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April 2005

NORTHWEST SECTION

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we look forward to growth of the Northwest Section, I wanted to highlight a few points of interest. The Northwest Section joined the Montana Chapter for a great 2005 meeting. The future schedule includes a joint meeting with our Idaho Chapter, the Idaho Chapter of the Society of Range Management, and the NW Scientific Society in Boise in 2006. As the planning efforts begin, I hope everyone will think of ways to contribute to help make this a successful program, to build membership, and to encourage students to attend. One difficult issue we face includes integrating wildlife and natural resource

management with the infrastructure of road and highway development. Development of new highways, byways, and roads, widening of road corridors, and improving conditions which result in increased traffic volume and speed take a continual toll on the species inhabiting the area.

Highway developments may result in consequences that include vehicle-animal collisions, fragmentation of travel corridors, and rural subdivisions. Serious consideration should be undertaken before and during highway projects and we should act collaboratively with the groups or

agencies constructing the roads. Integrating our knowledge will enable a better product and I encourage all members to think about this universal issue.



I look forward to working with you over the next couple of years

Michael Goldstein

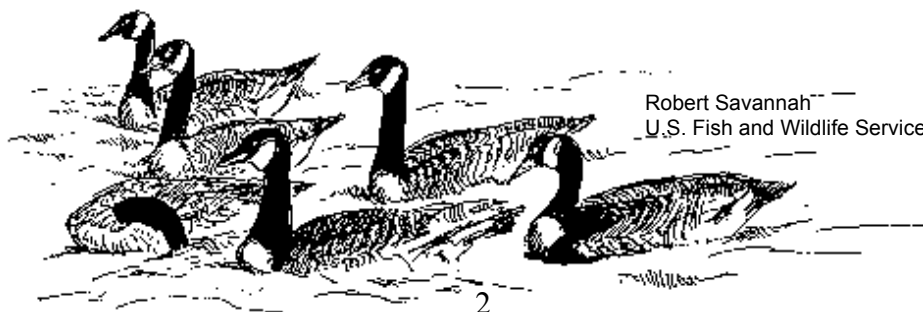
TWS BEGINS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SEARCH

The Wildlife Society has been without an Executive Director since last fall. Tom Franklin, TWS Policy Director, has done an outstanding job serving as the Interim Executive Director and moving the Society forward in some important initiatives. In order to continue this momentum toward addressing the needs of the membership, the decision was made to begin the search for a new Executive Director at the semi-annual meeting of The Wildlife Society Council, held March 13-15 at the Society's headquarters in Bethesda, Maryland.

Following an external review of the operations of the Society that was completed last fall, Council employed an expert in the field of non-profit organizational development to help assess staffing needs, including the position of Executive Director. As a result of that report, Council agreed upon the need for an Executive Director to provide leadership and vision for the Society in fulfilling its mission. The Executive Director will represent the Society on policy issues; serve as the primary contact for the Society with legislators, other conservation organizations and agencies, as well as members; and oversee other staff who manage the daily affairs of the Society. Some restructuring of the Society's headquarter operations and staffing is under consideration.

In order to do a thorough search for the most highly qualified candidates for Executive Director, Council unanimously voted to employ the services of an executive search firm. The search firm will be expected to survey the Society's state chapter and section presidents, past TWS presidents, and Council members as to what they want in a new Executive Director; assist Council in developing a job description that addresses the goals of the organization; advertise the position nationally and internationally; screen applicants; check references; and assist Council in structuring candidate interviews. Council members feel that employing a professional search firm will ensure that search is conducted impartially, thoroughly, and in a timely fashion. Input from all TWS state and national officers, and members through those officers, is essential to the success of this process. Council has empowered the TWS Executive Committee to find and recommend a search firm and selection process within 30 days. It is anticipated that an Executive Director will be in place by September 1, 2005.

**Dick Lancia, President
The Wildlife Society**



NORTHWEST SECTION REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

Council met on March 13, 14, and 15 at the TWS Headquarters in Grosvenor, Maryland. Important decisions were made to improve member services and strengthen the Society's role as a leader in wildlife science and education.

Key among these was the decision to initiate an international search for an Executive Director to fill behind Harry Hodgdon, who moved on last fall. Tom Franklin, TWS Policy Director, has done an outstanding job serving as the Interim Executive Director and moving the Society forward in some important initiatives. Council desires to continue that momentum and to implement additional recommendations from the TWS external review completed last fall. Based on that report and extensive deliberations, Council agreed on the need for an Executive Director to provide leadership and vision for the Society in fulfilling its mission. The Executive Director will represent the Society on policy issues; serve as the primary contact for the Society with legislators, other conservation organizations and agencies, as well as members; and oversee TWS staff and operations. Council unanimously agreed to enlist an executive search firm to ensure that the most highly qualified candidates are identified and assessed. The search firm will survey TWS state and section presidents, past TWS presidents, and Council members to determine what they want in a new Executive Director, and carry out advertising, screening of applicants, reference checks, and preparations for the interview process. It is anticipated that the new Executive Director will be in place by September 1, 2005.

Progress has been made following Council's decision to make TWS journals available electronically. A contract with BioOne has made electronic access a reality. BioOne is the leading not-for-profit disseminator of peer-reviewed research in

organismal and integrative biology, including ecology and the environment. This is a giant step in making research findings more readily accessible to scientists, students, managers, administrators, and others who need current, high-quality information about wildlife conservation and management.

A portion of Council's agenda dealt with changes in TWS publications to make them more valuable to all members. These deliberations were informed by surveys of TWS members and journal editors, and by detailed analyses completed by two task groups. The work of both groups pointed to similar conclusions and recommendations, which Council is taking action on. Based on strong sentiment that the *Journal of Wildlife Management* and *Wildlife Society Bulletin* are not distinct enough, Council decided on a concept of a single journal dedicated to the reporting of research. That journal would be available by optional subscription. Based on the expressed desire for greater content on management applications, policy, and timely issues, Council decided to pursue development of a publication emphasizing those aspects for distribution to all TWS members. This publication would be comparable to *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution*, published by the Ecological Society of America, and to *Rangelands*, published by the Society of Range Management. It will take the place of *The Wildlifer* as a members' communication tool, and include articles on management, policy, methods, education, and other topics that traditionally have been provided in the *Wildlife Society Bulletin*.

Council also decided to follow the lead of most other professional societies in contracting major components of its publications function to a publishing firm. TWS will maintain its peer-review and peer-editing processes that ensure the high quality of our published information. The

publications firm will manage production, marketing, electronic publication, distribution, and other business functions. The Society is positioned to realize significant efficiencies and cost-savings from this change while improving member service.

On other matters, Council voted to develop a business plan for an online store, and to waive TWS membership fees of Reserve and National Guard personnel while activated for overseas assignments.

Moving away from Council matters, I want to highlight the efforts of two Northwest chapters who are making extra effort to reach across political and disciplinary boundaries. The Washington Chapter has extended special invitations to biologists in British Columbia (both TWS members and non-members) to attend the chapter's April 19–21 annual meeting in Port Townsend. The theme of the meeting is "Wildlife

without Boundaries," and participants will explore ways to enhance TWS participation between and among wildlifers in Washington and B.C. One idea for discussion is to expand the Washington Chapter to include British Columbia, which would create TWS' first "international chapter." Up in the far north, the Alaska Chapter of TWS will hold a joint annual meeting with the Alaska Chapter of the Society of American Foresters, scheduled for April 21–23 in Fairbanks. The meeting will highlight current situations and opportunities in both interior and coastal forests for foresters and wildlife professionals to work together to achieve shared objectives.

Since Spring has officially arrived, I'll close by wishing everyone the best in preparing for a productive and enjoyable field season.

Wini Kessler, Northwest Section Representative

2005 NW SECTION BUSINESS MEETING

Northwest Section Business Meeting, March 2, 2005, Helena, Montana

1. Call to Order and Agenda

President Lowell Suring called the meeting to order and asked if there were any proposed changes to the agenda. The meeting was held in conjunction with the Montana Chapter meeting. A continental breakfast was available to those attending the meeting. There were 11 members present.

2. Secretary's report

Secretary/Treasurer Marion Cherry presented the summary of the minutes from last year's Section meeting in Alaska. No changes were made to the minutes as presented.

3. Treasurer's report

Marion Cherry presented the annual report of the NW Section's budget. The report was from February 2004 to February 2005. The Section's financial balance is \$17,398. The four newsletters averaged \$190 each for postage and mailing. A small amount of interest is earned monthly. We currently show 690 members. There was \$2,000 awarded in student travel grants to the Alaska meeting last year which enabled 9 students to attend, most of which presented papers. During 2004 we also funded a speaker at the Alaska meeting for \$1,000 to cover his travel expenses and gave \$1,000 to the TWS national meeting held in Calgary, which is in our Section area. Our balance in early March 2004 was \$17,392, less than \$10 different from our current balance. In other words, our income matched our outlay.

4. Newsletter Editor's report

Lewis Young, Newsletter Editor for the Section, presented his report. We are up to our 6th issue that has appeared on the Society website. The most recent newsletter, in January, entailed 659 postcards to members, 200 e-mails, and only 5 hardcopies. The costs are running less than \$200 per newsletter with most of that being postage. It used to cost us about \$900 to do hardcopy newsletters, thus we are having significant savings. Lewis thanked the membership for newsletter contributions. Sometimes it is difficult to get the newsletter posted in a timely manner, but phone call follow up seems to help. Lewis was asked about 'hits' on the site, and said we would follow up. Dick Mackie indicated some concerns about the future of the Section. Lewis indicated that there is good interest in the newsletter. Lewis suggested that photographs would enhance the newsletter, and that it would be easy to add them. A section on 'who's doing what' was suggested to give an update on Section members. Some state chapters do this. Lowell suggested perhaps rotating among the state chapters for updates. Lewis' 2 year term as editor is up, but he agreed to another 2 year term. Thank you, Lewis!

5. Northwest Section Representative's report.

Wini Kessler was unable to attend this year.

6. Society Update

Sandra Staples-Bortner gave us an update of some Society news. They are hoping to have the *Journal* and the *Bulletin* available electronically soon. They are not sure how this will work, but we may get the option to subscribe electronically. There was a question about whether or not the Society's publications are serving the membership. The *Bulletin* has sort of evolved into a mini *Journal*, and maybe the *Wildlifer* newsletter could be improved which is what folks receive for their basic dues. They are also looking at potentially merging some of the publications. The *Wildlife Techniques Manual* will be out in an updated version in

late March. The online Wildlife jobs site is working well and is a good service to members. The Society has done technical reviews or 'white papers' lately including one on global climate change. This received a lot of publicity. There was discussion on why the *Bulletin* went the way it did. Sandra thinks it needs a staff person to solicit items rather than just taking what comes in. Membership is declining among agency biologists – we are now an aging profession. There is a strong desire to tap into the vast experience of agency biologists. A retired wildlife professional committee was recently formed. John Wiegand asked if people really thought folks would start publishing post retirement. The *Intermountain Journal of Science* was created as a place for field biologists to publish. Some agency biologists have huge data sets that have not been analyzed or published. Agencies tend not to encourage publishing, or it has a low priority. Dick Mackie said that if scientists are the editors, they will produce scientific journals. We need to get a different type of person involved in editing. He also felt that many students are not learning field skills from universities and journals.

7. Awards Committee

Lowell presented this report. Although there were 2 nominations for the Einarson Award, it was decided not to award this year, but to carry the nominees forward into next year. Nominees can be carried for 3 years. We received no nominees for the Wildlife Administrator's Award. This should be a management person in a leadership role, so maybe the title of the award is not correct. Lowell will carry this suggestion to the Executive Board.

8. Old Business.

None to discuss.

9. New Business

The Washington Chapter TWS is working with BC, who does not have a chapter. The Section may offer awards for student presentations at the joint Chapter/Section

meetings. The Section will consider partial support for professionals receiving awards to attend a meeting. In 2006, TWS will meet in Anchorage, AK. We will likely get a request for financial support. This is located within our Section area. The NW Section will meet in conjunction with the Idaho Chapter in 2006. This may be also a joint meeting with the Idaho State Chapter of the Society for Range Management. The meeting is likely to be in Boise next year, but that is not certain.

Lynn Kelly of the Loon Society responded to a request for additional new business. Lynn would like to form a Northwest Common Loon Working Group which would take in the Northwest US States along with BC and Alberta. Lynn's contact information is loonmont@hotmail.com and (406) 883-5797. Please contact Lynn if you are interested.

There was some discussion on the visibility of the NW Section at the Montana Chapter meeting. The Section usually sponsors at least ½ day of the meeting and brings in a speaker. This year, we were too late getting

the word out on the Montana meeting, and the announcement didn't say much about the Section meeting jointly with the Chapter. The Section needs to be more active in coordination with the State Chapter that they plan to meet with that year. The NW Section meetings with the Oregon and Alaska Chapters in previous years were quite well attended and successful. The Section needs to get involved with the Chapter earlier in the year. Lowell will suggest to Mike Goldstein that we be more aggressive next year in planning with the Idaho Chapter. Helena is a little hard and expensive to get to. This may have reduced Section attendance. Missoula is probably a better location for the times we meet jointly with the Montana Chapter. There were no student requests for support to attend the meeting although this was advertised the same way as last year. The timing of the meeting between last year (May) and this year (March) may have influenced the ability of non Montana students to attend.

10. Adjourn.

Marion Cherry, Secretary/Treasurer

WASHINGTON CHAPTER WORKING TOGETHER

Working Together

The Washington Chapter of The Wildlife Society has always had an approach to its mission that has included working with all possible partners. This is not something we are likely to change in the coming years. In fact, reduced agency budgets which could translate into reduced attendance at our events and reduced participation in our organization are a grave concern to us and will likely prompt us to place a substantial emphasis on partnerships of all kinds.

The Chapter is currently pursuing partnerships in several ways. We are re-examining our relationship with our members and their employers. The Chapter recognizes that employers, who often pay

for attendance at our meetings and events, are also our "clients". We have contacted employers from a variety of agencies and organizations to try to learn more about how we can help those agencies and organizations meet their goals – often goals that we hold in common. The discussions we are holding with these employers will hopefully lead to improved Chapter operations and greater support by employers. For instance, perhaps the Chapter can change the type of training workshops it organizes to better meet agency/organization needs. Perhaps the agencies /organizations can help the Chapter in organizing training that would not otherwise be available to those entities.

We are also re-examining our relationships with our neighbors. We have discovered that there is not a chapter representing biologists in British Columbia. This year, our annual meeting is being held in conjunction with biologists from British Columbia and many of our speakers are from British Columbia. We have initiated discussions with biologists in British Columbia to identify ways in which we can work together in the future to our mutual benefit. A number of alternatives have been suggested and will continue to be discussed.

One of the issues we hope to pursue in the immediate future is the scheduling of meetings to avoid conflicts and to encourage concurrent or sequential, co-located meetings. In these times of tight budgets, we must strive for efficiency and effectiveness, but also be as considerate as

possible toward each other. Recently, a major event was knowingly scheduled on a date that conflicts with our annual meeting. This conflict will reduce the numbers of biologists attending our meeting, and thus influence the quality of our meeting. However, it will also affect our financial well-being. We hope to work with all our partners so that those unfortunate scheduling errors will not occur in the future.

Each organization has a role to fulfill. With all of the challenges we face now-a-days, we cannot ignore the potential benefits derived from partnering with each other. Each organization can bring value to its partners. The Washington Chapter welcomes input from those reading this newsletter and encourages you to contact us with your ideas.

Bill Vogel

YAKAMA NATION REINTRODUCES BIGHORN SHEEP

In early February, Yakama Nation Wildlife staff worked with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to capture 13 bighorn sheep from the Oak Creek bighorn feeding station and relocate them to high-quality native range on the Reservation. The unusually dry winter with little snow made for extremely difficult capture conditions, resulting in relocation of fewer animals than originally anticipated. Yakama Nation

biologist Jim Stephenson plans to obtain an additional 25 sheep in late winter/early spring 2006 to augment the new Reservation herd. Bighorn sheep were very important in Yakama culture historically, and the reintroduction has been met with great enthusiasm.

Gina King

MONITORING POPULATIONS OF GREATER SAGE-GROUSE: A WORKSHOP

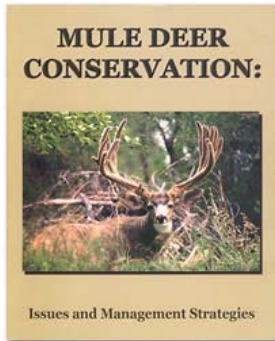
Idaho State University and the University of Idaho will be jointly sponsoring a workshop on sage-grouse on 17-18 May, 2005, on the ISU campus in Pocatello. Information on

the workshop is available at:
http://www.isu.edu/departments/bios/sage_grouse/index.htm.



Robert Savannah
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

MULE DEER CONSERVATION BOOK AVAILABLE



Mule Deer Conservation: Issues and Management Strategies, a book published by the Jack H. Berryman Institute at Utah State University, is now available. The cost is \$22

per book and \$20 per book for orders of 5 or more. Cost includes Utah sales tax and

shipping. Copies may be obtained by sending a check, money order, or credit card payment to:

Berryman Institute
Utah State University
Logan, UT 84322-5230

Order forms may be printed online at www.muledeernet.org/BookOrder.htm or www.berrymaninstitute.org. Books are shipped once payment is received.

41ST NORTH AMERICAN MOOSE CONFERENCE

Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks in partnership with Montana Chapter TWS is hosting the 41st North American Moose Conference to be held at the Grouse Mountain Lodge, Whitefish Montana during the week of May 22-26, 2005. For details on this conference, a Web page has been established through the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks

home page at www.fwp.state.mt.us/ then click on Hunting. A link has also been set up through Alces at <http://www.lakeheadu.ca/~alceswww/alces.html>. If you have other questions, you may contact Jerry Brown at jerry.brown@libbyfieldstation.com or phone 406-293-4161.

MOUNTAIN LION AND DEER & ELK WORKSHOP PROCEEDINGS AVAILABLE

Proceedings of both the Seventh Mountain Lion Workshop and the 5th Western States & Provinces Deer & Elk Workshop are now available. Both were held in Jackson, Wyoming in May 2003.

Cost is \$15.00 USD and make checks payable to " Wyoming TWS ".

Please send requests to:

Tim Thomas
Wyoming Game & Fish Dept
P.O. Box 6249
Sheridan, WY 82801
(307) 672-7418
tim.thomas@wgf.state.wy.us

WILDLIFE POSITION AVAILABLE

Idaho Power Company is taking applications for a Wildlife Area Manager position (No. 2422-3122) on company owned lands within the CJ Strike Wildlife

Management Area. Deadline for applications is April 28, 2005. Obtain details on duties, pay, qualifications, etc. at their website: www.idahopower.com.

WEBSITE USE

This is our 7th newsletter posted on The Wildlife Society's website. "Hits" on the newsletter have been around 200 per month

at times so it appears that people are indeed looking at the newsletter online.

2005 ANNUAL TWS CONFERENCE

Make Plans to Attend The Wildlife Society's 12th Annual Conference

Madison, Wisconsin

September 25-29, 2005



301/897-9770
tws@wildlife.org
www.wildlife.org

Hosted by the Wisconsin Chapter, TWS

- ◆ Network with Colleagues
- ◆ Keep Up-to-Date with Technical Information
- ◆ Featuring technical paper and poster sessions, workshops, symposia, working group meetings, student activities, exhibits, and social events.

Excellence in Wildlife Stewardship through Science and Education

CHAPTER NEWS

Check Out these Websites for more details on Chapter Activities!

Alaska: <http://mercury.bio.uaf.edu/ak-tws/>

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)

NORTHWEST SECTION EXECUTIVE BOARD

Michael I. Goldstein, President

USDA Forest Service
Alaska Regional Office
P.O. Box 21628
Juneau, Alaska 99802-1628

e-mail: mgoldstein@fs.fed.us
Voice: 907.586.7905
FAX: 907.586.7877

Kirby Smith, Alberta

Area Wildlife Biologist
Alberta Fish and Wildlife
Division
Ste. 203, 111-54 Street
Provincial Bldg.
Edson, AB T7E 1T2

e-mail: Kirby.Smith@gov.ab.ca
Voice: 780.723.8248
FAX: 780.723.7963

Richard Schmitz, Oregon

Department of Fisheries and
Wildlife
122 Nash Hall
Oregon State University
Corvallis, OR 97331

e-mail:
richard.schmitz@orst.edu
Voice: 541.737.2164
FAX: 541.737.3590

Harriet L. Allen, Vice President

Washington Dept. Fish and Wildlife
600 Capitol Way N
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

e-mail: allenhla@dfw.wa.gov
Voice: 360.902.2694
FAX: 360.902.2162

Eric J. Taylor, Alaska

USFWS - National Wildlife
Refuge System
1011 East Tudor Rd MS221
Anchorage, AK 99503-6199

e-mail: eric_taylor@fws.gov
Voice: 907.786.3846
FAX: 907.786.3905

Ken Bevis, Washington

Washington Department of Fish
and Wildlife
1701 S.24th
Yakima, WA 98902

e-mail: beviskrb@dfw.wa.gov
Voice: 509.457.9309

**Marion Cherry, Secretary-
Treasurer**

Gallatin National Forest
P.O. Box 130
Bozeman, MT 59771

e-mail: mbcherry@fs.fed.us
Voice: 406.587.6739

Kurt Becker, Idaho

P.O. Box 504
New Meadows, ID 83654-0504

e-mail: kbecker@spro.net
Voice: 208.347.2200

Lowell Suring, Past President

Terrestrial Wildlife Ecology Unit
Forestry Sciences Laboratory
316 East Myrtle Street
Boise, ID 83702

email: lsuring@fs.fed.us
Voice: 208.373.4351
FAX: 208.373.4391

**President-Elect
vacant**

Tom Carlson, Montana

Montana Fish, Wildlife, and
Parks
PO Box 998
Townsend, MT 59644

e-mail: fwp@ixi.net
Voice: 406.266-3367

**Wini Kessler, NW Section
Representative**

4509 Dredge Lake Road
Juneau, AK 99801

e-mail: wkessler@fs.fed.us
Voice: 907.586.7916
FAX: 907.586.7877

Lewis Young
Newsletter Editor
406-889-3492
llyoung@interbel.net