

THE WILD TIMES



IDAHO CHAPTER THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY



Issue 97:2

May 15, 1996

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President's Message

Successful Annual Meeting

Our annual meeting was a great success! Thank you to all who helped! As usual we generated a considerable amount of revenue from our auction and raffles. This year our Chapter made good on a long term commitment to establish scholarships at each of Idaho's major Universities. Our Chapter has provided \$5,000.00 each to the scholarship funds at the University of Idaho (Elmer Norberg - Idaho Chapter of The Wildlife Society), Idaho State University (Edson Fichter - ICTWS), and Boise State University (Richard Olendorf - ICTWS). These scholarships will help future wildlife professionals with the expense of their education and establish a long term legacy that Idaho Chapter members can be proud.

At the meeting, we also staffed several important committees and we are asking committee chairs to provide quarterly updates of their activities in the newsletter. I encourage any member who is interested in participating on a committee to contact the chairman and get involved.

I recently saw a rather disturbing newspaper article. I think the headline ran something like, "Idaho Businesses Show Little Support for Teaming With Wildlife." Idaho Department of Fish and Game is no longer taking the lead on this important issue so

the Chapter can provide some needed help. We have established an ad hoc Teaming with Wildlife committee within the Conservation Affairs Committee to help contact individuals, groups, and businesses to provide information and bolster support for Teaming With Wildlife Legislation. Paul Moroz is the Chapter contact for this committee and he needs all of our help. Write a letter, make a call.

James W. Unsworth☺

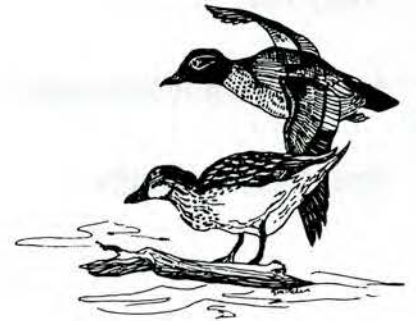
Editorial

IDFG SOLICITS INPUT REGARDING STATE POSITION ON TEAMING WITH WILDLIFE

The Idaho Fish and Game Department and Idaho Fish and Game Commission, hoping to build consensus amongst all stakeholders, is withholding a formal position statement regarding the TEAMING WITH WILDLIFE DIVERSITY FUNDING INITIATIVE. The Department wants to hear input from such diverse stakeholders as agricultural interests, conservation groups, legislators, the governor's office, private business, extractive industries, and the general public. By soliciting input from these groups it is hoped that the State can speak in 1 voice regarding the initiative.

It would be important for those supporting the initiative to make an extra effort to inform and educate these stakeholder groups as to the values this initiative holds. BBC ☺

Please send all newsletter correspondence to:
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Pocatello, ID 83201
Fax - 233-6430
Phone - 232-4703
E-Mail -
BCompton@IDFG.STATE.ID.US



Letters To The Editor

Editor's Note: the following letter was unfortunately left out of the last newsletter due to space constraints. We include it here and apologize to Michele for the delay. Michele is responding to Jim Unsworth's message "Following The Crowd" that appeared in the October 9, 1996 issue.

After reading the last President's Message and the Editorial, it was again clear that the wildlife profession continues to struggle with the role of human dimensions in fish and wildlife management. Although our profession is still quite young, it's time for an honest self-evaluation and to acknowledge that fish and wildlife management has become a multi disciplinary endeavor.

In my mind, there is a distinction between wildlife *biology*, the profession, and wildlife management, the institution. I agree that most people are confident in wildlife professionals' abilities to make "biologically sound management decisions" (although it is the Fish and Game Commission that makes the decisions). However, do wildlife professionals present *sociologically* or *politically* sound management alternatives? As much as we all

cringe at and resist those people-oriented disciplines, it's rather naive to think that state wildlife agencies can manage a "common" property and ignore economics, politics, sociology, and marketing. It doesn't mean that state wildlife agencies sacrifice their legal (and ethical?) Responsibilities to take care of the wildlife or simply dole out common property to those who scream the loudest. It just means that wildlife professionals need to understand the range of attitudes towards wildlife (stakeholder *versus* customer approach) because there are, and will continue to be, changing expectations of wildlife agencies compared to sixty years ago.

Wildlife management is evolving whether the wildlife profession likes it or not. Monocultures usually don't make it through environmental change (attitudes about wildlife) and/or catastrophic events (elections?). In order for wildlife management to adapt to a changing environment, there needs to be diversity in disciplines, philosophies, and opportunities. Personally, we'll all survive those changes. Professionally, we may need to rethink the game plan that used to work so well.

P.S. Although citizens' initiatives may reflect public sentiment, they are NOT methods of public input! A citizens' initiative regarding a wildlife issue strongly suggests that decisions were made with very weak methods of public input.

Michele Beucler ☺



Feature Articles

Proposed Idaho Rangeland Standards And Grazing Guidelines

The following proposed standards and guidelines for livestock grazing were excerpted from a BLM document entitled "Proposed Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management" developed by 3 Resource Advisory Councils consisting of a total of 45 citizens. The review/comment period ended May 16th (*Editor's Note: sorry for the timeliness*). These proposed standards and guidelines if approved by the Secretary of the Interior will go into effect August 12, 1997.

Proposed Standards:

- 1) Watersheds provide for natural infiltration, retention and release of water appropriate to soil type, vegetation, climate and landform.
- 2) Riparian-wetland

areas are in properly functioning condition appropriate to soil type, climate, geology, and landform.

3) Stream channels and floodplains are properly functioning relative to the geomorphology (e.g. gradient, size, shape, roughness, confinement, and sinuosity) and climate.

4) Healthy, productive and diverse populations of native plants are maintained or promoted as appropriate to soil type, climate and landform.

5) Rangelands seeded with mixtures including predominately nonnative plants are functioning to maintain life form diversity, production, nutrient cycling, energy flow, and the hydrologic cycle.

6) Until feasible cost effective rehabilitation treatments are developed, communities of undesirable exotic plants will meet minimum requirements of soil stability and maintenance of existing native and seeded plants.

7) Surface and ground water on public lands fully support, or are making significant progress toward fully supporting, designated beneficial uses described in the Idaho Water Quality Standards (IDAPA 16.01.02).

8) Habitats are suitable to maintain viable populations of threatened and endangered, sensitive, and other special status species.

Proposed Grazing Guidelines:

1) The BLM will identify and document within the local

watershed all impacts that affect the ability to meet the standards. If a standard is not being met due to livestock grazing, then allotment management will be adjusted unless it can be demonstrated that significant progress toward the standard is being achieved. This applies to all subsequent guidelines.

2) The use of GMP's will maintain or promote significant progress toward adequate amounts of ground cover (determined on an ecological site basis) to support infiltration, maintain soil moisture storage, and stabilize soils.

3) Livestock management facilities will be located away from riparian areas wherever they conflict with achieving or maintaining riparian-wetland function.

4) GMP's maintain or promote soil conditions that support water infiltration, plant vigor, permeability rates, and minimize soil compaction appropriate to site potential.

5) GMP's provide periodic rest during critical growth stages to allow sufficient regrowth to achieve and maintain healthy, properly functioning conditions, including good plant vigor and adequate vegetative cover, appropriate to site potential.

6) GMP's maintain or promote sufficient residual vegetation to improve, restore, or maintain healthy riparian-wetland functions and structure for energy dissipation, sediment capture, ground water recharge, streambank stability, and wildlife habitat appropriate to

site potential.

7) The development of springs, seeps or other projects affecting water and associated resources shall be designed to protect the ecological functions, wildlife habitat, and significant cultural and historical/archaeological/paleontological values associated with the water source.

8) GMP's maintain, promote, or progress toward appropriate stream channel and streambank morphology and functions. Adverse impacts due to livestock grazing will be addressed.

9) GMP's maintain or promote the interaction of the hydrologic cycle, nutrient cycle, and energy flow that will support the appropriate types and amounts of soil organisms, plants, and animals appropriate to soil type, climate, and landform.

10) Apply GMP's to maintain adequate plant vigor for seed production, seed dispersal, and seedling survival of desired species relative to soil type, climate, and landform.

11) Maintain or improve water quality to meet Idaho Water Quality Standards.

12) Use GMP's developed in recovery plans, conservation agreements, Endangered Species Act, Section 7 consultations to maintain or improve habitat for Federally listed threatened, endangered, and sensitive plants and animals.

13) GMP's maintain or promote the physical and biological conditions necessary to sustain native plant

populations and wildlife habitats in native plant communities.

14) On areas seeded predominantly with non-native plants, GMP's maintain or promote the physical and biological conditions to achieve healthy rangelands.

15) Native species are emphasized for rehabilitating disturbed rangelands. Evaluate whether native plants are adapted, available, and able to compete with weeds or seeded exotics.

16) Use non-native plant species for rehabilitation only in those situations where: a) native species are not readily available in sufficient quantities; b) native plant species cannot maintain or achieve the standards; or, c) where non-native plant species provide for management and protection of native rangelands.

17) On burned areas, allow natural regeneration when it is determined that populations of native perennial shrubs, grasses, and forbs are sufficient to revegetate the site. Rest burned or rehabilitated areas to allow recovery or establishment of perennial plant species.

18) Carefully consider the effects of new management facilities (e.g., water developments, fences) on healthy and properly functioning rangelands prior to implementation.

19) Use GMP's, where feasible, for wildfire control and to reduce the spread of target undesirable plants (e.g., cheatgrass, medusahead wildrye, and noxious weeds)

while enhancing vigor and abundance of desirable native or seeded species.

20) Encourage permittees to participate in watershed advisory groups as they are formed throughout the state.

21) Employ GMPs that promote natural forest regeneration and protect reforestation projects until The Idaho Forest Practices Act (IDAPA 20.02.01.050) requirements for timber stand replacement are met.

22) Design management fences to minimize adverse impacts, such as habitat fragmentation, to maintain habitat integrity and connectivity for native plants and animals.

23) Non-native animal habitat may be considered when consistent with rangeland health. ☺



Idaho Chapter The Wildlife Society Committee Updates

Teaming With Wildlife:

Committee objective: to promote the Fish and Wildlife Diversity Funding Initiative (Teaming With Wildlife) in Idaho.

The Fish and Wildlife Diversity Funding Initiative aims to raise \$350 million annually for state wildlife conservation, recreation and education programs nation-wide. Also

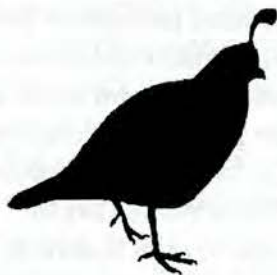
called the Teaming With Wildlife (TWW) effort, the Initiative would expand upon the existing user fee system of the 1937 Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act (commonly called the Pittman-Robertson Act) fees on hunting equipment and the 1950 Sport Fish Restoration Act (aka the Dingell-Johnson Act and Wallop-Breaux Fund) fees on fishing equipment. The amount of user fee will be based on the percentage of the manufacturer's price of the product, ranging from a minimum of 0.25% to a maximum of 5%. The expanded user fees would be applied to outdoor recreation equipment (backpacks, sleeping bags, tents, canoes, mountain bikes, etc.), optical equipment (binoculars and spotting scopes), photographic equipment (film and cameras), backyard wildlife supplies (bird seed, feeders, houses and baths), guide books and recreational vehicles (RV's and sport utility vehicles). A green logo would be applied to each product included in the fee system. Manufacturers would pay these fees (from the sale of outdoor products) through their routine, quarterly IRS reports. TWW funds would then be allocated to each State using a formula based on population (2/3) and land area (1/3). Funds will be dedicated by law for wildlife diversity projects focused on conservation, recreation and education and for primary benefit of fish and wildlife other than game species.

The TWW sub-committee (to the Conservation Affairs

Committee) encourages Idaho Chapter members to: 1) provide outreach information to sporting organizations, hiking, paddling and nature photography groups, garden clubs, outfitters, nature centers and environmental education affiliates in Idaho; 2) ask local retailers in Idaho to endorse TWW; 3) contact Idaho's Congressional delegation and Governor requesting their support; 4) write personal letters to companies stating your support and requesting theirs; and 5) network with other organizations and individuals to promote TWW.

For more information, target list of businesses and legislators to contact, sample letters, addresses, etc., please contact Paul Moroz by phone at 208-888-6482, by mail at 2081 N.W. 8th Street, Meridian, Idaho 83642 or by e-mail at rmoroz@cyberhighway.net.

Paul Moroz, Chairperson ☺



Conservation Affairs Committee:

The conservation affairs committee has been busy reviewing draft legislation on land management act reform sponsored by Senator Larry Craig, and the draft ESA reauthorization sponsored by

Senator Dirk Kempthorne.

Efforts are on-going to draft a joint set of comments with the American Fisheries Society. Senator Craig's bill contains numerous proposals for changes to NFMA and FLPMA, many of which raise considerable concerns.

Senator Kempthorne's draft legislation contains many good recommendations, but also several points of concern. The draft responses are close to completion, and will soon be submitted to the officers of the chapter.

Jon Haufler, Chairperson ☺

Nominations-Election Committee:

The President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer offices are open for nominations. You may nominate a chapter member, including yourself, for any of the offices. Elections will be held this coming winter, and the new officers will be *institutionalized* at the 1998 chapter meeting in Moscow. There are many members that would be excellent choices for office. Nominate them. If you want to run for office, let me know. Be active in your chapter. Please send your nominations to Don Kemner, (208) 525-7290; Idaho Fish and Game, 1515 Lincoln Road, Idaho Falls, ID 83401; or e-mail; dkemner@idfg.state.id.us

Don Kemner, Chairperson ☺

Awards Committee:

The Awards Committee is actively seeking nominations for the following awards. Please contact Bill Wall 208-799-1139; PO Box 1016 Lewiston, ID 83501; bwall@clarkston.com to submit nominees.

Professional Wildlife Award-

Rating Criteria:

1) Contributions of the nominee to Idaho's wildlife; including number of species affected, distribution of wildlife work across Idaho, and number of years working in wildlife management in Idaho.

2) Commitment of the nominee to the wildlife resource; including number of years working professionally in wildlife management activities, number of years active in wildlife activities outside of job, and difficulty of issues or species worked upon.

3) Contributions of the nominee to the wildlife profession; including number of professional positions held working in wildlife management, number of locations nominee worked in the wildlife profession, number of professional publications published, and number of positions held in wildlife organizations outside of job.

4) Contributions of the nominee to public understanding of wildlife management and the problems involved in managing wildlife; including number of publications intended for general public published, number of other media

presentations given, and level of involvement with wildlife clubs, schools, etc.

Special Recognition Award-

Criteria:

Special recognition awards are intended to honor any person or group who has made an outstanding contribution within the state of Idaho to: the general areas of wildlife conservation, management, science, or conservation education; the wildlife profession; or to a specific area of endeavor, species, community, ecosystem or region. Any person or group who has made such a noteworthy contribution within the last three years is eligible for nomination for a Special Recognition Award.

Nominations:

Any Chapter member may submit a nomination for a Special Recognition Award to the Awards Committee. Because the Committee confers two awards, nominators must specify for which award the nomination is intended. A single nominee cannot be submitted for both awards. Each nomination should include the following minimum information: 1) full name, present position, current address and telephone number of the nominee; 2) name, address, and telephone number of the nominator; 3) a clear and concise statement justifying the nomination, including the specific nature, time, and place of the outstanding accomplishments; 4) the

signature of the nominator. Two or three letters in support of the nominee from other professionals will aid in committee decisions. All nominations must be received by the Committee by 1 February, or earlier as determined by the Committee. The Committee may also solicit information for its files. Nominees, not selected to receive the award, must be re-nominated for consideration in future years.

Bill Wall, Chairperson ☺

Editor's Note: thanks to the chairpersons for providing updates.



Annual Business Meeting Minutes (Abbreviated)

Approximately 30 people attended the annual business meeting convened by President Jim Unsworth February 28, 1997 at the Red Lion Downtowner, Boise, ID.

Robin Garwood, treasurer, reported a beginning (Jan. 1, 1996) balance of \$11,522.89 and an ending (Dec.

31, 1996) balance of \$14,263.79.

Frances Cassirer, Secretary, reported the Membership Committee will compile a state directory this year including e-mail addresses collected at the meeting. If you or someone you know is not receiving the newsletter, that should be, please contact Frances.

Kerry Reese, vice-president, reported the Annual Meeting Committee would welcome ideas for the meeting format next year - possibilities include a workshop, a symposium, and/or a session with 10-minute project updates such as sharptail monitoring, or Neotropical Migratory Bird day activities.

Don Kemner volunteered to chair the Nominations Committee and will be contacting people to help him select candidates for 1998-99 officer positions.

Jack Connelly reported on the Northwest Section for section representative Dale Towell who was unable to make it. The Wildlife Society Council is proposing a dues increase to hire journal editors, because it has been very difficult to get volunteer editors. The dues increase will be discussed at the North American and at a members forum at the national meeting in Snowmass. The newsletter is also going to be sent out with the bulletin to cut costs. Certified wildlife biologists will have to renew their certification every 5 years.

Daryl Meints reported that the newsletter is being written in Pocatello and sent

from Lewiston for economic reasons, however, it is inefficient, and results in 10-14 day delays. The editors will work on a better way to get the newsletter out. They will also start sending the newsletter by e-mail to those people who have it. *(Editor's Note: we will begin this once we have completed an e-mail directory)* Jack Connelly suggested sending/e-mailing the newsletter out to nonmember biologists in the state to inform them of our activities and hopefully get some to join. It was suggested that they be sent something asking whether they would like to receive the newsletter before they are put on the mailing list. President Unsworth will be asking all committees to write quarterly reports for the newsletter.

Paul Moroz said the Awards Committee has had difficulty getting nominations. Karen Steenhof suggested sending out a list of past award winners so that people know who has and has not received an award. Paul is putting together a list of all officers and award-winners since the start of the chapter. This will be published in the newsletter. Barry Keller volunteered to write a history of the chapter when Paul has completed the list.

Toni Holthulzen suggested developing a chapter web page to post the newsletter and position statements. Oz Garton will investigate the feasibility of developing and maintaining a web page.

President Unsworth proposed developing an ad hoc

Teaming with Wildlife committee to help contact individuals, groups, and businesses to provide information and get support for the initiative and to write letters to politicians and newspapers. A bill will be introduced this year. Idaho Fish and Game is no longer taking the lead on this important issue so the Chapter can provide some needed help. The issue will be included under the conservation affairs committee, contact Paul Moroz, Jon Haufler, or Christine Saxton for information.

The Chapter is setting up a scholarship at Boise State University. We currently have scholarships at University of Idaho (Elmer Norberg - Idaho Chapter TWS) and Idaho State University (Edson Fichter - TWS). We have committed to contributing \$5,000 to each fund, but have only contributed \$1,900 to U of I and \$3,000 to ISU. President Unsworth proposed fulfilling our commitments to these scholarships and fully funding the BSU scholarship (\$5,000) this year. This would cost \$10,100. There was some concern that this might preclude us from responding to any new requests for funding or not leave us enough operating money. The only request we received this year was for \$1,000 towards the 4-H national meeting in Sun Valley. Members supported funding this request. Members and the treasurer felt that \$2,000 in checking was adequate for operating. Sam Matisse made a motion that we fully fund the U of I and ISU scholarships, the 4-H meeting, and fund BSU as much

as we can (up to \$5,000) while maintaining a \$2,000 balance in checking. The motion passed.

Next year's meeting will be March 5-7 at the University Inn in Moscow. The social will be on Thursday night and the business meeting will be held on Thursday afternoon, possibly with a special raffle at the meeting to encourage attendance. We did not commit to meeting at the Red Lion Downtowner in 1999 because there are other better, more economical hotels in Boise.

Finally, congratulations to the following award recipients: Lloyd Oldenburg, Professional Wildlifer Award; Steve Knick, best professional paper; and Gary Nohrenberg, best student paper. ☺



What The ____ ?

Legislative Report Summary

The following is a brief summary of legislation passed during this past winter that potentially effects wildlife conservation efforts.

HB-257, Wolf Oversight

Committee. Amends existing law to extend the sunset clause date for the wolf oversight committee and to provide that the Department of Fish and Game is authorized to work in conjunction with the wolf oversight committee to develop and coordinate wolf management plans with state agency officials in Wyoming and Montana. Effective July 1, 1997.

HB-337, Bighorn Sheep. Amends existing law to provide conditions before the Fish and Game director can approve any funds or take any action to provide for the transplanting of bighorn sheep into areas they did not inhabit previously. Effective March 24, 1997.

HB-378, Migratory Bird Reservations. Amends existing law to provide that only the Legislature, by adoption of a Concurrent Resolution, may grant the consent of the state to the acquisition by the United States of lands for establishment of migratory bird reservations and to provide that the State of Idaho reserves full and complete jurisdiction and authority over all such areas for which consent is granted. Effective July 1, 1997.

HJM-002, Grizzly Bear. Stating the Legislature's full support of Governor Batt's request for immediate suspension of the Bitterroot Grizzly Bear Environmental

Impact Statement by the withdrawal of the Federal Notice of Intent regarding the reintroduction of grizzly bear. Adopted.

HJM-006, Wolves. Requesting that the U.S. Congress provide adequate funding for state efforts related to the federally mandated Wolf Recovery Program and to urge the State of Idaho to investigate cooperative efforts with Montana and Wyoming to secure federal funding and recognition regarding state needs created by the Wolf Recovery Program. Adopted.

SB-1131, Grizzly Bear. Amends the sunset clause on the Grizzly Bear Management Oversight Committee to extend the sunset date for the committee to 1999. Effective March 12, 1997. ☺



Important Membership Information

IDAHO CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

Note! The Idaho Chapter membership list is being purged and corrected in preparation for publication of the 1997 membership directory. The number next to your name on the mailing label is the last year you have paid dues according to our records. If it doesn't say 96 or 97 then this is the last newsletter you will receive unless you pay dues. Also, if you paid in 1996 and haven't paid for 1997 yet (either directly or through the National organization), now is a good time to do it. Send a check for \$10 payable to Idaho Chapter TWS to: Robin Garwood, ID-TWS treasurer, Sawtooth NRA, Star Rt., Ketchum, ID 83340 by June 1, 1997. Please include your correct address, phone number, and e-mail address. Or renew your national membership: TWS, 5410 Grosvenor Lane, Bethesda, MD 20814-2197 (301)530-2471. Your chapter dues support worthwhile programs such as student scholarship endowments at Idaho universities, organized activities that teach Idaho kids about wildlife, the Teaming with Wildlife Initiative, and of course the Idaho Chapter newsletter! Contact Frances Cassirer at (208)799-5010 or email fcassire@ldfg.state.id.us if you have any questions about the membership list or directory.

Upcoming Meetings

- | | | |
|-------------|---|---|
| May 27-28 | 4th International Moose Symposium | Fairbanks, AK. Contact Chuck Schwartz 907-262-9368 |
| May 21-24 | Western States and Provinces Deer and Elk Workshop | Rio Rico Resort, Rio Rico, Arizona
Tice Supplee, Arizona Game and Fish
2221 W. Greenway Road, Phoenix, AZ 85023
602-789-3350
vsupplee@gf.state.az.us |
| May 22-23 | 9th Northern Furbearer Conference | Yellowknife, NWT, Canada
Kim Poole, NWT Renewable Resources
600, 5102 50th Ave. Yellowknife, NT X1A 3S8
403-920-6315
Kpoole@inukshuk.gov.nt.ca |
| June 4-7 | Bison Ecology & Management | Bozeman, MT. Contact Montana Extension Service
406-994-3252 |
| June 8-19 | XVIII International Grassland Congress | Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada
Congress Secretariat
Po Box 4520, Station C, Calgary, Alberta,
T2T 5N3, 403-244-2340 Fax
amc@supernet.ab.ca |
| Sept. 21-23 | Forum on Wildlife Telemetry: Innovations, Evaluations, and Research Needs | Snowmass, Colorado
Jane Austin, Northern Prairie Science Center
8711 37th Street, SE, Jamestown, ND 58401
701-252-5363
701-252-4217 Fax |



Humor Section

You Might Be A Redneck If:

On stag night, you take a real deer.

The biggest sign on your place of business says "Minnows!"

You go fishing with a generator and copper wire.



DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS - JULY 31

IDAHO WILDLIFE SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I want to join the Idaho Chapter of the Wildlife Society, and enclose ___ \$10.00 (1 year), ___ \$20.00 (2 years), or ___ \$30.00 (3 years) in payment of dues. This is ___ new or ___ renewal membership. It is not necessary to be a member of the parent The Wildlife Society to be a member of the Idaho Chapter of TWS. Membership is by calendar year. Make checks payable to: "Idaho Wildlife Society" and mail to Idaho Wildlife Society, c/o Robin Garwood, Treasurer, PO Box 76, Shoshone, ID 83352 (Telephone 208-726-7672)

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

---- Clip-And-Send ----

*Idaho Chapter The Wildlife Society
1345 Barton Road
Pocatello, ID 83201*

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