

*The Idaho Chapter of the  
Wildlife Society*

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October 1995

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT--E.D. Ables

**THE POLITICAL PROCESS: FRUSTRATIONS BUT A GLIMMER OF HOPE**

I have written more letters to politicians and tracked the politics of natural resources issues to a greater extent in the past 1.5 years than in the previous 28 years of my career. It has been an eye-opener but the view has seldom been very bright or heartening. Behavioral experiments with laboratory animals and the principles which govern game theory both demonstrate that a few minor rewards with the possibility for an occasional large payoff are necessary for maintaining interest in games of chance. If one considers supporting natural resource issues through letters and providing testimony at hearings as games of chance, then my success and payoffs have been exceptionally meager. Maintaining an interest and positive attitude is difficult.

As president of the Idaho Chapter of TWS, I have made a point of sending letters to our 4 congressional delegates on major legislation and other issues (funding for the National Biological Service, conservation provisions of the 1995 Farm Bill, the proposed Non-game bill, the Endangered Species Act, etc.). I have also attempted to get on the agenda of certain hearings but even with the assistance of the National Office of TWS I have yet to receive an invitation. Three of our congressional representatives faithfully answer or acknowledge my letters and sometimes state flatly that they cannot support an issue. On a couple of occasions there has been a hint of support or a request for additional input which I have gladly provided. However, there is one of our delegates who has never acknowledged one piece of correspondence and if you cannot guess this person's identity then you have flunked the exam! Why do I get the feeling that the die has already been cast?



So much for negative reflections and frustrations. We did at least receive a promise of support for our continuation of the Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at the University of Idaho although nothing was said about other research in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. There was a suggestion of support for conservation clauses in the 1995 Farm Bill but this bill may not fare well in the current funding climate. Responses on other issues were either noncommittal or negative. These then are the small rewards that keep one playing the game. Where are the big payoffs?

According to the best of my understanding, national opinion polls continue to show a high degree of support for environmental protection. It is doubtful that the Endangered Species Act will be gutted as many of us fear. Recently (the week of July 10th), on the evening news, the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives informed his colleagues that he had a soft spot for certain endangered species. True, these were rhinos and elephants but perhaps his concern will extend to our native fauna. Of even greater significance, was this public pronouncement a prelude of bipartisan support for the Endangered Species Act? None of this has resulted in a major victory for wildlife but the glimmer of hope is what keeps me somewhat upbeat. I trust that all of you feel the same. We must keep the faith.

#### Editors Note

In keeping with Ernie's political topic, all members are urged to support the Fish and Wildlife Diversity Funding Initiative. Using the successful examples of The Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration Acts, this bill will add a small increase (tax) to the cost of outdoor/recreation equipment. As proposed, the tax (never to exceed 5%) will raise an estimated \$350 million to conserve fish and wildlife diversity and enhance recreational and educational opportunities. You should have all received a package to help with the letter writing campaign for this bill. Please write letters to your representatives, outdoor equipment manufacturers, and your local retailers. When you buy or order outdoor gear and supplies, tell the owner/sales clerk that you would support paying the proposed increased price in order to invest in conservation of fish and wildlife diversity. **Spread the word!!!**

#### Bat Habitat Course

The Chapter co-sponsored a bat habitat assessment course August 29 and 30 at Idaho State University. The course was set up in cooperation with Bat Conservation International, the Forest Service, BLM, Idaho Fish and Game, Idaho Power, Boise Cascade, Monsanto and J.R. Simplot. Emphasis was directed primarily toward abandoned mines. With the deaths of 2 curiosity seekers this



year, there is concern with abandoned mine safety and closures. Because more than 70% of Idaho bat species use mines at various times during their lives it is important that mines be surveyed for bat use before they are closed entirely. The course emphasized survey techniques, safety, gate design and cooperative relations.

## Upcoming Conferences and Meetings

**Fifth Mountain Lion Workshop**, February 27 - March 1, 1996, at Bahia Hotel, San Diego, CA. The workshop will include technical sessions on the status and trend of mountain lion populations, current research, pathology, human interactions, and policy. For information contact: W. Douglas Padley, Southern California Chapter, TWS, P.O. Box 891225, Temecula, CA 92592; (909)695-2217.

**Third Annual Conference of the Wildlife Society**, October 1-6, 1996, at the Omni Netherland Plaza, Cincinnati, OH. Deadline for mailing abstracts to the Program Chair is February 15, 1996. No faxes. Submissions of contributed papers and posters should be sent to Ollie Torgerson, MO Dept. of Conservation, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson, City, MO 65102. Acceptances will be mailed in April 1996.

**The 20th Tall Timbers Fire Ecology Conference**, May 7-10, 1996, Boise, ID. The theme is: Fire and Ecosystem management: shifting the paradigms from suppression to prescription. For more information contact: Leonard A. Brennan, Tall Timbers Research Station, Route 1, P.O. Box 678, Tallahassee, FL, (904)893-4153, ext. 222, FAX (904)668-7781, e-mail:brennan@bio.fsu.edu..

**West Coast Wood Ducks Workshop**, February 2-3, 1996. Vancouver Washington at the Red Lion Inn at the Quay. Topics will include historical perspective of wood ducks in North America, Nest Box Program considerations and coordination, brood habitat and duckling survival, banding and migration studies, and west coast wood duck distribution. Registration fee is \$60. For more information contact: Paul C. Fielder, The Wildlife Society - Washington Chapter, c/o Chelan County P.U.D., P.O. Box 1231 Wenatchee, WA 98801. (509)663-8121 ext. 4299, FAX(509)664-2898.

## 1995 Annual TWS Meeting in Portland

The annual TWS meeting in Portland this fall was excellent by many standards. We thought we'd provide a summary of what went on and mention a couple of the papers we thought were quite interesting so that members of the ID Chapter that weren't able to go might think about attending next year. However, it's difficult to sum up a 5-day meeting with 4 concurrent sessions nearly the entire time, some lasting until 10 p.m., 2 days of poster sessions, a trade show, workshops, working group meetings, and field trips! Although somewhat overwhelming, there was



something for everyone. You should try to review a copy of this years conference abstracts if you are interested in a particular topic.

The plenary session, Long-term Research on Keystone Species: Implications for Ecosystem Management started out with an excellent presentation on the ecological relationship among sea otters, kelp forests, urchins, starfish, wave action, etc. The next talks covered the N. Spotted Owl story, ecology of large herbivores in African grassland ecosystems, and finally human carrying capacity and the sustainability of global ecosystems, by Ron Pulliam, director of NBS.

Some of the papers that we found particularly interesting among the symposia presented included: moose and the dynamics of boreal ecosystems and landscapes; top-down vs bottom-up regulation of ungulate populations; theory vs practice in adaptive management of renewable resources; and many of the papers in the sessions on landscape ecology and statistical analyses. The session on management of late-successional forests dealt with the development of the plan, known as "Option 9", that was selected by the Clinton administration for ecosystem-based management of public forests in the pacific northwest. Interesting papers covered ecologically important subjects not normally addressed by wildlifers, including lichens, arthropods, and mollusks. Other excellent symposia addressing ecosystem-related questions included papers on the role of woody debris, metapopulation dynamics, and development of multi-species habitat conservation plans.

A couple of the contributed papers we liked included: using age-harvest data to assess population dynamics; a unifying theory of mammal population dynamics. Also good were ecological and methodology papers on population genetics, and amphibian, bat, and large carnivore research, including an overview of wolf recovery and human interactions in northwestern Montana.

We appreciated the effort of the Wildlife Society, especially the Oregon and Washington chapters, in putting on an excellent session and providing plenty of opportunities for people to get together, including an innovative banquet (located outside among the animals at the Washington Park Zoo). This correspondence cannot convey the ideas, new concepts, brainstorming, cooperation, etc that goes on when professional wildlifers meet with each other one on one and have a chance to discuss each others interests. With over 2,000 people in attendance you are also bound to run in to people you haven't seen in years and meet people you have only talked with on the phone. This opportunity for interaction is one of the greatest advantages of the annual TWS meeting. M.Gratson & F.Cassirer



ABSTRACT SUBMITTAL FORM  
1995 Annual Meeting  
Idaho Chapter of the Wildlife Society

Type of Presentation: \_\_\_\_\_ Paper \_\_\_\_\_ Poster \_\_\_\_\_ Display \_\_\_\_\_

Subject for Contributed Papers

\_\_\_\_\_ Big Game Species  
\_\_\_\_\_ Nongame Species

\_\_\_\_\_ Wildlife Management  
\_\_\_\_\_ Upland Game/Waterfowl  
\_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

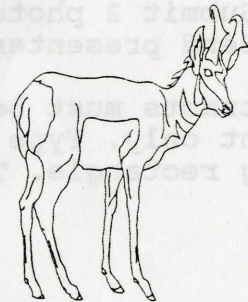
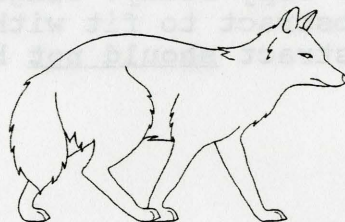
If first author is not presenter, name presenter: \_\_\_\_\_

\* The time limit for contributed papers is twenty minutes, including questions.

Send original plus one copy of the abstract and biography with this form to:

James W. Unsworth, Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game, 3101 S.  
Powerline, Nampa, ID 83686  
Telephone 208-887-6729 Fax 208-465-8467

THE DEADLINE FOR ABSTRACTS IS FEBRUARY 1, 1996





## Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Idaho Chapter of the Wildlife Society will be held in Boise, Idaho at the Red Lion Downtowner on March 7-8, 1996. Sessions will be held at the Red Lion.

On Thursday morning we will have a special session:

- Public Involvement in Wildlife Management - Lonk Kuck, Tracey Trent, Program Chairmen.

General sessions will also be held and members are encouraged to give papers on other topics concerning wildlife and habitat. The auction and buffet will be held on Friday evening.

Reservations can be made at the Red Lion Downtowner by calling 1-800-547-8010. A block of rooms has been reserved through February 14, 1996. A special rate of \$49 single and \$59 double has been arranged. Be sure and tell them that you are with the Idaho Chapter of the Wildlife Society.

## Submitting and Typing Abstracts

Deadline for receipt of abstracts is February 1, 1995.

Abstracts should be of the informative type, containing:

1. A specific objective statement.
2. A brief statement of methods, if pertinent.
3. A summary of results.
4. A statement of conclusions.
5. Follow abstract format.
6. Submit 2 photocopy ready copies.
7. Send presenters biography with abstract.

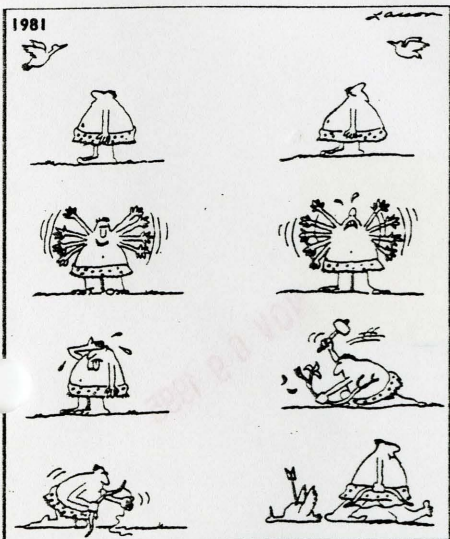
Abstracts must be photo copy ready. Single spaced letter quality print only. Type the abstract to fit within a 3 ½" wide X 5 ½" long rectangle. The abstract should not be surrounded by lines.



SAMPLE ABSTRACT  
(Measures 3 1/2" X 5 1/2")

THE EFFECTS OF INTELLECTUAL ISOLATION ON THE LIFE HISTORY OF SHORT, RED-HEADED, AND BIG WILDLIFE BIOLOGISTS. Woody Pine, Samantha Snag, and Billy Goat, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Good Grief.

Identification of the components of isolation that effect the intellectual regression of wildlife biologists in remote outposts is critical if natural resource agencies are to maintain control over employees and prevent idiosyncratic localism from dominating management decisions. We compared the life style requirements of 3 wildlife biologists (*Homo sapiens grieffus*) with similar food habits, but very different life histories, to those of biologists in less remote outposts. The independent variables we analyzed were: horse and/or mule ownership, size of pick-up truck, contentment, biologist weight, number of firearms, fly rods, or dogs owned, operas and/or ballets attended, and espresso consumption. Intellectual regression was positively correlated to horse and/or mule ownership, contentment, biologist weight, and size of pick-up truck. Number of firearms owned and number of fly rods owned were not statistically significant predictors of intellectual regression. Dog ownership was marginally significant and positively correlated. Operas and/or ballets attended and espresso consumption were dropped from the analysis due to small sample size. Biologists stationed in remote locations are likely to be fat, dumb, and happy.



"You know, Sid, I really like bananas. ... I me I know that's not profound or nothin'. ... He We all do. ... But for me, I think it goes much more beyond that."



