



# Annual Report 2009-2010

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## 1 Message from the President

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Our 2010 year has started off with some comings and goings within the CMI directorship. Notably, Rachel Holt, a long standing Director retired from the Institute's Board. I thank her for her years of effort. We have also had the benefit of two new directors, Leigh Anne Isaac and Tara Szkorupa, joining us from the East Kootenays. This is the first time in the history of CMI that we have had 15 Directors.

Our office news is that CMI's "makeover" to the new visuals is complete, with the website, stationery, and new e-mailouts - all matching. Even the CMI office got a makeover with a new carpet and new paint!

A year ago we started the spring with a new field trip format for our Annual Researchers' Meeting that was held in Creston, BC. Instead of talks in a room we opted for guided excursions in the wetlands of the Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area. Our time here was greatly facilitated by Marc-André Beaucher, one of our CMI Directors. The wetland theme was maintained with a well-attended conference in Revelstoke called "Conserving Wetlands in British Columbia". This event attracted folks from the Lower Mainland, Vancouver Island, the Interior, and Alberta.

Similar to last year Dave Polster delivered a well-received course on bioengineering in September, and two offerings of his ecological approaches to managing invasive plants course; once in May and again in September. Following these field based courses, we slipped into a more analytical mode. In August, Dr. Joseph Thorley taught his introduction to using "R" software course. This was a really useful primer for people wishing to tap into a rapidly growing free program for performing almost any kind of statistical analyses. In October, Dr. Carl Schwarz came to Revelstoke in the fall to teach two offerings of his statistics refresher course for biologists, and then he returned in November to deliver a more advanced introduction to Bayesian methods for ecologists. This latter offering I attended and was greatly impressed with Carl's teaching style.

Finally, as we predicted, we have run a small deficit this year. Provincial and federal monies for staff travel and professional development were greatly reduced, and many private contractors have also been hard hit by the recent global downturn. I expect that this may also be our situation next year as well, given that there are only modest indicators of economic recovery in the western provinces. This should not overly affect our organization, as we have some savings to enable us to continue offering our services to the ecological research community. Please continue to be involved - by providing suggestions for events, information, or other feedback, taking part in offerings, or by just visiting our website.

Brendan Wilson  
President  
Columbia Mountains Institute

## **2 Operations of the Columbia Mountains Institute**

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### **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 2009-2010**

#### **Executive**

Brendan Wilson, President  
Mike Miller, Vice-President  
Kevin Bollefer, Treasurer

#### **Directors**

Doug Adama  
Marc-André Beaucher  
Martin Carver  
Patrick Daigle  
Jenny Feick  
Rachel Holt  
Irene Manley  
Paul Sneed  
Natasha Thorpe  
Gregg Walker  
Del Williams

The Directors held regular meetings seven times in 2009-2010. 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 78 individual members, and 34 corporate members. Our member updates go out to 262 individual email addresses. The information is circulated further within the corporate memberships.

## **CMI corporate members for 2009-2010**

- BC Hydro, Generation Environment, Burnaby office
- BC Hydro, Columbia Basin Generating Area
- City of Revelstoke
- College of the Rockies, Dean of Instruction and College Articulation
- Canadian Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fisheries Commission
- Columbia Basin Trust
- Cooper Beaudesne and Associates Ltd
- Creston Valley Wildlife Management Authority
- Delphinium Holdings
- Dillon Consulting
- Downie Timber
- DWB Forestry Services Ltd.
- EBA Engineering Consultants Ltd.
- Forest Extension and Research Partnership
- Friends of Mount Revelstoke and Glacier
- Golder Associates - Calgary
- Golder Associates - Edmonton
- Golder - Castlegar
- Interior Reforestation
- Keefer Ecological Services
- Ministry of Environment, Kootenay Region, Fish and Wildlife Branch
- Ministry of Environment, Ecosystems Branch, Victoria Office
- Ministry of Forests and Range Research Branch, Victoria office
- Minto Manor Bed and Breakfast
- Okanagan College
- Parks Canada, Calgary Office
- Parks Canada, Mount Revelstoke and Glacier National Parks
- Parks Canada, NT and YT
- Revelstoke Community Forest Corporation
- Selkirk College, School of Renewable Resources
- Summit Environmental Consultants
- University of BC Okanagan
- Wildsight

## 2.4 Supporters of the CMI for 2009-2010

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 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 partnered with us to make this year's events and our projects a success. The generosity of these agencies is recognized in the information about each past conference at the CMI website (<http://www.cmiae.org/Events/past-events.php>).



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 final year of a five year Agreement. This included \$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 developer.

### 3 Activities of the Columbia Mountains Institute

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#### 3.1 Continuing education

##### Conferences and courses

A major goal of the CMI is to identify current ecological issues and knowledge gaps, then host workshops or courses to address these issues. The following eight events were held in 2009-2010. 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 (over 260 people), our event announcement distribution list (396 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.

##### *CMI Annual Researchers' Meeting and Annual General Meeting*

May 7-8, 2009

Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area, BC

About 25 people gathered at the Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area for this year's Annual Meeting. Usually our Annual Meetings include PowerPoint presentations but this year we opted for a different format. Beginning at noon on Thursday and ending at noon of Friday, the meeting included a choice of eight field trips, an evening talk, and of course the CMI's Annual General Meeting. Several members brought along their children, and one of the field trips was for children. The CMI thanks our field trip leaders for sharing their expertise with the group. We are also grateful to the Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area for hosting the event.

##### *Ecological Approaches to Invasive Plant Management*

May 26-27, 2009, **repeated** September 21-22, 2009

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 participants evaluating sites. This was an intensive course in that lots of material was covered in a short time. A course manual was provided.

### *Conserving Wetlands in British Columbia*

May 28-29, 2009,

Revelstoke BC

Reservoir creation, settlement, agricultural activities, transportation corridors, and other factors have eliminated many wetland complexes or diminished their natural form and function. We examined how a combination of management, restoration, and stewardship projects can improve the ecological values of our wetlands. These themes were addressed through a combination of one and a half days of presentations, a poster session, an evening speaker, field trips, and opportunities for conversation among participants. A conference summary is available at our [website](#).

### *Introduction to using R Software*

August 19-20, 2009

Revelstoke BC

This two-day course, taught by Dr. Joseph Thorley of Poisson Consulting in Nelson, introduced users to R software, so that they are able to begin performing statistical analyses and plotting graphs on their own. The course was suitable for individuals who have never used R before as well R-users looking to consolidate their understanding of the basics. R is a free programming environment for statistical analyses and graphics that is becoming increasingly popular among numerical biologists. R is extremely powerful, can be readily extended to non-standard methods through the downloading of packages, and runs on a wide variety of operating systems.

### *Soil Bioengineering*

September 24-25, 2009

Revelstoke BC

This two day course was taught by David Polster of Polster Environmental Services. 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. The course included one day in the classroom and one day in the field. A course manual was provided.

### *Statistics for Biologists - A Refresher Course*

October 20-22, 2009, **repeated** November 17-19, 2009

Revelstoke BC

This course was taught by Dr. Carl Schwarz from Simon Fraser University. Many scientific studies are full of statistical jargon, tables of averages, and other statistics, and results of statistical tests which purport to prove a certain hypothesis. The purpose of this course was to review some of the basic sampling and experiment designs used by ecologists and to understand exactly what can and cannot be extracted from a set of

data. With the advent of modern statistical packages, the analysis of data is fairly easy, but it is far too easy to get nonsense results. This course also reviewed common pitfalls in the analysis of data.

### *Introduction to Bayesian Methods for Ecologists*

November 3-5, 2009

Revelstoke BC

This three day course was taught by Dr. Carl Schwarz, from Simon Fraser University. Bayesian methods supplement the standard analysis methods such as regression, ANOVA, and generalized linear models. They are helpful in two general situations. First, when information from a number of studies is to be merged together. Second, there are certain problems that are “hard” to do using standard methods, for example, dealing with censored data in regression, or random effects in logistic regression. This course presented an overview of the use of Bayesian methods in ecology.

## **3.2 Supporting applied ecological research**

### *CMI e-newsletters*

Twelve e-newsletters were sent in 2009-2010, 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 260 people, and distributed further within the networks of our corporate members.

In March of this year the CMI began using an email distribution service (Vertical Response). This service supplies 10,000 free emails each month for non-profits.

### *CMI web site ([www.cmiae.org](http://www.cmiae.org))*

Our Google Analytics program tells us that in the last year our web site received 13,460 visits.

- 75% of the people visiting our site come for one-time only.
- 25% were from returning visitors.
- 40% of visitors arrive at our site when using a search engine
- 31% of visitors are referred to the site. This includes people looking for images, and people coming from Wikipedia, where Jackie has listed our site as a resource under several topics.
- 29% of visitors are coming directly to the site (clicking on a link that leads directly to the site).

In 2009-2010, our website was attacked twice by Gumbler malware. The malware merely re-directed visitors to other sites, but it caused “warnings” to appear when people tried to visit our site. We moved the site to a server hosted by a web-security expert, who also evaluated our site for vulnerabilities such as unsecured forms.

### **3.3 Collaboration**

This year was the fifth 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.

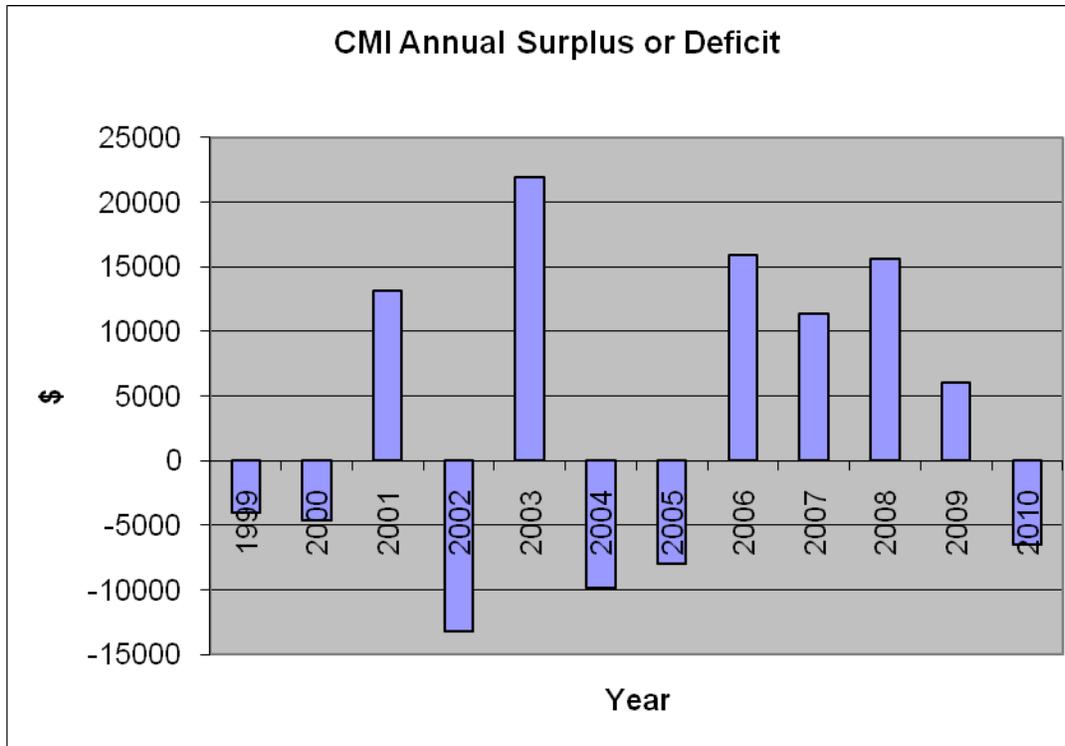
CMI maintains memberships with FORREX, the Columbia Basin Environmental Education Network, and the Y2Y Network. In addition we subscribe to, and send information to, several e-networks such as BC Climate Exchange, Botany BC, East Kootenay Conservation Program, Invasive Plant Council of BC, Kootenay Association 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.

The CMI accepted funds from the Kootenay Forest Innovation Society, to be used for a future event related to non-timber forest values.

## 4 Preface to Financial Statement

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The un-audited financial statements for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2010 reported a net loss of \$6,477.80. This reduces our accumulated surplus to \$59,898.32. We anticipated a small loss for the 2009/2010 year which held to be true. Our expenses when up by about \$3900 and revenues were down by \$2660 but all in all we had another successful year.



*Year-end surplus/deficit for CMI from 1999 to 2010*

This year Canada Revenue Agency performed a GST audit of our third quarter GST return. There were no problems; apparently this was a random check. The Canada Revenue Agency has also been enforcing its regulations for non-profits to file tax returns, even though we do not pay income taxes. As required, we filed tax returns back to 2002.

The HST means that for events held after July 1, we now charge 12% tax on our registration fees instead of 5%. Most registrants are with companies that are GST/HST registered and they can get this increase back as an input tax credit. However for individuals that are not GST/HST registered, this is a significant increase. We hope this doesn't make it inhibiting to individuals and will continue to try to minimize course and conference fees.

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. Numbers of registrations were lower this year than in the past due to the curtailing of travel budgets and training funds across the province, both in the public and private sectors. Membership income, the income from the Wetlands conference, and

our courses were all slightly down from past years. Once again, thanks to all those who attended and took part.

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 like to acknowledge the support of our partners and event sponsors which are very important to our society's financial standing.

Kevin Bollefer  
Treasurer  
Columbia Mountains Institute

**Columbia Mountains Institute of Applied Ecology**

**BALANCE SHEET AS AT MARCH 31, 2010**

<b>ASSETS</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Revelstoke Credit Union - Chequing	17,393.03	36,240.39
Revelstoke Credit Union - Term Deposit - 20-May-2011	30,973.35	30,000.00
Revelstoke Credit Union - Term Deposit - 30-January-2012	10,300.00	10,000.00
Revelstoke Credit Union - Member Rewards	-	-
Revelstoke Credit Union - Shares	48.67	48.19
Accounts Receivable	2,110.50	5,506.05
Prepaid Expenses	-	1,789.33
Work In Progress	8,961.95	6,026.19
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>69,787.50</b>	<b>89,610.15</b>
<b>CAPITAL ASSETS</b>		
Computer Equipment	5,477.47	5,477.47
Accumulated Amortization - Computer Equipment	(5,150.33)	(4,870.01)
Data Projector	3,399.61	3,399.61
Accumulated Amortization - Data Projector	(3,399.61)	(3,399.61)
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL ASSETS</b>	<b>327.14</b>	<b>607.46</b>
 <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	 <b>70,114.64</b>	 <b>90,217.61</b>
 <b>LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS</b>		
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Visa Payable	409.84	138.46
Accounts Payable	4,385.17	2,181.39
GST Refund Due	-	-
Prepaid Memberships	363.81	388.81
Deferred Revenue	5,057.50	21,085.24
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>10,216.32</b>	<b>23,793.90</b>
<b>SURPLUS</b>		
Surplus - Beginning of the Year	66,376.12	60,353.65
Surplus (Deficit) - For the Current Year	(6,477.80)	6,022.47
<b>TOTAL SURPLUS</b>	<b>59,898.32</b>	<b>66,376.12</b>
 <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS</b>	 <b>70,114.64</b>	 <b>90,170.02</b>

**Columbia Mountains Institute of Applied Ecology**

**STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS - APRIL 01, 2009 to MARCH 31, 2010**

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	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>
<b>REVENUES</b>		
Completed Workshops, Courses and Projects	16,525.31	28,384.56
Grants and Contributions	3,669.87	3,000.00
Membership Fees	4,168.22	5,278.10
Miscellaneous Income and Bank Interest	1,445.03	513.11
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>25,808.43</b>	<b>37,175.77</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Accounting and Bookkeeping	1,107.50	912.04
Amortization	280.32	964.29
Contract Fees	18,742.50	16,035.00
Donations	-	-
Insurance	1,789.33	1,985.67
Licenses and Dues	25.00	25.00
Meals and Catering		11.99
Miscellaneous	92.32	12.00
Office Equipment, Furnishings and Software	795.14	938.38
Office Supplies	1,890.01	892.42
Printing and Photocopying	79.68	57.77
Postage and Courier	263.23	242.03
Rent	2,355.00	2,665.00
Services	45.00	-
Staff Training	-	119.00
Telecommunications (Phone, Fax and Internet)	2,528.05	2,192.73
Travel	588.80	-
Website	1,640.69	4,038.93
Workers' Compensation	63.66	61.05
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>32,286.23</b>	<b>31,153.30</b>
<b>EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES</b>	<b>(6,477.80)</b>	<b>6,022.47</b>