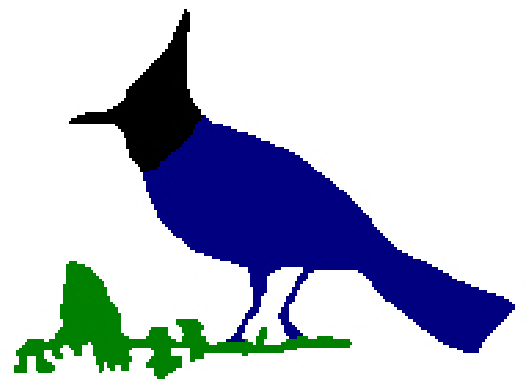


Nature Notes

Monitoring the Environment



The environment is in a constant state of change. Whether it be natural processes, disasters, or human development activities - all



Monitoring water depth
Photo by L. Duncan

cause change in the environment. By monitoring different parts of the environment, we can see changes take place.

Depending on the reason for the monitoring, different aspects of the environment can be measured. For example, air quality, water quality, water quantity, vegetation, soil, geological stability or species could be monitored. For example, the presence of nesting Williamson's Sapsuckers have been monitored in the Kimberley Nature Park (KNP).

One of the most effective and easiest ways to monitor is photo-point monitoring. By taking photos from the same place in the same direction at regular intervals, a visual record documents how the area photographed has changed over time. As can be seen in the photos of Horsebarn Valley, which is adjacent to the KNP, changes that occur at the site can be seen through comparison of pictures from different dates.



Checking out grasses
Photo by L. Duncan

NatureWatch is a program developed by scientists to encourage citizens to become important gatherers of data for the scientific



Horsebarn Valley 2004

Photo by S. Robertson



Horsebarn Valley 2009

Photo by S. Robertson

community. PlantWatch, FrogWatch, IceWatch and WormWatch are four programs that have been developed for citizens to get involved in learning more about and monitoring how the environment is responding to changes in the climate. Go to <http://www.naturewatch.ca/english/> to learn more.

Visit the website at www.rockies.net/kimberley/naturepark/ for a hard copy or more information about the park and events.