



Annual Report

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2003



WESTERN CANADA
**WILDERNESS
COMMITTEE**



Executive Director's Message

Earlier this year I was asked to give a talk to another organization on why the Wilderness Committee has been successful, especially this past year when so many nonprofits saw their budgets radically reduced or disappeared altogether.

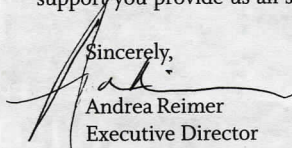
It seems like a hard question. As I'm constantly reminded, we follow no established theory on organizing or fundraising yet we are consistently growing our successes. But the answer is a simple one. We believe that the foundation of citizenship is the ability, the duty and the right to act in the public interest. This year 25,000 members just like you have heeded the call to protect Canada's threatened wilderness and wildlife.

That support has helped achieve some important wilderness protection milestones: ongoing deferral of industrial development in 27 pristine and well-loved wilderness areas like the Elaho Valley in BC and the Manigotagan River Park Reserve in Manitoba. Plans to build a precedent-setting logging road through BC's Manning Provincial Park were abandoned by the company. Logging was stopped in 72 cutblocks in critically endangered spotted owl habitat. Increased market pressure on fish farmers is turning the tide. And in Alberta we've stopped power plants, sour gas developments and logging roads.

Sadly, there were some losses this year too. John Clarke, famed mountaineer and passionate wilderness advocate, passed away after a long illness and Pradeep Sankhala the head of our partner group, Tiger Trust India, lost his life in a tragic car accident. We miss them both and take comfort in knowing others have risen to carry on the work they began.

On behalf of our board, staff and volunteers I'd like to thank you for the inspiration and support you provide us all so that when we speak it is truly with the power of 25,000 voices.

Sincerely,



Andrea Reimer
Executive Director

BOARD of DIRECTORS

Chair

Mike Gildersleeve

Secretary Treasurer

Alice Eaton

Membership Secretary

Bob Broughton

Directors at Large

Kevin Bell

Gabriella Friesen

Ian Mackenzie

Annette Tanner

Paul Morgan

Executive Appointees

Joe Foy

Matt Jong, CMA



Campaign Director's Report

When I speak at public events, I find myself talking about the power of working with the Wilderness Committee's 25,000 members to achieve protection for Canada's wild places and creatures. It's true that the collective actions of our supporters are key to the many successful preservation campaigns that we've undertaken since forming in 1980.

But sometimes I think we overlook the awesome power of individual action. There is a time in every campaign, where the action of a lone individual can tip the balance in favour of preservation. It may be a biologist, who bone-tired after a tough day, summons enough energy to crawl out of the tent for one more midnight survey, only to discover an elusive endangered species. Or, maybe it's a lawyer, with a life already filled to the brim, who takes the time to phone with that campaign winning legal tip. Or maybe it's a government employee, who in the wee hours of the morning comes to a decision to blow the whistle on a wilderness wrecking government plan – even though it may mean losing his job.

Sometimes it's a shy person, who stands up to make the most important speech of their life. Or, maybe it's the donation that comes in the mail in the nick of time. Or, it could be the letter an elected official receives that finally leads them to vote with mother nature.

It has been said that we enter this world alone and we leave it alone. I believe we make our most important decisions and take our most effective actions alone as well. When you are reading this annual report take a moment to think of all of the thousands of individual decisions and actions – including yours – that have made this past year's wilderness saving projects possible.

Sincerely

Joe Foy

National Campaign Coordinator

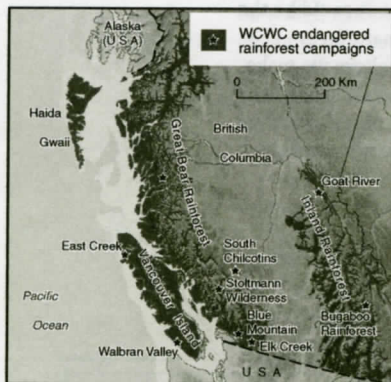
OUR KEY WORK

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Temperate Rainforests

CAMPAIGNS

Blue Mountain
Bugaboo Rainforest
Cedar is Sacred
East Creek
East Vancouver Island
Elk Creek
Goat River
Great Bear Rainforest
South Chilcotin Mountains Park
Stoltmann Wilderness
Stop Raw Log Exports
Walbran Valley



The Wilderness Committee was born on the West Coast back in 1980. In those early days the very first wilderness preservation campaigns we tackled — and helped to win — seemed to always find us bushwhacking through coastal rainforests tangled with salmonberry and devil's club interspersed with huge redcedars, Douglas-firs and Sitka spruce...not to mention a maze of provincial laws that gave precedence to the logging companies over every big tree in coastal BC.

With determination we fought our way through the bushes and lopsided laws to catalyze enough citizen action to create some of BC's most beloved wilderness parks. But our work continues. Currently only 13 percent of BC is protected and a disproportionate area of protected wild lands are high elevation, and low biodiversity, mountain tops and glaciers. Conservation biologists tell us we need to adequately represent all ecosystems and protect fully 40 percent of BC in an interconnected protected area system, if we want our wild spaces to fully conserve biodiversity for the benefit of our communities now and in the future.

This campaign year started off in spring 2002 with a protest of TimberWest, the largest exporter of raw logs in BC. Incredibly, while front page headlines dominate national papers about the number of unemployed

mill workers in BC, raw log exports to foreign mills are at an all-time high. **Stopping the export of raw logs** is critical if BC is ever to reduce the rate of logging while still maintaining, or even increasing, employment. Another disturbing trend is the **high-grading of oldgrowth redcedar**, whereby logging companies are building roads deep into coastal valleys simply to take out the oldest and most valuable trees. These trees are not only the cornerstone of coastal ecology, they are the foundation of coastal First Nations' culture. Research we conducted during the 2002-03 year shows how oldgrowth western redcedar could be commercially extinct within the century, if government policies allowing high-grading don't change.

The need to defend BC's existing protected areas took on more urgency when we discovered that another logging company, International Forest Products (Interfor), had plans to **build a logging road through Manning Provincial Park!** By July we had set up a 24-7 information picket in front of the park to collect signatures on a petition. Three weeks later Interfor bowed to public pressure and abandoned their plans. Our ongoing work to ensure that the 72,000 hectare **South Chilcotin Mountains Park** remains intact ramped up this year. In addition to our broad scale public education campaigns we opened a summer information kiosk near Whistler



to collect thousands of signatures calling for the park to remain intact. Through fall and winter we initiated a series of “Santa Brigade” pickets, targeting mining giant Teck Cominco and the BC Mining Association, both of whom have lobbied for the park to be opened up to mining. With the help of local volunteers we staged information pickets in support of protecting **Blue Mountain** adjacent to Golden Ears Provincial Park, and held a well-attended first annual Hot Chocolate Drink-in on New Year’s Day at the park.

Protecting ecologically significant areas remained a key focus too. The southern half of the **Stoltmann Wilderness** remained off-limits to logging allowing a crew of volunteers to conduct a week-long trail maintenance project on the **Elaho** to Meager Creek trail and we supported the Squamish Nation in their **Sims Valley** Guardian project. Working with the Raincoast Conservation Society, we conducted research on the feasibility of establishing an innovative new form of protected area — a **salmon sanctuary** — in the **Great Bear Rainforest’s** Ecstall Valley. In spring of 2003 we were back in the **Elk Creek Rainforest** near Chilliwack, conducting several expeditions to measure the tall trees and we conducted numerous expeditions into **oldgrowth spotted owl habitat** in the Lower Mainland.

On Vancouver Island, our **Victoria Chapter** kicked-off the first-ever **Walbran Valley Big Tree Derby** inviting people to help locate the biggest of the Walbran’s giant trees. Media attention and increased public support for preservation of the Walbran led to Weyerhaeuser’s announcement that they were suspending logging operations in the valley for several months. TimberWest, however, continued logging in their tenure in the valley, so we mounted protests in front of their Vancouver offices. Our Victoria Chapter also sounded the alarm about a logging road being built into the pristine **East Creek Valley** on northwest Vancouver Island. Meanwhile, our **Mid-Island Chapter** continued their work to protect pocket wilderness remaining on the East Coast of Vancouver Island after decades of over-logging and urban development.

Our work to protect BC’s globally unique **inland rainforest** expanded in 2002-03 with an expedition into the **Goat River Valley**, southeast of Prince George. The proposed **Bugaboo Rainforest National Park** pushed forward with the production of a research report and another expedition with our allies and local **West Kootenay Chapter** into the vast wilderness near Glacier National Park.

2002-2003 STAFF

Gwen Barlee
Joe Foy
Dwight Milford
Andy Miller
Chris Player
Andrea Reimer
Ken Wu

SPECIAL THANKS

Marilyn Burgoon
Annette Tanner
and the countless groups & individuals
working to protect their local rainforest





Boreal Forests

CAMPAIGNS

Big Horn Wilderness Area
Bow Valley Corridor
East Shore Wilderness Area
Manitogotagan River
South Atikaki
Stop Logging in Parks

The boreal forest is Canada's largest terrestrial ecosystem, covering about one-third of the nation or 3.9 million square kilometres. It is also our least understood ecosystem: most Canadians are surprised to learn that even our "prairie" provinces have boreal forests carpeting more than half their land base! But without an outcry of citizen concern, they may not be forested for much longer. First Alberta, then Manitoba and now Saskatchewan are carving up and auctioning off their boreal forests at an alarming rate.

Recognizing the threat to Alberta's vast northern forests, the Wilderness Committee opened up our **Alberta Branch** in the winter of 1992 under the leadership of Gray Jones. It's been a hard fight as the province

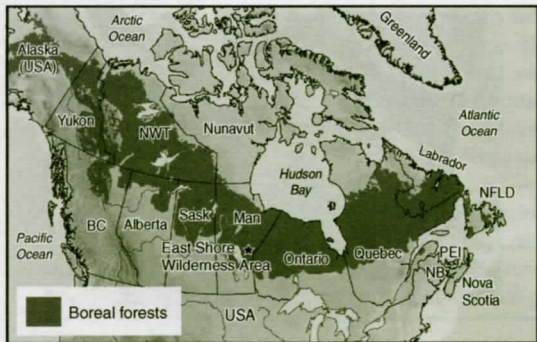
faces the dual threats of industrial forestry and oil and gas development: 96% of the province's forests are in "Forest Management Areas" (FMAs) and seismic lines, roads, pipeline right of ways, and petro-installations have fragmented and destroyed over 25% of Alberta's wilderness. This destruction is accelerating as fossil fuel prices spiral upwards. Ironically the boreal forest

plays a critical role in helping to stabilize Earth's climate.

Thanks to the tenacity of the hardy folks at our Alberta office, and the dedicated efforts of other groups and individuals, this link to the oil and gas industry has drawn the attention of the international scientific and environment community and small and large victories for wilderness and wildlife have been increasing over the years.

In the 2002-03 project year our work in Alberta centred on five main projects:

- Protecting the **Big Horn Wilderness** east of Red Deer. A major step forward was taken when, working with local residents, an agreement was reached to build no new roads;
- Stopping new **Sour Gas Developments** in the Moose Hills;
- Increasing our public education efforts on Alberta's threatened **grizzly bears** and the impact the ongoing hunt has on their dwindling population
- Stopping the **Rossdale Power Project** in Edmonton's river valley
- Our **Canmore Office** continued to educate local residents about the need to protect the **Bow Valley Wildlife Corridor** from development.





In 1999 we expanded our boreal forest work to include Manitoba with the opening of an office in downtown Winnipeg. Initially focused on stopping logging in provincial parks, our **Manitoba Office** has expanded its efforts to include protecting species at risk, new park creation, and protecting the East Shore Wilderness Area.

Defending the wildlands of the **East Shore Wilderness Area** on the east side of Lake Winnipeg has been a major focus in 2002-03. The East Shore Wilderness is part of the largest intact section of boreal forest remaining on the planet. The provincial government, eyeing the area for industrial development, recently established the province's first large scale land use planning initiative — the East Side Planning Initiative. We were actively involved in a successful effort that ensured “maintaining the ecological integrity” became a fundamental principle of the Planning Initiative. Through our public education efforts, production and distribution of 70,000 copies of the *East Shore Wilderness Area Report*, and participation in the Planning Initiative, the Wilderness Committee is pushing for large interconnected areas, cultural heritage sites, fully protected parks, wildlife reserves, sustainable economies, and conservation restrictions on how industry is allowed to proceed in unprotected areas.

But in Manitoba, creating a park is not an end in itself. Some provincial parks are also home to extensive clearcut logging operations. The threatened **woodland caribou** has already been wiped out of **Whiteshell and Duck Mountain Provincial Parks**, largely by human disturbances such as clearcut logging. The **Nopiming Provincial Park** herd could be next, if the logging is not halted immediately. Shockingly, over 50% of the total area of these parks is available for clearcutting. The Wilderness Committee continues to be at the forefront of efforts to **stop logging in Manitoba's parks**, which also extends to a public education campaign that this year convinced the Manitoba government to triple the **Manigotagan River Park Reserve**.

We also helped create new parks: we were instrumental in the establishment of **South Atikaki Provincial Park**...but work continued to ensure appropriate regulations are put in place to protect the new park from industrial operations.

The Manitoba Office also proudly boasts a colourful and knowledgeable door-to-door canvass team (photo right) who are responsible for inspiring thousands of Manitobans every year.

2002-2003 STAFF

Nick Chamchuk
William Granger
Gray Jones
Larry Phillips
Ron Thiessen
Nathan Zahn

SPECIAL THANKS

Susan Christianson
Chris Molnar
Dave Nickarz
Phil Rhem
Steve Zylstra





Canada's Species at Risk

CAMPAIGNS

Grizzly Bear
Mountain Caribou
Northern Spotted Owl
Pacific Salmon
Species at Risk Act
Woodland Caribou

For over 20 years the Wilderness Committee has worked with our members to protect wilderness — the forests, meadows, streams and rivers that make Canada the envy of the world. In helping to protect millions of hectares of wilderness from clearcuts, highway construction, open pit mines, landfills and pollution, we have also saved the habitat of species who rely on these areas for their very survival — a salmon without a wild river or a mountain caribou without an oldgrowth forest are simply destined to disappear.

Perhaps nowhere is the link between habitat and endangered species more pronounced than the plight of the **northern spotted owl**. Due to ongoing logging of its oldgrowth habitat, scientists estimate that this dark-eyed owl will become extinct in Canada within the next five years. The fight to save the spotted owl, identified by the federal government as being the most endangered species in Canada, has been a flagship campaign for the Wilderness Committee. In 2002-03 we:

- took the BC provincial government to court for allowing logging in critical spotted owl habitat;

- released a ground-breaking report, with Sierra Legal Defense Fund and Forest Watch of BC, titled, "*Logging to Extinction – The Last Stand of the Spotted Owl in Canada*," which, for the first time, clearly linked logging with the potential extinction of a forest dependent species in Canada;
- received **extensive international and national media attention** upon release of the report, resulting in news coverage across Canada, the United States and Europe;
- **stopped the logging of over 450,000 cubic meters of timber in spotted owl habitat** after identifying International Forest Products and Canadian Forest Products as two of the largest loggers of owl habitat. Both companies agreed after meetings with the Wilderness Committee to a temporary moratorium on logging in spotted owl areas;
- and we traveled to Ottawa to make a **formal presentation to the Senate's Standing Committee on the Environment**, highlighting the plight of the spotted owl and the immediate need for a strengthened Species at Risk Act.





Although the spotted owl was a preeminent issue in our species at risk campaign over the last twelve months, the Wilderness Committee was also engaged in active public education campaigns to **end the grizzly hunt** in British Columbia and Alberta including giving school talks, organizing rallies and responding to media enquiries. Our work to save the critical habitat of the dwindling populations of **mountain caribou** in BC's inland temperate rainforest continued through expeditions and research. We intensified our work to protect **Pacific wild salmon** populations by protecting wild rivers and

oceans from open netcage fish farms, industrial development and pollution (please see pg 10).

In Manitoba, the Wilderness Committee was spearheading efforts to protect the province's fragile East Shore Wilderness Area, one of the largest intact and roadless areas of boreal forest left on the planet. This vast wilderness on the east side of Lake Winnipeg provides important habitat for Manitoba's threatened **woodland caribou** populations. Activities included production and distribution of an educational report, ongoing research, expeditions, local community outreach, events, participation in the East Side Planning Initiative and increased media coverage. This government sponsored land use planning process had yet to establish that protection of woodland caribou should be a key objective of the Planning Initiative but with public support for the protection of caribou habitat on the rise, our Manitoba office is optimistic their ongoing efforts in this area will ultimately be successful in protecting a world class refuge for woodland caribou.

2002-2003 STAFF

Gwen Barlee
Nick Chamchuk
Nik Cuff
Joe Foy
Gray Jones
Andrea Reimer
Ron Thiessen



SPECIAL THANKS

ForestEthics
Forest Watch of BC
Andy Miller
Chris Molnar
Sierra Legal Defence Fund



Pacific Marine Ecosystem

The Pacific Coast of Canada is a natural wonder – humpback whales, orcas, sea otters and five species of salmon are just part of the rich array of wildlife that populate the rugged coast of British Columbia. For over 20 years, the Wilderness Committee has worked to safeguard this fragile marine ecosystem. But government policies put the Pacific Ocean increasingly under threat from pollution, over-fishing and the spectre of oil and gas development.

This past year we focused on two key threats affecting the Pacific Coast: **oil and gas development** and **ecologically devastating open net-cage fish farms.**

The collapse of seven genetically

unique wild salmon runs in the Broughton archipelago, due to lethal sea lice infestations from fish farms, was a prominent issue in British Columbia this year. Continuing our eight-year campaign against fish farms, the Wilderness Committee was active in educating the public about the ecological threats of open net-cage fish farms. Over the year we organized numerous information rallies, encouraged restaurants to “go wild,” supported First Nations opposing fish farms in their territories, and produced a publication: *Wild Fish Need Wild Rivers and Oceans*, in collaboration with the Union of BC Indian Chiefs.

Our hard work continued with the BC provincial government publicly pushing for **oil and gas exploration in the Hectate Strait**, an area renowned for its high earthquake potential and delicate marine ecosystems. Our Victoria office was active in educating the public about the perils of oil and gas development by organizing two public information forums, initiating a letter-writing campaign and participating in several media panels on the issue. The need to prevent a “tragedy of the commons” on the BC coast serves to reinforce the Wilderness Committee’s commitment to establishing a network of **marine protected areas**, where ecologically sensitive areas are given full protection.



CAMPAIGNS

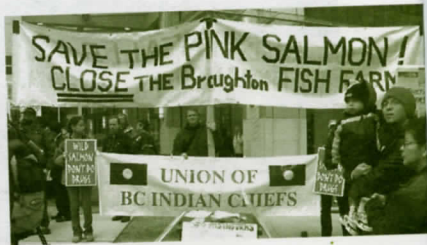
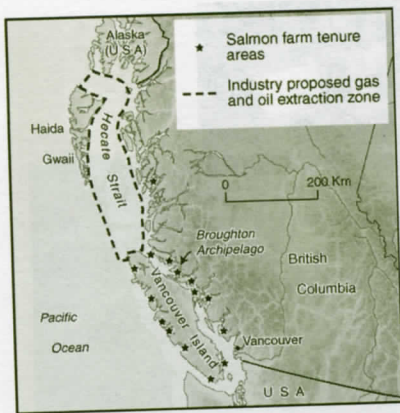
Fish Farm Moratorium
Stop Offshore Oil and Gas Drilling

2002-2003 STAFF

Gwen Barlee
Joe Foy
Andrea Reimer
Ken Wu

SPECIAL THANKS

Greg Heltén
Union of BC Indian Chiefs



Raising the Bar on Public Policy

The true test of a democracy is whether the public has the right to know and the right to say no to changes to public policy that they feel may adversely affect quality of life. Whether educating the public about the dangers of BC's **proposed Working Forest legislation**, defending Western Canada's **provincial parks**, or calling for **oil and gas development in Alberta to meet higher standards**, the Wilderness Committee is at the forefront — shining light on regressive public policy directions.

Some highlights of our policy work in 2002-03:

- presentations to the Recreation Stewardship Panel on the importance of keeping BC's parks public and protected;
- submissions on BC's new, environmentally regressive "results-based" Forest Practices Code;
- presentation on the need for effective endangered species legislation to Senate's Standing Committee on the Environment;
- presentations to the



Manitoba government regarding the Manigotagan River and participation in the East Side Planning Initiative;

- meetings with provincial cabinet ministers in Manitoba, Alberta and BC regarding the need for improved environmental protection and proper funding for existing regulations;
- participation in Rossdale Power Plant hearings resulted in the successful halt of this project and its negative impact on Edmonton's river valley.

In addition we also mounted intensive public education campaigns to **keep public lands in public hands**. We allied with the Council of Canadians, around BC's proposed "**Working Forest Initiative**" — an initiative that would facilitate the privatization of crown forestlands — producing 100,000 copies of a popular newspaper, conducting countless rallies and running province-wide radio ads. Our parks defence campaign ramped up when the BC government threatened to put a **logging road through Manning Provincial Park**. Production of a video, newspaper and kiosks catalyzed citizen action and the company proposing the road withdrew. Campaigns to **stop ongoing logging in Manitoba's provincial parks** continued (more info on pg 6).



CAMPAIGNS

Alberta Clean Air Coalition
Provincial Parks Defence
Species at Risk Act
Stop the Working Forest Initiative

2002-2003 STAFF

Gwen Barlee
Joe Foy
Gray Jones
Dwight Milford
Andy Miller
Larry Phillips
Andrea Reimer
Ron Thiessen
Ken Wu
and countless volunteers



Public Education

2002-2003 STAFF

Gwen Barlee
Nick Chamchuk
Kathryn Colby
Lucy Flood
Sue Fox
Joe Foy
William Granger
Gray Jones
Kalia Kramer
Dennis McCrossan
Greg McIntyre
Lisa Mitchell
Scott Nelson
Paula Neuman
Larry Phillips
Chris Player
Andrea Reimer
Heidi Sherwood
Ron Thiessen
Steve Tindley
Alexandra Woodsworth
Anton van Walraven
Diana Vander Veen
Ken Wu
Nathan Zahn
and countless volunteers

When the Wilderness Committee was founded in 1980 there was little information available to the public on local wilderness and wildlife issues. We focused on our mission to conduct research and distribute information about threatened Canadian wilderness and wildlife in order to build grassroots and broad public support for preservation. We dreamed we would become a leader in public education campaigns and, through mobilizing citizen support, play a pivotal role in preserving our country's remarkable heritage. 24 years later we have achieved that dream, reaching out to five million people per year through **door-to-door canvass**, educational materials such as **newspapers, calendars and videos**, holding **rallies and events**, conducting **school talks**, maintaining **outreach centres** in four Canadian cities, our **web sites**, and through consistent local, national and international **media coverage**. These actions, with the actions of other committed individuals and groups, have helped to save millions of hectares of Canadian wilderness. Projects in 2002-03 included:

EDUCATIONAL REPORTS

BC Endangered Forests
East Shore Wilderness
Elk Creek
Help Save BC's Parks and Wildlife
Manitogagan River (postcard)
Saving the Spotted Owl (postcard)
South Chilcotin Mountain Park (postcard)
Stop the Working Forest
Wild Fish need Wild Rivers & Oceans

BOOKS

Last Voyage of the Black Ship
Bear Smart

INFORMATION KIOSKS

Blue Mountain, Manning Provincial Park
South Chilcotin Mountains Park

MULTI-MEDIA

Radio Ads

Sea to Sky Corridor (various issues)
Working Forest Campaign

Videos

Save Elk Creek, Blue Mountain,
Working Forest, Boycott Farmed
Salmon, The Grinch who Stole South
Chilcotins Park, Defend the Upper
Walbran Valley, Day of Action for
Endangered Species, Spotted Owl,
Manning Park under Attack

Web Sites

Main site redesign
bcfacts.org
saveourparks.ca
workingforest.org

EVENTS & RALLIES

British Columbia (104)
Alberta & Manitoba (19)

SPECIAL EVENTS

Paul George - The Roast
Black Ship Book Launch
(in conjunction with the Museum of Anthropology)

DOOR to DOOR CANVASS

Year Round

Edmonton, Winnipeg
Vancouver/Lower Mainland, Victoria

Seasonal

Whistler, Bowen Island, Sunshine
Coast, Salt Spring Island, Southern
Gulf Islands, Courtenay, Comox,
Jasper and Kelowna.



Research

Research is the backbone of the Wilderness Committee's work and we are proud of our ongoing achievements in this area. Some highlights include establishing the world's first **upper-canopy, temperate rainforest research station**. Research at our station led scientists to revise the number of insect species existing in Canada from approximately 33,000 to 66,000. We also use **mapping** extensively as part of our *Conservation Vision* project aimed at mapping all of the remaining tracts of wilderness in Western Canada. Our mapping work in the mid-1990s was instrumental in debunking the myth that preserving 12 percent of the land base would be adequate for saving biodiversity in British Columbia and pushed for 40 percent preservation. This position has since been adopted by many major environment groups working in the province. We also conduct scientific research in conjunction with other groups and institutions. This project year our research included a ground-breaking report which, for the first time, clearly linked the demise of BC's spotted owl to logging of its oldgrowth habitat.

MAPS

Area Projects

Bugaboo Inland Rainforest
East Shore Wilderness
Ecstall River
Elaho – Meager Trail Guide update
Elk Creek Rainforest
Salmon Farm Tenures in BC
Spotted Owl Habitat
North Coast Vision Mapping
South Chilcotin Mountains Park /
Rainshadow Wilderness

Ongoing Capacity

BC conservation vision mapping
Data research and collection

EXPEDITIONS

Temperate Rainforest

Anderson Creek
Blue Mountain
Bugaboo Inland Rainforest
Clear Creek
Elaho – Meager Trail maintenance
Elk Creek Rainforest
Goat River
Spotted Owl Surveys

Boreal Forest

Bird's Hill Provincial Park
Grand Beach Provincial Park
Mantagoo Wildlife Management Area
Manigotagan River Park Reserve
Riding Mountain National Park
Whiteshell Provincial Park

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Bugaboo Rainforest
Cedar high-grading on BC's coast
Salmon sanctuary proposal (Ecstall)

RESEARCH REPORTS

Logging to Extinction — Status of
Canada's Spotted Owl

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Parks Database

A volunteer project to compile data on municipal,
regional, provincial and national parks across Canada.

Vancouver Resource Centre

A volunteer project to allow our twenty three years of
accumulated resource files — books, reports, files, maps,
slides, media clippings and videos — are easily
accessible by the public and media.

Walbran Big Tree Derby

Please see page 5 for more information.

2002-2003 STAFF

Gwen Barlee
Joe Foy
Gray Jones
Larry Phillips
Chris Player
Andrea Reimer
Ron Thiessen
Anton van Walraven
Jeremy Williams
Ken Wu

SPECIAL THANKS

Ralf Kellman
Andy Miller
Dave Nickarz
Phil Rhem
Anette Tanner
Steve Zylstra

Financial Statement *for the year ending April 30, 2003*

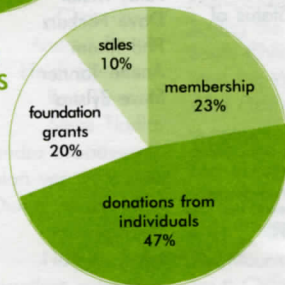
2002-2003 STAFF

Mona Lisa Amirsetia
Deb Drouin
Matt Jong, CMA



As was the case with many non-profits, 2002-03 revenues from grants were down. This was partially offset by increased membership revenue.

2001-02 REVENUES



| REVENUES | 2003 | 2002 |
|-----------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Membership dues | 408,262 | 348,716 |
| Donations | 635,132 | 663,218 |
| Grant Revenue | 215,973 | 312,514 |
| Sales of ed. material | 168,200 | 157,898 |
| Unreceipted donations | 54,647 | 59,008 |
| | 1,482,214 | 1,541,354 |

| EXPENDITURES | 2003 | 2002 |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| Campaign, member & grant project costs | 878,140 | 1,076,646 |
| Sales costs | 152,734 | 167,854 |
| Canvass costs | 270,612 | 199,826 |
| Administration costs | 170,614 | 136,802 |
| Amortization | 14,709 | 30,913 |
| Interest to Finance Assets | 6,295 | 7,104 |
| | 1,493,104 | 1,619,145 |

| | | |
|------------------------------------|----------|----------|
| Net Income (loss) for the year | (10,890) | (77,791) |
| Members' equity, beginning of year | 312,889 | 390,680 |
| Members' equity, end of year | 301,999 | 312,889 |

| ASSETS | 2003 | 2002 |
|-----------------------|---------|---------|
| Current | | |
| Cash and equivalent | 137,138 | 181,251 |
| Accounts receivable | 23,357 | 26,778 |
| Inventory | 250,026 | 244,813 |
| Prepaid expenses | 5,903 | 4,936 |
| | 416,424 | 457,778 |
| Capital assets | 177,971 | 191,728 |
| | 594,395 | 649,506 |

LIABILITIES AND MEMBERS' EQUITY

| | | |
|--|---------|---------|
| Current | | |
| Bank Indebtedness | 32,818 | 37,306 |
| Accounts payable & accrued liabilities | 96,874 | 112,227 |
| Notes payable to related parties | 81,008 | 97,381 |
| Current portion of long-term loans payable | 1,054 | 6,767 |
| Current portion of mortgage payable | 3,565 | 1,700 |
| | 215,319 | 255,381 |
| Long-term loans payable | — | 615 |
| Mortgage payable | 77,077 | 80,621 |
| Net Assets | 301,999 | 312,899 |
| | 594,395 | 649,506 |

Auditor's Report *for the year ending April 30, 2003*

*To the members of
Western Canada Wilderness Committee,*

We have audited the statements of financial position of Western Canada Wilderness Committee (the "Committee") as at April 30, 2003 and 2002 and the statements of operations and changes in net assets and cash flows for the years then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Committee's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

Except as explained in the following paragraph, we conducted our audits in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financials statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In common with many charitable organizations, the Committee derives revenue from unreceipted donations,

the completeness of which is not susceptible to satisfactory audit verification. Accordingly, our verification of these revenues was limited to the amounts recorded in the records of the Committee and we were not able to determine whether any adjustments might be necessary to unreceipted donation revenue, net revenue, assets and net assets.

In our opinion, except for the effect of adjustments, if any, which we might have determined to be necessary had we been able to verify the completeness of the unreceipted donations referred to in the preceding paragraph, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Committee as at April 30, 2003 and 2002 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles. As required by the Society Act (British Columbia), we report that, in our opinion, these principles have been applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

Davidson & Company
Chartered Accountants
Vancouver, Canada

July 16, 2003

2002-2003 AUDITOR

Davidson & Company
Chartered Accountants



The Western Canada Wilderness Committee is a charitable society founded in British Columbia in 1980. With over 25,000 members, and 30,000 additional donors and volunteers, we are Canada's largest membership-based, citizen-funded wilderness protection group.

We are united in our mission to protect Canada's biodiversity through strategic research projects and grassroots public education. We value wilderness as absolutely vital to the health of people and communities.

Join us. Your \$30 membership fee makes a world of difference.

Front cover: Elk Creek Rainforest, Jeremy Sean Williams.

Back cover: Northern spotted owl, C. Swift/First Light.

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