June 13, 2006

News Release

Re: Rare White Crow

The Vancouver-based ecology organization Lifeforce is presently monitoring a rare white crow in the Greater Vancouver Lower Mainland. It is generally thought that the likelihood of albinism is one in a million.

Adult American Crow and Northwestern Crow are black with juveniles being brownish-black. They are approximately 40 cm (17.5") and are found from Northern Washington to Alaska. Crows in BC are classified as two species, American Crow (interior) and the Northwestern Crow (coastal). In the Puget Sound area these two forms interbreed freely and are nearly indistinguishable.

They are omnivorous eating almost anything – refuse, road kills, crops, fruit, seeds, insects. They are intelligent and highly gregarious.

"Mom is protecting her baby by following me when I approach their nesting area. She *caws* continuously letting me and her baby know that she is there to protect," stated Peter Hamilton, Lifeforce Director. "It appears that the baby crow is not a true albino with red eyes so would have a good chance at survival. True albino birds usually go blind because of the constant exposure to sunlight."

For further information: Peter Hamilton 604-669-4673 To view photographs: <u>www.lifeforcefoundation.org</u>

