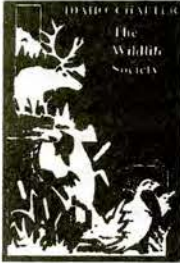


THE WILD TIMES

IDAHO CHAPTER THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY



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NEXT NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS DUE MARCH 1, 2000

President's Message

Being An Advocate-Speaking Up For The Resource!

I'm going to relate a true story that is connected to what we all do as professional wildlifers and TWS members. I heard this last spring while visiting Professor Jim Peek's wildlife management course, the final course taught by Jim before he retired.

Jim asked students to relate a personal experience that each had dealing with some issue in wildlife where, in retrospect, they could have handled things differently or better. I remember students talked about someone criticizing a management agency they worked for and what their response was, about seeing something in the field that was unethical or unsafe and how they reacted or failed to react, these types of things. Some stories were humorous, some serious. One story has remained with me in detail.

A 35 year-old graduate student, from the country of Georgia in the former Soviet Union, talked about a letter he wrote and its consequences for him. When he was a young undergraduate student in ecology at Tbilisi State University, Georgia was still under Soviet control. He wrote a letter critical of Soviet environmental policy, specifically about a dam, and published the letter in the editorial page of the newspaper. Soon thereafter, members of the KGB visited him to discuss his views, and shortly after this he was drafted into the Soviet army and spent the next three years working in Siberia. This, of course, surprised him since undergraduate college students were not subject to the draft! An exception was made in his case. Talk about consequences of expressing oneself!

Consider your opportunities to speak out and be heard. None of us would suffer such consequences as my Georgian friend did for a letter to a local newspaper. Yet how often do we write? Should we become even more active and visible in the state as advocates on specific

issues? As president, I've written on your behalf to congressmen and senators, our governor and state legislators, and the Idaho Fish and Game Commissioners.

I'm about to write our U.S. senators and congressmen again in support of CARA, the funding mechanism for nongame wildlife. Is this enough?

Perhaps each of us should rethink our role as individuals on the political scene and the potential impact letters and emails have on political decisions regarding wildlife issues. Does a single letter from an organized group have the same impact as many letters from members of that group? We all can become quite cynical about taking such actions, but aren't they worth the effort? After all, none of us risk being drafted and sent to Siberia.

On a personal note, I want to say thank you to Tony Apa, Treasurer of the Idaho Chapter, as he departs Idaho for a new statewide biologist position in Colorado. He's done a great job as treasurer and has been a long-time member of the chapter. Tony, we will miss you. As Tony's major professor for his Ph.D. degree and as a friend of 12 years, I can say "Tony, I'll miss you and good luck!"

Editorial

I'd like to echo what Kerry mentioned in the Presidents address. Taking a stand and speaking up for the wildlife resource is a way to make a difference. One of the ways you can make a difference is by speaking up and sharing your knowledge and information with the rest of us through this newsletter. There has never been a better time to make your voice heard than in today's pro-environment period.

Consider this newsletter a tool. Let's keep it sharp by staying involved. The new century demands our enthusiasm.

If you are a regional correspondent or committee chair send me your reports, long or short. If you can't then delegate it. If your not involved with

the society formally send me your thoughts and or suggestions, let's turn up the burner on open dialogue.

If you didn't happen to schedule your newsletter report into your time management system for the next issue, flip me an e-mail message that lets me know there will be no report. For the record; correspondants should plan on providing feature articles 4 times a year, hi-lighting state conservation issues in their respective area of the state. If you can't find the time, check around, perhaps someone you know would like to fill in for you or share the regional reporting duties.

Please send all newsletter correspondence to:

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Feature Articles

CHANGES IN THE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

This spring, Dan Edge provided an excellent description of the pending changes in the Certification Program of The Wildlife Society. For those who are considering applying for certification before the changes take place, I'd like to provide some details on the process and a few suggestions that may help avoid problems.

All applications for Certified Wildlife Biologist (CWB) and Associate Wildlife Biologist (AWB) are evaluated by a five member Certification Review Board. Members are appointed by the TWS Council to represent various regions of the country as well as the spectrum of organizations employing wildlife biologists. The board

typically has representatives from academia and private industry as well as state and federal agencies. Each member of the present Board has 20 years or more of experience in the wildlife profession.

Every application for certification is reviewed by all members of the CRB. The process for reviewing applications follows a standard routine. Applications are received by the TWS office and reviewed for completeness (correct number of copies, transcripts, signature, etc.) by the Certification Coordinator. Complete applications are gathered into packets of six and mailed to each board member. Board members review each application independently and indicate on a ballot sheet their votes to either approve or deny applicants. Ballot sheets are sent to the chairperson of the CRB and the votes tallied. If there are one or more votes to deny an applicant, the board members discuss the reasons for their votes and try to reach a consensus. After discussion, a majority vote is used to determine approval or denial. Particularly difficult applications are held for detailed discussion at one of the board's two annual meetings.

Before applying, do an honest self evaluation to make sure you meet the requirements outlined in the program brochure. If you meet the requirements, make sure you file a complete application. Incomplete applications are not forwarded to the board. While the board tries to treat each application as an integrated whole, there are certain areas which can virtually assure difficulty in approval. The first two course categories (1a. Wildlife Management, 1b. Wildlife Biology) are critical. Applications without sufficient credits in these categories are usually denied. Likewise, applications which contain no applicable credits in entire categories are difficult to approve. The later situation seems to occur most frequently with Policy, Administration, and Law (category 6.) and, occasionally, with Communications (category 5.).

As stated in the brochure, GIS courses and other technical courses, do not count in category 6. Other classes such as constitutional law, urban planning, business administration, political science, police science, or forensic science do not count unless there is clearly indicated emphasis on natural resources related law, planning, or

administration. Seminar courses do not count in category 5, unless the express purpose of the seminar is to improve communication skills. Often applicants will ask that experience be substituted for formal course work. In order to be accepted, a detailed description of how the experience meets the intent of the appropriate category is required.

Adequate course descriptions, where called for, are essential to help the board determine if course credit can be allowed. Applications without course descriptions are not considered complete. Even if the application does not ask for course descriptions in a particular category, they are recommended if the course title is not clear. While everyone you went to school with may know that "PAS200 - The Biological World" is, in fact, a botany class, the board will not know that unless you provide a description. Often catalog descriptions of courses are too diffuse or cryptic to be of much help. If there is any doubt, you are encouraged to include additional information such as a course outline, or even a few sentences describing the major focus of the course. It is helpful to arrange course descriptions into the appropriate categories as they appear on the application.

Applicants sometimes forget that work related short courses or other training sessions can be used for course credit. A formula for calculating credits is included in the program brochure. Again, it is important to describe the course content and submit proof of completion.

For those applying for CWB status, good descriptions of professional level experience are essential. Job titles are not always reflective of job responsibilities. The key deciding factors as to whether or not credit is given for positions are: is the job wildlife related and is it at a professional level? Work in fisheries, wetland science, range management, and forestry are not normally counted as wildlife related. Professional level work is that which involves more than just data gathering.

Some jobs that carry the title of Wildlife Biologist are, in fact, technician level positions. Likewise, some technician positions involve a level of responsibility and complexity that would count as professional level work. The board depends on the job descriptions to help make those

distinctions. It is not necessary to describe every aspect of a job in detail, but enough information is needed to provide an accurate picture of the work. One or two sentences is usually not enough description. Two pages per job is probably too much.

Avoid the use of regional acronyms as much as possible. Just about everyone in the Northwest knows what NFP means, just as most biologists in California understand what CEQA is. However, they may not mean anything to someone from another region of the country. The board does check references, so it helps if the references listed on the application are individuals familiar with your work.

Presenting one's academic and professional life to a group of strangers for review can be an intimidating process. The CRB tries its utmost to give each application and fair and impartial review. However, we can't read between the lines and fill in blank spots for you. It is up to the applicant to make sure their application is complete; that courses are listed in the proper categories; and that their work and education are described in adequate detail. The most important advice I can give to prospective applicants is to read all of the directions on the application and in the certification brochure, and then **FOLLOW ALL OF THE DIRECTIONS!!**

Finally, while most applications are approved, denial is not a repudiation of an individual or their work. All it means is that the criteria for certification were not met. It should serve as a stimulus for continuing education to meet the criteria so that the applicant can reapply in the future. Likewise, individuals who are certified before the end of the year should not use being "grand fathered" as a reason to cease continuing education. Certification, no matter when it is granted, should be viewed as a commitment by an individual to remain current in the profession.

James M. Ramakka
Chairman, Certification Review Board
jramakka@or.blm.gov

Regional Reports

Central Idaho

Forest Service wildlife biologists conducted lynx surveys on the Payette, Boise, Sawtooth and Salmon-Challis National Forests this fall. The survey efforts were focused in the Burgdorf, Bear Valley, Sawtooth Valley and Cape Horn areas, respectively. Several hair samples were collected from each survey effort and sent to Missoula for identification and DNA analysis. Results are expected sometime next spring. The lynx surveys were part of a national lynx survey effort being undertaken by the Forest Service using one of the scent pad/hair snagging methods recently developed.

The Payette National Forest is improving habitat conditions for the North Idaho ground squirrel (*Spermophilus brunneus*) in a cooperative effort with Albertson College, Cornell University, Idaho Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The species is proposed for listing as *Threatened* under the Endangered Species Act. The habitat improvement activities involve mechanical thinning and prescribed burning to recreate the more open conditions preferred by the species.

The Sawtooth National Forest is establishing several long-term monitoring plots on the Sawtooth National Recreation Area and elsewhere on the Forest in shrub/steppe habitats to conduct breeding bird point counts.

The Salmon-Challis National Forest is conducting large aspen restoration projects in the Leesburg Basin on the Salmon/Cobalt Ranger District and Challis Creek watershed on the Challis Ranger District. The Leesburg Basin project is a partnership with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.

Alan Dohmen ☺

Teaming With Wildlife:

No Report.

Committee Updates

Teaming With Wildlife

No Report

Paul Moroz, Chairperson ☺

Conservation Affairs Committee:

No Report.

Jon Haufler, Chairperson ☺

Nominations-Election Committee:

Call for Nominations for Chapter Officers

The Idaho Chapter is actively soliciting nominations for the offices of President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. All positions hold a two year term. Together these positions form the Executive Committee along with the Past-President, and attend to the business matters of this organization. All officers may stand for re-election.

The following people have indicated an interest in being candidates for this year's election. The nomination committee will review all nominee's submissions in preparation for the election to be described in the next newsletter.

Don Kemner, Chairperson ☺

CANDIDATES FOR IDAHO CHAPTER THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

President

CHARLES E. HARRIS

Personal Data: Born 27 August 1951; Akron, Iowa (not Ohio)

Education: BS, Fisheries and Wildlife Biology, Iowa State University, 1973; MS, Wildlife Biology, Iowa State University, 1976; Ph.D., Wildlife Science, Utah State University, 1982.

Present Position: Principal Wildlife Research

Biologist, Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Program, Idaho Department of Fish and Game (1992-present).

Former Positions: Senior Scientist and Endangered Species Research Biologist, EG&G, Inc./U.S. Department of Energy (1982-87); Regional Wildlife Biologist, Idaho Department of Fish and Game (1987-88); Regional Wildlife Manager, Idaho Department of Fish and Game (1988-92).

Wildlife Society Activities: Member since 1973. Certified Wildlife Biologist (1986); Member Iowa State University student chapter (secretary, treasurer) and North Central Section (1973-76); Member Utah Chapter and Central Mountains and Plains Section (1976-82); Member San Joaquin Valley Chapter (secretary) and Western Section 1982-87; Member Idaho Chapter (newsletter editor) and Northwest Section (newsletter editor) (1987-present); Member Certification Review Board (1990-96); Member Biological Diversity Working Group.

Other Professional Affiliations: Society for Conservation Biology

Principal Professional Interests: Nongame and endangered species management, biodiversity conservation, carnivore ecology and behavior.

Views: It was impressed upon me early in my undergraduate days by several wise and learned professors the importance and value of being involved in one's professional society, and The Wildlife Society is **the** professional society for wildlife biologists. With 26 years of involvement in TWS, the advice of my professors has proven correct (I guess that is why they are considered wise and learned). TWS is an avenue to learn, to grow, and to contribute to our chosen profession.

It is also an avenue to communicate the natural resource knowledge we have to the general public and decision makers in Idaho and to advocate appropriate conservation actions. After all, the mission of The Wildlife Society is – *excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education* -- and it is the responsibility of each of us as members to carry out that mission. I consider it an honor to be nominated to serve as president of the Idaho Chapter of The Wildlife Society, and I will do my utmost to carry out our

mission and to represent the Chapter in Idaho, the Northwest Section, and the national TWS organization.

Toni Holthuijzen

I will be honored to run for the office of vice-president for a second term with your support. The platform on which I ran the first time has not changed. In these times of polarization and conflict in natural resource management, I believe that closer cooperation among all responsible parties is the key to success to manage natural resources in a sensible and professional manner. To this end the NW Section meeting, hosted by the ICTWS, has organized two symposia that among other topics, addresses cooperation among private, state and federal organizations. I you think that I did a credible job on the platform I ran on the first term and in organizing the 1999 annual meeting and the NW Section meetings, I would be honored to run for a second term. I would hereby like to solicit your support. Thank you.

Vice-president

NAME: Scott Robinson

BACKGROUND: I was born in North Carolina in 1953 and grew-up in California. I am presently single with 2 children: 1 in college and 1 in high school. I have been a wildlife biologist with the Bureau of Land Management in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho since 1991. My major duties have focused on rare animal species and watchable wildlife. Prior to this job, I was with the BLM in Fairbanks, Alaska from 1982 to 1991 and in Ely, Nevada from 1976 to 1982. I earned my B.S. degree in Wildlife Management from Humboldt State University in 1975. Consequently, I have studied and worked with a variety of wildlife in 4 major ecosystems of N. America, namely the redwood forest, Great Basin, subarctic, and Rocky Mountains. I belong to the small brotherhood of people who have had an up-close and personal contact with a sow grizzly bear and cubs.

TWS ACTIVITIES: I have been a member of TWS since 1974, the Northwest Section since

1982, and the Idaho Chapter since 1992. I helped organize a local group of members when I was in Fairbanks and Ely, respectively. I also helped organize the annual meetings in Post Falls in 1994 and 2000. I presented papers at Nevada and Idaho chapter meetings. I presented and published papers in the 1979 and 1990 Transactions of the Western Section. Currently, I am organizing a Watchable Wildlife Workshop for the 2000 meeting in Post Falls. I have been a Certified Wildlife Biologist since 1982.

CHAPTER PHILOSOPHY: A major duty of the vice-president is to organize the annual chapter meeting. I support these meetings because they offer us an opportunity to exchange scientific information, swap stories, conduct business at hand, and enjoy each other's company. I believe the ICTWS has the ability to influence decisions regarding management of natural resources in Idaho. I support our chapter's decisions to assist the 4-H program and the Inland Empire Natural Resources Youth Camp because I believe in environmental education. Our organization can function like a whole organism when the individual members contribute their knowledge, skills, and abilities.

GOALS: I would like to see increased membership within portions of Idaho, such as the Panhandle, that are presently under represented by the number of working professionals. If elected, I would be happy to serve as your vice-president. I will do my best to serve you and your chapter.

Treasurer

Name: Michelle Commons

Soon to be... Research Associate - University of Idaho and Idaho Department of Fish and Game - sage grouse Biologist - SW Region, Idaho
Educational Background: B.A. University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, 1993

M.N.R.M. - Master's of Natural Resources Management - University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, 1997. Thesis: Movement and Habitat Use of Gunnison's Sage Grouse in SW Colorado

Experience: Prior to completing my undergraduate degree, I was employed by the University of Toronto as a Research Assistant working on white-tailed ptarmigan in Colorado. I was involved in this project for 3 summers and began working closely with personnel from the Colorado Division of Wildlife.

After completing my undergraduate degree at the University of Northern Colorado, I was employed by the Colorado Division of Wildlife as a Wildlife Technician working on the Gunnison's sage grouse in SW Colorado. Little did I know at the time that the preliminary research I conducted would turn into a graduate project. My thesis research focused on the movements and habitat use of sage grouse in highly fragmented habitats. I studied 3 geographically isolated populations of Gunnison's sage grouse. I defended my Master's in June 1997 and immediately became a Research Associate for the University of British Columbia studying White-tailed ptarmigan on Vancouver, Island, British Columbia.

I am currently employed by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game as a Wildlife Habitat Technician in Jerome, Idaho. I work closely with the Bureau of Land Management and the Bureau of Reclamation rehabilitating small parcels of public land. I have been a TWS member (national) for 6 years. I have also been a member (state) in Colorado, Manitoba, and currently Idaho. I have presented papers at the National and State level throughout my career.

When Tony Apa (current Treasurer) asked me to take over his position as Chapter Treasurer because he was leaving the state to pursue his career goals, I eagerly accepted. I knew that I was jumping into a difficult position as Tony was organizing the Shrub-Steppe Symposium for the March 2000 meeting. I have taken over all of his responsibilities and have found it quite rewarding thus far.

If elected as Treasurer, I would be honored to continue to serve the State of Idaho's professional Society for wildlife biologists. I believe the annual meetings should encourage critical thinking, discuss creative and adaptive approaches to wildlife management, and promote technology transfer between state and federal

agencies, the private sector, and academics. There is always enough time for volunteer work. Accepting the challenge to become the Chapter's Treasurer would be incredibly rewarding. Please exercise your right and responsibility and vote in the upcoming election.

Michelle L. Commons
Wildlife Habitat Technician
Idaho Department of Fish and Game
PO BOX 186
Burley, ID 83318
208-862-3479

Please note that until elections are over Michelle Commons will be acting treasurer since Tony Apa will be moving to Colorado. She can be found at the Cottonwood WMA, O.O. Box 428, Jerome, Idaho 83338. Her phone number is 208-862-3479.

Secretary

Name: Anna Oswiak

I received my B.S. in Animal Science from Michigan State University, and my M.S. in Natural Resource Sciences from Washington State University. I am currently employed by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game as the Landowner/Sportsman Coordinator in Salmon, and deal primarily with wildlife depredation problems. Other positions I have held include wildlife technician (ID Fish and Game, WA Dept. of Natural Resources), and forestry technician (U.S. Forest Service). I have been a member of the Idaho Chapter of The Wildlife Society since 1997, and was involved in the student chapter of TWS while attending WSU. I look forward to serving in the upcoming term!

Name: Jenny Taylor

Jenny Taylor is a wildlife biologist on the Idaho Panhandle National Forest and lives in Coeur d'Alene. Jenny is currently out of town and therefore I do not have a biography for her. For those who have computer access I will try and update her biography and place it in the electronic version of this newsletter at www.ictws.org

AWARDS COMMITTEE

Professional Wildlifer Award

The Idaho Chapter is now soliciting nominations for the 2000 Professional Wildlifer Award. The award seeks to recognize individual members of the society who have made outstanding professional contributions to the wildlife resources of Idaho over an extended period of time.

Special Recognition Award

The Idaho Chapter is now soliciting nominations for the 2000 Special Recognition Award. This 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 management, conservation, 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 3 years is eligible for nomination for a Special Recognition Award.

Any Chapter member may submit a nomination for either of the awards. Each nomination should include the following: (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, and (4) the signature of the nominator. Two letters in support of the nominee from other professionals will aid in committee decisions. Because the awards committee confers two awards, nominators must specify for which award the nomination is intended. A single nominee cannot be submitted for both awards. Nominees not selected to receive an award must be re-nominated for consideration in future years. Send all nomination materials by (March 1, 2000) to **Alan Sands, Awards Committee Chair, TNC, 2404 Bank Drive, Suite 314, Boise, ID 83705**

Alan Sands, Chairperson ©

Volunteer Outreach

The Idaho Chapter -TWS Communication Awards Committee is seeking volunteers to review presentations and abstracts at the upcoming Northwest Section Meeting during March 6-10, 2000 in Post Falls, Idaho. While serving on the Review Panel is hard work for the volunteers, it is important to recognize the contribution that each speaker makes at the Section Meeting. Professional and student presentations/abstracts would be reviewed. Volunteers would review and evaluate roughly 8-10, 30 minute presentations per day. Each reviewer would then fill out a standard evaluation form for each presentation and deliver it to the Panel Chair. The more reviewers on the panel will lessen the overall workload. We would like to have each NW chapter well represented on the Review Panel.

If you are planning to attend the Year 2000 Section Meeting and would like to contribute towards it's success please contact: Alan Dohmen: Panel Chair at (208) 879-5012 - home; (208) 879-4321 -work; E-mail (home): alandohmen@hotmail.com; or adohmen/r4_s-c@fs.fed.us (internet) or adohmen/r4,s-c (ibm). Your help and support for this portion of the Section Meeting will be much appreciated.

Alan Dohmen, Chairperson ☺

Membership Committee:

No Report.

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.

Internet Sites of Note

Sections and Chapters of The Wildlife Society:
www.tws-west.org/sac-shasta/chapters.html

State Fish & Game Agencies:
www.dnr.state.oh.us/odnr/wildlife/links/state.html

Upcoming Meetings

Northwest Section Meeting, Post Falls, Idaho March 6-10, 2000. Contact Tony Apa for early registration at 208-324-4359: FAX 208-324-1160: or E-mail at tapa@idfg.state.id.us Look for the website registration at www.ictws.org

Society for Conservation Biology Annual Meeting, University of Montana, Missoula, Montana. June 9 - 12, 2000. Theme of the meeting is Large Scale Conservation. For more info contact; Pletsch@forestry.umt.edu

Happy Holiday