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Northwest Section

Winter 1992

## President's Message

In keeping with our plan to try and produce a Northwest Section TWS newsletter every quarter, you are seeing this one a little sooner than you might have expected. Hopefully, we've cleared up a few problems and will be able to better adhere to a quarterly schedule. More regular newsletters provide a better opportunity for timely presentation of Section, Chapter, or National news. It also means there is less time to accumulate useful information for each newsletter, so they may be a bit shorter. We'll be evaluating this length versus frequency tradeoff in the future to see which way to proceed. If you have an interest in this, please pass your thoughts along.

As you may recall from the last newsletter, the Section Board has charted a new course for our future Section meetings. In an effort to provide a more valuable service to our members and to establish a more distinctive Section identity, future Section meetings will attempt to provide relatively low cost, high quality continuing education programs as the focus of our annual meeting. I'm very excited about

the options this new direction presents for the Section. We hope to be able to provide continuing education opportunities in areas that are often not readily available to wildlife professionals at a regional level.

The general topic of next year's meeting/workshop in Missoula will be Conservation Biology. With the Endangered Species Act up for reauthorization and all the controversies in the Northwest over spotted owls and old growth ecosystems, wolf reintroduction, and salmon, just to name a few, this is indeed a timely subject. Dr. Val Geist from the University of Calgary will be the keynote speaker at the workshop. Program chair Dale Toweill provides additional information about the workshop later in this newsletter. As details of the workshop are in the formative stages, Dale would be happy to hear from you if you have any specific suggestions for the program

I see the upcoming Section meeting as a real opportunity to build on the success we had at the 1992 meeting in Moscow. The 250 professionals who attended were

treated to an excellent program of papers, workshops, panels, and many lively discussions during the breaks and socials. I can assure you that having been involved in many Chapter and now Section meetings, seeing a large turnout at a meeting you've worked hard on organizing is very gratifying and makes you want to work that much harder in the future. I strongly encourage each and every wildlife professional to take a good look at the details of the 1993 Section workshop that will be presented in future newsletters and to consider attending the meeting, for your own benefit and for the benefit of future Section meetings. The benefits of a viable Northwest Section are only limited by the imagination and energy of the membership.

Finally, we've got an election for vice president and secretary/treasurer coming up this fall. If you're interested in playing a larger role in the Northwest Section, then here's your chance. It's a lot of work but the potential rewards are great. You can find out where to sign up on the following pages.

## Alaska Chapter Challenges Forest Service Timber Inventory

After repeated failed efforts to work with the Forest Service in an attempt to get it to abide by the terms of the Tongass Timber Reform Act of 1990, the Alaska Chapter has filed an appeal on a recent timber harvest EIS. The Chapter is not trying to stop the timber sale, but rather is attempting to get the Forest Service to play by its own rules, as mandated by Congress. The Chapter's primary concern is that this is the first of many timber harvest EISs that will be released under the Tongass Act and the consequences to wildlife of not adher-

ing to the terms of the Act are substantial.

The Alaska Chapter has been approached regarding litigating this case and faces some tough decisions in the near future. The Section has offered its guidance and assistance as this issue proceeds. That assistance could take the form of financial help, subject to Section Board approval, if the Chapter decides to pursue this through the courts. Details of this situation are included in an excerpt from the Alaska Chapter newsletter reprinted below.



## ***Kelp Bay Administrative Appeal (from Alaska Newsletter)***

When Congress passed the Tongass Timber Reform Act (TTRA) of 1990, a key wildlife provision in the law regulated the harvest of rare high-volume, old-growth habitat. Specifically, the law required that the proportion of high-volume acres (classes 6 and 7) in the harvest not exceed the proportion of high-volume currently existing in any management area. The Wildlife Society (TWS) at both the national and state levels had lobbied for nearly 10 years to end the practice of high-grading. Inclusion of this specific provision in the law was hailed as a significant victory for wildlife.

The recently released Kelp Bay timber sale on North Baranof Island is the first timber sale to fall under the requirements of this law. The Forest Service (FS), in complying with this law, relied on remote-sensing to identify the number of acres of high-volume that currently exist and the acres that will be cut. This remote-sensing approach

indicated relatively few acres of high-volume slated to be logged. However, on-the-ground field surveys by FS crews revealed a different picture. Where the remote-sensing approach indicated the loss of only 19 high-volume acres, on-the-ground surveys revealed actual loss at 1,731 acres!

Alarmed by this discrepancy, the Alaska Chapter of TWS filed a brief administrative appeal of the Kelp Bay EIS in April 1992. The Chapter requested that logging on 850 of these high-volume acres be stayed until inaccuracies in the remote surveys could be corrected, or an alternate system developed to monitor compliance with the law. Representatives of the Alaska Chapter met with FS technical staff to discuss their concerns and reached agreement on the technical deficiencies of the current monitoring program. The Chapter subsequently requested a meeting with the Regional Forester or other policy-level

officials to discuss their concerns. That request was ignored.

In early August, TWS's appeal was summarily dismissed. There was no ruling or discussion on its merits. The FS claimed TWS was really concerned with survey methods as described in a Forest Service Handbook, not with the Kelp Bay sale, and, because the handbook is not an appealable document, our appeal was moot. Naturally, the Chapter was disappointed and frustrated by this nonresponse to their concerns. The Chapter will continue to seek a meeting with the FS to resolve this issue, but given recent signals, this route does not appear promising. An option of last resort is to seek settlement through a legal challenge. They are evaluating that option now, and will be discussing the issue with the Executive Board and with Tom Franklin of the TWS Washington office and with the Northwest Section.

### ***Northwest Section Officer Nominations Needed from Membership***

Nominations for the positions of Vice-president and Secretary-treasurer of the Northwest Section are needed to fill in behind Dale Toweill and Charlie Bruce who vacate their posts in 1993. Paul Moroz (Idaho Chapter President) will serve as the chairperson of the three-member nomination committee who will review the nominations winter's election. The January newsletter will include the candidates for these positions, their brief statement, and voting ballots.

If you are interested in running for either 2-year position, please submit a brief personal resume including your name, place of work and residence, past TWS involvement, and reasons for wanting to hold the officer position. Nomination resumes should not exceed one typed page and be mailed no later than December 11, 1992 to: Paul Moroz, 2081 Northwest 8th Street, Meridian, ID 83642. Section members can encourage other members to run for these offices. For more information on position duties, call Dale (208) 334-2599, Charlie (503) 757-4186, or Paul (208) 888-6482.

### ***Calls for Papers***

This is the season when your Section and Chapters are planning ahead for their annual meetings, and time to consider summarizing your projects for presentation to other TWS members – many who have interests very similar to yours. So get your thoughts on paper and stimulate some discussion!

Most Calls for Papers request Abstracts, to allow Program Chairpersons to schedule time and equipment. Abstracts should be less than 300 words and include: 1) name(s) and address(es) of author(s); 2) title of presentation; 3) description of problem studied and/or justification; 4) methods (briefly); 5) results and interpretation; and 6) utility of results.

Each abstract should be accompanied by a cover letter that indicates the name and telephone number for the presenter, preferred dates and sessions (if known), and any audio-visual equipment required (if other than a slide projector).

Northwest Section TWS meeting, April 7-10 at the Missoula-Parkside Holiday Inn, Missoula, Montana. Theme: "Conservation Biology". This meeting will focus on a workshop addressing subjects in conservation biology, in addition to technical presentations. Papers presented at Chapter meetings can be submitted for presentation at the Section meeting. Camera-

ready abstracts must fit into a 2.75-by 6.5-inch rectangle so that three abstracts will fit on each page of the program. Please submit Abstracts by January 31, 1993 to: Dr. Dale Toweill, Idaho Fish and Game, P.O. Box 25, Boise, ID, (telephone 208-334-2599; Fax 208-334-2114).

Alberta Chapter TWS, Annual Meeting, March 19-20 at Nisku Inn, Nisku, Alberta. Please submit Abstracts by January 1 to: Ken Crutchfield, (telephone 403-427-1742; Fax 403-422-9560).

British Columbia/Washington Chapters TWS, Joint Annual Meeting, March 10-12, 1993, at The Inn at Semiahmoo near Blaine, Washington. Theme: "Wildlife Ecology, Issues and Management in the Pacific Northwest". In addition to General Sessions, Special Sessions are tentatively planned for lynx and elk management and research, and a Poster Session will be included. Please submit abstracts by December 25, 1992 to: Jim Watson, 5024 324th St. N.W., Stanwood, WA 98292, (telephone 206-753-5728; Fax 206-338-1066); Dr. Sylvia Thorpe, Lynx Program Chair, 4200 Guide Meridian, Bellingham, WA 98226, (telephone 206-647-1192); or Kim Brunt, Elk Program Chair, B.C. Environment, 2569 Kenworth Road, Nanaimo, B.C. V9T 4P7, (telephone 604-758-3951).

## Chapter News

### British Columbia

The **British Columbia Chapter** will meet with the Washington Chapter for an annual meeting from Wednesday, March 10 through Friday, March 12 at The Inn at Semiahmoo near Blaine, Washington. Additional information is listed below with Washington Chapter activities, and a Call for Papers is presented elsewhere in this newsletter.

### Idaho

The **Idaho Chapter** has scheduled the 1993 annual meeting for March 25-27 to be held at the Red Lion Downtowner in Boise. Alan Sands is taking the lead in developing the program, which will include sessions on professional and personal effectiveness and scoping skills. A call for papers has been made in the Fall issues of the Chapter Newsletter, with Alan (208-384-3067) and Michael Gratson (208-743-6502) serving as key contacts. Members of all Northwest Chapters are invited to attend the Idaho meeting and participate!

Paul Moroz is coordinating the National TWS membership drive for Idaho, together with a Chapter membership drive. Anyone who is interested in helping is welcome to call Paul at home (208-888-6482) or work (208-365-7008). Paul would also appreciate hearing about biologists who have recently moved to Idaho so that he may extend an "invite" to join the Idaho Chapter.

Several committees were established to address key issues that concern the Chapter. The following chairpersons may be contacted for information: Conservation Affairs: Jeri Williams (208-334-1931), Education: Tom Hemker (208-334-2920), Awards: Jack Connelly (208-232-4703), Finances: Geoff Hogander (208-236-6860), Newsletter (including editorial letters): Michael Gratson and Greg Servheen (208-743-6502).

### Washington

The **Washington Chapter** will meet jointly with the British Columbia Chapter at The Inn at Semiahmoo near Blaine, Washington, March 10-12, 1993. The intent of the meeting will be to disseminate and discuss information regarding wildlife ecology, issues, and management. TWS members and others are encouraged to participate. Greg Schroer (206-454-3408) is conference coordinator.

## Awards Committee Seeking Nominations

The Awards Committee is requesting nominations for the Arthur S. Einarsen Award and the Wildlife Administrator Award to be presented at the Annual Meeting of the Northwest Section in 1993.

The Einarsen Award recognizes an individual for outstanding service to the wildlife profession in the region encompassed by the Northwest Section. Please send a letter of justification and a copy of your nominee's resume to the committee chairman (below) by February 28, 1993. Nominations made during 1990-1992 will be considered for the 1993 award. Please revise your earlier nomination by sending updated nominating materials to the committee chairman.

The Wildlife Administrator Award recognizes an individual who has achieved significant accomplishments in promoting wildlife management while serving in an administrative position.

For more information please contact: Jerry Hupp, Alaska Fish and Wildlife Research Center, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1011 E. Tudor Road, Anchorage, AK 99503, Telephone: (907) 786-3303.

## Meetings of Interest

**February 24-26**, Montana Chapters, TWS/AFS, Great Falls Sheraton, Great Falls, MT. Contact Gary Dusek (406-994-6362).

**March 10-12**, British Columbia/Washington Chapters TWS, The Inn at Semiahmoo, Blaine, WA, Greg Schroer (206-454-3408).

**March 14-April 1**, Capture, handling, and marking of North American Eagle. Graduate credit available. Montana State University, Bozeman (406-994-6683).

**March 19-20**, Alberta chapter TWS, Nisku Inn, Nisku, Alberta. Contact Blair Rippin (403-645-6313).

**March 25-27**, Idaho Chapter TWS, Red Lion Downtowner, Boise, ID. Contact Paul Moroz (208-365-7008).

**April 7-10**, Northwest Section TWS, Missoula-Parkside Holiday Inn, Missoula, MT. Contact Dr. Lynn Irby (406-994-3252).

## Calls for Papers (continued)

Call Greg Schroer (206-454-3408) if you have any questions or would like to help with the conference.

Idaho Chapter TWS, Annual Meeting, March 25-27, 1993, at the Red Lion Downtowner, Boise, Idaho. Please submit Abstracts by January 31, 1993 to either: Alan Sands, (telephone 208-384-3067; Fax 208-384-3290) or, Michael Gratson, (telephone 208-743-6502; Fax 208-743-4314).

Montana Chapter TWS/Montana Chapter AFS, Joint Annual Meeting, February 24-26, 1993, at Great Falls Sheraton, Great Falls, Montana. Please submit papers to: Wayne Kasworm (telephone 406-293-4162).

Oregon Chapter TWS, Annual Meeting March....., 1993 at ..... Oregon. Please submit Abstract by.....to: Michael Wisdom, (telephone 503-963-7122; Fax 503-963-8704).



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