

IDAHO CHAPTER



THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

1984(2):May

1984 IDAHO CHAPTER BUSINESS MEETING

The meeting was opened by Lewis Nelson, Jr., 1984-86 Chapter President. Donna Gleisner, Secretary-Treasurer, read the minutes and treasurer's report from the 1983 business meeting.

Mart Morache reported that the Nongame Plan is available in rough draft form. Interested persons should pick up a copy and make comments.

Signe Blair, one of three core people putting together the riparian legislation, gave an updated report. In this two-part program, Soil Conservation Service would be the administrators while the Idaho Department of Fish and Game helps develop the guidelines. It is currently being printed with the backing of conservative Republicans. She urged everyone to contact his or her legislators to help push it through. (See update in this issue.)

Mark Hilliard stated that because the Idaho State Water Board has never used its power to designate rivers within the state as Natural and Recreational Rivers, there will be an initiative on the fall ballot requesting that the Board do so. (See update this issue.)

Chuck Blair, who has worked closely with the American Fisheries Society, proposed that the Idaho Chapter of TWS hold a joint meeting with the American Fisheries Society to discuss situations that affect

both organizations. Besides regular research presentations, this could also include sessions on how to solve problems relating to people and problem-solving techniques. The Chapter responded favorably so the situation will be looked at more closely. (See update in this issue.)

Idaho Wildlife Federation member, Bill Meiners, informed us that IWF, along with the Outfitters and Guides Association, has proposed the following to Senator Symms regarding roadless area classification for Idaho: 4.9 million acres as wilderness and the rest, 2 million acres, to be classified as reserve. If the latter is not approved, they propose to classify it as wilderness to save it.

Regarding the certification program, President Lew Nelson reported that about 2,000 people, or 30% of the National Wildlife Society, are certified wildlife biologists. In our Chapter, 109 (42%) are certified while 145 are not. He cleared up several misunderstandings about the procedures and urged everyone to apply for certification.

It was found that a few problems still exist regarding newsletter mailings, so the President and Secretary will try to solve them.

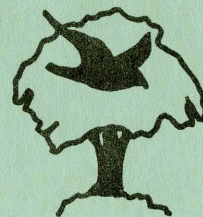
The President reported that the Elmer Norberg Scholarship Fund received about \$200 from donations at the 1984 annual meeting, increasing the total to \$1,800. He also is asking the Northwest Section of TWS to donate \$1,000 for this scholarship.

Mark Hilliard stated that a new organization was formed. The Idaho Society for Energy and Environmental Education (ISEEE) was started in response to the need to provide sources of information to people, especially teachers, interested in energy and environmental education. The Chapter is a charter member and its volunteer help will be needed and appreciated. Mark is currently compiling a state directory of people, issues, and sites at which to hold informational and educational sessions.

The President reported that The Wildlife Society Council wants to propose that one must join and pay dues to all three levels--local, sectional, and national--in order to become a member of The Society. Much discussion was generated, mostly against such a proposal.

Stu Murrell, State Project WILD Coordinator, told us the program is off to a good start, with nine teachers (to date) qualified as coordinators to conduct Project WILD workshops. Idaho Chapter people are being used as resource people. The workshops need more help from Chapter members, especially in central Idaho.

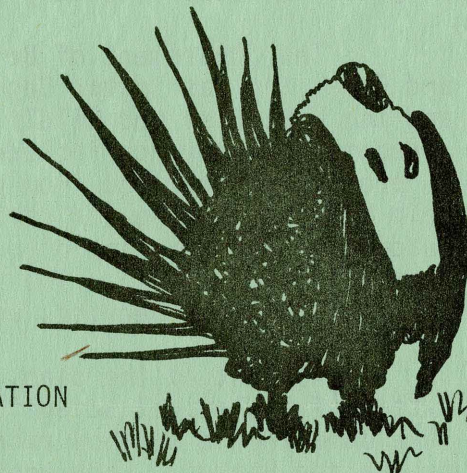
Wilma Baker, a Project WILD Coordinator, enthusiastically reported that Project WILD works, it's fun, and both kids and teachers love it. She also said that it reaches beyond the kids to their parents, so it is an effective educational program for all.



Sam Mattise compared the Oregon Chapter meetings to ours and wondered why we have such a lack of enthusiasm about giving papers, coming to meetings, and getting involved.

In response, President Nelson said that renewing memberships seemed to be a problem for people and suggested we break the membership down to local levels within the state, geographically and within agencies. This way we could perhaps contact more people and get them interested in joining the Idaho Chapter.

Bob Autenrieth, Idaho Department of Fish and Game research biologist, won the 1984 Outstanding Wildlife Professional Award. The Ted Trueblood Communication Award was presented to University of Idaho graduate student, Donna Gleisner.



RIPARIAN LANDS LEGISLATION

After the smoke cleared, we discovered the Riparian Lands Legislation didn't fare too badly in the Idaho Legislature, considering the nature of the legislation and the legislative experience (none) of those pushing the bill.

The riparian legislation was introduced into the Idaho House in February by Rep. Vard Chatburn. This form of the bill included only a property tax exemption for designated riparian lands. The income tax credit for riparian rehabilitation was left out.

During committee hearings in March, the committee voted 19-1 to have the bill redrafted to drop the property tax exemption and add the income tax credit. The bill was redrafted and delivered to the Legislative Affairs Committee for reintroduction.

At this point the bill died. Committee Chairman Walt Little would not put the bill on the Committee agenda for consideration to print the bill and refer it back to the Environment Committee.

As it stands now, the riparian legislation is the number one item for consideration by the House Environment Committee for the next session. Support for this legislation will be needed next January ('85). For more information call Mike W. Anderson, 334-1073 in Boise, Idaho.

GOOD NEWS FOR CARIBOU

After three years of emergency listings, the Selkirk woodland caribou of northern Idaho and southern British Columbia was permanently designated an endangered species on 28 February 1984 by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

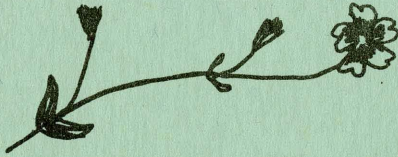
Now any federal projects with potential impacts on these animals must be reviewed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; the killing of a Selkirk caribou is a federal offense punishable by up to a \$20,000 fine and one year in prison, and federal funds are available for research projects and other recovery efforts.

The government of British Columbia, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, the Washington Department of Game, the U.S. Forest Service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have developed a draft caribou management plan which includes the following: improved law enforcement to protect the caribou from poachers; a public information program to help hunters distinguish caribou from elk; monitoring of logging and roading; and evaluation of a plan to infuse the Selkirk herd with caribou from British Columbia. The plan, when revised and approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, will serve as the caribou recovery plan.

As part of the plan, the Panhandle National Forest has organized a team of biological scientists in conservation agencies to initiate the development of a caribou reintroduction plan from British Columbia into the United States. Each agency has a role to play: the U.S. Forest Service will develop an environmental assessment report about reintroducing caribou back onto U.S. Forest Service land, and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game will gather biological data about the number of animals and what sex ratios and ages will be needed to sustain the transplanted population.

While transplanting might be the only solution to inbreeding, the British Columbia government has not approved the process yet, and the plan would have to undergo public review in Idaho.





IDAHO'S RIVERS -- WILD AND FREE?

A group of Idahoans banded together a few months ago to try and develop a means of protecting some special segments of Idaho rivers and streams through the initiative process. The product of that group's efforts is the Idaho Natural and Recreational Rivers Initiative. The initiative is intended to implement Policy Number 7 of the Idaho State Water Plan which was approved by the Idaho Legislature in 1977. The initiative is a reality, but the group now needs help in obtaining the necessary signatures to have the initiative put on the ballot for the November elections. The group is asking members of the Idaho Chapter, TWS, to help them in gathering the signatures on petitions.

What it does. The Idaho rivers initiative would protect 25 river reaches from dams, other hydro development, dredge mining, and major alterations. The idea is to keep these rivers undammed, free flowing, and in good condition for fish and recreation.

State policy lacking. Presently there is no state policy to assure protection of these rivers. Dams can be approved by a federal agency, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. This initiative allows the people of Idaho a voice in determining the future of these rivers.

Why it's needed. Opinion polls in Idaho have shown support to protect rivers. A state water plan, adopted in 1976, calls for a system of protected rivers. But the Legislature has never acted to protect even a single mile of any river. Since the Legislature hasn't acted and will not act, the only way for Idahoans to protect some of our rivers is by initiative.

Your rivers. The rivers of Idaho are a resource that belongs to the citizens of Idaho. Rivers serve many uses. They provide much of our stream fishing. Increasingly they are used for boating and floating. They are passageways for migrating salmon and steelhead. Most recreation use does the rivers no harm. It leaves fish habitat intact. It doesn't tear up streambanks. The threats to the natural quality of our rivers come from dams and other development. It is only the destructive kinds of activity that this initiative would prevent.

Pending applications. Dams are now proposed on some of the river reaches to be protected by this initiative. If it is not enacted, they could be licensed by FERC within the next two years. There are also proposed hydro projects that would severely dewater some of the river reaches.

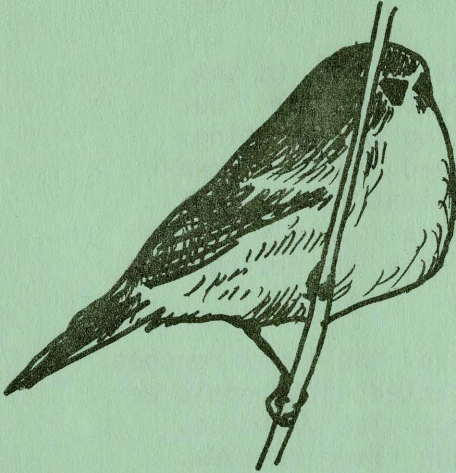
Most hydro development unaffected. While the initiative would protect about 900 miles of rivers, it would not affect most proposed small hydro development in Idaho. There are more than 200 pending applications for small hydro projects, most of them on smaller streams not included in this initiative.

Your help is needed. Rivers cannot protect themselves. It's up to the people of Idaho to see that some of our best rivers are protected. Your signature would help put this proposal on the ballot--so Idahoans can vote yes or no in November on protection of these rivers. Your signature helps give the people of Idaho a chance to consider this question. In order to have the initiative appear on the November 1984 ballot, the signatures of 32,666 registered Idaho voters are needed before July 5.

Protected rivers:

Henry's Fork	Bruneau
Warm River	West Fork Bruneau
Fall River	East Fork Owyhee
Bitch Creek (Teton tributary)	South Fork Owyhee
South Fork Snake	Bear Valley Creek
Snake River (3 segments)	South Fork Salmon
North Fork Boise	Lower Salmon
South Fork Boise	Kelly Creek and Cayuse Creek
South Fork Payette	South Fork Clearwater
North Fork Payette	North Fork Clearwater
Main Payette (small segment)	North Fork Coeur d'Alene
Jarbridge	Priest
	Moyie

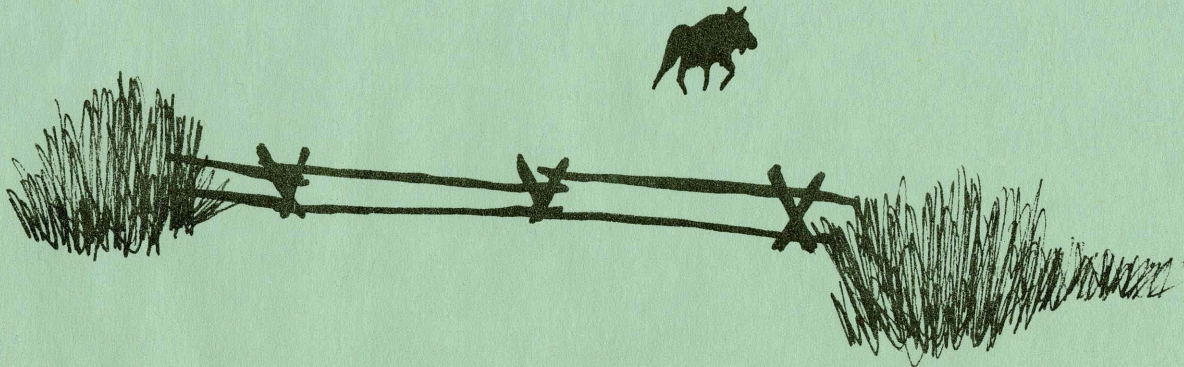
If you are interested in helping to protect some of Idaho's special rivers and streams, contact the Idaho Rivers Coalition, P. O. Box 326, 413 West Idaho Street, Room 301, Boise, ID 83702, (208) 344-6088. Petition carriers are needed from every corner of the state, and this is an Idaho product.



1985 IDAHO CHAPTER MEETING

Plans for the 1985 Idaho Chapter meeting are progressing. The Idaho Chapter of the American Fisheries Society gave their unanimous approval to our proposal for a joint meeting at their February session in Moscow. We have organized a small group to plan the timing and location of the Boise meeting. Three program committees will be formed to plan the

common and separate sessions. The common sessions will focus on riparian lands, with additional topics being considered. If you have ideas and would like to be part of the meeting plans, now is the time to speak up. Contact Chuck Blair at 345-5310 (work) or 336-9345 (home).



FISH AND GAME FUND INTEREST INITIATIVE

Russell Biaggne, Chairman of Idahoans for Wildlife Enhancement, is asking fellow sportsmen and women to support an initiative that would have the interest earned on the Idaho Department of Fish and Game monies returned to the Fish and Game account rather than to the General Fund for the state.

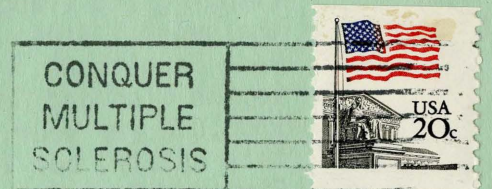
Currently, as the revenue is received from the sale of hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses, tags, and permits, it is deposited into the general State Fish and Game Account and reserved for the Fish and Game Department. BUT, the interest from this account is not credited to the Fish and Game Account. This interest, approximately \$300,000 to \$350,000 per year, is distributed to other state agencies. Not only is this unfair, but it may be illegal. These dollars should remain in the Fish and Game Account and the Fish and Game Department should be able to use these monies to assist in the many management and financial problems that face it today.

The Idaho Fish and Game Commission voted in 1983 to produce legislation that would allow these interest funds to be put back into the Fish and Game Account. However, because of political pressure this legislation did not come before the Legislature.

If you would like to help support this initiative, the signatures of 40,000 registered legal voters are needed by June 1. For more information and petitions, contact: Russell R. Biaggne, Chairman, P. O. Box 9408, Boise, ID 83707.



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