

ROOM RESERVATION REQUEST FOR THE NW SECTION OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY AT THE
SHERATON MISSOULA HOTEL.

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

ARRIVAL DATE _____ DEPARTURE DATE _____ PHONE _____

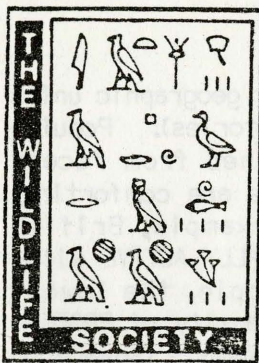
SINGLE _____ (\$44.00) DOUBLE _____ (\$48.00) TRIPLE _____ (\$59.00)

CHECK ENCLOSED IN AMOUNT OF FIRST NIGHT'S ROOM RATE

CREDIT CARD # _____ EXP. DATE _____

RETURN TO: SHERATON MISSOULA HOTEL, 200 SOUTH PATTEE ST., MISSOULA, MONTANA
59802, ATTN: RESERVATIONS DEPARTMENT

THIS RESERVATION MUST BE RECEIVED PRIOR TO MARCH 19, 1985.



NORTHWEST WILDLIFER

ALASKA
ALBERTA
BRITISH COLUMBIA
IDAHO
MONTANA
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
OREGON
WASHINGTON
YUKON

Northwest Section

January 1985 - Philip Schladweiler, Editor

OUTGOING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I have mixed feelings welcoming John Weigand as President Elect. First, I am delighted that John agreed to run and will now serve. But we were safe there - because we had two excellent candidates. It was the proportion of Individuals voting that I found appalling. When the ballots were counted and recounted around my kitchen table, we discovered two things: 1) the election was remarkably close, and 2) an abysmal 7% of the Section members voted. Ever the optimist, I choose to view the percentage voting as a reflection of a large number of undecided, unable to make up their minds over two worthy candidates. I hope so, other interpretations are far less attractive. For one thing, it seems I could have received only three votes in the last election and made it in a landslide.

Harestad and I were pondering the composition of the Section after the votes were counted. Both of us have reasonably fertile imaginations, so Harestad sought to cool those down with "real data". The result is his note and table in this Newsletter. The data are just sufficient to lend themselves to all kinds of speculation. Perhaps we could have defined a PAWB as someone who got around to voting. I confess that I encouraged Harestad's modest statistical exercise, but accept no responsibility for the acronym PAWB.

Another item in the Newsletter is a summary of points I believe the Northwest Section should support regarding Yellowstone grizzlies. I undertook to initiate a statement on the basis of two potential qualifications: 1) as a Canadian I have no interest or ties to any of the agencies or organizations currently involved, and 2) I have 2.5 feet of material on the Yellowstone bears that I have actually read.



We began by circulating the "Campaign for Yellowstone Bears" proposal to chapter Presidents and soliciting comments. Comments were received and are incorporated in the draft statement in this Newsletter. Those who saw the original proposal will notice that the number of points is reduced from 26 to 10. That was easily made possible by giving our support to the current recovery plan (1982) which includes the points absent from the current 10.

The plan also includes most of the issues noted in the current statement, but it seems the Section should support particular, critical activities explicitly. Any Section members that have concerns about the current draft should send them directly to me (my address is given with the draft).

Welcome John!

Fred Bunnell

MEMBERSHIP: things are getting better, eh.

You should have received your membership renewal forms by now. Northwest Section dues (\$5) should be sent directly to The Wildlife Society to ensure that you are put on the mailing list. Section dues pay for publication and mailing of the newsletter and organization of the Annual Meeting. If you are a member of the Northwest Section, thank you for your continued support. If you belong to TWS but not the Northwest Section you receive this newsletter but only at the expense of your colleagues. Please join us and contribute to a strong and active section.

The following table lists the number of TWS members that resided in the Northwest Section during 1980 to 1984. These data include both Northwest Section members and non-section members. Overall the number of TWS members in the area represented by the Northwest Section increased by 7% since 1980. The greatest growth occurred in Alaska, up 30%.

Other statistics reveal regional differences in the presence of our profession. The frequency and density of PROFESSIONALLY ACTIVE wildlife

biologists were calculated for geographic units (states, provinces and territories). Populations and areas were obtained from recent almanacs. Some of the values are comforting, others are alarming. For example, British Columbia has only 1 PROFESSIONALLY ACTIVE wildlife biologist per 32,000 people, the lowest frequency of all units. The density of PROFESSIONALLY ACTIVE wildlife biologists (square km per biologist) varies tremendously among units. British Columbia has the third lowest density, surpassed by all other units except Yukon and Northwest Territories.

British Columbia's density of PROFESSIONALLY ACTIVE wildlife biologists is one-tenth that of most states and one-half that of Alberta. This could result from two sources: B.C. may have relatively few wildlife biologists or there may be a low participation rate by biologists in the professional society. There are many other comparisons that could provoke discussion. I reside in British Columbia and am concerned about our profession. The 16% increase in provincial TWS membership since 1980 indicates there is still hope for the "colonies".

TWS membership in the Northwest Section. Frequency and density are calculated as number of people and square kilometers per professionally active wildlife biologist (PAWB).

	Number of Members					% change 1980-84	% of section 1984	Frequency (people/PAWB)	Density (sq km/PAWB)
	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984				
AK	224	239	282	287	291	+30	20.2	1,381	5,081
AB	118	130	135	136	135	+14	9.4	16,136	4,898
BC	73	73	70	73	85	+16	5.9	32,288	11,160
ID	200	197	186	188	179	-10	12.4	5,274	1,192
MT	225	212	215	235	227	+1	15.7	3,466	1,659
NWT	19	18	18	17	18	-5	1.2	2,541	187,761
OR	263	281	277	253	260	-1	18.0	10,127	958
WA	218	228	223	228	260	+10	16.6	17,217	718
YT	9	8	6	8	9	0	0.6	2,757	59,580
Total	1349	1386	1412	1425	1444	+7	-	-	-

Alton S. Harestad,
Secretary-Treasurer NW Section

YELLOWSTONE GRIZZLIES

In 1983 the "Ad hoc Committee for Population Analysis" estimated the Yellowstone grizzly bear population at 183 to 207. As a member of the committee, I probably should not pass judgement, but I believe the estimates are defensible and conservative. It also seemed clear that the population had declined since the 1960's. Currently, interagency grizzly bear recovery efforts are well under way; Chris Servheen coordinates these efforts from Missoula, Montana. Many private conservation organizations (e.g. National Audubon Society, the National Wildlife Federation, and Defenders of Wildlife) have provided assistance in generating public support for recovery efforts. Recovery efforts also have received some criticism, although the criticism has seldom been straightforward. For example, the "Campaign for Yellowstone's Bears" noted (January 1984) that "...bear management by public agencies has thus far failed to conserve the grizzly", but continued by proposing 26 measures to "save" the bears - the vast majority of which are currently pursued by the ongoing recovery efforts. Given the importance of the issue and the remarkable ratio of heat to light that surrounds it, the Wildlife Society is professionally obliged to take an unequivocal stand. It is far better that this stand originate from the Northwest Section than from elsewhere. For one thing, many section members are intimately acquainted with the issue.

On the back of this page are statements I believe the Northwest Section of The Wildlife Society should support. A brief "history" of the development of these statements is noted in the President's column. No preamble for a position statement is provided here, merely the statements that likely would best serve the thoughtful management of grizzlies in Yellowstone. Wording in square brackets is information for those who may not be aware of what has occurred and is occurring at Yellowstone; that wording is not part of the statement I hope the Section can support.

All of the activities are presently ongoing, the statement would simply lend the Section and Society's support to important efforts at conservation and management of grizzly bears.

The Northwest Section of The Wildlife Society supports and encourages:

1. The continued efforts of the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee. [This is the "umbrella group" which implements research and management directed to the recovery of the grizzly bear in the U.S.].
2. The implementation of the Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan (1982) [208 pp] including the Grizzly Bear Guidelines for designating bear habitat. [It has proven impossible to establish "critical habitat" for an opportunist, wide-ranging species, but the Guidelines have proven an effective tool. The recovery plan itself and Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act ensure consultation, environmental assessment, etc. regarding activities in bear habitat].
3. The phasing-out of existing developments in areas intensively used by grizzlies and those which contain the best habitat (such as the Fishing Bridge recreational facility in Yellowstone National Park). [Ongoing].
4. The closure of prime habitat areas and others receiving intensive use by grizzlies during appropriate seasons until population recovery is assured. [Currently about 16% Yellowstone is closed, despite continued opposition by some groups or individuals].
5. Law enforcement activities in the Yellowstone area adequate to eliminate poaching, unauthorized control actions, and the sale of grizzly bear parts acquired illegally. [Currently attempted].
6. Assignment of high priorities by U.S. attorneys and federal judges to cases of poaching, and full prosecution of poachers under the Endangered Species Act. [Letters sent to Attorney General and others].
7. Full prosecution of poachers who are tried in state courts and stiffer, uniform penalties for persons convicted of illegally killing grizzly bears or selling grizzly bear parts.
8. The elimination of livestock from occupied grizzly bear habitat where conflicts have been demonstrated. [Presently handled by situation 1 of Grizzly Bear Guidelines].
9. Enforcement of careful handling and disposal of garbage on public lands in ways that will not attract bears, and encouragement of municipalities and counties to require the same from the private sector. [Private lands constitute about 1% of the area and contribute about 25% of the bear mortality].
10. A continued, vigorous information and education program in the Yellowstone area stressing grizzly bear protection, camp sanitation, and other precautionary measures for visitor safety. [Ongoing].

If you have additional comments or more appropriate wording, please send these directly to me, quickly (Fred Bunnell, Faculty of Forestry, University of B.C, Vancouver, B.C. V6T 1W5, Canada).

NORTHWEST SECTION ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting will be held April 3-5, 1985, in Missoula, Montana. Joe Ball (Montana Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, Missoula, 406-243-5372) is Program Chairman.

The theme for the meeting is: WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT DIRECTIONS IN THE NORTHWEST THROUGH 1990. We perceive a number of subsections toward this theme:

1. Wildlife Supply and Demand
2. The Role of Wildlife Biologists in Public Agencies
3. The Role of Planning
4. The Role of Private Enterprise in Wildlife Management (e.g. arms and ammunition manufacturers, sporting goods dealers, service providers, etc.)
5. The Role of Special Interest Groups in Wildlife Management (e.g., National Wildlife Federation, Ducks Unlimited, etc.)
6. Federal vs. State/ Provincial Roles in Managing Wildlife
7. The Real Role of Law Enforcement (i.e. changing philosophies, modern innovations, etc.)
8. Others?

This is obviously a broad theme, one which should generate quite a few presentations.

Speakers should send a title and abstract to Joe Ball no later than February 8, 1985. The next Section Newsletter will include a tentative agenda. Abstracts will be printed and distributed at the Conference registration desk.

We will meet at the new Sheraton Hotel along the bank of the Clark Fork River. Room rates are \$44 for a single, \$48 for a double (2 people - 1 or 2 beds), and \$51 for a triple. All rooms have king or queen size beds; the triple includes 2 king-size beds and a rollaway. Cost-conscious participants are encouraged to double or triple up. Hotel amenities include a restaurant, bar, swimming pool, sauna, jacuzzi, and airport shuttle service.

SECTION ELECTIONS

We have two important offices to fill for 1985-86. The first is that of Vice President, who will serve as the Program Chairman for the 1986 meeting. According to the rotating schedule, the 1986 meeting will be in Oregon. Candidates for this position are: David de Calesta (Oregon State University) and John Cornely (Willamette Valley Wildlife Refuge).

The second position is Secretary-Treasurer. Inasmuch as the business of the Section is facilitated when this office is held by someone in close geographic proximity to the President, the two candidates for this position are: L. Jack Lyon (Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station) and Alan Harmata (adjunct Assistant Professor, Biology Department, Montana State University).

Please vote for one person for each office, detach and send to John P. Weigand, P.O. Box 764, Belgrade, Montana 59714 by March 1, 1985. Let's improve our voting percentage on these positions!

Meetings of Interest:

Fourth International Theriological Congress 13-20 August 1985, Edmonton, Alberta

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