

The Log

Autumn 1998

FRIENDS OF ECOLOGICAL RESERVES NEWSLETTER

If You Go Down in the Woods Today...

As a child, my favourite song, without exception, was "The Teddy Bear's Picnic." Those of you who are familiar with it will recall that the first two lines of the song are, "If you go down in the woods today/You're sure of a big surprise..." Bears have been on my mind a lot lately. Not teddy bears, grizzly bears—those large barometers of the health of an ecosystem,"a coal mine canary species." It's now hunting season; bears have been in the news a lot and the refrain from the song keeps running through my mind. A recent report from the Sierra Club advises that the US Fish and Wildlife Service wants to delist the grizzly bear in Yellowstone, arguing that the bear has made a successful comeback. Louisa Willcox, project coordinator for the Sierra Club Grizzly Bear Ecosystem Project, is quoted, "Grizzly levels in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem are about as low today as they were when the population was listed as threatened

in 1975. Fish and Wildlife is arguing that the population is sufficient to delist because they are equating seeing more bears with there being more bears."

Some facts and figures:

- The grizzly bear is North America's slowest reproducing land mammal, and is inherently vulnerable to over-hunting.
- In 1990 a Federal Canadian Government committee classified the grizzly as 'vulnerable' or 'threatened' in 63 per cent of its Canadian range.
- Today, grizzly bear have been eradicated from 99 per cent of their original distribution in the lower 48 American states, and from 24 per cent of their distribution in Canada.
- In 1995, the Grizzly Bear Scientific Advisory Committee was established by the BC government, with a mandate "...to provide advice to government on the conservation needs of grizzly bears." The committee was seen as a key implementing body of the Grizzly Bear Conservation Strategy, published the same year. The strategy noted that "Unless steps are taken now to conserve grizzly bear populations in British Columbia, this animal could disappear from our landscape forever."

There are differences of opinion about the dwindling numbers of bears—depending upon whom you talk to. However, there is no doubt that, whatever the actual numbers, the decline of BC's grizzly bear populations continues. In November 1997, the Committee reviewed the grizzly bear sections of the Identified Wildlife Management Strategy. The review reports that "Local population declines are occurring in many areas of the province, due primarily to area-concentrated mortality, habitat loss and

Continued on page 9

Inside ...

President's Message	2
Guest Editorial	3
Species at Risk	6,7
History of Ecological Reserves	10,11
Okanagan Grassland Placemat	15
Response to the BC Parks Legacy Project	16,17
Notice of AGM	18

The Log

Autumn 1998

The Log is published twice a year by the Friends of Ecological Reserves to promote the establishment, management and maintenance of Ecological Reserves in British Columbia. *The Log* is distributed to members, volunteer wardens, affiliates, supporters, government, friends and the enquiring public.

The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Friends.

Articles for publication are invited. The deadline for submissions for the fall issue of *The Log* is February 1, 1999.

Editor

Eileen King

Design and Production

Indigo Sky Graphic Design

Directors

Cheryl Borris, *President*

Peggy Frank, *Vice-President*

Mary Rannie, *Recording Secretary*

Pen Brown, *Membership Secretary*

Lynne Milnes, *Treasurer*

Syd Cannings

Sue Carr

Trudy Chatwin

Bristol Foster

Ryan Gill

Evelyn Hamilton

Vicky Husband

Jim Kilby

Jonah Mitchell

Briony Penn

Contributors to This Issue:

Cheryl Borris

Trudy Chatwin

Bristol Foster

Nichola Gerts

Don de Mille

Lynne Milnes

Briony Penn

Mary Rannie

President's Message

In the final weeks of 1998, it seems as if this year has gone by all too swiftly. Since 1998 is the 15th anniversary year of the Friends of Ecological Reserves, we ask ourselves what we are celebrating. Looking back over the years we are reminded that Dr. Vladimire Krajina's original goal was to protect 1% of BC's land area in Ecological Reserves. Twenty-seven years after the articulation of that vision, little more than one-tenth of it has been realized.

For this issue of *The Log*, we scoured the FER archives and delved into the memories of long-time members and provided you, our membership, and ourselves with a history. While our historical timeline captures victories such as the very hard work that led up to the protection of the Khutzymateen Valley, it has not recorded some of our more painful losses—the disbanding of the committee that provided advice about Ecological Reserves in the 70s and early 80s. Lynne Milnes left her government job in 1983 and was not replaced; Bristol Foster left soon after. Today, the Ecological Reserves program has been absorbed by BC Parks and Ecological Reserves are considered to be part of the larger Protected Area Strategy initiative. Protected areas are described as “areas ... set aside for a variety of uses including nature preserves, scientific research areas, cultural heritage areas, and areas for education, appreciation and recreational activities,” whereas Ecological Reserves preclude all recreational activities but walking.

Today, you can go to the Ministry web page on the Internet, <<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/protect/consprog.htm>> and read *Guiding Principles for Conservation: BC Parks' Commitment to Conservation*, a set of conservation management principles developed to guide BC Parks in its management of the natural and cultural values in the system. These principles recognize the importance of BC's unique ecological diversity and richness, and the significance of Ecological Reserves as a vital contribution to national and global conservation efforts. However, although this was published in September 1997, still in development is the strategic direction that will determine how the Ministry will set priorities for conservation management in order to realize the government's conservation vision.

In the meantime, the government moves slowly to establish protected areas. There are delays in signing the orders-in-council that would establish protected areas; staffing and budget resources are apportioned to other programs within the Ministry. We have conveyed our concerns to the BC Parks Legacy Panel—and you will find our response in this issue.

As well, in this issue, we return to the practice of acknowledging those who have so generously contributed to the Friends during the past year, so that we are able to continue to support land acquisition initiatives (the Elkington property, Ayum Creek Connector and McFadden Creek), as well as financially support research endeavours that have long-term consequences for the understanding of biodiversity and its relationship to healthy ecosystems.

As Friends, how can you help? Well, first of all, please take the time right now to renew your membership (renewal form enclosed). If you can, add a little extra to your cheque. We will give you a charitable tax receipt for any donation over \$20.00—after all, charitable giving is about financing social change.

Write letters supporting local and provincial conservation efforts to your MLA and MP, local government and the media! Your time, effort, and skills assist conservationists everywhere in raising awareness of ecological problems and help to find solutions. Finally, encourage your family, friends and neighbours to become more conservation conscious by practising and supporting principles of ecological sustainability.

With my best wishes for a happy holiday season,

Cheryl Borris, *President*

A Plea for an Island of Wilderness

The largest domed bog on the BC west coast, and perhaps the largest urban wilderness in the world, has been reduced from 4,000 hectares to less than 3,000. Fifty to 150 hectares of Burns Bog are lost each year to farms, landfills, roads and housing. The diversity of species, including rare species, within the bog is enormous. Yet a tentative agreement with a developer may spell doom for the protection of most of what's left.

Extending from the south shore of the Fraser River to near the ocean at Boundary Bay, the bog is linked to freshwater and marine ecosystems. Salmon-bearing streams from the hillside nourish a peat-soil swamp forest of Sitka spruce, western red cedar, western hemlock, paper birch and red alder, with an understory of false azalea, huckleberry, devil's club and skunk cabbage.

The diversity of species, including rare species, within the bog is enormous.

Further west on an ancient river channel runs a strip of crabapple, willow, bog myrtle and cattails. Beyond that, a narrow grove of tall hemlock and shore pine bends into a forest extending 8.5 km to a rich and variable edge forest near the Fraser River.

Many species inhabit Burns Bog. About four pairs of greater sandhill cranes nest there each season and a flock of around thirty masses there each fall before flying south. The network of ponds and fens attracts

large flocks of ducks, geese, shorebirds, swans and raptors. The bog is still large enough, despite strong hunting pressure, to support bears, deer and coyotes.

Several species are rare. The Pacific water shrew is listed as threatened nationally and red-listed by the BC Conservation Data Centre. The Peregrine falcon (*pealei*) is listed as vulnerable nationally and blue-listed by the Centre. The barn owl, short-eared owl and Pacific great blue heron are vulnerable. Additionally, the provincial agency red-lists the spotted frog, northern bog lemming, southern redbacked vole, long-tailed weasel and snow-shoe hare. Blue-listed bog area species include the brassy minnow and trumpeter swan. Rare plants found near or adjacent to the bog, and which may occur within it, include the red-listed narrow-leaved goosefoot and false-pimpernel and the blue-listed small spike-rush.

The habitat of these species is threatened by development. Roads have been cut among Sitka spruce in the east-edge swamp forest for yet-to-be-approved housing, while other forested areas may soon be cut off by a north-south highway. The interface on the north between the bog and the Fraser River, except for a few thin strips, has been buried in demolition waste, contaminated soil and benign fill. An east-west highway is planned through the northern portion. Meanwhile, landfilling and development are also adding stress to the northern part of the bog. The wild bog that survives has had peat harvested from it beginning in the early 1940s. Though full recovery of peat takes just forty years, and interim stages of regrowth provide productive habitat, many planners and politicians dismiss the bog as a depleted peat mine of no environmental value.

Conservation Efforts

Though Parks Canada acknowledged the rich habitats of Burns Bog, it was rejected as a candidate for a park

under federal criteria because it was not considered a representative natural area. The semi-arid Gulf Islands, rather, were recognized as typical of the Lower Mainland Region.

“an ecological symphony comprised of land, water, and life played out every day for no audience in particular but for all to enjoy.”

The province and Greater Vancouver Regional District tried unsuccessfully to buy a privately held central portion of Burns Bog for a park, and the municipality of Delta has forestalled some bog disasters. But a 1988 project to develop all of Burns Bog went unopposed by government agencies and was only narrowly defeated by the municipal council after hundreds of citizens appeared before it. And a conditional sales agreement has been reached with a developer for a large portion of the bog. Allowing more development in the bog will further jeopardize its ability to support an abundance of wildlife.

Richard Hebda describes Burns Bog as “an ecological symphony comprised of land, water, and life played out every day for no audience in particular but for all to enjoy.” It is an area of unparalleled beauty we could not duplicate for billions of dollars. It takes a lifetime to know Burns Bog well; two minutes to drive through it; one sentence from the right lips to save or finish it. ■

– By Don DeMille

Don DeMille is a BC-based biologist and filmmaker.

Richard Hebda is a biologist with the Royal BC Museum and Head of the Ecological Restoration Program. Uvic

(Reproduced from RECOVERY, a newsletter of Environment Canada, Canadian Wildlife Service.)

Race Rocks Ecological Reserve Protected

In September 1998 Federal Fisheries Minister David Anderson announced that the Race Rocks Ecological Reserve would be part of a pilot project in a national network of marine protected areas. This project follows the recommendations in the Ecological Reserve Management Plan drafted by the Reserve wardens at Pearson College. Gary Fletcher, a teacher of Marine Biology at the College, said the negotiations between the federal government, provincial government and Pearson College are ongoing. The main item of concern is who will pay for the management of the Reserve.

Pearson College has raised funds for a one-year management lease that expires in March 1999. The College's Race Rocks Operating Fund pays for the lighthouse keeper to stay on and police the site. In the first year after lighthouse de-staffing, 40 fishing infractions were recorded. This year the numbers are fewer, but whale watching boats speeding through the Reserve are on the increase. The presence of the lighthouse keeper and the student wardens from Pearson College, who go out into the community and teach people about the fragile nature of the Reserve, are essential for maintaining the integrity of the Marine Ecological Reserve.

How can you help?

- Write to:
The Honourable David Anderson
Minister of Fisheries
Parliament Buildings
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6

Politely urge him to expedite the process of negotiations between the federal and provincial governments and Pearson College
- Check out the Pearson College web page at:
<http://www.pearson-college.uwc.ca/pearson/racerock/pcserv7.htm>
- Contribute to the Race Rocks Operating Fund through:
Pearson College
650 Pearson College Drive Victoria, V9C 4H7
Or:
the Friends of Ecological Reserves
(specify for the Race Rocks Operating Fund).

Hope for Mara Meadows

BC Parks in Kamloops have confirmed that the Mara Meadows Ecological Reserve is still being proposed as a protected area under the Okanagan Shuswap Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP). This issue was brought to our attention in the spring of 1997 when woodlots adjacent to Mara Meadows were being advertised for small business logging. The Ecological Reserve protects a myriad of rare orchids in a calcareous fen. The swampy terrain would be seriously affected if logging should take place beside the fragile meadows. So far the Ministry of Forests has not pursued the woodlot proposal. This is great news for Mara Meadows, and its future safety seems somewhat strengthened if it comes within the LRMP Protected Area Strategy.

A few years ago a neighbour wanted to drain Mara Meadows for adjacent farmland but that proposal was successfully denied because local naturalists defended the rare and endangered plants within the Ecological Reserve and Friends wrote letters of protest. Constant vigilance is necessary to maintain Ecological Reserves both large and small throughout the province. We will continue to monitor the situation at Mara Meadows. Once again we thank all the people who wrote letters and educated the various government ministries as to the fragile nature of the Mara Meadows Ecological Reserve. ■

– Lynne Milnes



Robson Bight Field Trip

In 1982, the Government of British Columbia established the Ecological Reserve at Robson Bight. Six years later, after constant pressure from the environmental community, the estuary of the Tsitika River and a portion of the shoreline were added to the Reserve. The estuary on the east coast of Vancouver Island is now undisturbed and supports a wide diversity of fish, migratory bird, invertebrate and plant species. The upland protects a strip of land adjacent to the unique rubbing beaches of the orcas who visit Robson Bight mainly from June to October. When the whales are present in Johnstone Strait there is an 80 per cent chance they will visit the Bight several times a day. They behave differently in Robson Bight—there is less travelling, less feeding, more resting and more play than in any other place on the BC coast.

In late August, the Friends of Ecological Reserves chartered *Sea Otter Charters and Research*, for a three-day excursion to Robson Bight ER. The Sea Otter is a sleek, teak 50-foot two-masted sailboat, owned and operated by Alan and Jennifer Fletcher of Victoria. During the summer, they operate their small business out of Telegraph Cove, just south of Port McNeill on Vancouver Island.

Four Friends, including President Cheryl Borris and Secretary Mary Rannie with her visiting niece, boarded the Sea Otter on a hot, sunny Friday evening and motored south in Johnstone Strait to our evening moorage opposite the Bight. After a fresh salmon dinner, we sat on deck and looked at stars, watched the water phosphoresce and marvelled at the deep silence of this formidable coast line of rocky walls rising out of the sea, trees and dense undergrowth crowding to the water's edge.

GRAPHIC NOT AVAILABLE

Friends making a side trip to explore the seashore.

Over the next two days as we motored and sailed these waters, we noted the continuous presence of Eagle Eye, a group of volunteer researchers who maintain a marine mammal watch in Johnstone Strait. Eagle Eye is contracted by BC Parks as assistance to the ER warden to prevent boaters and others from entering Robson Bight—one of several ERs in BC that is barred from public access of any kind. At one point, we watched from a distance

GRAPHIC NOT AVAILABLE

Three transient bachelor orcas.

as the warden approached and reprimanded a group of ocean kayakers who had been pursuing a pod of orcas in an overzealous fashion. It was as encouraging to see these protection efforts take place as it was disquieting to encounter the giant cruise ships and

myriad smaller vessels fishing or whale seeking in and around the Bight. Saturday was a perfect day, what with orca pods, large and small, travelling, tailslapping, spyhopping and swimming right by our boat observing us. Three transient bachelors were especially fascinating, one of which was missing the top of his large dorsal fin. In the afternoon, we were thrilled by the sight of a lone humpback whale casually investigating the shoreline and, although it was early for migrating sea birds, we saw mew gulls, a group of Rhinoceros auklets, greater Yellowlegs and a lone Common Tern.

Sunday, three Dall's porpoises joined us briefly to escort us on our return to harbour. It was a wonderful end to a magical trip! ■

GRAPHIC NOT AVAILABLE

Mary Rannie on the lookout!

In 1999, *Sea Otter Charters and Research* will host Friends Director Dr. Bristol Foster and researcher Dr. Tom Reimchen on an expedition north. Watch for further details in the Spring Issue of *The Log* about an opportunity to join these two knowledgeable scientists.

Species at Risk in BC

Of the 307 species on Canada's official List of Wildlife at Risk, 81 (26 per cent) are found in British Columbia. Some of these, like Vancouver Island marmots and Texada sticklebacks, are found nowhere else in the world. The list represents only the species that are known to be at risk and does not reflect the many other species that may also be at risk but have not yet been studied or classified.

MAMMALS

Extinct

- Woodland caribou—Queen Charlotte Islands population

Endangered

- Right whale
- *Vancouver Island marmot

Threatened

- Humpback whale—North Pacific population
- Pacific water shrew
- Sea otter
- Townsend's mole
- Wood bison

Vulnerable

- Blue whale
- Ermine—Queen Charlotte Islands population
- Fin whale
- Fringed myotis bat
- Grizzly bear
- Keen's long-eared bat
- Nuttall's cottontail—BC population
- Pallid bat
- Spotted bat
- Western harvest mouse—BC population
- Wolverine—Western population

GRAPHIC NOT AVAILABLE

- Woodland caribou—Western population

BIRDS

Extirpated

- Sage grouse—BC population

Endangered

- Burrowing owl
- Peregrine falcon, subspecies *anatum*
- Sage thrasher
- Spotted owl

GRAPHIC NOT AVAILABLE

Threatened

- Marbled murrelet
- White-headed woodpecker
- Yellow-breasted chat—BC population

Vulnerable

- Ancient murrelet
- Barn owl
- Caspian tern
- Flammulated owl
- Great blue heron—BC population
- Long-billed curlew
- Northern goshawk—Queen Charlotte Islands population
- Peregrine falcon—subspecies *pealei*
- Short-eared owl

GRAPHIC NOT AVAILABLE

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

Extirpated

- Pygmy short-horned lizard

Endangered

- Leatherback turtle
- Northern leopard frog—BC population

Vulnerable

- Coeur d'Alene salamander
- Great Basin spadefoot toad
- Pacific giant salamander

FISH

Endangered

- Nooksack dace
- Salish sucker

Threatened

- *Benthic Texada stickleback
- *Enos Lake stickleback
- *Limnetic Texada stickleback
- Shorthead sculpin

Vulnerable

- *Charlottte unarmoured stickleback
- *Cultus pygmy sculpin
- *Giant stickleback
- Green sturgeon
- *Lake lamprey
- Pacific sardine
- Speckled dace
- Umatilla dace
- White sturgeon

INVERTEBRATES

Endangered

- *Hotwater physa

Vulnerable

- Monarch butterfly

PLANTS, LICHENS AND MOSSES

Endangered

- Bearded owl-clover
- Deltoid balsamroot
- Prairie lupine
- Seaside birds-foot lotus
- *Seaside centipede lichen
- Southern maidenhair fern
- Water-plantain buttercup

Threatened

- Apple moss
- Golden paintbrush
- Mosquito fern
- Small-flowered lipocarpha
- Western blue flag
- White-top aster
- Yellow montane violet

Vulnerable

- Coastal wood fern
- Cryptic paw lichen

- Giant helleborine
- *Macoun's meadow-foam
- Oldgrowth specklebelly lichen
- Phantom orchid
- Seaside bone lichen

* A species found only in British Columbia and nowhere else in the world.

The list of wildlife at risk in Canada is determined and reviewed annually by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC). COSEWIC is comprised of federal, provincial and territorial officials, as well as representatives from conservation organizations and technical subcommittees drawn from universities, museums and other sources.

COSEWIC assigns status in one of the following categories:

Extinct:

a species that no longer exists.

Extirpated:

a species no longer existing in the wild in Canada but occurring elsewhere.

Endangered:

a species facing imminent extinction or extirpation.

Threatened:

a species likely to become endangered in Canada if limiting factors are not reversed.

Vulnerable:

a species of special concern because of characteristics that make it particularly sensitive to human activities or natural events.

COSEWIC has been designating species since 1978. The committee has considered 447 species status reports, resulting in a total of 307 designations. Over this twenty-year period, nine species have been removed from the list, seven have been moved to a lesser category of risk and sixteen have been moved to a greater category of risk. ■

Herring for the Birds?

The Hornby and Denman Islands marine ecosystem supports a significant seabird population that is associated with herring migrations. This population includes the world's largest harlequin duck population as well as large populations of goldeneye, grebe, loons, bufflehead, scoters, eagles, mew and herring gulls, old squaw and cormorants. All of these birds rely on both the herring fish and the roe as nutrients for their breeding success.

The commercial herring roe fishery in the Strait of Georgia is not being managed with an ecosystem perspective—a conservation component that is required by the *Oceans Act* for fisheries management.

Please write to Federal Fisheries and Oceans Minister David Anderson to recommend that the herring resource be designated for salmon, birds and marine mammals, rather than for human consumption, and to support the preservation and maintenance of a healthy marine ecology.

The Honourable
David Anderson
Minister of Fisheries and
Oceans
House of Commons,
Confederation Building
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6 ■



Update on the Marmot from the Marmot Recovery Team

I know that many of you personally adopted marmots and may like to know how the marmots are doing.

Over the summer an extensive inventory and monitoring program was conducted by the field crew. The high count for 1998 was 71 animals, compared to 102 in 1997, and 235 back in 1984. The so-called "core-area" that contained 150+ animals in the 1980s now has only around 25.



Over the last two summers the Recovery Team has sent 14 marmots to the Toronto and Calgary Zoos, to develop appropriate care and feeding guidelines, to investigate methods of housing and to initiate research on the breeding of the Vancouver Island Marmot. Unfortunately two of the marmots sent to the Calgary Zoo have

subsequently died. The exact causes of their deaths are still being investigated by wildlife health professionals from several agencies. The two remaining juveniles at the Calgary Zoo have now been introduced and appear healthy at this time. Because of the ages of the marmots sent to the zoos, Andrew Bryant of the Recovery Team does not expect the marmots to start breeding until next year or the year after.

Plans to build a breeding facility on Mount Washington are in the works. All going well it should open in the spring of 2000. The Vancouver Island Marmot Foundation has been established to lead and coordinate the fund raising and a panel of high profile British Columbians has been gathered by Environment Minister McGregor to assist the Foundation with their fund-raising goals.

Plans to build a breeding facility on Mount Washington are in the works.

Their aim is to use the money raised to help build the breeding facility at Mount Washington and to implement the Recovery Plan. The Foundation will be working in partnership with the World Wildlife Fund.

Previously The Nature Trust was accepting donations for the marmot. Now that the Foundation has registered charity status they will be handling all donations. Cheques can be made out to The Marmot Recovery Foundation; all donations are tax deductible.

Please mail donations to:

The Marmot Recovery Foundation
Box 2332 Stn A
Nanaimo BC V9R 6X9

The Marmot Foundation has recently set up a new phone information service based in Nanaimo to let people know about the plight of the marmot and how they can help. The number is: (250) 753-8080 ■

Sleuths at Work

Hercule Poirot, move over! Your skills would be useless in the BC forests. But names that should strike terror into the hearts of poachers in BC are Dr. Gail Anderson, Leigh Dillon and Renko. Elk and deer, bears, fur-bearers, game birds, birds of prey, reptiles and amphibians, and sport fish are among the victims of poaching. Poaching, or illegal killing, is a major factor in the decline of many wildlife species in BC. Poachers are difficult to detect and often more difficult to convict, if apprehended.

But BC now has the help of two important "sleuthing tools." Dr. Gail Anderson and her graduate student, Leigh Dillon, are two of only a handful of forensic entomologists in North America, and possibly the only ones working on poaching cases. What do they do? They use the lifespan of insects found on bodies to determine the time of death. In the short time such insect evidence has been used in wildlife cases, many poachers have been brought to justice. In one case, two bear poachers were convicted because Dr. Anderson was able to use insect information to link the time of death of two black bear cubs to the night the poachers were seen in the area.

The other "sleuth" is Renko, the German shepherd that assists Ralph Krenz of the Conservation Officer Service in BC. Renko is trained to detect certain items (such as bear gall bladders) and to recover items that are foreign to a crime scene (such as a knife in a forest.) He has helped solve cases of wildlife smuggling and helped tie poachers to a crime scene area. Renko also helps track suspects, primarily in wilderness areas, and assists with their control and arrest. ■

“...in the Woods...” continued from page 1

fragmentation. Sources of area—concentrated mortality include hunting, poaching for gall bladders and other body parts, and inadequate garbage management.”

There is growing evidence that the actual number of grizzly bears killed each year from all sources is being severely underestimated. There is overwhelming evidence that sport hunting of grizzly bears is unsustainable and is contributing to dramatic and possibly irreversible population declines in many parts of the province. Furthermore, the demand for bear galls and bile has created a highly lucrative market world-wide, endangering the populations of most species of bear throughout the world, and particularly here in British Columbia, through poaching.

So, when my neighbour said to me, over the fence the other day, “I don’t know what all the fuss is about. I was in the woods the other day, and there are lots of bears.” I explained to him, gently, that perhaps he was seeing more bears because they are coming down from the mountains, forced out of their habitat by resource development, climate change and to seek food. The unseasonably hot weather has dried up berries and delayed the spawning runs of salmon. And I asked him, “Just because there appear to be more bears in the woods, how can this justify killing them? Where is the ecological, biological, ethical or social justification for continuing to hunt grizzly bears?” ■

— Cheryl Borris, President

Good News For Fish! Landowner Contact Project Update

Critical fish habitat on the Horsefly River in the Cariboo-Chicotin will be preserved and enhanced following a land purchase by The Land Conservancy of BC of 700 acres of the Black Creek Ranch. A partnership of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, The Habitat Conservation Trust and The Land Conservancy, an unprecedented combination, has made this possible.

“This purchase presents an excellent opportunity to secure the long-term conservation and restoration of the Horsefly River,” said federal Fisheries and Oceans Minister David Anderson. “I am pleased to be a part of this partnership, which shows how fish, wildlife, and people can benefit when governments and conservation groups work together.”

The section of the Horsefly River that flows through the Black Creek Ranch is used by more spawning sockeye and chinook than any other reach in the Quesnel system. The off-channel habitat in this area is also very valuable for rearing chinook and coho smolts, and downstream migrating sockeye fry. Wildlife species found within the boundaries of the

ranch include gray wolf, black bear, cougar, mule deer and moose, beaver, coyote, red fox, ermine, river otter, bobcat, lynx and waterfowl.

This area rivals the Adams River for productivity, quality and use. In 1993, the sockeye run in the Horsefly River comprised over 50 per cent of the Fraser River sockeye production and 36 percent of the total salmon catch for the provincial coastal waters.

... fish, wildlife, and people can benefit when governments and conservation groups work together.

The Ministry of Environment Lands and Parks, under a 99 year lease, will be responsible for public planning and management for the area. Proposed projects include reestablishing river bank and off-channel rearing habitats, and rehabilitating eroded stream banks. Opportunities for research and public interpretive and educational opportunities are also envisioned. ■

GRAPHIC NOT AVAILABLE

Horsefly River flowing through Black Creek Ranch.

Photo: Bill Turner

Ecological Reserves in Brit



GRAPHIC NOT AVAILABLE

*Wardens fencing the
Haynes Lease Ecological Reserve*

T I M E L I N E

1971 ▶▶▶▶▶
BC government passes *Ecological Reserves Act*, Ecological Reserves (ER) are to be surveyed, proposed, and established based on principles established by the International Biological Program.

Dr. Vladimire Krajina's (1905 – 1993) goal is to protect 1% of BC's land area in ERs.

29 ERs are created, including Cleland Island, a seabird colony west of Tofino, and the smallest reserve, Canoe Islet, a 0.61 ha island off the SE tip of Valdes Island.

1972 ▶▶▶▶▶
14 ERs created, including Mara Meadows, a unique low level swamp.

1973 ▶▶▶▶▶
10 ERs created including the Krajina Reserve (#45)—Port Chanal and Hippa Island off the Queen Charlotte Islands—9,834 ha of old growth, including the largest trees protected in an ER.

1974 ▶▶▶▶▶
Dr. J. Bristol Foster is first Coordinator of Ecological Reserves Program.

1975 ▶▶▶▶▶
Gladys Lake, Spatsizi Reserve (#68), BC's largest ER is created—33,185 ha.
17 other ERs established, including the Great Blue Heron Nesting Site on the UBC Endowment Lands.

1976 ▶▶▶▶▶
One ER created, Clanninick Creek (#75).
Dr. Jim Pojar hired as Botanist for ERs.

1977 ▶▶▶▶▶
Campbell-Brown Reserve, the first private property donated as an ER, is given to BC by Hugh Campbell Brown in memory of his parents who farmed the area from 1913 – 1943.

Trudy Carson hired.

1978 ▶▶▶▶▶
93 established reserves; 297 applications for ERs remaining.

1979 ▶▶▶▶▶
3 new ERs created, including 2 seabird colonies—Anthony Island and Kerouard Islands.

Dr. Hans Roemer hired as Botanist.

1980 ▶▶▶▶▶
A marine ER at Race Rocks is established after extensive student lobbying at Lester B. Pearson College.

Lynne Milnes hired to manage a new Warden Program for ERs.

1981 ▶▶▶▶▶
1st edition of the *Ecological Reserves Newsletter* is published.

1982 ▶▶▶▶▶
1,248 ha totally marine Robson Bight ER established.

Insufficient funding to maintain the government ER newsletter inspires the inception of *Friends of Ecological Reserves* (FER). A fund-raising auction in October 1982 realizes start-up costs as artist Robert Bateman donates proceeds.

Charter members include Laurie Milmine, Trudy Chatwin, Peggy Frank and Peter Grant.

1983 ▶▶▶▶▶
FER incorporates as a non-profit society January 29. Charter members of the society are Allison Watt, David Avren, Mary-Lou Florian, Peter Legg and Lori Milmine.

Vicky Husband is President of FER (until 1988).

GRAPHIC NOT AVAILABLE

Trudy Carson

1984 ▶▶▶▶▶
2 ERs established—Mount Tzuhalem (#112) and Honeymoon Bay (#113).

1985 ▶▶▶▶▶
Khutzeymateen Valley adopted as a project.
ER program moves to jurisdiction of Parks Programs Branch of the Ministry of Lands, Parks and Housing.

1986 ▶▶▶▶▶
Katherine Tye Reserve (#116) is created protecting one of Canada's rarest flowers, the Phantom Orchid.

FER raises \$20,000 for grizzly research in the Khutzeymateen.

1987 ▶▶▶▶▶
Vicky Husband receives UN Global 500 award (outstanding contributions to the environmental field).

3 ERs incorporated within the newly created South Moresby National Park Reserve.

ish Columbia: Our History



Finally, the proposed Windy Bay ER is protected.

Haley Lake ER (#117) is established—a significant colony of the endangered Vancouver Island Marmot.

1988 ▶▶▶▶▶

Wayne McCrory and Herb Hammond hired as consultants on the Khutzeymateen project.

406 m of fencing completed at Mt. Tzuhalem ER (#112).

A Guide to Ecological Reserves in BC is published.

412 ha added to Robson Bight ER.

Brackman Island purchased by the Nature Conservancy of Canada, turned over to the Nature Trust, and leased to ER program.

Minister of Environment announces a three-year study of Khutzeymateen to assess the impact of proposed logging on grizzly bear population.

5 ERs within the Tsitika River drainage created—less than 5% of the Tsitika watershed is protected.

1989 ▶▶▶▶▶

Nestucca Oil spill off Washington impacts every sea-bird ER on the west coast of Vancouver Island—the estimated bird kill 30,000 – 60,000.

Government compiles new “System Plan” for ERs “to determine what reserves are present and in what ecosystems and to define the gaps in reserve representation; and to determine priorities for selection, evaluation and designation of Ecological Reserves...”

FER raises over \$100,000 to study and protect the Khutzeymateen Valley.

1990 ▶▶▶▶▶

6 ERs created: total 131 reserves; 124 viable proposals remaining.

Six proposed ERs will be protected by inclusion in existing provincial parks.

FER research provides funding to Irene Manley and Dr. Alan Burger who helped find Canada’s first Marbled

GRAPHIC NOT AVAILABLE

Trudy Carson and Bristol Foster

Murrelet nest in the Carmanah-Walbran valley.

1991 ▶▶▶▶▶

Parks Plan 90 and *Wilderness Area Plan* announced.

2 ERs added (Gamble Creek, Ellis Island); 2 are enlarged (Haley Lake, Oak Bay Islands).

ERs now managed by BC Parks; management of ERs and support for volunteer wardens is fully decentralized.

1992 ▶▶▶▶▶

Government announces that Khutzeymateen Valley is to be protected as a Class A Provincial Park.

1993 ▶▶▶▶▶

9 ERs proposed by BC Parks.

The Log records Dr. Krajina’s obituary. 131 reserves protect 160,000 ha, of which one-third are marine areas. In over 25 years, little more than 1/10th of Dr. Krajina’s conservation vision has been realized.

1994 ▶▶▶▶▶

Khutzeymateen Provincial Park announced.

Government policy now requires BC Parks to issue permits for field trips to ERs.

Proposed amendments to *Ecological Reserves Act* would allow for legal definition of boundaries of ERs, to increase penalties for infractions of the Act and to identify inappropriate activities in ERs.

1996 ▶▶▶▶▶

8 new ERs established on Vancouver Island, the first reserves created since 1991. ▶▶▶▶▶

BC Parks suggests that the volunteer warden program be replaced with “a volunteer stewards program that would assist in the management of new protected areas as well as ERs.”

1997 ▶▶▶▶▶

FER partners with TLC to bring land stewardship options (The Landowner Contact Project) to the Cariboo-Chilcotins.

1998 ▶▶▶▶▶

A massive campaign to protect the Vancouver Island Marmot (Haley Lakes ER, among other locations) is launched by the Nature Trust of BC and others.

Race Rocks ER is announced as a Marine Protected Area.

GRAPHIC NOT AVAILABLE

Hans Roemer in the Tahsish watershed.

Biology and Management of Species and Habitats at Risk Conference

We invite your participation in the first major gathering in BC in nearly 20 years focusing on the biology and management of species and habitats at risk in the Pacific Northwest. The conference will highlight research and action taken on sensitive species and habitats.

GRAPHIC NOT AVAILABLE

Goals and Anticipated Benefits:

- Showcase recent research and working examples
- Identify specialists and experts to potential users
- Exchange of research and management methods and techniques
- Establish permanent communication mechanisms between researchers, inventory personnel, resource industry managers, conservation organizations and policy makers
- Increase availability of information concerning species and habitats at risk.

Time and Place:

February 15 – 19, 1999
University College of the Cariboo
Kamloops BC.

Success of this week-long event is contingent on continued sponsorship development. Your support and participation are needed.

Committed partners to date:

- Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks
- University College of the Cariboo
- Forest Renewal BC
- Canadian Wildlife Service
- The Leon and Thea Koerner Foundation

For further information about sponsorship opportunities, contact:

- Tom Rankin
Forestry Continuing Studies
Network
Phone: (250) 371-5773
e-mail: trankin@cariboo.bc.ca

For further information about the conference program, contact:

- Dave Fraser
Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks
Phone: (250) 387-9756
e-mail: dfraser@fwhdept.gov.bc.ca
or
- Karl Larsen
University College of the Cariboo
Phone: (250) 828-5456
e-mail: klarsen@cariboo.bc.ca

Funding For Research

The Friends welcome applications for funding to support biological and ecological research projects related to Ecological Reserves in British Columbia. The application should include:

- title of research project
- name of applicant(s)
- mailing address of applicant
- institutional (college or university) affiliation
- a brief description of the research and its relationship to Ecological Reserves in BC
- any other pertinent details
- two letters of reference supporting the project.

Financial information should include:

- total budget required for the project, with an indication of contributions from other sources
- amount requested from the Friends of Ecological Reserves.

Note: If the project is a multi-year proposal, provide an indication of how the project is to be supported/funded throughout its duration.

Applications will be judged on the merit of the project, its financial viability and the financial need of the applicant. Research grants are generally between \$500 and \$2000. As a condition of award, applicants will be asked to submit a report and may be required to present a public lecture on their research findings. Applications for funding for 1999 should be received by April 1, 1999.

Send applications to:

The Friends of Ecological Reserves
PO Box 8466 Stn Central
Victoria BC V8W 3S1 ■

Update from the Grasslands!

In the “kerfufel” of getting ready to set out for a visit to the Cariboo-Chilcotin with Bill Turner, I was naughty enough to neglect my submission to *The Log*. So I have taken to writing on the road and I have finally stolen some time, and inspiration, sitting here amidst the sage brush along the Fraser River.

Bill and I have staked ourselves out at the Gang Ranch Bridge, waiting to intercept a rancher returning from a cattle delivery. We hope to steal him away for a couple of hours to get the chance to speak with him about a property south of Empire Valley.

Hardly an average work day, but I have to admit, this is hardly an average job. Our work so far has taken us through much of the Cariboo-Chilcotin, and has been extended to include the Rocky Mountain Trench in the East Kootenays. In our travels Bill and I have shared in lots of tea, “giddee-yup” coffee, cowboy-sized meals, guided tours and camping. We visit ranches to discuss our work, and here is where the magic of this country can really be found.

The goal ... is to raise the profile and awareness of the attributes of grasslands in the East Kootenays.

Bill and I collect stories of sorts. The history of the areas, ranching tradition, personal philosophies and accounts of a day's work background what we have learned. From listening to what is important to these people, how they see the land now and for the future, we have evolved our commitment to protect these areas. Ask any rancher and he will tell you that cattle keep these grasslands. By protecting the ranch, one can ensure that large, continuous grasslands will

continue to be part of BC's landscape.

The bare bones of our day comes down to planning, brainstorming along in the truck. We have been referred to as the eyes and ears of the BC Grasslands Conservation Council, in having the unique ability to work directly with the community. An interesting task when neighbours can be miles and miles apart. However, the travel is well worth the privilege of seeing that the mutual interests of community and the environment are met.

This trip will mark the end of our travel season for 1998; however, Bill and I have found plenty to keep busy with this winter. A number of new projects and programs are to be established. Proceedings from interviews, and revisions suggested by selected ranchers will be tied into the rewriting of an American publication *Preserving Working Ranches in the West*. We plan to have a BC version completed for next year. A Grasslands Stewardship Program has been set up for the East Kootenays, where The Land Conservancy will begin work with owners of smaller properties and ranchettes. The goal of this program is to raise the profile and awareness of the attributes of grasslands in the East Kootenays. As well, we are investigating options to introduce a BC range-raised conservation beef concept to help improve the bottom line for producers who work within conservation arrangements. We have initiated discussions with a few owners concerning covenants and a potential acquisition, which has become an exciting impetus for next year!

In all it has been a busy and productive season, with lots of energy and enthusiasm to continue into the next. I would like to thank EcoAction 2000, the McLean Foundation and Mountain Equipment Coop for making all of this possible. ■

– By Nichola Gerts

Sea Otter Research Continues

September 22, 1998

Dear Friends,

Just a quick note to bring you up to date on sea otter research for 1998. In total there were four of us out in Checleset Bay. We had excellent weather, and were pleased with what we were able to accomplish.

This year we did not count the entire sea otter population, but concentrated on determining how repeatable sea otter counts are. Our highest count for the Checleset Bay Ecological Reserve was 668 otters. This is about 12 per cent more than were counted in 1997, but likely represents our ability to count otters rather than an increase in the number of sea otters in the area. The results of our replicate surveys indicated that if we do two replicate counts, in an area we know, the two population estimates are usually within about 10 per cent of each other. The greatest difficulty in counting sea otters continues to be estimating the number of otters in a raft.

In 1987 and 1988 I established eight permanently marked sites. These sites are monitored annually to see how marine communities change over time in the presence and absence of sea otters. The permanent sites underwent major changes this year. The past winter was extremely stormy, and appears to have removed many of the older kelp plants. Sites that had been occupied by otters for more than about 20 years, or sites that were in areas dominated by canopy-forming kelps (such as *Macrocystis*) were most altered.

An opportunistic (annual) species of brown algae called acid weed, or *Desmarestia*, carpeted the sea floor. It made three of the sites very difficult to find, and extremely hard to sample. The *Desmarestia* obscured the stainless steel pins that mark the sites. It also meant that we had to trace each plant, as it waved back and forth in the swell, down to its base to count it. This algae will be likely taken out by winter storms, and I suspect that many of the perennial kelps, which produce spores in winter, may recruit. It seems that five years of elevated water temperatures has changed the abundance and species composition of many of the sites.

In contrast to the sites with otters, the sites set up in areas without sea otters (Barkley Sound), were fairly unchanged compared to other years, except that the fringe of seaweed that occurs in shallow water was substantially reduced, likely because of the severe winter storms.

I would like to thank the Friends of Ecological Reserves for their continued support of sea otter research on the West Coast of Vancouver Island. Support for independent research is becoming increasingly difficult to obtain, which makes the Friends' moral and financial support all the more important.

Sincerely, Jane Watson ■

Dr. Jane Watson is a professor at Malaspina University College and spends her summers with sea otters in Checleset Bay ER.

New Reserve Created

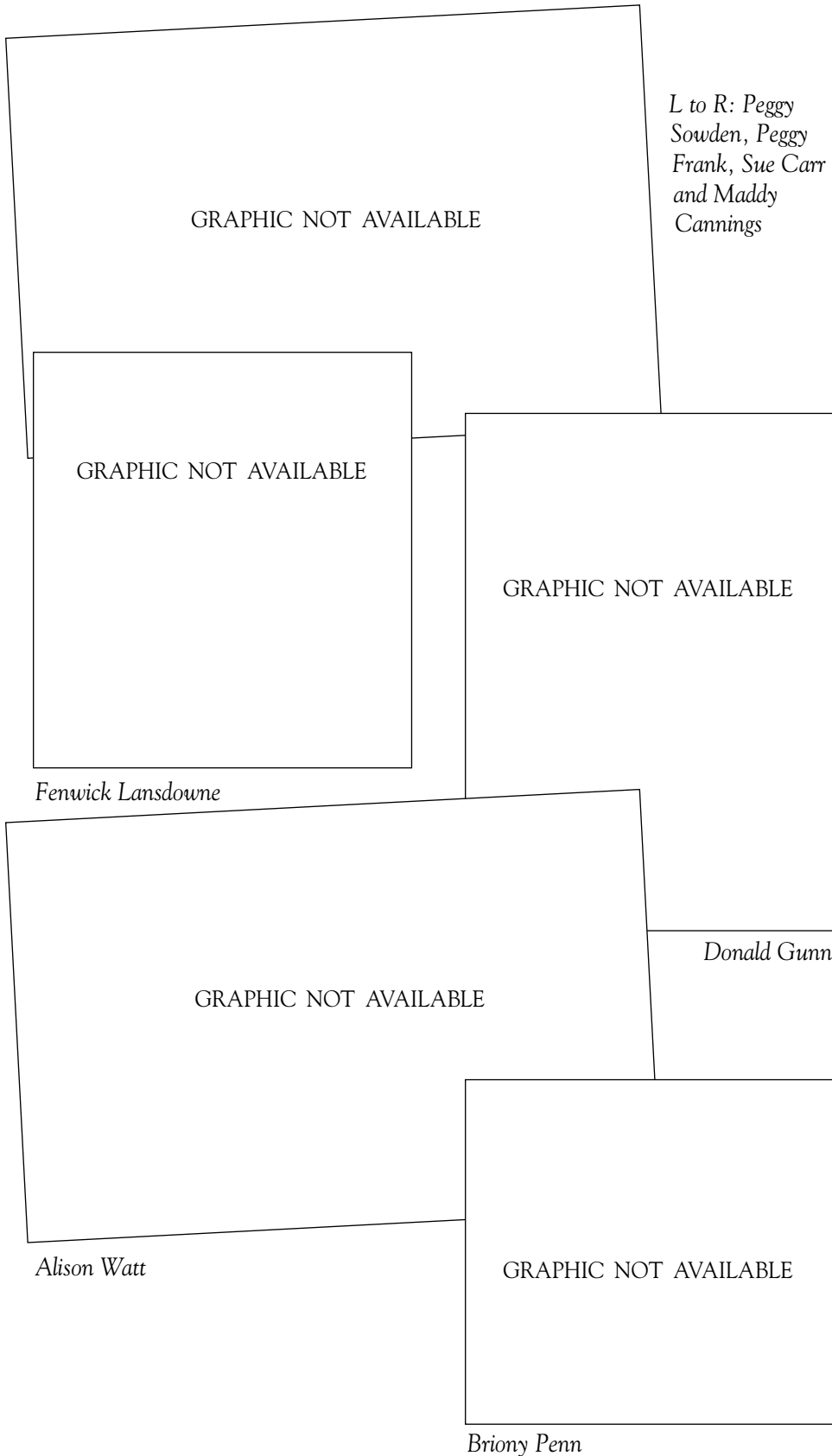
On September 8, 1998, a 90 ha Wildlife Reserve was created in the Hardy Bay Quatse River estuary. This estuary is ranked among the top 10 estuaries on Vancouver Island. Fish and Wildlife values are substantial. All of the seven Pacific salmon species pass through and depend on the reserve for part of their life cycle. The estuary also provides critical wintering habitat for over 60 species of waterfowl and other waterbirds. Year round, the estuary is of international importance as the major waterfowl staging area on the Pacific flyway. The official designation was made at an October 6, 1998 reception sponsored by the Pacific Coast Joint Venture partners (including Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks), and the District of Port Hardy. A special award was given to the citizens of Port Hardy acknowledging their support for the designation. ■

Public Lecture

Tom Reimchen is studying the importance of areas that protect habitat for bear and salmon. He has researched the nutrient cycling of nitrates and phosphates released by salmon when they are dragged by scavengers into the riparian zone. He has documented the critical link of this process to forest productivity and diversity. He will discuss his research at a public lecture on February 26, 1999 following the Friends' AGM. For more information, please see page 18, or contact Nichola Gerts at (250) 385-9246. ■



Artists at Work and Play at Meadowlark Festival



Placemat Series Three

We are excited and delighted to offer to our membership and the public at large the third in our series of placemats "The Interior Grasslands." The artwork on the placemats is the result of a week-long workshop that took place in conjunction with the Meadowlark Festival in Penticton (reported in the Spring edition of *The Log*).

Many, many thanks to all of the contributing artists who volunteered their time and expertise to be part of this offering. In particular, thank you to Fenwick Lansdowne for his generous donation of a painting of a meadowlark and to artists Briony Penn and Peggy Frank for their inspiration, hard work and commitment towards seeing the placemat to completion.

(Order form enclosed.
Price: \$5.00 —volume discount, 10 or more, to non-profit groups). ■



In July 1998 BC's Parks Legacy Panel presented its interim report to Environment, Lands and Parks Minister Cathy McGregor. The report is the result of an extensive public process of province-wide open houses and workshops. Feedback from the public has reaffirmed the importance of parks to British Columbians. The interim report summarizes the public's views on the future of management and planning for the provincial parks system.

The primary recommendation of the report is that the protection of ecological integrity should be paramount for all park uses, and should serve as a screen for all activities.

Other recommendations include:

- a multifaceted approach to the resource infrastructure for parks
- fee adjustments
- the establishment of a parks foundation
- expanding the opportunities for public and community
- establishing a new administrative structure for BC Parks.

The report indicates British Columbians believe establishing and maintaining parks should be viewed as an investment in environmental protection, biodiversity and quality of life. They believe that parks hold benefits for young people, communities and environment-related jobs.

The draft final report will be released for further public input as **The Log** goes to press. The final report is scheduled to be presented to the Minister of Environment, Lands and Parks early in 1999.

For the interest and information of our membership we have reproduced below the response to the interim report submitted by the Friends of Ecological Reserves.

For more information or a copy of the interim report, call (250) 387-1968 or visit the Legacy Project web site at: www.parklegacy.bc.ca

Response to the Interim Report of the BC Parks Legacy Project

Thank you for this opportunity to respond to the Interim Report of the BC Parks Legacy Project. The future of protected areas in British Columbia is of grave concern, as increasing pressures come from resource-based industries, recreationalists and urban development. In reading the report we were encouraged to find that the Panel has found ecological integrity to be of paramount importance for protected areas in British Columbia. Biological diversity is disappearing rapidly in the world and, while it is happening more rapidly outside North America, biological impoverishment has been and continues to be a serious problem in British Columbia. We know enough about some species, communities and areas—the Vancouver Island Marmot, the Garry oak savannah, the Osoyoos semiarid biotic area—to do something for them.

Some argue that we need to move beyond the traditional conservation strategies of establishing habitat reserves and preserving endangered species—that some species are clearly doomed and there will never be reserves in sufficient number and size to “save” biodiversity. Nevertheless, the vision for land-use planning and management needs to be broadened. Management for biodiversity is not simply some form of “special purpose” management in specific locations or circumstances. The real challenge is to think and manage in detail, as well as in broad terms.

In the early 90s, BC's Parks Plan 90 assured us that only our most important natural features would be protected and then only if the features were not already protected in existing regional and national parks. This policy has had the effect of placing all our biodiversity eggs in one basket. Parks have often been chosen for recreation and scenery rather than protecting biodiversity. Much effort has gone

towards minimizing resource conflicts and, as a result, many of the protected areas are bog, subalpine or alpine. There has been a tradition in British Columbia of protecting the high country for recreationalists, thus avoiding confrontation with logging companies. While we do not argue with protecting the alpine, we would not see this occur at the expense of low-lying, far more biologically diverse areas. Sadly, often the controversial areas are those with the highest biodiversity—the Khutzeymateen, Carmanah-Walbran, Tahsish-Kwois, Kitlope and Power areas, to name a few.

We recognize that, invariably, it takes years from recommending an area for protection to success in establishing a protected area. **We recommend, therefore, that the final report must insist on a moratorium on resource development in sensitive areas until the land use proposal is either completed or abandoned.** Our tradition in BC of “chop while they talk” is absurd. The recent example of logging in the central coast area while the LRMP process is going on is a prime example. It is eliminating options for reserves large enough to sustain keystone species such as wild salmon and grizzly bear populations and it has undermined any faith in the land use process.

The extinction of species, subspecies, populations and ecosystems is not only irreversible, it is probably occurring now in the world at a faster rate than any time for many millions of years. Our province is by far the most biologically diverse in Canada. **Protecting biodiversity must be one of the key concepts in a vision for a viable parks legacy.** Further, as the subjectivity of deciding what is “important” may not be appreciated by later generations confronted with the results of species and ecosystem

extinction, at least three examples of all ecotypes need to be protected to mitigate the effects of natural disasters.

We are disheartened that the interim report has not addressed the concept of "wilderness," even though the World Wildlife Fund Canada has for several years recognized **the importance of protecting intact ecosystems** "namely large, roadless, wilderness areas of 50,000 ha or more—the equivalent of a large urban centre." While wilderness is not a concept embraced by all peoples of British Columbia, all peoples have some sense of large areas of natural land that are highly valued because they are remote, quiet, generally inaccessible and not able to be modified in some way except through mechanical access. **The wilderness experience or concept must be addressed and protected by the final report.**

The Ecological Reserves Program of British Columbia

Ecological Reserves differ from parks because they are not established for recreational use. It is disheartening that the Ecological Reserves program and legislation receives only passing mention in the interim report even though this program has been and is directly involved with preserving ecological integrity and protecting samples of our biodiversity since 1971.

There is no doubt that our present and future Ecological Reserves have an increasingly important role in the maintenance of biological diversity. They are natural banks of genetic material reserved for study and future use. Ecological Reserves are necessary because we just don't know how ecosystems really work, or if a certain plant might just provide a cure for a disease. Perhaps these natural areas are most important as affirmation that we care about our natural world enough to let some places function without man's intervention.

There is an urgent need to educate the public and public employees as to **the benefits of representative ecosystems as biological benchmarks**, outdoor classrooms and repositories of

genetic information. It is up to the Parks staff and the public to ensure the long-term viability of existing and potential Ecological Reserve sites.

We wholeheartedly endorse the vision for parks that ecological integrity of protected areas is paramount; that the role of parks in protecting ecosystems is to preserve the natural processes that promote biodiversity and to allow those processes to follow their course.

If public trust in perpetuity, appreciation and understanding, public support and stewardship are part of the vision for protected areas, then the final report should **address ways in which that vision can be realized and maintained, through legislation, education and stewardship programs.**

If public appreciation and understanding is valued, recognizing that human activities in public land cannot be completely avoided, the final report must support a management system that finds recreational use consistent with and compatible with an ecosystem-based approach. Eco-tourism is an important and growing industry in British Columbia that includes activities such as heli-skiing, river-rafting, ocean-kayaking, whale watching, ATV use and other forms of commercial backcountry recreation opportunities. This industry, while somewhat regulated, requires a comprehensive, coordinated approach that would incorporate education in ecological values, heavier user-fees and stiff penalties for violations.

In terms of **resources**, while increased revenues to support the infrastructure of the parks system are always problematic and are an important consideration, the final report should insist that **adequate staffing resources be available to support that infrastructure**—trained ecologists, biologists and botanists provide an important resource for on-the-ground staff of parks wardens, stewards, and other parks personnel. We do not believe that privatization and commercialization are the answers.

In terms of governance, it has been an increasing concern that infractions of current legislation go unnoticed and that violators are not held accountable for their actions—often citing ignorance as a reason. Adequate staffing and public education programs would go far to militating against this; **infractions of the Ecological Reserves Act and the Parks Act must be acted upon boldly and consistently**, so that the public becomes aware of the fragility and vulnerability of the landscape which it regularly admires, uses and abuses.

Further, we would strongly recommend that the Ecological Reserves Act be maintained as a separate piece of legislation. We would strongly recommend that no further amendments to the Parks Act be made.

In sum, the Friends of Ecological Reserves' vision for a BC Parks Legacy would include:

- An education program within BC Parks and all government resource departments as to the unique nature of Ecological Reserves in BC
- Commitment on the part of BC Parks to complete the Ecological Reserves system in British Columbia and to clear the backlog of outstanding Ecological Reserve proposals
- A full-time Coordinator of the Ecological Reserves Program in British Columbia, with professionally trained biologists to complete and/or assess the field data on existing and potential Ecological Reserves in the province
- A staff person dedicated to the volunteer warden program in BC, recognizing that volunteers are a cost-effective management method but they require ongoing training, communication and perks to keep them interested in the task at hand. ■

Thanks to Our Donors

It is with great pleasure we thank those who have supported the Friends of Ecological Reserves during the past 12 months. Thank you to those who made donations in memory of Rebecca Finley. Thank you also to those who donated through their 1998 membership, and generously with other gifts.

- The Lichen Foundation
- The Eden Conservation Trust
- Rod & Sandy Armitage
- M. Bancroft
- Katherine Beamish
- Beryl Borris
- Mrs. J. Braithwaite
- Dr. Paul Breen
- V. C. Brink
- Daryl Calder & Marianne Nahm
- Ernie Carson
- Vi Chungranes
- Doris M. Clifford
- Susan Danese
- Brian Emerson
- Lois Fenna
- Cam & Joy Finley
- Joyce Folbigg
- Virginia Grant
- Susan Hemphill
- Anne Ishiguro
- Willie Jeppesen
- Sandra Kayra
- Jeannie Kemp
- Jean King
- Betty Kleiman
- Diana Knowles
- M. E. Laroche
- Moirra Lemon
- Jeanine Lucas
- Dr. C. J. Mackenzie
- Tilman Nahm
- Olive Quayle
- P. Thomas
- E. I. Whittaker
- Audrey Woodward
- Ken Wright
- Anonymous (1)

Environmental Award

Bill Turner was among a dozen people honoured with the 1998 Environmental Award from the Ministry of the Environment. Winners were chosen from several hundred nominations for their work in protecting and enhancing BC's environment and natural regions.

Bill's award comes for his many years volunteering with land trust issues and now The Land Conservancy of BC...

Bill's award comes for his many years volunteering with land trust issues and now The Land Conservancy of BC, encouraging private landowners to preserve environmentally important areas. The awards are given out each year during Environment Week, June 1 – 7. Congratulations, Bill! ■

New Wardens Appointed

In the Spring issue, we advised that the Friends had put forward the names of Adolf and Iluna Ceska as proposed wardens for Trial Islands ER 132. We received a nice note back from the Ministry of Environment Lands and Parks, thanking us for our recommendation, but announcing that Shane Ford and Matt Fairbarns have been appointed as the team for ER 132, based on their skills and their knowledge of native plant ecology. Shane has recently completed an M.Sc. in Botany at the University of Victoria and is a professional agrologist; Matt brings his considerable experience in the Range Section of the Ministry of Forests to this appointment. ■

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Ecological Reserves will be held on February 26, 1999.

Time: 6:00 pm

Place: University of Victoria, AGM Classroom Building*, Room C114.

The meeting will be followed by an illustrated lecture on the relationship between bears, salmon and forests by Dr. Tom Reimchen.

Time: 8:00 pm

Place: AGM Classroom Building, Room C116.

**located between the University Centre and the Cornett Building.*



Logs and Talk by Jeremy Wilson

– Reviewed by Briony Penn

Jeremy Wilson, a UVic Political Science professor, has written a 486-page analysis of forestry and conservation issues in BC over the last 30 years. Not surprisingly, the Friends appear several times in the book, especially with regard to the Khutzeymateen. This is a comprehensive and readable history of the rise of the wilderness movement in BC, the counterattacks by industry and response by government. Anyone who has been involved over the last three decades in any forestry issues from the Stein to Clayoquot will find this book of value as it throws some light on the back room deals and minds of the policy makers and politicians that seem very inaccessible when you are blockading on the front line.

“Other than areas mentioned, the knottiest item passed to the Wilderness Advisory Committee (WAC) was the Khutzeymateen. First suggested as an Ecological Reserve in the early 1970s, this north coast valley had been the object of considerable bureaucratic study, with agencies sparring over different proposals. After remaining in the back rooms for over a decade, the Khutzeymateen issue was propelled into the public agenda when Wedeene River Contracting told the government that it could not make good on its commitment to build a Prince Rupert sawmill unless it was allowed to log the valley. Alerted by bureaucratic insiders that the Minister of Forests might be swayed by this pressure, the Friends of Ecological Reserves and bear biologist Wayne McCrory began to ring alarm

bells in 1985. Building on Richard Overstall’s research on Wedeene’s chequered environmental record and on the dubious economics of north coast logging, McCrory and FER leaders Vicky Husband and Peter Grant argued that Khutzeymateen logs were too large for the proposed sawmill. In fact, they said, Wedeene intended to high grade the valley’s valuable stands of Sitka spruce and export the logs without any processing. The level of bureaucratic disagreement passed to the WAC was highlighted in a 1985 interagency statement; it listed several versions of a ‘benchmark reserve option’ along with two variants of a ‘timber management option.’” (p.214)

This is a comprehensive and readable history of the rise of the wilderness movement in BC, the counterattacks by industry and response by government.

Given the same old tired struggles that are going on today on the Central Coast, it feels as if we have learned nothing from these last three decades.

This text should be required reading for all senior politicians to catch up on the rhetoric their predecessors were spouting 20 and 30 years ago. What is startlingly apparent is how many politicians have had to be educated over the last 30 years and how persistent and committed the major spokespeople for the movement have been. It reconfirmed my admiration for people like Vicky and Peter and Trudy and Bristol who have been battling these issues for so many years and still continue to try. At the end of the day, the author leaves no doubt in your mind as to how the battle will be perceived by future generations. As Wilson states, “People of the 21st century are likely to deliver a negative verdict when they discover that one

of the wealthiest societies of the late twentieth century aggressively pushed policies threatening forest ecosystems all in the face of varied and compelling doubts about long-term consequences.” (p. 348)

Occasionally when the planets are aligned, governments seize the opportunity to consolidate disparate policy tendencies into a coherent shift in policy direction. ... But reformers usually find it difficult to protect territory won; change is followed by backsliding and reversal.

Although Wilson’s analysis stops at 1996, his last chapter tries to document some trends. He concludes, “Governments ... muddle through. They try to plan but mostly they react. They spend a fair bit of time grappling with states of full or partial paralysis brought on by uncertainty, inadequate information and capacity, internal divisions and conflicting advice or pressures. Occasionally when the planets are aligned, governments seize the opportunity to consolidate disparate policy tendencies into a coherent shift in policy direction. ... But reformers usually find it difficult to protect territory won; change is followed by backsliding and reversal.”

In this current backslide, Wilson poses a whole set of questions under the section titled ‘Prospects for the environmental movement,’ which reads uncannily like the discussions we have at board meetings about where to focus our energies and resources. This is a great read and will catch you up on the last 30 years if you weren’t there for all of it. ■

Web Sites of Interest

BC's Park Legacy Project is a publicly driven, community-based vision for BC's protected area system. Protecting a wide variety of ecological, cultural and outdoor recreation values from vast expanses of wilderness to recreational escapes in the backyards of our urban centres, parks are an integrated part of BC's unsurpassed quality of life. The new challenge is to ensure this legacy is sustained so that future generations will be able to look back at this gift from one generation to the next.
<http://www.parklegacy.bc.ca>

Helping Wildlife Fight Back. The UK-based Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) spearheads international efforts to protect endangered species such as tigers, bears, rhinos, elephants, whales, dolphins, porpoises and wild birds, stating "The legacy of the 20th Century will include a damning record of extermination of much of the world's best-loved wildlife unless we act now to ensure its survival."
<http://www3.pair.com/eia/>

Damagotchi! Explore some of the operating challenges faced by BC's electricity utility. At its website, check out BC Hydro's environmental priorities and play an addictive dam simulation game where you get a virtual experience of BC Hydro's Water Use Planning Process, a project to balance our water resources, hydroelectricity, fish, flood control, recreation and environmental concerns.
<http://eww.bchydro.com/environment/>

The Songbird Project. The challenge: to encourage urban greenscaping and stewardship in Vancouver. British Columbia has more bird species than any other region in Canada but increasing urban development, deforestation and the indiscriminate use of fertilizers and pesticides is threatening

this diversity. In the Songbird project Vancouver's artists and environmentalists are joining forces with the community to celebrate and preserve bird populations and their habitat. Groups and individuals can learn more about songbirds and songbird habitat through workshops, nature walks and exhibitions. Songbird aims to make Vancouver the most bird-friendly city in North America and to provide a model for other cities to emulate.
<http://www.songbirdproject.org/>

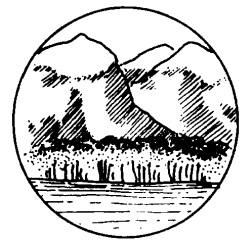
The British Columbia Conservation Data Centre (CDC) is a program of the Resources Inventory Branch of the BC Ministry of Environment, Lands And Parks. The CDC systematically collects information on the rare and endangered plants, animals and plant communities in the province. This information is compiled and maintained in a computerized database which provides a centralized, objective source of information on the status, locations and level of protection of these rare organisms and ecosystems.
<http://www.elp.gov.bc.ca/wld/cdc/>

Visit the Great Bear Rainforest—a Virtual Tour. Greenpeace and the 52-foot sailing vessel Freedom Dancer have given the world an opportunity to see the beauty of Canada's west coast rainforest and the impending threats it faces from clearcut logging. Through regularly transmitted satellite images to the Greenpeace Canada web site, this virtual boat tour explores the beauty of the rainforest, features the people and wildlife who live there and documents the damage being done by logging companies working in this, our global treasure.
<http://www.greenpeacecanada.org>

Race Rocks Marine Protected Area and Historical Site. A visually beautiful and informative site by ER warden Garry Fletcher, that provides a history of the establishment of the Race Rocks ER, a general guide to the ER, with links to a number of related sites, including a listing and map of all the ERs in BC.
<http://www.pearson-college.uwc.ca/pearson/raceroak/pcserv7.htm>

Wildlife Viewing Program. This web site contains lots of interesting information on the Wildlife Viewing Program and upcoming viewing events and festivals. As well, the current (Fall 1998) edition of the Wildlife Watch Newsletter is available, and can be viewed here.
<http://www3.bc.sympatico.ca/driftwood/bcwwhome.htm>

The Log



Friends of Ecological Reserves
P.O. Box 8477 Stn Central
Victoria BC V8W 3S1
Email: ecoreserves@hotmail.com
Charitable tax# 118914597RR

Printed on recycled paper.



Please share and/or recycle.