



NORTHWEST WILDLIFER

ALASKA
ALBERTA
BRITISH COLUMBIA
IDAHO
MONTANA
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
OREGON
WASHINGTON
YUKON

MAY 2002

NORTHWEST SECTION

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Congratulations to our new NW Section board. Lowell Suring was elected to the position of president-elect, a position he will hold until next year's meeting in Oregon when he will take over as president. Lowell is continuing to chair the awards committee this year. Terry Bowyer was elected vice-president, and will be working closely with the Oregon folks in helping to plan next year's meeting. If you have ideas for this meeting, send them to Terry. Marion Cherry was elected secretary-treasurer. Some changes in the state and provincial chapter representatives to the board have also occurred. Representatives from the Chapters are Jack Nolan, Alberta, Gino Del Frate, Alaska, Cheryl Friesen, Oregon, Bev Dixon, Montana, Don Utzinger, Washington, and Kurt Becker, Idaho. Wini Kessler is our Section representative to Council. Thanks to all of our outgoing board: Jack Connelly, Ellen Campbell, Fred Samson, Dave Kennedy, Paul Fielder, Chuck Harris, Arlen Todd, and Frank Pickett. Ellen Campbell deserves special thanks for her two terms of outstanding service as secretary/treasurer. Thanks also to Sandy Kratville for her past and continuing work as newsletter editor. The NW Section would not function without the dedication and work of these folks.

The meeting in Spokane was a great success. Many outstanding papers were

presented, as were a stimulating plenary session and banquet speaker. Much discussion took place on the controversy surrounding the lynx hair issue. One important point that I took away from these discussions is how critical it is for wildlife biologists to adhere strictly to good science, established protocols, and ethical behavior. A problem has emerged in that many in the media and general public do not distinguish between wildlife biologists and environmental activists. While we all may hold our personal values and beliefs, wildlife biologists in their professional roles must adhere to the presentation of facts and scientifically supported statements. Advocating one's values rather than scientific information takes us out of our role as professional natural resource managers, and opens the field of wildlife biology up to the types of generalizations and misstatements that have recently occurred in the press and by politicians. As Jack Thomas eloquently noted in his talk about the credibility of our field, "That credibility was paid in the currency of thousands of professional life times spent pursuing a scientific foundation and in the honest application of that knowledge and experience in assessment and management actions." We should all strive to add to this scientific foundation and credibility in our work.

Jon_Haufler@emri.org

ADAPTING TO A CHANGING SOCIETY: Highlights of the Opening Plenary

At the April 16–19 Northwest Section Annual Meeting, I had the privilege of chairing the opening plenary session on *Adapting to a Changing Society: The Future of Wildlife Research and Management*. This session responded to growing concerns about the use of ballot initiatives to resolve contentious wildlife management issues. Why is society going to the polls on these issues, rather than allowing professionals and the agencies to decide them? Should we be concerned? I began the session by suggesting four possible reasons why people choose this difficult route to resolve issues:

- People do not understand the science behind our decisions and recommendations.
- They do not trust the science.
- They accept our science as credible, but disagree with our management conclusions.
- They reject our decisions and recommendations because of basic value differences.

Four panelists led us in the exploration of this topic. Each had been assigned the following question: *From where you sit, what does our profession need to do differently to remain an important player in the management of wildlife and wildlife habitat?* As each panelist spoke, there emerged a common view about underlying causes: all agreed that the trend toward ballot initiatives reflects basic differences in human values. These differences mean that society is moving along a new compass bearing, whereas our profession continues to follow its same old trajectory. Given these different courses, we can expect to diverge even more in the future unless corrective actions are taken. While agreeing on the root causes, each panelist had unique perspectives on what needs to be done. A synopsis of each presentation is provided in the following sections.

Tom Beck, a native of the backwoods of northern Florida, has been a wildlife

researcher with the Colorado Division of Wildlife since 1976. Tom believes that our profession is out of tune with larger society because we lack a “philosophical compass” to address issues in a meaningful way. He notes that wildlife management is somewhat about science, and hugely about values. Although pessimistic in tone, his critique is rich in messages about what it would take to turn things around. What’s needed are:

- Cultural and philosophical changes, from a production orientation to a land ethic.
- Honesty in how we justify our practices, such as hunting and trapping.
- Less emphasis on reductionist science, and more on holistic approaches.
- Not just tolerance, but welcoming of different values and dissenting opinions.
- Recognition that individual animals do matter.
- More art, humility, and passion in our work to complement and provide balance to the science.

Tom Franklin has served The Wildlife Society as Policy Director since 1991, following eight years as its Field Director. He agrees that societal values have changed, and that the profession has not kept up. He does not see ballot initiatives as indicative of a broad, mainstream movement, but rather as the tactics of narrow, special interests who find it more effective to circumvent the traditional channels of public involvement. He is concerned because ballot initiatives can undermine science-based, carefully deliberated decision-making—sometimes to the detriment of wildlife resources. Tom suggests several things we need to do:

- Employ countermeasures to the ballot initiatives.
- Reach out more to engage with the mainstream public.

- Involve voters in scientific discourse and professional debates; i.e., step up our efforts in communications, education, and public involvement.
- Vigorously invest in conservation. Secure new money and expand investments and efforts to encompass the full range of people's interests.

Wayne Pacelle is Senior Vice President for Communications and Government Affairs for The Humane Society of the United States, and has directed more than a dozen statewide ballot initiatives. He believes we share common ground in the need to work against the biggest threats to wildlife's future, industrial agriculture and habitat destruction. On the issue of ballot initiatives, Wayne describes these as an important part of the wildlife management picture. Why? Because the practice and profession of wildlife management is deficient without a healthy respect for animal welfare. It's not just about healthy populations and productive habitats; it's also about humans' relationships with other living beings. Individual animals do matter. According to Wayne, as long as wildlife management agencies, commissions, and professional organizations listen only to hunting and trapping interests, they will be seen by opposing interests as archaic obstacles that can be handily sidestepped through ballot initiatives. Wayne advises us to listen up, develop an ethical consciousness, and add animal welfare to the management mix. If we are not open to modest and reasonable reforms, then important roles will be taken away from us.

Zane Cornett and his partner, Elaine Twigg Cornett, provide training and professional services in communications, facilitation, and dispute resolution through their company, Integrations, based in Eugene, Oregon. Zane admonishes us to pay careful attention to how we communicate with others. People may understand our words and explanations, but simply not relate to our meanings and underlying values. Using the analogy of a birch seedling, Zane explains that we freely communicate our factual knowledge but

rarely share our passion and wonder as observers of the natural world. According to Zane, we need to grasp that most issues are not about who's right and who's wrong. It's all about understanding and validating other points of view. We need to move away from positions of "yes, but..." to "yes, and...". Zane believes that leadership is a big part of the solution. We need leaders who not only have a personal land ethic, but who are clear and vocal in communicating those values within and outside the profession. In Zane's words, "Let the light shine in!"

There you have it—sage advice from different viewpoints of what we can and should do to remain important players in wildlife policy and management. Will we respond appropriately, such that society entrusts us with its stickiest problems? Or will people bypass us on their way to the polls? The challenge is ours.

Winie Kessler
Northwest Section Representative
email: wkessler@fs.fed.us



2002 EINARSEN AWARD

The Northwest Section has recognized its most distinguished members over the years through presentation of the Arthur S Einarsen Award. We continue that tradition this year. This year's recipient serves as an excellent model for what a dedicated professional can accomplish for wildlife. Through his career he has moved from research to administration in a state wildlife agency to conservation work based in an NGO. Dr. John W. Schoen is well known for his efforts to provide a scientific basis for the conservation of wildlife and their habitat and for playing an active role in conservation efforts.

John received his Master of Science degree at the University of Puget Sound where his thesis was on the biogeography of the mammals of the San Juan Islands in Puget Sound. He completed his Ph.D. at the University of Washington in Seattle under Dick Tabor (a former Einarsen Award recipient). His dissertation was on habitat use by elk in the Cedar River Watershed in Washington State.

From 1977 through 1989, John was a research wildlife biologist with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game based in Juneau. During this period he worked on ecological relationships of mountain goats, Sitka black-tailed deer, and brown bear. Perhaps his most significant contribution during this period was in identifying the importance of old-growth forests to Sitka black-tailed deer and other wildlife, work he accomplished in collaboration with the late Charlie Walmo (who was also an Einarsen Award recipient). John's work demonstrated the critical ecological importance of uneven-age stands of coastal old growth forest as wildlife habitat. This work led to the realization that the persistence of this habitat was threatened by timber harvest activities throughout southeast Alaska. He was able to successfully translate his research findings into political and regulatory changes that resulted in modification of timber harvest

plans. There are few clearer examples of translation of sound research results into effective, and nationally significant, wildlife habitat conservation policies. He then conducted similar work on the habitat relationships of brown bears in southeast Alaska. As a result of this work John was requested to be a member of National TWS Ad Hoc Technical Committees on the conservation of grizzly bears and old-growth ecosystems.

In 1989 he was promoted to research coordinator for the Alaska Fish and Game Department based in Fairbanks. In this position he supervised the research on predator-prey relationships, caribou, marine mammals, and other wildlife. John served on the state's Senior Leadership team where he was a consistent voice for innovation and implementation of progressive wildlife management policies such as the development of a strong nongame program.

In the 1990s, he became the statewide coordinator for the nongame program and built it into an effective instrument for expanding the involvement of the state's wildlife management program into non-traditional areas. One of the most significant accomplishments during this period was building Alaska's Teaming with Wildlife (TWW) initiative program. Under his leadership, Alaska's TWW program acquired more sponsors than any other state program. John's success in building Alaska's TWW initiative into a program with such a broad base of support from Alaskan businesses is probably an important reason for Congressman Don Young's surprising sponsorship of and support for the Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA).

John retired from ADF&G in 1997 and made the transition from government to a private sector conservationist by accepting a position as Executive Director of the National Audubon Society in Alaska. In 1999, he became a Senior Scientist with the same

organization. His success at bridging the gap that too frequently exists between NGOs and wildlife agencies provides a promising example of a pathway for cooperation. During his work with Audubon he was an integral part of a recent effort to conserve brown bears and their habitat on the Kenai Peninsula through a collaborative stakeholder process. This unprecedented effort brought together representatives of local, state, and Alaska Native governments; timber, fishing, and recreation industries; and recreation and conservation interests to develop a conservation strategy. He played a vital role in drafting National TWS comments on the Forest Service National Roadless Policy. He also recently led efforts to obtain widespread professional support for protection of roadless areas and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

John has been active in The Wildlife Society throughout his career including serving as President of the Alaska Chapter. He has authored numerous scientific publications and

many popular articles designed to inform and influence public attitudes on conservation issues. He has also produced slide shows and films on natural resources and conservation issues. John has received additional recognition of his contribution to the conservation of wildlife including the Olaus Murie Award of the Alaska Conservation Foundation and the Steller and Alaska Resource Professional of the Year awards from the National Audubon Society.

On a personal level John and his wife of 35 years, Mary Beth, have raised 2 children, Erik and Sarah, both of whom are now in college. At a young age John also learned to fly at the knee of his father who founded and owned San Juan Island airlines. He still flies his Cessna 180 and his ability to fly is an important component of his work as a biologist and advocate for wildlife. All who have worked with John have come to recognize him for his complete dedication to his profession and to his family.

EINARSEN RECIPIENT REMARKS

Dear Colleagues:

Receiving the 2002 Arthur S. Einarsen award at the Northwest Section's Annual Meeting was a memorable honor. It is hard to find adequate words to express my appreciation. Thank you.

I have had a lifelong interest in wildlife and wild places and feel very fortunate to have had the opportunity to spend more than 30 years in the wildlife profession. The experiences I've had and the friendships I've made are priceless. I sincerely doubt there are few professionals who are more strongly committed and dedicated to their work than wildlifers. I can't imagine any other career choice that would have been more gratifying. There is no doubt that growing up on an island, exploring beaches and forests, sealed my fate at an early age. And I've had the pleasure to share these same experiences with my family. With that in mind, I encourage all of you to spend more time in

the field. In the field is where we remain connected to the land and keep the passion for our life's work burning.

Our profession has changed substantially since I was a graduate student, more years ago than I want to consider. We have a much larger and growing body of ecological theory, amazing new analytical tools, a new field of human dimensions, and an incredible stable of bright, young scientists and managers eager to chart the new frontiers of wildlife conservation. We also have greater, and sometimes conflicting, demands on wildlife and habitat resources. And conservation has become more challenging as increasing human populations demand more of the earth's finite resources. Clearly, in today's wildlife field, conservation is job #1.

Conservation is the fundamental goal all wildlifers share. Whether you're a manager, scientist, enforcement officer, educator, hunter, photographer, or birder, we are all in

this together to conserve wildlife and their habitats for future generations. Standing up for conservation isn't easy. Sometimes budgets get in our way, or politics, or special interests. But conservation is our first responsibility. How effective we are is largely determined by our professionalism and credibility.

I believe that sound science should form the basis of responsible conservation policy. Science is the fundamental tool of our trade. We must understand its role and be scrupulous in its application. Of course, science alone cannot provide all the answers to tough policy questions. The policy arena also involves values and tradeoffs. Increasingly, wildifers are thrown into the mix between policy and science. In such circumstances, we must be clear what hat we are wearing and represent our science with

utmost honesty. Always tell the truth and never exaggerate. Our responsibility to the public is to provide them with the facts, help them understand the resource tradeoffs, and let them make the value judgments.

Frankly, I see tough times ahead for conservation as political pressures mount to significantly increase development activities throughout our public lands and waters. To address these challenges, we must work more collaboratively: across disciplines, among agencies and universities, and between resource professionals and other conservationists. I believe we are up to the challenge. The personal satisfaction of contributing to the long-term conservation of our wildlife and our wildland heritage is beyond what money can buy.

John Schoen

NORTHWEST SECTION TWS BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES APRIL 19, 2002 SPOKANE, WA

President Jon Haufler called the meeting to order. A showing of hands indicated that there was a quorum of members present. The annual meeting of the Section was held in conjunction with the Washington State Chapter of TWS.

Report from the Secretary/Treasurer

Ellen Campbell, Secretary/Treasurer, reviewed the minutes of last year's business meeting. Last year there was not a quorum of members present to hold a Section business meeting but there was a quorum of the Section Board present, so the meeting became a board meeting.

The minutes indicated that \$800 was awarded to the TWS Student Conclave. Funding was requested for WIN, but was not awarded. The Society must remain sensitive to the fact that we are an International organization, including chapters in Canada. The student travel grant support for attendance at the annual Section meetings

had been \$1,000/year, but a committee appointed to investigate these grants had recommended an increase to \$2,000, which was approved.

Ellen also provided a treasurer's report. It was noted that some members have provided e-mail addresses, but not very many. Ellen stated that we lost some money this year in our accounts, and we are on a slight downward trajectory. This was due to the stock market decline. We are seeing a minor decline in our account on an annual basis. In the last year, the NW Section took in \$6,250 (primarily in dues) but spent a total of \$6,600, \$4,100 of this which was on the newsletter, etc. An audit of the NW Section books is complete as they are to be handed over to the new Secretary/Treasurer.

Awards/Nominations

Lowell Suring discussed the awards committee and the nomination process.

Requests for nominations are run in the newsletters and nominees are eligible for consideration for up to 3 years.

Newsletter

Sandy Kratville, Newsletter Editor, discussed the newsletter. This is the most costly item that the Section pays for out of our membership fees. It costs \$1.00 to \$1.50 each to print and mail hardcopies. We only have about 40-50 members receiving newsletters by e-mail at this time. Sandy will put an e-mail request in the newsletter again and to encourage people to receive their newsletter by email. Sandy will be stepping down in February 2003 after 4 years as editor. Please contact Sandy if you know anyone interested in being the future editor. Sandy thanked all those who contribute to the newsletter.

Elections

Election results are: Lowell Suring is the President-Elect. Terry Bowyer is Vice President. Marion Cherry is Secretary/Treasurer. Thanks were given to Fred Samson, Ellen Campbell, and Jack Connelly who have finished their terms. Ellen served two terms as Secretary/Treasurer and deserves special thanks. It was noted that it is hard to get volunteers to run for office.

Report from Council Representative

Winnie Kessler, NW Section Representative to TWS Council, reported back to the Section. The Council just met at the North American. It convenes there and at the Annual Meeting of TWS. Every other year there is a Council retreat, and this year it will be held in June 2002 at the Boone and Crockett Teddy Roosevelt ranch in Montana. The Strategic Plan of TWS is used as the agenda for each meeting.

There are several technical papers that have recently been finished or are in progress, these include papers on confined wildlife, wildlife fertility control and goshawk status. The next annual meeting will be held in Bismarck (2002), then in Burlington, VT (2003) and on to Calgary (2004).

The 3rd International Wildlife Management Congress will be held in New Zealand in December 2003.

International Chapters have not worked very well. They have worked with Canada to some degree, but not well with Mexico. There are problems with the way in which the organization is perceived. We may change our approach and may call our international chapters affiliates rather than chapters. Many professionals and students in other countries have limited funds to spend on membership dues. They are more inclined to invest those scarce funds in their home-country organization, rather than send them to the U.S. for TWS membership.

TWS is working on a website for communications. They have finally caught up with the publications backlog. There is an editor. Several large issues of the *Bulletin* are due out soon. TWS will build a formal permanent endowment dedicated to policy work. A fundraiser has been attained to help and take the lead in each region.

A question was asked as to whether or not the *Journal* would ever be put on-line. How can this be done so that it isn't just free? The AOU has all journals 5 years or older available on a website to everyone. Something like this may be considered. The *JWM* index had been published every 10 years, but has now been missed since about 1975. Someone asked if this would happen again. No one was certain but it is expected that another index will be published.

A question was asked about 'Lynxgate' and the TWS approach to this issue. TWS President Diana Hallett will appoint a Board of Inquiry to deal with this issue. The NW Section will be represented on this board. It was asked if a statement could be made about wildlife biologists in general or just about TWS members. The response was that this is an opportunity to look at the TWS Code of Ethics, analyze the situation and have constructive dialogue among members. In addition, there are also other issues like the Klamath decision by FWS and NMFS-did

biologists have enough information? What evidence is required? We are being held to new standards. The lynx issue is specific, but there is a larger issue emerging.

Old Business

The only item was that of student travel grants. It seems to work well to have the local TWS Chapter decide on the allocation of the student grants. This year about \$800 in travel grants was provided.

New Business

Sterling Miller of the International Bear Association (IBA) and NWF requested the NW Section TWS to support a grizzly bear workshop on problems with small populations of grizzly bears and linkage zones. We need better management techniques for small populations. Abstracts are being accepted through the end of April 2002. The proceedings will be peer reviewed and published in *Ursus*, the IBA journal. They would like financial support from the section. A motion was made to support the conference. The amount decided upon was \$250, and the motions carried. The check should be sent to IBA in Kentucky.

A request was entertained from Alberta Chapter TWS. A book is being written on the history of wildlife management in Alberta and is due out in 2005. This release coincides with Alberta's centennial. The Alberta Chapter supported this effort for \$5,000. Arlen Todd stated that any amount of support would be appreciated. A motion was made to

support this effort. Some discussion led to an amount of \$2,000 (that was then supported by a vote of the members). (A new group called the Alberta Fish and Wildlife Historical Society is being formed with M.J. Pybus as its president, and this group is heading up the compilation of history.)

The 2003 Section meeting will be in conjunction with the Oregon Chapter TWS in Eugene, Oregon during the second week of February. A location is needed for the 2004 meeting, and it is either the Alaska or Montana Chapter's turn.

The Annual meeting of TWS will be held September 18-22, 2004 in Calgary, so we may want to consider how the Section can assist with that meeting. Arlen Todd is leading the arrangements for the Calgary meeting. Manitoba is assisting as well. Arlen says this is a great place for a meeting.

We were asked if TWS was involved in any of the Lewis and Clark celebrations. No one thinks so, and this might be an opportunity.

The WA TWS Chapter President said we may want to use the word 'workshop' in our meeting information because it makes it easier for folks to get travel approval to attend "workshops" than to attend "conferences".

The meeting adjourned.

Marion Cherry
NWS Secretary/Treasurer

RECEIVE YOUR NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL

Section members have the choice of receiving their *Northwest Wildlifer* either electronically via email **or** hardcopy via the US Postal Service! As indicated in the Treasurer's report for 2002 (page 9), the Section spends a majority of its annual income on printing and mailing the newsletter. Depending on the length of the newsletter, it may cost \$1.00 - \$1.50 to print and mail each copy.

If you would like to receive your newsletter by email, please send your name and email address (with a short note indicating that you would like to receive future copies of your newsletter by email) to Sandy Kratville, P.O. Box 7583, Missoula, MT, 59807 (email: spkratville@fs.fed.us). Thank you!

NORTHWEST SECTION TWS TREASURER'S REPORT
Spokane, Washington
April 2002

Previous Balance (February 26, 2001) \$21,413.28

INCOME

Membership dues	\$5,410.00
Interest (checking acct)	50.12
(savings acct)	176.40
(CDs)	614.03

Total Income \$ 6,250.55

EXPENSES

Newsletter	\$4,109.45
Einarsen award expenses	310.15
Student travel grants (2001, Banff)	1000.00
Western Conclave grant (U of MT)	800.00
Support to nat'l TWS (farm bill)	250.00
Postage	8.21
Teleconference charges (Reno meeting)	128.23

Total Expenses \$ 6,606.04

BALANCE (February 31, 2002) \$21,057.79

Checking account	\$2,445.87	as of 2/31/02
Savings account	18,611.92	as of 2/31/02
TOTAL	\$21,057.79	

**ENHANCING AND MANAGING SMALL POPULATIONS
OF GRIZZLY BEARS
WORKSHOP: DECEMBER 2-4, 2002**

A workshop focused on establishing and increasing numerically small subpopulations of grizzly bears in linkage zones will be held December 2- 4, 2002 in Sandpoint, Idaho. The National Wildlife Federation, International Association for Bear Research and Management, US Forest Service, NWS of The Wildlife Society and member organizations of the Interagency Grizzly Bear

Committee (IGBC) are sponsoring the workshop. The winter meeting of the IGBC will be held December 4-6, immediately following the workshop.

For more information, contact: Sterling Miller, 240 North Higgins, Suite 2, Missoula, MT 59847 (406) 721-6705, FAX (406) 721-6714, millerS@nwf.org.

WILDLIFE RESEARCH EQUIPMENT

Sandpiper Technologies celebrates its fifth year of providing free use of its rental fleet to students conducting wildlife research.

Sentinel Surveillance Video systems were granted to Jeffrey Ball of Simon Fraser University for his study, "Variation in parental provisioning and fledging success of Red-throated Loons in western Alaska" and Mary Ann Furedi of West Virginia University for her study, "The effects of browsing by white-tailed deer on individual plant fitness and population growth of American ginseng."

Steven Sykes of the University of California received a Peep-A-Roo grant for his study on California Tiger Salamanders.

Peeper Video Probes were granted to Karen Beck of North Carolina State University for her work on "Determining free-ranging red wolf litter sizes" and Craig Thompson of Utah State University for his study on "Reproductive ecology of den-dwelling mammals."

The TreeTop Peeper Telescoping Video System was granted to Julie Gibson of the University of Wisconsin to study "Predation incidence and habitat relationships between nesting woodland raptors and mammalian predators in the upper peninsula of Michigan."

The deadline for submitting proposals for the 2003 spring/summer field season is December 1, 2002. For a list of available equipment and proposal requirements, go to the Sandpiper website at:
<http://www.Peeperpeople.com>.

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CHAPTER NEWS

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

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

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

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

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

Oregon: <http://fw.oregonstate.edu/tws/index.htm>

Washington: <http://www.washingtonwildlifesoc.org>

(British Columbia, Northwest Territories and Yukon Chapters: No web sites)

Idaho

The Idaho Chapter held its annual meeting in Idaho Falls March 14-15. Those who traveled from the banana belt in Boise to Idaho Falls were quickly reminded that winter was not yet over for some parts of Idaho. We had an excellent meeting and raised almost \$2,500 at our raffle/auction to support the

Chapter's sponsored scholarships at the University of Idaho, Idaho State University, and Boise State University, along with other programs such as the 4-H Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Teams. Dr. Jim Peek, University of Idaho (retired but working more than ever for wildlife) received the Chapter's Professional Wildlifer award for the second time. Rod Sando, former Director of the Idaho

Department of Fish and Game, received the Chapter's Special Recognition Award for his outstanding professionalism and conservation ethic in the face of political pressure that led to his resignation in January. Dr. Kerry Reese, University of Idaho, received the Ted Trueblood Communication Award for outstanding professional paper, and Barney Harper, Idaho State University, received the Ted Trueblood Communication Award for outstanding student paper.

Kurt Becker, US Forest Service, was elected president; Gregg Servheen, Idaho Fish and Game, vice president; Anna Owsiak, Idaho Fish and Game, secretary; and Michelle Commons Kemner, Idaho Fish and Game, treasurer.

Montana

2002 Annual Meeting Highlights

The 2002 annual meeting at Fairmont Hot Springs was a huge success. We had a record turnout, and an outstanding agenda with so many interesting papers/topics, that the only complaint heard was that it was difficult to choose between the concurrent sessions. Guest speakers included Gloria Flora and Pat Williams. Gloria, who is a former Forest Supervisor with the US Forest Service, and currently Director of "Sustainable, Obtainable Solutions" an independent resource consultation organization in Helena, gave the keynote address. Pat Williams, former Montana Congressman, currently teaching through the O'Connor Center for the Rocky Mountain West at the University of Montana, gave a very inspirational speech at the banquet. Both guest speakers' presentations were video taped, and anyone interested in borrowing the video should contact Bev Dixon at (406) 522-2541 or bdixon@fs.fed.us.

Fairmont provided a splendid facility for the conference, with pleasant accommodations, helpful staff, great food, and of course, the fabulous indoor/outdoor pools for soaking our

tired bones at the end of some captivating, but often, *long* days of sitting. The timing was perfect for taking advantage of the pools, since the temperatures dipped down to or below zero most nights and we were under a full to waning moon when the clouds dispersed.

Current Issues

Our membership is currently working on a number of important wildlife issues. We have a group working on the coal bed methane issue under the leadership of Steve Gilbert. This group is providing comments on the Draft EIS for coal bed methane development in the state. A second group is working on providing comments regarding the state plan for managing gray wolf populations, once this species is delisted and no longer under federal management. We presented a resolution to Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks stating our opposition to a proposal to allow the landing of recreational aircraft in the Ming Bar section of the Beartooth Wildlife Management Area. The Montana Chapter is co-sponsoring the Montana Wildlife Federation 2002 Elk Management Symposium in Helena.

New Officers

Bev Dixon from Bozeman is the new President. Denise Pengeroth from Helena is the President-Elect. We have a new concept of shared duties for the Secretary/Treasurer position. Helga Pac of Bozeman and Jodie Canfield from Townsend are sharing these duties. Frank Pickett in Butte becomes the Past President, and we say a huge THANK YOU to Lewis Young, former Past President, and Marion Cherry, former Secretary/Treasurer.

Oregon

For an update on the 2002 annual conference, election results, and a summary of 2001 chapter activities, please see the spring newsletter on the chapter website.

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