

Valhalla Wilderness Society

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2011 Report to Members on the Campaigns and Activities of the Valhalla Wilderness Society

FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT DECISION CIRCUMVENTED WHILE EXTINCTION CRISIS ACCELERATES

Today British Columbia has over 1,500 endangered and threatened species, and the number is increasing rapidly. This extinction crisis is worldwide, and there is broad scientific opinion that it threatens the health and survival of the human race.

Disillusioned with Canada's toothless *Species at Risk Act*, many environmentalists have been seeking provincial species at risk legislation. Early this year, the BC Task Force on Species at Risk nixed the whole idea. VWS directors were actually relieved. Having gone through one recovery process for one species at risk (the mountain caribou) that turned into a 5-year bureaucratic maze, we knew that 1,500 species at risk could not possibly be addressed that way. The focus must be on protecting ecosystems.

Unfortunately, the BC panel's recommendations were devoid of any real content. They failed to pinpoint two critical missing elements for protecting species: 1) an environmental assessment law capable of turning down development proposals that would deal death and destruction to wildlife and habitat (read the Enbridge pipeline, the Raven Coal Mine, the Prosperity Mine at Fish Lake, and many more); and 2) a dramatic increase in the percentage of fully protected lands, with emphasis on high biodiversity ecosystems.

Before last year's decision on the Prosperity Mine (a proposed open-pit gold mine at Fish Lake in the Chilcotin region) only two proposed projects had ever been rejected by a Federal Environmental Assessment (EA) panel. So when an EA panel issued a scathing report on the Prosperity Mine proposal, and the federal government rejected the project, there was hope that the effectiveness of the process might be improved. Unfortunately, inside this newsletter you will read how that decision has now been circumvented by the com-



Upper Taseko Lake (above) is included in a new conservancy proposal that also includes Teztan Biny, the embattled Fish Lake. This year VWS worked with several environmental groups and the Xenigwet'in community of the Tsilhqot'in First Nation to achieve mapped boundaries for the proposal.

Mark McLean

pany repackaging part of the old proposal and the government accepting it for a new EA.

Meanwhile, the current amount of full protection in BC is only about 14%, whereas numerous scientists have now recommended increasing that to 44-50% of our remaining wildlands. BC does not need just one or two new parks; it needs a dramatic increase in the percentage of protected areas, with emphasis on connecting existing parks.

That was the message that Valhalla Wilderness Society (VWS) directors took to legislators in 2011, in an intensified campaign for the Selkirk Mountain Caribou Park Proposal in the BC Inland Rainforest. VWS made lengthy presentations to the Minister of Environment, Hon. Terry Lake, and other government representatives.

As you'll read in this newsletter, VWS has developed a number of park proposals which are very important to the protection of biodiversity. Unfortunately, the worsening economic climate means that funding from foundations and private sources continues to diminish. Many smaller organizations have folded, and about 65% of non-government organizations are totally volunteer. Whereas most VWS directors used to work full-time on environmental protection, we now work at other jobs to support ourselves

Nevertheless, with the help of your donations, some angels in a few foundations, a marvelous crew of volunteers and the generous contribution of expertise by a number of scientific and technical specialists, VWS was able to make considerable progress in 2011. Please take a look inside at our 2011 activities. As you will see, there is a lot to do next year. We hope you will keep up your contributions, because they are a major mainstay of the Society. It is you that can help make a difference.

THE BATTLE FOR TEZTAN BINY (FISH LAKE)

Teeming with rainbow trout, and critical to the subsistence life style and culture of the Xeni Gwet'in aboriginal people, Teztan Biny (Fish Lake) has been coveted for many years by Taseko Mines Ltd (TML). TML wanted to drain the lake, which would kill thousands of fish, and use it as the tailings pond for a gold mine. The proposed Prosperity Mine received a full Federal Environmental Assessment (EA) which reviewed 3 different options for the design of the mine site. All 3 options were rejected, but only months later Taseko Mines submitted a "revised" proposal which turned out to be one of the options already reviewed and turned down. In accepting it for a new review, the federal government has effectively annulled its previous decision.

Jonaki Bhattacharyya



SHOCKING ABUSE OF PROCESS

Right up until the end of the first Federal Environmental Assessment, Taseko Mines Ltd. (TML) claimed that the only feasible option was draining Testan Biny to use it as a tailings pond. An alternative, Option 2, would have stored the tailings near but upstream from the lake. TML's own engineer had admitted that underground seepage from the tailings would still contaminate the lake; both the company and the EA panel saw Option 2 as even more environmentally damaging than than using the lake bed itself. Citing severe and irreversible environmental and cultural impacts, the federal panel turned down all three options. Yet within months, TML dressed up Option 2 and resubmitted it for a new review.

While the federal government was deliberating on whether to grant a new review, the BC government secretly issued a permit to Taseko Mines Ltd. to push 24 kilometres of road into the area, dig 59 test pits and drill 18 holes — this despite the fact that, as it stood at that time, the mine had been firmly forbidden by the federal government.

Just before the federal government announcement, the BC exploration permits were made public. The company claimed that the exploration was needed to generate information for the new EA. The actions of the BC government and the company cannot help but suggest an intent or understanding that the mine will go ahead, and that the new review will be used to remove the barrier posed by the old one.

The message is this: when industry wins an EA approval, that's the end of the matter; but in the extremely rare event that a project is rejected, that decision means nothing. The proponent can just keep repackaging the project and getting new EAs until the opponents have been drained of resources or a more malleable decision-maker has been put in place. The public now stands robbed of its rights to closure by a federal review process paid for with its own taxes.

Even more seriously, this situation is just a modern-day version of a very old story of governments abusing process to dispossess aboriginal people of their land, resources and culture. In this situation, as far back as 1989 the Xeni Gwet'in nobly declared their whole area, including Fish Lake, an aboriginal preserve with no industrial development. Following this, they declared the same area western Canada's first wild horse preserve. It is an area larger than Banff National Park and of international stature in terms of its diversity of wildlife species and rare, intact habitats, including spawning grounds for major runs of Pacific wild salmon that support a huge traditional and coastal commercial fishery.

Should a mining company propose a similar, large open pit mine that involved draining a popular lake in Banff National Park for a tailings pond, Canadian citizens would riot in objection; as they should now do so for an intact ecosystem of even more significant ecological and First Nations stature that is protected by aboriginal decree.

Taseko Mines Limited (TML), clutching its BC permits, tried to enter the area with its equipment, and was asked to leave by the Xeni Gwet'in. TML's employees did so, but the company has announced it is suing those who had obstructed the entry. The Tsilhqot'in First Nation has also filed a lawsuit and applied for an injunction against the new BC permits until the court case is settled.

BACKGROUND: VWS WORK 2009-10:

The Valhalla Wilderness Society co-sponsored, with Friends of the Nemaiah Valley (FONV), a conservation study of the dryland grizzly bear in the South Chilcotin Ranges by Dr. Lance Craighead and VWS biologist Wayne McCrory. The report was presented by McCrory, as an expert witness, to the 2010 Federal Environmental Assessment hearings. His professional opinion was that a mine at Teztan Biny would

THE PROPOSED DASIQOX-TASEKO WILDERNESS CONSERVANCY

Nestled in the lee of the snow-capped peaks of the Coast Range massifs of British Columbia, is a remote mountain and foothills ecosystem know as “the Nepal of Canada”, one of the rarest and most unique intact rain shadow mountain ecosystems of its type left in North America. It is mostly within the traditional territory of the Xeni Gwet’in (pron. “Honey-Gwe-teen”) Band of the Tsilqot’in First Nation. Today VWS, the Friends of Nemaiah Valley and the Environmental Mining Education Foundation are working on a 240,000-hectare conservancy proposal for the area, subject to the approval of the Tsilqot’in First Nation. It would encompass most of the Dasiqox-Taseko Watershed in the BC Chilcotin Ranges, 200 kilometres west of Williams Lake.



Onion Lake, in the Dasiqox-Taseko park proposal.

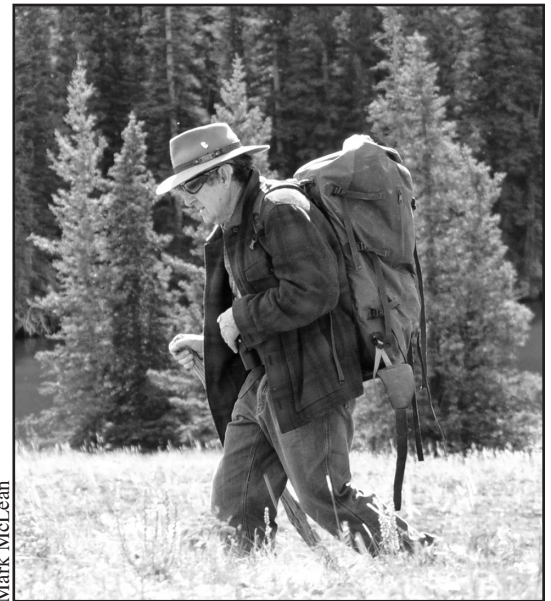
mean inevitable extinction for the dryland grizzly bear. This was cited in the final report of the EA panel when it recommended that the federal government turn down the mine.

Also in 2010, VWS partnered with Friends of Nemaiah Valley (FONV) and the Environmental Mining Education Foundation to discuss and develop the park proposal. The groups drafted a protocol agreement for working together.

UPDATE 2011

In January 2011, McCrory, working with Baden Cross of Applied Conservation GIS, drew up a draft map of the boundaries for the conservancy proposal that showed how it would connect five provincial parks and the Xeni Gwet’in Wild Horse/Aboriginal Preserve. This was circulated for input to the two other groups and Xeni Gwet’in.

In February, 2011, VWS and FONV made a PowerPoint presentation on the proposal to the Xeni Gwet’in community in Nemaiah. In March, 2011 the Xeni Gwet’in First Nation sent a letter that supported the three environmental groups pursuing protection of the Dasiqox-Taseko and other habitat areas of importance to grizzly bears.



Mark McLean

As was the case with the Khutzeymateen Grizzly Sanctuary and the Spirit Bear Conservancy, biologist and VWS director Wayne McCrory (above) spends part of every year on the ground in the Chilcotin, studying the wildlife, including wild horses, guiding media and funders for the protection campaign, and working with First Nations.

In 2011 McCrory made some field surveys in the Taseko Valley to get documentation of the wildlife and habitat values and photographs for our publicity brochure. Xeni Gwet’in fisheries consultant Rick Holmes, RPBio, provided technical information of Taseko salmon values.

In August 2011, EMEF Matthias Stanzer drafted a two-page colour brochure for the proposal based on the VWS technical background document. This fall the proposal map and the draft publicity brochure were approved by the Xeni Gwet’in. However, they requested more time to consult with other native bands.

In September, biologist Wayne McCrory included the proposal in his wildlife presentation to the Tsilhqot’in National Government (TNG). The TNG has approved the proposal in principle, although some of the member bands want more time to review it. In October 2011, Chief Councillor Roger William obtained approval for the proposal from Chief Ivor Myers of the Yunesit’in First Nation at Stone.

We expect to work with First Nations on a formal release of the conservancy proposal later in the year, once the mining issue has settled down and at the best strategic time.

SELKIRK CARIBOU PARK PROPOSAL: ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

This year VWS made presentations to the three MLAs whose ridings are included in the Selkirk park proposal; the Minister of Environment, our MP, top regional officials of the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resources, and the Municipal Council of Nakusp, a logging town near the park proposal. Most were shown a PowerPoint presentation and left with a detailed briefing document on the proposal.



Anne Sherrod

VWS biologist and membership secretary Erica Mallam gathers signatures on letter cards and petitions at a Jumbo Wild rally in Nelson hosted by MLA Michelle Mungall in February of 2011.

In 2011 VWS launched a petition for the Selkirk Caribou Park Proposal, to be eventually presented to the BC Legislature, which only receives paper petitions. VWS directors and volunteers toured towns from Kelowna to Banff, meeting hundreds of people and gathering signatures. Thanks to many helpers, including 12 cooperating businesses in the Kootenays, we now have 3,250 signatures counted, but many more remain uncounted.

MEETINGS WITH GOVERNMENT

MLAs Katrine Conroy, Michelle Mungall, and Norm MacDonald were very helpful. Ms. Conroy and Mr. MacDonald agreed to visit the Incomappleux; unfortunately, access in the Incomappleux was closed during 2011. These MLAs each spent over an hour with us. Ms. Conroy arranged for us to meet the Minister of Environment, Hon. Terry Lake.

VWS sent directors Craig Pettitt, Wayne McCrory and Anne Sherrod to Victoria; our delegation included Kelowna filmmaker Riel Marquardt. The Minister gave us 45 minutes and showed considerable interest in the proposal. We thought that was good, but a Minister would not dare express support for a park proposal without a decision by Cabinet. However the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resources did offer to support the park if we would trade it for parkland elsewhere that could be logged. Our unanimous response: "NO WAY!"



Juscha Grunther

Anne and Daniel attending the VWS table at a Nelson event.

THE PETITION DRIVE

In late spring, VWS took the petition for the Selkirk park proposal to the Friday Market in New Denver. People were magnetized to it! Given that the object was now to get signatures down on paper, we went to events in Kelowna, Nelson, New Denver, Kaslo, Banff and Revelstoke, including outdoor markets, music festivals, a film festival, a mall, and conferences. Extra thanks go to activist Sadie Parr for organizing the petition drive in Golden, with a presentation at the Northern Lights Wolf Centre, and for gaining the support of the Golden Chapter of the Council of Canadians. VWS worked closely with Riel Marquardt and Arden Rutherford in Kelowna, who showed Riel's film on the Incomappleux and brought in hundreds of signatures. Thanks also to volunteers who took the petition to friends and family, and to several biologists who took the petition to scientific conferences. We estimate that we are close to 4,000 signatures. We would like at least 5,000.



Erica Mallam

Craig came in from the field to run his all-day talk-a-thons on the Selkirk Caribou park proposal at Valhalla's many outdoor presentations this year.

SELKIRK PARK PROPOSAL: BIODIVERSITY RESEARCH

The large wildlife species depend upon a universe of smaller organisms for their survival. This year VWS teamed up with researchers from three countries to start uncovering the secrets of snail diversity in and around the Selkirk park proposal. They found a species at risk in the park proposal: the Pale Jumping Slug (*Hemphillia camelus*), which is blue-listed in BC. They also found the Coeur d'Alene salamander, which is not deemed to be at risk, though it's doubtful that any amphibians are safe these days.

The project revealed that the leaf litter and soil under our feet were crawling with tiny, almost microscopic snails that were at work breaking down leaf litter in the decomposition process. Snails are also food for amphibians and many other animals. In making their shells, snails concentrate calcium from the environment and make it available to other organisms. Shells of larger species are a critical source of calcium for breeding birds. There are cases of bird populations declining due to acid rain wiping out snails.

BC's rare Inland Temperate Rainforest is part of a wet temperate zone in the interior of BC that is known to have high biodiversity; yet there has been very little research to tell us the full extent of what lives there. In the Selkirk park proposal, only cursory study by lichenologists has revealed unexpected and rare species, and even species new to science. VWS asked lichen researcher Dr. Toby Spribille to recommend next steps to find out more about these ecosystems. Spribille contacted prominent international snail experts and told them about the unusual habitats in the park proposal.

In August VWS welcomed Dr. Jeffrey Nekola from the University of New Mexico, Dr. Brian Coles, a retired professor in France, and Dr. Michal Horsák and Veronika Schenková from Masaryk University in the Czech Republic — all having a huge depth of knowledge about ecosystems and biodiversity in general.

VWS paid a small amount towards the scientists' travel expenses, hosted them in our homes, guided them in the field and assisted them with local knowledge of habitats. In return, we received research by leading university scientists who publish in peer-reviewed journals, with their field time, lab analysis and reports paid for from their own research funds.

Final results will not be known until laboratory work is complete, sometime in December or January. Preliminary results identified 40 species of snails in the park proposal or to the south of it.



Oreohelix strigosa - blue-listed snail

Michal Horsák

“How can we fully understand the ecology of a pond or forest patch without knowledge of the thousands of species—indeed millions when bacteria are included—the principal channels of materials and energy flow how can we save Earth's life forms from extinction if we don't even know what most of them are?”

Renowned Harvard Professor
Edward O. Wilson



Anne Sherrod

Snail experts Dr. J. Nekola and Dr. M. Horsák examine a sample taken from forest along the Duncan River.



Michal Horsák

Coeur d'Alene salamander (*Plethodon idahoensis*), in the park proposal.



Anne Sherrod

A sample from the Incomappleux marsh. There are several species of snails in the sample. The turban-shaped ones belong to the genus *Vertigo*. There are also tiny clams in this sample.

SELKIRK PARK PROPOSAL: NOTES FROM THE FIELD

by Anne Sherrod

To defend a wild area, we must let the world know what is there to be saved or destroyed, and that means we have to do research. This year the road to some of the most important habitats, in the Incomappleux Valley, had a large washout, and the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resources (MFLNR) had barricaded it. This meant that the people increasingly interested in seeing it could not do so, and VWS had an international team of five scientists arriving in August.

Director Craig Pettitt carried on communication with MFLNR. Some of our local members wrote letters to the government asking for the road to be repaired. MFLNR could not repair it this year, but gave VWS permission to go past the barriers. This then required many days of heavy labour to make the road passable for the scientific study — performed indefatigably by Craig Pettitt, Daniel Sherrod and one of our members, Hank Hastings.

The snail study brought attention to two rare habitats in the Selkirk Mountain Caribou Park Proposal. One is the extensive marsh along the Incomappleux River. Many marshes in the Columbia Basin have been wiped out by dams. Our inquiries with government and scientists have failed to turn up anyone who knew of the existence of this major wetland along the Incomappleux before we told them about it. The scientists knew immediately when they examined it that the marsh was being fed by ground water. They say it has a “magnificent island of sedge meadow habitat,” yet there is an application for a water-driven power plant on a nearby creek that could potentially destroy this wetland.

Another habitat that’s very unusual is the massive karst formations — huge monoliths of limestone — along the spine of the Badshot Range in the core of the park proposal. I traveled with other directors into the high country of these mountains with the snail scientists. We were thrilled by a sighting of an endangered mountain caribou.

I’ve seen a lot of alpine areas in the Selkirks, but when we arrived at Healy Creek pass, I was just stunned by the beauty of it. I had my camera around my neck, but I didn’t even try to take a photograph; it could never have captured the immensity, the radiant light and splendour of the peaks. The photo shown above is an older one that captures only one little piece of it. The meadows in this limestone-rich basin had a fabulous abundance and diversity of wildflowers, with species that I’ve seen nowhere else in this region.



Anne Sherrod



Michal Horsák

Hemphillia camelus, the “Pale Jumping Slug” is blue-listed by the BC Conservation Data Centre. Without a shell, it needs a moist habitat. Major threats include habitat loss and fragmentation by clearcut logging. Healy Creek is protected from logging under the Mountain Caribou Recovery Plan. But if the caribou fail to thrive, the area could be returned to the Timber Harvesting Land Base for logging. Then the other species at risk in this area would have no protection. As it stands, this area can still have mining exploration and development, despite the presence of at least three species at risk. A fourth, the wolverine, is likely present in this area as well. The Pale Jumping Slug has only one protected location in its range, Glacier National Park.

The one time I’d been there previously, we had seen a big hunk of a male grizzly bear digging for glacier lily corms in the meadow. This time, the scientists found the “jumping slug” shown above. Instead of a shell, it carries only a small plate on its back. When disturbed even slightly, it jumps around in contortions. Together with the grizzly bear and the mountain caribou seen nearby, that made two blue- and one red-listed species that we have viewed in this one small area.

Unfortunately, it was here that a mining exploration crew passed us on ATVs. A mine could wipe much of this delicate karst ecosystem out of existence but it will take more research to learn what the mining interests have in mind. In 2012, when the report on the snail study is available, VWS expects to bring it to the attention of media, government and other environmental groups, not only to increase knowledge of the park proposal, but especially to publicize the urgent need to protect biodiversity.

COASTAL CRISIS ESCALATES

Enbridge Pipeline

There is a darkening cloud over the BC coast as political and industrial forces for shipping oil and coal to China grow huge, as do the forces for environmental protection. Director Wayne McCrory is registered in Klemtu to be a presenter on behalf of VWS against the Enbridge pipeline at public hearings in June 2012. A field trip is also planned to feature these issues.

Gribbell Island Conservancy Proposal

VWS, through its coastal campaigner, biologist Wayne McCrory, has continued to work on further protection of several key areas on the BC central coast, including Gribbell Island and Green Inlet. In 2011, McCrory continued to maintain a dialogue with native communities and other conservation groups on the need for more protected areas to meet the scientific levels originally set (44 – 50%). The Gitga'at First Nation has been deflecting any further logging from happening in the near future on Gribbell Island.

In February 2011, McCrory made a PowerPoint presentation on this to a summit meeting of environmental organizations in Vancouver, along with a critique of why the current Ecosystem-Based Management (EBM) supported by larger conservation groups, the BC government and timber industry was not biologically adequate and would continue to put species at greater risk. He also made the case for protection of Gribbell Island and Green Inlet.

In 2011 McCrory also worked extensively with University of British Columbia geneticist Dr. Kermit Ritland to update and better explain the differences in occurrences of white-phased Kermode bears on the different islands and adjacent mainland. This information was provided by Dr. Ritland and Wayne McCrory as input into the recent *National*



Geographic article on the spirit bear. VWS also reviewed the draft *Geographic* article and worked at length with the editors on other aspects such as up-dating the VWS Kermode range map used in the article. [Although a superb article, it was disappointing that they did not mention how the Spirit Bear Conservancy was saved and VWS's long involvement]. They did quote VWS as stating that Gribbell Island is the mother island of the white bears. In 2012 the spirit bear program will escalate.

Green Inlet & Valley Conservancy Proposal

Up until now, progress on the coast on this issue has been very slow due mostly to the misbelief that enough was protected in 2006. Over the last two years this belief has caved in due to the appalling logging that continues to invade pristine valleys and cream the old growth. Not just grizzly bears, spirit bears and salmon are at stake. The ecosystems support phenomenal numbers of species that will be impacted by logging. The VWS campaign to protect the Green Inlet and Valley will escalate in 2012, starting with a field trips in the spring and fall.

OTHER VWS ACTIVITIES IN 2011

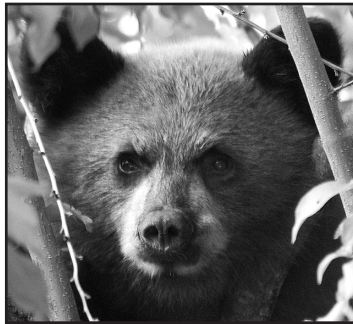
- ◆ Wayne McCrory and Craig Pettitt have continued communication with the T'exelc (Williams Lake or Sugarcane) Indian Band on the North Quesnel Lake Conservancy Proposal designed by VWS. Over the winter of 2010-2011 VWS received an invitation from the Band to make a presentation (several were made in earlier years, but to the community, not the Band Council). However, this proved difficult to arrange and subsequently the T'exelc began a species-at-risk study. VWS maps of the area and information on the conservancy proposal were used. We hope to make one or two presentations to the Band Council in the coming year, to promote a joint proposal.
- ◆ Wayne McCrory provided photographs and an interview to *Vancouver Sun* reporters exposing the BC government's war on wolves, with totally unregulated killing of wolves in almost one-third of the province. Wayne's work generated

major coverage of the issue in the *Sun*. The government has stopped claiming the rescue of mountain caribou as the excuse for slaughtering wolves in the Cariboo-Chilcotin. The excuse is now that the wolves are killing cattle. But excellent investigative journalism by Larry Pynn and Stephen Hume proved that the numbers of cattle killed were minimal.

- ◆ VWS staff biologist Wayne McCrory attended the international Bear Care conference in Banff in early October. This is an organization dedicated to better care of bears in captive situations (zoos and game enclosures), rescue and rehabilitation of orphan cubs, dancing bears (India) and bears kept inhumanely caged for their bile in Asia. There were 200 people from all over the world. Wayne gave two PowerPoint lectures, one on the natural history of wild bears and the other on VWS's wilderness/bear sanctuary campaigns. Excellent international support was expressed.

EFFORTS TO PROTECT HUMAN TOLERANT BEARS

Shortly after this photo was taken, conservation officers shot this black bear cub and its whole family, which had been very well-behaved, out of a tree in the village of New Denver. VWS is now circulating a petition in town to stop the slaughter.



Craig Pettitt

Many of you will be aware of VWS's long-time efforts to save the bears that come into the village of New Denver that is our Society's home base. They are drawn to the smell of garbage and fruit. New Denver is loaded with fruit trees of many kinds. New Denver has had these problems since anyone can remember, but they only started to result in numerous bear deaths in 2001, when the province stopped its program of live-trapping and relocating bears far away from town. Instead, today the province shoots over 500 black bears a year — 11 or more this year in New Denver alone.

Today, when residents have a bear problem, they don't

call the conservation officer, who would kill it; they call our Executive Director, Daniel Sherrod, also became the BearSmart coordinator for the Slovan Valley.

This year, due to a very cold spring, a vast amount of bear feeding grounds remained covered by snow at least a month later than usual. Bears were everywhere in town. Daniel was often required to spend hours on each bear, and it eventually required the involvement of all VWS direc-

tors to try to save them. VWS launched a petition, to be presented to government in the coming months, to return to the live trapping and release program. A large proportion of residents have signed it.

You can find an information bulletin entitled "Living with Bears" was created and distributed to every household in New Denver on the VWS website. It discusses the problem, the prospective solutions, and the degree of safety hazard associated with habituated bears.

These are dire times for the environment, and yet one year ago, at the time of our previous newsletter, who would have dreamt that citizens around the world would take to the streets *en masse* and start pushing back on the chief culprits: corporations, and the governments that sell out to them?

Already there have been demonstrations that the collective strength of hundreds or thousands of people is capable of overturning injustice. This principle can be exercised in our daily lives and in our homes.

TEZTAN BINY: VWS is not asking for letters on Teztan Biny at this time, since the matter has gone to court and the new review panel has not yet been convened. But please stand by to send letters in 2012. This year, VWS did not send email alerts to our mailing list, due to the intense focus that was being put on all the activities in this newsletter; but you will be hearing more from us on Teztan Biny and other issues if we have your email address.



Craig Pettitt

Your donations are sunshine to our work.

PETITION CAMPAIGN: You can go on the VWS website at www.vws.org, download the petition and fact sheet to save the Selkirk Mountain Caribou Park Proposal, take them to your family and friends, and mail us back a filled page of signatures. Two or three pages would be even better.

DONATIONS: The Valhalla Wilderness Society's work is limited by funding, but our team of activists is proud of the fact that our members and supporters pitch in a large amount by giving whatever they can. If you wish to donate, please use the enclosed donation form, or go to our website at www.vws.org.

Lastly, our colleague in the movement, Delores Broten, editor of the *Watershed Sentinel*, sent us this reminder: "It is important to remember that revolutions take a long time to develop

and come in waves -- the 30s, the 60s, the 2011 upsurge are all part of the same process, growing, changing, developing, as history unfolds. We may not live long enough to see the result, but we may know in our hearts that we are part of that wave of human development. It is an honour."