



Annual Report

2004-2005

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1 Message from the President

The past year has been one of quiet change for the Columbia Mountains Institute of Applied Ecology (CMI). Although no large events were hosted, you will find that CMI has nonetheless been very busy providing educational opportunities and laying the groundwork for a very busy schedule in the coming months. The following pages in this report outline the past year's activities and work-to-date on significant events planned for the near future.

As always, our Executive Assistant, Jackie Morris, has played a crucial role in moving CMI forwards. Both on a day-to-day basis in running our office and providing a larger vision for the organization, she almost single-handedly provides the ongoing services that our members expect and are grateful for. I hope that CMI's members and Directors will never take Jackie's expertise and organization for granted; please take a moment to thank her directly.

Considerable work has gone into revising our constitution and by-laws to reflect the reality of today's CMI. Originally started to facilitate ecological research, we have found that perhaps the best means to do that is through hosting symposia, workshops and professional development activities. CMI has become well known and much appreciated for its hosting of balanced, science-driven events that seek to bring together managers, researchers and applied scientists in the field of natural resources throughout the Columbia Basin.

On behalf of the CMI Board of Directors, I would like to offer much thanks to outgoing Directors, Bruce McLellan and Garth Mowat. Bruce is a long-time supporter and a CMI Director since its inception; his knowledge and wit will be missed at Directors' meetings. Garth is an exceptional member of the Columbia Basin's community of ecologists and has provided valued input to CMI during his stint as Director. We hope both of you will continue to participate and contribute to CMI activities in the future.

As a volunteer-based non-profit organization, CMI leans heavily on the diverse knowledge base of its Directors and I thank all of them for their service and dedication. Your efforts allow CMI to provide its outstanding contribution to raising our knowledge and appreciation of ecological science of BC's southern interior and beyond.

Ian Adams, 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 2004-2005

Executive

Ian Adams, President	Corvus Communications
Brendan Wilson, Vice President	Selkirk College
Del Williams, Treasurer	Revelstoke Community Forest Corporation
Susan Hall, Secretary	Parks Canada

Directors

Karen Bray	Columbia Basin Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program
Patrick Daigle	BC Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection
Jenny Feick	BC Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection
Ed Hill	BC Hydro
Rachel Holt	Veridian Ecological Consulting
Bruce McLellan	BC Ministry of Forests
Garth Mowat	Aurora Wildlife Research
Ian Parfitt	Selkirk College
Chris Steeger	Pandion Ecological Research
Guy Woods	BC Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection
John Woods	Parks Canada

Staff

Jackie Morris

Directors' meetings were generally held on the second Thursday of each month, with the exception of July and August. Minutes of meetings are on record at the CMI office.

2.3 Membership of the Columbia Mountains Institute

The Columbia Mountains Institute ended the year with 68 regular members, 9 student members, and 28 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 2004-2005

- BC Hydro, Generation Environment, Burnaby office
- BC Hydro, Revelstoke Office
- Canadian Mountain Holidays
- City of Revelstoke
- College of the Rockies
- Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program
- Canadian Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fisheries Commission
- Dillon Consulting
- Downie Timber
- DWB Forestry Services Ltd.
- East Kootenay Environmental Society
- Forest Extension and Research Partnership
- Friends of Mount Revelstoke and Glacier
- Golder Associates
- Great Canadian Heliskiing
- Guide Outfitters Association of BC
- Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management, Ecosystem Conservation, Victoria Office
- Ministry of Water, Air and Land Protection, Biodiversity Branch, Victoria Office
- Minto Manor Bed and Breakfast
- Nanuq Consulting Ltd.
- Monashee Powder Adventures Cat Skiing
- Okanagan University College
- Parks Canada, Calgary Office
- Parks Canada, Mount Revelstoke and Glacier National Parks
- Revelstoke Community Forest Corporation
- Selkirk College, Renewable Resources Department
- Tembec Forest Industries
- West Fraser Mills

2.4 Supporters of the Columbia Mountains Institute

The Columbia Mountains Institute of Applied Ecology gratefully acknowledges the financial and in-kind support of agencies that are willing to partner with us to make our events and our projects a success. The generosity of these agencies is recognized in the list of workshops and courses on the CMI web site (www.cmiae.org).

We also acknowledge the large number of volunteer hours contributed to the CMI by our Board of fifteen Directors, and by the members of the organizing committees for our various events. These people keep us well connected to ecological issues in southeastern BC. The CMI continues to be effective due to their willing contributions of time and knowledge.

2.5 Administrative Changes for the Columbia Mountains Institute

CMI's Constitution and Bylaws were drawn up in 1995, when the society was first organized. The society has developed into an agency that provides continuing education opportunities as its primary activity, with support for ecological research as a secondary activity. The Directors revised the Constitution and made a few changes to the Bylaws, and presented the revisions to the membership for a vote. The results of the vote will be announced at the April 26, 2005 Annual General Meeting.

This year the Directors drew up a Privacy Policy to clarify the uses of CMI membership lists, workshop participant lists, and other concerns. This policy is posted on our web site in the *About CMI* section.

Early in 2004 the CMI purchased a good quality digital projector and projection screen. This has allowed us to offer consistent, high quality images at our events.

3 Activities of the Columbia Mountains Institute

3.1 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 events were held in 2004/2005.

CMI Annual Researchers' Meeting

April 28, 2004

Nakusp BC

About 35 people attended this meeting, which included the Annual General Meeting for 2003.

Applying DNA Methods to the Study of Wildlife Distribution and Abundance

May 3-6, 2004

Nelson BC

This course was a repeat of the previous two courses. Twenty-one people from across North America attended the course. Garth Mowat, David Paetkau, and John Boulanger each taught a one day session.

Statistics for Biologists – A Refresher Course

May 11-13, 2004

Revelstoke BC.

This course was taught by Dr. Carl Schwarz from Simon Fraser University. It was fully subscribed at 14 people.

In addition to the above events, considerable work has been done in toward the organization of CMI events for 2005-2006. These events are:

- *Implications of Climate Change in BC's Southern Interior Forests Workshop*, April 26-27 2005, Revelstoke
- *Stats Refresher Courses*, May 31-June 2 in Revelstoke, and June 7-9 in Castlegar
- *Identification and Protection of Critical Habitat for Species at Risk*, October 18-19, 2005, Cranbrook
- *Communications Planning for Species at Risk*, October 20, 2005, Cranbrook
- *Creating Bear Aware Communities*, November 2-3 2005, Revelstoke
- *GPS Collars and Wildlife*, Spring 2006, Selkirk College Geo-Spatial Centre

3.2 Supporting Applied Ecological Research

Ecological Research

This year the CMI assisted with two research projects.

- *Wildlife Inventory Flights* – The CMI was able to assist the BC Ministry of Water Land and Air Protection by setting up a Transfer Agreement to cover the costs of mountain caribou inventory flights.
- *Songbird Use of Four Floodplain Vegetation Types in the Revelstoke Reach, Upper Arrow Reservoir, British Columbia*. The CMI partnered with Parks Canada in this project. CMI was awarded funding from the Columbia Basin Trust through the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program, for the data collection component of this program. Data collection is complete, and Parks Canada coordinated the analysis of data. Parks Canada will produce a paper on this project.

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. Seventeen email bulletins were sent to CMI members over the year. A print archive of the emails is maintained at the CMI office. An on-line archive of these bulletins is available on the CMI web site, although it is always several months out of date (receiving the bulletins is a privilege of membership in the CMI.) Bulletins are sent to over 200 people, and distributed further within the networks of our corporate members.

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 was visited 74,470 times from April 1, 2004 to March 31, 2005.

Popular pages on the CMI web site continue to be:

- Anything about bears or mountain caribou
- CMI event Information and summaries of past workshops
- National park feature articles
- Bibliography on the *Effects of highways and other linear developments on wildlife populations*.

Mountain Caribou Compendium

This year the Mountain Caribou Compendium was moved from the Revelstoke Library to the CMI office in downtown Revelstoke. It received very little use “in person” at the library and only one person has asked for access since it moved to our office. However, the on-line version of the Compendium was accessed 627 times between April 1, 2004 and March 31, 2005. The Compendium is also accessible on FORREX’s Natural Resources Information Network.

3.3 Collaboration

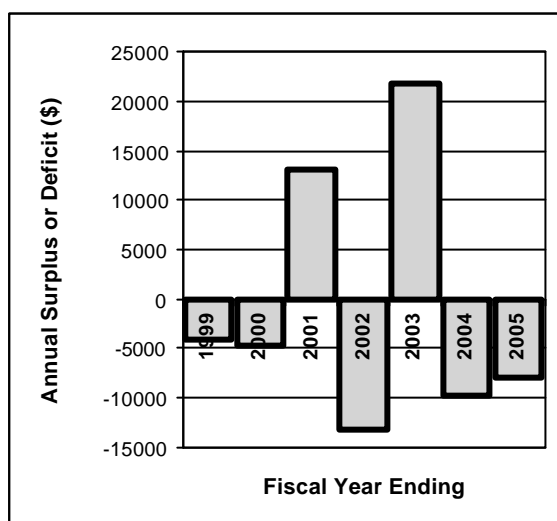
In March of 2004, the five-year Contribution Agreement with Parks Canada (Mount Revelstoke and Glacier National Parks) expired. In August of 2004, the CMI requested that a new Contribution Agreement be created. As of March 31, 2005, the new Agreement had not yet been signed. Supporting the Columbia Mountains 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:

- Brendan Wilson, CMI Research Associate
- Mark Hall, CMI Research Associate
- Rob Serrouya, CMI Research Associate

4 Preface to Financial Statement

The un-audited financial statements report a **net deficit of \$8,016** for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2005. Although we have a deficit for the year, we have an accumulated **surplus of \$14,572** from past surplus years. The annual deficit is not a surprise. We had predicted a deficit in our budget for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2005. CMI typically fluctuates between annual deficits and surpluses. Our objective is to maintain small surpluses over longer time spans.



Year-end surplus/deficit for CMI between 1999 and 2005

Operating funds for CMI come mostly from workshop/conference event proceeds, membership fees, and contract administration revenues. Contract administration fees and membership fees are kept as low as possible, and smaller events usually operate on a break-even or produce small surpluses. Financial “success” comes from major, well-attended events that typically happen every 2 to 3 years. Past examples include the *Mountain Caribou in 21st Century Ecosystems* and *Managing for Bears in Forested Environments* conferences.

We are again grateful to our members and our volunteer Board of Directors for keeping us in touch with current ecological issues and identifying skill development needs— 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

The CMI financial statement is available to members at the CMI office. Call 250-837-9311.