

NORTHWEST WILDLIFER

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NORTHWEST SECTION

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NEW NORTHWEST SECTION REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

Thank you for electing me to be your NW Section Representative to TWS Council. It will be an honor and a pleasure to represent the Northwest US. I know many of you from my years as NW Section Secretary-treasurer and 17 years in Alaska, and I hope to see old friends, meet new people, and become better acquainted with regional issues at section and chapter meetings.

As Wini Kessler mentioned in her last report, I attended the Council meetings in Tucson, in conjunction with the annual conference. I was frankly amazed, and a little daunted, to learn about all the activities and issues happening "in the background" of our organization. So many people are working so hard on important and difficult issues, yet TWS runs so smoothly. I was ignorant about so many things that our talented TWS staff, Officers, Council, and committee members do on our behalf. I know a lot more now and I will do my best to

represent our Section's interests and support our professional society.

Wini summarized Council actions in the last newsletter, so I have only two things to mention: 1) Travel grants are available for students presenting papers and posters at the 2008 Annual Conference in Miami, FL, but abstracts must be submitted by March 15. Although the conference is about as far away as you can get from our section, travel grants can help defray costs and it would be great to see strong representation by students from the Northwest; 2) As you may have seen elsewhere, C.W. Severinghaus passed away this past summer. He was a charter member of TWS, an internationally recognized authority on white-tailed deer, and a name I well remember from my student days. The loss of these wildlife icons reminds me to encourage chapter participation in the COWCH (Conserving Our Wildlife Conservation Heritage) program. Please take the time to draw up a

list of wildlife biologists in your state who deserve to be interviewed and filmed before their institutional knowledge is lost, then complete those interviews before it's too late. Wildlife biologists of the future will thank you!

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Section meeting in Spokane.

Ellen Campbell,
Northwest Section
Representative



WASHINGTON CHAPTER UPDATE – 2008 ANNUAL MEETING INFORMATION

Planning continues for the 2008 joint annual meeting of the Washington Chapter and the Northwest Section – *From Student to Professional: Expectations, Realities, and TWS*. The meeting will take place in Spokane, WA at the DoubleTree Hotel downtown, March 19-21. Updates will be available on the Washington Chapter website as the program details are finalized. (http://www.washingtonwildlifesoc.org/ns/default_ns.htm). We are soliciting ideas and leaders for workshops, symposia, field trips and special sessions. We'll also need session moderators, contest organizers, etc., so if you'd like to volunteer to help with any activity associated with the annual meeting contact me directly at (jmac@longviewtimber.com) or A. J. Kroll (AJ.Kroll@weyerhaeuser.com, President-elect) as soon as possible. Northwest Section members that are not Washington Chapter members are particularly needed!

The Washington Chapter is also holding a contest to develop a new logo. The current logo features the Egyptian hieroglyphics panel of the parent society. A design with a local or regional theme would be preferred.

The contest will be open to all, and members of the Student Chapters are particularly encouraged to submit designs. A rough sketch will be sufficient, as the Board will select the top 2-3 entries and have a graphics artist finalize those designs, prior to a vote by the Chapter members. We'd like to announce the winner at the annual meeting, so get your entry in soon! The prize will be a year's membership in the Washington Chapter, Northwest Section, and the parent society (with all publications). This is an excellent opportunity for undergraduates or graduate students to get started on what should be a career-long involvement in TWS at all levels. Entries can be submitted to any chapter board member. Associated with the logo contest, is the need to develop an information/member recruitment pamphlet/brochure describing the Washington Chapter, officers, activities, and contacts. We will be working on developing the brochure over the next few months and all ideas and volunteers to assist with this are welcome.

Jim MacCracken, President

MONTANA CHAPTER UPDATE – 2008 ANNUAL MEETING INFORMATION

Announcing the 2008 Conference—a joint meeting of the Montana Chapter of the Wildlife Society, The Society for Northwestern Vertebrate Biology, and Partners for Amphibians and Reptile Conservation—*Northwest Connections: Sustaining our Wildlife Populations in the Face of Climate Change, Human Population Growth, and Energy Development*. The meeting will be held February 25-29 at the Holiday Inn Parkside, Missoula.

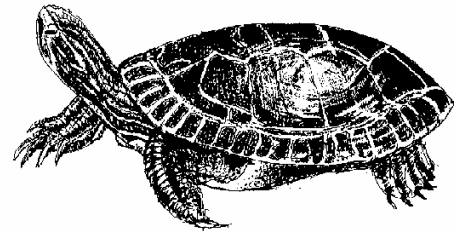
This year's theme builds upon the theme of the previous two conferences which captured the essence of wildlife as a public trust and energy development. Complicating the picture for sustaining wildlife life over the long term are climate change and human population growth.

Working group meetings are scheduled for Monday February 25 (Common Loon, Harlequin Duck, All Bird,

Herpetiles, Bats). Several workshops will be offered Tuesday and Wednesday morning: Impacts of Climate Change on Wildlife, Human Development and Wildlife, Partners for Amphibian and Reptile Conservation. The main conference plenary, concurrent and poster sessions are scheduled for Wednesday afternoon through Friday afternoon.

For more information, see:
www.montanatws.org

Carolyn Sime, President



Painted Turtle-
Robert Savannah, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

SCIENTISTS CALL ON CONGRESS TO HELP WILDLIFE SURVIVE GLOBAL WARMING

WASHINGTON, DC (January 29) – More than 600 prominent scientists from across the United States are calling on Congress to pass legislation that will curb America's global warming pollution and help protect

wildlife and other natural resources threatened by global warming. Spearheaded by some of America's greatest scientific minds, including Harvard Professor E.O. Wilson, Thomas Lovejoy,

Paul Ehrlich and Camille Parmesan, the scientists have sent a letter to Congress urging action.

“The science is irrefutable not only about the reality of climate change, but also that plant and animal species are already being harmed by it,” said Dr. Thomas Lovejoy, renowned conservation biologist and president of the H. John Heinz III Center for Science, Economics, and the Environment. “Alarming effects are already being observed in nature from mountaintops to the oceans, and from the equator to the polar regions. We can choose to allow these effects to intensify or to move to avoid the more disastrous consequences for life on earth.”

“The precarious status of polar bears and their melting sea ice habitat in the Arctic is only the tip of the iceberg,” said Dr. Dan Svedarsky, president of The Wildlife Society, on behalf of its over 8,000 professional wildlife biologists. “It’s not just polar bears – wildlife across America are being impacted by global warming, including birds, butterflies, fish and mammals.”

“The science is clear that without major action to both reduce global warming pollution and to help wildlife survive global warming, species will suffer rapidly increasing extinction rates,” said Jeff Price, one of the authors of the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report awarded the Nobel Peace Prize (2007). “It is not too late, but we must take action now.”

The U.S. Senate is currently considering legislation that would begin to take the urgent actions these scientists say are necessary. The Climate Security Act, introduced in 2007 by Senators Joe Lieberman (I-CT) and John Warner (R-VA), creates a market-based system that cuts global warming pollution and helps communities address the impacts of climate change.

“Global warming is an unprecedented challenge for wildlife, adding a host of new threats such as thawing permafrost, disappearing mountain snow pack, and the warming of rivers, lakes and estuaries,” said John Kostyack, executive director of wildlife and global warming at the National Wildlife Federation. “Senators Lieberman and Warner recognize the gravity of the threat and the necessity of timely and effective action. The Climate Security Act provides the best hope for saving wildlife at risk of extinction and for conserving ecosystems that are essential for both wildlife and people.”

Under the bill’s carbon cap-and-trade system, global warming pollution would be capped at levels that enable the U.S. to achieve 2 percent annual reductions through the middle of the century. Permits to release global warming pollution would be auctioned annually. Revenues from these auctions would be dedicated to various public purposes, including conservation of wildlife and other natural resources at risk from global warming.

During the first 19 years of the program the bill would raise an estimated \$175 billion in revenue for wildlife and natural resource conservation. With this critically needed funding, managers of wildlife, land and water would be able to effectively utilize a number of tools at their disposal to protect and restore wildlife and ecosystems harmed by global warming. The bill would provide substantial investments to state and federal agencies to reduce non-climate stressors on ecosystems, prevent and control invasive species, and protect coastal wetlands and address the impacts of sea level rise, all of which will help wildlife survive the pressures of global warming.

The UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change points to droughts, wildfires, flooding and intensified storms as consequences of unchecked global warming. Both people and wildlife are at risk from these impacts. Investing in the

conservation of wildlife and natural resources will directly benefit Americans whose jobs, health and quality of life depend on maintaining natural ecosystems. The letter emphasizes that “global warming represents, by far, the greatest threat ever posed to the planet’s living resources, which provide the foundation of our economy and quality of life.”

“Salmon and trout are among our most vulnerable species and their protection in the face of a rapidly changing climate demands strong actions,” said Helen Neville, research scientist with Trout Unlimited. “Trout Unlimited urges Congress to enact legislation reducing global warming pollution and funding conservation of fish and wildlife threatened by global warming.”

The signers hope to convey to Congress “our sense of urgency. Global warming is already causing serious damage and disruptions to wildlife and ecosystems, and reliable projections call for significant additional damage and disruptions. To fulfill the nation’s longstanding commitment to

conserving abundant wildlife and healthy ecosystems for future generations, Congress must craft legislation that greatly reduces global warming pollution and generates substantial dedicated funding to protect and restore wildlife and ecosystems harmed by global warming.”

The Lieberman-Warner bill is expected to come to a full Senate vote within the next several months.

Broken down by region, the number of signatories is as follows: New England (67), Mid- Atlantic (87), Southeast (125), Great Lakes (48), South/Midwest (44), Southwest (44), Great Lakes (22), Northwest (46), and Pacific Northwest (118). To see the full list by state, visit

<http://www.nwf.org/scientistsletter>

Contact: John Kostyack, kostyack@nwf.org, 202-797-6879

The Wildlife Society Press Release

CHAPTER NEWS

Check Out these Websites for more details on Chapter Activities!

Alaska: www.wildlife.org/chapters/ak/index.cfm/
Idaho: www.ictws.org
Montana: www.montanatws.org
Oregon: fw.oregonstate.edu/tws/
Washington: www.washingtonwildlifesoc.org/

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