



ZEROED

NEWSLETTER
of the
Idaho Chapter
of the
Wildlife Society

Number 37, June, 1977

Why This Newsletter?

Your chapter has been busy since the annual meeting in January. Thanks to the efforts of several involved members, we've made our voice heard on some environment-related issues. The main purpose of this newsletter is to give you a brief run-down on what's been taking place, to get your ideas about some proposed resolutions, and to encourage more members to take the initiative on environmental matters in their respective areas. I think most of us believe that one of our Chapter's most important functions is to take the side of wildlife against the many forces working in opposition today. We've made some progress in this direction, but to be truly successful, we need a more concerted effort from a lot more people.

Draft a letter or resolution about an E.A.R., E.I.S., or other wildlife or environmental-related matter and send it to Resolutions Chairman Dean Carrier for consideration by the board as an issue for the Chapter to take a stand on. Dean's address is: Route 1, Box 249E, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814. Do it today.

What We've Done:

As our mailing budget would suffer if we sent everyone complete copies of the positions your chapter has taken since the annual meeting, here instead is a short statement about each:

1. A letter to Senator Hatfield supporting his proposed bill to provide for a cooperative forestry extension program. We suggested that he include in his bill the financial means for acquiring wildlife--forestry related information that could, in turn, be disseminated to landowners.
2. A letter to the Director of the Bureau of Land Management favoring the proposed regulation amendments that would allow the humane use of helicopters and other motorized vehicles in the management of wild horses and burros on public lands.
3. A letter to the Secretary of Interior supporting the position of the Bureau of Land Management in announcing they would modify fences for antelope in New Mexico in the face of opposition from the livestock industry.
4. A letter to President Carter supporting his decision to eliminate funding for 19 water projects from his budget request for fiscal year 1978 and applauding his demands for a critical review of each dam proposal.
5. A letter to Regional Forester Torheim expressing our concern about the Van Buren timber sale on the Nez Perce National Forest and suggesting ways that the sale could be modified to better protect wildlife values.

*No reply ever
to this letter.*

6. A letter to the Supervisor of the Clearwater National Forest with comments about the draft E.I.S. for Big Game Habitat Improvement.
7. A letter to the Supervisor of the Clearwater National Forest with comments regarding the draft E.I.S. and Land Use Plan for the Lowell Planning Unit.
8. Letters of appreciation to the Senators and Representatives who voted against cutting \$58,000 from the Fish and Game Department's Environmental Services budget in the last legislature.
9. A resolution to the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service regarding critical grizzly bear habitat.
10. A resolution to the Idaho State Legislature recommending increased penalties for game law violations in Idaho.
11. A resolution to the Idaho State Legislature regarding minimum stream flow legislation.
12. A letter to the District Ranger at Slate Creek expressing our concern about grazing livestock on the Rapid River big game winter range--especially this year because of the drought conditions.

Should any member have a particular interest about one or more of these issues, please contact your secretary/treasurer and he will send you a photocopy of the complete letter or resolution.

Resolutions in the Wind

Attached to this letter are several resolutions that have been proposed by Chapter members. Please review them carefully and send your comments about each to the secretary/treasurer before August 1. After that date, your Executive Board and Resolutions Committee will review the comments from the membership and take action on the resolutions.

Hornocker Given Award

Dr. Maurice Hornocker, Leader of the Idaho Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit at the University of Idaho, was given our Chapter award at the annual meeting in January. Part of the inscription on the specially engraved plaque read "in recognition of a decade of outstanding contributions toward management and conservation of Idaho's wildlife resource." Maurice is world renowned for his in-depth study of the cougar in central Idaho. Congratulations Maurice!

Let's honor another one or more of the many deserving wildlife professionals in Idaho at our next annual meeting. While you're thinking about it, drop a line with your choice for the award recipient in 1978 to Awards Chairman Dr. Jim Peek, College of Forestry, Wildlife and Range Sciences, University of Idaho, Moscow 83843. Be sure to include a paragraph or two of supporting material.

Sketches Displayed at Annual Meeting

Those of you not attending the annual meeting missed an interesting exhibit of wildlife sketches displayed by Edson Fichter, Erica Hansen and Joan Fullmer. Their sales of \$265.00 worth of prints gave a good indication of viewer enthusiasm. Since ten percent of the receipts went into our Chapter treasury, it was profitable as well as being an entertaining addition to our meeting. We will continue this worthwhile addition at our next meeting and this announcement should be considered an invitation to wildlife or "outdoor" type artists to display their art form at the next meeting. We will continue with the precedent of glomming onto 10 percent of all receipts for the Chapter.

General Chairman for Annual Meeting - 1978

Dr. Steve Peterson has graciously accepted the challenge of putting together the program and handling all other matters relating to our annual winter meeting. Steve will be needing some help with this task, so please avoid that natural tendency to duck into the broom closet when you see him coming (not that you usually do--but might now since he's looking for "volunteers"). Steve has a unique idea for the program and outlines it in his following letter to the membership.

Your officers are:

President: Tom Leege, P.O. Box 398, Kamiah, Idaho 83536

Vice-President: Jerry Thiessen, P.O. Box 25, Boise, Idaho 83707

Secretary-Treasurer: Sam McNeill, 1540 Warner Avenue, Lewiston, Idaho 83501

Proposed Resolution No. 1

Whereas the ICTWS has an opportunity to be an important educational force in the field of wildlife management in Idaho and
Whereas this educational opportunity should be fully implemented.

Now therefore be it resolved: That the Chapter will:

1. Conduct a winter and summer business meeting every year at locations and times which will serve to call the attention of the membership and the public to important and timely wildlife conservation issues.
2. Sponsor at least one seminar or symposium per year for the members and the public on an important and timely wildlife conservation issue, in addition to the semi-annual business meetings.
3. Send a copy of Chapter resolutions to the appropriate news media and elected officials within two weeks of the semi-annual business meeting at which the resolutions were approved.
4. Give publicity within the Chapter to the 1976 resolution which says generally that members can write news releases or articles on wildlife conservation matters which will be released by the Executive Board as a Chapter statement, rather than as a statement signed by the author.
5. Become an affiliate member of the Idaho Conservation League.

Proposed Resolution No. 2

Whereas there is no statewide overview group in Idaho which adequately reviews and comments on the environmental effects of major economic activities in Idaho; such as the expansion of phosphate mining, the conversion of rangeland to irrigated farmland, and the effects of logging and grazing on public land and
Whereas there is a great need for such a group.

Now therefore be it resolved: That the Governor of Idaho establish and select the members of a blue-ribbon, inter-agency, inter-disciplinary environmental overview group, to include representatives from private business and

Be it further resolved: That the group would:

1. Only concern itself with major economic activities which affect the environment.
2. Identify deficiencies in environmental protection which are associated with the economic activities.
3. Make recommendations to appropriate organizations and the public for deficiency removal.
4. Publish their significant findings and actions in a widely distributed annual report to the Governor.
5. Coordinate with similar groups in other states and

Be it further resolved: That funding for the group would be equally provided by all group participants.

Proposed Resolution No. 3

Whereas the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory (INEL) is used extensively by important populations of antelope, sage grouse, Hungarian partridge, raptors, mourning doves and many other animals and

Whereas the INEL has been designated a National Environmental Research Park and

Whereas such a designation means that the area is used (1) for much environmental research and (2) so that the environmental impact of actions occurring outside the INEL can be compared to the relatively undisturbed environment of the INEL and

Whereas there have recently been two proposals to convert substantial portions of INEL lands to irrigated agriculture and

Whereas such conversions would have severe adverse impacts on the wildlife populations using the area.

Now therefore be it resolved: That the ICTWS recommends that all INEL lands remain in their present uses and that no INEL lands be converted to irrigated agricultural uses.

Proposed Resolution No. 4

Whereas the ICTWS recognizes that the continued conversion of Idaho's rangeland to cropland appears to be threatening the survival of some Idaho populations of the long-billed curlew (Numenius americanus) and burrowing owl (Speotyto cunicularia) and

Whereas the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service can by law determine the status of populations of animals which appear to be threatened, if that agency is petitioned to do so by a private group or individual and

Whereas the ICTWS is made up of some of the best wildlife biologists in the State.

Now therefore be it resolved: That the President of the ICTWS appoint a committee to review the status of the above species in the State and, if the review reveals any of their populations to be threatened with extinction, then the Committee will petition the Fish and Wildlife Service to determine the status of those populations; said petition to include a detailed report of the Committee's findings.

Proposed Resolution No. 5

Whereas former Governor Cecil Andrus in his State-of-the-State message on January 10, 1977, recommended that the Idaho Department of Water Resources study three potential multi-purpose water development projects in Idaho: Shoestring Dam near Bliss; Grindstone Butte - Sailor Creek Dam and Deadman Creek Dam, both in Elmore and Owyhee Counties and

Whereas the sites for those projects contain valuable fish and wildlife habitat which may be harmed or destroyed by the projects and

Whereas members of the ICTWS have expertise to evaluate the effects on fish and wildlife of such water development projects.

Now therefore be it resolved: That the Chapter president appoint a Committee to study the effects those projects would have on fish and wildlife; the results of the study to be reported to the members at the next winter meeting of the Chapter.

Minutes of the IDAHO CHAPTER of THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY, January 19-20, 1977, held at the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Boise, Idaho.

The meeting was called to order by President Tom Leege at 7:15 P.M. at the Department of Fish and Game meeting room. The minutes of the last meeting and the Treasurer's report were approved as read. Meeting was attended by 62 members.

President Leege commented on pending resolutions and methods for handling them. Briefly, resolutions could be:

- 1) handled by a resolutions committee then forwarded to the President, Vice President and Secretary-Treasurer for approval and action; or,
- 2) mailing copies of resolutions to all the membership for approval before action.

A general discussion of alternatives was held.

The decision was made by the President that resolutions would be handled by a resolutions committee and officers where the time frame was restrictive, and less urgent resolutions would be mailed to membership with newsletters.

Awards Chairman, Dr. Jim Peek, made an eloquent speech about the qualifications of the Idaho Chapter's selection for this year's award, and Dr. Maurice Hornocker was presented a beautiful engraved plaque.

Northwest Section Regional Representative, Elwood Bizeau, made a detailed report on TWS activities including audit of operations, the certification program, environmental affairs, and the building fund. Most of the discussion following concerned the certification program.

Under new business, Jim Nee introduced Mr. Jeff Farraday from the Idaho Conservation League, who talked to us about the merits of joining the I.C.L. via associate membership.

The basic goal of the I.C.L. is to coalesce individuals and other conservation groups concerned about a particular problem into a group that can combat it. Discussion ended with Mr. Farraday asking that interested individuals pick up the I.C.L. brochure at the registration table.

The President asked for approval of Moscow as the place for the fall meeting. Discussion was held on trying to hold joint meetings with other Societies. A motion was approved to explore the possibility of such a meeting. Motion was passed to allow the Executive Board to set the time and place of meetings after contacts with other Societies.

Meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by,

Gary R. McNeill
Secretary

1978 Annual Meeting
Idaho Chapter
The Wildlife Society
Moscow, Idaho 83843

To the Membership:

In a moment of weakness, your President talked me into being general chairman of our annual meeting this coming year. This is an open letter for suggestions on a topic or a central theme.

An idea that I've had in mind centers around a chronic problem in our field - poor communication. We consistently hear comments about the poor quality of papers given at conferences, yet no one seems to really try to improve the effort. No one expects all of us to be eloquent speakers, but perhaps some of us would make a better impression if we were aware of some new and different techniques available for presenting data. If the speakers would take some additional time to really prepare an effective talk with superior visual aids, all the participants could go away from the meeting with considerably more than just the result of what Jim Biologist is doing with a subspecies of Mickey Mouse in central Idaho.

Charles (Skip) Stratton is an expert in technical communications at the University of Idaho, and has offered his services (I also caught him in a moment of weakness) to make the presentations more effective. He is willing to work with several of the speakers throughout the fall, so that their data can be used as a medium to illustrate new and effective ways of presenting data. If need be, participants that could not come to Moscow periodically could be helped through correspondence. If the membership thought it worthwhile, we could devote all, or part of, a session to a workshop on technical communications that center around presentation of data at the conference level.

If we want to work this idea in, I will need some commitments by late summer. This will necessitate having some data pretty well worked up by mid-fall so that the illustrative material can be ready by the end of the year.

Take a good look at your data now, so that we won't end up with a bunch of "hurried-up, thrown-together" types of talks many people complain about.

Your comments are solicited.

Sincerely,

Steven R. Peterson

SRP/ks