



WILDSIGHT INVERMERE

ANNUAL REPORT

January 31, 2022



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MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

Dear Wildsight Invermere friends,

According to 19th century philosopher Arthur Schopenhauer, “All truth passes through three stages: first it is ridiculed, second it is violently opposed, and third, it is accepted as self-evident.” This tidbit of wisdom was printed in our May 1998 EKES (Wildsight) newsletter.

As we ponder the value of truth in these current, more complicated times, allow me to express my personal conviction and hope. Now, more than ever, it’s apparent that our planet needs our care and attention. Here, in our precious corner of BC, Wildsight with its six branches (of which we are one), continues to channel our passion into collective action. Interestingly, as we look back at our early years, you can see that the issues were pretty much the same as they are today. Stop logging our old growth forests! Protect our grasslands and wetlands! Top 10 things you can do to save the planet!

Does it sometimes feel that any gains come at a snail’s pace? But, believe me, our efforts matter. We now have over 400 branch members. That’s a powerful voice. By working together as we have for 33 years, our local actions to make sure that our wild places and wildlife survive into the future can— and do— contribute towards positive change.

In 2021, despite the challenges of the pandemic, the ongoing work of our staff and Board of Directors advanced the local dialogue around climate action and resilience in our community. With the concept of nature-based solutions guiding our work, we focused on the ongoing need to protect our world-class Columbia Wetlands, our fast-disappearing old growth forests, and the vulnerable Toby Canyon goat herd. And as we greet each new day, we do so with respectful recognition that we work and live in the shared, traditional and unceded territory of the Ktunaxa and Secwepemc people.

A special note of gratitude goes out to those who bolster our efforts by volunteering or by donating to us. I would also like to acknowledge the ongoing support of our Wild & Scenic Film Festival sponsors who contribute to our financial viability and believe in our vision. You are awesome!

In that same 1998 newsletter mentioned above, there’s another quote that offers valuable guidance for today. In the award-winning book, *Seeing the Forest Among the Trees*, BC forest ecologist Herb Hammond wrote “We do not sustain the forest; the forest sustains us.”

Let’s stay connected!

Baiba Morrow
President, Wildsight Invermere

WILD CONNECTIONS

INSPIRE, EDUCATE, ENGAGE



PROGRAM OVERVIEW



Wild Connections, our core program area, aims to foster a culture of environmental stewardship through public education, hands-on events and workshops. The impacts of a global pandemic and the extreme weather events and disasters fuelled by climate change were the greatest challenges for everyone in 2021. All of this increases the pressure on sensitive alpine and subalpine areas, forests, grasslands, and wetlands. We believe that a better understanding of environmental issues will inspire citizens to take action in their own lives and live in mutual reciprocity with nature. Wildsight Invermere offers a community service not addressed by any other local NGO.

COMMUNITY, CONSERVATION, CLIMATE

STRATEGIC FOCUS THEMES

I. COMMUNITY

Support and build an environmentally resilient, healthy, and educated community

8th Annual Wild & Scenic Film Festival

Thank you to everyone for supporting our annual fund raising event! Through ticket sales, a silent auction and sponsorships, we raised \$15,123. Over 500 people tuned in to the hybrid festival: 200 in person and 300 people virtually, for an evening of nine films. The program was also made available to local schools, with 7 classes and over 150 students taking part, as well as a group of youth at the Summit Youth Centre.



BC Rivers Day

In partnership with Lake Windermere Ambassadors and Living Lakes Canada, 25 enthusiastic paddlers floated from Invermere to Radium on September 21 in this annual celebration of our waterways.



Ursus & Us: Bear Day

Over 250 people, including many happy children, learned about living in bear country through this outdoor event in Pothole Park. There were opportunities to try out bear spray, make apple juice with Groundswell's fruit press (a reminder that fruit must be picked to keep bears out of our yards), speak with our local Conservation Officer, Greg Kruger, about keeping safe around bears, and make a bear print tote back with Wildsight. There was also story time with the Invermere Library and environmental education games with ColumbiaYEA.



E-Bike Raffle

A successful combination of promoting emissions-free transportation alternatives for a healthy lifestyle and a fund raiser of \$13,000!

COMMUNITY, CONSERVATION, CLIMATE

STRATEGIC FOCUS THEMES

II. CONSERVATION

Protect and conserve our local natural environment and species to ensure that thriving resilient ecosystems endure into the future

Mountain Goat Conservation

Our ongoing efforts to ensure the preservation of mountain goats in our region publicly commenced with a webinar featuring renowned biologist, author and mountain goat researcher Douglas Chadwick in April 2021. The webinar attracted over 220 participants from countries including Canada, the United States, Australia and Germany.

Lake Enid Restoration

Lake Enid Restoration - To continue our conservation efforts we are partnering with Recreation Sites and Parks BC to construct fencing to protect an impacted section of the park. Due to technical issues this will continue into 2022.

Wilmer Wetlands

In collaboration with Environment Canada, Shuswap Band and Ktunaxa Nation, we created and installed four new educational signs at the Wilmer Unit of the Columbia Wetlands National Wildlife Area.



COMMUNITY, CONSERVATION, CLIMATE

STRATEGIC FOCUS THEMES

III. CLIMATE

Raise awareness and engagement on climate change actions, informed by current science and based on best practices.

Expanded Capacity

We hired a Climate Change program assistant through Canada Summer Jobs to assist our Climate Resilience Coordinator work on the Climate Pledge, Fridays for Future, webinars and general program support.

Climate Pledge

The Climate Pledge was designed to empower citizens to take action to reduce personal and community greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and thereby counteract climate change through inspiring, hands-on activities and events. Nearly 100 folks signed on.

Nature-Based Climate Solutions Webinar

In partnership with Nature Canada, the Columbia River Salmon Reintroduction Initiative and Protect our Winters, we hosted a webinar on nature-based climate solutions that attracted an audience of 129.

Fridays for Future

We gathered a small but vocal group of local residents and youth to support the Global Fridays for Future movement on September 24.

Green your home 101

We held a webinar with local businesses Thinkbright and Kootenay Solar to answer green retrofit questions.

EV Show

Our second annual electric vehicle show highlighted 16 different EV cars, enthraling the 180 people who attended.



SPARK

RURAL CANADA'S FIRST ELECTRIC VEHICLE SHARE



Wildsight Invermere officially launched the first electric vehicle share program in rural Canada in 2020. Having an EV share in the Columbia Valley allows residents and visitors alike to try out an EV and have all of their usage and maintenance questions answered before leaping to purchase – an enormous advantage given that an EV represents a serious investment for many. For both individuals and businesses, it is an opportunity to drive emissions-free and contribute to a carbon-free future.

Spark continues to add new members every month and is up to 83 members now. We continue to be challenged by COVID restrictions but have great plans to reach out to new people this summer. We also continue to promote the use of Spark to local businesses and both Alpenglow Bakery and the Outdoor Learning Store have seen the benefit.

TRY IT OUT AT [GOSPARK.CA](https://gospark.ca)

OUR MEMBERS

ENGAGED, PASSIONATE AND SUPPORTIVE



Wildsight Invermere members are the backbone of the organisation, from the engaged volunteer Board of Directors, to all those who support the work, read the newsletter, attend events and speak out on issues.

Our members care about the natural world and want a resilient, healthy environment into the future. We thank you for inspiring us and supporting us with your time, energy, and donations!

**WILDSIGHT INVERMERE
MEMBERS ARE THE BACKBONE
OF THE ORGANIZATION.**

OUR TEAM

BOARD OF DIRECTORS & STAFF



BAIBA MORROW
BOARD CHAIR



CAM GILLIES
VICE PRESIDENT



JESSIE CAZA
SECRETARY |
EDUCATOR



MIEL DUBIELEWICZ
DIRECTOR



TAOYA SCHAEFER
DIRECTOR



TRACY FLYNN
DIRECTOR



PENNY POWERS
DIRECTOR



BEN TREGIDGO
TREASURER



AURORA ORCHISTON
YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE



KAREN BARKLEY
BRANCH MANAGER



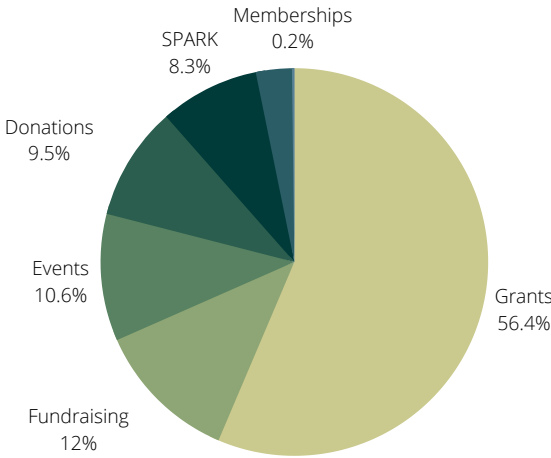
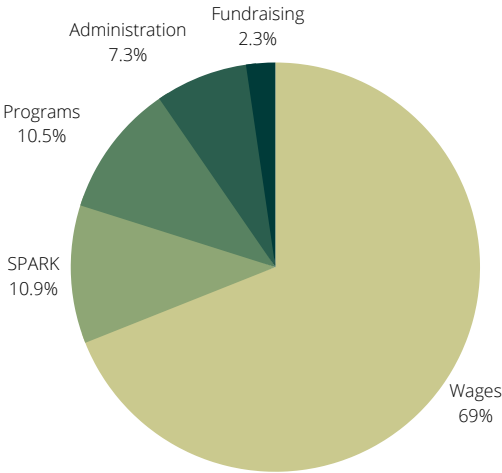
KAT GRAVES
CLIMATE CHANGE
RESILIENCE COORDINATOR



FINANCIALS

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR COMPLETE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

EXPENSES REVENUE



\$111,429 **\$113,275**

WITH GRATITUDE TO OUR FUNDERS & SUPPORTERS

PROGRAM FUNDERS

BC Gaming
BC Hydro
Columbia Basin Trust
District of Invermere
Environment Canada
Government of Canada
Regional District of East Kootenay



COLLABORATORS

ColumbiaYEA
Groundswell Network
Ktunaxa Nation
Lake Windermere Ambassadors
Living Lakes Canada
Shuswap Band
WildSafe BC
Wildsight Regional
Wings Over the Rockies



8TH ANNUAL WILD & SCENIC FILM FESTIVAL SPONSORS

VISIONARY SPONSORS Cleanline Automotive, Columbia Valley Law, Invermere Liquor Store, thinkBright Homes

CATALYST SPONSORS Collective Carpentry, Columbia Basin Trust, Copper City Physiotherapy, Invermere Optometry

LEADER SPONSORS Copper City Dental, Basecamp Innovations, Juniper Heights Healing, Silver Fern Accupuncture & Herbal Clinic

IN-KIND FESTIVAL DONORS

Canada Non Profit Outdoor Learning Store, Kootenay Mountain Culture Magazine, Columbia River Paddle, Columbia Cycle & Ski, Crazy Soles, Copper Point Resort, Diana Lake Lodge, Denise Lemaster, Eagle Ranch, East Kootenay Mountain Guides, Edibles Farm Cafe & Catering, John & Lisa Niddrie, Juniper Hotel, Kicking Horse Coffee, Local View Printing, Nipika Mountain Resort, Mamacita's Empinadas, Paintbox Lodge, Pat Bavin, Radium Brewing, Rocky Mountain Books, Rocky Mountain Honey, Rocky River Grill, The Brick Invermere, Station Pub, Stolen Church Cafe, Talus Lodge, Tayton Bay Spirits, TEAetc, The Mountain Range, Thin Gruel Press, Valley Zipline Adventures, Wild Mountain Chocolate

ADDITIONAL THANKS

Columbia Valley Sign Artists
Far Out Gear Rentals

THANK YOU TO ALL COMMUNITY MEMBERS WHO SUPPORTED WILDSIGHT INVERMERE IN 2021, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO HAVE TAKEN THE NEXT STEP AND DONATE MONTHLY.

