



# THE WILD TIMES

*A newsletter of the Idaho Chapter of The Wildlife Society*

2004:01 December 2004

## 2005 ICTWS Annual Meeting scheduled 7 - 10 March

The next annual meeting of the ICTWS will be March 7 -10, 2005, at the Grove Hotel in downtown Boise. The Partners of Amphibians and Reptile Conservation will conduct a workshop on the afternoon of Monday the 7<sup>th</sup> and continuing through the morning of the 8<sup>th</sup>. The annual meeting will start with the plenary session on the afternoon of Tuesday the 8<sup>th</sup> and conclude at noon of Thursday the 10<sup>th</sup> of March. The banquet will be Wednesday night on the 9<sup>th</sup>. Registration costs and reservation contacts will be forth coming in later announcements.

## President's Corner – ICTWS President Gregg Servheen

The Idaho Chapter of the Wildlife Society is 40 years old!

If attendance, quality of speakers, and the positive remarks I heard are any measure, the Chapter's 40<sup>th</sup> birthday party in Moscow was a good one! I want to thank all of you that attended for making it such a success. In spite of the fact that the weather prevented our plenary speaker, Jack Ward Thomas, from attending; it was a great birthday party.

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And now for some philosophizing.....

Forty years is a long time. In human years, that is half a life. Few professional wildlifers in Idaho can remember back to when the Chapter started. And for the majority of us who are too young to remember and who are more disconnected from that past, there may be a wish that things were better for wildlife and that the future was brighter for wildlife.

But if we reflect on the past, we can see much progress has been made on behalf of wildlife and wildlife management since the Chapter was born. Forty years ago, the management of wildlife was primarily driven by utilitarian uses. The state was the primary wildlife management authority and there were few if any "environmental laws" like the Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, or the Wilderness Act. Hunters, the original wildlife conservationists, had been providing funding for wildlife management for more than 20 years. And there was no radio telemetry, GIS, or GP and terms like biodiversity, ecosystems, and sustainable use were mostly concepts.

Compare that to today, where the need to sustain each species as part of all biodiversity is backed by science, strong public support, and ESA. Today, wildlife management is shared by a diverse group of state, federal, Tribal, non-governmental, and quasi-governmental stakeholders. There is a growing variety of state, federal, and non-governmental "wildlife" funding available to protect and sustain wildlife. We have defined restoration to include reintroduction of a species previously and purposely removed so we could make the ecosystem more whole. And we have forwarded the idea that a threatened or endangered species is not only restricted to triage of a species whose numbers can be tabulated by a first grader, but recognized the idea that a still



hunted and relatively widespread species whose ecosystem and populations are in decline at a vast scale can also be a candidate for federal protection under ESA.

At no other time in history are we, as a society, as aware of the importance of our environment and as concerned about the effects of our own species on our environment. People understand now more than ever that the need to continue human progress and growth as we have done will destroy the environment and resources from which we emerged and upon which we depend.



**Jim Peek, Tom Kovalicky, and Martel Morache were guest speakers at the 40th anniversary of the ICTWS in Moscow, March 2004.**

Now and in the future, the responsibility of our profession is increasing in orders of magnitude over what it was 40 years ago. Increasing pressures on wildlife combined with people's desire to build solutions good for wildlife and people will demand that our profession add to our history and foundation of good science and expand our influence in decision and policies making.

Given the demands of the future, I suggest we take some lessons learned from the past to increase our chances for future success.

One of those successful lessons from the past would be perpetuating the "hunter as conservationist" model to spread the idea to the general public that only through broad public funding and political and policy support can wildlife and biodiversity conservation be realized. More than 60 years of successful hunter conservation has provided abundant big game and big game habitats

and the unalterable idea of sustainable resource use. There is a large public constituency who craves conservation involvement, and the "hunter as conservationist" model might help to both inspire hunters to accept wildlife management interests of the general public and enable and engage the public to hold a wildlife conservation and management ethic as their own.

As for what the Idaho Chapter can do to adapt to the challenges and demands of the future, I would suggest three things. First, I suggest that we more fully represent all wildlife professionals in the state. This can only be done through the participation of the broad interests of the membership. Members should start first with planning on attending the meeting in Boise, March, 2005.

Second, I think the Chapter should begin to help cultivate wildlife beneficial decisions by developing our web page into a destination site for all things wildlife in Idaho. This could include anything from a list of web links, to white papers written by committees of interested members, to hosting an Idaho wildlife blog. And this would be a cost effective way for the Chapter to have a positive and more active role in the conservation of Idaho's wildlife.

Third, I would like the Chapter to actively assist in the development of leadership and communication skills in college and high school students interested in wildlife. I think we can contribute to this through their active leadership in the annual meetings as well as by working to provide jobs and projects that provide student Chapter members the experience and knowledge they need to be successful. Every Chapter member who works in the wildlife field should start by making a list of things they need to get done and then invite students who are Chapter members to help them get them done. I think we would all be surprised how much more we could make happen.

That's a lot of ideas. But if we are 40 years old and I hope that means we have the credibility and wisdom to make some or all of them reality. Let's get to it!

**Gregg Servheen – President, Idaho Chapter The Wildlife Society (208)287-2713 [gserveheen@idfg.state.id.us](mailto:gserveheen@idfg.state.id.us)**



## LETTER from the EDITOR

“These are the times that tries men’s souls” is as appropriate today as it was over 200 years ago. It could easily be altered to “wildlife professional’s souls” as I wince at the direction the current administration is heading in resource extraction from the West. Some of us remember the James Watt days during the Gipper’s 8 year movie and how we thought there would be no land left (or funds) to grow the wildlife we treasure. But we and wildlife survived, a little banged up, but we weathered the storm nevertheless. I suspect we will bend again to the winds of change during the next 4 years. I fear, though, the damage may be more severe and longer lasting this time.

I agree we should reduce our dependency on foreign liquid dinosaurs as long as we do it in a responsible fashion. We wildlifers need to continue working hard to find the facts, ask the hard questions, and present information in an objective manor. We also need to be innovative in providing alternatives and go beyond the most obvious. With our well honed abilities, we can meet the challenges ahead and minimize the impacts to wildlife. (I believe the reality is we can only minimize not mitigate). We need to remember, we are the only ones that can argue the cases for wildlife, they cannot plead for themselves.

This dark time is the perfect time for all wildlife professionals in Idaho to band together and become active members of the ICTWS. Members need to approach those past members or potential new ones and invite them to the next annual meeting. This is an excellent opportunity to exchange ideas and bolster our spirits as dark clouds approach. There is a wealth of knowledge within our state that needs to be shared. The annual meeting is also an opportune time to re-attach ties that have broken. Many of our challenges are similar and discussions among colleagues can go a long way to solving problems.

On a side note, I’ve heard grumblings the ICTWS is dominated by southern Idaho and that the north is left out. If you feel that way then I invite you to become active, help out with the annual meeting, become an executive officer, provide me with articles for the newsletter, and rally fellow biologists in your neck of the woods to become members. There is no room for “us” and “them” within our ranks. Leave that for the talking heads on network t.v. news. *David Musil – ICTWS newsletter and webpage editor, 208-324-4359, [dmusil@idfg.state.id.us](mailto:dmusil@idfg.state.id.us)*

## Fifty years of wildlife management now on-line

A transcript of Martel Morache’s wonderful speech, presented at our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and chronicling the first 50 years of wildlife management in Idaho, is now available on the ICTWS webpage ([www.ictws.org](http://www.ictws.org)) within the “what’s new!” section. His material was gleaned from biennial reports, commission minutes, and other Idaho Department of Fish & Game reports. Morache started with the Department in 1956 as a conservation officer, was promoted to regional educator in the Magic Valley in 1965, and eventually worked in Boise as the first state non-game wildlife manager, retiring in 1985.

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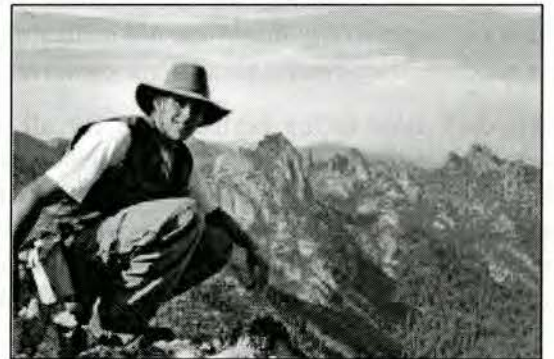


## ***Just where does our chapter dues go?***

Some ICTWS members question why they need to pay the 10\$/year dues for the state chapter. One of the most important benefactors of our dues are wildlife and biology students in Idaho. The chapter makes annual donations to scholarships and has helped fund several that continue to financially support students. Our most recent commitments to the Michael Gratson Field Experience Award and the Craig T. Kvale Scholarship have been paid in full in 2004. The Gratson Award has already started awarding scholarships and the Kvale Scholarship will be starting soon.

Below are excerpts from letters the ICTWS received from scholarship recipients in gratitude for our contributions. For full transcripts, see our webpage [www.ictws.org](http://www.ictws.org) under “What’s New!...2003 Scholarships”. We will also post letters from the 2004 recipients at the annual meeting in March, as was done last year.

“I experienced many exciting wildlife-related pursuits including wolf tracking, hair snag and remote camera use, elk necropsy, aerial and ground radio telemetry, vegetation sampling, tailed frog surveying, Lewis’s woodpecker nests surveying, and stream ecology research. This variety of exposure has given me a broader perspective on various aspects of research and allowed me to understand which of these aspects I am most interested in.”...” I would like to sincerely thank all those responsible for the Michael Gratson Award, including members of the Idaho Chapter of the Wildlife Society for their contributions to the improvement of my educational and career experiences.” Corey Shake – *Michael Gratson Field Experience Award*



**Corey Shake**



**Crystal McBride**

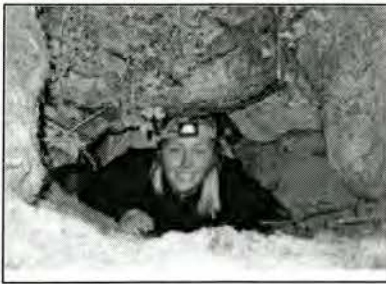
“Thank you ladies and gentlemen of the Idaho Chapter of the Wildlife Society for funding part of my education. I do not take the monies provided for students to attend school at the university level lightly. It provides the means for me to learn and understand more to improve myself to become a better, more educated scientist. I am a young scientist who has not unfolded the mysteries of an unknown entity yet and I have limited means to gather the education I need to unfold a mystery to help the community by myself. I deeply appreciate your golden hearts and generosity in helping me to gather the education for making my dream possible.” Crystal McBride - *Edison Fichter Wildlife Ecology Scholarship*.

“...this award not only gave me further field experience but will also help to develop my abilities in data analysis and in preparing a professional presentation. Once again, I would like to thank all of those who have contributed to this award. Recipients of this field experience award are not only given an opportunity to further their professional skills, but also make memories that make this profession so desirable. Thanks again.” Jason Pyron - *Michael Gratson Field Experience Award*



**Jason Pyron**





**Mackenzie Shardlow**

“I would like to thank every person that has helped make this award possible. It creates amazing opportunities for students and has definitely made a difference in my college career and plans! Thank you.” Mackenzie Shardlow – *A two-time recipient of the Norber/Meiners Scholarship*

“The experiences that I gained this summer are the kind of lasting memories that will be etched in my mind for years to come. Perhaps more importantly at this point in my fledgling biologist career was the field work experience I gained”...“The \$400 that I was awarded...was used to pay for all of my food and freight costs expenses for this summer. I would like to thank you for the generous gift. The money I saved is now going toward my cost of textbooks and housing.” Troy Hinck - *Michael Gratson Field Experience Award*



**Troy Hinck**

## **The Shoshone Basin Sage-Grouse Local Working Group: Making progress on public and private lands in Idaho**

On March 4, 2004, Idaho’s Shoshone Basin sage-grouse Local Working Group (LWG) was honored with a special recognition award provided by the Idaho Chapter of The Wildlife Society. The award was officially presented to Mike Remming on behalf of the LWG on March 30, 2004.

The Shoshone Basin Local Working Group was initiated in July 1994, and was the first such group formed in Idaho to address local sage-grouse management issues. The Basin lies approximately 30 miles south of Twin Falls. Public lands are administered by the Burley BLM Field Office. Participants include ranchers, sportsmen, and representatives from BLM, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Idaho Department of Lands.

The group decided to focus on three BLM grazing allotments (36,000 acres, 6,000 AUMs) and associated private lands, where sage-grouse numbers had declined. Ultimately, the group recommended three management objectives: 1) manage all uplands and riparian vegetation to ensure properly functioning systems, 2) provide sufficient nesting, brood rearing, and winter habitat to reverse the downward trend and increase sage-grouse numbers, and 3) provide a stable long-term forage base to sustain existing cattle operations.

Like similar groups, they thoroughly discussed the many factors potentially contributing to sage-grouse population declines including habitat, predation, drought, cattle grazing, prescribed burning, herbicide spraying, and hunting. While no consensus was reached on the relative importance of these factors, the group decided to focus its efforts on habitat and livestock management issues. They agreed to seek a win-win solution to the often difficult and complex problem of providing livestock forage while meeting the seasonal habitat requirements of sage-grouse.

One of the most significant issues the group dealt with was how to address private lands that are commonly incorporated into BLM grazing allotments. Private lands provide much of the important sage-grouse habitat in the Basin and encompass approximately 35% of area. The management of sage-grouse habitat on private lands must be balanced with the economic importance of these private lands in the operator’s livestock business. There is often a limit to what landowners can live with in terms of maintaining the economic importance of their private lands for livestock production and what they will accept in terms of wildlife habitat management. On the Horse Creek



Allotment, they found that incorporating the private lands provided greater management flexibility and would achieve the greatest benefits to both livestock and sage-grouse. Under the new proposal for this important allotment, the acres of sage-grouse habitat rated as excellent will increase from 2% to 50% while still maintaining the current level of AUMs.

The approach taken by the Shoshone Basin group, focusing on sage-grouse and livestock management issues a few allotments at a time, requires a considerable investment of time and effort by agency personnel, ranchers and other participants. Nevertheless, this approach has been successful and has resulted in a variety of pro-active and innovative changes to land management in the Basin, and will be of benefit to sage-grouse and livestock operators in both the short and long term.

Other Local Working Groups can look to the Shoshone Basin as an example that livestock and wildlife can both benefit from proper land management practices on private and public land. If other groups can learn anything from the work by the Shoshone Basin Local Working Group, it is the fine art of compromise. As rancher Bill Thompson so colorfully put it “They weren’t going to bend. We weren’t going to bend. Before it was over, we had all bent.”

## Nominations requested for annual awards

The **Special Recognition Award** is intended to honor any person or group who has made an outstanding contribution within the state of Idaho to wildlife conservation, management, science, conservation education, the wildlife profession or to an area of endeavor species, community, ecosystem or region. Any person or group who has made such a contribution in the last 3 years is eligible for this award.

The **Professional Wildlifer Award** honors professionals in wildlife management. It is given to demonstrate outstanding contributions to Idaho's wildlife resources as appreciated by one's peers. The award is meant to recognize outstanding professional contribution and promote public understanding of significant wildlife management accomplishments in Idaho.

Nominations should be sent by letter to Chuck Harris or Chuck Blair (see addresses in box). Any Chapter member

### Mail Awards Nominations to:

Chuck Harris  
Idaho Dept. of Fish & Game  
600 South Walnut Street  
Boise, Idaho 83707

208-287-2747

Chuck Blair  
CH2M HILL  
700 Clearwater Lane  
Boise, Idaho 83712

208-345-5310

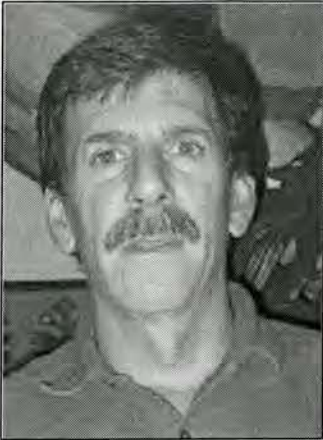
may submit a nomination. When submitting nominations, please specify which award. A single nominee cannot be submitted for both awards. Each nomination should include the following information: (1) full name, present position, current address and telephone number of the nominee; (2) name, address, and telephone number of the nominator; (3) a clear and concise statement justifying the nomination, including the specific details of the outstanding accomplishments (Professional Wildlifer Award)

or the specific nature, time, and place or the outstanding accomplishments (Special Recognition Award); and (4) the signature of the nominator. Two or 3 letters in support of the nominee from other professionals will aid in decisions.

Nominations must be received by **10 February 2005**. Nominees not selected to receive the award must be re-nominated for consideration in future years. Please take a moment to consider the accomplishments of your friends, colleagues, and wildlife conservation groups and submit a nomination. No nominations were submitted last year.



## Where are they now? Featured Past Member of ICTWS



**Craig Groves**

Craig Groves left the Idaho Department of Fish and Game in 1992, and worked for The Nature Conservancy as the Director of TNC's Western Conservation Science Department and as the Director of Conservation Planning for the Conservation Science Division. His wife (Vicki Saab) and he lived in Boulder CO and Boise ID during those years. In 2002, they moved to Bozeman Montana where Craig works as a biologist for the Wildlife Conservation Society in the Greater Yellowstone area and Vicki continues her career as a research biologist with the USFS Rocky Mountain Research Station. Over the last couple years, Craig wrote a book on planning for biodiversity conservation (i.e., the selection and design of conservation areas) which was published by Island Press in 2003 ("Drafting a Conservation Blueprint: A Practitioner's Guide to Planning for Biodiversity"). Craig wrote "Vicki and I maintain close ties with many Idaho friends and visit as often as we can while trying to find time to hunt, fish, ski, and backpack in our new home state of Montana."

*If you know the whereabouts of past ICTWS members, please submit a few lines and a picture to:  
Dave Musil – ICTWS Newsletter Editor, 868 East Main Street, Jerome, Idaho 83338 [dmusil@idfg.state.id.us](mailto:dmusil@idfg.state.id.us)*

## Upcoming Events – Workshops, Courses, Meetings

**2005 WESTERN BAT CONFERENCE, Western Bat Working Group Conference for the Management and Conservation of Bats** – 30 March–2 April 2005, Downtown Hilton, Portland, Oregon. Call for papers and registration materials posted at [www.batcon.org](http://www.batcon.org) and [www.wbwg.org](http://www.wbwg.org).

**CONSERVATION GENETICS FOR NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGERS** – 10-12 January, 2005, Boise, Idaho. Presented by Dr. Lisette Waits, University of Idaho. Cost \$400, registration limited to 40 participants. Contact Linda Kisha ([lrkisha@uidaho.edu](mailto:lrkisha@uidaho.edu), 208-885-7823) or see the ICTWS webpage [www.ictws.org](http://www.ictws.org) under "What's new".

### POPULATION ECOLOGY WORKSHOPS – UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO:

ANIMAL ABUNDANCE: ESTIMATING "TRUE" NUMBER OF BIRDS & MAMMALS

WILDLIFE & FISHERIES SURVEYS: DESIGN & ANALYSIS

NEW APPROACHES TO STUDIES OF HOME RANGE, HABITAT SELECTION AND SPACE USE

All workshops are presented by Dr. Edward O. Garton, University of Idaho. For more details, see

[http://www.cnr.uidaho.edu/population\\_ecology/](http://www.cnr.uidaho.edu/population_ecology/)

**2005 NORTHWEST SECTION TWS ANNUAL MEETING** The Montana Chapter TWS will host the annual meeting of the Northwest Section February 28 – March 4, at the Colonial Inn in Helena, Montana. Contact Tom Carlsen for details (406-266-3367 or email [fwp@ixi.net](mailto:fwp@ixi.net)) or visit their webpage <http://www.montanatws.org/>



## Call for Papers – 2005 ICTWS Annual Meeting

You are invited to submit abstracts for presentations to any sessions listed below. The Annual Meeting of the Idaho Chapter of The Wildlife Society will be held at the Grove Hotel, Boise, Idaho, 8-10 March 2005. Presentations will be 20 minutes in length, including an introduction of the presenter and time for questions. Students are especially encouraged to submit papers. Presentation of posters also is encouraged.

Please submit the Abstract Submittal Form (see page 9) with each abstract, which includes the following information:

- 1) Lead author name, affiliation, mailing address, phone numbers, and e-mail address
- 2) Names and affiliations of additional authors
- 3) ABSTRACT (You must use the following guidelines and example below; please note that the abstract you submit will be the FINAL that is printed for the paper sessions).

Submit (snail mail or e-mail) original abstract, 1 copy, disk and short biographic sketch with the Abstract Submittal Form (see page 9) by **1 February 2005** to:

Rita Dixon - Idaho Department of Fish and Game  
P.O. Box 25, 600 South Walnut, Boise, Idaho 83707  
Tel.: 208-287-2735 [rdixon@idfg.state.id.us](mailto:rdixon@idfg.state.id.us)

Authors will be notified about the selection of their presentation by 25 February, 2005.

### Guidelines for Submission of Abstract:

- \* E-mail Access: Submit the abstract, other required information, and abstract submittal form by e-mail. See below for an abstract form. You will be notified of the receipt of your abstract within 1-2 days.
- \* No E-mail Access: Submit a disk with the required information, a hard copy, and the abstract submittal form. Clearly label all submitted information with pertinent information (i.e., name of lead author, abstract title, session, and lead author contact phone number and e-mail address).
- \* Use Microsoft Word 2000 or later version.
- \* Abstract has to fit in a 3.5"x 5.5" space.
- \* One-line space between title- and text block
- \* No hard returns within a paragraph

### SAMPLE ABSTRACT (3.5"x5.5"):

FACTORS AFFECTING MIGRATION PATTERNS OF TUMBLE WEEDS IN THE INTER-MOUNTAIN WEST. Dusty Roads and Buster Flatts, Plugged Culvert University, Big Windy, Idaho 12345.

We studied Tumble Weeds (*Stickery pokeous*) in 4 study areas of public land: Southeastern Washington, Eastern Oregon, Southern Idaho, and Western Wyoming. Radio-transmitters (14 g) were attached to randomly selected tumbleweeds (n=123) with 3 diameter sizes: itty-bitty (< 60 cm), pretty-good-sized (61-200 cm), and boone-and-crockett (> 200 cm). Radio-tags were woven into the main stalk of weeds prior to dormancy in mid-summer and before migration. Stepwise logistic regression analysis separated migrating from non-migrating tumble weeds with an 84% prediction accuracy using 3 variables in the model: wind velocity, wind exposure, and weed diameter. Tumble weeds were most likely to migrate during winds > 40 kph, growing in areas > 20 m from wind blocking structures, and with diameters > 47 cm. Home ranges could not be determined due to only 2 data points/weed (start and end of migration). Migration direction averaged  $92^{\circ} \pm 17^{\circ}$  but distance traveled varied depending on distance to nearest management structure. Barb-wire fences, gates, canal ditches, water control structures, and leeward hillsides were preferred destinations. The longest distance traveled (175 km) was a Western Wyoming tumbleweed caught in the grill of a pick-up truck but was not included in our analysis.

PLEASE NOTE: The abstract you submit will be the FINAL that is printed for the paper session, changes will not be accepted.



## **ABSTRACT SUBMITTAL FORM – 2005 ICTWS Annual Meeting**

*Submit this form along with your Abstract and Biographical Sketch by February 1, 2005*

Type of Presentation      \_\_\_ Paper \_\_\_ Poster \_\_\_ Display

Special equipment required: Slide Projector      \_\_\_\_\_

Digital Projector      \_\_\_\_\_

Other (specify)      \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

If the author is not the presenter, name of presenter \_\_\_\_\_

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

Send (mail or e-mail [rdixon@idfg.state.id.us](mailto:rdixon@idfg.state.id.us)) original abstract, 1 copy, disk and biography with this form to:

Rita Dixon  
Idaho Department of Fish and Game  
P.O. Box 25  
600 South Walnut  
Boise, ID 83707

**Deadline for abstracts is February 1, 2005.**