



Annual Report

for the year ended 30 April 2012



WILDERNESS
COMMITTEE

**Over 30 years of protecting
Canadian wilderness and wildlife**



Thank You!

Dear Wilderness Committee members and supporters:

From all of us here at the Wilderness Committee, we owe a great big thank you to all of the members, supporters and volunteers for making possible our work to protect Canada's wild spaces and species. Without the ongoing donations, volunteer time and letter writing from thousands of nature-loving people like you, we would not have been able to carry out the important wilderness protection projects listed in this report.

When we go together, we go far!

This year we met with sweet success on Vancouver Island when we joined with like-minded people to win a big victory for Mother Nature. Thanks to massive public opposition, a 260 vacation home development was stopped from being built right next to the Juan de Fuca trail, which is in one of British Columbia's most popular provincial parks.

Much of the work that we did this past year was all about setting up for future successes. We went to court in Manitoba to prevent logging road construction through provincial parks; we held a forum bringing together First Nations leaders and environmental allies

to call attention to the threat of oil pipelines and tankers on BC's coast. And in BC and Manitoba, our trail blazers were clearing the way for expanded park protection.

Read this report to learn more about these and other wild stories – all made possible by your support.

Thanks so much!



Beth Clarke, Joe Foy, Gwen Barlee and Matt Jong

Joe Foy

Campaign Director

Beth Clarke

Development and
Program Director

Gwen Barlee

Policy Director

Matt Jong

Comptroller, CMA

Board of Directors

Diana VanderVeen (Chair)

Sage Aaron

John Calvert

Mike Gildersleeve

Mark Haddock

Paul Morgan

Ross Muirhead

Devon Page

Dr. Tom Perry

We couldn't have achieved the results outlined in this report without the endless hours of dedication by our 23 staff members in our Victoria, Vancouver, Manitoba and Toronto offices. Our heartfelt thanks go out to all of you!

Our Wild Vision



Founded in 1980 by a small band of citizens determined to preserve wild Canada, the Wilderness Committee has grown to an organization with tens of thousands of members and supporters, and offices in Vancouver, Victoria, Winnipeg and Toronto.

Since those early days, we've been successful in gaining protection for over 55 crucial wilderness areas, including critical wildlife habitats for endangered species.

But much remains to be done. According to conservation biologists, at least half of a nation's land base should be protected in order to conserve nature and provide people with the ability to live comfortably and sustainably. The Wilderness Committee prioritizes

protection for Canada's most threatened wild lands such as remaining old-growth forests in BC, the 'pocket desert' in BC's beautiful Okanagan-Similkameen country, and large sections of Canada's boreal forest.



Our wildlife work targets protection for the habitat of Canada's most critically at-risk species, including the northern spotted owl, greater sage-grouse and killer whale. At the same time, we are working to strengthen legislation so that protection can be assured for all species at risk across Canada. Additionally, our wild Pacific salmon campaign focuses on marine protection from industrial salmon farms.

A necessary part of our work is defending existing parks, including advocating for better funding, more park rangers and stronger regulations. Our campaign to stop BC's rivers from being privatized, dammed and diverted by corporations aims to keep BC's rivers, streams and watersheds public so they can be better protected.

The twin threats of federal environmental regulation roll-backs combined with the oil industry's push to expand pipelines from the tar sands in Alberta to coastal BC puts some of Canada's finest natural wonders at severe risk. We are part of the rising tide of citizen opposition to these short-sighted policies.

The Wilderness Committee's wild vision sees generations of Canadians enjoying abundant clean water, fresh air, wild places and wild creatures forever.

The Wilderness Committee works to protect Canada's remaining natural biodiversity. Our programs focus on the following five priority areas:

Wildlands

Doubling BC's Protected Areas, Stop Old-Growth Logging, Save Fish Lake, Clayoquot Sound, Manning Park, Heart of the Boreal, Okanagan-Similkameen National Park, Bowen Island National Park, Cayoosh and Bendor Range, Juan de Fuca

Wildlife

BC Species at Risk, Federal Species at Risk Act, Killer Whale, Spotted Owl, Woodland Caribou, Grizzly Bear

Pacific Coast

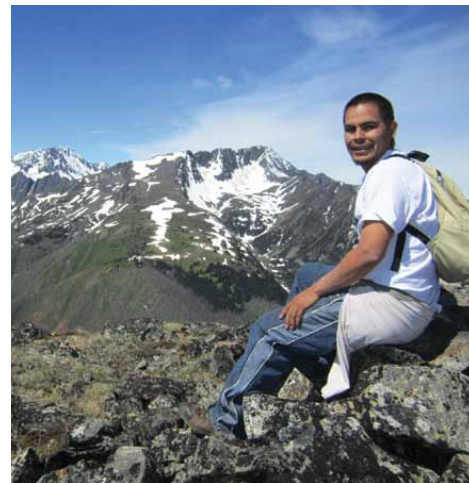
Wild Salmon, Tankers and Pipelines

Public Lands

Parks Defence (BC & Manitoba), Rivers at Risk, Access to Information, Site C Dam, Peat Mining in Manitoba

Healthy Communities

The Climate Crisis, Tar Sands, Waste Incineration, Toxins, Coal Free BC, Gateway



Success Stories



Manitoba's Asatiwisipe Aki – 800,000 Hectares Protected!

June 2011 – The Wilderness Committee celebrated the success of the Poplar River First Nation—one of the first communities in the Heart of the Boreal to have their traditional territory, Asatiwisipe Aki, permanently protected by the Manitoba government. This recognition of the community's right to protect their traditional territory was a significant victory. It is now one of Manitoba's largest protected areas at 800,000 hectares. The Wilderness Committee has worked to protect the Heart of the Boreal for over a decade, gathering 13,000 signatures from our supporters to put pressure on the government.

Fisher Bay Park Reserve Gets Full Permanent Protection

July 2011 – Another long-running Manitoba campaign that we have been working on since 2004 met with great success on July 4, 2011. The Fisher Bay Park Reserve was finally upgraded to a fully and permanently protected, 84,000-hectare provincial park. Our parks campaign efforts continue as we push for all Manitoba parks to be fully protected.



Juan de Fuca Trail – Wild Vistas Not Urban Sprawl

September 2011 – Victoria's Capital Regional District government voted unanimously to stop a planned 260-unit resort development from encroaching on the Juan de Fuca (JDF) Trail, located on Vancouver Island's wild southwest coast. The decision followed a series of packed public hearings, which lasted a record-breaking three nights. This vote is a victory for 'people power'—the Regional District's board members were clearly convinced to change their minds because of the overwhelming show of public opposition.

BC's Killer Whales Win...Again

February 2012 – The Federal Court of Appeal upheld a precedent-setting ruling that confirmed the federal government is legally bound to protect killer whale habitat. In its judgment, the Court of Appeal unanimously dismissed nearly all aspects of the federal government's appeal and ordered the government to pay the associated costs. This means that essentially all of an original ruling, which found that the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) had failed to legally protect killer whale critical

habitat, was upheld. Ecojustice—representing a coalition of nine environmental groups including the Wilderness Committee—successfully argued in Federal Court in the previous year that the DFO had not met its legal obligation to protect killer whales. The court ruled that the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans must legally protect all aspects of killer whale critical habitat—including their food supply and the quality of their marine environment.

BC Government Turns Down Dial on Private Power

February 2012 – The BC government announced that it would axe its artificially-inflated electricity “self-sufficiency” and “insurance” requirements, which should dramatically reduce the demand for new



private power projects and keep scores of wild rivers out of pipes.

Industrializing wild rivers for electricity that comes at the wrong time of the year (and that BC doesn't need) has been an abysmal failure. It has put a financial burden of \$57 billion worth of energy purchase agreements on BC Hydro, for projects that threaten wild rivers such as the Kokish, Upper Lillooet and Upper Toba. Unfortunately, many of these previously proposed projects are still underway or awaiting approval by the province. If these unnecessary developments go ahead, not only would they endanger our wild rivers and fish habitat, they would also push BC Hydro—our best tool against climate change—to the point of bankruptcy.



Partnerships

Making Friends

Part of the Wilderness Committee's mission is to bring people together around environmental issues. Here are stories of some of our great partnerships in 2011-2012.

On the Road to Stop Site C

Campaigners with the Wilderness Committee joined allies from the Treaty 8 First Nations and farmers from the Peace River Valley in a tour

of British Columbia, travelling from town to town together, warning of the impacts of the proposed Site C Dam. If built, the \$8 billion project would destroy a large part of the Peace River valley, including 5,000 hectares of agricultural land and a further 5,000 hectares of critical wildlife habitat—all for electrical power BC does not need.

Raving Against Raven Coal

Wilderness Committee campaigners joined with our friends from CoalWatch to help fight the proposed underground Raven coal mine, slated for eastern Vancouver Island. At risk is the high quality environment of

Baynes Sound, which produces the majority of Canada's finest oysters. We worked with our allies in two ways—on the ground by helping to turn out big crowds at the public hearings in the affected communities, and online by helping to facilitate written comments to the Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) through our e-alerts and web tools. All three public meetings held by the EAO on the project were jam-packed with local people opposed to the mine. Almost 3,000 comments were submitted—a new record—and 900 of those were submitted using our website.

A Spectacular Effort on Bowen Island

We worked with a fine group of people on Bowen Island who call themselves Partners for the Park. Together our goal was to establish a National Park on beautiful Bowen Island, as part of Parks Canada's initiative to secure nature protection right next to major Canadian cities. On November 19, 2011 a vote was held on the Island to gauge public support for a National Park. There was a record turnout. We lost the National Park question by less than a hundred votes. Sadly, a Bowen Island National Park is still but a dream (for now) but we gained many new friends!



The conversation continues: How do we protect our growing region's spectacular but fragile natural areas into the future?

Gathering to Defend Canada's Spotted Owl

Last year, we were alerted by local residents that a Spotted Owl Wildlife Habitat Area near Chilliwack Lake had been re-opened to logging. On Canada Day 2011, we held a camp-out event in the endangered forest to bring public attention to the area. But by March 2012, a logging company with all the required BC government approvals and permits were chainsawing down the

endangered species habitat. It was an honour for Wilderness Committee activists to stand with our allies from the Chilliwack Valley in this effort to save one of Earth's most endangered species.

Speaking Up for the Kokish

The Wilderness Committee brought together over 60 individuals and organizations to take out full page ads in the Vancouver Sun and Province, calling on the federal government to keep the Kokish River wild and free from a proposed private hydro-power project. The ad featured NHL player Willie Mitchell (originally from Port

McNeill, Vancouver Island) who grew up fishing on the Kokish. Unfortunately, this fish-rich river remains threatened.

All Together in the Same Canoe

A tremendous amount of energy has gone into the campaign to stop tar sands oil exports through Canada's west coast ports. We have been doing a great deal of grassroots outreach, but perhaps our most important work is building relationships with south coast First Nations communities. We have been working particularly closely with the Tsleil-Waututh First Nation and with the Squamish Nation to defend the Salish Sea from an

oil spill. We have also been building important relationships with union representatives for workers in the tar sands, as well as with the Coast Guard and workers on the waterfront.



Growing our Grassroots!



Finding opportunities for people to meet, discuss issues and take action is critical to the long-term success of the environmental movement. The Wilderness Committee wins campaigns through community work and grassroots organizing. Some highlights from 2011-2012 include:

Rocking St'át'imc Country

We travelled with the Sam Roberts Band through St'át'imc (pronounced Stat-lee-um) Territory, located around Lillooet and Pemberton, BC. During the tour we met with all St'át'imc Chiefs and organized free concerts in several St'át'imc villages. We also promoted our conservation vision, which features two large proposed protected areas: Bendor Mountains and Cayoosh Mountains tribal parks.

Community Keeps the Dream Alive

The BC government has formally come out against the South Okanagan National Park proposal, but the campaign continues to move forward—all thanks to community support.



Local governments and decision-making bodies have given public endorsements of the park proposal. Parks Canada continues to have discussions with ranchers and First Nations. Despite the near fatal blow dealt by the provincial government, we believe that widespread and growing local support means that a South Okanagan-Similkameen National Park is a dream whose time has come.

Jumbo Glacier – Jumbo Wild!

The BC government recently announced the approval of the \$1 billion proposed Jumbo Glacier Ski Resort development in southeastern BC, near the West Kootenay village of Argenta. The decision comes despite widespread local opposition to the project, which would put local wildlife—especially grizzly bears—at risk. This is an appalling decision. For two decades, no government has been willing to approve this highly unpopular and destructive development. The Wilderness Committee will work with our partners both locally and provincially to build unstoppable grassroots support for keeping Jumbo wild!

Heroes of Nanoose Forest

Led by our local mid-Island chapter and by people who live next to the Nanoose Forest, the campaign to save this area gained significant local political support and media attention. However, in November 2011 things took a quick turn for the worse as loggers moved in and local residents attempted to

Working with Communities

delay the logging operations. Eventually a section of the forest at Nanoose was logged, despite the best efforts of local residents. This was a heartbreaking experience, but hopefully one that has galvanized many people to fight for eastern Vancouver Island's remaining endangered forests.

Growing Our Support in Manitoba

For the past few years we have worked in the First Nations village of Hollow Water on a community garden project. This past summer was our most successful yet. Hollow Water is a gateway community for the Heart of the Boreal Forest, which is our main wilderness preservation issue in Manitoba. Our community garden project has allowed us to develop great relationships with allies in the area, and has expanded into trail building and canoe expeditions into the surrounding wilderness.

Clayoquot Sound's Pathways to Understanding

Our trail work and community meetings in Clayoquot Sound this year have made us many friends – *and* helped to save many trees! The highlight of the campaign involved fending off proposals to log in some of Clayoquot's pristine forests. We worked within the Clayoquot Sound Conservation Alliance, which is made up of like-minded environmental groups working to support First Nations Tribal Park proposals in Clayoquot Sound.



Fish Lake – A Nightmare Rises From the Dead

The campaign to save Fish Lake on the Chilcotin Plateau from a proposed open pit mine was won in 2010, when the federal government canceled the proposed Prosperity Mine project because of its impacts on the environment and the Tsilhqot'in First Nations people. But the open pit mine project staggered back to life again when Ottawa agreed in late 2011 to take one more look at a re-worked mine proposal from the company, Taseko Mines Ltd. Things got even more interesting in February 2012, when the mining company threatened to take us to court over our claims that Taseko's mining plans still risk wrecking Fish Lake. The result? Our list of friends and allies got even longer, as many people and organizations contacted us to help out on the campaign to save Fish Lake.



Out in the Wild



Research and field work are the eyes and ears of the Wilderness Committee's work. We get out on the ground to study, map, photograph, video and provide access to wilderness areas and wildlife habitats—as well as sites suffering industrial damage—so people can better understand the true state of nature protection in Canada. Here are some highlights from 2011-2012:

Clearing the Way for St'át'imc Tribal Parks

Our volunteers have now undertaken community farm and/or trail projects in eight of the 11 St'át'imc First Nations communities, and this past year they have mainly been focused on clearing hiking trails in the proposed Cayoosh and Bendor tribal park areas. We located and began

clearing two new hiking trails in the Bendor Mountains, and we also located two new trails in the southern part of the Cayoosh Mountains.

Sprucing Up Tla-o-qui-aht Tribal Parks

On Meares Island in Clayoquot Sound, our volunteer team re-cleared half of the 1980's Wilderness Committee trail from C'is-a-qis/Heelboom Bay to the Big Tree Trail. They also cleaned up the area in and around the cabin at C'is-a-qis, in support of the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations' tribal parks program.

Spotted Owl Expeditions

We undertook five trips to explore, photograph, video and investigate the known spotted owl site and to document logging plans—and the actual logging—around the Chilliwack Lake Spotted Owl Wildlife Habitat Area.



Research and Field Work

Endangered Species in the Spotlight

Wilderness Committee campaigners were out in the forests and fields all across BC obtaining video footage of species at risk, including rattlesnakes, Oregon spotted frogs, barn swallows, mountain caribou and barn owls. This has resulted in several excellent TV news reports, including a feature story on barn swallows and a very good piece on rattlesnakes and the need for species at risk legislation in BC.

A Park is No Place for a Logging Road

Our Manitoba campaigner undertook a difficult expedition into northern Manitoba to witness first-hand



the industrial damage in the province's remote Grass River Provincial Park. A logging company had begun to construct a logging road across the park! We gathered photos and video footage for the media, then began a court challenge regarding the road building, which is still ongoing.



Exposing Plans to Dig Up Whiteshell Park

We allied with Manitoba Wildlands against the proposed Hay Point peat mine in Whiteshell Provincial Park, taking university media into the bush for an exploratory hike into the site of the proposed mine.



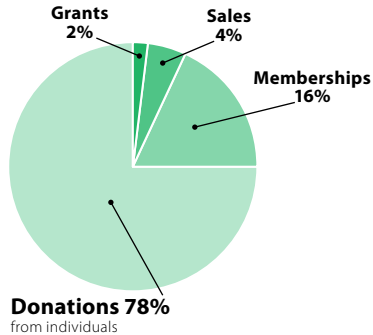
SECRETS REVEALED – FREEDOM OF INFORMATION WORK

Our growing expertise in Freedom of Information (FOI) requests has allowed access to important government information about the state of public land management. A long-awaited FOI on the Ashlu Creek private hydro-power project, which showed repeated environmental transgressions causing repeated fish kills, resulted in a two-page newspaper story, week-long radio news coverage and an excellent TV news piece.

Financial Statement

2011-2012 Auditor

Dale Matheson Carr-Hilton
LaBonte Chartered Accountants



2011-2012 Revenues

This year we saw an increase in revenue and a year-end surplus, due to increased donations from our supporters. Thank you for your support! In particular, we saw a significant increase from the legacy of our members who have passed on, but continue to protect Canada's wild places for future generations by naming us in their will. This is an illustration of how our members nationwide continue to value our natural heritage.

REVENUE	2012	2011
Membership dues	324,317	341,600
Donations	1,491,796	1,383,422
Grant revenue	42,000	34,000
Sales of educational material	71,289	87,496
Unreceipted donations	40,232	38,165
	1,969,634	1,884,683

EXPENSES	2012	2011
Administration costs	182,613	187,941
Amortization	13,206	8,156
Campaign & grant project costs	1,226,821	1,185,225
Canvass costs	228,395	247,176
Membership costs	211,975	228,077
Sales costs	107,789	106,016
	1,970,799	1,962,591

Excess (deficiency) of revenue over Expenses from operations	(1,165)	(77,908)
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OTHER INCOME

Rental income	-	1,850
Gain on disposal of assets	-	-
	-	1,850

Excess (deficiency) of revenue over Expenses for the year	(1,165)	(76,058)
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Members' equity, beginning of year 746,551 822,608

Members' equity, end of year 745,386 746,551

ASSETS	2012	2011
Current		
Cash and equivalent	123,326	27,893
Restricted funds	37,339	80,796
Short term investments	550,919	649,863
Accounts receivable	40,654	30,478
Inventory	34,920	48,763
Prepaid expenses	17,983	21,927
	805,141	859,720

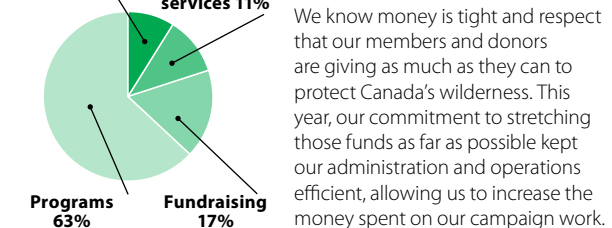
Capital assets	27,108	10,438
	832,249	870,158

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current	2012	2011
Bank indebtedness	649	35,430
Accounts payable	86,214	88,178
	86,863	123,608

NET ASSETS	745,386	746,551
	832,249	870,158

2011-2012 Program costs



Auditors' Report for the year ended 30 April 2012_____

To the Members of Western Canada Wilderness Committee

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Western Canada Wilderness Committee, which comprise the statement of financial position as at April 30, 2012 and 2011, the statement of operation and changes in fund balance, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditors' judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence that we have obtained in our audits is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Western Canada Wilderness Committee as at April 30, 2012 and 2011, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

DALE MATHESON CARR-HILTON LABONTE LLP
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
Vancouver, BC, September 10, 2012

Photo: [Walker Wilderness](#) (Paul Morgan).



Help us save Canada's wild places!

There are many ways that you can contribute to protecting wilderness and wildlife:

- You can join the **Wilderness Savings Plan** – becoming a member by giving monthly helps us to plan our work into the future and have sustainable impacts.
- You can **Leave a Legacy** – include the Wilderness Committee in your will as a way to ensure you continue to protect wilderness and wildlife for future generations.
- You can become a Wilderness Committee member – the larger our membership nation-wide, the more impact we have when educating our elected representatives and the larger public.
- You can make a gift of stocks, bonds or mutual funds, or name the Wilderness Committee as a beneficiary of your life insurance policy or RRSP.

No donation is too small to contribute to helping us make a very big difference!



The Wilderness Committee is Canada's largest membership-based wilderness preservation group with 60,000 members, supporters and volunteers. Founded in 1980, we've helped gain protection for over 55 major wilderness areas in Canada, including millions of hectares of critical wildlife habitats and some of the world's last large tracts of old-growth temperate rainforest and boreal forest. But much remains to be done.

Join us. Your annual membership fee makes a world of difference!
WildernessCommittee.org/join

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