

THE WILD TIMES



IDAHO CHAPTER THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

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NEW EDITOR ON BOARD!

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Newsletter Articles Due April 15, 2002

President's Message

Two years seemed like a long ways off in March 2000, but it has passed quickly. It has been a real pleasure serving as the president of the Idaho Chapter of The Wildlife Society for the past 2 years. I have enjoyed the opportunity to interact more closely with the other presidents of the Chapters in the Northwest Section, the Northwest Section officers, the staff of TWS, and TWS Council. We are part of a truly excellent organization, and this excellence comes from those who volunteer their services to the Society.

In this regard I would like to personally thank vice president Toni Holthuijzen for his 4 years of service to the Chapter in organizing the annual meetings and putting together the programs and abstracts. I would also like to acknowledge Idaho Power's support of Toni and the Chapter over the years. They have consistently been a corporate sponsor of our annual meeting and provided printing of our programs and abstracts. Thank you to secretary Anna Owsiak, treasurer Michelle (Commons) Kemner, newsletter editor Joe Butsick who hung in there even after moving to Montana, web guy Dave Musil for moving us into cyberspace to help communicate with our members and others interested in TWS (note that Dave is also our new newsletter editor), and to the committee chairs and members who handle the special needs and responsibilities of the Chapter.

I look forward to continued service to the Idaho Chapter and TWS. I urge interested members to consider stepping into the many leadership positions within TWS, you will be amply rewarded for your time and effort.

The July 31, 2001 deadline for submitting bids for the 2004 Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society has come and gone, and the Idaho Chapter did not submit a bid. I only heard from 6 members who volunteered to serve as one of the 12 committee chairs or as a committee member, and no one expressed an interest in serving as the overall chair and vice chair of the Arrangements Committee. Having talked with other TWS Chapters and Sections who have hosted past annual conferences, there

was no way we had the minimum core group required to pull off a successful meeting.

This is clearly a case where we are better off not to have tried than to have tried and failed. Northwest Section cities that have submitted bids to host the 2004 annual conference include Calgary and Edmonton (Alberta Chapter TWS) and Anchorage (Alaska Chapter TWS). Sandra Staples-Bortner, TWS Program Director, will visit each of these cities and submit a recommendation to TWS Council for a decision at their March 2002 meeting.

Members of the Idaho Chapter of the Wildlife Society

I am struggling to find willing members to fill officer positions for 2002-2004. I have two members running for Vice- President, but I still need candidates for President, I also need one more candidate each for Treasurer and Secretary. If you have ever thought about getting involved with your professional society, now is the time. The time commitment is minimal and it is an excellent way to gain leadership experience. Please contact Jim Unsworth at junswort@idfg.state.id.us.

Feature Articles

Policy News

S. 990, THE AMERICAN WILDLIFE ENHANCEMENT ACT by Senator Mike Crapo, (R-Idaho)

The U.S. Senate recently passed S. 990, also known as the American Wildlife Enhancement Act. The Act will protect private property rights by involving citizens, and state and local entities while expanding opportunities for wildlife protection. It gives landowners and states local control over wildlife and habitat issues under the model of the time-tested Pittman-Robertson grant program supported by sportsmen and sporting groups nationwide. S. 990 strengthens states' and private property rights by providing money directly to states and private landowners for relief from unfunded mandates of the Endangered Species Act. It provides compensation to property

owners for improving habitat on their land. States and citizens can address wildlife and habitat needs in their way, not the federal government's.

Unfortunately, some have sought to compare S. 990 to a bill I voted against--the Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA). S. 990, as opposed to CARA, does not seek to acquire land through condemnation or federal purchases of private property. Critics erroneously characterize S. 990 as "Son of CARA." I voted against CARA and will fight against any attempts to link the two bills in a conference committee.

My voting record regarding private property and states' rights is very solid, and I have worked closely and successfully with private property advocacy groups in shaping several pieces of federal legislation. One such measure would have provided direct financial payments to private property owners who suffer property valuation loss due to federal agency threats over endangered species or other wildlife issues. While that bill did not pass, S. 990 has critical bi-partisan support to push relief for landowners closer to reality. Further, my support of S. 990 is heavily influenced by my belief in the power of collaboration. I have long believed that resolution of environmental and resource conflicts will be based on the degree of real collaboration between state, local, and federal agencies and private citizens. Federally-imposed actions rarely succeed and inevitably create enormous conflict. Decisions made with authoritative participation by those who live closest to the area of concern succeed with public support.

Here are the facts about S. 990:

No Federal Land Acquisition: S. 990 does not allow federal purchase of private property. State land acquisition is already done only under limited circumstances, and S. 990 tightens those restrictions. Between 1991 and 2001, less than five percent of the Pittman-Robertson fund, the existing law under which these programs will be implemented, was used for land acquisition; and none was federal. Furthermore, as an authorization bill, funding for S. 990 must be debated annually by Congress to ensure that the legislation is

achieving its goals of protecting private property rights and improving habitat. No Outer Continental Shelf revenues are used to fund this bill.

No Land Condemnation: There is no provision, as critics charge, that the "government can grab your land for any reason." S. 990 does not contain the word "condemnation" and does not authorize land condemnation, federal or otherwise.

State and Local Controls: S. 990 moves decision-making away from federal control to state leaders, local citizens and property owners. It adds new revenue so states and landowners can improve habitat for both game and non-game species, and rightfully moves those land-use decisions to state and local levels.

Help for Private Property Owners: Through compensation for habitat improvement in S. 990, private property owners who might otherwise face federal regulations and threats from the federal government will have new, critical financial assistance. Too often in the past, the government has expected habitat improvement at private expense. Under S. 990, if a property owner wants to let land lie fallow for wildlife or plant willows to aid salmon recovery, he can now be paid to do so. S. 990 requires local consultation, which will result in local support for improved and compensated habitat for wildlife and threatened or endangered species.

Limits On Who Is Involved: S. 990 contains specific language that bars funding for any effort that seeks to promote an "anti-hunting or trapping" agenda.

Private Groups Cannot Purchase Property Under S. 990: Of the bill's four titles, land acquisition is authorized in just two titles. In Title I, states and territories of the United

States are the only entities eligible to acquire property for the purpose of wildlife conservation. Title III allows a state to purchase land to conserve fish, wildlife, recreational or ecological resources with the caveat that the state has collaborated with the public, and local communities and individuals support the acquisition. No conservation or environmental group may use the funds in this bill to acquire property.

No Federal Reviews: Opponents argue that S. 990 exempts state and local activities from review by the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA). Yes, that is the point: keep federal agencies and bureaucrats out of the process, allowing states to control how wildlife conservation dollars are spent in their areas. This bill gives funding to states, property owners, and others who are interested to assist in wildlife conservation and related efforts.

Most believe that the basic objectives of the Endangered Species Act and other similar federal Acts are well-intended. However, the fact is that the implementation of these laws is often heavy-handed, usually unilateral, rarely successful, potentially dangerous to private property rights, and highly influenced by political agendas that go far beyond the objectives of original legislation. State and local governments and private citizens are put on the defensive and have few, if any, resources with which to either fight federal initiatives or pay for their implementation. S. 990 provides resources and a structure with which these groups can either manage local situations or prevent federal action. Under this bill, we will have some resources to initiate action rather than constantly be reactive and defensive.

S. 990 is a grant program to put states, local governments, sporting and conservation groups, and property owners looking to assist wildlife in charge of issues regarding wildlife and endangered species. I remain committed to private property and states' rights, and the fact is that this legislation strengthens both.

In the FY03 budget the Administration has proposed, for the first time, a discrete request for state wildlife

conservation grants. While the level of funding remains below the goals of the Teaming With Wildlife Coalition, this is an important acknowledgement of federal support to continue our projects to conserve wildlife.

STATE AND TRIBAL WILDLIFE GRANTS

In a continuation of the spirit of WCRP and the FY 2002 state wildlife grants, the Administration's budget requests \$60 million for state and tribal wildlife grants with the same language as in FY 2002. However, \$60 million is a \$25 million reduction from the \$85 million Congress appropriated in the FY 2002 state wildlife grants. If all things stay the same, Idaho Fish and Game would receive about \$684,000.

LANDOWNER INCENTIVE PROGRAM

In addition, the Administration proposes to fund the Landowner Incentive Program at \$50 million, an increase of \$10 million over FY 2002. This program provides competitive matching grants for the protection and restoration of habitats on private lands through the states.

NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION ACT

The North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) request is \$43.56 million for FY 2003, \$60,000 more than was approved last year.

SECTION 6 OF THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

The Cooperative Endangered Species Fund is funded at \$91 million, \$5.235 million less than FY 2002. Historically, a small amount of these funds have been made available to the states for conservation grants and the vast majority have been earmarked for land acquisition in endangered species recovery plans, safe harbor agreements, and habitat conservation plans. There is no indication that will change in FY 2003.

**SUMMARY OF STATE WILDLIFE
CONSERVATION GRANTS IN THE FISCAL
YEAR 2003
BUSH ADMINISTRATION BUDGET**

Landowner Incentive Grants* - \$50 million
Cooperative Endangered Species* - \$91 million
NAWCA* - \$43.560 million
State and Tribal Wildlife Grants* - \$60 million

*Note: As proposed, all of these grant programs fall under the umbrella of the Land and Water Conservation Fund and are administered by the Fish and Wildlife Service.

If interested, you can view the budget at:

<http://w3.access.gpo.gov/usbudget/>

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/fy2003/index.html>

Farm Bill Amendments

The Senate is continuing to work on the Farm Bill (S. 1731), after motions to limit debate on the legislation failed in December 2001. With over 200 amendments offered for consideration, it was unlikely that debates would conclude before the Christmas holiday. Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle (D-SD) suggested that the Senate would reconvene after Christmas and work into January in order to pass a farm bill this session. Instead the bill was shelved until the 2002 congressional session, which begins on 23 January 2002.

Some of the amendments that have been offered affect the conservation provisions of the Farm Bill. Below is a brief explanation of some of these.

Cochran-Roberts Amendment

Senators Thad Cochran (R-MS) and Pat Roberts (R-KS) offered an amendment as a substitute for S. 1731. Cochran and Roberts believe their amendment has a stronger conservation title than S. 1731, as the conservation provisions are not coupled with production, which can create a tendency for farmers to plant crops on sensitive lands. They also think that since their bill more closely resembles the House bill (H.R. 2646), it will be easier to pass it out of conference in a timely manner. President Bush is said to support the Cochran-Roberts substitute.

The Cochran-Roberts amendment does not provide some of the programs and funding levels present in the Senate Agriculture Committee bill. In particular, the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program and the Farmland Protection Program would receive less funding than in the committee bill. Also, the Cochran-Roberts amendment deletes the Conservation Security Program, an important initiative for encouraging conservation practices on working lands, from S. 1731. This amendment was defeated by a vote to table it on 18 December.

Bond Amendment

Senator Christopher Bond (R-MO) introduced an amendment that would have given the President broad authority to waive environmental and other laws if proposed agency actions had significant adverse economic impact on farmers. This amendment failed on 13 December.

The amendment would have directed the Secretary of Agriculture to review any agency action proposed by any Federal agency, to determine whether the action would have a significant adverse economic impact on, or jeopardize the personal safety of, agricultural producers. If the action did impact producers, the USDA was to develop alternatives in consultation with the acting agency. If no agreement could be reached, the USDA would have been authorized to elevate the decision to the President, who could then block the proposal. This amendment would have given the President the ability to override the Endangered Species Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, and other important environmental laws.

Burns Amendment

Senator Conrad Burns (R-MT) has offered an amendment to limit Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) enrollment, as well as CRP re-enrollment, to no more than 50% of a farm's acreage. As limitations and restrictions already exist to limit CRP usage, conservationists believe further restrictions are unnecessary and inappropriate. For example, current restrictions limit CRP to 25% of a county's cropland, protecting the integrity of local economies. Also, CRP contracts are limited to providing no more than \$50,000 in program payments, restricting the total amount of land entered by single landowner.

Since 1996, CRP enrollment has been targeted to environmentally sensitive lands through the Environmental Benefits Index (EBI), which limits whole Farm inclusion to just those lands that qualify as marginal under the EBI. If the Burns amendment passes, and CRP lands being re-enrolled are assessed under the EBI for the first time, then restricting CRP enrollment to 50% of that land will circumvent the EBI and preclude protection of some sensitive lands.

The further restrictions imposed on CRP by the Burns amendment would negatively affect the ability of the CRP to benefit soil, water, wildlife, producers, and society as a whole. This amendment is currently under consideration by the Senate.

Hutchinson Amendment

Senator Tim Hutchinson (R-AR) has introduced an amendment that would allow the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to circumvent the National Environmental Policy Act on migratory bird management issues. It would allow APHIS to issue depredation permits for taking (killing) any bird protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. This would exempt APHIS from complying with environment and bird protection laws when taking migratory birds to protect crops. This amendment is pending consideration by the Senate.

The amendment specifically states:

“Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any migratory bird management carried out by the Secretary shall be exempt from the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 --
(c) PERMITS; MANAGEMENT. --Any agent, officer, or employee of the Service that carries out any activity relating to migratory bird management may, under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act --(1) issue a depredation permit to a stakeholder or cooperator of the Service; and (2) manage and take migratory birds.”

Harkin Amendment

Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA), Chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee and original author of S. 1731, offered an amendment as a substitute for the committee bill. His amendment restores \$1 billion of the conservation money that previously was removed in committee. Most

notably his amendment would increase the Conservation Reserve Program enrollment cap from 40 million acres to 41.1 million acres and increase funding for the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program from \$360 million to \$1.25 billion. This amendment is currently under consideration by the Senate.

Supreme Court Declines Endangered Species Case

The U.S. Supreme Court refused in January to hear a case that challenges the constitutionality of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and would affect how far the government can go to protect endangered species.

The plaintiffs in the case, a group of California developers, claim that the Fish and Wildlife Service exceeds its authority under the ESA in listing three shrimp species as endangered, and wants the Supreme Court to roll back protections on the shrimp. The Fish and Wildlife Service won the case in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia in April 2001, so the Building Industry Association of Superior California decided to appeal their case to the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court's denial to hear the case is the fourth time the court has averted cases aimed at weakening the ESA.

For more information:

<http://ens.lycos.com/ens/jan2002/2002L-01-15-09.html>

<http://www.ll.georgetown.edu/Fed-Ct/Circuit/dc/opinions/00-5143a.html>

State Wildlife Funding Action

The Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations bill for 2002 included \$1.32 million for a truncated version of the FY 2001 Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA) without the long-term funding commitment. The bill included \$80 million for state wildlife grants, administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game will be receiving about \$900,000, but the criteria and guidelines for receiving and dispersing the funds are still being worked out between the Fish and Wildlife Service and the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

President Bush's fiscal year 2003 budget request will be released at the beginning of February, but it is not yet

known how much funding will be allocated for state wildlife grants.

One program slated for a budget increase in 2003 is the National Wildlife Refuge System. Secretary of Interior Gail Norton announced that the administration will propose boosting the refuge system budget by \$56.5 million in FY2003, an 18% increase. This recommendation follows the release of a report prepared by the Cooperative Alliance for Refuge Enhancement, a coalition of conservation groups including The Wildlife Society, calling for Congress to more than double the refuge budget.

In the last minutes of the 2001 congressional session, the Senate passed The American Wildlife Enhancement Act (S. 990), which would increase funding for state wildlife conservation programs. Title I of S. 990, like Title III of CARA, would authorize an appropriation of \$350 million annually for state fish and wildlife conservation, recreation, and education programs. However, unlike the guaranteed funding of CARA for 15 years, money would have to be appropriated annually for 6 years to fund S. 990. The bill has been referred to the House Resources Committee. Senator Mike Crapo co-sponsored this bill, so he needs to hear from you thanking him for his efforts on behalf of Idaho's wildlife resources. He is receiving lots of negative comments from the private property rights organizations opposed to CARA and all CARA-like legislation.

In an effort to elevate wildlife conservation funding in 2003, The Wildlife Society, along with other wildlife conservation organizations, is organizing a lobbying day and reception in Washington, D.C., on 11-12 March 2002. This event will provide an excellent opportunity to meet with congressional representatives, encourage support of increased wildlife funding, hear from various state coalitions about how they used past monies allocated to their state, network with fellow wildlife supporters from across the country, and celebrate our dedication to wildlife. Interested parties are encouraged to attend!

For more information:

http://www.iafwa.org/CARA/Updates/wildlife_funding_reception.htm

BLM Vegetation, Watershed and Wildlife Habitat Management

The BLM is compiling an environmental impact statement (EIS) and conducting public scoping meetings to ensure that its land management practices benefit stakeholders, sustain natural resources and provide for long-term multiple uses. The EIS will analyze the variety of vegetation treatments applied by the BLM to conserve and restore native vegetation, watersheds and wildlife habitats, including prescribed fire, riparian restoration, native plant community restoration, invasive plant and noxious weed treatments, understory thinning and forest health treatments.

The new EIS will update and consolidate four existing BLM vegetation treatment EIS's into one comprehensive document for the western U.S., including Alaska. This document will serve as the baseline impact assessment for other new, revised or existing land use plans involving the maintenance and modification of vegetation, watersheds and wildlife habitats.

The public scoping meetings will address human and environmental concerns, and identify significant issues and possible alternatives to the proposed action. The dates, times and locations for the public meetings can be found in the Federal Register notice, 67 FR 2901. Written comments may be submitted through 29 March 2002.

Send written comments to:

Brian Amme
Project Manager
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 12000
Reno, Nevada 89520-0006

For more information:

http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/aces/aces140.html

Lynx Study Under Investigation

The Inspector Generals of the Departments of Agriculture and Interior and officials at the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife are investigating the actions of seven federal and state biologists who have been participating in a national lynx survey. Some politicians and news media have accused the biologists of submitting false evidence to skew the results of the lynx survey and impact public policy decisions in national forests, though there is no concrete evidence supporting their claim.

The 3-year lynx survey was initiated in 1999 by the Forest Service (FS) and the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to determine the current distribution of the Canadian lynx in the contiguous 48 states. The survey was intended to help guide land management decisions in lynx-inhabited regions.

The study makes use of the behavior of cats to scent mark their territories by rubbing against something, leaving hair behind in the process. Rubbing stations are set up with scent lures to attract cats, and then the hair is collected and sent to a laboratory for DNA analysis. Genetic analysis is used to determine what species left the hair, therefore indicating the presence or absence of lynx in the area. However, concerns have been raised about the sensitivity of DNA analysis and the accuracy of the results in differentiating between cat species, such as lynx and bobcat.

The seven biologists implicated in the alleged breach of protocol worked for the FS, the FWS and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. To test the validity of DNA analysis, the biologists, independently of one another, submitted control samples from known lynx along with the samples taken from rubbing stations in the Gifford Pinchot and Wenatchee National Forests in Washington, where the presence of lynx could potentially limit timber harvests and snowmobile use. The biologists' supervisors were apparently aware that the test samples were being submitted, notes were kept about where these samples were obtained, and the DNA test results from the control samples were not included in the lynx survey results. However, submitting control samples when none are specified in the protocol, and failing to notify other survey researchers and the DNA lab about control samples may constitute a deviation from accepted scientific procedure.

An independent study conducted by the FS determined in June 2001 that there was no intent on the part of the biologists to defraud or undermine the lynx study or to influence land management decisions in WA, though it was determined that their actions were unacceptable and may cost the broader study its credibility.

Washington state House and Senate resources committees held a joint hearing on 16 January 2002 in Olympia, WA to discuss the interagency lynx survey and submittal of unauthorized study samples. In addition, U.S. representative James Hansen (R-UT), chair of the House Resources Committee, has scheduled a meeting for February to probe the incident, and has asked the General Accounting Office to do so as well.

For more information:

<http://www.wa.gov/wdfw/depinfo/director/jan1602.htm>

Grants for Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program Projects in Idaho

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game's Non-game Wildlife Program is offering up to \$300,000 in federal wildlife conservation funds to organizations and individuals seeking to contribute to the conservation needs of native fish and wildlife species in Idaho. We are soliciting **pre-proposals** for projects to be conducted and completed by 30 September 2004. The funding being offered is via the federal Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program (WCRP), a 1-year appropriation of funds to state fish and wildlife agencies "to address the unmet needs of a diverse array of wildlife and associated habitats, including species that are not hunted or fished, for wildlife conservation, wildlife conservation education, and wildlife-associated recreation projects."

Eligible Projects

Projects must address the conservation of specific native birds, mammals, amphibians, reptiles, or fish. Projects must clearly benefit wildlife conservation and improve or enhance conservation-related education or recreation. Projects that generate revenue are discouraged. Projects that may involve land acquisition will not be accepted. A general example of suitable activities include projects that:

- benefit native species or assemblages.
- benefit conservation of native species habitat.
- lead to increased understanding by the public of a

native species or group of native species, their needs, or their management and conservation.

- provide educational opportunities to focus on a native species or group of native species, their needs, management or conservation.
- provide recreational opportunities to observe, enjoy, or learn about native species through viewing, access, or interpretive sites.
- provide data to determine status, distribution, or that develop conservation recommendations for native species via surveys, inventories, and monitoring activities.
- lead to increased understanding of factors that may limit a native species or its habitat.

Eligible Species

Native species of birds, mammals, fish, amphibians, and reptiles, with priority for those with greatest conservation needs, or having unmet needs. Priority species generally fall into the categories of listed (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Candidate, Proposed, Threatened, or Endangered) and at-risk species (Idaho Department of Fish and Game Species of Special Concern, U.S. Forest Service/Bureau of Land Management Sensitive species, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Species of Concern and Watch species, and Idaho Partners in Flight Priority species).

Who May Apply

Applicants must demonstrate the ability and competence to complete the proposed project. Eligible applicants include: private individuals; schools, universities, and other educational institutions; non-government organizations; and local, state, tribal, and federal agencies.

Funding

While WCRP grant requests for up to \$30,000 will be accepted, awards generally will not exceed \$10,000 per year. For projects exceeding \$30,000 please contact the Grants Coordinator. A non-federal match (cash, in-kind contributions, donations) of at least 25% of the total cost is required for each WCRP project. Some small grant requests for under \$1000 may be funded directly by the Non-game Wildlife Program (funds come from the Idaho Non-game Income Tax Check-off, sales of wildlife license plates, and direct contributions to the Non-game Trust Fund) with no matching requirements.

GRANT APPLICATION DEADLINES ARE: 1 JANUARY, 1 APRIL, 1 JULY, AND 1 OCTOBER.

Applicants of successful pre-proposals will be notified and requested to submit full proposals that meet the requirements for a federal aid grant. You are encouraged to contact the non-game grants coordinator to check on the availability of funds before submitting a pre-proposal.

For program guidelines, pre-proposal formats, lists of priority species, and other information about the WCRP grant program and supplemental materials, visit the Idaho Department of Fish and Game website at: <http://www2.state.id.us/fishgame/info/nongame/wcrpgrant/>

Or contact:

Karla D. Russell, PhD

Nongame Grants Coordinator

Idaho Department of Fish and Game

PO Box 25

Boise, ID 83707-0025

Tel: 208-334-2920; Fax: 208-334-2114

email: krussell@idfg.state.id.us

Committee Updates

The success of our Chapter, and TWS as a whole, is based upon the work of dedicated volunteers. Please consider volunteering for one of the committees below. Contact the committee chairperson or Chuck charris@idfg.state.id.us if you have an interest in chairing or working on any of the following committees.

Conservation Affairs Committee:

Gregg Servheen is chair and could use some members. gservee@idfg.state.id.us).

Nominations-Election Committee:(vacant)

Before the March 2002 annual meeting, members of the Chapter will elect a new President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. We are therefore seeking individuals interested in serving as officers of the Idaho Chapter. The success of the Idaho

Chapter and The Wildlife Society depends upon the volunteer efforts of its members. Please consider taking this opportunity to contact Jim Unsworth, chair of the nominations committee, and let him know which position you are interested in (208-334-2920)

junswort@idfg.state.id.us. If Jim does not hear from you, you will be hearing from him.

Awards Committee:

TWS Diversity Award

The Wildlife Society is pleased to announce the establishment of a Diversity Award and requests your assistance in nominating an individual or organization involved in efforts to positively affect the gender and ethnic diversity of our profession.

TWS Council established the Diversity Award to publicly acknowledge an individual or organization that is making an outstanding contribution to promote gender and ethnic diversity within natural resource-related professions, especially wildlife conservation/education. Individuals as well as public agencies, institutions of higher education, and non-governmental organizations including for- and not-for-profit organizations that are engaging in natural resource conservation in a manner consistent with TWS objectives are eligible for consideration. Nominations must demonstrate positive contributions to some or all of the evaluation criteria that include:

- leadership in promoting diversity
- innovative design and implementation of diversity programs, and
- tangible results

Nomination forms and procedures can be obtained via TWS website (www.wildlife.org) or from the Idaho Chapter TWS president. The deadline for nominations is 15 April 2002.

We need your assistance to make this award a reality. Nomination forms should be mailed, faxed, or emailed to TWS Gender and Ethnic Diversity Committee c/o Annette Dominguez, Director, Human Resources, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, TX 78744; phone 512/380-4808; fax 512/389-4462; e-mail <mailto:annette.dominguez@tpwd.state.tx.us>.

Dr. Kerry Reese
Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources
University of Idaho
Moscow, ID 83844
208/885-6435 kreese@uidaho.edu.

Kerry could also use some assistance on this year's Awards Committee.

Education and Information: (vacant)

Resolutions and Public Statements (vacant)

Audit: (vacant)

Upcoming Events



2002 Idaho Chapter of The Wildlife Society Annual Meeting

The 2002 Idaho Chapter TWS annual meeting is scheduled for March 14 and 15 at the West Coast Idaho Falls Hotel.

The meeting will include a special session, general paper and poster sessions, the Chapter business meeting, and the social/fund raiser (auction and raffle). Check out the website for an agenda. <http://www.ictws.org/>

Lodging

The 2002 meeting will be held at the West Coast Idaho Falls Hotel (formerly Cavanaugh's on the Falls), 475 River Parkway. A block of rooms has been reserved, and the

following special rates are extended to members of the ICTWS: \$65.00 Tower View, single/double occupancy; \$55.00 Tower single/double occupancy; \$55.00 Poolside Cabanas, single/double occupancy. Contact Information: 208-523-8000; 1-800-325-4000; <http://www.westcoasthotels.com/> Be sure to mention you are attending the Wildlife Society meeting when making reservations.

Registration

For registration information, contact Michelle Commons at 208-525-7290; FAX 208-523-7604; e-mail mcommons@idfg.state.id.us. The website <http://www.ictws.org> will be available by January 1, 2002 for registration.

Hey Idaho Chapter members, I know you are tired of e-mails for the chapter about the upcoming meeting, butttttt I need your help too. The fundraiser is very much in need of donated items. I have a few items donated and a few commitments from members to donate items. However, we need more donations of raffle, silent auction, and live auction items.

Suggestions for donations: wildlife books, a hunting or fishing or rafting day trip, a dutch oven dinner in a nice outdoor location, cast of an Idaho wolf or grizzly bear paw print, flies for flyfishing, wildlife carvings, prints, photos, and antlers, bottles of wine, homebrew, let your imagination run wild.

Please let me know ASAP what you can donate. Contact me at the e-mail address, telephone or fax below. Thanks!

Don Kemner
Environmental Staff Biologist
Idaho Fish and Game
1515 Lincoln Road
Idaho Falls, ID 83401
Telephone: (208) 525-7290
<mailto:dkemner@idfg.state.id.us>
Fax: (208) 523-7604

P.S. Money from the raffle goes towards scholarships, funding travel for the Idaho 4-H Habitat Evaluation Team, printing and mailing newsletters, funding travel for students to attend meetings, domain name

registration for the website, funding the National TWS meeting . . . So it is really important to have items to raffle and auction! --- Dave Musil, webpage editor

Northwest Section TWS 2002 Meeting in Spokane, Washington

The Northwest Section TWS will hold its 2002 annual meeting 16-19 April in conjunction with the Washington Chapter TWS meeting in Spokane, Washington, at the Doubletree Hotel, Spokane Valley (North 1100 Sullivan Road, Spokane, Washington). For reservations call 1-800-222-8733 (\$65/night single or double; \$75/night triple or quad). A registration form is available on the Washington Chapter web site (www.washingtonwildlifesoc.org).

Three workshops are being planned for the 16th and 17th: Practical Genetics for Wildlife Biologists; Communication Skills for Wildlife Biologists; Managing Human/Wildlife Conflicts: an emphasis on non-lethal methods of animal damage control.

Seeking Nominations for Officers

The Northwest Section TWS is seeking nominations for President-elect, Vice-President, and Secretary-Treasurer. If you are interested in serving the Northwest Section in one of these positions, please contact Jon Haufler, Ecosystem Management Research Institute, PO Box 1333, Seeley Lake, MT 59686; (877)388-7769; jon_haufler@emri.org. The list of nominees and a ballot will be posted in the February 2000 newsletter.

Student Travel Grants

The Northwest Section has a goal of encouraging student attendance and participation at its annual meeting. In support of this, the Section will make up to \$2000 available each year to support student travel to the annual meeting of the Section. Students are encouraged to participate in the meeting by giving presentations, preparing posters, or volunteering services to the host chapter. Student support can be for paper or poster presenters, student chapter officers, student chapter members, or others with good justification. The Secretary-Treasurer of the Section will distribute the funds based on the recommendations of the host Chapter of the meeting using the following criteria:

Funds will be available to support transportation, lodging, or other identified expenses. Requests for support should specify who will be supported (individual or group, and numbers), why the support is needed, amount requested, what specifically will be paid for by the support, and additional support that is available or has been sought. The host Chapter will identify a lead person to handle these requests, where requests should be sent (address or email), and the deadline for requests. The host Chapter will then review the requests and make recommendations to the Secretary-Treasurer for the allocation of available dollars. Support of travel is especially encouraged for students from other states than the host state, but requests from the host state are acceptable.

Membership Renewal Reminder:

Membership of the Idaho Chapter TWS stands at 182, which is down from years past. The easiest way to renew your ICTWS membership is when you renew your Wildlife Society membership (you should have received your renewal forms by now if you are a member of TWS). Others renew only at the ICTWS annual meeting, if they attend. Please remember to renew your TWS and ICTWS memberships, and if you have colleagues, who are not members of TWS or ICTWS, please encourage them to join us. Contact Chuck Harris or Michelle Commons if you need membership forms or go to the Chapter's web site (<http://www.ictws.org/>) or The Wildlife Society's web site (<http://www.wildlife.org/>).

Volunteers Needed

Anna Owsiak is seeking volunteers to work with her in evaluating the student and professional papers for the Ted Trueblood Communications Awards.
<mailto:andrufg@ctcweb.net> or call her at 208-257-3237 or 208-257-3363.

Editors Corner

Time's up! I'm out and Dave Musil is in as your newsletter editor. It has been a pleasure working with all of you and being involved with the Idaho Chapter of the Society. I'll probably show up at the annual Society meeting from time to time and hope to stay in touch with

many of you. Until then I'll leave you with a few parting words.

Don't underestimate the power of sharing information. We as specialists tend to work within our own, often small circles of influence and specialty. I would urge everyone to send Dave material about your research, meetings, comments or lessons learned.

This newsletter is read by many folks who are not biologists and informs other non-specialists about our society. We need to toot our own horn, share our successes, build our membership, and rally that membership for wildlife conservation issues when the need arises. It all starts with sharing what we know and what we have learned. So let's give Dave a hand and get your material ready for the next newsletter today.

I would also strongly suggest getting involved at some level with your Society. There are many levels of involvement from lending a hand at organizing the annual meeting to assisting committee members. Give one of the officers or committee members a call or an e-mail and ask about how you can help. Have a great year!

Joe Butsick

Send all future material to
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(208)324-1160 fax
<mailto:dmusil@idfg.state.id.us>
<mailto:dmusil@safelink.net>

We are striving to eliminate printed copies of the newsletter and request that each of you (if you haven't already) contact us with your e-mail address. Electronic mailing of the newsletter this past year has saved the Chapter hundreds of dollars in mailing expenses.

Soon all future issues will be sent to your email address and posted on the web site. It is therefore very important that Michelle Commons mcommons@idfg.state.id.us has

your correct e-mail address. Also if you have not sent us an e-mail address but are able to access the web let us know if your name can be dropped from the hard copy list. For those members who do not have access to email

or our web site, we will continue to provide you with hard copies of the newsletter.

Other Meetings

GRIZZLY BEARS: A WORKSHOP ON ENHANCING AND MANAGING SMALL POPULATIONS Sandpoint, Idaho, 16-17 December, 2002 (tentative)

Call for Papers

A 2 day workshop on enhancing small populations of grizzly bears in the US-Canada transborder area and creating and managing new populations in linkage zones will be held in conjunction with winter meeting of the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee tentatively scheduled for Sandpoint Idaho on 16-17 December, 2002. This workshop will be coordinated by the International Association for Bear Research and Management, local, state, provincial, and federal governmental agencies interested in grizzly bears, and the National Wildlife Federation. Invited papers will be presented by Mark Boyce, Lisette Waits, Chris Servheen, Matt Austin, Rick Mace, Dave Mattson, Greg Schildwachter, Wayne Kasworm, John Boulanger, Wayne Wakkinen, Mike Proctor, and others. A panel discussion is planned with local political leaders and citizens. Pertinent papers on this topic from Europe and Asia are encouraged. Proceedings will be peer reviewed and published. Suggestions for topics and presenters as well as abstracts for volunteered papers should be submitted by March 31, 2002 to Sterling Miller, 240 North Higgins, Suite 2, Missoula, MT 59847 (406 721 6705, FAX 406 721-6714, millerS@nwf.org).

The third international PIF conference, "Partners In Flight Conservation Plans: A Workshop on Implementation and Integration in the Americas," will take place at the Asilomar State Park Conference Center in Monterey, California, on 20-24 March 2002. See <http://www.prbo.org/PIF/NPIF2002.htm>.

Mark your calendars now for the 9th annual Wildlife Society Conference, September 24-28, 2002 TWS Annual Conference - Bismarck, North Dakota. <http://www.wildlife.org/conference/index.htm>

44th Idaho Academy of Science Meeting

The Idaho Academy of Science will hold its annual meeting 11-13 April at Brigham Young University – Idaho, 525 S. Center, Rexburg, Idaho. The theme is this year's meeting is Yellowstone: Science & Issues. For general information see the meeting web site at www.idahoacademy.org; for BYU-Idaho information see www.byui.edu; for more information on IAS see www.uidaho.edu/ias.

Brucellosis in the Greater Yellowstone Area. This two-day symposium will be held at the Snow King Resort on September 17-18 in Jackson, Wyoming. Symposium speakers will discuss all aspects of brucellosis in elk and bison including past, current, and future research and management activities. Government and non-government agencies will also present their perspectives on this issue. Registration before June 1, 2002 is \$75, including proceedings. For further information and registration materials, contact Becky Russell, Wyoming Game and Fish Department (307-766-5616; russell@uwyo.edu).

Web Sites

Grizzly Bear Site

<http://biology.usgs.gov/s+t/noframe/c032.htm>

Habitat Suitability Index Site

<http://www.nwrc.gov/wdb/pub/hsi/hsiindex.htm>