

# IDAHO CHAPTER



IDAHO CHAPTER

## Officers

- Paul Moroz - President - 364-7008
- Alan Sands - Vice-President - 384-3067
- Justin Naderman - Secretary -525-7290
- Geoff Hogander - Treasurer - 236-6860

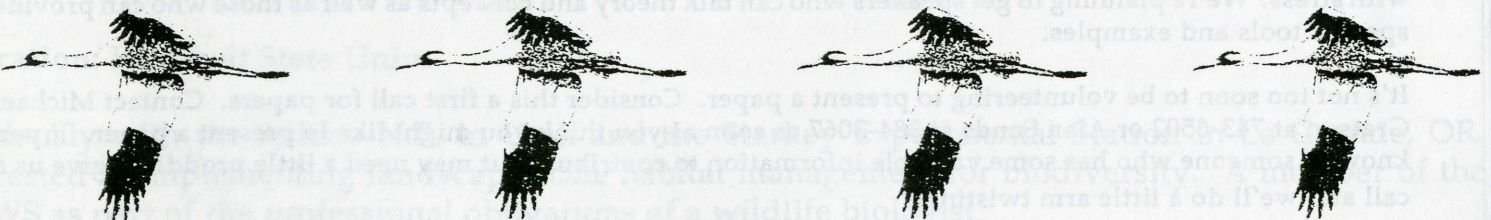
## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope all of you had a fun and productive summer. If you're feeling like I do, though, you're still wondering where the time has gone. As if my summer wasn't speeding by quickly enough, a 3-week assignment working 12-hour shifts on the Foothills Fire took the last of it. On the bright side, with autumn comes my favorite season of the year.

Of course, this fall will be busy too. Alan Sands is working up plans for our Chapter's annual meeting and I hope a lot of you volunteer your help to him. The committees will be busy developing the programs each has taken on, and your assistance will ensure success. Please contact the committee chairperson for more information on what is needed. Finally, this newsletter is YOUR NEWSLETTER. Michael Gratson and Gregg Servheen have done a great job in coordinating the gathering of information getting it printed and mailed out. Please contact them regarding information you would like to contribute to future issues.

Now I would like to personally request your help on an important matter. The Wildlife Society is launching a major membership recruitment campaign through February 1993. During this period, you can help by individually contacting biologists who are not currently members and encouraging them to join. You can distribute posters to appropriate agencies, universities, and other office locations. You can also serve as a key contact from your agency or area to coordinate this effort.

What's in it for you? Aside from knowing that you're increasing the strength and diversity of this professional organization through greater membership, their several more tangible benefits listed below. Please contact me if you are interested in helping in any way.





## Highlights of the Membership Campaign

As developed by the Membership Committee, the campaign will operate as follows.

- 1) Everyone who recruits one or more new regular members will receive a set of TWS tags.
- 2) Everyone who recruits five or more new regular members will receive a chance at the 5+ Recruiters Drawing. A Montana elk hunt/pack trip (mentioned above) is the top prize, second prize is a week's stay at another Montana ranch and third prize is an Eddie Bauer garment bag. Recruiting 10 new members means two chances in the drawing, 15 new members is three chances, etc.
- 3) The top recruiter from every regular chapter will have his or her name entered in the Top Chapter Recruiters Drawing for a chance at the grand prize of an all expense paid trip to the Society's International Wildlife Management Congress in Costa Rica in September, 1993. Each top chapter recruiter must recruit a minimum of five new members to qualify.
- 4) All new regular members joining during the campaign will receive a chance at the New Regular Members Drawing. First prize is a 16' Tracker Sportsman Jon Boat with outboard motor and trailer, second prize is a week's stay at a Montana lodge, and third prize is another Montana lodge stay

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

**1992 Natural Areas Conference on protecting, preserving, and managing rare species and significant habitats.** October 27-30, 1992 in Bloomington, Indiana. Contact: NAC Registration, Division of Nature Preserves, 402 W. Washington St., Room W267, Indianapolis, IN 46204 (317) 232-4052.

**Partners in Stewardship, 7th Conference on Research and Resource Management in Parks and on Public Lands.** November 16-20, 1992. Contact: The George Wright Society, P.O. Box 65, Hancock, KI 49930 (906) 487-9722.

**11th Great Plains Wildlife Damage Control Workshop,** Hyatt Regency Hotel, Kansas City, MO April 26-29, 1993. Contact: Wildlife Damage Control Workshop, 241 College Court Building, Kansas State Univ., Manhattan, KS 66506 (FAX 913-532-5637).

**3rd Intl. Conf. on The Effects of Oil on Wildlife,** New Orleans, LA Jan. 27-29, 1993. Contact: Eileen Muller Tri-State Bird Rescue & Research, Inc. 110 Possum Hollow Rd., Newark, DE 19711 (302)-737-7241

**The Wildlife Society Annual Mtg,** Omni Shoreham Hotel, Washington, DC. March 19-24, 1993. Contact: The Wildlife Society, 5410 Grosvenor Lane, Bethesda, MD 20814 (301)-897-9770.

#### 1993 Annual Meeting Planning

The 1993 annual meeting will be at the Red Lion Downtowner in Boise beginning on March 25 and ending around noon on March 27.

Two sessions are being considered; one to help us be more effective in our work and the other to help us deal with stress. We're planning to get speakers who can talk theory and concepts as well as those who can provide specific tools and examples.

It's not too soon to be volunteering to present a paper. Consider this a first call for papers. Contact Michael Gratson at 743-6502 or Alan Sands at 384-3067 as soon as you think you might like to present a paper. If you know of someone who has some valuable information to contribute but may need a little prodding, give us a call and we'll do a little arm twisting!



# CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

As many of you are probably already aware, the Endangered Species Act (ESA) is due for reauthorization by the Congress this year. Reauthorization of ESA could take many forms, including reenactment of the current optional requirement to designate critical habitat and to review the designation for its economic benefits and setbacks. There may also be attempts to finally force implementation of protection of ecosystems rather than the current single species focus. It is equally reasonable to expect that the Act will remain basically the same, but reauthorization of funds for implementation of the law will either be granted at current levels or reduced or withheld for further debate. Regardless of the ultimate outcome of reauthorization, the debate promises to be heated and controversial. The final decision could have wide-ranging consequences on how agency biologists address the conservation and protection of candidate and listed species.

## MEMBERSHIP PROFILES

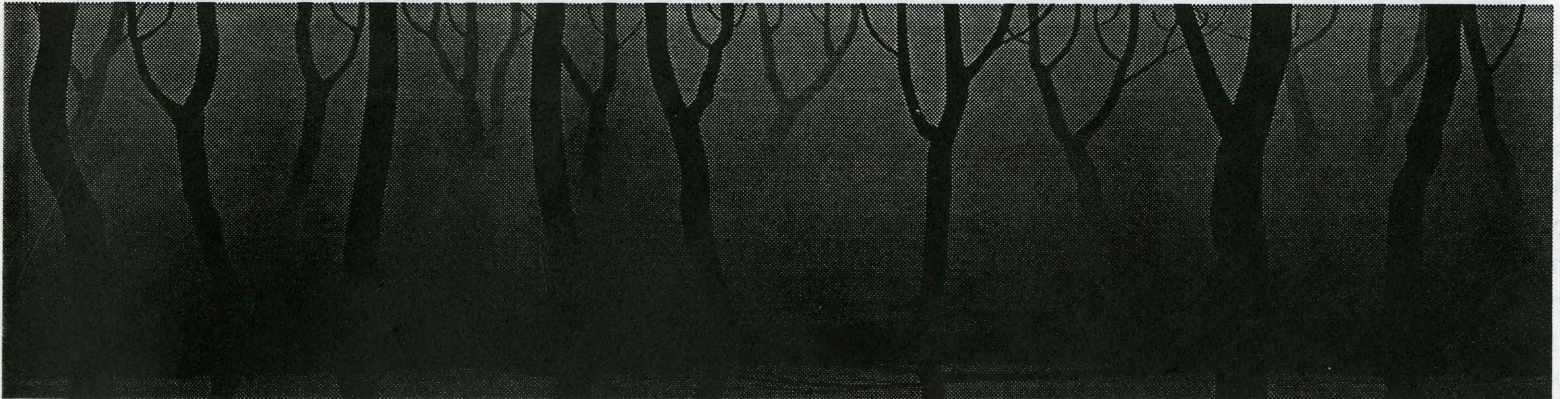
We are introducing a new column in this newsletter. We are profiling members of the Idaho Chapter to let members get acquainted with and find common interests with other members. We will be randomly selecting names from the current membership list and contacting folks for information for the profile column. The next profile may be yours!

**Bill Wall**                      799-1139

**Employer:** Potlatch Corporation Lewiston, ID, as wildlife biologist.

**Education:** Louisiana State Univ., Louisiana Tech. Univ., Stephen F. Austin State Univ..

Previously with International Paper for 5 years, as Manager of Wildlife Ecology. Certified Wildlife Biologist with TWS. Interested in integrating forest and wildlife management. Past experience dealt with white-tailed deer biology and management in the southeast. A member of ICTWS to promote professional wildlife management throughout the state and for contacts with other state members.



**Scott Feltis**                      236-7500

**Employer:** USFS, Forest Wildlife Biologist, Caribou N.F. and Waterfowl Habitat Mgmt. Element Coord. for the Intermountain Region.

**Education:** Humbolt State Univ.

Previously with the Ashley N.F. in Utah and the Starkey Experimental Station in La Grande, OR. Interested in implementing landscape scale habitat management for biodiversity. A member of the ICTWS as part of the professional obligations of a wildlife biologist.





Our last newsletter introduced a new forum for members of the Idaho Chapter of the Wildlife Society. The intent of this forum, called "Viewpoint", is to provide a voice for those members who feel that there is an issue they would like to present before the members. As editors of the newsletter we feel this is one of the primary purposes of our society and its communication arm, this newsletter.

We wish to make "Viewpoint" an open and honest podium where members can express opinions that may conflict with current management and thought or that discuss important and timely topics. We hope this will make the newsletter more interesting and stimulate discussion among members.

We invite and will solicit members for their input. Authors should follow the following guidelines for all submissions. Submissions may be made anonymously, under a pseudonym, or under your name. The editors will respect all requests of confidentiality. Topics should be related to wildlife biology, management, and research. Preference will be for those that discuss topics relevant to Idaho, but national and international subjects and concerns are invited. No mention of agency or individual names will be allowed except as point of reference. We suggest that columns be limited to 500 words. Columns will be edited as needed in cooperation with the author.

## VIEWPOINT

STEVE KNICK

Another solution to all resource problems is emerging in the form of remote sensing, global positioning systems, and geographical information systems. I must be aging because I have now seen several solutions (that I recognized) disguised in the form of techniques and will likely see more.

My indoctrination to panaceas came at the Bobcat Research Conference in 1979. The conference coincided with the peak in number of bobcat studies and the revelation that bobcats could carry radio transmitters. The dominant question was "How many bobcats do you have radiocollared?" Most presentations started, "We radiocollared xx bobcats." The radios and number transmitting were important and what you studied was irrelevant. My own goal was to collar more than 17 because that was how many Ted Bailey had radioed in the most significant study ever of bobcat ecology.

We learned the home range size of bobcats for any number of sex and age combination in virtually every state but I raise the question and challenge, "How many of those studies ever passed peer review or made significant contributions to either ecological or management understanding?" Yet, the next time we plan a study, the first agenda item is how many to trap and radio-collar. I singled out bobcat research because of familiarity, but the pattern exists in studies of all species (un)fortunate enough to carry radio-transmitting devices.

The Wildlife profession is not alone in having panaceas and I do not belittle techniques. Radio-telemetry has provided priceless information that could be obtained by no other means. The potential



of remote sensing and Geographical Information Systems to answer questions in landscape ecology and global climate change is limited only by our own vision. Gels of genetic enzymes have opened new arenas in conservation biology. Rather, my attack is aimed at myopic thought processes dominated by means instead of the end.

We transplant animals because it is traditional sport but do not follow up the transplant to obtain data on success or failure. "It is something we have always done" so let us keep on doing it. Agencies are forever trading some animal for another and releasing new species. The media loves to cover the captures where someone imitates Marlin Perkins. The release into a new home is especially heartwarming and extremely visual. We give the appearance that we are doing something and we (and the media) focus on those moments. But what are we doing and why?

We trap and radio-collar because we cannot think beyond. Countless animals die wearing a radio-collar that provided information to no one, or data points on a map that were useless because of an ill-planned study. Without a strong rationale for radiotelemetry, the capture operation is nothing more than recreational and the stress to the animal is nothing less than harassment - the price wildlife pays for lack of significant thinking.

We input massive data layers in a Geographical Information System because all other states are doing the same. The techniques are glamorous and the technology has great public appeal. We buy the latest number '86 computer with expensive Geographical Information software so we can print beautiful maps that adorn the wall of any computer room. We now spend countless hours obtaining coordinates with an accuracy to the nearest meter with an expensive Global Positioning System, only to make comparisons in kilometers to other data that have a precision in 100's of meters.

There is the link between these examples. We spend time pursuing these techniques at the expense of meaningful study. Most of our time is spent doing techniques rather than researching the problem or in creative analysis for solutions. In the end, we know how to run computers, trap and track animals, or run gel slimes, but what meaningful results can we show.

My hope in taking aim at some of our favorite activities is to cause introspection by those too enamored with the techniques and too blind to recognize both limitation or potential. Too many critical issues confront Wildlife professionals to waste time and money perpetuating techniques that produce nothing beyond redundant demonstrations that the technique works. What we need to learn should be asked first, not the means to get there.

To conclude, I have radio-collared many animals ranging from deermice to polar bears and currently assist in trapping for wolves in Idaho. I once expressed the opinion "if it wasn't radio-collared, it wasn't doing anybody any good." I also conduct research involving satellite imagery, geographical information systems and global positioning systems. Writing this article was a good examination of my own research agenda.

**N** The Fish and Wildlife Service is pleased to announce that we have opened a North  
**E** Idaho Suboffice. The office is currently housed in the Idaho Panhandle National  
**W** Forest office in Coeur d'Alene and consists of two staff members, Rich Donaldson and  
**S** Bob Hallock. We expect to increase the staff to four members by November. The two  
additional employees will be Dan and Suzanne Audet. With the arrival of new staff, the  
North Idaho office will handle all Service issues from the Clearwater River (Clearwater  
National Forest) to the Canadian border. The Boise field office will continue some  
involvement when necessary. Give these folks a call to say welcome and hello!



**Jim MacCracken**

**885-5776**

**Employer:** Policy Analysis Group, Univ. of Idaho.

**Education:** Colorado State Univ. and Univ. of Idaho

Previously with USFS at Pacific Northwest Research Station and Rocky Mtn. Station in South Dakota. Interested in research on modification and enhancement of wildlife habitats. A member of the ICTWS as important part of keeping up with what happens to wildlife Idaho and with fellow professionals.

## **EDITORIAL**

### **Adaptive Resource Management: Policy as Hypotheses, Management by Experiment**

At the 43rd North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference, to be held March 19-24 in Washington, DC, an entire technical session will be devoted to the subject of Adaptive Resource Management (ARM). I think you as wildlife professionals will hear more about this topic in the future. Will ARM influence the way you manage wildlife? Will it do anything for wildlife? The answers to these two questions depend on you, on your interest and energies in understanding ARM and on your willingness to put it to trial - to implement it.

The subtitle of this editorial captures what I first found intriguing about the concept of ARM. I was introduced to it while taking a course in population modeling, taught by Carl Walters, at the University of British Columbia. ARM carried for me the logical appeal of strong inference. In other words it's management grounded in experiment.

ARM is a wonderfully powerful way of simultaneously managing and researching. But it is much more than simply a marriage of research and management. It makes research and management one process, so that each action is carried out to 1) help us learn faster and have more confidence in what we know about wildlife and its response to management, and 2) help us reach management goals.

ARM has as its fundamental basis the suggestion that managing wildlife and their people-habitat-systems means dealing with a great deal of uncertainty. Acknowledging that leads one to the realization that for some wildlife problems extrapolation of traditionally practiced research results to other times and places has little foundation and often gives poor results. One alternative to extrapolation is to conduct lots of essentially the same studies all over the place and throughout time and then apply the results. However, this is time consuming and costly. It seems one is always waiting around for these research results before management action can occur confidently. ARM offers an alternative to this typical modus operandi.

The major tenet of ARM is that some resource problems, perhaps particularly questions facing game managers about harvest, can best be tackled by viewing management as an adaptive (changing, iterative, fitting) process, which uses as its tools some underlying principles of experimental design and research. "We learn about and act upon the potentials of natural wildlife populations to sustain harvesting mainly through experience with management itself, rather than through basic, traditional research of small areas over short time spans or through the development of general wildlife ecological theory."



In contrast, ARM is a never-ending series of skillfully practiced experiments, with the necessary replicates, controls, and randomization built in. It requires little extrapolation because all systems that you manage are part of the process. You become better at managing wildlife because you are learning faster how to do it more effectively, in the systems you manage.

ARM means resource policies (management practices at all levels) should be viewed as hypotheses and resource management should be viewed as continuous experimentation. Where do these hypotheses come from? They come from: 1) what we know and do now; 2) what modeling suggests about assumptions and uncertainties of our knowledge of wildlife systems; 3) statistical analyses of information gained while adaptively managing and of how error in knowledge might be propagated through time; and, 4) more formal optimization models that give us clues about which policies are likely to be more effective.

How is this experimentation conducted? ARM involves: 1) putting explicit bounds on wildlife problems and identifying constraints of alternative policies/management actions (alternative hypotheses). In other words, precisely and formally defining the problem and its potential answers. In one classroom workshop we tried to figure out what we knew about how snowshoe hares cycled in numbers about every 9-11 years and identified a number of alternative hypotheses. 2) representing what we think we know about wildlife systems simply, yet though explicit, dynamic mathematical models, which are amenable to computer simulation. With help from the local snowshoe hare-lynx-plant biologists, our class at UBC generated half a dozen mathematical models which served as hypotheses and sharpened our interest in implicit and explicit assumptions and the uncertainties of each. We soon found that the most useful models were the simplest, abstractly representing only the most essential parts of the system - not every detail. 3) using statistical procedures to represent uncertainty and how it grows over time in relation to management actions, and, 4) designing policies/management actions (hypotheses) which provide for continued wildlife production while also fitting in an investigative, probing, exploratory, EXPERIMENTAL management system.

Controls and replication of controls and management actions are necessary to decide whether indeed management action caused the results observed. Randomization is necessary to avoid the many sources of bias when designing adaptive management actions and thus avoid biased results. In other words, this experimentation is necessary to learn quickly how to manage effectively. No lingering second thoughts about the effectiveness of management. And, 5) carrying out steps 1-4 iteratively so that as you learn from adaptive management you are already incorporating that new knowledge into further problem bounding and hypotheses generation, simulation modeling, and management-experiment design. I think this processes will take talented managers and researchers working closely together.

ARM is not a panacea (see "Viewpoint", this newsletter), yet I do think it has the potential to substantially add to our ability to effectively answer questions about and manage wildlife. **M.W.G.**

#### Additional Reading:

Holling, C.S. 1978. Adaptive environmental assessment and management. Wiley International Series Applied Systems Analysis, Vol. 3, Chichester, UK.

MacNab, J. 1983. Wildlife management as scientific experimentation. Wildl. Soc. Bull. 11:397-401.

Walters, C. 1986. Adaptive management of renewable resources. Macmillan Publ. Co., New York.



The following correspondence was received from the Bonner County 4-H Club as a result of our donation to them for the wildlife habitat contest.

Dear Mr. Moroz and Wildlife Society,

Our Bonner County 4-H group would like to thank you for supporting the State Wildlife Habitat Contest. We learned alot and had fun.

Thanks again,  
David Westfall, Ilene Meredith, Brenda Wood,  
Leslie Wood, Monica Meredith, Dan McNall

Editors note: The thank you was sent on a post card featuring "Animals of the West"!

## Committees & Chairpersons

Conservation Affairs -  
Jeri Williams, 334-1931

Education -  
Tom Hemker, 334-2920

Membership -  
Paul Moroz, 364-7008

Annual Meeting -  
Alan Sands, 384-3067

Awards -  
Jack Connelly, 232-4703

Newsletter -  
Michael Gratson and  
Gregg Servheen, 743-6502

## IDAHO WILDLIFE SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I want to join the Idaho Chapter of The Wildlife Society, and enclose \_\_\_\_\_ \$5.00 (1 yr), \_\_\_\_\_ \$10.00 (2yr), \_\_\_\_\_ \$15.00 (3yr) in payment of dues. This is a new/renewal membership. It is not necessary to be a member of the parent Wildlife Society to be a member of the Idaho Chapter. Membership is by a calendar year. Make checks payable to: "Idaho Wildlife Society," and mail to: Idaho Wildlife Society, c/o Justin Naderman, 1515 Lincoln Road, Idaho Falls ID 83401.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Employer, Affiliation, School or Agency \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Business Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

# IDAHO CHAPTER THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

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JUSTIN NADERMAN  
IDAHO DEPT. FISH & GAME  
1515 LINCOLN ROAD  
IDAHO FALLS, ID 83401

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