



2010 ANNUAL REPORT
2011 Conference & Annual General Meeting
Williams Lake, BC May 13-15, 2011

"Enjoying the Caribou-Chilcotin"

BC NATURE – 2010 ANNUAL REPORT

Annual General Meeting – Williams Lake May 12-15, 2011

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The editors of this Annual Report wish to thank all those members who provided reports and thanks to photo contributors:

Cover Photographs – Ordell Steen “Williams Lake River Valley”, “Bechers in Fall”, “Fraser River at Churn Creek”

President's Report

John Neville

The forty first (41st) Annual General Meeting is fast approaching and I'd like to welcome you all to this event. I hope there will be an opportunity to talk to each of you.

A number of faces have changed on your **Executive Committee** during the last year. Sue Loveless of the Comox Valley Naturalists became Vancouver Island Regional Coordinator. Claudia Copley of Victoria Natural History Society has become your hard working Secretary. After extensive advertising, David Tsang who has just completed his CGA joined us in the fall as our Treasurer. Greg Ross of the Rocky Mountain Naturalists, who many of you know, became the Kootenay Regional Coordinator this spring. Joan Snyder of the West Kootenay Naturalists has returned to be our Education Chair. The other members of the executive team are Past President - Bev Ramey, Conservation Chair - Rosemary Fox, Regional Coordinator for the North - Fred Mc-Mechan, Thompson Okanagan - Don Guild and the well known Jude Grass for the Lower Mainland. The hours of commitment and dedication that this group of volunteers gives to BC Nature is quite staggering.

Membership and Infrastructure are two subjects that deeply concern me as your president. Recently we welcomed Kitimat Valley Naturalists as full members and the newly formed Nicola Naturalists. After the FGM in Langley, I visited all of the northern clubs. The Prince George meeting was with local naturalists and a lot of enthusiastic students from UNBC. Clive Keen took up the challenge and started a new Prince George Naturalist Club, which now has 51 members. This winter Christine Rock, our Rene Savanye award winner from last year, applied for Wild Research to become a new federated club. This group from Simon Fraser was welcomed aboard by your Executive Committee in March and now has 23 members.

In response to the **Strategic Plan**, membership has become a more important issue. On our web page you will find a number of important documents: Constitution and Bylaws; Benefits of Membership in BC Nature; How to Start a BC Nature Club and Tips for membership in our Clubs. Please let me know if you have ideas for improving these documents. I hope to get out and visit more clubs in the coming months and have specifically arranged to give talks in four Kootenay locations after the FGM.

Donations this last fall and winter have almost equalled 2009. Our members have given approximately \$20,000 to BC Nature. Your Executive members have donated a significant portion of their expenses totaling \$12000 in 2010. Even with our tough economic times, we were surprised to have received an anonymous donation of \$5000 to be used for our IBA program. Thank you everyone for your contributions.

Magazine - Our previous editor, Dawn Hanna received an attractive job offer which caused her to resign as editor of our magazine. Betty Davison our hard working manager offered to take over the running of BC Nature if the Executive could give some assistance. By the time you read this message you will have received the spring edition and can judge the results for yourselves. I would like to express my personal appreciation for Betty's hard work and saving us \$4000 in the process. We have upgraded the software necessary for magazine production but we appreciate suggestions and Betty always needs articles.

Using Betty's computer skills you will have also been receiving **BC Nature's enews**, sometimes called the Voice of Nature. You may receive this via your club director or if your club executive has given permission you may receive the enews directly. Those receiving direct copies can be assured that your email address remains confidential. We hope the extra news and information in this publication is useful and interesting.

Your executive is currently searching for a **Communications Director** to oversee BC Nature magazine and preside over the upgrading of our website.

Club Support Grants - This year your BC Naturalist Foundation provided \$6000 for club Support Grants. BC Nature kicked in another \$2000 for a total \$8016.

- North Okanagan Naturalists - Cool Ponds interpretive sign replacement
- Arrowsmith Naturalists-Seasonal Bird Checklist Parksville - Qualicum, Nanoose

- Comox Valley Naturalists - Wetland Restoration 2011
- Friends of Semiahmoo Bay - Little Campbell Interpretive signs and restoration
- Chillawack Field Naturalists - Camp River wildlife area planting
- South Okanagan Naturalists - Half Century of Conservation in South Okanagan program, Landscapes Alive and Birding Trail Map

I would like to compliment everyone concerned for their work to protect the environment. If you donate or leave money to the Naturalists Foundation, your contribution will work forever to support nature related programs - like those above. A big thank you to Bob Dyer and the Foundation Executive for taking such good care of our Foundation.

Lillian Hayden Bequest - I would like to end on a very positive note. We used part of the Lillian Hayden bequest to partner with the Salt Spring Conservancy and many others to purchase 320 acres of second growth forest. It was a pleasure to walk through this acreage this afternoon despite the rain and overcast conditions. Its a beautiful piece of property in the southwest corner of Salt Spring Island reached along Musgrave Road. A number of years ago I recorded an Olive-sided Flycatcher which today is quite rare. Today the most special moment amongst the cedars and firs comes when a Dusky Grouse(Blue Grouse) started its deep rhythmic hoots. The final funds from the Lillian Hayden Bequest were given to the Mary Lake Conservancy in an effort to assist in the protection of a 107 acre parcel of land on Vancouver Island. ↪

Treasurers' Report 2010

David Tsang

Operating Fund

The 2010 operating budget showed a projected surplus of \$8,800. The actual 2010 surplus was \$32,351, which was a much better year than expected.

Although total 2010 revenues for the year exceeded budgeted revenues of \$37,256 or 35% they were lower than 2009 revenues by \$7,292 or 5%. However, expenses only increased by \$14,904 (16%) compared to budget but were \$23,755 lower (18%) than 2009. This shows that our surplus was largely due to strong expense management.

The main variances between the 2010 approved budget and the 2010 actuals are summarized below:

- Project administration fees were \$10,826 (62%) higher than budgeted and \$6,858 higher than 2009, and based on grants received. This is a difficult number to predict as we do not know in Spring which grants will be approved;
- Camps and special event revenue, when netted against related expenses was \$1,230 (41%) higher than budgeted and \$1,727 (69%) higher than 2009, due to strong expense management by the host clubs.
- Travel and accommodation expense, when netted against executive donations were 72% lower than both budgeted and prior year due to an increase in executive donations and lower than expected expenses;
- Having a service agreement with the Elders Council has significantly reduced our rental expense, whereby we receive use of our centre in exchange for work done for the Elders Council; and
- All other expenses were \$8,382 (9%) lower than budgeted and \$1,124 (1%) lower than 2009 due to BC Nature's efforts to reduce operating costs.

Restricted Funds

As at December 31 2010, BC Nature had the following funds available for various programs and projects:

- \$106,923 in externally restricted grants that includes \$75,113 from the Lillian Hayden Bequest;

- \$10,345 in externally restricted donations; and
- \$35,572 in internally restricted funds that includes a contingency fund of \$15,029 and a strategic planning fund of \$10,424.

The 2010 financial statements are included (Page 33) should you need further details. For more questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at david.t.tsang@gmail.com ↪

Office Manager Report

Betty Davison

Entering my second year at BC Nature and all is well in the office! I have met so many of you wonderful members and executive and it has been my privilege in working with you over the last year. My learning curve not only with office matters, but also in being a naturalists has grown in leaps and bounds and soon I will wear the moniker of ``Naturalists`` very comfortably and proudly.

It's been a busy year, with the advent of the "enews" (Natures Voice) and with my new duties of putting together the BC Nature magazine, while at the same time still keeping up with the regular day to day duties of the office. To the executive and BC Nature representatives of our clubs - thank you for making the job easier and more timely by continuing to meet the time deadlines I have imposed on you. Your help and encouragement is greatly appreciated in making these new tasks fit seamlessly into my daily routine. Communication between the different clubs, all of our members, the executive and the office is improving. We are able to directly send out "Nature's Voice" (enews) to over 800 of our members. There is so much information flowing through the office that is of interest to our members that our encapsulated enews is a great read and brings everyone up to speed quickly. If you are not receiving the enews now, please contact the office and we will put you on the emailing list.

Club insurance coverage continues to be the number one topic for the queries I receive from our clubs. We have available to all clubs a comprehensive document that explains the coverage quite well and all the corresponding waivers etc.. At the FGM in Delta this year, we will also have a representative from our insurance company speaking to our coverage.

We have upgraded the office computer and also purchased more current software programs and a graphics programs to accommodate the BC Nature Magazine. I hope one of you steps forward to work with me in the Communications Director role - there is much work still to be done! Facebook and twitter are just two of the social media that we would like to keep updated in conjunction with a new look to our website. I look forward to a challenging 2011/2012! ↪

Education Report

Joan Snyder

Science Fairs - All fourteen Regional Science Fairs in BC and the Yukon were completed by the end of April this year. BC Nature provides a \$50.00 award annually to each Region for the best natural history project done by a student or students in grades 7 to 12. The projects will have covered aspects of natural history, conservation of natural habitats and or species. The announcement of award winners will be posted early this summer on the Science Fair Foundation of British Columbia website: www.sciencefairs.ca. I urge club members to participate in their local Science Fairs next year. It is lots of fun and I am always awed by the quality and sophistication of the projects. For more information for your Region, look under the Regional Science Fair Contact Information on the above website. If you have difficulty locating the information, contact me at snowdance@shaw.ca and I will be glad to assist you.

Rene Savenye Scholarship - This year's recipient of the \$1,000 Rene Savenye Scholarship is Wade Van Herwaarden. He is a senior at Kwakwaka'wakw Senior Secondary school in Qualicum Beach. He plans to register in the two year Resource Management Officer Technology diploma program at Vancouver Island University in Nanaimo. After graduating from this program he hopes to become employed as a Fishery, Conservation or Parks Officer. He is unable to attend the AGM in Williams Lake to receive his award, but we are arranging for him to be presented with his award by the local Arrowsmith Club at one of their meetings this spring. Congratulations, Wade and best wishes for a successful career working for and protecting our natural environment.

Strategic Plan - The Education Committee will be engaged in the actualization of the Actions proposed under Goal 1 of the Strategic Plan. Twenty six members have volunteered to put "words into action" and we are currently developing subcommittees to address such items as networking, Website development Using Various Media; Nature Knowledge Documentation and Retrieval; and others (See Actions under Goal 1 in the Strategic Plan). This is the year to put our strategies into actions and we hope to engage all of our members and clubs in this activity.

The completion of Goal 1 to, "Harness the nature knowledge of members and clubs to compile, document and communicate nature knowledge across BC..." is critical to the success of the Strategic Plan and helping BC Nature evolve as an effective voice for nature in a changing society. If you have ideas or skills that would assist in reaching Goal 1, feel free to contact me at snowdance@shaw.ca. ☺

Conservation Report

Rosemary Fox and the Conservation Committee members.

The year since the last AGM in May of 2010 has been a busy one for the Conservation Committee, and, due to the commitment and excellent collaboration of committee members, it's been a good one. The committee members for all or part of the year are: Al Kirkley (Nanose Bay, Vancouver Island), Anne Murray, Bev Ramey, Elaine Golds, Joe Harrison and Peter Ballin (Lower Mainland), Don Guild and Eva Durance and Frances Vyse (Thompson-Okanagan), Joan Snyder (Kootenays), John Neville (Salt Spring Island), Sarah Gibbins (Victoria), and myself (Smithers, northwest BC). Between us, we have been able more or less to cover the province, in terms of responding to key conservation issues. Regrettably, Sarah Gibbins has just had to resign from the Committee because of a serious horseback riding accident. We wish her a full and speedy recovery.

What have we done over the past year? First of all it must be mentioned that in July 2010 BC Nature received Nature Canada's Affiliate Award for its "tireless work towards the goal of building the foundation for the long-term conservation of BC's Important Bird Areas". While BC Nature was the recipient of this award, congratulations and thanks go to Anne Murray for her leadership of BC's IBA program, and her assistants Krista Englund and Karen Barry, who work with such commitment to the IBA program. A report on the IBA program will be submitted separately.

Major, ongoing issues are:

- provincewide: Water/Wetlands; Species at Risk; Parks ; Forestry; Energy Issues with significant environmental implications (mostly addressed under northern issues).
- in the north: the proposed Northern Gateway (Enbridge) pipeline, and shale oil development in north-east BC (a new issue for BC Nature and one that is likely to be with us for a long time to come)
- in the southeast: the Mountain Caribou Project; and
- in the Lower Mainland: Fraser Delta

With other members of the Conservation Committee, Peter Ballen has provided valuable input to BC Nature's comments on the government's proposed Modernization of the Water Act, which were submitted on March 14. Information on the Act can be found at <http://livingwatersmart.ca/water-act/> and our comments are on BC Nature's website at www.bcnature.ca/pages/conservation_education (see letters)

2. **Species at Risk.** The most significant and time-consuming action on this issue was to respond to an invitation from government last Fall to provide input into the Terms of Reference of an independent Species at Risk Task Force. The task of this Task Force was “to provide recommendations to the B.C. government to help it update its vision for the conservation of species and ecosystems at risk and ensure British Columbia remains a leader in environmental sustainability”. Responders were asked to make recommendations on the government’s “vision”, environmental management, regulatory management, private land stewardship, and effective communication and engagement with First Nations and stakeholders. BC Nature’s response is posted on our website, at www.bcnature.ca/pages/conservation_education/letters. While the Task Force was wrapped up on December 31, the government has not yet made public what action it has taken or proposes to take with the public input received.

3. **Forestry.** Over the past year, the Conservation Committee has discussed and drafted letters on a number of forestry issues. These include:

- a strong letter to the Minister of Forests in June about government staff cuts, especially the loss of scientists involved in the research needed to design ecologically sound forest management;
- a letter in support of a local Harrison Hot Springs group, Friends of the East Sector, who advocate protection of 400 ha of valuable valley bottom lands of mixed coniferous/deciduous trees, including two rare plant communities, cottonwood-Sitka willow & cottonwood-red osier dogwood. Western Trillium is found throughout the forested sites, and wildlife trees, ranging from live and healthy to stumps and debris, provide nest, food, roost, shelter and wintering sites.
- DL33 - The Conservation Committee has joined with local residents, groups and councils in an attempt to save this 120 ha parcel of Coastal Douglas Fir (CDF) in Nanoose Bay on Vancouver Island, from being logged. Conservation Committee member Al Kirkley, who is from Nanoose Bay, writes: “The land is owned by the Crown but the Provincial Government has granted a cutting permit to the local First Nation in lieu of the money they have requested during land claim negotiations. CDF is globally endangered and very rare on Vancouver Island. This is recognized by the Provincial Government, which has even been conducting workshops on Vancouver Island to encourage individuals and groups to help preserve it. The protest has included a resolution by the Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities Association and a report of the Forest Practices Board. Despite this the Integrated Land Management Bureau insists that logging of the area will not cause significant environmental damage and the area is too small to warrant protection. BC Nature’s president, John Neville, recently wrote again to the Minister of Environment and the Minister of Resource Operations, imploring them to revoke the cutting permit for DL33 and protect this small parcel of land from all future development with appropriate compensation to the First Nation.

4. **Energy projects, other than northern.** In 2010, BC Nature submitted comments on the massive proposed Bute Inlet hydroelectric project. This has since been shelved – for the time being anyway – illustrating the importance of public input on issues of public concern.

5. **Northern Issues.** Northern Issues over the past year have all concerned energy.

(a) **Enbridge’s proposed Northern Gateway Pipeline Project** to transport oilsands bitumen from northern Alberta to Kitimat, for export by tanker through northern BC’s treacherous coastal waters and on to Asian markets. The public are waiting for the start of National Energy Board/Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (NEB/CEAA) hearings to begin. Meanwhile, Enbridge is fulfilling requirements to provide further information on the project, following a review of the Application by government, First Nations and the public to identify deficiencies. Meanwhile, opposition from First Nations and the public is mounting and Enbridge’s CEO Patrick Daniel is becoming more strident in promoting the project. Polls reveal that about 80% of the public are opposed to the project. As BC Nature’s representative on this issue, I have been working with local groups in a loose coalition of opponents of the project and have attended a number of workshops to prepare groups intending to intervene in the hearings. In May of last year I was also privileged to attend a major First Nations event in Kitimaat, which was attended by about 1000 people. It was extremely well organized with

excellent, well-informed speakers, an amazing feast of traditional foods, and the atmosphere was electric. BC Nature is planning to intervene jointly with Nature Canada, and with the funds available from CEAA we have hired three consultants to review the project Application – two B.C. ornithologists, and a wildlife consultant in Fort St. John who has extensive experience with pipeline issues. Right now, we are in a waiting game.

(b) **Shale Gas development in northeast B.C.** BC Nature has been hearing disturbing reports on the rush to develop the shale gas reserves in northeastern BC. We are concerned in particular about the practice of hydraulic fracturing (“fracking”) and its likely impact on ecosystems as well as, more specifically, water quality and supply. We have been reading up on this issue, and in March wrote a letter to the new premier, requesting that shale gas development be halted until a full evaluation of the risks involved in shale gas development is undertaken to determine whether and how it can be carried out, while at the same time protecting ecosystem integrity (see www.bcnature.ca)

There are many good reports on shale gas development on the internet. To anyone interested in learning more about it, I recommend a University of Toronto’s Munk School of Global Affairs report, “Fracture Lines: Will Canada’s water be protected in the rush to develop Shale gas”, by Ben Parfitt and available on the internet – or, for that matter, any article on the topic by Ben Parfitt..

6. **Mountain Caribou Project (MCP)** is a coalition of environmental groups who work with government agencies, other interest groups and an independent Science Team on implementation of a Mountain Caribou Recovery Implementation Plan (MCRIP) developed by the government with public input. The plan includes provision for wolf control where predation is preventing the recovery of a caribou herd. A BC Nature resolution on wolf control, passed in 1990, allows for wolf control where there is overwhelming evidence that a prey population will be extirpated if wolf predation is not reduced. In 2010, the Science Team recommended aerial control of wolves where they were threatening caribou herds numbering less than 50 animals. There was strong public opposition, and no control program took place. Recently, individual MCP members were asked to sign on to a MCP letter which said, amongst other things, that there may be caribou herds that have declined to the point where wolf control is called for. The letter also had an attachment highly critical of the government for its numerous failures to take action to control intrusive recreational activities that were demonstrably having a deleterious effect on the caribou herds impacted. BC Nature’s Executive Committee needed time to review the letter carefully and offer editorial suggestions, but the MCP were running up against a deadline and as a result we were not a signatory. One stipulation of all MCP members is that before they can agree to any particular wolf control program, all human activities, whether industrial or recreational, that might impede caribou recovery in the area, must be stopped.

BC Nature is cognizant of the need to listen to its members, especially on emotionally-charged issues. So the question is, is it time to review our policy on wolf control (printed below), which is now 20 years old?

BC Nature’s policy on wolf control programs (as passed at the 1990 AGM)

BC Nature opposes wolf control programs whose underlying purpose is to increase the numbers of ungulates for consumptive or non-consumptive use by humans.

BC Nature supports the limited use of wolf control in specific instances where continued wolf predation on a prey species would lead to the extinction or local extirpation of that species.

BC Nature’s support for wolf control in these instances would be dependent on (a) the existence of very convincing evidence that controlling wolves would be to the benefit of the prey species, (b) the existence of strong evidence that the government, industry and the public had made every reasonable effort to protect the habitat of the affected prey species or to rehabilitate the said habitat if necessary, and (c) all hunting of the affected prey species had been disallowed.

7. **Fish Lake.** Although the Province approved Taseko’s proposed Fish Lake Mine following the BC Environmental Assessment early last year, the federal government, which assessed the project separately under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, turned it down. BC Nature opposed the project because of its

projected environmental effects, which included the draining of Fish Lake and using it as a tailings impoundment, and we therefore believe that the federal government did the right thing. The proponent, Taseko Mines, has recently submitted a new development proposal which does not involve draining Fish Lake, although they had maintained for years that it was not possible to develop a mine without draining the lake. A new review will presumably enable BC Nature and likeminded organizations to determine whether the new proposal is environmentally acceptable.

8. Lower Mainland Waste Management. Last Fall, a BC Nature delegation called on the Environment Minister, then Hon. Murraray Coell, and raised with him our concerns about waste management in the Lower Mainland. In particular, they raised concerns about plans for more incineration of waste especially regarding the creation and atmospheric release of toxic dioxins. They suggested that a more thorough analysis of waste composition, and how this could be affected by food waste composting would be required before a decision to construct a new incinerator could be justified.

9. Parks

(a) With regard to **National Parks**, Eva Durance is BC Nature representative on the Citizens' Committee supporting the creation of a proposed South Okanagan Similkameen National Park. She writes:

"The South Okanagan Similkameen National Park Reserve proposal was moving ahead in a very positive manner over the past year with Parks Canada providing additional financial and staff resources to the project. Our Citizen's Committee was expecting an announcement that the feasibility stage was completed and that the project was moving ahead into the next, concept, stage when more details of exact boundaries and so forth would be worked out'. However, the political dustup in Victoria followed by the calling of a federal election has put everything on hold for an unknown period of time. "

(b) **Provincial Parks** Don Guild writes: Chronic underfunding of the BC Parks system is having deepening and damaging consequences, most notably for ecosystem integrity and for the preservation of species at risk . Despite parks staffing levels which are woefully low, the intense dedication and creativity of park administrators and staff is leveraging these meager funds to the max.

The Auditor General's report on the Conservation of Ecological Integrity in B.C. Parks and Protected Areas, released in August 2010, found that the Province wasn't living up to it's own parks vision which states that: "BC Parks is recognized for its leadership in the proactive stewardship of ecological and cultural integrity". While many excellent recommendations were made by John Doyle, the Auditor General in this report, he failed to call for increased funding to support the successful implementation of these measures.

10. Fraser Delta. Agricultural land in the Fraser River delta continues to be lost to industrial and urban development. The South Fraser Perimeter Road has covered high quality agricultural land, which was also habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds and raptors. The new highway, being built to service the expanded DeltaPort at Roberts Bank, has also destroyed habitat in the lagg zone of Burns Bog. A particular concern is the destruction of known habitat for the southern red-backed vole, Pacific Water shrew and migrating Sandhill Cranes. This population of Sandhill Cranes is believed by some to be a distinct race or subspecies, local to the coastal area. Expanded rail lines and yards, container storage and other facilities are also due to be built for the port. In addition, Port MetroVancouver have announced that it is applying to develop Terminal 2, which would double the size of the existing port. The proponents managed to avoid a Cumulative Environmental Assessment for the Third Berth Project, by claiming that Terminal 2 was not being proposed. As soon as the Third Berth was completed, they are moving to expand further. Numerous land purchases are being made along the route of the rail and highway right of ways, with the expectation that much of the remaining farmland will become industrial land. This is particularly ironic as the Roberts Bank "back-up lands", once expropriated by the provincial government for port purposes, were sold back to farmers, yet are now being repurchased for port use (see my March column in the Georgia Straight online.

In addition to the industrial development associated with the Roberts Bank port, work has started on extensive developments on former farmland on the Tsawwassen First Nation land. While the Tsawwassen plan to keep their salt marsh shoreline as an environmental reserve, a large number of housing developments, shopping malls and industrial uses are planned for other areas of their land. These are currently in the planning stage

and can be viewed on their website: www.tsawwassenfirstnation.com

In South Delta, the Southlands is once again the subject of controversy, as discussion regarding its future as farmland continues. The landowner wants to develop it for a mix of housing and community agriculture. A move by the Municipality of Delta to return the land to the Agricultural Land Reserve is temporarily halted. The public hearing over three nights showed some deep divisions in the community over whether the ALR designation was suitable and a lot of misunderstandings about what the designation implied. The Mayor decided to call a halt to the hearing to enable a Mayor's Summit to take place, with the landowner, representatives of the community and farming participating. I was invited to attend as an environmentalist. It is anticipated that the landowner will bring forward a new development proposal later in the summer.

Other conservation concerns include a proposal for a jet fuel loading facility in Richmond and the impact of increasing recreation on the wildlife management areas of the Fraser River estuary. The latter issue is the subject of a resolution to the AGM. ↪

Communications Report

Joan Best

After our original website was redone, and at the request of the Executive some years ago, I have, though not on a regular basis, gone through the entire BC Nature website to look for such things, especially amongst our Clubs, as links that are inactive, items in need of being updated, etc.

Our webmaster, David Lassmann, does a very good job of keeping everything in order and I report any changes required to David. One remarkable trend over time, has been the increase in the number of Clubs that now have their own website. Once a rarity, such Clubs are now in the majority, by a wide margin. Given that all manner of information is increasingly available only online, this is a good thing. There are a few problems, though. For example, during my latest check I found one Club whose page contained a link to their contact person's email but the link was not active. The most common problem seems to be information that is out of date. As well, David can only post what he receives; he manages the site, he does not solicit contributions so if everyone enjoys browsing through our website, for example, the Photo Gallery, it would be nice if a wide selection of photos were available for David to work with. Any BC Nature event, AGMs and FGMs, camps, outings should garner lots of photos. Host clubs for any of these events should try to dedicate a photographer and provide that person with the office's email information. Please send all and any correspondence, updates etc. through the office and they will be forwarded to David.

The BC Nature website itself is very attractive now and works well. However, we feel that it could be more user-friendly, informative and interactive. The low profile for contacts is especially noticeable. It is suggested that something along the lines of the Squamish site would work well for us. This may be viewed at: <http://squamishbirds.webs.com>

I look forward to continuing to enjoy roaming through our website! ↪

Regional Reports

Lower Mainland Regional Report

Jude Grass - Regional Director

It has been a very busy year for all 21 naturalist clubs in the Lower Mainland Area. Conservation issues are still forcing clubs to spend more time fighting issues for the environment rather than getting out an enjoying nature. We have not met as a region since the last AGM but do keep in touch when there are pressing issues. We are still fighting some of the issues from last year including the new Super Port Road that is cutting a major swath through Delta's farmland and associated critical wildlife habitat for raptors and species at risk and a local citizen groups is now disrupting the building of the road in North Delta (Burns Bog Area) by camping on the site and planting trees. We are still losing ALR lands throughout the Lower Mainland – for new residential property or oversized warehouses that are moving out of the Vancouver area into the suburbs.

The Wildlife Trees Stewardship (WITS) is still not been operating in the Lower Mainland due to cutbacks both provincially and locally. We have been applying for grants from several sources with the hope that we can re-structure the program. (See the Wildlife Trees Stewardship report in the document – for the other things that are being done with the project).

Many club members are still participating in the BC Breeding Bird Atlas project, BC Nest Record Scheme, Christmas Bird Counts, and doing other local bird/wildlife/plant inventories throughout the year (and there seem to be more counts every year!!!), and in some cases actually doing biophysical inventories for municipalities or other environmental organizations.

The Fall General Meeting will again be in the Lower Mainland hosted by the Delta Naturalists – September 29 – Oct 2 and I hope that naturalists throughout the province will come and enjoy a wonderful program and field trips. ☺

Kootenays Regional Report

Greg Ross - Regional Director

Since the passing of our past regional director, Brenda Balaam, our region has been remiss in coordinating and communicating within our region and our parent organization BC Nature. With a helping hand from BC Nature, Betty and John, we were able to get a Skype call together early this spring and held our first Regional conference call in quite some time.

Unfortunately, at this time we learned of the cessation of the Boundary Naturalists Association, the cause being an aging naturalist membership and the difficulty of attracting new members, as we often find is a similar situation with our Kootenay clubs.

The West Kootenay Naturalist Association's principal activities comprise of year-round field trips of hiking, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing as dictated by the season. Destinations ranging from Ripple Ridge at the top of Kootenay Pass to Kokanee Creek, viewing the annual Kokanee salmon migration. Guest speakers this past winter have covered a wide range of topics, hiking in the Height of the Rockies Provincial Park, salmon fishing in the Queen Charlottes, and a visit to the Orkney Islands.

A significant West Kootenay problem in 2010 was the very poor berry crop resulting in a shortage of food for wildlife, particularly the bears, leading to frequent encounters with the public and the destruction of a significant number of these animals.

Active support was provided in opposition to the development of "Run of River" Hydro generating plants particularly the proposed Glacier/Howser installation, the outcome of which appears to have been a success in preventing an implementation of the project.

Rocky Mountain Naturalists are always very busy, this years spring club camp will be held in Creston, another this summer, exploring the Gilnockie Ecological Reserve and yet another later, up into the Fernie area. Last year saw a Club Camp at Kikomun Creek Provincial Park with a dozen members enjoying the highlight of finding a Rock Wren cheerily singing near the Elk River.

Our Elizabeth Lake Management Committee organized several work bees through out the year, completing further trail upgrades, habitat improvement and a public invitation to celebrate and take part in Elizabeth Lake Nature Day in early July.

Our newsletter is outstanding, with photographs and informative articles that just may be the glue that holds us all together. A single garage sale and donations maintain our annual Mildred White Scholarship, which is presented to a student at the College of the Rockies.

And of course birding galore! Winter Seekers Challenge kicks off our year as we seek out a specific list of birds between January 1st and March 31st, BC-Yukon Owl surveys in March, Breeding Bird Surveys and our "Little Big Day" in May as well as the 100s of kilometers travelled to participate in British Columbia Breeding Bird Atlas. All of which give us great rewards, an indigo bunting family found in late August, though, though correspondence and pictures were confirmed as a female Lazuli Bunting and the offspring were hybrids of a Lazuli / Indigo Bunting pair. A Sabine Gull identified on an outing was the first ever identified in this area and a wide variety of shorebirds kept us out well into September.

Finally the year wraps up with a Christmas Party, Christmas Bird Counts and great Potluck dinners to boot!

The Fernie Nature Club has remained very active this year with a membership slightly less than last but receiving more involvement from their current membership. They are holding weekly evening Nature hikes switching topics from birds to insects, flowers, the forests and such topics as developing our listening and observation skills.

Special trips have included the Titanitis Ammonite, a geological adventure into the Fabulous Flathead, and the Wigwam Flats where the Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep and deer browse most of the winter and well into spring. As well they have organized and sponsor the Annual Christmas Bird Count.

The Fernie Club is currently looking for an activity to assist in creating community awareness of the conservation needs of some areas in town. Their Annual General Meeting is now being planned.

All of our members look forward to a visit from John Neville this fall when he will present a multi media presentation on Owls of BC. We will invite the public, hopefully encouraging new membership and interest in the joys of nature. ☺

Northern BC Regional Report *Fred McMechan - Regional Director*

There were two conference calls during the past year on November 29, 2010 and March 28, 2011. The meeting covered points of interest to clubs in our Northern Region and provided information from BC Nature.

Conservation issues were a significant part of the discussion during the conference calls. These included the Enbridge Pipeline Project, Shipping in the Douglas Channel, Prosperity Mine Project, Poaching in Northern BC, Impacts on Plants and Wildlife by Windmill Projects, Public Access to the Kitimat Estuary and Shale Gas Development.

We were fortunate to have John Neville make a tour through the north during the early fall of 2010 and provide a presentation on his birdsong recordings to most of the clubs. The objectives were to inform the clubs about the

services provided by BC Nature, and to provide encouragement and support toward membership in the clubs.

We are pleased to inform you that the Prince George Naturalists has been energized and has become an active club. Thanks are in order to Clive Keen who has been instrumental in reviving this club.

The Williams Lake Field Naturalists is hosting the BC Nature Spring Conference and AGM on May 12 to 15, 2011. Members have been involved in the planning of this event over the past year. ❧

Thompson-Okanagan-Shuswap Regional Report *Don Guild*

Verbal report to be given at the AGM. ❧

Vancouver Island Regional Reports *Sue Loveless - Regional Director*

Vancouver Island Clubs are busy on an ongoing basis with presentations, field trips, bird counts, community events, and restoration projects. Some of the clubs work closely with Young Naturalists to pass on their wealth of knowledge to the younger generation. In December, the Cowichan Valley Naturalists hosted their annual Solstice Party bringing together both senior members and young naturalists. The Victoria Natural History Club runs a Connect Children with Nature Program that provides volunteer naturalists to accompany school groups on field trips or give presentations.

As a region, Directors have been discussing the issue of free-roaming cats and cat overpopulation. The Victoria Natural History Society took the lead on this and has written letters to their municipalities encouraging them to adopt cat licensing as well control and restraint ordinances. Other clubs in the region have been encouraged to do the same.

The Comox Valley Naturalists are busy planning for a BC Nature Summer Camp to be held at Strathcona Park Lodge July 15th to 19th. The camp will commemorate the BC Parks Centennial and the establishment of Strathcona Park as the first park in the BC system. Organizers are putting together a full program of activities in birding, botany and geology.

Many of our clubs participated in the Christmas Bird Count this December. The Victoria Natural History Society reached a long-standing goal with over 200 people participating in their Count. Restoration Projects are also ongoing throughout the region. The Comox Valley Naturalists continue their restoration of the Courtenay River Estuary and the Arrowsmith Naturalists continue their stewardship work in the Englishman River Estuary.

Clubs in the region continue to struggle with declining membership and the need for more volunteers. To deal with this issue clubs are surveying their members, developing new displays and hosting guest speakers and other events. ❧

PROJECT REPORTS

BC Important Bird Area (IBA) Program

Krista Englund, IBA Caretaker Coordinator

Following are the highlights of the achievements made in the BC Important Bird Area Program for April 2010-March 2011. The BC IBA Team is comprised of BC Nature IBA Liaison Anne Murray, IBA Caretaker Coordinator Krista Englund, Bird Studies Canada (BSC) BC Program Manager Pete Davidson, a second IBA coordinator, Karen Barry of BSC, and numerous other volunteers, including Caretakers. Caretakers are dedicated volunteers who act as “eyes, ears and are hands on the ground” for BC’s 84 Important Bird Areas.

Site Conservation/Caretaker Network

- We recruited a Caretaker for one additional IBA and identified a potential Caretaker for another. Two other Caretakers joined the existing network, bringing the total to number of sites with Caretakers to 78 of 84 IBAs (93% coverage).
- Annual Reports were received for 74% of BC’s 84 IBAs and ranged from detailed written reports brief summaries provided in a spreadsheet, email or by phone. We provided an Annual Report Form this year, which was used by 11 Caretakers.
- We met with 13 Caretakers at their IBAs. These visits provided valuable opportunities to present information about the IBA Program, provide training, identify needs, and discuss future opportunities.
- A Caretaker Appreciation Package was distributed to all Caretakers this year, which included a thank you card, personalized IBA Caretaker ID Card, five new brochures, and an annual report form.
- We provided a variety of support for 19 Caretakers, including developing basic communication materials (e.g. posters), providing a GPS unit for monitoring, attending workshops/open houses, liaising with agencies to gain access for monitoring purposes, assisting with fundraising, and writing letters of support. Opportunities for future support were identified for 23 Caretakers.

Outreach/Communication

- We undertook a Local Government and First Nations outreach project, funded primarily by Mountain Equipment Coop. We delivered 10 IBA presentations to highly receptive audiences and attended several meetings and workshops/community events. Outcomes included indentifying new Caretakers and local governments starting to include IBA information into planning documents (e.g. Park management plans).
- We communicated with a diversity of audiences through various media: the BC Nature website was updated twice; the fall 2010 BC IBA newsletter was circulated to over 200 people; 200 copies of our IBA poster, 800 copies of our technical IBA brochure, and 3200 copies of a new ‘lay public’ IBA brochure were printed and distributed widely; 11 IBA articles were written in other publications; and three BC IBA news items were posted to the BSC Latest News e-newsletter, which reaches >20,000 people.
- A brief update and display was provided for the BC Nature FGM in Langley.
- A draft IBA recognition standard and suggestions for developing an IBA identification sign were developed and forwarded to the IBA Canada Committee for review.

Technical and Scientific Resources

- We worked closely with the IBA Canada Committee to develop the site summary review materials (e.g., Comprehensive Site Review Form & Guidelines) and then worked with Caretakers for four sites to pilot the new review process and materials. Note that Bird Studies Canada primarily leads the technical side of the IBA program.

Governance and Administration

- We held five BC IBA Committee meetings and participated in all IBA Canada Committee meetings and conference calls.
- We provided specific feedback to the IBA Canada Committee on the Site Summary update process, the Caretaker’s Portal, and the National IBA Caretaker Manual.

- To promote the use of the IBA Caretaker Network portal and eBird amongst BC IBA Caretakers, we emailed specific Caretakers and wrote articles in our spring and fall 2010 newsletters. In response, eight Caretakers were trained on using the portal, 13 IBAs were added to the map, and extensive resources were uploaded to BC's resource room. The use of eBird in BC has increased almost exponentially, now containing >125,000 checklists containing well over 1 million records, many from IBAs.
- Four funding applications were submitted to the Canadian Wildlife Federation (successful \$2,400), TD Canada Trust, the Real Estate Foundation, and the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund (these latter applications were not supported at this time).
- An annual workplan that is consistent with the IBA Canada Strategic Plan was developed and used for budgeting purposes.
- Reports were completed for 2010 funders including Nature Canada, Mountain Equipment Coop, and Shell Environmental Fund.
- Project expenditures were tracked in individual spreadsheets for each grant and compared to the BC Nature books on a regular basis to ensure accuracy of our financial records. ∞

Park Interpretation in BC Parks

Bev Ramey

In summer 2010, BC Nature hired 21 interpreters to deliver programs in 14 provincial parks. An estimated 49,000 park visitors attended programs. An additional 44,000 people interacted with roving interpreters, and 49,000 people visited Nature Houses in provincial parks. This was achieved in partnership with the Park Facility Operators and the federal government's summer student job creation funding, and with limited funds and support from BC Parks. The provincial government first cut funding to park interpretation in summer 2002. In 2004, BC Nature began hiring student interpreters through the federal government's summer student job creation funding, with support from Park Facility Operators.

Despite the positive reception of these interpretation programs over the past seven years, BC Nature has always considered our role as a temporary "stop-gap" measure to ensure continuity in the hopes that the provincial government would again commit adequate and long-term funding. During the 2010 FGM, BC Nature Directors indicated that unless this support could be provided, BC Nature's efforts were no longer sustainable and could not be continued. The situation however looked hopeful last fall when then Premier Campbell committed to reinstate park interpretation programs in his speech to the Union of BC Municipalities, and the then Minister of the Environment, Barry Penner, also committed to fund interpretation programs at his speech to BC Nature's Fall General Meeting.

It is therefore disappointing to report – particularly during this year which marks the 100th birthday of the creation our provincial park system – that the BC Government has not provided funds for park interpretation. At the time of writing this report (April 21, 2011) funds have not been provided and it is now very late in the season to hire and train staff.

Interpretation has been a part of Provincial Parks since 1957. Interpretation provides many benefits, including engaging young learners, promoting an environmental stewardship ethic, and providing financially accessible recreational opportunities for families and individuals. Many park visitors report the memorable family and extended family experiences that the interpretation programs foster. Additionally, interpretation programs help attract visitors to our parks, and contribute to longer visits and repeat visits.

Although BC Nature is no longer able to support an unfunded park interpretation system, we continue to support the protection of nature and nature education in other capacities. We hope that government will reconsider their decision, given the proven value of interpretation programs for British Columbians and visitors to our province. We hope that government will commit adequate and long term funding for park interpretation.

For further information, a full report of summer 2010, including the many benefits of park interpretation to the public and to government, is posted on our website at www.bcnature.ca ; subpage "Stewardship Projects" ↻

Wildlife Tree Stewardship Initiative (WITS)

Lisa Scott, Ian Moul, Jude Grass

The WiTS program began in the year 2000 as a partnership between the Canadian Wildlife Service, Ministry of Environment, BC Hydro, and BC Nature. Since its formation, the WiTS program has struggled to find its identity amid programs of significantly higher means such as Bird Studies Canada and the Conservation Data Centre. While these larger programs tend to focus on longer term trend analysis and big picture policies relating to species at risk, WITS has worked on tree by tree habitat protection at local community level. Much of data generated by the WiTS program supports local government planners as they include habitat protection within land use by-laws. In 2010 the Canadian Wildlife Service provided funds to help define the WiTS program in terms of its important niche of operations. This new Program Charter will hopefully lead to greater links with other groups of similar purpose and continue to provide valuable information to support habitat protection.

Okanagan-Similkameen Program - Lisa Scott

The WiTS Program in the Okanagan-Similkameen continues to focus on five species at risk: Western Screech-owl, Flammulated Owl, White-headed Woodpecker, Williamson's Sapsucker and Lewis's Woodpecker. Trained volunteers monitor breeding areas and record nesting activity. The volunteers are individual property owners or private citizens with an interest in monitoring nest sites. Most of the monitors are affiliated with one of four naturalists' clubs in the Okanagan-Similkameen: South Okanagan Naturalist Club, Oliver-Osoyoos Naturalists, Vermilion Forks Field Naturalists and the Central Okanagan Naturalist Club. The program also provides information on best management practices to private landowners and local government, to reduce the loss of wildlife trees. Long-term conservation and securement of wildlife tree habitat is being formally recognized through written stewardship agreements or land management plans developed with private landowners and local government.

In 2010, we were extremely fortunate to have Allison Black return as our summer student, along with 15 enthusiastic volunteer monitors from local naturalist clubs. The focus was on Lewis's Woodpeckers, with the team surveying 113 nest trees throughout the two valleys. Most of the trees were located along the Similkameen River between Hedley and Keremeos, as well as in the Anarchist Mountain, West Chopaka and Vaseux Lake areas. Forty-one percent of the trees were re-occupied, while 27 percent had visual sightings of birds in the area but entrance into a cavity was not observed. Four of the nests were re-occupied by nest competitors such as American Kestrels and European Starlings. Approximately 51% of the nest trees were ponderosa pine, while 28% were black cottonwood. Douglas fir, waterbirch and utility poles also provided nest sites. One tree that had previously supported nesting pairs had blown over and three had been cut down.

A limited amount of field work was conducted on Williamson's Sapsucker and Western Screech-owl with positive results. This fourth field season was very exciting with the discovery of a pair of White-headed woodpeckers east of Oliver. A WiTS volunteer regularly surveyed the Crown lands in the area and sighted a WHWO on three occasions in March. WiTS is actively working with the private landowners in this area, and hopes to gain important information on this elusive species in the coming year.

In addition to field monitoring, WiTS focused on school and community outreach programs that highlighted the importance of wildlife trees. These events provided an opportunity to educate people about the role of wildlife trees and the various species that depend on these habitat features, as well as the importance of wildlife tree conservation.

WiTS could not have accomplished all the surveying this year without the contributions of many private landowners and the dedication of numerous volunteers. We look forward to working with our many volunteer monitors in the coming years, and hope to see some new faces in 2011!

Vancouver Island – by Ian Moul

On Vancouver Island, the focus of the WiTS program is nesting Bald Eagles. Areas of concentrated volunteer effort include: the Capital Area; the Southern Gulf Island; Gabriola Island; Arrington-Parksville-Qualicum; the Comox Valley; and Campbell River. With no funding to cover operating costs, the program continues in a combination of volunteer coordination efforts and some fee for service contracts to document activity at specific nest sites. Recently we received funding from the Ministry of Natural Resource Operations to compile the past ten years of eagle nest records for the Capital Regional District. The resulting report is available for download from the WiTS website at: <http://www.wildlifetree.org/reports.html>

Much of the emphasis of the WiTS program on Vancouver Island has been the WiTS Atlas on the Community Mapping Network. We have recently evolved the WITS atlas to a whole new platform which combines with the Great Blue Heron Working Group and the BC Coastal Waterbird Surveys. This new Atlas may be viewed on any type of computer with any web browser. While there remains a few details to work out, it may be viewed by clicking the Launch Atlas button at: <http://www.shim.bc.ca/atlasses/wits2/witsloginscreen.htm>

It has been a very busy year for all 21 naturalist clubs in the Lower Mainland Area. Conservation issues are still forcing clubs to spend more time fighting issues for the environment rather than getting out an enjoying nature. We have not met as a region since the last AGM but do keep in touch when there are pressing issues. We are still fighting some of the issues from last year including the new Super Port Road that is cutting a major swath through Delta's farmland and associated critical wildlife habitat for raptors and species at risk and a local citizen groups is now disrupting the building of the road in North Delta (Burns Bog Area) by camping on the site and planting trees. We are still losing ALR lands throughout the Lower Mainland – for new residential property or oversized warehouses that are moving out of the Vancouver area into the suburbs.

Lower Mainland - Jude Grass

2010 continued to be a transition and reassessment time for the WiTS program.

The WiTS program has been operating in three areas: Vancouver Island; the Lower Fraser Valley; and the South Okanagan Similkameen. Our program review suggests that each area has a much different focus and methods of operation. On the Island, the focus has been trees covered under Section 34 of the Provincial Wildlife Act. In the Okanagan the focus has been five cavity nesting bird species under species at risk classification. On the Island and in the Fraser Valley, WiTS compiles and manages all the collected data. In the Okanagan, all data is passed directly to Environment Canada (Canadian Wildlife Service) and the Ministry of Environment. At this time there is interest for expanding the WiTS program to the Lillooet, North Okanagan and Kootenay areas. Any expansion is contingent on more clearly defining our mandate and available funding.

Last year it was reported that as of 31 March 2010 all current grants and funding sources for the WiTS program were completed. At that time the WiTS program Steering Committee was working on three questions, each of which had links with directions and decisions made by the BC Nature Board as a whole:

- 1) A new Memorandum of Understanding: The WiTS program was set up under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Canadian Wildlife Service, Ministry of Environment, BC Hydro, and BC Nature. The terms of the MOU were dated to expire as of 31 March 2007. We are currently considering how the WiTS program is defined, what are its goals and obligations, and who ultimately owns the data that is being administered.
- 2) A Funding Strategy: The WiTS program has operated mainly under foundation grants, with some cash funding by the federal and provincial governments, and some private donations. At this time there is very little potential to find funders willing to pay for administration and operations of the current program. We are exploring possibilities to work as a non-profit fee-for-service agency. This raises many questions as to administration structure, working with the GST/HST, and relationships with contractors completing the services.
- 3) The Volunteer Base: The WiTS program is dependent on passionate volunteers. The WiTS program was founded among naturalist clubs on Vancouver Island. In the past ten years the centre of volunteer

interest on the island has been passed along such that in one of the most successful areas, the Comox Valley with over 50 active volunteers, the incoming president of the local naturalist club has not even

heard of WiTS. In contrast, in the Fraser Valley and Okanagan, WiTS has remained closely tied to the local naturalist clubs. If the WITS program is to remain a provincial initiative of BC Nature, we need a mechanism whereby we are engaged with and supported by the local naturalist clubs.

During the past year the WiTS Steering Committee members have discussed and drafted a new document which the Steering Committee is asking for input and/or approval from BC Nature so that WiTS can move forward.

It should be noted that during the past year Lisa Scott has managed to keep a very active WiTs program going in the Okanagan Similkameen by getting a number of grants and that the program is flourishing in that area due to her guidance.

As BC Nature's representative on the WiTS program I wish to recognise the efforts and contributions to the program by Steering Committee members: Bev Ramey of BC Nature; Gretchen Harlow of Canadian Wildlife Service; Ian Moul, Provincial/Vancouver Island WiTS coordinator and Lisa Scott Okanagan-Similkameen Coordinator

Reports of BC Nature Representatives on Committees

B.C. Agriculture-Wildlife Advisory Committee

Joan Best

This Committee, Ag-Wild, for short, deals with, as the name implies, interactions, some of them conflicts, between agriculture and wildlife. The meetings seek to manage and provide advice as well as prepare and submit to the responsible agency recommendations. The Partnership Committee, website provided below, is the over-arching body to which the Ag-Wild Committee reports.

Meetings are held twice-yearly, usually, the last one, for which Minutes do not seem available as yet, being held in Victoria on November 4th. The last meeting for which the website provides Minutes was held in Merritt, on April 20th, 2010. BC Nature has only four representatives on this Committee, whose meetings are held throughout the province, so not all meetings can be attended.

Minutes, accessed by visiting the website at; <http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/resmgmt/partners/index.htm> though, a caution, with the recent reorganization of the Ministries of Agriculture and Food, this may change. The Minutes show that twenty-seven people attended, most from the Ministries of Agriculture, Forests, Environment and Agriculture and Agri-food Canada as the BC Committee is affiliated with the Federal government. The councils of other organizations were also represented; Vegetable growers, Fruit Growers, Agriculture Council, Regional Districts, BC Milk Producers and BC Cattlemen were present as well. This partial list of attendees indicates the importance of this Committee and our continued representation on it. Most of the members travel to attend wherever the meetings are held, be that in the Peace River country or the East Kootenays but, given the high cost of a single representative attending for us, a special arrangement was made to allow the four different representatives. It would be more helpful, however, if we had someone from Vancouver Island or the Kootenays who could participate.

Matters discussed were, as always, many and varied, from Water Act modernization, drought management and monitoring, Climate Institute Initiative, poultry manure movement study and migratory bird regulations. Also reports were heard from several sub-committees. To elaborate on these issues; the Water Act modernization sought to provide guidance on resolution of many problems about licenses, groundwater use, mining and how it affects, especially involving oil and gas, groundwater and like situations. A report was to be sent to

government. Noted that Ministry of Environment was to engage all parties toward the report preparation. Drought management, of special interest in the BC interior and Okanagan, sought to establish watershed planning, monitoring, conservation measures, irrigation efficiency, storage and other means of efficient use of precious water. Regional Drought Management Teams are to be established for the Okanagan, Cariboo, Kootenays, Thompson-Nicola, Fraser Valley and Vancouver Island. Drought information can be found at; www.waterbucket.ca

The Climate Action Initiative also sought to deal with farm management practices and clean agriculture energy production. A study on movement of poultry manure revealed that 228,084 cubic yards were hauled, 30% of which went to regions outside the lower mainland. Migratory bird regulations dealt with changes to the Migratory Birds Convention Act. The intent is to develop and implement a regulations that controls "incidental takes" of birds, i.e., accidental or unintended disturbance or killing of birds. A permit system is to be set up to tackle this topic which will, of course, be of great interest to us. So you see that it really is worthwhile for BC Nature to have someone(s) at these tables! ↪

BC Breeding Atlas Report

Anne Murray, Steering Committee liaison to BC Nature

2010 was the third field season for the BC Breeding Bird Atlas (BCBBA) which is progressing very successfully. This year Atlassers managed to find breeding Yellow Rail and Grey-cheeked Thrush in the Chilcotin, tracked down Black and White Warblers and Philadelphia Vireos in the northeast of the province, and observed Rock Wrens on Salt Spring Island. You can read all about this and more in the regular BCBBA newsletters at the website www.birdatlas.bc.ca. Look for the link on the home page to "find previous newsletters here" (I missed this link a few times, but it is a real treasure trove of intrepid birding stories). BC Nature members and other keen birders from all over BC are taking part, recording evidence of breeding according to established Atlas protocols.

The coming season will be an intense one, as the push is on to complete target squares across the province, however remote. Fortunately, increased funding from BC Hydro Columbia Fish and Wildlife Compensation Fund and the Habitat Conservation Fund, as well as commitment from the BC Ministry of Environment, will help complete regions and boost survey time and effort. 2010 saw nearly 10,000 field hours spent atlassing as well as many more hours spent doing data entry. Often birders are quick to go out in the field and slow to enter results online; if you are atlassing this year, make sure you get your data entered in a timely manner! Everyone interested in birding can get out and help atlassing, especially by going into your own areas and finishing what has been started – the aim is for each square to have 20 hours of atlassing or 15 point counts. Shy, skulking or nocturnal birds often need chasing up, as they easily get overlooked. The program is also looking for strong birders to head out to more remote regions of the province and there are Volunteer Travel grants in place for the coming summer to help offset their costs. For more information, check out the BCBBA website or contact Christopher Di Corrado cdicorrado@bsc-eoc.org. ↪

Coalition for the Licensing and Registration of ORV's (Off-Road Vehicles) BC

Joan Best

In the last report, mention was made that the government was committed to introduce, tentatively scheduled for November of this year, regulations governing management of off-road vehicles; dirt bikes, quads, snow-mobiles, etc. It was noted that, alone on the entire continent, we had no such regulations. The formation and work of the Coalition, covering seven years, was outlined and we stated that the 47 Recommendations the Coalition produced for management of ORVs was formally presented to government in January, 2006. As well, we outlined the announcement made by then-Minister of Tourism, Sport and the Arts, Kevin Kreuger, of the scheduled introduction of regulations.

The Coalition itself is still involved in the process of drafting of the coming regulations by virtue of being a member of a Joint Advisory Group set up by the bureaucrat designated to complete the work, Ms. Vera Vukelich. The JAG is comprised of most of the Coalition organizations as well as some outside agencies chosen by Vera. No member of the JAG is allowed to publicize the nature of the regulations 'til final approval and formal introduction. Conference call meetings have been frequent and more will be held 'til the draft regulations are completed. As well, one-on-one calls have been made with Vera. Her work, which has involved egregious labour in fine-tuning wording, revising the ATV Act, dealing with ICBC and the like has earned the commendation of all, especially given the upheaval in government that has seen Vera attached to no less than four different Ministries all within a few months! A committee of MLAs, of which Kevin Krueger is a member, oversees Vera's work.

Anyone wishing more information can visit the website that, though noting that the issue is now with the new Ministry of Natural Resource Operations, is still, at time of writing, found at;
<http://www.tti.gov.bc.ca/tourism/orv> ↪

CANADIAN INTERMOUNTAIN JOINT VENTURE

Wayne Weber

The Canadian Intermountain Joint Venture is a bird habitat acquisition, enhancement, and stewardship program which operates in the interior of British Columbia and in the Rocky Mountain region of Alberta. It is similar to the Pacific Coast Joint Venture, Prairie Joint Venture, and Eastern Joint Venture which operate in other parts of Canada. The CIJV is a partnership of 18 government and non-government organizations, of which BC Nature is one. Administrative support is provided by the Canadian Wildlife Service of Environment Canada. Most of the organizations included in the CIJV carry on their activities somewhat independently, and some of them have done since well before the CIJV was formally established in 2003. However, the CIJV serves as a forum for assessing bird habitat acquisition/stewardship needs and for coordinating action among the partners.

The CIJV also allows for the expenditure of U.S. federal government money for bird habitat acquisition and management in Canada, under provisions of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA). NAWCA funds must be spent on wetland areas, with the aim of securing and improving habitat for waterfowl and other wetland species. However, funds from Canadian sources and from non-government U.S. sources may be and are spent on upland habitats to benefit upland bird species. The CIJV is the first "all-bird" Joint Venture, with efforts focused on all bird species whose habitat is at risk, not just waterbirds.

From 2003 through March 2010, a total of \$38.8 million has been spent by the CIJV partners on bird habitat programs. Of this, \$24.7 million came from Canadian sources, and \$14.1 million from American sources, including \$7.0 million from the core funding provided by the U.S. government under NAWCA. Of the total expenditures, 62% have gone toward habitat securement (including land acquisition), 14% toward habitat enhancement, and the remainder toward stewardship and management activities. Since 2003, a total of 269,000 acres of habitat have been secured, and enhancement activities have taken place on 119,000 acres.

The CIJV has a website at <http://www.cijv.ca>, with information about the program and links to the websites of the partner organizations.

The CIJV Board held two meetings in 2010, both in Vancouver, on January 6 and April 22. The January meeting was a joint meeting with the board of the Pacific Coast Joint Venture (PCJV), mainly to discuss governance issues. The usual late spring/summer meeting of the CIJV board did not take place in 2010.

The CIJV completed a detailed Implementation Plan, as required by the funding agencies, under a committee headed by Bruce Harrison of Ducks Unlimited. The plan was presented to representatives of the funding agencies on August 31, 2010, and was well received.

Another CIJV Board meeting was held on January 19, 2011, jointly with the PCJV board, once again to discuss

governance issues (whether additional partners should be added, whether the two boards should meet jointly in future, etc.). A spring meeting is scheduled for May 17, 2011 in Kamloops, which will be a joint meeting with the board of the Intermountain Joint Venture from the USA— the first time this body will have met jointly with the CIJV.

Ashley Page, who had served as CIJV and PCJV coordinator since 2009, left this position in mid-2010, and has been replaced by Tasha Sargent. The coordinator position is a paid staff position with the Canadian Wildlife Service, which underwrites most of the administrative costs of the CIJV.

The CIJV is an extremely valuable, long-term habitat acquisition and management program which BC Nature should continue to support and be involved in. ∞

Invasive Plant Council of BC

Jude Grass

“Invasion of the Aliens” forum marks transition to species

February 10, 2011 - The “Invasion of the Aliens!” public forum, hosted by the Invasive Plant Council of British Columbia January 18-19, 2011, marked the transition of the Council toward invasive species and generated buzz on new initiatives raising public awareness in BC. Jude Grass attended on behalf of BC Nature and now represents BCN on the IPCBC Board.

A record-breaking 181 participants attended the highly anticipated “Invasion of the Aliens!” Public Forum held at the Delta Hotel in Richmond January 18-19th, 2011. Hosted by the Invasive Plant Council of BC (IPCBC), this event marks the transition of the Council toward invasive species and new ways of working together to minimize the impacts of invasive species to BC communities and habitats.

During “Invasion of the Aliens!” IPCBC announced the release of a Five-Year Business Plan that will guide the Council’s future activities and initiatives to serve as a practical resource on BC’s invasive species. A new guiding document, the “Invasive Species Strategy for BC” will be developed over 2011 to build links across all groups and set the collaborative plan forward for management and awareness of invasive species. All interested groups and agencies are invited to build the Strategy to ensure it meets local and province-wide needs to achieve reduced impacts of invasive species.

With a line-up of engaging speakers and networking opportunities during the event, participants agreed “Invasion of the Aliens!” enhanced invasive plant and species management in BC and across Canada.

The diverse range of high-caliber international speakers included dynamic keynote, Katie V. Spellman of the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Spellman identified the impacts and challenges of the introduction of invasive species to new habitats, and clearly illustrated research linking wildfire with invasive plant spread in the Boreal forest. She stated that as a result of climate change, there will likely be an increased frequency of fire resulting in more invasive plant invasions. To manage post-fire invasions in BC, in areas where invasive plants are not already established, she recommends partnering with fire control agencies to prevent further spread from fire disturbance.

Tim Willis of the Royal BC Museum presented another unique initiative entitled “Aliens Among Us”. In 2011 and 2012, the Royal BC Museum will tour small communities in BC, teaching people to be aware, identify, and report invasive species. This exhibit is linked to a display on biodiversity that recognizes the threat created by invasive species. He had the audience on the edge of their seats waiting for his version of a ‘bullfrog call’; but in the end encouraged the group to visit the exhibition for the real thing!

Also a highlight was speaker Janet Clark of the U.S. Invasive Species Advisory Committee, who presented on the importance of the passionate work done by local enthusiasts to combat the problem of invasive species. Clark emphasized that while the work to improve invasive species management does not bring about fame or fortune, and it is a challenge to motivate individuals to not only recognize the problem but also take action, successes are being made and sharing ideas across borders is key to continued improvement.

The successful “Invasion of the Aliens” event was followed by a very well attended, full-day workshop called “Making it Work...Locally.” About 65 people gathered to discuss approaches to managing invasive plants at the local level. A panel of experts prompted discussions on effective bylaws, disposal of invasive plants, and outreach programs. The valuable information generated by attendees will be made available in a special report this spring.

You can help reduce the negative and escalating impacts of invasive species in BC. Find out how to get involved, become a member (FREE!), and find information on other events and programs from the IPCBC website (www.invasiveplantcouncilbc.ca or call 1-888-WEEDSBC).

The IPCBC is a grassroots, non-profit charity working collaboratively to build cooperation and coordination of invasive species management in BC. Workshops, activities, and events, such as the IPCBC’s “Invasion of the Aliens” forum, educate the public and professionals about invasive species and their potential risks. Events like this forum will continue to assist the IPCBC through outreach and education; thus minimizing the establishment of invasive species in BC.

The IPCBC has grown rapidly since its inception in 2004. Initiated and mentored under the vision of the Fraser Basin Council, the Invasive Plant Council of BC is recognized across the country for its leadership in building collaboration to the challenging problem of invasive species.

For more information, contact the Invasive Plant Council of BC (IPCBC): www.invasiveplantcouncilbc.ca ↪

Nechako White Sturgeon

June Wood

The results of a project now in progress under the auspices of the Nechako White Sturgeon Recovery Initiative, that is the placement of gravel on the sturgeon spawning beds at Vanderhoof, may provide confirmation of the theory that recruitment failure is due to siltation of the gravel substrate in the Nechako River. Despite the label “Spawning Habitat Restoration Project”, the placement of this gravel is being carried out for research purposes rather than for mitigation, as the word “restoration” might suggest.

It is known that some of the remaining 350 or so mature Nechako white sturgeon have been spawning in a reach of the river just upstream of Vanderhoof. The emerging larvae, however, are not surviving. White sturgeon free embryos (from hatch to 12 days old) tend to hide in gravel but are forced downstream if only sand is available. In the Nechako River there is an on-going in-filling of the gravel substrate by silt and sand. What is needed is a more natural flow pattern and volume in the Nechako River to provide the natural cleaning of the gravel substrate, critical to sturgeon in their early life stages. While a change to the current flow regime is something that would not be easily achieved, it is not impossible. There is a very slight glimmer of hope that the results of this latest research, the gravel placement project, will provide the impetus to get this process started. Meanwhile, funding to build a sturgeon hatchery on the Nechako in Vanderhoof may finally be forthcoming in the not-to-distant future. An application to Western Economic Development has gone through the due diligence stage and the environmental assessment will be completed by the middle of May. A full environmental assessment is not required because the facility is not going to be in the river and will be taking only 40 litres per minute (maximum) of water from the river. While a hatchery is not the answer to a “self-sustaining” population of sturgeon in Nechako, hatchery fish would help rebuild the gene pool and possibly prevent the extinction of the Nechako white sturgeon. ↪

Outdoor Recreation Council

Jeremy McCall

The issues presently being addressed by ORC are fully described in the Spring 2011 issue of its newsletter. The Outdoor Recreation Report which will be published in May. The newsletter is usually published twice a year and after it has been published the content is posted on the ORC website at www.orcbc.ca (Note: BC Nature is still seeking a volunteer to be our representative to ORC.) ↻

Public Conservation Assistance Foundation

Darren Copley

The Public Conservation Assistance Foundation (formerly Habitat Conservation Fund), operates under the umbrella of the provincial government's Habitat Acquisition Trust Foundation. The deadline for Applications is May 17th, 2011, for grants to support volunteer projects that maintain, conserve or restore native species and their habitat. \$150,000 is available for grants for 2011. Project applications require a letter of recommendation from the Ministry of Environment Stewardship Division Regional Manager and a major part of the project must be contributed volunteer time. More information is on the website at: www.hctf.ca/PCAF/PCAF.html

Due to a small number of submissions in May, a second call was made for August. Total grants awarded in 2010 was \$136,113.36. Here are some of the projects funded last year:

Project Name	Sponsor	Amount
Ancient Forest Universal Boardwalk	Caledonia Ramblers Trust	\$7,500
Migration Monitoring - Mugaha March Banding Station	MacKenzie Nature Observatory	\$8,000
Purple Martin Nest Box Stewardship	Georgia Basin Ecological Assessment & Restoration Society	\$2,400
Community-Based Amphibian Monitoring Program in Multi-Use Landscapes in South Central BC	Nicola Naturalists Society	\$3,880
BX Creek Wetland Enhancement & Interpretive Signage Project	Allan Brooks Nature Centre	\$8,479
Three Rivers Join One River Discovery Project	Lillooet Naturalist Society	\$4,700
Biodiversity Park Demonstration	Ruby lake Lagoon Nature Reserve Society	\$6,900
Sunshine Coast Turtle Nesting Beaches: A Community Habitat Enhancement Project	Sunshine Coast Wildlife Project	\$6,900
Salish Sea Eelgrass Mapping/Monitoring Project	SeaChange Marine Conservation Society	\$2,200
Lac-du-Bois Grasslands Interpretive Signs	Grasslands Conservation Council of BC	\$2,500
Avian Monitoring (Banding)	Rocky Point Bird Observatory	\$5,000
South Gulf Islands Wildlife Nest Tree Watch Project	Pender Island Conservancy Association	\$2,266
Wildlife Habitat Stewardship on Salt Spring 2010 -11	Salt Spring Island Conservancy	\$10,000
Stewardship Initiatives on Mitlenatch Island Monitoring Program	Mitlenatch Island Stewardship Team	\$3,650
Swan Lake Habitat Management Plan	Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary	\$8,130
Restoration Project & Native Plant Demonstration Garden	Eves Provincial Park Site C	\$2,500

Project Name	Sponsor	Amount
Western Painted Turtle Monitoring & Stewardship at Swan Lake Nature Sanctuary	Habitat Acquisition Trust	\$ 6,340
Free the Trees	Cleveland Elementary School Parent Advisory	\$6491.20
Mallard Artificial Nesting Structure	Creston Valley Rod & Gun Club	\$572.16
Tiger Salamander Habitat Restoration & Goldfish Removal Project	Granby Wilderness	\$1,700

South Okanagan-Similkameen Conservation Program (SOSCP)

J.E. Bryan

No report submitted

Wetlands Stewardship Partnership

Peter Ballin

With the WSP officially “signed”, the committee worked on refining the documents available for best practices, and giving input to the Modernization of the Water Act. I represented BC Nature at two WSP meetings, at Hatley Castle in Victoria on September 23, 2010 and the Canadian Wildlife Service office in Delta on February 10, 2011, and another relevant meeting at the Vancouver Aquarium on July 20: a symposium on freshwater issues.

The Wetland Activity Survey, in which some of you participated, yielded a report to the WSP, summarized in BC Nature and on our website. The survey results were inspiring, and hopefully will promote more wetland activities, especially protection and restoration.

Keep me in the loop about your club’s wetland activities, and let me know of concerns that the conservation committee can address. pjballin@mac.com ↪

OTHER REPORTS

BC Nature Camp and Field Activities Report 2010

Anne Murray

A very successful camp was held on Salt Spring Island, April 27 to May 2, 2010, hosted by the Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club, led by Nieke Visser. Highlights for participants were the beautiful Gulf Islands scenery and wildlife. The camp featured expert leaders and presenters in all aspects of natural history, including birding, botany, geology and marine life. The Club plans to repeat this camp in 2012.

The Williams Lake Field Naturalists, led by Fred McMechan, once again hosted a great camp at Gavin Lake Forest Education Centre, May 30 to June 5, 2010. Field trips ranged as far as the Beaver Valley, Quesnel Forks, Horsefly River and Chilcotin during the five day camp.

BC Nature members participated in the Manning Park Bird Blitz in June, a BC Nature-sponsored events which provide an annual birding challenge in the mountains. The Skagit Bird Blitz was cancelled last year (2010) due to lack of registrations. The Manning Park Bird Blitz (and Skagit Bird Blitz this year) is co-sponsored between Hope Mountain Centre and BC Nature.

Bill and Bev Ramey continued their tradition of leading exploratory backpacking trips for self-contained

backpackers, together with some atlassing for the BC Breeding Bird Atlas. This years' hike took them to Kakwa Provincial Park. (See article in BC Nature Spring Magazine)

Two camps are planned for 2011: The Chilliwack Field Naturalists and Hope Mountain Centre have teamed up to host a 4-day field camp at Camp Squeah in the beautiful Fraser Canyon, April 28 to May 1.

The Comox Valley Naturalists will be hosting a camp at Strathcona Provincial Park, July 15 to 19, (contact dpmunroe@telus.net).

The Skagit Bird Blitz is May 6 to 8; the Manning Park Bird Blitz is June 17 to 19. The Rameys will lead a back-packing trip to the South Chilcotins July 16 to 23. All details in the BC Nature magazine and on the website www.bcnature.ca.

The Camp Committee is always looking for clubs or individuals to plan and organize camps for our members around the province. Contact Anne Murray for more information sanderling@uniserve.com 604 943 4460. ☞

B.C. NATURALISTS' FOUNDATION

Bob Dyer

Our BC Naturalists' Foundation has been in existence for over 20 years now, and in that time we have distributed over \$108,000 in grants to member clubs of BC Nature for their conservation and education projects. Our objective is to build invested capital which will provide a steady and reliable flow of income which in turn can be used each year to fund club projects.

Our capital has now grown to almost \$400,000, virtually all of which has been provided by donations and legacies from individual members of BC Nature, plus capital appreciation. Of course, we would like our capital to grow much further because the demand for our help nearly always exceeds our ability to fund the requests.

About half of our capital is managed by the Vancouver Foundation, and the other half is invested directly by our Directors to produce the cash flow we need for our operations. Our expenses are very low, since we have no paid staff or office space. In 2010 we received donations at the same rate as the previous year, though we did not receive any legacies, and our investments increased by about \$15,000 through market appreciation.

In 2010 we provided a total of \$10,000 in grants to BC Nature. Early in 2010, \$2,000 of this was provided for assistance to BC Nature magazine and \$2,000 for Club Support to Comox Valley Naturalists for 2010 Wetland Restoration. The remaining \$6,000 was provided at the end of 2010, and after reviewing club applications early in 2011 this amount, together with a \$2,000 contribution from BC Nature, was distributed to six club projects:

Arrowsmith Naturalists - Seasonal bird checklist
Comox Valley Naturalists - Wetland restoration 2011
Friends of Semiahoo Bay - Little Campbell Interpretation signs and restoration
Chilliwack Field Naturalists - Camp River wildlife area planting
North Okanagan Naturalists - Cools Pond interpretative signage
South Okanagan Naturalists - Half century of conservation

We expect to contribute about \$6,000 for Club Support grants at the end of 2011, and these funds will be available for distribution early in 2012. ☞

Young Naturalist Clubs

Daphne Solecki and Kristine Webber

Many thanks to Williams Lake Naturalists for hosting the YNC AGM in parallel with the BC Nature AGM and providing us with meeting space and refreshments. We truly appreciate the support and opportunity to

strengthen our relationship with the WLN and other BC Nature Clubs.

Board of Directors - Our sincere thanks go to past YNC Directors Peter Davidson and Amar Balaggan who are stepping down from the Board. Peter was the moving spirit in creating our newly completed Strategic Plan and Amar has served as our Treasurer for the past couple of years. Ian McKeachie was welcomed as a new appointment to the Board in 2010 and for 2011-2012 we have two new candidates, Vanessa Lee and Lynne Carson, standing for election. All our Directors - George Bangham; Laura Estrada; Ruth Foster; Eva Nagy, Bob Peart; Gail Ross, Ian McKeachie – have taken on projects throughout the year and actively contributed to YNC progress. Thank you all.

Thank you YNC Leaders! The leaders of the YNCs are our most valuable asset in achieving our mission of connecting children with nature. Without them there would be no YNC and we thank them for their dedication to their members, day in, day out throughout the year. The YNC leaders have provided members and their families with the opportunity to participate in a varied array of outdoor experiences such as caving, astronomy, snowshoeing, fishing, habitat restoration and so much more!

Welcoming New leaders: Heather Chatwin who has taken over YNC Victoria from Susanna Solecki; Angela Jean-Louise who has started new Home Learner Club in Lillooet; Vicki Parnell and Mirella Russell who have taken over as leaders of the Vancouver Homelearners Club and Carmen Dawkins who has launched a school club for Carlin Elementary Middle School in Tappen. Bugs R Us at Celista School co-led by the North Shuswap Naturalists and teacher Jannis Delisle is in its second year, and continues to provide a wonderful example of partnership/mentoring by a BC Nature Club.

We are looking for a new leader for Nanaimo YNC, and for others to re-start YNCs in Kimberley and South Okanagan. For a full picture of the clubs, their leaders and the fantastic programs they provide for our young naturalists, please go to our website, www.ync.ca, and click on MY CLUB.

YNC Management - We recently said good-bye to Jennifer Swanston the first YNC Coordinator, who is moving on to a full-time position with Metro Vancouver Parks, and we welcome her replacement, Tammy Keetch, who is currently relocating to the Williams Lake area. Tammy brings with her a wealth of experience in nature education; it will be a great advantage to have a Club Coordinator who lives outside the Lower Mainland, and can bring a different perspective to our organization.

A significant change that followed the completion of the 2010-2015 Strategic Plan was a re-alignment of staff responsibilities creating the management position of Executive Director and consolidating tasks for both school and family nature clubs under the Nature Clubs Coordinator. This realignment has already resulted in a number of efficiencies and makes it possible for us to have the Nature Clubs Coordinator working at a distance from the YNC office. Leslie Ritchie, our new Membership Assistant and bookkeeper, was a welcomed addition to the YNC support team in 2010.

Milestones - 2010 marked the 10th Anniversary of the YNC! The YNC has grown from a visionary idea, to one nature club operating as a program of the Vancouver Natural History Society, to an independent charity with over 50 school and family clubs around the province. In its first 10 years more than 11,000 children have discovered nearby nature and been inspired to develop a life-long connection with the natural world thanks to the herculean effort of many volunteers. And those efforts are paying dividends- YNC members are engaged in exploring and learning about nature and finding their voice to protect it. They have undertaken long-term species monitoring projects, raised awareness about important environmental issues, and spoken out on behalf of wildlife and habitat preservation.

We celebrated our 10-year Anniversary YNC-style with a family event in Stanley Park in November where we drew for the second print generously donated to the YNC by Robert Bateman. It was won by Dr. Judy Myers, Professor Emerita, UBC Dept. of Zoology and will be hung in memory of Rex Kenner in the Beaty Biodiversity Museum for nature enthusiasts to enjoy.

2010 was an important year to reflect on the accomplishments and challenges of the YNC's first 10 years and to chart the path for the next 10 with the creation of Inspiring Children Naturally the YNC Strategic Plan for 2010-2015. Creating and maintaining strong partnerships, including strengthening the relationship between BC Nature Clubs and YNC Clubs was identified as a critical priority. For our members, Citizen Science initiatives will play an increasing role helping to provide more opportunities to engage the 10+ YNC Members. The complete strategic plan can be viewed at www.ync.ca.

Financial - Fiscal vigilance, strategic partnerships, multi-year grant applications and - most importantly -support from individual donors and BC Nature Clubs, have resulted in a much-improved funding situation in 2010. Although we are no longer in a deficit position, we will continue to take every opportunity to raise awareness about the importance of connecting children with nature and provide a range of ways for people to support our work. Annual events and appeals, like the EarthRUN, and secure online donations tools and monthly donor options have made it easier for people to support the YNC and help make us less dependent on unstable forms of funding such as grants and government dollars. 2010 saw our first monthly donor- an important milestone in building financial independence!

In it for the long haul - There is a current groundswell of recognition about the importance of time spent in nature for the social, physical and emotional well-being of children. Suddenly the work of the YNC has become mainstream! Many new organizations and initiative are springing up bringing fresh ideas, approaches and awareness to an issue we've long recognized as vital to both people and the planet. We welcome the chance to work collaboratively with these new groups and share the lessons learned over the last ten years as the YNC has developed its very effective model of engaging children and their families with nearby nature. Connecting children with nature is a key strategy in the long-term protection of the environment and with your help, the YNC will continue to do so for the foreseeable future -- one child, one Explorer Day, one Nature Club at a time. ♪

Proposed Resolutions 2011

BC Nature AGM – May 14 2011

Resolutions Committee: Dick Stace-Smith and Anne Murray

Index:

2011-01 Cat Licensing; Victoria Natural History Society

2011-02 Provincial legislation for property tax incentives; Victoria Natural History Society

2011-03 Pink Mountain; Burke Mountain Naturalists (Delta Naturalists submitted a similar resolution)

2011-04 Raven Underground Coal Mine; Arrowsmith Naturalists Club

2011-05 Boundary expansion of Spipiyus Provincial Park; Pender Harbour and District Wildlife Society

2011-06 Resolution on recreational activities in the Boundary Bay Wildlife Management Area;
Delta Naturalists' Society

2011-07 Curtailing bycatch from gillnet fisheries in the southern Strait of Georgia; Delta Naturalists' Society

2011-08 Transboundary Species (Vermillion Forks Field Naturalists)

Resolution 2011-01 Cat Licensing

Submitted by Victoria Natural History Society

WHEREAS cats that roam free, whether owned, stray, or feral, kill birds and other wildlife, including endangered species; and

WHEREAS free-roaming cats spread disease to other cats, wildlife, and humans; and

WHEREAS free-roaming cats often lead short, traumatic, and painful lives; and

WHEREAS as part of BC Nature's role as a steward of this province's biological diversity, it is incumbent upon us to be doing all we can to preserve and protect our region's wildlife; and

WHEREAS many communities in other provinces have already recognized the importance of responsible pet ownership and have extended pet requirements to cover cats as well as dogs. These communities include, but are not limited to, Calgary, Edmonton, Regina, and Toronto; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that BC Nature urge the BC Union of Municipalities to implement cat licensing, as well as control and restraint ordinances, to help ensure that cats receive the care and protection they deserve. Progressive provisions found in ordinances should include the following:

- Requirement for all cats to be licensed;
- Mandatory spay/neuter of all cats over six months of age, unless owner purchases annual intact permit and/or breeders permit. Medical exemptions can be offered;
- Requirement for all cats to be vaccinated against rabies; and
- Cats must be confined to their owner's property or physically restrained when off the premises.

Resolution 2011 - 02 Provincial legislation to provide property tax incentives for those wishing to protect their own property from development

Submitted by Victoria Natural History Society

WHEREAS private land owners who choose to protect high quality ecosystems for perpetuity by conservation covenant are not eligible for property tax relief unless the property is in certain Gulf Islands, Ontario or Nova Scotia; and

WHEREAS Nova Scotia has enacted the Conservation Property Tax Exemption Act to reward conservation land owners who legally protect their property with property tax reductions; and

WHEREAS the province of B.C. has enacted legislation, The Natural Area Protection Tax Exemption Program (NAPTEP), in the Islands Trust area, that provides a substantial annual property tax reduction to covenant private land on certain Gulf Islands; and

WHEREAS the province of Ontario has enacted the Conservation Land Tax Incentive Program; and

WHEREAS protecting private land with conservation values, even if the public has no access, benefits the entire region by providing habitat for flora and fauna, as well a host of "green infrastructure" services, such as storm water reduction and pollution absorption-services that would cost the municipality (and tax-payer) if the land were developed; and

WHEREAS encouraging private landowners to protect their land is an important part of conserving ecosystems in any region; and

WHEREAS property tax incentives for private land protected by legal covenant are a tool that has been successful in other jurisdictions, at very low cost to the public, and seems to be a win-win situation that governments should encourage; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that BC Nature urge the Union of BC Municipalities and Provincial Government to enact legislation to provide property tax incentives to those private land owners who wish to protect their land and its features by covenant from future development.

Resolution 2011-03 Pink Mountain

Submitted by Burke Mountain Naturalists

WHEREAS The plateau area of Pink Mountain (elevation 1700 plus meters, alpine tundra ecosystem, subvariant unknown, 180 km northwest of Fort St. John) supports a rare community of plants including at least one red-listed plant which is the only known occurrence in BC, and ten blue-listed plants, of which two are the most southern known location in BC; and

WHEREAS The limestone shales exposed on the southern portion of the plateau which supports this unique plant community are not known to exist elsewhere in the region at an elevation where soil can form; and

WHEREAS The adjacent 98 hectare Pink Mountain Provincial park, located down slope on the west side and created in 1999 primarily to protect a significant fossil site that contains examples of large fauna from the Mesozoic, does not have appropriate boundaries to protect the unique plant community; and

WHEREAS The plateau area also supports rare arctic butterfly species which do not appear to be adequately (if at all) protected by the existing boundaries of Pink Mountain Provincial Park; and

WHEREAS Road access to the plateau area of Pink Mountain goes directly through this sensitive area to reach a gas well/extraction facility and any further widening or upgrade of this road would threaten this rare plant

community; and

WHEREAS The plateau currently has five Telus microwave towers, within the sensitive southern portion of the plateau, which have already severely disturbed this plant community; and

WHEREAS The plateau is proposed to become the site of an Aeolis wind tower farm with up to a 400 MW capacity; and

WHEREAS The provincial park allows snowmobile traffic in winter and hunting and, thus, does not provide full protection for any small alpine plants that may be located within its boundaries; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that BC Nature request the Minister of Environment and Minister of Natural Resource Operations to declare the southern plateau area of Pink Mountain an Ecological Reserve, to fully protect the unique assemblage of plants found there. The estimated size of the protected areas could be 3-10 square kilometers, dependent on further study and the determination of the location of sensitive plants; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that BC Nature request the Minister of Environment and Minister of Natural Resource Operations to ensure that there is no further expansion of the microwave towers' footprint, and that additional upgrades to the existing road are prohibited, in order to protect the remaining plants which are immediately adjacent to the road; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any wind towers on the plateau, if permitted, should be located only on the northern portion of the site, where these unique plants do not occur, and should be serviced by a new access road that will avoid the smaller southern portion of the plateau; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be sent to the Friends of Ecological Reserves, Telus, Aeolis Wind Inc., Canadian Natural Gas and Treaty 8 First Nations.

Resolution 2011-04 Raven Underground Coal Mine Project adjacent to Baynes Sound, Vancouver Island.

Submitted by Arrowsmith Naturalists Club

WHEREAS the Raven Mine in the Fanny Bay area of Baynes Sound is the first of at least two coal mines proposed by Comox Joint Venture, owned by Compliance Coal Corporation and Asian investors; and

WHEREAS coal products from the proposed RUC Project would contribute to greenhouse gases and would undermine citizen and government efforts to reduce emissions, to protect water resources and sensitive ecosystems; and

WHEREAS acid mine drainage from the RUC Project risks contaminating surface water, local aquifers and the waters of Baynes Sound; and

WHEREAS local aquifers are largely unmapped and the consequences of contamination are unknown, but have the potential to pollute water supplies and the marine environment and an unknown wider area under which, and through which the aquifers flow; and

WHEREAS the waters of Baynes Sound yield BC's most profitable shellfishery (generating \$22 million annually), as well as a significant herring fishery and valuable salmon runs, thereby providing over 500 local jobs; and

WHEREAS Baynes Sound and its estuarine environment has been designated as an Important Bird Area of continental and global significance to protect significant bird species and the habitat and ecosystems on which they depend; and

WHEREAS the footprint of the proposed project abuts identified biodiversity corridors and the sensitive habitat of federally-listed Species at Risk (the Western Toad, Red-legged Frog), as well as BC red and blue-listed species (Roosevelt Elk, Coastal Cutthroat Trout, Water Shrew, Purple Martin, Band-tailed Pigeon, and Pacific Sideband Snail); and

WHEREAS scientific studies reveal public health issues associated with living in proximity to coal mines, including higher risks of cardiopulmonary disease, chronic lung disease, hypertension and kidney disease; and

WHEREAS the planned method of transporting the coal will be by trucks which will operate around the clock, traveling over narrow, winding roads and through the heart of Cathedral Grove to Port Alberni, while possibly causing significant impacts on both the structural integrity of the highways and for traffic and emergency vehicles which also use this route; and

WHEREAS this transportation route is the sole public road access to several provincial parks and the Pacific Rim National Park; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that BC Nature insists that the appropriate agencies of the Provincial Government undertake a thorough mapping of the aquifers in the areas impacted by such a mine as an initial step in assessing the

environmental impacts of the project; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that BC Nature request that the Federal and Provincial Governments appoint a joint Federal/Provincial independent expert review panel, with full public hearings, to compile a thorough environmental assessment of the project, including the possible impact of this project on both federally-listed Species at Risk, on BC red and blue-listed species, on the aquatic resources of the area, on the health of the public, and on the usage of, and accessibility to both provincial and national parks; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that BC Nature urge the Provincial Government departments responsible to assess the implications for road safety, the impact on emergency services and the structural damage to the roads over which coal is to be transported; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be communicated to Nature Canada to enlist their action on this matter, as well as relevant MPs and MLAs, the First Nations Leadership Council, the Assembly of First Nations, the Union of BC Indian Chiefs and the Georgia Strait Alliance.

Resolution 2011–05 Boundary expansion of Spiipiyus Provincial Park

Submitted by Pender Harbour and District Wildlife Society

WHEREAS the Pender Harbour and District Wildlife Society in 1991 was instrumental in the creation of Friends of Caren, an advocacy group which went on to urge the BC Government to bring Spiipiyus Provincial Park into being; and

WHEREAS Friends of Caren, on the 28th day of October 1996, the day the new park was announced, handed a note to the BC Government urging them to expand the boundaries of Spiipiyus Provincial Park, stating that the park was not viable and sustainable with the existing boundaries, given the difficulties of accommodating the needs of recreationists and conservationists harmoniously; and

WHEREAS there is now a proposal by the Sechelt Indian Nation to create a large conservation area just to the south of Spiipiyus Provincial Park, known as the Spiipiyus-Swiya Conservation Area; and

WHEREAS there have been several proposals put forward for the expansion of Spiipiyus Provincial Park before and since its creation, including the Western Canada Wilderness Committee and the Land for Nature Program of the FBCN (BC Nature); therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that BC Nature urge the government to create a larger Provincial or National Park on the Caren Range, to encompass the Spiipiyus Provincial Park, which will become a national treasure because of its unique ecology, incorporating Canada's oldest closed canopy forests and habitat for several important wildlife species such as the marbled murrelet, making it large enough to reach the ocean shores of the Sechelt Inlet and to meet the needs of the Sechelt First Nation, the people of the Sunshine Coast, British Columbia and Canada in perpetuity.

2011-06 Resolution on recreational activities in Wildlife Management Areas and conservation areas of the Fraser River delta

Submitted by Delta Naturalists' Society

WHEREAS that the Fraser River delta is unique in Canada due to its large and significant migratory bird populations, and its importance as a winter habitat for tens of thousands of waterfowl and shorebirds, and the most important area of Canada for wintering raptors; and

WHEREAS much of the land that was formerly important bird habitat is being used for highways, rail operations, warehouses and storage facilities for containers, airport expansion, large mansions and estates, greenhouse operations, etc.; and

WHEREAS one of Canada's largest and most populous and rapidly growing urban areas is located in the Fraser River delta; and

WHEREAS several provincial Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) including Boundary Bay, Serpentine Fen, Sturgeon Bank, South Arm Marshes and the proposed WMA at Roberts Bank, and federal conservation areas (Sea Island Conservation Area, Alaksen National Wildlife Area) are located in the Fraser River delta; and

WHEREAS with increased numbers of residents there is a high demand for recreational use in Wildlife Management Areas and conservation areas; and

WHEREAS many recreational pursuits within the WMA are in direct conflict with the activities of migratory

birds, such as feeding, sleeping, and loafing, and therefore alienate the birds from their critical habitat; and *WHEREAS* there are currently no public use regulations on recreation within WMAs and the Sea Island Conservation Area

WHEREAS migratory birds, the control of shipping and boating, and the tidal areas of Boundary Bay are all federal responsibilities (Environment Canada and Transport Canada) and jurisdiction over WMAs is a provincial responsibility; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that B.C. Nature urge the BC Minister of Environment and the federal Minister of Environment and federal Minister of Transportation to work together to better protect migratory birds within the provincial WMAs of the Fraser River delta, including Boundary Bay, Serpentine Fen, Sturgeon Bank, South Arm Marshes and the proposed WMA at Roberts Bank, by enacting and strongly enforcing regulations concerning such activities as: kite- and para- surfing, para- buggies and carts, wind-surfing, target shooting, kayaking, and running off-leash dogs, all of which alienate migratory birds from habitats specifically set aside for them; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that B.C. Nature urge the federal Minister of Environment to better protect migratory birds within the federally-owned Sea Island Conservation Area by enacting and strongly enforcing regulations concerning such activities as off-leash dogs, which alienate migratory birds from habitats specifically set aside for them; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such regulations include the creation of sanctuary areas within the WMAs where none of the above-mentioned activities are ever permitted.

Resolution 2011-07 Curtailing bycatch from gillnet fisheries in the southern Strait of Georgia

Submitted by Delta Naturalists' Society

WHEREAS For the last few years the great decline of Fraser River salmon stock has curtailed commercial fishing activities in the southern Strait of Georgia; and

WHEREAS a few years ago following a good salmon run, over 900 dead seabirds were counted in the Point Roberts, Washington State, South Delta and Boundary Bay, Delta, B.C. area in one season's survey of beached birds; and

WHEREAS autopsies by Environment Canada at that time determined the cause of this seabird mortality to be death by drowning, with a probable cause of gillnet entanglement; and

WHEREAS an abundant Fraser River run of sockeye in 2010, caused sea bird bycatch to once again become a problem, with over 100 Common Murre, Pigeon Guillemot and Rhinoceros Auklets washing up on the beaches of Point Roberts, Washington State, South Delta and Boundary Bay, Delta, B.C; and

WHEREAS there has been a continuing occurrence of bird wrecks in the southern Strait of Georgia during the salmon fishery; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that B.C. Nature urge the Canadian Minister of Environment, the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Department and the Director of the Washington State Fish and Wildlife Department, requesting that these agencies work together to put an end to the killing of migratory birds as a bycatch of the gill net fishery in the southern Strait of Georgia.

Resolution 2011 - 08 Transboundary Species

Submitted by Vermilion Forks Naturalists

WHEREAS BC has the highest number of species (wildlife and plants) of any province in Canada, and this biodiversity of species is shared with other jurisdictions, both in Canada and the USA; and

WHEREAS these transboundary species make up 96% of the total biodiversity of BC and do not recognize boundaries; and

WHEREAS global warming is now an increasing threat affecting many species; and

WHEREAS BC has taken some steps to tackle climate change but recognition must be given to the urgent need that laws be created to protect BC's imperiled species and ecosystems; and

WHEREAS without effective, cohesive protective measures on both sides of boundaries, BC would be biologically degraded; and

WHEREAS already at least 1918 species of distinct populations of wildlife/plants are at risk, due to loss of large

portions of critical habitat needed for their survival; and

WHEREAS in 1996, federal, provincial (including BC) and territorial governments in Canada signed “The National Accord for the Protection of Species at Risk.”

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that BC Nature urge the government of BC to reexamine their commitments made in 1992, 1993 and 1996, on a national and international stage, to conserve biodiversity, a common concern of humankind, as stated at “The United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity,” or CBD.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that BC Nature urge the BC government to reexamine and recognize that the patchwork of current legislation does not adequately protect species at risk, e.g. protection of habitat and other issues are not included; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that BC Nature requests that the current government improve coordination of conservation of habitat and species at risk between BC and its transboundary jurisdictions.

**Federation of British Columbia Naturalists - BC Nature
Executive Committee and Board of Directors**

Regional Coordinators - Executive Committee

Kootenay Regional Coordinator	Greg Ross
Lower Mainland Regional Coordinator	Jude Grass
Northern BC Coordinator	Fred McMechan
Vancouver Island Regional Coordinator	Sue Loveless
Thompson Okanagan Regional Coordinator	Don Guild

Lower Mainland Region Directors

Abbotsford-Mission Nature Club	Jacqueline Reznick
Alouette Field Naturalists	Duanne Vandenberg
Bowen Nature Club	Everhand van Lith de Jeude
Burke Mountain Naturalists	Elaine Golds
Chilliwack Field Naturalists' Society	Helen Turner
Delta Naturalists Society	Ursula Easterbrook
Friends of Semiahmoo Bay Society	Marg Cuthbert
Langley Field Naturalists	Annabel Griffiths
Little Campbell Watershed Society	David Riley
North Shore Urban Bear Club	Betty Carrington
Pender Harbour & District Wildlife Society	Joe Harrison
Royal City Field Naturalists	Gareth Llewellyn
Squamish Environmental Conservation Society	Mary Mitchell
Stoney Creek Environmental Committee	Alan James
Sunshine Coast Natural History Society	Tony Greenfield
Texada Stickleback Group Association	Tim Atwood
Nature Vancouver	Dorothy Nelson - Margaret Coutts
Whistler Naturalists Society	Kristina Swerhun
White Rock and Surrey Naturalists Society	Esther Johnson
WildResearch	Christine Rock

Kootenay Region Directors

Fernie Nature Club	Bob Livsey
Rocky Mountain Naturalists	Greg Ross
West Kootenay Naturalists Association	Joan Snyder

Northern Region Directors

Bulkley Valley Naturalists	Anne Hetherington
Kitimat Valley Naturalists	April MacLeod
MacKenzie Nature Observatory	Vida Tattrie
Prince George Naturalists Club	Clive Keen
Quesnel Naturalists	Lorna Schley
Skeena Naturlists	Judy Chrysler
Timberline Trail & Nature Club	Meredith Thornton
Williams Lake Field Naturalists	Fred McMechan

Thompson Okanagan Shuswap Region Directors

Central Okanagan	Don Guild
Kamloops Naturalists Club	Teresa Corboy
Lillooet Naturalists Club	Vivian Birch-Jones
Nicola Naturalists	Alan Burger
North Okanagan Naturalist Club	Pamela Jenkins
North Shuswap Naturalists Club	Rudy Vervoort
Oliver-Osoyoos Naturalists	Harold King
Shuswap Naturalists Club	Janet Pattinson
South Okanagan Naturalists Club	Dennis St. John
Vermillion Forks Field Naturalists	Cathie Yingling

Vancouver Island Region Directors

Arrowsmith Naturalists	Pat Bourgeois
Comox Valley Naturalists Society	Jackie Gray
Cowichan Valley Naturalists Society	Genevieve Singleton
Nanoose Naturalists	Carolyn Dodd
Pender Island Field Naturalists	Gerald McKeating
Rithet's Bog Conservation Society	Sharon Forrester
Rocky Point Bird Observatory	Ann Nightingale
Saltspring Island Trail and Nature Club	Nieke Visser
Victoria Natural History Society	Tom Gillespie-James Miskelly-Darren Copley



Young Naturalists' Club of BC
www.ync.ca



**FEDERATION OF
BRITISH COLUMBIA NATURALISTS**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2010
(Unaudited)**

Federation of British Columbia Naturalists
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For The Year Ended December 31, 2010
(Unaudited)

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REVIEW ENGAGEMENT REPORT

To: Federation of British Columbia Naturalists

We have reviewed the statement of financial position of Federation of British Columbia Naturalists as at December 31, 2010 and the statements of changes in net assets, operations and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles. Our review was made in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements and accordingly consisted primarily of enquiry, analytical procedures and discussion related to information supplied to us by the society.

A review does not constitute an audit and consequently we do not express an audit opinion on these financial statements.

Based on our review, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that these financial statements are not, in all material respects, in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

REID HURST NAGY INC.
CERTIFIED GENERAL ACCOUNTANTS

RICHMOND, B.C.
MARCH 31, 2011

Federation of British Columbia Naturalists
Statement of Financial Position
As at December 31, 2010
(Unaudited)

	December 31 2010	December 31 2009
ASSETS		
Current		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 211,605	\$ 138,997
Accounts receivable	2,910	2,953
Accounts receivable - Sports BC	3,559	-
GST/HST receivable	3,825	3,419
Prepaid expenses	2,757	2,850
	<u>\$ 224,655</u>	<u>\$ 148,219</u>
LIABILITIES		
Current		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 2,599	\$ 5,879
Fees received in advance	259	-
Deferred contributions (Schedule 1)		
Unexpended grant funds	106,923	59,142
Unexpended restricted donations	10,345	5,215
	<u>120,126</u>	<u>70,236</u>
NET ASSETS		
Operating fund	68,957	51,606
Internally restricted funds (Schedule 2)	35,572	26,377
	<u>104,529</u>	<u>77,983</u>
	<u>\$ 224,655</u>	<u>\$ 148,219</u>

Federation of British Columbia Naturalists
Statement of Changes in Net Assets
As at December 31, 2010
(Unaudited)

	Operating Fund	Internally Restricted Funds	2010 Total	2009 Total
Balance, beginning of year	51,606	26,377	77,983	70,298
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	32,351	(5,805)	26,546	7,685
Transfers	(15,000)	15,000	-	-
Balance, end of year	<u>68,957</u>	<u>35,572</u>	<u>104,529</u>	<u>77,983</u>

Federation of British Columbia Naturalists
Statement of Operations
For the Year Ended December 31, 2010

(Unaudited)

	ACTUAL 12 Months Ended 31 December 2010	ACTUAL 12 Months Ended 31 December 2009
OPERATING FUND		
REVENUE		
Club membership dues	\$ 45,764	\$ 46,812
Other dues and subscriptions	3,062	2,995
Executive and Director donations	12,756	23,305
Member donations and fundraising	20,039	20,629
Insurance premium recovery	6,712	6,677
Annual and Fall general meetings	4,661	3,421
Camps	12,304	10,362
Project administration fees	28,326	21,468
Interest	548	1,369
Advertising (BC Nature)	8,711	9,936
Young Naturalists' Club of BC recoveries		2,700
Miscellaneous	73	574
	<u>142,954</u>	<u>150,248</u>
EXPENSES		
Accounting	2,145	2,789
Annual and Fall general meetings	1,489	1,057
Bank charges	586	775
BC Nature production and mailing	29,254	22,280
Camps	8,074	7,859
Dues	184	225
Fundraising	946	725
Insurance premiums	8,214	8,264
Office	3,192	3,686
Rent	(77)	7,566
Salary and benefits	37,971	44,857
Supplies and miscellaneous	1,225	1,507
Telephone and communications	2,701	2,434
Travel and accommodation	14,700	30,335
	<u>110,603</u>	<u>134,359</u>
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	32,351	15,889
TRANSFER TO INTERNALLY RESTRICTED FUNDS (Schedule 2)	(15,000)	(20,300)
OPERATING FUND NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF PERIOD	51,606	56,017
OPERATING FUND NET ASSETS - END OF PERIOD	\$ 68,957	\$ 51,606

Federation of British Columbia Naturalists
Statement of Operations
For the Year Ended December 31, 2010

(Unaudited)

	ACTUAL 12 Months Ended 31 December 2010	ACTUAL 12 Months Ended 31 December 2009
INTERNALLY RESTRICTED FUNDS		
REVENUE		
Club Support	2,000	
Young Naturalists of BC		
Education		
Important Bird Areas		340
Strategic Planning		
Important Bird Areas		
	<u>\$ 2,000</u>	<u>\$ 340</u>
EXPENSES		
Club Support	2,000	4,000
Conservation		60
Young Naturalists of BC	2,000	1,000
Education	700	700
Important Bird Areas	529	2,784
Strategic Planning	2,576	
	<u>7,805</u>	<u>8,544</u>
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	(5,805)	(8,204)
TRANSFER FROM OPERATING FUND (Schedule 2)	15,000	20,300
INTERNALLY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF PERIOD	26,377	14,281
INTERNALLY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS - END OF PERIOD	<u>\$ 35,572</u>	<u>\$ 26,377</u>
EXTERNALLY RESTRICTED FUNDS		
REVENUE		
Donations - Schedule 1	\$ 7,808	\$ 16,868
Grant programs - Schedule 1	355,880	387,264
	<u>363,688</u>	<u>404,132</u>
EXPENSES		
Donations	6,808	11,868
BC Nature production and mailing		10,000
Grant programs	355,880	381,264
Scholarship	1,000	1,000
	<u>363,688</u>	<u>404,132</u>
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

Federation of British Columbia Naturalists**Statement of Cash Flows****For The Year Ended December 31, 2010***(Unaudited)*

	2010	2009
Cash flow from operating activities		
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures	\$ 26,546	\$ 7,685
Net change in non-cash working capital		
Accounts and GST/HST receivable	(3,922)	2,173
Prepaid expenses	93	(136)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(3,279)	(16,056)
Fees received in advance	259	
Unexpended grant funds	47,781	(35,472)
Unexpended restricted donations	5,130	(4,800)
Net cash generated through operating activities	\$ 72,608	\$ (46,606)
Cash and investments, beginning of the year	138,997	185,603
Cash and investments, end of the year	\$ 211,605	\$ 138,997

Federation of British Columbia Naturalists

Notes to the Financial Statements

December 31, 2010

(Unaudited)

1. Purpose of the Organization

Federation of British Columbia Naturalists ("FBCN") was incorporated under the Societies Act on June 3, 1969.

The objectives of the FBCN are:

- To provide naturalists and natural history clubs of British Columbia with a unified voice on conservation and environmental issues,
- To foster an awareness, appreciation and understanding of our natural environment, that it may be wisely used and maintained for future generations,
- To encourage the formation and cooperation of natural history clubs throughout British Columbia, and
- To provide a means of communication between naturalists in British Columbia.

2. Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Presentation

These financial statements reflect the activities of the Federation only. They do not include the transactions of the member clubs, affiliates or the BC Naturalists' Foundation.

Fund Accounting

The Operating Fund is unrestricted and reports revenue and expenditures related to FBCN's member services and administrative activities.

The Internally Restricted Fund reports revenue and expenditures allocated for specific initiatives by the Board of Directors of FBCN.

The Externally Restricted Fund reports resources which are externally restricted for specific projects.

Revenue Recognition

FBCN follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions. Externally restricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenditures are incurred. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable, if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Capital Assets

Capital assets are expensed on acquisition. Capital assets held include primarily office equipment.

Federation of British Columbia Naturalists

Notes to the Financial Statements

December 31, 2010

(Unaudited)

2. Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

Financial Instruments

FBCN's financial instruments consist of cash and cash equivalents, accounts receivable, accounts payable, fees received in advance and deferred contributions. The fair values of these financial instruments approximate their carrying value because of their short term or immediate maturity.

Contributed Services

FBCN does not keep records of the service hours provided by volunteers to carry out its service delivery activities. Because of the difficulty in determining the fair value, these contributed services are not recognized in the financial statements.

3. Cash and Investments

	2010	2009
Cash	\$ 150,231	\$ 77,953
Term Deposit		
Interest earned at 2.00% maturing February 4, 2010	-	30,000
Interest earned at 2.00% maturing February 11, 2010	-	25,000
Interest earned at 1.50% maturing March 24, 2010	-	5,000
Interest earned at 1.00% maturing February 4, 2011	30,600	-
Interest earned at 1.00% maturing February 11, 2011	25,500	-
Interest earned at 1.00% maturing March 24, 2011	5,273	-
Interest receivable		1,044
	<u>\$ 211,605</u>	<u>\$ 138,997</u>
Available for operations	\$ 58,765	\$ 48,263
Externally restricted funds	119,268	64,357
Internally restricted funds	35,572	26,377
	<u>\$ 211,605</u>	<u>\$ 138,997</u>

Federation of British Columbia Naturalists
Notes to the Financial Statements
December 31, 2010
(Unaudited)

4. Deferred Contributions

Deferred contributions include unspent externally restricted grants and donations.

i. Externally Restricted Grant Funds

	2009	Transfers in (out)	Receipts	Disbursements	2010
Externally Restricted Grants					
Goldstream Interp. - Victoria Foundation	\$ 8,000	\$ -	\$ 12,000	\$ 20,000	\$ -
BC Nest Records	3,706	-	-	-	3,706
BC Parks Interpretation	11,018	-	20,873	31,891	-
Elders BC150	2,000	-	-	2,000	-
Ecological Reserve Wardens	3,824	-	-	-	3,824
Elders Park Builders Project	-	-	-	-	-
Important Bird Areas	8,062	-	22,755	28,088	2,728
Land for Nature SVI	-	-	152,075	76,962	75,113
Living by Water	3,687	-	-	3,687	-
Nation Trails Coalition - Trail Funding	6,495	-	15,958	22,453	-
Summer Students	914	2,136	136,782	139,832	-
Wildlife Viewing Programs	4,181	-	-	-	4,181
Wildlife Tree Stewardship	7,159	-	41,097	30,885	17,370
Wildlife Tree Stewardship (BC Gaming Grant)	97	(14)	-	83	-
	<u>\$ 59,142</u>	<u>\$ 2,122</u>	<u>\$ 401,538</u>	<u>\$ 355,880</u>	<u>\$ 106,923</u>

ii. Externally Restricted Donations

	2009	Transfers in (out)	Receipts	Disbursements	2010
Externally Restricted Donations					
BC Naturalists' Foundation Fund	\$ 269	-	\$ 10,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 6,269
Other restricted donations (for clubs)	100	-	2,808	2,808	100
Rene Savenye Scholarship Fund	4,846	-	130	1,000	3,976
	<u>5,215</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>12,938</u>	<u>7,808</u>	<u>10,345</u>
	<u>\$ 64,357</u>	<u>\$ 2,122</u>	<u>\$ 414,476</u>	<u>\$ 363,688</u>	<u>\$ 117,268</u>

Federation of British Columbia Naturalists

Notes to the Financial Statements

December 31, 2010

(Unaudited)

5. Internally Restricted Funds

FBCN has internally restricted funds in support of the following initiatives.

	2009	Transfers in (out)	Receipts	Disbursements	2010
Club Support Fund	\$ 2,016	-	2,000	2,000	\$ 2,016
Conservation Fund	2,985	-	-	-	2,985
Contingency Fund	15,029	-	-	-	15,029
Dr. Bert Brink, in memoriam	1,944	-	-	-	1,944
Education Fund	1,945	-	-	700	1,245
Important Bird Areas Fund	2,458	-	-	529	1,929
Young Naturalist's Club	-	2,000	-	2,000	-
Strategic Planning	-	13,000	-	2,576	10,424
	<u>\$ 26,377</u>	<u>\$ 15,000</u>	<u>\$ 2,000</u>	<u>\$ 7,805</u>	<u>\$ 35,572</u>

6. Commitments

In 2010 FBCN renewed the agreement with the Elders Council for Parks in British Columbia. Under this agreement the Elders Council provides FBCN with office space in the Mount Seymour Provincial Park Heritage Centre. In return, FBCN will provide the Elders Council with in-kind volunteer support services of 6 days per month.

BC Nature wishes to thank our many generous members and donors who assist with our activities, both through monetary support and through contributions of time and expertise. We also appreciate the support from the several groups and agencies we partner with on our projects and programs. A huge thanks to the many Executive and Directors who donated to BC Nature their travel and other expenses.

A.MARIE HOULDEN, ADRIAN & EMILEE GERAGHTY, AGNES H PHILLIPS, AILEEN HARMON, AILSA PEARSE, ALAN & DONNA MCKENZIE, ALAN & FRANCESE VYSE, ALLAN C. SCHUTZ, ALLISON & MARCK PETERSEN, ANN LANGER, ANNABEL & RHYS GRIFFITHS, ANN OR BRIAN NICOLAI, ANNE MURRAY, ANNETTE LACHAINE, ARNOLD & ELIZABETH GREENIUS, AUDREY & ALAN HETHERINGTON, AUDREY & RONALD STROMBERG, AUDREY COLLIER, BARBARA DOWD, BARBARA HALL, BARBARA MASON. BARRY & KATHIE JONES, BC SPACES FOR NATURE, BERNICE RAMSDIN, BERYL J. CUNNINGHAM, BETTY DAVISON, BEV RAMEY, BILL & LINDY NEWMAN, BM ALLANSON, BOB HAMAGUCHI, BOB PEART, BRAD BENSON, BRIAN BJARNASON. BRIAN COLEMAN, BRUCE & GRACE FRYER, BRUCE TAIT, C.S. ROBERTSON, CATHERINE KOOT, CHARLES & MARY BAILEY, CHARLES DORWORTH, CHERE MALCOLM, CHRIS & SUZANNE BETUZZI, CHRISTOPHER SCHREIBER, CLIFF DAY, CORY VANHECK, CYNTHIA CRAMPTON, D. & J. PHELPS, D.BOYD, D.P. SCHORN, DANA GRIFFITH, DARCY LAZZARIN, DARLENE & CHARLES RAMEY, DAVID & PAM HELEM, DAVID HUTCHINGS, DAVID JACKSON, DAVID K JACKSON, DAVID SCHUTZ, DAVID THOMPSON, DAWN WALDIE, DE BEYUON, DENIS & JUNE WOOD, DENIS KNOPP & LEE KATHERYN LARKIN, DENISE WEBB, DENNY WAGG, DES BELTON & MAJORIE GERMYN, DIANE MOTHERSILL, DIANNE WARD, DICK & JOAN STACE-SMITH, DIRK PIDCOCK, DON MUNROE, DON. G. WILSON, DONNA PRETTY, DOROTHY NELSON, DOUG ATCHISON, DR. EILEEN SOWERBY, DR. J. ISOBEL DAWSON, DR. JOAN FORD, DR. KENNETH S. MORTON, DR. PETER ROWAT & DR. WINONA ROWAT, DR. THOMAS G. NORTHCOTE, DR. WALTON W. LANGFORD, EDWARD & JOYCE VAN VEENENDAAL, EILEEN WTEWAALL, ELEANOR & ERIC ZASBURG, ELISABETH SCOTSON, ELIZABETH & GRAEME EASTON, ELIZABETH WALKER, ERIC & VERA RUDLAND, EVA DURANCE, EVA WILLIAMSON, EVE SZABO, EVELYN LEPIN, FAY PETTAPIECE, FJ & ARDEN MORETTI, FRANK S. HOVENDEN, FRED LESERGENT, FRED MARSHALL, FRED MCMECHAN, FRED A EASY, FREDERICK H STEVENS, GAIL PRIOR, GARY G. RUNKA & JOAN SAWICKI, GEORGE BANGHAM, GEORGE THORNTON & LEE MILLER, GERARD & TRUDY BLOEM FUND, GERTRUDE & CARY TUCKER, GLEN & MAIDRID JONAT, GORDON & IOLA KNIGHT, GREG ROSS, GWYNETH WILSON, HAROLD KING, HARRIET RUEGGERBERG, HARRIETT HYDE, HARRY & BERYL BORRIS, HEATHER & ROGER LAWTON, HEATHER & ROLF KELLERHALS, HEIDI VONSTEFENELLI, HELEN & GEORGE ROBINSON, HELEN KNIGHT, HELEN MATTHEWS, HELEN RUCKLE, HELEN SMITH, HUGH & JANE HAMILTON, J. SCENIEKS, J.J. BURGERJON, JACKIE GRAY, JAMES BRYAN, JAMES COOK, JAMES SIMMONS & SHIZUE KAMIKIHARA, JAMIES MASTERS, JEAN BROWN, JEAN SKOBALSKI, JEANINE LUCAS, JEANNETTE SUZUKI, JEN & DAVID KING, JENNY FEICK & IAN HATTER, JESSIE & ALAN MCGILL, JIM WISNIA, JOAN & DON MURPHY, JOAN BEST, JOAN BUCKHAM, JOAN M BARNETT, JOE & IRENE ORGNERO, JOHN & CHRISTINE SAREMBA, JOHN G. STELFOX, JOHN NEVILLE, JOHN OSBORNE, JOHN W. MARTENS, JUDITH LATTA, JUDITH MEYERS, JUNE CLEGHORN, JURGEN HORNBURG & SUSAN HEMPHILL, KAREN BARRY, KATHERINE SHEWCHUK, KATHLEEN WOODLEY & WILLIAM HEIDRICK, KEN & IRENE MONROE, KENNETH & KATHLEEN WILKINSON, KENNETH E. MAY, KRANNITZ FAMILY, L.A. BROOKS, LAURENCE BROWN, LAURIE ROCKWELL, LAWRENCE REDFERN & SHEENA STIENSTRA, LEIGH WILKS, LEONA MURRAY, LESLEY KEITH, LILLIAN VIGURS, LINDA HALL, LORNA SCHLEY, LOUISE IRWIN, LOUISE M. PATERSON, MALCOLM MARTIN, MARGARET CORLETT, MARGARET COUTTS, MARGARET LAROCHE, MARGARET PAHR, MARGARET SHEPHERD, MARIA HAMANN, MARIANNE LARSEN, MARIE LOUISE HOLLAND, MARIE O'SHAUGHNESSY, MARILYN HANSEN, MARILYN MISNER, MARION A. BOYLE, MARY ELIZABETH ANDREWS, MAY MURRAY, MEG FELLOWES, MEL & EVI COULSON, MERRIENE DUNCAN, MICHAEL & MARY COCIVERA, MICHAEL BUCKINGHAM, MICHAEL HOEBEL, MYRA KELSEY, MYRNA & JOHN BOSOMWORTH, NANAIMO FIELD NATURALISTS, NANCY BRAITHWAITE, NANCY KRUEGER, NANCY MUIRHEAD, NANNETTE CLARE, N.C. HUGHES, NEIL BOURNE, NIEKE VISSER, NILS & AUDREY HOEG, NORMA BOUTILLIER, OLIVE SIMS, ORCUTT FAMILY, PAM JENKINS, PAMELA DICER, PAMELA SINCLAIR, PAT & HUGH WESTHEUSER, PATRICE & GORDON PLANK, PATRICIA BOYLE, PAUL & MAVIS JONES, PETER & WINONA ROWAT, PETER BLOKKER, PHILLIP & JUNE MASON, PROVINCIAL EMPLOYEES COMM. SERVICES FUND, PW APPLEBY, R. WAYNE NELSON, RBC – GRANDFONDO, RITA & LEON APTEKMANN, ROBERT & JUDITH FULTON, ROBERT HANDFIELD, ROBERT HARRIS, ROBERT HOLDEN, ROD MACVICAR, ROGER & MAGGIE SIMMS, RON & VERENA REZNICEK, RON SPELLER, ROSEMARY FOX, ROSEMARY STIELL, ROSS & DEBORAH PECK, ROSS PECK, RUDY VERVOORT, RUTH BECK, RUTH MASTERS, S. & L.PATERSON, SANDY GOLDMAN, SARAH WEAVER, SARGEANT BAY SOCIETY, SCOTT FRY & CANDICE MARTINS, SHARON GODKIN, SHARON KELLY, SHARON SLACK, SHEILA A REYNOLDS, SHELLEY BAUMBROUGH, SHUSWAP NATURALISTS CLUB, SIEGFRIED ACHERMAN, SQUAMISH EAGLE WATCH, STANLEY OLSON, STUBBS ISLAND CHARTERS, SUANN HOSIE, TELUS, TRISH REID, URSULA EASTERBROOK, VALERIE & ALLARD VAN VEEN, VALERIE WHETTER, VICTOR BONAGURO, VIVIAN BIRCH-JONES, VIVIENNE & DR. ROBERT CALDER, WALTER & ELLEN SCHOEN, WOLFGANG HAUSER, ZIORA ZIMMERMAN

BC Nature wishes to acknowledge with thanks, the grants received to assist with our projects from funders, including: Environment Canada, Federal Human Resources Service Canada, BC Ministry of Environment, BC Parks, Habitat Conservation Trust Foundations, Park Facility Operators, Nature Canada, Bird Studies Canada, Victoria Foundation, BC Naturalists Foundation, Shell, Coalition of Trails Organization, Mountaineers Foundation, RBC Grandfondo, Canadian Wildlife Foundation, Mountain Equipment Coop