

THE WILD TIMES



IDAHO CHAPTER THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY



Issue 97:3

September 26, 1997

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President's Message

NONGAME FUNDING

If this newsletter seems late, it's my fault. Brad and Daryl have been waiting for my President's Message and I've been waiting for some kind of inspiration. I envy people like Jim Peek or Dale Towell who seem to find a message around every corner and can easily cast their prose in readable style. To me writing is work. It is much harder work than radio-collaring deer or counting elk. It's not that I don't have anything to say, it just seems that lately I've worried about how I say things. Discretion and self-restraint have never been my strongest personality traits. My concern with being "politically correct" has produced a string of boring President's Messages. They haven't been much fun to read and have been even less fun to write. So, for the sake of controversy and discussion, I will try something different.

I believe the wildlife profession has become apologetic towards hunting. Of course, I don't mean everyone. But enough members of our profession qualify, causing our traditional supporters (hunters and fishermen) to feel concerned and sometimes alienated. Among many wildlife professionals, working with game animals is out of style. Interest in conservation biology, endangered species, ecosystem management, urban wildlife, or

watchable wildlife is "in". Don't get me wrong, these are important and interesting topics and many non-hunted species are finally getting some much-needed attention. However, I think there is a tendency by some to begrudge the attention given to game animals, especially considering our lack of knowledge concerning other species.

At a meeting last spring, several Fish and Game employees were asked to list their top concerns and areas they felt held the greatest potential for the Department in the future. Many of these employees believed that our greatest potential lay in developing nongame and urban wildlife programs, along with reaching out to non-traditional users. I disagree, given that the overwhelming proportion of our funds come from hunters. Until alternative funding sources are found to support these programs, the Department's greatest opportunity and potential lies in developing the best and most sophisticated game management program in the nation. We need to regain the confidence of our traditional supporters before we suggest spending their money in non-traditional ways. In this way maybe we could even increase funding for nongame.

Now is the time to show support for Teaming With Wildlife legislation. Tom Franklin of The Wildlife Society in Washington D.C. thinks that Senator Kempthorne may be key to passage of this legislation. Next President's Message - Why

I Like Cows.
James W. Unsworth ☺

Editorial

WE WANT YOUR INPUT!

It's been over a year now that Daryl and myself volunteered as editors of this newsletter. Our initial objectives were to provide: 1) a communicative tool through which chapter members can keep informed on statewide conservation issues, and 2) as a means of maintaining a dialogue amongst chapter members.

It is now time for you to judge the newsletter and its value to you. Included in this issue is a survey form. Please take a few minutes to complete and return it. If you're unable to complete the survey, but still have suggested improvements, please call.

It is our hope that we can improve the newsletter, and that who better to provide suggestions than you.

If we receive a low return rate, we'll conclude that little if any improvements are needed and our egos will swell even larger. BBC ☺

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



Letters To The Editor

RESPONSE TO IDFG POSITION ON TEAMING WITH WILDLIFE

I understand from reading the Newsletter of the Idaho Chapter of the Wildlife Society that the Idaho Fish and Game Department and the Idaho Fish and Game Commission are soliciting input concerning the Teaming With Wildlife Funding Initiative. As an educator in biology and one who enjoys both consumptive and non-consumptive uses of our wildlife resources I urge the Department and the Commission to support this meaningful Initiative. The Initiative is an equitable means of raising some of the funding needed to support conservation, recreation, and education to benefit fish and wildlife resources.

While I suppose I can appreciate the need to solicit input and build consensus among groups regarding this Initiative, there's a part of me that is a little dismayed that there appears to be some question on the part of the Department and the Commission, two organizations who should be strong advocates

for the State's wildlife, as to how to respond to this Initiative. I hope that the majority of individuals in these organizations already support the Initiative and that these organizations are requesting public input primarily to receive a positive affirmation of the public's support.

Jerry H. Scrivner,
Ricks College ☺

RESPONSE FROM SENATOR CRAIG

"Dear Paul,

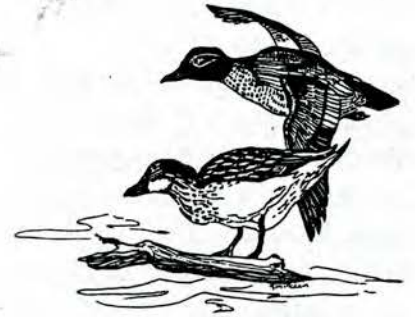
Thank you for contacting me regarding the Team Wild Initiative from the 104th Congress. I appreciate your comments on this important topic.

As you know, the initiative would place an additional tax on outdoor equipment. Based on the concept presented to me, I originally believed I would probably support the initiative, and said as much. However, as more information about the proposal has been released I am increasingly troubled by the proposal, and am less inclined to support it.

As more people found out about this proposal, it lost much of its support and it was never brought up in the House or Senate. Whether its supporters will push it this year is unclear. I will certainly keep your comments in mind if it is introduced.

Again, thank you for contacting me. Please feel free to do so whenever there are issues of concern to you.

Sincerely, Larry E. Craig,
United States Senator" ☺



Feature Articles

ACTION NEEDED ON TEAMING WITH WILDLIFE

Teaming With Wildlife (TWW) aims to raise \$350 million annually for state nongame wildlife programs. Teaming With Wildlife is modeled after the highly successful Wildlife (Pitman-Robertson) and Sport Fish (Dingell-Johnson and Wallop-Breaux) Restoration Funds. America's game species are thriving today because, 60 years ago, hunters established a user fee on their equipment to fund wildlife conservation efforts. Teaming With Wildlife would place a minimal user fee on additional outdoor recreation equipment such as binoculars, backpacks, canoes, feeders, field guides, camera equipment, birdseed, tents, and mountain bikes. These funds would be

dedicated to non-game wildlife conservation, recreation and education projects. The money will be raised by small user fees (.25% - 5%) on the manufacturer's price of outdoor products.

The TWW coalition, with over 2,100 endorsements, is working actively to ensure introduction of a bill this fall. Letters, phone calls, and personal communication with elected officials, businesses, sportsmen, recreation groups and the media are spreading the word. Momentum in support of TWW is increasing on both the Washington D.C. front and at the grassroots level. Your immediate action is needed to ensure that the Teaming With Wildlife initiative continues to advance.

September 1997 is the target date for introducing a bill in Congress. The Congress is in recess until Labor Day. This is the best time to meet with your elected officials at home in their district offices. Please meet with your Senators and Representatives immediately to urge them to sponsor TWW. Tell them that Teaming With Wildlife funds are critically needed in your state. The legislation will create unprecedented opportunities for wildlife professionals to stem the decline of non-game wildlife, stimulate outdoor recreation and tourism, and educate citizens to appreciate and respect their environment.

Thomas M. Franklin, Wildlife Policy Director, TWS ☺



IDAHO CHAPTER THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY COMMITTEE UPDATES

Teaming With Wildlife:

Since the last Teaming With Wildlife (TWW) update in The Wild Times newsletter late last spring, the priority has been to make contact with legislators encouraging their support for TWW legislation. While we offered briefings to all of Idaho's representatives to Congress during their recess period, only Congressman Chenoweth's office agreed to meet and discuss TWW. Though Congressman Chenoweth was not available herself, her legislative assistant Jim Gambrell met with Paul Moroz and Wayne Melquist of the ICTWS along with two Idaho members of The Wildlife Federation on May 29, 1997 in Boise. Mr. Gambrell received a full packet of current TWW information and was given a verbal synopsis of the initiative during the briefing. Mr. Gambrell agreed to share this information with Congressman Helen Chenoweth, but no response (positive or negative) as been given to date.

A more pointed response was given by Senator Larry Craig in a June 25, 1997 letter to

Paul Moroz (*see Letters To The Editor Section*).

It is apparent that the TWW effort has a way to go before legislation is introduced in Congress and submitted to the rigors of debate. If introduced during the 104th Congress, the TWW initiative will depend upon how legislators sort through fact and fiction, preconceived notions and accurate information. As Chapter members, we can all take part in dispensing accurate information regarding TWW by word and in writing to legislators, retail businesses and the public. If you need specific information about TWW, please contact Paul Moroz by phone at home (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 following letter was sent July 9th to Senator Kempthorne from the Idaho Chapter The Wildlife Society.

The Honorable Dirk Kempthorne
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Kempthorne:

The Idaho Chapter of The Wildlife Society is the professional society of wildlife biologists in Idaho. Our membership includes over 250 biologists working in state and federal agencies, private

industry, non-government organizations, and academia. The Idaho Chapter is part of the international organization of nearly 10,000 professional wildlife biologists and managers dedicated to excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education. We wish to provide you comments on your draft bill for reauthorization of the Endangered Species Act, and ask that you incorporate our suggestions in any revised versions.

Our Chapter supports the need for a reauthorization of the Act, including revisions to the bill to make it more effective. We think that your draft legislation includes a number of important improvements. We particularly endorse the section on educational and technical support programs for landowners. We also like the better definition of the recovery planning process and time lines, easier habitat conservation planning for small projects or landowners, independent peer review of listing criteria, and a clear public input process for listing decisions and recovery plans.

We support the modifications proposed to make habitat conservation planning more effective for private landowners. We agree with the concepts of safe harbors and no surprises of your draft legislation. We caution, however, that establishing appropriate baseline conditions for safe harbors can be a difficult task, especially for such species as anadromous fish, and

that the responsible agencies will have to establish clear administrative rules to implement this component if it is left vague in the legislation. Also, the no surprise component is important for landowners, but should include adaptive management language that recognizes the need for adjustments in HCP's based on new information. Specifically, new information that shows that different practices are necessary to meet the intent of the objectives of the HCP should be cause for modification of an HCP.

We have two concerns with proposed changes presently included in your draft. We are strongly against the wording change placing action agencies in the position of deciding whether or not an action will have an affect, rather than requiring consultation for species that may be affected. We think that the USFWS or NMFS should be required to provide information to all action agencies on species that they feel may be impacted, and then provide consultation to the action agency on any projects that may have impact to species on this list. Secondly, while we support the need for clearer requirements and time lines for recovery planning, we are concerned that the responsible agencies will not have the necessary staffing and budget to meet the more detailed requirements. This should not become a loophole for avoidance of either appropriate listings or identification of needed protective measures.

We also suggest including in the reauthorization two additional changes. First, prelisting or conservation agreements are not addressed in the reauthorization. These agreements can provide recognized benefits to species of concern (even species not considered as candidate species), prior to their listing as threatened or endangered. To be truly effective, these agreements must have legislative recognition and as well as legal capabilities of transitioning into habitat conservation plans should a species under a conservation agreement later be listed. Wording for this might follow that proposed in the Saxton Draft. Another component that we noted was lacking was the omission of any specific economic incentive programs for landowners. While we have not yet seen your recently released tax incentive bill, we feel that incentives for private landowners are a critical need for an effective ESA. We encourage you to continue with efforts for providing these.

We do have a number of more specific recommendations concerning language in the Act, that we have described on the attached page.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide you with comments on your draft legislation. We ask that you address our concerns in any future drafts. The Endangered Species Act is the most important single piece of legislation to our profession. We endorse your efforts to improve the Act, and would like to assist

you in these efforts. Please let us know how we can best provide you with additional professional expertise in your continuing efforts for ESA reauthorization.

Sincerely,

James Unsworth, Ph.D.
President

Jon Hauffler, Chairperson ☺

Nominations-Election Committee:

NOMINATIONS ARE NEEDED for president, vice-president, treasurer, and secretary. There are many individuals that would be good officers. I have received only two suggestions. Send me your suggestion or nominations.

Don Kemner, Chairperson ☺

Awards Committee:

The Awards Committee has not received any nominations for the 2 chapter awards described below. Please forward your nominations to: 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 ☺

COMMENT PERIOD FOR "GRIZZLY BEAR RECOVERY IN THE BITTERROOT ECOSYSTEM" DEIS EXTENDED

The comment period for the DEIS for grizzly bear recovery in the Bitterroot has been extended from October 9, 1997 until November 1, 1997. Additionally, meetings have been rescheduled as follows: Challis (ID) and Hamilton (MT), October 1, 1997; Missoula (MT) and Lewiston (ID) October 2, 1997; and Boise (ID) and Helena (MT) October 3, 1997.

1998 Meeting Notice

The annual meeting of the Idaho Chapter of The Wildlife Society will be held in Moscow, Idaho at the Best Western University Inn on March 5 and 6, 1998. If needed, an additional ½ day session may be held on Saturday, March 7. Please note that the annual auction and buffet will be held on Thursday evening, March 5.

If you wish to organize a special session or a presentation that is longer than the standard 20 minutes, contact Kerry Reese at 208-885-6435 or kreese@uidaho.edu.

General sessions will be held and members are encouraged to present papers on all aspects of the ecology and management of wildlife and habitat. Presentations shorter

than 20 minutes, especially updates on management issues and activities around the state, are welcome.

Reservations can be made at the Best Western University Inn by calling (800) 325-8765. A block of rooms has been reserved through February 3, 1998. A special rate of \$55.50 single and \$65.50 double has been arranged. Identify yourself as attending the Idaho Chapter of The Wildlife Society and mention the group room block when you make your reservation.

Submitting Abstracts For Papers:

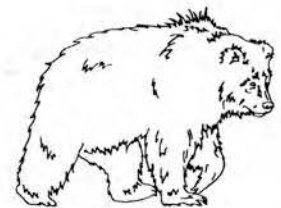
Deadline for receipt of abstracts is January 25, 1998.

Abstracts should be of the informative type, containing:

1. A specific objective statement.
2. A brief statement of methods, if pertinent.
3. A summary of results.
4. A statement of conclusions.
5. Follow abstract format.
6. Submit 2 photocopy ready copies and, if possible, the abstract on a 3.5 disk in WordPerfect 6.1 or Microsoft Word 6.0.
7. Send presenters biography with abstract.

Abstracts must be photocopy ready. Single spaced letter quality print only. Type the abstract to fit within a 3.5 inch

wide x 5.5 inch long rectangle. The abstract should not be surrounded by lines. Use the abstract submittal form included.



ABSTRACT SUBMITTAL FORM
1998 Annual Meeting
Idaho Chapter of The Wildlife Society

Type of Presentation: Paper Poster Display

Subject of Contributed Papers:

Big Game Upland Game Waterfowl Policy
 Reptiles/Amphibians Nongame Mammals Nongame Birds
 Wildlife Management Habitat Management Other

Name _____ Phone _____

Mailing Address _____ Fax _____

City, State, Zip _____ e-mail _____

If the author is not the presenter, name of presenter _____

The time limit for contributed papers is 20 minutes, including questions.

Send original abstract, 1 copy, disk and biography with this form to:

Kerry P. Reese, Fish and Wildlife Resources, College of Forestry, Wildlife and Range Sciences,
University of Idaho, Moscow, ID 83844-1136

Deadline For Abstracts Is January 25, 1998

Sample Abstract
(Measures 3.5" x 5.5")

THE EFFECTS OF INTELLECTUAL ISOLATION ON THE LIFE
HISTORY OF SHORT, RED-HEADED, AND BIG WILDLIFE
BIOLOGISTS. Woody Pine, Samantha Snag, and Billy Goat, Idaho
Department of Fish and Game, Good Grief.

Identification of the components of isolation that effect the intellectual regression of wildlife biologists in remote outposts is critical if natural resource agencies are to maintain control over employees and prevent idiosyncratic localism from dominating management decisions. We compared the life style requirements of 3 wildlife biologists (*Homo sapiens grieffus*) with similar food habits, but very different life histories, to those of biologists in less remote outposts. The independent variables we analyzed were: horse and/or mule ownership, size of pick-up truck, contentment, biologist weight, number of firearms, fly rods, or dogs owned, operas and/or ballets attended, and espresso consumption. Intellectual regression was positively correlated to horse and/or mule ownership, contentment, biologist weight, and size of pick-up truck. Number of firearms owned and number of fly rods owned were not statistically significant predictors of intellectual regression. Dog ownership was marginally significant and positively correlated. Operas and/or ballets attended and espresso consumption were dropped from the analysis due to small sample size. Biologists stationed in remote locations are likely to be fat, dumb, and happy.

Newsletter Survey

Please Return By October 30, 1997

Send To: Brad Compton
1345 Barton Road
Pocatello, ID 83201

We Need Your Input!

Newsletter Function:

- 1) Please rate how informative the newsletter is:
(Poor) 1 2 3 4 5 (Good)
- 2) Please rate how timely the information is:
(Poor) 1 2 3 4 5 (Good)
- 3) Please rate how well the newsletter keeps you informed about state conservation issues?:
(Poor) 1 2 3 4 5 (Good)
- 4) I would like to see more information on (check as many as apply):
 Big Game, Small Game, Nongame T&E Species
 Habitat Conservation Measures Ecosystem Management
 Legislative Measures Affecting Wildlife Conservation, Other
- 5) I would like to see more information on national wildlife conservation issues:
(No) 1 2 3 4 5 (Yes)
- 6) Please rate how well the newsletter keeps you informed on ICTWS activities:
(Poor) 1 2 3 4 5 (Good)

Suggested Improvements _____

Style:

- 1) Please rate the readability of the newsletter:
(Poor) 1 2 3 4 5 (Good)
- 2) Which sections would you like to see expanded (check as many as apply):
 President's Message, Editorial, Letters To The Editor,
 Feature Articles, What The ----?, Upcoming Meetings, Humor Section
- 3) I generally don't read the following sections (check as many as apply):
 President's Message, Editorial, Letters To The Editor,
 Feature Articles, What The ----?, Upcoming Meetings, Humor Section
- 4) If I were newsletter editor (be careful - it may come true), I would include a section titled:
" _____ "

5) Suggested Improvements _____

..... F O L D
.....

Postage Here

Brad Compton
1345 Barton Road
Pocatello, ID 83204

....Staple....

Upcoming Meetings

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Oct. 8-11 | 27th North American Symposium Of Bat Research | Tucson, AZ Dr. Tom Griffiths, Dept. Of Biology, Illinois Wesleyan Univ., Bloomington, IL 61702-2900, 309/556-3230 |
| Nov. 12-15 | 1997 International Conference Of The Society For Ecological Restoration | Ft. Lauderdale, FL Society for Ecological Restoration, 1207 Seminole Highway, Madison, WI 53711 608-262-9547 |
| Jan. 12-16 | Western Section of the Wildlife Society's Natural Resources Communication Workshop | California State Univ., Chico, CA Dr. Jon K. Hooper, Dept. Recreation and Parks Management, California State Univ., Chico, CA 95929-0560, (916) 898-5811 |
| <i>CONTACT BRAD COMPTON FOR MORE INFORMATION REGARDING THIS WORKSHOP</i> | | |
| Mar. 5-6 | Idaho Chapter The Wildlife Society | Moscow, ID Kerry Reese, Fish and Wildlife Resources, College of Forestry, Wildlife and Range Sciences, Univ., of Idaho, Moscow, ID 83844-1136, 208/885-6435 |

Humor Section

You Might Be A Redneck If:

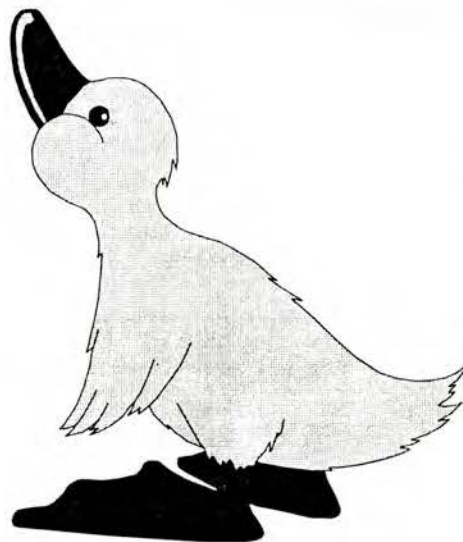
Counting sheep makes you more aroused than sleepy.

You stockpile pork & beans.

Your belt buckle doubles as a serving platter.

You stare at a can of frozen orange juice because it says "concentrate."

You buy your spouse tube socks at the flea market.



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 calender 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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OCT 3 1997

CHARLES E. HARRIS
IDAHO DEPT FISH & GAME
600 S. WALNUT
P. O. BOX 25
BOISE, ID 83707