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Columbia Mountains Institute of Applied Ecology

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1 Message from the President

In 2011, CMI directorship saw two departures. Leigh Anne Isaac stepped down to carry on with her busy life as a new mother (we hope to see her return in the future). Sadly, our second departure was the passing of Dr. Paul Sneed, who succumbed to a several year battle with throat cancer. We will miss Paul's energy, ideas, and friendship on the board.

Funds for federal and provincial resource managers to attend our events were still reduced this past year, which led to fewer attendees. This meant having to cancel two events this past year - Soil Bioengineering and the first offering of the Public Participation course. However, we were still able to present nine excellent events, the details of which you can find below.

In light of the downturn in event interest, we reviewed the costs of running the society. A few actions came from that review, some of which came into effect in our 2011 year. These include: reviewing our membership fees (which have not increased in ten years) and we tabled the increase in a vote this spring; enabling credit card payments online – to increase the ease of enrolling in an event; and we reviewed several other administrative items that will save the Institute money over the longer term. This year was also a short fiscal year, from April 1 to December 31, 2010, as we realigned out reporting to better utilize our human resources. These details are reported below.

Lastly, we have a review underway about how we get our information out to members and other ecologists in the region using social media. So in 2011, CMI may be looking for many more friends and fans in this growing communication network.

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.

The CMI changed its fiscal year this year.

The period covered by this Annual Report is April 1, 2010 to December 31, 2010.

2.2 Board of Directors for 2010

Executive

Brendan Wilson, President

Mike Miller, Vice-President

Kevin Bollefer, Treasurer

Directors

Doug Adama

Marc-André Beaucher

Martin Carver

Patrick Daigle

Jenny Feick

Leigh Anne Isaac

Irene Manley

Tara Szkorupa

Natasha Thorpe

Gregg Walker

Del Williams

The Directors held regular meetings five times in the short fiscal year of 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 64 individual members, and 33 corporate members. Our members' email updates go out to 282 individual email addresses. The information is circulated further within the corporate memberships.

CMI corporate members for 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
- 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, Yukon
- 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 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.

This year we negotiated a Contribution Agreement with Mount Revelstoke and Glacier National



Parks
Canada

Parcs
Canada

Parks. We received a total of

\$9,000.00 in support our Human Dimensions of Natural Resource Management conference, and to help with our operational tasks such as support a network of ecologists working to improve ecological integrity in this region. CMI is grateful for Parks Canada's ongoing financial and in-kind assistance.

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>).



Parks
Canada

Parcs
Canada



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

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 the services of other businesses as required.

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 and knowledge gaps, then host workshops or courses to address these issues. The following ten events were held in our nine month year of 2010. More details about each event, 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 (sent to over 275 individuals), our event announcement distribution list (over 450 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.

Aboriginal Cultural Awareness for Natural Resource Managers

April 20-21, 2010, in Revelstoke BC

The course was designed for non-Aboriginals who will be working with Aboriginal people and who wish to work in a culturally appropriate manner to convey respect and build trust. This two day interactive course provided participants with the practical tools for engaging Aboriginal peoples, communities, organizations, and institutions in natural resource discussions and decision-making. This course was attended by 14 people, and taught by Bob and Anne Moody of Global Indigenous Services.

CMI's Annual Researchers' Meeting and AGM

May 12, 2010, in Castlegar BC

Every year CMI members get together to provide updates on their projects (research, field trials, new initiatives in southeastern British Columbia) and catch up on each other's news. It was an informal atmosphere and non-CMI members were welcomed. This year about thirty people gathered at the Castlegar campus of Selkirk College for the meeting.

Online GIS for Citizen Science and Stewardship

May 13, 2010, in Castlegar BC

The Columbia Mountains Institute partnered with Selkirk College to host this one day workshop, which was attended by 18 people and instructed by Ian Parfitt with assistance by Dr. Brendan Wilson. Topics included the use of GIS in participatory decision making; a guided tour and demonstrations of Kootenay web-based mapping resources; and how to generate maps using several readily available tools such as iMAP BC (a portal to environmental and natural resources information in BC), Columbia Basin Biodiversity Atlas and the Columbia Basin Watershed Interactive Map. By the end of the day, participants had learned how to use online GIS mapping resources to learn about an area of interest, and how to make their own customized maps. Attended by 17 people.

GPS Unleashed – Making the most of your GPS unit and online mapping resources

May 14, in Castlegar BC

The Columbia Mountains Institute partnered with Selkirk College to host this one day course, instructed by Keyes Lessard and Chris Gray. Participants gathered GPS data, downloaded the data, and integrated GPS data with on-line mapping tools and data sources. By the end of the day, students were familiar with various GPS data collection techniques and integration options using freely accessible mapping resources. These skills can be applied to enhance a variety of field-based occupational and recreational interests. Attended by 20 people.

Introduction to "R" software

August 24-25, 2010 in Revelstoke BC

This two-day course introduced users to R software, so that they were 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. With a maximum of 8 students per class, participants received lots of individualized assistance. 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 (www.r-project.org). The course was taught by Dr. Joseph Thorley, R.P.Bio. ([Poisson Consulting Ltd.](#)). Attended by 7 people (maximum allowed was 8).

Ecological Approaches to Invasive Plant Management

September 13-14, 2010 in 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 and treating a site. This was an intense course in that lots of material is covered in a short time. A course manual was provided. Attended by 13 people.

We offered the course “Soil Bioengineering” in September, but did not receive enough registrations to proceed.

Statistics for Biologists - A Refresher Course

September 21-23, 2010, in Revelstoke BC

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. This course was taught by Dr. Carl Schwarz from Simon Fraser University to a class of 16 people.

Trend Analysis and Environmental Impact Assessment

September 28-30, 2010, in Revelstoke BC

Environmental monitoring often looks at trends over time. Environmental impact assessments want to know if trends over time differ between control and impact sites. Statistical methods for the analysis of trends over time use many of the same methods as the analysis of experimental data (e.g. ANOVA, regression) but must now deal with problems such as autocorrelation and process error. This course was taught by Dr. Carl Schwarz from Simon Fraser University to a class of 17 people

Public Participation Skills for Natural Resource Managers

October 4-5, 2010, in Revelstoke

This course introduced the basic concepts and skills for planning and implementing a public participation process. Although participation is widely recognized as a critical aspect of natural resource management, and is a regulatory requirement for a variety of

environmental and natural resource management processes, few resource managers have had formal training or professional development opportunities in this field. Many practitioners "do" participation every day, but do not have the opportunity to reflect on their practice or to contemplate ways to do it better. This course provided this opportunity, by using the collective experience of participants themselves as the key learning content. The course also provided a suite of resources that allow these activities to be grounded in some basic common concepts, and a set of tools that can be adopted and adapted by practitioners. The course was instructed by Dr. Ajit Krishnaswamy of FORREX to a class of 15 people.

We attempted to run the Public Participation Skills course in the spring of 2010 but did not have sufficient registrations to hold the course.

Human Dimensions of Natural Resource Management conference

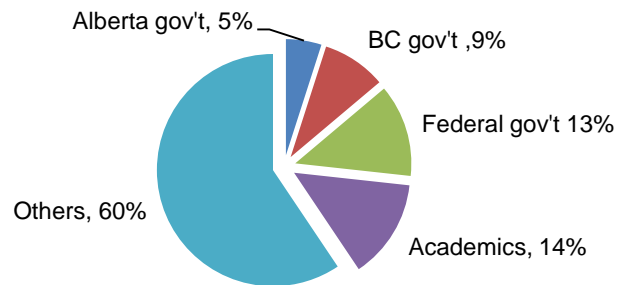
October 6-7, 2010, in Revelstoke

Natural resource practitioners are accustomed to integrating biological and other natural science and technical factors into their decision-making. Integrating data from the natural sciences with information about social values and human behaviours increases the effectiveness of natural resource management. Through 1.5 days of presentations (followed by optional field trips during the afternoon of the 7th), a poster session, and opportunities for informal dialogue, this conference strengthened the ability of managers and practitioners to incorporate human dimensions into the many aspects of natural resource management. A conference summary is available on the CMI website in the Past Events section. About 50 people attended this conference. As of May 1, 2011, 75 people had downloaded the conference summary.

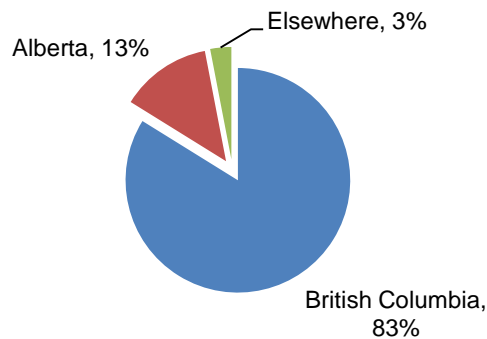
Who attends CMI events?

190 people attended a CMI event in our short 2010 fiscal year. Some people attended more than one event.

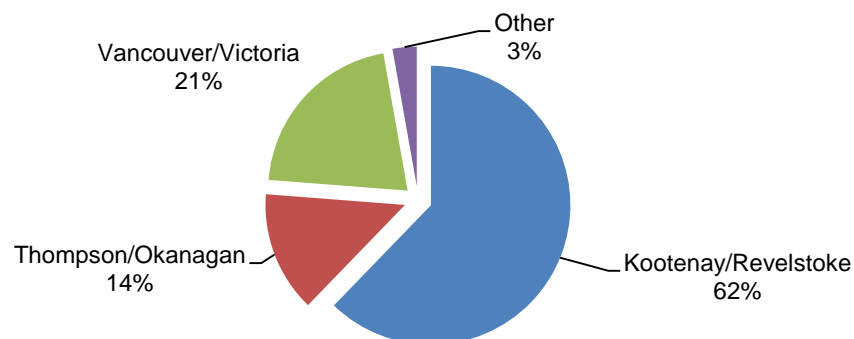
Affiliation of event participants in 2010



Where event participants came from in 2010



Where the 2010 event participants live in BC



3.2 Supporting applied ecological research

CMI Members' Updates

Six CMI Members' Updates were sent in the nine months of 2010, plus assorted announcements for events and a few interim messages that did not make it into the Updates. 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 online archive of these bulletins is available on the CMI website. Updates are sent to over 275 people, and distributed further within the networks of our corporate members.

In March of 2010 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)

Our Google Analytics program tells us that in the 9 months between April 1, 2010 and December 31, 2010 our web site received 12,147 visits. For the purpose of comparing to the previous fiscal year, if this was scaled up to 12 months, the web site traffic would have been 16,200 visits. This is an increase of 33%.

- 78% of the people visiting our site come for one-time only.
- 22% were from returning visitors.

The most popular pages on the site were the Home page, followed by the Events page, and then the articles in the National Park Feature Articles section on pikas and grizzly bears. These two pages are referenced to Wikipedia.

3.3 Collaboration

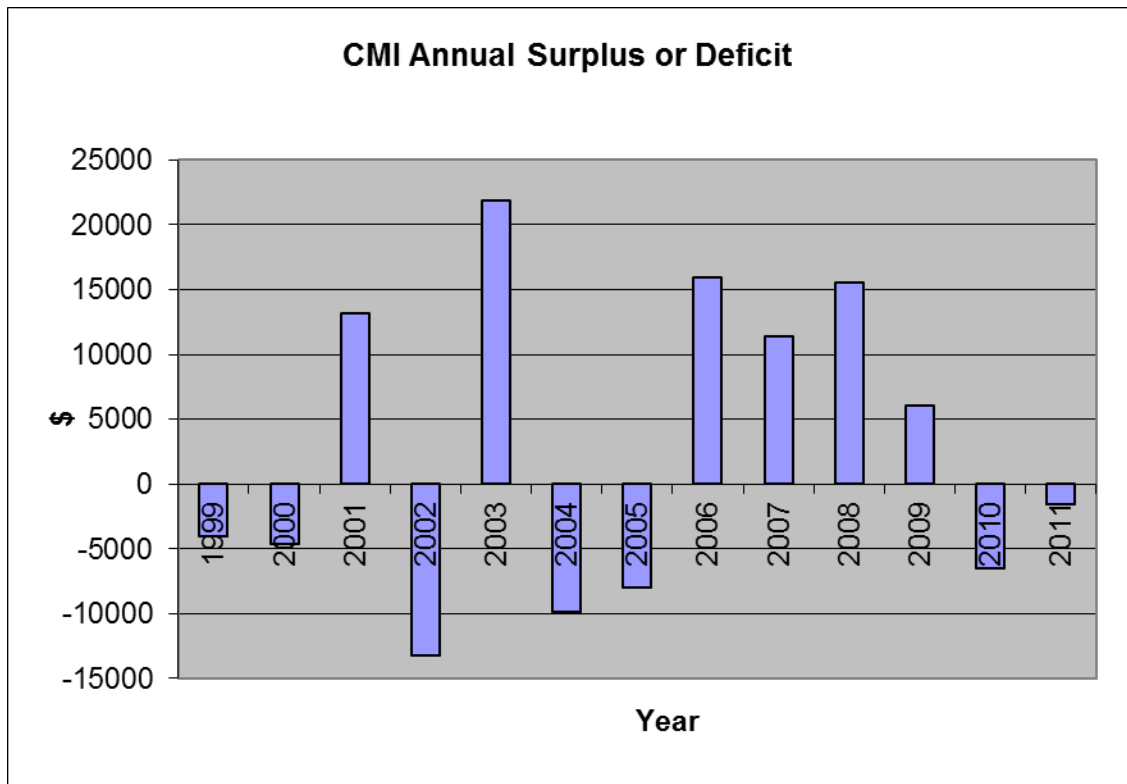
This year Parks Canada and the CMI developed a one year Contribution Agreement. Funds from this agreement were used in support of the Human Dimensions in Natural Resource Management conference (\$5000) and to supporting the CMI in its general operations (\$4000). The two agencies share a common goal 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.

4 Preface to Financial Statement

The un-audited financial statements for the nine month fiscal year ending December 31, 2010 reported a net loss of \$1,612.74. We have changed our end of fiscal year from the end of March to the end of December to make things easier for the bookkeeper and Jackie as December is much quieter administratively than the spring. All in all, our close to break-even year means CMI is in a good financial position to continue our work.



Year-end surplus/deficit for CMI from 1999 to 2011

With the HST coming into effect in July, CMI now charges 12% tax on our registration fees and memberships. Most registrants are with companies that are GST/HST registered and they can get this increase back as an input tax credit. However, for those individuals that are not GST/HST registered, this is a significant increase. We hope this doesn't make it inhibiting to individuals and CMI will continue to try to minimize course and conference fees.

For those that have renewed their memberships or have signed up for courses lately will have noticed that CMI now accepts credit cards. We hope this makes it easier for you to register for courses and conferences.

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 Human Dimensions 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. If there are any ideas out there for additional courses or conferences please let Jackie or a board member know.

The CMI Board would like to acknowledge the financial and in-kind support of our partners and event sponsors, which is very important to our society's financial standing.

Kevin Bollefer
Treasurer
Columbia Mountains Institute

**COLUMBIA MOUNTAINS INSTITUTE
OF APPLIED ECOLOGY**

**COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEET FOR PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2010 and
PERIOD ENDING MARCH 31, 2010**

	Dec-31 2010 9 months	Mar-31 2009/2010 12 months
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Bank - Revelstoke Credit Union - Chequing	27,098.64	17,393.03
Bank - Revelstoke Credit Union - Term Deposit - 20-May-2011	21,943.48	30,973.35
Bank - Revelstoke Credit Union - Term Deposit - 30-January-2012	10,300.00	10,300.00
Bank - Revelstoke Credit Union - Member Rewards	-	19.47
Bank - Revelstoke Credit Union - Shares	48.67	48.67
Accounts Receivable	1,456.00	2,110.50
Prepaid Expenses	-	-
Work In Progress	15,611.93	6,026.19
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	<u>76,458.72</u>	<u>66,871.21</u>
CAPITAL ASSETS		
Computer Equipment	5,477.47	5,477.47
Accumulated Amortization - Computer Equipment	(5,360.57)	(5,150.33)
Data Projector	1,915.82	3,399.61
Accumulated Amortization - Data Projector	(301.05)	(3,399.61)
TOTAL CAPITAL ASSETS	<u>1,731.67</u>	<u>327.14</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>78,190.39</u>	<u>67,198.35</u>
LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Visa Payable	-	409.84
Accounts Payable	645.62	4,385.17
GST Refund Due	-	-
Prepaid Memberships	100.00	363.81
Deferred Revenue	21,117.46	21,085.24
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	<u>21,863.08</u>	<u>26,244.06</u>
SURPLUS		
Surplus - Beginning of the Year	40,954.29	66,376.12
Surplus (Deficit) - For the Current Year	15,373.02	(25,421.83)
TOTAL SURPLUS	<u>56,327.31</u>	<u>40,954.29</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS	<u>78,190.39</u>	<u>67,198.35</u>

**COLUMBIA MOUNTAINS INSTITUTE
OF APPLIED ECOLOGY**

**COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS
APRIL 01, 2010 to DECEMBER 31, 2010 and
April 01, 2009 to March 31, 2010**

	December 2010 9 months	March 2009/2010 12 months
REVENUES		
Completed Workshops, Courses and Projects	8,424.82	16,525.31
Grants and Contributions	3,500.00	3,669.87
Membership Fees	4,067.78	4,168.22
Miscellaneous Income and Bank Interest	1,063.20	1,445.03
TOTAL REVENUES	17,055.80	25,808.43
EXPENSES		
Accounting and Bookkeeping	795.00	1,107.50
Amortization	511.29	280.32
Contract Fees	11,462.50	18,742.50
Donations	-	
Insurance	1,853.00	1,789.33
Licenses and Dues	25.00	25.00
Meals and Catering		
Miscellaneous	44.45	92.32
Office Equipment, Furnishings and Software	237.37	795.14
Office Supplies	270.51	1,890.01
Printing and Photocopying	72.48	79.68
Postage and Courier	178.64	263.23
Rent	2,089.56	2,355.00
Services		45.00
Staff Training		-
Telecommunications (Phone, Fax and Internet)	1,128.74	2,528.05
Travel		588.80
Website		1,640.69
Workers' Compensation		63.66
TOTAL EXPENSES	18,668.54	32,286.23
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	(1,612.74)	(6,477.80)