations of Canada lynx left in the United

States. Lynx here range from the North Cascades and Loomis Forest east to the Columbia Highlands and Selkirk Mountains. We have a responsibility to ensure that this magnificent animal continues to thrive and recover across the Pacific Northwest.

US Fish and Wildlife Service biologists originally identified Washington as part of the larger area of the West critical to survival of lynx. But political meddling led to the agency slashing by 90 percent the area proposed as potential critical habitat. Areas dropped include all of the northern Cascades, the Kettle River Range, the Selkirks, and an area north of the town of Colville known as "The Wedge."

Conservation Northwest is planning to bring legal action against the agency if it fails to replace its illegal plan and develop a scientifically credible habitat designation that ensures lynx recovery.

Oil and gas sale cancelled, habitat protected for sage grouse

In September, the Bureau of Land Management cancelled an oil and gas sale on lands in eastern Washington, to comply with the Endangered Species Act, National Environmental Policy Act, and other federal environmental regulations. The sale cancellation protects lands including habitat for endangered sage grouse and other wildlife, streams and wetlands, and several areas adjacent to state wildlife areas.

The protest triggering the decision was brought by Conservation Northwest and The Lands Council in a filing prepared by attorneys with the Oregon Natural Desert Association.

BC's spotted owls—on the verge



Northern spotted owls.
Photo © Paul Bannick

A year after a \$3.4 million recovery plan was announced in BC, the northern spotted owl continues to disappear. With only 17 birds left in the province, there's a major worry that the recovery plan may not be able to save the owl.

The plan fails by concentrating on captive breeding rather than protecting habitat. "The danger," says Gwen Barlee, of the Western Canada Wilderness Committee, "is that once they have bred some birds in captivity they will have nowhere to release them, except in clear-cuts."

The BC government is being criticized by conservation groups as well as some government experts for not protecting spotted owl habitat and not following scientists' recommendations. For example, in May 2007 the Squamish Forest District issued a 50-acre cutting permit for the S&M Creek, a valley bottom within a designated spotted owl management area.

While BC officials promise that logging restrictions are in place, with so few owls left some worry that these provisions are not enough, particularly when the BC government continues to prioritize logging interests over habitat protection.

From the Toronto Globe and Mail, May 17, 2007, and The Tyee, September 14, 2007.

I-960 works against conservation

Tim Eyman's latest proposal, Initiative 960, on the statewide ballot in November, would vastly expand the definition of a tax increase. If I-960 passes, every change in state revenue, even routine transfers between accounts, must be called a "tax increase"—even if no one's taxes go up. The State Office of Financial Management expects the initiative to cost annually up to \$1.8 million in public funds to administer, funding which could otherwise

be better spent on conservation and other priorities. It's already a challenge to get policymakers to put more funding into conservation, such as efforts to protect the North Cascades grizzly or to plan for the return of the gray wolf to Washington. If I-960 is approved, it will become much more difficult.

For example, securing funds for key wildlife crossings—for the first phase of the project to improve Interstate 90 at Snoqualmie Pass—was a major victory for the I-90 Wildlife Bridges Campaign, of which Conservation Northwest is a member. But current funding takes the project just part way, from Hyak to Keechelus Dam. If I-960 passes, it will be very hard to obtain the funds needed to build additional bridges along the remaining portion of the highway to allow safe north-south movement of wildlife.

Vote no on I-960. *Learn more at www.wataxfairness.org.*

Day in the life of a remote camera volunteer

For several years now, Sue Madsen has been a leader in Conservation Northwest's Rare Carnivore Remote Camera Project. She writes an account of a recent summer Cascades camera trip.

"Keith and I had a magical trip up Sourdough Ridge this weekend. Perfect fall weather for the trip up the mountain. At Sourdough Creek crossing we ran into a very big, very black bear bathing in one of the small pools. He seemed nonchalant about hikers, showing no fear, but no aggression either. We dubbed him "Fat Boy" as he's obviously faring well on the Sourdough Mountain blueberries.

"Once on the ridge we hunkered down for the night and watched a glorious sun (and moon) set. As the fiery glow over McMillan Spires was waning, an owl swooped down at us—a barred owl, we thought—then came back for another pass so close that Keith threw up and arm to fend him off.



Barred owl captured by remote camera.
Rare Carnivore Remote Camera Project

"The next day we headed off to get the cameras, pausing frequently to scan the surrounding slopes and meadows. All was well at both camera sites.... Came across some intriguing tracks on the way back, which I think must be

from a black bear playing in the snow, since the numerous tracks we saw in muddy areas and tams were all black bear.... Stay tuned for results from elsewhere in the North Cascades.”

To join a project camera team, contact Hudson Dodd at the contact information below.

Conservation Northwest's Amazing Volunteers

This organization's work to keep the Northwest wild is dramatically increased by our dedicated membership and by our passionate and dedicated volunteers—folks like you who care about the future of forests and wildlife in our beloved region. We'd like to thank the following volunteers and interns for their important contributions this summer.

Want to get more involved with our work? Here are three easy ways to get plugged in:

Visit our website: www.conservationnw.org. Click on “Get Involved” then “Volunteer Sign-up Form” and fill out and submit the form with your interests marked. We'll follow up with you as opportunities arise.

Contact one of regional volunteer coordinators to discuss your interests and availability:

Bellingham: Rose Oliver, rose@conservationnw.org or 360.671.9950 x10

Seattle: Gwen Heisterkamp, gwen@conservationnw.org or 206.675.9747 x205

Spokane: Crystal Gartner, crystal@conservationnw.org or 509.747.1663

Eastern Washington: Derrick Knowles, derrick@conservationnw.org or 509.747.1663

Central/Western Washington: Hudson Dodd, HUDSON@conservationnw.org or 800.878.9950 x26

Attend a Conservation Action Team meeting to socialize and take action for one of our current campaigns:

Bellingham Fourth Monday of the month, happy hour, rotating location (next meeting: Mon., Oct. 22, 5:00-7:00 pm, Horseshoe Café, downtown Bellingham)

Olympia Second Wednesday of the month, potluck dinner, rotating location (next meeting: Wed., Nov. 14, 6:00 pm, location TBA at www.conservationnw.org/calendar)

Seattle Fourth Wednesday of the month, happy hour, rotating location (next meeting: Wed., Oct. 24, 5:00-7:30 pm, The Triangle Tavern, Fremont)

Conservation Northwest Volunteers

Interns

Angel Drobnica • Anna Hohl • Candace Hultberg • Cat Dazé • Erin Prendergast • Jennifer Smetzer • Jennifer Zimbrean • Jolahnna Gamblewood • Keisha Bergan • Sandra Ray • William Johnsen • Willow Rudiger

Conservation Action Teams

Amber Knox • Annika Hipple • Art Kaufman • Bob Knosp • Brett Clubbe • Carole Richmond • Carolyn Dobbs • Donna Snow • David Jennings • Erik Fairchild • Kimbrough Mauney • Leslie Romer • Nick Hartrich • Ruth Kaufman • Ryan Harried • Sam Knox • Steve Cross • Susan Mailheau

Office Volunteers

Alan Rhodes • Amy Sinesterra • Ann Price • Ashely McSpadden • Clover Martin • Darren Kavanagh • Doris Ferm • Helen Jenne • Henry Lagergren • Jessica Haffner • Kara Murphy • Michael Hinkel • Susan Rhodes • Taylor Broughton • Terry Clark • Tom McNeeley • Tom White

Public Outreach Volunteers

Alicia Wells • Ann Russell • Audrey Buma • Brian Buma • Cleve Ives • Craig Brooke-Weiss • Eric Bard • Gene Rietzke • Jeralyn Wren • Jim Carlson • Joel Heil • Johnny



Summertime tabling for Northwest wildlife and wildlands. Photo © Hudson Dodd

Grames • Judith Rose • Keith Fredrikson • Kirk Melhorn • Lindsie Fratus • Mercedes Mijares • Oliver Ross • Patty Crane • Paul Knowles • Selah Prather

Hike Leaders

Charmaine Gural • Chris Baldini • Dave Atcheson • Dinah Reed • Holly Weiler • Jeff Lambert • Ken Mondal • Karen Jurasin • Mark Skatrud • Steve Anthes • Todd Dunfield

National Forest Work Party Volunteers

Adam Hoffman • Alan Mortimer • Beth Rogers • Bill Way • Bob Conquergood • Craig Rogers • Cynthia Wilderson • Dave Luders • Dick Vogel • Jane Baker • Juliet Mondal • Karen Jurasin • Kristen Bagley • Laura Schiltz • Lorrie Fleming • Paul Hoffman • Rich Tipps • Rick Mannino • Steve Bierl

Spokane Gala Event Volunteers and Table Captains

Bryan Weeder • Cameron Green • Chris Kopczynski • Christina Mitma • Chuck Fiske • Darin Busch • Dave Sanders • Dinah Reed • Eric Wittenbach • Harvey Berman • Jenne Finnegan • John Allen • John Magoteaux • John Henry Winter-Nolte • Jonathon Isacoff • Jon Snyder • Joni Brooks • Josh Davis • Juliet Sinesterra • Kara Connelly • Kate Conley • Kate Koch • Kelly Chadwick • Kelly McFadzean • Kristina Schoonmaker • Lee Alkire • Lew Persons • Lunell Haugh • Mark Spyder Thompson • Mary Sue Davis • Nancy Lindberg • Patty Crane • Renée Roehl • Riley Finnegan • Russ Vaagen • Ryan Weeder • Scott Knowles • Sue Coleman • Taze Schoonmaker • Tawana Swanson • Tom May • Travis Coletti

Remote Camera Project Volunteers

Andy Chinn • Ben Setter • Bill Whipple • Brenna Forester • Brett Shattuck • Cecilia Biosca • Charmaine Gural • Christina Bielefeld • Dave Moskowitz • Debra Walsh • Dean Drugge • Erik Peterson • Faye Krenkel • Fred Johnston • Gary Caprario • Holly Weiler • Jennifer Justice • Jon Lassing • Kerry Troyer • Jocelyn Aker • Keith Possee • Kyle Swann • Laura Livingston • Mark Rhodes • Patrick McGowan • Paul Brookshire • Rich Krenkel • Scott Schaeffer • Steve Abercrombie • Soraya Dossa • Sue Madsen • Trent Elwing



This summer, the rare carnivore remote camera team spent time near treeline in a search for the elusive North Cascades grizzly bear. Photo © Sue Madsen

Spokane auction thank yous

Thank you to the generous businesses and individuals who donated items to our second Spokane “Hope for a Wild Future” auction and dinner and who made the evening a grand win for healthy ecosystems, wildlife, and communities!

49° North Mountain Resort • All Seasons Café • Amity Guest Retreat • Amy Sinesterra Photography • Angela’s B&B

and Guest House • Anthony’s HomePort • Bicycle Time • Big Mountain Resort • Bing Crosby Theater • Blue Mountain Bed & Breakfast • Boots’s Bakery • BumbleBar, Inc. • Capers Restaurant • Capilano Suspension Bridge Ltd. • Caribou Mountain



Spokane auction staff and volunteers. Photo © Amy Sinesterra

Lodge • Catered for You • China Bend Winery • Chispa • Coastal Revelations • Brian Crain • The Davenport Hotel and Tower • Josh Davis • Desserts by Sara • Dollar Rent A Car / Spokane Vespa • Don Sebastinani & Sons • Europa Restaurant and Bakery • The Fairmont Olympic Hotel • The Fairmont Waterfront • FLOW Adventures • Freixenet USA • Pat Gherard • Glover Mansion • Gonzaga University Catering by Sodexo • Gordy’s Sichuan Café • Cameron Green Catering • GSI Outdoors • Indian Creek Golf Course • INTERPLAYERS Ensemble Theatre • Intiman • Jewelry Design Center • Kandahar Lodge • Lake Coeur d’Alene Cruises • Free Heels • Life Insurance Consultants • Lindaman’s Designer Arts & Framing • Lindaman’s Gourmet • Alex Loeb • Lookout Pass Ski Area • Luna • MFA, Inc. • Marsells Cakes • Mazama Country Inn • Edward Melillo • Mizuna • Montvale Hotel • Mountain Horse Adventures • Moxie • Mt. Spokane Ski & Snowboard Park • Mystery Ranch Backpacks • Rik Nelson • Nordlig Motel • Northwest Map and Travel • Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture • Old Northern Inn Bed & Breakfast • Owens Auction Gallery • Pacific Northwest Float Trips • Persons Consulting • Picabu Bistro • Plants of the Wild • Prestige Lakeside Resort • Priest Lake Golf Course • R&R Custom Photo Lab • Ram’s Head Inn Bed & Breakfast • Red Bird • REI • Revival Lighting • Rings & Things Wholesale • Nancy Ritzenthaler • River Run Inn • Rocket Market • John Roskelley • Ross Printing Company • ROW Adventures • SealLine • Seattle Mariners • Sound Eco Adventures • Spokane Chamber Music Association • Sport Aviation Center • Steele Wines • Stefanie’s Isn’t It Sweet • Tom Douglas Restaurants • Tony’s On The Lake • Twisp River Pub • Vin Rouge • Vino! A Wine Shop • CDF Construction • White Water Winter Resort • Wild Ginger • Wild Sage Bistro • Barry Williscroft • Woodhead Properties • Zumiez • Charles Krug

Our sincere apologies if we neglected to name you or your business and you donated to our auction. Thanks again for your support!