



Annual Report 2006-2007

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Columbia Mountains Institute of Applied Ecology

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1 Message from the President

The Columbia Mountains Institute of Applied Ecology has had a productive year. While much of our national media focus has been on reducing emissions and adapting to climate change, CMI has already held two major conferences on what this might mean for ecosystems in our region. This year, our conferences invited members and other interested individuals to examine the more applied issues related to habitat loss and species recovery.

Following CMI's successful Annual Researchers' Meeting in 2006, our first conference event was called *Multidisciplinary Approaches to Recovering Caribou in Mountain Ecosystems*. This meeting was stimulating, occasionally politically charged, and had the 120 participants thinking about the various issues affecting this region's dwindling caribou herds, including the effects of climate change. Our next event, with similar participation, looked at issues surrounding *Bear Conservation in a Fast-Changing North America*. Here again, themes of climate change on habitat were explored, as well as other important topics, including changes in forest management, hunting practices, and population estimation techniques for bears.

As in the past several years, Dr. Carl Schwarz from Simon Fraser University provided statistical instruction for us in Revelstoke. This year the learning focus was on the topic of ordinary and logistic regression. We are looking forward to offering some workshops that target specific statistical software this coming season. Dr. Joseph Thorley will be leading participants through an introduction to R, the popular and powerful open source statistical package. Later in the year we are hoping to have Dr. Carl Schwarz present a short course on the use of Mark – a program for analyzing marked individuals and estimating population numbers.

The CMI Directors were also active this year. Aside from our monthly teleconferences, we held a strategic planning session in Nelson in January to help guide the organization's future direction. This is an ongoing process and I encourage you to read the summary within this report, ask questions, and provide feedback to our Directors. I also wish to thank the CMI Directors (and Jackie Morris in particular) for their continued commitment and effort in making the Institute a vibrant and important promoter ecological knowledge and improved management in the region.

Brendan Wilson, President
Columbia Mountains Institute

2 Operations of the Columbia Mountains Institute

2.1 About the Columbia Mountains Institute of Applied Ecology

The purpose of the Columbia Mountains Institute of Applied Ecology is to increase awareness and knowledge about the ecology of the Columbia Mountains and regional ecosystems.

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. The CMI retains a bookkeeper and a webmaster.

2.2 Board of Directors for 2006-2007

Executive	
Brendan Wilson, President	Selkirk College
Ian Parfitt	Selkirk College
Del Williams, Treasurer	Revelstoke Community Forest Corporation
Susan Hall, Secretary	Parks Canada
Directors	
Doug Adama	Adama Wildlife Consulting
Ian Adams	Corvus Communications
Karen Bray	Columbia Basin Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program
Patrick Daigle	BC Ministry of Environment
Jenny Feick	BC Ministry of Environment
Rachel Holt	Veridian Ecological Consulting
Chris Steeger	Pandion Ecological Research
Staff	
Jackie Morris	

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

2.3 Strategic Direction for the CMI

In January, five Directors and Jackie met in Nelson to consider the direction of CMI. At the 2005 AGM we changed our mandate to more closely affect what CMI does, and we need to develop clarity about how we will meet this mandate. The following is an outline of the goals that were developed for the CMI, and these were approved at a Directors meeting in March. Further work is required to set measurable objectives for each goal.

Mandate

The purpose of the Columbia Mountains Institute of Applied Ecology is to increase knowledge about the ecology of the Columbia Mountains and regional ecosystems, with the aim of improving ecological management in the region.

CMI Goal Statement

Identify the most relevant ecological themes in the Columbia Mountains and regional ecosystems, and build a program that addresses communication, collaboration, and scientific research in support of these themes, with the aim of improving ecological management in the region.

CMI Objective #1

To guide CMI actions and priorities, periodically identify the most relevant ecological themes for this region.

CMI Objective #2

Facilitate the communication and sharing of knowledge related to the chosen ecological themes.

CMI Objective #3

Encourage collaboration to further knowledge, and applications of that knowledge, as related to the chosen ecological themes.

CMI Objective #4

Offer continuing education and training necessary to support communication, collaboration, and scientific research related to the chosen themes.

CMI Objective #5

Encourage and support scientific research that will further knowledge, and applications of that knowledge, as related to the chosen ecological themes.

CMI Objective #6

Continue to be a financially sound and well-managed society.

2.4 Membership of the CMI

The Columbia Mountains Institute ended the year with 80 individual members, and 29 corporate members. Over 335 people receive the CMI emailed updates directly at their computers. The updates are circulated further within the corporate memberships.

CMI Corporate Members for 2006-2007

- BC Hydro, Columbia Generation
- BC Hydro, Generation Environment, Burnaby office
- BC Ministry of Environment, Biodiversity Branch, Victoria office
- BC Ministry of Environment, Kootenay Region, Fish and Wildlife Section
- BC Ministry of Forests and Range, Integrated Resources Section
- BC Ministry of Forests and Range, Research Branch
- Canadian Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fisheries Commission
- Canadian Mountain Holidays
- City of Revelstoke
- College of the Rockies
- Conservation Network
- Creston Valley Wildlife Management Authority
- Dillon Consulting
- Downie Timber
- DWB Forestry Services Ltd.
- EBA Engineering
- Forest Extension and Research Partnership (FORREX)
- Friends of Mount Revelstoke and Glacier
- Golder Associates: Calgary, Edmonton, and Castlegar offices
- Guide Outfitters Association of BC
- Parks Canada, Ecosystem Services, Calgary office
- Parks Canada, Mount Revelstoke and Glacier National Parks
- Revelstoke Community Forest Corporation
- Selkirk College, Renewable Resources Department
- Tembec Forest Industries
- University of British Columbia (Okanagan)
- West Fraser Mills
- Wildsight

2.5 Supporters of the CMI

The Columbia Mountains Institute of Applied Ecology gratefully acknowledges the financial and in-kind support of agencies that partner with us to make our events and our projects a success. The generosity of these agencies is recognized in the information about each past conference at the CMI website (www.cmiae.org).

We also acknowledge the large number of volunteer hours contributed to the CMI by our Board of 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.

This year Mount Revelstoke and Glacier National Parks renewed our Contribution Agreement. This includes \$3000 in support provided annually for five years. Our two agencies share overlapping mandates and there are opportunities to work together to achieve better environmental management in the region.

2.6 Administrative Changes for the CMI

In June 2006 we purchased a new laptop computer. This computer now runs the CMI events instead of the main desktop computer at the CMI office.

The society continues to contract to Jackie Morris for the purposes of running the affairs of the society and coordinating all aspects of our events. Jackie is supported by Kathryn Tompkins, bookkeeper, and Evan Batke of Solutions Interactive as web master.

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 2006-2007. More details about each of these events and a list of event partners and supporters are available on the CMI website in the "Past Events" section.

CMI Annual Researchers Meeting and AGM

April 27-28, 2006

Nelson Rod and Gun Club Hall, Nelson BC

Just over fifty people attended this year's CMI Annual Researchers' Meeting at the Nelson and District Rod and Gun Club Hall. Presentations began at 1:00 pm on April 27 and went until noon on the April 28, and were followed by field trips. A meeting summary was produced and is available as a free download on the CMI web site.

Multidisciplinary Approaches to Recovering Caribou in Mountain Ecosystems

May 29-31, 2006, Revelstoke BC

This conference addressed recovery planning for caribou in the Southern Mountains National Ecological Area. It included an evening speaker on May 29, two days of presentations, a poster session, and speaker / audience discussions. About 120 people attended this event. A conference summary is available as a free download from the CMI web site.

Bear Conservation in a Fast-Changing North America

October 24-25, 2006 with field trips on October 26, in Revelstoke BC

This event included a combination of presentations, discussion periods, a poster session, and opportunities for informal dialogue, to assist professionals to keep pace with changes and anticipate emerging issues in bear conservation and management. The evening talk by Dr. Andrew Derocher from the University of Alberta was on polar bears. One field trip was a tour of Revelstoke to look what the community is doing to become Bear Aware and Bear Smart. The other trip went north of Revelstoke to the Revelstoke Community Forest Corporation's TFL, to look at resource management issues related to bears. About 125 people attended this event. A conference summary is available as a free download from the CMI web site.

Ordinary and Logistic Regression Course
November 7-9, 2006 in Revelstoke BC.

This course reviewed the use of regression methods using modern statistical software (JMP). As well, regression methods have been extended to try and predict categorical responses (e.g. predicting live versus dead using logistic regression) and predicting counts (e.g. stem counts in forest surveys as a function of covariates). An introduction to generalized linear modelling using these more advanced methods was given. This course was taught by Dr. Carl Schwarz from Simon Fraser University and was attended by 17 people (full).

In 2006-2007, preparations began for the following events to be held in the next fiscal year.

- Ordinary and Logistic Regression Course (April 10-12, 2007)
- CMI Annual Researchers' Meeting (May 5-6, 2007)
- R software course – two sessions in May 2007
- Soil Bioengineering course – October 2007
- Ecological Restoration conference – October 2007
- Impacts of Linear Corridors workshop – November 2007
- Program Mark course – fall 2007

3.2 Supporting Applied Ecological Research

Research Projects

This year the CMI assisted with one research project.

- *Quantifying forest stand and landscape attributes that influence mountain caribou habitat fragmentation.* CMI is assisting Rob Serrouya with administration for a component of this research project. His project was completed in June 2006.

CMI Email Bulletins

The CMI's email bulletins provide members with updates on CMI news, funding sources, websites, new documents, job postings, workshops, and other topics of interest to researchers in the field of applied ecology. Information is sent as a monthly or bi-monthly bulletin. Nineteen bulletins were sent in 2006-2007. A print archive of the emails is maintained at the CMI office, and an on-line archive of these bulletins is available on the CMI website. Bulletins are sent to over 335

people, and distributed further within the networks of our corporate members.

CMI Website (www.cmiae.org)

Jackie now does updates to most of the web site herself, which means event information and the site in general has been updated more often than in the past.

The CMI website continues to provide information on current ecological issues to members and the general public. The website was visited by 51,000 unique visitors, for a total of 67,360 times, from April 1, 2006 to March 31, 2007. This represents an increase of about 12% since last year.

The Links section was updated in the summer, and the CMI archive of email updates was updated by volunteer Julia McCleave in February 2007.

The CMI produces a text summary of presentations after every event (not courses). These are made available on our website; thus the information from the events is available to a much wider spectrum of people than were able to attend the event. The following table shows how many times each of the files for this year's summaries were opened. Clearly it is worthwhile posting the information on our website.

Event	Month that summary was posted	Number of downloads as of March 31, 2006
Annual Researchers Meeting	July 2006	152
Caribou conference	November 2006	228
Bear conference	March 2006	119 <i>(in one month)</i>

3.3 Collaboration

This year was the second year of a five year Contribution Agreement with Parks Canada (Mount Revelstoke and Glacier National Parks). Parks Canada contributed \$3000 to CMI's operating budget. The two agencies share a common goal of improving environmental management in this region.

CMI's conferences are a success because of collaborative efforts by government and private agencies. In-kind and financial support from these partners enables our events serve the needs of these agencies, CMI members, and the greater public. A list of partners and funders appears on the reports for each past event on the CMI web site.

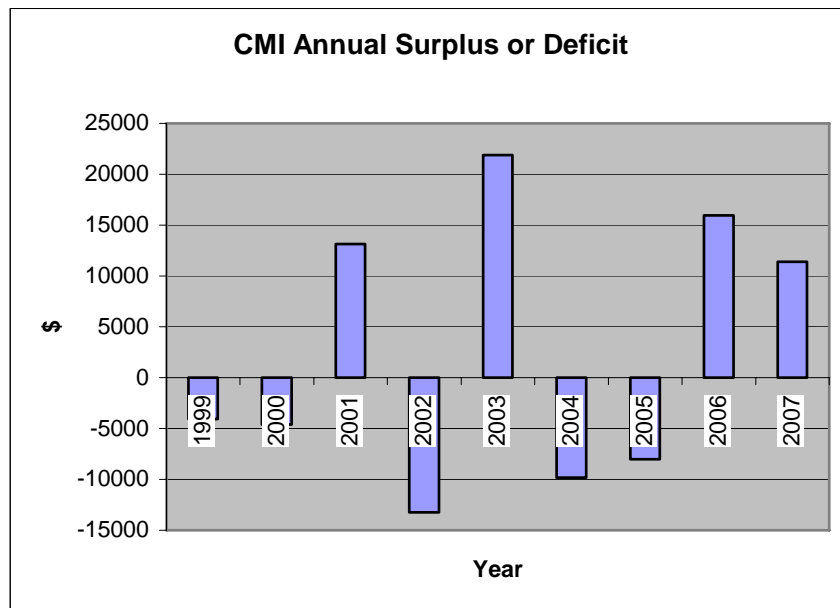
4 Financial Statement for 2006-2007

This report is based on year-to-date operations to the 2006/2007 fiscal year end (March 31, 2007).

On the expense side, our year-to-date expenditures are more or less on budget. Our expenses were budgeted at \$23,760 and we spent \$23,039 – pretty close! We did underspend on printing (because we did not reprint our brochure this year) and overspent on office expenses (because of purchasing new cheques that can be printed with the computer).

On the revenue side, we had budgeted \$15,950 in annual revenue but have received \$34,433. This is greater than initially budgeted, and leaves us with an \$11,394 surplus. The underestimate of revenues occurred because of the uncertainty around workshop revenues. At the time of setting up our budget, we are generally conservative on our revenue predictions.

The graph below illustrates how this compares with past fiscal years. The surplus for 2006-2007 will be added to our savings, permitting us enough funds to manage our cash flow comfortably. Our savings, accumulated slowly since 1996, are about \$40,000. This represents enough funds to run the society for about 1.5 years, should there be no income.



Del Williams, Treasurer
Columbia Mountains Institute

This web site version of the Annual Report does not include the year end financial statement. Members who wish to review the statement are asked to contact the CMI office.

