



NORTHWEST WILDLIFER

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IDAHO
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OREGON
WASHINGTON
YUKON

November 1994

Northwest Section

President's Message

A colleague recently visited my office following a meeting, visibly upset over statements made by another colleague. A visiting EPA representative at the meeting had announced a change in policy on distribution of research funding. The offending colleague (the offender) made a comment near the end of the meeting that went something like "I hope the EPA doesn't waste any more money on mallards and deer". The offender has a very narrow view of biology and is ignorant of the distribution of EPA funding, or both, so I could easily dismiss his comments. I have recently noticed several references that mirror his attitude by presumably knowledgeable people in published articles that do disturb me.

Although I empathize with biologists with a specialized interest in animals or ecological areas that attract little financial support, jealousy toward biologists who typically work with more adequate funding is not going to help. Neither is an attempt to disguise jealousy by claiming a moral imperative for your work while accusing others of "selling out" or "practicing lesser science". This reeks of hypocrisy. My offended colleague pointed out that information available from species such as white-tailed deer and mallards forms our most solid knowledge of wild animal responses to human activities. This base of knowledge was accumulated at low cost to taxpayers because it was largely funded by user fees. When state or federal tax revenues fund studies of deer and mallards, it is because a significant segment of the taxpaying public supports these expenditures. We need to take advantage of this information rather than complaining that money is apportioned "unfairly".

Exploited animals (which also include spe-

cies that are not hunted but exploited through nonconsumptive uses because they are "cute" or have attained "charismatic megafaunal" status) generate funds. Study and management of "uncharismatic microfauna" depend mostly on funds from increasingly unwilling taxpayers. User fees not only fund research on animals of traditional interest but also fund research and protection of other associated animals or plants. Biologists working with the generalities of biodiversity or with taxa that do not arouse public interest should pursue development of additional funding sources, such as user groups not presently funding research, or get used to the idea of taxpayer revolts drying up their federal funding sources. Diverting funds from species with strong public constituencies is not a solution.

We should be working to resolve problems related to wildlife with all the resources we have, or we are going to live in a very depauperate biological world. There are some pretty frightening trends out there, and disparaging comments about research on conventionally attractive species will not reverse these trends.

I think most of us went into this field because we enjoy working with live, wild animals. If not, we would be museum curators, pet therapists, or livestock producers. We all hope to do something to insure the survival of wild populations and the habitats they occupy. Let's use this common ground to work together rather than throwing rocks at one another. —
Lynn Irby

Call For Nominations For Vice President And Secretary-Treasurer

The northwest Section is currently soliciting its membership for nominations for the positions of Vice President and Secretary-Treasurer. Both will serve a two-year term and attend Executive Board meetings. The Vice President shall serve as program chairman for the annual section meeting in 1996.

If you are interested in becoming a candidate for one of these offices, please provide the following information on one typed page to Greg Schroer, Resources Northwest, 1800 112th Ave. NE Ste. 100, Bellevue, WA 98004 (FAX 454-3459) by January 20, 1995. The nominations committee will review nominations in preparation for elections prior to the midwinter newsletter.

Nominee for Northwest Section Vice President/Secretary-Treasurer:

Full name, personal data, education, current and past work positions, Wildlife Society activities and positions, principal wildlife interests, views regarding the Northwest Section, and reasons for seeking the position.

For more information about these positions, please call Greg Schroer (206-454-3408) or president Lynn Irby (406-994-3252).

Report from TWS Council and First Annual Meeting

The business meeting of TWS Council was held in Albuquerque during the first fall convention. This initial meeting exceeded all expectations for attendance, with over 1500 registrants. Significantly, a large proportion of the registrants were practicing biologists from the various state and federal agencies, which is one reason for initiating a fall meeting, and keeping it as informal and diverse as possible. Still, we recognize that many biologists are unable to attend with the support of their agency, and in some instances because of workloads brought on by hunting season. Attendance at these meetings can fulfill continuing education needs, and workshops and sessions held by the several working groups affiliated with TWS may fill special needs that agency administrators see merit in having employees attend. Just how TWS can help attendance when out-of-state travel restrictions prevail remains to be seen, and comments will be greatly appreciated. Continuing education of practicing biologists is an important area for TWS to be involved with, and we need to pay more attention to it.

The Wildlife Society Bulletin is on track for change to magazine format with the initial issue scheduled for 1995. Editor Bruce Thompson and his staff have made extensive progress in the changeover. The "Bulletin" will emphasize current issues

Section News

Some of us still are not receiving the Northwest Wildlifer. Well, the problem partially stems from the fact that The Wildlife Society office in Bethesda, MD, provides our mailing labels. The labels are generated from a list of those that checked off and paid their section (and perhaps chapter) dues with the annual TWS renewal notice.

For those that paid their dues at the last section meeting, please bear with us; drop us a line and we'll see that you are covered. For those that just plain forgot or for some other reason didn't get their dues paid, we encourage you to take care of it when you get your annual dues renewal. Section membership is growing and we are solvent financially. Part of the credit must go to this timely service that the parent society offers.

and news. An editorial panel, which judges content and accuracy quickly, will replace the traditional review process, so articles can be printed in less time. One measure of success for the new Bulletin will be the number of articles turned in by practitioners which cover successful management activities, or experiences that will be of use to others. Traditional peer-reviewed articles remain welcome. The cover will change with each issue, much as *Rangelands* and the *Journal of Forestry* currently does. Advertising will be allowed, as deemed appropriate. I sincerely encourage practicing biologists to consider writing descriptions of management programs

or practices for the new Bulletin. This is, along with the fall meeting, a concerted effort to make TWS more responsive to the needs of its membership. Submissions do not have to be long or involved, they just have to be useful!

The Oregon and Washington Chapters and the Northwest Section will host the next fall meeting in Portland. The 1996 meeting will be in Cincinnati. Efforts to hold meetings in different parts of the country will be given priority. I believe this initial meeting established an excellent pattern to follow! — Jim Peek

Meetings of Interest

1994

December 8-9, **Northwest Regional Riparian Symposium: Diverse Values Seeking Common Ground**, Idaho Riparian Cooperative; for information call (208-885-6431).

1995

May 24-25, **Western States and Provinces Joint Deer and Elk Workshop**, Sun Valley Inn and Lodge, Sun Valley, ID; contact Lon Kuck, Idaho Dep. Fish & Game, 600 S. Walnut, P.O. Box 25, Boise, ID 83707 (208-334-2920; FAX 208-334-2114).

July 16-21, **10th International Conference on Bear Research and Management**, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, AK 99701-1599; contact Harry Reynolds, AK Dep. Fish & Game, 1300 College Rd. (907-452-1531; FAX 907-452-6410).

August 13-17, **Second International Arctic Ungulate Conference**, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, AK 99775-7020; contact Dr. David Klein, Alaska Coop. Fish & Wildl. Res. Unit (FAX 907-474-6967).

NEXT ISSUE

- Nominees for Northwest Section Officers
- Nominees for Northwest Section Representative to TWS Council
- Einarson Award Nominations

The Wildlife Society SECOND ANNUAL CONFERENCE

September 12-17, 1995 • Portland, Oregon

Featuring symposia, workshops, contributed paper and poster sessions, Working Group meetings, student activities, Members Forum, tours to Mt. St. Helens, old-growth forest, Oregon's coast, and more!

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PLENARY SESSION

Long-Term Research on Keystone Species: Implications For Ecosystem Management

Hosted by the Oregon and Washington Chapters, TWS

Registration and Program Information available May 1995

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Chapter Activities

ALASKA CHAPTER: Over the last 6 months the Chapter has reactivated its formal committee structure. While the Chapter has been very active, especially in conservation affairs, in recent years those activities have resulted from the efforts of individual members or ad hoc committees. We now have active committees for Education and Information, Membership, Resolutions and Policy, and Conservation Review. These committees provide a structured environment that facilitates active participation by all interested Chapter members. They also provide an opportunity to approach Chapter affairs in well structured and integrated environment. Education and Information has begun development of a Public Service Announcement and briefing materials which will be used to inform the public and elected representatives of the goals and objectives of the Alaska Chapter. Membership is developing a process to identify wildlife biologists in the State and to encourage non-Chapter members to consider the benefits of membership in the Chapter. Conservation Review has prepared comment and response to several environmental documents and some proposed legislation. Committee members have also been involved in assisting the USDA Forest Service in addressing the results of a recent court case successfully brought against the Service by the Chapter with the assistance of the Wilderness Society, Sierra Club, and Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund.

The Annual Meeting of the Alaska Chapter is being planned for next spring and will be held in association with the 8th Northern Furbearer Conference in Anchorage. Among the highlights of these meetings is an address by Dr. Gilbert Proulx entitled "Ethics, Humaneness, and Animal Rights Considerations in Furbearer Management". – *Lowell Suring*

IDAHO CHAPTER: The major activity of the Idaho Chapter of TWS is preparation for the next annual meeting. The Idaho Chapter and the Northwest Scientific Association will hold their meeting together in Idaho Falls March 9-11, 1995 at the Shilo Inn. Preliminary sessions and panel discussions include wolf reintroductions in Yellowstone and central Idaho, and riparian restoration and management.

The Idaho Chapter wishes to congratulate the Idaho 4-H Wildlife Habitat Evaluation team which placed 6th in national competition. This is the best showing ever for an Idaho team. This year's team was from Pocatello High School – *Ernie Ables*

MONTANA CHAPTER: The Montana chapters of the Wildlife and American Fisheries Societies, and the Montana Academy of Sciences have agreed to publish a multi-disciplinary regional journal titled the Intermountain Journal of Sciences. The Journal will replace printed proceedings of the respective annual meetings.

The voluntary organizational staff consists of a managing editor, John Weigand of Bozeman, associate editors, a panel of referees, a business manager and an editorial board.

Startup funding has been provided by the cosponsoring organizations. Long-term funding will be derived from page charges and subscriptions. Subscription rates are: student \$6, regular member \$15, patron \$25, library \$25 and life member \$150. Distribution of the first issue is anticipated in spring, 1995.

The 1995 meeting of the Montana Chapter of the Wildlife Society will be held at the Fireside Inn in Billings, January 31 through February 2. The theme for the meeting is "Wildlife Stewardship through Ecosystems Management: Theoretical and Practical Considerations". To submit papers, or for additional information, contact Nancy Warren, Flathead National Forest, 1935 Third Avenue East, Kalispell, MT 59901 (ph. 406-755-5401) – *Dennis Flath*

WASHINGTON CHAPTER: The Washington Chapter leadership has been busy plugging away at a variety of projects, including the mentor program and developing a formal peer review process. Two of our largest efforts during the past few months have been workshops and the 1995 National TWS meeting.

We have a couple of excellent workshops coming on line during the next six months. The first will be a small mammal workshop at the Olympic National Forest Headquarters in Olympia on November 17 and 18. We already have many participants scheduled to attend, and we expect more. Seating is limited, so let us know of your interest as soon as possible. Contact Marilyn Stoll at 206/753-9444 for further details. Paul Fielder (509-663-8121) will be coordinating the shrub steppe ecology workshop this coming spring. Personnel at the Battelle Lab at Hanford have been gracious in co-sponsoring that training session. Proceeds from one or both workshops will go to the Fitzner Scholarship fund. Further details regarding the shrub steppe workshop will be sent in the January newsletter.

A quick reminder that our Chapter will not be holding an annual meeting next spring because we will be co-hosting the TWS National Technical Meeting in Portland during September of 1995. The meeting in Portland will be a **major** event and the first of its kind for the wildlife profession within our region. Organizers are expecting approximately 2,000 participants and a wealth of excellent training and networking opportunities. We highly recommend you make plans to attend. You will not want to miss this one.

Gary Witmer, the Washington State co-chair for the 1995 meeting, has been doing a great job of attending monthly meetings in Portland and helping pull this massive meeting together. The planning and preparations are well under way, with approximately 80 individuals from both the Washington and Oregon Chapters assisting. More assistance is always welcome. Give Gary a call (509-335-2518) if you want to pitch in.

We have been blessed with some nice fall weather this year in the Pacific Northwest, and the fall colors have been more brilliant and longer lasting than many previous autumns. Alas, the Autumn rains have arrived and another summer season is drawing to an end. We hope your fall and winter are good ones, and we send our best regards to all of our Northwest Section Colleagues. – *Greg Schroer*

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