

the COUNCIL NEWS



Summer, 2007
vol. 11, no. 3

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



WE'RE MOVING!

The Lands Council will relocate in late summer to the Saranac/Community Building at 25 W Main Ave, Suite 222. We are so pleased to become part of the community of nonprofit organizations in this LEEDs Platinum Certified building. Open House is September 21 and 22! See page 8 for more information. See the back page for open house information.



Earth Share
OF WASHINGTON

Protecting North Idaho Old Growth Forests: An Update on Myrtle Creek

By: Mike Petersen

Protecting the water supply for the town of Bonners Ferry, while keeping old growth forests and critical habitat for caribou and grizzly has proven to be a difficult challenge in north Idaho. After several field trips, expert scientist testimony and pressure from the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho to log as planned, the remote Myrtle Creek watershed on the east side of the Selkirk Mountains has become a poster child of the debate over how to manage the roadless parts of our national forests.

The purpose of Myrtle Creek Healthy Forests Restoration Act Project 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. The Lands Council is concerned that this proposal will 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.

The Lands Council recently met with the Forest Supervisor, Mayor of Bonners Ferry and a Boundary County commissioner to



try and resolve several issues. These include old growth and grizzly protection, as well as restoring the Myrtle Creek watershed and protecting the town's water supply. The Forest Supervisor is expected to make a decision of how she will proceed in the next two weeks. We have an attorney standing by, depending on how what the decision is, but we are still hopeful we can resolve this fuel reduction project in the near future.

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Executive Director's Report



Water, Forests, and Climate Change

It is easy to believe in climate change in the middle of the hottest summer on record. But our warm winters are just as likely to change our way of lives here in the northwest. Smaller snow packs, earlier spring runoff, and bigger insect populations are predicted by the University of Washington. UW Professor Jerry Franklin, an expert on old growth forests believes that warmer winters are giving bark beetles and other forest insects a longer feeding opportunity and the result could significantly change our forests, which in turn will change our water supplies.

The Lands Council was invited to join a climate and water adaptation group as part of Governor Gregoire's Climate Action Team. We are looking at

options for conservation, natural water storage, and restoring watersheds. Our climate and water work group will have a set of recommendations for the state legislature and governor by late fall.

Protecting our old growth forests, restoring the Coeur d'Alene and Spokane watersheds, and protecting our urban forests have always been part of our mission – now climate change is giving these issues a new sense of urgency.

The Lands Council is also working with several people to create a Northwest Climate Change Center. A main goal of this Center will be to help municipalities and businesses create plans to mitigate and adapt to climate change in our region. We are looking forward to keeping you abreast of this developing Climate Change Center. If you are interested in getting involved, feel free to contact me. Thanks for your continued support.

The Lands Council Victory for Wildlife

In July, the Ninth US Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in favor of The Lands Council regarding the Mission Brush Project in the Idaho Panhandle. The Forest Service proposed logging of 23.5 million board feet or 4700 log truck loads 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 Forest Service's Impact Statement admits "there are troubling trends in the wildlife habitat". 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". This ruling will assist us in the protection of old growth and mature forests, and help insure that Forest Service projects will protect this vital habitat.

There has since been public debate regarding the economic effects of the decision. Judge Warren J. Ferguson wrote for the three-judge panel, "We have held time and again that the public interest in preserving nature and avoiding irreparable environmental injury outweighs economic concerns."

Environmental Health

The Lands Council Continues Excellent Spokane River Toxics Outreach

This July marked the beginning of another two-year grant awarded to TLC by the Department of Ecology to continue our Spokane River toxics outreach to homeless, low income, indigenous, and ethnic communities throughout Spokane. As in past years, we are continuing to employ a variety of tactics to educate citizens, protect public health, and encourage participation from the total community in the river's clean-up process. Our 10 dynamic outreach workers hand out surveys and post health advisories in homeless shelters, community centers, and food banks, as well as on beaches along the river (e.g. People's Park, Plantes Ferry Park, Boulder Beach, and Sullivan Park). You can visit our information tables at farmers markets, concerts, neighborhood festivals, and other community events. We've also given formal presentations to organizations such as the Spokane Homeless Coalition (of which we are in the process of becoming a member), House of Charity, Spokane Mental Health, and Women's Hearth.

So far this year, in our general river outreach, we've made over 600 contacts, handed out over 600 health advisories, and completed over 250 surveys. Our Hispanic contractors spoke with more than 150 individuals, completed over 130 surveys, appeared on a Hispanic radio show, and inserted 1,000 copies of our health advisories into an edition of La Prensa Bilingue, a popular Spanish newspaper. Our Russian contractor continues to give presentations in Slavic churches and stores, and is preparing to translate some new toxics information for us.

What's new this year? First, thanks to the Spokane Regional Health District, we've created new, more sophisticated "teleform" surveys, which can be machine-fed and imported into an Excel spreadsheet. This will streamline analysis and allow us to do more with survey data. Second, we are expanding our outreach on PCBs and heavy metals to include PBDEs (flame retardants) and dioxins in the river. Lastly, the Department of Ecology is continuing its river cleanup and restoration work. New projects for 2007 include Murray Road & Island Complex, and the Kaiser Trentwood facility.

Look for a report on this year's river toxics outreach in the next Council News. For more information, contact Kat at khall@landscouncil.org.

Washington Citizen's Advisory Council Disbanding

After nearly 10 years of educating the public on toxic problems with the Spokane River, the Washington Citizen's Advisory Council (WCAC) has decided to disband. With numerous groups in the Spokane area that continue to educate the public on topics of concern on the river, the board of directors of the WCAC has decided that those other groups are better equipped to educate the public. The Lands Council greatly appreciates the time and effort of all those involved in the WCAC have put into educating the public over the years. With your help we have started the long cleanup process on the Spokane River.

TLC Facilitates New Environmental Health Assessment Team

In January 2007, The Lands Council contracted with the Spokane Regional Health District to facilitate a new, dynamic process in Spokane County to assess our priority environmental health issues. Instead of a top-down approach, community-based environmental assessment is a collaborative approach to solving environmental health concerns. We have formed an Environmental Health Assessment Team (EHAT) with a diverse mixture of government employees, citizens, non-profit organizations, conservation groups, health professionals and educational institutions to work through the community assessment process.

You have an opportunity to help improve our community! Please join this team! Your participation is vital to the success of this work. The assessment team meets from 12 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of each month, at the West Central Community Center

Interested in learning more or joining our team? Visit the EHAT blog at <http://blog.srhd.org/blogs/ehat/default.aspx> or contact Amber Waldref, EHAT Facilitator at awaldref@landscouncil.org or (509) 838-4912.

Education

The Need for a Regional Water Conservation Strategy

By: Brian Walker

Following the release of the Bi-State Aquifer Study at the Aquifer Summit in May, regional officials learned three things; the importance of the Spokane Valley – Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer, the difficulty in managing this bi-state water resource, and that the resource is not infinite. The study showed that the Spokane Valley – Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer is not currently being “mined” but water withdrawals are reducing the flow of the Spokane River. This means that as more water is pumped out of the aquifer, less water is available to supply the Spokane River, which suffers from low flows in the late summer.

The Lands Council strongly believes that now is the time to act on a regional water conservation strategy. With water rights expected to run out in 15 to 20 years, growth in the Spokane and Coeur d’Alene area could come to a standstill. If water conservation efforts are implemented now, there could be enough water to accommodate future growth and increase water in the river.

For the past 30 years, millions of dollars have been spent by various groups and agencies to educate the public about the need for voluntary water conservation. However, these education efforts have had little impact. A recent water audit for the past 20 years showed that each citizen in the region uses an average of 215 gallons of water per day; that’s almost 80,000 gallons per year! This number has remained relatively unchanged for the last 20 years. Most of this use is attributed to summer outdoor watering, when water use quadruples over winter water use. This water use equates to more than 30 billion gallons of water in Spokane County alone each year.

This fall, Spokane Mayor Dennis Hession and Post Falls Mayor Clay Larking are hosting a summit of elected officials from Spokane and Kootenai County, the mayors of Spokane, Spokane Valley, Coeur d’Alene, Post Falls and other cities, as well as Tribal officials from the Coeur d’Alene and Spokane Tribes and local environmental organizations. These elected officials will gather for a summit to discuss



water conservation strategies for the entire region. The ultimate goal of this summit is to develop a regional water conservation policy that each city, county, tribe and water purveyor can accept and enforce. This regional policy would include enforceable regulations that would ultimately reduce the average water use per person. Examples of possible regional policy could include:

Improving the water rate structure: Most water purveyors in the area are utilizing an increasing rate structure for water bills; the more water you use, the more it costs. This is a great first step. But when the rate structure charges only \$0.003 per gallon of water, there is definitely room for improvement.

Prohibiting outdoor watering during peak hours: The City of Post Falls has taken a progressive step by banning watering from noon to 6 at night. This is a great way to reduce

outside watering, as watering during this time period does the least for grass, as most of the water evaporates during these hot hours of the day.

Controlling outdoor watering during low flow periods: During low flow periods, some local water purveyors mandate an odd/even watering schedule. Odd numbered houses can water on odd numbered days and even numbered houses can water on even numbered days. This forces homeowners and businesses to alter their watering schedules and ultimately reduces the amount of water applied to lawns. Established lawns in the region only need 1 to 2 inches of water per week.

We strongly urge you to request that your local officials and water purveyors attend this regional water conservation summit. We also urge you to encourage your elected officials to adopt and implement enforceable water conservation strategies that will benefit the entire region. If we don’t take action now, when will we?

Contact Brian Walker, Watershed Program Director, to find out ways you can get involved in conserving our aquifer at bwalker@landscouncil.org.

Staff News

Welcome, Kristi and Nicole!



Originally from Manhattan, KS, (the little apple) this mid-western girl headed west to Corvallis in 1995 to attain a degree in Natural Resources with an emphasis in Education from Oregon State University. After graduating in 1998, Kristi and her husband, Jeff, moved to Spokane where she worked for the Northwest Natural Resources Institute coordinating education and outreach for teachers and students as well as handling all of the fundraising and event coordination. In 2001, Kristi accepted a position with the Spokane Guilds' School's development team as the Events Manager and was later promoted to Development Director.

This July, she joined TLC as our Events Coordinator. Kristi will be coordinating events such as the annual auction and Benefit Breakfast just to name a few.

She shares that, "This is the perfect position because it melds my passion for the environment and our natural resources with my experience in events management. I couldn't be more excited to be joining The Lands Council."

When she's not here at TLC, Kristi spends her time with Jeff and their two dogs, Ally and Konza, landscaping their new home and hiking, camping, and canoeing all over the Pacific NW. Her passion for natural resources translates into her personal life as a love of gardening, supporting local farmers and preparing slow food for slow meals with family and friends.

This past June Nicole Powell graduated from Oregon State University with a degree in Environmental Economics, Policy, and Management. A highlight from college was when Nicole spent part of a summer in Australia where she studied environmental conservation and worked at Hanson Bay Sanctuary on Kangaroo Island. Last summer she was able to increase her awareness about environmental issues while she was an intern at The Lands Council. Nicole was recently hired as membership coordinator and Environmental Health Program Assistant. She is excited to spend more time with the great staff and members of The Lands Council. Nicole looks forward to her time in Spokane, but will miss many of her friends and family in Oregon.



Raffle for the River

Support the Lands Council by participating in the 2007 Raffle for the River!

Not only will you have the opportunity to win these great prizes, but you will also be assisting The Lands Council in preserving and revitalizing our Inland Northwest forests, water and wildlife.

1st Prize:

Two Kayaks with Paddles!



Stable and easy to maneuver, the Old Town™ Dirigo 120 delivers high performance for the casual paddler.

Ideal for those looking for a combination of relaxation, fitness, and fun.

2nd Prize:

Two Season Passes to
49° North Ski Resort

3rd Prize:

\$250 Shopping Spree at
Mountain Gear

**Drawing will be held on
Wednesday, September 19, 2007
at 7:00 p.m. at Mountain Gear.**

Need not be present to win.

**Tickets \$5.00 each or discount
packet of five for \$20.00!**

Please contact Stephanie Thompson
at tlcvol@landscouncil.org or call
(509) 838-4912

Volunteer News

Thanks for a great year of volunteering!

This year volunteers have done a lot to increase the capacity of The Lands Council and help further its mission to preserve and revitalize Inland Northwest forests, water, and wildlife. With the help of a new volunteer database, we have recorded most volunteer contributions since October 2006. Here's some of those statistics:

Number of volunteers: 106

Number of hours donated: 1200

If every recorded volunteer hour were valued just at minimum wage (\$7.93), their work would be equivalent to a \$9,516 donation. This is a huge contribution to the organization! Not all volunteer hours were recorded, so the actual contribution of volunteers is even greater.

Volunteers have helped at events like the Best of Banff Film Festival & Bake Sale, 12th Annual Dinner & Auction, Earth Day River Restoration, and summer Outreach, as well as in the office in a variety of ways. Without the help of volunteers, The Lands Council would not be able to put on great events like these.

If you are interested in volunteering with The Lands Council, please visit the volunteer webpage at <http://landscouncil.org/join/volunteer.asp> to find out about upcoming volunteer events.

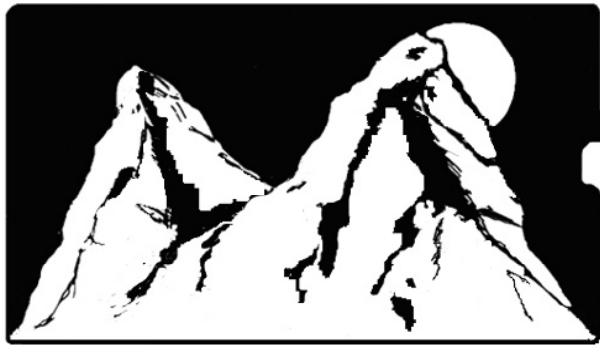
Goodbye, Mary!

The end of August marks the conclusion of Mary Eagle's AmeriCorps term as the Volunteer Coordinator. She is grateful for having the opportunity to meet and work with such great volunteers and hopes that the volunteer program at The Lands Council will continue to grow in the upcoming year. Mary's plans for the future are yet undetermined, but she hopes to spend some time traveling and learning new skills.

Thanks to all who have volunteered for The Lands Council since September 2006!

Garth Ahern
Terri Anderson*
Rein Attemann*
Brock Baker
John Barber
Patti Barber
Argyle Baukol
Neil Beaver*
Rob Benedetti*
Erin Blevins
Andrew Bodienstien
Chris Brandvold
Jan Brandvold
Kate Burke
Donna Burt
Leslie Cohen
Poma Darasamay
Chloe Dehner
Ryan Ehergod
Lisa Ferrara
Paul Fish*
Lola Frederick
Evan Gaul
Kerry Garrett
April Gleason
Alex Golihov
Melissa Goodner
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Barbara Graham
Kathryn Graham
Janet Green
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Benjamin Himley
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Angela Mageias
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Anne Martin*
Mary Ann McCurdy*
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Madison Metteny-Kroetc
Doug Miller
Dave Moershel*
George Momany
Karen Momany
Daniel Moore
Barbara Morkill
Char Morris
Jim Murphy*
Tom Musselwhite
Brock Olson
Wyatt Orme
Denny Palmer
Adam Parker
Matthew Philiply
Genevieve Pritchard
Robin Redman
Romany Redman
Scott Redman
Ruth Roberts
Tina Romanchuk
Maghan Runestrand
Kristin Sayeg
Kathi Schlieder
Sam Schlieder
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Anne Stephenson
Tim Sweet*
Calvin Ulbricht
Chelsea Updegrove
Mary Verner
Janice Vogt
JamieLynn Watson
Mary Weathers
Nikki Weller
Matt Wheelwright
Debra Wilson
Lewis Willson*
Rilley Winant
Jeff Wooddell
Kate Wooddell
Caroline Woodwell*

*Indicates Board Member
We apologize if anyone has been
omitted from this list!



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Upcoming Events

Raffle for the River Drawing

Wednesday, September 19

7:00 p.m. at Mountain Gear

Program to be announced

Watch www.landsCouncil.org for details!

TLC Bake Sale at the Banff Mountain Film Festival



November 16, 17 & 18

Watch www.landsCouncil.org for details!

If you would like to volunteer to bake cookies or help during the event, contact, Kristi at kfountain@landsCouncil.org or (509) 838.4912.

13th Annual THE LANDS COUNCIL Dinner and Auction

Save the Date! April 18th, 2008

Watch our website for upcoming details at www.landsCouncil.org!

If you're interested in volunteering on the Auction Steering Committee to help with the event planning, please contact events coordinator, Kristi Fountain, at kfountain@landsCouncil.org or (509) 838.4912.



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Open House!
 September 21st & 22nd

Purchase your Raffle for the River tickets today!

See page 5 for details!

1st Prize:

Two Kayaks with Paddles!

2nd Prize:

Two Season Passes to 49° North Ski Resort

3rd Prize:

\$250 Shopping Spree at Mountain Gear

Open House!

Please join us ...

for the Community Building/Saranac Hotel Street Fair and Grand Opening on Friday, September 21st and Saturday, September 22nd.

The Lands Council, as well as all of the Community Building complex will host an open house on Friday evening with a formal ribbon cutting ceremony on the street at 6:00 pm.

The Magic Lantern Theatre will have its premiere public showing that same evening. Seven bands are scheduled to perform. There will also be tours of the facilities highlighting the process and result of renovation of the former Saranac Hotel.

We would love to see you there to help us celebrate our new home on the 2nd floor of the Saranac at 25 West Main Avenue.

You're Invited to The Lands Council



- Why: Come and find out about the great work that we do, introduce your friends to TLC and help support the conservation of our forests, water and wildlife.

- When: Tuesday, October 23, 2007 from 7:30am to 8:30am

- Where: The Davenport Hotel Grand Pennington Ballroom

- How: It's FREE just contact Kristi at kfountain@landscouncil.org or (509) 838-4912 to reserve seats for you and your friends!

Are you excited about what we do at The Lands Council and want to share that excitement with your friends?

Consider serving as a table captain for this event and inviting a table of your friends, family and colleagues. The event is completely free to you and your guests. It's only an hour long and there's no minimum gift required. You won't have to ask anyone for money.

Contact Kristi at kfountain@landscouncil.org or (509) 838-4912 for more information.