

the COUNCIL NEWS

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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 COUNCIL WATER WATCH ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

LOOK INSIDE!

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Earth Share
OF WASHINGTON

Idaho Roadless Areas at Risk!

by Tania Ellersick

North Idaho Forests: The Ellersick Family History

In 1900, my family moved to north Idaho in search of white pine. Nicknamed the White Pine Savages, documents from the 1920s show the miles of roads my family built to access and remove white pine timber. At this time, the first "roadless" or primitive area inventory on national forests was conducted and the Forest Service inventoried many tracts of land larger than 200,000 acres. North Idaho was dotted with small mining and logging communities, financed by what could be extracted out of Idaho's natural resources. After we cut all the old growth white pine from the land we had purchased, my family started working for the A.C. White Lumber Company in Boundary County, the Panhandle Lumber Company in Spirit Lake, and established the Kootenai Bay Lumber Company and Riverside Lumber Company north of Sandpoint and near Laclede, Idaho. In 1951, my grandparents, my aunt, and my dad moved from Coeur d'Alene to Bonners Ferry where my Grandpa was

Tell the Forest Service to keep our national forests like they are!

- Submit comments
- Write a letter to the editor

See page 5 for more details



Ellersick Lumbermen on Bull Chain 1921. Standing in back: Frank G. Ellersick, unidentified, Jack Ellersick. Sitting in front: unidentified, Walt Ellersick, John F. Ellersick reading newspaper, three men at right unknown.

the head saw filer for the Ellersick Brother's sawmill, started by my great grandfather and his brother. By the 1980s, my dad and uncle worked for WI Forests Products in Spokane, and my cousins and I spent our summers in north Idaho. We collected drinking water in old gallon milk jugs from Snow Creek, packed them in my grandparent's green station wagon, and brought them to the house they built on Buchanan Street. We were oblivious to how those forests were changing around us, how the roads we drove our yellow dune buggy on were expanding,

or that the lake we swam in would turn into the largest Superfund sight in the nation.

If you visit the Museum of North Idaho in Coeur d'Alene, you can view hundreds of photographs donated by my grandma documenting the fragmentation of these pristine forests through our shared history of natural resource extraction, development, and transportation in North Idaho. This story is not unusual; US citizens are losing open space at a rate approaching 10,000 acres a (Continued on page 5...)

STAFF

Debbie Boswell
Administrative Director

Tania Ellersick
Forest Watch Director

Kristi Fountain
Events Coordinator

Kat Hall
Environmental Health Program Director

Laurie Jackson
Community Outreach Specialist - AmeriCorps

Kitty Klitzke
Program Outreach Coordinator

Audra Krislock
Volunteer & Climate Change Education
Coordinator - AmeriCorps

Mike Petersen
Executive Director

Nicole Powell
Membership & Environmental Health Program
Assistant

Amber Waldref
Development Director

Brian Walker
Watershed Program Director

Executive Director's Report



Climate Change in the Inland Northwest

Thinking about global warming in ten-degree weather, with snow piling up outside, puts things in perspective. We humans have a hard time thinking in the thousand or million year cycles that climate operates. Yet, a conversation I had recently with Philip Mote, PhD, who works at the U of WA Climate Impacts Group, and who shared in the recent Nobel Prize with Al Gore, was sobering. Philip said climate change is one of the most studied scientific topics ever and that the only scientific uncertainty is the extent of change to come.

The measurements from almost every station worldwide show our Earth is getting warmer and that the trend will accelerate. Temperature is projected to increase in the Pacific Northwest about 0.5 degrees F per decade on average, a rate three times faster than the average rate of

change observed in the region during the 20th century. By 2040, for example, the average annual temperature will increase by 1.4 to 4.6 degrees F.

Warmer temperatures mean more precipitation will fall as rain, not snow, and more snow will melt earlier in the spring. Our regions rivers will have increased winter flows, reduced summer flows, and a shift of peak runoff earlier in the year, which is already evident in years of reduced Spokane River summer flows.

Snowpack in the Pacific Northwest has declined at low and mid elevations, with an observed decline of about 40% in the Cascades at low elevations. It is important to note that this means an *average* decline. So we may still enjoy winters like this where we can sled in town and complain about the lack of snowplowing.

In cities such as Spokane, more rainfall and extreme storm events mean more storm water runoff. As water flows over the land, it carries with it all pollutants left on the ground or flowing off paved or hard surfaces. We can expect increased runoff to cause sewer overflows and strain our wastewater treatment systems.

In the forests, the wildfire season is expected to be longer and more severe. With warmer winters, pest populations can reproduce longer with less winter die-offs. Faster runoff can cause more flooding, increased erosion, and give an opening to expansion of weed populations. On the positive side, the growing season is likely to be extended and local food production may benefit.

The Lands Council is working in several areas to help our region reduce its carbon footprint and adapt to climate changes. We are part of the freshwater Prevention/Adaptation Work Group that was charged with providing recommendations to WA Gov. Gregoire's Climate Advisory Team. We are helping start the Northwest Climate Change Center, which will focus on helping businesses and communities adapt to climate change and the liquid fuel crisis. Transportation, green building, and land use will be major issues in our region as the need to reduce carbon dioxide causes a shift from fossil fuel to renewable energy use.

The Lands Council is also assisting the City of Spokane with its climate action plan. As the leader of one of the nations "Cool Cities", Mayor Verner has committed to decrease carbon emissions and needs a plan with tangible action steps.

According to the experts, the impacts to our region's forests and rivers from global warming will be profound. The Lands Council will continue to play a leadership role in shaping policies and action plans to ensure that tangible steps are taken commensurate with the urgency of this issue.

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CONTACT US

25 W Main Ave Ste 222

Spokane, Washington 99201

(509) 838-4912, fax: (509) 838-5155

e-mail: tlc@landscouncil.org

www.landscouncil.org

Environmental Health

Keep Me Lead-Free!

The Lands Council's project to reduce childhood lead poisoning in Spokane is underway! Over the past few months, we've used GIS to identify sections of neighborhoods in Spokane exhibiting the highest risks for childhood lead poisoning by noting presence of homes built before 1950 that likely contain lead-based paints, children under age 6, and low to median household incomes. Many of the neighborhoods we looked at (e.g. West Central, Hillyard, East Central, Emerson-Garfield, Chief Garry Park.) contained several high-risk areas; most notably Nevada-Lidgerwood and other Northeast neighborhoods. We will be going door-to-door in the spring and summer to educate families in these neighborhoods about the health effects of childhood lead poisoning, exposure pathways, and how to prevent it.

We've also contracted with a local nurse and are offering free, on-the-spot blood lead screening of kids. Our portable "LeadCare II" machine generates results in 3 minutes. We're creating a burgeoning partnership with staff at Spokane's Head Start and Early Head Start (HS/EHS) program. After educating parents, we held our first two blood lead screenings at the West Central Community Center, targeting kids from both the West Central and Bryant HS/EHS centers. Of the 34 kids we have screened so far, none have exhibited high blood lead levels.

Stay tuned for results of more upcoming blood lead screenings and look for us at community health fairs this year! For more information, contact Kat (209-2403) or Nicole (209-2404).



The Lands Council is working with local families to promote a healthy Spokane environment and community.

Environmental Health Assessment: Transitioning to Action!

In 2007, The Lands Council, with funding from the Spokane Regional Health District, facilitated a dynamic, collaborative environmental health assessment process. A multi-stakeholder team consisting of government agencies, business, industry, neighborhood groups, non-profits, academic institutions, health care providers, and local citizens met monthly and identified, researched, ranked, and prioritized top environmental health concerns in Spokane County. The two issues receiving the highest number of votes were lead and how the "built environment" (i.e. human-made buildings and infrastructure) affect people's health. Other environmental health issues receiving nods included outdoor air quality, mold, dioxins, and use of carbon monoxide detectors. You can read about the work of the Environmental Health Assessment Team on our website: www.landsCouncil.org/water/reducing_toxics.asp

We're now ready to dive into the exciting action phase of our environmental health assessment. A 2-year EPA CARE (Community Action for a Renewed Environment) grant awarded to The Lands Council in October 2007 will allow us to do this. CARE grants aid communities in building collaborative, problem-solving partnerships to reduce toxic risks. We hope to build a sustainable community partnership that would develop and implement collective action plans to reduce the toxic risks of lead in Spokane County and enhance people's physical health by working to improve our community's built environment.

What have we accomplished so far? Our community lead team held its first meeting at the end of January and is currently drafting a work plan and timeline. Project staff Nicole Powell and Kat Hall are interviewing folks working on built environment issues in order to assess current community efforts and determine how we can most effectively channel our resources.

We are looking for more participants! If you have expertise in these areas, or an interest and willingness to contribute, please contact Nicole at 209-2404, npowell@landscouncil.org.

Education

Board News

Mark Ostersmith Named to The Lands Council Board of Directors

Mark Ostersmith grew up in Alaska and the Spokane area, where he and his family spent their vacations camping and exploring beautiful national parks. Mark brought this love of nature to his relationship with his wife, Suzanne, who grew up in California. They spent their early married life volunteering for several projects in Central and South America, including building homes for Habitat for Humanity.

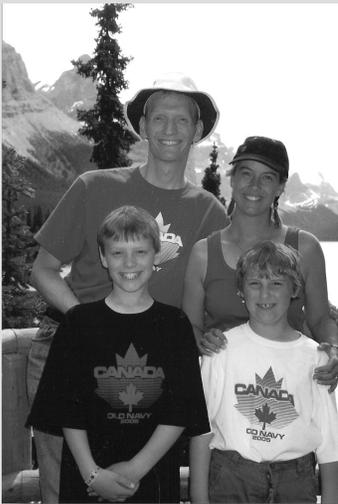
Mark and Suzanne got involved with The Lands Council through Mark's parents, Gil and Christi Smith back in the late 1990s. Mark first joined the TLC Finance Committee in 2006 and has become more involved over the last year. Everyday, Mark and Suzanne reflect on ways to minimize their ecological footprint. Since 1998, they have lived in Chattaroy on 18 acres of land with their two sons, Niklas (11) and Daniel (9). That year, Mark and Suzanne spent nine months constructing their home using as much recycled product and environmentally-sensitive building practices as possible. Mark and Suzanne drive vehicles with high gas mileage and attempt to reduce his/her trips to Spokane, where Mark works as financial operations principal for Partners Investment Network and Suzanne, a professor, directs the dance minor at Gonzaga and Whitworth Universities.

Mark also serves on the St. George's School board and on its Finance Committee. Mark and Suzanne enjoy traveling and sharing their passion for the global environment with their two sons.

Most recently, they visited National Parks in the Southwest and spent time in Nicaragua over Christmas.

Mark officially joined The Lands Council Board of Directors in November 2007.

W e l c o m e ,
Mark!



Mark, Suzanne, Niklas and Daniel at Maligne Lake in Jasper National Park

Water Watch

Lands Council to Host River Restoration Efforts in 2008

There is a lot of work going on to clean up the Spokane River and Latah (Hangman) Creek, but few efforts going on to help restore the banks and flood plains of these important waterways. These areas are extremely important habitat for birds and wildlife and the overall healthy function of streams and rivers. Large trees planted on the banks shade the water and help cool the stream or river. The roots of other plants provide a filtering system that can reduce harmful pollutants in the water.

With the success of last year's Earth Day River Restoration event, The Lands Council again plans on sponsoring a morning of re-vegetation efforts near the Sandifur Bridge. But we are not stopping there. With a recent grant from REI, we have additional funds available to purchase plants for other restoration projects this fall on Latah Creek. Tentative dates for these events are listed below. Please plan on joining us to help restore our watershed!

We will also be looking for volunteers this summer to help water the plants during the hot and dry parts of the year. If you or your school/church group is interested, please contact Brian Walker, Watershed Program Director, for information at bwalker@landscouncil.org or 209-2408.

Upcoming Dates to Remember – Please RSVP to Audra at akrislock@landscouncil.org so that we know who will be participating in these river restoration events and have enough equipment available.

April 5th – Join The Lands Council at our offices in the Saranac-Community Building at 25 W. Main to pot bare-root plant stock that will be used for restoration projects this coming fall in Hangman Valley. Those with a green thumb are highly encouraged to participate!

April 20th – The Lands Council hosts the Second Annual Earth Day River Restoration Event. Meet at the south side of the Sandifur Bridge in Peaceful Valley between 8:30am and 9:00am to help in pulling invasive plant species and re-vegetating with native plant species. Event will end at approximately 1pm. Shovels and rakes will be available, but please bring a pair of gloves.

September (date to be set) – Come work with The Lands Council to re-vegetate areas of Champion Park on Hangman Creek. We will be using the plants that have been tended on our rooftop garden all summer.



Lands Council volunteers at River Restoration 2007

Forest Watch

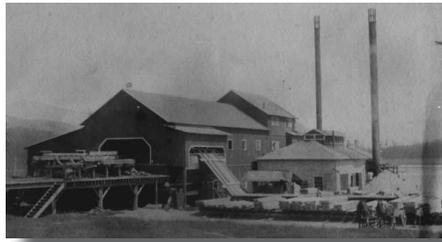
(Roadless...continued from page 1)

day. Mike Dombeck, former Chief of the Forest Service and Director of the Bureau of Land Management, recently pointed out in an article supporting roadless protection, that in the conterminous US, only 3% of the nation's land is farther than 17,000 feet (about 3.2 miles) from the nearest road.

North Idaho Roadless Forest Today

Despite over one million comments from Americans supporting the complete protection of all roadless areas under the 2001 Roadless Rule, the State of Idaho and the U.S.

Forest Service are moving forward with a separate Idaho proposal that would decrease the protections of over five million acres of remaining intact ecosystems, leaving them vulnerable to further development, phosphate mining, irresponsible logging, and road building. Unfortunately, the draft proposal does not



Ellersick's Riverside Lumber Company 1910

include the definitions, explicit language, and restrictions necessary to honor Lt. Governor Risch's 2006 commitment to protect 95% of Idaho's roadless land. The proposal permits phosphate mining and new roads they claim are necessary for fuel reduction. They fail to mention that any new road built has lasting and devastating effects, that several phosphate mines in Idaho are Superfund sites, and that Idaho has a \$660 million backlog in needed Forest Service road maintenance. The 2001 Roadless Rule already allows exceptions for community safety. Projects that protect municipal watersheds, address fire protection, and protect habitat for endangered lynx, caribou, salmon, and grizzly bear are already moving forward under the 2001 rule.

Why You Should Help Protect our Forests

Our shared history of short sited mismanagement of natural resources has left Idaho with 34,000 miles of "official" system roads, and reduced many of the large inventoried pristine areas of the 1920s to fragments smaller than 500 acres. Without committed and active participation, the Idaho state rule will leave our hiking destinations, our secret hunting spots, our skiing vistas, and our favorite swimming holes vulnerable to even more degradation. Now is the time to remember what we love about this area, take responsibility for our part in its demise, and tell the Forest Service our roadless areas deserve greater or equal protections than the current 2001 Roadless Rule. Take your parent, your sibling, your child, or your friend and document your experiences in Idaho forests.

Send The Lands Council and the Forest Service your letters supporting Idaho's roadless areas. By April 7th, we hope to send a compelling and effective message that illustrates our appreciation of what we call home.

If you have any comments or concerns, feel free to contact Tania Ellersick, Forest Watch Director, at 509-209-2401 or tellersick@landscouncil.org.

TAKE ACTION!

Tell the Forest Service to keep our National Forests like they are!

The Forest Service and Idaho have released a new plan for the management of Idaho's pristine roadless areas which will decrease protections in more than 6 million acres.

Now YOU have a chance to be a voice for these forests, which are the national heritage of all Americans, before they are damaged by road building, logging, mining, developers and other interests.

Two ways to take action:

- Submit comments
- Write a letter to the editor

Submit comments by April 7th to: IDcomments@fsroadless.org

Visit www.landscouncil.org/alerts for talking points and tips on writing a letter to the editor or contact Kitty at kkkltzke@landscouncil.org or 509-209-2402.

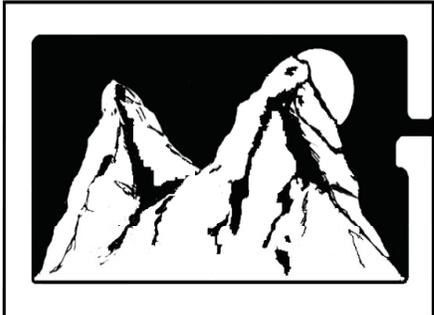
The Lands Council Speakers Bureau Needs YOU!

The Lands Council Speakers Bureau is a trained group of dedicated member/volunteers who make a commitment to speak on behalf of The Lands Council in the community. Speakers use a terrific slide show presentation aimed at growing our membership through outreach and education. Each Speakers Bureau member brings his or her own enthusiasm and perspective to the presentations.

New training sessions will start up again in February. They occur every Tuesday at 7:30 a.m. in our offices at 25 W. Main, 2nd Floor, and every Tuesday at 12noon.

Interested in sharing the important work of The Lands Council in the community? You are invited to attend training sessions, or just learn how to talk to friends and associates about what The Lands Council is all about. For more information, contact our Americorps Community Outreach Specialist, Laurie Jackson at 509-209-2405 or ljackson@landscouncil.org.

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Business Partners

The Lands Council Seeks Business Partners in 2008

Business Partners are businesses that give time and support to sustain The Land Council's mission. Membership is extended to supporters who contribute cash or in-kind donations of \$150 or more annually to The Lands Council.

Business Partners receive many benefits, including quarterly newsletters, invitations to complimentary Business Breakfasts, and recognition on our website.

Thanks to the Business Partners who have already made commitments in 2008!

Save the date!

Business Partner Breakfast
Tuesday, February 26th -- 7:30am
Mountain Gear Headquarters
Look for your invite in the mail!

Interested in becoming a partner? Please check our website for current information and our menu of sponsorship opportunities. Many of our sponsorship opportunities (like our annual Auction and Dinner) won't last long! Contact Amber Waldref at 209-2407 or awaldref@landscouncil.org.

Volunteer News

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

The annual Dinner Auction is on Friday April 18, The Lands Council's largest fundraising event and we need lots of volunteers. If you are interested in serving on the auction steering committee, would like to volunteer before or during the auction, or assist with Earth Day or River Restoration activities please contact Audra at akrislock@landscouncil.org or call 209-2852.

Thank You To Our Office Volunteers

Thank you to all of the great volunteers and your outstanding contributions to The Lands Council! Special thanks to John Abbots who spent many hours working with Brian Walker on GIS mapping for our child lead screening project. Also, thank you to Donna Burt, Barbara Morkill, Chloe Dehner, and Mary Llewellyn for all of their help around the office. We couldn't do this work without you!

THE LANDS COUNCIL

25 W Main Ave, Ste 222
Spokane, Washington 99201
(509) 838-4912, fax: (509) 838-5155
e - mail: tlc@landscouncil.org
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Quarterly
Newsletter



You are invited to
**The Lands Council's 13th Annual
Dinner Auction**
Friday, April 18th
at Northern Quest Casino

Please join us for an exciting evening of good friends,
a delicious dinner, & fantastic loud and silent auction
items.

We are offering you this special opportunity to
purchase an entire auction table seating eight at
the reduced price of \$375 before **Monday, March
10, 2008**. After March 10th, we will release any
remaining individual tickets to the general public for
\$60 per person.

Tables sell out quickly... call your friends today!

For more information, contact Kristi at 509.209.2851
or kfountain@landscouncil.org

Auction Wish List

We're working hard to procure some new and fun items for
this year's Auction. Below are a few ideas. If you or someone
you know would like to donate, **please fill out the "auction
item donation form" in this newsletter** and return it to
Kristi at The Lands Council or email the information to
kfountain@landscouncil.org. Thank you!

- * Restaurant gift certificates
- * Artwork
- * Getaway packages
- * Furniture
- * Items for kids or pets
- * Garden items
- * Home décor items
- * Diesel car
- * Wine and wine related items

Get Involved in Spokane Earth Day Planning!



Spring is coming, which means Earth Day 2008 is just around the corner. The Earth Day planning committee, headed up this year by Laurie Jackson, needs your help in planning the big celebration in Riverfront Park on Saturday, April 18th! If you have some time to share ideas and provide helping hands with the many tasks to be tackled by the committee, contact Laurie at ljackson@landscouncil.org or 209-2405. The committee will meet every other Wednesday at noon at the Saranac-Community Building until the event.

Upcoming Events:

Feb. 26th: Business Partners Breakfast

March 7th: Quarterly Open House

April 18th: Annual Dinner and Auction

April 19th: Earth Day in Riverfront Park

April 20th: Spokane River Restoration Day

May 2nd: Quarterly Open House

Visit www.landscouncil.org/events for
full event details. Updated weekly!