

NORTHWEST WILDLIFER

ALASKA
ALBERTA
BRITISH COLUMBIA
IDAHO
MONTANA
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
OREGON
WASHINGTON
YUKON

JUNE 1998

NORTHWEST SECTION

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Rounding-Up, Re-Grouping, What's Next?

1998 Annual Meeting:

A year's worth of work and worry, spiced with a few moments of high anxiety, all proved worthwhile as we enjoyed a terrific annual meeting in Spokane. With close to 375 attendees, this was probably the largest-ever meeting of the Northwest Section. The Fire and Wildlife Symposium drew close to 250 wildlife and fire professionals, and both workshops sold out. Excellent technical sessions, a student mentoring session, great networking opportunities, good food and good friends made for a satisfying week for all. A special highlight for me was having plenary speaker Marybeth Lorbiecki attending the Wednesday night social--signing books, visiting with members, and gettin' out on the dance floor to boogie! If you were there, thanks for your participation. If you weren't, you missed a great one. So start planning now for the 1999 meeting in Bozeman, MT, March 8-12. The Montana Chapter will have a hard act to follow, but I have great confidence that those energetic folks are up to the challenge. More information on the 1999 meeting is found in this Newsletter.

Many, many thanks to all the committee members, volunteers, moderators and

speakers who helped make this meeting so successful. Lots of work, but lots of fun too. And as always, we came away with valued new friendships and affirmations of the old.

Election Results:

I am very pleased to introduce new Northwest Section officers for 1998-1999. Jack Connelly, Idaho Fish and Game, is our new President-elect. Gary Dusek, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, takes over as Vice President. Ellen Campbell, with the Forest Service in Juneau, Alaska is now Secretary-Treasurer, giving the tireless Jerome Hansen a much-deserved respite. Our new officers bring a wealth of experience in wildlife management and conservation to the board. All have had extensive involvement in their state chapters and the section. I look forward to working with them this year. My sincere thanks to all those who agreed to run for office--we had a mighty impressive slate of candidates to choose from.

Executive Board Actions:

Ellen Campbell's skills as scribe have already been put to use. I encourage all members to read the minutes of the April board meeting

included in this issue. One of the primary topics of that meeting was MONEY: how much we have, how much we need, and how we can most effectively put our dollars to work for the section and the resource. Several board members expressed a desire to have a more cohesive approach to how the section operates; financially and otherwise. Representatives from Oregon and Montana suggested that the section develop a "Strategic Plan" that would provide a comprehensive approach to section goals and operations. I've asked President-elect Jack Connelly to head up a committee that will put together a proposed strategy.

The Teaming With Wildlife Initiative was another major topic. The initiative is gathering speed, and needs our support! The board voted to donate \$1000 to the initiative fund. Your individual support is valuable too-- please contact your Congressional representatives to express your personal support for this important undertaking.

ICBEMP Comments Submitted:

Last fall I requested comments from state chapters on the Draft EIS for the Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project. I received responses from Montana, Oregon and Washington, which I compiled

into a single response. After review by two Oregon chapter members, I submitted our comments to the project. The text of those comments is included in this newsletter issue. I encourage members to stay current on the progression of ICBEMP. While there is still much that could be done to improve the document and it's direction, a lot of good science went into the initial effort. The question now is whether that science will be able to emerge from the current political morass as a credible, useable product. Stay tuned.

Next Board Meeting:

A family vacation will find me conveniently in Bozeman in mid-July, where I'll meet with the 1999 section meeting planners and conduct a conference-call board meeting. If you have any topics you would like to see addressed by your section board, please contact any one of the section officers or your state chapter president.

Have a great summer, and don't forget to get that March '99 meeting date on your training plan.

Kate Boula
Section President



Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project

Comments on Draft EIS and Associated Documents

Submitted by

The Wildlife Society, Northwest Section

The Northwest Section of The Wildlife Society represents professional wildlife biologists residing and working in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, Alaska and western Canada. As scientists, we acknowledge the unprecedented and daunting task undertaken by the EIS and Science teams, and thank them for their efforts to date. Management of wildlife resources over much of our region will be dramatically affected by policies that result from ICBEMP. We welcome the public comment period as an opportunity to contribute to the quality of the science that supports those policies.

I. Review of Alternatives

The Draft EIS and Scientific Assessment illustrate the inadequacy of existing management strategies (Alternatives 1 and 2) for meeting the needs of people while maintaining the viability of the landscape of the Columbia. The risks of managing for commodity production at the expense of ecosystem integrity are well illustrated in the outcomes for Alternatives 3 and 5. Many positive and progressive approaches are included in the alternatives 4, 6 and 7. However, inconsistencies in philosophy and logic, as well as contradictions in Standards among disciplines across alternatives, significantly weaken the credibility of the alternatives. What is missing is agreement over a central unifying concept: *that the long-term stability and viability of human communities and economies are inextricably tied to the "health", diversity, and sustainability of fully functioning native ecosystems.* Alternative 7, ostensibly a protective alternative, ends up a convoluted, totally untenable strawman. Based on the history of the development of this alternative, we believe it was not properly prepared, is not viable, and should not have been included in the DEIS. However, we strongly support the inclusion of meaningfully-sized and biologically functional reserves in all other alternatives.

Based on reviews conducted by wildlife biologists from across the Basin, the strategy that would seem to best address the desired outcome of restored and viable ecosystems (and therefore the human institutions dependent on those systems) is a hybrid of Alternatives 4, 6 and 7. "Active" restoration and adaptive management certainly have their place in many areas of the Columbia Basin. Passive management and *conservatively managed* reserves also have merit in any large scale conservation/restoration strategy. The key is a proper assessment of scale. As pointed out in the Eastside Report (Henjum et al. 1994. Interim Protection for late-succession forests, fisheries and watersheds. The Wildlife Society. 245 pp.) the implementation of some concepts, such as HRV (NRV), while probably legitimate at the scale of the Columbia Basin, may be totally inappropriate at the district or stand scale. Adaptive management is probably most appropriate in areas of low to moderate risk, *provided there is adequate monitoring in place from the outset*, to determine its effectiveness, and networks established for disseminating monitoring results. Aggressive restoration may be required in areas of severe degradation, provided it can be accomplished without exacerbating existing problems. Reserves should focus on "the best of what's left", in order to function as living "controls" by which we can measure the success of restoration efforts.

II. Integration

Lack of integration across disciplines was evident in the often contradictory direction contained in Standards and Objectives. This was particularly evident for snag and down wood retention levels: different sets of guidelines for the same resource were found in the soils, terrestrial strategies and fuels management sections (PE-S1, PE-S3, HA-S7, HA-S8). Other sections where unresolved resource conflicts are manifested in conflicting standards include potential conflicts between the management of big game species for huntable surpluses and tribal needs, and management of those species within the ecological capacity of local landscapes.

Again, the lack of a cohesive goal shared by all EIS team members seriously weakens this section of the EIS, and could result in unintended consequences. For example, in the case of snag and down wood retention, removal of wood to the point where fuels guidelines were fully met might result in declines or even local extirpation of woodpecker populations. Aside from the negative aspects of losing an important biological control agent for forest insects, continued and widespread losses of habitat resulting from such direction could eventually lead to additional state or federal listings.

Finally, forest and range systems seemed to be treated as totally separate entities, when in fact, there is substantial overlap between them in many parts of the Basin. Integration is very much lacking here.

III. Issue-Specific Concerns

A. *Old Forest Habitats:*

Henjum et al. (1994) provided an extensive review of the status of old forest habitats in eastern Oregon and Washington, with recommendations for conservation. We suggest additional review of this document by the EIS team. As currently written, Standard HA-S6 requires analysis to ensure the "adequate" (term needs to be defined) distribution, occurrence and connectivity of old forests. However, in the absence of that analysis (which, unfortunately, may be the *rule*, rather than the *exception*), management activities potentially detrimental to the integrity of old forest habitats would be allowed. Selection of any conservation/restoration alternative should preclude any unnecessary removal or alteration of old forest without well-documented analysis to support such a decision.

B. *Snag, Down Wood Retention:*

1. General Comment:

Snag retention levels specified in Standard HA-S7 are very low, and are generally inconsistent with recent Forest Service (and other) research on the role of deadwood in terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. Standard HA-S7 should be re-written to require retention of all snags that do not pose safety hazards. Assumptions in the terrestrial species analysis (pg. 4/97) indicate that snag standards will be based on historic conditions and/or species habitat needs. The levels specified in the Standards are not consistent with this assumption.

2. Deadwood and Fire:

We did not find adequate treatment of this important issue in the DEIS. Researchers are just beginning to understand the critical contribution of deadwood to many aspects of post-fire forest recovery, both in terrestrial and aquatic systems. At the same time, there is increasing pressure in many areas to reduce fuel loadings in green and in burned forests. Managers at the district and forest level desperately need solid, science-based information on which to base decisions relative to deadwood retention after wildfire. We encourage the EIS team to include this issue in the Final EIS. We further suggest that in it's evaluation of this problem that the EIS team compare the known benefits of abundant snags and logs to the often unknown risks of fire and/or re-burn in the long-term functioning of forest ecosystems.

C. *Grazing Management:*

We found this to be perhaps the weakest area of the document. Livestock grazing occurs on millions of acres within the Basin, and has had serious detrimental effects on a large proportion of those acres. Yet the DEIS proposes to allow levels of grazing that are as high or higher than current levels. At the same time, the EIS asserts that rangeland conditions will be improved. Given the history of grazing management on public lands in the west, this is a serious stretch in credibility.

Specific problems include:

-Why was livestock grazing in forested ecosystems not evaluated? This approach ignores the impacts of grazing on hundreds of thousands of acres of public lands, most importantly in riparian areas included in National Forest grazing allotments. Discussion of the effects of grazing on terrestrial wildlife habitats is inadequate.

-Why is removal of livestock never mentioned as a potential restoration strategy? This is perhaps the single most important step in the recovery process for degraded grazing areas.

-In assessing the impact of grazing on terrestrial and aquatic habitats, both distribution *and* numbers of animals need to be considered, particularly given the lag time in implementing grazing management improvements.

-The standards for wildlife and livestock conflicts need to be expanded to address species other than big game. Potentially serious conflicts currently exist between livestock and neotropical migrant birds associated with riparian, shrub-steppe and grassland habitats. Native fish species in grazed shrub-steppe ecosystems were not adequately considered. Possible wording for an additional standard is suggested:

**Minimize conflict between domestic livestock and maintenance of native wildlife that inhabit riparian, shrub-steppe and grassland habitats.*

-In the Evaluation of Alternatives, grazing by livestock is said to "mimic" grazing by native ungulates. This statement is inaccurate and needs to be deleted from the final. Large ungulates native to the Basin were probably never as numerous as current (or recent) livestock densities; neither do they exhibit the same patterns of distribution or forage use.

D. Noxious Weeds:

The spread of noxious weeds is emerging as one of the most critical natural resource issues in the Basin. In our estimation, the noxious weeds encroachment is at least as serious as insect infestations or fire risks. Integrated pest management needs to address grazing problems related to the spread of noxious weeds. Management should be implemented at the Basin scale, in a collaborative manner as soon as possible - not 5 years after signing the ROD. What kinds of interim steps can the EIS team recommend?

E. Road Management:

We strongly support transportation management strategies designed to reduce the impact of roads on ecosystem function. The EIS team has done a commendable job of documenting impacts and risks. However, direction in the document regarding roads is in need of further refinement. References in different sections of the document appear to contradict each other (please refer to Assumption criteria pg. 4/30, RM-S15, Table 3-6). Also, there needs to be some attempt at evaluating the effects of non-federal roadways on adjacent or downstream public lands and resources.

F. Riparian Habitats:

Reliance on PFC as a riparian standard will not necessarily ensure the viability of riparian biota. Additional elements, including the use of riparian-dependent bird, amphibian and aquatic species, should be considered as indicators of riparian condition. A comprehensive discussion of the status of riparian habitats and proposals for restoration is needed for this to be a complete assessment. How will the riparian assessment currently being completed be incorporated in the final EIS?

G. Big Game Species:

1. Economic Contributions:

The omission of hunting-oriented recreation from the economic analysis results in a fundamentally

flawed analysis for many areas of the Basin. Data are available from which estimates of the economic input of big game hunting can be drawn. We urge the EIS team to re-visit the economic analysis on this point.

2. Big Game/Livestock Conflicts:

Standard HA-21 was intended to reduce the potential of disease transmission from domestic to wild sheep. The standard falls short of the intent, as clear direction is lacking. Conversion of overlapping domestic sheep permits to other livestock classes that do not represent a threat to wild sheep would be consistent with a conservation/restoration goal, particularly in light of recent wild sheep die-offs in portions of the Basin.

H. Sensitive Species Outcomes:

Implementation of any of the restoration/conservation alternatives would still result in a number of species having "unfavorable" outcomes. In many cases, these species are found on state or federal sensitive species lists. We concur that some of these outcomes would occur regardless of future management. However, when existing law requires the maintenance of viable populations of sensitive species, the adoption of alternatives that directly contribute to the extirpation of these species is unacceptable.

IV. Implementation/Feasibility Concerns

The document lacks a cohesive strategy for project review that includes consideration of regional implications of local actions. Individually, many of the programs outlined are feasible and desirable, but in combination, this is a very large elephant for the public managers to chew on. Funding is a monstrous issue--how will all this be accomplished? And if there are not adequate funds to go around, how are dollars prioritized? If one piece of the program is funded, but another, related or dependent program is not, what is the risk of unintended consequences? Budget and feasibility issues need additional discussion in the final EIS.

V. Monitoring

Monitoring is critical to the success of this undertaking. Unfortunately, monitoring direction within the DEIS is sometimes disjunct and in conflict from one resource area to another. Furthermore, monitoring within the Forest Service and BLM has historically often been viewed as an unessential "nice to do", seldom adequately funded or successfully accomplished. Therefore we recommend that monitoring not be left exclusively to the discretion of local units. In some situations, it may be appropriate to specify that funding for subsequent projects be contingent on adequate monitoring and follow-up of initial projects.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. We recognize that the team has probably been deluged with comments, and empathize with you as you tackle the task of revision. If you have questions regarding our comments, or if the section can be of assistance in your continuing efforts, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Kathryn M. Boula
President, Northwest Section
The Wildlife Society

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NORTHWEST SECTION BOARD MEETING, APRIL 9, 1998

The board met at the annual conference in Spokane. Present were Katie Boula, Gael Bissell, Ellen Campbell, Gary Dusek, Jerome Hansen, Barb Hill, Trish McLaren, Cathy Nowak, Roger Post, Kerry Reese, Wayne Regelin, and Marilyn Stoll. There was extended discussion as to how to spend section funds, with student scholarships and financial support for students to attend section meetings given much consideration. Gary will initiate an approach for student awards for next year's meeting. The board voted to donate \$1000 to support the Teaming With Wildlife legislation effort. It was also decided that the section should develop a long term strategic financial plan. Jack Connelly will chair with Barb Hill and Ellen Campbell as committee members. The 1999 section meeting will be in Bozeman, MT the week of March 8. The section is

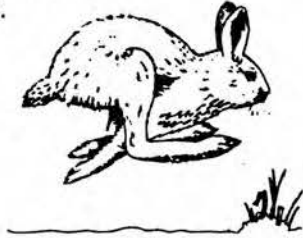
willing to co-sponsor a symposium. The section will sponsor a reception, to be organized by Cathy, for student attendees. Wayne reviewed TWS activities, including elections position statements, legislative activity and the next TWS conference. The board will donate \$250 to support this conference, to be held in Buffalo, NY this fall. Conference locations in succeeding years will be Austin TX, Nashville TN, and the San Francisco area. There were no candidates for the Einarsen Award this year. The section needs a nominations committee chair for this next year's elections, and is asking for a volunteer. Issues that the section might address in the coming year include cyanide heap leaching, technical training opportunities for biologists and the Interior Columbia Basin EIS. Prepared by Ellen Campbell, secretary/treasurer.

1999 NW SECTION MEETING AND TRAINING

The Montana Chapter will host the Northwest Section meeting and associated training sessions on March 8-12, 1999, at the Holiday Inn in Bozeman. Bozeman was chosen because it offers reasonable accessibility for section members. Montana Travel of Bozeman will offer reduced air fares for those desiring air transportation to the conference. Details and registration information will

appear in the autumn issue of the *Northwest Wildlifer*. Topics for technical sessions and workshops are currently being developed. A symposium entitled "Land use planning and management of open space" is scheduled for March 8-9 (Mon./Tues.) and will include a field trip. A workshop on technical writing is scheduled concurrently with the symposium. The Montana Chapter requests your input on

additional training topics. Please check no more than two of the following and return by August 15, 1998 to: John Vore, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, 490 N. Meridian Rd., Kalispell, MT 59901; ph. (406)751-4588; FAX (406)257-0349; e-mail jvore@digisys.net.



- _____ Dealing with media
- _____ Population ecology
- _____ Reptile and amphibian ecology
- _____ Expert witness training
- _____ Time management
- _____ GPS applications
- _____ Indian treaty rights issues
- _____ GIS applications
- _____ Wildlife diseases
- _____ Other

NORTHWEST SECTION CHAPTER NEWS

ALASKA: Roger Post, ADFG, and Anne Morkill, BLM, have begun 2-year terms as president and secretary-treasurer of the Alaska Chapter. Other members of the executive board serving 2-year terms are Past-President Ellen Campbell, USFS, and President-elect Gino Del Frate, ADFG. Merav Ben-David, UAF, Don Spalinger, UAA, and Matt Robus, ADFG, are serving 1-year board terms as regional representatives to the chapter. The chapter approved a position statement on "The effects of bark beetle infestations and subsequent management actions on wildlife habitats and populations," and continues a review of potential re-introduction of wood bison to the Yukon Flats. An update of the chapter's position on wildlife management by ballot initiative has been authorized. The chapter co-signed, with national TWS, a letter to Congress opposing road construction in a wilderness area of Alaska's Izembek National Wildlife Refuge, which the entire population of Pacific black brant uses for staging. Finally, the chapter sent a letter of support and appreciation to retired ADFG research biologist Bill Gasaway who is fighting serious illness in California.

ALBERTA: (Comments extracted from the message of past president Ian Ross and current president Beth MacCallum) The chapter has been involved in establishment of a working committee on endangered species in Alberta, continuing review of development strategy for the Bow Valley, encouragement of effective federal endangered species legislation, review of provincial policy towards public lands, and enhanced liaison between the chapter and provincial academic institutions. Liaison with the parent society and the Northwest Section continues, but many of their issues are specific to the U.S. We benefit from their strength of voice and have much to offer in turn from our perspective and our own strength. We are the largest of the three international chapters of The Wildlife Society. The Alberta Chapter was launched ten years ago. No other group speaks effectively for wildlife professionals and students in Alberta.

The 9th annual meeting in Calgary, was a resounding success with 174 people attending. Bill Wishart moderated the plenary session of Robyn Usher (Alberta Society of Professional Biologists), Vic Adamowicz (University of Alberta), Stan Boutin (Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries Inc.) and Harry Stelfox (Alberta Environmental Protection) addressed challenges for the future for wildlife. Eighteen oral presentations and eleven posters were presented. Dave Poll and his judges picked student winners. Session chairs included Mike Dorrance, Margo Pybus, Steve Brechtel, and Lorne Fitch. Gordon Court packed the room on Friday evening with a presentation on "Pirates, penguins, and predators: tales of Antarctic zoology". Bill Brown, Brett Calverly, and Ken Crutchfield were involved in the successful evening auction. Eldon Bruns, Ron Bjorge, and Ian Ross organized the luncheon and awards ceremony. Jon Jorgenson was in charge of the registration and was assisted by Terry Kowalchuck and students from the Lethbridge College chapter. Sixty-six students attended the meeting this year. Lindsay Tomyn made travel arrangements for University of Alberta students.

Corporate sponsors for the meeting include Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries, Canadian Forest Products Association, Golder Associates, Millar Western Industries, Nova Gas Transmission and Weyerhaeuser Canada. Conference membership at the conference was 243.

IDAHO: The 35th annual meeting of the Idaho Chapter in Moscow had over 30 presentations on everything from grizzly bears to burrowing owls, ducks, spotted frogs and sage grouse. Session chairs were Pat Heglund, Sam Mattise, Wayne Melquist, Anna Owsiak, Lisa Shipley, and Gerry Wright. Pamela Bell, Chad Bishop, Frances Cassirer, Alan Dohmen, Robin Garwood, Patricia Heekin, Tom Hemker, Susan Loper, Matthew Lucia, Daryl Meints, Hollie Miyaskai, Gary Nohrenberg, and Scott Robinson helped make this meeting go smoothly, and Sam Mattise was the auctioneer par excellence. The next meeting will be held in March 1999 in conjunction with the American Fisheries Society in Boise. New officers are Kerry Reese, president, Toni Holthuijzen, vice-president, Tony Apa, treasurer, and Chuck Peterson, secretary.

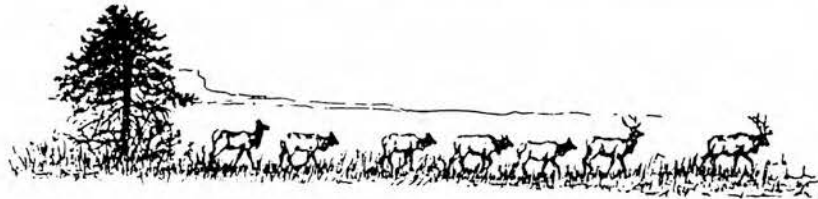
MONTANA: The Montana Chapter is compiling an annotated bibliography on the impacts of recreation on wildlife populations and wildlife habitats. A committee has outlined a project proposal, initiated fundraising and hired a consultant to compile a comprehensive, annotated bibliography pertaining to impacts of motorized and non-motorized recreation on wildlife and wildlife habitats. Committee members are in the process of drafting guidelines for groups of wildlife species (ungulates, carnivores, small mammals, herps, and birds). The committee is also arranging for electronic access to the annotated bibliography and guidelines upon completion of the project in September 1999. Any form of assistance (recommended references, potential sources of funds) would be greatly appreciated! Contact persons: Gayle Joslin (406-449-8864, ext 155) or Heidi Youmans (406-444-2612, hyoumans@mt.gov).

OREGON: The final numbers are in and clearly the 1998 annual meeting, held jointly by the Oregon and Washington Chapters and the Northwest Section, was a big success. A total of 593 people from 11 states and 2 provinces attended workshops and the annual meeting held in Spokane, Washington, 6-10 April, 1998. Attendees represented 17 different federal government agencies (e.g. U.S. Forest Service, USFS Research Station, USGS Biological Resources Division), 9 state agencies, 12 universities, 10 tribes, and numerous consultants, private companies, conservation groups, and non-profit organizations. The meeting brought in over \$65,000 in revenue and generated \$29,725.41 in profits for the section and Oregon and Washington Chapters. Profits from the Fire Symposium were split 3 ways, while annual meeting profits were shared by the state chapters. Oregon generated slightly higher profits through sale of chapter merchandise and from collecting a proportionally higher number of raffle and auction items. The following is a summary of income, expenses, and profits from the meeting:

EVENT	INCOME	EXPENSE	TOTAL PROFIT		
			<u>Oregon</u>	<u>Washington</u>	<u>NW Sect.</u>
Annual Meeting	\$30,520.00	\$20,200.34	\$5,983.33	\$4,336.33	-
Fire Symposium	\$27,145.00	\$11,666.16	\$5,159.61 \$5,159.62	\$5,159.61	
Riparian Wkshop	\$6,000	\$2,574.72	\$1,712.64	\$1,712.64	-
Sampling Wkshop	\$1,425.00	\$923.37	\$250.82	\$250.81	-
TOTAL	\$65,090.00	\$35,364.59	\$13,106.40 \$5,159.62	\$11,459.39	

Ed Arnett, secretary/treasurer for the Oregon Chapter, thanks all who helped make this meeting such a success, particularly those who assisted with registration. Given the numbers and comments we have received, it was well worth the effort!

WASHINGTON: New officers are Jim Bottorff (WA DNR), president; Bill Gaines (USFS), president-elect; Cathey Raley (USFS- PNW), treasurer; Joe Engler (USFWS), board; Chris Logger (USFS), board. Secretary Ann Sprague (USFS) and board member John Lehmkuhl (USFS-PNW) continue. Bill Vogel (USFWS) is the new conservation chair along with scholarship chair Paul Fielder (Chelan Co. PUD), and workshop coordinator Don Utzinger (consultant). The chapter's expanded scholarship fund will support more students, and several applications for these annual college scholarships have been received for the 1998-1999 school year. In addition, the board's grant committee announces the availability of annual research and educational grants for deserving chapter members. Next year's annual meeting will be in Wenatchee.



STUDENT CHAPTER NEWS

Northwest Section student chapters, advisors and presidents are (as best we know):

Lethbridge Community College, *Terry Kowalchuk, advisor*

Montana State University Student Chapter, *Emily Cayer, president; Lynn Irby, advisor*

Oregon State University Student Chapter, *Mindy Taylor, president; Erik Fritzell, advisor*

University of Alaska Student Chapter, *Mike Fisher, president; Eric Rexstad, advisor*

University of Idaho Student Chapter, *Kerry Reese, advisor*

University of Montana Student Chapter, *Erin Bentley, president; Dan Pletscher, advisor*

University of Washington Student Chapter, *Karla Kaczorowski, president; David Manuwal, advisor*

Washington State University Student Chapter, *Joe McCollum, president; Rod Saylor, advisor*

The Section Student Affairs Committee is working on a guide to responsibilities of a good faculty advisor. Questionnaires have gone out to the student chapters and their advisors for information. A student chapter meeting is planned for the 1999 section meeting, to provide student officers and members with a forum for discussing activities. Let's get together and share ideas for chapter activities and fund raisers. Students and others who have information for a student activities feature in this newsletter should contact Cathy Nowak, 1396 N Cove Road, Union, OR 97883 (541-562-6043, mcnowak@oregontrail.net).



**PREDICTING SPECIES OCCURRENCES: ISSUES OF SCALE AND ACCURACY FOR
WILDLIFE HABITAT MODELING**

The Biological Resources Division of the U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Forest Service, Potlatch Corporation, Boise Cascade Corporation, and the Idaho Chapter of The Wildlife Society are sponsoring a symposium to address the issues of scale and accuracy in species/habitat prediction models. The symposium participants will examine the following: how accuracy of predictions of species presence/absence, abundance, and viability varies with habitat variables used; scale of model development and application; and temporal application. Past research on the accuracy of model predictions will be reviewed. The appropriate use and abuses of model predictions in wildlife management and land use planning will be discussed. The mathematical underpinnings of the theory of species habitat prediction models will be addressed in an associated one-day workshop. We are soliciting abstracts for poster and oral presentations on uses and tests of species habitat prediction models. Of particular interest are papers that address accuracy and scale. Proceedings of the symposium will be refereed and published in a book. The symposium will be held October 18-22, 1999 in Snowbird, Utah. Contact Kathy Merk, Idaho Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Unit, University of Idaho, Moscow, ID 84844-1141 (208-885-2750, kmerk@uidaho.edu) for information.

NORTHWEST SECTION TREASURER'S REPORT

BALANCE (May 14, 1997) \$18,573.57

INCOME

Interest \$ 423.45
 Membership \$ 370.00
 Reimbursement from Alberta \$ 278.69

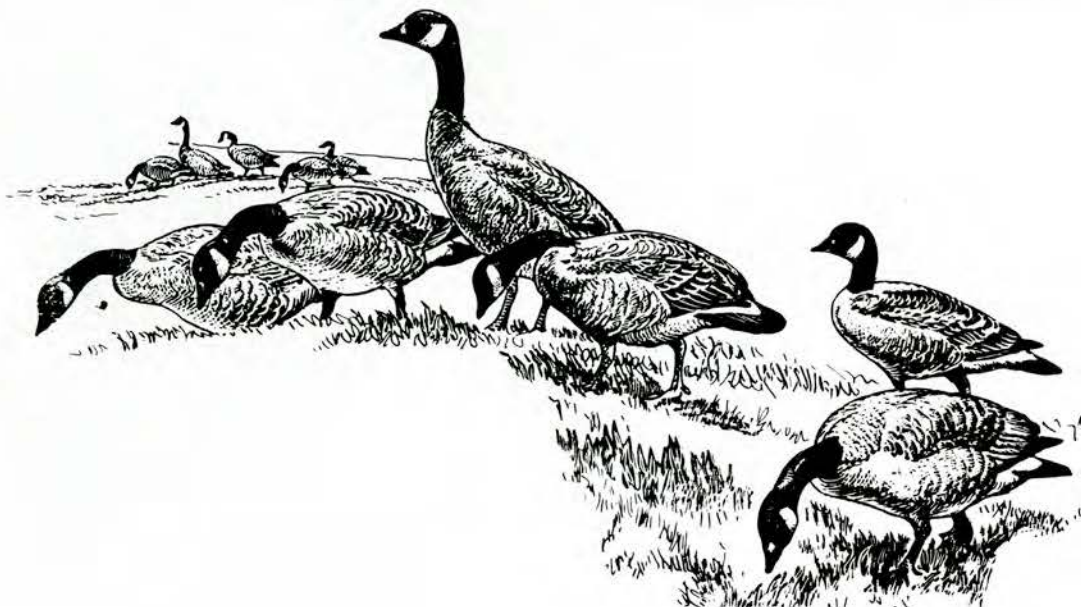
Reimbursement from Alaska \$ 1,000.00
TOTAL INCOME \$ 5,072.14

EXPENSES

Newsletter \$2,203.84
 Miscellaneous \$ 192.77
 (postage, phone, gifts)

Teaming With Wildlife \$1,000.00
 Student Travel Grants \$ 650.00
TOTAL EXPENSES \$4,046.61

BALANCE (April 8, 1998) \$19,599.10



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