



Annual Report 2008-2009

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Columbia Mountains Institute of Applied Ecology

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1 Message from the President

Spring 2009 has arrived in the Columbia Mountains and there are some changes within CMI. Notably, we have had two long standing directors retire from the Institute's executive. Susan Hall and Chris Steeger have moved on, and I thank them for their years of effort. We also have a new web presence. Ryan Anderson from Perimeter Design and our Executive Director, Jackie Morris, worked hard over the winter months to come up with a new look and functionality for our site.

Our spring events started out with a restoration flavour. Just before the Annual Researchers' Meeting in Revelstoke, Dave Polster delivered a well received course on bioengineering. Dave also taught a course that looked at ecological approaches to managing invasive plants in September, and then repeated the fully booked soil bioengineering course – a great effort for our members on his part.

Dr. Carl Schwarz came to Revelstoke in the fall to teach a fully attended short course on common mark-recapture methods used in ecology. We've had positive feedback on this new offering from Carl, and we're hoping to see some more courses from him in the future.

Our final mainliner event for the year was the wildland-urban interface fires conference that was held in Cranbrook. This well attended event brought together researchers, managers, city planners, and students from all over the Columbia Basin and Western Alberta. A special thanks to CMI Director Patrick Daigle for helping to organize and host the event. Clearly, this was hot topic that we will look to follow-up on, in the future!

On a closing note, I would like to comment on CMI's healthy financial status. Through offering events that our members and others want to take part in, we have been able to post positive bank balances for the past three years. This has been a joint effort between the hard work of our volunteer Board of Directors, the unceasing labour of our Executive Director, Jackie Morris, the support of our corporate members and sponsors, and most importantly, the interest and support of our individual members and the other involved public in the Columbia Mountains. As we move forward into 2009, I want CMI to continue to be a viable and relevant organisation. So I ask you to continue to be involved - by providing suggestions for events, information, or other feedback, taking part in offerings, becoming a Director, or by just visiting our website.

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 improve ecological management by increasing and sharing 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 the services of a bookkeeper and a webmaster.

2.2 Board of Directors for 2008-2009

Executive

Brendan Wilson, President
Mike Miller, Vice President
Kevin Bollefer, Treasurer
Susan Hall, Secretary (April-December)

Directors

Doug Adama
Marc-André Beaucher
Martin Carver
Patrick Daigle
Jenny Feick
Rachel Holt
Paul Sneed
Chris Steeger
Gregg Walker (January-March)
Del Williams

Staff

Jackie Morris, Executive Director.

The Directors held regular meetings eight times in 2008-2009. Minutes of meetings are on record at the CMI office.

2.3 Membership of the CMI

The Columbia Mountains Institute finished up the year with 80 individual members. These numbers are down from a high of 100 last year. A list of our corporate members appears below.

Over 340 people receive the CMI emailed updates directly at their computers. The updates are circulated further within the corporate memberships.

CMI corporate members for 2008-2009

- BC Hydro, Columbia Generation
- BC Hydro, Generation Environment, Burnaby office
- BC Ministry of Environment, Ecosystems Branch, Victoria office
- BC Ministry of Environment, Kootenay Region, Fish and Wildlife Section
- BC Ministry of Environment, Environmental Stewardship Division, Cranbrook Regional Office
- BC Ministry of Forests and Range, Research Branch
- BC Ministry of Forests and Range, Integrated Resources Section
- Canadian Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fisheries Commission
- Canadian Mountain Holidays
- City of Revelstoke
- College of the Rockies
- Columbia Basin Trust
- Creston Valley Wildlife Management Authority
- Denbow
- Dillon Consulting Limited
- Downie Timber
- DWB Forestry Services Ltd.
- EBA Engineering Consultants, Kelowna
- Forum for Research and Extension in Natural Resources
- FortisBC
- Friends of Mount Revelstoke and Glacier
- Golder Associates: Calgary, Edmonton, and Castlegar offices
- Guide Outfitters Association of BC
- Interior Reforestation Co. Ltd
- Minto Manor Bed and Breakfast
- Okanagan College
- Parks Canada, Ecosystem Services, Calgary office
- Parks Canada, Mount Revelstoke and Glacier National Parks
- Parks Canada, Northwest Territories and Yukon

- Revelstoke Community Forest Corporation
- Selkirk College, Renewable Resources Department
- Summit Environmental Consultants Ltd.
- Tembec Forest Industries, Cranbrook
- University of British Columbia (Okanagan)
- West Fraser Mills
- Wildsight

2.4 Supporters of the CMI for 2008-2009

The CMI benefits from 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 because of their willingness to contribute time and expertise.

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).

- BC Hydro / Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program
- BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands
- BC Ministry of Environment
- BC Ministry of Forests and Range
- Columbia Basin Trust
- Columbia Kootenay Fisheries Renewal Partnership
- Parks Canada

We also acknowledge the contribution of the presenters and volunteers associated with each of our events.

Our Contribution Agreement with Mount Revelstoke and Glacier National Parks continued into the fourth year of the five year Agreement. This includes \$3000.00 in annual financial support. Our two agencies share overlapping mandates and have opportunities to work together to achieve better environmental management in the region.

2.5 Administration of CMI

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 Ryan Anderson of Perimeter Design, web master.

3 Activities of the Columbia Mountains Institute

3.1 Continuing education

Conferences 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 seven events were held in 2008-2009. More details about each of these events, a list of event partners and supporters, and conference summaries are available on the CMI website in the “Events” section. Conference and course evaluation forms were collected and, for the conferences, summarized in the conference summaries.

Our event announcements are distributed in a very targeted way. We promote almost entirely by email to: members, our event announcement distribution list (346 people), professional associations, and various other organizations and individuals as suggested by the topic of each event. Other agencies regularly include our information in their own notices.

Soil Bioengineering Course

April 29-30, 2008; repeated September 22-23, 2008
Hillcrest Hotel, Revelstoke BC

This two day course was taught by David Polster of Polster Environmental Services, to 27 participants in April and 16 participants in September. David discussed soil bioengineering techniques and options involved in restoration and reclamation of damaged ecosystems, using a combination of structural materials, vegetative cuttings, and other specialized techniques. Soil bioengineering is an applied science that uses live plant materials to perform an engineering function such as slope stabilization, soil erosion control, or seepage control.

CMI Annual Researchers' Meeting 2008 and Annual General Meeting

May 1, 2008
United Church Hall, Revelstoke BC

Every year CMI members get together to provide updates on their projects (ecological research, field trials, show & tell about new initiatives in southeastern

British Columbia) and catch up on each other's news. This year about 30 people gathered to hear presentations. A special session on riparian values, songbirds, and species at risk was sponsored by the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program. Our short Annual General Meeting was held after lunch.

Ecological Approaches to Managing Invasive Plants

September 22-23, 2008

Hillcrest Hotel, Revelstoke BC

This two day course taught by David Polster presented an ecological approach to invasive plant management, where vegetation management systems are designed to work with natural successional processes. The first day was a classroom session, and the second was a hands-on field day with the 25 participants evaluating and treating a site. This was an intense course in that lots of material was covered in a short time. A course manual was provided.

Design and Analysis of Mark-Recapture Studies

October 7-9, 2008; repeated October 21-23, 2008

Coast Hillcrest Hotel, Revelstoke BC

Our instructor for this course was Dr Carl Schwarz, Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science, Simon Fraser University (<http://www.stat.sfu.ca/~cschwarz/>). The course examined common mark-recapture methods. While the focus was on methods commonly used in fisheries management, the methodology presented is suitable for many other situations as well. Aspects of study design (e.g. sample size) and the analysis of the final results were presented. The course consisted of theory and worked examples, using mostly Program MARK. An overview of methods coming in the future was also presented. There was an opportunity for participants to work through their own projects. Each class was limited to 16 people.

Wildland-Urban Interface Fires, Fuel Management, and Ecosystems Conference

November 5-6, 2008

Prestige Inn, Cranbrook BC

Management plans for reducing the likelihood or severity of wildland/urban interface (WUI) fires are in preparation and, by their nature, favour economic and social factors. Through one and half days of presentations, a poster session, and field trips, we examined these factors, and addressed how management for WUI fires and fuels might also accommodate, or improve, ecological values. About 140 people attended this conference.

3.2 Supporting applied ecological research

CMI email bulletins

Eleven e-bulletins were sent in 2008-2009, plus assorted announcements for events. 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 people working in the fields of applied ecology. 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 340 people, and distributed further within the networks of our corporate members.

CMI web site (www.cmiae.org)

This year we did a major re-design and overhaul of the content on our website. We contracted to Perimeter Design in Salmon Arm to design and set up a new site to modern standards. CMI purchased the web-authoring program Dreamweaver CS3 and paid for Jackie to take a course in the use of this program. Jackie was able to re-create most of the pages from our old site using the framework set up by Perimeter Design, and now does all the website maintenance herself.

Site use statistics are not available for this year, because the new site had a different structure and different web stats program.

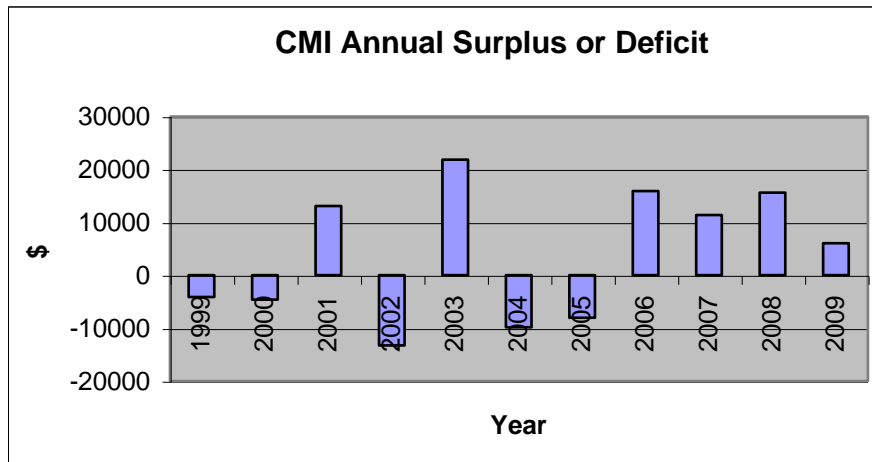
3.3 Collaboration

This year was the fourth 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 maintains memberships with FORREX, the Columbia Basin Environmental Education Network, and the Y2Y Network. In addition we subscribe to, and send information to, several e-networks such as BC Climate Exchange, Botany BC, Columbia Basin Trust, East Kootenay Conservation Program, Invasive Plant Council of BC, Kootenay Association for Science and Technology, Pacific Streamkeepers Association, UNBC Continuing Studies, and other e-lists. Information from these groups is often passed on to the CMI members.

4 Preface to Financial Statement

The un-audited financial statements for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2009 report a net surplus of \$6022.47 on total expenditures of \$115,352.24. This brings our accumulated surplus to \$66,423.71. We had cautiously predicted a small deficit for 2008-2009, but healthy attendance at our events, fundraising efforts for some of these events, and careful cost control has provided CMI with a surplus for the fourth year in a row. We are now in a healthier financial position with which to continue our mandate.



Year-end surplus/deficit for CMI between 1999 and 2009

Operating funds for CMI come primarily from conference and course proceeds, and membership fees. Fees are kept as low as possible and smaller events usually operate on a break-even basis or produce only small surpluses. Larger events bring the potential of larger surpluses, but also carry the risk of larger deficits should attendance not be as high as anticipated. CMI was quite active this year with the majority of our surplus coming from our Wildland Urban Interface Fires conference in Cranbrook. Attendance was excellent and there were a number of conference sponsors. There were also several courses offered this year which helped contributed to our surplus. Thanks to all those who attended and took part.

This year the CMI website was revamped and updated. This added a \$6,000.00 cost which had to be worked into the budget. Jackie did a great job. Check out the website if you haven't already.

Our members and our volunteer Board of Directors continue to keep us in touch with current ecological issues and skill development needs. This is what keeps our events relevant and well attended. The CMI board would also like to acknowledge the support of our partners and event sponsors which are very important to our society's financial standing.

Kevin Bollefer
CMI Treasurer

COLUMBIA MOUNTAINS INSTITUTE OF APPLIED ECOLOGY

BALANCE SHEET AS AT MARCH 31, 2009

ASSETS	2008-2009	2007-2008
CURRENT ASSETS		
Revelstoke Credit Union - Chequing	36,240.39	66,570.41
Revelstoke Credit Union - Term Deposit - 20-May-2011	30,000.00	-
Revelstoke Credit Union - Term Deposit - 30-Jan-2012	10,000.00	
Revelstoke Credit Union - Member Rewards	-	-
Revelstoke Credit Union - Shares	48.19	47.71
Accounts Receivable	5,506.05	4,620.00
Prepaid Expenses	1,789.33	1,600.00
Work In Progress	6,026.19	3,069.49
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	<u>89,610.15</u>	<u>75,907.61</u>
CAPITAL ASSETS		
Computer Equipment	5,477.47	5,477.47
Accumulated Amortization - Computer Equipment	(4,870.01)	(4,302.34)
Data Projector	3,399.61	3,399.61
Accumulated Amortization - Data Projector	(3,399.61)	(3,002.99)
TOTAL CAPITAL ASSETS	<u>607.46</u>	<u>1,571.75</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>90,217.61</u></u>	<u><u>77,479.36</u></u>
 LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Visa Payable	138.46	-
Accounts Payable	2,181.39	4,420.74
GST Refund Due	-	-
Prepaid Memberships	388.81	225.24
Deferred Revenue	21,085.24	12,432.14
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	<u>23,793.90</u>	<u>17,078.12</u>
SURPLUS		
Surplus - Beginning of the Year	60,401.24	44,760.40
Surplus - For the Current Year	6,022.47	15,640.84
TOTAL SURPLUS	<u>66,423.71</u>	<u>60,401.24</u>
 TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS	 <u><u>90,217.61</u></u>	 <u><u>77,479.36</u></u>

COLUMBIA MOUNTAINS INSTITUTE OF APPLIED ECOLOGY

**STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS
APRIL 01, 2008 to MARCH 31, 2009**

REVENUES	2008-2009	2007-2008
Completed Conferences and Courses	28,384.56	31,341.22
Grants and Contributions	3,000.00	3,023.50
Membership Fees	5,278.10	6,208.82
Miscellaneous Income and Bank Interest	513.11	1,738.78
TOTAL REVENUES	37,175.77	42,312.32
EXPENSES		
Accounting and Bookkeeping	912.04	640.00
Amortization	964.29	1,311.00
Contract Fees	16,035.00	14,014.71
Donations	-	-
Insurance	1,985.67	2,134.28
Licenses and Dues	25.00	25.00
Meals and Catering	11.99	-
Miscellaneous	12.00	34.65
Office Equipment, Furnishings and Software	938.38	1,369.75
Office Supplies	892.42	1,275.20
Printing and Photocopying	57.77	121.70
Postage and Courier	242.03	224.83
Rent	2,665.00	2,470.00
Staff Training	119.00	-
Telecommunications (Phone, Internet)	2,192.73	2,834.29
Website	4,038.93	148.69
Workers' Compensation	61.05	67.38
TOTAL EXPENSES	31,153.30	26,671.48
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	6,022.47	15,640.84