



COLUMBIA MOUNTAINS INSTITUTE OF APPLIED ECOLOGY

Annual Report

2002-2003

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1 Message from the President

In its seventh year of operation, the Columbia Mountains Institute of Applied Ecology (CMI) held five successful workshops and courses, welcomed a new Research Associate, and met a longstanding goal of holding events in different locations around the Columbia Mountains with a workshop in Cranbrook and a course in Nelson.

At the start of 2002 we were bracing ourselves for a lean year, expecting to dip into our hard earned surplus. By the end of December, however, our financial picture was considerably rosier, leading us towards another surplus year thanks to the very successful *Mountain Caribou in 21st Century Ecosystems* conference and the *DNA-Based Wildlife Studies – Study Design, Field Methods, Genetic Analysis, and Analysis of Mark Recapture Data* sessions. Workshops and courses are our bread and butter, and revenue from them support the day to day business of the Institute. We should all be proud that at CMI we earn most of our operating funds and do not rely on grants for our administration.

The success of our events is due in large part to the energy and hard work of the organizing committees and instructors. John Woods, Dave Butler, Cindy Pearce, Bruce McLellan, and Del Williams put together the caribou conference; and David Paetkau, John Boulanger, and Garth Mowatt led the DNA-based wildlife studies course in Nelson. Many thanks for their commitment of time, energy, and enthusiasm.

The Board of Directors will see some changes in the coming year. George Richardson and Colene Wood have decided to step down from the Board at the completion of their terms. We extend our appreciation and thanks for their participation on the Board and look forward to their continued involvement as CMI members. The last election call in March 2003 has given us a full slate of Directors to start the new fiscal year off – all 15 positions on have been filled.

We also welcomed Mark Hall as a new Research Associate to CMI and look forward to working with him on many interesting ecological research projects. Mark's research on *Biomagnification of Chemical Pollutants in the Food Chain of Southeastern BC* will be highlighted on our website in the near future.

Sincere thanks go to our Directors, workshop committees, members, and sponsors for their hard work and support of the Institute. On behalf of the Board and membership, I would like to extend our thanks and great appreciation to our Executive Director, Jackie Morris, for her excellent work and dedication and maintaining a high standard of professionalism that is reflected in the success of our endeavours.

Karen Bray
President
Columbia Mountains Institute

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, British Columbia. The society is directed by a maximum of fifteen Board members. An Executive Director supports the Board on a contractual basis.

2.2 Board of Directors for 2002/2003

Executive

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Karen Bray, President | Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program |
| Ian Adams, Vice President | Corvus Communications |
| Del Williams, Treasurer | Revelstoke Community Forest Corporation |
| Susan Hall, Secretary | Parks Canada |

Directors

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Jenny Feick | BC Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection |
| Rachel Holt | Veridian Ecological Consulting |
| Bruce McLellan | BC Ministry of Forests |
| George Richardson | Tembec Forest Products |
| 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 |
| John Woods | Parks Canada |

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 55 regular members, 4 student members, and 30 corporate members. Over 200 people receive the CMI emailed updates—likely more, as the updates are circulated widely within some of the corporate memberships.

CMI Corporate Members for 2002-2003

- BC Hydro, Burnaby and Revelstoke offices
- BC Ministry of Forests, Research Branch, Victoria offices
- BC Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management, Ecosystem Conservation, Victoria offices
- BC Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection, Biodiversity Branch, Victoria Offices
- Canadian Mountain Holidays
- City of Revelstoke
- Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program
- Columbia Kootenay Fisheries Renewal Partnership
- Dillon Consulting
- Downie Timber
- DWB Forestry Services
- East Kootenay Environmental Society
- FORREX
- Friends of Mount Revelstoke and Glacier
- Golder Associates
- Great Canadian Heliskiing
- Haul-All Equipment
- Monashee Powder Adventures Cat-Skiing
- Mountain Equipment Co-op
- Nanuq Consulting
- Okanagan University College
- Pandion Ecological Research
- Parks Canada, Mount Revelstoke and Glacier National Parks, and Western Service Centre
- Parks Canada, Calgary Office
- Revelstoke Career Centre Society
- Revelstoke Community Forest Corporation
- Selkirk College, Renewable Resources Department
- Southern Interior Forest and Extension Partnership
- Tembec Forest Products
- West Fraser Mills

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. The generosity of other agencies for grants and sponsorships in support of our activities are recognized in the list of workshops and courses on the CMI web site (www.cmiae.org).

2.5 Planning for the CMI

In September of 2002, the CMI Directors and Research Associates met for a planning session at the Mount Revelstoke Chalet. Directors reviewed potential workshops and courses for the CMI, discussed the CMI's possible participation in the Okanagan University College's Research Centre initiative; and discussed the lack of success in applying for charity status for the CMI. It was decided not to apply for charity status a third time.

Notes from the Planning Session and minutes of Directors' regular meetings are available to members through the CMI office.

3 Activities of the Columbia Mountains Institute

3.1 Collaboration

The Columbia Mountains Institute is entering the fifth 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 receives 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
- Mark Hall, Research Associate

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

3.2 Supporting Applied Ecological Research

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 as a bi-weekly or monthly bulletin. Twenty-three email bulletins were sent to CMI members over the year. An on-line archive of these bulletins is available on the CMI web site, and a print archive is maintained at the CMI office. Bulletins are sent to over 200 people, and distributed further within the corporate members' networks.

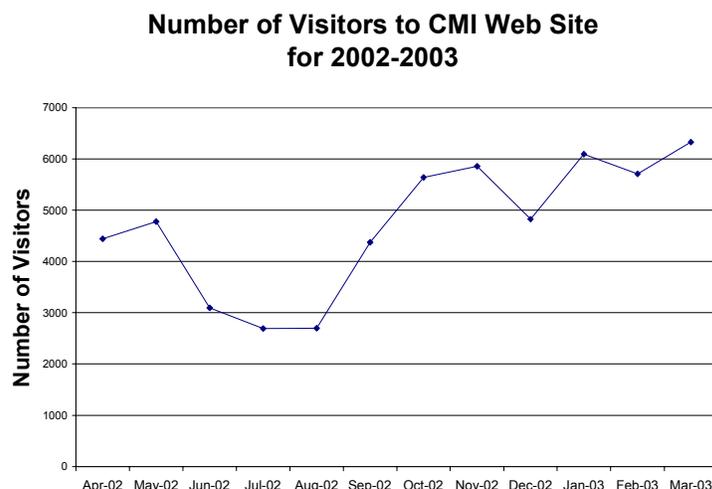
Newsletters

The CMI Newsletters were discontinued this year. The email updates are more timely and less expensive to produce. Past copies of newsletters and an archive of past email bulletins are available on the web site. The archive is updated two or three times each year; receiving the emails on a timely basis is a benefit of membership in the CMI.

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 following observations are made on web site use:

| Month | # Visitors to Site |
|----------------|--------------------|
| April 2002 | 4442 |
| May 2002 | 4776 |
| June 2002 | 3096 |
| July 2002 | 2693 |
| August 2002 | 2699 |
| September 2002 | 4373 |
| October 2002 | 5636 |
| November 2002 | 5856 |
| December 2002 | 4824 |
| January 2003 | 6090 |
| February 2003 | 5708 |
| March 2003 | 6328 |



- The number of visitors to the CMI site is increasing. Visitations fall off in the summer and pick up again in the fall.
- The most popular file on the CMI site is the Grizzly Bear Information Sheet, in the National Park Feature Articles section. 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. This year we added navigational links to the page to encourage people to visit the rest of the site.
- The next most popular pages on the site are: the home page; the bibliography of “Effects of Highways and other Linear Developments on Wildlife Populations”; the list of upcoming conferences and workshops; the list of website links; and the list of National Park Feature Articles.

In March 2003 the CMI web site was upgraded with an overhauled “Links” section, an archive of CMI Member Email bulletins, more National Park Feature Articles (now categorized according to topic), and a guide to bear ecology for hikers.

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. The following is a list of events offered in 2002-2003. Descriptions of each workshop, a list of sponsors and partnering agencies for each event, and relevant workshop summaries are available on the CMI web site in the "Past Workshops and Courses" section.

The CMI is responding to its members' requests to host our events in various communities around the southeast corner of the province. This year, our five events were held in three different communities.

CMI Annual Researchers' Meeting 2002

April 22-23, 2002

Revelstoke BC

The CMI Annual Researchers' Meeting for 2002 was held in Revelstoke at the Hillcrest Hotel and attended by 54 people. The meeting included evening presentations on the evening of April 22, and continued with more presentations and a field trip on April 23. In addition to the regular mix of CMI member presentations, we heard BC Hydro contractors present on "Benefits of Shoreline Revegetation in the Upper Arrow Reservoir", a project undertaken as part of BC Hydro's Strategic Environmental Initiatives Program.

Conducting Wildlife Post Mortems in the Field

October 15, 2002

Revelstoke BC

Thirteen people (full house) attended the half day Wildlife Post Mortem session, which was instructed by Dr. Helen Schwantje, veterinarian with the BC Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection. The session consisted of a classroom session and practical session.

Mountain Caribou in 21st Century Ecosystems

October 16-18, 2002

Revelstoke BC

This conference was attended by over 180 people. On October 16 and 17, twenty-two speakers presented information on the ecology and management of southeastern British Columbia's red-listed mountain caribou populations. On October 16th, Dr. Dale Seip spoke to eighty people at an evening presentation open to the community. On October 18th, 80 people attended a field trip north of Revelstoke to learn about caribou habitat, forestry practices, and other topics. A feature of the conference was the

release of the provincial government's "A Strategy for the Recovery of Mountain Caribou in British Columbia."

Bryoria Course

October 19-20, 2002

The CMI invited lichenologist Trevor Goward to present this two day course on identification, field ecology, and management of Bryoria and other arboreal forage lichens. This course was cancelled due to low registrations.

DNA-Based Wildlife Studies – Study Design, Field Methods, Genetic Analysis, and Analysis of Mark Recapture Data

November 18-21, 2002

Nelson BC

Twenty four people attended this course, which consisted of the following three sessions:

- Study Design and Field Methods for DNA-Based, Mark-Recapture Inventories. Instructor: Garth Mowat, Aurora Wildlife Research.
- Genetic Analysis of Individual Identity in DNA-Based Inventories. Instructor: David Paetkau, Wildlife Genetics International.
- Advanced Mark-Recapture Analysis of Genetic Data. Instructor: John Boulanger, Integrated Ecological Research.

Climate Change in the Columbia Basin

January 17-18, 2003

Cranbrook BC

The "Climate Change in the Columbia Basin" workshop brought climate change researchers together with resource managers, community leaders, and other stakeholders in the Columbia Basin. On Friday night, 135 workshop participants and 35 "drop-in" members of the public heard two overview talks on British Columbia's changing climate, including the themes of past and present climate change, potential impacts of a changing climate, and why we should prepare for climate change. On Saturday morning, seven presenters addressed the possible impacts of climate change on the water resources, aquatic ecosystems, wildlife, and forests of the Columbia Basin. In the seven breakout groups on Saturday afternoon, workshop participants discussed how climate change might affect their communities, businesses, and resource interests.

4 Financial Report

The un-audited financial statements report a net surplus of \$21,890.32 for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2003. This surplus is largely a result of the high attendance at this year's events, notably the *Mountain Caribou in 21st Century Ecosystems* conference. By comparison, the previous two fiscal years produced the following results: in March 2002, a net deficit of \$13,229.73, and in March 2001, a net surplus of \$13,131.28.

The CMI enters the next fiscal year with an accumulated surplus of \$32,422.00.

CMI does not have a major financial underwriter. Our operating funds come mostly from workshop proceeds, membership fees, and contract administration revenues. Membership fees and contract administration fees are kept as low as possible, thus our financial success in a given year relies on the types of events we host, and their success.

We are grateful to our members and our volunteer Board of Directors for keeping us in touch with current ecological issues and identifying skill development needs, because this is what keeps our events relevant and well-attended. The in-kind and financial support of our event sponsors and partners, some of whom have contributed to several of our events over the years, is also acknowledged as important to our society's financial standing.

Del Williams
Treasurer
Columbia Mountains Institute