

THE WILD TIMES



IDAHO CHAPTER THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY



Issue 98:1

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President's Message

WHY I LIKE COWS

With three study areas in the foothills surrounding the Treasure Valley, I have spent many hours in the air over the past few years. The most disturbing thing I have noticed is the rapid conversion of agricultural land and large ranches into subdivisions and ranchettes. Wildlife habitat across Idaho is being eaten up at an alarming rate. In the foothills near Boise, Ketchum, and Pocatello, land developers are taking their toll on deer winter ranges. Trophy homes are going up in riparian forest along the Boise, Wood, and Snake Rivers. Twenty acre chunks of desert from the Owyhees to Dubois are fenced with barb wire too low for pronghorn antelope and too high for mule deer and then stocked with two llamas, four horses, three big dogs, a double wide, two 4-wheelers, and miscellaneous used building materials that are going to be used someday. Much of this development is because a landowner can net more profit in a single day by selling their property than their family made in thirty years of ranching or farming.

Extreme attitudes on either side of the grazing debate are counter productive to developing grazing strategies that benefit or maintain wildlife habitat. I believe there are a few basic facts that need to be recognized by both ranchers and anti-livestock groups. First, range conditions have improved in many areas over the last couple of decades. Second, improper stocking rates, seasons of use, and duration of range use cause damage to plants, soil, and the hydrologic character of rangelands. Third, livestock grazing can be conducted in such a way that upland and riparian habitats are not damaged. And fourth, large blocks of undeveloped rangelands provide better wildlife habitat than subdivisions.

I like cows. I would much rather sidestep a cowpie than fight for a parking spot along one of my favorite trout streams. One of my greatest fears about the debate over livestock grazing on public lands is that ranchers will lose. I would much rather have a

family ranch that is dependent on a grazing lease on public land than twenty ranchettes fenced and beat to dust. Wildlife will benefit most from a constructive dialogue among wildlife managers, ranchers, and anti-livestock groups that results in improved grazing methods on public lands not from the elimination of livestock grazing. P.S. I also like cows better than ATV's. James W. Unsworth©

Editorial

SURVEY RESULTS

Only 4 Newsletter Survey responses were returned, and they supported my preconceived improvement needs for the newsletter. These needs being: improved timeliness, more information on state conservation issues, and format changes to improve readability. A total of 4 responses don't suggest a mandate for change; however as somebody who encourages and embraces change, I've made a few cosmetic alterations in the newsletter and propose more substantive changes for your consideration.

I'm proposing 2 alternatives: 1) a change in editorial staff to anybody that has a desire to publish this newsletter, or 2) maintain current staff and establish 3 Regional Correspondents representing North, Southwest, and Eastern Idaho.

If anybody has a real desire to undertake the prestigious position of editor/publisher, please contact me. However, if nobody shows interest, I would be willing to continue the newsletter with the caveat that 3 Regional Correspondents can be established. These correspondents would be required to provide feature articles 4 times a year, hi-lighting state conservation issues in their respective area of the state. Again, if you would be interested in being a correspondent - please contact me. I'm anticipating that a decision regarding the newsletter will be made during the business meeting at our annual meeting in March. If you have an opinion or desire to provide input, please contact either myself or one of

the officers.

As a way to encourage a more timely newsletter, I'll be sending future issues within 1 week of the identified deadline date with or without contributor articles. If you are a contributor, please have your submissions in by the deadline. BBC☺

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Letters To The Editor

No Report.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: although I believe this section can be extremely informative and rewarding, I'm considering dropping it unless I receive more responses.) ☺

Feature Articles

IDFG COMMISSION SUPPORTS TEAMING WITH WILDLIFE

The following letter from John Burns, Chairman of the Idaho Fish and Game Commission, was sent to the Idaho congressional delegation and the governor.

October 27, 1997

Dear _____,

On October 4, the Idaho Fish and Game Commission formally endorsed the Teaming With Wildlife legislative concept. The proposed legislation would, as you know, provide funding to the states for nongame management programs in a manner similar to the highly successful Pittman-Robertson, Dingell-Johnson, and Wallop-Breaux Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Funds.

The Commission recognizes that some manufacturers, retailers, and users of certain outdoor equipment remain concerned with the application of the excise tax and its effect on them. The Commission's action does not endorse any specific formula or schedule of the tax, but we are confident that an equitable approach will be worked out as the proposed legislation is refined.

A key consideration is the fact that hunters and anglers have for years borne virtually the entire cost of managing the wildlife and fish resources through license sales and the matching funds from the excise tax programs on hunting and fishing gear. In recent years, the cost of managing nongame fish and wildlife has increased significantly. The strain on existing funding sources has reached the point where action is needed, and the Teaming With Wildlife concept would meet this critical need.

Background summary and fact sheets are enclosed that provide more detail on the success of the existing P-R, D-J, and W-B programs, as well as how Teaming With Wildlife would work. The Commission asks that you support the Teaming With Wildlife legislation when it is introduced in 1998. If you or your staff have any questions please feel free to call or write.

Director Steve Mealey would like to set up an appointment with you and your staff to discuss Teaming With Wildlife. Hopefully this could take place in Boise sometime during the week of November 17 following your adjournment, or at any time that fits your schedule.

Thank you for your continuing efforts in behalf of Idaho's wildlife and fish resources.

Sincerely,

John Burns ☺

have received a copy in the mail. Additional copies will be available at the annual meeting in Moscow. There were 272 members of the Idaho Chapter in 1996-97. Seventy-one or 26% were female, this is about the same female representation as in the National Society (20%). Most chapter members reside in the southwestern part of the state (40%). Twenty-one percent live in north-central Idaho. So, if the southwestern contingent attends the 1998 meeting in north-central Idaho we should have a good turnout!

Frances Cassirer, Secretary

CANDIDATES FOR IDAHO CHAPTER THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

President:

NAME: Tom Hemker

BACKGROUND: I am currently the State Upland Game Program Manager for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. I have worked for the Department for 16 years and previously worked in California and Utah in several management and research positions. I have a masters from Utah State and an undergraduate degree from the University of California at Davis.

TWS ACTIVITIES: I have been a member of the TWS since about 1978 and the Idaho Chapter since 1983. I have been active on many committees for the Idaho Chapter.

CHAPTER PHILOSOPHY: I believe that the Chapter has two primary functions; (1) provide a way for the wildlife professionals scattered across the state and in various agencies to share research and discuss issues that impact Idaho's wildlife, and (2) provide a way for Idaho's wildlife professionals, as a group, to provide input to decision-makers on important wildlife issues.

GOALS: Continue the good work of past officers. We have a newsletter that does a good job of getting information out to folks. I do think that a good Annual Meeting is what the membership expects the most from the Executive Board and I would make sure that this emphasis continues. I would also continue the Chapter's efforts to become

advocates for good management of Idaho wildlife. As a Chapter, we need to inform constantly and lead when we can.

NAME: Kerry Reese

BACKGROUND: Born on Long Island, New York in 1951, married with 2 teenage children. B.S. Biology, Indiana University of Pennsylvania (1973), M.S. Wildlife Biology, Clemson University (1976), Ph.D. Wildlife Resources, Utah State University (1983). Currently a professor of wildlife resources, University of Idaho.

TWS ACTIVITIES: I have been a member of TWS since 1974 and of the Idaho Chapter since 1984. I currently serve as Vice President of the Idaho Chapter. In the past, I have been a member of the Ad Hoc Committee on Northwest Section Awards (1988), Committee on Local Arrangements for Northwest Section Annual Meeting (1988), Northwest Section Representative on Continuing Education Committee (1988-91), and Northwest Section Wildlife Administrators Award Committee (1990-91). I organized and moderated a special session "Challenges from Animal Rightists" at the 56th North American Wildlife Conference in Edmonton in 1991, and served the Idaho Chapter as a member and chair of the Special Recognitions Award Committee (1995) and the Professional Wildlifer Award Committee (1990, 1991, 1995).

CHAPTER PHILOSOPHY: The Idaho Chapter of TWS is a strong organization because of active members who participate in chapter activities. However, I believe that the Chapter can play a larger role in advocating its professional concerns over resources controversies.

GOALS: If elected, I will try to increase communication among chapter members and to establish new lines of communication with state, federal and private organizations involved in wildlife and conservation issues. Our annual meetings must continue to be well-attended by members who value the annual opportunity to learn from and interact with other wildlifera.

Vice-President:

NAME: Alan Dohmen

BACKGROUND: BS in Wildlife Science (1990) Oregon State University. Seven years as a professional wildlife biologist with the U.S. Forest Service in Montana and Idaho. District Wildlife Biologist: Helena National Forest, Helena, Montana (2 years). District Wildlife Biologist: Salmon and Challis National Forests. Challis, Idaho (1+ years). Wildlife Biologist: Idaho Panhandle National Forests, Sandpoint, Idaho (4.5 years). **TWS ACTIVITIES:** Member of Idaho Chapter since 1995. Chairperson of Communications Award Committee 1997-98. Communications Award Review Panel, 1995.

CHAPTER PHILOSOPHY: I believe the Idaho Chapter of the Wildlife Society stands alone as the best advocate of objective, science-based management of wildlife in Idaho. As a professional organization, the Chapter, has the credibility to inform the public on wildlife issues free from the political policies of federal, state, and local governments, and the agendas of private industry and individuals.

GOALS: Be pro-active in addressing controversial wildlife issues. Help elected and land management officials understand the ecological, economic, and aesthetic benefits of the full range of wildlife in Idaho. If elected, I would keep the members and the public informed of important wildlife issues and accomplishments through the Chapter newsletter, print and news media, public meetings and annual TWS meetings.

NAME: Anthonie Holthuijzen

BACKGROUND & TWS ACTIVITIES: I have been a member of the Wildlife Society since 1983. In 1986, I joined the Idaho Chapter. I have not been an officer in the Idaho Chapter, section, or at the national level. I received my B.Sc. And M.Sc. In Forest Ecology at the Agricultural University of Wageningen, the Netherlands in 1976 and 1979, respectively. Although graduating with degrees in Forest Ecology, most of my research was in animal ecology. I spent time in South America conducting research on black-bellied tree

ducks, Bahama pintails, and muscovy ducks, and inventoried a section of tropical moist rainforest. In Great Britain I studied raptors. This was followed by research on plant-animal interactions (seed dispersal). After a short stint as a researcher at the University of Wageningen, I was given the opportunity to start a Ph.D. in the U.S., which I gratefully accepted! I matriculated at Virginia Tech where I investigated the seed dispersal of red cedar. Upon graduation, once again I was lucky by being offered a position with Idaho Power Company to study prairie falcons in the Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area. I worked with the BLM, IPC, and PG&E on this study for four years. At the end of this investigation, IPC was staffing up for relicensing of its hydroelectric facilities. IPC hired me, giving me the great opportunity to stay in Idaho. Since the late 1980's, I have worked on a variety of wildlife studies related to dam relicensing, mainly related to nongame issues.

CHAPTER PHILOSOPHY: The Idaho Chapter of the Wildlife Society provides a unique forum for all wildlife professionals to come together and exchange information, formulate strategies, and influence policies related to wildlife resources in Idaho. It provides students a friendly environment to get involved in wildlife research and management issues and contact other wildlife professionals.

GOALS: I would like to strive to increase industry biologist participation in the Chapter and develop an effective partnership between private and government organizations in Idaho. Much more can be done, in my opinion, with the limited resources available to us. Also, I would like to increase participation of the membership at large in issues that are of concern to the Chapter.

Treasurer:

NAME: Anthony Apa

BACKGROUND: After I obtained my B.S. (Wildlife Biology) from the University of Montana, I was employed with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the Animal Damage Control program. Following my tenure with the USFWS, I moved to South Dakota and pursued a graduate degree. My thesis research

evaluated the efficacy of 2 black-tailed prairie dog rodenticides and their effects on non-target avian species. Following completion of my degree, I was employed by South Dakota State University as a Wetland Resource Specialist for the National Wetlands Inventory. In 1988, I moved to Idaho to pursue a Ph.D. in wildlife resources at the University of Idaho. I investigated the habitat use and movements of sage and Columbia sharp-tailed grouse in southeastern Idaho. I will defend my dissertation in January 1998. I am currently employed by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game as the Regional Habitat Manager for the Magic Valley region in southcentral Idaho.

TWS ACTIVITIES: I have been a TWS (state chapter) member since my arrival in Idaho. To date, my activities with the Chapter have been limited. I have presented papers and regularly participated as a paper judge at the annual meetings. When asked if I would be interested in the opportunity to serve as Chapter Treasurer, I eagerly accepted.

CHAPTER PHILOSOPHY: I believe the Chapter must be a very strong apolitical, nonpartisan voice for the wildlife resource of Idaho. I also believe that the Chapter should have diverse and dynamic annual meetings that encourage critical and innovative thinking, technology transfer among and between agencies and academics, and promote creative and adaptive approaches to wildlife management. Such meetings may require the participation of several different natural or human resource disciplines. They may also become controversial and even confrontational, but I believe that such meetings would be educational and help us all grow as wildlife professionals and to, as Aldo Leopold suggested, "Think Like a Mountain."

GOALS: If elected as Treasurer, I would be honored to serve the State of Idaho's professional Society for wildlife biologists. Please exercise your right and responsibility as a Chapter member and vote in this most important election.

NAME: Michele Beucler
BACKGROUND: I have a B.S. in Environmental Science/Wildlife from Unity

College in Maine, and a M.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences from Texas A&M University. My more interesting experiences include watching bison mate in the Badlands, working at a private sportsmen's camp in Maine, planting tens of thousands of tree seedlings for a simulated herbivory study in New York, traipsing around northern Utah doing a variety of wildlife surveys, and becoming nocturnal for two years to follow raccoons in east Texas. Currently, I am a wildlife mitigation specialist for Idaho Fish and Game in Boise.

TWS ACTIVITIES: My most intensive involvement has been at the national level in the Native People's Wildlife Management Working Group. I helped fine-tune the WG's charter in addition to spearheading a survey for members' expectations and priorities. I have attended one national conference (and presented a poster), and state chapter meetings in Maine and Texas. I co-authored a paper for the Idaho chapter meetings a couple of years ago.

CHAPTER PHILOSOPHY: My umbrella philosophy for all levels of TWS is that wildlife management is multidisciplinary. From my perspective, it seems as though TWS is struggling a bit with how to cope...with what exactly is a "wildlife professional". Although my background and experience has been field ecology, I currently am "into" human dimensions and grudgingly have accepted that it's essential to effectively managing wildlife.

GOALS: If I were elected I would keep things running smoothly, place faces with names, and use the position as a springboard for becoming more involved.

Secretary:

NAME: Charles Peterson
BACKGROUND: B.S. and M.S. in Zoology from the University of Illinois, Urbana (1972 and 1974, respectively); Ph.D. in Zoology from Washington State University, Pullman (1982); and postdoctorate work for the University of Chicago (1983-1988). Currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences with Idaho State University and Curator of herpetology for the Idaho Museum of Natural History. Research emphasis is the

ecology and conservation of amphibians and reptiles. A member of numerous professional societies including the national, section, and Idaho Chapter of The Wildlife Society.

TWS ACTIVITIES: I regularly attend the annual state meetings; I usually present a paper and coauthor one or more student papers. I've conducted a workshop on amphibians and reptiles (1994, Post Falls meeting). I've attended one national meeting (1995 - Portland), and presented a paper in a symposium on declining amphibian populations.

CHAPTER PHILOSOPHY: I do not really have a philosophy about the state chapter. I think the annual meeting provides an excellent opportunity for biologists from a variety of organizations to interact and to discuss wildlife issues important to the state and region. It also is an important opportunity for students to present their research findings.

GOALS: My goals are modest, primarily to do what needs to be done to keep the state chapter running smoothly; I would like to help get a World Wide Web Site established for the state chapter and encourage more workshops.

NAME: Johnna Roy

BACKGROUND: I am currently a Wildlife Biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, working on grizzly bear recovery efforts in central Idaho. Previous education and experience includes: B.S. (1984) in Wildlife and Fisheries Biology, University of Vermont; M.S. (1992) in Fish and Wildlife Management, Montana State University. Master's thesis on reintroduction of bighorn sheep in southwest Montana. Experience: 1984-88, worked for USFS, USFWS, IDFG, and MDFWP on wildlife and fisheries research and management projects in Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, and Alaska. 1990-96, Wildlife Biologist, North Fork Ranger District, Clearwater national Forest.

TWS ACTIVITIES: Member of national chapter since 1983 and member of Idaho Chapter for 8 years.

CHAPTER PHILOSOPHY: I think the Idaho Chapter should facilitate communication and professional support for

wildlife professionals in Idaho; to increase awareness of issues, serve as a forum for shared information, and create a strong voice for wildlife conservation. The amazing fish and wildlife resources of this state present us with many opportunities and challenges.

GOALS: My focus would be to facilitate communication between Chapter members, and work to recruit new members from agencies and non-governmental groups. Interagency communication and cooperation, and building partnerships with interest groups are vital for accomplishing more for our "wildlife buck". These are areas I would work to expand.©

EINARSEN AWARD NOMINEES NEEDED

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 of the Section by 15 February 1998. 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: suring@customcpu.com©

Annual Meeting Information

Second Announcement of 1998 Annual Meeting

Place: Best Western University Inn, Moscow 1-800-325-8765

When: March 5 & 6, 1998

Auction and Social: Thursday evening, March 5

Business meeting: Thursday 3:30 pm.

Paper Deadline: January 25, 1998 to Kerry Reese, Fish & Wildlife Resources, College of Forestry, Wildlife and Range Sciences, University of Idaho, Moscow, ID 83844-1136.

Opening Session: Research and Management of Grizzly Bears.

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Charles Robbins, Washington State Univ.

Invited Speakers for Opening Session:

Chris Servheen, USFWS, grizzly bear population status and trends.

Rob Wielgus, WSU, habitat features and grizzlies.

Wayne Wakkinen, IDFG, Influence of roads on grizzlies.

Dave Mattson, NBS, Habitat suitability for grizzlies in Idaho.

Lisette Waits, UI, Conservation genetics of grizzly bears.

Hank Fisher, Defenders of Wildlife, grizzly reintroduction efforts.

Don't miss this opening session. It should be informative and interesting☺

Research Update

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is a new column that I hope to keep going. If you are a researcher in Idaho, please send me a brief article about your research.

SAGE GROUSE RESEARCH UPDATE

By: Jack Connelly, Principle Research Biologist, IDFG

The gamebird folks (J. Connelly, K. Reese, T. Hemker, Scott Gardner, assorted graduate students and technicians) have been pretty busy with sage grouse projects in the Upper Snake Region over the last 2 years.

Investigations of the effects of fire on higher elevation sage grouse habitats and effects of landscape changes on traditional migration

routes have been completed. The results should be available soon in the form of masters theses by Kara Leonard and Pamela Bell. Special thanks go to Dennis Aslett and Jeff Copeland with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game and Jeff Gardetto with the Bureau of Land Management for assisting with these projects.

A new project dealing with cause-specific mortality of sage grouse was also started in the Dubois area. Matt Lucia is the graduate student assigned to the first part of this project. Over the next 2 years, Matt will be investigating cause-specific mortality of juvenile sage grouse from approximately 8 weeks of age until the birds recruit to a breeding population. Matt will also be gathering data on sage grouse dispersal to help answer the question "Does dispersal have a cost?" This is currently a pretty hot topic among grouse biologists and was one of the subjects discussed at the plenary session of the 1997 annual meeting of The Wildlife Society. Trapping juvenile sage grouse is a tough job under the best of circumstances and is made even more difficult by the low numbers of sage grouse currently found throughout most of southern Idaho. However, progress is being made and grouse are being caught thanks to a new dry cell battery on the market (Scott Gardner gets the credit for coming up with this device) that we use to power our spotlights and portable stereos (U-2 and Lead Zeppelin were popular last summer but no one better show up again with anything by Lou Reed, and for Brad Compton tunes by Snoop Doggy Dog and Wayne Newton are also unacceptable). Volunteers are now being recruited for grouse trapping this spring. We promise fun, companionship, good humor, and your choice of tunes (within reason!) - oh yeah, there may also be some cold weather and hard work involved. If you're interested contact Jack Connelly (232-4703) or Jeff Copeland (525-7290). This is a great opportunity for you desk-bound types to get some fresh air and exercise☺

Student Travel Grants Available

The NW Section will sponsor 5 student travel grants of \$200.00 each for student travel to the Section meeting in Spokane. Criteria for consideration will be either:

Student is presenting paper or poster, or student is an officer representing student chapter and student will be traveling more than 150 miles to the meeting.

Applicants should submit abstract of paper/poster, or explanation of how their attendance will benefit their student organization (whichever is applicable) to:

Jerome Hansen, Idaho Fish and Game, PO Box 25, Boise, ID 83707, fax: 208-334-2114, e-mail: jhansen@idfg.state.id.us

Deadline for applications is Jan. 31, 1998.

Upcoming Meetings

- | | | |
|------------|--|--|
| 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 |
| Feb. 9-13 | Western Bat Working Group Workshop | Reno, Nevada
Charlene Vullo, BLM, 2620 Kimberly Road, Twin Falls, ID 83301. 208-736-2369, Fax 208-736-2375, e-mail cvullo@id.blm.gov . |
| Mar. 5-6 | Idaho Chapter The Wildlife Society | Moscow, ID
Kerry Reese, Fish & Wildlife Resources, College of Forestry, Wildlife and Range Sciences, Univ., of Idaho, Moscow, ID 83844-1136, 208/885-6435 |
| Apr. 6-10 | Annual NW Section Meeting Workshops | Spokane, WA
Kate Boula, 541-963-3930 |

CONTACT BRAD COMPTON FOR MORE INFORMATION REGARDING ANY OF THESE MEETINGS OR WORKSHOPS



Volunteer Field Biologists Needed

Four volunteers are needed to assist between May 1-October 1, 1998 with cooperative research project operated by USGS/BRD Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center and US Fish & Wildlife Service at Grays Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Idaho. Duties include: census of breeding bird populations; searching and monitoring of nests of sandhill cranes, waterfowl, and shorebirds; survey of breeding amphibian populations; live-trapping of small mammals; survey of predator populations; and sampling of wildlife habitat characteristics. Agencies will provide a \$15.00/day stipend, housing, transportation, and equipment on the Refuge. Internships possible. To apply, submit a cover letter, resume, and references by March 1, 1998 to Bill Pyle, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Grays Lake National Wildlife Refuge, 74 Grays Lake Road, Wayan, ID 83285; phone 208-574-2755; e-mail Bill_pyle@mail.fws.gov.