



MEMBER OF THE ORDER
OF THE BIG HORN

RECIPIENT OF THE
EMERALD AWARD



Liberty No. 27, 2017

NEWSLETTER OF THE INSTITUTE

Cochrane Ecological
Institute & the
Cochrane Research
Institute: together
known as

The Institute

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OUR WORK

RESCUE, CARE
FOR, AND RE-
LEASE INJURED &
ORPHANED WILD-
LIFE

BREED ENDAN-
GERED SPECIES
FOR REINTRODUC-
TION

EDUCATE

CONSERVATION
RESEARCH

WE CAN'T DO ANY
OF IT WITHOUT
YOU ALL

THANK YOU

Please **DONATE**

The Institute had a great year and you all helped!

COME CELEBRATE WITH US

Because of the wildlife we look after, The Institute is open to the general public only 2 days of the year for our annual fundraiser, our Christmas Tree Event! On Dec. 9th & 10th from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The trees are trees we have to cut to keep open country open. There will be a Blacksmith at his Forge creating Art, stocking stuffers, hot drinks..Lisa will take tours..

YOU VOLUNTEERED !



YOU RAISED MONEY FOR OUR ORPHANED WILD LIFE



Because you helped them orphans and injured wildlife have had a 2nd chance at a happy life!



Do you
know HOW
we are
helping
wildlife?



Just telephone
(403) 851
2050 if your
dog would like
to stay at for
HAPPY TAILS
RETREAT!



CATS also stay at
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Or talk to Mike by
telephone at
(403) 851 2050
Or phone the Insti-
tute
(403 932 5632)

With everyone's help, The Institute had a great year,
BUT Alberta's Wildlife did not.

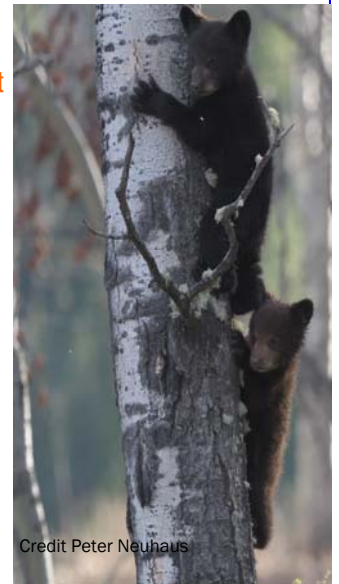


Wild animals, in developed countries like ours, are orphaned because of the impact people have had on their landscape. They are orphaned when their mothers are killed the roads and railways, or when poisons (strychnine, compound 1080) or neck snares are set out to kill wolves and coyotes, by accidentally caused forest and grass fires, or when the FWEB decide a wild animal is in the wrong place on a golf course, village or town. Bear cubs are also orphaned as an accidental effect of the Alberta Spring bear hunt. **WHAT HAPPENS TO THESE ORPHANS?** Can they be rescued reared and released back into the wild? Our government says **NO!**

Shannon Phillips, Minister of the Environment, writing on April 2, 2017 said in her letter that **"many species, such as bears, raccoons, adult skunks, coyotes, wolves, cougars, mountain goats, bighorn sheep and amphibians, are restricted from possession and rehabilitation."**

So what happens to these orphaned LAMBS, KIDS, KITTENS and CUBS? Check Alberta Environment & Parks, AEP, website and you will find out <http://aep.alberta.ca/fish-wildlife/wildlife-management/default.aspx> that AEP's **Wildlife Response Guideline** requires orphaned fawns and calves of ungulates, bear, wolf, cougar and coyote cubs to be killed. By following this Policy Guideline Alberta's Fish & Wildlife Enforcement Branch, are known to have killed 24 orphaned black bear cubs, these 3 grizzly bear cubs (a Threatened Species) plus one other grizzly cub. <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/bear-cubs-euthanized-alberta-1.3277380>

Orphans of other species may possibly be rescued, reared and released **"such as elk, lynx, bobcat ...as long as strict protocols developed by our department, in conjunction with the Alberta Wildlife Rehabilitators' Association are followed"** but AEP has not developed the necessary **strict protocols** which means that, until these Protocols are written these orphans cannot be rescued. To make certain no Wildlife Rescue Facility in Alberta will rescue, rear and release the orphaned wild babies created by humanity's habitat transformation, industrial development and climate change the Minister goes on to say: **Schedule A is not published in the regulation, but failing to adhere to conditions on the rehabilitation permit may result in the permit being revoked, or not renewed."** Two facts worth remembering: (1) The AEP has no Mandate, no funds, no facilities, and no expertise to care for wildlife if they decide to revoke a Wildlife Rehabilitation permit. AND (2) **The Legislation of the Alberta Wildlife Act & Regulation (section 77) requires that ALL species of wild orphans must be reared in conditions which will ensure a successful disease-free return to the wild. This is the LAW.** There is no need for the 2010 Policy, which is not Law, and which condemns the orphans of arbitrarily selected iconic and charismatic indigenous species to death. This is a classic example of the spending of tax payer's money on hours of bureaucratic tinkering resulting in a totally unnecessary and provably bad Policy. BUT Policies can be changed as easily as a bureaucrat changes his or her knickers, so if you don't approve of AEP's Wildlife Response Guidelines, tell your MLA.



Credit Peter Neuhaus

THANK YOU TO

So many people have helped us through the year ! Only a tiny fraction can be thanked in this little space, but we appreciate your help and your donations more than we can say; We could not do what we do without you! You are all **WONDERFUL**. Our volunteers, overseas and local. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the CEI by sending a cheque, thank you to: SAIT film students, John McTavish, Sara Jones, Elizabeth Barrett School, Calgary Science School, Green Volunteers, All volunteers from Mount Royal University, Andy and Verena, The Kainai, Janet Munroe and Pat, Fagen, M. Billes, Power of One, Wendy Anderson, J. Ulloa, Learning@Home, Andrew Bear Robe, Words West, Tamar Griggs, the Traceys Lisa Dahlsiede, C. Halpern, C. Holland, S. Hansen, Robert Bateman, Spray Lakes and many more....



Photo Credit Peter Neuhaus

Why must bighorn lambs die from predation or starvation if their Mums are killed on the road? Because the Minister of the Environment wrote this on April 2, 2017 does it make it right?

"many species, such as ... mountain goats, bighorn sheep and amphibians, are restricted from possession and rehabilitation " Is this statement wise? Perhaps not "...from 1970 to 2014, half of monitored vertebrate wildlife species in the study suffered population declines. Of those, average decline is 83 per cent since 1970" (WWF Canada Living Planet Canada 2017 Report www.wwf.ca/newsroom/reports/lprc.cfm)

Saving an orphan and returning that animal to the wild is a proven conservation action but when it comes to killing orphaned wildlife AEP ignores its own recommendations and kills species listed as Threatened, ignores international research, ignores fact; *"Wildlife loss is not someone else's problem. It's a Canadian problem"* (WWF, Canada Living Planet Report Canada 2017). Our government has demonstrated a lack of respect for its wilderness and wildlife and also for Albertans. You are the only hope of orphaned wildlife having a 2nd chance at life in Alberta.

In 2017, the Province of Alberta stands alone in North America for having a list of indigenous orphaned wild species prohibited from rescue: bear, raccoon, wolf, coyote, fox, skunk, bobcat, lynx, cougar, elk, Bighorn sheep, Mountain goat, Pronghorn antelope, bat and amphibian species. Alberta says some species on the list must be killed on arrival, and some can be saved only **as long as strict protocols developed by our department... are followed**. As set out above: AEP has developed no **"strict protocols for Pronghorn, fox cubs, lynx, bobcat, elk..** The only Protocols AEP has written are for Mule deer, White-tail Deer and Moose.



The suffering bear cub in the picture, when first reported could successfully have been rescued by the Institute on September 27th, 2017. Its injuries could have been treated, it could have been overwintered in approved purpose-built facilities, and released into the wild in 2018. Instead, it has spent 8 weeks alone and badly injured in a field, because the Government of Alberta, by adhering to its provably bad policy of requiring the killing of orphaned bear cubs, has refused to allow its rescue. Over 7,000 signatures are on a petition to save it. Albertans care, Alberta doesn't.



The CEI is a Registered Charity
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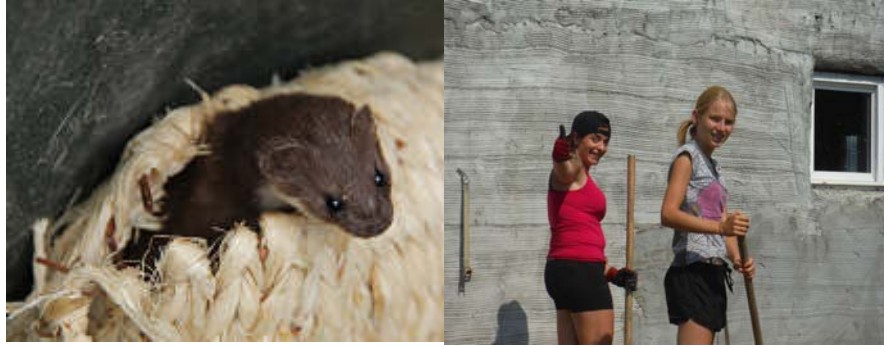


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2017 was a fun year for the Institute!



Students came as part of their Degree Programme from The Netherlands, Belgium, Germany and Canada!



The engine which supports the day to day work and expenses of the institute is **HAPPY TAILS RETREAT**, our dog and cat (and turtle and rabbit) boarding facility. **HAPPY TAILS RETREAT** has two separate buildings, one for cats and one for dogs! For our **DOG** guests we have individual enclosures with outdoor/indoor access, in-floor heating and, as well, for social dogs, a large, 2 acre, fenced free play area. Dogs go for walks as well.



For **CATS**, we have 11 runs providing floor to ceiling vertical space and window views for the cats to enjoy. **MIKE CURTIS** is the kennel manager; you can reach him at

info@happytailsretreat.com or by phone: **403 851 2050.**

REMEMBER, HAPPY TAILS IS WHERE BOARDING YOUR PET HELPS WILDLIFE!



We Built an insulated Aviary for overwintering waxwings, the 1st in Canada!



Our 2nd Symposium on Wilderness, Wildlife and Human Interaction was a Sold OUT success! The mix of Science, Culture and Environmental Philosophy is a winner. The Calgary Fiddlers were great fun, for more info on who spoke check www.cochraneresearchinstitute.org THE INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF NATURE OTTER SPECIALIST GROUP have asked if we'll put on a 3rd symposium on Wilderness, Wildlife and Human Interaction focusing on wetlands in 2018! **WATCH THIS SPACE!** And our website