



Craighead Institute Annual Report 2013



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2013 was a year of highs and lows; for almost everyone including the Craighead Institute. Some highlights include the publication of our conservation planning book, the Wrangell Bear Symposium, collaborations with our sustainable land use partners, and April's pika research. These projects have all been instrumental in the growth and success of Craighead Institute in the past year.

The Bear Research and Conservation Symposium in Wrangell, Alaska was part of the annual BearFest Celebration which was quite successful. A highlight of the talks was John Ward, spokesman for the Taku River Tlingit, who talked about the importance of bears and bear habitat to his people, and their successful efforts to guide conservation and development efforts in their traditional territory. So far they have successfully blocked the construction of a 100-mile road through the middle of their lands to service a mine on the Taku River. John made



important contacts with the Stikine River Tlingit in Wrangell and they plan to bring him back to help figure out what they can do about the monstrous mining efforts being planned upstream from Wrangell in British Columbia. All the conference participants got to spend a day observing black and brown bears at the Anan Creek Wildlife Observatory. We encountered this family on the boardwalk on our way back to the boat.

Our conservation planning book is gradually getting more recognition. We have distributed copies to resource professionals, university professors, and conservationists throughout the United States and overseas. As of July about 300 copies had been sold: the Craighead Institute receives a 15% royalty on all book sales. It will be used in several college courses this fall so we expect sales to increase. Colleagues have helped us donate copies in developing countries where we hope to convene workshops in the future. With the book as a basis, we continue to refine existing analysis tools, develop new tools, and work more closely with landowners, land trusts, land and wildlife management agencies, conservation organizations, developers, and county governments.



To further promote sustainable land use we have been active in several collaborative efforts with diverse stakeholders. We are working with *The High Divide Collaborative, Reshaping Development Patterns in Madison Valley*, the *Madison Headwaters Abandoned Mines Project*, *Montanans for Safe Wildlife Passages*, the *Gravelley Range Working Group*, and the *Madison Valley Highway Working Group*. We completed projects with the *MSTI Review Project*, the *Morongo Basin Alternative Futures Project*, and the *Montana Critical Areas Planning System Connectivity Analysis*.



The pika ecology project was smoked out of the Emerald Lake study area where Chris Ray has worked for over 20 years. Fire danger to the south prompted the U.S. Forest Service to close down all access during late August. The pika study team concentrated on Gallatin Canyon instead this year and trapped several pikas in that area including a rare black pika. These pika colonies are especially interesting because they live at much lower elevations than most, and often on warm slopes exposed to bright sunlight. Perhaps they are better adapted to warmer temperatures than other

populations. The pika genetics project and the citizen science pika distribution inventory were very successful and contributed to our understanding of pikas and will help to address the problems of climate change.

It was an extremely busy year. We spent even more time than usual trying to raise funds, with less success. Foundations are changing their priorities, often hoping for more immediate rewards. The work we do establishing the basis for sound conservation choices, and helping ensure that those choices are made, often takes years to come to fruition. So we are even more dependent upon donations from individuals in order to continue.

We launched several new initiatives as 2013 came to an end. These will be reflected in our 2014 programs. We began discussions with Dr. Robert Inman who agreed to help us develop new strategies to guide our programs in the future. Bob will remain aligned with us as a research associate as he continues his independent work with wolverines. We began new programs in environmental education and conservation support that we hope to grow in the future.

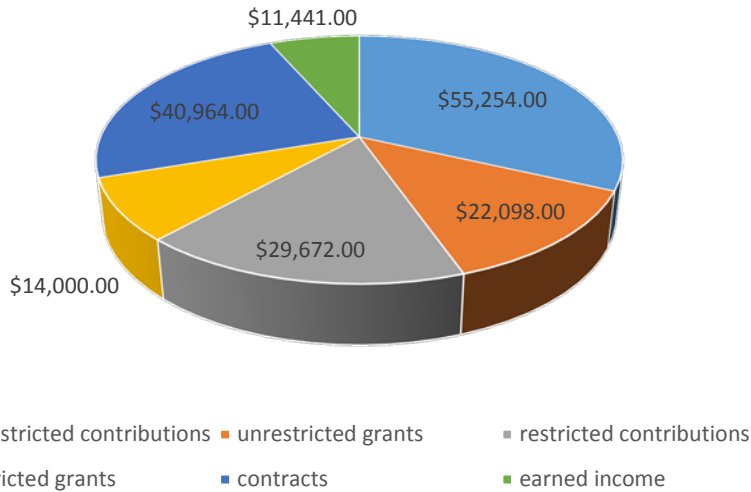
Perhaps as a continuing effect of the recession, support from foundations continued to drop through 2013. Many foundations which had provided support over several years decided not to renew their support. We reached out to dozens of new foundations with letters of inquiry, phone calls, and proposals: the result was invariably the same – “all of our funds are needed to support the grantees that we already have, and we have had to drop our support of some of them”. By the end of 2013 we had exhausted almost all of our small reserve of funds and will reduce the hours for which we are paid (although we still need to work just as much) until things improve.

Funding from grants dropped by \$66,928.00

Our funding from individual donors decreased by \$12,000.00

Our funding from contracts decreased by \$32,209.00

Income 2013. Total Income: \$173,429.00



Expense 2013. Total Expense: \$198,967

