



# Annual Report

for the year ended 30 April 2013



**WILDERNESS**  
COMMITTEE



# Over 30 years of protecting Canadian wilderness and wildlife



## Thank You!

Dear Wilderness Committee members and supporters:

As we look back over the last 12 months, we are amazed once again at the magnitude of work we're able to do each year in defence of nature – thanks to all the members, supporters and volunteers who have helped make it happen.

Without all of the generous donations, volunteer time and letter writing from thousands of dedicated people like you, we would not have been able to carry out the important wilderness protection efforts listed in this report.

Together we have and will continue to protect Canada's wild spaces and species!

For example, this past year in British Columbia the government designated over 48,000 hectares of old-growth forests in southwest BC as protected habitat for the survival of the endangered spotted owl. This was in addition to the 75,000 hectares protected the year before. Since the 1980s, we've searched for owls, mapped out their forest habitat, protested logging and gone to court to push for more habitat protection – all of which led to this exciting announcement.

In Manitoba, the provincial government decided to

enlarge Whiteshell Provincial Park by 2,900 hectares. We have worked hard to expand and protect Manitoba's park system, and this is a move in the right direction.

Your contribution makes a difference and enables us to be a stronger voice for wilderness and wildlife!

Read our annual report to find out more about these and other wild successes – and see the impact your support makes.

Thanks so much!

For the wild,

**Joe Foy**

Campaign Director

**Beth Clarke**

Development and Program Director

**Gwen Barlee**

Policy Director

**Matt Jong**

Comptroller, CMA



Gwen Barlee, Joe Foy, Beth Clarke and Matt Jong

### Board of Directors

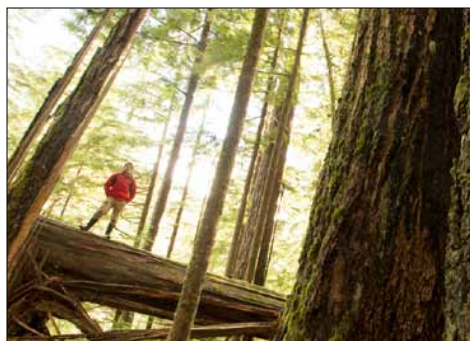
Sage Aaron (Chair)  
Dr. John Calvert  
Shannon Daub  
Mike Gildersleeve  
Dr. Elaine Golds  
Mark Haddock  
Ross Muirhead  
Devon Page  
Karen Palmer

We also have to thank the hard work of the 18 staff members in our Vancouver, Victoria, Winnipeg and Toronto offices who dedicate every day to achieving the impossible – thanks to all of you!

Photo cover: **Jumbo Pass** (John E. Marriott), Photo left: **Polar bear** (Roberta Olenick).



# Our Wild Vision



**F**ounded in 1980 by a small group of citizens determined to preserve Canada's wilderness heritage, the Wilderness Committee has grown to an organization with over 60,000 members, supporters and volunteers from coast to coast to coast, 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 encompassing millions of hectares, and including critical wildlife habitats for endangered species such as northern spotted owls and grizzly bears.

But much remains to be done. According to scientists, at least half of a nation's land base should be protected in order to conserve nature and provide people with a high and sustainable standard of living.

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. We defend existing parks, including advocating for better funding, more park rangers and stronger regulations. We are dedicated to keeping BC's rivers, streams and waterways wild and better protected, by keeping them in public hands.

Our wildlife work targets protection for the habitat of Canada's most critically at-risk species, including the boreal woodland caribou, greater sage-grouse and endangered populations of killer whale. We are working to strengthen legislation so that protection can be assured for all endangered species across Canada. Our wild Pacific salmon campaign focuses on marine protection from industrial salmon farms.

The twin threats of environmental regulation roll-backs combined with the oil industry's push to expand pipelines from the Alberta tar sands to coastal BC has put some of Canada's finest natural wonders at severe risk. We are part of a growing movement of citizen opposition to these short-sighted and environmentally damaging initiatives.

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

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

## Wild Lands

Double BC's Protected Areas, Stop Old-Growth Logging, Save Fish Lake, Clayoquot Sound, Manning Park, Heart of the Boreal, Okanagan-Similkameen National Park, Cayoosh and Bendor Range, Inland Temperate Rainforest

## Wildlife

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

## Pacific Coast

Wild Salmon, Tankers and Pipelines

## Public Lands

Parks Defence (BC and Manitoba), BC Forestry, Rivers at Risk, Access to Information, Stop the Site C Dam, Peat Mining in Manitoba

## Climate Change

The Climate Crisis, Tar Sands, Coal Free BC, Stop Fracking, Save the Salish Sea





# Wins for Nature



Every year some of our campaigns benefit from a significant success. Here are some recent examples in which nature came out on top, thanks to the helping hands of our members, supporters, local groups and concerned citizens.

## Community Cooperation Protects Rare Forest in Langley

January 2013 – The Wilderness Committee cheered when the township of Langley, BC voted to preserve 25 acres of Lower Fraser Valley forest that was up for sale. Mature urban forest is very rare nowadays in the Fraser Valley region. In October 2012, local citizens from the group WOLF (Watchers of Langley Forests) alerted us to the endangered McLellan Forest, and asked for our help. We visited the area, produced a short video and asked our members



to write to the municipal council – and many of you did! In addition to the township's outstanding efforts, four other at-risk parcels of land within the forest were purchased and protected by a generous local donor.

## Ruffling Feathers Gains More Protected Forests in Southern BC

February 2013 – A group of old-growth forest areas in southwest BC were finally put off-limits to logging, after years of hard work by the Wilderness Committee. Protected as official Wildlife Habitat Areas (WHAs) by the BC government, they provide critical forest habitat for the northern spotted owl, one of Canada's most endangered birds. Areas such as the upper Douglas Valley and Glacier Lake forests, Fire Mountain, S&M Creek and Blackwater Valley were protected – all the focus of our anti-logging, wilderness preservation work since the 1980s. While we celebrated the great progress on habitat protection, additional areas still need to be preserved. Due to industrial logging, the spotted owl population is down from more than a thousand to less than a dozen spotted owls thought to be left in the wilds of BC. We need to keep up the pressure for more habitat protection – even if it means ruffling some feathers.

## Hard Work Pays Off for Whiteshell Provincial Park

March 2013 – After years of working to expand and better protect Manitoba's provincial park system, the Wilderness Committee got some wildly good news when the Manitoba government announced a 2,900-hectare expansion of Whiteshell Provincial Park. They also designated more than 20,000 hectares of land in the park as protected backcountry area, meaning it cannot be logged or mined. This is a great victory! However, while most jurisdictions in Canada ban industrial activity in parks, Manitoba continues to allow logging and mining in its parks, including other areas within Whiteshell Provincial Park. Hard work and determination have helped achieve our recent wins – and more of the same will eventually result in an expansive, fully protected provincial park system for Manitoba.

## Hecla/Grindstone Provincial Park Averts Peat Mining Threat

February 2013 – We were thrilled at the Manitoba government's announcement that a controversial proposed peat mine in Hecla/Grindstone Provincial

Park would not go ahead. Ending mining in the province's parks is one of the Wilderness Committee's primary goals in Manitoba. Peat mining is particularly egregious, as producing peat moss requires tearing up the region's fragile ecology and contributes greatly to climate-changing greenhouse gas emissions. There are many alternatives to peat moss that are far less destructive, and we want to see peat mining banished from Manitoba's landscape for good.



# Partnerships

The Wilderness Committee achieves our goals by working with diverse groups of people to create positive change on environmental conservation issues. Our partnerships extend the reach of our work each year.

## Working Together to Protect Fish Lake

In the spring of 2012 we rallied with members of the Tsilhqot'in Nation at Taseko Mines' Annual General Meeting

in Vancouver, to oppose plans for a massive open-pit gold and copper mine next to Fish Lake. In the summer, we produced an educational report calling for the preservation of this beautiful area, located on the Chilcotin Plateau in the heart of Tsilhqot'in Nation territory. We distributed the report to our members, and door-to-door in the Fish Lake region. We got a great response, with many people across the nation opposing this environmentally risky mine project.



## Having Fun Saving the Salish Sea

The Wilderness Committee co-hosted an outdoor concert in September 2012 in North Vancouver, with our partners the Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations, and Tanker Free BC. Concert-goers were delighted by engaging speakers and amazing musical performances – all done in support of Coast Salish First Nations opposed to Kinder Morgan's proposed new Trans Mountain pipeline project, which would greatly increase oil tanker traffic in the Salish Sea.



## Defending Wildlife Endangered by Pipeline

In September 2012 we joined Greenpeace Canada, Sierra Club BC, the David Suzuki Foundation and Wildsight – represented by Ecojustice – to take the federal government to court over its continued failure to fulfill its legal responsibility and implement the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA). The lawsuit challenges the multi-year delays in producing recovery strategies for four species whose habitat lies along the proposed Enbridge Northern Gateway pipeline route – the north Pacific humpback whale, Nechako white sturgeon,

marbled murrelet and southern mountain caribou.

## Shining a Spotlight on Fracking

In November 2012 we co-hosted an event in Vancouver with our partners the Common Sense Canadian and the Council of Canadians. The discussion featured Chief Sharleen Wildeman of the Fort Nelson First Nation, who came down to speak about the impact of fracking on her nation's territory. She told attendees about the 20 long-term water licence applications before the province that would permit natural gas companies to withdraw tens of billions of litres of water annually from rivers



and lakes in their territory. The water will be permanently withdrawn and mixed with highly toxic chemicals for shale gas extraction – a process that takes a serious toll on the northern landscape and its communities.

## Standing Together Against Manitoba Park Mining

In March 2013 we joined the Mathias Colomb Cree Nation to oppose mining company Hudbay's Reed Mine Project, located in Manitoba's Grass River Provincial Park. The proposed mine is within the unceded traditional territories of Mathias Colomb Cree Nation, and has raised serious concerns over caribou



populations, water quality and carbon emissions. The Wilderness Committee's Manitoba office has supported the First Nation in this fight, and has long worked to have mining permanently banned from the provincial park system.

## Raising a Ruckus on Raven Coal

Working with allies from the Comox Valley on Vancouver Island, we raised the profile of the short-sighted and risky Raven Coal Mine proposal. Through public meetings, video production, and an extensive media campaign, we made the project and its risks a well-known environmental

issue on the Island. This spring, the BC Environmental Assessment Office denied the mine application due to a lack of information on critical ecological aspects of the project. The company can re-submit its application – but we will be ready to make sure that BC decision-makers know Vancouver Island is no place for a new coal mine.





# Growing our Grassroots!



**W**e're always looking for opportunities to allow people to meet face-to-face, discuss issues and take action for a healthier planet. Nurturing our grassroots support is critical in our work to protect the environment. The Wilderness Committee believes that campaigns are won through community work and grassroots organizing.

## Kids Care about Critters

This past year we hosted two art shows with a twist. Vancouver elementary school children produced amazing works of art, poetry, music and dance to bring attention to BC's growing list of species at risk. The Elliott Louis Gallery and VanDusen Botanical Gardens hosted art shows attended by hundreds of people, featuring these works in an exhibition named Wild@Art. These initiatives highlighted the



fact that BC is one of only two Canadian provinces that does not have provincial endangered species legislation. The Wild@Art youth hope to change all that, and see a better future for BC's species at risk.

## Paddling for the Peace River

In July 2012 we headed north to Fort St. John to attend the annual Paddle for the Peace, hosted by the Peace Valley Environment Association and the West Moberly First Nation. Over 200 canoes took to the Peace River at the proposed location of the Site C Dam, to protest and raise awareness about the project. Local farmers, First Nations and community members were joined by people from all over Canada, lending their voices to protect the beautiful Peace River Valley. Speakers listed the many values of the valley, including its rich farmland, First Nations heritage sites, wildlife habitats and early Canadian history – all of which would be underwater if the Site C Dam were to go ahead.



# Community Work

## Wildly Celebrating Earth Day

In April 2013 we joined our partners, Windermere Secondary School's grade 11 leadership students (Youth 4 Climate Justice Now) and ForestEthics Advocacy, to host the third annual youth-led Earth Day Celebration, march and festival on Vancouver's Commercial Drive. Thousands of people carried colourful banners, signs, posters and wore fun costumes to the delight and amazement of the crowd. A recurring theme in this year's Earth Day event was public opposition to oil pipelines and tankers.

## Town Hall Meetings to Stop Pipelines and Tankers

In July 2012 we were in Vancouver's Kitsilano neighbourhood with our partners Tanker Free BC and the Point Grey Foreshore Protection Society. We hosted a town hall meeting (standing room only!) to discuss the potential impacts of an oil spill on the community. Meetings like this have been critical in the campaign to stop the proposed Kinder Morgan Trans Mountain tar sands pipeline and resulting oil tanker traffic. A series of town hall meetings followed across BC's Lower Mainland and the Fraser Valley, including Chilliwack, Abbotsford, Burnaby, Maple Ridge and West Vancouver – each co-hosted by local community partners. By February 2013, we were back in East Vancouver to continue spreading the word about the risks associated with Kinder Morgan's plans.

## What the Frack is Going On?

In April 2013 the Wilderness Committee launched a three-day tour of BC's southern interior to hold a series of public forums that tackled the growing issue of natural gas production in the province. The first forum was held in Kamloops, with subsequent events in Salmon Arm and in Vernon. The discussions addressed the serious environmental and social implications of hydraulic fracturing ("fracking") – a controversial method of extraction that has become increasingly prevalent in BC and is responsible for a great deal of water and climate pollution.



# Out in the Field



The Wilderness Committee's campaigns are grounded in our research and field work. It is critical to get out on the land to study, map, photograph, video and experience wilderness areas and wildlife habitats – as well as sites suffering industrial damage – to give people a better idea of the state of Canadian nature protection.

## Stump Sleuthing

In May 2012 we alerted the authorities and media to the remains of an 800-year-old redcedar tree that had been poached and hauled away from Carmanah-Walbran Provincial Park on Vancouver Island. Next to an empty park ranger station, only one section of the trunk remained along with the stump – which is nine feet in diameter. Then, in March 2013 we discovered recently logged cut-blocks in an old-growth stand in



the Walbran Valley, less than two kilometres south of the well-known Castle Grove. We have long advocated that Castle Grove and surrounding forests of the upper Walbran Valley be officially protected, in order to preserve these extremely rare and massive trees.

## Trail Building

In the summer of 2012 our volunteers were in the ancient forest of Meares Island in the heart of Clayoquot Sound, located on the west coast of Vancouver Island. As guests of the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation, we helped to re-clear old trails through the ancient rainforest. Meares Island is a Tribal Park, and restoring its trail system will help the Tla-o-qui-aht build a local economy based on eco-tourism and nature protection.

## Community Gardening

Also in the summer of 2012 we carried on our community garden work with the Hollow Water First Nation in the Heart of the Boreal region of Manitoba. Several volunteer trips helped with the planting, upkeep and harvest of the garden, culminating with a community gathering event in August 2012 at Raven's Creek, which brought community members and urban volunteers together to talk about conservation issues in Hollow Water territory.

# New Research

## Report Highlights Stanley Park Oil Spill Danger

In July 2012 we released a ground-breaking new report written for the Wilderness Committee by noted author and Greenpeace International co-founder Rex Weyler, citing extensive research conducted by the Stanley Park Ecology Society. Its 12 pages highlight how continued expansion of oil tanker traffic in Burrard Inlet poses unacceptable risks to Vancouver's much loved Stanley Park. Houston-based Kinder Morgan's proposed Trans Mountain pipeline project could bring over 400 oil tankers into Vancouver Harbour each year, increasing the threat of an oil spill in the waters surrounding this world famous park.



## Private Hydropower Breaking the Rules

In January 2013 we released a report based on information we received through Canada's Freedom of Information (FOI) legislation. An FOI request filed by the Wilderness Committee revealed significant non-compliance at 16 independent power projects (IPPs) operating in the South Coast region of British Columbia in 2010. The rule-breaking included over 300 instances of ramping non-compliance, which refers to water levels being increased and decreased at an operating run-of-river hydro project. Ramping too quickly can strand and kill fish.



## Old King Coal Wants Vancouver

In December 2012 we launched educational videos on widespread opposition to coal in British Columbia – one on the proposed new Raven Coal Mine on Vancouver Island, and another in opposition to proposals for new coal terminals in Metro Vancouver. Controversial plans to increase coal export capacity at North Vancouver's Neptune Terminal – combined with a newly proposed coal facility at the Fraser Surrey Docks – would make the region the largest exporter of coal in North America.

## MAPPING THE WILD

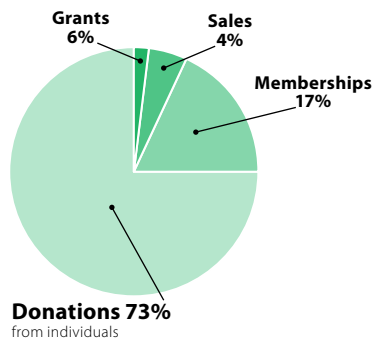
Mapping our campaign work has been integral to the Wilderness Committee since our beginning. In the last year, we created and embedded Google maps of most of our campaigns into our website, and we produced detailed street-level maps of the existing and proposed Kinder Morgan Trans Mountain tar sands pipeline routes, which include nearby schools and parks in Metro Vancouver and the Fraser Valley. We also produced several maps of Clayoquot Sound showing intact watersheds and other ecologically important old-growth forests.



# Financial Statement

## 2012-2013 Auditor

Dale Matheson Carr-Hilton  
LaBonte Chartered Accountants



## 2012-2013 Revenues

At the beginning of the year, we projected a tight year with a budget deficit. Thankfully, by cutting our costs throughout the year, we were able to lower the deficit to just over \$20,000. We ended the year with a new, balanced budget. Thanks to everyone who contributed their time and donations to help us make this happen. Again this year, we received generous legacy donations from some of our members who have passed on. The difference they made will continue for generations.

REVENUE	2013	2012
Membership dues	312,243	324,317
Donations	1,302,798	1,491,796
Grant revenue	120,586	42,000
Sales of educational material	72,882	71,289
Unreceipted donations	39,985	40,232
	<b>1,848,494</b>	<b>1,969,634</b>

EXPENSES	2013	2012
Administration costs	204,052	182,613
Amortization	13,373	13,206
Campaign & grant project costs	1,118,951	1,226,821
Canvass costs	221,928	228,395
Membership costs	211,127	211,975
Sales costs	99,498	107,789
	<b>1,868,929</b>	<b>1,970,799</b>

Excess (deficiency) of revenue over Expenses from operations	(20,435)	(1,165)
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## OTHER INCOME

Rental income	-	-
Gain on disposal of assets	-	-
	-	-

Excess (deficiency) of revenue over Expenses for the year	(20,435)	(1,165)
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**Members' equity, beginning of year** 745,386 746,551

**Members' equity, end of year** 724,951 745,386

ASSETS	2013	2012
<b>Current</b>		
Cash and equivalent	198,353	123,326
Restricted funds	34,560	37,339
Short term investments	457,511	550,919
Accounts receivable	36,679	40,654
Inventory	20,645	34,920
Prepaid expenses	17,290	17,983
	<b>765,038</b>	<b>805,141</b>

<b>Capital assets</b>	<b>23,146</b>	<b>27,108</b>
	<b>788,184</b>	<b>832,249</b>

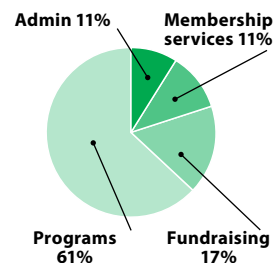
## LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current	2013	2012
Bank indebtedness	-	649
Accounts payable	63,233	86,214
	<b>63,233</b>	<b>86,863</b>

NET ASSETS	724,951	745,386
	<b>788,184</b>	<b>832,249</b>

## 2012-2013 Program costs

This year we continued to keep our operations efficient, in order to dedicate every cent we can directly to our campaign work. We are always looking for new ways to keep our administrative and fundraising costs down, and your support continues to motivate us to find ways to do more with less.



# Auditors' Report

for the year ended 30 April 2013

To the Members of Western Canada Wilderness Committee

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Western Canada Wilderness Committee, which comprise the statements of financial position as at April 30, 2013, April 30, 2012 and May 1, 2011, and the statements of operations, changes in net assets and cash flows for the years ended April 30, 2013 and April 30, 2012, and 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 Accounting Standards for Not-for-Profit Organizations, 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 auditor's 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 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, 2013, April 30, 2012 and May 1, 2011, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the years ended April 30, 2013 and April 30, 2012 in accordance with Canadian Accounting Standards for Not-for-Profit Organizations.

DALE MATHESON CARR-HILTON LABONTE LLP CHARTERED  
ACCOUNTANTS  
Vancouver, BC  
September 17, 2013



Wilderness Committee staff at Roberts Creek, BC 2013

## 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](http://WildernessCommittee.org/join)

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COMMITTEE

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