



# Idaho Chapter

January 22, 1996

## Officers

<b>Ernest Ables</b>	<b>President</b>	<b>885-6434</b>
<b>James Unsworth</b>	<b>Vice President</b>	<b>887-6729</b>
<b>Martha Wackenhut</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>232-4703</b>
<b>Michael Gratson</b>	<b>Secretary</b>	<b>799-5010</b>

**Newsletter Editors**      **Michael Gratson & Gregg Servheen 799-5010**

## President's Message

"Reflections" - With this issue of the newsletter I close out my tenure as President of the Idaho Chapter of The Wildlife Society as well as my professional career as a faculty member at the University of Idaho. Please permit me to make a few observations and reflect on our profession. Firstly, I feel honored and humble for the confidence you have placed in me the last 2 years. There are many things I would have liked to accomplish but successes were measured in small increments. Easily the greatest effort was devoted to conservation affairs. Herein exists the greatest frustration in that convincing our political leaders of the values we attach to natural resources was mainly an exercise in futility. Even such issues as user charges on outdoor equipment and conservation provisions in the Farm Bill met with resistance.

As I reflect on progress made in wildlife conservation and management since January 1958 when I first entered college, the impacts of science and technology have been remarkable. We track animal movements from satellites in space, monitor physiological parameters of free-ranging animals while sitting comfortably in our labs, use DNA fingerprinting to rewrite genetic relationships and develop all manner of population and ecosystem models on powerful computers that exceed the capability of rooms full of mainframes just a couple of decades past. I am a supporter of all approaches and uses of technology that provide us with better knowledge on which to base resource management. However, I am becoming deeply concerned with what I perceive as the dominant paradigm or the era, and that is excessive reliance on technology. My fear is that we are losing touch with the resource and as this gap becomes wider our personal commitment to wildlife and its habitats will begin to



diminish. Put another way, how can we develop or maintain close emotional and psychological ties with anything from which we are detached? But are we not objective and scientific in our approach to wildlife management rather than emotional? Indeed we are science based but we are value driven. All of wildlife management is value driven and these values are derived from attitudes we consider important in wild creatures in natural settings. The things we consider important reflect our value system and this value system is based on personal relationships and experiences. Thus, it is necessary for us not to lose touch.

A second and related issue involves values and attitudes of those budding wildlife professionals: our students in universities around the country. Faculty, including those at the University of Idaho, have detected beliefs among students that provide cause for concern. These beliefs seem to reflect the commodity and economically oriented philosophy so common in the West today that champions exploitation of natural resources, even to the point of writing off an endangered species. In the Fish and Wildlife Resources Department at the U of I we are developing a system and process that will assist students in the development of their own personal value system and personal code of ethics. This is not an attempt to force our values onto students, but to inform them of the values of their chosen profession and help them clarify their own value system relative to wildlife resources and the wildlife profession.

Years ago my dissertation research dealt mainly with radio-tracking of red foxes. I managed to locate with precision the geometric center of data points within the home ranges of foxes and calculate the mean activity radius plus or minus 2 standard deviations. With the help of a large, air conditioned room full of mainframe computer hardware I calculated the R-square values that quantified the influence of weather variables on fox movements. Lastly, I developed a simulation model that described the observed distribution of radio fixes. This work was published in the appropriate leading journals. I was proud of myself and perhaps a bit arrogant. How has this work contributed to the management of red foxes in North America? To the best of my knowledge not a single person has cited this work during a debate on harvest regulations for foxes. Relevance? I will end this message with a plea to all of us to consider the relevance of what we do. Will it make a difference in management of the resource?

It has been a pleasure and honor serving you these past 2 years. I wish my successor as well as every member of the Idaho Chapter the very best of luck in all endeavors. See you in Boise in March.

## 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 AM we will have a special session: Public Involvement in Wildlife Management, with **L. Kuck** and **T. Trent** as Program Chairmen; other special sessions may be arranged as well. 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 PM.

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.

Note: we need items donated that can be auctioned off at the Annual Meeting. Please visit with past donors and any potential new donors and hit them up for .... hunting/fishing/camping equipment, pictures, paintings, sketches, field trips, books, journals, dogs, horses, professional items, etc. Please call **Daryl Meints** at 208 232-4702 quickly if you locate any items.

## Please submit abstracts now!!!

Abstracts must be photocopy ready, single-spaced letter quality print only. Type the abstracts to within a 3 1/2" wide x 5 1/2" long rectangle. The abstract should not be surrounded by lines. At the top of the abstract should be the title all in capital letters, followed by the author's names, and affiliations or addresses.



**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                      \_\_\_\_\_ Wildlife Management  
\_\_\_\_\_ Nongame Species                      \_\_\_\_\_ Upland Game/Waterfowl  
\_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Authors: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Presenter: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_  
State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

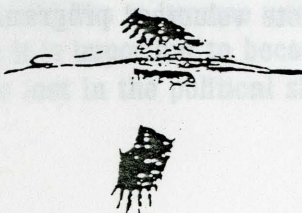
Time allowed for oral presentations is 20 minutes including questions and answers. Send original plus 1 copy of abstract and biography with this form to: **James W. Unsworth, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, 3101 S. Powerline, Nampa, ID 83686; 208 887-6729; fax 208 465-8467.**

**New Officers for ID-TWS**

**Jack Connelly**, Chair of the Nominations Committee, and **Ernie Ables**, our President, informed us that new officers for our chapter need to be elected. Please mark your selections on the back page of the newsletter and mail very soon to: **Jack Connelly, ID-TWS Officer Nominations Committee, 1345 Barton Road, Pocatello, ID 83204-1819.** Voting results will be presented at the annual meeting. A slate of candidates and their qualifications are presented below.

President:	<b>J. Unsworth</b>
	<b>S. Knick</b>
Vice-president:	<b>K. Reese</b>
	<b>D. Kemner</b>
Secretary:	<b>F. Cassirer</b>
	<b>Write-in candidate</b>
Treasurer:	<b>R. Garwood</b>
	<b>P. Wackenhut</b>

[Also, although the newsletter editors are not officers, **Michael and Gregg** will be stepping down from this responsibility at the annual meeting; we need members who are willing to take on this job - please be thinking about this and looking for members who might be willing to take on the newsletter. We've heard that **Daryl Meints** and **Brad Compton**, who are with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, in Pocatello are interested. Anyone else?]





## Candidates for Office - Background

### **Steven T. Knick -**

**Present Position:** Research Ecologist, U.S. National Biological Service, Boise, Idaho.

**Views:** My experiences in Idaho have been as diverse as the resources within our state. I have been fortunate to study predators and prey, gain both research and political experience with threatened and endangered species, and use remote sensing technology to relate habitats and nongame species. I have worked in Idaho as a graduate student and for the Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game. I now conduct research for the federal government (dependent on Congressional mood), and am an adjunct professor at Boise State University. Present threats to our natural resources are unprecedented in scope and in potential to alter significantly not only the resource, but our ability to manage those resources. The resolution of these issues will impact our future and affect our professional, personal, and recreational lives. I am excited and challenged by the opportunity to serve the Idaho Chapter of the Wildlife Society as we define solutions and work to ensure sound management of the resources that future generations will inherit.

### **James W. Unsworth -**

**Personal Data:** Born 14 July 1957 in Idaho Falls, Idaho. Married, two children.

**Education:** B.S. (Wildlife Management), University of Idaho (1982); M.S. (Fish and Wildlife Management), Montana State University (1985); Ph.D. (Forestry, Wildlife, and Range Sciences), University of Idaho (1993)

**Former Positions:** Biological Aide and Technician, Idaho Department of Fish and Game (1977-1982); Senior Wildlife Research Biologist, Idaho Department of Fish and Game (1984-1991).

**Present Position:** Principal Wildlife Research Biologist, Project leader for the Southwest Idaho Mule Deer Ecology Project. Idaho Department of Fish and Game (1991-present).

**Wildlife Society Activities:** Member since 1981. Vice-president Idaho Chapter, 1994-96.

**Principal Professional Interests:** Population ecology and management of ungulates and large carnivores. Linking population parameters of game animals to a habitat through modeling.

**Views:** The TWS has played an important role in my professional development and continuing education. TWS publications are often the only link field biologists have with new developments in wildlife management and the changing philosophies of wildlife professionals. TWS also provides a common forum for all wildlife professionals, regardless of association, to act as advocates for wildlife and wildlife habitat. Over the last couple of years, I have gained a much greater understanding of how the Wildlife Society strengthens bonds among biologists from throughout the state. Our annual meeting provides a unique opportunity to exchange information on a diverse range of species. If elected, I will do my best to open communications among members, encourage student involvement, continue support for the chapters' scholarship program, and serve the chapter in a professional manner.

### **Don Kemner -**

**Current position:** District Habitat Biologist, Upper Snake Region, IDFG.

**Professional background/experience:** I've worked the past 6.5 years for IDFG. Previously, I worked 3 years on various waterfowl research projects in the U.S. and Canada for the USFWS. M.S. from South Dakota State University.

**Involvement with TWS:** Member of Idaho Chapter since 1990. Previous member of South Dakota State University Chapter and University of Missouri Chapter. Member of national chapter since 1981. I've assisted with past Idaho Chapter annual meetings and fund raising activities.

**Views:** As a chapter officer, I would stress active participation by members in the Chapter, activities that enhance members education and knowledge of wildlife issues, and promote volunteer programs involving members and the public.



## **Kerry Reese -**

**Current Position:** Professor of Wildlife Resources, University of Idaho, Moscow.

**Views:** As a member of TWS since 1974, I value the role that the society plays in educating its members and the role the society can play in advocating its professional concerns over resource issues. Our chapter is strong and filled with members willing to work on professional activities, so I am optimistic about our influence on contentious problems in the state and region. I encourage students and professionals to attend the annual meetings and present talk on their activities. We need to continue the high quality of these meetings so that wildlifers throughout different agencies within the state view the annual meeting as a useful and enjoyable investment in their profession. Annual meetings are a large part of the duties of the Vice-President and I look forward to working for great meetings.

## **Frances Cassirer -**

**Current Position:** Wildlife Research Biologist, Idaho Department of Fish and Game

**Background:** I have worked for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game in northern Idaho for about 5 years. Much of my work has been for the Idaho Conservation Data Center and the nongame program. Prior to working for Idaho Fish and Game I worked for about 8 years seasonally in Yellowstone National Park. This included masters work out of the University of Idaho on disturbance of elk by cross-country skiers in northern Yellowstone.

**Views:** I have worked with a variety of wildlife species and I have broad interests in wildlife ecology and conservation. I've been a member of The Wildlife Society for 10 years. As secretary of the state chapter I would do what I can to improve communication and help maintain a strong organization of wildlife professionals in Idaho.

## **Paul Wackenhut -**

**Background:** I was born and raised in western Pennsylvania, where I attended Grove City College and earned a B.S. in biology. In 1976-77 I enrolled in the wildlife curricula at Purdue University and then was accepted into an M.S. program at West Virginia Univ. My research involved the nesting of grassland passerine birds on reclaimed coal surface mines. I received the M. S. in Wildlife Biology in 1980. I held a number of temporary positions with the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service and Idaho Fish and Game in the early 80's. I've worked as a habitat biologist with Idaho Fish and Game since 1985.

**Views:** I think it is very important for professional biologists to gather through organizations such as The Wildlife Society so that we can inform one another of current happenings and console one another on the current challenges. It's also good to philosophize and idealize occasionally...something we don't always find the time for in our day-to-day rat races.

I could wax on... but I just remembered I need to get down to my bank to cover a check I wrote this morning.

## **Robin Garwood -**

**Current and Past Positions:** I am currently working for the Sawtooth National Forest as a District Wildlife Biologist, at Ketchum. I've worked seasonally for the FS in Colorado and Utah and for the IDFG as a seasonal as well.

**Primary Interest:** My primary interest is avian biology and habitat management, though as a FS biologist I work on a wide range of issues and species.

**Education:** I received by BS at the University of Tennessee in Wildlife and Fisheries Science and my MS in Raptor Biology at Boise State University.

**Views:** I would like to become more involved with The Society, and believe being an officer is one way to do that. I feel that it is important to become as active as possible in ensuring that our values as wildlife professionals do not get lost in the political shuffle.



# Bitterroot Grizzly Bear Recovery - an Update

Steve Nadeau, a chapter member, has provided the following information on the the bears, the status of the Bitterroot Grizzly Bear EIS, and recovery. Grizzly bears in the Bitterroot Ecosystem of north central Idaho were eliminated by the mid-1940's. When the grizzly bear was listed as a "threatened" species under the Endangered Species Act in 1975, the Bitterroot Ecosystem was listed as a potential recovery zone. Research followed to try to verify the existence of bears and to determine whether the habitat there could still support grizzly bears. Presently, an interagency team is developing an EIS, which reviews several different alternatives that most likely will successfully return grizzly bears to the Bitterroot Ecosystem. The draft EIS is scheduled to be available to the public by March, 1996 (pending continued federal furloughs) and the Record of Decision is to be filed in the Federal Register in September, 1996.

Of concern is not just the biology and science, but the social and political realities of the effort as well. A recent public survey conducted for the USFWS indicated that 62% of the local, 74% of the regional, and 77% of the national respondents were supportive of grizzly bear recovery in the Bitterroots. Most people supporting recovery felt that bears should be saved from extinction and that they are an important part of the ecosystem. Not much of the information regarding the bear's importance to the ecosystem has been uncovered, but research has shown that bear foraging improves soil fertilization around dig sites and that bears disperse plant and fruit seeds widely through their poorly digested feces. Perhaps an unexpected benefit to the ecosystem might be grizzly bears digging up nut caches that consequently mixes the seed with the soil and enhances whitebark pine regeneration. The main reason given for opposing recovery was concern for human safety. However, in a statistical sense, more people will be injured or killed in one day in Idaho and Montana as a result of the speed limit increase from 55 to 65 than will be killed or injured in the Bitterroots by grizzly bears in the next 50 years (based on national statistics).

For more information, contact the **Grizzly Recovery Coordinator, USFWS, Forestry Sciences Lab, University of Montana, Missoula, MT 59812** or **Idaho Department of Fish and Game, 1540 Warner Ave, Lewiston, ID 83501.**

## Upcoming Meetings

- February 2-3, 1996      West Coast Wood Duck Workshop, Red Lion Inn at the Quay, Vancouver, WA. (Contact Paul Fieldler, Washington Chapter, TWS, c/o Chelan Country P.U.D., P.O. Box 1231, Wenatchee, WA 98801-1231; 509 663-8121, ext. 4299).
- February 27-  
March 1, 1996      5th Mountain Lion Workshop, Bahia Hotel, San Diego, CA. (Contact Douglas Padley, S. Cal. Chapter, TWS, P. O. Box 891225 Temecula, CA 92592; 909 695-2217).
- February 26-28, 1996      Sharing Common Ground: Livestock/Big Game Management on Western Rangelands, John Ascuaga's Nugget Hotel, Sparks, NV. (Contact Nevada Cattlemen's Assoc., P. O. Box 310, Elko, NV 89803; 702 738-9214; fax 738-5208).
- March 7-8, 1996      Idaho Chapter of The Wildlife Society, Annual Meeting, Red Lion Downtowner, Boise, ID (see this newsletter for more information).
- March 8-10, 1996      Sustainable Forestry Partnerships: Forging a Network of Excellence, International Conference, Edmonton Convention Centre, Edmonton, Alberta. (Contact Todd Hebert, Rocky Mountain Leisure Services, 411 - 13th Ave. S., Cranbrook, BC V1C 2W3; 604 426-7989).
- March 29-31, 1996      Northwest Section of The Wildlife Society, Annual Meeting, Banff, Alberta. (Hosted by Alberta Chapter, TWS; contact Ron Bjorge, Alberta Chapter Vice President, 403 340-7699).



## Professional Wildlifer Award for 1996

The Idaho Chapter is now soliciting nominations for the 1996 Professional Wildlifer Award. The award seeks to recognize individual members of the society who have made outstanding professional contributions to the wildlife resources of Idaho over an extended period of time. The nomination should include at least 2 letters of support and a copy of the nominee's resume. Nominations will be accepted until February 19, 1996. Please send this information to: **Kerry P. Reese, Awards Committee, University of Idaho, Wildlife Resources, Moscow, ID 83844.** For more information on the award, call either Kerry (208 885-6435), John Beecham (208 334-2920), Tom Hemker (208 334-2929), or Andy Ogden (208 465-8465).

## Rare Animal Workshop: Draft Agenda

A Rare Animal Workshop will be held March 6, 1996, at the Idaho Department of Fish and Game Headquarters Building, Boise, in the Trophy Room from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Thus, it will precede the Idaho Chapter TWS meeting March 7-8. The Organizing Committee includes: **Rich Howard**, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; **Chuck Harris**, Idaho Department of Fish and Game; **Alan Sands**, Bureau of Land Management; **Allan Thomas**, Bureau of Land Management; and **Jay Gore**, U.S. Forest Service, Region 4.

The draft agenda includes:

### Workshop Goals:

1. Revise and update the Idaho "Bluebook" (Rare, Threatened and Endangered Plants and Animals of Idaho). Workgroups for herps, birds, and mammals will be formed prior to the meeting to make written recommendations regarding changes in classification of species currently listed in the book, dropping species from a list, or adding species to a list.
2. Prioritize FS and BLM "Sensitive Species" and FWS "Species of Concern" in Idaho for possible advancement to Candidate species status.
3. Inform the TWS membership and attending public about current and upcoming projects and programs affecting rare species management and biodiversity conservation in Idaho.
4. Develop priorities for the Idaho Conservation Data Center zoology section.

### Proposed Presentations:

- Candidate species update and the new criteria for listing species: what it means for Idaho. (USFWS Regional Office, Portland, Oregon)
- Sensitive species' lists: retention or reduction of species on these lists and prospects for continued funding of surveys and management activities for these species. (BLM; USFS Region 1; USFS Region 4)
- Update on the Idaho State Conservation Effort. (IDFG; BLM; USFS)
- Update on the new Idaho GAP analysis project. (IDFG)
- Ecosystem diversity matrix. (Boise Cascade)
- Bitterroot Ecosystem Project. (IDFG)
- Partners in Flight: riparian habitat management for neotropical migratory landbirds. (IDFG)
- Wildlife Diversity Funding Initiative: implications for rare and candidate species in Idaho. (BLM)
- Section 6 Funds: an ecosystem approach for recovery of threatened and endangered species. (IDFG)

Presentations will be given during the morning session from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM; work on revisions to the Bluebook, prioritization for sensitive species/species of concern, and developing CDC priorities will take place in the afternoon. If needed, the workshop may continue on into the evening (formally or informally).

If you have any questions, suggestions, or want to participate on the bird, mammal, or herp workgroups, please contact **Chuck Harris** (208-334-2920; FAX 334-2114; e-mail [charris@idfg.state.id.us](mailto:charris@idfg.state.id.us)) or **Rich Howard** (208-334-1931; FAX 334-2408; e-mail [rich\\_howard@fws.gov](mailto:rich_howard@fws.gov)) or any other members of the steering committee.



# Idaho Wildlife Society Membership Application

I want to join the Idaho Chapter of The Wildlife Society, and enclose \_\_\_\_\_ \$10.00 (1 yr), \_\_\_\_\_ \$20.00 (2 yrs), or \_\_\_\_\_ \$30.00 (3 yrs) in payment of dues. This is a new or renewed membership. It is not necessary to be a member of the parent The Wildlife Society to be a member of the Idaho Chapter of TWS. Membership is by a calendar year. Make checks payable to: "Idaho Wildlife Society" and mail to: Idaho Wildlife Society, c/o **Martha Wackenhut**, Treasurer, 1515 Lincoln Rd., Idaho Falls, ID 83401-2198 (tele. 208/525-7290).

As a member of the Idaho Chapter of The Wildlife Society, I vote for the following officers: (check no more than 1 in each category).

President:	<b>J. Unsworth</b> _____
	<b>S. Knick</b> _____
Vice-president:	<b>K. Reese</b> _____
	<b>D. Kemner</b> _____
Secretary:	<b>F. Cassirer</b> _____
	Write-in _____
Treasurer:	<b>R. Garwood</b> _____
	<b>P. Wackenhut</b> _____

Cut and send to: **Jack Connelly, ID-TWS Nominations Committee, 1345 Barton Road, Pocatello, ID 83204-1819.**

## IDAHO CHAPTER THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

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