

2007

wildsight achievements





Photo submitted by John Bergenske

A message from the Chairman Dear Members,

I recently shared a couple of weeks in the pristine wilderness with pupils from several Kootenay schools as part of Wildsight's 'Go Wild' program. This experience left me feeling many things: exhilaration, gratitude, reflection... but it was perhaps the reflection that had the biggest impact, especially when I think about Wildsight's role in our community.

Last winter, I attended a conference about the idea that our children are not getting outside enough. From the evidence presented, it was abundantly clear they are not. The reasons were many; parental fear, reduced urban play space, endless technological distractions, over-organized time schedules, etc. In a nutshell... too much Disney and not enough dirt.

Interestingly, every speaker - and there were many from a wide range of disciplines and positions - had vividly fond memories of their own. Even more interestingly, those memories usually started with personal outdoor play space and a parent who told them to just "go out and play." In fact, the obvious was clear. Children do not just connect with the outdoors in those moments of unstructured play, they also connect with themselves. When I affectionately think of my own memories of being in my den in the woods or watching kids

left to their own bursting imaginations, I still feel that connection.

This deficiency of nature in youth, I believe, will cause many long-term effects on both our struggling environment and our children. Without a deep-rooted connection to being outside, how can you have a deep-rooted compassion for it? Most of us have to love something if we are to move beyond 'ought to' into 'will do'.

So, send the children out to play, leave some spare unorganized time, turn off the TV, act responsibly and challenge the electronic addictions. Wildsight will do its part by attempting to expand its program that takes pupils outside and we'll continue to help protect our wonderful wilderness. That way, we'll be able to leave those scruffy woodlots for many future rounds of 'capture the flag'.

And by the way, many thanks to the 18 members who successfully encouraged new members to join Wildsight and a little festive nudge to the 982 of us that failed.

I'm off outside,

Wildsight works locally, regionally and globally to protect biodiversity and encourage sustainable communities in Canada's Columbia and southern Rocky Mountain region.



Dave Quinn Photo

Directors, Administration & Program Managers & Assistants 2007

Directors

- Paul Bell, Chair
- Julie-Anne Davies, Vice-Chair
- Bruce Fairley, Treasurer
- Angie Bryans, Secretary
- Joan Dolinsky, Director
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- Lesley Giroday, Director
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- John Bergenske,
Executive Director
- Andy Miller,
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- Billy Page,
Outreach Coordinator

Program Managers & Assistants

- John Bergenske,
Forestry/Land Use
- Ellen Zimmerman,
Columbia Headwaters
- Rachel Darvill,
Columbia Headwaters
- Kat Hartwig,
Corporate Relations
- Monica Nissen,
Classroom with Outdoors
- Jennifer Meens,
Go Wild
- Casey Brennan,
Southern Rockies/Flathead
- Dave Quinn,
Purcells
- Heather Leschied,
Water Stewardship/
Lake Windermere Project
- Megan Walsh,
Climate Solutions



Dave Quinn Photo

In mid-September, over 250 people from the Kootenays and beyond gathered in two separate events to celebrate the wild Purcells and support for a 'NO' decision for the proposed Jumbo resort. As shown in the image above, 140 people hiked from Jumbo Creek to Jumbo Pass.



Monica Nissen Photo

Students from Selkirk Secondary School in Kimberley partaking in Wildsight's Go Wild program. The 5 day backcountry trip took place in the Flathead Valley and Akamina-Kishinena Provincial Park last June.



A message from the Executive Director Dear Wildsight members and supporters,

Wow... 20 years. We've come a long way. What began as a handful of people who recognized the need for an organized environmental voice is now an organization with five active branches across the East Kootenays and partnerships with groups from around the globe.

20 years later, however, things are quite different. The recent increase of environmental awareness is directly linked to increased recognition of climate change. Today, climate change is an issue finally being acknowledged by individuals and government. At Wildsight, it's part of our responsibility to move climate change concerns into the realm of real action. After all, climate change is about the environment, but it's not the environment that's changing the climate, it's people. As much as Wildsight is about the environment, it's also about people - people who care, working together to protect and conserve.

Wildsight continues to blaze the trail toward environmental protection and sustainable communities in southeastern British Columbia.

While the challenges continue to grow, so does the strength of people devoted to making a difference. Wildsight's voice is being heard throughout the community and in the boardrooms of decision makers.

Take a look at this year's report and see the myriad of programs with which Wildsight has engaged our communities over the past year. We're doing far more things and having more impact than we imagined 20 years ago.

After 20 years, I can only say thank-you to our people: our members and supporters. Our organization affects change and sees success, because our people affect change and are successful.

Thanks for your continued support... all 20 years of it.



John Bergenske Executive Director

John Bergenske has been a conservationist since the early '70s. He was a leader in the 20-year struggle to create the Purcell Wilderness Conservancy. He coordinated a campaign that resulted in higher environmental standards for the local pulp mill and was instrumental in designating the Columbia Wetlands and East Columbia Lake Wildlife Management Areas. He has participated in extensive field research on both mountain caribou and grizzly bears in the Purcell Mountains. John plays a key role in coalition building and works with international organizations on forest issues to protect biodiversity across the region.



Brad Hill Photo

Water Stewardship Lake Windermere Project

More than just a beautiful body of water, Lake Windermere, along with the surrounding wetlands and Columbia River system, is the primary source of fresh water to over 15 million people throughout the Pacific Northwest. It is one of the most precious and intensely utilized water sources in the Columbia Valley.

Developed by Wildsight, the 'Lake Windermere Project' (LWP) delivers engaging public education while carrying out one of B.C.'s most advanced, in-depth water monitoring strategies. The project is a partnership of government agencies, First Nations, organizations and local citizens that has been building awareness and understanding of Lake Windermere since 2005.

LWP is an example of an integrated, collaborative approach to lake management, addressing the current and future activities in the watershed in ways that sustain the ecological health, social and economic values of Lake Windermere. LWP will be used as a template for the management of other lakes across the Province.

2007 marks the third year of the on-going water stewardship program and the second year of comprehensive water quality sampling. In that time, the project's involvement and results have continued to grow. The 12th annual shoreline cleanup event drew 25 participants and resulted in over 655 lbs of garbage collected (over 1,000 cigarette butts) on over 22 kilometres of shoreline. As well, LWP's educational activities this past summer attracted over 300 people to participate in our 'Water Wonders' workshop (which included an interactive model of the

valley and interpretive tours of the wetlands).

Lake Windermere's shoreline was selected by the multi-agency East Kootenay Integrated Lake Management Partnership to be the first digitally-inventoried foreshore in the East Kootenays and, this past summer, expanded to include a Fish and Wildlife Habitat Assessment.

Supporting Partners

Columbia Basin Trust
Environment Canada EcoAction
Ministry of Environment
Columbia Valley Community Foundation
BC Real Estate Foundation
Unilever Canada Foundation
Regional District of East Kootenay
Shaunessy Ranch Ltd.

Working Partners

BC Lake Stewardship Society
Canadian Columbia Inter-Tribal Fisheries Commission
Columbia Kootenay Fisheries Renewal Partnership
Columbia Valley Botanical Gardens
Department of Fisheries and Oceans
District of Invermere
East Kootenay Conservation Program
East Kootenay Integrated Lake Management Partnership
Interior Health Authority
Living By Water
Living Lakes Network
Ministry of Environment
No Water No Life
Regional District of East Kootenay



Heather Leschied Program Manager Water Stewardship/ Lake Windermere Project

Heather began with Wildsight as a summer student in 2005 and now coordinates the Lake Windermere Project full-time. Her background focuses on the Environmental Sciences of Geomorphology and Ecology. She has worked in various capacities with government and private sectors and is pleased to be a part of the Wildsight team.



Education in the Wild

Classroom with Outdoors/Winter Wonder

Wildsight's environmental education programs play a vital role in inspiring kids to get outside and discover the natural world. Through 'Classroom with Outdoors', students in grades four-to-seven participate in field trips in local wild spaces. The goal is to foster student awareness, understanding and appreciation of the delicate balance in nature.

In this, our seventh year, our dedicated team of educators took 3226 students out on 114 field trips to explore local forests, wetlands and grasslands in the Kootenays. From active hiking to contemplative journaling to investigative pond-dipping to species inventories, kids learn about their natural surroundings by experiencing it first-hand.

This year, we secured a three-year funding commitment from one of our core supporters, the Columbia Basin Trust (CBT). This

partnership recognizes the value and quality of the educational programs produced and delivered by Wildsight for over seven years.

The continued success of our 'Winter Wonder' program has shown that it's never too early to develop a love of nature. Students in Kindergarten through to Grade Three experience an outdoor program tailored for them. Led by winter-loving costumed characters, activities include the study of snow crystals, games and stories about winter and testing out some seasonal adaptations of local plants and animals. This winter, 979 students participated in 49 winter field trips within walking distance of their schools. The greatest accomplishment? Getting kids outside in the fresh air and celebrating the cold season with some great winter fun!



Monica Nissen
Program Manager
Classroom with Outdoors

Monica Nissen is the new Environmental Education Program Manager, coordinating the delivery of the Classroom with Outdoors and Winter Wonder field trip programs. Monica is a certified B.C. teacher with plenty of experience inside the classroom, but it is the world of outdoor and environmental education that's been her passion for over a decade. She takes the reins of the elementary school field trip programs after two seasons on Wildsight's educator team.

Education in the Wild

Go Wild

Get ready to 'Go Wild' with the next step of Wildsight's secondary school programs!

'Go Wild' is an innovative wilderness-based leadership and environmental stewardship program for Grades Nine to 11. Under Wildsight's leadership, the program is structured around a five-day wilderness out-trip near their community to develop wilderness skills, connections with the local environment and to gain an understanding of local backcountry issues. Each program is community-specific, experiential and uses youth-initiated presentations and community mentorship to explore local issues.

The goal is to instill an environmental ethic into all aspects of our communities and to promote the maintenance of a healthy and liveable environment.

As of October 5th, 2007, the pilot programs have been successfully completed at secondary schools in Kimberley, Cranbrook, Golden and Invermere. All four schools have already scheduled their next program for 2008. Better still, Wildsight will be expanding to eight programs in 2008.

Wildsight anticipates expanding to all secondary schools in School Districts 5, 6 and 8 by 2010 and can foresee this being a model program for secondary schools across Canada.

Supporting Partners

- CBT
- BC Gaming Commission
- MEC
- Nature Canada - Parks and People
- Shell Environment Fund
- Columbia Power Corporation
- Parent Advisory Councils throughout the Columbia Basin
- Osprey Community Foundation
- Crowsnest Conservation Society
- BC Hydro
- Canadian Mountain Holidays
- Snowy Owl Management



Jenn Meens
Program Manager
Go Wild

Jenn has an honours degree in Kinesiology and Physical Geography from McMaster University and is a certified teacher and Outdoor Experiential Educator from Queens University. She's been working steadily in Outdoor and Environmental Education for the past seven years. "My passion is inspiring and strengthening relationships between our everyday lives and the natural world around us," she says. "Getting youth engaged in their local environment by living in it for five days is a great start."

Habitat for Wild Species

Cabinet-Purcells Transboundary Conservation Plan

In 2005, Wildsight engaged in a partnership with the Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative (Y2Y) to create a far-reaching transboundary conservation plan for the Cabinet-Purcell ecosystem. This ecosystem, identified by Y2Y as a priority region, stretches from Golden, B.C., south to Missoula, Montana and from Nelson, B.C., east to Libby, Montana.

The Purcells - along with the Rockies - represent the last functional transboundary grizzly bear population in North America. Due to relatively low human settlement, this region holds promise as a viable permanent corridor for western North America's large wildlife species population. To date, this project has brought together over 70 organizations from both sides of the US-Canada border to create a unified vision of the conservation threats, issues and vision for the future of this distinct ecosystem.

By holding bi-annual strategy sessions, we have identified two critical conservation threats to this wild landscape: current development pressures and possible future expansion of B.C.'s #3 highway corridor and threats of a permanent city and associated resort infrastructure in Jumbo Creek in the central Purcells.

2007 marked the first official year of the project. By focusing our efforts on public education and communication, Wildsight presented this project to several conservation and restoration-focused conferences, as well as to many local organizations and public groups.

Wildsight continues to work with Y2Y representatives to coordinate this exciting collaborative conservation effort and to see it reach its fullest potential.

Wildsight also co-published *The Purcell Suite: Upholding the Wild* with Maa Press

and Y2Y. This anthology of 25 essays written by Canadian and US writers explores the ecological wonder of the Purcell Mountains in southeastern British Columbia and northwestern USA. All profits from book sales go to help continue the 20-year struggle to prevent a major real estate and ski resort development in the heart of the Purcell Range.

To order *The Purcell Suite*, or to receive a review copy, contact the Wildsight office by email office@wildsight.ca or by phone (250) 427-9325 or contact K. Linda Kivi by email maapress@netidea.com or phone (250) 223-8203.



Habitat for Wild Species

Mountain Caribou Recovery

Along with partner groups in the Mountain Caribou Project, Wildsight celebrated a major milestone in October: the B.C. government committed to implementing the long-awaited mountain caribou recovery plan. The plan will protect over 2.2 million hectares of habitat by spring 2008, an area more than 2/3rd the size of Vancouver Island.

These new commitments are critical for the survival of one of North America's most endangered mammals and have raised the bar for future forest protection across Canada.

This plan will include new forest protection of over 380,000 hectares and upgrades protection for much more land. The plan also commits the government to legislating motorized access closures and maintaining the moratorium on recreational development in mountain caribou habitat. In addition, government has committed to mineral reserves across identified high value habitat in order to avoid habitat loss and displacement from mining activities.

Our program has included targeted advertising, public service announcements and community

outreach. Messages have been sent to government by celebrities, business leaders and over 16,000 members of the general public - all in a bid to protect the mountain caribou habitat identified by the government's own science team.

Mountain caribou are an ecotype of the woodland caribou found across Canada and parts of Alaska. Mountain caribou live in old-growth forests in steep mountain ranges where they rely on tree lichens for winter food. Since 1997, Mountain caribou numbers have plummeted from about 2,500 to the current number of 1,900, largely due to logging, road building and flooding from dams. This recovery plan commits the B.C. government to restore their numbers to at least 2,500 animals.

Wildsight's partners in the Mountain Caribou Project include ForestEthics, Conservation Northwest, B.C. Nature (formerly B.C. Federation of Naturalists), Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society - B.C. Chapter, Fraser Headwaters Alliance, North Columbia Environmental Society, Quesnel River Watershed Alliance, Shuswap Environmental Action Society, Sierra Club of Canada - B.C. Chapter.



Dave Quinn Program Manager Purcells

Not only is Program Manager Dave Quinn a Kimberley-based wildlife biologist, author, photographer, and wilderness guide, he's also Wildsight's lead advocate for mountain caribou. Dave is part of the Flathead Wild team and is Wildsight's representative on the Cabinet-Purcells Transboundary Conservation coalition.

Heather Leschied Photo



Habitat for Wild Species David Thompson Heritage Lands (DTHL)

British explorer David Thompson made an impression on the Columbia Valley when he arrived here 200 years ago. Today, the David Thompson Heritage Lands (DTHL), B.C.'s portion of the Athabasca Trail Region bounding Jasper National Park and Hamber Provincial Park, are perhaps the only remaining landscape he would still recognize.

Wildsight is proposing a 13,000-hectare area for consideration as a Canadian National Historic site, encompassing the trail region and the historical vistas. This will be an innovative proposal designed to ensure ongoing protection for the unrivalled historic and ecological significance of the area.

Collaborating with both industry and government, Wildsight developed an alternate version of the Kootenay Boundary Land Use Plan that will legally concentrate reserve forests in the region surrounding the DTHL. This will maintain a viable connectivity corridor for the caribou, grizzly bears, mountain goats and wolverines that depend on the area for survival. The long-term ecological integrity of the DTHL will ensure critical habitat for wildlife as well as the ongoing historical integrity of a wilderness unchanged by time.



Ellen Zimmerman Program Manager Columbia Headwaters

Ellen has been an environmental, political, social, and anti-poverty activist for over 30 years. Ellen was instrumental in designating the Columbia Wetlands and East Columbia Lake Wildlife Management Areas and considers the achievement of the Cummins Provincial Park and Ramsar status for the Columbia Wetlands as career highlights. Currently, she focuses on upper Columbia Valley issues, the Columbia Wetlands, including the headwaters of Columbia Lake, the David Thompson Heritage Lands, pesticide and backcountry wilderness issues. In 2006, Ellen was the first Canadian woman to win the Yves Rocher foundation Terre de Femmes (Women of the Earth) Award.

Habitat for Wild Species Columbia Wetlands

After a summer of increasing motorized boat traffic throughout the Columbia Wetlands Wildlife Management Area, Wildsight is glad to report new boating regulations are moving full steam ahead.

The long-awaited technical report by the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) has been finalized, providing the scientific rationale to Transport Canada for the new boating regulations:

- No motorized vessels in wetlands ever.
- No towing or wake boarding activity allowed.
- The main channel of the Columbia River would be open to most motorized boat traffic as of July 15.

The proposed regulation is based on the science generated by the CWS report and does not reflect many social concerns widely expressed by those who canoe and kayak in the Columbia River. However, Transport and Environment Canada have committed to ongoing monitoring of the regulation with the promise that further restrictions may be enacted as necessary to protect the globally significant ecological values of the Columbia Wetlands. Wildsight, along with the newly formed multi-stakeholder group the Columbia Wetlands Stewardship Partners, will undertake a broad based educational and information campaign to help inform the public about the regulation and its rationale. We hope to have a user-friendly reporting mechanism in place to facilitate opportunities for the public to assist government in encouraging compliance and enforcement with the new regulations.



Brad Hill Photo

Habitat for Wild Species Backcountry Recreation

Canadians can get very excited about outdoor recreation. With the abundant natural beauty of our surroundings, it's easy to be impressed. For many, outdoor recreation involves motorized vehicles such as dirt bikes, ATVs and snowmobiles. Sadly, these machines can leave more than an impression in your mind. They can leave a negative impression on the environment we share and enjoy.

Motorized vehicles can cause irreversible damage to the soils of wetlands, grasslands and forested areas. The damage can be so severe that it takes decades or even centuries to recover. As well, noise and disturbance from helicopters and snowmobiles (as well as

compacted snow resulting from snowmobiles) can severely affect the quality of habitat for endangered species such as mountain caribou.

Wildsight is working hard to limit harm done to critically important areas and the wildlife that depend on them for survival. As well, we'll keep a close eye on recreation tenure applications and strongly oppose those that threaten ecological or wildlife values. We do this to make sure all tenure is held with the highest respect to wildlife, wilderness and biodiversity values.

In the near future, Wildsight will be working on an educational campaign that will explain levels of responsible and acceptable use in the backcountry.



Rachel Darvill
Program Manager
Columbia Headwaters

Rachel is a wildlife biologist, journalist and photographer and has been working for Wildsight for just over a year. Rachel is involved with a number of environmental initiatives, but focuses her work around issues that involve outdoor backcountry recreation, pesticides and the Columbia Wetlands. She has lived in Golden for eight years, originally hailing from coastal British Columbia.



Milo Burcham Photo

Habitat for Wild Species Columbia Lake & Lot 48

In May, the Regional District of East Kootenay (RDEK) board of directors decided to wait one year before further public hearings into bylaws 1880 and 1881. If passed, the bylaws will downzone 300 acres of land located on the east side of Columbia Lake from resort development to the present and historical agricultural use.

RDEK allowed this extension on the condition that the group working on a solution for the east side of Columbia Lake tabled a substantive update at the November 2007 RDEK meeting and that update indicated that very little progress towards a substantive solution was achieved over the last six months.

Wildsight, along with partner community group, Friends of Columbia Lake, is committed to encouraging RDEK and the negotiations group to find a permanent solution that results in protection for the east side of Columbia Lake. In addition, Wildsight will continue to urge the board to go forward with the downzoning if no solution is reached.



Harvey Locke Photo

People in the Wild Energy and Mining

The oil industry is becoming a bigger player in Canada's economy every day. Wildsight is continuing to watch the industry's practices and is succeeding in influencing how mining and fossil fuel industries conduct their business in B.C.

Wildsight continues to closely monitor British Petroleum Canada Energy Corporation (BP). BP wants to drill for coalbed methane (CBM) throughout the entire Crowsnest Coalfield. This area is more than 500km² area southeast of Fernie and spans across the Elk and Flathead watersheds.

BP, one of the largest companies in the world, has a very destructive and unsafe track record. Despite efforts to "green" their public image, they can't hide the reality of their environmental impact to land, air and water from coalbed methane extraction.

With this in mind, Wildsight is working to prevent BP from gaining tenure rights to our precious public resource by holding the provincial government accountable for their poor stewardship of our wild lands and pristine waters.

CBM isn't only sought after by BP. Energy corporations Stormcat and EnCana are seeking to expand their CBM drilling in Elk Valley. Toxic waste-water continues to be dumped into the Elk watershed despite a provincial

government policy committing to re-injection of all CBM waste-water. Wildsight will continue to insist that the provincial government conduct proper baseline environmental assessment and enforcement.

Wildsight is hopeful that B.C. premier Gordon Campbell commits to address the global climate crisis with meaningful actions here in B.C. Wildsight believes we can help to turn our economy away from destructive, unsustainable practices and toward a conservation and renewable energy-based economy.

Wildsight recognizes the Ktunaxa First Nation's traditional rights and title to the entire Southern Rockies region. Wildsight wishes the Ktunaxa Tribal Council every success with their ongoing treaty negotiation process. Wildsight looks forward to continuing to work with the Ktunaxa to help envision a more sustainable economy for this region.

People in the Wild Southern Rockies/ Flathead Wild

Last spring, the Flathead River was designated the "Most Threatened River in British Columbia" by the B.C. Outdoor Recreation Council. Almost simultaneously, Wildsight launched our Flathead Wild campaign. In just a short time, this campaign, years in the planning, has significantly raised massive awareness of the crisis facing this stunning valley and its pristine waters.

The threat from increased industrial impact and the climate crisis demand a special plan for the Flathead. To keep the Flathead wild, a wildlife sanctuary must be established in the lower third of the valley, along with a plan that puts wildlife first in this and nearby watersheds.

Wildsight's continued participation in the Southern Rocky Mountain Advisory Committee resulted in two new legislated Access Management Areas in the Flathead. Limiting motorized activity is a necessary step to protect sensitive and threatened species such as grizzly bear and mountain goats. The Flathead River is home to the highest diversity of aquatic insects and carnivores in North America - including all three wildcat species found in the Rocky Mountains.



Casey Brennan Program Manager Southern Rockies/Flathead

Casey, a Wildsight program manager since 2002, focuses on the impacts of mining and gas extraction in the Rockies. He's been working on community and environmental initiatives in the East Kootenays since 1990. Casey also leads the effort to add part of British Columbia's Flathead Valley to Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park. He lives with his family in Fernie.

Community Initiatives

Climate Solutions for the Kootenays

Our newest program this year, Climate Solutions for the Kootenays has been developed to address the growing issues of climate change and the impact of greenhouse gas emissions. Inspired by recent commitments from the Province of British Columbia to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 33% of current levels by 2020, this program will support community initiatives that encourage everyone to work together to reach this goal.

The Climate Solutions for the Kootenays program will assess the current greenhouse gas emission level of each Kootenay community and develop personalized targets for reduction. Then, a municipal plan can be developed and put into place.

One of the program goals is to create a region-wide network of climate change initiatives. The program has already seen success in gaining community support. The City of Fernie has joined Partners for Climate Protection and communication is already underway with several other municipalities.

This year, the focus will be on creating an on-line network of all climate change initiatives throughout the Kootenays while highlighting opportunities for community members to get involved. This program will provide simple, affordable solutions that every individual can incorporate into their own lives.

We will continue to encourage the short and long-term participation of municipalities in Partners for Climate Protection and to commit to emissions reductions.

The Climate Solutions for the Kootenays program is an opportunity for these regions to provide leadership to the province and to the rest of Canada. Wildsight looks forward to a successful and productive year ahead.

Supporting Partner

Community Action on Energy and Emissions



Megan Walsh
Program Manager
Climate Solutions

In her first year as a program manager for Wildsight, Megan is thrilled to have the opportunity to bring the issue of climate change to the attention of the Kootenay region. Megan holds a degree in Environmental Sciences and is currently enrolled in a Masters of Science in Environment and Management program. Megan is dedicated to implementing and supporting measurable, action based climate change initiatives in the Kootenays.

Habitat for Wild Species

Jumbo

Even after two decades of struggle, Wildsight remains resolute in our commitment to keep the central Purcell Mountains free of permanent human settlement.

Jumbo has been called “B.C.’s most controversial land-use decision.” Supporters of the 6500 bed, 22 lift, aptly named Jumbo Glacier Resort continue to try to sidestep local democracy to reach an agreement with the provincial government.

Over 250 Kootenay residents gathered in mid-September in two separate events to encourage the province to deny the long-standing Jumbo Resort proposal. This gathering was the largest of its kind, demonstrating the mounting opposition to the proposed resort from business owners, professionals, hunters, trappers, and conservation groups. Also in September, NHL superstar and Stanley Cup champion Scott Niedermayer declared his support for conservation of Jumbo. “Wilderness and



Brian Hay/Photo

wildlife values are disappearing, due in part to development proposals similar to the proposed Jumbo Resort,” says Niedermayer. “I am continually amazed we still have them here in the Kootenays.”

Niedermayer’s support garnered extensive national, provincial, and local television and print media coverage of the issue.

The proposed resort is located at the heart of the Purcell Mountains, 55 kilometers from the community of Invermere – an area that has seen a rapid decline in grizzly bear population. The population in and around the proposed resort is at a troubling 54% of carrying capacity, rather than the 94% assumed by the resort proponents in their controversial environmental assessment.



FINALLY: THE JUMBO PILL.

WARNING: Jumbo may include permanent and irreversible side effects such as wallet tension, dizziness, backcountry development, loss of long term memory and wildlife habitat. May cause landscape sores and unchecked building fevers. Passing may cause anxiety and discomfort, as well as localized irritation. Can contribute to glacier recession. If you encounter difficulty in swallowing this pill, consult your politician. It's more than a mouthful, so speak up before you eat it!

For fast and effective treatment, visit JumboWild.com.

The great news is, you don't have to take it.

www.JumboWild.com

People in the Wild Forest Stewardship

B.C. is synonymous with forests; they are our playground; they are our livelihood; they are our inspiration; they are part of who we are. We know we can't take it for granted. Because of this, Wildsight is committed to continually campaigning to improve forestry practices in British Columbia.

Wildsight has worked over the last year to complete management plans for identified high value conservation value forests with forestry company, Tembec. This work is being used to leverage higher levels of protection than would be achieved under the company's application of provincial regulation and policy. As a result of this work, this model has become a template for certification in the region.

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) provides the only independent certification recognized worldwide by both the marketplace and the environmental community. Tembec's operations in the East Kootenays remain the only FSC certification of a major forest licensee in B.C. This must be expanded.

Wildsight has engaged with Canfor in Radium, both as a member of its advisory group and in the mapping of high conservation value forests,

and continues to work to promote FSC on a broader scale across the province. Along with increasing market pressures, there are now clear indications that these efforts are leading Canfor toward piloting FSC certification in the East Kootenays for their B.C. operations.

Wildsight has supported community efforts to avoid wholesale logging in the Kimberley Nature Park. Consultations with Wildsight's ecosystem specialist have lead to a science-based alternative to planned clear-cutting in the park. Negotiations have been brought to a standstill while alternative fire control measures and ecosystem protection are integrated into planning.

Wildsight partners closely with ForestEthics to encourage companies to adopt a higher standard of forest stewardship. By providing scientific rationales based on ecosystem values and economic incentives supported by buyers of forest products, Wildsight aims for a win-win solution.



Harvey Locke Photo



Katarina Hartwig
Program Manager
Corporate Relations

Kat has been involved in international, national and regional environmental advocacy issues relating to sustainable tourism, protection of endangered species and water resources since 1983. With a background in business, Kat has worked to enhance corporate and NGO partnerships for conservation work and to develop shareholders resolutions that encourage environmental policies for public and private companies. She has worked with Ethical Funds, Jantzi Sustainability Index and Canadian NGOs to help develop criteria for Corporate Environmental Responsibility (CER) in Canada.



Andy Miller
Administrative Director

Andy brings top-notch skills in administration and project management, as well as seven years experience working with and for an international company. When he can tear himself away from financial spreadsheets and reporting deadlines, Andy can be found hiking in the wild, paddling or paragliding. Andy has recently moved to Kimberley from Banff with his wife Jean.



Billy Page
Outreach Coordinator

Part of the Wildsight team for eight years now, Billy coordinates media relations, special events, print production and annual report content. She's the liaison between Wildsight branches and the regional office and looks after the membership. As well, she promotes and coordinates Wildsight's environmental programs for elementary schools.

Supporting Partners

General Support

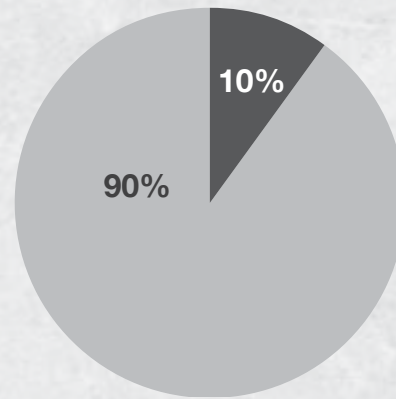
Endswell Fund of Tides Canada Foundation
Norcross Foundation

Habitat for Wild Species and People in the Wild

444S Foundation
Brainerd Foundation
Bullitt Foundation
Columbia Basin Trust
Eleanor Luxton Historical Foundation
Lazar Foundation
Maa Press
McLean Foundation
Ministry of Environment
Mountain Equipment Co-op
Patagonia
Richard Ivey Foundation
Wilburforce Foundation
Unilever Canada Foundation
Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative
West Coast Environmental Law



Expenditures 2006/2007



Conservation Programs 90%
Operation Support 10%



Partner Groups

Wildsight succeeds by working together with a wide range of partnering groups and by participating actively as a member of coalition efforts. These are the great allies we work with to advance a vision of conservation for the Columbia and southern Rockies region.

Bighorn Helicopters
British Columbia Sustainable Energy Association
Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society
BC and Calgary Banff Chapters
Castle-Crown Wilderness Coalition
Chinook Institute
Citizens Concerned About Coalbed Methane
Columbia Basin Environmental Education Network
Columbia Mountains Institute
Columbia Wetlands Stewardship Partners
Conservation Northwest
Crownsnest Conservation Society
David Thompson Bicentennial Committee
David Suzuki Foundation
Dogwood Initiative
East Kootenay Conservation Program
ECO Canada
Ecojustice
Elk Valley Stewardship Society
Flathead Basin Commission
ForestEthics
Forest Stewardship Council
Fraser Headwaters Alliance
Friends of Columbia Lake
Friends of the Columbia Wetlands

Friends of Kootenay Park
Global Nature Fund
Hollyhock Leadership Institute
How to Boil a Frog
Hornaday Wilderness Society
Jumbo Creek Conservation Society
Kootenay Backcountry Coalition
The Land Conservancy
Living Lakes Network
Living Oceans Society
Mountain Caribou Project
Montana Wilderness Association
Mistakis Institute
National Parks Conservation Association US
Natural Resources Defense Council
Nature Conservancy of Canada
Nature Conservancy US
Nature Trust
Northwest Wildlife Preservation Society
Oil and Gas Accountability Project
OneSky Foundation
Pat Bates Photography
Pembina Institute for Appropriate Development
Rocky Mountain Trench Natural Resources Society
Sierra Club of BC
Western Canada Wilderness Committee
Western Mining Action Network
West Kootenay EcoSociety
wildcanada.net
Wilderness Tourism Association
William and Flora Hewlett Foundation
World Wildlife Fund
Yaak Valley Forest Council



WE'VE GOT OUR SPACE. THEY NEED THEIRS.



CUTE.

CUTE.

LEARNING TO CLIMB TREES.

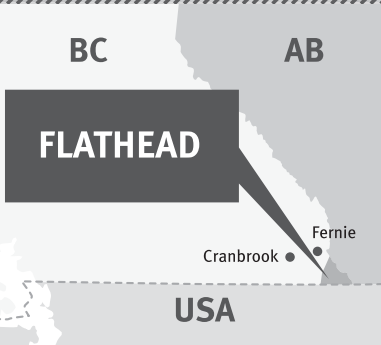
LEARNING TO CLIMB TREES.

LIKES EATING BERRIES.

LIKES EATING LOTS OF BERRIES.

BREAKFAST: CEREAL.

BREAKFAST: ROTTING MEAT.



**FLATHEAD
WILD**

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Wildsight has five branches across the East Kootenay region. These branches are independent societies working on specific local issues. Branch programs are designed to educate and inform local communities on environmental issues, to protect biodiversity, work on restoration programs and bring positive environmental alternatives to community development.



Helen Sander
Kimberley/Cranbrook
Branch Manager

As the Kimberley Cranbrook Branch Manager, Helen works with the board of directors to develop local projects that promote environmental sustainability in our communities. In addition, Helen coordinates the Mark Creek Recovery Program, a successful hands-on restoration, conservation and educational program. Helen has a degree in biology and several decades of experience in working with community based not-for-profit organizations.

Branch Report Kimberley/Cranbrook

Wildsight Kimberley/Cranbrook focuses on promoting ecological sustainability in our communities. This year, the branch undertook many projects and made real progress for the area.

Our Clean Air Project was extremely successful. Wildsight helped create idle-free zones at twelve local schools and businesses. Wildsight is also delivering clean air and climate change presentations to over 900 students and local residents. In February, Ingrid Liepa stepped into the role of project coordinator and brings with her a strong background in air quality and climate change. Project advocacy has since lead to a renewed interest and preliminary investigations into improved public transit services between Kimberley and Cranbrook.

Wildsight's Pesticide Reduction Initiative was instrumental in forming a pesticide-free Kimberley coalition of local businesses, physicians, the Canadian Cancer Society and other organizations. Spearheaded by Lisa Crane and Robyn Duncan, Wildsight Kimberley/Cranbrook hosted a Healthy Lawn and Garden fair in April in conjunction with a Pesticide Forum. This forum presented the human health risks of pesticide use and ways municipalities can protect the community by instituting cosmetic pesticide use bylaws.

The Mark Creek Recovery Program was a continued success, helping to restore habitat in Kimberley's Mark Creek. Wildsight ran weekly "Tuesday Evenings in the Eco Park" volunteer sessions over the summer to maintain the native plant gardens in the Marysville Falls Eco Park. Program coordinator Helen Sander led students of all ages on ecology and restoration field trips. As well, to assure the long-term availability of sufficient water flows, Wildsight began a Kimberley water use study to compare flow and current water use information.

Wildsight's Bear Aware Program continued to help reduce bear/human conflict. This year, Wildsight produced a variety of new outreach

materials, including a children's Bear Dylan CD, information for new residents and a weekly Bear Bulletin. Bear Aware coordinator Rob Newell delivered programs on bear biology and safety to schools, campgrounds and community groups.

Wildsight's Forest Management Committee continued to push for a greater consideration of ecological, recreational and aesthetic values when logging in our interface areas. At the same time, Wildsight's Mining Committee assessed the Teck Cominco Sullivan Mine Closure Ecological Risk Assessment and worked to insure that Kimberley will have the highest environmental quality possible when the company's reclamation work is completed. Our Sustainability Committee reviewed key development applications and made recommendations to enhance environmental sustainability.

Wildsight's Environmental Education and Awareness Committee organized public events monthly. Wildsight Kimberley/Cranbrook operates the Wildsight Resource Centre, located at 2-495 Wallinger St. Kimberley. For information or to volunteer in any programs contact us at 250-427-2535 or kimcran@wildsight.ca.

Supporting Partners

- BC Lung Association
- Columbia Basin Trust
- Columbia Kootenay Fisheries Renewal Partnership
- City of Kimberley
- Clean Air Champions
- Kimberley & District Community Foundation
- Regional District of East Kootenay
- Habitat Conservation Trust Fund
- BC Gaming Commission
- BC Conservation Foundation
- Eco Action
- BC Transit
- BC Ministry of Environment



Branch Report

Creston Valley

Creston Valley Forest Corporation

The Creston Valley Forest Corporation saw members William Mitchell-Banks and his wife Ruth leave the valley. Ralph Moore has replaced Mitchell-Banks as Wildsight's representative on the board.

It appears the community forest will finally be awarded area-based tenure (Probationary Community Forest Agreement). This tenure will double the cutting area without increasing the volume. The biggest challenge of the near future for the community forest will be managing lodgepole pine stands and the watershed in light of the predicted beetle infestation.

Wildsight is also pleased to hear the town of Creston has signed onto the British Columbia Climate Action Charter at the Union of B.C. Municipalities. This obligation commits the

town to reducing green house gas emissions. We applaud the initiative.

Educational Outreach

Wildsight Creston Valley continues to host engaging speakers from September to April highlighting wildlife and wild places. As well, the Creston Valley Branch and the Food Action Coalition worked together to educate the community on the environmental and social benefits of local agriculture. The Creston Valley has always relished the idea of eating locally. In September, the Food Action Coalition invited the authors of 100-Mile Diet to Creston and shared an interesting evening of local dishes and stories. Wildsight, as well as the Creston branch, applauds the Food Action Coalition for raising awareness about local food production and distribution. Well done!

Branch Report

Elk Valley

The Wildsight Elk Valley Branch was very busy making its presence felt throughout the region this year. Under the leadership of Lee- Anne Walker, the Elk Valley Branch is continuing its work restoring and protecting local wetlands, while Climate Solutions Program Manager Megan Walsh is working with the Fernie city council to develop local and regional strategies to address our own contributions to climate change.

Wildsight Elk Valley was also at several very heated community forums this year. The controversies were in regards to a proposal for an open pit coalmine by Cline Mining Inc. in the sensitive Flathead watershed, as well as a billion-dollar coal bed methane exploration project launched by BP this spring.

The Elk Valley Branch has been actively involved in the development of the Fernie Area Land Use Strategy Plan in making submissions at public hearings. The branch has also been actively pressing for the timely completion of a comprehensive impact study on the entire area before any further mining or gas projects are initiated, and will continue to keep a close watch on further developments in the area.

The branch would also like to thank the tireless support from community organizations such

as Bear Aware, the Community Eco-Garden, and Advocates for Community Living. Thanks to hard work from volunteers and funding from Tembec Industries and Evergreen, two new native plant gardens are part of the Community Eco Garden. These gardens focus on edible and medicinal plants, including native species that attract beautiful butterflies and hummingbirds. The Eco Garden hosted two seed-swap events and a series of workshops that include topics such as solar cooker creation, composting education, native plants awareness and seed saving. The Eco Garden also worked with over fifty students from two local schools in the Edible Schoolyards to help support teachers in bringing hands-on gardening into the schools.



Branch Directors

Creston Valley

Tanna Patterson, President
Ralph Moore, Vice President
Val Harris, Secretary
Susan Low, Treasurer
Alex Eymann, Director
Ray Marriner, Director
Brian Huscroft, Director
Brenda Bruns, Director
Carla Haegele, Director
Edward McMackin, Director

Elk Valley

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Kathi Chorneyko, Director
Julie-Anne Davies, Director
Becky Phillips, Director
Carla Demyen, Director

Branch Report Golden

Like other Wildsight branches this year, the Wildsight Golden Branch has been extremely busy working to make a difference in their community. Wildsight Golden has been working on local recycling, air quality, backcountry recreation, and land management issues. The branch provided environmental education programs to school children, maintained a wildlife viewing area at Reflection Lake and sponsored public presentations on environmental issues in our community.

Wildsight Golden is also working with Canada World Youth on several environmental initiatives and working with other backcountry users to implement a recreational access plan for the Golden half of the Columbia Forest District.

For the 07/08 season, Wildsight Golden is working on many positive initiatives such as an anti-idling campaign, a pesticide reduction initiative, an invasive species project, restoration of the riparian area at the confluence of Kicking Horse and Columbia Rivers, educational presentations in the schools, improving recycling services and helping the Columbia Shuswap Regional District run recycling fairs and setting up environmental monitoring programs.

Confluence Project

As the Columbia and Kicking Horse Rivers join within the town of Golden, this confluence area experiences many users. Those who decide to abuse the area have a significant impact with the biggest impacts coming from motorized vehicles driving over sensitive riparian habitat on both sides of the Kicking Horse River.

The area is a highly productive fish habitat and is home to other species such as osprey, eagles, diving ducks, coyotes, beaver, deer, elk and bear. On several occasions during the fall Kokanee salmon spawning season, vehicles were seen driving over wetted channels where fish were actively spawning. As a result, riparian vegetation was compacted and destroyed, and water quality was impacted by increased turbidity.

The lowland riparian habitat within the proposed restoration area – part of a continuous greenbelt corridor along the Columbia River - is crown land and falls



Dave Quirm Photo

under authority of the Provincial Government Integrated Land Management Branch. Wildsight feels the neglected state of this area reflects poorly on the community and general management of ecologically important land.

As a response, Wildsight Golden initiated a restoration project in partnership with the Town of Golden with funding and support from Columbia Basin Trust and the Columbia Kootenay Fisheries Renewal Project in spring, 2006. The project is quite simple: Blocking motorized access, replanting damaged sites and educating users on the ecological significance of the area and appropriate uses.

There have been numerous hoops to jump through, but Wildsight is a great jumper

Branch Report Invermere

This past summer, Wildsight Invermere members participated in a series of meetings for the Lake Windermere Official Community Plan (OCP). With the guidance of the Regional District of East Kootenay (RDEK) and Area F Director Lillian Rose, this OCP outlined a long-term strategy that establishes a collective vision for land use preservation and a policy framework to provide direction in land use decision-making by the RDEK Board.

Given the huge number of housing units already approved in principle in Area F, Invermere Wildsight is focusing to ensure no further development on Columbia Lake and the west side of Lake Windermere. If development

does indeed go ahead, sustainable water and sewer infrastructure installed throughout the development area is imperative so that the increasing density in existing developments takes precedence throughout the planning area. Also, ensuring that housing is affordable and that limits to growth in the region are established is of prime importance.

Wildsight Invermere's Responsible Outdoor Lighting Program, under the direction of Arnor Larson, continues to make significant progress in limiting light pollution and conserving energy. Arnor has been busy raising awareness and making presentations promoting the concept through our region. Recently, he received word from the Wilmer Improvement District as well as Canfor's Radium sawmill that they commit towards establishing full cut-off site lighting in their respective areas.


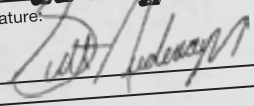
Arnor also succeeded in getting a commitment from the District of Invermere for the program. In addition, the district is working on a responsible lighting compliance bylaw. Arnor will be making presentations about the concept to the communities of Edgewater, Brisco and Spillimacheen this fall.



Heather Leschied Photo

keep it **kootenay**



Name: Scott Niedermayer	
Occupation: NHL Defenseman	
Wild About: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pond hockey	
Not Wild About: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pre-season games, long road trips	
Wild Words: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Keep the decision local. Keep Jumbo wild.	
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