



NORTHWEST WILDLIFER

ALASKA
ALBERTA
BRITISH COLUMBIA
IDAHO
MONTANA
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
YUKON
YUNAVUT
OREGON
WASHINGTON
YUKON TERRITORY

April 2007 _____ NORTHWEST SECTION

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NORTHWEST SECTION REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

Last week was a very busy one for your Northwest Section Representative. On 18 March, I traveled to Canmore, Alberta, for the 17th Annual Meeting and Conference of the Alberta Chapter and the Annual Meeting of the Northwest Section. Canmore is a highly scenic community in the Canadian Rockies, near Banff, so it was a real treat just to be there. Turnout for the meeting was excellent, with about 200 in attendance. I especially want to commend the Alberta Chapter for the high participation level of students. I should mention, too, that a couple of grants from the Northwest Section were helpful in getting students to the meeting.

Harriet Allen, the NW Section Vice President, and I presented a brief report as part of the business meeting in Canmore. We enjoyed a variety of papers at the plenary and technical sessions, and I was

recruited as a panelist for a special symposium on "Advocacy by Scientists – Civic Responsibility or Career Suicide." This session was extremely well attended and interactive, and it was a privilege to share the podium with Alberta colleagues Lee Foote, Naomi Krogman, and Brad Stelfox.

From there I traveled to Portland, Oregon, for The Wildlife Society Council meeting that is held every March in conjunction with the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference. Council members discussed and celebrated the release of TWS' new publication, *The Wildlife Professional*. Most of you should have received it by now, and I hope you are as impressed with the quality as I am. Graphically the publication is topnotch, and I found every article to be interesting, timely, and highly relevant to our profession. A

wide variety of business was conducted by Council, including decisions on the following items:

- Appointed Dr. Michael Chamberlain as the new Editor in Chief for the *Journal of Wildlife Management*.
- Appointed Dr. Eric Hellgren as the new Editor for the *Wildlife Monographs*.
- Approved final position statements on *Baiting and Supplemental Feeding of Wild Game*, *2007 Farm Bill*, and *North American Model of Wildlife Conservation*.
- Approved appointment of a Council Subcommittee for the *Biofuels Technical Review*.
- Approved the proposal to commence a *Technical Review on Predator Control in Alaska*.
- Approved a policy for position statements developed by Sections, Chapters, and Working Groups.
- Approved a modified budget for 2007 (once again, TWS is firmly in the black!)

One development I'm especially excited about is the progress on creating a new Canadian Section of TWS. A dedicated team has worked hard to draft bylaws for

the new Section, and these will now be reviewed by all TWS members in Canada. Nominations are now being sought for candidates to run for office in the new Section. I would encourage NW Section members who reside in Canada to step forward as candidates in this historic election. Among the positions needing to be filled will be the first-ever Canadian Section Representative to Council.

With respect to awards, the distinction of becoming a TWS Fellow is one of the highest honors available to members of TWS. Council was disappointed with the low number of nominations received, and therefore has extended the deadline to **1 May 2007**. Please think about the deserving individuals you know who have distinguished themselves in service and accomplishments in the wildlife profession,

and take a bit of time to submit a nomination on their behalf.



Wini Kessler,
Northwest Section
Representative

2007 ARTHUR S. EINARSEN AWARD

The Northwest Section has recognized its most distinguished members over the years through presentation of the Arthur S. Einarsen Award. We continued that tradition this year. Edward O. "Oz" Garton has been selected to receive the Einarsen Award in 2007. Oz has been a long-time member of TWS; is a Certified Wildlife Biologist; and supports TWS activities at the international, section and chapter levels. He authored the chapter on "Research and Experimental Design" in the last 2 TWS techniques manuals. He has also served on several committees, including the

awards committee to select the best publications of the year for TWS.

A professor in the Fisheries and Wildlife Resources Department at the University of Idaho since 1977, his classes in population ecology and population analysis are well known as capstone classes by fisheries and wildlife students alike. Dr Garton has served as major professor for nearly 50 graduate students, many of whom have assumed positions of leadership within the conservation community. He also spent 1 year teaching at Moi University in Kenya, Africa as a Fulbright Fellow.

Dr. Garton's workshops on data analysis, home range analysis, and population ecology of wildlife are well known and respected. They have been included in TWS meetings in North America and have been presented in Portugal and Italy. He has an incredible ability to teach even the most complex topics in a way that makes them easily understandable to those with limited quantitative skills.

He has published widely and often on topics as diverse as habitat selection and population ecology of woodpeckers to population ecology of elk and other large ungulates. Dr. Garton is perhaps best known for his work on estimating numbers of animals under difficult field conditions. His sightability models for big game animals are widely used.

Oz was recognized with the Outstanding Research Award by the University of Idaho

College of Natural Resources in 1987. The Associated Students of the University of Idaho recognized his teaching abilities with its Outstanding Teacher Award in 1988. In 2001, he received the Outstanding Professional Presentation Award from the Idaho Chapter of TWS, and the same year received the Outstanding Wildlifer Award, the highest honor available from the Idaho Chapter of TWS. The University of Idaho Alumni Association, upon the recommendation of students, presented Oz with an Alumni Award for Excellence in 2005.

Oz is an excellent university professor, teacher, researcher, mentor, and contributor to the wildlife profession who has greatly influenced the way we manage wildlife in the Pacific Northwest and nationally. Oz exemplifies the quality of an individual deserving the Einarsen Award.

NORTHWEST SECTION TWS AWARDS COMMITTEE REPORT--2007

The Awards Committee of the Northwest Section includes members from all the State and Provincial Chapters within the Section and from British Columbia. The Committee annually reviews nominees for the Arthur S. Einarsen Award and the Wildlife Administrators Award but does not necessarily recommend that the awards be presented every year. We posted requests for nominations for the 2 awards in 2 issues of the Section's newsletter, in the parent Society's newsletter, and on The Wildlife Society's list server. We also sent requests for nominees to all State and Provincial chapters within the Section and requested

that the announcement be included in their newsletters. We did not receive new nominations this year for the Einarsen Award but did review 2 packages that carried over from previous nominations; we did not receive nomination packages for the Wildlife Administrator's Award. The Committee recommended that the Einarsen Award be presented to Edward O. "Oz" Garton this year.

Lowell H. Suring, Chair
Northwest Section TWS Awards Committee

STUDENT TRAVEL GRANT COMMITTEE REPORT--2007

The Northwest Section of The Wildlife Society annually makes up to \$2,000 in grants available to support student travel to the Section's Annual Meeting. Students

presenting papers or posters at the meeting and officers of student chapters receive priority for grants. We posted announcements of the availability of the

grants in 2 Section newsletters, in the parent Society's newsletter, and on The Wildlife Society's list server. We sent announcements to all chapters in the Section and requested them to post them in their newsletters. We also sent announcements to Universities with wildlife programs and student chapters of TWS in the Section. We received and approved 2 applications for travel grants for a total of \$900 this year.

The University of Alberta Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society (faculty advisor Mark Boyce) received \$700 to facilitate member participation in the annual meeting.

Three graduate students under the supervision of Dr. Erin Bayne in the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Alberta received \$200 in travel

assistance. Amy Darling reported on her master's research with a paper entitled "Small mammal response to linear features: do they think with their stomachs?" Joy Manalo also presented a portion of her master's research, entitled "Wherefore art thou burrowing owl? Understanding the link between statistical models and species ecology." Iain Edye presented "Potential impacts of seasonal white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) movements on landscape epidemiology of bovine tuberculosis in the greater Riding Mountain and Duck Mountain ecosystems, Manitoba." Amy and Joy are active executive members of the University of Alberta Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society.

Lowell H. Suring, Chair
Student Travel Grant Committee

STUDENT TRAVEL GRANT RECIPIENT REPORT

As graduate students in the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Alberta, we feel fortunate to have received financial support to participate in the 17th annual meeting and conference of the Northwest Section and Alberta Chapter of The Wildlife Society, in Canmore, AB, March 18-21, 2007. Each of us contributed an oral presentation – Iain presented on landscape epidemiology of bovine tuberculosis in white-tailed deer, Joy presented her work on habitat models for the burrowing owl, and Amy presented on pipeline impacts on small mammal diets in the boreal forest.

Events were mostly offered in two rooms and ran concurrently, so participants were able to choose the research presentations and symposia they most wanted to see. Research presentation sessions covered diverse topics, including biodiversity, species at risk, human-wildlife interactions, the Alberta Oil Sands region, and habitat selection and modeling, as well as research

pertaining specifically to ungulates, cougars, caribou, and coyotes.

Many of the research presentations and symposia dealt with the rapidly increasing pace of resource extraction and other development in Alberta. Presenters and other participants widely acknowledged that potential and realized impacts of development on aquifer recharge, predator-prey dynamics, habitat availability, species at risk, and soil conservation are critical issues requiring higher levels of attention from policy makers. There were some very thoughtful discussions about the ability of wildlife biologists to engage the public and policy makers over these issues without fear of putting their careers or their credibility in jeopardy. Through keynote talks, panel discussion and open discussion several people showed that active involvement with The Wildlife Society could be an effective way to advocate for responsible land-use decision-making without compromising one's professional situation.

The setting of the conference in the small town of Canmore gave us many opportunities to meet colleagues and make friends from other organizations and universities. Lunch breaks typically involved large groups of people converging on the same one or two restaurants, and the frequent poster sessions were also very friendly and social events.

We very much appreciate the financial help of the Northwest Section in getting us to this event, and we look forward to attending again in 2008.

Amy Darling, Iain Edye, Joy Manalo
Dept. of Biological Sciences, University of Alberta
University of Alberta Chapter of The Wildlife Society

ALASKA CHAPTER NEWS

First legislative open house On the evening of February 6th, I was joined by Chapter members Mike Goldstein (Northwest Section President), Wini Kessler (Northwest Section representative to TWS Council), and Doug Larsen (Chapter President, 2002-04) in hosting our first State legislative open house at the Westmark Barnaof Hotel in Juneau. During the four hour session with light snacks provided, there was attendance by about 25 Senators, Representatives, or their staffers as well as the new Commissioner of Fish and Game (Denby Lloyd), the Director of the ADFG Division of Wildlife Conservation (Matt Robus, a Chapter member), and a staff member from the office of the Lieutenant Governor. We answered questions and discussed issues one-on-one over displays of TWS publications at a table. We displayed informative posters produced by Jimmy Fox (one each for AK Chapter and national TWS), and we provided a selection of Alaska Chapter positions and comment letters from the last decade. Our interactions were positive overall, and several legislative members thanked us for the opportunity to learn about TWS. I followed up questions about wolf control, ballot initiatives, spruce bark beetles, economic development, and climate change by emailing links to Chapter and national TWS websites for positions or technical reviews.

Tom Paragi, President

Membership Committee It's exciting to announce that with over 250 members, Alaska has surpassed the Texas Chapter as the largest in The Wildlife Society! For the past seven months, Amy Kearns, Michelle Kissling, Tom Paragi, Eric Taylor, and Jimmy Fox have been working hard to encourage wildlife professionals interested in the conservation and management of wildlife resources in Alaska to become members of TWS, the Northwest Section, and the Alaska Chapter. The membership committee has contacted hundreds of potential members in resource agencies, private industry, natural resource consultants, and others. Concern has been expressed that our recent spike in membership was related to the recent national conference, and may not be retained after this year. In the past, many Alaska Chapter members have allowed their membership to lapse after only a few years. The committee plans to tackle this issue by keeping new members engaged, and contacting past members to determine why they leave the chapter.

The composition of membership in September 2006, based upon employment, indicates the majority are federal employees; however, some agencies like the U.S. Forest Service and the Natural Resources Conservation Service may be underrepresented. In addition, most State of Alaska employee members work for ADF&G, but few are represented from other departments. However, the most

underrepresented category of wildlife professionals is those within the private sector. To address this concern, recruitment of our colleagues within lesser-represented federal and state agencies and private companies is needed. Lastly, there is a trend of members not renewing their membership upon retirement. This is of major concern as many members will retire within the next several years. The committee is currently addressing several explanations and will be speaking with retired professionals to better understand

how TWS and our chapter can retain these valued members.

Comment letter on NE NPR-A Once again the Alaska Chapter drafted a comment letter, signed by TWS Executive Director Michael Hutchison on 8 January 2007, that addressed continuing conservation concerns related to energy exploration in the Northeast section of the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska. Eric Taylor worked with several Alaska Chapter members to draft the letter, which will be posted to the AK Chapter website.

OREGON CHAPTER UPDATE

On the eve of the Oregon/Washington Chapters joint conference in Pendleton, Oregon on April 9-13, the Oregon Chapter looks forward to 2007 with excited anticipation. Over two hundred people have pre-registered for the conference and workshops. The conference is preceded by workshops on invasive species, and a review of plans to identify wildlife linkages in Oregon, a Joint Ventures meeting, and two field trips: Hanford Reach National Monument field trip and a wind energy field trip. The two-day (Wed. 4/11 afternoon, Thurs. 4/12, and Friday 4/13 morning) conference will consist of 4 concurrent sessions and three forums. Sessions are: Conservation: Tools for Successful Collaboration; Carnivore Ecology (2 sessions); Conservation Market Place; Sage Brush/Steppe Conservation and Management; WA/OR PIF Tools for Bird Conservation; Herpetofauna of the Pacific Northwest; Fire Management and Ecology; Forest Wildlife Ecology and Management; Wind Energy Forum; Director's Forum (Director's Forum with Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Director Koenings, Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Director Moore, and US Fish and Wildlife Service Region 1 Deputy Director David Wesley); Avian Ecology; Habitat Restoration and Wildlife Assessments; Ungulate Ecology; Urban

Wildlife; Wildlife Disease Forum; and Open Session.

The Oregon Chapter will elect a new Treasurer, President-Elect, Vice President-Elect, and three Board members at its business meeting during the conference in Pendleton. I would like to recognize and thank the out-going officers and board members for their hard work and dedication to the Chapter. They are Treasurer Marie Morin, Vice President Betsy Glenn, and board members Mariam Hulst, Nancy Breuner, and Don Whittaker. A special thank you goes to our out-going President Mark Penninger for all of his hard work, willingness to travel from northeastern Oregon to western Oregon for nearly all of the board meetings, dedication and leadership during the past year. Thank you to all.

With Oregon's Legislature in session, the Chapter has been busy testifying on proposed legislation that would affect wildlife. Our Legislative Liaison and Legislative Affairs Committee Chair have testified on proposed bills that would grant the State Commission of Fish and Wildlife authority to define wild birds and wild mammals by rule for the purposes of wildlife laws and a bill that would change recently

completed management plans for Oregon state forests from best use to emphasizing timber harvest as their primary purpose. The Chapter introduced a bill, at the request of the Oregon Department of Wildlife, that would allow Oregon Department of Fish and

Wildlife to appoint individuals that can act as an agent for the Department and use their trained dogs to hunt or pursue black bears or cougars.

Bruce H. Campbell, President

CANADIAN SECTION FORMING

The process is underway to form a Canadian Section of TWS. See Wini Kessler's Northwest Section Representative's Report earlier in this newsletter for more details. The Northwest Section has enjoyed the membership and

participation of many western Canadian members and they will be missed, but it is understandable that a separate Section will give Canadian members greater representation in TWS.



Western Grebe

Bob Hines, USFWS

CHAPTER NEWS

Check Out these Websites for more details on Chapter Activities!

Alaska: <http://www.wildlife.org/chapters/ak/index.cfm>

Alberta: <http://albertadirectory.net/actws/>

Idaho: <http://www.ictws.org/>

Montana: <http://www.montanatws.org/>

Oregon: <http://fw.oregonstate.edu/tws/>

Washington: <http://www.washingtonwildlifesoc.org>

(British Columbia, Northwest Territories, Nunavut, and Yukon Territory: no Chapters)

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