



COLUMBIA MOUNTAINS INSTITUTE OF APPLIED ECOLOGY

Annual Report

2001-2002

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1 Message from the President

The Columbia Mountains Institute (CMI) continued to move forward during the 2001-2002 year with the introduction of three new Board members, a review of the agency's goals and objectives, and the organization of two workshops and our annual researchers' workshop. However, the cutbacks announced by the BC provincial government during the period resulted in reduced revenues accruing to CMI from workshops and courses. This will pose financial challenges for the organization during the next 12 months.

At the start of the operating year, CMI was pleased to welcome George Richardson, Chris Steeger and Colene Wood as new Directors. The fresh ideas and enthusiasm that each new Director has provided has had a very positive impact on the organization. In May 2001, the Directors gathered in the Parks Canada chalet at the base of Mount Revelstoke National Park to review the CMI goals and objectives, and to discuss how well the agency was progressing in meeting our stated objectives. There was much positive discussion and some concrete actions were identified to help CMI achieve the lofty goals we have set for ourselves.

Our Annual Researchers' Meeting took place at Blue Lake Forestry Centre in April, 2001, attracted 52 participants, and was very successful. Many thanks to Ian Adams for his assistance in organizing this event. "Creating Bear Aware Communities" in November was attended by 65 people, and we thank Susan Hall for her ideas and help in putting together this event.

On a less positive note, the financial position of the organization continues to be of some concern. The cutbacks announced by the BC provincial government clearly had a negative influence on registrations for our last two workshops of the year. Both the Wildlife Immobilization course and the Roads, Rails and Environment workshop scheduled for March 2002, had to be cancelled due to low registrations. As revenue from workshops provides the largest source of revenue for the organization, these cancellations had a detrimental impact on our financial position. Sustaining the organization will continue to be a major challenge for CMI in the years to come.

Once again, CMI is grateful for the hard work and support of our Board of Directors, members and partners, who spend long volunteer hours planning and organizing our workshops and courses. CMI also appreciates the hard work and dedication of our only staff member - Jackie Morris. Jackie continues to do a wonderful job of managing the organization on a daily basis, and dealing with a variety of issues and challenges that arise.

On a personal note, I will be stepping down from my position as Director after this year's Annual General Meeting. It has been my privilege to serve as President of the Columbia Mountains Institute for the past two years. I wish CMI every success in the future and will continue to support the organization in whatever way I can.

Alan Mason
President
Columbia Mountains Institute of
Applied Ecology

2 Operation of the Columbia Mountains Institute

2.1 About the Columbia Mountains Institute of Applied Ecology

The Columbia Mountains Institute of Applied Ecology (CMI) is a non-profit society dedicated to facilitating applied ecological research in the Columbia Mountains of British Columbia and to making information stemming from this research available to managers, resource technicians, scientists and the public.

The CMI was incorporated as a society in 1996, and is based in Revelstoke, BC. The society is directed by a maximum of fifteen Board members. An Executive Assistant supports the Board on a contractual basis.

2.2 Board of Directors for 2000-2001

Executive

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Alan Mason, President | Revelstoke Community Skills Centre |
| Lee Harding, Vice President | SciWrite Professional Services |
| Del Williams, Treasurer | Revelstoke Community Forest Corporation |
| Susan Hall, Secretary | Parks Canada |

Directors

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| John Woods, Past President | Parks Canada |
| Ian Adams | Corvus Communications |
| Karen Bray | Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program |
| Jenny Feick | BC Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection |
| Bruce McLellan | Ministry of Forests |
| Dave Raven | Ministry of Forests |
| George Richardson | Tembec Forest Products |
| Tim Rogers | University of Calgary |
| Chris Steeger | Pandion Ecological Research |
| Colene Wood | BC Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection |
| Guy Woods | BC Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection |

Staff

Jackie Morris

Directors' meetings are generally held on the second Thursday of each month, with the exception of July and August.

2.3 Membership of the Columbia Mountains Institute

The Columbia Mountains Institute ended the year with 71 regular members, 5 student members, and 19 corporate members. Two hundred people receive the CMI emailed updates.

Geographic Distribution of CMI Members by Province

| Province | Number of Regular and Student Members | Number of Corporate Members* |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| British Columbia | 61 | 18 |
| Alberta | 8 | 1 |
| Saskatchewan | 1 | |
| Yukon | 1 | |
| Ontario | 2 | |
| USA | 1 | |

* Corporate Members listed in province where most of the staff live.

CMI Corporate Members for 2000-2001

- BC Hydro
- Canadian Mountain Holidays Heli-Skiing
- Columbia Kootenay Fisheries Renewal Partnership
- Dillon Consulting
- Downie Street Sawmills
- East Kootenay Environmental Society
- Golder Associates
- Haul-All Equipment
- Monashee Powder Adventures Cat-skiing
- Okanagan University College
- Pandion Ecological Research
- Parks Canada, Western Canada Service Centre, Vancouver Office
- Parks Canada, Mount Revelstoke and Glacier National Parks
- Revelstoke Community Forest Corporation
- Revelstoke Community Skills Centre
- Southern Interior Forest and Extension Partnership
- Tembec Forest Products
- Victoria Office of the Habitat Protection Branch, BC Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks.
- Victoria Office of the Research Branch, BC Ministry of Forests

2.4 Supporters of the Columbia Mountains Institute

The Columbia Mountains Institute of Applied Ecology gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the Parks Canada through our Contribution Agreement. Other grants and sponsorships are recognized in the list of workshops and projects.

2.5 Planning for the CMI

In May of 2001, the CMI Directors and Research Associates met for a planning session. Directors reviewed the CMI's objectives and discussed the progress CMI was making toward achieving each objective. Throughout the 2000-2001 year, the Directors addressed issues arising from this review. In general, the Directors felt that the CMI was accomplishing its goals related to providing continuing education related to ecological issues and skill development, but needed to improve strategies for facilitating and promoting ecological research. Notes from the Planning Session and subsequent discussions at Directors' Meetings are available through the CMI office.

2.6 Charitable Status for the CMI

In December 1999, CMI submitted an application to Revenue Canada for registration as a Charitable Organization. We received a response from Revenue Canada indicating that our application would probably be rejected due to the fact that several of our objectives could be interpreted as being "non-charitable".

There appears to be two major concerns from Revenue Canada. First, some of the language used to define our goals and objectives are too vague, and could be construed as describing activities that may be non-charitable. Terms such as "facilitate", "encourage", and "support" are not acceptable to Revenue Canada. Second, there appeared to be some concern that, while CMI may encourage and facilitate research activity, ownership of the results of that research did not reside with CMI.

In discussion with Revenue Canada staff, CMI received verbal advice that, in order for the application to be considered further, all reference to research activities should be omitted. The language used to define our goals and objectives should be revised to describe activities restricted to the direct provision of educational courses and workshops.

There was no clear consensus among the Directors as to whether or not these changes were appropriate for CMI.

3 Activities of the Columbia Mountains Institute

3.1 Collaboration

The Columbia Mountains Institute is entering the fourth year of a five-year Contribution Agreement with Parks Canada (Mount Revelstoke and Glacier National Parks). This multi-year agreement formalizes financial and in-kind support for the CMI, and outlines the benefits Parks Canada received in return. Support for the Columbia Mountains Institute furthers Parks Canada's interest in maintaining environmental integrity both inside and outside the national park boundaries.

Memoranda of Understanding are now in place with:

- Dr. Mindy Brugman, Research Scientist
- Lauren Waters, Research Associate
- Brendan Wilson, Research Associate
- Pandion Ecological Research, Corporate Research Associate.

These Memoranda set the stage for supporting these Research Associates in various research projects.

The CMI is working with Okanagan University College and Parks Canada in setting up a "Revelstoke Centre for Learning Travel". Phase one of this project entails visitors coming to Revelstoke to learn about the natural and human history of the Columbia Mountains. Later phases of this project may include students on field schools, and/or students or volunteers assisting local researchers.

3.2 Supporting Applied Ecological Research

Research Projects Supported by the CMI:

This year saw the completion of the five-year project "Windthrow Study – Integrating Mountain Caribou Requirements and Forest Management in the Interior Wetbelt". This project was coordinated by Lauren Waters, CMI Research Associate. During the time that the CMI administered this project, funding was received from the BC Ministry of Forests, Columbia Basin Trust's Affected Areas and Communities Initiatives Program, Revelstoke Community Forest Corporation, and the Downie Bonus Fund. This project was completed in February 2002. The final report has been posted on the CMI web site.

CMI Email Bulletins

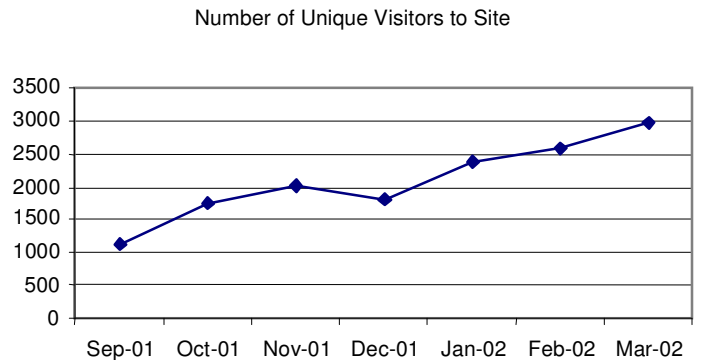
The CMI's email bulletins provide members with updates on CMI news, funding sources, web sites, new documents, job postings, workshops, and other topics of interest to researchers in the field of applied ecology. Messages are grouped and sent

bi-weekly as a bulletin. Twenty-two email bulletins were sent to CMI members over the year. A print archive of these bulletins is kept at the CMI office. Bulletins are sent to over 200 people, and distributed further within the corporate members' networks.

CMI Web Site (www.cmiae.org)

The CMI web site continues to provide information on current ecological issues to members and the general public. The web site has a simple statistics program. September 2001 is the first full month for which we have statistics for the site. The following observations were made on web site use:

| Month | # Unique Visitors to Site |
|----------------|---------------------------|
| September 2001 | 1129 |
| October 2001 | 1747 |
| November 2001 | 2023 |
| December 2001 | 1819 |
| January 2002 | 2378 |
| February 2002 | 2591 |
| March 2002 | 2973 |



- The number of visitors to the CMI site is increasing.
- The most popular file on the CMI site is the Grizzly Bear Fact Sheet, in the Park Perspectives section. This fact sheet was provided by Parks Canada. It is called up twice as often as the CMI home page – indicating that a large percentage of people are entering the CMI site to view this page.
- The next most popular pages on the site are: the home page; the list of upcoming conferences and workshops; the bibliography of “Effects of Highways and other Linear Developments on Wildlife Populations”; the list of website links; the Watersheds Atlas; and Research Highlights.
- Following is a breakdown of how people arrive at the CMI home page: about 9% are entering through a bookmark; about 12% are entering from a search engine; about 1.5% are entering from somebody else’s page that has a link to ours; and about 78% are visiting the home page after having been to another page in the site (probably the Grizzly Bear Fact Sheet).
- The most popular key words used to find the CMI site with a search engine are grizzly (plus several permutations such as grizzlies, griz, grizzly bears), mountain caribou, and Columbia Mountains.

3.3 Education

Workshops and Courses

A major goal of the CMI is to identify current ecological issues, then host workshops or courses to address these issues. Experts in relevant fields present current research, explain new guidelines, or describe case studies related to the issues.

The following is a list of events offered in 2000-2001. Descriptions of each workshop are available on the CMI web site in the "Past Workshops and Courses" section.

Cutbacks in the number of BC provincial programs and staff affected the registrations for the CMI events held late in the fiscal year. In past years the CMI has assisted the provincial government in bringing information about new research, new guidelines, new initiatives, etc. to the public. With the cutbacks, we have lost a number of provincial government presenters and participants. There seems to be a corresponding drop in the number of private consultants and biologists participating in our events, probably they are concerned about fewer provincial contracts in the future. Future CMI events will have to be considered very carefully for their financial viability. More fund-raising will be needed to make the workshop fees affordable.

CMI Annual Researchers' Meeting / Annual General Meeting
April 2001, Blue Lake Forestry Camp, Canal Flats BC
52 participants

Non-Invasive DNA Hair Sampling
October 2001
15 participants

Creating Bear Aware Communities
November 2001
67 participants

Sponsors and in-kind supporters for the workshop included: Columbia Basin Trust through the Columbia-Kootenay Fisheries Renewal Partnership, City of Revelstoke, Haul-All Equipment, Margo Supplies, Parks Canada, Rollins Machinery, Revelstoke Printing Company, and the Revelstoke Bear Aware Committee.

Wildlife Immobilization 2002
March 2002
This course was cancelled due to the low registrations.

Sixth Annual Roads Rails and Environment Workshop
March 2002
This course was cancelled due to low registrations.

Newsletters

Two issues of the CMI newsletters were produced, in October 2001 and March 2002. Copies were distributed to regular and corporate members, workshop participants, a courtesy list (politicians, other agencies) and to various outlets in Revelstoke.

4 Financial Reports

Preface to Financial Statement:

The un-audited financial statements report a deficit of \$13,230.00 for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2002. This deficit is largely the result of lower than expected workshop revenues. Low registrations, likely related to BC provincial cutbacks, meant last minute cancellations of two events. By comparison, the previous two fiscal years produced the following results: net deficit of \$9011.00 for March 31, 2000 and net surplus for March 31, 2001 of \$13,131.00.

Although there is a net deficit for the year, CMI will still maintain an accumulated surplus of \$10,532.00.

Del Williams
Treasurer
Columbia Mountains Institute

**COLUMBIA MOUNTAINS INSTITUTE
OF APPLIED ECOLOGY**

**STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS
APRIL 01, 2001 to MARCH 31, 2002**

| REVENUES | 2002 | 2001 |
|--|--------------------|------------------|
| Completed Workshops, Courses and Projects | 3,562.37 | 21,740.61 |
| Grants and Contributions | 3,000.00 | 7,000.00 |
| Membership Fees | 3,090.00 | 3,576.65 |
| Contract Administration | 694.62 | 1,667.50 |
| Miscellaneous Income and Bank Interest | 481.98 | 1,826.71 |
| TOTAL REVENUES | 10,828.97 | 35,811.47 |
| EXPENSES | | |
| Accounting and Bookkeeping | 753.29 | 623.82 |
| Amortization | 448.70 | |
| Bad Debts | 538.12 | |
| Bank Charges | 105.89 | 27.00 |
| Contract Fees | 12,619.28 | 12,244.84 |
| Donations | 1,000.00 | |
| Insurance | 622.49 | 1,127.00 |
| Licenses and Dues | 25.00 | 25.00 |
| Meals and Catering | 106.10 | 65.40 |
| Miscellaneous | | 106.28 |
| Office Equipment, Furnishings and Software | 729.67 | 330.55 |
| Office Supplies | 788.35 | 1,316.69 |
| Printing and Photocopying | 918.00 | 775.16 |
| Postage and Courier | 424.70 | 517.25 |
| Rent | 2,420.00 | 2,295.00 |
| Services | | |
| Staff Training | | |
| Telecommunications (Phone, Fax and Internet) | 1,659.63 | 1,556.57 |
| Website | 856.71 | 1,737.70 |
| Workers' Compensation | 42.77 | (68.07) |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | 24,058.70 | 22,680.19 |
| NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT) | (13,229.73) | 13,131.28 |

**COLUMBIA MOUNTAINS INSTITUTE
OF APPLIED ECOLOGY**

BALANCE SHEET AS AT MARCH 31, 2002

| ASSETS | 2002 | 2001 |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| CURRENT ASSETS | | |
| Bank - Revelstoke Credit Union - Chequing | 10,029.52 | 23,624.22 |
| Bank - Revelstoke Credit Union - Shares | 32.23 | 30.41 |
| Accounts Receivable | 244.93 | 14,585.54 |
| Prepaid Expenses | 1,112.51 | - |
| Work In Progress | 2,641.67 | 10,463.34 |
| TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS | 14,060.86 | 48,703.51 |
| CAPITAL ASSETS | | |
| Computer Equipment | 2,322.52 | 1,997.62 |
| Accumulated Amortization - Computer Equipment | (448.70) | |
| TOTAL CAPITAL ASSETS | 1,873.82 | 1,997.62 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | 15,934.68 | 50,701.13 |
| LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS | | |
| CURRENT LIABILITIES | | |
| Accounts Payable | 2,403.08 | 10,549.80 |
| Deferred Revenue | 3,000.00 | 16,390.00 |
| TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES | 5,403.08 | 26,939.80 |
| SURPLUS | | |
| Surplus - Beginning of the Year | 23,761.33 | 10,630.05 |
| Surplus (Deficit) - For the Current Year | (13,229.73) | 13,131.28 |
| TOTAL SURPLUS | 10,531.60 | 23,761.33 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS | 15,934.68 | 50,701.13 |