

the COUNCIL NEWS

Spring 2008
vol. 12, no. 2

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!

Water Watch <i>Water Conservation</i>	1
Director's Report	2
Environmental Health <i>Toxics Outreach</i>	3
Water Watch <i>River Restoration</i>	4
Forest Watch <i>Mission Brush</i>	5
Auction 2008 <i>Event Results</i>	6
Business Partners and Earth Day News	7
Upcoming Summer Events and Raffle	8

The Lands Council Contributes to Regional Water Conservation Efforts

by Brian Walker

With summer quickly approaching and lawns and gardens starting to turn green, water use in the Spokane/Coeur d'Alene region will increase to summer levels. In our area, this can mean increases up to five times the average winter use. Each year, every individual in Spokane County uses roughly 80,000 gallons of water. This high demand for water can place a tremendous strain on both the Spokane River and the Spokane Valley – Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer.

In an unprecedented show of cooperation and concern over the shared water resources for our region, elected officials for cities, counties, water purveyors, and legislative representatives from throughout the region took part in an afternoon meeting on April 17th to discuss options for a regional approach to water conservation. The Lands Council was the only conservation group from Washington invited to attend. The outcome of this meeting was an initial proposal to develop a mandatory daytime watering restriction that would be consistent in all jurisdictions withdrawing water from the Spokane Valley – Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer. This restriction would prohibit watering during the hottest parts of the day and reduce the amount of water lost to evaporation. This recommendation must now go before city councils, county commissioners, water purveyor boards of directors and legal panels.

The Lands Council supports the implementation of a mandatory daytime watering restriction to

help reduce the demand for water during the summer months. The reduction in water demand from the aquifer will help increase flows in the Spokane River. In place of the mandatory watering restriction that may take a couple years to implement, The Lands Council is strongly urging all property owners to water their yards during the cool morning hours or in the evening after daytime temperatures drop.

Another step to help reduce the demand for water during the summer months includes reducing the amount of landscape that requires large quantities of water. This can be done by converting part of your landscape to either low water or drought tolerant plants or considering other xeriscaping alternatives. These types of landscapes can also reduce the amount of time spent tending yards during the busy summer months.

The Lands Council will continue advocating for responsible water usage throughout our region by working with elected officials to implement meaningful water conservation measures. We hope you'll do your part in reducing water use and in turn, help restore flows to the Spokane River.

For more information on ways to conserve water this summer, visit http://www.landscouncil.org/water/water_watch.asp or contact Brian Walker, Watershed Program Director, for easy water saving tips at bwalker@landscouncil.org.



Conserve water during summer watering and recreation!



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

Jeff Juel
Conservation Director

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Caroline Woodwell
PRESIDENT

Tim Sweet
VICE PRESIDENT

Jim Harless
TREASURER

Bart Haggin
SECRETARY

Rein Attemann

Neil Beaver

Rob Benedetti, M.D.

Paul Fish

Jeff Hedge, D.O.

Jim Hollingsworth

Anne Martin

Mary Ann McCurdy

David Moershel, M.D.

Judge Jim Murphy

Mark Ostersmith

Mike Schnell

Janice Simchuk

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

Executive Director's Report



Thanks to all of you who were able to attend our annual auction – it was a pleasure talking with many of you and seeing the great support you give to protecting our forests, rivers, wildlife and communities.

We are awaiting a favorable decision on one of the most important forest court cases in the country – the en banc hearing of our Mission Brush lawsuit. At issue is whether the Forest Service can log old growth forests at will, or has to be held to a scientific review. Our attorney, Tom Woodbury, accompanied by our new Conservation Director, Jeff Juel, did a great job in court in late March. We expect a decision sometime this summer.

In water news, the second Regional Water Dialogue was held a few weeks ago and most of the elected officials at that meeting seemed supportive of taking action to preserve our aquifer. The Lands Council was honored to be the only conservation group from Washington invited to be part of this dialogue of elected officials in the Spokane/Coeur d'Alene region; this has been one of the outgrowths of our work to protect our aquifer and river. While each official must go back to their council, hold public meetings, and gain support from their municipality, there did seem to be support for restricting watering during the heat of the day. Spokane uses well above average amounts of water during the summer, and the evaporation losses that take place by watering under the hot sun are substantial.

The Department of Ecology is working hard to get ready for a ban on automatic dishwashing detergents that contain more than tiny amounts of phosphorus. The ban will take effect on July 1st. TLC has worked with many others to get this ban and now we want to help spread the word. On July 1st 2008 it will be illegal to sell phosphate-detergents (with more than .5 percent phosphorus content) in Spokane and Whatcom counties. It will be illegal statewide on July 1, 2010. Please visit, www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/nonpoint/phosphorus/PhosphorusBan.html, to find out more. If the opportunity arises, please help us spread the word.

When does a trip to Hawaii seem like work? Last month I joined half a dozen others to visit wastewater treatment plants in Michigan, Utah, California, and yes, Hawaii, as part of the Spokane County wastewater treatment plant selection team. We looked at some cutting edge technology, talked with dozens of water treatment experts, and are reading through thousands of pages of proposals. By late May we will have helped select the best value treatment that will put the lowest level of phosphorus into the Spokane River – another step in restoring our beautiful river.

Mike Petersen introduces Senator Maria Cantwell at a Mining Reform Press Conference at The N.A.T.I.V.E. Project in Spokane - March 2008



Environmental Health

Spokane River Toxics Outreach

As spring slowly arrives, Lands Council interns will once again begin educating homeless, low income, indigenous, and ethnic communities about PCBs in the fish and heavy metals (lead, arsenic, zinc, and cadmium) in sediments along certain beaches on the Spokane River. The Department of Health released its revised fish consumption advisory for the Spokane River and Lake Spokane (Long Lake) on April 30th. The new advisory is based on a 2007 health consultation. The fish consumption advisory for the Spokane River due to PCBs has been expanded and is for the general public, especially women who are or might become pregnant, nursing mothers, and young children.

The Department of Health recommends the following:

- No fish taken from the Idaho border to Upriver Dam should be eaten;
- Largescale sucker caught between Upriver Dam and Nine Mile Dam should not be eaten, and all other species on this stretch of the river should be limited to one meal per month;
- For Long Lake (Spokane Lake), largescale sucker and brown trout should be limited to one meal per month;
- Fish heads and entrails from any fish for the entire length of the Spokane River should not be eaten, and fish fillets should be eaten instead of the whole fish; and
- Removing the fat and skin from fish before cooking reduces exposure to PCBs and other contaminants that collect in the fat of fish (filleting does not reduce mercury contamination).



The Lands Council is gearing up for summer outreach along the Spokane River

This year, we will also be educating folks about two additional river toxics: PBDEs and dioxins. PBDEs (polybrominated diphenyl ethers) are chemical additives used as flame retardants in everyday household products. PBDEs are showing up in the air, soil, and sediment, and are building up in people's bodies, in animals, and in the environment. They have been linked to problems in brain development and thyroid hormones in animals. A statewide survey by Ecology confirms that the Spokane River has much higher PBDE levels than any other part of Washington State sampled to date. The sources of the PBDEs are currently unknown.

Dioxins are toxic synthetic chemicals produced as by-products in the pulp and paper industry, in the production of herbicides, and in the combustion of municipal waste, sludge, medical waste, and wood. Like PBDEs, dioxins are persistent and bioaccumulative, which mean they build up in animals through the food chain. In addition to cancer, exposure to dioxin can also cause severe reproductive and developmental problems. Dioxin sources in the Spokane River are also unknown.

This year, the Department of Ecology is proposing to clean up lead, arsenic, zinc, and cadmium contamination along the Spokane River at the Harvard Road North site, three miles west of the Idaho border. Planned restoration improvements include removal of contaminated sediments, placement of a protective sand/gravel cover, installation of a new gravel boat launch, and improved fish habitat. The comment period deadline for this project is May 30th. Comments may be submitted to Zach Hedgpeth, Ecology Toxics Cleanup Program, 4601 N. Monroe St., Spokane, WA 99205, or zahe461@ecy.wa.gov.

Contact Kat at 209-2403 or khall@landscouncil.org with any questions on our Spokane River toxics education.

Keep Me Lead-Free!

In an effort to protect the health of those most affected by exposure to this dangerous environmental toxin, The Lands Council, with a 2-year Targeted Lead Grant from the EPA, is educating families in Spokane about health effects, risk factors, and prevention of childhood lead poisoning and promoting increased childhood blood-lead screening. Within the project timeframe, we expect to increase awareness of childhood lead poisoning and how to prevent it, and increase documentation of suspected elevated blood-lead levels in inner-city Spokane.

Screening Update:

Total number of kids screened so far: 64

Number of kids exhibiting elevated blood lead levels: 0

Screenings Held This Quarter:

East Central Head Start

Upcoming Events:

West Central Head Start/Early Head Start Blood Lead Screening in late May, date TBD

Staff News and Thank You's

Audra

Audra has been The Lands Council's AmeriCorps Volunteer and Climate Change Coordinator since August of 2007, during her time she has recruited, placed, and coordinated wonderful volunteers and interns. She worked tirelessly preparing for this year's auction, recruiting a great group of volunteers. Audra has decided to continue her service abroad and will be leaving for Bogota, Colombia this September. In Colombia she will be traveling around doing social projects in an effort to develop strategies to involve more young adults in service work.

Kitty

Having Kitty Klitzke leave The Lands Council is bittersweet. As our Program Outreach Director and campaign organizer she has been immensely helpful in shaping our campaign outreach to protect lynx, wolves and roadless areas just in the past few months, and numerous others before that. We are going to miss her for all her creativity and activism. Kitty started here as a volunteer, then as an AmeriCorps member, and finally we were lucky enough to have her as a part-time staff member and share her with Futurewise. While at The Lands Council Kitty has guided environmental interpretive floats of the Spokane River, helped organize Spokane River Cleanup events and "Riverfest", coordinated the 2006 Earth Day Celebration, organized Green and Blues Fests, and brought the Patagonia Wild and Scenic Environmental Film Fest to Spokane for the first time. The sweet part of her leaving is that she will be continuing great work just down the hall at her Futurewise office and she will be helping Senator Lisa Brown with her re-election campaign and some great events Senator Brown has planned in association with it.

Laurie

Laurie has been an awesome Community Outreach Specialist, bringing creativity and energy to her AmeriCorps position since September of 2007. Laurie has put together a great TLC presentation, trained many volunteers in the Speakers Bureau, and coordinated the 2008 Earth Day Celebration. She is planning for a variety of summer outreach events for TLC. Look for Laurie and our volunteers at farmers markets, community events, and fairs this summer!

Water Watch

Lands Council to Host River Restoration Efforts in 2008

Native Plant Nursery Up and Growing

On April 12th, the roof of the Saranac Building became the site of The Lands Council's first attempt at a native plant nursery and the results so far are very encouraging. Approximately 25 volunteers showed up on a warm Saturday morning and helped pot 400 bare root seedlings in compost from the Cheney Recycling Plant and pots from the Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge. These plants were donated by the Spokane County Conservation District through their annual tree sale. Plants include Red Osier Dogwood, Water Birch, Ponderosa Pine, Snowberry, Hawthorn, Service Berry and Woods Rose. These plants will be used this fall and next spring for several restoration projects along the Spokane River and Hangman Creek.

We also received 200 Douglas fir trees as a donation from a native plant nursery in Central Washington. These trees will also be held in our nursery over the summer, nurtured and used this fall in more restoration projects.

We are looking for volunteers to help tend these trees and shrubs over the summer; watering and weeding mostly. If you are interested in helping out in this project, please contact Brian Walker, Watershed Program Director at 509-209-2408 or bwalker@landscouncil.org.

Earth Day Planting a Big Success

The Second Annual Earth Day Restoration Planting this year was another great success. More than 60 volunteers helped plant about 150 trees and shrubs along the Spokane River. The Lands Council plans to continue this annual restoration project near the Sandifur Bridge and People's Park for many years to come. We are also looking to add a fall restoration planting project to our list of activities in this area. Our goal is to completely restore the People's Park area with native trees and shrubs and remove the invasive species that are there. With persistent work and a little patience, the trees and shrubs will mature and the area will be looking like new in just a few years.

If you are in the area and want to check out our progress, take a walk around the south side of Sandifur Bridge where you will be able to see the newly planted trees, while enjoying a great view of the Spokane River.

This summer we are gathering a small group of volunteers to help water these trees. If you are interested in helping water the plants and make sure they stay weed free, please contact us ASAP about this volunteer opportunity at 838-4912.



Lands Council volunteers at River Restoration April 2008

Community Engagement

The Lands Council's Victory for Wildlife Challenged

In 2007, the Ninth US Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in favor of The Lands Council regarding the Mission Brush Project in the Idaho Panhandle National Forest (Lands Council v. McNair). Our victory stopped logging on 3,829 acres to reduce the risk of insect infestation and fire. The area is home to many plant and animal species, including grizzly, Canada lynx, and flammulated owls. Due to decades of extensive logging and road building, the area is severely degraded. The Court found that "The Forest Service has not proven the reliability of its scientific methodology with regard to wildlife habitat restoration in the Mission Brush Project".



Mission Brush Project in Idaho Panhandle National Forest

However, despite this initial victory, on March 27, 2008, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals held an en banc hearing on this case. The en banc process involved a rehearing by 11 appeals court judges of a preliminary injunction granted in favor of The Lands Council. It is very rare for a Federal Appeals Court to hold such a hearing on a timber sale appeal.

TLC was represented by attorney Tom Woodbury, who has so ably represented TLC and other groups in past forest appeal cases. Mr. Woodbury highlighted the evidence in the administrative record that showed the Forest Service has failed to address old-growth habitat deficits on the IPNF due to historically heavy industrial logging, as proved in Lands Council v. Powell. The Forest Service's own information reveals there is insufficient old-growth habitat remaining on the Forest to meet even the agency's minimal amounts said to be necessary to maintain viable populations of old-growth associated wildlife.

We also pointed out that the IPNF's repeated logging in the Mission Brush project area in the Bonners Ferry Ranger District, carried out in part to "improve" old-growth habitat for the flammulated owl, has resulted in a situation where no flammulated owls could be located in the "improved" areas.

We await the Court's decision, likely later this year. Regardless of which way the decision goes, the case will return to U.S. District Court of Idaho where we will make arguments for final permanent injunction on the logging of old-growth habitat in the Mission Brush project area.

The re-hearing of this case was a large, extra expense for The Lands Council this year. Please watch the video on our website www.landscouncil.org that highlights the national importance of this case and consider donating an extra gift to help us pay our attorney and research expenses. Thank you!

Welcome Jeff!

The Lands Council would like to welcome Jeff Juel as our new Conservation Director! Jeff Juel attended Southern Illinois



University at Carbondale, where he found not only advanced education opportunities but the wonders of native forest ecosystems in the surrounding Shawnee National Forest. His scientific training included Masters and Specialists degrees in School Psychology at SIU-C. He moved to Montana in 1985, and by 1990 had moved to Missoula and found himself embroiled in the debate surrounding proposed Wilderness legislation that characterized the late 80s and early 90s. Shortly thereafter, he began volunteering his time with conservation groups advocating for biological diversity not only in roadless lands, but especially in the too often neglected roaded public lands. He has been on staff with the Lands Council, served on our board of directors and on the board of the Friends of the Clearwater. For the past 15 years he has watched over Northwest forests at the Ecology Center in Missoula.

Thank You, Tania!

Tania Ellersick has worked at The Lands Council since March of 2005 – that's over three years as our Forest Watch Director. During this time, she has worked tirelessly to defend our National Forest roadless areas, old growth and wildlife. She has been extremely instrumental in helping to form and participate on the board of the Northeast Washington Forestry Coalition – an innovative model that brings The Lands Council and other like-minded groups together with rural leaders, timber companies, and recreationalists to protect rural homes and businesses from wildlife, while restoring and protecting the Colville National Forest. We are going to miss Tania's energy, tenacity and her artistic abilities with food at our annual holiday party. Tania is moving to Seattle to continue her education and we hope her studies and work on the forestry coalition will keep us in close touch.

Record Attendance and Earnings at Auction 2008!

The Lands Council's 13th Annual Dinner & Auction held on April 18th was a tremendous success! 370 guests attended the event to help raise a net total of \$73,000!

Thank you to all of our volunteers and sponsors that made this event possible. Please visit www.landscouncil.org/events for a list of item donors and event sponsors.



TLC Board President Caroline Woodwell, member Deborah DiBernardo, and Master of Ceremonies Tom Flanagan



Mike and Virginia Petersen enjoying their time at The Lands Council's 13th Annual Dinner Auction

We need your help! If you love The Lands Council and want to be a part of planning next year's big night, the committee is forming now! Our auction has grown so much that we need to expand the committee and would love to have your expertise. There are several ways to be involved. Contact Kristi at 209-2851 or kfountain@landscouncil.org for more info.



Luck of the Draw volunteer Argyle Baukol



Guests State Senator Lisa Brown (center) with Sally Winkle (left) and Ellen Weiser (right)

Thank you to our
major
Business Partners
in 2008!



The Perfect Fit Bank.®

Thank you to Sharman Communications for sponsoring our May Open House, it was a wonderful event!!!

Earth Day Rocked!

The 2008 Earth Day Celebration in Riverfront Park featured over 35 exhibitors, live music, films and children's activities. Despite weather reports predicting snow and rain, the clouds only spit a little dry snow, letting the sun shine most of this chilly Saturday, April 19th.



One of the many local kids that participated at Earth Day 2008

The Earth Day steering committee shone this year, improving the entertainment with Reit Productions covering sound, KYRS AmeriCorps member Sarah Tinkle managing the stage, and Gonzaga AmeriCorps member Jace Bylenga discovering spectacular unknown talents of Olivia and Djimbo who warmed up the audience. Volunteer coordinator Vanessa Yesland had her crew helping everyone while Argyle Baukol and Kathleen Werr helped Laurie Jackson coordinate the exhibitors at the event. Kids made masks for the Procession of the Species with AmeriCorps members and experts Dustin Cousins and Gretchen Mallari of Turnbull Wildlife Refuge, Enviro Kids, and Sierra Club's Urban Outings group of volunteers.

Mayor Mary Verner gave an address about sustainability, and Jani Gilbert did a super job as the musical MC, debuting her new fish and phosphorus song. Headliner performers the Shook Twins played intriguing originals, their adept fire dancer whirling below, followed by a danceable jazz/funk set from Groove Patrol. Jim Shrock from Earthworks Recycling helped keep the Gondola meadow sparkling clean by recycling almost all discarded materials. Avista Utilities kept kids active and warm on their bike generator, while Watson and Power Dog and Aqua Duck let little ones hang all over them.

When the event was over, nobody wanted to leave! The Earth Day Committee and Mother Earth herself give thanks to all the Earth Day exhibitors, with all of their beautiful displays and great information, and to this year's sponsors: Avista, Reit Productions, City of Spokane, The Lands Council, New Priorities Foundation, Bumble Bar, and Bill Burke. See you next year!

THE LANDS COUNCIL

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

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Spokane, WA
Permit No. 257

Quarterly
Newsletter



TLC Summer Raffle!!!

Tickets go on sale **Friday, May 30th**
Tickets are \$5 a piece or 5 tickets for \$20

Prizes

***1st Prize:** Two Adult
Season Ski Passes to 49
Degrees North



***2nd Prize:** \$500
shopping spree at
Mountain Gear



***3rd Prize:** (1) gift
certificate for a pair of
Chaco Shoes and (1) gift certificate for a
pair of Chaco Flips



To purchase tickets or find out more about our
drawing event, call Kristi at 209-2851 or visit our
website, www.landscouncil.org!

Upcoming Summer Events for 2008:

- * **Friday, May 30th** - Summer Raffle tickets go on sale.
- * **Sunday June 29th - Barker Beach River Clean-up** - Contact Audra at akrislock@landscouncil.org or 209-2852 for more information.
- * **Thursday, July 31st - Volunteer Appreciation Party** - The Lands Council, 25 W. Main Join us for a party on the 2nd floor Patio of the Saranac Bldg from 5-7pm, with great food and beverages! We will be celebrating our volunteers, saying goodbye to Laurie and Audra, and introducing the new AmeriCorps Community Education Coordinator.
- * **Friday, August 15th through Sunday, August 17th - The Patagonia Wild & Scenic Film Festival** - Magic Lantern Theatre, 25 W. Main...more details coming soon!
- * **Friday, September 5th - TLC Quarterly Open House** - Join the First Friday Fun.
- * **September - Summer Raffle Event** - Date to be determined.

Visit www.landscouncil.org/
events for more information about