

# the COUNCIL NEWS

Autumn 2007  
vol. 11, no. 4

*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!

Environmental Health	1
<i>EPA Lead Grant</i>	
<i>River Toxics</i>	
Director's Report	2
Environmental Health	3
<i>Continuation of cover stories</i>	
Water Watch	4
<i>River Cleanup Stalled</i>	
Forest Watch	5
<i>Old Growth</i>	
<i>Urban Forest Council</i>	
Staff News	6
<i>Welcome, Audra and Laurie</i>	
<i>TLC Holiday Gifts</i>	
Member News and Business Partners	7
Upcoming Events and Event Wrap-up	8



## The Lands Council Receives EPA Grant to Reduce Childhood Lead Poisoning in Spokane

Since the mid-1990's, The Lands Council has been involved in cleaning up a legacy of waste from a century of mining in North Idaho and advocating for people's health. Our "Get the Lead Out Program" pushed for cleanup of lead and other heavy metals in the Coeur d'Alene-Spokane Watershed. We also advocated for increased testing of children for lead exposure. In 2000, health advisories were issued on the Washington State side of the Spokane River, warning women and children to avoid playing on certain beaches because of lead in the soils. Since 2004, The Lands Council, through a grant from the WA Dept of Ecology, has done direct outreach to people who use the river most often (low-income and recent immigrant residents), helping to protect their health and involving them in the cleanup process.

Throughout the last decade, we have realized that lead exposure comes from many different sources – from the Spokane River, from exposure to dump sites like the BNSF Lead Site in Hillyard, as well as exposure in the home from lead-based paint. In order to truly protect children from multiple exposures to lead, The Lands Council applied and recently received an EPA Targeted Lead Grant to perform outreach and education to reduce childhood lead poisoning, and to promote increased childhood blood lead screening in four inner-city Spokane neighborhoods. The Lands Council is one of only five recipients of this grant in EPA's Region 10, which includes Alaska, Washington, Oregon, and Idaho.

Why is exposure to lead so dangerous for children? Childhood exposure to lead can

(Continued on page 3...)

## Spokane River Toxics Education: New Data Emerges

The Lands Council just wrapped up its fourth successful season of outreach to homeless, low income, ethnic, and other communities on Spokane River toxics. Between May and September of this year, we completed approximately 1,350 surveys, distributed over 2,100 health advisories, and educated over 4,450 individuals in the greater Spokane community! These activities are part of our larger, multi-year goal of building public awareness of the health risks of PCBs in Spokane River fish



Lands Council summer outreach: handing out health advisories to fishermen and recreators in Spokane

and heavy metal contamination in beach sediments, reducing human exposure to toxics and protecting public health, and encouraging participation from the total community in the river clean-up process.

Here's what we've learned this year from data we collected through surveys of convenience:

(Continued on page 3...)

## STAFF

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## Executive Director's Report



Friends,

I'm excited to report that, as this year comes to a close, you and I have a unique opportunity to preserve some of the great wild places in our National Forests.

Over the last two years, The Lands Council has employed new strategies, such as working with diverse partners, to make huge gains in forest preservation. Our balance of litigation and collaboration has brought people together on the ground to improve the management of our forests.

Because of our intense and successful collaboration, in 2008, The Lands Council has an opportunity to protect important forests and wildlife habitat in three places in the Northwest Rockies: the Colville National Forest in northeastern Washington, the Coeur d'Alene Mountains of North Idaho, and the rugged forests of the Kootenai in northwestern Montana.

Why is the time ripe for forest protection? In the Colville National Forest we are addressing the real risk of wildfire to rural communities and gaining wide support for designating parts of the forest as Wilderness. We have a real opportunity to achieve new wilderness – something we have not achieved since the 1980s!

I need your extra support now to help us fight for wilderness areas in 2008! The private grants that once funded our forest protection work are no longer available. We now depend almost exclusively on the generosity of individuals like you who care about forests to sustain our mission.

If you can, please consider a generous year-end donation today to help The Lands Council preserve our local forests as wilderness in 2008. As always, best wishes at the holidays and thank you for your on-going support.

## Myrtle Creek Lawsuit Averted

Last month, The Lands Council finally reached resolution of the Myrtle Creek timber sale and fuel reduction project with the U.S. Forest Service. Our concerns were that the proposal to log 1200 acres of roadless area would destroy wildlife habitat, degrade water quality, and destabilize slopes, increasing the likelihood of landslides and erosion. This could flood Bonners Ferry municipal water supplies with silt and mud.

After a year of field trips, negotiations and legal challenges to protect this fragile watershed, The Lands Council agreed there was some merit in logging some of the small trees around Myrtle Creek, but it had to be done without new roads and be protective of bears, soils and old growth. While we are still concerned about the impacts of logging in a municipal watershed, the Forest Service has removed several roadless units, agreed to winter logging to protect soils and grizzly bear, and changed the prescriptions to better protect wildlife habitat while still removing part of the heavy fuel load. We will be closely monitoring the implementation of this sale to ensure that the project is carried out in an environmentally sound manner. I want to thank our legal experts, scientists and those of you who made special donations this year so we could change a very bad timber sale into a project that requires close monitoring, but no expensive litigation.

For more background information on the Myrtle Creek project, please visit [http://www.landscouncil.org/forests/idaho\\_panhandle\\_national\\_forest.asp](http://www.landscouncil.org/forests/idaho_panhandle_national_forest.asp)

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## Environmental Health

### (Lead Grant...continued from page 1)

lead to anemia, behavior problems, learning disabilities, brain damage, and in some cases, death. While the numbers of lead-poisoned children have declined in recent years, the burden of lead poisoning continues to fall disproportionately on low-income families living in older, poorly-maintained housing. In 2005, the Washington State Study of Lead Hazards in Housing classified much of Spokane as "Priority 1," a ranking which represents neighborhoods having the highest concentration of risk factors for childhood lead poisoning, such as older homes and low to moderate median household incomes.

By creating self-sustaining partnerships with government agencies, neighborhood councils, academic institutions, non-profit organizations, and health care providers, The Lands Council we will reduce childhood lead exposure in Spokane in these ways:

(1)**Target the most vulnerable:** Use computer mapping (Geographic Information Systems, or GIS) to identify Spokane neighborhoods that are most at-risk for childhood lead poisoning (more specifically, this means areas with homes inhabited by children ages 0-6 that were built before 1950 and likely contain lead-based paints, proximity to the Spokane River and other lead sites).

(2)**Perform direct outreach and education:** Educate families about the health effects of lead poisoning on children, how to recognize symptoms, what families can do to protect themselves from lead exposure, and how to access existing resources and programs aimed at testing children and checking homes for lead.

(3)**Promote increased lead screening in children:** Document suspected elevated blood lead levels among at-risk children by working with providers (Spokane Regional Health District) to offer free, voluntary on-the-spot blood lead screening.

This project indeed dovetails with The Lands Council's work over the last decade to clean up the Spokane-Coeur d'Alene Watershed from a century of mining and protect the health of those most affected by exposure to environmental toxins. The EPA grant allows The Lands Council to continue its successful work to educate our community about toxics in our river, as well as environmental toxics in the home.

We're thrilled to continue and improve our work in the community to help protect our most vulnerable from lead exposure. For more information, please visit [http://www.landscouncil.org/water/reducing\\_lead.asp](http://www.landscouncil.org/water/reducing_lead.asp) or call Kat Hall, Environmental Health Program Director at 509-209-2403.

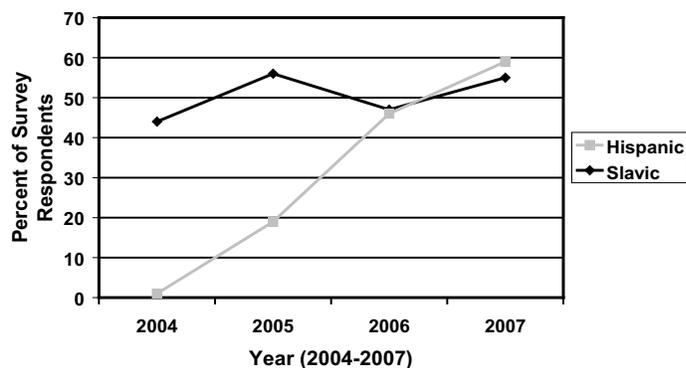
### (Spokane Toxics...continued from page 1)

•Survey respondents frequented all parts of the Spokane River, with the bulk of respondents using the river up to 8 times per month during the summer. The most popular recreation sites included Boulder Beach, Riverfront Park, People's Park, and Riverside State Park.

•Fish consumption has either decreased or remains relatively low in all communities surveyed.

•Knowledge of Spokane River toxics increased dramatically since 2004 in the Hispanic community, and remained relatively high in the Slavic and greater Spokane communities (See graph below).

Percent in Slavic and Hispanic Communities Indicating Knowledge of Spokane River Toxics



•The majority of survey respondents reported that they received this knowledge through word of mouth, TV, and the newspaper.

•Roughly 90% of survey respondents reported having health concerns about the Spokane River.

•77% and 56% of those indicating some knowledge of Spokane River toxics in the Slavic and greater Spokane communities, respectively, reported that this knowledge has affected their use of the river.

A big thanks to all of our dedicated toxics outreach workers, and to Spokane Regional Health District (SRHD) staff for assisting us in data analysis! Be sure to look for us out on the river again next spring and summer, as we include PBDEs (flame retardants) and dioxins in our river outreach and education. Also, stay tuned for a full Lands Council toxics report with all four years of data to be released in early 2008.

For more information, please contact Kat Hall at (509) 209-2403, [khall@landscouncil.org](mailto:khall@landscouncil.org) or Nicole Powell at (509) 209-2404, [npowell@landscouncil.org](mailto:npowell@landscouncil.org).

## Congratulations to our Raffle for the River winners!



**1st prize** winners of two kayaks & paddles, Richard and Bobbie League.

**2nd prize** winner of two adult ski season passes to 49° North, Tania Ellersick.

**3rd prize** winner of a \$250 Mountain Gear shopping spree, Chris DeForest.

Thank you to Mountain Gear for hosting our raffle drawing event and a special thank you to adventure travel pioneer Peter Grubb, founder of ROW Adventures, for sharing his 30 years of adventures all over the globe.

## Have you checked out The Lands Council's new website and e-newsletter?

The Lands Council has a new exciting website. Visit us online for up-to-date information about environmental issues affecting the Inland Northwest in our news section, the latest information about all of our environmental programs, project updates, upcoming TLC events, volunteer opportunities, and much more! Please visit our website at [www.landsCouncil.org](http://www.landsCouncil.org).

The Lands Council launched its new e-newsletter, *The Lands Council News Online*, in October. You can visit The Lands Council's website at [www.landsCouncil.org/contact](http://www.landsCouncil.org/contact), to sign up for e-mail alerts and our e-newsletter. Our e-newsletter is a great way to receive updates from The Lands Council about our programs, events, and volunteer opportunities on a bi-monthly basis. Please sign up today!

## Spokane River Cleanup Stalled

Plans to clean up the Spokane River may have hit a snag. A two year collaborative effort by dischargers, agencies, elected officials, The Lands Council and others created an innovative plan to cleanup the Spokane River and meet water quality standards. The plan would include high-tech wastewater treatment plants, reclaimed water, and septic tank replacements from Coeur d'Alene to Lake Spokane all working together to restore our river. The snag has come about because the Environmental Protection Agency decided to go its own way and give Idaho different waste allocations (the amount of pollution that can enter the Spokane River) than Washington State. This puts the Washington Department of Ecology in a situation where they now consider any phosphorus coming from Idaho as natural and background. This not only sets a bad precedent, but appears to violate the Clean Water Act. It also breaks the spirit of the collaboration, which aimed to bring everyone together to protect our watershed – even across state boundaries.



A kayaker on the lower Spokane River at the Devil's Toenail rapid

As with any complex plan, there are other issues that need to be clarified. The City of Spokane and Liberty Lake were inexplicably given higher waste loads, and deadlines about when treatment facilities will be built and achieving acceptable emissions are a bit unclear in the Department of Ecology plans. A lot of money and the future of our great river are at stake. The Lands Council is meeting with state and regional agency heads and elected officials in the next month to help resolve these issues. Stay tuned to see if the plan can be improved and the cleanup can get back on track.

Contact Brian Walker, Watershed Program Director, for more information at [bwalker@landsCouncil.org](mailto:bwalker@landsCouncil.org).

### Old Growth Ecosystem Protection: Is Some Tree Removal Acceptable?

For years, The Lands Council has had a policy of no disturbance of old growth areas. Old growth ecosystems are more complex in structure, composition, and function, than younger forests. The process and development of old growth can take centuries. Needles, cones, branches, leaves, and innumerable insect bodies break down into litter, duff and humus. Microbes, rhizomes, fungi, molds, and lichen break down the nutrients, enabling tree roots to absorb the molecules needed to reach old age. These layers, only inches deep, protect the soil by absorbing and filtering rain and snow. Canopy cover and soil stability keeps streams flowing cool and clean for fish and ensures stream flow in hot summer months. Long living trees sustain lichen growth for caribou, deer and moose winter feed. Large downed snags provide nurse logs for new and growing trees, retain moisture in summer months, and serve as shelter for dozens of species.



Members of NEWFC & the Colville NFFS staff on a Malo East Project field trip

Given the complexity of these old growth ecosystems, and the array of concerns we have about disturbing old growth, The Lands Council has been reticent to support any tree removal or activity in old growth forests without extensive dialogue with members of the scientific, academic, and conservation community. Currently, our work within the Northeast Washington Forest Coalition (NEWFC) has led us to the Malo East project on the Colville National Forest, which proposes to thin dry, dense forests of old growth stands.

As discussions of old growth ecosystems have evolved, we are recognizing the need for active management in some stands to protect large, old trees. Decades of fire suppression has led to extremely dense stands in some areas which can decrease the resiliency of large, old trees. Thinning of young, small diameter trees around these old growth trees, and the reintroduction of fire in some dry stands is supported by and recommended by many individuals within the scientific community.

The Lands Council is now reconsidering our “no entry into old growth” policy, and have been working on guidelines for protecting large old trees and restoring natural processes within some of these areas. Attention to issues such as soil, hydrology, snags, downed wood, and old-growth associated wildlife species has been imperative to this policy shift. We will continue this dialogue and thank the numerous individuals and organizations that have assisted our Forest Watch Program with this effort.

If you have any comments or concerns, feel free to contact Tania Ellersick, Forest Watch Director, at 209-2401 or [tellersick@landscouncil.org](mailto:tellersick@landscouncil.org)

### Urban Forest Council Promotes Tree Preservation During Construction

The Urban Forest Council is working to complete an educational “Tree Preservation During Construction” CD-ROM. The CD-ROM is intended to help developers and builders protect and preserve native trees during construction.

The final touch to the CD-ROM project will be a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the successful preservation of 10 fir trees at the Ben Burr Building on South Regal behind the Albertson’s at 57th. The architect, Kim Barnard, and the general contractor, George Doran, proved amazingly flexible and cooperative when informed of the neighborhood’s interest in protecting the mature conifers on the proposed construction site. The Urban Forest Council created an award to recognize their efforts, (Tree Preservation and Education Award -- TPEA), and enlisted arborist colleagues to lend their expertise and water the trees during construction.

In May 2007, the Mayor announced an Urban Design Award with criteria recognizing the importance of building context compatibility and environmental factors. The Ben Burr architect Kim Barnard was recognized with the People’s Choice Award at the September 24, 2007 City Council meeting. Congratulations to all who participated in this successful effort to protect native, urban trees!

Copies of the CD-ROM, without the yet-to-be-finished Ben Burr PowerPoint presentation, were distributed at the Urban Forest breakout session of the Bioneers conference on October 19th. A copy of the CD-ROM is being reviewed by Robert Smith who is working on the Arbor Day Building with Trees Program. Special thanks to Alex Reed, a GU intern at The Lands Council who designed a great CD-ROM label and cover page for the project.

Interested in viewing the CD-ROM and providing comments or local contacts in the development/construction world?

Please contact Carrie Anderson at [trelady@cet.com](mailto:trelady@cet.com)

## Trying to find the perfect holiday gift?

The Lands Council shirts, bags, and our new Eco-Brew coffee products are great environmentally-conscious gifts for your friends and family!

Please visit our website, [www.landscouncil.org/about/lands\\_council\\_gear.asp](http://www.landscouncil.org/about/lands_council_gear.asp), or call 509-838-4912 to find out how to place your order today!

The Lands Council partnered with Thomas Hammer Coffee to create a Lands Council EcoBrew Coffee blend.



- \*TLC EcoBrew Coffee \$10.99/lb
- \*TLC Mug \$7.99 each
- \*TLC Coffee Gift Pack, includes 1lb of coffee and a mug, \$16.99

Show your support for  
The Lands Council in your  
community!!!



- \*TLC Bottle Bag - \$10
- \*TLC Unisex and Fitted T-shirts - \$15
- \*TLC Long-sleeve T-shirts - \$20

All TLC products are now available! Visit [www.landscouncil.org/about/lands\\_council\\_gear.asp](http://www.landscouncil.org/about/lands_council_gear.asp), for more details.

## Staff News

### Welcome, Audra and Laurie, our newest Americorps members!



Growing up surrounded by the mountains and lakes around Spokane prepared Audra Krislock for developing her life long passion and love for nature, and the incredible adventures it encourages. While at the University of Idaho, Audra began feeling the pressure of having to focus her studies; quickly she decided studying abroad was the best solution, so she packed her bags and flew to Ecuador. The unforgettable year was packed with learning Spanish, crazy taxi drivers, traveling to hidden waterfalls, all while consuming large quantities of the freshest fruit. During this time, Audra discovered her interest in International Relations and the impact we all have on the environment. Audra

returned to Idaho, graduating with a B.A. in International Studies and Spanish, only to begin discovering all the more that life has to offer. Over the past four summers she was able to make use of her passion for cooking as the Food Service Director at a summer camp on Lake Coeur d'Alene.

As Volunteer/Climate Change Education Coordinator at The Lands Council, Audra will be recruiting, placing and coordinating volunteers and interns through July 2008. She will also be helping to coordinate activities related to climate change education.

Aside from her Lands Council AmeriCorps work, Audra can be found waterskiing, throwing snowballs, discovering, climbing trees, skiing in the snow, volunteering, laughing, looking up words in her pocket dictionary, and baking delicious desserts, breads, and the occasional dinner.

Laurie Jackson is thrilled to be working for the Lands Council as our Community Outreach Specialist. She has done about everything else in her life, including hair dressing, playing violin, keyboards, and bass, artwork, crafts, DJing, reporting, producing, and writing. From 1988 to 2000 Laurie produced "Radio Ethiopia" for KPBX, which was supposed to be a reggae show but degenerated into rock and anything else fun to listen to. She's played bass in three local bands and has been married to KPBX Morning Edition host Steve Jackson for almost 24 years.

Laurie and Steve love the outdoors, hiking, biking, camping, paddling, and stargazing. Laurie especially enjoys gourmet cooking in the high country using her trusty dutch ovens.

Steve and Laurie bought a small acreage about 12 miles northwest of town and are on a steep learning curve towards self sufficiency. Except for the gas consumption guilt, Laurie loves her open prairie view, chickens, dog Grizzly, three cats, and riding her bike on the country roads.

Laurie is excited about building up awareness of The Lands Council's environmental activities in the community through outreach and education, as well as assisting on various Lands Council projects such as river restoration, water conservation and climate change education.



Thank you to our major  
Business Partners in 2007!



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Member News

Members, we need your help!

We have made great strides together this year. And together, we'll make great strides again in 2008. In fact, we have a unique opportunity right now to preserve some of the great wild places in our National Forests.

Our work on the Colville National Forest has engaged a diverse set of partners where, together, we are addressing the real risk of wildfire to rural communities and gaining wide support for designating parts of the forest as Wilderness. After years of work, we have a real opportunity to achieve new wilderness in northeastern Washington!!

In order to take advantage of this unique opportunity, **we need your extra support right now.**

**Please send a generous year-end donation today** so we can take advantage of key opportunities to preserve our local forests. Your immediate response is critical to help achieve our mutual goal of new wilderness in the upcoming year!

We have enclosed a donation envelope. You can also give online at [www.landscouncil.org/donate](http://www.landscouncil.org/donate).

Thank you for partnering with us in this and other important work over the past year. **We are forever grateful for your support!**

**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 an honor 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.

**Interested?** 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](mailto:awaldref@landscouncil.org).

## THE LANDS COUNCIL

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Quarterly  
Newsletter



The Lands Council Board of Directors  
invite you to our

**Annual Holiday Party**  
**December 12th, 2007**

**5:30-7:30 p.m.**

**Lorinda Knight**  
**Gallery**

**523 West Sprague Avenue**

Artist showing: Kay O'Rourke

Join us for light hors d'oeuvres  
and drinks....

**Thanks to you from all of us!**  
**Happy Holidays!**

## Thank You!!!



Thank you to all of our guests, table captains and volunteers that helped to make our Benefit Breakfast on October 23rd at The Davenport Hotel a great success! Our current net profit is \$25,000 and continues to grow as pledge cards arrive in the mail.

*13th Annual*  
**THE LANDS COUNCIL**  
*Dinner and Auction*

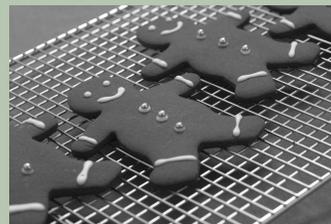
**Save the Date!**

**Friday, April 18th, 2008**

Watch our website for upcoming details at [www.landscouncil.org](http://www.landscouncil.org)!

If you're interested in donating an auction item or volunteering on the Auction Steering Committee to help with the event planning, please contact events coordinator, Kristi Fountain, at [kfountain@landscouncil.org](mailto:kfountain@landscouncil.org) or 509.209.2851.

## TLC Bake Sale at the Banff Mountain Film Festival



Mountain Gear hosts the Banff Mountain Film Festival every year and allows The Lands Council to hold a bake sale during the event. Thank you to all of our wonderful event volunteers and to those of you who helped to contribute to the success of the annual bake sale! Our goal was to collect 3,000 baked items, and with the help of staff, board members, members, volunteers and local businesses we were able to make it!