

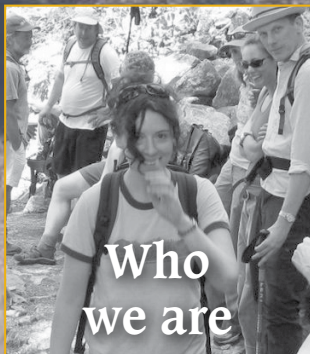
WINTER 2012 ISSUE 88

Conservation Northwest

Q U A R T E R L Y

2011

A wild year



Who
we are



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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Liza Weeks, communications intern

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Cover image © David Moskowitz

About the photo: The alpha male of the Look-out wolf pack left tracks along this ridge near the Chelan-Sawtooths in the Washington Cascades. His partner disappeared in 2009, likely a victim of poaching. Wolves often mate for life; as of the following spring, he had not selected a new mate.

David Moskowitz is an author, educator, tracker, and photographer. Check out his forthcoming book, *Wolves in the Land of Salmon* (Timber Press, Portland OR), slated for publication in fall 2012. Learn more at davidmoskowitz.net

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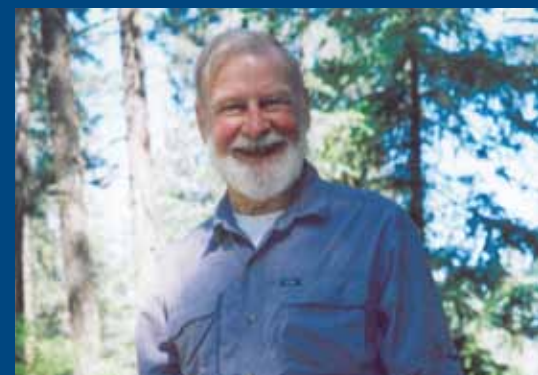
Floyd Rogers

Fond Farewell

Conservation Northwest lost one of our longest and strongest friends this September, Marshall (Pete) Palmer, of Seattle. Pete and Artis, his surviving wife of 60 years, joined as members in 1992 and never missed a year of generous financial and moral support.

Pete was an Army veteran from WWII, after which he worked 35 years at Boeing while raising a family. He loved the Washington landscape and the natural world. Pete celebrated his 80th birthday floating the Columbia River's Hanford Reach with me and others. I remember his broad smile that sunny summer day, the same countenance he wore every time I saw him over a 20-year span.

Pete Palmer lived well and cared for what mattered to him, and left a legacy we all can honor. —*Mitch Friedman*



Pete Palmer. Photo by Artis Palmer

VIEW FROM THE DIRECTOR

A good year for wildlife

2011 has been generally a good year for the endangered wildlife that Conservation Northwest. While wolves, wolverines, and fishers are all involved in the Occupy Movement, asserting their presence in new territory, the evidence runs contrary to them being in the underprivileged 99% at present.

For Washington's wolves, statistics indicate that 2011 was a boom year with rapid expansion of the wolf economy, zero unemployment, and—in stark contrast to recent years, when most of the Lookout pack was likely killed by poachers—a murder rate of apparently zero.

We began the year with three confirmed wolf packs: two in the far northeast corner of the state, and the erstwhile Lookout pack broken up and without a breeding pair. That grew to five packs this summer. With confirmation of the new Teanaway and Smackout packs, and recorded wolf activity in several additional areas, clearly this was a bull market for wolves.

As we go to press, we have high hopes that on December 3rd the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission will adopt a strong statewide Wolf Conservation and Management Plan, culminating a long process in which Conservation Northwest has been deeply involved. And the White family, alleged to have illegally killed several members of the Lookout Pack, are now defending themselves at trials in both state and federal courts.

Fishers continue to occupy the Olympic Peninsula, with news this year of continued reproduction, use of an unexpectedly broad range of habitat, and few mortalities. Life is so good for these fishers in this growth environment that they're not only at full employment, but their prospects may be as good as those of Wall Street bankers.

Wolverines are also in an expansionary phase, as their recolonization of the Cascades apparently continues. Experts considered wolverines possibly extirpated from the area as recently as a decade ago, but sightings and radio telemetry continue to document their use of spacious accommodations as far south as Mount Adams.

The year 2011 also saw a successful reintroduction of pronghorn antelope on the Yakama Indian Reservation. While Conservation Northwest was not involved, we are thrilled for many reasons, including what this returned prey species will do for consumer confidence among wolves.

It's been a bear market for grizzlies, despite a run-up in the spring upon news of the first photo confirmation of a grizzly bear in the North Cascades in over 40 years. Despite abundant opportunities in rich habitat, concern continues that grizzly bears will not be able to raise their own prospects without a government bailout in the form of a few bears moved into the Cascades from elsewhere to augment the local stock.

On the whole, this was a great year for top level carnivores in Washington, with an even better outlook for 2012. The picture is less rosy for mid-level carnivores that will have to compete with the returning megafauna. Ungulates and livestock are expressing concern, but analysts at Conservation Northwest are assuring the market that if we all work together the return of wildlife and ecological health will be for the good and prosperity of people and wildlife in the New Year. Thanks so much for your support.




Mitch Friedman. Photo by Erin Moore

“Analysts at Conservation Northwest are assuring the market that if we all work together, the return of wildlife and ecological health will be for the good and prosperity of people and wildlife in the New Year.”



Wolf pup explores the new world. © David Moskowitz

“I’m deeply concerned about the heritage that we are leaving our children. An important part of our heritage in Washington State is the beauty and far reaching effect of having the wolf on our landscape.”

—Heather Hilf-Barr, Olympia

2011 highlights

For wolves: Supporters swamped the hallways and inboxes with testimonials and letters supporting recovery of Washington’s wolves. We also established a reward fund for information leading to conviction of poachers, and our volunteer monitoring teams were first to document the newest Cascades wolf pack in the Teanaway.

For grizzly bears: We celebrated the first confirmed photo in 15 years of a North Cascades grizzly bear. With Canadian colleagues, during our annual Wild Links conference, we established a Grizzly Bear Working Group to help BC and US transboundary bears

For forests: We inspired 2,000 public comments, getting the Colville National Forest to recommend 100,000 acres of wilderness as part of their forest plan revisions.

For Cascades connectivity: We helped persuade the legislature to commit funding toward building the Rock Knob wildlife bridge over I-90, the first in our state and spanning a very important north–south route for Cascades wildlife.

For Coast to Cascades: We worked hard for a new forest preserve that, once approved, will protect nearly one third of the Lake Whatcom watershed.

For ranchland conservation: Together with the Farm and Ranchland Protection Program and Inland Northwest Land Trust, we gained a conservation easement for the 504-acre Dawson ranch near Colville, WA, helping protect wildlife, habitat, and heritage.

COAST TO BC ROCKIES

Wildlife upswing

I will never forget the spirited pub debates I used to have with my graduate school advisor, Bernard Stonehouse. Stonehouse, a true English character, has worked in the Antarctic since 1947. Two things I will always remember. He was consistently miffed by the idea that people would choose to go snow camping for fun.

And he would always say the world is getting better.

I would vehemently disagree. One need only read the news: Climate change...climate change deniers...diminishing wild areas...society’s loss of connection to nature. These problems are very real and the solutions seem so complex.

So how can Stonehouse be right? Amid all the bad news, a positive story is indeed emerging. And it’s playing out right here in our backyard in the Pacific Northwest.

It’s a story of a land that was once ravaged by clearcuts and logging roads that is now quietly coming back, thriving once again and slowly returning to a state of glorious abundance.

The evidence? Look who’s coming home for dinner. From the Washington Coast to the BC Rockies, things are getting wilder!

- **Welcome home, Washington’s wolves:** Washington now has five confirmed packs. Two were discovered with the help of Conservation Northwest’s Citizens Wildlife Monitoring Program. The interesting news is that Teanaway wolves are related to the Lookout Pack. Wolves appear to be spreading out into the Cascades and reclaiming their former home. Next stop, South Cascades?
- **Fruition of a state wolf plan:** Washington’s wolves will soon get a state recovery plan that will help ensure recovery and distribution. Conservation Northwest played a big role in shaping the direction of this plan. We inspired thousands of people to write letters and hundreds to give testimony at hearings. We were invited by the governor and eagerly participated in the Wolf Working Group for the nearly three years of preparation of a wolf plan that brought all stakeholders to the table.
- **A grizzly bear appears in the North Cascades:** After years of waiting, this year we have photos of what might be a grizzly bear in the North Cascades, as well as a grizzly just north of the border in BC. That’s hope amid dire concern that these bears are blinking out.
- **Caribou get some peace and quiet:** Closures at three local snowmobile areas near Revelstoke, BC, will help protect mountain caribou and recover the Selkirks’ population of this endangered North American mammal. Conservation Northwest and our BC allies pushed hard for the recreation closure, recommended by scientists as part of the 2009 Mountain Caribou Recovery Plan. The caribou management zone around Revelstoke was one of the areas remaining in the plan where promised public recreation closures had not yet been implemented.

Jasmine Minbashian Special projects director, jasmine@conservationnw.org

- **Wildlife get an express lane:** After decades of being cut off “at the pass,” wildlife will get a chance to safely cross I-90. Thanks to all the work by the I-90 Wildlife Bridges Coalition, Conservation Northwest and others, the I-90 Snoqualmie Pass East Project continues to move forward this year.
- **Marbled murrelets get a break:** Four public utility districts in southwest Washington pulled the plug on a proposal to build the state’s first coastal wind farm in the heart of our most valuable nesting habitat for the threatened marbled murrelet.
- **Don’t forget the small things:** Following nearly a decade of contentious debate and litigation, a historic agreement has been reached over federal rules that require wildlife surveys in old forest habitat. The agreement between the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and conservation groups sets a new course for habitat restoration and wildlife protection in the Pacific Northwest.

OKANOGAN-WENATCHEE

Jen Watkins Conservation associate, jen@conservationnw.org

Gaining hope, acre by acre

People often ask how we can stay inspired to truly make a difference in the face of such huge environmental challenges. My reply borrows from our national forest program work, where our mission translates acre by acre into on-the-ground restoration.

Our national forest program began in the late 1980s with a mission to stop the cutting of old growth and limit the damage of logging to our public lands.

Fast forward two decades, and our program has evolved with the successes gained to restoring our national forests through a holistic approach that includes commercial timber harvest.

The long haul pays off

Conservation Northwest has long worked to change our national forests from commodity-driven management to restoration. In 2010 that work culminated in two landmark policies on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest (OWNF), encompassing nearly four million acres in the Cascades from just south of I-90 north to the Canadian border.

The Large and Old Tree Policy and Forest Restoration Strategy were both adopted last year. Now, the goal is for all management on the forest to be restoration focused with outputs reported in acres treated, not board feet produced. The policies went into full swing this year and we helped the Forest Service on a multitude of projects.

Partnering with the Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition, including Conservation Northwest, the Wenatchee River Ranger District is implementing fuels reduction near homes and important habitat near Leavenworth with the Chumstick Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project.

In partnership with the Upper Yakima Watershed Action Group, which we facilitate, the Cle Elum Ranger District is designing the Upper Yakima Restoration Project on 60,000 acres in the critical I-90 corridor. Plans include some thinning, hundreds of miles of road restoration, floodplain restoration, and recreation management.

In a Memorandum of Understanding with the OWNF, we’ve agreed that where our restoration objectives overlap, we can partner to inspire creative solutions, exchange of resources, and timely implementation.

This year in the I-90 corridor, in coordination with the Cle Elum Ranger District, we investing \$6,000 from a generous private donor to close and restore unused logging spur roads.

Thanks to support from The Mountaineers Foundation, we have \$3,000 toward a larger project with the Methow Ranger District to decommission 2.7 miles of roadway and protect six stream crossings for fish and wildlife in the Chewuch River watershed.

The issues facing wildlife in the Northwest often seem overwhelming. But out on the ground, the progress is clear. Re-contoured roadbeds, improved streamside forests, and a rebounding of native plants following a prescribed fire all benefit animals from wolverines to mule deer. These tangible gains give us hope, and the pieces add up to a connected landscape solution for Northwest wildlife.



Prescribed burns are often used to “reset” forests. © David Moskowitz

“I am a hiker and hunter who joined Conservation Northwest specifically because I saw firsthand how they use collaborative problem solving to bring divergent and polarized sides together. It is satisfying to watch actual progress being made.”

—Jan Carson, Spokane

Jen Watkins Conservation associate, jen@conservationnw.org

CROSS-BORDER AND CASCADES

Building connectivity

The last 12 months found us connecting much more than habitat for wildlife. We also connected science to policy and policy to real projects, and we helped bring together the people working on these issues.

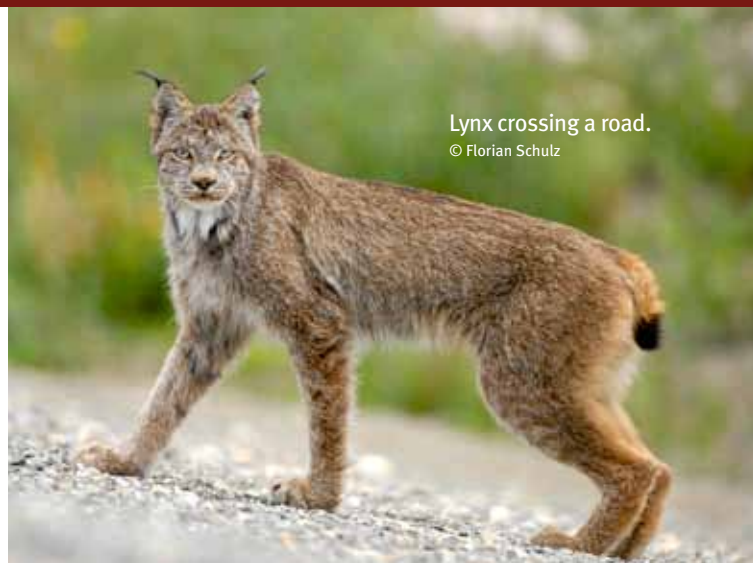
In 2010, as part of the Washington Wildlife Habitat Connectivity Working Group, we published a historic report, the Washington Statewide Habitat Connectivity Analysis, outlining the key intact habitats for wildlife in our state and neighboring landscapes. The connectivity analysis lays out the possibilities for maintaining habitat connections and the barriers that currently inhibit those connections. It affirms Conservation Northwest's past work for wildlife habitat:

- The high value of the Loomis State Forest (25,000 acres of which we protected a decade ago) as vital habitat for endangered lynx
- The significance of the I-90 corridor in Washington's Cascades where we earlier protected 45,000 acres as part of The Cascades Conservation Partnership and now works to reduce the barrier effect of the interstate
- A need to maintain east-west connectivity between the Cascades and northeast Washington
- The reliance of Washington's wildlife on healthy links to wildlife habitat in British Columbia

The connectivity analysis affirms the need to build upon these investments, and it identifies new possibilities for protecting and connecting wild areas from the Washington Coast to the BC Rockies. With it we can foster scientific products to inform connectivity conservation, integrate the science into policies that could make a difference on the ground, build a network of people across disciplines and borders who are working on these issues, and initiate tangible connectivity conservation to benefit the region's wildlife.

Highlights of 2011 include:

- Release of the Climate Gradient Corridors Report, assessing landscape links crucial for Northwest wildlife survival today and their adaptation in the future. See the report at wacnected.org/climate-change-analysis.
- Hosting the 2011 Wild Links conference: "Coordinating across Political Borders to Help Species and Habitats Adapt to a Changing Climate." More than 100 people from BC, Alberta, and the US attended this 5th annual event to ease adaptation and work together for wildlife.
- Hosting a reception to welcome the Western Governors Association's Wildlife Council, which implements the



Lynx crossing a road.
© Florian Schulz

"It's inspiring to see us coming together as one community, Canadians and Americans, worried about the natural landscape and the species that inhabit those landscapes."
—British Columbia Minister of Environment Terry Lake, *Wild Links*, 2011, Vancouver

WGA's Wildlife Corridors Initiative, during their semi-annual meeting. At the reception, we included photos showing the many ways that we are fulfilling the Initiative.

- Working closely with the WA Department of Transportation (and partners from Kittitas County to AAA) to make our state's roadways safer for people and wildlife. This year construction of the first wildlife underpass on I-90 started at Gold Creek. We also achieved legislative support allowing the I-90 Project to retain and use savings from past cycles in 2012. On Hwy 97 in Okanogan County, we collaborated with community partners on how wildlife might safely cross the highway. Thanks to Lighthawk, our staff toured the potential project with Okanogan County Commissioner Andy Lampe and the Mule Deer Foundation's Ron Knapp.
- Getting reports and tools created by the Washington Wildlife Habitat Connectivity Working Group into the hands of agencies, like the Bureau of Land Management and Okanogan-Wenatchee and Colville National Forests, so they can integrate connectivity science into management plans for nearly six million acres of public land.

We also learned a few things as we head into a New Year. Wolverines may have an easier time crossing international borders than do government agency employees. Interpretation and communication of scientific products is equally essential as the development of those products. And—importantly—opportunities remain to conserve and restore connections between our region's special places and wildlife.

Kit McGurn Outreach associate, kit@conservationnw.org

AROUND WASHINGTON

Stepping up for conservation

Thanks to citizens of all stripes, the Northwest is on the forefront of grassroots environmental activism for protecting wildlife and wilderness. Throughout 2011, Conservation Northwest supporters stepped up, especially for wolves. Celebrating the return of the wolf, supporters in Washington packed meeting rooms to learn more about how to ensure wolves remain a part of our landscape and heritage.

We hosted standing-room only events on wolves in North Bend, Seattle, Spokane, Ellensburg, and Yakima. Attended by 200 people, our first ever, "Living with Wolves" event at the Burke Museum in Seattle was one of the largest events ever

held at the Burke. That kind of turnout demonstrates that Washingtonians have a keen interest in our native wildlife. A 2008 statewide poll by the Fish and Wildlife showed 75% support for recovery of Washington's wolves.

Beginning in late summer, four public meetings on the state's wolf plan drew voices from all sides, including major public support for Washington's wolves. Conservation Northwest and our partners turned out

more than 100 activists to testify in person, no small feat when you consider that each meeting was an all-day affair during the middle of the week!

At the hearings, people supporting wolves and a plan for wolves outnumbered those opposed nearly two to one. In early December, the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission votes whether to approve of the plan.

Wolf recovery wasn't the only issue our grassroots solidly supported this year. For the Okanogan-Wenatchee National

Forest Plan, 90-plus interested people attended the sole public meeting held in Seattle, urging the Forest Service to recommend wilderness and implement

protections for wildlife, watersheds, and non-motorized recreation for one of our state's largest national forests. Our forests and native wildlife thank you!

Jay Kehne Conservation associate, jay@conservationnw.org

Keeping the Northwest wild

When I think about the past year in north-central Washington and the Okanogan of British Columbia, I see the faces of so many who joined the wildlife movement by getting involved. You have written letters supporting wolf recovery, monitored wildlife, joined Conservation Northwest, and spoken up for wildlife and wild places.

At events we hosted in Wenatchee, Kamloops, Omak, Ellensburg, Tonasket, North Bend, Penticton, Twisp, Yakima, Summerland, and Osoyoos, more than 700 people turned out for speakers and films about wolves, connectivity, forestry collaboration, and wildlife underpass projects.

Ninety of those people chose to become more involved by becoming a new Conservation Northwest member right at the event. People joining our cause came from The Mule Deer Foundation, Rotary and Kiwanis Clubs of Okanogan-Omak, naturalist clubs in BC, birding organizations, cultural centers, environmental learning groups, and a bunch of local people who just want to

stay informed and make a difference in their communities.

I watched our members stand up and speak up on wildlife issues pertinent to their communities at wolf hearings and land-use meetings even when they were largely outnumbered by those with opposing viewpoints. But this is what we do: Conservation Northwest provides accurate, science-based information on wildlife and habitat. Then, through a support network, we encourage and enable people to speak up and act on wildlife issues important to them and their communities.

Conservation Northwest members are spreading the message that *all* wildlife are important to healthy ecosystems. And habitat is the key to healthy wildlife populations—such a simple concept that still gets forgotten by politicians and decision makers.

My hat's off to all our members and volunteers for what you have done this past year keeping the Northwest wild. Together, we are making a difference!



Spokane wolf hearing supporters. Crystal Gartner

"I especially applaud being informed when it comes down to science versus opinions...Wildlife and wildlands are reaching a critical time and together with Conservation Northwest, I think there is power in numbers to make a stand."

—Dina Lund, member, Okanogan

Derrick Knowles Columbia Highlands campaign
director, derrick@conservationnw.org

BETWEEN THE CASCADES AND ROCKIES

Big vision for the Columbia Highlands

2011 has been a challenging year of wins and setbacks in the Columbia Highlands. We started with renewed hopes that more than 10 years of collaborative forestry efforts and community collaboration might finally bear fruit in a balanced plan for northeast Washington's Columbia Highlands.

The plan included legislation to designate new wilderness, conservation, and recreation areas and an ecologically and economically sound plan for managing and restoring much of the Colville National Forest.

This year, political divisiveness, Forest Service budget cuts, and the economy worked against our best efforts to move legislation forward. Unfortunately, the general mood of some players in northeast Washington when it comes to forest management has shifted along with the national political climate, arcing away from problem solving and toward entrenched positioning.

Despite this disconcerting trend, timber industry and conservation members of the Northeast Washington Forestry Coalition continue to work together to fulfill our balanced vision for the Colville National Forest where we can.

We'll continue to collaborate with the Forest Service on forest health and restoration projects. And we'll explore

new opportunities to find funding and increase bureaucratic efficiencies to get more of the kinds of forest projects that we support accomplished on the ground.

Wilderness in progress

The Colville National Forest's proposal, as part of its forest plan revisions released for public comment this past summer, is a small yet significant step in the right direction for wilderness and wildlife in the Highlands. The plan preliminarily recommends five new wilderness areas in the forest.

Throughout the public comment period on the draft plan, Conservation Northwest organized citizens statewide to attend public meetings and submit hundreds of personal letters and comments supporting the Forest Service's wilderness recommendations and asking for additional critical wild lands to also be considered.

The next step in the forest planning process will be the release of a draft Environmental Impact Statement expected next summer, which we hope will include a strong set of wilderness recommendations for special places including the Kettle Crest, Thirteenmile Canyon, Hoodoo Canyon, Abercrombie Mountain, and other areas adjacent to and just south of the existing Salmo-Priest Wilderness.

While wilderness recommendation status by the Forest Service doesn't provide the same lasting protection that Congressional wilderness designation does, it is a significant step toward eventual permanent protection, as Congressional wilderness champions often look to agency recommendations to inform the drafting of legislation.

Beyond the boundaries of the Colville National Forest, we also had several successes with our private ranchland conservation efforts, which will maintain important wildlife habitat for lynx, wolves, deer, elk, and other wildlife. It will also help keep two large ranches intact as working ranches, permanently protected from subdivision and development.

Initial funds have been raised and accords reached to protect the Dawson family ranch near the proposed Abercrombie-Hooknose wilderness, and the Gotham family working forest and ranch adjacent to the proposed Kettle Crest wilderness.

The Dawson's ranch is neighboring one of Washington's five confirmed wolf packs, and the Gotham's lands, which are prime mid-elevation habitat for lynx and other wildlife, contain mineral deposits that could have left this area vulnerable to mining development. More donors are still needed; contact Paul Bannick at paul@conservationnw.org to be part of these historic habitat protections!

This year we've also had to face many of the challenges and difficult choices that most other conservation nonprofits have also had to make in this tough economy. Sadly, this year we lost two staff from our Columbia Highlands Initiative team, Tim



In January, Senator Maria Cantwell led the way on the Kettle Crest in the Columbia Highlands. Bob Whittaker

Turnout was high this year in Spokane at our letter writing parties for wilderness on the Colville National Forest. Crystal Gartner



Coleman and Crystal Gartner, and have had to pare down our efforts to focus on core campaign objectives and tighten our belts even further to increase our efficiency and effectiveness with fewer resources.

Forward to 2012

As we look forward to 2012 and beyond, we're hopeful for the Columbia Highlands Initiative vision to protect wildlife habitat and improve connectivity and safe passage for wildlife between the Cascades and Rocky Mountains.

We will continue working with our timber industry partners to advance good forestry on the Colville National Forest, with ranchers who want to protect their way of life as well as important wildlife habitat, with local communities that want to protect jobs and wildlife, and with members of Congress as we pursue all feasible avenues for protecting the wildlands at the heart of our Columbia Highlands Initiative.

We will also look for opportunities to improve the habitat and the social tolerance for the threatened wildlife, including lynx and wolves, relying on the Highland's diverse landscape to survive, thrive, and move.

For more than 35 years, some of us have worked hard to see wilderness designated in the Columbia Highland's Kettle Range and Selkirk Mountains. With growing awareness across the state about the beauty and unique biological value of these wildlands, a new generation of wilderness advocates for the Columbia Highlands is stepping up to fill the shoes of those who came before.

American politics and public opinion can change quickly as we've seen throughout the last decade, and the time will come when the politics are right for a wilderness bill and protective designation for deserving areas in the Columbia Highlands. Until then, we will collaborate, build good will, and find balanced solutions where we can. And as threats to wildlands shift, like the dramatic increases in off-road vehicle abuse, we will fight when we have to.

As we charge ahead into 2012, our commitment to wilderness and the wildlife values of the Columbia Highlands remains stronger than ever.



A wild roadless area southwest of the Kettle Crest and near the San Poil River. Thirteenmile Canyon is currently left out of the Forest Service's proposed recommendations for wilderness in the Columbia Highlands. Aaron Theisen

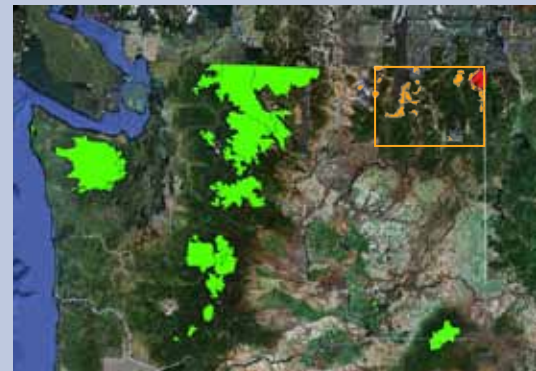
Watchdogging the forest

We continued to collaborate on forest restoration projects on the Colville National Forest (CNF) in 2011 as part of the Northeast Washington Forestry Coalition. We also monitored and documented ORV and ATV use, including illegal use on closed system roads, and helped survey routes for proposed temporary roads in the East Wedge adjacent to the Canadian border to support fuels reduction projects near homes.

We monitored the South End Motor Vehicle Management project, which proposes to vastly increase authorized off-road travel in the south-central end of the forest.

Former Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth identified unmanaged recreation, including harm from OHVs, as a key threat to sustaining the nation's forests and grasslands. The other major threats are fire and fuels, invasive species, and loss of open space.

Green: protected wilderness in all of WA. Red: current protected wilderness on the CNF. Gold: potential wilderness areas on the CNF.



"In late July of this year, my wife and I were hiking on a ridge east of Sullivan Lake, not too far south of one of the fingers of the Salmo-Priest Wilderness, when we heard the unmistakable cry of a wolf below us. We stopped and waited about five minutes before we heard another cry; there was no doubt it was a wolf. We had read about the importance of these predators to the health of mountain ecosystems. What a wonder; what a thrill to witness these freedom-loving creatures back in Washington State, and in an area being considered for wilderness designation. It was the best day of our summer hiking."

—Thomas Soeldner, president of the Faith and Environment Network, Spokane

Julia Spencer Membership associate,
julia@conservationnw.org

MANY WAYS **To love us**

Don't let the economy stop you from being our partner in our innovative work to keep the Northwest wild for future generations. There are many ways to stretch your conservation dollars. Below are just a few.

Become a Wildland Partner

Small monthly gifts help stretch your gift. Who wouldn't consider putting aside \$10 a month—about the cost of a going out for a movie—for wolves, lynx, fisher, and their diverse habitats? Once enrolled, you're free of annual renewal notices from us. Plus you'll get discounts on our merchandise, and the satisfaction of knowing that you're providing us with stable funding. Use the adjacent form or call Julia at 800.878.9950 x 10 to become our newest Wildland Partner!

Match your gift

Why not double the amount of whatever you give? It's an easy way to add value, and many companies match dollar for dollar. See our website for a partial list: www.conservationnw.org/donate/matching-gifts

Join in workplace giving

Larger companies, as well as city, state and federal governments, have their own workplace giving campaigns and may also participate in United Way. Please select us as your recipient to have your contribution conveniently taken out of your paycheck.



Hana Werntz, the newest member of the Conservation Northwest team.
Jasmine Minbashian

Hope & heritage through a will

Why let someone else determine your financial legacy, however small or large? Creating a will is the first step to ensure that you and your family will make your own decisions about whom your estate will benefit.

Please consider putting us in your will to leave your own conservation legacy. To learn more, contact Paul Bannick, 206.675.9747 x 202, paul@conservationnw.org

We are so **grateful for the support** of each and every one of you. You can read in this newsletter the gains we made for wildlife and wild places in 2011.

Ciao bella, Crystal!

Jodi Broughton Business and membership director,
jodi@conservationnw.org

Crystal Gartner joined us in 2005 when we merged with Kettle Range Conservation Group to advance wilderness legislation in the Columbia Highlands. Her talents immediately shone brightly and we all fell in love with Crystal

It was a painful campaign and financial decision to let go of Crystal late this year. She organized our first auction and celebration in Spokane at the Davenport Hotel, where her impeccable taste, attention to detail, excellent follow-through, and overall vision made the event a success. Crystal quickly became a favorite staff member to us all.

Crystal's personal passion for the wild places of northeast Washington guided her for five years as she conducted successful summer hike series in the

Columbia Highlands. She also helped organize special events for donors and political leaders, gained deep support from the Spokane business community, and brightly rallied the troops to urge our legislators to introduce wilderness legislation.

Crystal rolled with an ever-changing campaign strategy to continue to engage and motivate citizens from all walks of life to support protecting the Columbia Highlands. She was the rock star of our annual membership drives; no one could say no to Crystal.

We send you off with a very fond farewell, Crystal, and are excited that you have already moved on in a new position protecting our environment and natural heritage as an organizer for the Sierra Club's Beyond Coal campaign in Spokane.

We hope you also get more time to do the things you love, like entertaining friends with gourmet meals, getting outdoors in the winter, and caring for your chickens. We look forward to continuing to work with you as an active member and volunteer in our efforts to keep the Northwest wild. Be well!

Crystal on one of the many hikes she led, including this one to Emerald Lake in the Columbia Highlands. Jerry Glaser



Conservation Northwest merchandise and gifts that give back to wildlife and wild places!
What a great way to spread the word about our work connecting the Washington Coast to the BC Rockies.
 To order, use the enclosed envelope, call Julia at 800.878.9950 x10, fax to 360.671.8429, go online to conservationnw.org/gear



Wolf puzzles ~~\$18~~ Sale! \$15

Celebrate the wolf's return to Washington with Art Wolfe photo jigsaw puzzles, ages 5 and up.

- 30-piece 110-piece

Columbia Highlands: Exploring Washington's Last Frontier ~~\$20~~ Sale! \$12

This *WA Book Award* winner contains 100 stunning photographs and a compelling narrative about this unique place in northeastern Washington.



Logo leather work gloves \$9

- Sm Med Lg

SIGG water bottle ~~\$20~~ Sale! \$15

1-liter, nonreactive enamel-coated aluminum



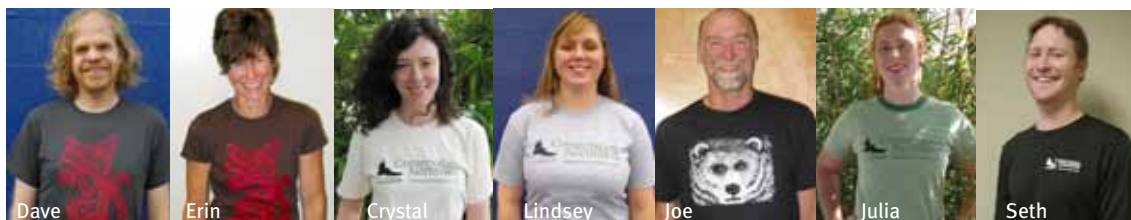
Stickers (free-donation accepted), see website for selection



Logo ball cap \$20

Embroidered logo, adjustable strap

- Green Two-toned gray



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| NEW! Men's cotton, the "Dave" | | | | | | \$18 |
| Smoke gray w/red art (organic) "Welcome home, WA's wolves" on back | N/A | | | | | |
| NEW! Women's cotton (runs very small), the "Erin" | | | | | | \$18 |
| Chocolate brown w/ red art (organic) "Welcome home, WA's wolves" on back | | | | | | |
| Unisex cotton, the "Crystal" | | | | | | \$16 |
| Organic, natural, short-sleeve | | | | | | |
| Unisex cotton, the "Lindsey" | | | | | | \$16 Sale \$10! |
| Gray heather jersey, short sleeve | | | | | | |
| Unisex cotton grizzly T, the "Joe" | | | | | | \$16 |
| Organic, black, short-sleeve "Save the North Cascades grizzly" on back | | | | | | |
| Unisex cotton jersey, the "Julia" | | | | | | \$16 |
| Jersey "ringer" short-sleeve Green heather/dark green trim | | | | | | |
| Blue heather/dark blue trim | | | | | | |
| Men's polyester crew, the "Seth" | | | | | | \$28 |
| Black, long-sleeve, mid-weight, Duofold | N/A | | | | | N/A |

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*made payable to Conservation NW

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www.conservationnw.org



Please renew your support during this important time for Washington's wildlife!

Celebrate the return of wolves with our newest T-shirt. See inside back page

People help wildlife, by the numbers

Barbara Christensen Social media and IT, barbara@conservationnw.org

4,707 Member households who protect wildlife and connect habitat across the region, preserving healthy ecosystems for future generations

1,033 People who hand-wrote a letter or mailed in a postcard for wolves, wilderness, old growth, and wildlife habitat

3,097 Online activists who spoke up on issues ranging from anti-wolf legislation, national forest plan revisions, northern spotted owl and gray wolf recovery, and wilderness recommendations in the Columbia Highlands

73 Volunteers who helped around the office, distributed newsletters, kept events going, and more!

52 Number of remote camera volunteers who hike and trek to our wildest places to help document rare wildlife and habitat connectivity across the region

115 People who took time out of their busy day to attend public hearings in support of wolf recovery in Washington and a science-based state plan

466 Guests at one of more than 30 events, presentations, forums, film showings, parties, slideshows, and more across the state

2,700 "Tweeps" following the action on Twitter, sharing our news, and celebrating #wolfwednesday with us. You can too, @conservationnw

5,100 Facebook friends who join the conversation on one of our popular pages: Conservation Northwest, Washington's Wolves, Columbia Highlands Wilderness, and North Cascades Grizzly Bear. Stop by and say hello!



JUNCO. Roger Contor