

Idaho Wildlifer



A Publication of the Idaho Chapter of the Wildlife Society

"Life lasts but the snap of a finger. What a waste, what a shame, to be lowered away for all eternity without once having your mortal soul purged with the emetic of High Adventure."

Jack Wheeler
Famous Dewars Scotch Drinker

Environmental Actions:

In June I met Senator Church and expressed the Chapter's appreciation for his support of the Central Idaho Wilderness bill and other conservation issues. While in Washington, D.C. in July on business matters, Chapter member Lew Brown and I visited Senator Church's office. We talked to Legislative Assistant Fred Hutchinson about several wildlife related issues and he mentioned that the Senator appreciated our views and support.

Since April, we have made our views known on the following environmental issues:

- A. Senate Bill 1631 to expand D-J coverage to outboard motors, trailers, and small boats. Letters were sent to Idaho's legislative contingent.
- B. Dredge mining on the South Fork of the Boise River. Letter was sent to the Idaho Land Board recommending against the lease.
- C. BLM's Owyhee Grazing EIS. Chapter comments were given to BLM.
- D. Discussions were held with various Chapter members on the FWS Draft National Fish and Wildlife Policy, State-Federal Relationships. There is still language in this policy which allows Federal tinkering in traditional state wildlife management prerogatives. Our concerns were related to our parent office in Washington, D.C.
- E. A guest editorial opinion was printed in The Idaho Statesman which refuted some erroneous information Congressman Steve Symms reported in his Reports From Washington newspaper. At issue were several comments Symms made on The Birds of Prey Expansion Proposal and on The Central Idaho Wilderness Bill. An insert to this Newsletter provides information on the Sagebrush Rebellion issue. Know which way your political candidates stand on this issue. If you'd like more copies of this handout, call Idaho Conservation League, (208) 345-6933.

Membership Doings: Joyce Gebhardt, Chairperson.

I am happy to report that the Chapter has recruited 19 new members since the last newsletter, but renewals have fallen way behind. Let's hope this is due more to procrastination than a reluctance to renew. Below is a breakdown of memberships by agency. As you would expect, the Fish and Game is way ahead. But the showing by the Fish and Wildlife Service is shameful! I am personally challenging you fellow FWS employees to take an active voice in the protection of the wildlife resource by supporting your chapter.

Many ask me, "What do I get for my \$3.00?" Well, friend, the least you get is a \$3.00 tax deduction. Beyond that, you also get the satisfaction of being part of a force which battles 30-35 different issues a year in support of wildlife. With the 1981 meeting being held in conjunction with The Northwest Section, your membership in the Chapter could also be used as a pitch to your supervisor to get to attend one of the best gatherings of wildlifers the State has seen in a long time.

I have asked several persons throughout the federal and state agencies to serve as membership contacts in their respective agencies. I view every wildlife professional in the State as a prospective Chapter member which should be contacted personally. Each of us should take up Jay's challenge to recruit one new member apiece. In these trying times, when the Chapter is overwhelmed with issues like the Sagebrush Rebellion and the river dredging applications, we could well use the doubling of our membership (in a state with over 500 wildlife and related professionals, a Chapter of 97 members is reproachable!). How else, if not by a show of collective support from the professionals in the State, are we going to combat evil forces?

Now, look at the mailing label on this Newsletter. If there is not a red dot on the label, this will be the last Newsletter you'll receive. Join now to be kept on the mailing list. A membership form is enclosed. Our bookkeeping methods are not infallible. If you have paid your dues and a red dot does not appear on your label, please let me know and I'll correct the error.

Membership Breakdown

<u>BLM</u>	<u>FS</u>	<u>IF&G</u>	<u>USFWS</u>	<u>UNIVERSITIES</u>	<u>PRIVATE</u>	<u>RETIRED</u>	<u>OTHER</u>	<u>UNKNOWN</u>
15	12	27	10	11	8	1	5	8

Past President Dean Carrier is Leaving

Dean is being transferred to the Forest Service's Regional Office in San Francisco. I understand he'll be leading the Threatened and Endangered Species program for the Region - a very good challenge. Dean will be greatly missed in Idaho. Few sparkplugs come along in life and Dean certainly was one of high energy levels. He was involved in many wildlife issues and actively worked to improve the Chapter when he was President in 1979. Dean, good luck in your new assignment and don't forget your Idaho friends.

Call for Assistance

National Hunting and Fishing Day is set for September 27. If one of you would like to chair a Chapter committee on this to get appropriate projects going and information out, give me a call (208-334-1806). I have a packet of information on this special day.

1981 Annual Meeting

Our annual meeting in '81 will be held in conjunction with the Northwest Section meeting at the North Shore Motor Hotel, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Dates are April 23 and 24. A call for papers has been issued. Contact Program Chairman Sam McNeill, 1540 Warner Avenue, Lewiston, Idaho 83501, for details.

Certification

Chairman Lew Nelson reminds us that the Certification Program is still alive. He reminds us of this because since the big push to get certified by December, 1979, only two requests for certification packets have been received in 1980. Records show that Idaho leads all other

northwestern states and provinces with 95 certified and associate biologists. This is nearly twice as many as the next highest state. This high interest, I believe, is directly due to Lew's enthusiasm and activity. Thanks, Lew. In Idaho, 53.1 percent of the parent society members are certified.

Problem

How does one get people involved in wildlife matters and develop a sense of camaraderie in a large dispersed state? I am searching for ways to let Chapter members feel they belong to a worthwhile organization. I am going to suggest 3 ideas. I'd like some feedback and perhaps a small local group of you can form a committee and get things done. All of these ideas focus in on local areas and local participation.

1. Develop a Chapter workday(s) with social gathering following. Example: BLM and FWS have been cooperating in a raptor nesting habitat improvement project south of Boise. I propose that a workday be set up where Chapter members erect a number of additional nesting platforms for Ferruginous hawks. Work would be followed by a cookout and perhaps a little beer drinking. What about assisting BLM or FS in winter deer-elk habitat improvements via shrub plantings. Any labor intensive task might lend itself to Chapter work-social involvement.
2. Adopt-a- (Stream, Highway, Forest, Rangeland). Take your pick. Locally adopt an environmental project, get familiar with it and guard it. Be aware of what's planned that might affect its welfare. The goal here might not be to stop some action altogether but to be involved early enough to get wildlife oriented input.
3. Coop-Wildlife Education. The University of Idaho has a Continuing Education program. However, it needs assistance locally for guest instructors and to help fund the program. This is geared to update or inform teachers, wildlife people (really any group) on wildlife needs. Chapter members locally could assist in sponsoring this type of workshop. Similar workshops have been put on in Boise and Pocatello for teachers and biologists and have been eagerly received. The demand is there -- help us --.

Talk these ideas up with your associates. I need sparkplugs. Let's get some ignition. The Chapter is only as good as you make it.

Sign up a new member!

Good luck on your fall hunting!

Reread the opening quote. Set a goal for a high adventure activity for the next 12 months and go for it!

Jay

IDAHO CHAPTER, THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY
Membership Application New Renewal

Name _____ Address _____

Home Phone _____ Bus. Phone _____ FTS _____

Agency _____ Position or Title _____

I am willing to help with committee work (check here)

Preference for committee, if any _____

Please enclose \$3.00 annual dues and send to: Joyce Gebhardt, 10306 Harvester Drive, Boise, Idaho 83709

