

# NORTHWEST WILDLIFER

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July 2005

NORTHWEST SECTION

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## NORTHWEST SECTION REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

By now you've probably read the summer issue of *The Wildlifer*, in which President Lancia described the important changes underway in the leadership of The Wildlife Society. Here is a quick update on those changes:

- Tom Franklin, Policy Director for many years and more recently our Acting Executive Director, left TWS on June 20 to begin his new position with the Isaak Walton League of America. While Tom will be sorely missed at TWS, we know he will continue to be a strong conservation leader in his new role with IWA.
- TWS signed a contract with the American Fisheries Society whereby the AFS Executive Director, Dr. Gus Rassam, is serving TWS as Interim Executive Director on a part-time basis until early September when the new Executive Director is hired. AFS and TWS share the same building, so Dr. Rassam is handily available to assist TWS staff in this time of change.
- The recruitment of a new Executive Director is moving along well. The search committee has completed its initial review of all applicants and will

soon commence the interview process for top candidates.

The President's Podium also provided an update on changes in the publications area, including an explanation of why these improvements are necessary and an invitation for you to comment on the proposed name changes for TWS journals. For me, the most welcome improvements are those relating to electronic access. Full-text access to the 2004 and 2005 issues of JWM and WSB is now available to

members, and the option for electronic subscriptions is next up on the docket.

The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in Madison is shaping up well, as you will know if you've perused the brochure or website. Be sure to mark September 25–29 on your calendar and make your travel plans. The exciting program, unique setting, and special events are sure to please!

**Wini Kessler, Northwest Section Representative**

### **RICHARD M. BARTMANN RECEIVES 2005 WALLMO AWARD**

Dr. O. C. "Charlie" Wallmo was one of North America's foremost wildlife scientists. Principally a researcher, he had a broad interest in deer ecology and management. The Family of the late Dr. Wallmo have provided for a biennial award, known as the "Wallmo Award." The Wallmo Award is presented to individuals in recognition of outstanding contributions to knowledge and improved management of mule and black-tailed deer.

Richard M. Bartmann is the 2005 recipient of the Wallmo Award for his significant contributions and improvements to our knowledge of mule and black-tailed deer. Dick truly embodies the spirit of O.C. Wallmo with high scientific standards, an array of important keystone contributions to mule deer management, critical questioning of data to improve our science, and a lasting legacy.

Dick was employed as a wildlife researcher with the Colorado Game, Fish and Parks Department in 1966, which later became the Colorado Division of Wildlife. He spent his entire career as a research scientist for the Colorado Division of Wildlife, retiring in 1998. Dick is most recognized for his

landmark mule deer research conducted in the Piceance Basin of northwest Colorado. He led a group of colleagues in pioneering studies which clarified mechanisms regulating deer population growth, including roles of predation, nutrition and hunting. Dick is also widely recognized for his research in developing and testing mule deer census techniques to enhance the accuracy and precision of population estimates. Finally, Dick's research on deer feeding ecology enhanced our understanding of forage selection and how to quantify foraging choices.

Dick consistently maintained a level of commitment, objectivity, and innovation in his research that few wildlife professionals can match. He routinely questioned all aspects of data and resulting conclusions, lending a high degree of quality to his published work. Dick accomplished some of the best experiments ever conducted on mule deer, and authored or co-authored more than 20 cornerstone deer publications in respected technical journals. The efforts of Dick and his close colleagues have had lasting impacts that continue to directly influence our present-day mule deer management.

## 2006 NW SECTION ANNUAL MEETING IN BOISE, IDAHO

The next NW Section Annual meeting is being hosted by the Idaho Chapter and will be held with the Northwest Scientific Association in Boise, Idaho, 8-10 March

2006. Check the following website as details are posted: <http://www.ictws.org/>.

### NW SECTION AWARDS

Nominations for two awards are being accepted by the Awards Committee. The **Arthur S. Einarsen Award** was established in 1966 to recognize outstanding service to the wildlife profession by individuals residing in the area encompassed by the Northwest Section of The Wildlife Society. The **Wildlife Administrator Award** was designed to recognize and reward excellence in the areas of wildlife program development and administration. The Awards Committee encourages nominations from the membership of the Section by 3 January 2006 for both awards. Nominations benefit from supporting documentation so

please contact Lowell Suring for more details if you have deserving candidates in mind. Awards will be presented at the annual meeting scheduled for 8-10 March 2006 in Boise, Idaho (see the following website as details are posted: <http://www.ictws.org/>)

Lowell H. Suring, Wildlife Ecologist, USDA Forest Service, Terrestrial Wildlife Ecology Unit, Forestry Sciences Laboratory, 316 East Myrtle Street, Boise, Idaho 83702. Voice: 208.373.4351, FAX: 208.373.4391, e-mail: [lsuring@fs.fed.us](mailto:lsuring@fs.fed.us)

### NW SECTION TRAVEL GRANT COMMITTEE MEMBERS SOUGHT

If you are interested in serving on a committee to evaluate applications for student travel grants for the Northwest Section's annual meeting in March 2006 please contact Lowell Suring. See the announcement for grant applications in this newsletter for details. Evaluations will occur from mid December 2005 through mid January 2006.

Lowell H. Suring, Wildlife Ecologist, USDA Forest Service, Terrestrial Wildlife Ecology Unit, Forestry Sciences Laboratory, 316 East Myrtle Street, Boise, Idaho 83702. Voice: 208.373.4351, FAX: 208.373.4391, e-mail: [lsuring@fs.fed.us](mailto:lsuring@fs.fed.us)

### NORTHWEST SECTION STUDENT TRAVEL GRANTS

The Northwest Section of The Wildlife Society is offering grants to partially support student travel, registration, and/or lodging expenses associated with attending the 2006 annual meeting. This year's meeting is being hosted by the Idaho Chapter and will be held with the Northwest Scientific Association in Boise, Idaho 8-10 March 2006 (see the following website as details

are posted: <http://www.ictws.org/>). Grants will be issued up to a cumulative total of \$2,000.

The following factors will be given priority during selection of grant recipients:

- support to students presenting papers or posters at the meeting,

- support to officers of student chapters, and
- prudent expenditure of funds (e.g., requests for partial funding of group transportation or shared lodging).

Grant requests should include:

- the factors mentioned above (if applicable, for example - title of presentation, office held),
- other supporting information,
- the amount of financial assistance requested,
- contact information for the applicant (physical address, telephone number, and e-mail address), and
- contact information for the student's or chapter's faculty advisor

Please submit grant requests via e-mail by 16 December 2005 to:

Lowell H. Suring, Wildlife Ecologist  
 USDA Forest Service  
 Terrestrial Wildlife Ecology Unit  
 Forestry Sciences Laboratory  
 316 East Myrtle Street  
 Boise, Idaho 83702  
 Voice: 208.373.4351  
 FAX: 208.373.4391  
 e-mail: lsuring@fs.fed.us

Recipients will be notified by 16 January 2006.

## **ALASKA ALLOWS BROWN BEAR BAITING FOR PREDATOR CONTROL**

On 1 April 2005, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game began issuing permits to kill brown bears over bait through a new predator control program in Game Management Unit 20E (GMU 20E). Although a regular brown bear hunting season will still be offered, the new brown bear control program will augment the established wolf control program. The objective of both control programs is to increase the moose population to meet harvest goals established by the Alaska Board of Game under Alaska's Intensive Management law. The moose population in GMU 20E has remained at low levels for over 20 years despite adequate habitat and good nutritional condition. Despite implementing wolf control and encouraging an increased harvest of brown bears during the hunting season, the moose population in GMU 20E has not increased. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game believes that both brown bear and wolf control must be implemented to increase this moose population.

The brown bear control program would reduce the brown bear population in a 2700

square mile portion of GMU 20E along the Canadian border. The area currently supports an estimated 135 brown bears. The predator control program would allow up to 60%, or an estimated 81 bears, to be killed this season.

The bear control program has drawn criticism. One concern is that bait could food-condition bears to human food, increasing negative bear-human interactions and creating a public safety problem. However, scientific studies have not addressed whether this actually occurs in either brown bears or black bears. Secondly, because brown bears reproduce slowly, the control program could have long-term adverse impacts on the brown bear population. One population model indicates that if the brown bear population is reduced to the level anticipated by the program, and subsequent brown bear hunting seasons are closed, population recovery may take 10 years. Finally, although the bear population in GMU 20E has been studied in the past, the estimated population of 135 brown bears in GMU 20E is an extrapolation of

data from that area in 1986 and from a nearby area during 1981 to 1998.

The Wildlife Society developed a position statement on Management and Conservation of Brown Bears, which recognized the challenges of managing brown bears. Where a bear population is controlled to protect prey species, The Wildlife Society encourages "...efforts to understand the ecology of predation by brown bears upon ungulates and to manage predator-prey interactions involving the

brown bear with concern for the bear as well as for prey." The Alaska Chapter of The Wildlife Society prepared a draft position statement entitled Baiting, Population Reductions, and Sale of Parts of Brown and Black Bears in Alaska. The Chapter is currently revising the draft into three specific technical reviews on baiting, population reductions, and the sale of parts. Technical Reviews will be finalized by 2006.

Excerpted from Wildlife Policy News  
Volume 15, Issue 2, June 2005

## ROADLESS RULE REPEALED

After years of debate, the Bush Administration has finalized its repeal of the Roadless Area Conservation Rule. The Roadless Rule, invoked by President Clinton in January 2001, protected roadless areas in National Forests by establishing nationwide limitations on timber harvest, road construction, and road reconstruction in inventoried roadless areas. In May 2001, the Bush administration, while expressing its commitment to roadless areas, announced its intention to re-examine the rule, and a few months later solicited public comment on the conservation and management of inventoried roadless areas. On July 16, 2004, the Bush administration released a proposed rule repealing the Roadless Area Conservation Rule. The Forest Service received 1.8 million public comments on the proposal, most in opposition to the change. The final rule released on May 5, however, repeals the Clinton-era Roadless Rule, replacing it with a voluntary state-initiated petition process.

Under the new rule, 58.5 million roadless acres are no longer protected from road construction and the resource development that goes along with it. Instead, state governors will have eighteen months from the rule's publication to submit petitions to keep their roadless areas protected or to open them to development. The final

decision, however, rests with the Secretary of Agriculture. Until a petition is approved or if a petition is not submitted, management of the roadless areas will revert back to that called for under the current forest management plan in effect for each forest, which is subject to amendment or revision under National Forest Management Act (NFMA) planning procedures. The management plans for 24 million roadless acres currently prohibit road construction; development would be allowed in the other 34 million acres that are not longer protected.

Supporters of the roadless rule, such as wildlife and conservation groups, are disturbed by its repeal. Critics are suspicious of this process, suspecting that governors are not likely to submit petitions, either because of the cost to the state of doing so (estimated by the federal government at \$25,000 to \$100,000 per petition) or because the Governor views it as futile because he/she doubts the Secretary of Agriculture will approve them.

Roadless areas cover 58.5 million acres in the National Forests, making up 31% of the forest system and two percent of the American land base. Ninety-seven percent of these roadless areas are found in twelve western states (Alaska, Arizona, California,

Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming). Roadless areas provide important habitat for fish and wildlife, as well as a source of clean drinking water for many communities, protection from wildfire

dangers, and unparalleled recreational opportunities.

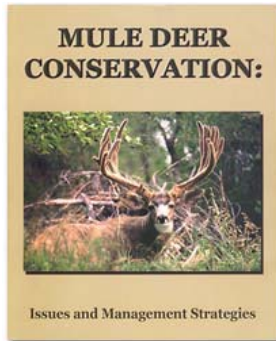
Excerpted from Wildlife Policy News  
Volume 15, Issue 2, June 2005

### **CORRECTION FOR ORDERING NEW TECHNIQUES BOOK**

Due to a typographical error in the latest Wildlifer, the fax number for the office of The Wildlife Society is listed incorrectly on the special prepublication offer for the

upcoming edition of Techniques for Wildlife Investigations and Management. Please fax all orders to (301) 530-2471.

### **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](http://www.muledeernet.org/BookOrder.htm) or [www.berrymaninstitute.org](http://www.berrymaninstitute.org). Books are shipped once payment is received.

### **MOUNTAIN LION AND DEER & ELK WORKSHOP PROCEEDINGS AVAILABLE**

Proceedings of both the Seventh Mountain Lion Workshop and the 5<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:tim.thomas@wgf.state.wy.us)



Robert Savannah  
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

## 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)

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**What food  
conditioned  
bears can do!**