



ZEROED

NEWSLETTER
of the
Idaho Chapter
of the
Wildlife Society

Number 29, June 1971

SUMMER MEETING - Field Tour -- June 24-25

We finally have the details on the summer field tour. The Lyman Richwine Chapter (southeastern Idaho) of the Idaho Section of The Society for Range Management is hosting the event. All members of the Idaho Chapter of The Wildlife Society are urged to make the tour. Several of our Wildlife Society members are assisting the range people in conducting the tour. Here are the essential facts:

1. Registration for the Range Society tour occurs from 8 to 10 AM, June 24 in lobby of South Fremont High School at St. Anthony, Idaho.
2. Package fees set by the Range Management Society for the tour are as follows:

\$11.00 for one person
\$21.00 for a couple
\$5.00 for each additional family member

The above fees include: bus transportation, lunches for both days, and the chuckwagon supper on the 25th. Add that up and you will decide it is a pretty good deal! You can expect an all-out gourmet experience on the chuckwagon dinner. Daily prices will be available on an individual basis at registration (if you don't want the package).

3. Here is the tour itinerary:

Depart out the Red Road by buses from South Fremont High School at St. Anthony 10 AM, Thursday, June 24. The tour route will include the Red Road sand dunes, Big Grassey and the Crooked Road with stops at all pertinent points of interest. Lunch at the natural lava caves on Crooked Road. The tour returns to St. Anthony at 5 PM. You can either stay on the bus or take your private car to the USFS Buffalo Campground at Mack's Inn. Camping space is reserved there for us tourists. Chuckwagon dinner at 6:30 PM.

If you wish to go first class and stay at either Pond's Lodge, Alpenhaus, or Mack's Inn Lodge (all at Island Park), you will need to phone them for reservations right away.

On Friday, June 25, you are on your own for breakfast (not included in tour package), then at 9 AM the bus tour resumes through Shotgun Valley to Spencer. Enroute there will be stops to view a variety of range and wildlife happenings. Lunch will be served at Stoddard Creek Campground near Spencer. Buses return to Mack's Inn at 5 PM.

4. THEN the Wildlife Society shindig begins.

At 7 PM sharp, June 25, Friday, we will throw a Dutch-Oven repast at Errol Nielson's cabin on nearby Henry's Lake. Beverages will be available. A battered cowboy hat will be passed around to cover expenses. We will hold our summer business meeting after the cookout.

Families are welcome at both the Range Tour and the Wildlife Society affair. Bring your fishing rods. You will be in the heart of some of the best trout fishing in the United States.

Try to make it all, but if your time is very limited, why not attend the second day of the range tour on June 25 and take in the Wildlife Society socializing in the evening? See you there!

Minutes of the Idaho Chapter of The Wildlife Society Annual Winter Meeting, January 28, 1971

President Elwood Bizeau opened the Annual Business Meeting at the Rodeway Inn at Boise at 12:45 pm, January 28, 1971.

45 members were present at the business meeting.

It was moved by Bayha and seconded by deReus that the minutes of the 1970 Summer Meeting and Winter Meeting be approved.

Nominations were opened for the position of President-Elect for the Northwest Section of The Wildlife Society for 1972. Levi Mohler and Elwood Bizeau were recommended for the nomination.

Moved to close by Norberg and seconded by Dalke.

Elwood Bizeau was selected for the nomination by ballot.

The Treasurer's Report was read by Sec-Treasurer Edward Tilzey. Balance on hand January 25, 1970 - \$85.97. Balance on hand January 28, 1971 - \$312.47

Committee Reports

Bibliography Publication Committee - Chairman Paul Dalke reported that work on the Idaho Wildlife Bibliography Publication is about 95% complete, with over 800 author cards and more subject cards.

Positions and Resolutions Committee - Chairman Richard Knight - Report presented by President Bizeau.

Four position statements have been prepared, submitted to respective officials and distributed to our membership.

President Bizeau asked for comment on the Chapter's handling of the preparation and submission of position statements. Al Norberg questioned the fact that the decisions are being made by one or two individuals and felt that the members should be allowed to express their views if time is available.

Moved and seconded that the council have authority to prepare and submit resolutions and position statements if time is of the essence, and further that the statements be circulated to the membership for comment if time is available. Carried.

Tom Leege presented the Chapter's position on and the facts about Highway 64 relocation through Lawyer's Canyon near Kamiah. Tom explained what has ensued since the position statement was sent to respective State officials. Sam McNeill stated that the proposed relocation appears to have been shelved due to the opposition presented.

A statement of support on the proposed withdrawal for a "Snake River Birds of Prey Natural Area" has been submitted to the BLM. A hearing on this subject withdrawal will be held on February 26, 1971. Keith Bayha proposed that a committee be selected to prepare and present a position statement at the hearing. Seconded by Sam McNeill. Carried. President Bizeau appointed Keith Bayha of Boise to present the statement at the hearing. The position statement will be provided to Bayha by the Positions and Resolutions Committee prior to the hearing. (Position Statement is attached).

Membership Committee - Chairman Bayha

Keith Bayha reported that membership for 1970 increased to 137 as compared to 68 members in 1969. Paid-up memberships for 1971 have already exceeded the 1970 total. Bayha presented a breakdown on members and how they were signed up.

Meetings:

Summer meeting. William Meiners proposed that the Chapter join with the Idaho section-Soc. for Range Management for a summer tour in Fremont County. President Bizeau stated that the Chapter should sponsor a summer tour only if it can be a worthwhile venture and not because the Chapter feels required to.

Bayha noted that the Chapter went to Island Park in 1967. John Annear stated that he would prefer to have a summer field meeting. Moved by Gene deReus, seconded by Levi Mohler, that the Chapter join with the Idaho section, Society for Range Management for a summer field tour. Carried.

Winter meeting. The Chapter normally would hold the winter meeting this next year in Moscow. A joint meeting was suggested to meet with the Idaho section, Soc. for Range Management in Twin Falls area in December. Moved, seconded and carried that we approach the Idaho section of the Society for Range Management to hold a joint meeting next winter. A committee will be set up to select the winter meeting site.

The National Wildlife Society Nominations:

The Idaho Chapter was requested to submit nominations for President-Elect of The Wildlife Society for 1972, who would be president in 1973. Liven Peterson presented the committee's recommendations. Phil W. Schneider of Oregon and W. Les Pengelly of Montana were offered in nomination. Moved by Norberg and seconded by Hungerford that nominations cease and both be submitted as nominees. Carried.

New Business - None.

Business meeting adjourned. 1:30 PM.

Your officers:

Elwood Bizeau, President Hawley Hill, Vice-President Edward Tilzey, Secretary-Treasurer

THE IDAHO CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY
Position Statement: The Snake River Birds of Prey Natural Area
(Presented at Public Hearing Held
February 26, 1971
Auditorium, Boise Interagency Fire Center
Boise, Idaho)

The membership of the Idaho Chapter of The Wildlife Society consists of 150 career professionals working primarily in the wildlife field in Idaho. The parent organization for the Idaho Chapter is The Wildlife Society, an international organization headquartered in Washington, DC with about 7,000 members located in 60 countries.

The Idaho Chapter of The Wildlife Society wishes to go on record in favor of the proposed protective withdrawal of 26,255 acres of public lands in Ada, Canyon, Elmore and Owyhee Counties by the U. S. Bureau of Land Management for the purpose of establishing the Snake River Birds of Prey Natural Area.

We believe it is in the public interest to withdraw these lands for the following reasons:

1. The proposed withdrawal area contains possibly the most dense breeding concentrations of golden eagles and prairie falcons to be found on the North American continent. Both species have declined in numbers in portions of their breeding range in the United States. The prairie falcon is listed as a rare species in the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife Redbook. At least 11 other raptor species occur in the area in moderate numbers.
2. The unique cliffs and bottomlands encompassed within the proposed withdrawal, together with the semi-desert fauna consisting of rabbits, snakes, ground squirrels, kangaroo rats and other small rodents, provide optimum living requirements for raptorial birds. Breeding sites are abundant. The open nature of the terrain provides excellent hunting areas for the raptors and the food supply is adequate. Food habits studies on the golden eagles which inhabit this area indicate that their principal food items are small mammals, largely jackrabbits. The eagles are not preying on domestic animals except as carrion.
3. The withdrawal would provide an ideal area for and would stimulate research on raptorial birds--their behavior, habitat needs, disease problems, pesticide effects. The effectiveness of such research effort may be considerably enhanced by the protection afforded through the withdrawal.
4. These populations of raptors need the narrow strip of land adjacent to the canyon rims to provide a buffer between roosting and nesting sites and the farming activities adjacent to the rim. We deem the buffer strip specified in the withdrawal to be absolutely essential to the success of the natural area.
5. Controlled use of the area by visitors interested in observing the birds and mammals of the natural area may make the site a national attraction which would be of benefit to the State of Idaho.

For the reasons listed, we believe that the proposed withdrawal should be approved and we strongly urge that the Snake River Birds of Prey Natural Area be created.