

INSIDE/OUTSIDE

CONSERVATION NEWS AROUND THE NORTHWEST

BC's owls need Olympic-sized help



A crying shame: spotted owls are nearly gone in BC. Photo: © Paul Bannick

Before industrial logging, scientists believe that 500 pairs of spotted owls lived in southwestern British Columbia, the only place in Canada they are found. In 2005, that was down to only six pairs of northern spotted owls, an 84 percent decline in less than a decade.

Yet a controversial new plan by the British Columbia provincial government, which ends just *after* the 2010 Olympics, allows logging of critical owl habitat and focuses on capturing and breeding owls instead of protecting the old forests the owls need to survive. The plan also ignores the recommendations of the government's own spotted owl recovery team to recover the diminishing owl population to 125 pairs of birds. Under the plan, the BC government, through its Timber Sales Program, will continue as the largest logger of owl habitat.

Conservation Northwest joined other leading environmental groups across Canada in condemning the five-year plan for Canada's critically endangered spotted owls, and highlighting the main threat to the declining spotted owl population: logging of its old-growth forest habitat. That logging is also jeopardizing BC's other forest dwelling species. A recent paper in the scientific journal, *Biodiversity*, found, for example, that 17 other species in the range of the spotted owl were at risk of loss.

"The BC government is abandoning scientific logic," said Dr. Faisal Moola of the David Suzuki Foundation. "By breeding owls in captivity while neglecting to sufficiently protect their habitat, owls will be released into a hostile environment they can't survive in. Our government is choosing spotted owl extinction over recovery."

The political sensitivity surrounding the spotted owl is high because British Columbia is the host of the 2010 Winter Olympics. If the bird were to become extinct in BC in 2010, as the

government's own recovery team has predicted, it would be a high profile embarrassment for a provincial government that has pledged the Games would be "environmentally friendly."

According to Candace Batycki, who worked with Conservation Northwest in the early '90s and now works with ForestEthics, "Given that the BC government's plan ends just after the Olympics, this is a plan to fool the public and the international community, not to save the spotted owl. If the BC government were serious about saving the owl it would protect enough habitat to recover the species."

High biodiversity yet no legal protection

British Columbia has the most biodiversity in all of Canada, but it is one of only two provinces in Canada without stand-alone endangered species legislation. Lack of laws has consequences: In 2003, the BC Court of Appeal upheld a lower court ruling that allowed logging in key northern spotted owl habitat. The decision followed a two-year court battle by Sierra Legal Defence Fund and the Western Canada Wilderness Committee and means that logging continues in some of the last remaining large old-growth forest stands in the Chilliwack forest district, north of Hope, British Columbia.

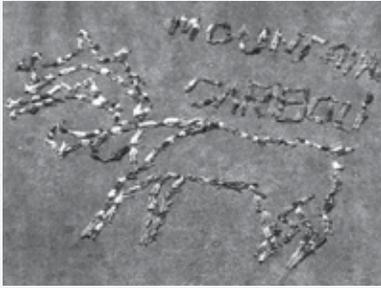
Kids care about caribou

Children from a school in a community near the Inland Temperate Rainforest created living artwork to raise awareness of the plight of the critically endangered mountain caribou. The event received some unusual collaboration: The design was captured from a hovering helicopter provided by BigHorn Helicopters of Cranbrook. Local foresters donated flagging tape to help lay out the design, and Kimberley Building Supplies contributed additional materials.

"I hope that when people see the caribou picture we made, they will want to keep some old-growth trees, and witches hair and old man's beard around for them to eat," said seven-year-old second grade student Drew Lyall.

"It really is inspiring to see young people become more aware





Student body and staff of Lindsay Park Elementary School in Kimberley, BC, create a 100-foot long outline of a mountain caribou. Photo: Patrick Bates

of environmental issues, and actually do something about it,” said Dave Quinn, program manager at Wildsight, a sister organization with Conservation Northwest on the Mountain Caribou Project. “There are only about 1,650 mountain caribou left in the world,

and people here are really angry that the British Columbia government is still allowing logging and issuing new helicopter ski tenures in endangered mountain caribou habitat. We need a recovery plan for all remaining herds now.”

“We help the environment by walking to school instead of being driven, by making litter-free lunches, and by recycling our paper,” said third grade student Lucas Turner-Dilling. “We hope grown-ups will do what they can and protect caribou habitat.”

Tongass relieved of roads—for now

This spring, the House of Representatives voted to cut off funding for new logging roads in the 17 million-acre Tongass National Forest in southeast Alaska. It’s the second time in three years that the House has taken such action, and the move helps protect the 9.3 million acres of the national forest that remain unroaded. The Tongass, the largest intact coastal temperate rainforest in the world, features centuries-old Sitka spruce and critical habitat for wolves, bears, salmon, and eagles.

In a “Dear Colleague” letter, the Congressional authors of the approved amendment to the 2007 Interior and Environment spending bill noted that Tongass communities depend more on tourism than logging. “According to a 2005 economic report from the Forest Service, recreation and tourism is currently and will continue to be of ‘more importance to the economic vitality of the region’ than timber,” Reps. Robert Andrews and Steve Chabot wrote. “A successful new Tongass plan must therefore serve the needs not just of the timber industry, but of the many stakeholders and users of the forest.”

The previous forest management plan was overturned by a

federal court who found that the Forest Service had overstated the market demand for timber sales. The agency is currently preparing a new environmental impact statement for the new plan.

According to the Forest Service’s own records, the agency lost \$35 million in 2002 and nearly \$1 billion since 1982 in past logging of the Tongass. The amendment now moves to the Senate and a final fiscal 2007 omnibus appropriations measure at year’s end.

Fisher reintroduction update

Two years ago, Conservation Northwest’s jointly funded effort with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) to complete a habitat feasibility study for fisher reintroduction was completed. That study determined that the best fisher habitat currently exists in the Olympic Mountains. Here’s the latest:

- WDFW is now finalizing its “Implementation Plan” for reintroducing fisher to the Olympics. It contains the nuts-and-bolts steps for successfully establishing fisher populations in Olympic National Park, including procedures for capture and release, and monitoring and evaluation techniques. Funding was provided by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the plan will be complete in July.

- Last month, the draft “Washington State Recovery Plan for the Fisher” was released by WDFW for public comment. The full report can be downloaded at: http://wdfw.wa.gov/wlm/diversty/soc/recovery/fisher/fisher_draft_recovery.pdf

- The Recovery Plan builds off the Status Report and the Feasibility Assessment by proposing recovery areas in the Olympics, Cascades, and Selkirks, and identifying interim recovery objectives and strategies. Comments are being solicited until August 15. Closer to that time, we’ll be getting word out to Conservation Northwest members and supporters to contribute to that comment period.

- In January, the Olympic National Park and WDFW hosted two public meetings on the Olympic peninsula on



Pacific fisher kit. See you on the peninsula? Photo: © Paul Bannick

fisher natural history and recovery efforts.

While it's not moving quite as fast as we had hoped, we continue to see great progress towards returning fisher to our state.

Victoria's dirty secret

More than a million catalogs a day made of trees logged from endangered forests: that's the dirty secret of Victoria's Secret, the women's lingerie company with global reach. Almost all of these catalogs are produced from virgin fiber (not recycled) paper from forests including the northern boreal forest of Canada and forests of the southern US.

Recently, though, for the first time ever, Limited Brands Inc, Victoria's Secret parent company publicly stated that protecting the environment is good business for the company. Because of its immense buying power, Victoria's Secret is in a position to help change the catalog industry toward recycled paper and sustainable paper purchasing. You can help hold them to that commitment and protect endangered forests.

Find out more at www.victoriadirtysecret.net

Logging on the fast track

Unfortunately, in May the House of Representatives voted by a margin of 243-182 to pass the "Forest Emergency Recovery and Research Act" (HR 4200), introduced by Representatives Greg Walden (R-OR) and Brian Baird (D-WA).

But thanks to your letters and phone calls, the majority of Washington Representatives voted against the bill, including Rep. Dave Reichert (R-WA), who believed that the environmental exemptions the bill allows aren't needed to remove damaged timber after fires or windstorms.

The battle now moves to the Senate, where US Senator Gordon Smith (R-OR) has introduced a companion bill.

Chances for passage of the bill this year are still unclear. If enacted into law, this act would define natural disturbances such as fires and windstorms as "catastrophic events" and allow exemptions from environmental laws to fast-track logging after such events.

Scientists from around the country have come out in strong opposition to the bill, citing concerns that logging after natural disturbances hurts, rather than helps, the forest.

HR 4200: Bad policy

Peter B. Moyle (professor, UC Davis) was one of a group of 169 forest scientists who wrote in a letter to Congress that the bill "distorts or ignores" numerous scientific studies that show post-fire logging destroys critical wildlife habitat, damages streams and soils, and delays natural recovery of burned forests.

In a special editorial to the *Sacramento Bee* (May 16, 2006) he said: "From a scientific point of view, the bill is bad policy because it ignores dozens of studies that show that 'salvage' logging harms water quality and wildlife, hinders forest recovery and increases fire risks. As a fish biologist, I am particularly concerned because H.R. 4200 threatens to undermine efforts to restore degraded watersheds and protect threatened stocks of salmon and other fish. It doesn't make sense to mandate logging practices that harm streams when we already are spending millions of dollars trying to bring back depleted salmon runs.

"...It is now standard practice when restoring salmon streams to haul in large logs to increase the ability of the stream to support large numbers of fish. Post-fire logging removes the very logs that sustain such streams, reducing their ability to support large fish populations for decades to come."

To learn more, visit www.conservationnw.org/oldgrowth/salvage-logging



*"Salvaged" tree on the Fisher fire near Leavenworth.
Photo: Erin Moore*

Common cause on Blanchard

Blanchard Mountain is a special place—the only place where the Cascades touch the sea—and its natural and recreation values are worth protecting. For the past several years, we have worked to do just that. Now, in an optimistic new phase for Blanchard Mountain, the Department of Natural Resources,

who manages these public lands, has convened the Blanchard Forest Strategies Group to create a collaborative plan for Blanchard's forests. All timber sales are suspended on the mountain while the draft plan is being developed this summer.

Eron Berg, a lawyer and member of the Skagit-based community organization, Friends of Blanchard Mountain, is one of the working group's ten members; Conservation Northwest's executive director Mitch Friedman is another.

"Blanchard Mountain has extraordinary value in terms of ecology, scenery, and recreation," Friedman said, "and we want to see those values protected. That doesn't mean that we'd oppose any and all logging. I'm eager to see whether we can find some commonality in this collaborative group."

Too gentle for this world

The last male purebred Columbia Basin pygmy rabbit has died, leaving just two females in a captive breeding program created to try to save the endangered species from extinction. Native to the Columbia Plateau, the tiny rabbits lived in native shrub-steppe habitat in five Washington counties in north-central Washington. Pygmy rabbits are the smallest rabbits by weight recorded in published literature and are dependent upon sagebrush for winter food. They are the only rabbits in the United States that dig their own burrows, and in Washington, were known to live in deep loamy soils—the same soils prized for agriculture.

"This is a population that has existed since before the last Ice Age in Eastern Washington. The loss is something we can never calculate," said Jon Marvel, executive director of the Idaho-based

Western Watersheds Project, which works to protect pygmy rabbit populations across the West.

The fate of the isolated species now rests entirely in a crossbreeding program with the closely related Idaho pygmy rabbit, conducted by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Oregon Zoo, Washington State University, and Northwest Trek near Olympia. If successful, some of the rabbits



Columbia basin, range of the pygmy rabbit—no more.
Photo: © Dick Vogel

will be released in Douglas County, perhaps as early as October, into artificial burrows constructed by biologists in shrub-steppe habitat.

"Forests for Sale"—Not

The Bush Administration's proposal to sell off national forests and other federal lands to fund payments to counties has died a timely death. We sent an alert on the issue in May and many of you responded. Thank you! In general the proposal was met with furious opposition from citizen groups and Western lawmakers.

The land-sale proposal involved about 300,000 acres of national forest lands, including about 7,500 acres in Washington: 1,300 acres along the Sultan River Canyon, a remote and rugged gorge with rare, low elevation old-growth forest; 730 acres of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area in Oregon and Washington; and 500 acres of old-growth ponderosa pine on Bald Peak in the Colville National Forest. Had the bill passed these public lands would have been sold to the highest bidder.

There's a better way to fund schools and counties. This wasn't it. Thanks to everyone who spoke up: keeping wild—and keeping in the public domain—our national forest lands.

Global warnings

According to a 2004 paper in *Nature*, one-fourth of Earth's species could be bound for extinction by 2050 if global warming isn't curbed. A report from the April 2006 edition of *Conservation Biology* backs that finding, examining 34 "biodiversity hotspots," unique areas with 44% of the world's ground vertebrate species and 35% of plant species. The study says 25 of those places are at significant risk.

Moreover, the recent "Red List of Threatened Species" just published by the World Conservation Union includes a quarter of the world's coniferous trees, an eighth of its birds, one-third of its amphibians, and a quarter of all the mammal species that were assessed for the survey. And while some animals in the Northwest are doing better, such as the bald eagle and peregrine falcon, others need more protection, including the Canada lynx, grizzly bear, gray wolf, and wolverine.

Climate scientists say if global warming continues unabated, the scramble for habitat will grow much harder for millions of species of mammals, birds, amphibians, fish, insects and more.

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For as long as humans have tried to protect wild species, a key strategy has been to preserve habitat and bar encroachment by development, excessive hunting or fishing, and other threats. But rising temperatures put animals in motion, seeking new homes when they can't tolerate the old. Add changes to that preserved habitat and you have a recipe for loss. For example mountain caribou have adapted to deep snowpacks, which allow them to step up to reach tree-living lichens, their winter food source. As the snowpack recedes, so does the caribou's chance at food.

The National Wildlife Federation has published a list of the top climate-stressed species and associated ecosystems in the US. Of these, two are animals in habitats of particular concern to Conservation Northwest: Canada lynx of the spruce/fir forest and sage grouse of the sagebrush shrub-steppe.

Fresh look at a forest plan

The 1994 plan designed to protect hundreds of plants and animals associated with old-growth forests and stop the "timber wars" in the Northwest got a fresh look recently. In the April special feature edition of the journal, *Conservation Biology*, 19 nationally-renowned scientists offer their analyses of the Northwest Forest Plan's effectiveness in achieving its ambitious goal to balance logging with forest protections on nearly 25 million acres of federal land in Washington, Oregon, and California.

According to Jerry Franklin, University of Washington professor and principle architect of the plan, "the Northwest Forest Plan was the first attempt anywhere to address the many factors that contribute to forest ecosystem health and sustainability on such a large scale."

Says Franklin, "Ecological values have certainly been protected by the plan but there has been inadequate attention to restoration, especially on eastside forests with uncharacteristic fuel loadings. Timber harvest levels have been less than projected, partially because of efforts to log old-growth stands outside of reserves, something which is no longer socially acceptable."

While the plan has been successful on many fronts, many scientists decry the Bush Administration's efforts to strip protections for hundreds of thousands of acres of old-growth forests in Oregon, loosen protections for endangered salmon, and log in old-growth reserves following fires.

Dominick DellaSala, forest ecologist with the World Wild-

life Fund and guest editor for the special feature, added that "the Plan is working best in places where federal managers are working with local communities to thin overly stocked plantations for fuels reduction and restoration, such as the Gifford Pinchot and Suislaw National Forests, rather than where the agencies continue to log in older forests."

Go to www.conbio.org for more.

Putting Oregon roadless area logging on hold

Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski is seeking a temporary restraining order against the US Forest Service to block logging in the largest unprotected roadless areas along the Pacific coast outside of Alaska. The North and South Kalmiopsis



Mike's Gulch area in broader Biscuit fire-affected Kalmiopsis. Photo: © Rolf Skar

Roadless Areas form the watershed of some of the most valuable wild salmon and steelhead habitat in the United States.

The Mike's Gulch timber sale, auctioned by the Forest Service recently, received only two bids and was offered at well below-market prices. Governor Kulongoski called the Mike's Gulch timber sale "unnecessary and unwise," and said it would cause "irreversible harm" during a time when he is actively working to protect the state's inventoried roadless forests.

Visit www.siskiyou.org to learn more or to send a free fax to Forest Service officials telling them to immediately withdraw all roadless logging proposals in the Siskiyou National Forest and restore a moratorium on national roadless area logging while protection issues remain unresolved.

We've come a long way, baby

When Conservation Northwest's Executive Director Mitch Friedman spoke at the annual convention of the American Forest Resource Council in April (see page 12), he spoke passionately about the value of cooperation. Here are seven of

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his “Lessons Learned” and reflections on collaboration:

1. Walk before you run. Don't be too ambitious in early steps.
2. Prioritize the work to real and agreed-upon urgent needs, such as community safety, rather than those upon which positions are most likely to differ.
3. Focus on interests, not positions. This conceptual tool was provided by an outside consultant. On both the Colville and Gifford Pinchot we've found that outside consultants and facilitators were pivotal at key points.
4. Relationships are everything, and they are built by listening and by solving problems together.
5. Technical tools, maps, and jargon do not advance relationships. They are peripheral—not central—to good collaboration.
6. Trust is built by the time-tested means of people honoring their word.
7. Sustainability is found in the common interests of business and conservation, not in the competition for who will be the last one standing.

Thanks to one and all!

This spring, the people that make up Conservation Northwest have been an active bunch! The staff would like to thank:

- The hundreds of households who joined the organization, or “re-upped” their commitment during our first ever March Membership Madness (aka our membership drive);
- The hundreds of supporters who responded to our action alerts with letters to government officials, demonstrating that we are a force to be reckoned with;
- And the dozens of volunteers who made it possible for us to do the work we do! (Some of our volunteers work on various projects; to save space, we only thank each of you once below.)

Conservation Action Teams

Volunteers gathered to socialize and “take action” (aka “do something!”) for our current campaigns at CAT meetings in Seattle, Olympia, and Bellingham.

Thanks to: Kiko Anderson, David Atcheson, Yorum Bauman, David Black, Peggy Bruton, Michael Colfer, Roger Cole, Steve Cross, Carolyn Dobbs, Jane Ely, Lloyd Fetterly, Patricia Fetterly, Brenna Forester, Keith Fredrikson, Kyle French, Sally Jacky, Arthur Kaufman, Ruth Kaufman, Kirk Melhorn, Thomas Palm, Stan Parker, Kyle Pieti, Peggy Printz, Alex Ramel, Evelyn Roehl, Leslie Romer, Maryse Sagewynd, Nathaniel Sandy, Gina Smith,

Sonny Spearman, Julia Spencer, Brandon Speers, Amy Tucker, Chris Vondrasek, Elisa Weiss

Office Volunteers

Volunteers came in regularly to our Bellingham, Seattle, and Spokane offices to help out with the “day-to-day operations” and put a spring in our step.

Thanks to: Harvey Berman, Terry Clark, Ryan Crim, Doris Ferm, Ryan Haugo, Michael Hinkel, Sarah Honour, Amber Knox, Julie Linderman, Clover Martin, Tom Mc-Neeley, Leigh Owen, Dinah Reed, Susan Rhodes, Kate Selting, Mike Silva, Karine Taslakyan



A visit to the oak-woodland prairie. Photo: Mike Marsh

Outreach

Volunteers helped us “get the word out” at key tabling opportunities, by phoning members at critical policy junctures, and by assisting with coalition building efforts, such as the Northeast Washington Forestry Coalition.

Thanks to: Beka Bielman, Beth Black, Erika Bronson, Joni Brooks, Melissa Chaun, Anthony Choy, Benjames Derrick, Hannah Dewey, Maryanne Gaddy, Pat Gherard, Charmain Gural, Paul Hezel, Eric Hirst, Jeff Holmes, Liz Johnson, Sam King, Sam Knox, Scott Knowles, Henry Lagergren, Gino Lisiecki, Steve Llewellyn, Stephanie Nibler, Nathaniel Sandy, Mike Silva, Jen Skyberg, Lace Thornberg, Shannon Webb, Tom White, Jodi Wilmoth, Kristen Wolen, Tadg Woods

Public Hearings & Lobbying

Volunteers attended public hearings and “spoke truth to power” for wildlife and wild places at: various Forest Practices Board hearings in remote towns around the state; a Washington Department of Transportation meeting in Lakewood about the proposed Cross-base Highway in Pierce County; and a Transportation Lobby Day in Olympia.

Thank you to: Gloria Baldi, J.E. Baldi, John Barnard, Suzanne Carlson, Colby Chester, Becky Cox, Sally Jacky, Michael Marsh, Lee Young, Maria Zeman

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Field Work

—The Rare Carnivore Remote Camera Project is “up and running” this spring. Volunteers have braved the elements to get a jump on this year’s field season for placing and maintaining sensor-activated cameras. The goal is to document the presence and range of shy but ecologically significant carnivores, including: grizzly bears, Canada lynx, and wolverines.

Thanks to: Paul Balle, Paul Brookshire, Mark Christianson, Ned Corkran, Amy Gulick, Jeff Lambert, Faye Krenkel, Rich Krenkel, Sonny Paz, Mark Walker Rhodes, Holly Weiler

—Numerous volunteers have been preparing for a summer full of hikes on lands we protect.

Thanks to: Steve Anthes, Chris Baldini, Jim Chapman, Eric Christianson, Demis Foster, Maryanne Gaddy, Suzi Hokonson, Chuck Huber, Wendy Huber, Jason Duba, Kevin Klim, Jeff Lambert, Dinah Reed, Stacy Rutledge, Marni Solheim, Liz Stockton

Events

We put on three more events for the legends.

—First, we teamed up with Bellingham’s new outfitter, Backcountry Essentials, to throw a new spring fling, the Backcountry Bash!



Mt. Baker all dressed up for the Backcountry Bash on Cinco de Mayo. Photo/art: Jasmine Minbashian

Many thanks to: Bent Grass, Robert Blake, Isaac Bonnell, Dawn Gauthier, Chris Gerston, Curt Gerston, Erica Gerston, Ryan Greigg, Zach Guy, Drew Hambilton, Nicole Harris, Joel Heil, Brian Heinrich, Ian Hume, Ali Illyn, Derek Jackman, Justin Lamb, Andrea Linton, Vanessa Lott, Beth Loudon, Dana Lyons, Erika Malone, Nikki Oleson, Jan Peters, Jubilee Pfeifer, Kyle Pieti, Oliver Ross, Ann Russell, Eben Shay, Sarah Virgin, Jeralyn Wren

—Second, we threw a monumental house party in Spokane on June 8th.

Thanks to: Travis Coletti, Tom May, Lew Persons, Wynne Persons, Marcelle Stone, Warren Wessels

—Finally, our 3rd annual “Hope for a Wild Future” auction on June 7 in Seattle was a success.

Thanks much: Wendy Arness, Chris Beamis, Craig Brooke-Weiss, Heather Dalzell, Kim Dawson, Ben Eilers, Tana Feichtinger, Darcey Goelz, Hayley Hoover, Lynda Kamerrer, Jen Knight, Henry Lagergren, Laura Livingston, Silvia Moss, Ravi Myers, Barb Pena, Joleen Post, Letha Radebaugh, Christie Raschke, Patrick Ray, Paul Reed, Wendy Reilly, Leslie Romer, Cathy Sande, Tiffany Schoessler, Mark Schultz, Gina Smith, Brian Thurston, Erin VanNoy, Laura Vitale, Curtis von Trapp, Meredith von Trapp, Jeannine Wallach, Grace Wang

—In addition, the following “table captains” recruited a room full of enthusiastic guests to the Seattle auction.

Thank you to: Ori & Ravital Artman, David & Penny Atcheson, Paul & Donna Balle, Kenan Block, Kristen Boyles & Trenton Cladouhos, David Bradlee & Kathryn Gardow, Aiden Byrne, Jim & Dianne Castanes, Mary Czerwinski & Bruce Duba, Bill Donnelly, Peter Goldman, Alexandra Loeb & Ethan Meginnis, Anne & George Mack, Devon Musgrave, Nancy Ritzenthaler & Al Odemark, Philip Vogelzang & Kathleen McCoy, Chris & Karin Weight, Andy Wickstrand, Wilburforce Foundation, Tim Wood & Anne McDuffie

Interns

Individuals who “step up” and commit to three or six month internships in Bellingham, Seattle, or Spokane help make our conservation, communications, and outreach programs robust.

Thanks to: Angel Drobnic, Dan Greer, Stephanie Grow, Terri Hutton, Hannah Lindberg, Jana Prothman, Judi Suing

How you can get involved

To keep up to date on ways you can get involved in our work, visit our web site, www.conservationnw.org and click on “Get Involved,” “Take Action,” or “Calendar.” Or contact our volunteer coordinators:

Bellingham: Rose Oliver, 800.878.9950 x10, rose@conservationnw.org

Seattle: Andrea Cuccaro, 206.675.9747 x205, andrea@conservationnw.org

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

Get outside—go for a hike!



On a Blanchard Mountain hike this spring.
Photo: Erin Moore

You've supported Conservation Northwest's work to protect the wild places of the Columbia Highlands in northeastern Washington and the The Cascades Conservation Part-

nership lands in the central Cascades... Well, this is your chance to come see some of these amazing places for yourself!

We've organized a summer hike series with something for everyone—from moderate, low-elevation forest hikes suitable to families, to more challenging backcountry rambles for experienced hikers.

For a description of each hike, please visit our web calendar at www.conservationnw.org/calendar or contact Hudson: hudson@conservationnw.org or 800.878.9950 x26.

Each hike is a separate event, and you must sign-up with the hike leader to participate. At the time you sign up, you'll be given information on carpooling, meeting time and location, and other details. Also note that Checkerboard Outings Day is a single day with multiple hikes to choose from, organized by the Sierra Club Cascade Chapter and the I-90 Wildlife Bridges Coalition, which Conservation Northwest administers.

Columbia Highlands Hikes

Sat., July 15: *Sherman Peak Loop.* Call Crystal Gartner, 509.570.2166.

Sat., July 22: *Abercrombie Mountain.* Call Maryanne Gaddy, 509.489.0410.

Sat., July 29: *Grassy Top Mountain.* Call Jeff Lambert, 509.999.5100.

Sat., Aug. 5: *Hoodoo Canyon/Emerald Lake.* Call Dinah Reed, 509.456.2226 or Chris Baldini, 509.927.9356.

Sat.-Sun., Aug. 12-13: *Abercrombie Mountain.* Call trip leader, Sierra Club/Spokane Mountaineers, 509.270.6883

Sat., Aug. 19: *Hall Mountain.* Call Holly Weiler, 509.921.8928.

Sat., Aug. 26: *Kettle Crest Trail North.* Call Crystal Gartner, 509.570.2166.

Sun., Sept. 24: *Columbia Mountain Loop.* Call Wendy & Chuck Huber, 509.939.3717.

Central Cascades Hikes

Sat., July 8: *Paris Creek.* Call Hudson Dodd to sign-up, 800.878.9950 x26, or Jim Chapman for more info on the hike, 425.774.5047.

Sat. July 29: *Checkerboard Outings Day.* Call Jen Watkins, 206.675.9747 x203.

Sat., Aug. 12: *Mt. Margaret/Twin Lakes.* Call Hudson Dodd to sign-up, 800.878.9950 x26, or David Atcheson for more info on the hike, 206.524.5706.

Sun., Aug. 20: *Tinkham Peak.* Call Hudson Dodd, 800.878.9950 x26.

Work Parties

A great way to have fun in the woods and help make a difference is to roll up your sleeves and do some manual labor at a work party. Conservation Northwest works with key allies to maintain trails in national forests, and remove invasive plant species at key green spaces.

Sat.-Sun., July 29-30: *Salmo-Priest Wilderness, Idaho Panhandle National Forest (trail work).* Call Derrick Knowles, 509.747.1663.

Sat.-Sun., Aug. 26-27: *Salmo-Priest Wilderness, Idaho Panhandle National Forest (trail work).* Call Derrick Knowles, 509.747.1663.

Sat.-Sun., Sept. 2-3: *Salmo-Priest Wilderness, Idaho Panhandle National Forest (trail work).* Call Derrick Knowles, 509.747.1663.

Sat.-Sun., Sept. 9-10: *Salmo-Priest Wilderness, Idaho Panhandle National Forest (trail work).* Call Derrick Knowles, 509.747.1663.

Sat., Oct. 21: *Discovery Park, Seattle (invasive plants).* Call Hudson Dodd, 800.878.9950 x26.



Restoring a hillside near the Salmo-Priest Wilderness Area.
Photo: Derrick Knowles