

Hal Salwasser
President

THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

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June 6, 1994

Ernest D. Ables, President
Idaho Chapter, TWS
Fish & Wildlife Department
University of Idaho
Moscow, ID 83844

Dear Ernie:

I'm writing to ask for a special contribution from the Idaho Chapter, TWS to help send student members to our First Annual Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico this September.

Remember how difficult it was to attend a major conference when you were a student? It's no different today. With no employer or personal income to cover expenses, many students will not be able to attend.

But what an opportunity! Where else can a young professional hear top experts from every field talk about their recent research, meet our profession's leaders, and gain a national/international perspective on wildlife conservation?

The Wildlife Society's new student travel grants program was created to help deserving students take advantage of this unique opportunity.

Involving students in the conference has always been one of our highest priorities. Conference activities planned with our student members in mind include a career seminar, workshop on procedures for publishing in TWS journals, and job board. What's more, student registration includes all the benefits of regular registration. Our goal is to integrate students fully into the conference.

Student registration fees have been greatly discounted. Even so, with the added costs of travel, food, and lodging, many students cannot afford to attend.

Over 60 of the more than 360 papers and posters included in the program are authored by students. Obviously, students are excited about the opportunity to gain professional recognition of their accomplishments. We also are excited about their

participation and will present awards for the Best Student Presentation and Best Student Poster. Promoting and recognizing technical excellence are hallmarks of TWS and the conference provides an excellent opportunity to extend our awards program to students.

Undoubtedly, other students -- many of them undergraduates not yet in a position to present a paper or poster -- are interested in attending the conference. We want to encourage their attendance as well.

I hope the Idaho Chapter, TWS will respond generously to this request to provide critical funding for our emerging professionals. The Wildlife Society has a strong tradition of student involvement in professional activities that is rooted in our extensive network of student chapters. Please help us start a new tradition of high student participation in our Annual Conference.

Our total funding need is \$15,400. This modest amount will finance fourteen travel grants (two in each of our seven sections) of up to \$500 each for students presenting papers or posters at the conference, provide \$100 to every student chapter that sends three or more student members to the conference, and also will assist Student Affairs Committee members with travel expenses.

I would like to challenge every TWS section and chapter to contribute at least \$100 to help support a student chapter or deserving student. Larger donations also are needed. If members, chapters, and sections respond to this funding request with as much enthusiasm as you responded to last year's wildlife policy campaign, there is a good chance we may be able to increase the number of travel grants to student presenters and/or increase the size of the grants to student chapters.

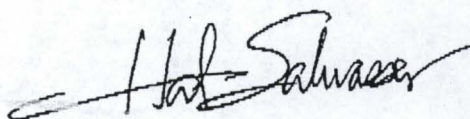
All sections and chapters contributing to this effort will be recognized in *The Wildlifer* as a *Wildlife Society Investor*. Leadership gifts of \$100, \$250, \$500, \$750, \$1,000, and higher will be recognized separately.

Applications are coming in now and our grant committees are ready to select the most deserving students. All that is needed is your chapter's support.

If possible, please send your donation by July 29. We plan to send out grant awards in early August -- while there is still time for recipients to take advantage of early registration and travel discounts. However, we will endeavor to get later arriving donations out to students prior to the September 20-25 conference.

Student members hold the key to the future of wildlife resources. Investing in them now is an investment in the future. Please make your chapter's donation as generous as possible . . . our student members are counting on you.

Sincerely,



Hal Salwasser
President

Pledged \$100
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