

# INSIDE/OUTSIDE

CONSERVATION NEWS AROUND THE NORTHWEST

## Cross-base back on ballot

As we last reported, the proposed Cross-Base Highway was at first removed from a roads package going before voters this fall. It was a sweet but short-lived victory, when, in a last minute compromise, Pierce County officials and local conservationists added the controversial highway back into the regional transit plan.

Conservation Northwest is not one of the groups who signed on to the agreement, because it does not identify a viable alternative to building the highway, which would destroy one of the last and best remaining south Puget Sound prairies. The plan simply defers the debate and decision over the highway several years into the future, ignoring a viable transportation alternative that exists today. In the meantime, Conservation Northwest is moving forward with litigation over the highway proposal.



Taylor's checkerspot butterfly. Photo © Dana Ross

## Butterfly wild

In May, as part of a cooperative effort to recover the endangered Taylor's checkerspot butterfly, a dozen captive-raised

butterflies emerged from cocoons to flutter away home to equally rare south Puget Sound prairie. The caterpillars, grown from eggs collected in the wild and raised by the Portland Zoo, were released by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Taylor's checkerspot currently lives in only two dozen locations within a historic range that originally stretched from Oregon's Willamette Valley to BC's coastal mountains. The butterflies' decline prompted their listing by the state as endangered; they are also candidates for listing under the federal Endangered Species Act. Some of the healthiest populations of checkerspots remaining in Washington survive in remnant prairies in Thurston and Pierce Counties, particularly in the oak-woodland prairie at Fort Lewis, which is currently under grave threat by the proposed Cross-Base Highway.

## Roadless area protection—how many times do we have to say it?

This year 140 Representatives (including Rep. Jay Inslee), and 18 Senators (including Sen. Maria Cantwell) introduced bipartisan bills to permanently protect America's roadless national forest lands, including 9.3 million acres of Alaska's Tongass National Forest.

The 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule was repealed by the Bush administration in 2005, opening millions of acres of wild forests to exploitation. During an extensive public process, the original rule garnered 1.6 million comments in support of roadless area protection.

The plot thickened last year when the Ninth Circuit Court ruled the administration's rollback illegal and reinstated roadless rule protections. In response, the Bush administration and the timber industry have appealed that ruling.

If passed, proposed roadless area legislation would protect the public's roadless forest lands in perpetuity, including about 2 million acres in Washington state.

*From Heritage Forests Campaign online, 24 May 2007*


## Going green with FSC

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) took a big step forward in sustainable forest management on the westside of the Cascades when it decided to "green certify" 141,000 acres of forest in its South Puget Planning Unit. The area stretches from the Kitsap Peninsula to the Cascades foothills in Pierce and King Counties and includes Tiger Mountain.

Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) approval gives the state distinct market advantages, since wood from these forests can be used in green building projects. Some timber suppliers and mills work exclusively with FSC-wood, and DNR could become a reliable source for them.

We're urging the agency to apply forest stewardship certification throughout their forestlands. It's a direction that helps protect our public forests as places that foster cool, clean water and healthy habitat for wildlife.



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in Seattle through December 31 this year, features stunning images by award-winning photographer Florian Schulz from his book of the same name. The photos illuminate an effort to preserve wildlife corridors from Yellowstone Park to the Yukon Territories, an area that stretches out to encompass the North Cascades and Columbia Highlands of northern Washington state. The Columbia Highlands, which Conservation Northwest is working to protect, is part of “Y to Y” and includes some of the best remaining wildlife habitat in the greater Northwest.

## Freedom to roam

The exhibit, “Yellowstone to Yukon: Freedom to Roam,” hosted at the Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture

The provincial government is currently charged with coming up with a plan to save mountain caribou—whose numbers have dropped to an estimated 1,900 animals—from extinction. Habitat in the Inland Temperate Rainforest is currently being lost to logging, motorized recreation, and road building. Learn more at [www.mountaincaribou.ca](http://www.mountaincaribou.ca)

*From Toronto Globe and Mail, 5 June 2007*

## Lichen hotbed in the Inland Temperate Rainforest

A science team has discovered thirteen lichens new to science in the biologically rich Inland Temperate Rainforest of BC—and that’s just the start. The five-year survey took place in old-growth rainforests near Glacier National Park in the Kootenays and in the Robson Valley near McBride, both prime mountain caribou habitat.

Lichens represent important partnerships of fungi and algae. Many “take up” nutrients from the atmosphere—including nitrogen and phosphorus—fixing them into their tissues, which through decomposition are then available for use by soil organisms and other plants. In the Inland Temperate Rainforest, many lichens are especially important as winter food for endangered mountain caribou. When other food sources lie deeply buried in snow, lichens growing on trees are often the only food caribou have.

British Columbia, thanks to its largely unstudied rainforests, is revealing more previously undiscovered species than any other region on Earth. Here, however, ongoing logging threatens many undiscovered species as well as mountain caribou. Learn more at [www.mountaincaribou.ca](http://www.mountaincaribou.ca)

*From the Vancouver Sun, 28 June 2007*

## Americans’ wild passion

America’s passion for wildlife and the outdoors continues to be a major driver of the nation’s economy, according to results from the 2006 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation, released this year by the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

In 2006, more than 87 million Americans—or 38% of the United States’ population age 16 and older—hunted, fished, or observed wildlife. They spent \$120 billion that year pursuing those activities, an amount roughly equal to Americans’ total spending at all spectator sports, casinos, motion pictures, golf courses and country clubs, amusement parks and arcades combined.

The full report is available at [http://library.fws.gov/nat\\_survey2006.pdf](http://library.fws.gov/nat_survey2006.pdf)

## One for all and all for 21

Conservation Northwest’s colleague organization, ForestEthics, has documented twenty-one endangered species, from grizzly bear to sandhill crane to vivid dancer (a type of damselfly), that share forest habitat with the endangered mountain caribou in British Columbia. Protecting habitat for mountain caribou means protecting habitat for more than just caribou.

## A ruling to protect wild fish

Wild fish won some survival space this June when a federal judge nullified the Bush administration’s 2005 policy to lump hatchery fish with wild fish to assess population health. The court said that hatchery fish cannot legally be included in natural fish population counts when determining Endangered Species Act listings and protections. US District Judge John Coughenour ruled that the ESA is intended to protect and recover species to their “naturally self-sustaining populations in their naturally-

occurring habitat," noting that hatcheries are only considered a temporary measure to help restore depleted runs of fish to historic levels, not a substitution for complete wild fish recovery. Oregon National Wildlife Federation, Trout Unlimited, and a suite of co-plaintiffs were ably represented by Earthjustice attorneys Jan Hasselman, Kirsten Boyles, and Patti Goldman in the successful suit for wild fish.

*From Fishlink SUBLEGALS 22 June 07*

## Conservation Northwest Volunteer Program: Spring 2007



*Protesting the Cross-Base Highway outside a Regional Transportation Investment District Meeting. Photo © Colby Chester*

Volunteers and activists helped make our spring a very productive one! From putting on educational events to speaking out for wildlife at public hearings to writing letters to the editor to working on our remote camera projects to

planning summer hikes... our supporters were active and engaged in keeping the Northwest wild.

The staff would like to thank all our volunteers for their dedicated efforts on behalf of the Northwest's wildlands and wildlife.

To learn about volunteer opportunities with Conservation Northwest, please visit [www.conservationnw.org](http://www.conservationnw.org) and click on "get involved" and "calendar," or contact us:

*Bellingham:* Rose Oliver, [rose@conservationnw.org](mailto:rose@conservationnw.org) or 360.671.9950 x10

*Seattle:* Gwen Heisterkamp, [gwen@conservationnw.org](mailto:gwen@conservationnw.org) or 206.675.9747 x205

*Spokane:* Crystal Gartner, [crystal@conservationnw.org](mailto:crystal@conservationnw.org) or 509.747.1663

*Eastern Washington:* Derrick Knowles, [derrick@conservationnw.org](mailto:derrick@conservationnw.org) or 509.747.1663

*Central/Western Washington:* Hudson Dodd, [HUDSON@conservationnw.org](mailto:HUDSON@conservationnw.org) or 800.878.9950 x26

Three cheers for our hard-working volunteers. Hip hip hooray! Hip hip hooray! Hip hip hooray!

Steve Anthes • Wendy Arness • Dave Atcheson • Sonya Bailey • Chris Baldini • Chris Beamis • Keisha Bergan • Harvey Berman • Tim Bernthal • Cecilia Biosca • Erika Bronson • Blair Brook-Weiss • Craig Brook-Weiss • Paul Brookshire • Sarah Buck • Katie Rose Buckley-Jones • Brian Buma • Gary Caprario • Erica Capuana • Tegan Callahan • Tracy Challman • Colby Chester • Terry Clark • Brett Clubbe • Sue Coleman • Travis Coletti • Bob Conquergood • Ryan Cooksley • Dennis Cowley • Cathy Craver • Steve Cross • Alyssa Cudmore • Rich Curtis • Josh Davis • Josh Davis • Kim Dawson • Amy Dearborn • Megan Delacruz • Hannah Dewey • Carolyn Dobbs • Soraya Dossa • Angel Drobnica • Dean Drugge • Todd Dunfield • Trent Elwing • Andrea M. Faste • Kym Fedale • Matthew Ferguson • Doris Ferm • Pat Fetterly • Tammy Findlay • Naoko Forderer • Brenna Forester • Lindsie Fratus • Jolahna Gamblewood • Wendy Gardner • Dawn Gauthier • Cass Geppert • Darcey Goelz • Charmaine Gural • Sarah Hall • Codi Hamblin • Molly Harmon • Ryan Harried • Nick Hartich • Joel Heil • Lauren Heitmann • Karen Hildes • Larry Hildes • Michael Hinkel • Annika Hipple • Suzi Hokonson • Thomas Holz • Haley Hoover • Chuck Hubert • Wendy Hubert • Letha Hudek • Andrea Hugill • Cameron Hultberg • Candace Hultberg • Gary Ide • Roger Iverson • Sally Jacky • Leif Jakobsen • Fred Johnston • Karen Jurasin • Jennifer Justice • Rachel Kahn • Colleen Kane • Darren Kavanagh • Mary Keeler • Kristen Kerns • Tabitha Kiesel • Bob Klein • Amber Knox • Sam Knox • Faye Krenkel • Rich Krenkel • Kailas Krivanka • Nancy Krivanka • Henry Lagergren • Jeff Lambert • Jon Lassing • Sandi Lauer • Laura Livingston • Dave Luders • Susan Mailheu • Sue Madsen • John Magoteaux • Michelle McKeown • Tom McNeeley • Kirk Melhorn • Juliet Mondal • Kenneth Mondal • Megan Montplaisir • Yuki Nakajima • Jenny Netto • Scott Nonnenberg • Will Patric • Nicolas Payette • Irene Potter • Miguel Ramos • Sandra Ray • Renée Redekop • Paul Reed • Wendy Reilly • Yonk Reinemer • Karelina Resnick • Alan Rhodes • Jesse Rhodes • Mark Walker Rhodes • Susan Rhodes • Nate Rice • Tricia Robert • Leslie Romer • Oliver Ross • Elizabeth Rothman • Willow Rudiger • Misty Saracino • Cathy Sande • Misty Saracino • Kristina Schoonmaker • Brett Shaddock • Scott Shaffer • Melinda Shelton • John Siegel • Mark Skatrud • Jennifer Smetzer • Gina Smith • Donna Snow • Rusty Summy • Abby Sussman • Barb Swanson • Doug Taylor • Martha Taylor • Meredith von Trapp • Kerry Troyer • Brandi Tudor • Jim Tuttle • Judy Tyson • Pam Vail • Megan Velacruz • Dick Vogel • Angela Wallis • Anna Walsh • Keitlyn Watson • Holly Weiler • Karen Weill • David Weinman • Debby Welsh • Bill Whipple • Tom White • Mary Whitmore • Jess Wight • Nathan Wilfert • John Henry Winter-Nolte • Jeralyn Wren • Jennie Zimburean

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*Kids view a snow leopard pelt during Conservation Northwest's auction zoofari.  
Photo © Nathan Wilfert*

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