

IDAHO CHAPTER



THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

83(1):January

PRESIDENT'S CORNER: Of Wolves & Men

History has taught us that it is unwise to combine wildlife management with politics. The early years of our profession saw many efforts aimed at removing politics from wildlife management decisions. Although fairly successful, we must realize that politics cannot be fully eliminated. As long as we have elected representatives, they will make decisions affecting wildlife programs.

I don't believe that public servants (politicians) are inherently biased against wildlife. Rather, they seem to be oriented toward the present rather than the future, being more interested in the short-term economic gains that come from income-generating activities rather than a continued high quality of life. And, in many cases, they have difficulty understanding or believing definitions of a quality of life that are not predicted on income.

Many public servants do make an honest effort to get the facts and consider all facets before making decisions that involve wildlife. I commend them for that but must strongly disagree with some of their techniques. A good example is the current Wolf Recovery Plan controversy in Idaho. Holding public meetings on the issue may be acceptable so the public has input, but using the input as the facts on which to base decisions is inadequate. The results of these meetings were highly predictable. The audience was mostly livestock producers who opposed the

Plan because they saw it as a threat to the livestock industry. Those opinions were combined with horror stories about wolves mauling children and destroying livestock and wildlife populations. The newspapers picked up the testimony and spread it throughout Idaho.

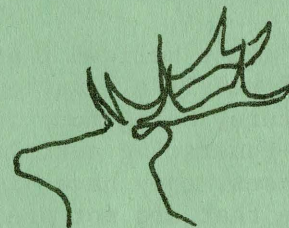
Because of those meetings, the Idaho Chapter is sponsoring a Wolf Symposium in Boise on March 12, 1983. Additional details are available elsewhere in this newsletter. The sole purpose of the Symposium is to provide factual information on wolves. The panel will consist of wildlife professionals experienced in working with wolves and knowledgeable about research data on the subject. There are no ulterior motives. We only want the truth to be known so intelligent decisions about wolves can be made based on facts.

I would like to suggest another method for public servants to obtain facts about wildlife. A lot of money is spent on education in the United States and the results have been very good. Wildlife biologists are highly trained, knowledgeable, and honest people who can be consulted on issues involving wildlife. If public servants are honestly trying to obtain the facts about a wildlife issue, they should contact the professionals who are most knowledgeable. With that in mind, I am volunteering the Idaho Chapter of The Wildlife Society to provide factual information on wildlife to any public servant desiring it.

1983 MEMBERSHIP DUES

Three methods are available for you to join the Idaho Chapter in 1983. If you plan to attend the annual meeting and Wolf Symposium on March 11-12 in Boise, you can pay your dues then. A second possibility is to pay your Chapter dues when you renew your membership in The Wildlife Society. If neither of these methods is acceptable, fill out the application form at the end of the newsletter and send it along with your \$3.00 dues, to Lew Nelson. The important thing is to join the Idaho Chapter, regardless of the method you use. Please don't procrastinate - do it now. We need your continued support.

IDAHO CHAPTER - ANNUAL MEETING
March 11-12, 1983



The Wildlife Society was created for professionals working in wildlife conservation - biologists, conservation officers, information-education personnel, researchers, educators, etc. It also serves as an organization for individuals with strong interests in wildlife conservation. This year's annual meeting is designed to offer something for everyone, as well as providing a mechanism to understand how the different jobs fit together to benefit wildlife.

The annual meeting is an important event for our Chapter. In addition to the information and philosophies gained, it provides an opportunity for us to see old friends, meet new people, discuss current issues, and renew our professional dedication. And, just as important, it's fun. Hope to see you all there.

Location - Idaho Transportation Department (auditorium)
- 3311 State Street
- Boise, Idaho

March 11, 1983

Research Management Session

0730-0830 Registration and coffee (come early and see your friends)
0830-0855 "Effective wildlife biology input to forest planning and environmental analysis," Jack Bills, Supervisor - Challis National Forest.
0855-0920 "Making ecological sense of remote sensing data." Tim Reynolds, Visiting Professor of Zoology - Boise State University.
0920-0945 "Habitat management recommendations for moose in north central Idaho," John Pierce, Graduate Student - University of Idaho.
0945-1015 Break
1015-1040 "Ecology of badgers in south central Idaho," Mike Todd, Conservation Officer - Idaho Department of Fish and Game.
1040-1105 "Nesting of subadult golden eagles in Southwest Idaho," Karen Steenhof, Assistant Project Leader - Birds of Prey Research Project.
1105-1130 "Burrow systems of four rodent species," W.L. Wakkinen, Graduate Student - Boise State University.
1130-1300 Lunch

Information - Education Session

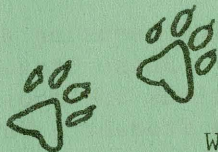
1300-1325 "Wildlife management is people management - Peru Style," Lew Nelson, Associate Professor - Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources - University of Idaho.
1325-1355 Description of people management problems in Idaho.
1355-1450 Small group discussions of people management problems and development of action plans to correct these situations.
1450-1520 Break
1520-1545 "Project WILD - an aid to better wildlife management," Nancy Christianson, Elementary School Teacher and Project WILD Regional Coordinator.
1545-1630 Presentation of action plans and group discussion
1730 Social gathering

March 12, 1983

Law Enforcement Session

0830-0900 "Wildlife law enforcement in Idaho - has it changed after Claude Dallas," Jerry Conley, Director - Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

- 0900-0925 "What does a wildlife biologist expect from a conservation officer?", Gary Power, Regional Wildlife Biologist (former conservation officer) - Idaho Department of Fish and Game.
- 0925-0955 "A new degree program in conservation law enforcement - is there a need?", Ernie Ables, Head - Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources - University of Idaho.
- 0955-1020 Break
- 1020-1120 Annual business meeting
- (1) Outstanding wildlife professional award
 - (2) Best presentation award
 - (3) By-laws revision
 - (4) President's report on 1982-83 activities
 - (5) Summer meeting - 1983
 - (6) Public Contribution to Wildlife Award



WOLF SYMPOSIUM

Chuck Blair, Symposium Chairperson, has put together an outstanding educational program with internationally known wolf researchers and managers. It's going to be an excellent afternoon.

March 12, 1983

Location - Borah High School
- 6001 Cassia, Boise

- 1300-1305 "Welcome," Chuck Blair, Symposium Chairperson and Wildlife Biologist, CH₂M Hill.
- 1305-1315 "Introduction," Lewis Nelson, Jr., President - Idaho Chapter of The Wildlife Society and Associate Professor of Wildlife Resources, University of Idaho.
- 1315-1345 "Numbers and Distribution of Wolves in Idaho and the United States," Mike Schlegel, Wildlife Research Biologist - Idaho Department of Fish and Game, and Tim Kaminski, Graduate Research Assistant - Montana Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit.
- 1345-1430 "Wolf Management Guidelines and Control Plan," John Weaver, Wildlife Research Biologist, Bridger - Teton National Forest.
- 1430-1455 "Wolves, Elk, and Timber Management on the Boise National Forest," Al Boss and Larry Donohoo, Wildlife Biologists - Boise National Forest.
- 1455-1510 Break
- 1510-1600 "Wolf Ecology in Minnesota," Dave Mech, Wildlife Research Biologist, North Central Forest Experiment Station, U.S. Forest Service.
- 1600-1640 "Wolf Depredation on Livestock in Minnesota and the West," Steve Fritts, Wildlife Research Biologist, North Central Forest Experiment Station, U.S. Forest Service.
- 1640-1710 "The Northern Rocky Mountain Wolf Recovery Plan," Bart O'Gara, Head - Wolf Recovery Plan and Leader - Montana Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit.
- 1710-1720 "Closing," Lewis Nelson, Jr.

PROJECT WILD

Wildlife professionals have long recognized the need for educating people about wildlife and its management. Although the greatest need has been in the school system, past programs have been unsuccessful in fulfilling that need. A new educational program now being developed may be the answer.

Project WILD is a kindergarten through high school interdisciplinary education program emphasizing wildlife. The project was originally funded by the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and developed through the Western Regional Environmental Education Council. Because of the unbiased materials and activities being developed, additional sponsorship has been acquired by the National Wildlife Federation, American Humane Association, Defenders of Wildlife, Canadian Wildlife Federation, and other fish and game agencies.

A curriculum framework and related activities covering a range of wildlife concepts forms the basis for WILD instructional materials. These were developed cooperatively by classroom teachers and other educators, resource agency personnel, members of private conservation groups, and other community representatives.

One advantage of WILD is that it is a supplementary program that fits into existing school curricula, such as the language arts, history, math, music, science, and so on. Teachers may obtain and use the materials only after attending an introductory workshop conducted by knowledgeable individuals who understand wildlife management and the educational system.

This is probably the finest educational program dealing with wildlife that has ever been developed. It has already been predicted that WILD will eventually be used in every state, several other countries, and will be considered by wildlife and education professionals as the standard for wildlife education.

The materials will be completed during the fall of 1983. As wildlife professionals, we should do all we can to support this endeavor. Thus, a talk on Project WILD by an education professional will be presented at the Idaho Chapter annual meeting in Boise this March. At that time, wildlife professionals will be given a chance to discuss the program and consider ways that the Idaho Chapter can offer its support.



BYLAWS REVISION

At the last annual meeting, the membership of the Idaho Chapter approved the new bylaws. Since that action, Executive Director, Harry Hodgdon, has pointed out a few minor omissions and/or errors that need to be corrected. These needed changes are:

- (1) Page 2 (Article IV, Section 3) - The official charter date for the Idaho Chapter should be September 10, 1963.
- (2) Page 2 (Article IV, Section 5) - The following statement on dues collection should be added - "Annual Chapter dues also may be paid to the Society's headquarters, along with Section and Society dues, and subsequently will be remitted to the Chapter.
- (3) Page 4 (Article V, Section 3, Clause E) - Since the Chapter representative is appointed and duties outlined under Section 3, Clause A - PRESIDENT, this clause is repetitious and not needed.
- (4) Page 4 (Article V, Section 5) - The reference to an appointed vice-president should be eliminated. This stipulation applies only to an appointed president-elect.

Copies of the Chapter bylaws and the suggested changes will be available at the annual meeting. Since the bylaws can be altered or amended by a majority of the Chapter members, please come prepared to discuss and vote on the proposed changes.

1982 MEMBERSHIP REPORT

What a fantastic year we've had. One of our goals was to increase the number of members because we needed the wide support that comes from everyone pulling together toward a common cause. The response was great; thanks to all of you who joined the Chapter and personally contacted your colleagues and encouraged them to join also. As 1982 ended, we had 189 members included in the following categories:

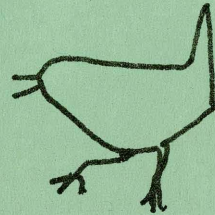
- 46 - Idaho Department of Fish and Game (Region 1 - 7 members, 2-5, 3-5, 4-8, 5-5, 6-9, State Office - 7)
- 42 - U.S. Forest Service (Region 1 - 13 members, 2-29)
- 27 - University personnel (includes students)
- 21 - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- 19 - Bureau of Land Management
- 6 - Interested individuals
- 4 - Private consultants
- 3 - Bureau of Reclamation
- 3 - Soil Conservation Service
- 9 - Miscellaneous state/federal agencies
- 9 - Unknown affiliation

Some very good results were noted. Five new members recently joined the Chapter from Region I of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. All eight wildlife faculty members in the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources at the University of Idaho are members of the Chapter. The U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Bureau of Land Management biologists remain strong supporters. Individuals interested in wildlife conservation are beginning to join the Chapter. The number of conservation officers in the Chapter is increasing, thanks to the support given us by Dale Baird, Chief of Law Enforcement for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

Overall support for the Idaho Chapter is broadly-based, both organizationally and geographically. For 1983, our goal is to have at least 225 members. With the larger number of members and greater support, we plan to get involved in additional activities and offer more services to our members. To reach that goal, we need the following:

- (1) Continued support by all present members.
- (2) Additional support by biologists, conservation officers, and information/education personnel who are not presently members.
- (3) Stronger support by wildlife administrators.

Our future looks bright. Thanks for being a part of it.



CERTIFICATION UPDATE

Many members took advantage of the lower fees and became certified as biologists by The Wildlife Society during 1982. Although the records are not complete, we know that at least 72 of our 183 members (natural resource professionals) are certified (39.3 percent). Since many members applied for certification toward the end of 1982, a more accurate update won't be available until April or May.

For those of you not yet certified, please take note. In addition to making the requirements more stringent, the following changes in the fee structure were also made:

- (1) The fee for becoming a Certified Wildlife Biologist is \$100 for members and \$200 for nonmembers. To qualify for the lower fee, you must have been a member of the Society for the previous two consecutive calendar years, as well as a current member in the year of application.
- (2) The fee for becoming an Associate Wildlife Biologist is \$70 for members and \$140 for nonmembers. Reduced rates of \$50 (members) and \$100 (nonmembers) are available if you meet one or more of the following criteria:
 - (A) Application within six months after graduation with (conferral of) a baccalaureate degree that fulfills the certification education requirements;
 - (B) Application within six months after the time the degree and certification education requirements have been completed, although the degree has not been conferred;
 - (C) Application after the bachelor's degree has been awarded but within six months after specific course work requirements for Associate Wildlife Biologist certification have been completed.

- (D) Application during a period of continuous student status in pursuit of an advanced degree beyond the baccalaureate, and/or
- (E) Application within six months after graduation with the graduate degree or completion of the graduate degree program, although the degree has not been conferred.

The fees have gone up in price, but it's still an excellent program. We encourage you to investigate it further. If you have questions or want a certification packet, contact Lew Nelson.

NEWSLETTER

Our newsletter was mentioned in the last issue of The Wildlifer from The Wildlife Society. President Dale Jones stated . . . "The Idaho Chapter newsletter was another morale building document. It is extremely attractive and chuck full of exciting events being taken on by their membership. Rather than pass the traditional resolution or issues, the Chapter has sent, what they call, "We Believe Statements," to political figures and administrators on such subjects as: Cooperative Research Unit Program; Idaho's Nongame Wildlife Program; Box Canyon; Riparian Communities of the Boise River; and The Northwest Power Act of 1980. The quality of this effort is impressive."

The officers of the Idaho Chapter hope that you enjoy the changes in the newsletter. A concerted effort has been made to make the newsletter more regular, informative, and interesting. If anyone would like to have specific articles included, contact Donna Gleisner or Lew Nelson.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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| Feb. | 25-27 | 6th Annual Intl. Wildlife Film Festival in conjunction with Conservation Ed. Assn., U. of Montana, Missoula, 59812. Sponsored by U. of Montana Student Chapter, TWS, Wildl. Biol. Progr. (406)243-5272 |
| March | 11-12 | Idaho Chapter TWS Annual Meeting, Idaho Transportation Dept. Auditorium, 3311 W. State Street, Boise, ID (Lew Nelson, 208/885-6434). |
| | 12 | Wolf Symposium at Idaho Chapter TWS Annual Meeting. Sponsored by the Idaho Chapter - open to the public. (Lew Nelson, 208/885-6434). |

- 18-20 National Wildlife Federation 47th Annual Mtg., Regent Hotel, Albuquerque, NM (Jay D. Hair, Executive Vice-Pres., NWF, 1412 16th St. N.W., Washington, DC 20036 202/797-6841).
- 18-21 TWS Annual Mtg., Radisson Muehlebach Hotel, Kansas City, MO (Harry E. Hodgdon, Executive Director, TWS, 5410 Grosvenor Lane, Bethesda, ND 20814 301/897/9770).
- 18-23 North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference, Radisson Muehlebach Hotel, Kansas City, MO (L.R. Jahn, Vice President, Wildlife Mgmt. Institute, 1000 Vermont Ave., N.W., 709 Wire Bldg., Washington, DC 20005).
- 22-23 3rd Furbearer Conference, Univ. of Alaska, Fairbanks, AK (Phillip Gipson, AK Coop. Wildl. Res. Unit, Univ. of Alaska, Fairbanks, AK 99701 907/474-7673 or Herbert Melchier, AK Dept. of Fish & Game, Fairbanks, AK 99701 907/452-1531).
- 24-26 Wildlife Ecology Workshop for Teachers, Lewiston, ID. (Lew Nelson, Jr., Dept. of Fish & Wildlife Resources, University of Idaho, Moscow, ID 83843 208/885-6434).
- April 7-9 Wildlife Ecology Workshop for Teachers, Caldwell, ID. (Lew Nelson, Jr., Dept. of Fish & Wildlife Resources, University of Idaho, Moscow, ID 83843 208/885-6434).
- 12-13 Western States Mule Deer Workshop, Ridpath Hotel, Spokane, WA (Don Zeigler, WA Dept. of Game, P.O. Box 1237, Ephrata, WA 98823 509/754-4624).
- 14-15 NW Section TWS Annual Mtg., "Resource Agencies - A Time of Transition." Ridpath Hotel, Spokane, WA (John Andrews, Program Chairman, WA Dept. of Game, 8702 N. Division, Spokane, WA 99218 509/456-4082).
- 21-23 Wildlife Ecology Workshop for Teachers, Lewiston, ID. (Lew Nelson, Jr., Dept. of Fish & Wildlife Resources, University of Idaho, Moscow, ID 83843 208/885-6434).
- May 22-25 First Intl. Muskox Symposium, Univ. of Alaska, Fairbanks, AK. (David Klein, AK Coop. Wildl. Res. Unit or Robert White, Inst. of Arctic Biol., Univ. of Alaska, Fairbanks, AK 99701).
- July 10-14 W. Assoc. of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Meeting, Jackson Hole, WY.
- 18-22 19th N.A. Moose Conference and Workshop, Prince George, B.C. (Kenneth N. Child, Min. of Environ., Fish and Wildl. Branch, 1011 Forth Ave., Prince George, B.C. 562-8131).

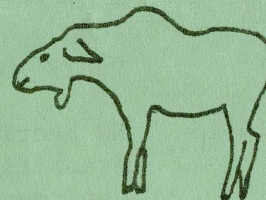
MAN, WILDLIFE, AND THE PUBLIC LANDS SYMPOSIUM

Remember the Man, Wildlife, and the Public Lands Symposium that was held last September at Boise State University? It began with a look at Idaho's past history regarding people and wildlife and, for the next two days, addressed such interesting topics as alternative perspectives on wildlife preservation, wildlife and values, urban wildlife, animals as symbols, and who needs wild animals. But it didn't stop there. The symposium also tackled the tougher questions about current issues. There were panels on Indian fishing rights, logging roads, wolves and coyotes, raptors, wild horses, and jackrabbits. As a result, material from the symposium will be used in three upcoming articles for Idaho Wildlife magazine.

The Idaho Chapter sincerely appreciates the dedication and perseverance of Florence Blanchard, Project Director for the Symposium. Although it's not much reward for the effort expended, we gave Florence a complimentary membership for 1983. In her last letter, Florence wrote, . . . "I was very impressed with the patience, professionalism, and sincere interest shown by many members of the Society toward the symposium project. If the people I had the pleasure to work with are indicative of Society members in general, I feel very honored to be included among them."

And, we're just as honored to have people like Florence in our ranks. Thanks to everyone for a very successful symposium.

MY OPINION - "STATISTICS"
by
Dean Stauffer
PH.D. Candidate - Wildlife
University of Idaho



Some wildlife students are commonly heard complaining that they have to take statistics, a subject they perceive as having little use to them in the future. But the management programs we design are mostly based on field data, and we must have some way to evaluate the field data to help in the decision-making process.

For example, assume that the management of an elk hunting unit is based on productivity estimates as determined by the cow:calf ratio; if the ratio falls too low, the season is curtailed. Suppose that a count of 130 cows and calves in 1978 resulted in a ratio of 100:45 and a similar count of 80 animals in 1980 yielded a ratio of 100:30. Is productivity declining in this unit? Should the season be curtailed? No. Statistically, there is no difference between the two years, and the different ratios could be the result of sampling error. How large a sample would be needed to detect 10% difference in ratios with 95% confidence? By solving a simple formula, we find that 500 elk would need to be sampled to detect such a difference.

Statistics has a use in wildlife management, and I encourage all workers to gain an understanding of basic statistical techniques. The use of statistics allows us to investigate the significance of the data we collect and design field studies that will better meet our management objectives.



WE BELIEVE - "NORTHWEST POWER ACT OF 1980"
(Second Letter)



(Letter sent to Pacific Northwest Power and Conservation Planning Council)

The Idaho Chapter of The Wildlife Society represents 178 professional wildlife biologists residing in Idaho. We support the Draft Fish and Wildlife Program of the Northwest Power Planning Council. We congratulate the Council and its staff for developing a very comprehensive program plan for fish and wildlife. If enacted, the program will provide the means in the Northwest power planning structure to mitigate, protect, and, in some cases, enhance fish and wildlife resources affected by past and future hydroelectric projects.

We have reviewed the testimony of the Idaho Chapter of the American Fisheries Society and are in agreement with their recommendations concerning the fishery resources. In addition, we have the following comments on Sections 700, 800, and 900 of the plan in relation to wildlife resources.

Section 700 Comments:

1. The Chapter agrees with the Council's recommendation for creating a wildlife coordinator position. The complexity of the Columbia River power system requires a coordinator to oversee wildlife planning and mitigation programs that will be administered by a variety of agencies.
2. Historically, loss of wildlife habitat as a result of hydroelectric development in the Columbia River Basin has been poorly mitigated. We are encouraged to see that the Council recognizes this and has proposed remedial actions. Concerning specific areas, we agree with the Council's recommendations for mitigation and enhancement of the Hells Canyon Complex. We also support the need to evaluate the existing projects listed in Item G of Table 6 to determine mitigation needs. We suggest that the Council review this list since it appears that several projects in Idaho have been left off, i.e. Dworshak, C.J. Strike, Upper and Lower Salmon Falls.

Section 800 Comments:

We agree with the Council that a central committee would be of value to coordinate wildlife research and review program implementation. The committee would be especially valuable acting as a clearinghouse for research and development proposals.

All too often there is unnecessary duplication of effort due to lack of communication between the various agencies. Many of the mitigation programs associated with hydroelectric development will be state-of-the-art research, i.e., replanting of native riparian vegetation. Therefore, these pilot programs should be carefully monitored and the results made available to the public to aid subsequent mitigation programs.

Section 900 Comments:

The Idaho Chapter agrees with the measures proposed by the Council. We would also like to emphasize that in Idaho there are several existing dams that currently have no hydroelectric facilities or have facilities where additional turbines might be added. The environmental impacts associated with upgrading these dams to meet our energy demands are obviously far less than impacts associated with new projects. We suggest that these existing dams be thoroughly studied and be given development priority before major new projects.

We would like the Council to reconsider the list of areas of critical habitat for fish and wildlife. In particular, the Council should include the Hells Canyon reach of the Snake River, South Fork of the Snake River, Kootenai River, Big Lost River, Boise River, Owyhee River, and Bruneau River in the list. These rivers are bordered by good quality riparian vegetation. Riparian habitat encompasses only 0.6 percent of the land surface in Idaho and is of critical importance to wildlife, particularly when associated with the desert climate of central and southern Idaho. The riparian habitat in drainages such as the Owyhee, Bruneau, and Big Lost Rivers provides important habitat for migratory birds, upland game birds, furbearers, and big game.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on your Draft Fish and Wildlife Program. We are encouraged by the efforts of the Council to develop a comprehensive plan for fish and wildlife in the Northwest power planning system. Such an effort has been long overdue.

ADVICE FROM MEDIEVAL ENGLAND

The law locks up both man and woman
Who steals the goose from the common
But lets the greater felon loose
Who steals the common from the goose.

