



CRAIGHEAD INSTITUTE
Building Conservation Solutions for People and Wildlife

Craighead Institute Fall E-News



Dear Lance,

In a recent discussion with prospective board members the question was asked, "what does the Craighead Institute do?" It was a rhetorical question because we were trying to come up with a simple tag line to explain ourselves to possible new supporters. After further discussion, and a poor night's sleep, I came up with this: **"Craighead Institute provides the Science behind Conservation"**.

In that regard, it has been a busy summer, and even though the days are getting shorter, the pace does not seem to be slowing down much. By taking a quick glance below, our four program area updates indicate that we have had our hands full 'providing science' that we, and others, will be able to use for conservation:

Program Update... a Word from Lance.

Sustainable Land Use: We have continued working with the Madison County folks on a variety of issues based upon our 'Wild Planner' tools that allow us to evaluate the effects of alternative development scenarios on wildlife and habitat. We began also applying these tools to the desert – in the Morongo Basin near Joshua Tree NP - in a project with Sonoran Institute. Our Conservation Planning book continues to make steady progress – we met with ESRI Press in San Diego in June. We completed the wildlife connectivity modeling work for Montana's Critical Areas Planning System (CAPS). We met with stakeholders in Teton County WY to discuss wildlife modeling for their County Comprehensive Plan.

Renewable Energy: We completed our 'proof-of-concept' analysis of part of the Mountain States Transmission Intertie (MSTI) project. We evaluated the effects on wildlife and habitat that would be caused by several alternative transmission line routes. We are now evaluating alternatives along the entire route with an independent analysis that uses the best available science and expertise to identify transmission corridors that minimize the

Upcoming Fall Events

Madison Valley Community BBQ
Vigilante Creek Pub at the Bend
Friday, September 16
6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Join us for a special evening in the Madison Valley! Meet the Craighead Institute board and staff, visit with friends from the region, and learn about our work in the Madison Valley. \$20 suggested donation for dinner, drinks, and raffle! For more information or to RSVP, call 406-585-8705...or email us at info@craigheadinstitute.org.

[RSVP today!](#)



Dinner catered by
Reel Food on the Fly

overall impact on wildlife. We are part of a team including Madison County, Western Environmental Law Center, Sonoran Institute, Future West, and Headwaters. We hope to eventually refine the tools to evaluate energy production sites: wind and solar farms as well as gas and oil facilities.

Transportation: We completed the Bozeman Pass project and gave a final presentation at the 2011 International Conference on Ecology and Transportation [ICOET] conference in Seattle in August. We hope that our demonstration that highways can be made safer for wildlife in many places with simple solutions will be applied in many other areas.

Climate Change: We continued to increase our baseline knowledge of current pika habitat – where pikas are now living. Our ‘citizen science’ approaches have resulted in identifying many new pika locations from the Beartooth highway to the Pacific Crest Trail to the Himalayas. These locations are not new to the pikas – they have been living there for a long time – but they are new to us. No one had ever bothered to record their presence before, but interested hikers found them, and sent us the information. Now with this growing baseline, we can monitor these colonies to see how they fare as the climate changes. We also hope to develop better models to predict pika habitat, and areas that will persist as temperatures increase – perhaps using new Light Detection and Ranging [LiDAR] technology that can determine the size of boulders in the talus.



Over the last couple months, I attended more meetings than usual, lobbied in Washington D.C., went to California (twice) and Alaska, and still found time to enjoy the mountains. Fall is my favorite time of year, especially in the high country. As you read my Dad’s writings below you’ll see that Whitebark Pine was important to him. If you’ve been outdoors in the backcountry in the last few years you’ll know that it has been devastated by blister rust and mountain pine beetles. The loss of so much Whitebark will have cascading effects on wildlife, especially grizzly bears, who are beginning to look for other food sources. The pine beetle epidemic has been intensified by warmer winters and longer summers – a changing climate – and is one of the first signs of widespread ecological changes that will soon follow.

Hoping the best for all of you,
Lance

In the News

New Face on the Web

The Craighead Institute is pleased to announce the unlaunching of their new website. With the new website comes a Craighead Store that now offers Craighead ball caps, plush pika finger puppets, and several Craighead books, and DVD's (proceeds benefit our research), a more user-friendly directory of our past, present, and future projects, short videos, brilliant photos, and podcasts. Please visit www.craigheadinstitute.org to view the new site and be sure to check back regularly as it is updated weekly!

www.craigheadinstitute.org



Suggested Fall Hikes

- Take a scenic drive on the Gravelly Range Road or hike along the Gravelly Range to discover White Bark Pine in the High Divide.
- Emerald Lake Trail
Hiking Distance: 4.74 miles
Elevation Gain: 2355 ft
Difficulty: Moderate



- Republic Creek Trail
Hiking Distance: 5.6 miles
Elevation Gain: 450 ft
Difficulty: Easy to Moderate

April Craighead, Craighead Institute's wildlife biologist, was published in the 2011 September/ October issue of [Bare Essentials](#), an Australian publication that inspires people to explore and experience the wild wonders of this earth. April shares her concerns of the impact of climate change on pika populations. Visit their website to download your free copy of this months magazine. <http://www.bare-essentials.com.au/subscribe-now/> - scroll to the bottom and find the Sept/Oct Issue.



Lance Craighead, Craighead Institute's executive director, was interviewed by Chris Gertschen of Clearing Magazine, an online journal of community-based environmental education. Lance discusses our citizen-science programs, our work in the High Divide, and the future of conservation. To read his interview at length: <http://www.clearingmagazine.org/online/archives/3215>.

Brent Brock, Craighead Institute's landscape ecologist, presented analysis of potential grizzly bear movement areas in the Upper Madison and Upper Henry's Fork to the Henry's Fork Legacy Project in Island Fork, ID in August.

Also in August and drawing on experiences from our conservation work in the Madison Valley, Brent Brock gave a presentation on "selecting focal species for conservation planning" to the stakeholders of the Teton County Comprehensive Planning process - a meeting hosted by the [Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance](#).

Seasons

an excerpt from "For Everything There is a Season"

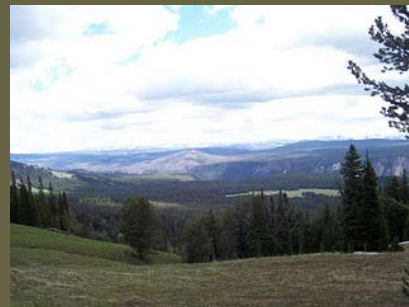
by Frank Lance Craighead

"The resinous cones of the five-needled pines, the whitebark and the limber pine, are now opening, attracting Clark's nutcrackers, Steller's jays, blue grouse, red squirrels, chipmunks, and other wildlife... All are busy gathering, consuming, and storing the maturing seeds that are rich in fat and protein... Black and grizzly bears are attracted to this rich source of food. Bears often get first servings by breaking off green cones and eating them whole, including the sticky resin. Nut crops vary; some years there is a tremendous supply, other years practically none. Pine nuts are thus a rich and a bounteous food source, but not always a dependable one. This is also the case with buffaloberries, huckleberries, and chokecherries. In years when nut and berry crops fail, the grizzlies wander further in their foraging, are lean and hungry, and thus, often more aggressive...

"Within the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, the whitebark pines with their purple cones grow in the spruce-fir formation or subalpine zone... Here, the two-needled, shade-intolerant lodgepole pine is a passing stage toward the climax vegetation. The five-needled pines... (grow) up under and in the shade of

- Antone Peak
Hiking Distance: 5 miles
Elevation Gain: 2200 ft
Difficulty: Strenuous, but short
Great views of the Snowcrest Range.

- Mount Washburn (from Chittenden)
Hiking Distance: 4.5 miles
Elevation Gain: 1491 ft
Difficulty: Moderate
Great panoramic views of the Park.



Don't Forget your Bear Spray!

New Board Members at Craighead Institute

The Craighead Institute welcomes two new members to the Board of Directors: Scott Heglin and Gary Gannon. We are thrilled to have their vision, expertise, and passion for protecting this ecosystem on the Board. Scott joined the Board earlier this year. He is an architect and principal of Architecture118 where he actively collaborates with contractors and builders to provide practical solutions with the greatest value. He graduated from North Dakota State University and moved west shortly thereafter to enjoy the outdoor activities that the region provides. He resides in Bozeman, MT with his wife and daughter and continues to challenge himself on the nation's highest peaks.

Gary is a lifelong entrepreneur, now focused exclusively on helping to solve complex global challenges. He works as International Advisory Board Member of the United Nations Global Compact Cities Programme, is co-founder of Visual Life Web, and Advisor to Gaia Metrics. Gary is working to promote a framework called wealth accounting that values the social, environmental, and economic factors that contribute to sustainable well being.

lodgepole pines.” While lodgepole cones are opened by the heat of fires and the seeds widely disseminated by the wind, the heavy nut-seeds of the five-needled pines are not. “The seeds or ‘pine nuts’ come from unburned islands of timber or from mature trees on the periphery of a burn...(and) are slowly dispersed and some buried, others scattered by the foraging and caching activities of birds, particularly Clark’s nutcrackers.”

Welcome Scott and Gary!



Bear Viewing in YNP



Pika Viewing



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