

THE WILD TIMES



IDAHO CHAPTER THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Issue 97:1

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President's Message

Annual Meeting

In just a few weeks our chapter will hold its annual meeting. I am hoping for a large turn out. The annual meeting has always been a place to meet and mix with other wildlife professionals and a source of information on the large variety of wildlife and habitat programs being conducted across the state. I think few wildlife biologists actually consider themselves generalists. Most of us have an area of specialty or major interest and it occupies most of our time to just stay current on the issues and management of one or two species. The annual meeting provides an excellent opportunity to learn about species and techniques outside of your specialty. In a time when out-of-state travel budgets are limited the annual chapter meeting seems like a continuing education bargain.

Another great part of our annual meeting is student involvement. The quality and content of student papers are always highlights of the meeting. It gives many students a forum to deliver their first professional presentation and helps them hone much needed communication skills. The meeting also gives students the chance to meet people working in the wildlife field, check out summer and full time job opportunities, and get feed-

back on their projects.

I have a special request from Andy Ogden, Awards Committee Chairman.

Nominations are needed NOW for the Professional Wildlifer Award and the Special Recognition Award. The Professional Wildlifer Award is intended to honor any member of the Idaho Chapter of the Wildlife Society who has made long-term, outstanding contributions 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. The Special Recognition Award is 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.

I look forward to seeing everyone in Boise!

James W. Unsworth ☺

Editorial

Instead of the usual ramblings that we tend to fill this space with, we offer excerpts from Stephen P. Mealey's tele-conference address to all Idaho Fish and Game employees. Steve was recently hired by the

Idaho Fish and Game Commission as Director of the Department.

Wildlife Conservation Through Partnerships And Sharing

As Director of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, I will be guided by the same three personal beliefs/principles that served me in the Forest Service: 1) natural resources are for people, 2) natural resources must be cared for and sustained, and 3) natural resources' stakeholders should all be solid partners in sharing the use and enjoyment of natural resources.

Resources Are For People: I believe natural resources, and especially Idaho's fish and game, should be used and enjoyed by people to meet their material and spiritual needs. Human use and enjoyment should be the intent of preserving, protecting, perpetuating, and managing Idaho's wildlife. Healthy, sustainable ecosystems and wildlife have meaning mostly as they are healthy to meet human needs.

Resources Must Be Cared For And Sustained: If resource use is a "right", then excellent resource stewardship is an "obligation". I believe that human use and enjoyment of natural resources must be sustainable. This requires healthy, functioning ecosystems. Management should be aimed at maintaining and restoring

healthy ecosystems and habitats, with healthy populations of fish and game, as a means to sustain human needs. This should be accomplished through excellent stewardship.

Stakeholders In Natural Resources Must Be Solid Partners:

I believe that all natural resources' stakeholders have a responsibility to facilitate harmonious public use and enjoyment of resources. Full partnership should be the cornerstone of this joint responsibility, especially use and enjoyment of fish and game. To develop such partnerships, I believe strongly that - in the spirit of sharing - stakeholders should work to preserve options for others to meet their special needs and desires, while they work hard to fulfill their own.

Management Priorities: On December 13, 1996, when I was announced as the new Director, I stated, among other things: "I hope when my term is finished, people will note a legacy of partnerships." Frankly, if "combat biology" had an appropriate role in wildlife conservation, I believe that time is now past. I strongly believe that much more can be achieved in the future for wildlife through cooperation than through conflict. My personal goal for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game is that it become a world-renowned conservation agency, known for achieving its mission through partnerships and sharing. Accordingly, I offer the

following Idaho Fish and Game Department pledge for sharing natural resources for your consideration:

"The Idaho Fish and Game Department believes deeply in the generous sharing and careful use of all natural resources, and especially fish and wildlife. One of our fundamental motivations and driving intents is to preserve options for others to meet their special needs and desires, while we work hard to fulfill those of fish and wildlife. We know that neighbors get along best in the long run when they work as partners to achieve shared - and sometimes separate of potentially conflicting interests. It is only when they ignore - or fail to acknowledge or respect each other's needs - that serious conflicts occur. Within the framework of laws, regulations, and ethics, then, we will pursue our unique interests, while we make sure our local, regional, national, and global neighbors have reasonable and fair chances to reach theirs. Many local, regional, and national conflicts over natural resources - and polarized debates often involve various hunting, fishing, and other wildlife use options, timber harvest, grazing, wilderness, and other similar issues. We believe much of this conflict is unnecessary and avoidable, especially if opponents would focus as much on accommodating others as they do on defeating them. We are deeply committed to natural resources sharing as a tool of

peacemaking, accommodation, and inclusion as the alternative to exclusion, used as a device for conflict and defeat. We intend to work aggressively to enlist others to join us as partners in this commitment."

Stephen P. Mealey ☺



Please send all newsletter correspondence to:
Brad Compton
1345 Barton Road
Pocatello, ID 83201
Fax - 233-6430
Phone - 232-4703
E-Mail -
BCompton@IDFG.STATE.ID.US

Letters To The Editor

Apparently the threat of Rush Limbaugh's environmental ethic transcripts worked. Thank you for writing.

Listening To The Crowd

This letter is in response to Jim Unsworth's "President's Message entitled "Following the Crowd" which appeared in the October 9, 1996 Newsletter.

In the development of methods for incorporating the human

dimension into wildlife management strategies, wildlife resource agencies must always be sensitive to public opinion. Certainly, factions exist whose ideas are purely emotional, lacking in experience, or based on misinformation. However, the process of public input often yields ideas that are worthy of recognition, if not implementation.

When the agencies involved in wildlife management ignore strong and informed public input it is the responsibility of a democratic society to bring about change with ballot initiatives. Any wildlife management issue that reaches the ballot box should not be perceived as a threat to "responsive" scientific management but more appropriately, could be looked upon as a failure to have responded effectively to the human dimensions of wildlife management.

It is the responsibility of wildlife resource managers to "enhance and maintain" wildlife populations and their habitats principally for their inherent value and conditionally for their resource value. The difficulty arises in agreeing on what group defines these values. We agree with Unsworth's statement that "We must work through education, public involvement, as well as being reasonably responsive to public attitude". It is not clear however, where "giving away the leadership role as professional resource managers" fits into the

statement. At what point is the leadership role given - or - taken away in this process? We further agree that there is a "need to seek out balanced public input and to make decisions supported with the best scientific data possible". We would add that there is also a need to determine which management strategies - existing or non-existing - are not supported by the best scientific data possible and why.

As the perceived value of the wildlife resource changes, management agencies must be "aggressively" responsive to accommodate informed and concerned public input into the decision-making process. On the other hand, they must also try to free themselves from the trivial, obstinate, and misinformed management restrictions put in place by the political establishment that are often brought about by special interest groups. Furthermore, all wildlife resource professionals in all areas must raise an outspoken voice that demands an appreciation for a more scientific approach to wildlife management.

Outrageous media campaigns should be publicly denounced by these same individuals and creative solutions must be born from the controversy that arises in wildlife management issues. Finally, we must begin to understand that the role of all wildlife species lies beyond the most vocal temporal group but is found in the timeless qualities that supersede our own lives.

Andrew Yost
Jessie D'ella
Ryan Monello
Gerry Wright
Dept. Fish & Wildl. Resources
Univ. Of Idaho



Response To "Forest Health...Failure To See The Fauna Through The Flora".

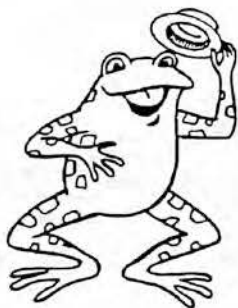
I agree with what I believe may be a veiled concern on your part that "Forest Health" is in reality an excuse to cut more timber. Your basic question appears to be: How, as wildlife professionals, do we play God? I hope it is not what best suits our present needs or values, which may currently be maximizing the number and methods we can harvest big game species. As a fall back, we often like to manage for biodiversity. It is in the definition of biodiversity that we create confusion.

In the example of a ponderosa pine forest changing to a different successional stage (with more structural diversity) because of fire suppression, you argue that the diversity of the area increases. This is not an increase in biodiversity, rather an increase in species richness. I would refer to the Platte River example Reed Noss presented at an earlier Wildlife Society meeting. Riparian forests have expanded on the

Platte River as a result of flood control. Consequently, species richness has dramatically increased. However, species that were associated with pre-control habitat on the Platte River (upland sandpipers, sandhill cranes) have declined dramatically. The species currently abundant in the riparian forests are common to riparian forests throughout North America, while those tied to pre-control conditions on the river had significantly smaller distributions. Therefore, while species richness has increased, biodiversity is potentially reduced (especially with extinction).

The real threat of "Forest Health" is not the loss of species richness, rather the loss of biodiversity. The forests will be managed to maximize timber harvest not to ensure old growth ponderosa stands that support species dependent on them (i.e. flammulated owls). As professionals, we should manage for biodiversity, not species richness.

Matt McCoy ☺



Feature Articles

Award Nominations Needed

Arthur S. Einarsen Award

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. 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 - 907-271-3992, e-mail - Lsuring@anc.ak.net.

Jim McDonough Award

Do you know a hard working biologist who has made a significant contribution to the wildlife profession? If so, and that person has received little recognition, you need to nominate that person for the 1997 Jim McDonough Award. The Jim McDonough Award was created to recognize Certified Wildlife Biologists who are

members of The Wildlife Society at chapter, section, and Society levels. These biologists are recognized by fellow workers as solid contributors to wildlife management, but who have so far eluded all major awards, citations, or prominent recognition. Criteria for this award are: 1) must be a member of The Wildlife Society, including active membership status in the respective Section and Chapter, if any, in which that individual resides; 2) must be a Certified Wildlife Biologist; 3) is a person who has made, or is making, a significant contribution to the wildlife profession. The individual must have made (or is still making) contributions that reflect well on professional wildlife biologists through program implementation and/or development of new techniques, procedures, or approaches. The recipient will receive a plaque and monetary award of up to \$500.00. Please send the nominee's full name, present position, address, and phone number, plus nominator's and endorser's names, addresses, phone numbers, and a clear and concise statement justifying each nomination by 7 April 1997 to: Jerry D. Kobriger, ND Game and Fish Dept., 225 30th Avenue, SW, Dickinson, ND 58601-7227; 701-227-7431; FAX 701-227-7432.



Idaho's Important Bird Areas

Here is an exciting opportunity for birders to use their knowledge and skills to help the birds they love so much. The Idaho Audubon Council and Idaho Partners in Flight hope to identify the key areas of bird abundance and diversity in the state.

Finding these sites is one step in a long-term plan to conserve habitats for birds in Idaho. After sites are designated as Important Bird Areas, we will work with landowners and managers to preserve the qualities of the sites that make them so important to birds. Private lands will only be listed with the landowners' cooperation.

There are 5 categories of Important Bird Areas: 1) sites where birds congregate for breeding, migrating, or winter; 2) sites having exceptional concentrations or diversity of birds; 3) sites important to "species of special concern;" 4) sites containing particularly important habitats; and 5) sites used for long-term avian research and monitoring.

To get a description of the criteria and site nomination forms, contact Sharon Ritter, Idaho Dept. Of Fish and Game, 118 S.E. First St., Grangeville, ID 83530; 308-983-2818; ritter@camasnet.com. They are also available from Susan Weller, Idaho Audubon Council, 27955 Canyon Road, Cataldo, ID 83810; 208-682-3413. ☺

What The ___ ?

This article by Bruce Goforth was excerpted from *Wildlife Tracks*, newsletter for the Colorado Chapter of the Wildlife Society.

Guidelines For Grazing

The BLM and Colorado's three Resource Advisory Councils (RAC)s have agreed upon what will probably be the final wording regarding Standards and Guidelines for grazing on BLM lands in Colorado. After more than a year of public meetings and word crafting by RACs and BLM staff, standards and guidelines will be adopted, barring any major legal challenges through Dec. 13th, the closing date for public comments or appeal. Absent challenges, standards for achieving public land health, and grazing guidelines (tools/best management practices) for obtaining land health, will be adopted for all of Colorado's resource management areas via amendments to their respective resource management plans (RMPs).

Colorado is but one of eleven western states which have attempted to address the long recognized problem of grazing impacts to public (BLM) lands via the RAC approach. Resource Advisory Councils made up of representatives for commodity users, environmentalists and the public at large were appointed

by Secretary of the Interior, Bruce Babbitt, just over a year ago to assist the BLM in implementing grazing reform. The RACs are the keystone of a "grass roots" approach to solving razing problems, versus national legislation along the lines of last year's Doinici Bill. Colorado has been a leader in this process and is the first state to finalize its standards and guidelines. The standards and guidelines will be implemented through the administration of grazing allotments and the issuance of terms and conditions on each allotment during the lease renewal process. Representatives of interested organizations, in addition to BLM range conservation specialists, will have an opportunity to take part in range allotment assessments.

Editors Note: we would appreciate any news regarding Idaho RACs. ☺



Annual Meeting Idaho Chapter Of The Wildlife Society

The annual meeting of the Idaho Chapter of the Wildlife Society will be held in Boise, Idaho at the Red Lion Downtowner on February 27, 28, and March 1, 1997. Sessions will be held at the Red Lion.

At this year's annual meeting we will once again have a special raffle item. Last years' large item raffle was very successful and we hope to do even better this year! This years' item will be a Garmin GPS 38 Navigator. An item that most of us would like to own but not necessarily run right out and buy, so here is your chance to be lucky and win one. Enclosed in this newsletter are 10 raffle tickets for you to sell or buy yourself. The tickets are \$2.00 each. The winner does not have to be present to win. Fill out the stub completely and return it along with a check (made out to Idaho Chapter - The Wildlife Society) to Daryl Melnts (Co-Chair, Auction) at 1345 Barton Road, Pocatello, ID 83204, by February 21, or bring tickets and money to the annual meeting. Contact Daryl at 208-232-4703 if you would like more tickets.

If you can donate an item or trip (remember anything goes) for the auction please fill out the form below and send it to Tom Hemker, PO Box 25, Boise, ID 83707, or call 208-334-2920 or 208-384-1476, by February 21.

Thank you for your support and remember the auction is only as successful and fun as you make it. Hope to see you their!

clip-and-send

AUCTION DONATION



Name _____

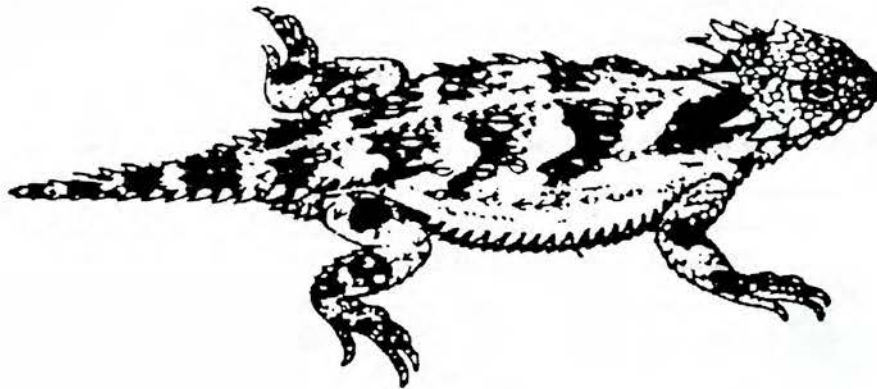
Address _____

Phone _____

Item Description (If a trip include when, where, how long, how many people)

Upcoming Meetings

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| February 26, 1997 | Species That Slip Through The Cracks
Of Current Management Paradigms -
Conservation Of Nongame And
Non-Threatened Or Endangered Fish
And Wildlife | Owyhee Plaza Hotel, Boise
Ted Koch 503-231-6118
Chuck Harris 208-334-2920 |
| <i>(Contact Brad Compton 208-232-4703 for copies of the Draft Agenda)</i> | | |
| February 27, 1997 | Idaho Bat Working Group
-Winter Coordination Meeting | Lobby of Red Lion
Downtown, Boise, 7:00 PM
Lyle Lewis 208-736-2368
Martha Wackenhut 208-525-
7290 |
| May 5-7 | 6th Western Black Bear Conference | Ocean Shores, WA. Contact
Steve Pazzanhero 360-902-
2521 |
| May 15-17 | Northwest Section, TWS | Juneau, AK. Contact Ellen
Campbell 907-586-7919 |
| May 27-28 | 4th International Moose Symposium | Fairbanks, AK. Contact Chuck
Schwartz 907-262-9368 |
| June 4-7 | Bison Ecology & Management | Bozeman, MT. Contact
Montana Extension Service
406-994-3252 |



Humor Section

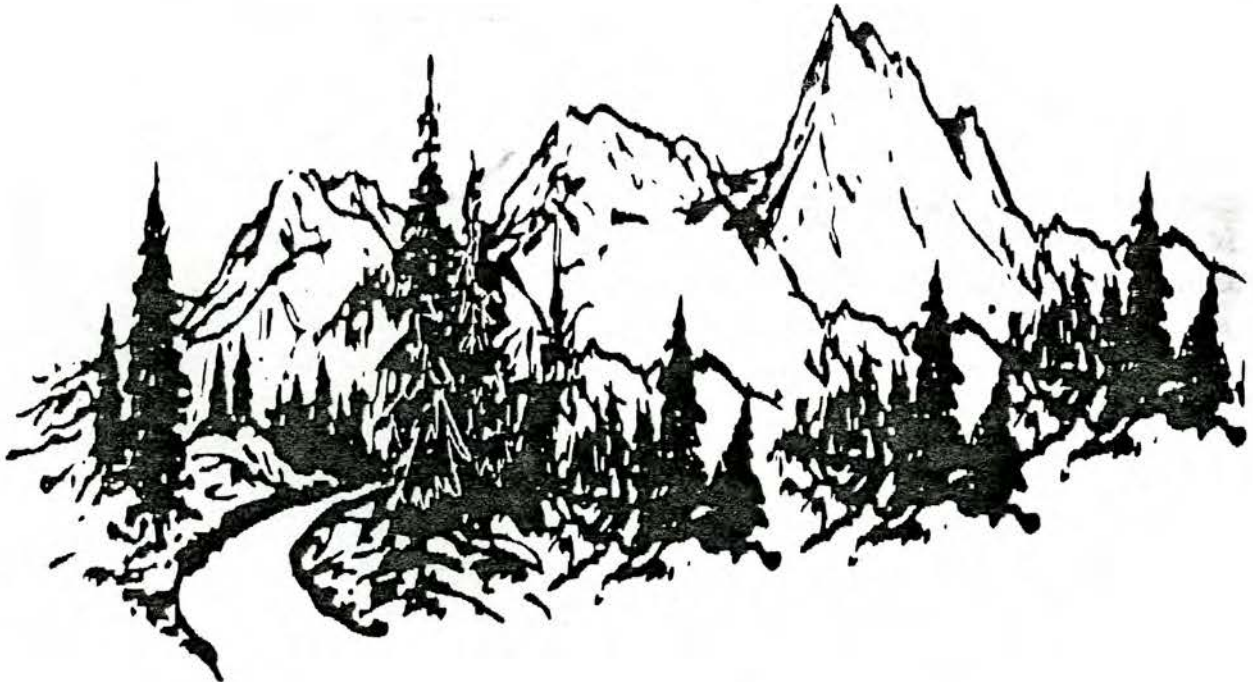
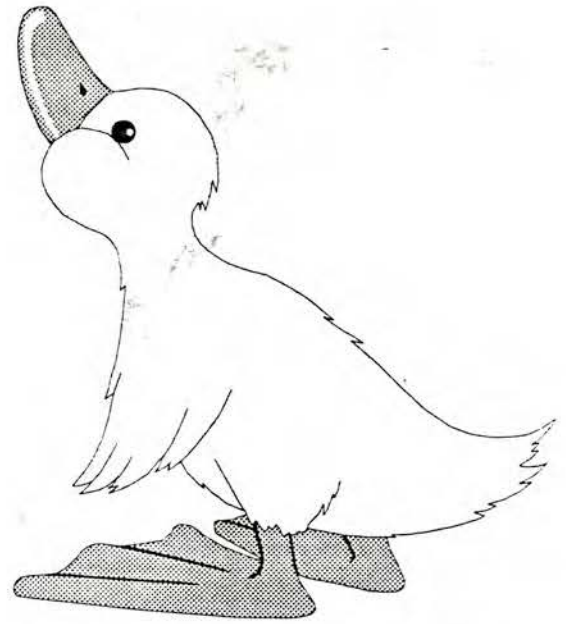
You Might Be A Redneck If:

All your wall decorations have horns.

Your sex life improved with the invention of 4-wheel drive.

You made a cheat sheet for a hunter safety test.

You went to the gun and knife show more than once in the same weekend.



DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS - APRIL 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*



CASSIRER, FRANCES
PO BOX 61
LEWISTON, ID 83501