

VOLUME 7

NOVEMBER, 2003



COCHRANE ECOLOGICAL INSTITUTE

LIBERTY

HOW YOU CAN HELP

-  Help to fund a project
-  Fund a rescued animal \$100.00
-  Become a Member \$50.00
-  Become a Volunteer

BLOOD TRIBE SWIFT FOX REINTRODUCTION UNDER WEIGH



THANK YOU ESRF, IWC, ELSA, CALGARY FOUNDATION, ALBERTA ECOTRUST, GRANT MCEWAN FUND and other individual funders too numerous to mention.

In the summer of 2001, Francis First Charger of the Blood (Kainaiwa) Tribe came to the CEI to see the swift (kit) foxes and to suggest that we work with the Blood Tribe in partnership in a swift fox reintroduction on their Tribal Lands in SW Alberta. It was a wonderful idea, for many reasons. At that time, the Blackfeet-CEI partnership in Montana still had a year to run (2001-August 2002) which meant that we would have a year to plan the project and find the funding for a projected swift fox reintroduction on Blood Tribal lands in

2003. **Alberta EcoTrust** provided seed money for the project, THANKYOU! It meant two potential Canadian Firsts, the **First** partnership in ecosystem restoration between the First Nations (The Blood, (Kainaiwa) Tribe) and an NGO (the CEI) and the **First** projected reintroduction site that would be adjacent to an existing corridor of native prairie joining the proposed new reintroduction site on Blood Lands in Alberta to an existing reintroduction site on Blackfeet lands in Montana, USA. The Blackfeet/CEI partnership has been a very successful one, as the 123 swift foxes reintroduced there have bred and successfully raised their young in the wild (10 new natal dens found in 2002) and a Winter 2002/03 live-trapping survey established that out of the 22 animals captured 18 were born in the wild and the trapping success after 5 years of swift fox reintroduction varied little from that of the Canadian Trapping programme (winter 2000/01) after 14 years of reintroduction! But sadly, lack of funds, had put a stop to further reintroductions on Blackfeet Lands. The projected Blood Tribe swift fox reintroduction would mean that, for the first time ever in the history of swift fox reintroduction, two reintroduced populations on

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WILDLIFE RESCUE & REHABILITATION

(Alberta Wildlife Rehabilitation Association) Centres has worked very well in exchange

THANK YOU TO OUR **MEMBERS** AND THOSE WHO **FUND** OUR RESCUED ANIMALS, WITHOUT YOUR HELP AND MONEY WE COULD NOT RESCUE, REHABILITATE AND RELEASE THESE WILD ANIMALS

This year we have not had as many fawns, but everything else has been coming in as usual! Our partnership with the other AWRA



of information, animals (if one Centre has the facilities and expertise to treat certain species those species are sent to that Centre by the other AWRA Centres), and shared equipment. The AWRA put on a very successful Conference in 2003, and if anyone would like to attend the Conference of 2004, contact AWRA (telephone No. on pg 2)

GRASSTEMPER AND CEI, RUSSIA 2003



The CEI scores a BULLSEYE, actually, Ken really did win the Archery Competition, that's why he got to wear the hat! In 2002 the CEI was

invited by the International Open Country Organization to come to Budapest, Hungary to talk about ecosystem restoration through reintroduction. Unfortunately we couldn't afford to attend but, when they asked us to come again, this time to Galichya Gora Nature Reserve on the river Don in Russia's Heartland, the Canadian government agency, Going Global, contributed towards our costs and we could go! Open Country put on the most interesting Symposium on Grasslands restoration the CEI has ever attended. It was both deeply practical, with working demonstrations of native steppe plant restoration, and extremely wide ranging as presenters came from across Russia, and throughout



Europe, with only the CEI from Canada and Dr. Richard Reading from the USA. The Russians were kind and generous hosts. They want the CEI to host the 3rd Open Country Symposium (GrassTemper) here, so we are asking volunteer help from all Russian language speakers! Conferences are a vital part of ecosystem restoration as they provide for the much needed free exchange of ideas, and provide a variety of perspectives on the international problem of the degradation of grassland ecosystems !

WILDLIFE RESCUE & REHABILITATION (CON'T)

If you find injured or orphaned animals, want to volunteer with us, support us through memberships or donations, or come to our conferences in 2004. **Here are the AWRA Centre Numbers**, in **Edmonton: WRS (780) 914-4118** or **Kestrel Care(780) 464-5445**, **Red**



Deer area MRWC (403) 728-3467,

Calgary area CEI (403) 932-5632,

CWRS (403) 239 2488,

RWR (403) 946-2361, and

Lethbridge area ABPC (403) 345-4262

"Never"



Fawns are generally born in the Spring, never in the Fall. That is the accepted wisdom of biologists and wildlife managers. But animals astonish us and so, although no one expected to have an October fawn brought in to us, that is what has happened **"Never"** (pictured above) arrived! All the baby bottles put away, had to be taken out again, and the cost of obtaining liters of goats milk addressed again, **"Never"** is another reason why **we need your donations!!**

CEI IN 2003/2004

Up coming OCCASIONS!

Thanks to the unstinting help of Candace Carnie, Christine Simoens, and Shannon Hunt we will be having an Art Show and Sale at the Frank Willis Hall in Cochrane on November 22nd, 2003 from 12 until 4 p.m. Come one Come All...it should be fun!

Occasions to come in 2004 (watch the website)

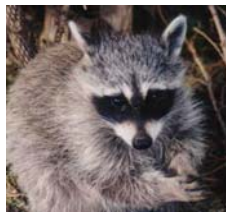
☞ A Craft Fair at the CEI in May, 2004

☞ GrassTemper Conference in the Summer

BLOOD TRIBE (CON'T)

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

tribal lands both sides of the Canada/USA Border would have the opportunity to support each other because of an existing almost entirely protected corridor of native swift fox habitat. The Blood Tribe Reintroduction, as did the Blackfeet programme, would transfer ownership of the foxes from the CEI to the Blood Tribe. It would include interviews with Elders to obtain Traditional Environmental Knowledge, a base-line inventory of flora & fauna, and technological transfer and capacity building for the Tribe. Although the Chiefs, Council, Mookakin Foundation, Blood Tribe Administration, Elders and Spiritual Advisors are in support of this project (the Blood Tribe having set aside a significant sum of money to support it) Indian & Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) have set up road-blocks. INAC appears to fear that the reintroduction of an endangered species (the swift fox) back into it's native homeland on Blood Tribal Lands could "sterilize the land from future oil & gas exploitation" and have demanded that we (the Blood Tribe/CEI) undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment, EIA, under CEAA to establish the environmental impact of swift fox on oil & gas (5 lb swift foxes attack drill rigs?). This EIA is an expensive procedure and one for which neither the Blood Tribe nor the CEI have the funds. INAC's demands have meant that the funds awarded this programme by Environment Canada on April 22, 2003, have not been released to the CEI to date. This, as well as threatening the Blood Tribe's swift fox reintroduction programme has also put the survival of the captive colony of swift foxes at severe risk. The CEI has been maintaining the colony on a promise of money that has not been fulfilled.. As a result of INAC's unanticipated demands the Blood Tribe was unable to release the swift foxes in late August '03 as was intended, and so the cubs of '03 as well as the resident pairs will have to be over wintered and maintained at the CEI until August 2004..an expensive procedure and one for which, at present, we do not have the funds...Please help!



MEMBERS & VOLUNTEERS:
WE REALLY NEED YOU! The CEI cannot operate without **memberships** and **donations**, because those funds directly support wildlife rescue and wildlife support! Our **Volunteers** keep us going ! (Thank you Shiona Purvis for doing the **CEI Accounting!**) The CEI volunteer base is slowly expanding, Thank you all! What you can help with as a **volunteer** and examples of what your **Funds** support * **Animal care** * **Book-keeping** * **captive colony management** * **construction** * **education programmes** * **field-work** * **fund-raising** * **transport** * **website**

BLACK BEAR UPDATE, 2003

Big



BEARS LEAVE, LITTLE BEARS COME! Our orphaned bear cub, Lima, was a very big bear, weighing 187 lbs, when he left the CEI for his new home in Northern Alberta. Thanks to funding from **Care for the Wild, UK** and the transport, veterinary work, and telemetry equipment provided by **the Cochrane Division of Alberta Fish & Wildlife**, Lima was successfully released back into the wild in the Summer of 2003. Subsequent monitoring indicates that he is still out there doing what a bear should do! Before Lima was away safely, Pelious, Paris, and Orson had arrived! Their dam was accidentally killed while she was hibernating by a man operating a backhoe. They are the youngest cubs the CEI has received since we started black bear rehabilitation in 1984! They are now fat little bears and will hibernate in a new 3 acre enclosure at the CEI. Thank you **SAFEWAY**, for the food!



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WE ARE ON THE WEB

WWW.CEINST.ORG

RESEARCH INITIATIVES AT CEI

FUNDING SUPPORT NEEDED, PLEASE HELP!



BIODIVERSITY SURVEY AND ENDANGERED SPECIES RECOVERY PLAN,
SWIFT FOX BLOOD RESERVE, ALBERTA



INTERNATIONAL GRASSTEMPER CONFERENCE



INTERACTIVE EDUCATIONAL FIELD-WORK WEBSITE



BLACK BEAR REHABILITATION AND RELEASE RESEARCH



BADGER RESEARCH



DNA FINGER PRINTING AND ECOLOGICAL GENETICS FOR SWIFT FOX

CEI MOMENTS, ALL SUPPORTED BY DONATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS!



THE BADGERS AT THE CEI, UPDATE

The badgers at the CEI have done very well indeed and we have been fascinated by what we have learned of their habits. The new large enclosure we built for them worked and enabled us to observe them without influencing their behaviour. We have designed a questionnaire (soon to be available on the CEI website) for



the human inhabitants of “badger country” to find out what they think of this delightful creature and how we can devise methods which will enable both people and badgers to occupy the same area without conflict. Our research on this fascinating species is on-going North American badger, *Taxidea taxus*, is now classified as endangered in B.C. and Ontario and as a Species of Concern in Alberta, so it is important to find out as much as possible about them so we can work towards their conservation. THANK YOU SHELL ENVIRONMENTAL FUND and BAGER DAYLIGHTING for your help in this project.

