

Volume 8

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COCHRANE ECOLOGICAL INSTITUTE

Liberty

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REGISTERED CHARITY

OPERATING PERMITS

M.D. of Rocky View Permit: No.
#03-09-67

Zoological Permit: 3661GP



CEI PROGRAMMES
2004/2005

- Ecosystem Restoration
- Endangered Species Reintroduction
- Environmental Impact Assessment,
- Species & Habitat surveys
- Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation
- Education
- Applied Research



Endangered Species Reintroduction:

In 2001, Francis First Charger came to visit us and to propose that we should partner the Blood (Kainai) Tribe in a unique two pronged effort at ecosystem restoration and cultural regeneration., by returning the endangered swift fox back to its homeland on Blood Tribal Lands. Swift fox had been extirpated from Canada since the 1920's, and the Blood tribal lands hold one of the last and largest contiguous stretches of moist mixed grass prairie habitat in Alberta. The swift fox, as it is with so many of the Great Plains peoples, an animal of great cultural and spiritual importance to the Blood (Kainai) Tribe. This was a very exciting proposition to us, particularly as we were already working with the Blackfeet Tribe in Montana, USA, on the

First swift fox reintroduction in the USA. This was particularly important because our newly established small reintroduced swift fox population on Blackfeet land in Montana would be joined to our intended swift fox reintroduction site on Blood Tribal Lands in Alberta, by a protected corridor of classic swift fox habitat running through two national Parks, Glacier national Park in Montana, USA and Waterton National Park in Alberta. The existence of this protected corridor of native habitat joining two reintroduction sites is a First in the history of swift fox reintroduction in North America! Our swift fox reintroduction partnership with the Blood Tribe is unique because for the first time in the history

(Continued on page 2)

Public Education

Blood Tribe Swift Fox, continued



NEW PROJECTS

Delicate baskets, dye stuffs, tools, fishing equipment, bowls, spoons, dishes, mats, fabrics, masks, houses, boxes, canoes, all these things were, and still are, the products of aboriginal knowledge of,

and use of, plant technology. Many of today's aboriginal craftspeople are of the oldest generation and their deep knowledge of the use of our native plants might vanish when they do. One of the intentions of the CEI is to develop a living library of the plants that were once used to make clothes, fishing lines and nets, baskets, and were used to dye patterns in the object that were made by the aboriginal peoples of the western plains and mountains. Many, if not most, of these plants will grow at the CEI, and so we can make a demonstration garden of plants used in aboriginal technology at the CEI Interpretive Centre. The preliminary research for this project has already been initiated. Once completed, the plant garden and library will be used as a demonstration facility for the benefit of First Nations, as well as local artisans and crafts people, schools and researchers. If you are interested in contributing towards this project, or learning more about it, get in touch!

SCHOOL AND GROUP VISITS: HELP NEEDED

The CEI has a vast library of documentary footage of the work we do here...Our school visits in the past, have relied on the school equipment for our slide presentations on swift fox, wildlife rehabilitation, etc. But time moves on, and in this digital world we should move on too...so we are faced with the enormous task of transferring what we already have to DVD...!

of wildlife reintroduction on this continent, the first thing we have done is to consult the spiritual advisors and elders of the Blood (Kainai) Tribe to gain information on Traditional Environmental Knowledge from the First peoples to be familiar with the habitat and requirements of the indigenous species of south-western Alberta.

Our swift fox reintroduction partnership, as well as undertaking an inventory of the existing flora and fauna of Blood tribal lands (also a First) and reintroducing the endangered swift fox, involves a free exchange of knowledge, capacity building and technological exchange with the Blood Tribe and the students and Directors of red crow Community College.

This programme has had its ups and downs, because a junior civil servant of the Department of Indian & Northern Affairs, Canada, INAC, misinterpreted the Indian Act and demanded that we do an Environmental Impact Assessment on the impact of the swift fox on the Oil & Gas Industry. The result of this misinterpretation of the Indian Act was that Environment Canada could not release the allocated funds for the Blood tribe/CEI swift fox reintroduction programme until the mistake was sorted out. Which fortunately, it was, thanks to a Band Council Resolution in support of the programme by the Blood Tribe administration. A particularly unfortunate and costly aspect of the mistaken misinterpretation of the Indian act by the INAC employee was that the programme had to be postponed until the fall of 2004! So we had a year, where we had to maintain Canada's largest, longest established, and only colony of this endangered species, without any funds to do so! Now everything is back on track...which is WONDERFUL, but, as a result of this bureaucratic mistake the

CEI is desperately short of cash!! **HELP NEEDED!**

Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation

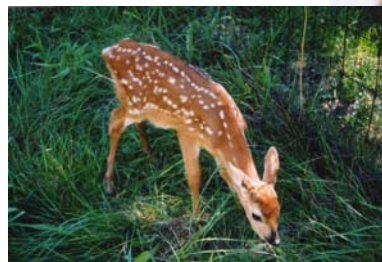


From Bitterns to Prairie dogs, and all the amazing animals in between, the CEI provides a temporary, and sometimes more permanent home.

These Prairie dogs came from

a wildlife rescue facility in Nova Scotia! When we get rescued animals in, either injured or orphaned, they all need to be housed. Often, we need to build the enclosures specifically for them...and, of course, because we never know in advance what is going to be brought in to us,,it is sometimes a real rush to build special facilities for special animals! That is when our VOLUNTEERS are particularly vital to the success of our wildlife reha-

bilitation programme. **We are SO grateful to you all!** Every year we seem to get a great number of one particular species, so the year becomes a "bear year" or a "badger year" this year is definitely a "skunk year"! We have had lots of baby skunks come in and they are delightful creatures. Apart from skunks, we are getting the usual orphaned animals in, to steal our hearts away, and then lope off back home into the woods or prairie where they belong!



Thanks to.....

The Blood (Kainai) Tribe, Environment Canada
Alberta Ecotrust Foundation, THE Estate of Eva Bernice Heuer, Elsa Wild Animal Appeal of Canada, The Southworth Foundation, Grant McEwan Fund for Nature, The Calgary Foundation, The International Wildlife Coalition, USA, T.D. Friends of the Environment, Care for the Wild, UK...to name just a few.....W.M Hnatiuk, Mike & Carol Honey, Yvonne Pearson, Kenneth Robertson, Mrs. P Ford, Sue Hasell, Francis First Charger, Elliot Fox, Paulette Fox, Narcisse Blood, Sharon Bright, the Misses Jones, Natelle Fitzgerald, Pierre Trennet, Ramon Muns Vila, Joan Sobrianas Molist, Noriko Otsuji, Grant Henry, Ruth Kleinbub, Andrew Petit, Maria Fitzmaurice, Dawn Jacobson, Christine Simoens, Kai & Goldie Poulsen, Albert Jones, Elbow Valley School Green Group, Woods Homes, Eric Perrault, Shell Environmental Fund, Telus Hearts at Work, Andrew Johnson, Maria Elisah Hobbolink, George Parry & Westlands Bookshop, Eugenia Burgoyne, Robert Berdan, Halle Flygare,

WHALEFORCE....It is a bit odd to run a whale survey from Alberta, but the CEI has been doing this since 1986! The original goal was to undertake an unbiased survey of the world's cetaceans by get our situation & sighting slips on every international yacht race, and thanks to the now defunct Canadian Airlines, we did manage to do that for several years. Without the help of Canadian Airlines we were unable to get our information packages to the international yacht racing community, but we have continued to obtain information from blue water and coastal yachtsmen/women interested in our programme...so any yachties reading this, please get in touch! [Your participation is valuable!](#)



We cannot do this without you...

Marianne Garlock, Bridged O'Connor, James Flammel, Fred Browne, Donna Blandford, Badger Excavating, B.B.Boonstra, A. Cantley, G.W. Ewert, M. McKenzie, Will Morton, Donna Michie, Al Simpson, T.D. Worrell, E.C. Lyndon, Rory O'Reilly, Isaac Dominick, Mike Fox, Kansie Fox, Paul Paquette. K. van Tighem, Pat & Bill Ireton, Jeanne & Thomas Ferris, Sean & Cher Maw, Elinor Ombrich, the 288 Scout group, Mitsuaki Iwago, CWRS, James Johnstone, Martha Osuago, Doris Smith, Gerry Manyfingers, Gordon Lickkers, Juan ds Sa, Harold Inkskip, John Thistlethwait, Mary Jane Jones, Padiag O'Reilly, Ian McTavish, Frederick Chelmsford, E.G. Smythe, Sarah Simithson, M.O. Robb, Jean Philippe Canet, M.M.Moon, Candace Carnie, Sybille Vargo, Alex Snoddy, D Dodd, Dr.W.M. Anthony, Dr. C.R.Bate and the Kent Veterinary Clinic, Big Hill Veterinary Services,, Andrew Melden, Rosalind Harris, Harriet Gaits,.....there just isn't room in this little newsletter to name everyone,...but with each issue of Liberty, we will continue to thank everyone who has, and is, helping us because we are helpless without you!

SPECIES & HABITAT SURVEYS

When working with a small population of an Endangered species it is vital that nothing is done that might create stress potentially causing unnecessary loss in that population, losses through death, breeding failure, or movement from a suitable habitat to an unsuitable one. For that reason the CEI has focused upon developing non intrusive survey methods. We have developed and proven the use of the non-intrusive hair trap...the fox sees a tunnel, walks through it, gets a bait reward, and walks away, leaving a some of its hair behind. That hair is collected for DNA analysis, and the DNA analysis can identify both the individual and its parentage. There is no contamination of samples, if they are collected correctly. Unlike the old fashioned use of live-traps, the information collected by using the CEI hair-traps, is greater, there is no stress on the animal because it has not been trapped, and hair-traps can be used in all weathers. Live-trapping, no matter how good the traps, causes stress to the trapped animal, cannot be used in very cold weather, and a trapped animal can sometimes spend several hours in the live-trap. Thank You Natural Resources DNA Profiling & Forensic Centre, Dr. Brad White and Cathy Cullingham and the Endangered Species Recovery Fund for working with us on this. It has

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 Peregrine Elliot, Earl of St. Germans
 Catriona & Sonamara Matheson P
CEI IS A MEMBER OF
 IUCN Reintroduction Specialist Group
 National Swift Fox Recovery Team, & US Swift Fox Conservation Team
 Organization of Biological Research stations
 Alberta Wildlife Rehabilitators Association
PUBLIC RECOGNITION OF THE CEI
 Alberta Heritage Award
 Bighorn Award
 Certificate of Merit (Environment Can.)
 Emerald Award for Conservation

Please help us fund any of the following:

- ☆ **The captive breeding for reintroduction of the endangered swift fox for reintroduction**
- ☆ **Planting a native plant identification, edible, dye, and plant technology, plot for educational purposes**
- ☆ ***Whaleforce***
- ☆ **Wildlife rescue and rehabilitation,, release & monitoring, publication of a wildlife rehabilitation handbook.**
- ☆ **CEI Endowment fund**
- ☆ **The collection of new digital recordings and photographs fto improve future educational programmes**

People at the CEI



NEW PROJECTS.....Our work in partnership with the Blood Kainai Tribe in reintroducing the endangered swift fox back onto its historic range on Blood Tribal Lands requires a lot more than just breeding the foxes and releasing them. We need to work to ensure that once released the foxes will thrive in the new site, and requires working on reducing, if possible, potential disease impact. All our swift foxes are inoculated against the common canid diseases, distemper, parvo, etc. but many of the dogs on the Blood land are not, so one **NEW Project**, is to set up a traveling free clinic to provide health checks and prophylactic inoculations for the dogs of the Blood Tribe. Successful Wildlife Rehabilitation doesn't stop when the rescued animal is healthy...the whole point of it is to successfully

return the rescued, treated animal back to its native habitat in the wild. So another of our **NEW projects** is to undertake the research to establish the areas where rehabilitated native species can be successfully returned to the wild, where the habitat is suitable for them, the jurisdiction and people are friendly to the idea, and where the released will not come into conflict with people again. Once this **New project** is completed information will be available for use to all wildlife rehabilitation facilities who care to make use of the service. Of course, all our **NEW Projects** require funding, as do the list of undertakings at the top of the page...so if you think you can help with any of them please get in touch!

[NOTICE; the Alberta Wildlife Rehabilitators Association is having a Conference in October! If you would like to attend contact; sbright@mutiny.ca](mailto:sbright@mutiny.ca)