

# NORTHWEST WILDLIFER

ALASKA  
ALBERTA  
BRITISH COLUMBIA  
IDAHO  
MONTANA  
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES  
OREGON  
WASHINGTON  
YUKON

JULY 1997

NORTHWEST SECTION

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Hello--I'd like to introduce myself--I'm Kate Boula, your new section president. I'm a Forest Service biologist, currently working on Watershed Analysis for the Umatilla National Forest in Pendleton, Oregon. I've been a member of the Oregon Chapter since 1978, and have served as a board member and president of that energetic group. My husband Phil is a fisheries biologist, also working on the Umatilla. We live in LaGrande with our busy 18 month old son Dylan ( I give you all fair warning...as a "late in life" first time mom, I can be absolutely obnoxious with the baby photos). When I'm not busy with family, work, or TWS, I tend to head outside to the mountains or the garden, or pick up my guitar and dredge up old folk songs.

So, there I am, in one paragraph--I'll consider us introduced from *my* end, and I look forward to meeting many of you around the section over the next two years.

Speaking of meeting new people, I had the pleasure of meeting a bunch of great folks at this year's section meeting in Juneau. Ellen Campbell, Deb Rudis, John Lindell, Lowell Suring, Rod Flynn and Cindy Hartmann were the hard-working core crew who put together a high quality, well-organized meeting. Thanks again to all of you, the other Alaska Chapter members who helped out, and the great speakers for all your efforts. Also, thanks to Trish MacLaren, section vice president, and Jerome Hansen, section secretary-treasurer, who took care of the section's input to the meeting. Both continue their two year terms through 1997, and are helping me keep track of all the many details of running the section.

New friends, old friends-- I've known Dale Towell, outgoing section president, since college days at Oregon State (I was one of those uppity female undergrads, while he was a lofty PhD candidate). As president-elect this last year, I've been impressed with Dale's dedication to the wildlife resources, his attention to the many responsibilities of section leadership, and his strong sense of professionalism. Next time you talk to Dale, thank him for his good work as section president!

So, what's on the horizon for the Northwest Section? I'm still reading bylaws and old newsletters (you should see some of the neckties in those old photos!), talking with folks, taking lots of notes, and trying to get a feel for what our members think the role of the section is/should be. Our current bylaws state section objectives as:

- a. To provide a vehicle for close liaison among individual members, Chapters, the Section Representative, and The Wildlife Society.
- b. To recognize and commend outstanding work in the profession.
- c. To focus the objectives of the society upon wildlife needs, problems and events in the area of organization, the Northwest.

Where do *you* think our focus should be? Coming from a very active chapter, I tend to gravitate towards "c", and am inclined towards ferreting out new avenues of involvement for the section. When you add up 5 states and 3 provinces, our section accounts for a fair number



of folks and a large chunk of real estate. Can we use our numbers and size to more directly benefit the amazing, but increasingly beleaguered biological diversity of the Northwest? I think we can. However, I also know we're all over-worked, over-committed, under-paid, and often over-the-top in the job stress department. And now here's this new president sounding suspiciously like she's leading up to asking for volunteers----well, in a word, yes---I am. Read on.

I would like to see us begin to take an active role in issues of wildlife/wildland policy. No, not as decision makers, but as providers of high-quality, science-based information to those who do make policy decisions. An opportunity for involvement exists right now. The Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project Draft EIS has just been published, with a 120 day comment period. Decisions made as a result of the ICBEMP studies will affect wildlife management in the Columbia Basin for decades. We can enhance the quality of the science that supports those decisions through a careful

review of the EIS. So here's the volunteer part. I'll be calling the chapter presidents this week to solicit names of potential reviewers; if you are interested in joining the effort, please give me a call at (541)963-3930, or send me a DG message at K.Boula:R06F14A. I'll divide up the sections most relevant to wildlife concerns and send you one. A 60 day turn-around will give me time to compile and edit comments within the 120 day comment period. Please contact me ASAP if you're interested!

I think I'll close for now, nothing like overwhelming your membership with volunteer requests the first time out of the block. Good to meet you all! Best wishes for a productive field season, and here's a hope that sometime this summer, you'll experience one of those moments when nature reminds you, once again, of why you do what you do.

Kate





## **NEWS FROM THE CHAPTERS OF THE NORTHWEST SECTION**

### **ALASKA**

The Alaska Chapter hosted the NW Section annual conference in Juneau. Matt Robus, Gino DelFrate and Eric Rexstad were elected regional representatives to the chapter executive board. Members of the conservation review committee are preparing a position statement on the bark beetle epidemic affecting spruce forests in southcentral and interior Alaska. The chapter hosted the NW Section annual conference as well, with program chairs Rod Flynn and Lowell Suring organizing the presentations. Arrangements chairs Cindy Hartmann and Deb Rudis coordinated social events and associated meetings. Good weather accompanied the

group on an outstanding catamaran trip to Berners Bay to view marine mammals and birds. John Lindell and Ellen Campbell rounded out the steering committee, supported by Bruce Dinneford, Doreen Parker, Beth Pendleton, Judi Rice and Tom Schumacher. Welcome financial and in-kind support for the conference came from Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Ducks Unlimited, Inc., Foundation for North American Wild Sheep, Goldbelt, Inc., National Wild Turkey Federation, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Sealaska Corporation, US Forest Service, and several local businesses and chapter members.

### **ALBERTA**

About 200 enthusiastic wildlife professionals attended the annual meeting at Nisku on March 21 and 22. The plenary session dealt with environmental implications related to "The Alberta Advantage." The conference included 25 papers, organized by Ian Ross. Beth MacCallum was elected president-elect and Ron Bjorge moved to past president. Jon Jorgenson was elected secretary/treasurer and Arlen Todd and Dave Hobson were elected new directors. The 1997/98 executive board also includes Ernie Ewaschuk and Larry Roy. Dee Ryerson is the newsletter editor.

The William Rowen Distinguished Service Award was presented to Ernie Kuyt, retired from the Canadian Wildlife Service, for outstanding lifetime work related to whooping crane conservation. The Dedicated Service Award was presented to Brad Stelfox in recognition of major service to the Alberta Chapter. The undergraduate scholarship was presented to Andy Bezener. The annual auction raised more than \$2600 for the Student Scholarship Fund. The Alberta Chapter now has 332 members.

### **IDAHO**

Idaho Chapter officers include Jim Unsworth, president, Kerry Reese, vice-president, Robin Garwood, treasurer, and Francis Cassirer, secretary. Newsletter editors are Brad Compton and Daryl Meints. The annual meeting raised revenue through an auction and raffle for scholarships including the Elmer Norberg scholarship at the University of Idaho, Edson

Fichter scholarship at Idaho State University, and Richard Olendorf scholarship at Boise State University. Paul Moroz has been appointed chair of the Teaming With Wildlife committee. Don Kemmer chairs the nominations committee, Jon Haufler the conservation affairs committee, and Bill Wall the awards committee.

### **MONTANA**

In Missoula, the Montana Chapter met jointly with the Montana Chapter of the Society of American Foresters, with approximately 400 people attending. Training sessions,

Collaboration, the 7<sup>th</sup> American Forest Congress, the Columbia River Basin Study and contributed wildlife papers were heard. Kyren Kunkel received the award for the best student paper.



Chapter officers include Dan Pletscher, president, Dale Becker, president-elect, Gael

Bissell, past-president, and Tom Whitford, secretary-treasurer.

## OREGON

Over 325 people attended the annual meeting at Sunriver, and not a single westsider, who typically shows up with sneakers and an umbrella, was found frozen in a snowbank while looking for an espresso stand! Barb Hill is president, Cay Ogden, president-elect, Mark Henjum, past-president, Laura Todd, vice-president, Sarah Madsen, vice-president-elect, and Ed Arnett, secretary-treasurer. Karen Austin, Lee Webb, John Hays, Gary Ivey, John Guetterman, Claire Puchy and Lauri Turner serve

as board members. Evelyn Bull received the Oregon Chapter TWS Award for her work on forest wildlife, and Cheryl Friesen, Jim Thraillkill, Torolf Torgersen, and Anna Torgersen received Outstanding Service Awards. Carmen Thomas won the Les Eberhardt Award for best student paper and the Dimick Award for best overall presentation at the meeting. Ted and Harriet Gahr received the TWS Stewardship Award and Dave Fouts the TWS Conservation Award.

## WASHINGTON

The annual meeting in Yakima was co-sponsored by the Society for Northwestern Vertebrate Biology, Pacific Northwest Amphibian and Reptile Consortium, and the TWS-Washington Chapter with over 200 people attending. A plenary session concerned the Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project. Four workshops on carnivore detection, wildlife trees, and herps were held. Bob Naney, Bill Gaines, and Ken Bevis organized these workshops. Jeff Lewis, Becky Herbig, and Debbie Young also helped with the meeting.

The Richard E. Fitzner Memorial Scholarship plaque was unveiled, with the current recipient being Jennifer McMurry. Cathy Nowak received the award for best student and best overall presentation. Chapter officers include Marilyn Stoll, president, Gary Witmer, past-president, Jim Bottorff, president-elect, Ann Sprague, secretary, and Steve Penland, treasurer. Bill Gaines, Bill Vogel, and John Lehmkuhl serve as board members. Ann Eissinger is the conservation committee chair and Paul Fielder is the scholarship committee and workshop committee chair.

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## CHUCK SCHWARTZ RECEIVES THE EINARSEN AWARD

Chuck Schwartz of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game received the Einarsen Award at the Northwest Section-Alaska Chapter meeting in Juneau. Chuck recently chaired the Fourth International Moose Conference in Fairbanks. He is currently research coordinator for the department and was director of the Moose Research Center for 8 years, where he developed a carrying capacity model to assess impacts of land use changes on moose. He came to Alaska in 1977 to investigate black bears in boreal forest, focusing on demography, reproduction and survival of two bear populations. He worked as a wildlife biologist for the Iowa Conservation Commission in the early 1970s. Chuck has an Affiliate Faculty Appointment at UAF, regularly teaches classes at UAF and UAA, and serves on graduate committees at UAF and Washington State University. He has advised on capture and collaring of large mammals in Russia, Pakistan and Namibia. He has been recognized as a Distinguished Moose Biologist by his peers, received the Group Achievement Award from The Wildlife Society and was president of the Alaska Chapter. He has published over 100 articles in scientific journals, and is currently a co-editor of the Wildlife Management Institute sponsored book, North American Moose: Ecology and Management. Chuck received his MS and PhD from Colorado State University, and his BS from Ohio State University. His recognition by the Northwest Section is a natural, as his excellent record of service to the profession and the resource indicates! Congratulations, Chuck!



## **ANNUAL MEETING, NORTHWEST SECTION**

The 1998 meeting of the Northwest Section will be held April 8-10 at Cavanaugh's Inn at the Park, in Spokane, Washington. The meeting is being co-sponsored by the Oregon and Washington Chapters. Spokane was chosen as a meeting site because of its accessibility for the largest number of members from across the section, and leadership is working with commercial airline carriers to obtain low package fares. Technical sessions and workshops are being selected with the many issues and resources in the section in mind. These sessions will be some of the best and least expensive technical training available in 1998. Symposia on wildlife and fire in the Pacific Northwest, Integrated Riparian Management of Fish & Wildlife, and Advancements in Avian Research are planned as part of this conference. With the new fiscal year on or just around the corner, make plans *NOW* to get this meeting on your training plan!

## **TWS DUES INCREASE PROPOSAL**

Many section members take the Wildlifer and the Bulletin and are aware of the proposal. TWS has been discussing the addition of a managing editor to coordinate TWS publications, emphasizing the development of the Bulletin. Volunteer editors and associate editors would then be able to concentrate on the scientific merit of articles, and all current and previous editors support this change. The dues increase is \$13, which includes \$1 for general cost increases for the society and \$12 for establishing the editorial office. This is a natural progression in the growth of the society and the TWS Council urges your support.

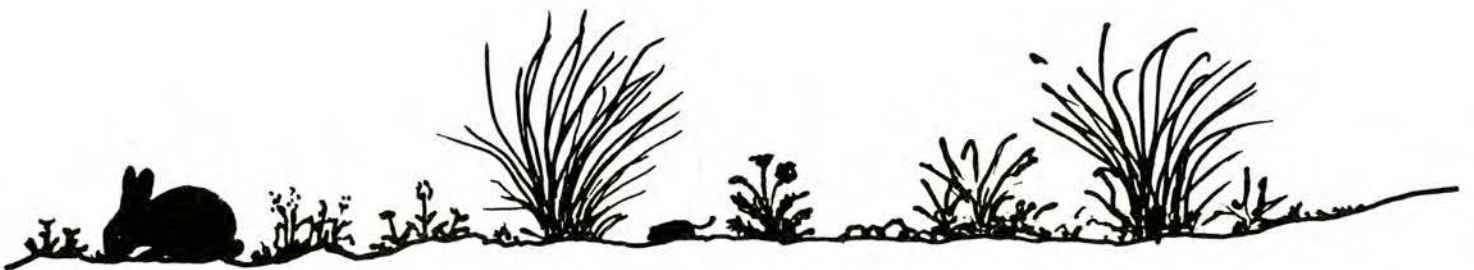



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## **TWS FALL MEETING**

The annual fall meeting will be held in Snowmass Village, Colorado on 21-27 September, 1997. Registration and program information has been mailed but you can get on the mailing list by contacting The Wildlife Society in Bethesda, Maryland at (301) 897-9770, fax (301) 530-2471, or email [lorraine@wildlife.org](mailto:lorraine@wildlife.org). A forum on wildlife telemetry, and symposia, workshops, field trips and a trade show are included. This is another opportunity to visit with a large number of wildlifery, since well over 1000 will be in attendance, and to be updated on a variety of issues of contemporary interest.

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