



NORTHWEST WILDLIFER

ALASKA
ALBERTA
BRITISH COLUMBIA
IDAHO
MONTANA
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
OREGON
WASHINGTON
YUKON

June 1995

NORTHWEST SECTION

President's Message

There is an old saying that goes: "**may you live in interesting times**". Common usage indicates that it has been offered both as a curse and as a blessing. Those of us in the wildlife profession surely see these as interesting times, with a national political agenda that includes the dismantling of decades of natural resource protection laws in the United States and a fervor to dramatically increase natural resource extraction in both Canada and the United States at rates that are not sustainable. Hand-in-hand with these activities are concerns about jobs in natural resources management – jobs that are disappearing at federal, state, and provincial agencies and universities due to budget concerns.

I entered this profession in the 1960's – the years of idealism, before our profession achieved many of its greatest legislative victories. I remember some of the battles for the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act, Wilderness areas won and lost. I even remember some of my idealism. I remember clearly that I felt I was fighting a war that could only end in grinding, inexorable loss of the resources I held dear, and the certain knowledge that my efforts could slow down that process, that some resources could be saved for future generations to cherish. Looking back, I foresaw neither the increasing rate of liquidation of resources, nor the scale of victories won.

Interesting times are certainly upon us. As the unallocated resource base dwindles, decisions being made take on a more im-

mediate significance. Critical resource management decisions can no longer be made with the confidence that poor choices are reversible, because resources are abundant. Our "decision space" has been reduced, calling on every one of us to bring our very best science to the table. Along with that reduced decision space is the unshakable knowledge that science is only a part (sometimes a very small part) of the information used by decision-makers, along with economic and political considerations.

A curse or a blessing? Only you can answer, based on your personal experience and perspectives. The certainty exists that our profession has an unequalled opportunity to lose much of what we've fought for over the past few decades...but there is also the opportunity to awaken a national perception that the natural resources of this continent are far too valuable to squander on the short-term well-being of a very few well-placed politicians.

We, as natural resource professionals, are

the prophets that speak for the land. **Our voice** can create a vision of sustainable resource management that can come to be, in local planning hearings as well as in national debates. That voice is more critical than ever before. President Irby, in this space in the last newsletter, identified our diversity as our strength. We in The Wildlife Society are united into a professional group that crosses all of the boundaries of federal and tribal, state and provincial organizations. **We** are the people who must champion conservation of resources and maintenance of sustainable ecosystems. United, we are all prophets – as we speak for land, we can shape its future.

Thank you for the opportunity to work with you all through this professional society. Let me hear from you, so that we can work more effectively together. Come to the National Conference and Annual Meeting in Portland September 12-17. Help us to continue to be an ever-increasingly effective voice for resource conservation!
–Dale Towell

Two Elected to NW Section Board

Patricia MacLaren will serve as vice president for the next two years. Tricia is employed as a biologist by Weyerhaeuser. Her immediate responsibility will be to assist the local chapter with arrangements for the 1996 Northwest Section meeting. We will have more on that topic in the next issue of *Northwest Wildlifer*. Jerome

Hansen, Idaho Fish & Game, will serve as secretary-treasurer for another two-year term. The Section extends its appreciation to Greg Green for his efforts as vice president over the past two years. Greg organized the Category 2 Candidate Species symposium for the 1995 TWS conference in Portland in addition to his other duties.

Annual TWS Conference Update

The 1995 TWS Conference in Portland is only three months away. Since the Section will hold its 1995 annual meeting at this event during September 12-17, we hope to see a good representation from the Northwest. It'll be awhile before another meeting of this magnitude will be this close to home. This year's program features a plenary session, concurrent technical paper and poster sessions, symposia, working group meetings, a members forum, and photo contest. The conference also includes a trade show and exhibition.

The plenary session will include technical presentations by four distinguished researchers on the topic of **Long-term Research on Keystone Species: Implications for Ecosystem Management**. Nineteen symposia topics address the most current and relevant issues facing the wildlife profession. Some of these topics apply particularly to the Northwest while others address issues of national or international significance. Technical paper and poster sessions include 21 topics that address traditional, long-standing wildlife management and research issues. In a nutshell, there's something of interest for just about every "wildlifer".

There's plenty of opportunity for socializing and networking. Hospitality and entertainment will feature a welcoming reception, dance, and awards banquet with a **RENDEZVOUS NORTHWEST** theme that captures Portland's cultural past.

The agenda is not yet complete. A brochure, with all the details on accommodations, registration, times and places, etc., will soon be sent out to **TWS** membership by the national office. For updated information, we encourage you to call the national office at **(301) 897-9770**.

Symposia Topics

- *A Primer in Landscape Ecology*
- *Adaptive Management of Wildlife Resources: Developments and Directions*
- *Amphibians: Status, Factors Affecting Populations, and Monitoring Strategies*
- *Application of Population Genetics to Wildlife Conservation*

- *Biodiversity and Management of Species Associated with Late-Successional Forests in the Pacific Northwest*
- *Biological Diversity: A Workable Concept*
- *Complexities of Addressing Human-Wildlife Conflicts*
- *Conservation of African and Asian Elephants: Wild and Captive Populations*
- *Ecological Risk Assessment and Wildlife Management*
- *Ecology, Management, and Sustainable Use of Western Riparian Ecosystems*
- *Habitat Conservation Planning: New Partnerships in Wildlife Conservation*
- *Human Impacts on California's San Joaquin-Sacramento Watershed: Contaminant Effects on Wildlife and Habitat*
- *International Wildlife Research and Management*
- *Large-Scale Studies of Wildlife Use of Managed Forests in the Pacific Northwest*
- *Maintaining Biodiversity in Disturbance Adapted Ecosystems of the inland Northwest*
- *Managing Ungulates as Components of Ecosystems*
- *Prairie Wetland Ecology: Contributions of the Marsh Ecology Research Program*
- *Statistical Analysis for Wildlife Studies: Some Current Issues*
- *Status of Selected Category 2 Candidate Species for Federal Listing*

Technical Paper and Poster Sessions

- *Assessment of Flora and Fauna at the Landscape Level*
- *Dynamics of Wildlife Populations*
- *Ecology and Behavior of Small Mammals*
- *Ecology and Behavior of Ungulates*
- *Ecology and Management of Birds of Prey*
- *Ecology and Management of Carnivores*
- *Ecology and Management of Endangered Species*
- *Ecology and Management of Exotic Species*
- *Ecology and Management of Game Birds*
- *Ecology and Management of Nongame Birds*
- *Ecology and Management of Waterfowl*
- *Ecology of Reptiles and Amphibians*
- *Foraging Ecology and Nutrition of Ungulates and Game Birds*
- *Management of Wetlands for Wildlife*
- *Measurement and Effects of Environmental Contaminants*
- *Modeling Wildlife-Habitat Relationships*
- *New Partnerships: Cooperation with Private Landowners*
- *Population Estimation, Surveys, and Monitoring*
- *Selected Topics in Avian Ecology*
- *Studies of Community Structure*
- *Techniques for Wildlife Research and Management*

Final Call for Award Nominations

This is the second and final call for nominations for the Einarson and Wildlife Administrator Awards. Both honor wildlife professionals in the Northwest Section. These awards will be made during the annual conference in Portland if qualified recipients are identified. If you know of someone who merits this recognition by the Section, please send your nominations by **July 15, 1995** to: **Steve Knick, RRTAC, National Biological Service, 3948 Development Ave., Boise, ID 83705 (phone 208-384-3483)**.



Chapter Activities

ALASKA: Our membership committee conducted three recent membership drives. Members of the National TWS that live in Alaska, but not members of the Chapter, were sent personal letters and a copy of the current newsletter and invited to join the Chapter. Former members of the Alaska Chapter still residing in Alaska were invited to renew their membership. Agencies, environmental groups, and private organizations with permanent wildlife staff members were contacted and requested to encourage their staff to consider membership in the Alaska Chapter. Current members also were encouraged to invite coworkers who are not members to join the Chapter. To provide additional incentives to join and recruit members, drawings were held at the recent annual meeting from all new members and from recruiters. The selected individuals were presented with a copy of the TWS "Techniques Manual."

Our Policy and Resolutions Committee facilitated development of a Chapter position statement on recent state legislation that considers human consumption of big game its preeminent and best use. The legislation is designed to encourage the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to implement predator control programs to maximize big game populations. The position statement calls for implementation of a public planning process to identify area-specific management objectives for populations and ecosystems and acceptable management options for achieving those objectives. The proposed position statement was recently accepted by the Chapter membership and will be used to facilitate discussions of a more ecological approach to managing predator and prey populations in the state.

Our annual meeting was held 3-5 May in Anchorage in conjunction with the 8th Northern Furbearer Conference. The theme, "Tradition and Transition – Moving into the 21st Century," was carried forward in 28 oral presentations, 14 poster presentations, and 2 panel sessions. Dr. Gilbert Proulx provided a stimulating discussion following the conference banquet on "Ethics, humaneness, and animal rights considerations in furbearer management." The meeting culminated with a workshop on "Working with the media and special interest groups." – *Lowell Suring*

ALBERTA: Enthusiasm is high following another successful Chapter meeting in March 1995. As far as I can tell, the meeting was a rousing success on all fronts (a completely objective opinion and not in any way tainted by the fact that it is put forward by the conference organizer!).

A total of 135 participants registered, of which many were students, and of which many either signed up or renewed membership in the Chapter. A symposium on reclamation of wildlife habitat following resource extraction or other major disturbance provided a valuable overview of the diversity of current knowledge and practice in the reclamation field. Members contributed 14 oral presentations on a wide range of other high-quality topics packed with food for thought. John Church rounded off the program with a dazzling visual display of what you can or cannot do on the Internet. He also showed us how to open a few doors particularly appropriate for wildlife professionals.

The annual auction to support the Student Scholarship Fund was very successful generating over \$1800. The decision to limit some items to "students bidding only" was positively received. Ainsley Sykes, University of Alberta, was judged the best student in the oral competition for her presentation about wildlife use of fencerow habitats. Similarly, Ken Kranrod, also from U. of A., was judged the best student poster presentation for his work with lichen communities in forest ecosystems. Each student was awarded \$200 towards their studies.

Perhaps the most exciting element of the meeting was the tremendous enthusiasm brought by the large number of students in the audience. Organizers received much positive feedback both from and for the students. In particular, a career workshop was well attended (by students and nonstudents alike) and was greatly appreciated by all. I think there was positive feedback for those who are setting off on a wildlife career and also for those of us who are already well down that path. The outlook is not nearly as dreary as one might suspect if you only looked at the surface. Certainly, the days of long-term secure employment with a single agency or company are gone. However, opportunities to carve your own niche and do good sound wildlife research or management still exist; they just occur in different forms or formats. Establish a network of contacts, provide good service, do good work, establish your reputation, and doors in a number of wildlife professions will open.–
Margo Pybus

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Chapter Activities...cont.

IDAHO: The Idaho Chapter held its 1995 annual meeting at Idaho Falls on March 9-10. The highlight of the meeting was a special, half-day symposium on wolf recovery. Interest, as well as controversy, is running high on the issue in Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming.

The Chapter activated its Conservation Affairs Committee with the charge to increase chapter visibility and influence on wildlife issues in the state. We also expanded our university scholarship program and created a new award for Special Recognition of an individual, group, or organization that makes significant contributions to wildlife conservation or management. – *Ernie Ables*

MONTANA: The Chapter reactivated the Resolutions and Public Statements Committee. The committee will prepare position papers on four issues: CRP/farm bill, reauthorization of the Endangered Species Act, oil and gas development, and subdivision development. The Chapter contributed \$500 to the Montana Audubon Council in support of their lobbyist during the 1995 Montana legislative session.

The Chapter also provided financial support of \$100 to each of the student chapters at Montana State University and the University of Montana for travel to the Student Conclave in Laramie, Wyoming. – *Nancy Warren*

OREGON: The Oregon Chapter of The Wildlife Society had an abbreviated meeting 7-8 February because most members will attend the second annual meeting in Portland in September. Nevertheless, 175 people attended the program which included a choice of two workshops, Habitat Conservation Strategies and Conflict Resolution. Close to 50 members have been actively involved in planning the Portland meeting. The planning committee is preparing for over 2,000 participants in Portland.

Our lobbyist continues to provide use access to key Oregon legislative members and our efforts have been effective at forestalling or modifying a number of potentially damaging anti-environmental bills.

During the next six months, the Oregon Chapter will be developing a strategic plan that will provide guidance for Chapter programs over the next five to 10 years. In an effort to enhance communication among members and non-members, the Chapter has developed two Internet services. Subscribe to our bulletin board by sending the following message "subscribe tws-or" to majordomo@mail.orst.edu. View our home page on the World Wide Web at http://www.orst.edu/Dept/fish_wild/twsindex.html. – *Dan Edge*



Meetings of Interest

Jun. 22-24, **Principles of Ecosystem Management in the Northern Rockies**, Montana State University; contact Conference Services, Room 280f Strand Union, MSU-Bozeman, Bozeman, MT 59717-0402 (406-994-3333; FAX 406-994-3228).

July 15-21, **Western Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies**, Big Sky, MT, contact Ron Aasheim, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, 1420 E. 6th Ave., Helena, MT 59620 (406-444-4041).

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

August 13-17, **2nd International Arctic Ungulate Conference**, University of Alaska; contact Dr. David Klein, Alaska Coop. Fish & Wildl. Res. Unit, Fairbanks, AK 99775-7020 (FAX 907-474-6967).

Aug. 29-31, **21st International Meeting of the Prairie Grouse Technical Council**, Medora, ND; contact Jerry Kobriger, Chairman, 225 30th Ave. S.W., Dickinson, ND 58601 (701-227-2343; FAX 701-227-2344).

Sep. 24-27, **3rd Biennial Scientific Conference on the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem: Greater Yellowstone Predators**, Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel, Yellowstone National Park; contact Conference Registration, Yellowstone Association, P.O. Box 117, Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190.

Nov. 13-15, **1st Conference on Fire Effects on Threatened and Endangered Species and Habitats**, Coeur d'Alene Resort and Conference Center, Coeur d'Alene, ID; contact International Association of Wildland Fire, P.O. Box 328, Fairfield, WA 99012 (509-283-2397).

From TWS Council Rep

My last meeting as Northwest Section Rep will be the fall meeting in Portland. It has indeed been an honor to represent members of The Wildlife Society in this region for 3 1/2 years. I think one has to view these positions as ones of trust that peers place in individuals, and I have tried to condition my efforts within that framework.

My failings as your representative dealt mainly in my inability to attend as many chapter meetings as I would have liked. You need to elect a person who does not have the extensive spring teaching commitments, as I belatedly found out. The section rep should be able to attend at least two chapter meetings each year as well as the section meeting and the council meetings. Another failing on my part occurred when council voted to eliminate the calculus requirement for certification. It would seem to me that a knowledge of population dynamics, a major part of wildlife biology, requires calculus. Issues like this reflect the diversity of opinion about what

constitutes a wildlife biologist these days, well demonstrated by TWS Council decisions and debate.

The labor included extensive review of position papers and interminable council meetings. However, both need to be done, there is extensive business that council must conduct, and I accept the labor as part of the position without qualms.

The joys far exceed the labor and failings for me. I think the Bulletin will turn into a very 'user friendly' publication. The first issue may be a little more 'journally' than subsequent issues mainly because there is a backlog of material that must be published. The Journal and Bulletin Editors and their staff are obviously 'can-do' people who expend extensive time and effort to serve our profession. My colleagues on the council are to a person highly observant and knowledgeable of the contemporary wildlife scene. The Washington office staff are equally knowledgeable and the sum of contacts with Council and staff make the

experience a learning process and an exciting one as well. The Albuquerque fall meeting set a standard for the future, the San Jose, Costa Rica, International Wildlife Congress lead me towards a green turtle and a three-toed sloth, and a trip down the Rogue River, courtesy of Oregon colleagues, started my tenure on Council out as no other way ever could.

I need to tell readers that TWS is in good hands. The diversity of opinion and interests in our profession is fully represented, and our problems get fully aired over the annual course of events. Issues receive extensive and reasoned debate by Council, and even when I dissent from the majority, I feel the need to support the decision. We need to do more in continuing education, we need to continue to enhance our presence with the Washington power brokers, we can make more strides in serving the membership. We always need your individual views, to whoever serves on Council, so don't hesitate to contact, volunteer, and be active. You'll find some good folks to deal with. — *Jim Peek*

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