



# IDAHO CHAPTER

## THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

86(1): January

### PRESIDENT'S CORNER

It doesn't seem like four years have passed since I became President of the Idaho Chapter. Time sure flies by when you're having fun. Since this will be my last newsletter, permit me to make a few final comments.

I believe that the Idaho Chapter has made significant gains over the last few years and is in good shape. Several things have been accomplished that we should feel good about. What we did was possible because our members were always willing to work on specific tasks when asked to do so. They did a great job, and they did it often. In particular, I wish to thank Chuck Blair, Dan Davis, Jay Gore, Tom Leege, Sam Mattise, Stu Murrell, Signe Sather-Blair, Karen Steenhof, and all the rest of you that were eager to help the Idaho Chapter.

I especially want to express my thanks for having me as President. Your belief in me was taken seriously and I hope that the results are worthy of your trust. It is now time to transfer that faith and willingness to help toward Chuck Blair and Karen Steenhof, the new President and Vice-President. They have been entrusted with the responsibility of moving our Chapter forward.

Before you get too smug about getting rid of Lew, though, I should remind you that my next job will be as Sectional Representative for the Northwest Section of the Wildlife Society. Since one of my jobs is working with the state and student chapters, you'll be seeing me a lot. Maybe that saying about "old soldiers fading away" really isn't valid after all.

I hope to see all of you in Boise at the annual meeting.



1986 ANNUAL MEETING

We are all hopeful that you can attend the Idaho Chapter's annual meeting in Boise on March 7-8, 1986. It will be held at the Department of Transportation, 3311 State Street. Please plan to attend. This is our one chance to get together, have a little fun, hear how wildlife management is progressing in Idaho, see old friends, and relax. The following will give you an idea of what is planned.

March 7 and 8 - Presentations

The nesting status of common loons in Idaho - Tom Fitch and Chuck Trost

The status of colonial nesting waterbirds in Idaho - Chuck Trost

Attributes of potential conservation officers as seen through management's eyes - Frank NeSmith

Aspects of the Willow Creek summit wintering elk herd - Sandy Kratville

Idaho's nongame program: past, present, and future - Wayne Melquist

Survey of sportsman attitudes regarding contact with Idaho Fish and Game personnel - Bruce Bertwell and Lou Nelson

Food habits of captive and wild pheasants in Wyoming - Sharon Luce

Simple identification of Idaho bats - Barry Keller

Falcon propagation at the Peregrine Fund's Rocky Mountain facility - Cal Sanford

Education: link to the future for birds of prey - Lisa Langelier

Wildlife mitigation and planning under the Northwest Power Planning Act - Marty Montgomery

Nest site characteristics and reproductive success of long-eared owls in southwestern Idaho - Jeff Marks

Determining minimum viable population (MVP) sizes for wildlife conservation - Craig Groves

Winter raptor use of perch sites in the Lemhi Valley of east central Idaho - L. Haggas and J. W. Connelly

Summer prescription burning on elk winter range, a significant change in habitat management philosophy on national forest lands - Stephen Weaver

Peregrine falcon reintroduction in the West - Bill Heinrich

Mitigation of highway construction impacts to wetlands - Rob Tiedemann

Summer habitat use by Columbian sharp-tailed grouse in western Idaho - Vicki Saab Marks

Behavioral comparisons of two elk populations - Ernest Ables



Presentations - cont.

Ferruginous hawk nesting surveys in the Snake River Birds of Prey Area: implications for long term monitoring - Mike Kochert, Karen Steenhof, and John Doremus

Responses of breeding prairie falcons to experimental blasting - Tony Holthuijzen

March 7, late afternoon - Business MeetingMarch 7, evening - Social, Dinner, and Auction

As you know, every year our socials are a lot of fun. Last year the addition of an auction made it even more enjoyable. So, we're going to have another one this year and are still looking for donors. If you would like to donate an item, a trip, or whatever please call Signe Sather-Blair at 334-1931 as soon as possible. To give you a better idea, the following items were donated last year: raft trips, photo sessions, hunting trip, duck decoys, pistol shooting lesson, art prints, fishing flies, Christmas tree, caribou sight seeing trip, and a belt buckle.

IDAHO CHAPTER - THE WILDLIFE SOCIETYANNUAL MEETING

March 3, 1985

President Lew Nelson thanked everyone who helped arrange the meeting. It was a collective effort that required the services of many members. The joint meeting with the American Fisheries Society was going well and we should consider doing it again in the future. Chuck Blair suggested a cutback on weekday meetings because of agency people needing to use compensatory time to attend. He also suggested a 1-day meeting. A discussion was held on meeting places. This needs to be explored in more detail. For all meetings we should encourage the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to hold their biologists meeting before ours. That would be of benefit to their biologists and help our attendance.

The new secretary-treasurer for the Idaho Chapter is Wilma Baker. We are grateful that she has the time and interest to serve in this position.

Treasurer's report - 1985 was started with \$122 in the bank. During 1984 we had an income of \$1300, of which \$900 went to the Elmer Norberg Scholarship Fund. By next year that fund will be completed. The remainder of the money was spent on newsletters and miscellaneous items.

The unified dues structure for the Wildlife Society was defeated by a 2-1 margin. It is believed that the vote was premature because many of the members were in doubt as to what would happen to our current members who did not join but wanted to remain active in chapters. This may surface again in a few years.

The Chapter's membership has shown a healthy growth, from 189 in 1982 to 210 in 1983 and 231 in 1984. Although a positive trend, there are still many professionals that haven't joined. What do we have to do to get them to join?



A report was given on the status of Project WILD. The program is doing great and interest is even higher than before. Members were again asked to volunteer to speak to classes. The new, revised list of volunteers will be mailed to teachers in the fall.

Lew expressed concern about non-paying conference participants. A few people attend the meeting and do not pay the required fees, which are needed to pay the bills. The members, although they do not approve of this behavior, suggested that we do nothing different about the situation.

The members voted that letters of appreciation and certificates be sent to Jerry Stern, Kathy Gager, Gene Eyraud, and Jeff Eaton. The people nominating these people will send the appropriate information to Lew. If additional people are nominated for awards, a committee will be appointed.

Signe Sather-Blair resigned from the Conservation Affairs Committee. Jerome Hanson agreed to take her place.

The legislation dealing with riparian areas was defeated. However, many positive comments and some support was received so it will probably be introduced again. Discussion centered around the need for having demonstration areas to illustrate what could be accomplished.

The Outstanding Wildlife Professional of the Year Award will not be presented this year. That is acceptable because it was designed to be offered only when an individual is deserving. Lew expressed concern that there might be deserving people who should receive the award but weren't nominated.

The new officers will take over in 1986 at the annual meeting. It is important to recognize and elect good officers so that the mission of the Chapter can be continued. Members who have an interest in running for an office should contact the elections committee.

THANKS JERRY

Mr. Jerry Stern  
Sagle, ID 83860

Dear Jerry:

The Idaho Chapter of The Wildlife Society wishes to recognize and commend you for your past efforts toward better wildlife management.

You were quick to recognize and act on your professional obligation to promote wildlife management on the Bonner's Ferry Ranger District. Under your leadership, biologists came to have a voice, and wildlife truly became one of the multiple resource targets for the district. Furthermore, by example and by persuasion, you assumed a leadership role among other managers, encouraging their commitment to better wildlife management.

Chief among your concerns was the lack of an adequate data base for proper caribou and grizzly management on the district. To correct the problem, you were instrumental in initiating and supporting wildlife research efforts, whether within or outside



your own agency. You unhesitatingly contributed time, materials, equipment, and encouragement to further those efforts and played an important role, both in the success of those research projects and in integrating their findings into management planning.

Perhaps most important of all, Jerry, you took it upon yourself to become a wildlife spokesman in the local community. You worked to heighten local recognition of U. S. Forest Service responsibilities for wildlife management and actively promoted community attitude changes toward threatened and endangered species. In this manner, you were able to largely defuse potential controversies and improve public acceptance of land management changes aimed at benefiting wildlife.

During your tenure as Ranger on the Bonner's Ferry District, you succeeded in creating a much stronger, more professional wildlife program with a broader base of public support. For this achievement, Jerry, you deserve the thanks and recognition of the wildlife profession.

The Idaho Chapter of The Wildlife Society is proud of your attitudes and actions toward wildlife. Please accept the enclosed certificate and photograph as a token of our appreciation.

THANKS GENE AND JEFF

Mr. Eugene E. Eyraud, Manager, and  
Mr. Jeffrey S. Eaton, Assistant Manager  
Harriman State Park  
Ashton, ID 83420

Dear Gene and Jeff:

The Idaho Chapter of The Wildlife Society is pleased to recognize and commend your efforts in managing wildlife at Harriman State Park.

Harriman State Park, donated in 1975, is managed by the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation. The stipulations of the donation provide a unique management challenge, to manage the park as both a wildlife refuge and a recreational park.

Both of you have been involved in the park's development and management since its inception. Though your formal training has been in fields other than wildlife biology, you have worked diligently to protect wildlife and its habitats. In areas of conflict, your primary philosophy has been to put wildlife first.

The Henry's Fork in Harriman State Park provides the major winter habitat for the Rocky Mountain population of trumpeter swans. Disturbance-free habitat is crucial to the survival of these birds. You recognized the importance of this habitat and have insured its continued protection while still providing recreational opportunities. In addition to insuring future quality trumpeter swan habitat within the park, the eight years of data on the winter swan surveys have proven invaluable for making recreation and development decisions.

The Idaho Chapter of The Wildlife Society is proud of your attitudes and actions toward wildlife. Please accept the enclosed certificates as a token of our appreciation.