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Northwest Section

May 1993

President's Message

Having just returned from the annual meeting in Missoula and facing the realization that I have committed myself to work for the section for the next two years, I think this is an appropriate time to thank the officers of the Northwest Section who have just completed their terms, Chuck Blair as president, Dale Toweill as vice-president, and Charlie Bruce as secretary-treasurer. Chuck, Dale, and Charlie put in a lot of time and effort to insure that the Northwest Section fulfilled its role. I would also like to thank the incoming officers, Greg Green vice-president, Jerome Hanson secretary-treasurer, and Dale Toweill newsletter editor, for the donation of time and energy that they will expend during their terms.

The meeting at Missoula also gave me an opportunity to talk with many wildlife professionals from different areas in northwestern North America. These conversations reminded me how diverse the field has become and how important maintaining communica-

tion among biologists is. In the Northwest, we face not only the problems of communication across a wide geographic area but a fragmentation of biologists into subdisciplines which do not always share common views. I hope we can agree that as professionals, we should support policies that are compatible with healthy wildlife populations even when we disagree about which of several possible policies is most desirable. If I may borrow a phrase from the rhetoric surrounding the last Republican Convention, I am a supporter of the "big tent" concept. We may argue among ourselves, and we may be uncomfortable with some of our tentmates, but if we can keep the discussion at a professional level, we can seek solutions to problems. Separation into compatible fragments may lead to quiet meetings, but it will dilute our effectiveness in efforts to support professional management of wildlife resources.

Another item which the meeting at Missoula brought to my attention was

our need to decide what the future role of the Northwest Section should be. Activity levels in other regional sections of the Wildlife Society range from very low (Southwest Section) to very high (Midwest Section). The Southwest Section does not have annual meetings. Attendance at the Midwest Section meeting routinely approaches or exceeds 1,000 registrants. Northwest Section meetings have attendance levels of 80 to 250.

We have an opportunity to increase our activity levels – to develop more elaborate meetings, sponsor more workshops, establish scholarships, publish proceedings, provide grants and loans to chapters, etc., – but increased activity will require a larger funding base. Our current section dues are \$5 per year. With a membership of approximately 1,000, expenses for 4 newsletters and a meeting agenda are more than \$4,000. It does not take a rocket scientist to figure out that we do not have a lot of excess cash to engage in activities. There is nothing wrong with remaining a relatively low-key vehicle for communication among wildlife biologists in the Northwest, but if we want to do more, a dues increase is probably necessary. Think about it and let me or the other officers (in your state or at the section level) know what you believe the role of the Northwest Section should be.

1994 Northwest Section Meeting Scheduled

The Northwest Section Meeting for 1994 has been scheduled for March 9-11. Hosted by the Montana Chapter, the meeting will be held at Cavanaugh's

Inn in Kalispell, Montana. Greg Green, Northwest Section Vice-President, is Program Chairman, and Dennis Flath, Montana Chapter, is assisting.

1993 Annual Section Meeting

The Northwest Section annual meeting held in Missoula, Montana April 8-9 was a success, with about 100 registered attendees. President (now Past-President) Chuck Blair welcomed attendees with remarks focussed on change (his remarks are printed elsewhere in this Newsletter), and Dr. Valerius Geist of the University of Calgary delivered the keynote address on "Wildlife Futures 2020" wherein he

challenged all of us to become more proactive in defense of our profession and our world – nationally and internationally. The keynote address sparked a lively panel discussion, followed by a series of workshops featuring concepts of conservation Biology from genes to landscapes, populations modeling, and communications skills. On behalf of all attendees, I extend my sincere appreciation to all who partici-

pated in providing a truly excellent program.

Dr. Bart O'Gara received the Arthur S. Einarsen Award for outstanding service to the profession. Business included ratification of changes in Section Bylaws, and a go-ahead for a Northwest Section brochure. Chuck Blair will be working on preparation of the first draft of the brochure.

Change

That seems to be the buzz-word for the early 90s. Bill Clinton was elected on the promise of change from the status quo of the 80s. Some of the early signs of those changes in the environmental arena have already been heard from Vice President Gore and Interior Secretary Babbitt. The recent forest conference was a marked change from the past administrations when federal agencies battled over logging of old growth forests. President Clinton has vowed that his resource agencies will speak with one voice in the future. This won't be easy but at least it's a big step in the right direction.

For those of you working for federal land management agencies the potential for change over the next four years is tremendous, both from within and from outside pressures. And in the West with all of its public lands, any change in land management practices will affect all of us, both professionally and in our personal lives.

However, in addition to holding great promise, change can be frightening and create many challenges. The status quo is usually a very comfortable place. Being on the leading edge of change rather than just reacting to it, or maintaining the status quo requires a large commitment of time and energy above and beyond the day to day activities that can so totally wear you down. Being on the leading edge of change may require that you step back

from the daily grind and take a big picture, or landscape level look at your priorities to distinguish what is critical from what is important.

Several years ago I attended a time management workshop. The message of that workshop that has lasted the longest for me dealt with separating what is critical from what is important. In terms of resource management the critical things are those day to day fires that other people are always demanding you put out but which may not have much bearing on the long term quality of the resource. Whereas, the important things are those that have a long term affect on the quality of the resources over which we are stewards. Dealing effectively with the critical items will leave more time to devote to the really important issues before us.

While I'm not suggesting that you can ignore all of the fire drills, each of us will have to pay more attention to what I've called the important elements of our jobs so that the opportunities of the next four years don't slip away. This will probably require that we both eliminate some of the fire drills by saying no when we can, which can be very effective, and that we develop more efficient ways of dealing with those issues to which we can't say no.

If we are to make the most of the opportunities before us we can't be

satisfied with mediocrity or the status quo. We must demand and be satisfied with nothing less than the best from ourselves and from our peers, both within our own and from other disciplines. By demanding the best from ourselves and others and by focusing our energies on those activities that are important in the long term, we can make the most of the opportunities that the recent election will present to us.

One of the most important things at which we must be successful if we are to make the most of the next four years is better communication. Each of us must work hard to open new lines of communication within and between agencies and disciplines so that we can avoid duplication of effort, learn from each other's mistakes, and work together for the good of the resource. Speaking with one voice for proper resource management will require much better communication than in the past. I'm not speaking of better communication just between biologists, which is essential, but am also stressing the need for much improved interdisciplinary communication between biologists, hydrologists, foresters, range specialists, and others. It is only through better communication that we can hope to break down the barriers and turf battles of the past 12 years and truly work together for the good of the resource.

– Chuck Blair

Chapter Activities

Alaska Chapter

As breakup finally ends a long and snowy winter – even by Alaska standards – many of the Alaska Chapter's 330 members are beginning the frenetic rush of the field season. This is also the season for Chapter elections, and the final tally will be counted in the next week by outgoing President Kim Titus and Secretary-Treasurer Ellen Campbell. Results will be reported in the next Newsletter.

The annual meeting in Juneau featured several speakers and a panel discussion on the value of wildlife to tourism. The perspectives of organized tour companies and organizations such as the Alaska Visitor's Association, as well as local sport hunting, fishing, and photography guides, were presented. Although all agreed that wildlife is very important to tourism in Alaska, there was not unanimity on how to tap the tourism resources in order to maintain wildlife habitat. A recent proposed bill to adopt a conservation stamp in Alaska was supported by the industry when it was non-mandatory and cost only \$2-3 per individual, but was opposed when the cost jumped to \$10 and the stamp became mandatory. The bill died in the legislature early, and some alternative methods are being explored.

Following the trend in the Lower 48 and Canada, there has been a surge of interest in game ranching in Alaska. The state legislature appeared ready to adopt a bill, dubbed the "moose farming" bill, that would have allowed ranching of indigenous Alaska wildlife. Introduced species, such as musk-ox, reindeer, and plains bison, can already be ranched in the state, but so far indigenous species cannot. The Chapter adopted (by a wide margin) a position statement on game ranching that, while recognizing existing uses, opposes game ranching of native species. Although the bill has been tabled in the current session of the legislature, we anticipate a strong push for it in the next session. We appreciate the many comments and suggestions we received from colleagues in the Lower 48 and Canada when we prepared the position statement. – Dick Shideler

Idaho Chapter

The Idaho Chapter had a very successful meeting in Boise March 25-27. Keynote speaker Tom Kovalicky (retired Forest Supervisor) provided an excellent keynote address on being effective in the 1990s (note "Kovalicky's 8 Commandments" elsewhere in this Newsletter). Also notable was a very effective workshop on riparian area management, which identified some of the current impediments to effective management and provided directions for more effective practices in the future.

The 1994 Annual Meeting of the Idaho Chapter will be held March 2-4 in Post Falls, Idaho. – Paul Moroz

Montana Chapter

The Montana Chapter executive committee met with the executive committee of the Northwest Section at Missoula prior to the Section meeting on 7 April. The Chapter offered to host the 1994 Section meeting in conjunction with our Chapter meeting. This offer was accepted and the Kalispell/Whitefish area was selected as a site. This location was chosen because of our desire to involve the Alberta Chapter and TWS Section membership. "The Interface Between Wildlife Management and Land Management" was selected as a theme. Plans are being developed for workshops and field trips in conjunction with the 9-11 March meeting. Anyone with suggestions or ideas should contact Dennis Flath at (406) 994-3285 or Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, 1400 So. 19th, Bozeman, MT 59715. – Wayne Kasworm

Oregon Chapter

Sun River has been chosen as the site for next year's meeting, to be held either the first or second week of February. – Mike Wisdom

Washington Chapter

The Washington Chapter would like to announce their new team of executive board members: President, Greg Schroer; President-elect, Bob Nancy; Secretary Beck Herbig; Treasurer, Dana Base; and Board Members, Jim Bottorff, Gary Witmer, and Woody Myers. Our four regional representatives are, Paul Fielder, Tom Burke, Gary Witmer, and Becky Herbig. The committee chairs include: Carl Christianson, Conservation; Sylvia Thorpe, Legislative Affairs; Chris Grue, Workshops; and Becky Herbig, Newsletter.

The Washington Chapter held their annual meeting with British Columbia TWS members at a resort near U.S./Canadian border during March 1992. The meeting was the largest and most financially successful annual meeting that the Washington Chapter has held. The workshops on biological assessments and marbled murrelets were one of the many highlights of the meeting, and they were attended by approximately 70 people each.

The Washington Chapter will be awarding a scholarship each year for \$500 to \$1,000 as part of the Richard E. Fitzner Memorial Fund. We are proud and very appreciative to announce this year we received a substantial matching contribution to this fund from Ms. Lisa Fitzner.

The Chapter Executive Board will be meeting on May 21 in Ellensburg to discuss items such as By-law revisions, the 1994 annual meeting, the 1995 National meeting, conservation issues, the Evergreen Summit held during March 1992 and the Fitzner Memorial Fund. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend. - Greg Schroer

Bear Research Grants Available

The International Association for Bear Research and Management will make annual grants from funds received from the John S. Bevins Memorial Foundation to persons involved in underfunded but significant research, education, or management programs of any bear or panda species. Applications for grants in 1994 (maximum US \$10,000) must be received by July 1, 1993; awards will be announced by December 31. Annual grants will generally be less than half the maximum amount.

Only in rare circumstances will these grants be made to programs conducted by US or Canadian government agencies. Special consideration will be given to programs in or graduate students from countries with threatened and little-studied bear species or populations. For more information and grant application forms contact Grant Review Committee Chairman Erich Follman (University of Alaska, Inst. of Arctic Biology, Fairbanks, AK 99775-0181; phone (907) 474-7338, FAX (907) 474-6967.

Meetings of Interest

June 19-23 American Society of Mammalogists, Western Washington University, Bellingham. Contact Diana Bakkom (206) 647-6821.

August 15-20 International Union of Game Biologists XXI Congress, Dalhousie Univ., Halifax, Canada. Contact Dr. I.D. Thompson, Forestry Canada, Box 6028, St. John's Newfoundland, Canada A1C 5X8 (709) 772-4903.

Sept. 19-25 International Wildlife Management Congress, Cariari Hotel, San Jose, Costa Rica. IWMC Secretariat Director, TWS, 5410 Grosvenor Lane, Bethesda, MD 20814 (301) 897-9770.

Kovalicky's 8 Commandments for Biologists

1. **Have a Bias for Action.** Be aggressive, and pro-active on behalf of the fisheries and wildlife resource.
2. **Think Program.** Know how your actions contribute to a history of habitat changes. Plan and manage your budget, people, and activities for continuity and quality of results.
3. **Be Objective.** Be a good scientist. Use hard information and facts, not emotion.
4. **Focus on Results.** Be creative and innovative. Get out in front and practice participative management. Make the results of your work dictate your actions.
5. **Communicate, Communicate, Communicate.** Be a good teacher and a good listener. Keep your sense of humor. Find ways to get out the message that fish and wildlife don't always lose in National Forest management.
6. **Be Effective.** Understand the system. Know how to compromise, but do not simply conform to the system. Be a good ID Team member. Learn the processes inside and out. Become the NEPA expert in your unit.
7. **Build Expertise.** Learn about other resources. Know how a log gets to the mill, how budgets are constructed, and how co-workers view the world.
8. **Maintain Networks.** Form your own coalitions and create new partnerships in and outside the agency. Cultivate the support of peers. Work for professional unity among Forest Service, State, and FWS biologists. Nix back-biting.



American Society of Mammalogists to Meet in Bellingham

Northwest Section members will have a rare opportunity to participate in the American Society of Mammalogists meeting near home when the 73rd annual meeting of the American Society of Mammalogists convenes June 19-23 at Western Washington University in Bellingham, Washington. Late registration (after May 15) will cost \$80 for everyone. All meeting participants and vendors must register. For

more information on registration, contact Diana Bakkom, University Extended Programs, WWU, Bellingham, WA 98225-9042 or call (206) 647-6821.

The program will feature a keynote address by Dr. Guy Musser, Curator and Chair of the Department of Mammalogy, American Museum of Natural History, entitled "Tushar to Nokilalaki: the Adventure of Inquiry." Also fea-

tured will be a symposium "Retrospection on Marine Mammal Biology and Management," workshops on "Developing a Career in Mammalogy" and "So You Want to be a Professor? How Women and Minorities Succeed in the Tenure Mainstream" and concurrent technical sessions and poster sessions. Final call for papers ends March 1, 1993.

New Committee Chairmen Appointed

Paul Moroz has agreed to serve a second year as Nominations Committee Chairman, and nominations are now being accepted for President-Elect of the Northwest Section. Please send your nominations to: Paul Moroz, USDA Forest Service, Emmett Ranger District, 1805 Highway 16, Emmett, ID 83617, telephone: (208) 364-7000.

Steve Knick has agreed to chair the Section's Award Committee for 1993-94. The Section has two awards, the

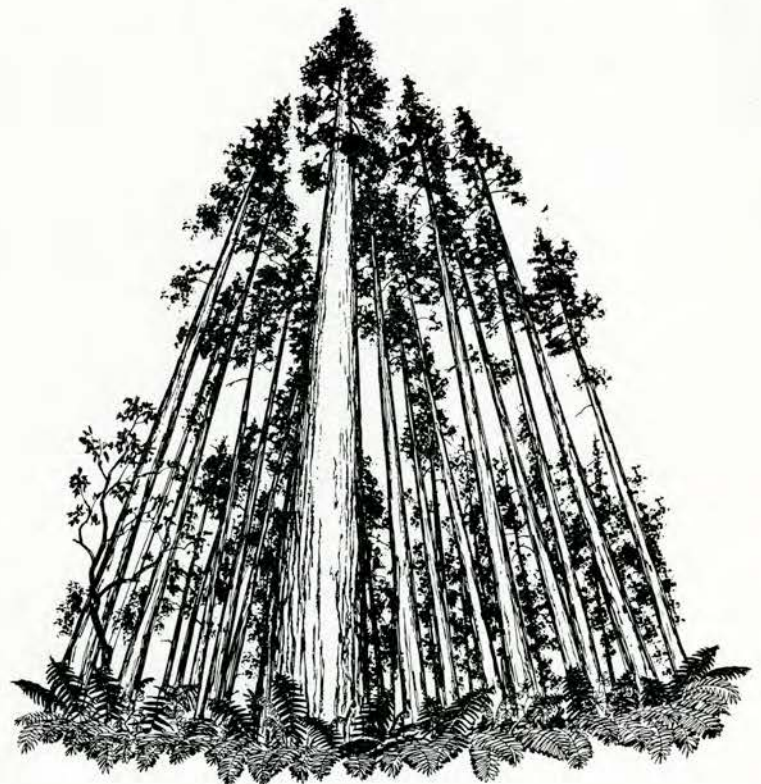
Arthur S. Einarsen and the Wildlife Administrator Award, that can be presented annually.

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 Steve as soon as possible. If you have presented a nomination for an unsuccessful candidate in either 1991 or

1992, please send updated nominating materials.

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

Send your nominations for either award to: Steve Knick, Bureau of Land Management, 3948 Development Ave., Boise, ID 83705, telephone (208) 384-3483.



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