

NORTHWEST WILDLIFER

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October 2004 _____ NORTHWEST SECTION

IN THIS ISSUE:

- **Message from the President**
- **TWS Council Report from the Northwest Section Representative**
- **Nominations solicited for Northwest Section Awards**
- **Forum on National Forest Watersheds, Landscapes, and Ecosystems in Alaska**
- **2005 Montana Chapter and NW Section Meeting**
- **Student Travel Grants available for 2005 NW Section Meeting**
- **Proceedings of the Seventh Mountain Lion Workshop available**
- **Proceedings of the Fifth Western States & Provinces Deer & Elk Workshop available**
- **41st North American Moose Conference**
- **Dr. Terry Bower assumes new duties**
- **BLM Wind Energy Development EIS**
- **USFS Roadless Rule comment period extended**
- **U.S. FY 2005 appropriations update**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It seems long ago that we passed into the information age; now we must rely on frequent knowledge updates in our personal and professional lives to keep up with events and technical developments. Society, in general, and the wildlife profession are continually demanding higher levels of performance. As a result, we all need to seek and obtain new knowledge at an increasingly faster pace throughout our careers. It has been recognized for some time that the end of formal instruction at receipt of a degree is no longer the end of learning. However, in order for wildlife

professionals to be most efficient at accomplishing continued learning, it may be necessary for our educational institutions to put more emphasis on preparing students to know how to continue their learning. Additional attention to this aspect may be difficult in light of all the new concepts and technologies students must now have exposure to. However, a student that graduates with knowledge of how to continue to learn will be much better off than one who may have a better grasp of current technologies.

It is also critical that employers recognize, plan for, and support their employees' efforts to continue to learn. We can count on our profession to become more specialized and for innovative technologies to become available at faster and faster rates. As stewards of our natural resources, public agencies with responsibilities for wildlife conservation need to ensure that their employees have the opportunity for life-long learning. Education may be expensive, but unawareness will be much more costly.

Professional organizations, such as The Wildlife Society, play a key role in developing and implementing approaches to life-long learning. One format continues to be a foundation of continued learning in our profession – the professional meeting. TWS has formal Memorandums of

Understanding in place with most Federal natural resource agencies. Through these MOUs the agencies have recognized that participation by their employees in activities of TWS (including meetings and conferences) benefit the agencies and the accomplishment of their missions.

The Montana Chapter is hosting the annual meeting of the Northwest Section in 2005. They are currently in the process of planning this event and it promises to be an extremely valuable opportunity for us to continue to advance our knowledge of new concepts, technologies, and their applications to conserving the wildlife resource. Please plan on joining us in Helena, Montana on 28 February through 4 March 2005.

Lowell H. Suring

TWS COUNCIL REPORT FROM THE NORTHWEST SECTION REPRESENTATIVE

For those of you who attended the TWS Annual Meeting in Calgary, Alberta, I don't have to describe what a productive, enjoyable, and glitch-free time was experienced by all. If you missed the meeting, I'll summarize by saying that 49 sessions (including workshops, symposia, contributed papers, posters, and the plenary) provided a dazzling array and diversity of information on everything from energy development to nutria management to international perspectives on the wildlife profession. The abstracts were provided to all participants in the form of a C.D., which was much more convenient for traveling than the heavy books of past years. Be thinking ahead to next to next year's meeting scheduled for September 25–29 in Madison, Wisconsin. And in 2006, the Northwest Section and Alaska Chapter will be hosting the meeting September 23–27 in Anchorage.

Council met on September 17, 18, and 21 as part of the annual meeting. A key

agenda item was the first-ever TWS Headquarters Operations Review, which established a baseline for periodic evaluations on a roughly 5-year cycle. The review team highlighted several strengths in their findings, including:

- The high level of dedication and skills in staff's delivery of services to TWS members.
- The positive image that TWS enjoys within the conservation community.
- The innovative use of technology in the TWS publications shop.
- And, a committed membership that volunteers its time and expertise.

The review team also identified several opportunities for strengthening the TWS base of operations, including:

- Greater "stewardship" of staff to encourage retention of these valued personnel.
- Strengthening communications, internal and external.

- Building back-up capability through cross training and a team approach.
- Achieving efficiency through streamlining of accounting procedures, implementing technological improvements, and projecting revenues more effectively.

The gradual decline in TWS membership (-1.4% for 2003–04) is a key concern of Council, and we are working this issue on several fronts. A membership subcommittee is identifying the factors at work, and what can be done. Other committees and task groups are examining how publications might be reconfigured to better attract members, how to improve student recruitment, what services are most valued by members, and other aspects.

As always, the financial health of TWS was an important focus for discussion. We thoroughly considered all aspects of the TWS financial situation before closing out the FY 2004 budget and approving the budget for 2005. The Endowment Campaign is winding down, so if you've been meaning to invest in the important policy work of TWS, now is the time to do so. Of the >\$ 2 million raised by the campaign, about half is cash and the rest is

pledges, insurance policies, estates, and the like. Council decided it is time to do a detailed analysis of what activities have income potential, which do not, in the context of a business plan that will guide TWS' short- and long-term direction.

Council approved revised position statements on Invasive Plants and Animals, Economic Growth, The Antarctic, and the Restoration of Wolves. We also decided that a new position statement on Global Change, and an updated position statement on Wildlife Needs in Forest Management, should be published in the *Wildlifer* for members' review and comment.

I'll close with two bits of good news. The first is that the new edition of the Wildlife Techniques Manual is scheduled to be out in March. The second is that we are well past the question of whether or not the TWS publications should be fully available electronically. It's not a matter of if, but when, and we are committed to speeding the process along.

Wini Kessler
Northwest Section Representative

NOMINATIONS SOLICITED FOR NORTHWEST SECTION AWARDS

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 7 January 2005 for both awards. Nominations benefit from supporting documentation so please contact Lowell Suring for more details if you have deserving candidates in mind.

Lowell Suring, Forestry Sciences Laboratory, 316 East Myrtle Street; Boise, Idaho 83702; voice: 208.373.4351, FAX: 208.373.4391, e-mail: lsuring@fs.fed.us.

FORUM ON NATIONAL FOREST WATERSHEDS, LANDSCAPES, AND ECOSYSTEMS IN ALASKA

THE BIG PICTURE:

A Forum on National Forest Watersheds,
Landscapes, and Ecosystems in Alaska
1-3 March, 2005
Anchorage Sheraton.

The 2-day forum will be followed by a day of resource specific meetings with USFS personnel and our partners and collaborators. The desired outcomes include improved understanding of large-scale patterns and processes as a context for resources planning and management; strengthened cooperation; and take-home knowledge and skills that participants can apply in their jobs.

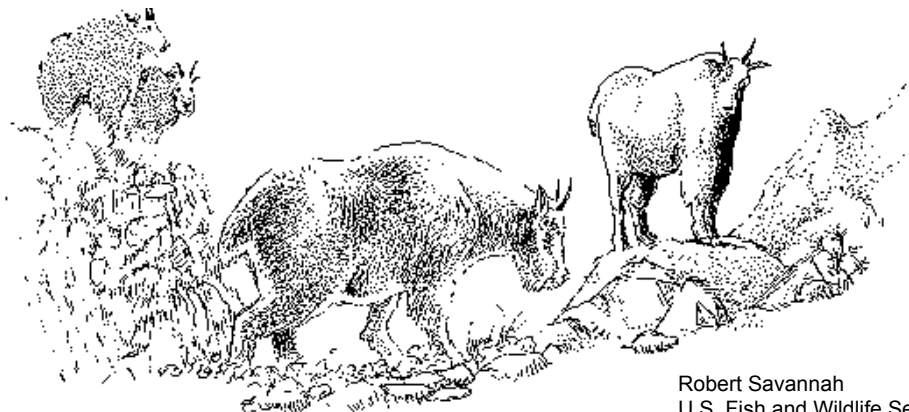
The four sessions for days 1-2 include:

- *What makes our landscapes the way they are?* This is an introduction to dynamic processes that shape landscapes and ecological patterns in southeast and south-central Alaska, including: post-Pleistocene uplift, seismic events, climate, erosion, vegetation dynamics, and other ecological processes.
- *How do landscape processes shape the human environment?* This session will examine how landscapes have shaped patterns of human movement, settlement, and

resource use in southeast and south-central Alaska, both prehistorically and today. Contemporary influences on urban and rural geography, transportation, and resource distribution and use are discussed.

- *Evaluating management results for watersheds and landscapes.* What do we measure, at what scales, and how does it add up to big-picture understanding? This includes discussion of functioning watersheds and performance measures for tracking watershed condition and trend (inclusive of physical, biological, and social components).
- *Practical examples from the field.* (combined with an Evening Poster Session) A variety of projects in Alaska and elsewhere will illustrate the development and application of a big picture understanding to conservation and management of natural resources.

For more information contact: Michael I. Goldstein, USDA Forest Service, Alaska Region, Email: mgoldstein@fs.fed.us, Phone: 907.586.7905



Robert Savannah
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

2005 MONTANA CHAPTER AND NW SECTION ANNUAL MEETING

The Montana Chapter will host the 2005 NW Section annual meeting. With a theme of "Restoration Ecology" the joint meeting will be held from February 28 to March 4,

2005 at the Colonial Inn in Helena, Montana. Contact Tom Carlsen for details (406-266-3367 or email at: fwp@ixi.net).

STUDENT TRAVEL GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR 2005 NW SECTION MEETING

The Northwest Section of The Wildlife Society is offering grants to partially support travel, registration, and/or lodging expenses associated with the 2005 annual meeting to students desiring to attend the meeting. This year's meeting is being hosted by the Montana Chapter and will be held in Helena 28 February through 4 March (see the following website as details are posted: <http://www.montanatws.org/pages/page5.html>). 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:

- address the factors mentioned above (if applicable),

- include a description of other circumstances that may support the request,
- include the amount of financial assistance requested,
- include a contact person and their physical address, telephone number, and e-mail address, and
- include the name of the student or chapter's faculty advisor.

Please submit grant requests via e-mail by 10 January 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 1 February 2005.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SEVENTH MOUNTAIN LION WORKSHOP AVAILABLE

Proceedings of the Seventh Mountain Lion Workshop held May 15-17, 2003, in Jackson, Wyoming, are now available.

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

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIFTH WESTERN STATES & PROVINCES DEER & ELK WORKSHOP AVAILABLE

The Proceedings of the 5th Western States & Provinces Deer & Elk Workshop, held May 2003 in Jackson, Wyoming, are now available. Copies can be obtained by sending a check for \$15 USD made payable to "Wyoming Chapter TWS" to:

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

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.

Dr. TERRY BOWYER ASSUMES NEW DUTIES

Dr. Terry Bowyer has moved from the University of Alaska Fairbanks to assume the duties of Chair of the Department of Biological Sciences at Idaho State University. ISU is the fastest growing state university in Idaho, with 38 faculty, 100 graduate students, and 800 undergraduate majors in the Department.

Terry and his co-authors also received the 2004 Outstanding Publication Award from The Wildlife Society (Monograph Category) for their publication on the effects of the Exxon Valdez oil spill on river otters (Wildlife Monographs 153). Terry also was elected a Fellow of The Wildlife Society in 2004.

BLM WIND ENERGY DEVELOPMENT EIS

The U. S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) released in September a Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on Wind Energy Development on BLM-Administered Lands in the Western United States. The draft EIS is available for public review and comment until 10 December 2004.

BLM prepared the draft EIS to: (1) assess the environmental, social, and economic impacts of wind energy development on public lands in 11 western states (excluding Alaska) and (2) evaluate alternatives to determine the best management approach to mitigate potential impacts and facilitate wind energy development. Now BLM is seeking comments on its analysis of potential impacts and on the assessment of

the management alternatives. In particular, the BLM seeks comments on whether the proposed action provides the best approach for managing wind energy development on BLM-administered lands.

The preferred alternative is to implement a Wind Energy Development Program to comprehensively address issues defined in the BLM's Maximum Potential Development Scenario. Issues include: amendment of land-use plans, tiering of project-specific environmental analysis, development of policies and Best Management Practices, and ensuring consistency in rights-of-way application and grant processes. Best Management Practices would be applied to ensure that the impacts to wildlife and habitat resources are minimized or mitigated. The other alternatives are (1) no action: wind energy development and analyses would continue on a project-by-

project basis, and (2) limited wind energy development: additional development would only occur in areas where it currently exists.

The agency has created an interactive website to facilitate the public commenting process for this EIS. The website provides background on the issue, the full text of the draft EIS, information on getting involved, and a web-based comment form for submitting comments. Comments can also be submitted by mail to:

BLM Wind Energy Programmatic EIS
Argonne National Laboratory, EAD/900
9700 S. Cass Avenue
Argonne, IL 60439

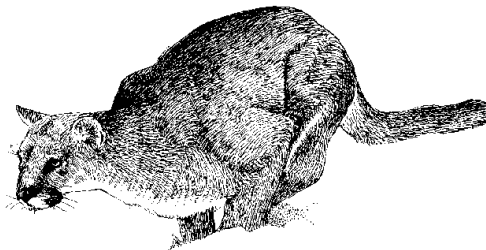
Wildlife Policy News
October 2004

USFS ROADLESS RULE COMMENT PERIOD EXTENDED

The Bush administration extended the public comment period on the proposal to revise the Roadless Area Conservation Rule, delaying the final decision on how the agency will manage road building and resource extraction on 58 million acres of national forest. Public comments are now due by 15 November 2004. The Department of Agriculture said the extension came at the request of groups

seeking to comment on the proposal. The proposed rule would allow governors to petition the Secretary of Agriculture to establish or adjust management actions for inventoried roadless areas within their state.

Wildlife Policy News
October 2004



Robert Savannah
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

U.S. FY2005 APPROPRIATIONS UPDATE

The 2005 federal fiscal year began on 1 October, but the 2005 budget is far from done. Only 4 of the 13 appropriations bill are finalized (Defense, Homeland Security, Military Construction, and District of Columbia). Congress passed a continuing resolution at the beginning of October, funding the government at 2004 levels until 20 November. Though they will try to complete work on the other 9 appropriations bills before adjournment, it is most likely that the majority of FY 2005 spending will be resolved in an omnibus bill during a post-election lame-duck Congressional session.

The House and Senate largely have completed work on their respective versions of the appropriations bills, but given the disparities, the chambers will have to meet

in conference to decide on the final spending levels. The Senate Appropriations Committee passed a \$20.2 billion FY 2005 Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations bill in mid-September, which includes \$500 million for emergency supplemental fire-suppression activities. This is more than requested by the President, but less than what was appropriated in FY 2004. The Committee also passed an \$84.03 billion Agriculture Appropriations bill, which also represents an increase over the President's request, but less than the FY 2004 level.

*Wildlife Policy News
October 2004*

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 and Yukon Chapters: No websites)

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FAX: 907.786.3905

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