



IDAHO CHAPTER

THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

84(3): September

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

It's an exciting time of the year for the Idaho Chapter and lots of things are happening. Much of the action involves the members and not just the officers.

The annual meeting has been set for March 7-9 in Boise and will be in conjunction with the American Fisheries Society. Please read the other newsletter articles devoted to this subject and plan to attend. If any of you are interested in presenting papers, act now.

For those of you who thought we had forgotten Project WILD, that's not the case. Now is the time for action. For details, see the Project WILD article in this newsletter.

The controversy over the unified dues structure is gaining momentum. It is certainly not one of those black and white issues and each side has some excellent arguments. Most of the people I talk to are still undecided on how to vote. For those national T.W.S. members who will vote, refer to the last national T.W.S. newsletter and study carefully the arguments for and against the proposal. Before too long you will determine the future of The Wildlife Society.

I hope to see all of you in Boise on March 7.

1985 ANNUAL MEETING

The Idaho Chapter of The Wildlife Society will be holding its annual meeting in Boise on March 7-9, 1985, at the Red Lion Downtowner. The meeting will consist of a joint session with the Idaho Chapter of the American Fisheries Society on March 7 and our regular meeting on March 8-9. The joint session will focus on riparian related topics in an effort to gain a better mutual understanding of the importance of healthy riparian communities to both terrestrial and aquatic wildlife. No specific theme has been designated for the general meeting.

Chapter representatives investigated all possible locations for holding a meeting of this size and the Red Lion Downtowner offered the best combination of reasonable prices and excellent facilities. Meeting room rental rates will be based on the number of rooms which are occupied by our members. Location is another factor in favor of the Downtowner. There are several sit-down and fast food restaurants within walking distance. The hotel has excellent food at reasonable prices and the Friday night happy hour includes excellent hors d'oeuvres. There will also be a social function Friday evening in the hotel so parking will not be a problem. Room rates are \$37 for a single and \$44 for a double. All are excellent, large rooms with thick walls so you can party after hours without any complaints from your neighbors (if anybody is into that sort of thing). These special rates only apply if you identify yourself as a T.W.S. member and meeting attendee. For reservations call the Red Lion Downtowner at 344-7691 or write them at 1800 Fairview, Boise, ID 83702.

CALL FOR PAPERS - TWS/AFS SESSION

Several specific areas of discussion are being developed for the joint TWS/AFS session on riparian communities. We are also interested in technical papers dealing with riparian related topics. These may be on riparian habitat values and/or use by wildlife; impacts of grazing, timber sales, etc.; mitigation or rehabilitation methods; microclimate effects on adjacent plant communities; or any other topics you've worked on.

Please send title and abstract for consideration to:



Chuck Blair
CH2M Hill
Post Office Box 8748
Boise, ID 83707

Abstracts must be received by November 30 to receive consideration.

CALL FOR PAPERS - GENERAL SESSION

Papers are being solicited for the general session of the 1985 T.W.S. meeting. The subject area is open to all wildlife related topics, be they of a philosophical or more down to earth vein.

Send title and abstract by November 30 to:

Alan Sands
Bureau of Land Management
3948 Development Way
Boise, ID 83705

OUTSTANDING WILDLIFE PROFESSIONAL AWARD

Last year the Idaho Chapter presented the Outstanding Wildlife Professional Award to Bob Autenrieth for his many contributions in the areas of wildlife research and management.

It is time to again reflect on the people in our profession. If you feel one of our colleagues deserves recognition for outstanding wildlife work, please nominate him/her as soon as possible.

Nominees need not reside in Idaho, but the work which qualifies the individual must have been performed in Idaho. Awards can be shared if the accomplishment is the work of more than one person. The Awards Committee will screen the nominations and recommend all highly deserving individuals to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee, consisting of the Chapter president, vice-president, secretary-treasurer, and awards committee chairman, will make the final selection. Nominees not selected this year will automatically be considered next year.

In making a nomination, be sure to include the following information: nominee's name, job title, employer, address, the person(s) making the nomination, and the reasons for nomination (resume of achievements must be provided and may include other information, such as past achievements, organizational memberships, affiliations, etc.).

Nominations must be postmarked no later than November 12, 1984. Send your nominations to Stu Murrell, Idaho Fish and Game, Post Office Box 428, Jerome, ID 83338.

PROJECT WILD

Project WILD is off to a great start in Idaho. To date there have been 23 workshops with 474 teachers in attendance. Idaho was recently recognized as having the best Project WILD program in the United States.

Now is the appropriate time to get our T.W.S. members involved. The best contribution we can make is to give presentations to individual classes. Thus, I plan to publish a list of T.W.S. members who volunteered to give presentations and distribute it to teachers who attended Project WILD workshops. Thus, teachers desiring wildlife presentations will contact individual T.W.S. members. To date, the following people have volunteered.

Ables, Ernie
Ablin-Stone, Kris
Ackerman, Bruce
Barkhurst, Cindy
Bills, Jack
Blackburn, Carol
Blair, Chuck
Boss, Al
Brown, Cecil
Burton, Lynn
Carson, Jennifer

Chaffin, Chris
Chu, Tec
Collie, Mark
Davis, Dan
Deutscher, Gerald
Donohoo, Larry
Elms, Michael
Gebhardt, Joyce
Gleisner, Donna
Goodnight, Bill
Gore, Jay

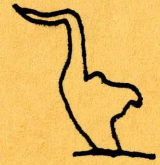
Guardia-Harper, Valerie
Harrington, Paul
Harvey, Karen
Hattendorf-Mitchell, Kim
Hemker, Marilyn
Hemker, Tom
Hilliard, Mark
Hoffman, Russ
Howard, Rich
Hudak, Howard
Langelier, Lisa



La Plant, Dan
Mangan, Larry
Marshall, John
Mattise, Sam
Meuleman, Allyn
Mitchell, Cliff
Nellis, Carl
Nelson, Lew
Nelson, Lou

Ogden, Cay
Palmer, Bruce
Pierce, John
Power, Gary
Ralphs, Bob
Sands, Alan
Sather-Blair, Signe
Shea, Ruth
Spillett, Juan

Stenhof, Karen
Talbert, Dennis
Tank, Sue
Todd, Mike
Trujillo, Randy
Vandernoer, Charlie
Villegas, Delanno
Vora, Robin
Wise, Susan
Wywialowski-Smith, Alice

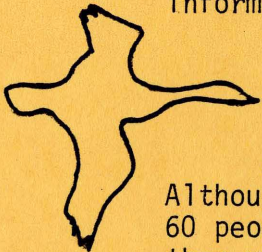


To be most effective, we need a larger number of volunteers. To get your name on the list, please call or write Lew as soon as possible (Department of Fish and Wildlife, University of Idaho, Moscow, ID 83843, 885-7323). The list will be finalized by October 30 so act now. This is our chance to provide a necessary service to teachers desiring to educate kids in wildlife ecology and management.

NATIONAL BIRDS OF PREY CONSERVATION WEEK

October 7-13, 1984, has been officially designated as National Birds of Prey Conservation Week. As a nation we've come a long way - from shooting "chicken hawks" on sight to recognizing their importance. That deserves a celebration.

An afternoon and evening of events (2-8 p.m.) has been set for October 10 at the Student Union Building on the Boise State University campus. Specific activities will include an opening ceremony, four raptor movies, a display area, live birds, and initiation of a Speaker's Bureau. For additional information, contact Allan Thomas at 334-1835.



MEMBERSHIP REPORT

At the present time we have 229 paid members in the Idaho Chapter. Although this gives us a solid foundation, I am still concerned about the 60 people who did not renew their memberships in 1984. Although all of them were informed of their status through the newsletters and some were actually contacted in person, they still didn't send in their dues. Can someone explain why?

Let's look at it another way. Of the 60 delinquent members, almost all of them do not belong to the parent Society. And yet, if contacted, they would probably be opposed to the unified dues structure. I must admit that the unified dues structure would solve our membership problem - you're either in or out.

If the Idaho Chapter is to survive and do any good at all, the members must support it. Having to devote large amounts of time to membership detracts from other important issues. I am open to suggestions on how to solve this dilemma. At the same time, don't forget the many wildlife professionals in Idaho who never join the Chapter at all.

On a positive note, I commend those of you who routinely join the Idaho Chapter each year. You are the backbone of our organization. Thank you for that support.

WE BELIEVE - "OWYHEE CANYONLANDS WILDERNESS"

(Letter sent to Joe Zimmer, Boise District Manager,
Bureau of Land Management)

The Idaho Chapter of the Wildlife Society has reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Owyhee Canyonlands Wilderness. We recommend that 382,510 acres be designated as wilderness. This acreage includes the All Manageable Wilderness Alternative (the proposed action) and 8,350 acres of canyon and plateau in Nevada on the South Fork of the Owyhee River that were omitted in this alternative. This omitted area provides important California bighorn sheep habitat and has a high density of nesting raptors. Its inclusion as wilderness should be reexamined by the Bureau.

During our review of the document we contacted several biologists familiar with the wildlife resources of the area. Our recommendations encompass most of habitat for the California bighorn sheep in the study area as well as habitat for numerous other wildlife species indigenous to the area. The life requisites of these native species must be provided for if the Owyhee Canyonlands are to maintain their wilderness values. The plateau area extending out from the canyon is very important in this regard, not just to California bighorn sheep but also to other species such as mule deer, sage grouse, and raptors. The proposed acreage of plateau rangelands provides necessary food and solitude for the canyonland wildlife. Increased competition with livestock for available forage and human disturbances as a result of mineral entry or recreational access roads on the plateaus would be detrimental to these wildlife species. These interactions would adversely affect the wildlife related wilderness values of the canyonlands. It is, therefore, vital that adequate plateau acreage be included in the wilderness plan.

We support the All Manageable Wilderness Alternative plus the 8,350 acres in Nevada rather than the Wildlife Wilderness Alternative (287,490 acres) because we consider the lower acreage proposal to be too conservative an estimate of the habitat needs of wildlife associated with the canyonlands. As we understand it, the plateau acreage for this proposal corresponds principally to the forage needs of the California bighorn sheep. We feel that the plateau area should be extended further to minimize human disturbances on surrounding lands. Hunted populations of bighorn sheep generally are not tolerant of human activities in close proximity to their home ranges. Because the flat terrain in the study area affords a long line-of-sight viewing distance, sheep behavior and habitat use can be affected by activities over a mile away. We feel that the extended acreage in the All Manageable Wilderness Proposal is a necessary safeguard to protect bighorn sheep habitat. The additional acreage will also benefit several other native species.

We appreciate the chance to comment on this draft.

