



IDAHO CHAPTER

THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

1986(4):December

Greetings from Boise. The recent vote on the bylaws changes is now behind us. The good news is that all three proposed changes were approved by you, the membership of the Idaho chapter, by a 3:1 margin. So we will be electing a Secretary and a Treasurer to serve out the remainder of the existing term, the annual dues have been raised to \$5.00 and the expanded Executive Board will be required to meet at least twice each year (we've met three times so far in 1986). You will be able to renew your Chapter membership for 1986 for \$3.00 until December 31, after that it will cost you \$5.00.

As I implied above, there is some bad news. Only about 25 percent of the eligible members voted on the bylaws changes. What happened to the rest of you? It didn't take much effort to vote, maybe it was the 22 cent stamp!

ANNUAL MEETING

Plans for the annual meeting to be held on February 20 and 21 are coming along nicely. It will be held at the Red Lion Downtowner, the excellent facility we used for our meeting with AFS a few years ago. The Red Lion has offered us some attractive guest room rates (cheaper than 2 years ago). The government rates are \$32 for a single and \$40 for a double; the regular rates are \$38 and \$45, respectively, with a double/double (two queen beds) for \$45. These rates are comparable to any other decent place in town, and the government rate will fit into the new federal per diem allowance for Boise. You can use the enclosed cards to make your reservations. We had a poor turnout of people staying at the Red Lion for our last meeting so only 10 rooms are blocked for this one.

There are other meetings going on at the same time so if you plan to stay there I strongly encourage you to make your reservations early, you can always cancel if your plans change.

Vicki Marks will be handling the arrangements for the Friday evening Auction and Social. She promises it will be a great time with some significant changes from past years. If you've got any ideas or would like to help, you can reach her at 334-1582.

Signe Sather-Blair is again organizing our fund raiser Auction. We encourage you to donate your items, services, or whatever else you think of to this worthy cause. Signe can be reached at 334-1931 or 343-8028.

CALL FOR PAPERS

This is a reminder that there are still some slots for additional papers to be presented at the meeting. The deadline for receipt of abstracts is 31 December, 1986. Send two copies of your typed abstract to Karen Steenhof, Program Chairman, Boise District BLM, 3948 Development Avenue, Boise, Idaho 83705.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

I've got just a few comments for people to consider:

1. I would like to see the annual meeting rotated between Moscow and Boise rather than always in Boise.
2. Continue efforts to determine the cause of apathy in the Chapter.
3. Make some positive changes to get biologists involved. Apathy is a symptom that the Chapter is not meeting the needs of the biologist.
4. Radically change the meeting format to get some attention.

Dan Davis
Orofino

Dear Editor:

First let me say thanks to Dan for making the effort to give us his thoughts. I would like to briefly address each of the above points. 1) I think we should have the flexibility to hold the annual meeting wherever we want to in a given year, although I do feel that attendance will suffer as a result of moving it out of Boise. Perhaps every other year in Boise with alternate years in Moscow or Coeur d'Alene and then Pocatello would be appropriate. This issue is up to the membership but it takes a large commitment on the part of people in the meeting place to pull it off. We'll be discussing it at the annual meeting. 2) Bill Mullins and Paul Moroz have been trying to find out why biologists are not joining the Chapter; those as well as other efforts are continuing. 3) Phyllis Kochert and I have changed this newsletter to try and make it more interesting; yet Dan Davis is the first person to respond to our requests for your thoughts. It is a start but Phyllis and I aren't entertainers. Newsletters and meetings are only as interesting as the Chapter members want to make them. If you've got some ideas let's hear from you! 4) Concerning a radical change in the meeting format, I'm at somewhat of a loss as there are only a few options that come to mind. These include panel discussions of current or controversial topics, workshops on a variety of topics, or who knows what. Again, if you've got some ideas and energy get involved! These subjects will be discussed at the annual meeting. Send us your thoughts for the next newsletter.

Chuck Blair
Boise

Send Letters to the Editor to: Phyllis Kochert, Idaho TWS
Newsletter Editor, 10230 West Amity Road, Boise, ID 83709.

RIDE BOARD

In the past I've heard about people with vans coming to the annual Chapter meeting with three or four empty seats, or others not coming for lack of transportation. This newsletter can act as a clearing house for ride information to and from the meeting. If you think you may have extra space in your vehicle or need a ride to the February meeting, write us and we'll list all the items in the January newsletter. That way you can find each other and reduce the cost of your trip and make it more enjoyable. Send your notice to Phyllis Kochert at the address above.

SECRETARY AND TREASURER ELECTION

As noted, we will be electing a new Secretary and a Treasurer to serve out the remainder of the present term (through the 1988 annual meeting). Bob Jones will head up the Nominating Committee. The Bylaws call for the Nominating Committee to develop a slate of two candidates for each elective position. Additional nominees may be added to the slate upon the signed support of six or more members, provided prior approval has been obtained from each nominee.

One of the primary reasons I proposed this Bylaws change was to involve more people in Chapter activities and to try and get a broader range of people from around the state involved with the Executive Board. Those of you who have been sitting around waiting for your chance to get involved, this is it. You can submit nominations to Bob Jones at 430 Ladino Drive, Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401. Nominations will be accepted until January 9, 1987. Each nominee must provide a very brief biographical sketch and statement of purpose to Bob by that date so we can elect new officers to be installed at the Annual Meeting. If you want to run, you'll have to get moving.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE

CRUCIAL MULE DEER WINTER RANGE DESTROYED

In a 10-day period in August, 1,700 lightning strikes occurred North of Emmett, Idaho. Thirty wildfires burned approximately 218,000 acres, most of which was considered crucial mule deer winter range. The area supported a wintering population of 4,000-6,000 deer, a variety of non-game species, and at least six species of upland game birds.

Fires burned hot and fast with daytime temperatures over 100°F and winds of 10-15 mph. The shrub components, primarily sagebrush and bitterbrush, was completely destroyed in most burned areas. Riparian zones suffered various degrees of damage, from light to very severe.

An Emergency Fire Rehabilitation Plan was written to conduct and support the restoration efforts. The primary objective was to stop erosion and restore the watershed in the burned area. The secondary objective was to restore the vegetative composition to preburn conditions.

The plan includes fall and spring aerial seedings of a grass/shrub mix, aerial seedings of shrubs only, hand plantings of bitterbrush seeds and seedlings, and mechanical seedings of bitterbrush. Initially, 200 miles of fire-lines were aerial

seeded and harrowed to reduce erosion. A 200-acre grass/shrub seeding was completed this fall. Additional seedings are planned for early spring.

In October, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game conducted an either-sex deer hunt in Management Unit 32. Since about 80 percent of their winter range was destroyed approximately 3,000 animals were harvested. Haystacks have been paneled and orchard owners were contacted to try to minimize problems.

The Friends of Squaw Butte is a volunteer group organized to assist the BLM in rehabilitating the winter range. Working under the technical direction of BLM biologists, the group has been collecting and transplanting native plant seeds and seedlings. The members have worked diligently this fall and will renew their efforts next spring. Their goal is to plant each weekend from March through mid-May. Public interest is high and many sportsmen as well as conservation, professional, and school groups have volunteered to help in this effort. We encourage anyone interested in helping with the program in any way to call Sam Mattise at 334-1582.

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The Friends of Spruce Butte is a volunteer group organized to
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has been collecting and transplanting native plant seeds and
seedlings. The members have worked diligently this fall and
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