



NORTHWEST WILDLIFER

ALASKA
ALBERTA
BRITISH COLUMBIA
IDAHO
MONTANA
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
OREGON
WASHINGTON
YUKON

NOVEMBER 2000

NORTHWEST SECTION

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Over the last 6 months or so, I observed three incidents that greatly disturbed me. In brief, they were as follows (the stories are true-the names have been changed to protect the guilty). First a group of agency biologists tried to sell a broad-scale habitat treatment program specifically aimed at improving habitat for species x, y, and z. What's the problem there you say? All three species have different habitat requirements and the best available data suggest that the proposed treatment will actually harm species z! Second, a management program was strongly promoted by a certified wildlife biologist when the best available data suggested that the program would not be cost effective, would not accomplish the stated objective and was opposed by other wildlife biologists working with this individual (i.e., everybody thought it was a bad idea!). Finally, the manager of a wildlife area was explaining a land treatment program to a group of biologists. He indicated that it was to help species t. When several in the group pointed out that the treatment would harm other species using the same habitat and that the treatment for that kind of habitat was unusual, to say the least (others used words that were not as kind), the manager changed his story. Then he claimed the treatment was for ecosystem health and that he did not manage for single species. The fact that the habitat was in good ecological

condition before treatment did not seem to interest him.

What's going on? Why would professionals act in this manner? I can come up with only three reasons: incompetence, failure to stay current, and political pressure. These are not mutually exclusive. However, having worked with many biologists over the last 25 years, I have come across very, very few that appeared incompetent. No, the reason for these actions is likely a failure to keep abreast of new information, political pressure or both.

There is an incredible array of information available regarding our wildlife populations and their habitats. New information is being added all the time and old information is constantly updated. It's a formidable task, but its part of being a professional. We have an obligation to stay current. No one can fault you for making a decision based on the best information available. Everyone should criticize you for doing otherwise. How should we define best? Start with the peer-reviewed literature, then look at graduate theses, then agency reports, finally, if you must, use "expert opinion" (but first look up the definition of opinion).

Politics present a different problem. At some point in our career, most of us will be directed to become involved in a program

that we suspect (or know) is unsound. If that happens, we have three choices. First, cave-in to political pressure and fully support an irresponsible program. Second, quit. Third, keep your head up, be as professional as possible and, using the best data available, remind administrators what the best course of action should be (i.e., try to move the program onto a more solid foundation). Of course, this should be done discretely. I refer to the first option as the low road – avoid it at all costs. The second option might please a few folks you work with, but it really means shirking your responsibility. The third option is the high

road – take it.

With all of that said, I can now make my normal pitch. If you recognize yourself in the above examples, or are trying to make a difficult management decision, use our professional society as a crutch. Attending the Northwest Section meeting provides the perfect opportunity to seek the opinion of others and use your peers as a sounding board for your ideas. It also will give you a chance to harass me if you disagree with what I've written. See you in Alberta!

- Jack Connelly

NW SECTION CONNECTION

I have just returned from the annual TWS meeting in Nashville, Tennessee. The Tennessee, Kentucky and Georgia chapters hosted a great meeting, and over 1,200 people attended. I have mentioned before the importance of professional development in remaining current in our rapidly changing profession. I find that I am mentally recharged after these meetings. Two symposia were of particular value for folks from the Northwest, "Mammals in Western Coniferous Forest," and "Wildlife in the Interior Columbia River Basin." Next year's annual meeting will be in Reno and may be as large as the record-breaking meeting in Portland in 1995. I encourage each of you to begin thinking about attending the meeting. Another good opportunity for professional development will be the Northwest Section Meeting hosted by the Alberta Chapter 2-4 March 2001. These folks always put on a good meeting and the location could not be better.

Council conducted two and a half days of TWS business and Len Carpenter, the Mountain and Plains Regional Field Director for the Wildlife Management Institute, was installed as President. Council charged two new special committees; one to develop a white paper on ungulate confinement and

the other to examine opportunities for offering TWS publications electronically. Council voted to move the Leopold Award from the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference to the annual TWS meeting beginning in 2002. Council approved two publications for printing, "Technical Guide on White-tailed Deer in the Urban Environment," and a Human Dimensions book. We accepted a bid by the New England Chapter to host the 2003 annual TWS meeting, and selected New Zealand as the site for the Third International Wildlife Management Congress in December 2003. Dr. Lenny Brennan was selected as Editor-in-Chief of *The Journal of Wildlife Management* for 2001-2002. These are just some of the highlights from the meeting, look for more details in the next issue of the *Wildlifer*.

Your professional society continues to face the challenges presented by managing wildlife in a rapidly changing world, but meeting these challenges will require volunteers to make it happen. I encourage each of you to think about how you can become involved in TWS activities at Chapter, Section and National levels.

- Dan Edge, NW Section Representative

NORTHWEST SECTION AWARDS

The **Arthur S. Einarsen Award** was established in 1966 to recognize outstanding service to the wildlife profession by individuals residing in the area encompassed by the Northwest Section of The Wildlife Society. The **Wildlife Administrator Award** was designed to recognize and reward excellence in the areas of wildlife program development and administration. The Awards Committee encourages nominations from the membership of the Section by 5 January 2001 for both awards. Nominations benefit from supporting documentation so please contact Lowell Suring, Committee Chair, for more details if you have deserving candidates in mind. **Lowell Suring, Chugach National Forest, 3301 C Street, Suite 300, Anchorage, Alaska 99503; telephone: (907) 271-2836; FAX: (907)**

271-2460; e-mail: lsuring@fs.fed.us.

Brief History of the Einarsen Award

Dr. Paul Dalke developed the original criteria for the Einarsen Award in 1966. Presumably, the concept for the award also originated with him. The criteria were amended in 1974 (extracted from a letter to Caroleena E, Einarsen from Phillip W. Schneider, 19 December 1979).

The Einarsen Award is presented at the annual meeting of the Northwest Section whenever a worthy recipient is identified by the Awards Committee (i.e., it is not an annual award). The Awards Committee is intended to have one member from each state and provincial chapter in the Section.

Recipients of the Arthur S. Einarsen Award:

1965	Paul Dalke	1984	(not awarded)
1966	(not awarded)	1985	Lee Eberhardt
1967	Phillip W. Schneider	1986	(not awarded)
1968	Ian McTaggart Cowan	1987	Al W. Franzmann
1969	(not awarded?)	1988	Richard D. Tabor
1970	William Q Wick	1989	Karl W. Kenyon
1971	W. Leslie Pengelly	1990	(not awarded)
1972	Don C. Quimby	1991	E. Charles Meslow
1973	Burton Lauckhart	1992	James M. Peek
1974	David L. Spencer	1993	Bart O'Gara
1975	John Craighead	1994	Richard J. Mackie
1976	(not awarded)	1995	(not awarded)
1977	Wayne C. Hanson	1996	Maurice G. Hornocker
1978	Kenneth Hungerford	1997	Charles C. Schwartz
1979	Jack Ward Thomas	1998	(not awarded)
1980	O.C. (Charlie) Wallmo	1999	(not awarded)
1983	Robert L. Eng	2000	R. Terry Bowyer

**2001 ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND MEETING
NORTHWEST SECTION AND ALBERTA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY**

**CO-HOSTED BY THE ALBERTA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY AND
ALBERTA ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES SERVICE**

**MARCH 2-4, 2001
BANFF PARK LODGE & CONFERENCE CENTRE, BANFF, ALBERTA**

COORDINATING SCALES OF MANAGEMENT, DECISION MAKING AND PLANNING is the focus of the plenary session, which will open the conference (starting early afternoon on March 2). David Schindler, an internationally renowned scientist from the University of Alberta, is a confirmed plenary speaker; other high-profile speakers are invited, but not yet confirmed, including Jack Ward Thomas and John Donihee. The two following days will be filled with contributed papers on a wide range of topics in wildlife and fisheries research and management. Guiding principles for planning the conference are to provide attendees with the highest quality and most current information possible, at a very reasonable price. So, please join us in Banff for a very fine event, and three days of camaraderie!

Location and Transportation

The Banff Park Lodge is situated in the world-renowned town of Banff, in the heart of historical Banff National Park. Surrounded by the majestic Canadian Rockies, the hotel is one block from the town center, and just a short walking distance to excellent shopping, restaurants, museums, and other points of interest.

Banff is located in southwestern Alberta, about 130 kilometers (80 miles) west of Calgary, on the TransCanada Highway (Highway 1). Calgary International Airport is only a ninety minute drive from the town of Banff. All major car rental companies are available at the Calgary International

Airport, and regular bus service operates directly from the airport to the Banff Park Lodge, as well. Two companies provide regular bus service, as frequently as every two hours, each way, as follows: **Banff Airporter-- call 1 (888) 449-2901; Brewster—call (403) 221-8242.** Advance reservations are either required or highly recommended, for the bus trip.

Lodging

The conference and meetings will be held at the Banff Park Lodge and Conference Centre. The lodge has reserved a block of 100 rooms at special conference rates. To receive the special rate, be sure to make reservations by **January 2, 2001** at 1 (800) 661-9266 (**mention that you are attending the NWS Wildlife Society Conference/ Alberta Chapter Meeting**). The rate is \$115 **Canadian**/room/night, for single or double occupancy, plus 12% tax. For third and fourth occupants in a room, add \$15 (Canadian)/person/night (plus tax). Children under the age of 16 stay at no additional charge. The rates mentioned above are extended to delegates of the conference both three days before and three days after the conference. When making reservations, you will require a valid credit card number or check or money order deposit. Deposits will be returned, when requested, if notice of cancellation is received by the Banff Park Lodge at least 48 hours prior to the expected time of arrival. A variety of other hotels and motels are located near the Banff Park Lodge. However, we have not arranged discounted

rates at any of the others, so please book a room early at the Banff Park Lodge.

Registration

Please take advantage of early registration discounts by completing and returning the registration form (see following page) with full payment (**in Canadian funds only**) by **February 7, 2001**. On-site registration will be available at the conference. Partial registrations will **not** be accepted.

Pre-conference Field Tour (tour runs 8:45-11:45 A.M., March 2)

A bus tour of the Bow Valley portion of Banff National Park (lead by National Park staff) will cover issues including elk relocation and management, predator restoration, highway restoration, and fire-wildlife interactions. Fabulous scenery and wildlife viewing opportunities will be featured, as well! Please pre-register (see registration form on page 7).

Reception and Wildlife Auction Fundraiser

The welcoming reception and social (including no-host cash bar) is on Friday evening, March 2. The fundraiser auction of wildlife-related items will occur then, as well. Proceeds go entirely to the Alberta Chapter's student scholarship fund.

Paul Jones is our auction coordinator. **Please contact Paul with commitments to provide auction items** (phone: (403) 382-4357 or e-mail: paul.jones@gov.ab.ca). Small and big-ticket items, custom-made ones, new purchases or used items will all be gratefully accepted.

Banquet

The banquet is included in the registration fee and is on Saturday evening, March 3. A well-known wildlife scientist and natural resources administrator, Dr. Morley Barrett,

will share wisdom and witticisms, as the after dinner speaker.

Call for Poster Papers

A poster session will run during March 2-3rd. Posters on management, research, monitoring, new techniques and work just getting underway are always of interest. Persons that are at very preliminary points in their projects are encouraged to submit posters, rather than papers for oral presentation. If you are interested in participating, please contact Kirby Smith, Department of Biological Sciences, Room Z 907, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB Canada T6G 2E9 (phone: (780) 489-8109; fax: (780) 492-9457; e-mail kgsmith@ualberta.ca).

Wildlife Photo Contest

Conference registrants are invited to submit their favorite original photos for a contest at the conference. Contact Troy Sorensen, if you are interested (phone: (780) 778-7116; e-mail: troy.sorensen@gov.ab.ca). Further details will be posted on the Alberta Chapter's web site, as the conference approaches (www.albertadirectory.com/actws).

Contributed Papers Sessions

Concurrent sessions for contributed papers (see **Call for Papers** on page 9) will run all day Saturday (March 3) and the early part of Sunday morning (March 4). The conference will end with a final, plenary session of contributed papers on Sunday afternoon (March 4).

Lunch and Alberta Chapter Awards

A lunch is included in the registration fee and is on Sunday, March 4. The annual awards of the Alberta Chapter, The Wildlife Society, will be presented during the luncheon.

Corporate Donations to Support the Conference

Corporate donations have contributed significantly to the quality and viability of TWS meetings organized in Alberta in the past. Thank you, again, for your generosity! If you or your employer are/is in a position to make a financial donation in support of the upcoming conference, please consider doing so. Donations both large and small will be gratefully accepted! Please make checks payable (preferably in **Canadian** funds) to **Alberta Chapter, The Wildlife Society** and mail to **ACTWS, Box 4990, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6E 5G8**. Donations received before March 1, 2001 would be most appreciated! Donors will be recognized in the printed conference materials and at the banquet on Saturday, March 3.

Other Attractions

Five world-class areas for downhill skiing are situated within easy travelling distance of the Banff Park Lodge (most of them have regular bus service to and from the lodge). Cross-country skiing should be exceptional in early March, too. For further information on other attractions, visit the web site of the Banff-Lake Louise Tourism Bureau (www.banfflakelouise.com).



REGISTRATION FORM FOR THE 2001 ANNUAL MEETING, NORTHWEST SECTION
March 2-4, Banff Park Lodge & Conference Centre, Banff, Alberta

Complete one form per person, please, to simplify our paperwork

Name _____

Affiliation _____

Address _____

City _____ Province/State _____ PC/Zip _____

Phone (Office) _____ Home _____ E-mail _____

Conference registration (no partial registrations)	Cost	Total
Friday-Sunday, March 2-4, 2001		
Early registration, post-marked on/before Feb. 7 th		
Regular member	\$55.00	_____
Student member	\$35.00	_____
Late registration, after Feb. 7 th (on-site, please)		
Regular member	\$70.00	_____
Student member	\$45.00	_____

Banquet and lunch

- Do you plan to attend the Saturday evening banquet (please circle)? **Yes No**
- Are you bringing a guest (if so, add additional cost)? \$35.00 each _____
- Do you plan to attend the lunch on Sunday (please circle)? **Yes No**
- Are you bringing a guest (if so, add additional cost)? \$22.00 each _____

Pre-conference Field tour (morning, March 2, 2001) \$20.00 _____

Total Amount Paid _____

Do you have any special needs (i.e., vegetarian)? If so, please specify _____

Please make checks payable (only in **Canadian** funds) to: **Alberta Chapter, TWS**. Purchase orders and credit cards will **not** be accepted. Please mail your registration form, with full payment, to: Arlen Todd, President-elect, Alberta Chapter TWS, Natural Resources Service, EP Building, Suite 100, 3115 - 12 Street NE, Alberta T2E 7J2. **Form can be downloaded from website:** www.albertadirectory.com/actws

Cancellation policy: A full refund will be provided when requested before January 15, 2001. For cancellations on or after January 15, 2001, there will be a handling fee of 25% of the total bill.

ABSTRACT SUBMITTAL FORM

2001 NORTHWEST SECTION ANNUAL CONFERENCE

CO-HOSTED BY ALBERTA CHAPTER OF TWS & ALBERTA ENVIRONMENT

Type of presentation: Paper _____ Poster _____

Equipment required: Slide projector _____ Overhead projector _____
PowerPoint projector _____ Other (specify) _____

Title of abstract submitted: _____

Name of person submitting _____ Phone _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State/Province _____ PC/Zip _____

Fax _____ E-mail _____

Name of presenter (if different from submitter) _____

Please indicate whether presenter is presently a student (Yes/No) _____

The time limit for contributed papers is fifteen minutes, plus five minutes for questions and discussion (total of twenty minutes).

Send original abstract (preferably by e-mail, snail mail less preferred) and biosketch of **presenter** with this form -**OR** - Send original abstract (floppy disk), hard copy and biosketch with this form to:

Kirby Smith, Department of Biological Sciences, Room Z 907, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB Canada T6G 2E9 (e-mail: kgsmith@ualberta.ca).

DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING ABSTRACTS IS JANUARY 10, 2001

CALL FOR PAPERS
2001 NORTHWEST SECTION MEETING
CO-HOSTED BY ALBERTA CHAPTER OF TWS & ALBERTA ENVIRONMENT

You are invited to submit abstracts for presentation at any of the contributed papers sessions to be held at the 2001 meeting to be held at Banff, Alberta during March 2-4, 2001. Presentations will be twenty minutes in length, including introduction of the presenter and time for questions. You are also invited to submit abstracts for poster presentations. Abstracts will be printed in the program booklet as they are received; otherwise, written papers will not be associated with presentations.

Please submit the Abstract Submittal Form with each abstract, and include the following information:

1. Lead author name, affiliation, mailing address, phone numbers, and e-mail address
2. Names and affiliations of additional authors
3. Title of abstract
4. ABSTRACT (You must use the following guidelines and example; please note that the abstract you submit will be the final that is printed for the paper sessions). Submit abstract and associated information by **January 10, 2001** to:

Kirby Smith
Department of Biological Sciences
Room Z 907
University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta Canada T6G 2E9
Phone: (780) 489-8109; Fax: (780) 492-9457
e-mail: kgsmith@ualberta.ca

Abstracts will be acknowledged within three days, and authors will be advised of the final decision on their abstract (and the session in which it will be given) by February 14, 2001.

Abstract Guidelines and Format Example

Guidelines:

- Use Microsoft Word 97 or WordPerfect (former strongly preferred).
- Hard copies of abstracts must be typed single-spaced within a 10 X 16 cm space. Use a one-line space between the title and the text block.
- No hard returns within a paragraph.
- E-mail Access (**preferred**): Submit the abstract, other required information, and abstract submittal form by e-mail. Abstract submittal forms can be e-mailed to you on request. Or, check the Alberta Chapter web site (www.albertadirectory.com/actws). You will be notified of the receipt of your abstract within three days.
- No E-mail Access: Submit a disk with the required information, a hard copy, and the abstract submittal form. Clearly label all submitted information with the pertinent information (i.e., name of lead author, abstract title, and lead author contact phone number and e-mail address).

- Abstract should be a distillation of the purpose, methods, results and conclusions, and should not exceed 250 words.
- Geographical location of the work should appear in the abstract or title.

Format example (measures 10 X 16 cm)

Foruew, E. Z. and U.R. Krasey. A NEW WAY TO CONDUCT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT IN THE BOREAL FORESTS OF ALBERTA. Wildlife Science Group, Alberta Natural Resources Service, #625 Ivory Towers, Edmonton, AB T6J 1E9 and Department of Regional Perspectives, Athabasca University, Athabasca, AB T4T 7K3.

Begin text here: This is where you tell us what you are going to tell us.....

Send abstracts to: Kirby Smith, Dept. of Biological Sciences, Room Z 907, University of Alberta, Edmonton AB T6G 2E9 (e-mail: kgsmith@ualberta.ca).

Please Note: The abstract that you submit will be the FINAL that is printed for the paper session—changes will not be possible.



MEETINGS OF INTEREST

Carnivores 2000, November 12-15, 2000, Denver, Colorado. Hosted by Defenders of Wildlife, (more information @ www.defenders.org.)

Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee, Winter Meeting, January 9-11, 2001, Salt Lake City, Utah (more information @ www.fs.fed.us/r1/wildlife/igbc).

Oregon Chapter, TWS, February 21-23, 2001, Portland, OR.

Montana Chapter, TWS, February 28 - March 2, 2001, Butte, MT.

Northwest Section/Alberta Chapter, TWS, Annual Conference, March 2-4, Banff, Alberta.

Washington Chapter, TWS, March 19-21, 2001 @ Moses Lake, WA.

Society for Conservation Biology Annual Meeting, July 30-August 1, 2001, University of Hawaii @ Hilo, Hawaii (more information @ www.conservationbiology.org).

The Wildlife Society's 8th Annual Conference, September 25-29, 2001, Reno/Tahoe, Nevada (more information @ www.tws@wildlife.org).

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: <http://WashingtonWildlifeSoc.org> (On-line after 11/7/00)

Yukon: No web site

Oregon

This is the time of year when many of our members are going full throttle while planning our Annual Meeting and Workshop. This year's event is happening in conjunction with the American Fisheries Society, which will offer us some tremendous opportunities for cross-training and collaboration. The conference will be held in Portland, OR, February 2001; we expect up to 1000 attendees throughout the week of talks and events. This year's theme is "Fish and Wildlife The Next Generation: Landscape and Landuse in a Booming Society," and our pre-meeting workshop is entitled "Conservation of Riparian Areas and Waterways: Considerations for Fish and Wildlife." Our hope is to explore common ground and understand the multiple benefits that restoration projects can provide to fish and wildlife.

Our Conservation Affairs committee and many members have been busy over the past 3 months finalizing a "trapping statement." This work is in response to an initiative on this year's ballot that would limit or curtail the use of trapping as a tool for wildlife management. Our response reflects a position that wildlife management should not occur at the ballot box. Backers of the initiative have chosen not to utilize an established process for updating the

state's wildlife regulations that is worked through a citizen lead fish and wildlife commission. It is the Chapter's belief that some trapping methods provide a valid and valuable tool for wildlife managers. Since the distribution of the Chapter's statement, several state newspapers with editorial boards opposing the initiative, have used the statement in support of their position. The Chapter is being heard!

In the coming weeks, the Chapter's Education Committee will release a Chapter brochure that will be available for recruitment and information. This product has been in the works for some time now and it will be an accomplishment for the Chapter to soon have it available for distribution.

Washington

CALL FOR PAPERS FOR THE WASHINGTON CHAPTER OF TWS ANNUAL MEETING AND WORKSHOP, . March 19-21, 2001, Best Western Hallmark Inn and Conference Center, Moses Lake, Washington. Theme: State of the Art in Wildlife Knowledge and How We're Using It Contact: Paul C. Fielder at (509) 664-2892 ext. 4299 or paul@chelanpud.org. Meeting will include 1/2 day workshop by USA, Wildlife Services on Wildlife Control Tools and Techniques.

In the state of Washington, the anti-trapping initiative I-713 has been placed on the fall ballot (See the Washington Chapter TWS Position Statement below.)



**I-713 (Anti-Trapping Initiative)
The position of the
Washington Chapter of The Wildlife Society**

Initiative 713 is presently on the fall ballot. This initiative states: Shall it be a gross misdemeanor to capture an animal with certain body gripping traps or to poison animals with compound 1080 or sodium cyanide?

The Wildlife Society:

1. supports the use of regulated trapping as an effective method for managing or studying furbearers, preventing and controlling property damage caused by furbearers, reducing the potential spread of harmful disease, and for sustained harvest of furbearers for outdoor recreation, subsistence, and economic benefit,
2. recognizes that regulated trapping is a safe, efficient and practical means of capturing animals without impairing the survival of furbearer populations or damaging the environment,
3. recognizes that animals can be injured by some traps, but that:
 - a. regulatory and educational programs can reduce injuries,
 - b. foothold traps often offer advantages over other techniques in efficiency, safety to humans and domestic animals, and release of non-target animals,
 - c. acceptable and effective alternatives are not available for many species, although padded traps appear to potentially reduce injury while maintaining comparable trapping efficiency for some species,
4. promotes programs of trapper education that cover humane and safe trapping techniques, proper fur handling, and furbearer management,
5. promotes programs that inform the public about the values and benefits of properly regulated use of renewable natural resources, including furbearers, and
6. encourages regulated trapping and rigorous enforcement of trapping laws by responsible agencies to assure optimum perpetuation of furbearer populations.

Furbearing animals in Washington State are the management responsibility of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), through the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission. WDFW presently addresses our position on furbearer management by:

1. enforcing trapping regulations that allow for the effective management and control of furbearer populations in as safe and humane a manner as practical,
2. utilizing public trappers to efficiently provide for the managed harvest and control of furbearers while also providing outdoor recreation and economic benefit,
3. requiring all first time trappers to complete a trapper education course in safe, humane, and proper trapping techniques or pass the exam to prove they already know this information, and
4. requiring mandatory report of furbearer catch by each trapper so the WDF&W can monitor and manage the harvest of furbearer populations.

The Washington Chapter of The Wildlife Society asks you to consider the following when voting on Initiative 713:

I-713 restricts the abilities of professional wildlife managers to respond quickly and efficiently to public needs. While I-713 allows use of banned traps to address damage complaints under a special permit from the Director of WDF&W, the conditions placed on permit application will cause delays in addressing animal damage.

I-713 removes practical, effective, and modern wildlife management and harvest abilities from the state and federal wildlife managers. Modern wildlife professionals (and regulated, licensed public trappers) rely on a variety of tools including padded and unpadded leghold traps, body gripping traps, snares, cage traps, fencing, and habitat management to selectively and humanely deal with unique wildlife situations. Some animal species can only be caught with certain types of traps. Types of animals caught with traps are addressed by the types, sizes, and locations of traps set, use of selective scents and lures, and restrictions against exposed baits.

I-713 may increase wildlife damage complaints and associated costs for state and federal wildlife agencies without providing funds for those increased costs. This could result in reduced funds for other beneficial wildlife and habitat programs. In some other states that adopted trapping bans (Massachusetts, Colorado, California), beaver, coyote, and other wildlife damage complaints greatly increased.

I-713 would likely promote further use of toxins in management of wildlife/human conflicts and would not reduce the use of sodium fluoroacetate (Compound 1080) or sodium cyanide to poison animals. Sodium cyanide is not allowed for use in poisoning animals in Washington State, except by special use by Federal wildlife personnel. Compound 1080 is currently not registered for use in Washington State by any entity. A ban on public use of body gripping traps (including mole, gopher, and mountain beaver traps) would likely result in the substitution of general poisons and rodenticides. This would increase the amount of toxins in the environment that could affect wildlife, domestic pets, and water quality.

The Washington Chapter of The Wildlife Society therefore does not support I-713.



“...worldwide, humans influence and are affected by natural resource management issues. Whether the issue involves elephants raiding a farmer’s cassava fields in Cameroon or Florida residents voting down sugar taxes to restore the Everglades, conservation problems are people problems.” Jacobson, S.K. and M.D. McDuff. 1998. Training Idiot Savants: The Lack of Human Dimensions in Conservation Biology. Conservation Biology 12:263-267.

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