

DEC 1 1987

# IDAHO CHAPTER



## THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

1987 (3): October

Greetings from Boise! A lot has been happening with the Idaho Chapter over the last few months. This newsletter will include items on the status of the Egin-Hamer Road, the upcoming Chapter election and meeting, and notes from the Chapter and Northwest Section Executive Committee meetings.

### ANNUAL MEETING

The 1988 meeting of the Idaho Chapter of The Wildlife Society will be held February 26-27 at the Red Lion Downtowner in Boise. Persons interested in making presentations at the meeting should submit an abstract to KAREN STEENHOF by December 31. Please use the form provided in the newsletter or contact Karen for additional forms.

If there is enough interest we may schedule a special symposium to celebrate the Chapter's 25th anniversary. We are thinking of titling the symposium "Wildlife Habitat in Idaho: Conflicts and Opportunities." Anyone interested in participating in such a symposium

(either giving a paper or assisting with planning and organizing), please contact KAREN STEENHOF at 334-9277 right away.

We will again hold a social gathering and auction on Friday evening, so give some thought to auction items you may consider donating. ALAN SANDS will be coordinating the auction this year. He can be reached at 334-1582.

### ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Election of new officers for the Idaho Chapter is just around the corner. All four officer positions are up for election. RAUL MORALES and his nominating committee consisting of RALPH PEHRSON, RAUL MOROZ, JUSTIN NADERMAN, JEFF HOGANDER, and BRAD GRIFFITH have come up with a slate of qualified candidates for the various positions. These include, for the office of President JACK CONNELLY and MIKE KOCHERT; for Vice President SAM MATTISE, JEROME HANSEN, and STEVE LANGENSTEIN; for secretary SIGNE SATHER-BLAIR, RAUL MOROZ,

and CAY OGDEN; and for treasurer LARRY MANGAN.

Please use the attached post card to vote, and return it by December 10.

JACK CONNELLY - President

Education: B.S. - Wildlife and Fish Resources, University of Idaho/1974

M.S. - Wildlife Biology, Washington State University/1977

PhD. - Wildlife Biology, Washington State University/1982

Work History: I have lived in Idaho for 15 years and have been a TWS member for 12 years. I am a Principal Wildlife Research Biologist for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game and have worked for the Department for 3 years. My primary research interests center on the ecology and management of upland game and waterfowl. I am also interested in the effects of land management practices and environmental pollutants on wildlife.

Thoughts on Chapter: I believe that all wildlife biologists have a professional obligation to belong to TWS. Increasing membership in the Idaho Chapter and encouraging participation in Chapter activities have been chronic problems. I would like to work towards increasing membership and structuring Chapter activities to meet the needs of members. I also believe that some changes could be made in the winter meeting to increase attendance. Guest speakers and panel discussions of controversial subjects could help along these lines. Chapter officers could also work with supervisors in natural resource agencies and obtain their cooperation in helping to increase attendance/participation at Society meetings.

MICHAEL N. KOCHERT - President

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. His thesis dealt with golden eagles in what is now the Birds of Prey Area. MIKE has worked as a research biologist in the Birds of Prey Area since 1972 and has authored nearly 20 technical papers on raptor biology. He is an adjunctive faculty member at Boise State University and has taught raptor courses for the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, the Yellowstone Institute, and the BLM's national training center. MIKE has been a long-time member of the Wildlife Society and the Idaho Chapter. He is also a member the Raptor Research Foundation, ICBP's World Working Group for Birds of Prey, and the American Ornithologists' Union. As a member of TWS, MIKE has served as chairperson of the Einarsen Awards Committee and a member of the Chapter's Outstanding Wildlife Professional Awards Committee. He also assisted with many Chapter efforts. He was local chairperson for the Western Raptor Workshop and Symposium, which the Chapter co-organized with the National Wildlife Federation in Boise last October.

Thoughts on the Chapter: MIKE feels that the Chapter has made great strides in the last decade and should continue to do so. He feels that the Chapter should be active in Idaho wildlife and environmental issues. He also believes that the Chapter should be involved in education and should sponsor workshops and symposia for both professional and lay people. We should strive to get members statewide involved in Chapter matters. MIKE is ready for the challenges of president of the Idaho Chapter and feels his leadership experience will enable him to accomplish the job.

SAM MATTISE - Vice President

Education: B.S.- Panhandle State University/1974

M.S. - South Dakota State University/1977

Work Experience: In 1978 I started working for the BLM as the Jarbidge

R.A. wildlife biologist. In a cooperative effort with IDF&G biologists, we developed the Isolated Tracts program. This project was developed to provide habitat for upland and non-game species. In 1982, I moved to the Cascade R.A. to manage sharp-tailed grouse, long-billed curlew and crucial mule deer and elk winter range. Since 1978, I have been active in committee work on both the National and Chapter levels. I have also enjoyed my position as Treasurer for 1987-88.

Thoughts on the Chapter: I would like to see a more aggressive program to encourage non-member professionals from around the state to become involved in Chapter activities. There are many who are not aware of the Chapter's involvement in Idaho's important conservation issues. We need their knowledge, expertise, and support. With the increased surge for land development, native habitats suffer. We need a concentrated effort to keep impacts of development at a minimal level.

STEVE LANGENSTEIN - Vice President

STEVE was born and raised in central New York state. From 1972 to 1974, he attended Community College of the Finger Lakes, Canadiagua, New York - Associate Degree natural Resource Conservation. From 1974 to 1977 he attended the University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho - Bachelor Degree in Wildlife resources. STEVE taught computer, physical, and life science for 2 years at Lewiston High School, and started working with Shoshone BLM in April 1980. STEVE is experienced in upland habitat management and vegetation manipulation techniques, riparian issues, grazing issues, mining issues, hydroelectric project proposals, rights-of-way, and BLM policies. He is currently employed as a Resource Area Biologist with Shoshone BLM.

Thoughts on the Chapter: I would

encourage multiple society coordination working with the Audubon Society, Society for Range Management, Idaho Conservation League, Society of American Foresters, and others to strengthen the effect of the Idaho Chapter on statewide issues. Issues I am concerned with include water development, power line construction, riparian management, and appropriate levels of mitigation where development of natural resources is proposed.

H. JEROME HANSEN - Vice President  
Education: B.S. - Environmental Biology - Emporia State University, Kansas, 1979  
M.S. - Wildlife Management - West Virginia University, 1982

Work Experience: I have worked as a Biological Technician with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Boise, as a District Biologist with the Kansas Fish and Game Commission, and currently as a Wildlife Research Biologist with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, involved with wildlife mitigation planning for hydroelectric project impacts. Over the last 4 years, I have had an opportunity to experience many of Idaho's backcountry and wildlife treasures and plan to always do what I can to make sure they remain as they are.

Thoughts on Idaho Chapter: I have accepted the nomination as Vice-President for the Idaho Chapter of the Wildlife Society because of a belief that we should get involved when offered the chance to help the Idaho Chapter and ultimately the Idaho resource. My past experience with the Idaho Chapter includes 7 months as the Conservation Affairs Committee Chairperson.

SIGNE SATHER-BLAIR - Secretary  
Education: B.S. - University of Nebraska/1975  
M.S. - South Dakota State University/1979

Work History: I am currently a wildlife biologist with the U.S.

Fish and Wildlife Service in the Ecological Services Office. I primarily work with the Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation on existing and planned major federal water projects. I have been active in the Chapter since moving to Boise in 1980. I have been chairman of the Conservation Affairs Committee, have organized the fund-raising auction each of the last 3 years, and have been secretary for one year. I would like to continue in my current capacity as secretary.

Thoughts on the Idaho Chapter: I think it is the Chapter's responsibility to support and promote education at all levels in the fields of ecology and natural resource management. I also believe the Chapter has a responsibility to comment on and become involved in land management issues that may effect wildlife resources. If elected Secretary, I plan to do all I can to make the Chapter even more effective in these areas.

RAUL MOROZ - Secretary

Education: B.S. - Wildlife and Fish Resources, University of Idaho

Work History: RAUL started with the USFS in north Idaho as a seasonal employee in 1974. He has served as a District or Zone Wildlife Biologist for the USFS in north Idaho, western Washington, western Oregon, and southcentral Idaho. Presently he is a Zone Biologist for the Emmett and Lowman Ranger Districts.

Thoughts on the Idaho Chapter: RAUL would like to see more involvement of the professional wildlife biologist in the Idaho Chapter of the Wildlife Society. He also would like to encourage a stronger communications network between the private, State, and Federal employees that are involved with wildlife management. Paul would work to improve these two items if he were elected.

CAY OGDEN - Secretary

I received my Bachelor's degree in biology from BSU in 1979. I am presently trying to finish my thesis for a Master's in Wildlife Management from U of I. My Master's research on Rio Grande turkeys was supported by Idaho Fish and Game. My present position is Wildlife Biologist in the Snake River Resource Area of Burley District BLM.

My career has been an 8-year series of temporary appointments for just about every agency possible. Those agencies include BLM (3 years), Idaho Fish and Game (3-1/2 years), Forest Service (6 months), Fish and Wildlife Service (9 months), Wildlife Management Institute, EPA, BSU, and YCC program.

People who know me would hopefully characterize me as friendly, energetic, honest, and hard-working. Those characteristics will be my assets as Secretary for TWS. Another asset is my diverse background, which has allowed me to meet and get to know many biologists in the state. I am ready to become active in TWS because my life seems to be settling down--finally! My hopes for TWS include: better communication with the public, improved communication amongst ourselves, and greater involvement of Idaho Fish and Game biologists, while maintaining our political involvement.

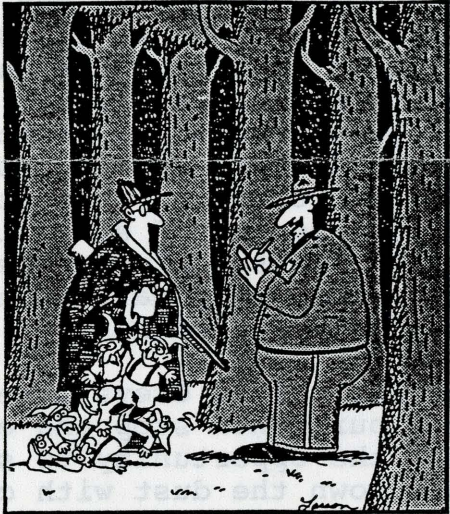
LARRY MANGAN - Treasurer

Education: B.S. in biology from Loyola University of Los Angeles; 1½ years of graduate work in wildlife management at Humboldt State University.

Experience: I have been a wildlife biologist with the Bureau of Land Management for 14 years. I have worked as an Area Biologist in Bishop, California and Anchorage, Alaska, and am now the Shoshone District Biologist, a position I have held for 8 years.

Thoughts on Idaho Chapter: I have

been a member of the Idaho Chapter of the Wildlife Society for 7 years and desire to be more active in the Chapter and make it even better than it is now. I would consider it an honor to serve as Treasurer for the Chapter. Although not necessarily duties of the Treasurer, I am especially interested in having the Chapter sponsor more training sessions aimed at improving our professional skills.



"Sorry about this, buddy, but the limit on those things is half a dozen—looks like you're one over."

#### PROFESSIONAL WILDLIFE AWARD

The Awards Committee is soliciting nominations for the Professional Wildlife Award. This award is given on an irregular basis to deserving Idaho Chapter members. Rating criteria for the award include: 1) contributions of the nominee to Idaho's wildlife, 2) commitment of the nominee to the wildlife resource, 3) contributions of the nominee to the wildlife profession, and 4) contributions of the nominee to public understanding of wildlife management and the problems involved in managing wildlife. Nominations must be submitted by December 1, 1987, for consideration. Please use the attached form at the back of the newsletter as the cover sheet for your nomination.

#### IDAHO CHAPTER AUGUST EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

JAY GORE discussed chapter contribution to Wolf Recovery Foundation, Inc. for slide show duplication. There was some discussion on how the money would be used and some concern expressed about the radical nature of some Foundation's newsletter articles. The Committee discussed with JAY some possible conditions that could be placed on the contribution. These included the stipulation that the Foundation's Advisory Committee (of which there are several TWS members involved) approve the content of the slide show, and money would be used for slide duplication only. The Ex. Com. agreed that we could provide support to the Foundation but tabled action until October meeting when we would have a better idea about possible legal costs involved with Egin-Hamer Road controversy.

The membership directory will be ready for distribution soon. The Ex. Com. asked the Secretary to provide copies of the membership list so it could be corrected and phone numbers, addresses, etc., added.

The 25th Anniversary meeting was discussed. There was some discussion on commissioning a poster by an Idaho artist. SIGNE SATHER-BLAIR said she would pursue the possibility of having a special door prize with Chapter paying expenses. A paid 4-day raft trip was discussed. SAM MATTISE said he would check into this possibility. There was discussion on the merits of a luncheon banquet but no real decisions were made. SIGNE SATHER-BLAIR volunteered to assemble a slide show from previous auction trips to show at the next social.

The meeting theme was discussed in depth. KAREN STEENHOF suggested and the Ex. Com agreed that a good theme would be: Wildlife Habitat in Idaho: Conflicts and Opportunities. It would be scheduled for

Friday with four sessions. Session topics could include fire, timber harvest, water, mining, grazing, transportation and hydroelectric. There was a suggestion that there be published proceedings for the Friday sessions. Saturday would be open paper session with abstracts provided, but papers wouldn't be published.

CHUCK BLAIR updated the committee on the status of the Egin-Hamer decision by the BLM. Ex. Com. decided that if BLM decided to issue special use permits the Chapter would investigate taking legal action. CHUCK said that he would discuss this topic at TWS Section meeting and request financial support, if needed (see additional information on this in newsletter).

The Ex. Com. was briefed by CHUCK on the upcoming Section meeting. He said he was intending to discuss what role National has played in working on jobs and job security for members.

There was some discussion on Chapter funding of President's travel to Section and National meetings. All members were in favor of some funding but attendance at meetings should be left to the discretion of the President. Amount of money provided needs to be discussed further at the next meeting.

#### IDAHO CHAPTER SUMMER MEETING RECAP

A small but enthusiastic group of members and friends participated in the Chapter's summer tour in southeast Idaho. For some, it was their first opportunity to see the varied habitat in this part of Idaho and hear managers discuss projects and concerns; for others, it was a chance to visit an area familiar to them.

The tour convened at an overlook of the South Fork, Snake River. Personnel from the BLM and Forest Service pointed out the unique fea-

tures of this river-riparian corridor and the fisheries, wildlife and recreational values associated with it. Inter-agency efforts are underway to protect it from development by various interests.

The next stop was at nearby Tex Creed WMA. Steve Haynes, IF&G, explained how the area was acquired and the joint management by IF&G, BLM, and BOR. Between 2,000 and 3,000 deer and 2,000 to 2,500 elk summering on four big game management units winter on the Tex Creek WMA. A good population of moose also use the area, and it provides habitat for Columbian sharp-tailed grouse, (a species of special concern) sage grouse, blue grouse, ruffed grouse, gray partridge, and numerous nongame species.

Next it was off to Greys Lake NWR. This was our lunch stop and everyone relished the opportunity to stretch and wash down the dust with cold drinks furnished by the Chapter. Refuge manager, GENE BARNEY discussed the whooping crane foster parent program and management of the refuge for whoopers and other species. Plans are being made to hack peregrine falcons here next year. We also watched a video of the plight of whoopers and management efforts aimed at recovery of this species. The highlight of this stop was seeing several whoopers on the refuge.

The tour then headed to Fall Creek Campground via Brockman Guard Station and Skyline Ridge. This area is spring-fall migration range for the deer and elk that winter on Tex Creek WMA. The Forest service explained aspen and livestock grazing management and water development for wildlife in this area. A sheep driveway along a deer and elk migration route that had badly eroded over years of use has been realigned and is being actively managed to reduce resource damage. This was an excellent example of inter-agency and livestock user cooperation to reduce erosion and benefit all resources.

By the time we arrived at Fall Creek campground, provided to the Chapter free of charge by the Forest Service, the heat of the day and the dust and jolts of the road had taken their toll on everyone. However, after more ice cold liquid refreshment and some food, the highlights of the day were recapped. Barb Franklin and Lisa Langelier of the Peregrine Fund updated us on the success of the peregrine falcon reintroduction program in the Northern Rockies.

Everyone agreed the day was enjoyable and a good way to see and discuss projects and issues of mutual interest and concern. Plans are already being made for next summer's tour in the Bear Valley area. I am looking forward to it and hope you are too.

JUSTIN NADERMAN

I would like to extend my appreciation to Justin for organizing this first summer meeting of the Idaho Chapter in many years. We had talked about it for so long it was getting to be like redevelopment of downtown Boise. Thanks to JUSTIN's efforts the summer meeting is off and running. JAY GORE and RAUL MOROZ have an excellent example on which to build for the 1988 summer meeting in the Bear Valley area.

CHUCK BLAIR

#### EGIN-HAMER ROAD

BLM Director Burford has given his blessing to the Idaho BLM to grant a right-of-way for the Egin-Hamer Road with a winter closure to be enforced by Fremont and Jefferson counties. Burford attached several conditions to granting the right-of-way that the BLM contends will protect the elk herd and other resources of the Nine Mile Knoll Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC).

Many Chapter members do not feel that the closure can or will be

enforced, especially in the future after the heat has died down and the local players have changed. CHUCK BLAIR met with and discussed the prospects of successfully bringing suit against the BLM with two Boise attorneys with extensive experience in environmental law. Both agreed that there were only two possible avenues to a successful lawsuit that would prohibit the BLM from granting the right-of-way. One was identifying a defect in the manner in which the BLM carried out the NEPA process (which it appears they have not); and the second is that the BLM's decision is arbitrary and capricious (unsupported by the facts). We would have to prove to a judge that significant impacts to the resources of the ACEC would result even if the road closure were fully enforced. Several chapter members, who are quite familiar with the issue, feel that a total winter road closure would be effective in minimizing impacts to the elk herd. Merely presenting the counties' dismal record on enforcing winter road closures or the BLM's equally unimpressive performance on enforcing right-of-way conditions or revoking rights-of-way for violation of conditions would not, CHUCK was told by both attorneys, be enough to convince a judge to prohibit the BLM from granting the right-of-way. Based on this information, the Executive Committee decided not to file suit against the BLM to stop them from granting the Egin-Hamer right-of-way.

It appears that our only option is to doggedly tail the BLM and counties to be sure that the conditions of the right-of-way grant are fully applied and enforced. If violations of the right-of-way conditions occur and the BLM does not revoke the right-of-way, we will have to go to court and force them to do so.

#### NEWS AND NOTES FROM AROUND THE STATE

The Department of Fish and Game's

Upland Bird-Waterfowl Habitat Improvement Program (HIP) was off and running October 1 with the appointment of personnel. TOM HEMKER was appointed Wildlife Staff Biologist and Project Leader stationed in Pocatello. The appointments of Regional Wildlife Biologists for the HIP program were: STEVE SCHMIDT, Idaho Falls with work responsibilities in Regions 5 and 6; MIKE TODD, Jerome, working out of Region 4; and ANDY OGDEN, Boise, carrying out the program in Region 3. A Wildlife Technician will be assigned to Lewiston for work in Region 2.

Emphasis will be land acquisition and development of wetlands for waterfowl. Habitat development (winter cover, guzzlers, nesting habitat and food plots) will be stressed for upland birds (pheasants, quail, and gray and chukar partidge.

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

None received.

#### NORTHWEST SECTION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

CHUCK BLAIR attended an Executive Committee meeting of the Northwest Section, TWS in Moscow Idaho on September 9. A number of topics were discussed at length. First was the Northwest Section meeting, which will be held at the Coeur d'Alene hotel on the shores of Lake Coeur d'Alene on April 19 and 20. This is shaping up to be an excellent meeting at an outstanding location. See your October copy of the Northwest Wildlife for more information on this meeting and a call for papers. CHUCK proposed that National and the Section try to do a better job at getting information out to the members. Perhaps something along the lines of a brief piece about ongoing TWS activities in Washington with regular updates in the wildlife. By tracking the progress of issues of interest to the membership through

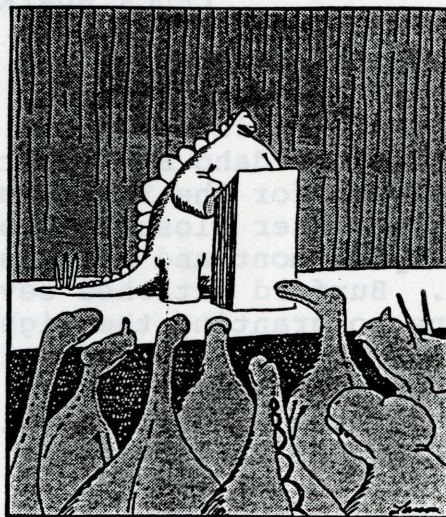
Council and beyond with brief highlighted notes, members would have a better way of knowing what National is up to. Presently, these items are buried in the minutes of Council meetings. Another idea was to put out a bi-weekly newsletter to chapter officers who could then pass that information along to the members via the Chapter newsletters. Idaho Executive Committee members generally feel that National should be more active in lobbying for selected wildlife issues. This feeling was generally shared by other Northwest Section Ex. Com. members. Section Representative Lew Nelson will express our strong support for the proposal that National TWS hire a full time professional to handle conservation affairs.

#### AVAILABLE LITERATURE

##### Silviculture/Wildlife Bibliography

The Southeastern Forest Experiment Station and the Department of Forestry at Clemson University have published a booklet titled "Silvicultural Effects on Wildlife Habitat in the South (An Annotated Bibliography) 1980-1985," the Wildlife Management Institute reports.

Copies may be requested from the Southeastern Forest Experiment Station, Clemson University, Clemson, SC 29634-1003.



"The picture's pretty bleak, gentlemen. ... The world's climates are changing, the mammals are taking over, and we all have a brain about the size of a walnut."



Idaho Chapter - The Wildlife Society  
Professional Wildlife Award  
Nomination Form

Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Employed by: \_\_\_\_\_

Present Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Present Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Recommended by: \_\_\_\_\_

Address and Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Reasons for nomination: (resume of achievements must be provided, nomination may also include past recognition, pertinent memberships, supporting letters, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Submit nomination to: Sam Mattise, Idaho Chapter Awards  
Committee, 4810 Cresthaven, Boise, Idaho 83704

# CALL FOR PAPERS

IDAHO CHAPTER  
THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

26-27 February 1988  
Boise, Idaho

Members and non-members are encouraged and invited to submit papers on the biology and management of Idaho's game and nongame wildlife species for the scientific program of the annual Idaho Chapter of the Wildlife Society Meeting. THE DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF ABSTRACTS IS 31 DECEMBER 1987.

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR PREPARING THE ABSTRACT:

1. Type everything within the box below. The copy you submit will be used in the meeting's program. Letters crossing the line will not be printed, so practice typing the abstract before doing your final submitted version.
2. Do not fold across the abstract since this form will be photocopied.
3. Use a typewriter or word processor with clean, 12-pitch Elite print. The copy should be dark enough to duplicate clearly.
4. Put the title (less than 15 words) and author names in caps, and use single spacing except between the title/author lines and text as in the example below:

THE NESTING STATUS OF SWAINSON'S HAWKS IN IDAHO.

M. BECHARD, AND R. P. HOWARD. Department of Biology, Boise State University, Boise, ID 83725.

Surveys of Swainson's hawks were conducted in eastern Idaho during the summers of 1985 and 1986.....

6. Send the original and 1 copy of the abstract to:  
Karen Steenhof, Program Chairman,  
Boise District BLM, 3948 Development Avenue, Boise, Idaho 83705.