

IDAHO CHAPTER

The Wildlife
Society



IDAHO CHAPTER

OFFICERS

Jack Connelly
Jerome Hansen
Signe Sather-Blair
Paul Moroz

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We are fast approaching that time of year when Idaho Chapter members begin running for cover. That's right, 1989 is an election year, and our nominations committee will soon be looking for candidates. There are two qualifications necessary to run for office. First, the individual must be interested in doing so and willing to spend the time fulfilling the duties that the office requires. Secondly, the individual must be a member of both the Idaho Chapter and the national organization. The nominations committee consists of Tom Parker, Dave Lockwood and Alan Sands. They will be selecting potential candidates in the next two weeks. However, if you are interested, please feel free to contact one of them or one of the current officers.

Oftentimes, it is difficult to field a full slate of candidates--everyone seems to be too busy. A quick review of the membership list this year suggested to

1989(2): Summer

me that there are a number of outstanding individuals that might serve as candidates. We have had some very active people working on committees and serving the society in other functions. I thank each of you for the job you've done. Our chapter is prospering; let's keep up the interest and enthusiasm that all of our members have shown.

CHAPTER MEETINGS

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
August 16, 1989

Edson Fichter Scholarship Award: The Executive Committee (ExCom) voted to set up a scholarship fund for graduate students in the field of biology at Idaho State University. The Chapter will install \$1,500 to start and increase the amount until \$5,000 is in the endowment. The ExCom voted to have Sam Mattise and Barry Keller investigate how to set up the scholarship and report back.

Chapter Logo: The ExCom voted to use the montage designed by Jean Martin with some minor changes.

Wildlife Society Professional Development Program: Jack Connelly will be providing information regarding the program in the next newsletter. Jack noted that Kerry Reese is in charge of the program.

Old Growth Symposium: Greg Haywood has asked for \$1,000 from the Chapter to help administer the symposium. The ExCom voted that more information about the symposium was needed before any funds are committed. Jack Connelly will contact Greg.

Egin-Hamer Road: The ExCom voted to have a letter drafted to the BLM requesting information on their decision process concerning the recent violation of the right-of-way conditions. This request will be made under the Freedom of Information Act. Chuck Blair will draft the letter for ExCom review. A review draft will also be sent to the National Wildlife Federation, Northwest Section, and Shoshone-Bannock Indian Tribe. Barry Keller will coordinate our efforts on the issue with the Wildlife Council Board.

Trumpeter Swan Petition to List: Jack Connelly informed ExCom that the Fish and Wildlife Service has determined that the petition may be warranted. ExCom agreed that we need to work closely with the Pacific Flyway Council on this issue. Jack will coordinate with Gary Will. Jack will also request swan production data for 1989 from Ruth Gale.

1990 Meeting: Jerome Hansen has been coordinating with Al Van Vooren on the meeting. It will be held March 2-4 in Boise in conjunction with the AFS meeting.

Northwest Power Planning Act Hearings: ExCom agreed that the Chapter should testify at upcoming hearings on the wildlife mitigation program in September. Written comments will also be drafted.

Minutes taken by:
Signe Sather-Blair, Secretary

MEETINGS OF INTEREST

December 7-8. Combined Idaho-Ut Sections of the Society for Range Management. Pocatello, ID. The theme will be "Rangeland Management Evolution - Looking Ahead to the 1990's."

January 23-25. Pacific Northwest Range Short Course - Forest and Range Fires. Pendleton OR.

February 22-24. Northwest Section and Idaho Section, The Wildlife Society. Reno NV. The theme will be "Wildlife Management throughout the Pacific Rim--politics, economics and biology."

March 1-3. Idaho Chapter, The Wildlife Society and Idaho Chapter, The American Fisheries Society, joint meeting. Boise ID.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Society for Range Management, December 7-8. Boise ID (see above). Papers are invited for an open session on morning of December 8. Papers dealing with any aspect of rangeland ecology or management will be welcomed.

The Western and Northwest Sections of the Wildlife Society will meet in joint session February 22-24, 1990, in Reno NV. The theme for this joint meeting is "WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT THROUGHOUT THE PACIFIC RIM - Politics, Economics, and Biology." Proposed session topics include: Wildlife Diseases/Treatments, Environmental Contaminants, Forest Wildlife, Wetlands, Biodiversity, Natural Resource Economics, Foreign Trade-Wildlife, and Wildlife Law Enforcement. Persons wishing to present a paper are invited to submit an abstract. Authors desiring to have their paper published in the "Transactions" should indicate this with the abstract. Papers prepared for publication will be given first consideration, in the event all time slots are filled. Submit abstracts to: Scott E. Frazer, USDA-S 117 South Mill St., Ste. I, Tehachapi 93561, or Richard J. Pedersen, USDA

Forest Service, P.O. Box 3623, Portland
OR 97208.

NEWS AND NOTES

Prescribed Burning Policy Statement

Denver, CO--A policy statement released by the Society for Range Management on April 1, 1989 says that research and practical experience show that prescribed burning can and should be used to manage many ecosystems, including rangelands and forests.

SRM President, Dr. Thomas E. Bedell, Extension Rangeland Specialist, Oregon State University, says, "Prescribed burning has many desirable effects including the reduction of potential for catastrophic wildfires, the enhancement of wildlife habitat, forage improvement, ecological diversity, and enhancement of water quality and quantity. Dr. Bedell added that to exclude fire as either a natural force or a management tool means that we accept a highly unnatural ecological environment.

The Society's statement, which was recently approved at the SRM's annual meeting in Billings, Montana by the Board of Directors in February 1989, was in response to the great amount of interest, controversy and debate following last year's fire season. The SRM's statement concluded:

Uncontrolled fire and civilization are generally not compatible, yet when properly used, fire creates little risk to life or property and can be an environmentally safe management tool. The Society for Range Management recognizes two kinds of fire--prescribed fires and wildfires. Prescribed fires may be ignited or naturally caused and permitted to burn within specified conditions to achieve established management objectives. Fires outside of prescription are wildfires and appropriate suppression actions should be taken, ranging from prompt control to confinement.

Trumpeter Swan Update

The Idaho Chapter of the Wildlife Society petitioned the USFWS to list the trumpeter swan as threatened or endangered. The USFWS has found that the petition has merit and is now proceeding with a review of the situation.

Logo Update

The logo on this newsletter is a composite of the top 3 selected by voting members at the winter meeting. At this time, it is our new logo, as selected by the Executive Committee. The committee would welcome any constructive comments.

Professional Development and You

After years of planning, The Wildlife Society's Professional Development Program is now operational. This program is intended to provide all wildlife professionals with a structured incentive for self-improvement through the acquisition of new knowledge and skills and participation in professionally enriching activities. TWS members have indicated a need for such a program and TWS Council has enthusiastically embraced it. A 1986 membership survey documented that 82% of respondents believed "that TWS should take a more active role in developing a series of continuing education/professional improvement activities."

To participate in the Professional Development Program, you will need to accrue and document 150 contact hours over a 4 year period. These hours can be distributed among 6 categories of activities: organized wildlife course work, including that offered at symposia, workshops, and seminars; organized non-wildlife course work (e.g., computer science, public administration, forestry, and range); providing instruction on wildlife subjects; publications; self-improvement (e.g., reading wildlife literature); and professional service, such as holding appointed or elected office in TWS. Upon completion of the minimum requirements, and approval of

your application by TWS, you will receive a certificate acknowledging your commitment to continuing education and professional development within the wildlife profession.

Applications will be accepted immediately (i.e., you can seek approval for activities extending back 4 years from now). To acquire an application, or for more information, call or write the Northwest Section Professional Development Contact; Kerry P. Reese, College of Forestry, Wildlife and Range Sciences, University of Idaho, Moscow ID 83843; (208)885-6435.

New Scholarship Established

The Idaho Section of The Wildlife Society has recently established the Edson Fichter Scholarship at Idaho State University. This scholarship will be made available each year to an ISU graduate student conducting research on any phase of wildlife biology. The details are still being worked out.

1990 Professional Wildlife Award Nominations Needed

The Idaho Chapter, The Wildlife Society, uses the Professional Wildlife Award process to demonstrate that outstanding contributions to Idaho's wildlife resources are appreciated by one's peers. Now is the time to consider and submit nominations for the 1990 Professional Wildlife Award. It is not necessary to present the award every year, but we know that much hard work is being accomplished in this state by many professional wildlife managers. This year is another opportunity for you to nominate a deserving person or persons for this prestigious form of recognition.

Here are a few points to consider when making a nomination. The nominee must be professionally employed in wildlife management and the work that qualifies the individual for the award must have been performed in Idaho. The term "professionally" employed refers to all facets of the profession, including

conservation officers, biologists, information-education personnel, graduate students, volunteers, and so on. It is not necessary that the nominee reside in Idaho, but any nominee that does live in Idaho must also be a member of the Idaho Chapter of the Wildlife Society. The award may be shared if the accomplishment is the work of more than one person.

There are four rating criteria that each nominee will be evaluated for based upon the information provided to the Awards Committee. The criteria are:

1. Contributions to Idaho's wildlife.
2. Commitment to the wildlife resource.
3. Contributions to the wildlife profession.
4. Contributions to public understanding of wildlife management and the problems involved in managing wildlife.

The Awards Committee is responsible for screening the applicants and making the final selection. Paul Moroz is serving as committee chairman this year. Please give this opportunity some careful thought. Complete and submit the nomination form provided in this newsletter to Paul at 2081 N.W. 8th Street, Meridian ID 83642 as soon as possible to insure that full consideration is given to your nominee. Don't miss this opportunity to highlight someone's efforts in Idaho's wildlife management. Professional Wildlife Awards are presented at the annual meeting of the Idaho Chapter of the Wildlife Society.

Public Hearings to be Held on Wildlife Mitigation Program in September

The Northwest Power Planning Council is considering a proposal to adopt wildlife losses and policies designed to address damage inflicted on wildlife by hydropower development in the Columbia River Basin (which includes the Snake, Clearwater and Salmon River drainages). The Idaho Chapter of the Wildlife Society members, as ratepayers of the Northwest, can have an important say in this

wildlife program. Additional information is included in this newsletter.

In-lieu-of tax payment Shortfalls Threaten Wetland Protection Efforts

When the USFWS acquires land, in-lieu-of-tax payments are made through the Refuge Revenue Sharing Program. Funds for the program come from receipts for grazing, logging, oil and gas, and other development on USFWS lands.

For the past several years, shortfalls in this fund have resulted in reduced payment to counties--as low as 59 percent of full entitlement.

This funding loss has caused political backlash against USFWS land acquisition programs, especially in the prairie pothole region states of the Dakotas, Montana, and Minnesota. Local frustration over this situation is resulting in reduced protection for wetlands in several parts of the country.

Rural counties should not be required to shoulder the burden of a loss of property tax base for wetland acquisition and protection. The benefits of wetlands accrue to all of society, so all sectors of our society should share in the costs of their protection.

Nationwide, the cost of resolving this problem is relatively small: \$11 million. For North Dakota, a key state in the heart of the prairie pothole region, the cost is only \$250,000 per year. Yet, without resolution, it will become increasingly difficult for states like North Dakota to allow USFWS to conduct business.

If this issue is not resolved, implementation of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan in several parts of the nation will be hampered or crippled. Habitat protection goals of the North American Plan will simply not occur without an annual guarantee of 100 percent of full entitlement to the counties.

The effort to annually guarantee 100 percent of full entitlement of Refuge Revenue Sharing funds has unilateral support: conservation interests, water development interests, agricultural interests, and local and state political subdivisions support this move.

There is a solution! Senate Bill 1150 was introduced into the U.S. Senate on June 8, 1989. This bill will guarantee annual appropriation out of the Secretary of Interior's undedicated receipts into the Refuge Revenue Sharing Fund. This bill will also resolve the shortfalls in the Refuge Revenue Sharing Fund without affecting the funding of other conservation programs.

What can you do? Three action items are listed below. Get your friends, waterfowlers, wildlife enthusiasts, and others interested in natural resource protection involved. This is a critical issue in several parts of the country, but we need your help!

The bill was authored by Sen. Conrad (ND). Other sponsors to date include: Sen. Daschle (SD), Sen. Gore (TN), Sen. Levin (MI), Sen. Lott (MS), Sen. Luger (IN), and Sen. Cochran (MS).

Send letters to the key contact points listed below, telling them that you support passage of S. 1150, the Refuge Revenue Sharing Fund Act of 1989.

1. Chairman, Committee on Environment and Public Works
Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510
2. Your own Senators
U.S. Senate
Washington DC 20510
3. Please send a copy of your letters to:
Senator Kent Conrad
361 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington DC 20510

If you really want to get involved, send a copy of your letter to each and every Senator. It's asking a lot, but it may

have additional impact to get this issue resolved.

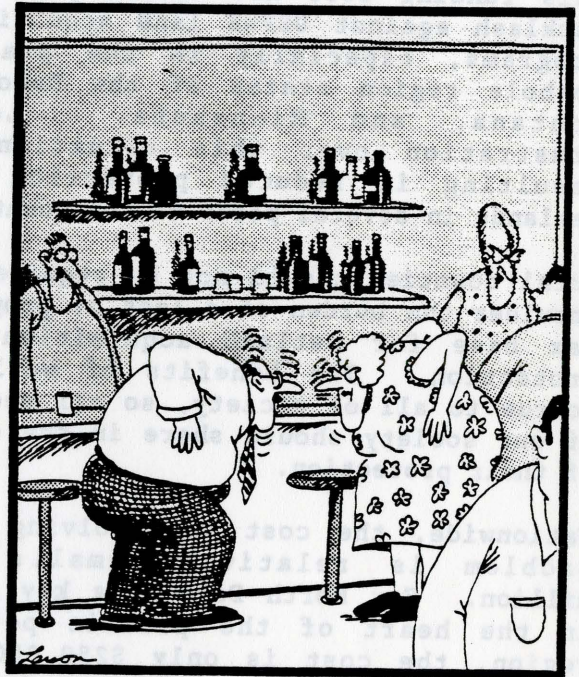
THANKS FOR YOUR HELP!!

FINANCIAL REPORT

The Idaho Chapter's funds are held in a non-profit premium checking account at the First Interstate Bank in Boise. The most recent statement of account showed a balance of \$7,389.25 as of July 31. Approximately \$28 will be earned as interest on this account through August.

As you can see, the Chapter's account holds an appreciable amount of money that can be used to fund high priority projects and donations. The Executive Committee is very willing to consider each and every proposal that any Chapter member might make to fund a wildlife-oriented project. If you have a proposal, please submit it in writing to Paul Moroz, 2081 N.W. 8th St., Meridian ID 83642, and it will be presented to the Executive Committee.

Finally, it is not too early to start thinking about the fundraiser that will be conducted as part of the annual meeting in February 1990. Over the past several years, the fundraiser has involved a raffle and auction where members had the opportunity to buy outdoor trips, wildlife prints, books and other items. This has proven to be an enjoyable and effective means of gathering funds for the Chapter. Unless someone comes up with another idea for a fundraiser, this winter's approach will probably be similar. If you have another idea for raising funds, please contact Paul at the above address. If you would like to volunteer to work on the 1990 fundraiser, please also send him your name by mail or call him at home at 888-6482. Your help will be greatly appreciated!!



When ornithologists are mutually attracted

Time Frame

The proposed rule calls for a mitigation goal of "up to one half of the hydropower share of lost habitat units over ten years." This language could result in as little as one percent, or as much as fifty percent of wildlife mitigation in Idaho. The department believes that the goals should be at least one half of the habitat units lost, and that it is reasonable to expect that this level of mitigation could be accomplished within a ten-year period. A habitat unit is the equivalent of one acre of high-quality habitat for a given species. Where quality varies, habitat units may also vary in size.

What Can You Do?

Your response to these issues will have a significant impact on the future of wildlife hydropower mitigation. To order the proposed wildlife amendment to the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Program, call toll free 1-800-452-2324 in Oregon, or 1-800-222-3355 in other Northwest states. Write Northwest Power Planning Council, 851 S. W. Sixth, Suite 1100, Portland, Oregon 97204. Send written comment to this same address and mark it "Wildlife Comment." Comment is due by 5:00 p.m., September 30.

For more information on Idaho's potential benefits under the plan, contact the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, P.O. Box 25, Boise, Idaho 83707, or call (208) 334-5057.

To sign up for a specific time to testify, call Ruth Curtis or Judi Hertz, toll free. (From Idaho, Washington and Montana: 1-800-222-3355; from Oregon: 1-800-452-2324.)

Idaho Hearings

- ➔ September 13, 1989, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Holiday Inn
Bay 1 and 2
414 W. Apple Way
Coeur d'Alene
- ➔ September 20, 1989, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Shilo Inn
Twin Falls Room
780 Lindsay Blvd.
Idaho Falls
- ➔ September 21, 1989, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Owyhee Plaza Hotel
Regency Room
Eleventh and Main
Boise

Wildlife Hydropower Mitigation Program



**A debt to the past . . .
an investment in the future.**

Wildlife Mitigation Is Investment Planning

Public meetings in September will give Idahoans the opportunity to help plan the investment of time and money in one of the nation's largest efforts designed to address damage inflicted on wildlife by hydropower development. Fish and Game director Jerry Conley stressed the importance of providing comments, either in person or in writing, at the meetings, which will determine the magnitude of mitigation for loss of habitat under floodwaters of Anderson Ranch, Black Canyon, Palisades and Albeni Falls dams.

Adoption of a final plan by the Northwest Power Planning Council could result in mitigating from one to one hundred percent of wildlife habitat losses caused by these dams. Under the proposed rule, a framework for mitigation would also be established for other Idaho reservoirs listed in the Council's fish and wildlife program. Future mitigation efforts will be directed toward the other projects, so people who hunt elk near Dworshak or photograph shorebirds at Minidoka should be aware that their comments are needed also.

Wildlife Debt

Congressional action in 1980 required the Council to develop a fish and wildlife program, and the Bonneville Power Administration to fund it. About 224,000 acres of wetland and upland habitats and key big game winter ranges have been inundated and lost forever due to development and operation of the 26 major hydroelectric projects on Columbia River tributaries in Idaho.

The Investment

Palisades

Proposed Palisades mitigation includes protection of 5,825 acres of riparian habitat, preferably along the South Fork and Henrys Fork of the Snake River, enhancement of bald eagle nest sites in eastern Idaho; protection by easement or acquisition of 13,790 acres of big game winter range in eastern Idaho, preferably in the Sand Creek and Swan Valley areas; and habitat enhancement for waterfowl and aquatic furbearers at Market and Mud Lake Wildlife Management Areas and Gray's Lake National Wildlife Refuge; as well as establishing peregrine falcon reintroduction sites near Palisades.

Anderson Ranch

Proposed Anderson Ranch mitigation includes protection and development of more than 6,000 acres of wetlands and uplands in the Camas Creek area, 960 acres of Columbian sharp-tailed grouse habitat associated with the Nelson Ranch (Hixon

Sharptail Preserve, a Nature Conservancy Project), 200 acres of forested wetlands on the Boise River; enhancing about 15,500 acres of mule deer winter range on Bureau of Land Management lands in the Bennett Hills area, and establishing at least one peregrine falcon reintroduction site.

Black Canyon

Black Canyon mitigation proposals include protecting 800 acres of wetlands and uplands in the Bruneau River Valley and 500 acres of mule deer winter range adjacent to the Boise River Wildlife Management Area.

Albeni Falls

Albeni Falls mitigation will include constructing a breakwater across most of the west side of the Clark Fork Delta to reduce wetland losses that are occurring annually from erosion; protecting islands at the mouth of the Priest River; and protecting 8,000 acres of habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds, songbirds, and furbearers in the following areas: Clark Fork Delta, Pack River, Pend Oreille River, Spirit Lake, Hoodoo Creek, Westmond Lake, Granite Creek, Springy Point, Shepherder Point, Eaton Lake, Warren Island, Clark Fork River, Boundary Creek, Algoma Lake, Twin Lakes, and Coeur d'Alene River.

Although this is a partial list of mitigation proposals for the four hydroelectric projects, it gives people an idea of the local and statewide importance of this proposal.

Key Issues

Wildlife habitat can be developed on public land, or private land purchased from willing sellers, but only if there is public support. The proposed rule makes land purchase the last option, but the department is committed to exploring all avenues to accomplish mitigation, such as conservation easements, enhancement on public land, as well as purchase. The best permanent mitigation actions, accomplished in the most cost effective manner, should be the goal.

The Department of Fish and Game believes that Congress intended, in passing the Northwest Power Act, to provide full protection, mitigation and enhancement for wildlife losses, and that the Bonneville Power Administration is the primary source for funding the program.

The Council's draft rule proposes that BPA only fund mitigation directly attributable to wildlife losses incurred by hydropower, ignoring the impacts from other dam and reservoir users. Conley believes it was BPA's responsibility to pay the cost of mitigation and allocate the expenditures among other project users. In any event, payment for the mitigation should begin as soon as possible. "What Idahoans need the Council to realize is that they were the ones who lost the wildlife, and they hope for full repayment in as short a time as possible."

