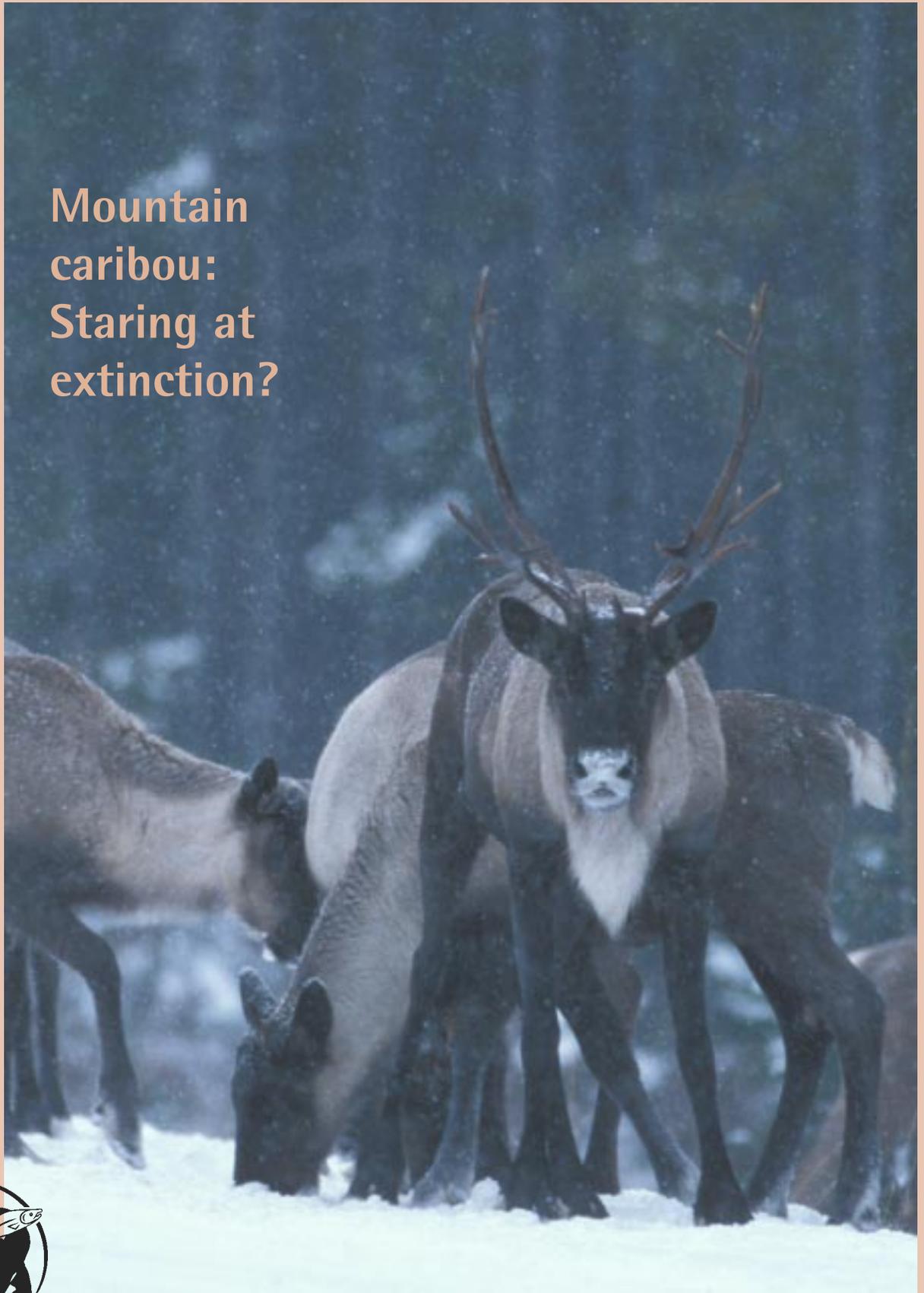


Northwest Ecosystem News

Issue 57 Spring 2004

Mountain
caribou:
Staring at
extinction?





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Northwest Ecosystem Alliance

protects and restores wildlands in the Pacific Northwest and supports such efforts in British Columbia. NWEA bridges science and advocacy, working with activists, policy makers, and the general public to conserve our natural heritage.

Contents

From the director	3
News in brief	4
State trust lands	
Making headway	8
Collaboration and coalition	
Restoration and the Garden of Eden	9
The Cascades Conservation Partnership update	10
Nature thins with wind in Cedar River Watershed	11
Feature: Nature knows no borders: Canada/US	
Mountain caribou, a very cool critter	12
Lichens and the inland rainforest of BC	13
Lower Similkameen Indians steward their lands	15
Inside NWEA	
Staff profile on international conservation	18
Remote camera project expands	20
Interns make NWEA strong	21
June 3rd anniversary celebration	22
Ancient Forest Roadshow off and running	24



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NWEA's text-based action alert gives you the power to take action. Send an email to sympa@onenw.org with the subject line *subscribe wildnw*.

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From the director

Nature knows no borders: Protecting Canadian biodiversity protects American biodiversity

Protecting biodiversity in British Columbia is core to the mission of Northwest Ecosystem Alliance. True, we're an American organization. So why do we care? And, more importantly, why should you care? First, our two countries can't be separated ecologically and second, America's appetite for wood is partially driving BC forest destruction.

If one cares about wildlands and biodiversity, BC is an 800-pound gorilla. And if one is concerned about threats to wildlands and biodiversity in the Northwest, BC is a 8000-pound gorilla with a chainsaw.

That gorilla is Washington's neighbor. We still have populations of large carnivores like grizzlies and wolverines in the ecosystems along Washington's northern border because, at least in part, they are part of larger populations in BC. Sadly, those BC populations are shrinking, along with the wildlands upon which they depend.

The most endangered large mammal in North America is the mountain caribou, of which a few remain in northern Idaho and northeast Washington. They are—or at least were—part of a larger population centered in southeast BC. These caribou, and the interior wet forests they depend on, are disappearing fast.

Northwest Ecosystem Alliance is building a major campaign to protect the mountain caribou and its habitat of interior wet forest in BC and the US. We care not just about the caribou, but about the fate of that entire ecosystem, including the bull trout, lynx, fisher, and grizzly bears that also rely on forests that are succumbing to BC's corporate timber barons.

The situation in British Columbia is very challenging. The present government is concerned with undoing parks and other modest protections set in place by the previous government, and they have no appetite for conserving anything additional.

But lest you think there is only bad news to report from the north, I'm glad to bring you the story of the Lower Similkameen valley (page 15), of southcentral BC. In this area, just north of Washington's Loomis State Forest, NWEA is playing a role in helping protect a magnificent landscape in such a way that can benefit the culture and prosperity of the First Nations people living there.

The account of Dixon Terbasket, a former council member of the Lower Similkameen Indian Band, represents some of the most innovative and exemplary work NWEA has ever done, and I am very proud of it.

Can we build on positive models like the Lower Similkameen to advance protection for larger ecosystems and communities of wildlife and people in the BC interior? With your continued help and support, we believe we can achieve this protection!

Northwest Ecosystem Alliance is building a major campaign to protect the woodland caribou and its habitat of interior wet forest in BC and the US.

No region of Canada better than BC demonstrates the reason for and importance of the dispute being waged between the US and Canada over the softwood lumber trade.

Government subsidies to the BC timber industry allow high logging rates in even low value forests. Those subsidies allow the wood to be sold cheaply to US purchasers, undermining US timber competitors who are also subsidized but not nearly as much.

End those subsidies, and we help save the habitat that caribou, lynx, grizzly, and others all depend on, both in Canada and the US. That is why the caribou campaign is so important, and why it is the feature of this issue of Northwest Ecosystem News.

 Mitch Friedman



Victory! Old growth trees saved in Kachess Campground

The Cle Elum Ranger District of the US Forest Service has decided against cutting the 200-year-old trees in the popular Kachess Campground.



Flying squirrels benefit from big old trees. Photo Janet Alexander, Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley

Because trees in the campground have some natural incidence of root disease, the agency had proposed cutting all trees larger than 6 inches diameter. Not anymore! Your letters paid off. Northwest Ecosystem Alliance and its members had urged the Forest Service to use good science and a rational approach, and remove only trees that pose a risk to recreationists. The Forest Service will spare the old growth and remove only those trees that pose an immediate risk.

Kachess is home to a diversity of plants, small mammals, and birds, including woodpeckers and a spotted owl

pair. It's also the only known location in the Pacific Northwest of the rare fungus *Acanthophysium farlowii*, a crustose, disk-shaped fungi which lives on recently dead twigs of spruce, fir, and Douglas fir.

The Forest Service's decision to continue with their annual hazard tree removal rather than cut all large trees balances the need for public safety with protection of wildlife habitat and preservation of the character of a favorite campground—truly a win-win situation. Thanks to all of our members who took action to help protect this important place!

Okanogan saved from new mill, but not mining—yet

Current owner Kinross (of Toronto, Canada) has dropped plans for a new mill, though not its plan to underground mine Buckhorn Mountain. The company first proposed to build a cyanide leach mill and tailings facility in Beaver Canyon in the heart of the Okanogan Highlands. That plan was met last year by strong public opposition. Many of our members responded to our alerts to help protect Beaver Canyon: thank you.

Kinross dropped that plan, proposing now to transport the cyanide-leach milled ore along Marias Creek Road to the Echo Bay Mill which it owns near Republic.

While a clear victory for residents and visitors of the Beaver Canyon and Chesaw area, significant issues still remain regarding the new mine proposal.

Kinross submitted an amended plan in February to the Forest Service and Washington Department of Ecology. The new plan calls for another round of public comment on a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the project. It is expected that public comments will be accepted for 45 days beginning April 1. *For more information, contact www.okanoganhighlandsalliance.org.*



Future snag, not just charred timber. Douglas fir killed in fire-affected forests in the Squaw Mountain Roadless Area within the Biscuit fire burn. Photo by Rolf Skar

Biscuit post-fire logging boondoggle

A Forest Service plan to drive the largest timber sale in modern history into the heart of southwestern Oregon's Siskiyou Wild Rivers area is faltering. More than 23,000 people from across the nation submitted comments on the draft plans—voicing overwhelming support for protection of the area and opposition to the extreme post-fire logging scheme. The logging plan has also been publicly blasted by the Environmental Protection Agency,

the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Forest Service's own Pacific Northwest Research Station. The logging plan is quickly becoming an embarrassment to the Bush administration during a critical election year.

A Final Environmental Impact Statement is due out around May 1. Without legal intervention, logging could begin in early summer. Your continued help is needed to protect the biologically-rich wildlands of the Siskiyou. *For more information, or to take action, go to www.siskiyou.org.*

Spotted owl review continues

Public meetings continue on the five-year independent review of the status of the northern spotted owl (NSO) in the Pacific Northwest. The first public meeting held in December focused on impacts to NSOs from barred owl competition, which have been greatly underestimated since the NSO was listed as a threatened species in 1990.

The second meeting in early March discussed spotted owl habitat associations and habitat loss. This meeting revealed how little the federal agencies actually know about the amount of NSO habitat lost since the time of its listing. The final

continued next page

meeting scheduled for May will discuss NSO genetics, population characteristics, and demographics. The timber industry filed a lawsuit resulting in this review requirement. They would like to see the northern spotted owl removed from the Endangered Species List. *For more information, email Susan Ash at sash@audubonportland.org.*

Environmental restoration brings income and jobs

Environmental restoration has become a major industry in Humboldt County, California, bringing in \$65 million between 1995 and 2002 and employing 300 people. That's the result of a major new study done by the nonprofit firm Forest Community Research. The study also shows that a complex web of groups, agencies, tribes, and businesses has formed to handle projects meant to improve fisheries and ecological health. *Eureka Times-Standard, 3/17/2004*

Good news for lynx: Bottle Springs salvage stopped

The Okanogan/Wenatchee National Forest has cancelled proposed salvage logging of the Bottle Springs Fire area, which burned on the Tonasket Ranger District in the summer of 2003. That protects the land from logging for Canada lynx, a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act.

The efforts of Northwest Ecosystem Alliance and our colleague organizations also stopped the misuse of new rules enacted by the Bush administration. The new rules allow salvage logging projects smaller than 250 acres to be conducted with no opportunity for public review afforded under an Environmental Assessment. The roadless nature of this area and the presence of lynx made the new rules inappropriate.

Bad news for lynx: Northern Rockies Amendment

The US Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) have drawn up alternatives for amending the management of lynx habitat in the Northern Rockies. The Forest Service's preferred alternative, Alternative E—dubbed the “Why Bother” alternative by conservationists—is a result of the recent federal fire legislation put in place by the Bush administration.

Alternative E undermines almost all standards in the Lynx Conservation Assessment and Strategy, turning them into easily disregarded “guidelines.” It allows uncontrolled snowmobile grooming, encourages thinning (thinned stands are bad for hares, favored food of lynx), and drops grazing as a concern.

The agency plans to fold the amendment into the rewritings of forest plans for 18 national forests and 4 BLM

units. If the preferred alternative is accepted for lynx habitat in the Northern Rockies, it will likely be rapidly adopted for lynx habitat in the Cascades, Kettles, Salmo Priest, and Selkirks ranges of Washington. Proposed timber sales such as the successfully averted Bottle Springs salvage sale (see report this page) could not have been stopped with this preferred amendment in place.

Please ask the USFS and BLM to follow the lead of their own scientists and adopt Alternative B which keeps in place the current Lynx Conservation Assessment and Strategy written by a team of federal scientists when lynx were listed in 2000.

To comment by April 15, please write:

Northern Rockies Lynx Amendment
Northern Region Headquarters
PO Box 7669
Missoula, MT 59807

Email: comments-northern-regional-office@fs.fed.us

Your comments make a difference!



The illusive North Cascades grizzly, a paw print photographed in 1991. *Photo courtesy GBOP*

More grizzly bears, please!

Results of a recent grizzly bear poll of residents living east of Highway 9 in Whatcom and Skagit counties might surprise some city folks. Of those polled, 76% support the return of grizzly bears to the North Cascades. Today fewer than 15 bears are estimated to live in the 10,000 square mile North Cascades ecosystem. The Grizzly Bear Outreach Project (GBOP), which conducted the poll, works to promote an accurate understanding of grizzly bears and their recovery in the North Cascades. *Visit www.bearinfo.org.*

Wilderness: The Next 40 Years

Past Successes, Threats, and Lessons Learned

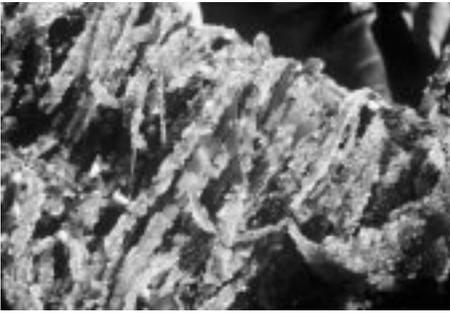
Friday-Saturday, April 23-24, 2004
The Mountaineers Building
300 Third Avenue West
Seattle, Washington

The 2004 Northwest Wilderness Conference will celebrate the 40th year of the National Wilderness Preservation System and the 20th year of the Washington and Oregon Wilderness Acts.

Keynote speakers include: Doug Scott, Policy Director, Campaign for America's Wilderness; Chris Morganroth, III, Quileute Tribe; Elizabeth Furse, former Oregon Congresswoman; John Miles, Professor, Huxley College, WWU; Bill Meadows, President, The Wilderness Society; and Nancy Shea, Director, The Murie Center.

For more information, or to register: www.2004wilderness.org/location.html.





Cherry Point herring spawn covering eelgrass.
Photo by Kurt Stick (WDFW)

Cherry Point herring: Here today, gone tomorrow?

In January, Northwest Ecosystem Alliance and other conservation groups requested federal protection for Cherry Point herring under the Endangered Species Act. Once our state's largest herring population, Cherry Point herring have plummeted by 90% over the last three decades and are not recovering.

Cherry Point herring are a distinct population of Pacific herring (*Clupea pallasii*) that spawn along the open shoreline north of Bellingham. Its unique spawning location and timing have reproductively isolated the Cherry Point herring from other Puget Sound herring. Unlike herring that migrate out to sea, young Cherry Point herring move to estuaries, freshwater influenced environments, to feast on copepods there.

Its breeding and rearing behavior make the Cherry Point herring particularly vulnerable to shoreline development and pollution. Already, two major oil refineries and an aluminum smelter near Cherry Point have directly affected herring spawning grounds through dock construction and operation, outfall discharge, vessel traffic, and disease and foreign species introduced from ship ballast water.

Accidental spills of oil and other poisons also pose a considerable threat to Cherry Point herring. More than 70 spills have dumped tens of thousands of gallons of crude oil over the herring's spawning grounds since the Cherry Point refineries were built in 1973, according to Fred

Felleman with Ocean Advocates. One big oil spill during spawning season, he says, could completely wipe out the remaining herring in this area.

Despite numerous state and federal policies intended to protect marine resources, Cherry Point herring are on a trajectory toward extinction. The state's recent "Aquatic Reserve" designation for the Cherry Point area, for instance, not only allows existing industrial operations to continue unabated, but also allows new and potentially destructive construction of a huge Gateway Terminal development as well as a pipeline across Georgia Strait.

Pacific herring as a species are a critical food source, comprising some 71% of the diet of lingcod and 62% of the food source for chinook salmon. NWEA's science director Dave Werntz points out some grim facts. "If we lose them, much of Puget Sound's wildlife that rely on them for sustenance—from chinook salmon to sea lions, porpoise, and orcas—will face even greater hardship."

Federal protection for the herring will halt the loss and degradation of its habitat, generate new research and conservation measures, and facilitate the recovery of the Cherry Point herring and its habitat—which is critical to the health and function of the Puget Sound ecosystem.

On the backs of salmon

On March 23 the Bush administration announced final rules that eliminate Survey and Manage provisions and weaken the Aquatic Conservation Strategy in the landmark Northwest Forest Plan. The new rules open up thousands of acres of federal old-growth forest to industrial logging and put dozens of rare species at high risk of local extinction.

The new report *On the Backs of Salmon* provides real world examples of places that have been protected and restored by the Aquatic Conservation Strategy. The report can be found online at: www.nwoldgrowth.org/InfoStation/infostation2.cfm?doctype=briefingdocument.

Grove Guardians' success

Gifford Pinchot timber sales withdrawn, old growth saved

The Gifford Pinchot National Forest (GPNF) has withdrawn several of their most destructive timber sales threatening mature and old-growth stands as part of a lawsuit settlement reached with Northwest Ecosystem Alliance and others, and thanks to the combined advocacy of dozens of volunteer activists called "Grove Guardians."

Sales cancelled by the settlement were Swell, Lock, Alpha, Beta, and Omega. These proposed sales would have eliminated habitat for all manner of sensitive species, degrading salmon runs and adversely affecting prime recreation areas such as the Pacific Crest Trail.



NWEA Science Director Dave Werntz pantomimes bear behavior for Grove Guardians near a bear scratch tree on the GPNF. Photo by Hudson Dodd

In response to citizen pressure and closely on the heels of the settlement victory, the GPNF management has continued to withdraw other planned sales that would have entered older stands. The GPNF withdrew the sales Tag and Point—and most recently, the Acci timber sale. All contain public forests that are hundreds of years old.

On March 26 Northwest Ecosystem Alliance held a fun celebration in Seattle at Hale's Ales Brewpub in Ballard honoring Grove Guardians and their victories protecting old growth. Constant vigilance pays off!



Chalk one up for chinook!

We are pleased to announce the successful resolution of our appeal of the Sky Forks Timber Sale on the Mt. Baker–Snoqualmie National Forest. The Forest Service had proposed thinning 375 acres of second growth on the Snoqualmie Ranger District, including about 100 acres in Salmon Creek on roadless ground surrounding one of the region's most productive for chinook salmon and bull trout spawning areas.

We generally support thinning densely stocked plantations to increase structural and species diversity, but we appealed this sale because aggressive thinning in this naturally recovering forest was expected to alter stream flow in Salmon Creek for up to 15 years, and make changes to basin hydrology that could harm up to three full generations of endangered salmon and trout.

We withdrew our appeal after the Forest Service agreed to drop the roadless units along Salmon Creek. They will proceed with thinning non-roadless acres in Salmon Creek, some previously managed stands in Barclay Creek, and a few units above the town of Skykomish.

Dosewallips: Saga of a swallowed road

Two years ago and again this winter, the Dosewallips River, swollen from rainstorms, simply swallowed a 300-foot section of the Dosewallips River Road, completely ending motorized vehicle access a few miles from the Elkhorn Campground. The road closely follows the meandering Dosewallips River and bisects the Brothers and Bighorn Wilderness Areas on the Olympic National Forest.

The Forest Service immediately proposed rebuilding the road in the river bed. To protect endangered salmon and trout, NWEA and other environmental groups urged the agency to instead decommission the road at the washout and convert the road to a recreational trail for hiking, biking, and other travel.



Dosewallips River road washout.
Photo by Regan Smith

Now the Forest Service proposes to reroute the road through adjacent old-growth forest, cutting about 200 old-growth trees and the habitat they provide for marbled murrelet and others. The stability of the new road would be questionable at best due to the locally unstable soils, and could dump sediment directly into prime salmon and trout habitat.

The Forest Service cites car access to Elkhorn Campground as reason to restore this road. Yet ten additional national forest campgrounds in the immediate area are already directly accessible by car.

Converting this road would add five miles of new trail, providing a good day trip that would still allow access to Olympic National Park. Removing the road would reconnect wilderness areas, while restoring pristine river habitat for endangered salmon species. NWEA will continue to pressure the Olympic National Forest to take the ecological path less taken and turn this road into a trail.

Cascadia animated maps

Northwest Environmental Watch has released animated maps of three decades of sprawl and ancient forest fragmentation in the Pacific Northwest. A sobering yet powerful outreach tool, the maps help us understand why all remaining mature and old-growth forests deserve immediate protection and why broad scale restoration is needed elsewhere. Among other regions featured is the Inland Rainforest of BC. Go to www.northwestwatch.org/scorecard/maps.asp.

Alaska kills wolves

At least 114 wolves have been killed in Alaska this winter, attracting 50,000 protest messages. Gov. Frank Murkowski ended a decade-old ban against the aerial hunting program when he entered office, ostensibly to increase the moose population. Animal protection groups are considering renewing a boycott of Alaska around the hunts.

Canadian SARA update

The Canadian government is now saying that consultation with landowners, loggers, and others before listing a species is a major step toward implementing the new Species at Risk Act (SARA).

Scheduled to be in full force in June, SARA already lists 233 species, but scientists have determined that another 73 species—including the woodland caribou, wolverine, polar bear, humpback whale, and spiny soft-shelled turtle—are at risk of extinction and should be added. *Information thanks to www.stopextinction.org.*



Mountain caribou on a lake bed in BC's interior rainforest region. Photo © Bill Swan

“I’ll be back”

A wolverine sighting in Michigan comes 200 years after the last time this rare carnivore had been seen in the state. A member of the weasel family, the wolverine grows to only about 25 pounds but is ferocious enough to fight off bears and wolves. The predator once ranged across the northern and western United States before it was trapped out by fur traders.



Legacy tree on Blanchard Mountain.
Photo by Jonah Keith

DNR Doubles the Cut

In March the Board of Natural Resources instructed DNR to increase logging of state trust land forests by about 38% over the current cut. Staff had assured them that this level of cut would have “no” environmental impacts. The decision follows a winter marked by hearings throughout the state, when citizens ventured out on dark, rainy nights to demand that the Department of Natural Resources protect state old growth. We may have lost this battle, but the struggle will continue!

Lake Whatcom needs you

On April 6 the Lake Whatcom Landscape plan goes for a vote before the Board of Natural Resources (BNR). The plan, supported by local governments and citizens, allows some logging while prioritizing water quality and public safety. **Please contact** the Board of Natural Resources at bnr@wadnr.gov or write to them at: Washington Board of Natural Resources, PO Box 47001, Olympia, WA 98504. Ask them to vote for the preferred alternative put forward by the citizen’s committee.



Go to www.ecosystem.org/statelands/grazingreport.html for a copy of *Trampling the Trust*, our report on DNR’s grazing program

Making Headway Protecting State Trust Lands

This year in the legislature we worked for three gains on our state trustlands: adoption of a new definition for older forests, “green certification” of our state trust lands, and an audit of DNR’s grazing program. We also worked to make tolerable SSB 6144, the “forest health” legislation put forward by Senator Morton. We removed language requiring a pilot project to log in the non-NRCA portion of the Loomis State Forest.

Old Growth and the DNR

In January Commissioner of Public Lands Doug Sutherland made a remarkable announcement: DNR would protect old growth on state trust lands. He’d decided, he said, it was time to protect old growth on state lands, after hearing from citizens during recent public meetings who spoke out on the cut level.

The DNR wrote that “The proposed policy would be the first time all of Washington’s old-growth stands have been officially protected from clear cuts.” An important first step—but the devil is always in the details. What DNR actually proposed was that old growth wouldn’t be *clearcut*. They intend to thin stands of old growth, and to harvest legacy trees (singularly occurring or remnant old growth trees). And shunned from protection is the Olympic Experimental Forest, where large stands of our state’s old growth remains.

Even so, the Board of Natural Resources dismissed the agency’s proposal, apparently wanting *no* restrictions on old growth logging. We will continue to track this situation.

We worked this session to insert language in the Capital Budget to find and define statelands old growth, a first step toward protecting it. The **Old Growth Budget proviso** brings together scientists with a staff member each from DNR and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) to define old-growth forests. Once defined, DNR is required to conduct an inventory based on the new definition. Stay tuned.

Green certification: Foiled again

Northwest Ecosystem Alliance worked this year with other environmental organizations, most notably Washington Environmental Council, to introduce legislation requiring DNR to “green certify” our trust lands under Forest Stewardship Certification. Unfortunately, the legislature reduced the bill to certification study, only. An earlier study by DNR decided certification was too expensive; it’s unlikely that a new study by the same agency will yield a different result.

Testimony yields grazing audit

Public lands grazing has long been a public concern; cattle damage endangered species and sensitive habitats and spread noxious weeds. It’s also a public lands money pit: DNR’s grazing program is subsidized by other programs, most notably trust lands logging. This year Rep. Hans Dunshee held a hearing on DNR’s grazing program in the House Capital Budget Committee. Seth Cool of Northwest Ecosystem Alliance testified about the program’s non-competitive process and costs that exceed 56% of revenues. Terry Cunningham, resident of Stevens County, described damage to his property from cattle and grazing allotment holders.

In response to the testimony, Rep. Dunshee added language to the Capital Budget requiring a legislative audit of DNR’s grazing program. That study will begin soon.

Contact Lisa McShane, community relations director, at lmcsane@ecosystem.org, 360.671.9950 x17



Collaborative Restoration and the Garden of Eden

Collaborating is like gardening. An immense amount of time and energy goes into planting, watering, weeding, cultivating, and finally the fruits of those labors are often the sweetest of all rewards! Moreover, the process of gardening—playing in the dirt, watching seeds sprout, and the pride of fruition—is good for one’s soul.

Collaboration is exactly the same. It requires a significant investment of time and energy, and requires lots of patience and care, but in the case of our involvement in collaborative processes, eventual success will ensure the future health of our forests. In the meantime, building new relationships with past adversaries, and creating a new direction in forest management, is indescribably satisfying to an activist’s soul.

On the Gifford Pinchot National Forest, NWEA staff continue to meticulously compost the collaborative soil, and we expect robust results this summer. Two restoration projects for which the Collaborative Working Group received funding are on track to begin this summer. One of these projects, the Cat Creek Restoration Thin, will use new “stewardship contracting” legislation to retain the money made from wood by-products to do more restoration work in the project area. We are also working with the University of Washington to make sure that our treatment implements the best available science while incorporating a detailed monitoring plan so we can continue adaptive management.

The Collaborative Working Group was also approached by the Forest Service to write a “Collaborative Timber Harvest Alternative” for the Smooth Juniper Timber Sale. Members met several times over the winter to design an alternative that would avoid controversial aspects like logging in unroaded areas, while incorporating treatments to restore complexity to simplified forests. The Forest Service figured that an alternative written by all involved stakeholders would have the best chance of avoiding future appeals and litigation. While the Forest Service is not bound to choose the collaborative alternative when making their final decision, the process proved to be an excellent exercise in communication and problem-solving.

In addition to on-the-ground projects the Collaborative Group is working closely with communities adjacent to the forest. In February, we sponsored a Contractors Workshop to provide ideas of the types of projects that will be offered on the forest in the upcoming years. More than 40 contractors attended, mainly from Lewis and Thurston Counties. A brief survey we circulated also provided us with a good idea of the types of skills and equipment each contractor has so the Collaborative Group and the Forest Service can work together to design projects for which local contractors can successfully bid.

Finding ways to work together is the newest trend that academics, bureaucrats, and practitioners are touting religiously—sort of like the self-help books that have become all the rage on best-seller lists. NWEA is proud to be one of the groups who is actually making collaboration work on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest.

Regan Smith, conservation associate working on forest restoration and collaboration, can be reached at rsmith@ecosystem.org, 360.671.9950 x18



Members of the GP Collaborative Group identifying young plantations in need of silvicultural treatment. Left to right: Bill Little (Lumber and Sawmill Workers), Red Rogers (retired logger), Chris van Daalen (restoration consultant), Bob Guenther (Thurston-Lewis Central Labor Council), Regan Smith (NWEA), John Squires (Destination Packwood Association), Pete Nelson (University of Washington), Dave Olson (Forest Service), and Steve Freitas (Forest Service). *Photo by Fred Noack (Gifford Pinchot National Forest)*



For more on the collaborative effort spearheaded by Northwest Ecosystem Alliance, visit www.ecosystem.org/nationalforests/collaboration

The efforts of NWEA staff, working with the Gifford Pinchot Collaborative Working Group, have given the Forest Service a new vision: conduct business that avoids controversial old-growth and roadless logging, while restoring forests simplified by past clearcuts.





In 2000, Northwest Ecosystem Alliance, the Sierra Club, and others forged a partnership to protect wildlife habitat and old-growth forests left on checkerboard private lands—mostly timber company lands—in the Central Cascades. Today The Cascades Conservation Partnership has raised \$16 million from 16,700 people and persuaded Congress to contribute more than \$56 million, protecting 34,000 acres of forest habitat in the heavily logged Central Cascades.

View of little Salmon la Sac Creek drainage, one of the four remaining "I-90 option lands." Davis Peak (upper right) and the Waptus River valley in the background. *Photo by Dave Atcheson*



The Cascades Conservation Partnership update **I-90 Lands High on List**

Sawmill Creek parcel protected

A December auction at the Dale Chihuly Boathouse raised just over \$100,000 to apply toward the purchase of a key parcel of forest at Sawmill Creek. We'll put our funds together with Tacoma Water's and bring this 302 acres of old forest habitat into public ownership by the end of March. That will be a moment to celebrate, even as two additional partial sections at Sawmill Creek await federal funds.

President releases FY2005 budget

It's disappointing, if not surprising, that the President's new budget request is again weak on land acquisition. The administration failed to request funds for the Carbon River near Mount Rainier National Park, the Tieton River near Yakima, and the Wallace River in the proposed Wild Sky Wilderness. Nor does the budget include acquisitions along the Pacific Crest Trail.

The request does include \$2 million for the I-90 option lands, forestlands important for wildlife and recreation near Salmon la Sac. These are our top priority for the year, but we'll need to work with our allies in Congress to boost the appropriation to \$3.4 million. See "Take Action" at www.cascadespartners.org for how you can help!

I-90 expansion between Hyak and Easton

The Washington State Department of Transportation is preparing a proposal to expand Interstate 90 between Hyak and Easton. That's in the heart of The Partnership's area of focus, so we're paying close attention. By incorporating bridges and other structures that allow wildlife passage at strategic locations, the project has the potential to improve wildlife connections while making travel safer and more efficient.

The Partnership will support the project only if it provides wildlife passage of the highest standard in this critical habitat bottleneck, and you can help ensure that it does. A draft environmental impact statement is due out this summer. For more information, see www.cascadespartners.org.

David Atcheson directs The Cascades Conservation Partnership.
Contact him at 206.675.9747 x207.

Biodiversity Northwest update

Nature Thins with Wind in Cedar River

It was a remarkable 20 hours of thinning in the Cedar River Watershed: thousands of trees down—upwards of 14 million board feet—and about 110 acres of new openings in the lower watershed, varying in size from three-fourths of an acre to 60 acres. Was this the work of Herculean contractors performing ecological thinning to promote diverse habitats? No, it was a “massive natural treatment” courtesy of Mother Nature and the wind storm of December 4, 2003.

On that day, winds gusting up to 85 mph knocked out power to 170,000 people in the Puget Sound area and toppled trees from Sequim to Enumclaw, which declared a state of emergency. The lower Cedar River Watershed was hit hard, but maybe with positive results. UW Forest Ecologist Jerry Franklin’s first response when seeing aerial photos was, “this could be a good thing—[the wind storm] poked some holes and added diversity.”

Since then, watershed managers have been assessing the event and its implications while contractors cleared downed trees off roads and rights-of-way. Did the wind storm in fact accomplish some of the goals of the nascent ecological thinning program? Is there risk of a widespread Douglas fir bark beetle outbreak with all the downed trees? Might a salvage operation be required to “protect drinking water quality, protect public safety, prevent significant damage to natural resources, or avoid significant failure to meet habitat objectives” under the terms of the Habitat Conservation Plan?

According to Jim Erckmann, watershed ecosystems manager, “the event itself is representative of a natural process that, in this case, provided the kind of habitat heterogeneity that we are striving to produce with thinning.” He added that habitat diversity will increase as some additional standing trees die and become snags.

Erckmann noted, however, that analysis is not complete and there is no decision yet on backcountry salvage. While entomologists do not see a high risk to standing green trees, case-studies are scarce; there is “essentially no experience with such an event for which down wood was not salvaged.” The Cedar River Watershed is perhaps uniquely suited to provide that experience. Another major event could change the equation, Erckmann said, and the city will closely monitor additional tree mortality.

The storm’s immediate effect on the ecological thinning program has been to delay it. The 700 Road project was up next, but now it’s likely the city won’t implement that project until next year. This allows more time for the public to learn about and provide input on the project, possibly in conjunction with a field visit this summer or fall. The strategic plan for ecological thinning in the watershed—now in the works—may also be affected by what managers are learning from the wind storm. We’ll keep you posted.

David Atcheson serves as secretary of the Biodiversity Northwest board of directors. Reach the board at david@atcheson.net.



Blowdown under a residual forest canopy that occurred in the winter storm. The blowdown varies in volume of trees down and covers approximately 5900 acres in the watershed. Photo by Seattle Public Utilities Watershed Management Division, Ecosystems Section Staff

Errata: In the last issue, we reported that the 700 Road project involved cutting some trees up to 28" in diameter. While the prescription does allow for creating snags out of a few live trees of that diameter, the cut limit is set at 19". We also reported that there would be roads in the plan, but according to Cedar Watershed staffer and terrestrial ecologist Sally Nickelson, no new roads will be built to complete the project.



Last summer Northwest Ecosystem Alliance joined member forces with the Seattle-based advocacy group Biodiversity Northwest. Restoration and protection of the Cedar River Watershed is one of the projects that Biodiversity Northwest and its members worked on closely. We continue to follow progress in the watershed.



Mountain Caribou Close to

“Regardless of season, mountain caribou are virtually always found in landscapes dominated by old-growth forests. In fact they must have these forests to survive.”

—from *Strategic Planning Tools for Mountain Caribou Conservation*



Mountain caribou habitat in the Goat River drainage, interior rainforest, BC.

Photo by Doug Radies

Caribou are cool. Their name is cool. Caribou is the clumsy French pronunciation of the Algonquin word, *xalibu*, which means “pawer” or “scratcher.” They have a very cool look, with a magnificent gray “cape” around their necks, which becomes longer in the adult males and is set off by a chocolate brown coat in autumn. They sport big hooves, twice the size as those of a moose, an animal more than twice the size of a caribou. This unique adaptation acts like a snowshoe and enables caribou to walk on top of snow instead of floundering in it. Small ears, tail, and snout round out the package and minimize heat loss. And then there are the antlers. Unlike their ungulate cousins, both caribou sexes have them. Cool. The adult male’s are especially dramatic, sometimes reaching 1.5 meters across, and endowed with big “shovels” which protrude over their heads.

They are without doubt among the planet’s most evolutionarily creative ungulates, able to thrive in habitats where their cousins—deer, elk, and moose—would not be happy. Some variety of caribou has found a home in some of the wildest, most inhospitable places in the world, from well north of the Arctic Circle to the southern terminus of inland temperate and boreal forests. Ironically, it is a close caribou relative, the reindeer, that has adapted to domestication and has provided a critical source of meat and milk for generations of Lapp and other indigenous peoples. Pretty cool.

If you get close enough to them you can hear the tendons in their feet snap when caribou walk, as the tendons roll around a small bone in their foot. Like high tension rubber bands, the tendons keep the caribou’s feet in an upright position.

Born wanderers who need old growth

In almost all cases caribou survive by moving. Born wanderers, some—like the boreal ecotype of woodland caribou (for example, the famous Porcupine herd of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge)—make epic journeys from wintering grounds in the boreal forests of northern Alaska and Canada to calving grounds on the shores of the Beaufort Sea.

Others like mountain caribou make what biologists call “seasonal elevational shifts” (“migrates” to different altitudes during the course of the winter) to access food sources and to avoid predators. Another ecotype of the woodland caribou, mountain caribou have developed a lifestyle that enables them to survive in the unique inland temperate rainforests of interior British Columbia and parts of Washington, Idaho, and Montana. It has adapted specifically to the very old, so-called “wet belt” forests of the Columbia Mountains.

This behavior enables the mountain caribou to take advantage of its late winter food sources, horse hair (*Bryoria* spp.) and old man’s beard (*Alectoria sarmentosa*), arboreal lichens that grow only on old-growth trees. These lichens are low in protein but provide just enough nutritional value to get the caribou through the Columbia Mountains’ winters, when the snow is deep enough to cover other, ground-based foods. Their behavior gives them a leg up on wolves

MOUNTAIN CARIBOU PROJECT



Visit the new website for mountain caribou, www.mountaincaribou.org

Extinction: Why Should We Care?

Antique Rainforests, Rich with Lichens

The inland rainforest of southeastern British Columbia is one of Canada's most endangered ecosystems. This globally unique, wet temperate forest is found along the windward slopes of the Columbia and Rocky Mountains, hundreds of kilometres from maritime influences. The forests are created by air masses that move eastward across interior valleys, picking up moisture that is ultimately released over BC's interior mountain ranges. This heavy rainfall results in forests of western redcedar and western hemlock that are up to 700 years old.

Scientists studying the inland rainforest have revealed that certain stands have escaped fire for hundreds—even thousands—of years. The oldest of these stands, where the age of the forest as a whole is significantly older than the age of the oldest tree, have come to be known as "antique." Antique forests represent the ultimate in ecological continuity and, as such, harbour an unparalleled diversity of organisms.

Despite how ecologically interesting and globally rare these ecosystems are, most research into the structure, community composition, and ecosystem functioning of the inland rainforest is relatively new. Even

newer are attempts to characterize tree-dwelling organisms like mosses, lichens, and insects. Lichens have captured the lion's share of canopy level study; a phenomenon likely due to their importance as forage for the endangered mountain caribou. However, excepting the point of view of the caribou, there may be a more interesting lichenological story to tell.

The ecological continuity that results from up to a thousand years without fire has resulted in microhabitats tailor-made for lichens; organisms that generally cannot tolerate a rapidly changing environment, and appear to be extraordinarily picky about where they end up. While there are certainly lichens that are better adept at surviving in a more fluctuating environment and that are found throughout the inland rainforest, many of the species living in the inland rainforest are locally rare and are found in only the wettest reaches. Such species include cryptic paw lichen (*Nephroma occultum*) and half moon lichen (*Sticta oroborealis*). These, and other species, are collectively referred to as "oceanic"—a reference to their preference for maritime conditions and their more common



Lobaria pulmonaria—The color comes from green algae, a symbiotic component of this important inland rainforest lichen. Lungwort also contains blue-green cyanobacteria, which allows it to fix nitrogen from the air—nitrogen then liberated through decomposition and leaching to other forest organisms.

Photo © Darwyn Coxson

occurrence in coastal environments—and are predominantly found in antique stands.

The older the forest, the better

And so it seems, from the perspective of a lichen and of a caribou depending on certain lichens (especially *Bryoria* spp.) that become more abundant over time, the older the forest, the better. The big problem with respect to conservation of old forests in the inland rainforest, is that it is difficult to distinguish old forests (several hundred years old), from those that are truly antique, because these forests are older than any living trees in them. Live trees this old are often hollow in the centre and cannot be accurately aged through growth rings, and other techniques are either ineffective or laborious and expensive. The absence of an accurate aging method makes use of an indicator of stand age necessary in our management of antique stands and rare lichens.

Long known as indicators of air pollution, lichens are emerging as indicators of forest age. But not just any lichens; some species are found in so many different places that their presence cannot reliably be used

and cougars as well, who can't get into this high country without trails pounded down by snowmobiles for example. Very cool.

If you count animals that are crossing a highway, I've only once seen mountain caribou in the wild. But I have been fortunate enough to get close to their relatives in the north. They are curious, almost fatally so, especially in areas with few human visitors. They also tend to sleep on their feet in broad daylight like old horses in a pasture. Once on a hike in Denali National Park my girlfriend and I topped a ridge and came face to face with a small herd of young bulls. After a couple seconds, they trotted directly at us in that inimitable caribou gait. At the last moment they broke into two groups and ran around us, like thoroughbred trotters strutting their stuff, close enough so that we could hear their snapping tendons and little grunting noises. It was beautiful. And cool.

Mountain caribou are in trouble

Caribou are cool but they need our help. As you read this, their inland temperate rainforest home is being carved up by timber companies and their populations have plummeted. What we do as backcountry recreationists and the choices we make as buyers of wood affect caribou health and survival.

continued on page 14

continued next page





Tagged caribou released by its wrangler near the Kootenays. Photo by Trevor Kinley

continued from page 13

as an indicator of forest conditions. Others are so rare that many forests otherwise possessing antique conditions may still lack them. Besides, there are so few forest workers capable of identifying rare lichens that, as a group, they cannot be effectively used as a management tool.

Luckily one lichen has recently been identified by scientists as a potential indicator. This species, called lung lichen (or *Lobaria pulmonaria*), is commonly found and so is readily recognized by most people accustomed to being in the inland rainforest. What makes it a good indicator is its habit of growing more abundantly in older and moister forests, conditions that also result in high diversity of other, more rare, species of lichen. This means that when you are walking through the forest and happen to come across a stand of cedar and hemlock with branches festooned with *Lobaria pulmonaria*, you should take a closer look around. You might just find some other rare and interesting lichen species and maybe, just maybe, you are walking through an antique stand of the inland rainforest.

Lichen biologist **Jocelyn Campbell** works for The Fraser Headwaters Alliance, an organization dedicated to stewardship of wilderness areas in the Robson Valley of British Columbia

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Saving mountain caribou will not be easy. The pro-business Liberal government in BC has shown little willingness to say no to any of the industries that covet mountain caribou habitat, whether it is for logging or for motorized backcountry recreation. Proposed logging cutblocks, heli-skiing, and snowmobile tenures cover the caribou forest map. From 1950 to 1990 BC's forest road system has expanded by a whopping 4100% to 35,000 kilometers (21,750 miles). Most logging has occurred in the last 30 years as BC's industry becomes ever hungrier for scarcer wood.

But as Americans we have the power to influence the direction of Canadian forest policy. Canadian timber companies need US markets as much as mountain caribou need old-growth forests. Since we are partly driving deforestation in Canada through our voracious appetite for cheap wood, we have the power to turn that appetite into a tool for conservation. Likewise with motorized recreation. Americans form a large part of the heli-skiing and heli-hiking crowd.

What you can do!

Call on the governments of British Columbia and Canada. Tell them to cease all logging and road-building in mountain caribou habitat, and to limit commercial recreational development. Use the action center at www.mountaincaribou.org, or write:

Hon. Gordon Campbell, British Columbia Premier
Parliament Buildings, PO Box 9041
Stn. Prov. Govt., Victoria, BC V8W 9E1
E-mail: premier@gov.bc.ca

We can also influence the timber industry and logging practices through our wallets. Buying only wood certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) for your building projects helps mountain caribou as well as all denizens of Canadian forests. If your local lumber yard doesn't stock FSC wood, ask them to do so.

As a second best option, buy as local as possible ensuring that the wood doesn't come from old-growth forests. Ask questions. If your local lumber yard doesn't carry FSC wood ask them to start. Support groups working to conserve the inland temperate rainforest. Visit the website: www.mountaincaribou.org for updates and action items.

International Conservation Director Joe Scott can be reached at jscott@ecosystem.org, 360.671.9950 x11

What makes mountain caribou different: Ecotypes

Four subspecies of caribou inhabit North America: barren ground, Peary, Grants, and woodland. The most widespread species, woodland caribou (*Rangifer tarandus caribou*) ranges from the forests of British Columbia to Newfoundland. In BC, woodland caribou are divided into three ecotypes: boreal, northern, and mountain. The term ecotype is used because of the tremendous variation in the behavior, habitat use, and form of caribou from different regions.

Mountain caribou differ from their northern relatives mainly in the way they use their habitat. In early spring they head up to the higher elevation Engelmann spruce/subalpine fir forests to calve and follow the snowline to feed in alpine meadows where they stay through autumn. When the snows deepen they descend into low elevation cedar/hemlock forests to feed on tree lichens. As the snow solidifies they move back up to higher stands.



Lower Similkameen Indians Steward Their Lands

The traditional area of the Lower Similkameen Indian Band (LSIB) is situated in the lower parts of the Okanagan-Similkameen valleys of British Columbia, Canada, just to the east of the Cascade Mountains. LSIB lands are centered around the town of Keremeos, just across the border from Loomis in the beautiful valley of the Similkameen River, surrounded by high peaks including Snowy Mountain, Mount Chopaka, and Mount Kobau.

Band lands also cover a sizeable area across the United States border in northern Washington State. Most NWEA members may not be aware of the fact that our people have been split in half by the US/Canadian border, although most of you will be familiar with the story about how your membership protected the great wild lands of the Loomis State Forest in 1998-99, which is part of our traditional lands. But did you know that you had an important role in an even more remarkable story a few miles to the north of the Loomis Forest, just a few months later?

This is a story about how the Band is trying to find new ways to adapt to the changing times, looking at ways to rebuild our lives and make a better future for ourselves on our lands. We want to create a decent living and maintain our culture and language spiritually. And we seek to break the poverty that we must operate in since the resources on our lands have either been overexploited by others or put off limits. But first I want to tell you more about our home.

Similkameen homeland

Here we raise our children while growing organic produce on the fertile soils of the Similkameen Valley. The lowland reserves have the potential to develop into high production food crops. We have a busy agricultural community producing many different crops, most of which are organic: ground crops, orchard fruits, cattle, foliage crops, and vineyards. Fruit stands selling our produce dot the highways.

My people still hunt whitetail deer in the lowlands and mule deer in the high country, fish our rivers and lakes, and gather our roots and berries in the forests. As for countless generations before me the land has always provided us with our food, refreshed our spirits, and supplied our medicines. We don't just love the land, we are part of it!

Since the beginning of time as humans the Lower Similkameen people have been in touch with Mother Earth and all Creation. We lived in harmony with Nature, feeling as part of the land, along with all creatures, large and small. Plants supplied our medicines, trees provided shelter, the animals provided peoples' nutrition, and water was our vesicle of life. The mountains were like churches and a spiritual connection to the Creator. The people walked on this land respecting all life, for it all has a purpose and should be treated with respect. There is a continuity of language, tradition, and knowledge passed through the teachings of the elders, who in turn passed it on to the next generations.

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Dixon Terbasket pruning fruit trees on band lands in the Similkameen Valley. "We don't just love the land, we are part of it!" Photo by Peter Schatens

Most of you will be familiar with the story about how your membership protected the great wildlands of the Loomis State Forest in 1998-99.... By partnering with Northwest Ecosystem Alliance we were able to develop our own strategies for the future and better prepare for the many challenges to come.



Snowy Mountain from the air.
Photo by Peter Schatens

Management and conservation are a priority for our people. We are after all the stewards of the land, caring for and managing the land for the next generations.

Orchards in the valley below framed by the northwestern boundary of the proposed National Grassland Park and Mount Kobau with snow.
Photo by Dixon and Sandy Terbasket



continued from page 15

Which brings us to the present time. Things have evolved and we create financial and spiritual growth off our natural resources. We must continue to balance things and to remember our principles and ethics.

Parks and land use

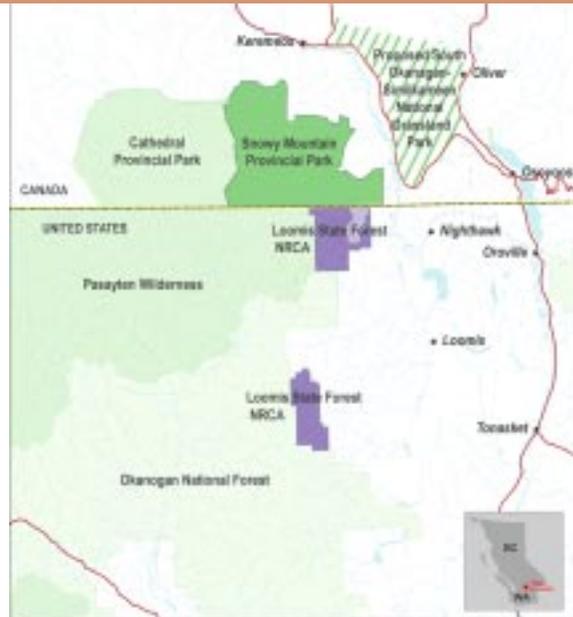
It may surprise you, but our people don't usually like national parks and such. We have always wisely and sustainably used our land, otherwise we wouldn't have survived the way we did. And while we don't like to see big lumber mills—who have logged much of our territory without compensating us—do their clearcuts, we also can't survive if we are locked out from benefiting from our lands. But perhaps times have changed enough that we can find economic and cultural benefits to sustain us even on lands protected from despoilation—by ecotourism for example.

While you were working to protect the Loomis State Forest, I was involved in a community discussion, set up by the B.C. government, about land use in the region. Our community had to decide what we were willing to give up in return for protection of our lands at our back door. As usual the government limited our role in this planning process and took our words as being meaningless. But by partnering with NWEA we were able to develop some capacity in planning and management processes, including acquiring GIS mapping equipment, which will enhance the development of our own strategies for the future and better prepare us for the many challenges to come, as the new Liberal provincial government is on the road to privatization of most parks operations. This privatization actually has the potential for job creation for our community members.

Snowy Mountain protection

Through the land and resource management planning program (also known as the LRMP process), and with the assistance of NWEA, the Snowy Mountain Provincial Park was created, setting aside for conservation about 79,000 acres (32,000 hectares) of band lands immediately north of the Loomis Sate Forest. We have to thank you for protecting the forest down there. Yet setting aside Snowy Mountain for conservation purposes has meant that potential revenues from resource extraction are lost to LSIB, adding to economic hardship. Planning studies indicate that the timber value exceeds \$60 million (US) of lost revenues to LSIB. The process locks up about 180,000 acres (73,000 ha) of traditional lands in Cathedral Lake Park and the Chopaka grasslands.

In 2000 LSIB commissioned a Land Stewardship Plan for their traditional lands. The plan identified tourism opportunities, and especially ecotourism, as one of the most promising future economic activities for the Band. The large wilderness area created by the LRMP, together with its neighbouring conservation area across the US border, makes for excellent wilderness-oriented tourism activities. LSIB is presently in the process of doing feasibility studies partially funded by NWEA and developing a business plan to initiate a hut-to-hut wilderness adven-



ture in and around Snowy Mountain and all the surrounding protected areas. Eight to twelve guests would ski or hike for a few days in the Snowy Mountain-Cathedral Lake Park area and sleep overnight in strategically located huts, under the direction of local aboriginal guides and nature interpreters.

Such ecotourism based activities would not only ensure that the pristine wilderness assets are maintained and enhanced, but would also bring in much needed economic activity and enable spin-offs into other nature-based adventures (backcountry horseback riding, river rafting, and kayaking). The cross-cultural exposure of the experience will also be of added interest to visitors, especially those coming from overseas with little knowledge of aboriginal traditions.

We have not yet talked about the international connection with conservation groups or public agencies. This protected area borders on the existing Cathedral Lake Provincial Park in BC, and the Loomis State Forest Conservation Area and Pasayton Wilderness in Washington, in effect creating a huge, cross border conservation area.

Newest legacy: a national grassland park

On October 2, 2003, our then-Prime Minister, Mr. Jean Cretien, announced in Vancouver, BC, that before retiring, he would leave for his legacy nine federal parks. The proposed South Okanagan-Similkameen National Grassland Park is one of the main candidates, both for its ecological values and location as well as its value economically to the local community. It has a high likelihood of being designated a national park. This will eliminate another substantial area from economic opportunities for LSIB, in the context of lost revenues from resource extraction (i.e., mining, forestry and cattle grazing). We are now in the midst of negotiations about who will do the work and in what ways the Lower Similkameen Indian Band can benefit from all this protected land. This strategy will be developed over the next two years with a consultation process, in which the general public can raise their concerns and voice their arguments, recommendations will be proposed and agreements reached. We will request support from conservation groups such as NWEA, in the form of advice as well as financial support, to help us participate on a level playing field.

With this trade-off (i.e., loss of timber and other natural resources versus a gain in ecotourism activities), LSIB will be given new economic opportunities for their traditional lands. Management and conservation are a priority for our people. We are, after all, the stewards of the land, caring for and managing the land for the next generations.

I must remind you that the Lower Similkameen Indian Band has never surrendered the claims to our land. Along with other First Nations (the Okanagan Nation Alliances) we have been doing the honorable thing, working within the provincial administration and court systems. We have made efforts to work with various governments' agencies, industries, and local stakeholders, and have made great personal sacrifices to address our aboriginal rights and title within the law—not only in the British Columbia Provincial courts, but also in the Supreme Court of Canada (e.g., the Deguammux, Haida case). We are ready to take action this time around and will be sure to get our voices heard. Government policy has to take into account our rights and titles to this land and governments must remember that we all need to be respected. The Gods put us here to protect and use the land and its resources, the living Earth.

Lower Similkameen Indian Band member **Dixon Terbasket** was band councilor from 1983 to 2003 and band manager from 1998 to 2002. For more information, or to find out how you can help, you can reach him at terbasket@img.net.

First Nations: Here for the long run

As the Lower Similkameen Indian Band develop each scenario in and around the protected areas and national parks, we have to address our needs and achievements for our goals and dreams. As First Nations we are here for the long run, we have no plans of going anywhere in the near future. Our emphasis in particular includes:

- Employment training and jobs, such as park rangers,
- Management training,
- Licenses for hunting (trophy hunting),
- Hut-to-hut guided tours,
- Outback recreation (horseback, rafting),
- Sustainable and environment-friendly logging (certifiable selection harvesting),
- Harvesting of non-forest products (traditional foods and medicines), and
- Spiritual sites (off-limits to visitors).

Our priority is activities that best suit the land and its people.

Similkameen Valley as seen from Little Chopaka, looking north. *Photo by Dixon and Sandy Terbasket*



Staff Profile

Today, with hunks of BC being clearcut at a possible to sense that Joe Scott is becoming

A Passion for Conservation that



Joe Scott with his sons, Jarrod (left) and Travis, in BC. Photo by Tanja Wilcox

Joe Scott is passionate about protecting large predators. He was, after all, a lead sponsor of the hound hunting and bait ban initiative, I-655, which Washington voters convincingly approved in 1998.

“I have nothing against hunting for food,” Scott said. “I used to do it, and I’d still do it. But putting a barrel of rotting meat or donuts in the woods and shooting whatever comes to feed on it is not a noble endeavor, not sportsmanlike. To me, trophy hunts seem unnecessary and, um . . .” Scott paused, searching for the right words, “. . . just morally questionable.”

Scott’s conservation work for NWEA encompasses many environmental issues ranging from forestry practices and endangered species protection to some less obvious issues, such as aboriginal rights and international trade policies. But when he talks about these things Scott always seems to find a way to mention the role that is played by the big beasts with fur, fangs, and claws.

The Northwest’s lynx, wolves, bears, and cougars have been a motivating force for Scott’s activism. It is surprising, then, that the walls of Scott’s Bellingham office are not plastered with poignant images of these charismatic critters.

Instead, the image that Scott looks at every day—the one looming above his computer desk like a troublesome Goliath—is a large map of British Columbia, Canada.

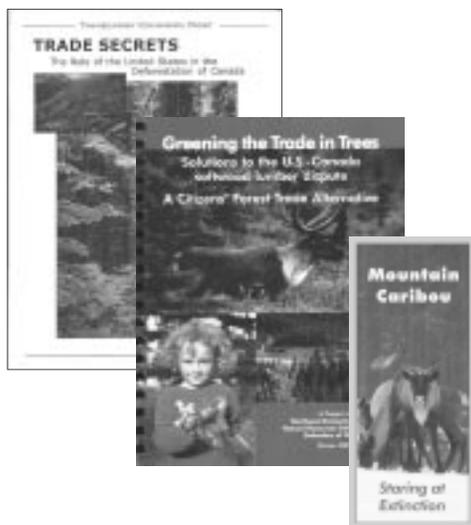
This unusual office decor makes sense because, for the last seven of his nine years with Northwest Ecosystem Alliance, Scott has been the organization’s international conservation director.

“It is just a fancy title for a guy who works with Canadians to change forest policy in Canada,” Scott said. “In recognition of the fact that we have one ecosystem and that we, as Americans, are driving a lot of the environmental degradation in Canada, the basic goal is to leverage whatever influence we can to help encourage them to change.”

Today, with hunks of BC being clearcut at a rate of 1,100 acres per day, 650 square miles per year, it is possible to sense that Scott is becoming irritated by the slow progress of reform in Canada. A self-avowed “big-picture guy,” Scott knows that the resource policies in the vast region seen on his wall map are going to impact the health of wildlife and forests south of the border as well.

“If the Canadians don’t comply with some basic environmental laws that protect their endangered species and their communities, then we shouldn’t buy their wood,” Scott said. “We need to bring Canada to the point that they are acting like the progressive, First-World country that they are—get them to stop

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Reports and publications produced as part of Northwest Ecosystem Alliance's international conservation program



rate of 1,100 acres per day, 650 square miles per year, it is irritated by the slow progress of reform in Canada.

Knows No Borders

acting like a resource colony for the US. There's only so much we can do in the present climate, but we are prepared to do whatever it takes, legally, to hold BC accountable for its forest policies."

Scott, now 53 years old, began his work as an environmental activist about 15 years ago in Seattle. One day, while he doing outreach tabling with another Wilderness Society volunteer, Scott found himself going on a tirade. "I just started ranting and raving about the grizzly situation and how it was emblematic of the status of many wildlife species—'How could you have a creature like this and dare allow it to go extinct?!'" Scott explained.

The woman working next to him, perhaps eager to create some distraction from this large and suddenly bellicose man, offered a suggestion; "There's this guy you should call. You two would get along great."

Taking her advice, Scott called director Mitch Friedman at what was then the Greater Ecosystem Alliance. The rest is history. Scott began plugging in to Northwest Ecosystem Alliance issues, becoming a member of the board of directors and then president of the board. Through his close involvement he was able to nurture his interest in grizzlies and develop a strong background in the ecological imperatives of the Pacific Northwest and its fish and wildlife. This led him to realize that those needs could not be realized in isolation. The vast wildlands and abundant wildlife of British Columbia had to be part of the mix, because, as Scott puts it, "nature truly knows no borders." This realization in turn has informed and underpinned the vast majority of the work that he now directs for Northwest Ecosystem Alliance.

NWEA's international program, emphasizes Scott, includes working with Canadian activists to shift provincial forest policies toward the sustainable end of the spectrum. To that end, Scott and the NWEA staff—in close cooperation with several US and Canadian organizations—have plugged into the softwood lumber dispute, in an effort, says Scott, "to leverage the decades-old trade war to slow old-growth forest liquidation in Canada."

The battle is now focused on stopping the inexorable slide of mountain caribou toward extinction (see page 12). NWEA, along with markets pressure heavyweight ForestEthics, the East Kootenay Environmental Society, and other grassroots US and Canadian groups, have started an outreach blitz to galvanize advocacy for the iconic transboundary caribou and to force the BC government to protect caribou habitat, which is being rapidly decimated by logging and roadbuilding. Failing these more traditional tactics, Scott says, the groups will take their case to the financiers of the companies involved and the buyers of their products.

With motivators like the grizzly bear and mountain caribou inspiring him, Joe Scott will, by any legal means available, work to ensure that Canada's forest policies are not simply driven by voracious American consumption but live up to the proclamation that their laws are among the most progressive on the planet.

Local writer **Alex McLean** covers the environment and other issues around Bellingham

Joe Scott

Whether he refined his running and hitting skills on the rough streets of Jersey City or only on the gridiron playing field is unknowable. What is certain, however, is that Scott—a 6-foot, 2-inch tall fellow with broad shoulders—had become a damnably good football player. He was able to trade the sports scholarship he'd earned in high-school for a quarterback's helmet at Boston College where he earned a BS degree in finance.

It would take an international conflict of epic proportions to nudge Scott into activism. "It became too hard to reconcile what was happening in the jock world with what was happening in the real world," Scott said of his experiences in the late 1960s. The devastation of the Vietnam War had that effect on a lot of people.

During childhood visits to his uncle's home, out in rural New Jersey, Scott remembers being "endlessly fascinated" by the denizens of a frog pond and intrigued by what appeared to be "magnificent open spaces." Many years later, after his migration to the Northwest, Scott's nascent interests in the environment were transformed into activism.

"I became concerned about forests as soon as I saw clearcuts," Scott said. "I thought it was merely an issue of; 'Well, if people only knew about this then they wouldn't tolerate it.'" It was the late 1980s and the forest landscapes of the Pacific Northwest looked like they were being carpet-bombed. Scott, then working as a mechanic in Seattle, began doing volunteer work with environmental groups. The Northwest Timber Wars had that effect on a lot of people.

Today Joe Scott lives in Bellingham in a house he has remodeled using Forest Stewardship Council-certified and recycled woods. He lives with a cat named Little Guy, and spends his free time with his significant other, Tanja Wilcox, a landscape architect who works on public projects including wetlands rehabilitation.





Black bear leaves the "scent" tree as a remote camera in the North Cascades snaps its picture.
Rare Carnivore Remote Camera Project

Volunteers

More Volunteers Needed for Rare Carnivore Remote Camera Project

For the fifth summer in a row, NWEA is placing remote cameras equipped with sensors in the North Cascades, in conjunction with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). This exciting program has sent an annual cohort of 25 volunteers into the backcountry to capture photographs of shy carnivores, including bears, lynx, wolverines, cougars, and martens. This year, we'll build on past successes by embarking on a new joint project in northeast Washington with the Kettle Range Conservation Group and WDFW.

As in previous years, we will hold training days in May to familiarize volunteers with the equipment, demonstrate bear habitat, and teach do's and don'ts about hiking and camping in bear country. At the training, we'll assign teams and locations to set up sensing equipment in areas ranging from the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie, to the Okanogan, to the Colville National Forests.

We ask volunteers to commit one weekend a month from June through September. People in reasonable physical condition and who love to hike should apply. Previous camera experience, though appreciated, is not necessary.

Spring camera training at The Garage

If you'd like to learn more about the remote camera program before signing up, you're in luck! NWEA member and volunteer, Carol James, has offered to host an informational get-together for the project at the fun dining establishment and bowling alley called "The Garage" in Seattle. Yummy refreshments will be provided, and NWEA's President, Mark Skatrud, will offer a slideshow of photos captured by past camera teams. It'll be a great way to learn about this fascinating project, and an opportunity to meet other interesting NWEA supporters. Please join us!

Thursday, May 6, 5:30-9:00 PM
The Garage, 1134 Broadway Avenue
Seattle, WA (on Capitol Hill)
For directions: 206.322.2296

We have yet to get a photo of a grizzly bear in the North Cascades. Maybe this is the year! And maybe you're the one whose camera will get that photo. Please contact Hudson Dodd at 1.800.878.9950, ext. 26, with questions, or to RSVP for the informational get-together on May 6.



For other volunteer opportunities
and upcoming events, visit
www.ecosystem.org/calendar.html



Interns and VIPs

NWEA's New Faces

VIP: Volunteer Instrumental in Progress, Shawn Olson

Shawn Olson has become a fixture around the Bellingham offices. She's subletting space from us to produce a natural and cultural history guidebook for Wrangell Mountains Center, a small, nonprofit, educational institute based in McCarthy, Alaska. The book compiles scholarly research and local art and stories, to increase understanding and subsequent stewardship of the Wrangell Mountains among visitors and residents alike.

Meanwhile, Shawn is volunteering with NWEA's fire ecologist, Barb Swanson, to study how Washington State deals with wildfires. In particular, Shawn is researching the Department of Natural Resources' budget for fire suppression, as well as the agency's policies of fire prevention. She's found that, surprisingly, there is no state budget for fire prevention; rather all such efforts are funded through federal grants. The research goal is to provide good policy arguments for the type of "defensible space" project the town of Roslyn, Washington, has undertaken, which focused on clearing the wildland-urban interface of brush to defend homes and buildings from fire, while leaving remote forests intact.

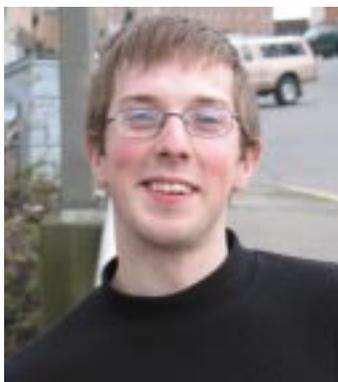
Shawn first found NWEA through her parents, who have been contributing members for years. Then she learned about us through school. Prior to her studies in Alaska, Shawn was a student at Evergreen State College in Olympia. Her last year at Evergreen was spent in a group project, writing the book *Defending Wild Washington*, scheduled for release in April by The Mountaineers Books.

This summer, Shawn plans on hiking the Pacific Crest Trail. She spends most of her spare time these days getting ready for the long trip, drying foods in a dehydrator and sewing gear. We're glad Shawn found a home here at NWEA between her adventures.



Defending Wilderness

The wilderness areas and other protected lands of Washington are the legacy of a strong citizen conservation movement; but many wild areas remain unprotected. *Defending Wild Washington: A Citizen's Action Guide*, written by Evergreen College students, empowers the next generation of wilderness leaders, explaining how to lead an effective campaign for protecting wilderness. The book includes strategies for effective grassroots campaigns and success stories of citizens who have made a difference, past and present.



Intern Corey Long

Huxley College senior Corey Long interns this spring with community relations director Lisa McShane, working to reform management of Washington's state trust lands. He is concentrating on the local side of the issue by working on plans for responsible management of DNR lands in the Lake Whatcom Watershed and the Blanchard Mountain/Oyster Dome area.

A geography major, Corey's work at Western Washington University has focused on human and international studies and GIS technology. When

not in school or interning at NWEA, Corey plays drums in two bands, collects records, cooks vegan delicacies, rides a bike around town, and takes long walks on the beach. He washes dishes at D'anna's Café Italiano to pay the bills.

Corey grew up in Tonasket and in Ellensburg. What he likes most about eastern Washington, he says, is the geology. "Channeled Scablands' might be an incredibly gross-sounding name," he says, "but that mass flooding from the bursting of a glacial dam created some beautiful landscapes." Corey says he is enjoying the mild, green local climate of Bellingham. Welcome to NWEA, Corey!

Outreach and volunteer coordinator
Hudson Dodd is available at 800.878.9950
x26, hdodd@ecosystem.org



Please join us

Anniversary Celebration June 3rd!

Northwest Ecosystem Alliance is proud to celebrate 15 years of leadership and innovation in protecting the wildlands and wildlife of the Pacific Northwest. From the Ancient Forest Rescue Expedition, to the Loomis Forest Fund, The Cascades Conservation Partnership, and the Northwest Old-Growth Campaign, NWEA has made conservation history in our region.

To honor this history and to look ahead to the future of conservation in the Northwest, we are holding a 15th anniversary celebration on Thursday, June 3, 2004. As a member and supporter of NWEA, you play a vital role in our work to “keep the Northwest wild,” and we encourage you to attend! This will be a night to remember. It is also a fundraiser for Northwest Ecosystem Alliance. Come meet with us, eat with us, and make merry!

What: A Keeping the Northwest wild!-themed benefit event showcasing NWEA’s dynamic programs, including a scrumptious full dinner, exciting silent and live auctions, and complimentary beer and wine. Although we are not able to cater to young children at this event, we are providing a fun, unique “zoofari” activity appropriate for children ages 5-12*, as well as a special kids’ menu. *Children above the age of 12 interested in experiencing the “zoofari” are welcome to join.

Speaker: Brock Evans, executive director of the Endangered Species Coalition

When: Thursday, June 3, 2004, 5:30-9:00 pm

Where: Rainforest Pavilion at the Woodland Park Zoo, Seattle

Cost: \$60 for individual (age 12 and older), \$100 for couple, \$30 for children, ages 5-12

How: Seating is limited! RSVP to Rose at 360.671.9950 x10



Volunteer thanks

NWEA staff members extend our sincere appreciation to our members, and especially to the many people who dedicate substantial time and energy in support of NWEA’s efforts as volunteers. From all of us at NWEA to all of you who have volunteered with us this past winter, we say, “Thank you for helping us keep the Northwest wild!”

- | | | | |
|---------------------|------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Lindsey Antos | Craig Cooper | Derek Jordan | Lilia Orlova |
| John Barnard | Jeremy Davies | Michael Koenen | Nikken Palesch |
| Emily Barnett | William Donnelly | Henry Lagergren | Paul Reed |
| Chris Beamis | Stephanie Dulac | Kerry Lagueux | Bay Renaud |
| Kenan Block | Aaron Edgington | Laura Livingston | Nancy |
| Jeffrey Jon Bode' | Britta Eschete | Alex Loeb | Ritzenthaler |
| Kristin Boyles | Noelle Eschete | Beth Loudon | Alan Rhodes |
| Jeremy Brown | Doris Ferm | Tessa Mahony | Susan Rhodes |
| Tom Champion | Scott Fields | Michael Marsh | Oliver Ross |
| Matthew Carroll | Jo Anne Feringer | Tom McNeely | Mark Skatrud |
| Colby Chester | Mario Gonzales | Kevin Miller | Fred Spadero |
| Cousin Jake | Molly Harmon | Michelle Miller | Will Sumner |
| Karin Chiarreir | Al Heason | Jasmine Minbashian | Renetta Van Diest |
| Barbara Christensen | Michael Hinkel | Carolyn Moran | Laura Vitale |
| Terry Clark | Helene Irving | Chris Morgan | Randy Walcott |
| Maureen Cleveland | Steve Irving | Christine Nasser | Jim Withee |
| Shawn Collins | Roger Iverson | Peter Nicholl | Laura Wolf |
| Langdon Cook | Carol James | Christina Olson | Tim Wood |

Special thanks to NWEA computer guru Tom McNeely, who contributed many hours of his time and wisdom, helping keep Erin and Hudson sane, during a difficult time for NWEA computer systems. We couldn't have done it without you!

JAMMIN' for SALMON

Celebrate Earth Day with
Northwest Ecosystem Alliance

Friday, April 23
5 pm to midnight
in Bellingham at the Majestic

Jammin'
for Salmon

Activities for kids, bring the
whole family. Dance to

**Monday Night Project
Troll's Cottage, La Push,
Dana Lyons**





scratchboard by Jennifer Martin

Wildland Partners

Support NWEA and wildlands through automatic funds transfer

Without you, Northwest Ecosystem Alliance members, we could not protect Northwest wildlands and wildlife. Together you contribute 65 percent of our funding.

We would like to invite you, our supporters, to join our Wildland Partners program, contributing through monthly, automatic bank or credit card transfers.

Easy for you, and wonderful for us, automatic donations lend us stable and reliable funding. We won't send you any renewal letters, meaning your mailbox stays lighter, and more of your donation goes directly to Northwest Ecosystem Alliance programs that keep the Northwest wild:

- ♦ Safeguarding our national forests and Pacific Northwest mature and old-growth forests and their wildlife species
- ♦ Reforming management of Washington State trust lands
- ♦ Protecting Canadian wildlands and transborder wildlife
- ♦ Reconnecting Washington's North and South Cascades through wildlife habitat preservation

To join Wildland Partners or for more information about the program, contact membership associate Christie Raschke at craschke@ecosystem.org, or 800.878.9950, ext. 12.



Go wild. Visit www.ecosystem.org

Go wild and give a gift: Northwest Ecosystem Alliance

Give gifts of membership, t-shirts, art, or books to friends and family to support NWEA in our work of keeping the Northwest wild. Thank you for your support!

Memberships:

- I'd like to join NWEA for \$_____ (minimum \$15, larger donation greatly appreciated!).
- I'd like to make a donation of \$_____.
- I'd like to give a gift membership in the name of:

To: _____

(name) _____

(address) _____

(city, state, zip) _____

(email) _____

Other gifts:

- New NWEA logo shirts—100% organic cotton shirts in sage green and natural (men's size s, m, l, xl). Children's (size s, m) and women's-cut (size m, l, xl) shirts also available (\$16).



Note style/size/color here:

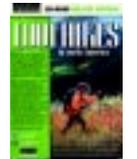
- Artwork by Naomi Rose (www.naomicrose.com). 10% of sales from these original old-growth forest images goes directly to NWEA.



- The Tree*, beautifully written by Dana Lyons and illustrated by David Danioth. A book for children and adults. (\$18)



- 1,001 Hikes in North America* CD-ROM, published by TOPICS Entertainment (hikes copyright The Mountaineers Books) (\$20)



Send check payable to NWEA or provide VISA/MC information

Card # _____

Expires _____ Phone _____



Who we are

Since 1988, Northwest Ecosystem Alliance (NWEA) has worked to protect the Northwest's wildlands and wildlife. Our strength lies in mobilizing people to demonstrate support for science-based solutions, working to protect threatened species such as the lynx and salmon.

At the forefront of regional conservation issues, NWEA seeks new solutions to old problems. In 1999 we led the successful campaign to protect 25,000 acres in the Loomis State Forest, the best lynx habitat in the lower 48. Raising nearly \$17 million in little more than a year for this effort inspired new momentum for conservation in the Northwest.

Dynamic programs and coalition efforts

We are proud to be leaders in coalition efforts such as The Cascades Conservation Partnership and the Northwest Old-Growth Campaign, along with our ongoing dynamic program work:

- ♦ Safeguarding our national forests and Pacific Northwest mature and old-growth forests
- ♦ Reforming management of Washington State trust lands
- ♦ Protecting Canadian wildlands and transborder wildlife
- ♦ Reconnecting Washington's North and South Cascades through wildlife habitat preservation



Photo by Ethan Meginnes

Ancient Forest Roadshow: Protect America's Living Legacy

This spring, NWEA is excited to be part of a coalition-sponsored national tour to rally people to protect our remaining old-growth forests. The tour features slices cut from a 7-foot-diameter ancient tree, recently felled from federal public land in southern Oregon. Mounted on trailers and pulled by vans, three slabs will travel concurrently, accompanied by organizers, displays, and materials.

Help us on this historic tour. Opportunities include office help, organizing assistance, and week-long stints on the road. Join us in the adventure! To get involved in the Ancient Forest Roadshow, contact Demis at 206.675.9747 x203 or dfoster@ecosystem.org.

The tour website, www.forestroadshow.org, goes live April 1 and includes an easily accessible link to "a log" blog (A LOG BLOG...Americans Love Old Growth; Bush Logs Old Growth).

keeping the Northwest wild



1208 Bay Street, #201
Bellingham, WA 98225-4304

**Save the date for our anniversary
celebration June 3rd (see p. 22)!**

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