



NORTHWEST WILDLIFER

ALASKA
ALBERTA
BRITISH COLUMBIA
IDAHO
MONTANA
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
OREGON
WASHINGTON
YUKON
Northwest Section

September 1993

President's Message

I am fortunate enough to live in a town where grazing fee increases are more likely to make headlines in the local paper than mass murders and violence in the schools. From this rather insulated position, I am following the grazing fee issue with interest. So far, my feeling towards the controversy is amazement at the hyperbole and hypocrisy of advocates on all sides of the issue. Ranchers claim that an increase in grazing fees will bankrupt them and destroy the fabric of western rural society. "Cattle-free in '93" (or maybe it is '03 now) advocates blame every environmental ill in the West on cows.

My experience has shown that reality usu-

ally lies somewhere other than the positions taken by hardcore advocacy groups. The proposed grazing fee increase would only increase the annual expenses for an average Montana rancher with a federal grazing lease by \$1300. This is unlikely to break very many operations in Montana.

People who advocate clearing the range of cows tend to forget that much of the public domain is either too dry or too cold to support wildlife all year and that many species of wildlife are dependent on ranchers and farmers tolerating them on private land during part or all of the year. Here in southwest Montana, when a rancher does go under, the most likely fate for his land

is subdivision. Wildlife fares a lot worse under 20-acre ranchettes than under cows.

At present, I am not directly involved in the grazing fee issue, but the thought of becoming involved raises some perplexing questions for me. Where should we weigh in on gray issues as a professional society and as individuals? Do we consciously or unconsciously slant our data collection to support positions we feel are "right"? Do we orient our results to support the organization that pays our salaries? Can we collect unbiased data if we have strong feelings about an issue? I guess nobody said being a biologist would be easy.

Comments Solicited on Forest Plan Impact Statement

The Departments of Agriculture and Interior will hold joint public hearings in California, Oregon, and Washington in late September, when public input and comments will be heard on the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) on Management of Habitat for Late Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl. The DSEIS, prepared by an interagency team of scientists, is an analysis of the environmental effects of the recommendations made by the Forest Ecosystem Management Assessment Working Group.

Two hearings will be held each day, from 1 to 4 p.m. and 7 to 10 p.m. Officials from the

Departments of Agriculture and Interior will participate to review comments. Hearings will be held in the following locations: Red Lion Inn, 1830 Hilltop Drive, Redding, CA (Sept. 27); Columbia Hall, Oregon State Fairgrounds, 2330 17th Street NE, Salem, OR (Sept. 29); Saint Martin's College, Worthington Conference Center, 5300 Pacific Avenue SE, Lacey, WA (Olympic area) (Oct. 1).

People wishing to speak at one of the hearings should register at the site prior to the hearing start. Registration will begin one hour before each hearing.

Tom Franklin

Colorado Chapter Offers Art Print

The Colorado Chapter of TWS is pleased to offer a fine art print, "Monarch of the Anasazi Skies" by artist Tom Lockhart. The print, which won "Best of Show, Birds of Prey" at the 21st National Wildlife Show in Kansas City last year, features a peregrine falcon in flight over Anasazi ruins. Production is limited to 500 signed and numbered copies. Cost of the print is \$85, and a portion of all proceeds go to the Colorado Chapter.

Please contact Joe Capodice at P.O. Box 1567, Gunnison, CO (telephone 303-641-0471 or 303-641-5872) to place orders or to request additional information (a postcard reproduction of the print is available on request).

Revision of Chapter By-Laws

Program Director Sandra Staples-Bortner has located a couple of issues that will need to be addressed by by-laws revision:

1. In Article V, Section 4, by-laws need to reflect that currently the President-elect serves for one-year, rather than two. We may wish to review term durations for all officers.

2. In Article V, Section 7, Clause A the by-laws state that nominations for officers will be handled by the executive board rather than a nominating committee. If

we wish to continue present practice, we should modify to by-laws to reflect current practice.

After review by the Executive Committee, a formal recommendation on proposed by-laws changes will be announced in the next Northwest Section Newsletter, with balloting scheduled for later this fall and winter so that the outcome can be discussed at the 1994 Section meeting.

Call for Letters!

Efforts continue to develop a new Idaho Air National Guard/Air Force Military Training Range in the Big Springs area of Owyhee County (southwestern Idaho). This biologically unique high desert area includes a wide range of fish and wildlife resources, including such federal and state listed species as peregrine falcons, bald eagles, California bighorn sheep, and redband trout. Impacts may adversely affect these species and others, including severe impacts on pronghorn antelope herds in the area. Alternative range expansion areas exist near the currently-used Saylor Creek Range in southern Idaho and other existing ranges in Utah, Nevada, and California. For more information, contact Idaho Chapter contact person Jeri Williams or Delmar Vail, Idaho Director for the Bureau of Land Management.

The Idaho Chapter urges Northwest Section members to write of their concerns about this proposal to Jim Baca, Director of the Bureau of Land Management, copy their letters to Bruce Babbitt, Secretary of Interior, Del Vail, Idaho Director for BLM, and Cecil Andrus, Governor of Idaho.

— Jeri Williams

Section Donates to National

The Northwest Section responded to a call from National TWS President Hal Salwasser for support of the Society's policy initiative program. After review of the request by the Executive Board, \$250 was donated to support an increased role of TWS in national policy issues. The Montana Chapter also donated \$250.

Request for Assistance

WANTED: OBSERVATIONS OF BANDED LOGGERHEAD SHRIKES. As part of a study of the ecology and post-breeding dispersal of the Loggerhead Shrike, we have banded several adults and hatching year shrikes from the Yakima area of Washington state. Each bird has a regular USFWS aluminum band on the right leg and a red plastic band on the left leg. Any observations of these marked birds would be greatly appreciated. Please send observation data to: DR. DAVID MANUWAL, Wildlife Science Group, College of Forest Resources, AR-10, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195 (telephone 206-543-1585, FAX 206-685-0790).

Plans for the 1994 Northwest Section Meeting

The Montana Chapter executive committee offered to host the 1994 Northwest Section meeting in conjunction with the Montana Chapter meeting March 9-11, 1994. The meeting will be held at Cavanaugh's Inn in Kalispell, Montana. The northern location was selected to encourage participation with Alberta, northern Idaho, and eastern Washington Chapter members. Cavanaugh's has agreed to honor both state and federal per diem rates, or \$52.00 for non-governmental attendees.

Theme of the 1994 Section meeting is "The Interface Between Wildlife Management and Land Management". Plans are underway to include an art show, professional development workshops, field trips, an awards banquet, a poster session and a stimulating panel debate. Anyone willing to assist with workshops, field trips, etc. should contact Dennis Flath at Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Dept. Building, MSU Campus, Bozeman, MT 59717-0322 (telephone 406-994-6354).

Call for Nominations for NW Section President-Elect

The Northwest Section is currently soliciting the membership for nominations for the position of President-Elect. The President-Elect serves for one year and attends Executive Board meetings to become familiar with the working operations of the Section. The President-Elect shall also prepare a budget for the year he assumes the office of Northwest Section President.

If you are interested in becoming a candidate for this position, please provide the following information on one typed page to Paul Moroz, 2081 N.W. 8th Street, Meridian, Idaho 83642 by October 22, 1993. The nomination committee will then review all nominee's submissions in preparation for the winter election to be described in the next Newsletter.

Nominee for Northwest Section TWS President-Elect:

Full name, personal data, education, former work positions, present work position, Wildlife Society activities and positions, principal wildlife resource interests, views regarding the Northwest Section, and reason for seeking the position of President-Elect.

For more information on this election, call Paul Moroz at work (208-365-7008) or home (208-888-6482) or President Lynn Irby (406-994-3252).

NOMINATIONS FOR EINARSEN AND WILDLIFE ADMINISTRATOR AWARDS

The Einarsen Award recognizes outstanding achievement by an individual to the wildlife profession in the Northwest Section. The Wildlife Administrator Award was established to recognize individuals that have made significant contributions to wildlife management from an administrative position. Please send your award nominations to: Steve Knick, RRTAC, Bureau of Land Management, 3948 Development Ave., Boise, ID 83705 (telephone 208-384-3483).

Chapter Activities

ALASKA CHAPTER: The results of the Chapter's election are:

President-elect:	Lowell Suring (Anchorage)
Secretary-Treasurer:	John Wright (Fairbanks)
Southeast Rep.:	Ted Schenck (Juneau)
Southcentral Rep.:	Mark Masteller (Palmer)
Interior-Arctic Rep.:	Ann Morkill (Fairbanks)

Although the focus of national attention over the past year has been on the controversy over management of the ancient forests of the Pacific Northwest, relatively few people are aware that Alaskans have been dealing with similar issues over management – or, as many Alaska Chapter believe, mismanagement – of the Tongass National Forest which contains much of the remaining old-growth forest in Southeast Alaska. In some cases, wildlifers believe the U.S. Forest Service is not living up to provisions of the Tongass Timber Reform Act of 1990, including revised inventory methods that reflect the actual value of stands rather than “highgrading” the best timber – and the best fish and wildlife habitat. One of those cases involves the inventory method for a logging sale at Kelp Bay. The case has significance because it would affect the methods used to evaluate future timber sales on the Tongass. In early 1993, following over a year of attempts to resolve the conflict administratively, the Alaska Chapter joined with the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund in suing the USFS over the methodology used. The case has been assigned to a federal judge who has disallowed any discovery outside the administrative record, which does not appear to support the USFS decision. We shall report the results in a future Newsletter. – Dick Shideler

ALBERTA CHAPTER: The Alberta Chapter held a successful annual meeting in March and, in addition to fruitful exchanges of information, we raised over \$1000 (CAN) for the student scholarship fund. A committee has been struck to define terms of reference and application criteria with the goal of offering the first scholarship to wildlife students early in 1994. In 1992/93, the Chapter had strong representation on a public advisory committee to provide recommendations regarding the management of feral horses on Canadian Forces Base Suffield. The Chapter took the position that the primary goal of land management on the base should be to retain and maintain the health and integrity of the mixed-grass prairie ecosystem. The logistics and expense of managing horse populations at levels compatible with healthy prairie were considered impractical and subject to future whims which may result in deterioration or loss of the prairie ecosystem. Thus, 11 of 12 committee members recommended that all feral horses be removed from CFB Suffield. This fall, the Chapter Executive will focus on the federal/provincial Wildlife Policy for Canada, with the aim of providing it a higher profile and increased dialogue among members, elected politicians, and government land managers. – Margo Pybus, Editor of “Alberta Wildlifer”

IDAHO CHAPTER: The Idaho Chapter is preparing for the 1994 Annual Meeting scheduled for March 3-5 at Templin's Convention Center in Post Falls, Idaho. The theme of the meeting will center around Ecosystem Management – what it is, how it differs from single-species management, how it correlates to managing biodiversity and how agencies are currently applying ecosystem management in Idaho. If you are interested in helping with the meeting or submitting a paper for presentation, please contact Alan Sands at (208) 384-3067.

The Idaho Chapter is reviewing the EIS regarding the reintroduction of gray wolves to Yellowstone National Park and central Idaho, as well as a proposal to develop an Air Force training range in Owyhee County in southwestern Idaho. Please contact Paul Moroz (208-888-6482) if you have concerns and comments about these and other important issues. – Paul Moroz

MONTANA CHAPTER: The Montana Chapter is busily planning for the joint meeting with the Section, to be held in Kalispell next March (see the article on the meeting elsewhere in this Newsletter).

The Executive Committee of the Montana Chapter donated \$250 to National to support increased Wildlife Society involvement in wildlife policy efforts. Over the past two years, the growing policy program has built a consensus on key wildlife issues, presented testimony and scientific analyses to government agencies and Congressional Committees, tracked the increased flow of legislative activity, and kept members better informed about current wildlife legislation and federal initiatives.

The Chapter's CRP Task Force is in the process of summarizing comments and recommendations to formulate a Montana Coalition Position Statement on the CRP Program. If any of you wish to add comments or concerns, contact me at 293-4161.
– Wayne Kasworm

(Continued on next page)

Chapter Activities cont.

OREGON CHAPTER: The 28th Annual Meeting and Symposium of the Oregon Chapter will be held at Sunriver, Oregon, February 8-10, 1994. The theme of the 1994 meeting will be "Seeking Common Ground", reflecting a new era in wildlife resource management wherein all resource users begin to work together to solve common problems. Session topics include: science and environmental ethics, wildlife habitat relationships in forest and range habitats, wildlife education, conservation strategies for species of concern, management of game species, ecosystem management, management of non-hunted wildlife, and wetland and aquatic wildlife habitats. Tentative topics for two associated workshops are: Landscape Ecology, and Biostatistics/Sampling Design.

Session Chairs and speakers (especially students!) are being recruited for these sessions; send abstracts to Tom O'Neil, Session Coordinator, at Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, 7118 Vandenburg Road, Corvallis, OR 97330 (503-757-4186) or contact Kate Boula at (503) 427-3231 or (503) 963-3930.

Reservations for rooms, condos, and houses can be made by calling 1-800-962-1770. Make reservations early, and identify yourself as a TWS member to secure the best rates.

Two new officers and four new board members were elected: Vice President-elect Tom O'Neil, Secretary-Treasurer Cheryl Friesen, and board members Steve DeStefano, Pat Greenlee, Nancy Lee, and Gary Miller. These people join President Mike Wisdom, President-elect Kate Boula, Past President Rebecca Goggans, and Board Members Chris Carey, Dan Edge, and Kim Mellen on the Oregon Chapter Board. – Mike Wisdom

WASHINGTON CHAPTER: The Washington Chapter has set their sights on next year's annual meeting, which is scheduled for March 1-3 at the West Coast Wenatchee Center Hotel in Wenatchee, Washington. The first call for papers will be in our October 1993 Newsletter. Preliminary session topics include: riparian habitats and wildlife use, fish and wildlife interrelationships, wildlife law enforcement, waterfowl management, avian ecology research methods, neotropical migratory birds and mammal ecology. A bird tagging (banding and radiotelemetry installation) workshop will be held in conjunction with the annual meeting. This initial workshop will cover permitting, marking techniques and equipment. An additional field workshop will be held in April or May to provide hands-on experience. Further information will be provided in future Newsletters or you can contact Bob Naney at 206-826-3387.

We have also reviewed and commented on a proposal developed by the Oregon Chapter to co-host the 1995 National TWS Meeting. We look forward to working with our Oregon colleagues to help create an exceptional meeting.

The Conservation Committee, under Carl Christianson's leadership, reviewed and submitted comments to the Draft Phase IV Amendments to the Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program. Those comments included aspects of riparian management, basin-wide planning for habitat management, coordinated interagency mitigation strategy, and linking new mitigation areas to existing areas managed for wildlife.

And finally, we in Washington have enjoyed an exceptionally warm and dry summer...ha! The unusual southerly wandering jet stream almost presented us with the lowest average July temperatures on record! – Gregg Schroer

Meetings of Interest

- 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.
- Nov. 10-13** 2nd Annual National Watchable Wildlife Conf., Corpus Christi, TX. Contact Watchable Wildlife, Texas Parks & Wildlife, Urban and Nongame Wildlife Program, 4200 Smith School Rd., Austin, TX 78744.
- Mar. 18-23** 59th North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conf., Egan Civic and Convention Center, Anchorage Hilton Hotel and Hotel Captain Cook, Anchorage, AK. (Contact L.L. Williamson, Wildlife Management Inst., 1101 14th St., N.W., Suite 725, Washington, D.C. 20005. (202) 371-1808.

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