

wildsight

2012 ANNUAL
REPORT





LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

A MESSAGE FROM JURI PEEPRE

Dear Wildsight community,

Wildsight's passion for protecting wild places and wildlife has been unwavering for 25 years, but the language and context for conservation is changing. Today we speak of the 'economics of happiness,' 'measuring ecological goods and services,' and 'natural pathways to prosperity.' The themes of conservation, economy and community were front and center in the East Kootenay this past year. Why?

Economist Mark Anielski who spoke at the Finding Balance Forum in March, asked, "Why must we continue to 'grow' the economy by exporting our surplus natural capital at the potential risk to ecological, human and social well-being? What about investing in the resilience of our most precious natural capital, (for example) watersheds and arable land for growing food and ensuring local living economies and food security?" Anielski argues that "the economics of eternal growth has lost touch with the original Greek meaning of the word economy (oikonomia), which means the management of the household."

In June, David Suzuki urged us to "put the 'eco' back into economics and realize what the conditions and principles are for truly sustainable living. We have to set a new bottom line, a bottom line dictated by the reality that we are biological creatures, completely dependent for our survival and well-being on clean air, clean water, clean soil, clean energy and biodiversity." Suzuki also reminded us that "we remain spiritual beings who need sacred places in the natural world that gave us birth."

The recent Crown of the Continent workshop in Fernie focused on "Pathways to Prosperity: Caring for Communities." We heard how community prosperity in the region is strongly linked to beautiful natural landscapes, opportunities for outdoor recreation, protected areas and, most notably, entrepreneurial initiative by people who choose to live there because of local amenity values.

As an agent of change, Wildsight is often caught up in the tension around competing values, between private interests and the public good. Criticisms of our work often are founded on the notion that conservation is a subtraction from the economy, leading to false claims that protecting nature hurts business. As so many speakers revealed this past year, nothing could be further from the truth.

Our society's vision for the economy says a lot about its vision for the future of nature in the East Kootenay. To be more persuasive about nature conservation, we need to empower ourselves to talk about economics, and embrace ecological integrity as a fundamental goal of economic development.



JURI PEEPRE

Wildsight Chair

Juri Peepre has a love for wilderness, mountains and wild rivers. After 20 years in the Yukon, he now lives in Windermere and continues to work on protected areas in B.C. and the North. Juri was executive director of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, Yukon Chapter, and served as national president of CPAWS. He was a member of the Y2Y Coordinating Committee and was Yukon leader for World Wildlife Fund's Endangered Spaces campaign. He is a director of TREC (Training Resources for the Environmental Community). Juri enjoys hiking and biking, paddling, skiing of all kinds, mountaineering, birding and orienteering.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S LETTER

A MESSAGE FROM JOHN BERGENSKE

Thank you for being Wildsight.

As I look back over Wildsight's 25th anniversary year, I'm amazed and encouraged by how community members and families across the Kootenays—and supporters from afar—chose to participate.

We had landmark events this year. Earth Day in Cranbrook attracted record numbers, thanks to hockey legend Scott Niedermayer's presence and contribution, and the contributions of our team and the community. The Finding Balance Forum in Invermere brought us together to explore economics and ecology and became an AGM to remember. David Suzuki visited Invermere in June, when he gave a presentation and spent an afternoon with Wildsight, planning future activities. He refused to be pulled away for another engagement, saying "It's so exciting to work with people who are on the front lines."

And it's true: Still on the front lines, Wildsight's role keeps growing.

Our water program is the template for the Canadian Living Lakes program; our Education in the Wild programs are getting kids outside and continue to receive kudos from students, teachers and parents. We are on the ground with industry, working to improve both mining and forestry practices. And we remain stalwart in moving toward our goals for bans on cosmetic pesticides, protection in the Flathead, Jumbo, Southern Rockies, Purcells, Columbia Wetlands and upper Columbia.

The work is never done, and changes to weaken federal environmental legislation only make the work more difficult. But Wildsight is strong and resilient. We're called to face the challenges brought on by climate change and unbridled development head on.

We have a responsibility to this place we call home, a landscape that's recognized as one of the best places our planet still has, to maintain an intact, connected and resilient wild ecosystem.

Your role with Wildsight—through events, donations, programs and letter-writing campaigns—is pivotal.

With your help we can commit to this: We will not leave the front lines until the differences we all want to see—a healthier environment and healthier communities—are evident.

Thanks for being Wildsight.



JOHN BERGENSKE

Executive Director

John has been a recognized leader in protection of the environment and wild spaces in the Kootenay region for over three decades. His efforts with the Wildsight team have led to an increased protected areas network, higher environmental standards for the forest industry, and wildlife management area designations. John has done extensive field research on both mountain caribou and grizzly bears in the Purcell Mountains.



Show us your FAVOURITE

Part of something BIG

Wild Species
Wildsight

Education in the Wild
Wildsight Educates

Wildsight connects people to nature with hands-on field trips and engaging programs.

Wildsight Protects
Wildlife & Wild Places

Wildsight protects biodiversity and promotes sustainable communities in Canada's Columbia and southern Rocky Mountains.

Habitat for Wild
Wildsight Habitat

Protecting the threatened habitat of wildlife at risk, from leopard and mountain caribou and grizzly bear.

BIRDS BC

FRE CLIN

WILDSIGHT TEAM

2012

REGIONAL

JURI PEEPRE
MARGIE JAMIESON
BRUCE FAIRLEY
AYLA BENNETT
BRIAN CONRAD
RALPH MOORE
BAIBA MORROW
MARION STOTTS
ELLEN ZIMMERMAN

Chair
Vice Chair
Treasurer
Director
Director
Director
Director
Director
Director

MANAGEMENT

JOHN BERGENSKE
KAT HARTWIG
KELLY WOOD

Executive Director
Water & Climate Director
Operations Director

ADMINISTRATIVE

TAMARA EIDSNESS
STEPHANIE HIRN
KATHI CHORNEYKO
SWIFTKICK ART+DESIGN

Administrator
Office Manager
Bookkeeper
Graphic Design

PROGRAM TEAM

JOHN BERGENSKE
CASEY BRENNAN
RACHEL DARVILL
DAWN DEYDEY
ROBYN DUNCAN
KAT HARTWIG
HEATHER LESCHIED
RYLAND NELSON
MONICA NISSEN

Conservation
Southern Rockies
Columbia Headwaters
Beyond Recycling
Flathead/Purcells
Water & Climate
Water Stewardship
Southern Rockies
Education in the Wild

SUMMER STUDENTS

CLAIRE deBOER
KAY deBOER
RAEGAN MALLISON
HEATHER SHARPE

Golden
Golden
Invermere
Kim/Cran

WILDSIGHT ENVISIONS
A LANDSCAPE WITH FREE-
RUNNING STREAMS AND RIVERS
OF PURE WATER, EXTENSIVE
AND CONNECTED WILD SPACES,
AND NATURAL HABITAT THAT
MAINTAINS THE FULL
COMPLEMENT OF INDIGENOUS
PLANTS AND WILDLIFE. WE SEE
HEALTHY HUMAN COMMUNITIES
THRIVING WITH SUSTAINABLE
LIVELIHOODS AND LIFESTYLES

BASED
ON A

CONSERVATION ETHIC

STRATEGIC VISION STATEMENT

WILDSIGHT IS A LEADER IN CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION. WE ARE A FACILITATOR IN THE EAST KOOTENAY REGION, RECOGNIZED IN OUR COMMUNITIES, THE PROVINCE AND ACROSS CANADA FOR OUR EFFECTIVE CONSERVATION PROGRAMS, EXCELLENCE AND INNOVATION IN ALL THAT WE DO.

WILDSIGHT MANAGES ITS FISCAL RESPONSIBILITIES EFFECTIVELY, PROVIDES HEALTHY WORKING CONDITIONS FOR STAFF, CONTRACTORS AND VOLUNTEERS, AND CREATES OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO ADDRESS CHANGING ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES. WILDSIGHT STRIVES CONSTANTLY TO ENSURE SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES IN THE AREAS OF PEOPLE, COMMUNITY, FINANCES, AND CARBON EMISSIONS.

IN 2011/12 WILDSIGHT EMPLOYED THREE PART-TIME STAFF MEMBERS, 15 PROGRAM CONTRACTORS AND FOUR STUDENTS. THIS ENABLED LOCAL RESIDENTS TO LIVE THEIR PASSION FOR PROTECTING OUR PLANET, EDUCATING OUR CHILDREN AND BUILDING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES.

WILDSIGHT'S STRATEGIC VISION STATEMENTS

As 2012 marks the 25th Anniversary of Wildsight, it's only fitting for us to reassess and plan for the next 10 years. During 2011, we developed a series of strategic vision statements to guide us until the year 2021. Thanks to this group effort, involving regional and local board members, staff and volunteers, the statements are comprehensive, realistic and inspirational.

As you'll see through throughout this report, Wildsight's work focuses upon four main areas of concern: Conservation, Water, Communities and Organization. Our commitments are broken down into concrete targets, but each one starts with a vision: Healthy, functioning ecosystems, clean water, sustainable communities and organizational excellence.

In this annual report, we're striving to tell the story of Wildsight through the lens of our Strategic Vision Statements. We're constantly re-evaluating, checking back with our strategic document and making sure we're on course. We owe excellence to our supporters and to future generations who, we hope, will live in a region with healthy ecosystems and vital human communities.

WILDSIGHT DEVELOPS AN ETHICAL PURCHASING FRAMEWORK

Protecting nature hurts business? No way!

Wildsight believes in supporting our local economy. We've even created an ethical purchasing framework to help us make responsible purchasing decisions. Wherever possible we buy our supplies and seek professional advice from businesses in the Columbia Basin who share our values.

"The framework will guide our spending so choices are consistent with our environmental and social values," said Tamara Eidsness, Wildsight Administrator. "As individuals, Wildsight members work hard to live by these standards; as an organization, we're ready for a more tangible policy."

The goal of the framework is to exemplify how local businesses can support each other. And that means weighing buying decisions about printing, catering,

accounting, design, and other goods and services Wildsight requires.

There can be challenges along the way. Sometimes local providers can't supply what we need or handle large orders, and sometimes we find a company that totally aligns with our environmental and social values but is not local.

It's about balance.

"We want people to be successful living in the Kootenays," Eidsness said. "It's why we work to protect this amazing area, and it's why we're passionate about buying local."

WE'RE LISTENING

We've shared our goals and dreams with you in our Strategic Vision Statements. Our annual report is an overview of our work, the progress we're making and the challenges we're facing.

We report our financials and charitable information to the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA). The agency publishes these documents on its website: www.CRA-ARC.gc.ca/CHRTS-gvng/LSTNGS/Menu-eng.html. We've included a link to that information on the 'About Wildsight' page of our own website because we want you to be able to find information about us quickly.

We're exceeding the CRA requirements by publishing our audited financials on our own website, and by summarizing the key information in easy-to-understand graphics. (www.Wildsight.ca/About/Financials).

We work hard to be approachable, available and totally transparent. If you have questions, comments or concerns, please talk to us. Stop by one of our offices, in Kimberley and Fernie, e-mail us, phone us, or write to us. We're listening, and we look forward to hearing from you.

WWW.WILDIGHT.CA



KELLY WOOD
Operations Director



TAMARA EIDSNESS
Administrator



STEPHANIE HIRN
Office Manager

STRATEGIC VISION STATEMENT

THE COLUMBIA MOUNTAINS AND SOUTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN AREA HAVE HEALTHY, FULLY FUNCTIONING ECOSYSTEMS. A NETWORK OF PROTECTED WILDERNESS LANDSCAPES AND OTHER CONSERVATION LANDS ENCOMPASS THE FULL RICHNESS OF NATIVE ANIMAL AND PLANT COMMUNITIES.

100 YEARS AGO, JOHN GEORGE “KOOTENAI” BROWN, THE SUPERINTENDENT OF WATERTON NATIONAL PARK, RECOGNIZED THERE WAS A GAP IN THE PARK, NAMELY, THE UNPROTECTED PORTION OF THE FLATHEAD VALLEY IN BRITISH COLUMBIA. THROUGH LUCK, OR OVERSIGHT, OR BOTH, THE AREA HAS REMAINED FREE OF TOWNS AND CITIES TO THIS DAY. MANY OF NORTH AMERICA’S NATIVE CARNIVORES STILL ROAM THE VALLEY. IN HIS FIRST REPORT TO OTTAWA, BROWN RECOMMENDED THAT WATERTON BE EXPANDED TO ENCOMPASS THAT AREA, WHICH IS STILL A FOCAL POINT OF OUR CONSERVATION EFFORTS. GOOD IDEAS ARE WORTH FIGHTING FOR.

SOUTHERN ROCKIES

Overview

This year, significant progress was made in protecting wild land values in the Flathead from proposed open pit coal mining at the same time that Canfor began to increase logging plans in the valley. The Nature Conservancy of Canada and the U.S. Nature Conservancy, with support from the Canadian Federal government and U.S. donors (inspired by the Y2Y vision) contributed ten million dollars in exchange for relinquished mining claims. This was a significant step toward tying up loose ends around the 2010 mining ban on provincial Crown land in the Flathead. Loopholes allowing mining on Federal crown land in the valley continue to be of concern.

Wildsight is engaged in planning and on-the-ground reviews with Canfor as logging and road building take place. We’re working to raise the bar for sustainable forestry, protecting critical areas while pushing for the highest possible management standards.

Wildsight and our partners in the Flathead Wild coalition maintain that real conservation will be secured only after permanent protections are formalized: A national park in the south-eastern third of the B.C. Flathead; and a Wildlife Management Area that connects the World Heritage Sites of Waterton-Glacier and the Banff protected areas complex (Banff, Yoho, Jasper and Kootenay parks).

The national park—an expansion of the adjacent Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park—has been the obvious solution in this region for 100 years. Today, our work with government, stakeholders and the public is building momentum to achieve this long-term goal.

Wildlife Management Areas are protected by legislation that ensures wildlife and habitat values are prioritized during land use planning while allowing for compatible uses.

Wildlife and Habitat

Wildsight’s Strategic Vision Statements set clear imperatives for our conservation work.

Our immediate goal is to identify and protect core areas and their connecting

landscapes. We are doing this through the application of conservation biology principles, including a regional climate change adaptation strategy. The Flathead presents a unique opportunity to provide a wildlife ‘ark’ in the face of climate change and development pressures.

We are using science-based ecosystem mapping to reach this goal. Mapping, guided by up-to-date scientific study, allows us to identify optimal areas for biodiversity protection and enhanced conservation management.

This year, we convened scientists to identify key habitats and wildlife corridors. Their results are helping confirm the optimal, on-the-ground boundaries of a proposed Wildlife Management Area in the southern Rockies.

Canfor began logging operations in the Flathead. We reviewed the company’s logging plans with the objective of minimizing environmental impacts and with an eye to the establishment of a WMA in the future. Canfor heeded recommendations to expand some reserves and retention areas in order to better address wildlife and water quality concerns. We worked closely with Canfor staff to increase riparian protection and to retain critical habitat within the areas slated for logging.

It’s crucial to preserve intact roadless areas as part of an overall commitment to maintain biodiversity across the landscape. To accomplish this, we must first identify remaining roadless areas. We’ve been working with scientists on this. It’s our vision that the management principles established by the proposed Southern Rockies WMA would keep these areas free of roads. We’re working to minimize road building and to increase road deactivation through our discussions with Canfor and in cooperation with government ministries.

Forest Stewardship Council

The Forest Stewardship Council, with input from First Nations, economic, environmental and social stakeholders, has developed a certification system for forestry operations that is recognized in the global marketplace.

In order to maintain FSC certification, forest companies must meet the FSC Forest Management Standards. Wildsight was instrumental in developing B.C.’s standards. Each year, we participate in FSC audits of forest operations in the area.

Canfor inherited Tembec’s commitment to FSC certification across its operational



CASEY BRENNAN
Program Manager
Southern Rockies/Flathead



RYLAND NELSON
Program Manager
Southern Rockies/Flathead



ROBYN DUNCAN
Purcells Program Manager/Flathead



FEAST ON THE BORDER:
 “EVEN THOUGH THE FLATHEAD IS CLOSE TO FERNIE, MANY LOCAL PEOPLE HAVEN’T BEEN HERE. HOSTING EVENTS IN THE FLATHEAD HELPS PEOPLE CONNECT WITH THE LANDSCAPE AND UNDERSTAND WHY IT’S SPECIAL.”

Ryland Nelson,
 Southern Rockies/Flathead
 Program Manager

area that now extends from Golden to the U.S. border. Wildsight has helped identify High Conservation Forests, as required by FSC standards. These are areas where higher levels of management or full protection are required. On the ground, that means more protection for critical areas from logging and road building, increased riparian protection, the retention of more forest cover, and improved management for wildlife. However, while FSC certification is an important tool that helps improve some forest practices, it will be put to the test in the Kootenays over the next couple of years as Canfor’s plans outline an increase in logging activity to supply its three sawmills and Tembec’s pulp mill.

Outreach and Events

The year’s Flathead highlight was certainly the BioBlitz event. Scientists from B.C.’s Royal Museum and elsewhere converged in the Flathead to collect data and identify species. In tandem, several artists captured the landscape in paint, while 100 people sat down at a long table set across the Canada-U.S. border for a Flathead Feast to close the event.

MINERAL TENURE REFORM

British Columbia’s outdated Mineral Tenure Act entitles a claim holder to lease Crown Lands with no review by environment, First Nations, community or landowner groups. For 150 years, this ‘free entry access’ has meant stakeholders immediately gain rights and priority over the land base. This has led to conflict with communities, land owners, First Nations and environmental values. The present act is not good for industry, communities or the environment.

Wildsight is working with partner groups—the Canadian Boreal Initiative, Sierra Club BC and West Coast Environmental Law—toward the reform of this outdated act. We’re seeking the cooperation of industry and governments (provincial and First Nations) on this initiative. Ontario and Quebec are presently implementing reforms to address their outdated free entry systems.

This year, we assessed the best means of bringing about reform in British Columbia. We initiated conversations with other interested parties, including the First Nations Energy and Mining Council.

Too Much at Stake

While we need a healthy mining industry in B.C., there is no longer social license for the 150-year-old free-entry system. The current system leads to compensations claims by proponents of damaging, controversial projects, and by speculators who have staked their part of British Columbia with the click of a computer mouse. The Act needs to be replaced with a system that focuses on potentially good, achievable mining projects. We know there can be a logical, fair process that earns support by demonstrating that it is good business. The system must respect the environment, the public, First Nations, landowners and other user groups—as well as legitimate mining interests. This will require reforming the Mineral Tenure Act. Its current combination of on-line staking, ‘automatic’ entitlement and taxpayer-funded claim compensation is simply not good business.

PURCELL MOUNTAINS

This was an eventful year. As usual, working in partnerships and bringing people together seems to be one of the things Wildsight does best. There has been no development in the Jumbo Valley—so far—and we’re working hard to ensure it stays this way. Our conservation mapping project is gathering momentum; people have an appetite to contribute their knowledge to the maps, which will outline key habitat and wildlife corridors in the region.

Jumbo Wild

In May, the B.C. government passed Bill 41, which included amendments to the Local Government Act (LGA). These changes significantly alter how local democracy takes place in B.C., and gives the B.C. government the power to designate a “Mountain Resort Municipality” in an area with no permanent residents or infrastructure, and to appoint a council to govern it.

The Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) passed a resolution to ask the Province to consider a governance structure for mountain resort municipalities that includes elected representatives responsible for land-use decisions for a permanent population of at least 200 people. The UBCM does not support the concept of an

2012 CONSERVATION EFFORTS ADD UP

- 10 SCIENTISTS**
+ 5 DAYS & NIGHTS
1 BIOBLITZ IN THE FLATHEAD
- 5 TALENTED ARTISTS**
+ 1 PHENOMENAL INSTRUCTOR
+ 1 SPECTACULAR LANDSCAPE
1 WILDSIGHT ARTISTS’ RETREAT
- 4 CONSERVATION MAPPING SESSIONS**
+ 40-60 PEOPLE
COMMUNITY CONSERVATION SCIENCE
- 100 HUNGRY HIKERS**
+ 1 INTERNATIONAL BORDER
+ A MOUNTAIN OF FOOD
1 FEAST IN THE FLATHEAD
- 100s OF PEOPLE MARCH AND RALLY**
+ 100s OF POSTCARDS TO THE PREMIER
+ 1 UNITED MESSAGE: KEEP JUMBO WILD!
20 YEARS STRONG FOR JUMBO WILD
- APRIL 22ND: EARTH DAY 2012**
+ 1 CRANBROOK BRITISH COLUMBIA
+ 1,000 MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY
+ 120 EARTH DAY GALA ATTENDEES
COMMUNITY CONSERVATION ETHIC



SOUTHERN ROCKIES PARTNERS

Sierra Club BC
 Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society
 (National and BC Chapter)
 Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation
 Initiative
 Headwaters Montana
 National Parks Conservation Association
 Crown of the Continent Conservation
 Initiative
 EcoJustice
 Citizens Concerned about Coalbed
 Methane
 The Wild Foundation
 International League of Conservation
 Photographers
 The Big Wild
 Mountain Equipment Co-op
 Denman Island Chocolate
 Nature Conservancy of Canada
 Canadian Boreal Initiative
 West Coast Environmental Law

SOUTHERN ROCKIES FUNDERS

Wilburforce
 Brainerd
 LaSalle Adams
 444s
 Conservation Alliance
 Ducks Unlimited

unelected body making land use decisions for an area with no population. In late November, in spite of overwhelming opposition, the provincial government created a phantom municipality, mayor and council for Jumbo. The land is without zoning for development, while the JGR project remains without investment.

On November 30 the Ktunaxa Nation launched its Judicial Review of the Master Development Agreement process. Hundreds of people gathered in Cranbrook in support of the Ktunaxa and keeping Jumbo wild. The Ktunaxa litigation will challenge the B.C. government for not taking into account aboriginal rights and title during the decision-making process. The fight to keep Jumbo wild is far from over.

FARNHAM GLACIER

We continue to work with our partners and monitor the License of Occupation, held by Glacier Resorts Ltd., on Farnham Glacier. This is an entirely separate license than Jumbo, however Farnham is included in the long-term plans for the JGR. Remedial efforts to make up for damages that incurred during the running of Camp Green continue to be unsatisfactory. Camp Green has been shut down and removed, and the Calgary Olympic Development Association no longer operates on Farnham Glacier.

Recreation Access Planning

We continue to monitor recreation access and tenures in the Purcell Mountains. We are engaged in the review of the motorized closure on the Catamount Glacier, and involved in the startup of the Columbia Valley Recreation Access Planning Process. The Invermere Timber Supply Area (TSA) is the only TSA in the Kootenays without a recreation access plan. There is interest in creating one to deal with the conflicts currently taking place and to better manage recreation access on the landscape.

Conservation Mapping

Its critical to know what is important to maintain water quality, wildlife and healthy ecosystems if we are going to maintain the healthy livable environment we enjoy and hope to pass to future generations. That is the objective of Wildsight's

conservation mapping project. Greg Utzig, one of British Columbia's leading ecologists, is heading up the data collection and analysis, and facilitates our community mapping sessions.

To date, we've held sessions for portions of the Invermere Timber Supply Area (TSA) (Purcells), the Kootenay Lake TSA, the Golden TSA and part of the Cranbrook TSA (south and east). Sessions have been attended by some of the region's leading independent and government biologists as well as local outdoorspeople with an intimate understanding of the landscape. Wildsight's conservation mapping includes a new framework for planning for conservation in light of climate change. We do not expect the final product of this work to be a fixed framework. Rather, this is a process that requires ongoing consultation with government, industry, interested groups and individuals. While continuing to incorporate updates and revisions, the mapping will provide a reference to inform land-use discussions and decision-making by all sectors. Wildsight is working in partnership with Conservation Northwest. While Wildsight focuses on southeastern British Columbia, the mapping will extend westward and into the United States to guide transboundary conservation efforts.

Mountain Caribou

Mountain caribou are the most endangered large mammal in North America, with population numbers below 1,900 animals. Their habitat falls mainly within the inland temperate rainforest that stretches through the Columbia Mountains (Purcells and Selkirks) north to Prince George. Despite actions being taken as the result of the B.C. government's Mountain Caribou Recovery Implementation Plan (MCRIP), in which Wildsight continues to play an important role, caribou numbers have continued to decline over the past couple of years. Habitat recovery will take decades, as past logging and subsequent fragmentation of old growth forests require decades for re-growth. Cutting on the borders of designated caribou areas continues to be a problem. Motorized recreation that further limits caribou use of critical habitats has become better managed under the plan, but some key areas remain open and violations of closures continue to occur.

The news of the last year focused on the transplant of 19 animals into the Purcells. Due to weather conditions, animals were not able to be released in as close

PURCELL MOUNTAINS PARTNERS

Jumbo Creek Conservation Society
 West Kootenay Eco Society
 Kootenay Mountaineering Club
 West Kootenay Coalition for Jumbo Wild
 Conservation Northwest
 Cabinet-Purcell Mountain Corridor
 partners, Yellowstone to Yukon
 Conservation Initiative
 North Columbia Environmental Society
 Wilderness Committee
 Sierra Club BC
 David Suzuki Foundation

PURCELL MOUNTAINS FUNDERS

Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation
 Initiative
 Patagonia
 Mountain Equipment Coop
 Wilburforce Foundation



MOUNTAIN CARIBOU PARTNERS

Conservation Northwest

ForestEthics

Sierra Club BC

BC Nature

CPAWS BC

Quesnel Watershed Alliance

Fraser Headwaters

North Columbia Environmental Society.

proximity to resident animals (15) as had been planned. The transplanted animals wandered as far as the Rockies and some even into Montana and Washington. The majority of these animals have unfortunately been lost to unforeseen causes, including predation in lower elevation areas that were not in designated caribou recovery areas. Past transplants have been significantly more successful and responsible for the recovery of the Selkirk caribou herd. Wildsight worked with government ministries, the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program and the Ktunaxa Nation in this effort and is presently assessing options for maintaining the Purcell caribou.

Wildsight is initiating work with partners to encourage the Canadian Federal government meet its legal commitments, outlined in Canada's Species at Risk Act, to designate critical habitat for mountain caribou. While the B.C. government has designated habitat for some herds, the Federal government has yet to act.

MEETING OUR GOALS

The Purcells program has at its heart the protection and maintenance of connected landscapes for wildlife movement. The Jumbo Wild campaign is about stopping the fragmentation of core grizzly bear habitat and ensuring they and other wildlife species can move throughout the Purcells, Cabinets and Selkirks. The Conservation Mapping initiative uses science and conservation biology to plan for conservation and to outline what is necessary on the landscape to support biodiversity in the face of climate change.



STRATEGIC VISION STATEMENT

THE COLUMBIA VALLEY AND THE SOUTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAINS HAVE HEALTHY, FUNCTIONING WATERSHEDS THAT SUPPORT NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE POPULATIONS AND HEALTHY HUMAN COMMUNITIES. THE GLACIERS, RIVERS, LAKES AND WETLANDS OF OUR REGION FORM THE HEADWATERS OF THE COLUMBIA RIVER, THE FOURTH LARGEST RIVER IN NORTH AMERICA. THIS COMPLEX RIVER SYSTEM PROVIDES FLOOD CONTROL, FILTRATION, AND CARBON STORAGE - ECOSYSTEM SERVICES THAT BENEFIT HUMAN AND WILDLIFE COMMUNITIES.

WILDSIGHT WAS INVITED TO BE AN AMBASSADOR FOR THE REAL ESTATE FOUNDATION OF BC. VIEW THE VIDEO ONLINE AT WWW.WILDSIGHT.CA

LIVING LAKES CANADA

Overview

Living Lakes Canada is a national network helping people protect freshwater in their communities. It grew from the Lake Windermere Project (LWP), Wildsight's award-winning five-year community water stewardship project.

We are steadily moving to meet the goals set by Wildsight's Strategic Vision Statements for Water. We are building partnerships and creating opportunities for collaboration in education, monitoring, rehabilitation and policy development.

Everything we do is toward the long-term protection of Canada's lakes, wetlands and watersheds. We are supporting the development of citizen-science water monitoring program for groups who wish to gather base line data.

Water program successes were plentiful. There are more stewardship groups, with more scientific and organizational tools to work with than ever before in Canadian history. We are helping build a water stewardship ethic in communities throughout the Columbia Basin.

Shorelines and Habitat

The Lake Windermere Project developed a sensitive habitat inventory mapping (SHIM) template for Lake Windermere. The template is being followed by 11 lake groups in the Kootenays. Now, as Living Lakes Network Canada, we have assisted with a SHIM project for the South Basin of Lake Winnipeg.

Science and Training

Living Lakes Canada (LLC) completed the Canadian Aquatic Biomonitoring Network (CABIN) "Train-the-trainer" program. This allowed us to provide stream monitoring training and certification for individuals and companies in addition to our Streamkeepers Workshops.

We field-tested an aquatic plant mapping protocol in partnership with the B.C. Lake Stewardship Society. This will become part of the LLC's Water Stewardship Manual.

We helped produce a Green Boating Guide for freshwater ecosystems, with information on how to reduce the spread of aquatic invasive species. We distributed it to stewardship groups in the Columbia Basin and across Canada.

Events and Outreach

LLC co-hosted the second annual Canada Water Week with WWF Canada and the Canadian Freshwater Alliance. The theme focused on our water footprint.

We organized and co-hosted A Water Gathering: Collaborative Watershed Governance in BC and Beyond in Vancouver. We delivered a presentation on decision making and conflict resolution within collaborative processes.

LLC hosted our first formal gathering in Winnipeg in May, 2012, in conjunction with the Lake Winnipeg Foundation Red Zone III Community Forum. More than 150 people representing NGO, government and industry attended from B.C., Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, North Dakota, Germany and England.

The gathering led to the creation of the Save Lake Winnipeg Coalition.

LLC helped develop the agenda and workshops for the first Canadian Freshwater Rally hosted with the Canadian Fresh Water Alliance and WWF Canada's Freshwater Program.

We delivered a presentation on lake management success at the Slocan Lake Stewardship Society AGM and Kootenay Lake Partnership meeting.

We helped start the Friends of Kootenay Lake, working with the West Kootenay Eco Society and Kootenay Lake Partnership. The group will promote stewardship of Kootenay Lake and its resources.

We hosted a Streamkeepers workshop to the Crowsnest Conservation Society and helped establish water stewardship programming in the Crowsnest Pass, Alberta.

We developed the 'I Love My Lake' outreach campaign with Nature Canada to inspire all Canadians to declare their love for lakes and their desire to have them safeguarded for future generations.



KAT HARTWIG
Water and Climate Director
Executive Director Living Lakes Canada



HEATHER LESCHIED
Program Manager Water Stewardship
Living Lakes Canada



LIVING LAKES CANADA NETWORK PARTNERS

Global Nature Fund
Living Lakes International
POLIS Project on Ecological Governance
SFU Adaptation to Climate Change Team
Columbia Basin Watershed Network
University of Waterloo Water Policy and Governance Group
Kootenay Lake Partnership
East Kootenay Integrated Lake Management Partnership
FLOW (Forum for Leadership on Water)
Lake Windermere Ambassadors
Friends of Kootenay Lake
Save Lake Winnipeg Coalition
Canadian Freshwater Alliance
WWF Canada Freshwater Program

LIVING LAKES CANADA NETWORK FUNDERS

RBC Blue Water Project
Vancouver Foundation
Eco Canada
Columbia Basin Trust
Shell Environmental Fund
Winnipeg Foundation

We published four posts on Our Living Water Blog, a national water conversation forum for concerned citizens.

We presented and were participants of the Canadian Water Funders workshop in Vancouver and have hosted numerous water events throughout the Columbia Basin.

Updates

We are on target with our membership, communications and outreach goals.

Our expanded advisory board includes ten of Canada’s top water experts: Oliver Brandes, POLIS Project on Ecological Governance; Dr. David Schindler, University of Alberta; Dr. Hans Schreier, University of British Columbia; Merrell-Ann Phare, Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources; Robert Sandford, UN Water for Life Decade, Canada; Karen Kun, Waterlution; Anne Levesque, Canadian Boreal Initiative; Bruce MacDonald, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (retired); Allan Casey, Journalist and author; and Kerry Freck, Water Canada Magazine.

Our membership and partnerships include: Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation; Skeena Watershed Conservation Coalition; Keepers of the Athabasca; BC Lake Stewardship Society; Nature Canada; Federation of Ontario Cottagers’ Associations; Freshwater Future; and Lake Winnipeg Foundation.

COLUMBIA HEADWATERS

Overview

The Columbia Headwaters include the Columbia Wetlands, which stretch 147 kilometres north to south in the Rocky Mountain Trench. The source for the Columbia River, the headwaters are composed of glaciers, mountain watersheds, rivers, lakes and wetlands. This is a complex and living ecology that provides flood control, filtration and carbon storage, as well as freshwater. Our goal is to enhance and protect these ecosystem services through community stewardship, conservation, and public outreach.

Rivers at Risk

Wildsight’s Rivers at Risk responds to individual run-of-river power project proposals in Kootenay and Columbia Mountain watersheds. In addition, Rivers at Risk looks at the whole picture of energy production in British Columbia, and seeks ways to identify and encourage appropriate energy development that doesn’t threaten wild watersheds.

Wildsight continues to watch the Glacier-Howser project and weigh in on inappropriate run-of-river projects, such as the Beaver River hydro project, the Incomappleux, and three projects proposed for the Upper Wood River. These projects are at various stages of the process, but none have reached the development phase. Changes to B.C.’s energy policy in the recent months has given rise to increased numbers of proposed run-of-river projects in the permitting phase. We continue to monitor the increased number of proposals.

Energy Reduction Initiatives

Research tells us that energy reduction strategies can offset the need to build more hydropower plants. Energy reduction initiatives are therefore a key strategy to our work to protect wild watersheds from run-of-river power developments.

This year, Rivers at Risk worked with the Town of Golden to host a community event on energy reduction strategies. This evening event attracted 45 participants, and featured presentations by a home energy advisor, a strategic planner, a geothermal expert and a compost toilet provider. Attendees got to look at energy saving devices and learn about home energy audits firsthand.

Columbia Lake: East Side

Through the first decade of the new millennium, Wildsight focused on communicating to local residents the significant values of the east side of Columbia Lake. There remained one missing piece, Lot 48, of an otherwise protected, undeveloped, lakeshore to mountain top—an ecosystem almost extinct in southern B.C.



RACHEL DARVILL
Program Manager Columbia Headwaters



ELLEN ZIMMERMAN
Columbia Headwaters

COLUMBIA HEADWATERS PARTNERS

Town of Golden
Council of Canadians, Golden Chapter
Ktunaxa Nation (Lot 48)
Nature Conservancy of Canada
Columbia Shuswap Regional District
VP Waste

COLUMBIA HEADWATERS FUNDERS

Patagonia
McLean Foundation

More than 18,000 acres of the east side of Columbia Lake are protected as a Wildlife Management Area and a provincial park and offer both a haven for wildlife and low-impact recreation for local residents.

In 2005, Fairmont Hot Springs Resorts Ltd. applied to remove part of the Columbia Lake Provincial Park to allow a paved roadway along the undeveloped east side of Columbia Lake and to develop a resort on Lot 48.

Local communities supported protecting the still-intact ecosystem. Most importantly, the Ktunaxa Nation was vocal in its opposition to any development in this historically significant area.

Wildsight worked with the community and First Nations to raise awareness of what was at stake should the resort development proceed. In response, the Regional District of East Kootenay halted development plans.

There followed years of negotiations between interested parties. The Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) announced its acquisition of the property in July, 2012. This marked a happy ending to a long campaign to conserve the ecologically and culturally important eastern shore of Columbia Lake.

WILDSIGHT'S VISIONS FOR WATER

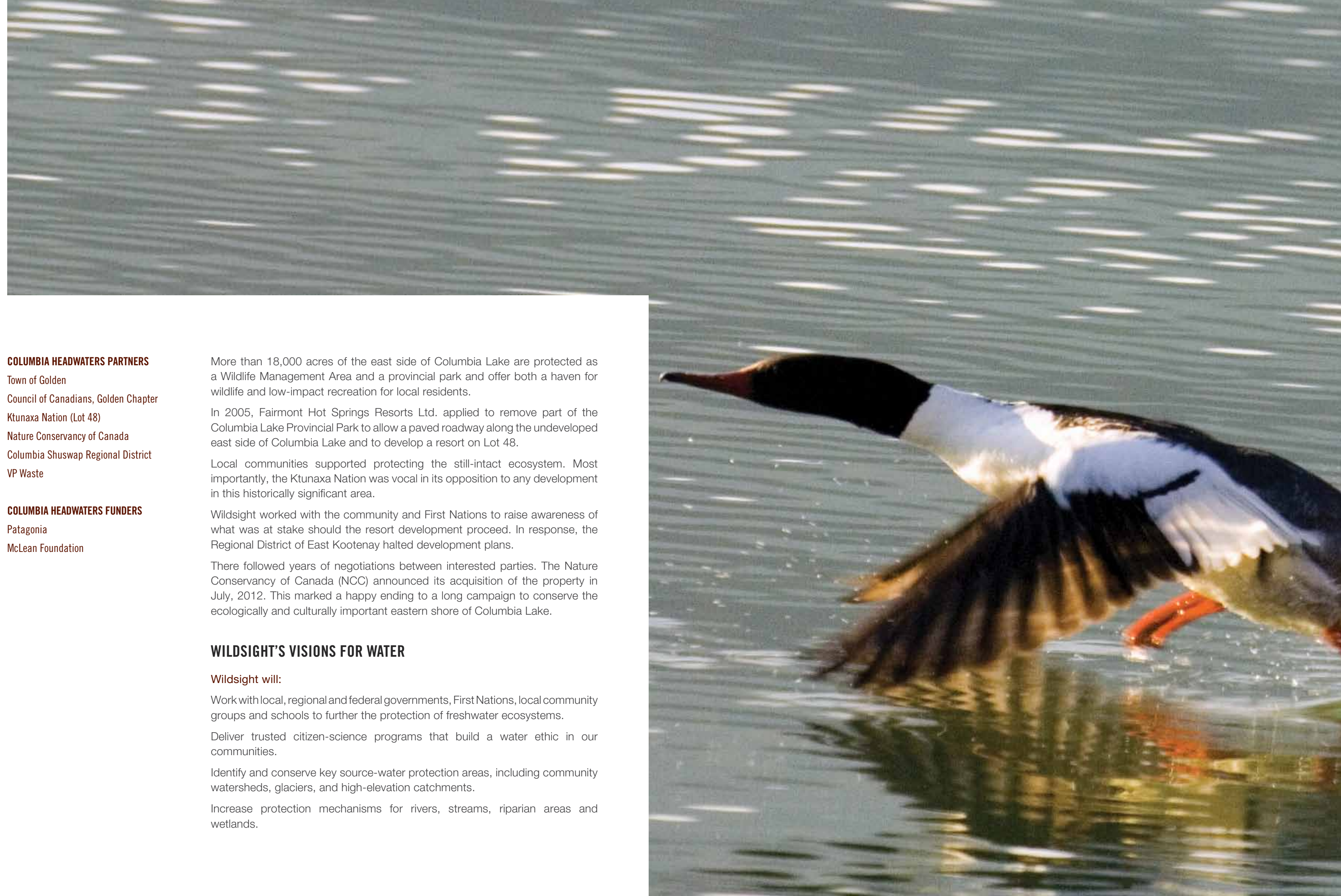
Wildsight will:

Work with local, regional and federal governments, First Nations, local community groups and schools to further the protection of freshwater ecosystems.

Deliver trusted citizen-science programs that build a water ethic in our communities.

Identify and conserve key source-water protection areas, including community watersheds, glaciers, and high-elevation catchments.

Increase protection mechanisms for rivers, streams, riparian areas and wetlands.



STRATEGIC VISION STATEMENT

CLIMATE CHANGE: WILDSIGHT PLAYS A VITAL ROLE IN TRANSLATING CLIMATE CHANGE SCIENCE, CLIMATE LEGISLATION AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOCAL SOLUTIONS INTO A LANGUAGE THAT CAN BE UNDERSTOOD AND APPRECIATED BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC. WILDSIGHT'S CLIMATE SOLUTIONS FOR THE KOOTENAYS BRIDGES THE GAP BETWEEN THE GLOBAL ISSUE OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE OPPORTUNITIES THAT EXIST LOCALLY TO REALIZE TANGIBLE EMISSION REDUCTIONS. SCHOOL-BASED EDUCATION: STUDENTS OF THE REGION ARE ECOLOGICALLY LITERATE, POSSESSING THE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ATTITUDES THAT CONSTITUTE A CONSERVATION ETHIC. OUR SCHOOL-BASED PROGRAMS PREPARE FUTURE LEADERS FOR THE CHALLENGES OF SUSTAINABILITY.

VIEW SHAW TV COVERAGE OF A BEYOND RECYCLING PAPERMAKING LESSON AT ISABELLA DICKEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN FERNIE BY VISITING OUR WEBSITE AND BLOG: BEYONDRECYCLING.CA

ALL THE KIDS ARE GOING WILD!

EDUCATION IN THE WILD OUTREACH

211 FIELD TRIPS INTO WILD SPACES
4,581 STUDENTS
24 COMMUNITIES

BEYOND RECYCLING OUTREACH

9 SCHOOLS
213 STUDENTS
10 TEACHERS
170 LESSONS
6 WILDSIGHT EDUCATORS
18 VOLUNTEERS

CLIMATE CHANGE: COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS FOR THE KOOTENAYS

The project uses creative outreach to citizens in Invermere and the East Kootenay to provide tangible and implementable solutions for energy and greenhouse gas emission reduction at the community level. Objectives of the project are to develop and deliver workshops, engage the business community, develop outreach for local youth, reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions and identify climate champions for behavioral change.

In 2009, Wildsight prepared a Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan for Invermere, which identified a number of strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. While the municipality has been working on some initiatives to reduce corporate GHG emissions, this project aims to implement some community-wide initiatives to reduce community emissions. Furthermore, it provided the first community education and awareness initiative in Invermere on GHG reduction.

Wildsight developed and delivered community workshops and public outreach in Invermere and Golden in 2011-2012.

Green Wheels

Two transportation workshops shared information with Invermere residents on how to reduce gas mileage, get incentives, and discuss creative ideas other communities have come up with to reduce their carbon footprint. Participants learned about goals for emissions reduction in Invermere, and what steps have already been taken.

Home Efficiency

Experts covered topics in sustainable building, heat pumps and HVAC, energy audits, solar energy systems and high efficiency homes.

Waste Reduction and Community Composting

Ten community members enrolled in the 'Master Composter' course that was delivered at the workshop. Each participant agreed to serve 35 volunteer hours each devoted to teaching the community about composting and the Three R's. Wildsight also visited five classrooms at Lady Grey Elementary, reaching approximately 115 students in Grades 4 to 6 to deliver the classroom presentation 'Garbology 101.'

Encouraged by the Town of Golden's willingness to tackle invasive weeds, Wildsight has started a dialogue with local stakeholders about developing a community composting facility in the municipality. The Town of Golden, the Columbia Shuswap Regional District, the local waste management contract holder and several business owners have met with Wildsight individually and also all together around the table.

Healthy Lawn and Garden Fair

We invited more than 20 local businesses and community groups to feature their green initiatives at the Golden Healthy Lawn and Garden Fair in April. Attendees were treated to a showcase of local services, products and organizations to help reduce household environmental impacts.

EDUCATION IN THE WILD

Wildsight developed Education in the Wild because there was a need for environmental education programming that was accessible to all students of the Columbia Basin. Now in its twelfth year, Education in the Wild sets the regional standard of excellence with teachers, parents, and, most of all, students.

Wildsight's Education in the Wild programs to help young people develop an understanding of and appreciation for balanced ecosystems. These programs help children develop ecological literacy, and inspire ethics of conservation and stewardship. By understanding and valuing functioning, healthy ecosystems, students gain the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to meet the challenges of sustainability.

Classroom with Outdoors

Classroom with Outdoors are day-long field trips that take intermediate classes outdoors to learn about the ecology of places they will grow to love.

The programs are tailored for students in Grade 4 through 7, and they meet B.C. Ministry of Education Science curriculum learning outcomes for each grade level.

Classroom with Outdoors is one of the top field trip options for teachers in our region. Field science comes alive with dip-netting, water quality tests, magnifying



MONICA NISSEN
Program Manager Education in the Wild



DAWN DEYDEY
Program Manager Beyond Recycling



EDUCATION IN THE WILD PARTNERS

- Columbia Basin Trust
- Columbia Basin Environmental Education Network
- Crowsnest Pass Conservation Society
- Columbia Basin School Districts

EDUCATION IN THE WILD FUNDERS

- BC Gaming Fund
- Teck
- Le Roi Foundation
- Hamber Foundation
- The North Face Explore Fund
- Osprey Foundation
- North Kootenay Lake Community Foundation
- Creston Community Foundation
- Crowsnest Pass Conservation Society
- Fortis BC
- Columbia Power Corporation

glasses, bug boxes, discovery scopes, forest inventories and plant classification. With pre-trip and post-trip follow-up lessons, teachers are supported in preparing for the experience, and incorporating the day’s activities into their greater teaching plan in science, and across the curriculum.

Winter Wonder

Primary students across the Basin love to discover the natural world in winter through these walking field trips, which occur in and around their schoolyards and neighbourhoods. This part-day introductory winter ecology field trip meets curriculum outcomes for Kindergarten through Grade 3 students.

Students appreciate the magic of a costumed winter character, who leads them on their journey. They become detective, exploring snow crystals and their formation with magnifying glasses and crystal identification sheets. They find animal tracks in the snow, and learn how different species deal with winter.

Know Your Watershed

Know Your Watershed is a regionally-based water stewardship education program for Grade 8 science students. Students take part in two classroom sessions and a full-day field trip that increase their knowledge and awareness of their watershed and water-related issues in their community. They meet local water managers and stewardship groups, and take on a water stewardship action project of their own.

Wildsight developed this program for the Columbia Basin Trust in 2010 and piloted it in six classes. Last year, we delivered the program in 19 classes in nine communities. We continue to hold the contract for delivery of this program for CBT into the 2012-2013 year, and are looking forward to doubling the number of classes that receive the program.

Educator Team

Our educator team is the cornerstone of what makes Wildsight programs special. Our programs have the benefit of a team approach to education programming and curriculum development. We are very proud of this team, which represents decades of experience in teaching, interpretation, field science, biology, ecology, natural and cultural history, facilitation and communication.

Wildsight Education Team, 2012: Monica Nissen, Lee-Anne Walker, Dawn Deydey, Debby Robinson, Sanne van der Ros, Gillian Cooper, Gillian Sanders, Genna Lazier, Jessica Thomson, Becky Phillips, Patty Kolenichenko, Jennifer Vogel, Marcy Mahr, Mary Searchfield, Laura Packam, Kalista Pruden, Jannette Vickers, Wendy Pope.

BEYOND RECYCLING

Beyond Recycling is delivered to participating classes once a week from October through May. This Wildsight environmental education program encourages students to think beyond simply recycling, towards environmental action and solutions for living sustainably. It complements B.C. Ministry of Education curriculum, and gives teachers opportunities to weave its interactive lessons into their own teaching.

This was the third year we delivered Beyond Recycling in both the East and West Kootenays. With three-year funding commitments now in place from FortisBC, BC Hydro, the Regional District of Central Kootenay and the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), we can plan and implement developments to the program’s curriculum, delivery and structure.

Highlights

Beyond Recycling Family EcoChallenge: Students look at home energy use and waste management by conducting investigations in each of the 5 Ecological Footprint categories. They then choose three to five actions in each of the categories to commit to over the next month and measure their results.

Real food potluck: Students study food choices and their impacts. They examine various food production and look at what is involved in creating an average meal. Then they hold a potluck, featuring food that is as local and organic as possible.

School blogs: Students, teachers, and Beyond Recycling educators contribute to a weekly blog about the program and what is being learned. It’s a great way of sharing the program lessons with others.

BEYOND RECYCLING PARTNERS

- Blewett Elementary
- Brent Kennedy Elementary
- Adam Robertson Elementary
- Twin Rivers Elementary
- JV Humphries Elementary
- Trafalgar Middle School
- Isabella Dicken Elementary
- Jaffray Elementary
- Regional District of Central Kootenay
- BC Hydro
- FortisBC
- Waste Management Inc.

BEYOND RECYCLING FUNDERS

- Regional District of Central Kootenay
- BC Hydro
- FortisBC
- Columbia Basin Trust
- Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada
- Waste Management Inc.
- Regional District of East Kootenay
- TD Foundation



CREATED BY
Bio-Link
100% Organic
Product of Honduras
Washed & Sorted
CROP 11 12
GROUP
CIBICOLA
FLO ID:
Lot: 101 1312374
FD 1007881621

OUR LOCAL BRANCHES

Wildsight branches work with our communities to maintain truly environmentally sustainable lifestyles in harmony with our natural ecosystems. Our communities have pride in and protect our clean water, air and soil and are empowered to conserve the biodiversity in our unique regional ecosystems. Each of our individual and diverse Wildsight branches is highly regarded for work on programs relevant to its own community, including cutting-edge work on minimizing our ecological footprint and promoting renewable energy, sustainable transportation, responsible land use planning, local food production, and sustainable building.

PESTICIDE REDUCTION

Wildsight is part of the Pesticide Free Columbia Basin Coalition. The coalition raises awareness about the dangers of cosmetic pesticide use, and work toward local bylaws that ban the use and sale of cosmetic pesticides.

In 2011, Premier Clark told the media she supported strong cosmetic pesticide legislation. She set up a bi-partisan Special Committee on Cosmetic Pesticides, and in 2012 it came out with a weak, divisive report that did not recommend a ban. The special committee received more than 8,700 submissions, and heard scientific evidence supporting a ban, so the decision was disappointing.

The coalition has been defending the gains it has made, as municipal bylaws were challenged across the province by advocates for the pesticide industry. Despite a challenge in Kimberley, its bylaw remains in place.

We continue to work with the public and government on this issue. Many small businesses support alternative methods of lawn and garden care.

We belong to regional, provincial and national coalitions that bring the efforts of diverse health and environmental organizations together for a healthier environment.

Pesticide Reduction Program Partners

Canadian Cancer Society

Pesticide Free Columbia Basin Coalition

Prevent Cancer Now!

Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment

West Coast Environmental Law

David Suzuki Foundation

Organizing for Change: Greenpeace; Sierra Club BC; West Coast Environmental Law; CPAWS BC; Dogwood Initiative;

BC Sustainable Energy Association; Conservation Northwest; EcoJustice; Forest Ethics; Georgia Straight Alliance;

Pembina Institute.



CRESTON VALLEY

Highlights

Wildsight Creston Valley continues to provide local residents with opportunities to get together and learn about ecological wonders and issues.

Jumbo Wild

Many of the public came out to hear Pat and Baiba Morrow talk about the Jumbo Valley at Wildsight Creston Valley's special event in May. The proposed ski development was approved by the Province on March 20, and since then there has been more discussion about creating a "municipality" there—with no residents. We feel very strongly that a ski development will damage key grizzly habitat and the Jumbo Wild campaign works year-round to raise awareness of what's at stake.

Branch Projects

Creston Valley Forest Corporation: We're active in eco-forestry and watershed stewardship as members of the community forest corporation.

Wildsight Speaker Series: We were amazed and heartened by the turn out to our shows last year, and we want to keep the momentum going. Our Fall 2012 Wildsight Series started in October with guest speaker Ryan Durand. In November, Gillian Cooper spoke about Education in the Wild, and in December, we've rented the Tivoli Theatre to showcase our local photographers: Brent Wellander, Jeff Banman, Jim Lawrence, Ralph Moore and Bernd Stengl.

The Creston Valley Bird Fest: This is Wildsight Creston's latest project. We are planning for this event to occur on May 10 and 11, 2013. May 11th is International Migratory Bird Day.

WILDSIGHT CRESTON

BERND STENGL Chair

RALPH MOORE Vice Chair & Director

ALEXANDRA DANSEREAU Secretary

SUSAN LOW Treasurer

JIM SMITH Director

TANNA PATTERSON Director

ED MCMACKIN Director

DREW GAILIUS Director

CONTACT WILDSIGHT CRESTON

Bernd Stengl

bstengl@shaw.ca



MEASURING SUCCESS | OUTREACH

SCHOOL PROGRAMS
125 STUDENTS

INVASIVE WEED PULLS
30 VOLUNTEERS | 500 BAGS REMOVED

HEALTHY LAWN & GARDEN FAIR
30 VOLUNTEERS | 200 VISITORS

CANNING WORKSHOP
10 PARTICIPANTS

WILD FOOD WALK
22 PARTICIPANTS

EDIBLE WILD FOOD FEAST
17 PARTICIPANTS

EARTH DAY POTLUCK AND CLEAN UP
25 PARTICIPANTS

**CONFLUENCE PARK PLANNING TO PROTECT
ENDANGERED PLANTS**
2 VOLUNTEERS WORKING WITH
GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES

TOTAL BRANCH VOLUNTEER HOURS: 1,635

Wildsight Golden is involved with water quality and creek monitoring and conducts CABIN testing of Hospital Creek and Ventego Creek. We're also local Backcountry Recreation watchdogs, and we review and comment on several commercial tenure applications each year. We arranged field trips to document the degradation of alpine meadows by off-road vehicles and communicate with government agencies on this issue. We participate in the Golden Backcountry Recreation Access Committee. We also review and comment on several independent power producer (IPP) applications each year.

Highlights

The year's biggest event was the Healthy Lawn and Garden Fair held in April at Golden's newly renovated Civic Center. Several local businesses, individuals and nonprofit groups set up tables, and guest speakers shared their expertise on a variety of topics.

Our public events were well attended, with lots of interest in Healthy Lawn and Garden initiatives. There has been measurable reduction in invasive weeds due to the weed program, and Wildsight Golden is active in our land use planning groups.

Challenges

Lack of government resources for environmental problems tends to stall meaningful action that would reduce the impacts of recreational off-road vehicle use on sensitive environments including wetlands and alpine meadows. These are the places Golden is known for, and we're working hard to show people the value of leaving them intact.

What Kind of Invasive Weed Are You?

This year we hired two students, Claire and Kay deBoer, to run Golden's Invasive Weed program, which is managed by Wildsight Golden and funded by the Town of Golden.

Claire and Kay spent the summer mapping and pulling weeds, educating homeowners about invasive weeds and running an information booth at the Farmers Market.



One fun thing they set up at the info booth was an interactive game called "What kind of invasive weed are you?" It was a hit with the crowds and could work in other communities.

Branch Partners

- Golden Centre for Peace
- Town of Golden
- Golden Backcountry Recreation Advisory Committee
- School District #6
- Columbia Wetlands Stewardship Council
- Golden Council of Canadians
- Golden Bear Aware
- Columbia Shuswap Regional District

Branch Funders

- Golden Wildsight members
- Town of Golden
- CPAWS
- Columbia Basin Trust
- Columbia Wetlands Stewardship Council

Branch Sponsorship

Wildsight Golden was proud to sponsor the important work completed by Rachel Darvill towards her Masters Thesis in the field of conservation biology.

WILDSIGHT GOLDEN

- JOAN DOLINSKY President
- MARYANN EMERY Treasurer
- SANNE VAN DER ROS Secretary
- BRUCE FAIRLEY Regional Director
- ELLEN ZIMMERMAN Regional Director
- JULIE CALWELL Director
- RACHEL DARVILL Director
- CLAIRE DEBOER Summer Student
- KAY DEBOER Summer Student

CONTACT WILDSIGHT GOLDEN

Joan Dolinsky
Box 955, Golden BC V0A 1H0
JoanDolinsky@gmail.com



MEASURING SUCCESS | OUTREACH

KEEPING FOOD REAL WORKSHOPS
40 PARTICIPANTS

10-DAY ECOGARDEN KIDS CAMP
24 PARTICIPANTS

GARDEN2MARKET STAND
100s OF ATTENDEES

SEED SWAP EVENTS
100+ ATTENDEES

LITTLE SPROUTS EVENTS
200 CHILDREN
200+ PARENTS

ELK VALLEY EARTH DAY
200+ ATTENDEES

THINK TANK CINEMA EVENINGS
100+ ATTENDEES

ECOGARDEN VOLUNTEERS
4 ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS
20 DAILY VOLUNTEERS

TOTAL BRANCH VOLUNTEER HOURS: 600

Wildsight Elk Valley kept busy in 2012. This, the second year in our downtown office, has brought more engagement with community members, given us a home for meetings, and a central place for people to sign up for events.

Highlights

We now operate Wild Nature Tours, which offer winter and summer guided excursions into Elk Valley ecosystems. Proceeds from the tours go to support branch work. The Elk River Alliance ramped up its stream monitoring efforts and is working to build a watershed plan. Our EcoGarden Kids Camp ran for two weeks and everybody had fun learning to garden the ecological way, with games and activities. Our Think Tank Cinema series was well attended once again, and these regular, informal gatherings strengthen our community and attract new people. We also welcomed a new president, Mike Bennett.

Elk River Alliance

Wildsight Elk Valley is a leading partner in the Elk River Alliance (ERA), which provides hands-on, meaningful opportunities for people to restore and enhance aquatic and riparian ecosystems. The ERA works to increase water literacy and community capacity to participate in water sustainability decision-making.

Accomplishments

Community-based water monitoring: The ERA used the Streamkeepers Sensitive Habitat Inventory Mapping (SHIM) and Canadian Aquatic Biomonitoring Network (CABIN) protocols to gather high- and low-flow water quality data for the second year on Lizard Creek and the first year on Alexander Creek. We offered Streamkeepers training on Alexander Creek in August with six new participants.

ERA Streamkeepers volunteer hundreds of hours annually to gather scientifically defensible data in the Elk River watershed.

Watershed Planning and Decision Making: The ERA executive director is a liaison/board/committee member representing the ERA at several tables: Teck's Selenium Management Panel; Teck's Community of Interest Panel; Teck Coal/Ktunaxa Nation Council Cumulative Effects Management Framework Working Group; Teck Coal Data Quality Objective workshops (e.g. Westslope Cutthroat

Trout study on the Forging River); Columbia Basin Watershed Network; RDEK West Fernie Dyke Expansion.

Meetings and outreach: The ERA hosted the Elk River Watershed Dialogue: Opportunity for Collaboration and Action Solutions. 44 participants dedicated a day find ways to work together and proactively shape the future of a healthy Elk River watershed. Participants expressed a commitment to continue down the path of watershed planning and establishing a watershed council, which became the focus of the second workshop, Elk River Watershed Governance, in October, that was co-facilitated by the ERA and the Fraser Basin Council.

Water Wonder: The ERA expanded the Fernie pilot program to the entire watershed in 2011. In July and August, the ERA delivered four programs to 41 participants, three programs (in partnership with the Sparwood summer recreation program) to 48 children, and two programs to nine participants in Elkford.

CBT Know Your Watershed: The ERA program coordinator and director assisted the Grade 8 field trip 'Stream Science' component at Lizard Creek and spoke to the students about community-based water monitoring and sensitive habitat inventory mapping on the creek. Eight ERA volunteers supervised local students during their "Painting the Town for Fish" Student Action Project, when they stenciled 130 storm drains in Fernie, to show that storm water drains to the Elk River and chemicals can harm fish.

Rainwater Management: The ERA developed a rainwater management brochure explaining how rainwater is managed in Fernie and how residents can reduce flow and keep water clean as it washes into the Elk River. Fernie Secondary School students passed out this brochure to residents when painting the town for fish.

Celebration and Stewardship: The ERA's Elk River Swim Drink Fish Festival highlighted the Lizard Creek community-based water monitoring program at a celebration in partnership with BC Parks 100th Anniversary at Mount Fernie Provincial Park. There were 60 participants, including Scouts, Fernie Nature Club members and young naturalists. Forty people joined the Elk River Geoparty at the Our River Rocks social celebration. Seventy people, including students from Fernie Secondary School, cleaned up 40 kilometres of the Elk River shoreline and staging areas. We conducted a second annual event in September, in conjunction with World and BC Rivers Day and the Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup.

Administration: The ERA's dedicated, connected, and highly skilled Advisory Committee: Stella Swanson (Selenium Panel/Cumulative Effects Management); Carla Fraser (Teck Coal); John Poirier (Wapiti Fly Fishers); Doug Marteinson (Community Engagement); Bob Livsey (Fernie Nature Club); Allie Dickout (Youth and Environment); Mike Bennett (Wildsight Elk Valley Branch); Jim Miller (Municipal Water Engineer); Gord Bunston (Small Business).

The ERA secured a range of funders for 2012. Thanks to Teck Coal, the Vancouver Foundation, the CBT Environmental Initiatives Program and Community Initiatives, and the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation.

Branch Partners

EcoGarden Advisory Committee: Jen Heath; Helen McAllister; Mary Cosman; Roberta McCabe; Mow & Snow

Branch Funders

Member Donations
Fernie Chamber of Commerce
Community Dollars

WILDSIGHT ELK VALLEY

MIKE BENNETT President
SHARON SWITZER Past President
MARCIE WELSH Treasurer
TERRY NELSON Director
TED RALFE Director
FERN MARRIOTT Director
RYAN KIKAUKA Director

CONTACT WILDSIGHT ELK VALLEY

891 2nd Ave, Box 537
Fernie, B.C. V0B 1M0
250.423.3322
ElkValley@Wildsight.ca



KIMBERLEY | CRANBROOK

MEASURING SUCCESS | OUTREACH

ANNUAL GREEN BUILDING CONFERENCE
 160 ATTENDEES OF KEYNOTE ADDRESS
 100 REGISTERED CONFERENCE ATTENDEES
 100 PUBLIC CONFERENCE ATTENDEES
 75 SHOWCASE PARTICIPANTS
 18 WORKSHOPS with 13 PRESENTERS
 300 WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

2 FEATURE CINEMA NIGHTS
 150 ATTENDEES

ANNUAL EDIBLE GARDEN TOUR
 75 ATTENDEES

BRANCH VOLUNTEERS
 125

TOTAL BRANCH VOLUNTEER HOURS: 1300

We work for on-the-ground solutions and blaze a path to a sustainable future, where we produce much of our food locally, where waste is a thing of the past, where fresh air and clean water are a given and where we live within our ecological means.

The popularity of our new food sustainability projects shows there is a huge local appetite to grow and preserve food locally. The apple press and dehydrators are being used constantly. For the third year in a row, our Green Building and Living Conference has attracted hundreds and is helping green the way people build.

The year started with fundraising to support our current programming. The option nobody wanted to choose was shrinking our programming due to lack of funds. We rolled up our sleeves, conducted a couple of successful fundraising events, wrote a half dozen successful grant applications and so were actually able to increase our programming by the end of the year!

Food Sustainability

Apple Capture: In 2011, we ran a pilot Apple Capture Project in Kimberley to help turn fruit that will go to waste and attract wildlife into a local food source. This year we run it in Cranbrook as well. We offer three fruit presses, four food dehydrators and lots of pruning and fruit picking equipment for free public use.

Growing Communities: We engage community members who have expertise in vegetable gardening and food preservation to pass on their knowledge to those who are keen to learn. Our First Annual Kimberley Edible Garden Tour was a great success with 12 lush gardens on the tour and over 70 participants. Our four evening food preservation workshops - Dry It, You Might Like It; If We Can, You Can; Pickling & Fermenting; and Apple Fest - are fully subscribed.

Clean Air and Climate Solutions

Green Building: Our two-day Green Building Conference was a resounding success as engineers, designers, planners, builders and homeowners shared knowledge and passion for green building at the 18 workshops. The Green Builders Showcase was jam-packed with state-of-the-art discussions and presentations surrounding sustainable building.

Clean Air: After three years of our popular East Kootenay Woodstove Exchange - which switched more than 200 old belchers for efficient, clean burning

woodstoves - we are now working with local municipalities to explore options on local clean air bylaws.

Sustainable Landscapes

Marysville Eco Park: We continue to enhance the park as a native plant demonstration site. Youth groups ranging from high school students to the Cranbrook Boys and Girls Club learned about local native species and planted 500 grass plugs of native fescues.

Invasive Plants: We spread the word about four invasive plants found in our area, via media outreach and new posters and bookmarks. As a result of the publicity, we now have a better idea of the current extent of Japanese knotweed, common tansy, orange hawkweed and leafy spurge and are hand-pulling to keep them under control.

Education

Go Wild: In June, a group of Grade 9 Selkirk High School students took part a professionally guided five-day backcountry trip to Waterton Lakes National Park and Akamina-Kishinena Provincial Recreation Area. The 16 students kept positive despite rain and snow as they gained outdoor skills and developed a passion for mountain environments that will last a lifetime.

Branch Partners

College of the Rockies
 Kootenay Rockies Innovation Council
 Kimberley Girl Guides
 Selkirk Secondary School
 Marysville Elementary School
 Canadian Cancer Society
 Cranbrook Food Action Committee
 Citizens for a Livable Cranbrook
 City of Kimberley
 College of the Rockies
 East Kootenay Invasive Plant Council
 Gerick Sports
 Kimberley Rotary Club
 Kimberley Garden Club
 Solar BC
 New Dawn Developments
 Middle Earth Solar
 British Columbia Ministry of Environment
 East Kootenay Citizens for Clean Air
 British Columbia Ministry of Forests, Land and Natural Resource Operations
 Smart Planning For Communities

Branch Funders

Columbia Basin Trust
 City of Kimberley
 Regional District of East Kootenay
 New Horizons For Seniors (Government of Canada)
 Kimberley and District Community Foundation
 Cranbrook and District Community Foundation
 Canadian Housing and Mortgage Corporation
 College of the Rockies
 TD Friends of the Environment
 Government of British Columbia
 Government of Canada



KENT GOODWIN AND HIS PARTNER RUTH AT A CELEBRATION OF KENT'S 25 YEARS OF LEADERSHIP AT WILDSIGHT.

Kent Goodwin is a founding member of Wildsight (then called the East Kootenay Environmental Society) and was the first president of the board. He was president until 1996, when Wildsight grew into its current structure of five autonomous branches and a regional organization. Kent stepped down as president of Wildsight's Kimberley/Cranbrook branch in 2012 when he was elected to Kimberley City Council. He has been involved in countless campaigns and projects over the past 25 years. His selfless volunteerism deserves to be recognized.

WILDSIGHT KIMBERLEY | CRANBROOK

MARGIE JAMIESON President & Regional Council Rep
DAN MOE Vice President
KATHI CHORNEYKO Secretary/Treasurer
BECKY BATES Director
DARYL CALDER Director
DEAN CHATTERSON Director
STEFANIE FALZ Director
ILONA HALE Director

KIMBERLEY | CRANBROOK STAFF

HELEN SANDER Branch Manager
ERNA JENSEN-SHILL Clean Air & Climate Solutions
JESSICA WINDLE Food Sustainability
HEATHER SHARPE Summer Student

CONTACT WILDSIGHT KIM | CRAN

2 - 495 Wallinger Ave
 Kimberley BC V1A 1Z6
 250.427.9325 ext 221
 KimCran@Wildsight.ca



MEASURING SUCCESS | OUTREACH

GREEN DRINKS EVENTS
100 PARTICIPANTS

FINDING BALANCE FORUM KEYNOTE
125 ATTENDEES

FINDING BALANCE FORUM SEMINAR
85 PARTICIPANTS

WILDSIGHT INVERMERE AGM
90 ATTENDEES

DAVID SUZUKI EVENT
MEDIA COVERAGE

WILDSIGHT INVERMERE CAMP OUT
14 PARTICIPANTS

VOLUNTEERS
11 BRANCH VOLUNTEERS
1 CWS PARTNERS VOLUNTEER
7 INVASIVE WEED PULL VOLUNTEERS
43 LAKE ENID CLEANUP VOLUNTEERS
8 WETLANDS CLEANUP VOLUNTEERS
25 SPECIAL EVENTS VOLUNTEERS

TOTAL BRANCH VOLUNTEER HOURS: 1700

Highlights

The Invermere branch hosted a jam-packed schedule of events in 2012, which reached out to a broad spectrum of the community. Dr. David Suzuki's June presentation was our headliner, and we also hosted a forum on sustainable economics, capped off with Wildsight's 25th anniversary dinner. All events were wildly successful.

25th Anniversary Events

Wildsight Invermere hosted three big events to mark Wildsight's 25th Anniversary.

Finding Balance Forum: We hosted this symposium in March, with four well-known guest speakers who addressed the links between community, environment and economy in the Columbia Valley. The Friday night keynote presentation on the "Economics of Happiness" attracted 125 people from throughout the region and the day-long seminar on conservation economics and local business sustainability had 85 participants.

Wildsight 25th Anniversary Celebration Dinner: The wrap-up event for the Finding Balance Forum hosted 90 people from various Wildsight branches.

David Suzuki: *The Challenge of the 21st Century: Setting the Bottom Line:* Canada's leading environmentalist addressed an audience of 300 in June. The sold-out event reached another 160 people via webcast. Dr. Suzuki also met with a group of high school and elementary students and the Wildsight team, and gave numerous media interviews.

Projects

Jumbo Wild: We support efforts to stop development of a massive ski resort in the upper Jumbo Valley. We turned out at two rallies to support its protection.

Columbia Valley Recreation Advisory Council: Along with regional Wildsight members, Wildsight Invermere helped initiate a backcountry users coalition and continues to participate in meetings aimed at finding consensus for a backcountry management plan.

Wilmer Wetlands Cleanup: Wildsight volunteers have hauled more than 200 tires out of the old, unofficial Wilmer dump site known as 'Dead Dog Bluff.'

Lake Enid Cleanup: Wildsight members and the Windermere Valley Dirt Bikers joined forces to clean up garbage around Lake Enid. The one-day event helped promote awareness of responsible use of our public lands.

Green Drinks: We continued a series of get-togethers covering an array of topics, from bear-smart tips to bringing wild salmon back to the upper Columbia River. We hosted four events which were attended by more than 100 community members.

Columbia Wetlands Stewardship Partnership: A Wildsight Invermere representative sits on the board of this umbrella group.

One Planet Series: These regular public education events with presentations and films continue to be on our agenda for the near future.

Invasive Weed Pulls: We organized four weed pulls last summer, extracting Common Tansy from the Columbia Wetlands.

Mary Schaeffer: Mountain Woman: We hosted a multi-media performance at Pynelogs Cultural Centre about a woman ahead of her time.

Farmer's Market and Fall Fair: We hosted a booth at the Invermere Farmer's Market in July and the Windermere Fall Fair in September at which we distributed information on both Wildsight and the issue of genetically modified organisms (GMOs).

Wildsight Camp Out: Fourteen people showed up at our First Annual Backcountry Camp out up the Bugaboo Creek in September.

Summer Student: Our summer intern, Raegan Mallison, kept busy with lake and beach monitoring and helping with the annual regatta. She prepared a GMO info pamphlet and engaged with the public at our booth at the Farmers' Market. Raegan also helped organize a weed pull.

Branch Partners

- Groundswell
- Slow Food Columbia Valley
- BC Cancer Society
- Windermere Valley Dirt Bikers (Lake Enid Cleanup)
- Allison Bell and chef students at David Thompson Secondary School
- Yellowstone to Yukon
- Columbia Wetlands Stewardship Partners

Branch Funders

- Wildsight Members
- Columbia Basin Trust
- Regional District of East Kootenay
- District of Invermere
- Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative
- Columbia Basin Environmental Educators Network
- Kicking Horse Coffee
- Kootenay River Runners
- Kootenay Alpine Cheese
- Groundswell

WILDSIGHT INVERMERE

- BAIBA MORROW President
- JIM GALLOWAY Vice President
- SARAH LOCKE Secretary
- JOHN ASHBY Treasurer
- MARION STOTTS Director & Regional Board Representative
- BOB CAMPSALL Director
- NORY ESTEBAN Director
- ARNOR LARSON Director
- RAEGAN MALLISON Summer Student

CONTACT WILDSIGHT INVERMERE

Baiba Morrow
Box 2741, Invermere, BC V0A 1K0
250.341.3554
Invermere@Wildsight.ca





wildsight

2-495 Wallinger Avenue
Kimberley, British Columbia
V1A 1Z6 Canada
office@wildsight.ca

www.Wildsight.ca