



# NORTHWEST WILDLIFER

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BRITISH COLUMBIA  
IDAHO  
MONTANA  
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES  
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Northwest Section

May 1994

## President's Message

The Northwest Section Annual Meeting was held last month in Kalispell, Montana in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the Montana chapter. The meeting was a success largely due to the efforts of Dennis Flath, President-elect of the Montana Chapter, and Greg Green, Vice-President of the Northwest Section. Both of these individuals expended a great deal of time setting up the program and handling the logistics of the meetings. Thanks!

I also want to thank the people who presented papers and the members of the Northwest Section who attended. We seem to be inundated with specialized meetings, and it is nice to know that Wildlife Society members are still willing to take the time to attend general meetings. Although each of us have professional specialties, general meetings are the glue that holds us together.

At the Executive Board meeting in Kalispell, we agreed to hold the 1995 Northwest Section meeting in conjunction with the national Wildlife Society Technical Meeting to be held in Portland, Oregon in September, 1995. Since the Section will be hosting a symposium at this meeting, we will not hold our annual meeting in the spring of 1995 with one of the state chapter, as we have in recent years. If you have suggestions for the symposium, call Greg Green (206-451-4296).

We also set up an *ad hoc* committee to address the relationship between the Northwest Section and student chapters in state and provincial affiliates. At present, we have no official relationship with student chapters. Should we expand the board to include student representatives? If so, how should they be chosen? Can we provide financial support to insure that stu-

dent representatives can attend section meetings? Wayne Kasworm, past president of the Montana Chapter, has agreed to chair the committee. He would appreciate your input (406-293-4162).

We are still trying to develop better means of communication with Canadian members. Agency personnel on both sides of

the border are battling budget reductions which restrict their attendance at scientific meetings. We need to sell administrators on the importance of maintaining free interchange of information across state and provincial borders. I would like to hear some suggestions on how to proceed – from Canadian and U.S. members. My telephone number is (406) 994-3252.

## Proposed Idaho Military Training Range Opposed

The Northwest Section and the parent Society supported the Idaho Chapter's opposition to the proposed Idaho Training Range in Owyhee County. In a letter written to Kathleen McGinty, Director of the Office of Environmental Policy for the White House, National Wildlife Policy Director Tom Franklin stated that the draft Environmental Impact Statement was "severely lacking in its analyses concerning impacts to wildlife" and presented "poor rationale and weak conclusions" regarding wildlife. National concerns were echoed by Section President Lynn Irby, who noted that the Idaho Chapter "...identified a wide range of negative impacts, ranging from potential elimination of rare animal and plant species to destruction of wilderness values..." in existing Wilderness Study Areas.

The proposal seeks to establish a 3 million-acre training range under existing military airspace in Idaho's Owyhee County. State-owned land would be exchanged to create target areas totalling

approximately 25,000 acres, where pilots could practice ordnance delivery while evading on-ground simulated radar systems and "enemy" aircraft. The land targeted for development includes critical habitat for bighorn sheep, pronghorn antelope and many rare or sensitive wildlife species. Native American cultural and religious sites, many of which lie within the 13,000 acres that would be disturbed, would also be impacted.

The comment period on the draft EIS ended in February, and the Final EIS is currently under preparation. The Office of Environmental Policy became involved when the Departments of Interior and Air Force were discussing mechanisms to approve the necessary exchange of state and federal lands. In his letter to the Office of Environmental Policy, Tom Franklin stated: "The Wildlife Society, its Idaho Chapter, and Northwest Section strongly recommend that you reject the proposal to establish the Idaho Training Range as presently constituted." – Jeri Williams



# National Meeting

The national TWS meeting held in conjunction with the North American in March included a planning session which provides TWS Council a chance to discuss issues which otherwise receive short shrift at the regular meetings. TWS maintains a list of high priority objectives which are addressed at the planning meeting, and basically all TWS activities fit within one or more of these goals. I am especially concerned with making TWS more useful to wildlifers of all kinds, and think the change in Bulletin format to include opinion, commentary, and management articles with a few refereed articles is a major step in that direction. The new format is to start in 1995. The initial Bulletin was established for the same purpose, but it essentially became a second refereed journal. The revised Bulletin will need strong input from members who don't ordinarily contribute to journals for it to be truly

useful, and if you have something to tell your peers that you wouldn't have submitted before, I sincerely urge you to try again. I would like to encourage submission of management activities presented in pictorial and/or written form emanating from the Northwest Section, and I know there is plenty of material from the 'working wildlifers' out there that can find a place in the revised Bulletin. Don't let us academics and research types dominate the Bulletin!

The fall meeting format is another major change directed at involving more practicing wildlifers. The first one will be in Albuquerque next September 21-25, while the next one will be in Portland. Again, we can make these meetings useful if members will offer suggestions for what to include and will contribute. These meetings provide contact with others outside of

the region and thus serve as a forum for broader information exchange. Those folks down south might have something interesting for us westerners to hear! Wildlife management is in a state of change and we need to learn more of each other's problems and solutions across a broader scale than ever!

In short, TWS is moving more towards serving a broader range of members, and it is time for us to press the Boss for more enlightened policies that encourage involvement in out-of-state meetings on 'company time', with time set aside to write up that innovative management scheme that solved a problem for the Bulletin. This will inevitably prove to be beneficial to the agency by helping to keep us professionals professional, eh? - Jim Peek, Northwest Section Rep

## 1994 Annual Meeting, Northwest Section & Montana Chapter

The 1994 annual meeting of the Northwest Section of the Wildlife Society was held in conjunction with the Montana Chapter annual meeting in Kalispell, Montana on March 9-12, 1994. Approximately 170 people registered for the meetings. Workshops were presented on negotiation and mediation skills by Mark Scow, and on preparation of biological assessments by Bill Ruediger, Rob Hazelwood, and Kevin Shelly. Papers presented spanned a wide range of topics from control of fleas on prairie dogs to designing a strategy for statewide wetland protection.

Hal Salwasser, President of the Wildlife Society, gave the keynote address. Dick Mackie, a faculty member in the Fish and Wildlife Management program at Montana State University was presented with the Einarsen Award. This award is given annually by the Northwest Section to an outstanding wildlife biologist in northwestern North America. Dick Mackie was selected for this prestigious award for his nationally acclaimed work with deer in Montana as well as his many years of service to the Wildlife Society.

The Montana Chapter presented two Distinguished Service awards. Dr. Phil Wright professor emeritus at the University of Montana, was honored for the many contributions to wildlife in Montana he has made during his 40 year career. Alan Wood, a biologist with the Montana Department of State Lands, was selected for this honor for work he has done with the management of state lands for wildlife. Ryan Rauscher (MSU) and Jill Minor (UM) received the Montana Chapter's Wynn Freeman scholarships.

Jack Horner, Curator of Paleontology for the Museum of the Rockies, provided the Awards Banquet Address.

Dale Towell was elected president-elect of the Northwest Section. Dale will officially begin his term as president at the 1995 Section meeting. This meeting has been scheduled in conjunction with the

2nd Annual Conference of the Wildlife Society to be held in Portland, Oregon, September 12-17, 1995

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# About Paleontology and Wildlife Conservation

Those attending the banquet at the joint Northwest Section-Montana Chapter meeting in Kalispell last March heard a discussion of dinosaurs by the paleontologist who recently discovered a relatively complete *Tyrannosaurus rex* skeleton that made national news. Afterwards, someone in the audience, no doubt already knowledgeable about his attitude, asked how he felt about endangered species recovery. One might expect that a scientist conditioned to geological time scales, and cognizant of the many more extinct species than are currently alive, might have a different perspective of our contemporary efforts to retain 'Pleistocene relicts' such as the condor. He alluded that some species are more adaptable to man's presence than others, to which I thought of the starling, rat, dog, and the English sparrow. After the paleontologist expressed his view, there were some few loud claps from the audience, and those claps caused this comment more than his remarks.

I guess I am not surprised that a paleontologist might view certain recovery efforts as trivial pursuit, but reference paleontologist Steven J. Gould's much different view. And I am not at all surprised that some of my fellow travelers in the wildlife field are frustrated over the attention T&E species receive when there is so much need to address other problems much more effectively as well. But there was a time when the elk and the antelope were also endangered in this country. And please revisit Leopold, not in the over-referred-to *Sand County Almanac* but in the preface to his *Game Management*, wherein he lays out the social significance of wildlife management. Essentially, he explains that the conservation of our natural heritage is an important key to our own well-being, and thus has high social significance.

So I defend the need to debate the process by which we address restoration and conservation of our wildlife heritage, but I feel that it is either forgetfulness or ignorance of the main thrust of the conservation movement, to which we by definition belong as wildlife biologists, to sneer over the restoration of endangered species. We need to remember where our roots really are, that we are responsible for all of the wildlife heritage, and that the contemporary disagreements are legitimately over

process and priorities but not concept. Undoubtedly there were people who snickered about restoring elk in the 1910s. I realize that the condor, the grizzly, the elk, and *Homo sapiens* (paleontologists and wildlife biologists included) will eventually be extinct, but it seems that we don't need to hurry our collective demise because of our persistent abuse of the land or because we don't try to restore populations (and control our own) when we have the ability to address these problems. If the condor is going to go extinct, let it be because of the natural causes rather than because of our excuses and inability to act on available knowledge. And please remember that our efforts to restore the condor provide knowledge that is useful in restoring other species. Further, paleontologists have important insights into den-

sity dependent causes of extinction and population declines as they sift through the volcanic ash, irradiated cosmic deposits, and drought-created sediments of the past in search of their fossil quarry.

Endangered species recovery today is a major battlefield in the effort to keep our wildlife heritage, even if our efforts are flawed. We have come a long way from the battlefronts involving restoration of elk and deer, and we wildlifers are the front line vanguard in the effort to make these successes happen for all wildlife. Our collective task never ends, and it helps when we realize our rich heritage and our common goals, as we try to understand each other and move things ahead for the critics. – Jim Peek



## Northwest Wildlifer Has New Editor

Gary Dusek has graciously volunteered to take over editorial duties for the *Northwest Wildlifer* from me, so that I can concentrate on my new duties as President-Elect. Gary comes to the job with experience editing the Montana Chapter newsletter, and a lot of enthusiasm. So, with this issue I'll turn over the reins to him, and take this brief opportunity to thank all of you for your patience and support when I've called asking for Chapter news and stories. I'm sure that you will all be just as helpful working with Gary. To make the transition go smoother, I've included Gary's address and telephone number in this issue – give him a call! – Dale Towell



# Chapter Activities

**ALASKA CHAPTER:** A Federal court in Anchorage recently ruled for the Alaska Chapter that the USDA Forest Service failed to comply with a key provision of the Tongass Timber Reform Act of 1990. The case included the Wilderness Society and Sierra Club as plaintiffs and was brought to court by the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund. The purpose of the case was to halt the practice of "highgrading", which is the excessive cutting of stands of old-growth forest with the largest trees. The stands have high timber values but are also essential habitat for wildlife associated with old-growth forest in southeast Alaska. Congress directed the Forest Service to stop this practice in the Tongass Timber Reform Act. The court held that the inventory maps used by the Forest Service to determine compliance with the Act were too inaccurate to use for this purpose. As a result "highgrading" often continued undetected.

The Alaska chapter co-sponsored and administered the poster session at the recent 59th North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference held in Anchorage. The Chapter also sponsored a reception and forum on Alaska wildlife management issues at the North American.

At the annual business meeting, immediately following the North American, Lowell Suring assumed the presidency from Dick Shideler. Election of president-elect, other officers, and area representatives are in progress. The Chapter recently amended its bylaws to extend the terms of President, President-elect, Past-president, and Secretary-Treasurer from 1 to 2 years. – Lowell Suring

**ALBERTA CHAPTER:** The Alberta Chapter of the Wildlife Society held its 5th Annual Meeting in Calgary, on March 25 and 26. Four sessions presented 20 papers and 7 posters with the primary emphasis being on forest ecosystems and forestry/wildlife interactions. Student papers were an important part of the sessions and Lisa Crampton's paper "Bat Abundance and distribution in Northern Alberta Mixedwoods Stands of Different Seral Stage" was the winner of the student paper award. A silent auction was again successful in raising funds for the Chapter's scholarship fund. Ed Telfer, Research Scientist with the Canadian Wildlife Service was this year's recipient of the William Rowan Award for Distinguished Service.

A new executive was installed: Brad Stelfox, Alberta Environmental Centre, President; Margo Pybus, Alberta Fish and Wildlife, President-Elect; Mike Dorrance, Alberta Agriculture, Secretary-Treasurer; Janet Edmonds, Alberta Fish and Wildlife, Dave Poll, Parks Canada, and Ken Crutchfield, Alberta Fish and Wildlife, Directors. – Janet Edmonds

**IDAHO CHAPTER:** The annual meeting was held at Templin's Resort in Post Falls March 3-5, 1994. The meeting theme was "Implementing Ecosystem Management" and was coordinated with the annual meeting of the Inland Empire Chapter of the Society of American Foresters. Fritz Knopf gave the keynote address entitled "Conserving Biological Diversity" and Jack Ward Thomas, newly-appointed Chief of the U.S. Forest Service, was the dinner speaker. Special meeting sessions and workshops included "Partners in Flight", a session on neotropical migrant bird conservation, a "Rare Animal Workshop" in cooperation with the USFS, BLM, USFWS and Idaho Fish and Game; an Idaho Watchable Wildlife Steering Committee session; a workshop on North Idaho amphibians, reptiles and bats; a session on Idaho Wilderness legislation and a panel discussion on "Forest Health in Southern Idaho"; and numerous papers on the conference theme. Sessions were well attended and productive.

During the past year the Conservation Affairs Committee of the Idaho Chapter responded to the wolf reintroduction EIS via comments and in writing; and testified at hearings on the proposed Idaho Training Range issue. The Chapter will provide input on the Columbia River Basin Mitigation report and will keep abreast of developments on Idaho Wilderness legislation. The chapter committed \$100 per year for 5 years to the Inland Empire Natural Resources Youth Camp. Newly-elected officers included Michael Gratson, Secretary; Martha Wackenhut, Treasurer; Jim Unsworth, Vice-President; and Ernie Ables, President. – Ernie Ables

**MONTANA CHAPTER:** The primary activity of the Montana Chapter revolved around preparation for the joint meeting with the Northwest Section in March. This meeting was well attended, and a great success. (Details of the meeting are presented above.) The Chapter business meeting was held during a luncheon the second day. – Dennis Flath

**OREGON CHAPTER:** The Oregon Chapter continues to be one of the most active, and with more than 600 individual members, one of the largest TWS Chapters in the US. Membership continues to grow each year. Highlights of 1993 included an active role in the Oregon State Legislature, headed up by our lobbyist Stephen Kafoury, with assistance from Chapter member Roy Elicker. Our presence at the Capitol resulted in many legislators becoming more informed on some potentially



## *Chapter Activities cont.*

disastrous legislation. At our recent annual business meeting, members voted overwhelmingly in favor of directing Chapter funds to retain our lobbyist for the upcoming legislative session. This time we may actually draft a bill or two of our own! Our Conservation Committee completed position papers on Public Lands Grazing and BLM Desert Wilderness Study Areas, and reviewed the draft SEIS on the Hart Mountain Wildlife Refuge SEIS. Another group of especially dedicated (or especially demented!) members contributed to an in-depth review of the FEMAT report.

The Chapter continues to be the single non-profit source of low-cost, high quality technical training for biologists in the state of Oregon. Five workshops, all coordinated by member volunteers, were conducted in 1993. Three additional workshops – Landscape Ecology, Biostatistics, and Neotropical Birds – were offered in conjunction with the annual meeting at Sunriver in February. Proceeds from the workshops fund the costs for our lobbying efforts and 4 scholarships for wildlife students at Oregon colleges. Current activities include planning for the 1995 National Meeting, which we will co-host with the Washington Chapter, and putting the finishing touches on a symposium on Sustainable Rangeland Ecosystems, slated for late August in La Grande. The 3-day symposium is co-sponsored by the Oregon Chapters of TWS, American Fisheries Society, and Society for Range Management. Along with conservation issues and gearing up for the '94 legislative session, we're a busy group! If you're interested in attending the range symposium, give me a call at (503) 963-3930. – Kate Boula

**WASHINGTON CHAPTER:** The Washington Chapter held this year's annual meeting March 1-2, 1994 in Wenatchee. Three workshops followed the meeting on March 3-4 covering bird-banding, neotropical migratory bird survey protocol and Hantavirus. The meeting was a success, and the Chapter increased the Fitzner Memorial Scholarship account by \$2,350 from registration fees. Sylvia Thorpe, Legislative Committee Chair, initiated a fund-raising drive for Lynx research, education and management by selling Lynx pins, and the Chapter contributed an additional \$250. This fund will be managed by the Chapter Executive Board during the immediate future, including reviews of funding requests. Our Chapter will also be sponsoring two or three workshops during the next year. Topics proposed at this time are shrubsteppe management and restoration (Hanford Reserve), and small mammal biology and capture techniques. Contact Paul Fielder at 509-663-8121, ext. 4299, if you need further information or to make sure you are on the workshop mailing list. - Greg Schroer

## *Meetings of Interest*

- June 11-15      Organization of Wildlife Planners, 16th Annual Meeting, Pipestem Resort State Park, Pipestem, WV; contact Paul Johansen (304-637-0245).
- June 18-23      American Society of Mammalogists, 75th Anniversary Meeting, Washington, D.C.; contact Don Wilson (202-786-2944).
- July 11-13      "SIT '94: Stand Inventory Technologies for Forest Ecosystem Management", Oregon Convention Center, Portland; contact Jennifer McBlaine (503-228-1367).
- Aug. 29-31      Sustaining Rangeland Ecosystems, LaGrande, OR. Society for Range Management and the Oregon Chapter TWS. To submit a paper contact David A. Pyke (503-750-7307); direct questions to John Tanaka (503-963-7122).
- Sept. 21-25      The Wildlife Society First Annual Conference, Albuquerque, NM; for information call (301) 897-9770.
- Oct. 22-26      National Symposium on Urban Wildlife, Seattle-Bellevue, WA; contact Lowell Adams (301-596-3311).
- Nov. 2-6      Raptor Research Foundation Annual Meeting, Flagstaff, AZ. Symposia and Workshops will be included; contact Patricia A. Hall (602-774-0041).



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