

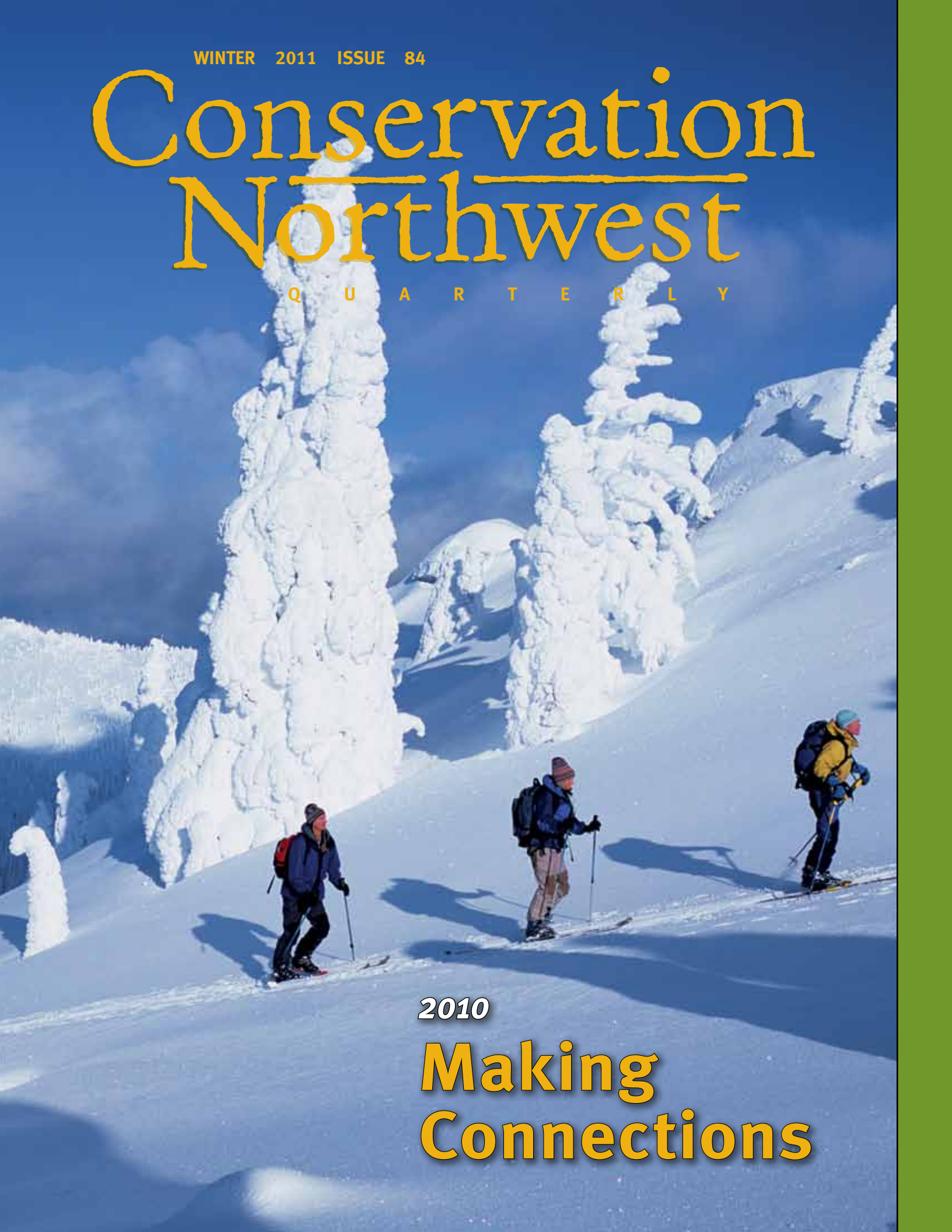
WINTER 2011 ISSUE 84

# Conservation Northwest

Q U A R T E R L Y

2010

**Making  
Connections**





Conservation Northwest protects and connects old-growth forests and other wild areas from the Washington Coast to the BC Rockies: vital to a healthy future for us, our children, and wildlife.

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**Cover image** Photo © James Johnston

Skiers at Snow Peak in proposed wilderness in the Columbia Highlands. Here, the open glades, gentle mountains, and remoteness of the southern Kettles lend solitude and adventure. This photo originally appeared in *Columbia Highlands: Exploring Washington's Last Frontier*, published by The Mountaineers Books, 2007. (See inside back page to order a copy.)

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## Welcome to Board Member, Andy Held

Conservation Northwest welcomes Andy Held to our board of directors.

With a 20-year career in high-tech and ten years as a small businessman, Andy Held has helped lead large organizations and small ones. He's served on non-profits and appointed government boards since 1985. We welcome his skills honed through collaborative work setting strategic direction and supporting staff to accomplish their goals.

"I've been on the Kirkland Planning Commission for five years," says Andy. "The issues are remarkably similar, whether shaping development to ensure quality of life for people or fostering efforts that help protect endangered wildlife and habitat. I'm also willing to ask people for money for causes that I believe in."

Andy has supported us with his own money since the early '90s and says, "Conservation Northwest is the most effective environmental organization in the Northwest." Andy lives in Kirkland with his wife, two kids, dog, and many kayaks and canoes.

"I love playing in the woods and on rivers, and it's become even more fun hiking and paddling with my daughters!," says Andy. "I also serve on the board of the Wilderness Awareness School. We help children connect with nature, so that they grow up to work for, guide, and support organizations like Conservation Northwest." —Jodi Broughton



Andy Held, newest Conservation Northwest member of the board.

VIEW FROM THE DIRECTOR

## Pulling It All Together

Conservation work has changed remarkably over the past 25 years. We used to struggle to protect the most scenic places like mountain tops, the richest biological legacies like wetlands and ancient forests, and recreational treasures like trails and vistas. These days, we work to keep intact functioning and interconnected landscapes, reintroduce native predators, and use management tools to restore forests and other communities to resilient conditions.

Back in the day, we often fought timber and agricultural interests. Now we work to both find common ground on practices and keep them working on their lands, lest they sell to subdividers and developers.

We formerly were guided by maps on which resources were shaded using crayons on transparent plastic. Now we have analyses, using sophisticated habitat models grinding through data generated by satellites, all over the internet.

While past strategies were carried out from urban centers, today we have outreach and program staff in the affected communities helping people find solutions and invest in change.

These shifts result from better science, new pressures like amenity-related sprawl, and the grim realities of climate change. This is modern conservation in the American West, and we are proud to be on its forefront.

Our Columbia Highlands Initiative is where all these strands are woven together in a tapestry of landscape-scale conservation. The goal of the initiative is to maintain a connected network of habitat, spanning the gap between the core nature reserves of the Cascades and Rockies, guided by the best available science. The landscape includes the public lands of the Colville National Forest and southeastern British Columbia, along with substantial private timberlands and working ranches.

Conservation Northwest is engaged throughout this landscape, collaborating with timber and agriculture interests, property owners, and community leaders. The results include restoration of dry forests on federal land and conservation easements to protect habitat on key private ranches. We also have mainstream support for Congressional designation of more than 350,000 acres of wilderness and other conservation lands.

I know a lot of places across the West where there are projects involving similar aspects, but nowhere besides the Columbia Highlands where it's all being pulled together: Science-based and climate-smart landscape scale conservation on public and private lands to collaboratively accomplish wilderness protection, restoration, and sustained working lands, all with substantial public buy-in.

We designed this campaign to move a wilderness bill through a Republican Congress for the signature of George W. Bush. We changed not a thing when the politics shifted blue. So Congress has shifted red again. I still like our chances.



Conservation Northwest staff, 2010.  
Photo Lorah Waters

In the Columbia Highlands we have science-based and climate-smart landscape-scale conservation on public and private lands. Collaboratively, we are accomplishing wilderness protection, restoration, and sustained working lands, all with substantial public buy-in. Thank you for taking us there.

**Mitch Friedman** Executive director,  
mitch@conservationnw.org

## 2010 A NEW APPROACH

# Putting Adaptation into Action



Sunrise, Columbia Highlands. Photo © Eric Zamora

**Don't panic, just get to work!"**  
—Climatologist Lara Hansen

Conservation Northwest is helping reinvent conservation to fit the challenges of the present landscape and the shifts that climate change will impose upon it.

In 2010 we saw our new approach taking shape. It was on full display at Conservation Northwest's fourth annual Wild Links conference, held this October in Seattle. Wild Links brought together scientists and leaders from state, federal, and provincial (BC) agencies, academia, and the non-governmental organization community. The Washington Wildlife Habitat Connectivity Working Group, of which Conservation Northwest is part, shared its statewide connectivity assessment, a more advanced analysis of habitat connectivity science than exists for probably any other region in the world.

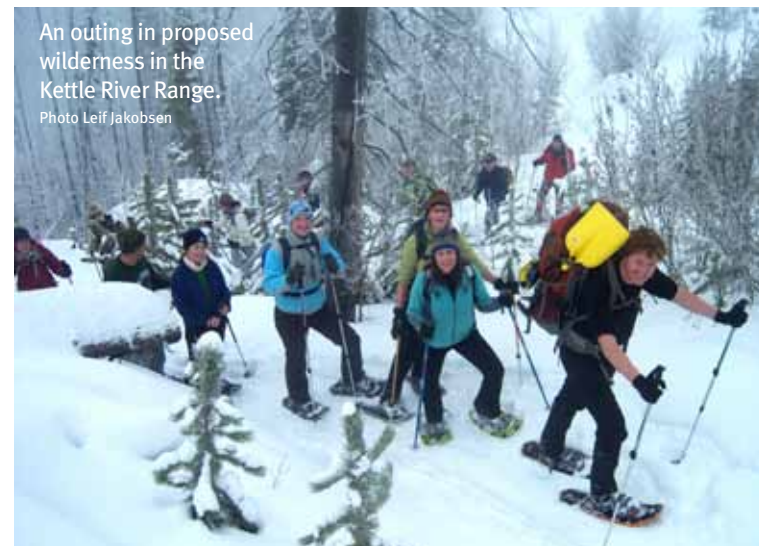
The conference was cosponsored by the US Fish and Wildlife Service's Landscape Conservation Cooperatives, which are the Obama Administration's vehicle for assisting local and regional efforts on wildlife and climate change adaptation. Conservation Northwest staff led sessions and presented on a range of issues. As in many forms of modern conservation work, we are there at the cutting edge.

"For 20 years, Conservation Northwest has been right on the ground floor on issues of connectivity as much as any organization in the world," noted conservation biologist Harvey Locke of The Wild Foundation during his keynote speech.

Our Columbia Highlands Initiative is the best example. Conservation Northwest and The Lands Council unveiled the initiative to the public this July, with a launch that received front-page attention in Seattle, Spokane, and local community papers.

At Wild Links, Conservation Northwest's wilderness director, Tim Coleman, made a presentation about the full breadth of the Columbia Highlands Initiative. The initiative's goal is to maintain a connected network of habitat spanning the gap between the core nature reserves of the Cascades and Rockies, guided by the best available science. This landscape includes the public lands of the Colville National Forest and southeastern British Columbia, along with substantial private timberlands and working ranches. Conservation Northwest is engaged throughout the landscape, collaborating with timber and agriculture interests, property owners, and community leaders.

There are many examples across the West of projects involving similar aspects but nowhere besides the Columbia Highland where it's all being pulled together: Science-based and climate-smart landscape-scale conservation on public



An outing in proposed wilderness in the Kettle River Range.  
Photo Leif Jakobsen

**"The pressures of the modern world require us to take a new approach to conserving our wildlife, natural areas, and traditional lifestyles. We can't sustain wild areas, migration pathways, healthy dry forests, timber jobs, and habitat-rich ranches without working together in an 'all hands, all lands' approach."**



Quartzite Roadless Area, south of Spokane, proposed for wilderness protection. Photo © Eric Zamora

and private lands to collaboratively accomplish wilderness protection, restoration, and sustained working lands.

WildLinks was also an opportunity to showcase and extend our work on the Canadian side of the border. “Wild Links has broken new ground in engaging Canadian scientists. This major presence of Canadian colleagues at Wild Links is helping breed crossborder collaboration,” said Joe Scott, international conservation director for Conservation Northwest.

Canadian ecologist Jim Pojar’s presentation covered his recent recommendation that at least an additional 35 per cent of the land base be managed for biodiversity and carbon. Natural forests store carbon better than do industrial forests. He further recommends that BC provinces truly integrate climate change into their action strategies and invest in landscape connectivity. “Essentially, the northern half of BC was part of the boreal subarctic biome, and by the end of century it will be part of the temperate zone,” said Pojar. “Species confronting rapid environmental change will either go extinct or survive in one of three ways: by acclimatizing, evolving, or migrating to suitable habitats elsewhere.”

“Climate change is the game-changer, and integrating it into everything we do is the number one issue. It truly is a collaborative effort,” said Stephen Zylstra, a US Fish and Wildlife Service biologist who, as coordinator for the Northern Pacific Landscape Conservation Cooperative, helped facilitate Wild Links.

Healthy, resilient, connected ecosystems are better able to withstand the pressures associated with climate change. At Wild Links we learned that core protected areas are the foundation of conservation. But core areas alone aren’t enough. They must be connected.

A particularly dynamic presentation was given by biologist and writer Doug Chadwick, who recently published *The Wolverine Way* on wolverines and the scientists and volunteers who study them.

“North Americans, Canadians and US, have done a fantastic job preserving nature,” said Chadwick. “We have gems of nature scattered throughout the wildest and most majestic

*Continued next page*

## Columbia Highlands Initiative

*“Stubbornness is an indication of positional thinking, which is the opposite of what’s needed. I prefer the word ‘persistence.’” —Maurice Williamson, professional timber man and long-time member of the Northeast Washington Forestry Coalition*

**This year, Conservation Northwest** and The Lands Council unveiled the Columbia Highlands Initiative. The visionary proposal would maintain wildlife habitat connections between the Cascades and Rockies by protecting wild places and sustaining working ranches and timber jobs in northeastern Washington. A public launch this summer gained attention around the state.

*“There is a rumbling in the woods; no, it’s not Sasquatch, but something just as unheard of is occurring in a remote region of Washington that could set new stewardship standards for other Western states in the form of groundbreaking wilderness legislation.” —Susan Allen, “Environmentalists and Loggers Find Common Ground,” from Open Range, August 2, 2010.*

The comprehensive proposal for the Colville National Forest calls for wilderness protection, improved forest management on federal land, enhanced recreation opportunities, and funds to keep large working ranches intact.

New wilderness comprises 215,000 acres of the initiative, including lands in the Kettle Range, San Poil, Mountain Caribou, Quartzite, Abercrombie-Hooknose, and Salmo-Priest Additions.

It also includes about 400,000 acres in active forestry, where logging would follow rigorous guidelines: no new roads in roadless areas, no net increase in roads, no cutting of old growth, strong buffers on streams, and protection of endangered species habitat.

On an additional 400,000 acres (a quarter of which is inside a proposed Kettle Crest National Conservation Area), only restoration-based forestry can occur. In this zone, logging is allowed only as part of ecological objectives, such as the thinning of small trees to restore old-growth conditions.

*“The proposal we unveiled in late July is in many ways unique. It is part of a balanced overall vision for the entire Colville National Forest, developed collaboratively with timber interests and other community leaders. It is integrated with private land conservation, including collaboration with prominent ranchers, to assure safe passage for wildlife between the Cascades and Rockies. And it has substantial community support.” —Mitch Friedman*



Along the Kettle Crest. Photo © Craig Romano

“Providing for climate adaptation is what we at Conservation Northwest do best. We are already building in room for plants and animals to adapt, building resilience into natural systems, and providing safe harbor by connected wildlands, such as in the Columbia Highlands.”

realistic carbon mitigation scenarios, we are going to see climate and related ecological changes. So how can we help ecosystems adapt? By protecting and connecting natural areas, fostering road ecology, battling invasive species, restoring resilience to ecosystems, maintaining working lands, and reestablishing the food web which includes top predators. Work around the issue of habitat connectivity has enjoyed a boost in emphasis since the Western Governors Association passed a resolution two years ago to spur research into and conservation of habitat corridors.

“The governors established a framework for connectivity work, within which we have been able to make a big difference for wildlife in Washington and even across state and national borders,” said Conservation Northwest’s Jen

*Cont. from page 5*

country. But that model is 100 years old. If you just want to preserve those parks—never mind whole wild-life communities—you still have to connect them, to keep each as vital and dynamic as it is. Let’s finish the job. Let’s just connect them.”

Harvey Locke made the critical point that protecting natural areas provides more than just climate adaptation, it also contributes to climate mitigation and the stemming of atmospheric change. “When we save nature, we stop emissions. Twenty percent of all emissions in the world come from destroying wild nature, more than every car in the world on an annual basis. That’s because there is living carbon on the earth and when we disturb it, it’s released to the atmosphere.”

Still, under all

Watkins, conference organizer. She and Joe Scott came up with the idea for Wild Links, and it’s been growing ever since.

A special guest at Wild Links 2010 was climatologist Lara Hansen of EcoAdapt, who for much of the last decade served on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Lara says, “The amount of change we are locked into is growing each and every day, and just as we need to take serious action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, we need to make adaptation part of our lives and our life’s work. Humans have already altered some of these systems, so it’s good to focus on what we can do that might make them more robust to the changes that we see afoot. And for effective conservation, we need all of our choices and actions to be good and robust.”

Adaptation. That’s the work of Conservation Northwest. This issue of our newsletter highlights the many ways we fostered adaptation in 2010.

*Many thanks to the generous supporters of this year’s Wild Links, including 444S Foundation, BC Spaces for Nature, Center for Large Landscape Conservation, Defenders of Wildlife, Freedom to Roam, Patagonia, Sierra Club, Sierra Club BC, The Wilderness Society, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Vital Ground, Western Environmental Law Center, Wilburforce Foundation, Wildlife Conservation Society, and Wildsight.*

## Grasslands and ranch

**We aren’t just the group** that protects forests or wilderness or the North Cascades. Conservation Northwest protects and connects all the places and wildlife that keep the region’s large ecosystems healthy and whole. Grasslands are a vital piece of that puzzle.

*“In our own backyard, conservationists are racing against time to protect grasslands, including in the Okanogan and Similkameen Valleys. Home to plants, animals, and natural communities found nowhere else, these places are under enormous pressure of human development because of their dry, mild weather, pure air, and quality of life.” —Joe Scott*

The “pocket desert” of BC connects directly with the arid ecosystem of the Okanogan and Similkameen valleys of Washington, and this year Conservation Northwest members wrote to urge the BC government to protect these rich grasslands.

*“We are dedicated and determined that the South Okanogan-Similkameen National Park will be estab-*

John and Melva Dawson’s ranch ne



## 2010 FOR WILDLIFE

**Erin Moore** Publications coordinator,  
erin@conservationnw.org

# Protecting and Connecting

In 2010, as ever, Conservation Northwest worked to protect and connect Northwest wildlife and habitat as we maintain and sustain natural connections from the Coast to the Rockies. Here's our year for wildlife in a nutshell.

### OLD GROWTH WILDLIFE

Federal forest managers are once again required to "survey and manage" or look for rare species before they log. The action came in response to a suit brought by Conservation Northwest and others to protect old growth wildlife and biodiversity, from white chanterelles to northern spotted owls. As he overturned the last remaining piece of the Bush administration's strategy to boost logging in the region's old-growth forests, the presiding judge invoked biologist E.O. Wilson on the importance of saving all parts of the ecosystem.

Also as a result of a suit brought by Conservation Northwest and others, the US Fish and Wildlife Service is revising

a faulty northern spotted owl recovery plan to provide better protection for owls and Northwest old-growth habitat. Our next step is to make sure the revised owl recovery plan is scientifically rigorous and will restore this icon of old forests.



A bobcat makes its way up the I-90 embankment. Photo WA DOT

### I-90 WILDLIFE

In 2010, Conservation Northwest continued work with the I-90 Wildlife Bridges Coalition to help better connect wildlife moving north to south in the Cascades. Construction began on the Gold Creek wildlife underpass east of Snoqualmie Pass. We also helped launch I-90 Wildlife Watch, a citizen-based, wildlife monitoring project. Those who drive the stretch of I-90 from North Bend to Easton can go online ([www.i90wildlifewatch.org](http://www.i90wildlifewatch.org)) to report a wildlife sighting, documenting live and dead wildlife they see near the roadway. Wildlife sightings help inform highway planning to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions and boost safe passage for wildlife in the future.

### SHARED WILDLIFE

This year we helped produce a compelling Canadian-US report, "On the Edge: British Columbia's Unprotected Trans-boundary Species," detailing how an inadequate patchwork of laws and policies puts more than 1,900 species at risk of extinction or loss in BC. The report calls for immediate protections, especially for wildlife that cross the border.

"Wildlife doesn't recognize political boundaries. Species like grizzly bears are seriously endangered in the shared habitats of the US and BC, yet they are only protected south of the border," says Conservation Northwest's Joe Scott, who works in close collaboration with BC conservationists. "Unfortunately, protections for such vulnerable wildlife today are more like legal dead-ends than two-way streets. That needs to change."

### GRIZZLY BEARS

To have our best foot forward in a climate change world, protecting grizzly bears and their habitat makes a lot of sense.

"The well-being of grizzly bears is a good surrogate for landscape conditions, because they are an umbrella species. Results from various people's work show they shelter between 75 and 85% of all species in the system," said Harvey Locke of the Wild Foundation at this year's Wild Links.

A thorough search for North Cascades bears began this year, led by biologist Bill Gaines of the USFS. Remote sensing cameras filmed a grizzly bear just over the border from in

*Continued next page*

## Ranchlands conservation

*lished to protect this place and the wildlife that live here. This is our legacy for our grandchildren." —Doreen Olson, BC citizen activist*

Southward in the Methow Valley, we continued working to protect the largest remaining intact block of shrub-steppe—critical winter habitat for mule deer—from a proposed new powerline. The controversial project has become a state constitutional issue.

In the grasslands of the Okanogan and Columbia Highlands we are helping ranchers as part of our Columbia Highlands Initiative. Ranchlands often provide valuable habitat for wildlife, including white tail and mule deer. Keeping ranches intact better connects lands important for people and wildlife between the Cascades and the Rockies.

*"When the property around us starts growing houses instead of grass and trees, that hurts our ranch, other local ranchers, and the wildlife. This partnership is helping us keep the land the way it was in our grandfather's time, with a quiet backcountry that we can access by horse, and a means to keep our ranch economically viable so we can pass it on intact to our kids." —Bryan and Deb Gotham, Ferry County ranchers*

Bar Colville in Ferry Co. Photo © Paul Bannick



# Conservation Northwest updates



Grizzly bear just north of Washington's North Cascades on remote camera. Photo BC Ministry of Environment

BC in the North Cascades. Scientists have also documented grizzly bears in the Clear Range east the Fraser River.

Also this year, for the first time in memory, a young female grizzly bear showed up in the benchlands above the town of Lillooet. Tragically, several days later she was shot by a local resident. The female was one of a small population of bears who live in the Stein and N'ahatlatch Valleys. They are the closest population of bears to Washington's North Cascades.

"We can't simply talk about habitat connectivity to maintain connectivity on the ground. For grizzly bears, we have to be talking about it from a people management point of view. We need to be bridging that gap by working with communities, including First Nations, interest groups, local industries, and provincial government," said Sue Senger, BC landscape ecologist. This year we partnered with Sue to help build grizzly bear recovery in southern British Columbia.

## LYNX

State biologists this year photo-documented lynx kits born on the Loomis State Forest in north-central Washington. One of the last strongholds in the lower 48 for lynx, the Loomis provides a key link between animals to the west and north. Much of the state forest was protected for lynx by Conservation Northwest a decade ago. Although lynx trapping continues to take its toll on the BC side of the border, we recently opened discussion on the matter between Washington wildlife officials and their BC counterparts.

This year, too, we mostly won our lawsuit defending federal habitat protections for Canada lynx. While the Washington Snowmobile Association attempted a broad attack, the court rejected most claims but temporarily lifted habitat protections in the Okanogan National Forest until US Fish and Wildlife Service better documents its economic analysis. Meanwhile, we anticipate no change to lynx habitat management.

Our Columbia Highlands Initiative helps connect lynx habitat between the Cascades and Rockies, important for a species that faces threats including loss of habitat from climate change.



Lynx kits born this year on the Loomis. Photo WDFW

## WOLVES

Protecting connections in the Columbia Highlands is also important for newly arriving wolves. Scientists show that animals attempting to move between eastern Washington and the Cascades could find better travel conditions in northern Washington than in parts of southern British Columbia.

In 2008 came exhilarating news that wolves had returned on their own to Washington for the first time in decades. Their origin was Canada and Idaho. "Salmon are often considered the iconic Northwest species. Many aren't aware that wolves have been here for 10,000 years; they came over during the last ice age. The return of the wolves restores an important part of the Northwest's cultural heritage," says Jasmine Minbashian, special projects director for Conservation Northwest.

Today, there are two to three confirmed wolf packs in the state, but more breeding pairs are needed in order to ensure their long-term survival.

Conservation Northwest has generated over 1,500 public comments to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife on its draft wolf conservation and management plan, which is expected to be finalized in late 2011.

We're working for a plan that gives wolves a chance to recover to a point that their numbers are stable and the populations healthy enough to effectively play their role as top predators in Washington's ecosystems. This includes a distinct wolf recovery area for the Olympic Peninsula, where wolves would temper burgeoning coyote populations and improve the health of habitat in Olympic National Park.

This year, we also continued talking to communities, presenting a documentary film on the return of predators, including wolves and cougars, to 400 people in the greater Okanogan.

"What the film *Lords of Nature* does so successfully is explain the importance of all top predators to entire ecosystems," remarks Jay Kehne, Conservation Northwest outreach associate, who lives in Okanogan County. "And it does this without making enemies or pointing fingers at any of the people in the audience or in the communities who have learned to live with these animals, often in their own backyards."

## MOUNTAIN CARIBOU

Since 2008, when a groundbreaking BC mountain caribou recovery plan spelled some relief for key parts of the Inland Temperate Rainforest, we've worked to protect areas in the recovery lands important to caribou in winter.



Wolves are highly social. Photo © Art Wolfe

Winter recreation, whether by helicopter or snowmachine, is still a huge problem for caribou and a leading cause of debilitating winter stress. Biologists and conservationists this year held firm about which areas needed to be closed for caribou in winter, pushing the BC government to keep their word to follow scientist's advice about what's best for mountain caribou.

And they responded. A recent decision protects two-thirds of critical winter habitat areas for caribou. According to International Conservation Director Joe Scott, "This year for endangered caribou we achieved significant protection of critical caribou winter habitat around Revelstoke, no small feat in this winter recreation Mecca."



Mountain caribou assured some peace and quiet.  
Photo Bruce McClellan

## BULL TROUT

Bull trout need cool, clear water, large wood and deep pools, and stream connections between spawning and rearing sites. They are one of the species most threatened by the warming waters of climate change.

This year the US Fish and Wildlife Service dramatically increased critical habitat protections for the endangered Western char. In Washington State alone, new protections address nearly five times more stream habitat than earlier proposed.

The plan is not perfect and bull trout continue to face challenging circumstances in parts of Washington. But they have a much brighter future today thanks to the decision by the agency supported by comments sent by our members and supporters.

## FISHERS

This year brought to a total of 90 the number of Pacific fisher reintroduced into old-growth forests on the Olympic Peninsula. Conservation Northwest and many partners made this happen, with generous support and encouragement from a grant provided by the Wildlife Conservation Society and the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, to advance Washington's wildlife action plan.

"The release culminates a decade of cooperative efforts to restore fisher to Washington State, and gives me a sense of what Shaun White felt after landing his spiraling Double McTwist 1260," exclaimed Dave Werntz, science and conservation director and key advocate in the effort to return fishers home.

Released fisher,  
free at last!

Photo Jasmine Minbashian



## WOLVERINES

Wolverines once roamed across the northern tier of the U.S. and as far south as New Mexico and southern California. Today's they have been reduced to small, fragmented populations in Washington, Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming. Healthy populations of wolverines persist in Canada, but lower-48 wolverine populations remain at risk of extinction.

While we don't know exactly how many wolverines we have in Washington, we do know that they frequent the Cascades and the Kettle River Range. Winter tracking by biologists and volunteer wildlife monitors has revealed tracks, and sightings are on record for the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie and Colville National Forests.

Wolverines have very large home ranges, 700 miles or more. "How many wolverines can fit into North Cascades Park? Perhaps half a dozen to a dozen," said Douglas Chadwick, author of *The Wolverine Way*, in his presentation at this year's Wild Links conference. "South of the BC border, none of these populations is large enough to sustain itself over time. Wolverine are the new icon of connectivity and the importance of keeping wild places connected."

In response to scientific and legal arguments brought by conservation groups, including Conservation Northwest, the US Fish and Wildlife Service is finishing a wolverine status review to determine whether the species warrants protection under the Endangered Species Act.

The wide-ranging wolverine is one of the animals at risk by plans to expand the Stevens Pass Resort into nearby intact forests key to north to south movement and habitat. Conservation Northwest and the Sierra Club have urged the national forest to look at the big picture when assessing the proposal's effect on local North Cascades wildlife. Notably, a similar process between The Summit at Snoqualmie ski resort and Forest Service engaged conservationists' concerns for wildlife early on. Conservation Northwest ultimately supported the final resort plan because it factored in the needs of wildlife.

A wolverine poses  
for remote camera  
in the Goat Rocks of  
Washington.



**Barbara Christensen** social media  
diva, [barbara@conservationnw.org](mailto:barbara@conservationnw.org)

## TWO YEARS OF SCAT! THE BLOG

# Continuing the Conversation



Wilderness: what it's all about. Photo Mark Walker Rhodes

### This winter, our blog got old.

No, we're not tired of Scat, Conservation Northwest's online conversation about wildlife and wildlands. We are celebrating a milestone. Scat has reached its 200th post!

So what do we talk about at a rate of 6.25 fascinating posts per month? Staff write about their work from BC to the Olympics. Interns like Aaron Theisen and Maureen Tinney share fun tales from the field, whether grizzly dancing on campus or completing a 45-mile trek through the Kettle Range. Guest bloggers like author Linda Jo Hunter and member Valerie Tarico bring unique perspectives to events and issues. Here are some of the highlights:

**February 2008.** Scat launches like a shot, just like the Pacific fisher Jasmine watched dart from its carrier. "An unidentifiable brown critter streaked out and was quickly reintegrated back into the old-growth ecosystem where it once thrived. Just like that. Mitch said it was one of the most memorable moments of his life."

**Spring 2008.** We highlight how lynx are losing ground as their lifelines all over Washington are excluded from critical habitat designations. We also

posit, after reading that more than 50% of surveyed ATVers like to ride off legal trails, "that's not a few bad apples, that's half the crate."

**Summer, Fall 2008.** Big news: Washington's first wolf pack in decades caught on our remote cameras! Between excitement about that and a new hopeful political era, our blog's a pretty cheerful place.

**Summer 2009.** We focus on the big picture, with blogs from Mitch about where we work and how the Forest Service should move to a healthier future with a "Restoration Marshall Plan." Jay also introduces us to important voices in the Columbia Highlands conservation effort: Okanogan ranchers.

**Fall, Winter 2009.** The release of our citizen wildlife monitoring annual report brings great photos; I love science that is also cute! Also, in my favorite entry, we compare Washington's wolves and the latest *Twilight* film and ask, "Can we plan for the wolves that really roam the state, as opposed to those that reign in our imagination?"

**Spring-Summer 2010.** The Columbia Highlands Initiative, and its balanced plan for working lands, wilderness, and recreation, takes center stage, as do some very cute lynx kits that motivate Mitch, "After 30 years of diligent work... the time must be right. So please help us redouble our effort, amplify our voice, and demand a safe future for these lynx."

**Winter 2010.** We ask, "Why Conservation Northwest?" for our first-ever online membership drive, and we have a week's worth of blog answers to inspire almost 70 people to join! Mitch gives insight into how he hunts, and we premier our awesome Google Earth flyover tour of the Columbia Highlands.

Wow. That's almost three years and 200 nuggets of bloggy goodness. Please join us for 200 more. We'd love to hear from you! [www.conservationnw.org/scat](http://www.conservationnw.org/scat)

## Along an electric Avenue

- Join the conversation on Facebook, meet other wildlife fans, and keep up on the latest news and events at [facebook.com/conservationnw](http://facebook.com/conservationnw)
- Enjoy big stories on the small screen at [youtube.com/conservationnw](http://youtube.com/conservationnw)
- See the Northwest's coolest critters in living color, including remote camera captures, at [flickr.com/conservationnw](http://flickr.com/conservationnw)

Guest blogger Valerie Tarico with her family. Read their observations from this year's Wild Links on Scat!



## Welcome home, Washington's wolves



[conservationnw.org](http://conservationnw.org)

We have new stickers featuring "Salish Wolf" by Canadian First Nations artist Joseph Sxwaset. If you'd like one, send us a request, [info@conservationnw.org](mailto:info@conservationnw.org).

# Give your best to Conservation Northwest

Help us continue the vital work of connecting wildlife habitat from the Washington Coast to the BC Rockies. Go to [www.conservationnw.org/donate](http://www.conservationnw.org/donate), call Julia at 800.878.9950 x10, or fax this form to 360.671.8429. Please consider us in your gifts to others, and share our vital work with these *special holiday prices* on fun merchandise! **Order online at [conservationnw.org/gear](http://conservationnw.org/gear).**

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for fun holiday giving ideas.***

Our stalwart supporters in northeastern Washington at the 2010 Kettle Range Rendezvous, an annual gathering that gets people out on the lands in support of wilderness protection for the Columbia Highlands. Photo Matthew Cohen



## We succeed because of allies like you: Thank you

We are grateful to all of you who give of yourselves for the future of wildlife and connected habitat in the Northwest. We couldn't protect wildlife and wild lands without you: our members, supporters, volunteers, interns, and action takers. From ensuring a future for Washington's wolves, to putting forward a citizen's plan for wilderness in northeastern Washington, Conservation Northwest supporters helped cinch a new year for connected wildlife and habitat.

Conservation Northwest is incredibly fortunate, especially in a tough economy, to have the support of 4,300 member households, as well as several thousand volunteers and supporters who follow us on Facebook and take action. Thanks so much to each one of you for helping us protect everything wild and free, from wolves to wilderness. We look forward to working diligently on your behalf in the coming year and beyond.