

Valhalla Wilderness Society

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Dear Members and Supporters:

What a year to look back upon! It started with the fulfillment of Valhalla's 18-year campaign to save the Spirit Bear Conservancy. Although the protection was negotiated by interests at the Central Coast planning table, the case for the Spirit Bear Conservancy rested upon huge public demand, numerous scientific studies and ongoing communication with First Nations built up by the Valhalla Wilderness Society. The new Spirit Bear Conservancy includes huge tracts of Coastal Temperate Rainforest covering over 212,415 hectares.

Meanwhile, the *Inland* Temperate Rainforest campaign has gained a lot of momentum. The campaign started in 1998, long before anyone knew that the federal government would pass a *Species at Risk Act*, or that the mountain caribou population would crash, bringing its Inland Temperate Rainforest home into the spotlight.

The maps that VWS commissioned at considerable cost (even with lavish contributions of time from the mappers), dovetailed exactly with the recovery process that is now going on for mountain caribou. In fact, the BC government requested digital copies of the maps. VWS traded them for a wealth of new digital information from the government that will enable the Craighead Environmental Research Institute to refine the Conservation Area Design first commissioned by VWS.

BC is due to file a recovery strategy and action plan for mountain caribou in mid 2007. Who could have imagined that a program to recover an endangered species could veer full force towards a plan to increase the killing of nine other species of wildlife? (See the story inside.) Somewhere I read that in the Chinese language, the words for "crisis" and "opportunity" are one and the same. What a depth of perception there is in that! This year, as VWS dived into continuous emergency efforts to protect the mountain caribou and other species, it became clear that key opportunities



Wayne McCrory



Wayne McCrory

PROTECTED!

Laredo Inlet
Princess Royal Is.

for protection we had expected years from now were already on our doorstep. However, the resistance to them is fierce.

In summary, by the end of 2006, very dark times have befallen our wildlife in the BC Interior, even while large conservation gains have been made on the coast. The lessons from the Spirit Bear tell us that there *is* light at the end of the tunnel if

we will unify ourselves around positions of strength and remain persistent in spite of discouragements. I hope the photographs we present here will remind us all that when achievements are made, they are worth every bit of the struggle.

Grants from foundations did continue to decline. Struggles to raise funds greatly burdened our team last year. If VWS doesn't receive an increase in donations and find new funding sources, activities in the coming year will be substantially reduced. If you can make any size of donation, that will help; but if not, even signing up one new member will help to broaden our support base.

Sincerely,

Anne Sherrod, Chair

INLAND RAINFOREST CAMPAIGN HEATS UP

Grassroots Environmental Declaration for the Inland Rainforest Region

Solidarity between as many of the region's environmental groups as possible is crucial to increasing protection of BC's Inland Temperate Rainforest. This year, grants from public-spirited foundations allowed VWS to host three meetings of these groups. The region stretches from the US border to Prince George. Funding for travel expenses allowed the attendance of people who had to travel long distances. It has been many years since all these organizations were able to come together. In that time, there has been an increase in the number of groups. Our collective energy and capacity for creative involvement and cooperation was a pleasant surprise felt by everyone.



Richard Hart

Out of these meetings came the Declaration on the Inland Rainforest Region, asking for an end to logging all old-growth forest 140 years or older. The Declaration has the agreement of almost every grassroots group in the region. You can find it on VWS's website.

Presentations in Victoria, Ottawa, Oregon, California, and all over the ITR

VWS commissioned new maps showing how little low- to mid-elevation forest (almost none) has been protected for the mountain caribou. These maps are now allowing us to give detailed input into the recovery process.

The directors spent months interviewing key scientists and reviewing a large number of scientific reports on mountain caribou. They searched out the latest science on the beneficial role of large carnivores in ecosystems. PowerPoint presentations have been created to enhance public speaking with photographs.



Richard Hart

One of the highlights of the year was a 45-minute presentation by Director Craig Pettitt and Executive Director Colleen McCrory to the federal Species at Risk Committee in Ottawa. They also presented the maps and the information to representatives of BC's Species at Risk Coordination Office on several occasions. On May 27-28, VWS attended the Revelstoke Mountain Caribou Conference, which was chiefly attended by government scientists. VWS presented its case before the audience, to individual participants, and in separate meetings with government scientists. The Society has made numerous public presentations in the Kootenays.

Over the last year, Colleen McCrory was a keynote

speaker at the Environmental Law Conference in Eugene, Oregon, and at a major environmental fair in San Francisco.

The Inland Rainforest Region is in the traditional territory of the Shuswap, Ktunaxa, Sinixt, Okanagan and Carrier Sekani Nations. They will be the key players in future land use decisions. In the last year McCrory and Director Craig Pettitt have held meetings with the Neskonlith, Canim Lake, Adams Lake, Red Bluff, Lhoosk'uz Dene Nation, Kootenay/Kinbasket, Lheidli T'enneh, Little Shuswap, Williams Lake (Sugar Cane), Soda Creek, and Simpcw (North Thompson) bands. Some of them will be using our mapping data and research for their own land use plans. We are asking for their support for a Conservation Strategy for the Inland Rainforest Region, but we have also been helping them with their specific concerns.

For instance, McCrory provided assistance to the Soda Creek and Sugar Cane bands regarding Gibraltar Mines' plans to discharge thousands of tons of potentially heavy metal-contaminated water from their mine into the Fraser River, which could severely impact the salmon fisheries. VWS successfully sought funding from West Coast Environmental Law for an assessment of the Bands' legal position and also for a preliminary investigation and report by water ecologist and hydrological expert, Allen Isaacson. Both of these reports are now in the hands of the Soda Creek Band, who are appealing the permit.

An exciting part of the year was hosting a team of three botanists from the University of Göttingen, which began research on the subalpine components of ecosystems in the Inland Rainforest Region. Their work on the Incomappleux is still yielding stunning results which you can read about on page seven.

FIELD NOTES FROM THE HOME OF THE SPIRIT BEAR

Early this year the BC government and First Nations protected most of the Spirit Bear Conservancy proposed by the Valhalla Wilderness Society. This same decision tripled the Khutzey-mateen Grizzly Bear Sanctuary which was protected through the efforts of this Society and others some years ago. The new Dundas Archipelago Conservancy was also proposed by VWS and supported by our scientific studies. This is wonderful news, but the overall protection package for the central and north coast, known as the Great Bear Rainforest, has drawn a huge amount of criticism.



Ian McAllister

New Q'altanaas/Aaltanhash Conservancy in the Spirit Bear Complex

by Wayne McCrory, RPBio

Since the province announced the new protection of the Great Bear Rainforest in February of this year, it has been difficult to keep abreast of progress on the enactment of legislation, boundaries and so on. Negotiation and implementation of the conservation plan has been almost entirely behind closed doors. Communication with the public has been virtually non-existent.

We do know that 11 of the 13 large and small conservancies for the Spirit Bear protected complex, covering 212,415 hectares of Coastal Temperate Rainforest, have been legislated. Given that this is 80% of what VWS originally proposed, the decision is cause for celebration.

However, the surrounding Great Bear Rainforest is 6.4 million hectares. The decision increased protection in this region from about 9% to 28%. Another 4-6% was protected from logging but not from mining or tourism development. Twenty-four conservancies have been legislated throughout the Great Bear Rainforest. However, a total of 83 conservancies were promised by 2007. It is starting to look as if this will not happen on time.

A blue-ribbon science panel had recommended that 44-50% must be fully protected to maintain ecological integrity. The government decision protecting about 34% left 66% open to logging, with some huge areas and pristine valleys having no protection at all.

In September, VWS did a two-week patrol in the land of the Spirit Bear. It was truly wonderful to visit special places like Khutze Inlet, one of the wildest and most magnificent estuary-valleys on the central coast, and realize that 18 years of collective efforts have finally paid off.

However, it was also painful to motor into the Green

Inlet, a pristine valley that VWS fought for and lost, and see the heli-logging camp anchored at the base of the steep verdant, ancient forests. Unfortunately, the Kitasoo First Nation decided to log instead of protect, and their corporation received approval this summer for 15 heli-blocks in the area, five of them in Green Inlet. However, the selection logging that we saw in three of the cutblocks was a huge improvement over clearcutting. It must also be remembered that the Kitasoo protected nearly half of their traditional territory.

Other areas in the Great Bear Rainforest have not been so fortunate. Logging companies are now clearcutting at a rapid rate, creaming huge old cedar trees. This wasn't supposed to happen. According to the agreement between the negotiating parties, the unprotected areas were to have reformed logging practices called ecosystem-based management. But the fact is that the negotiating parties made staggering concessions to the timber corporations, such as postponing the deadline for implementation to 2009. This is enough time for logging companies to do horrific damage.

This has brought into disrepute the whole practice of environmental groups, logging companies, government and First Nations negotiating land use deals. VWS and some other groups such as the Raincoast Conservation Society, the Forest Action Network and the David Suzuki Foundation did not negotiate. Negotiations require environmental groups to make binding agreements that routinely contain huge concessions to timber corporations. In this case, key parts of the talks went on behind closed doors, isolated from the public and other outside environmental groups that had previously demanded protection.

The negotiating environmental groups agreed to dismal standards for ecosystem-based management. Warnings (See Coastal Agreements, next page)

Coastal Agreements

by VWS and others who saw the draft standards were simply ignored.

Unknown to the public at the time of the announcement, the BC government and First Nations had negotiated a deal that the conservancy designation would allow some development, such as micro-hydro developments and industrial roads. This is foreboding news for the Spirit Bear Conservancy, given that the BC government has opened all parks to the construction of luxury lodges by private developers that are powered by micro-hydro and accessed by new roads and/or helicopters.

VWS will have input into the new conservancy management plans, and contribute to a planning process for the several new grizzly bear no-hunting reserves slated for the coast. The Society will continue to work for further protection, especially the main valley of Green Inlet, which has one of the biggest sur-



An atmosphere of splendour enwraps the Kutzeymateen Grizzly Sanctuary.

living stands of giant Sitka spruce left intact on the outer central coast. We will also continue to work with the Gitga'at First Nation, whose people are unhappy that Gribbell Island was not protected. It has the highest incidence of white-phase Kermodes, over 30% of the population.

Is BC's Wildlife Really Being Protected?

In the Inland Temperate Rainforest, 500 kilometres from the coast, the Goat Range Provincial Park was created in 1994 through the efforts of this Society. Like the Spirit Bear Conservancy, its purpose was to protect bears: in this case, a population of white grizzly bears. Of course, the park affords some protection to all the species that live there. This year, two mother grizzly bears brought their white cubs to the river to fish. But in creating the park, the BC government had cut out much adjacent forest, and only a small piece of the river is protected. Every year the bears of the Goat Range Park wander outside the park while fishing.

The area has a remnant mountain caribou herd. Recently the BC government's Mountain Caribou Science Team proposed that the grizzly bears and wolverines of the Central Kootenays be shot to suppress their population growth because they sometimes eat mountain caribou (and have done so for thousands of years.) But these species have declined everywhere and are listed as a species at risk.

The reason for this recommendation is to avoid protecting the old-growth forest habitat of the mountain caribou. This highlights what worries many people

about the coastal agreements. Has the allowable annual cut gone down on the coast? How much lush valley-bottom forest is in the new conservancies, or has most of it been conceded to logging? It will be a while before the answers are fully known. What we do know now is that there is no reform when new parks are used to aid, abet and cover up destruction of wildlife and ancient forest elsewhere.

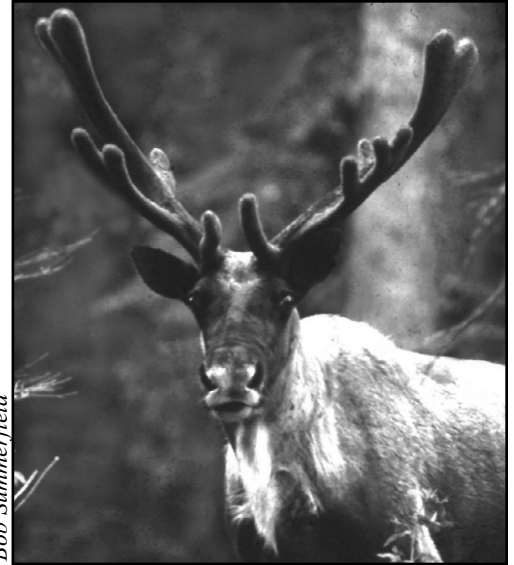
BC's industrial forces act like Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde when it comes to the environment. When it really becomes apparent that logging is killing BC's wildlife, as in the case of mountain caribou and the spotted owl, what happens then? The following pages tell the story. In reading it, it is important to remember that BC has 1,364 species at risk, many of them endangered by logging. Amongst them are the mountain caribou, the spotted owl, the Vancouver Island marmot and the marbled murrelet.

BC is one of the last great places in the world that still has bears, wolves, cougars and wolverines. Like Africa, BC is an ark of biodiversity amidst a rising global tide of destruction of species. We are doing too little, too late to meet this grave responsibility. In the overall view, BC may be losing its magnificent wildlife heritage.



CRISIS FOR BC INTERIOR WILDLIFE

The 2006 census of mountain caribou shows an increase of about 100 animals, for a total of 1,900 animals. However, the increase is due to a more thorough census that included a larger area. Almost all herds continue to decline. The world now has more snow leopards and black rhinoceroses than mountain caribou. VWS's extensive review of scientific reports on mountain caribou over the last 20 years revealed that almost all of them attribute the decline to the loss and fragmentation of old-growth forest, chiefly by logging. But when the federal *Species at Risk Act* required a recovery program, the timber industry generated huge resistance to protecting more forest. Government and industry scientists began to blame predators for the caribou's decline. The BC government's Species at Risk Coordination Office (SaRCO) is now in the final stages of creating a recovery strategy, and every large carnivore in mountain caribou regions is under severe threat.



Bob Summerfeld

Draft Strategy is based upon increased killing of nine species of wildlife

Many people thought that BC's new Species at Risk Coordination Office (SaRCO), and its Mountain Caribou Science Team, meant the province was getting serious about protecting mountain caribou. But SaRCO and the science team fell under the control of the Integrated Land Management Bureau — a committee representing not just the Ministry of Environment, but the ministries of logging, mining, and tourism. The very interests that are destroying the animals' habitat or displacing them from their winter feeding grounds now control the foundation of BC's recovery program.

Recently the science team identified five options for future mountain caribou management. Only one of them, Option 5, included significant new protection for the central

and southern parts of the habitat. The rest were based chiefly upon shooting the predators and competition (moose, elk, deer) of the mountain caribou. But SaRCO's new draft recovery map has dropped Option 5 altogether.

The government has invited the logging companies, helicopter tourism companies, environmental groups, and First Nations to provide input. A compromise between environmentalists and industry will probably leave only three options — doing nothing, shooting predators, or shooting more predators. Without a large program to preserve and restore habitat, the mountain caribou will disappear forever, while the whole wildlife community in the region suffers huge impacts.



Gary Kramer

ATTENTION HUNTERS

THE REVELSTOKE ROD & GUN CLUB HAS CONCERNS OVER THE GROWING WOLF POPULATION IN THIS AREA AND THE EFFECTS THEY ARE HAVING ON UNGULATE POPULATIONS SUCH AS MOOSE AND CARIBOU. WE WOULD LIKE TO REMIND HUNTERS THAT THE WOLF SEASON IS CURRENTLY OPEN, THE REGIONAL BAG LIMIT IS 2 AND NO SPECIES LICENCE IS REQUIRED. WE WOULD LIKE ALSO TO ENCOURAGE HUNTERS TO TAKE ANY OPPORTUNITY THEY HAVE TO HARVEST A WOLF.

Thank you, from the Revelstoke Rod & Gun Club 

This is a sign along the highway just north of Revelstoke. The Revelstoke Forest District is one of the worst for its lack of protection of caribou forest. The increase recommended by the science team is miniscule. Wolves are already being slaughtered despite the fact that scientists have failed to document significant wolf predation on mountain caribou in the Revelstoke area. Reportedly, increased hunting of moose has drastically reduced them too.

THE WIDENING SWATH OF DEATH AND DESTRUCTION SURROUNDING BC'S LOGGING PRACTICES



Tracy Brooks - USFWS



Ronald Bell - USFWS



Craig Pettitt



Craig Pettitt

Every species of wildlife shown on this page is in the gunsights of BC's draft mountain caribou recovery strategy

Why would scientists recommend killing predators?

In the pages of their scientific journals, many caribou scientists in BC say that increased predation on mountain caribou is related to clearcuts and logging roads. And they acknowledge that it's clearcuts and roads that cause increased predation on mountain caribou.

Although wolves and cougars are native species in mountain caribou habitat, the old-growth forest supports relatively low numbers of them. Clearcutting old-growth forest causes abundant shrubs and young trees to grow, which attract moose, elk and deer and cause them to multiply rapidly. These are the principle prey of wolves and cougars, which follow them into the clearcut areas. As the clearcuts spread, the caribou become concentrated in small patches of forest in between the cutblocks. Predators can easily find them that way. Logging roads enable predators to travel faster, and thick brush that grows along the sides of roads prevents caribou from escaping.

This theory has caused hot controversy amongst scientists

Many scientists are against killing predators at all. They point out that mountain caribou are a prey species. It is only natural, if their habitat is destroyed on a large scale and their population allowed to sink very low, that they will be more vulnerable

to predators.

These scientists say that large carnivores are critical to healthy ecosystems and healthy populations of prey species. When large carnivores are missing, medium-sized carnivores become more numerous and may wipe out smaller species such as birds and rodents, even causing extinctions. Large prey species may have population explosions, strip vegetation, and then starve to death.

The population of wolves is naturally controlled by the population of their prey. The more wolves are shot, the faster they disperse and multiply. Studies show that predator control is only effective when the killing is heavy, prolonged, and geographically widespread — which will cause serious ecological damage.

The government's scientists say their program for predator control would have to be followed for 60-100 years. They say their prescriptions would reduce the predators to a "sustainable" level. Other scientists say that's absurd. They say the province has no reliable data on current levels of predators or what is "sustainable." It is seeking least-cost methods, including turning hunters loose on predators. It is even considering bounties, the relentless mixture of greed and killing that emptied out most of the big predators in the US. In asking why this would be happening, it is important to remember that a panel of scientists was managing the East Coast cod fishery when it collapsed.



Larry Moats - USFWS



Craig Pettitt



Craig Pettitt

Many More Species are Threatened

The killing of predators and competitive prey species will temporarily prop up mountain caribou numbers, and thus cover up the problem while the logging companies log what little habitat the mountain caribou have left. This will eventually wipe out the mountain caribou, but it will also wipe out many other less visible old-growth species living in the Inland Temperate Rainforest. This includes many rare plants, mushrooms, mosses, lichens, and so forth. Why does this matter?

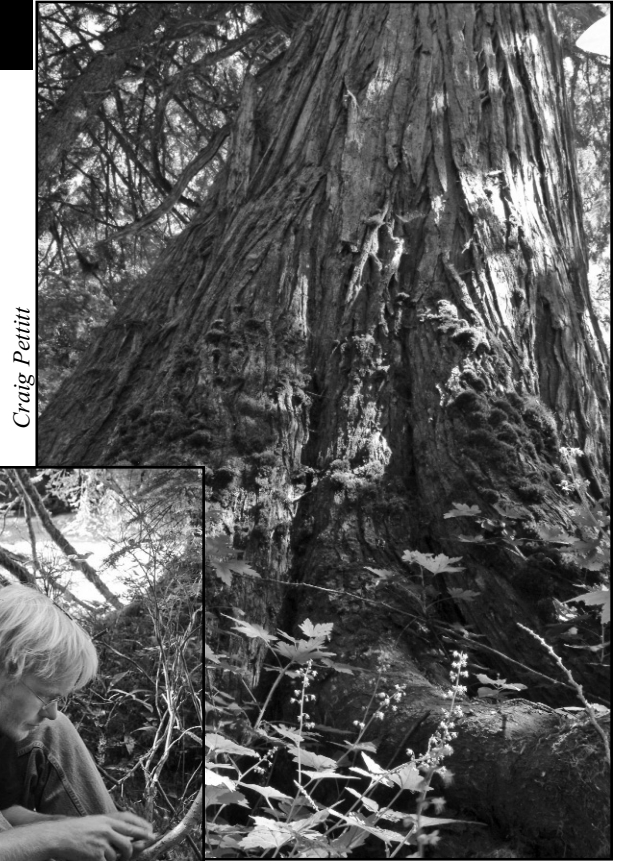
Ecosystems are literally built from the ground up, starting with soil, the microorganisms that enrich the soil, and moving to the plants that grow from the soil, the insects that eat the plants and the birds and other small life that eat the insects. The microorganisms, fungi, and small plants that connect to the soil, water and atmosphere are literally the roots of life on earth. Scientists are concerned that we are cutting these roots. Human activities, by destroying thousands of species, are undermining the world's life support system.

Scientists stress that it is important to keep every part of Earth's biological diversity. But so often ecosystems are destroyed before scientists can even learn what is in them. Without that knowledge, we can't even distinguish the different kinds of ecosystems so that we can save an adequate representation of each type.

The Inland Temperate Rainforest harbours very old forests. We don't have many ancient forests left in North America. We can expect to find very important ecological linkages in ecosystems that have not been disturbed for thousands of years. That's why botanists and old-growth specialists have been flocking to the Incomappleux River Valley. VWS has been assisting their work to document the species of this primeval Inland Temperate Rainforest. This research can only be carried out a small step at a time because of lack of funds.

This summer has brought stunning new developments. Botanist Toby Spribille from the University of Göttingen has now documented a total of 278 lichen species in the Upper Incomappleux Valley, where trees 500-1,800 years old can be found. Three species had not previously been found in North America, and three others are new to British Columbia and Canada. Six of these species are so far known only to the Incomappleux and are potentially new to science. The current lichen list for the Incomappleux is by far longer than any other list ever published in western North America for an area of comparable size.

Many of these lichens and other small organisms are dependent upon the moisture and stable conditions in the old-growth rainforest. Clearcuts dry out these areas, expose them to light, and eliminate these species.



Craig Pettit



Botanist Toby Spribille in the Incomappleux

What's so good about lichens? Well, the mountain caribou are totally dependent upon them for food. Many other species are linked to lichens, such as the lichen moth. And lichens play an important role in the growth of trees in rainforests. Perhaps what is equally important are the functions we don't know. The inventory being carried out by the scientists is the first key to answering these questions.

What is the state of protection in the Inland Rainforest Region?

The BC government says that more than 64% of the "current mountain caribou herd areas" are either protected or managed for mountain caribou. However, the areas "managed" for caribou allow logging. In many of these areas, 60% of the old-growth may be logged. In 2004 ForestEthics documented 53,379 hectares of forest slated for logging in areas specifically designated by the government for mountain caribou habitat. Of numerous protected areas in mountain caribou habitat, only two contain large intact areas of low- and mid-elevation forest essential for mountain caribou: Wells Gray and the Cariboo Mountains Provincial Parks. Both are in the northern part of the Inland Rainforest Region. This northern area has also designated 1 million hectares of old-growth "no logging zones" outside of parks. This is why the north has the most caribou today. But these zones are not parks. The government can easily write a "variance" to change them and this has happened in several instances in other areas.



There Is Hope for the Mountain Caribou

- ◆ Approximately 20% of the forest in the Inland Rainforest Region is still intact old-growth. There are significant opportunities for creating new or expanded protected areas.
 - ◆ Many wildlife experts are saying that the problem with predators can be substantially curbed by decommissioning roads, closing caribou winter habitat to snowmobiles, and thinning young forest on clearcuts. This will provide jobs too.
 - ◆ One of BC's top lichenologists says that pine forests killed by the mountain pine beetle will grow abundant hair lichens needed by mountain caribou for food. Mountain caribou have resorted to pine forest before in hard winters.
 - ◆ Environmental groups, First Nations, individual citizens and newspapers are speaking out in defense of BC's mountain caribou and top predators. Here is what many of them are recommending:
1. The recovery program must be based upon habitat protection.
 2. Full protection for all remaining old-growth forest 140 years or older.
 3. Recovery of areas already logged, including road deactivation, to reduce human and predator access.
 4. Restriction of motorized recreation, including snowmobiles, ATVs and helicopters in caribou habitat.
 5. An immediate moratorium on all logging (including that under the guise of beetle management), and on new recreation tenures within any caribou habitat until responsible recovery plans are completed and implemented.
 6. No killing of predators. Predator reduction should rely upon habitat management such as road deactivation.

Deadline for letters to government on the draft recovery strategy:

End of January 2007

THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT THING YOU CAN DO TODAY IS TO WRITE A LETTER TO SARCO AND ANSWER THESE TWO QUESTIONS:

Do you support the increased killing of nine species of wildlife to save the mountain caribou?

Do you support increased protection of old-growth forest to save the caribou?

SARCO invited public input, but only one meeting was announced — at the Vancouver airport on November 29 and

30. This is hundreds of kilometres away from the people who live in mountain caribou habitat. VWS Executive Director Colleen McCrory was there. The Valhalla Wilderness Society received an invitation from the government to participate. Hopefully all or most of our members will write letters. The address is:

**Heather Mitchell
Species at Risk Coordination Office
PO Box 9301 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9M3
250-356-9518**

A Very Musical Idea

It is said that a symphony orchestra is the living embodiment of the principles of cooperation, interconnectedness, harmony and flow. Playing or listening to music instills lessons which, if carried forward into our daily lives, would transform the world. So maybe it's no accident that two retired music teachers would show us how to raise some funds for a good cause.

VWS members Steve Guidone and Jaki Greenhough (right) wanted to do something to help the Inland Temperate Rainforest, something bigger than what they were able to do

continued on back

Courtesy of Steve Guidone



An evening of music with friends resulted in a handsome donation for the Valhalla Wilderness Society.

Valhalla Wilderness Society

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Membership and Donations

All donations are tax creditable, Charitable Tax # 119260883 RR

- Please sign me up for membership (\$10.00) _____.
- I would like to make a one-time donation of _____.
- I would like to become a Sustaining Donor at the rate of : \$ _____/month.
 Please make an automatic withdrawal from my credit card. The withdrawal should occur on the 1st day of each month or the 15th day of each month, beginning the month of _____, 2007.

Name: _____ Telephone: _____
 Address: _____ E-mail: _____
 VISA #: _____ MASTERCARD #: _____ Exp. Date: _____
 Signature: _____ Fax: _____

Want to hear more often from VWS? Send us your e-mail address. We are trying to develop a member e-mail list so we can send you press releases and action alerts. Also, please copy this page and give it to a friend.

Order Form

Posters	\$ Canadian	Total purchases\$ _____
Save the Spirit Bear's Rainforest Home.	\$ 8 _____	Shipping/handling (\$2 minimum)	\$ _____
Spirit Bear of the Rainforest	\$12 _____	Shipping of posters add \$6.95	\$ _____
Spirit Bear, full-body image, laminated.	\$10 _____	plus 10% on amounts \$10 or over ...	\$ _____
Spirit Bear mother & cubs	\$ 8 _____	OR 20% for overseas	\$ _____
Khutzeymateen grizzly	\$ 8 _____	BC residents add 7% PST	\$ _____
Valhalla Park - wildflowers on Mt. Idaho ...	\$ 10 _____	Membership - \$10 (no tax).	\$ _____
Inland Rainforest map & Declaration(new). \$12	_____	Donation (tax receipt issued)	\$ _____
Miscellaneous		US orders: 1 US \$ = 1.2 Canadian	
White Spirit Bear book by Nana Tess	\$12.95 _____	Grand Total Enclosed	\$ _____
Total purchases	\$ _____	VISA # _____ Exp. _____	

(Charitable Tax # 119260883 RR)

MASTERCARD # _____ Exp. _____
 Signature _____

A Very Musical Idea, cont.

alone. So they invited their friends to have a simple evening of fun playing music together, and having some snacks afterward. Each person contributed something to a pool of donations. Shortly after Christmas, VWS received an envelope of cheques that was not only very substantial in its amount, but also represented a Red Cross shipment of encouragement to a bunch of weary activists.

Steve later shared with VWS the secrets of home-based fundraisers. He recommends:

- ◆ Something is lost when the venue gets large. Anyone with a moderate-sized living room or family room can put on a fundraiser.
- ◆ Select the audience and keep in touch with them. About 5 weeks before the event, personally call and invite people. Only invite those whom you know or suspect have an interest in the issue (environment).
- ◆ Call them again about a week before the event to confirm



their attendance. Fill in the empty seats from your reserve list. Every seat must be filled on event night.

◆ When inviting people be clear that they should bring a cheque made out to the Valhalla Wilderness Society for any amount they wish to donate and seal it in an envelope. Assure them the envelopes will be forwarded unopened to VWS.

- ◆ The event could be based on a variety of entertainments, including music, story telling, poetry reading, art, drama, silent auction or centred on food. If it is a musical event, check with the performers often. Help them arrange time with accompanists.
- ◆ Offer some finger food after the show. The social part is important. A group pulled together on an issue have something in common and want to talk. They leave asking to be invited to the next event.

Thank you Steve and all the performers and audience!

What do wild horses have in common with grizzly bears and salmon? They are all being helped by the

Valhalla Foundation for Ecology and Social Justice

For the past 30 years the Valhalla Wilderness Society has been instrumental in securing protection of approximately 1.25 million acres of parkland in British Columbia. During that time, a number of people offered to bequeath property with high conservation values to VWS or to sell it cheaply. Unfortunately, the Society itself was not set up to hold private land.

Therefore, in 1998, several VWS and non-VWS directors formed the Valhalla Foundation to help address private land issues, conservation covenants and tenure acquisitions related to wildlife protection. They obtained federal charitable status.

In 2005, thanks to private donors and the Vancouver Foundation, the Valhalla Foundation was able to purchase 80 acres of private land in the Chilcotin country in west central BC, that provides habitat for grizzly bears, wolves and spawning grounds for Fraser-run Chinook salmon. The land is adjacent to Nunzi Provincial Park, so protecting the private land adds to the viability of the park. The wild horses of the area (shown above)



Wayne McCrory

sometimes use the land. Locals observed a herd of 18 wild horses on the grassy slopes in early May.

This summer the foundation assumed custodianship and carried out many activities such as hauling away garbage, posting no-hunting signs, and having talks with First Nations and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans about managing for salmon.

For more information on how you can contribute directly to the acquisition of land with high conservation values, please contact:

The Valhalla Foundation
Box 63, Silverton, BC
Canada VOG 2B0