

# the COUNCIL NEWS

Summer 2006  
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*The Lands Council preserves and revitalizes our Inland Northwest forests, water, and wildlife through advocacy, education, effective action, and community engagement.*

FOREST WATCH • URBAN FOREST WATCH • WATER WATCH • WILDFIRE EDUCATION

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## Protecting Idaho Panhandle National Forests

By Tania Ellersick



Tania Ellersick Measures an Old Growth Stand in Kootenai Peak IRA

The Myrtle Creek Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA) Project has been developed through the Idaho Panhandle National Forest Service (IPNF FS) and the Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative (KVRI) involving local and tribal governments and community members of Bonners Ferry Idaho. The purpose is to reduce the risk of wildfire in the Myrtle Creek watershed, protecting Bonners Ferry's water supply while maintaining and restoring wildlife habitat.

This will supposedly be accomplished with over 1200 acres of roadless logging in the Kootenai Peak Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA) and the Selkirk IRA. It will include logging of old growth, and the use of over 900 acres of regeneration harvest, with openings over 40 acres in critical Grizzly Core areas. Additionally, 40 miles of road will be reconstructed within the project area for logging haul routes, and over 1000 acres of treatment will be done outside of the two IRAs.

This proposal will destroy wildlife habitat, degrade water quality, and destabilize slopes, increasing the likelihood of landslides and erosion. This could flood municipal water supplies with silt and mud.

Forest Service studies demonstrate that large fires occur more frequently in roaded areas than in roadless areas. There is a national controversy

over entry into IRA's since the repeal of the 2001 Roadless Rule. The Forest Service has even pledged interim protection. Despite all of this, the IPNF FS and KVRI have designed a project that will degrade the last remaining intact areas imperative to the watershed.

Regional Forester, Gail Kimball even praised this proposal as a commendable

example of collaboration when talking to our U.S. Senators and Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth. Kimball described the project as a successful collaboration regarding the Bonners Ferry watershed, but where "some outside groups from outside the community chose to take issue with the long-ongoing collaborative effort and the consensus decision and have really disrupted the process."

We recognize the goals established by KVRI and the Forest Service. The willingness to work collaboratively is evident in The Land's Council's work on the Colville National Forest and the Kootenai National Forest, but the IPNF has logged most of the intact forests that protect these watersheds, and facilitated this process in the name of protecting watersheds from wildfire. Hopefully the agency will recognize the need for a new paradigm on the IPNF, and a willingness of the so-called "outside groups" to attain the purpose this collaborative group identified.



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## Executive Director's Report



### Restoring Our River

The culmination of two years of intense meetings and negotiation bore fruit this summer as a landmark agreement was reached to dramatically improve the Spokane River. We reported progress toward lowering phosphorous levels in the river in the last two Council News and now another significant step has been taken to improve oxygen and fish habitat in the river. The agreement has several innovative parts, including a commitment by the City and County of Spokane to contribute money to reducing sources of phosphorous that come from sources such as the Little Spokane River, Latah Creek and septic tanks.

When the upgrades to wastewater treatment plants are completed, Spokane will have some of the cleanest plants in the country and emit phosphorous at levels they are just above the detection limit. The Lands Council played a key role in convening the collaborative group, along with the Spokane Chamber of Commerce, Governor Gregoire and Commissioner Todd Mielke.

The final details of the agreement will be worked out over the next 6-8 months and will include specific discharge limits, periodic progress milestones and a study to determine the most cost effective way to reduce phosphorous in our watershed. A water re-use and conservation plan will also be part of the plan, which we hope will be adopted throughout the watershed. We are proud to have been part of this innovative solution that will restore our magnificent Spokane River.

### School Fire Salvage Sale Challenged!

Last summer a wildfire in the Tucannon River in southeast Washington burned over 50,000 acres, about half on the Umatilla National Forest. Rather than carefully protect and restore the fragile, burnt area, the Forest Service decided to log nearly 10,000 acres of the steep, rugged country, build new roads and haul thousands of truckloads of trees away. Our field work, which included hiring a tree mortality expert, indicated that many trees marked for logging are barely scorched and not likely to die. As a result, The Lands Council and several other conservation groups are challenging this timber sale in court. Our attorney Karen Lindholdt and three Gonzaga law students helped write the complaint are seeking to stop or greatly modify the logging. Look for updates on this important challenge in future newsletters or on our website at [www.landscouncil.org](http://www.landscouncil.org)

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Advocacy

## Education

### Educating the Spanish Speaking Community on the Dangers of Spokane River Toxics



Temry Lathrop

**Temry Lathrop**, originally from Walla Walla, began learning Spanish in college and fell in love with Latino culture when she studied abroad in Costa Rica. She moved to Spokane four years ago after living abroad in Santiago, Chile. Since then, she has taught ESL classes to Spanish-speakers through the Spokane Community College's Institute of Extended Learning.

Temry and her son Benjamin, age four, enjoy camping, kayaking and canoeing in and around Spokane.

**Mary Torres** was born and raised near the Tri-Cities in Sunnyside, WA. Mary has five children, ages 19, 18, 13, 6 and 6 (twins!). She moved to Spokane in 2003, finished school at Career Path Services and got her GED in 2005.

Mary likes to keep herself busy looking for new things to do and also helping others in need. She is interested in going back to college some day to better her career for herself and her children. Mary says, "I've enjoyed doing outreach for the hispanic community here at The Lands Council -- it is awesome!"



Mary Torres

### River Cleanup Progress Report

The Washington Department of Ecology and the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are doing on-the-ground cleanup this summer and fall to make the Spokane River cleaner and safer.

The first cleanup is focused on heavy metals (lead, arsenic and cadmium) in sediments near Starr Road along the Spokane River. The EPA and its contractors began work on August 1st with plans for this site to be completed in around 60 days. Part of the upland contaminated area will be capped with several layers to trap the pollutants. The other part of the strategy includes completely removing sediments near the river and replacing them with clean gravel. The polluted soils will be transported to a hazardous waste facility. The project includes the installation of new public access trails and a drop-off parking area.

Additionally, two sites on the Spokane River containing polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) sediments will be worked on by the Department of Ecology beginning this fall. One site is directly behind Upriver Dam. The plan is to cap the 3.6 acres of contaminated soil underwater with a three-layered protective coal cover. The other site is known as Donkey Island and is located upriver of Argonne Road along the Centennial Trail. At Donkey Island contaminated sediments will be removed and replaced with clean fill. Contaminated sediments will be taken to a hazardous waste facility. There may be some delays on the Centennial Trail due to this cleanup, but the trail will not be closed.

The Lands Council has been working all summer with the EPA, the Department of Ecology, and the Spokane Regional Health District to spread the word about these River cleanups as well as to let citizens know about the health advisories for eating fish from the river or playing on certain beach areas. We are very pleased to see some real cleanup work happening!

## Effective Action

# THE LANDS COUNCIL LIFESTYLE

## Conservation Tips

### Water

- ★ Mow your lawn less often. Longer grass requires less watering.
- ★ Take shorter showers. You can save 5 gallons per minute.
- ★ Check your toilets for leaks: put food coloring in the tank, and if you see color in the bowl without flushing, there's a leak. Fix it right away. A leaky toilet can waste up to 80 gallons a week.
- ★ Keep drinking water in a container in the fridge to reduce the time of running the faucet.
- ★ Do not use a hose to clean your driveway, sidewalks, or gutters. Use a broom instead.

### Energy

- ★ Reduce the use of heat-producing appliances such as dishwashers, hairdryers, washing machines, and lights you aren't using. Don't forget your television!
- ★ Install compact fluorescent bulbs: they use up to 75% less electricity and last longer.
- ★ During the day, close the shades on windows that face the sun to keep hot rays out of the house.
- ★ Many appliances continue to draw a small amount of power when they are switched off. 75% of the electricity used to power home electronics is consumed while the products are turned off. Avoid this by using a power strip and using the switch on the power strip to cut all power to the appliance.

## Downtown Recycling Club Update Grant Approved to Continue Project

Do downtown businesses recycle? That question prompted an exciting project that was tackled by our summer intern, Greg Sullivan.

The first step was to survey downtown restaurants and pubs about their recycling habits. The results were surprising: nearly 60% of businesses participate in some recycling. Most businesses report that cost, lack of information about recycling, and lack of time to train employees to recycle are the biggest obstacles to recycling. However, cost is a misleading obstacle. Most businesses will actually save money by recycling. Garbage hauling fees are much higher than fees for hauling recycling, and in downtown where space is limited garbage needs to be hauled frequently. Spokane Waste Management contracts with a Waste Reduction Assessment Program (WRAP), which provides free waste management audits to businesses. At the end of the audit, WRAP produces a report that helps businesses institute recycling, effectively manage waste, and save money.

While the news is good, 60% leaves a lot of work to be done. The second step will be to increase recycling. We are encouraging businesses to recycle and helping them get started. The Lands Council has received a grant funding a project to increase the scope of the surveying, keep encouraging businesses to recycle, provide educational resources to businesses and train employees to recycle. Watch for an autumn intern who will work exclusively on the project!

We also need your help! Encourage businesses to recycle is by showing them that their customers care. Next time you are at a restaurant or any business, ask if they recycle. If they do, thank them! If they don't recycle, consider asking them to start through a verbal request or a written note you leave with the check. Follow up phone calls and letters are also helpful. The Lands Council also has ready-made cards available for download on our website under the "Downtown Spokane Recycling Club" link. Print and leave the cards at your favorite businesses.

## Community Engagement

# TOXICS OUTREACH

## Protecting Children From Lead Exposure In Hillyard

The Lands Council embarked on a new toxics outreach project in July to protect children in the Hillyard neighborhood from exposure to lead. In Hillyard, children are at risk of exposure to lead through at least three main pathways. The first pathway is the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) lead site located in the middle of Hillyard. BNSF is working with the Voluntary Cleanup Program at the Department of Ecology to clean up the heavy metals in the soil, which include lead and arsenic. The second pathway is the old housing in Hillyard. The majority of the houses and apartments are pre-1960 and thus bear the risk of containing lead based paint inside and outside the home. The third pathway is the nearby Spokane River, which is a frequently used recreation area by Hillyard residents. Over a hundred years of mining in North Idaho has created toxic levels of heavy metals and arsenic in the Spokane River, which has ended up on beaches where children play every summer. Health advisories have been issued to educate people about these risks.

Through outreach and education, The Lands Council seeks to empower low-income people and ethnic minorities in the Hillyard neighborhood with knowledge about the dangers of

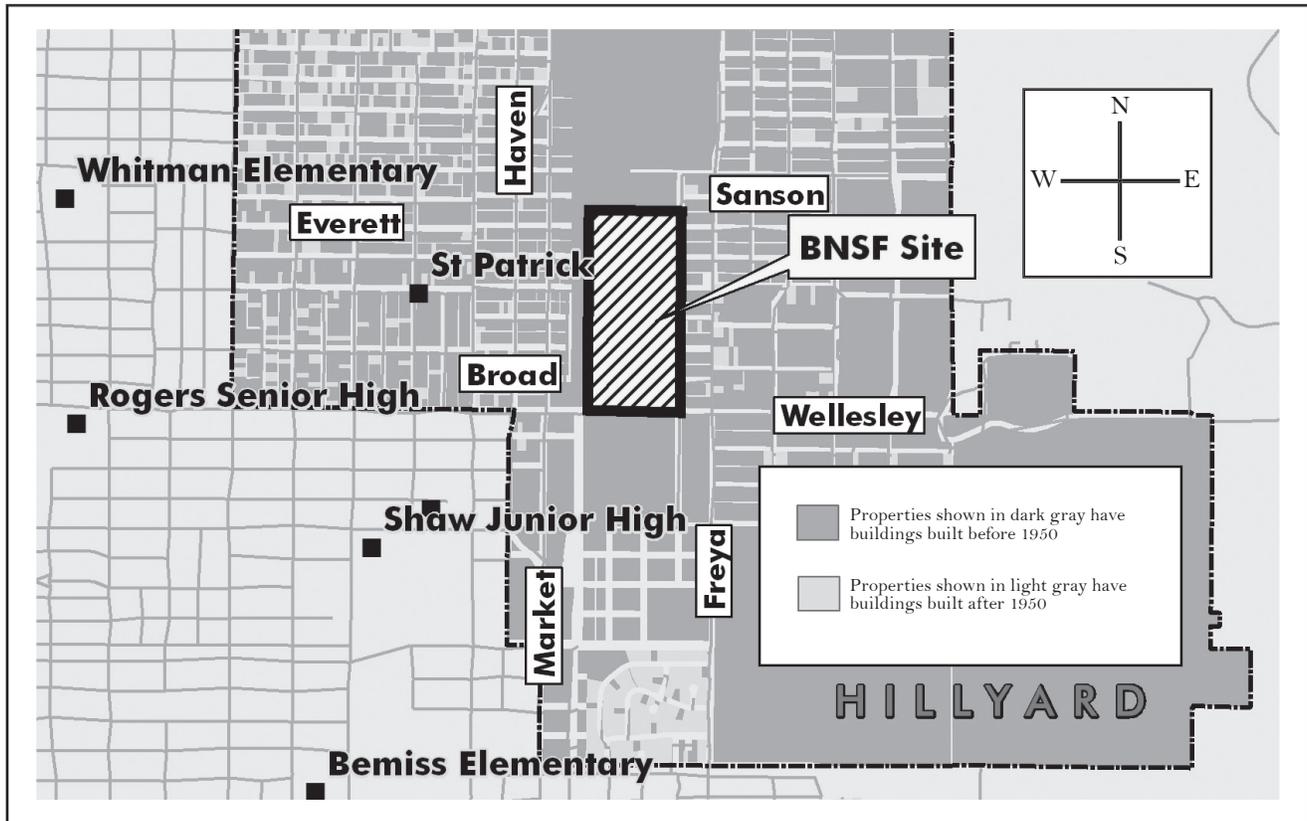


BNSF Toxic Metals Site In Hillyard

lead, how to reduce risk of exposure to children, and encourage testing of any children that may have been exposed to lead. Health care providers in this area do not routinely screen or test children on Medicaid for blood lead levels. Therefore another component of this project will focus on working with health care providers to raise awareness of this issue.

With help from the Eastern GIS lab and Spokane County, The Lands Council has created a map to help inform the citizens of Hillyard about the dangers of exposure to lead and other heavy metals. This map, along with information about decreasing exposure to lead and heavy metals, will be passed out in the neighborhood in the coming months. A long-term goal of this project is to develop educational materials and an outreach framework that can be applied to other urban neighborhoods in Spokane.

Special thanks to the Washington Dept. of Ecology and the Group Health Community Foundation for funding this toxics education project in Hillyard. For more information or to volunteer to help with this project please contact Sara Richardson at [richardson@landscouncil.org](mailto:richardson@landscouncil.org) or 838-4912.



## BOARD NEWS

### New Board Member Mary Ann McCurdy



We are happy to welcome Mary Ann McCurdy to the board! Mary Ann was born in Sioux Falls and lived in South Dakota until moving to Spokane in 1981 when her husband accepted a job at Gonzaga Law School. While living in South Dakota, Mary Ann earned a Master's Degree from the University of South Dakota, taught and counselled students in public school and college, and was a realtor.

In Washington, she worked as Governor Gary Locke's Eastern Washington Representative for most of his two terms in office. Recently Mary Ann has been active and involved in several political campaigns around Spokane. She is the owner of McCurdy Management and Consulting and recently served as the Executive Director of Spokane Interplayers Theatre for 15 months, focusing her efforts on preserving the 25 year old Spokane gem. Mary Ann is a member of Rotary Club 21, the NAACP and the Daughters of Penelope, a Greek ethnic organization. She also serves on the board of Rockwood Retirement Communities.

She says that her life journey is to find balance in thought and judgement, treat others as she wants to be treated, enjoy the love of family, achieve excellence in her work and maintain a commitment to public service when the opportunity arises.

Her biggest dream? Peace and goodwill on a healthy earth.

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

### Raffle for the River 2006

The Lands Council's Raffle for the River 2006 was a great success! The raffle was held on Wednesday, June 28th, where we heard from renowned skier Nils Larsen, who gave a wonderful presentation about skiing in the Altai Mountains in Asia. And of course, we gave away some great prizes! The first prize of two kayaks and paddles went to Bob Kuwik. Gloria McCuddin won the second prize: a two-night stay at Riverdance Lodge in Idaho. The third prize, a \$500 shopping spree went to Scott Royder.

Congratulations to our winners, and thank you very much to everyone for your interest and support! Thanks to you we netted a little over \$5,300! The profits from this event go toward funding for our important conservation programs. Thanks to Riverdance Lodge and Mountain Gear for their generosity in donating prizes this year, and thank you to The Lands Council Board of Directors for their assistance in selling tickets. Once again, we simply could not continue to function without the help and kindness from our members and volunteers. Good luck to everyone next year!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### SEPTEMBER

19th - Governor Gregoire Roadless Meeting  
6-8 pm @ the Northwest Museum of Art and Culture

22 - 24th Wild Rockies Rendezvous

[www.wildrockies.org/rendezvous](http://www.wildrockies.org/rendezvous) **FOR MORE INFO!**

27th - Benefit Breakfast

[email llogan@landscouncil.org](mailto:llogan@landscouncil.org) **FOR MORE INFO!**

### OCTOBER

26th - Fourth Thursday "Together - Learn - Connect" Member Gathering - Topic To Be Announced!

### NOVEMBER

17th - 19th - Best of Banff Film Festival. Email [llogan@landscouncil.org](mailto:llogan@landscouncil.org) to volunteer for this great event where we have Spokane's biggest cookie sale!

**WATCH [WWW.LANDSCOUNCIL.ORG](http://WWW.LANDSCOUNCIL.ORG) FOR MORE!**

## VOLUNTEER NEWS

### TLC Summer Interns Make a Difference!

Greg, Ingrid, Nicole, and Vincent have been the best team of interns that The Lands Council has seen in a long time! Watch for these four in the future! Greg and Ingrid were highlighted in the spring issue of The Council News. Here is a bit about Nicole and Vincent.

**Nicole Powell** is returning to Oregon State University as a senior Environmental Economics, Policy and Management major with a minor in Natural Resources! She would like to continue environmental work and may even go to Australia to do conservation work. This summer, Nicole has been working at various events and helped with outreach on river toxics. She is also the development assistant for the Benefit Breakfast and has been working hard to recruit table captains!



**Vincent Jansen** came to us for the summer from Western Washington University. Vincent has been working on Spokane River Toxics outreach and outreach to the Hillyard community about lead poisoning in children. (See article on page 5)

### Our Newest Member and Youngest Volunteer

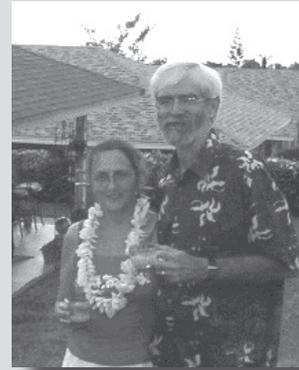
**Johnathan Lee Logan** has been working hard since he got back from his Mom, Lisa's maternity leave. His primary focus has been Newsletter Design and Membership Coordination. He will also be assisting with the 2007 Auction. His long term goals include becoming the new, new Debbie so watch out!

Johnathan was born on June 19th and weighed in at 9 pounds 14 ounces! His mom is very happy to have him with her at work.



## URBAN FORESTS

### Urban Forest Advocate Received State Award



Carrie Anderson and husband, Gabor Zovanyi

The Land's Council's own Urban Forest advocate, Carrie Anderson, was recently given an award from the Washington State Department of Natural Resources for her outstanding community forestry stewardship and her ongoing efforts to bring attention to the importance of our city's urban forests.

The award was given by the Washington Community Forestry Council, which is composed of individuals from throughout Washington State who represent the many facets of urban & community forestry. Washington Community Forestry Council's mission is to provide leadership to create self-sustaining urban and community forestry programs that preserve, plant and manage forests and trees for public benefits and quality of life. The Council believes in recognizing those who have made exemplary contributions to urban forestry. Through this award program, the Council provides individuals, businesses and organizations with deserved recognition for preserving, planting and managing community forests & trees for public benefits and quality of life.

**Please contact your City Council representatives and express the importance of your urban forests. They need to hear that city trees are important to their constituents today!**

For more information about the Urban Forest Council, please contact Carrie at [treelady@cet.com](mailto:treelady@cet.com).

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Mark Your Calendar!

# Benefit Breakfast

*Strengthening our  
Connections*



**S e p t e m b e r 2 7 , 2 0 0 6**  
email [llogan@landscouncil.org](mailto:llogan@landscouncil.org) to RSVP

Our goal is to have 200 people attend this free breakfast with all donations benefitting The Lands Council, hoping to engage new people to support our work.

You can help make this  
event a success!

- ★ Become a table captain and bring your friends to the event.
- ★ Bring yourself and watch for your invitation in early September.
- ★ Can't attend? You can also sponsor a table for \$100.
- ★ For more information on any of these opportunities, visit [www.landscouncil.org/events/events.htm](http://www.landscouncil.org/events/events.htm) or call Amber, Nicole, or Lisa at (509) 838-4912.

## "No" on I-933

I-933 is a radical anti-environmental initiative that would eliminate a wide range of protections for Washington's environment and communities. The poorly written initiative creates a "pay or waive" system that forces local taxpayers to pay special interests to follow existing laws, or waive protections regardless of community impact.

I-933 will:

- Create loopholes for irresponsible development, harming our quality of life
- Cost taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars for years to come
- Create a bureaucratic nightmare and legal disputes across the state that will be paid for by taxpayers
- Drain money away from programs we rely on, such as education, transportation, and public safety
- Dismantle protections for rivers and streams, clean water, wetlands, forests and shorelines

**Pledge to vote NO on 933, volunteer to phone bank, or make a donation to help let others know why I-933 is bad for Washington at [www.NoOn933.org](http://www.NoOn933.org).**

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