

NORTHWEST WILDLIFER

ALASKA
ALBERTA
BRITISH COLUMBIA
IDAHO
MONTANA
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
OREGON
WASHINGTON
YUKON

AUGUST 2000

NORTHWEST SECTION

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BIG BROTHER (AND SISTER) IS WATCHING

Last week I attended the 22nd Western States and Provinces Sage and Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse Workshop. These workshops are held every other year and I have attended every meeting since the late 1970's. Generally speaking, this event is put on by biologists for biologists with attendance by the occasional administrator and conservation officer. Over the last 20 years, average attendance was probably a little less than 80, rarely did we get more than 100. Technical sessions, field trips and discussions late into the night (with cold pitchers of beer of course) characterized these meetings. We were never very careful about distinguishing between what we knew and what we thought (i.e., our opinions). Information exchange among professionals was the goal of each meeting.

Boy, have things changed! There were 200 or so at last week's meeting. Representatives from hunting groups, the Farm Bureau, and at least 3 environmental organizations as well as falconers, natural resource agency administrators, and politicians were liberally sprinkled among the attendees. Big brother (and sister) had rolled into town. Sage grouse populations are in trouble. Folks want to know why, and (more importantly) what we are doing about it.

This sort of phenomenon seems to be increasingly common. Biologists are still charged with managing our wildlife populations but numerous individuals and groups carefully monitor our actions. Because of this scrutiny, it is critically important that we maintain our credibility as professional biologists. From a professional standpoint, we have several obligations. First, we should make every attempt to stay current in our field through continuing education. Second, we must be careful about speculation. It is fine to speculate and offer opinions, but as professionals, we should be very clear about differentiating between opinion and fact, regardless of how strongly we hold a particular view. Third, we should work very hard to improve our communication skills, and that includes listening to our peers and our public. Fourth, we should maintain active membership in our professional society and that includes regularly attending meetings (see previous remarks on continuing education) and applying for certification with The Wildlife Society. Big brother is watching. If he doesn't like what he sees, biologists as we know them may become endangered along with wildlife species they manage.

- Jack Connelly

ELECTION RESULTS

Congratulations to the new members of the Northwest Section's Executive Board. We had an excellent slate of candidates for this election, and we appreciate the willingness of all candidates to serve and their desire to make a contribution.

The President-Elect is Jon Haufler. Jon is Manager of the Wildlife and Ecology program for Boise Cascade Corporation, headquartered in Boise, Idaho. Vice-President is Fred Samson, Regional Wildlife Ecologist for the USDA Forest Service in Missoula, Montana. Ellen

Campbell was re-elected as Secretary-Treasurer. Ellen is the Regional Budget and Planning Coordinator for the Wildlife, Fisheries, Ecology and Watershed Staff, USDA Forest Service, in Juneau, Alaska.

If you are interested in working on a committee or otherwise participating more actively in the Northwest Section, please contact one of the members of the Executive Board (information provided on the back page of this newsletter).

- Nancy Warren

2001 ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE NORTHWEST SECTION Hosted by the ALBERTA CHAPTER

We have now selected the dates, location and venue of the next annual conference. Dates are March 2-4, 2001 (inclusive—beginning with registration on late morning Friday, and ending with a final plenary session on Sunday afternoon). The location is Banff town site in Banff National Park, Alberta. The venue is the Banff Park Lodge. We are planning plenary sessions on “Emerging Issues in Fisheries and Wildlife Management for the New Millennium”, including the effects of global climate change on fisheries and wildlife populations, and the use of thresholds in our discipline. Please contact the conference coordinator (see details below) if you have feedback, suggested speakers, or other ideas on these themes for the plenary sessions. We will also have contributed papers on the usual diversity of topics in wildlife research and management. A detailed conference announcement, and a call for papers, will be printed in your next newsletter.

For further information, or to make suggestions, please contact the conference coordinator (and president-elect for the Alberta Chapter, The Wildlife Society), Mr. Arlen Todd. Arlen's e-mail address is arlen.todd@gov.ab.ca. His office phone number (until July 18, 2000) is 780-778-7116. His phone number later in the summer (in Calgary) is presently unknown, but can be ascertained by calling Fay Roszko at 780-778-7119. We are looking forward to seeing you in Banff in early March. Both the location and the venue are highly attractive; skiing should be excellent at the time, too!



CHAPTER NEWS

Check Out these Web Sites for more details on Chapter Activities!

Alaska: <http://mercury.bio.uaf.edu/~ak-tws.organizations/>

Alberta: <http://albertadirectory.com/actws/>

British Columbia: No web site

Idaho: <http://www.ictws.org/>

Montana: <http://www.montanatws.org>

Northwest Territories: No web site

Oregon: http://osu.orst.edu/Dept/fish_wild/tws/

Washington: Web Site is currently "under construction"

Yukon: No web site

Idaho

The Idaho Chapter reviewed the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) on Grizzly Bear Recovery in the Bitterroot Ecosystem, and endorsed Alternative 1 (Restoration of Grizzly Bears as a Nonessential Experimental Population with Citizen Management). The Chapter favors grizzly bear restoration in the Bitterroot Ecosystem, and for a number of reasons Alternative 1 appears to be the best way to achieve restoration. Since Alternative 1 was derived through cooperative efforts of a large number of organizations, agencies, and private interests it is more likely to be successfully implemented in a reasonable time period and thus begin grizzly bear recovery in the Bitterroot Ecosystem.

The Chapter has also been sending letters to our congressional delegation seeking their support and co-sponsorship of CARA, although this is highly unlikely given their strong opposition to Title II (Land and Water Conservation Fund).

Oregon

Collaboration, education, and planning seem to be the hallmarks of the Oregon Chapter's Executive Board this year. Our Executive Board, recognizing the potential benefits in collaborating with other

professional organizations such as the American Fisheries Society, Society of American Foresters, and The Range Society of America have begun regular meetings Executive Board members from our respective organizations are discussing shared visions, goals, and opportunities for the future. Over a little pizza and beer, who knows what could happen in these historic get-togethers!

The Chapter is developing two briefing papers on contentious issues. One paper describes the science behind trapping as a management tool. It will be used for general public educational opportunities as the state enters debates on a trapping initiative. The second briefing paper discusses the impact of predators such as terns and seals on salmon. This paper, being developed jointly with the Oregon Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, focuses on providing information for state legislators. This predator vs. salmon issue comes up every biennium, and this paper will get some of the facts out there before emotion takes over.

We are steaming ahead with plans for the February 2001 joint meeting with American Fisheries Society. We have two very strong organizations, and the meshing of styles and traditions is making this an interesting learning experience for all. We will be the stronger for it! It should be a great meeting!

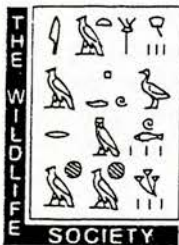
The Board is working to update its Strategic Plan. Born out of many "warm" meetings and a thoughtful but fun camping trip back in 1996, it's time to make sure it is still on

track (or to check to see if it needs a new track!) We hope to have an update by this fall, ready and in place for next year's Executive Board.

NATIONAL NOTES

The Wildlife Society's 7th Annual Conference, hosted by the Tennessee Chapter, will be held September 12-16, 2000 in Nashville, Tennessee! For details regarding the conference, refer to the Northwest Wildlifer, May 2000 or contact the National Office at (301) 897-9770, twswildlife.org or <http://www.wildlife.org>.

The following letters from the National Office refer to contributions made by the NWS to National in support of the 7th Annual Conference and CARA .



THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

5410 Grosvenor Lane • Bethesda, MD 20814-2197
Tel: (301) 897-9770 • Fax: (301) 530-2471
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April 13, 2000

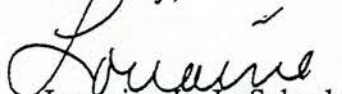
Ellen G. Campbell, Secretary/Treasurer
Northwest Section of The Wildlife Society
9399 Rivercourt Way
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Ellen:

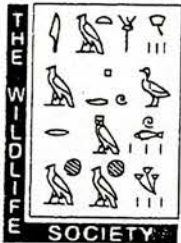
Thank you for the Northwest Section of The Wildlife Society's contribution of \$500 (Check No. 1051) for our upcoming 7th Annual Conference.

The Section will be listed as a Sponsor in the *Preliminary Program* and *Program & Abstracts*.

Sincerely,


Lorraine L. LeSchack

Assistant to Program Director



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April 13, 2000

Ellen G. Campbell, Secretary/Treasurer
Northwest Section
9399 Rivercourt Way
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Ellen:

Thank you for the Northwest Section's contribution of \$1,000 to The Wildlife Society to help TWS secure a significant new source of funding for wildlife conservation at the state level. It is easily the most important issue affecting wildlife professionals and wildlife resources this decade, and your contribution will make a difference.

The Section's donation will assist us in launching a public outreach campaign to increase public awareness of the importance of the Conservation and Reinvestment Act and the Resources 2000 Act, currently before Congress, that would dedicate a portion of federal income from offshore oil and gas leases for wildlife restoration by the states. These bills would supplement current Pittman-Robertson funds provided to states to support comprehensive wildlife conservation needs beyond those typically covered by hunting license fees and federal aid funds.

Thanks again to the Northwest Section for its generous contribution.

Sincerely,

Harry E. Hodgdon
Executive Director

"In short, a land ethic changes the role of *Homo sapiens* from conqueror of the land-community to plain member and citizen of it. It implies respect for his fellow-members, and also respect for the community as such." Aldo Leopold

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