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IDAHO CHAPTER



THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

85(3): October

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

After almost four years of helping guide the Idaho Chapter, it's time to step down in favor of new blood. You have some worthy, qualified candidates in Chuck Blair, Mike Kochert, Karen Steenhof, and Mike Scott. Please read their statements carefully and vote for your choices. According to our by-laws, your ballot and 1986 dues must be received by December 10, so don't put it off. Vote now! As they say in circles much higher than mine. . . The king is dead, long live the king.

I hope to see all of you in Boise at the March 7-8 annual meeting. It will be a good meeting and a special time for me.

ANNUAL MEETING DETAILS

Dates - March 7-8, 1986

Location - Department of Transportation, Boise

Papers - (a message from Chuck Blair) - As you know, the annual meeting is set for March 7 and 8, 1986. We've put out a call for papers and the response has, as usual, been dismal. One person volunteered to present a paper; that's one, not 10. As vice-president, I've chaired the program committee for the past two years. Getting people to present papers is like pulling teeth and, quite frankly, I'm tired of it.

Our sister organization, the Idaho Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, gets enough volunteered papers and panel discussions to hold two full days of meetings with two concurrent sessions, while we can't even fill a half day. I

know there are many of you out there doing interesting things, or perhaps you have ideas for a panel discussion. You don't have to have anything earth-shattering to be worthwhile sharing with the membership.

Everyone seems to enjoy coming to the annual meeting. Let me tell you, they're damn hard to put on if no one is willing to contribute. Let's hear from you. Call Chuck Blair at 345-5310, or send a title and abstract to me at CH2M HILL, 700 Clearwater Lane, Boise, ID 83702.

Auction items - If you would like to donate an item for our auction, call or write Sam Mattise at the Bureau of Land Management, 3948 Development Avenue, Boise, ID 83705, 334-1582. We are interested in all sorts of items, including fishing, hunting, and photography trips and items.

AWARDS - To nominate someone for the Outstanding Wildlife Professional of the Year Award, write to Dan Davis, U. S. Forest Service, Route 1, Box 1, Kamiah, ID 83536. Be sure to send supporting evidence along with your nomination. The deadline for nominations is November 30.

ELECTIONS

For President

Chuck Blair

I am seeking the office of president of the Idaho Chapter of The Wildlife Society for several reasons. I have been vice-president of the chapter for the past two years and have experienced, first hand, how it operates. The Idaho Chapter of The Wildlife Society, like any organization, is only as strong and effective as its members, and unfortunately, most of our members don't have much to do with the chapter. As membership organizations go, this is not unusual, but it makes for a hell of a lot of work for very few individuals. I'd like to try to change that situation by involving more members in the day-to-day activities and decision making processes of the chapter.

In an effort to involve more members, I am proposing several changes to the chapter by-laws. The by-laws describe an Executive Board including the president, vice-president, secretary-treasurer, and past president. I propose a by-law change which would require two meetings of the Executive Board each year, including one session held in conjunction with the annual meeting. The purpose of these meetings would be to discuss chapter business, committee assignments, the annual meeting, etc., and to actively involve more people in chapter activities and decision making. The secretary-treasurer is currently a single officer appointed by the president. I propose a by-laws change to split the secretary-treasurer into two separate offices filled by two people elected by the membership, giving the Executive Board a membership of five. A special election would be required to fill the offices of secretary and treasurer after the by-law change. Specific responsibilities such as newsletter editor, annual meeting chairperson, etc., would be assigned to each office and be carried out by the office-holder.

The by-laws describe seven standing committees. Several of these don't exist, while others consist of a total membership of one. If a committee chairperson moves, as recently happened with the Conservation Affairs committee, or resigns, we should have committee members ready to step in and fill the void. I think we need to establish general operating guidelines for the committees we, as a chapter want, and then staff those committees with interested members. If the chapter is going to function effectively, we all need to show some

interest and get involved. It doesn't require lots of time, and a little effort on the part of several people can accomplish a lot.

As a group, biologists often seem to have a fairly low self-esteem, perhaps because we see politics, budget limitations, and emotion play such a large role in decision making while our professional judgment goes unheeded or, worse yet, un-sought. All too often foresters, engineers, or administrators are the ones making decisions while wildlife takes a seat at the back of the bus. We need to view ourselves as professionals and act accordingly in our daily activities. The society can help in improving our professionalism in many ways. But this will only happen if we, the members, show an interest in our chapter. The chapter can be an effective voice for the profession and for wildlife if each of us is willing to do his or her part.

I am asking for your help in improving the chapter. If you agree with my ideas and are ready to make a commitment of your time and energy, I'd appreciate your vote.

Michael D. Scott

Personal Data: Age 37, married, 2 children, no recent felony convictions.

Professional Background: B.S. and M.S. in Wildlife Biology from University of Montana, Missoula. M.S. thesis on elk habitat selection on a forested summer range (1978). Conducted elk research in the Gospel-Hump Wilderness area as a research associate for the University of Idaho from 1979 to 1982. Joined the Idaho Department of Fish and Game as a research biologist studying the Selkirk Mountains caribou from 1982 to 1985. Current position: Principal Wildlife Research Biologist conducting California bighorn sheep research in southwestern Idaho. Wildlife Society member since 1978. Participation in Society activities: nil.

Goals for the Idaho Chapter, TWS: Assuming the duties of Chapter president strikes me as a daunting task in terms of the workload and skills necessary to do the job well. Like all of us, I guard my time jealously and am reluctant to add to my workload. However, I take pride in being a professional biologist, which in my mind entails a responsibility to the profession above and beyond the 8 to 5 job description. We all benefit from the activities of the Society, we each in turn should contribute more than mere membership.

I perceive three primary functions of the Society which I would stress as president. The first and most important for the wildlife resource is the Society's role as a reservoir of professional expertise which can be brought to bear on the issues of the day. The Society should function as a wildlife proponent unhampered by the agency politics which often constrain individual biologists. A second, somewhat related function of the Society is in the arena of public information and education. We should be working to enhance the public's awareness of the wildlife resource in Idaho and the threats to that resource. The final, but not necessarily least important function of the Society is social. The Society should provide opportunities to meet biologists working outside our usual circle of acquaintances and to become more familiar with wildlife issues and efforts statewide. These opportunities are particularly critical for those just entering the profession.

As I indicated, I have not to date been notably active in the Idaho Chapter. I see this as an opportunity to rectify that sin. Furthermore, I cannot promise to match the level of leadership we've experienced under Lew Nelson. I can only promise to give it my best effort--that I will do.

For Vice-PresidentMike Kochert

Michael N. Kochert is Research Leader for the BLM's Snake River Birds of Prey Area. He received a B.S. in Wildlife Management from Purdue University and an M.S. in Wildlife Management from the University of Idaho. He has worked as a research biologist with the Bureau of Land Management since 1972, and has authored 13 technical articles on raptor biology. Mike is also an adjunctive faculty member of the Biology Department at Boise State University and has also taught for Cedar Crest College, the Yellowstone Institute, and the BLM's Phoenix Training Center. He joined The Wildlife Society in 1972. He is also a member of the American Ornithologist Union, Raptor Research Foundation, the Pacific Bird and Mammal Society, and the World Working Group for the International Council for Bird Preservation. As a member of The Wildlife Society, Mike has served as a member and also as chairperson of the Einarsen Award committee for the Northwest Section TWS and has served on the Outstanding Wildlife Professional Award committee for the Idaho Chapter TWS. He has assisted with many local efforts for the Idaho Chapter, including session chairperson for the annual meeting. Mike is an experienced leader and will serve well as Vice-President of the Idaho Chapter. He is a dedicated worker and he knows how to get things done effectively.

Karen Steenhof

Karen Steenhof is Associate Project Leader for the BLM's Snake River Birds of Prey Research Project. She received a B.S. in Wildlife Biology from Colorado State University and an M.S. in Wildlife Ecology from the University of Missouri. She has worked for the Birds of Prey Research Project as a statistician and biologist since 1977. Karen is also an adjunctive faculty member of the Biology Department at Boise State University and has taught at the BLM's training center in Phoenix. She has been a member of The Wildlife Society since 1973. She is also a member of the American Ornithologist's Union, the Cooper Ornithological Society, the Wilson Ornithological Society, the Raptor Research Foundation, and the Pacific Northwest Bird and Mammal Society. Karen serves as Associate Editor of the Murrelet and has authored more than a dozen technical publications on raptor biology. Since 1979, Karen has been a member of the Pacific Bald Eagle Recovery Team, and since 1981 she has served as the team's leader. She has coordinated statewide counts of eagles since 1980 and has been active in efforts to develop a comprehensive plan to protect wildlife habitat along the Boise River. Karen will serve well as vice-president of the Idaho Chapter because of her ability to organize people and events. Her ability to identify issues critical to wildlife habitat protection will be an asset to the chapter's environmental programs.

DUES RENEWAL

Chapter dues are still being accepted for 1986. If you haven't paid yours yet, please do so now. Mail your \$3.00 to Lew Nelson, Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, University of Idaho, Moscow, ID 83843.

CONSERVATION AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

I have some good and bad news for you. First the good news -- Jerome Hansen has accepted a permanent position in Kansas. Congratulations! Now the bad news -- he was the Chapter's Conservation Affairs Chairperson so now we have a

vacancy to fill. Who would be interested in filling this position? Please give it some thought and we'll select a Chairperson at the annual meeting.