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February 2009

NORTHWEST SECTION

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

There will be a lot of activity here in the Northwest Section over the next few months, and much of this has to do with teaming up with the Alaska Chapter to hold our annual conference in Fairbanks, Alaska, on April 7-8. That's about 2 months off, and we're hoping Northwest'ers take advantage of this great opportunity (and falling airline prices!) to see spring come alive in the far North. If you haven't been to interior Alaska, it can be a magical time of year, during which the minutes of light and degrees F climb rapidly each week. Symposia will include: "Emerging diseases and parasites of Alaska wildlife", "Impacts of invasive plants on

wildlife: a growing threat in Alaska" and a special session and workshop, "Practical moose population modeling." We'll be co-hosting plenary speaker Shane Mahoney, Executive Director, Newfoundland Dept. of Environmental Conservation. We'll also be holding a social mixer with the Alaska Chapter during the poster session and conducting our usual annual business meeting. In addition, for the Section, it will be a special time because we hope to recognize up to 2 wildlife professionals for the research or administrative service by giving 2 traditional awards – the Arthur S. Einarsen Award and the Wildlife

Administrators Awards. If there are any students interested in, or already planning on, presenting at this year's conference, consider applying for up to \$500 in travel assistance; especially students from WA, OR, ID, and MT. If you have nominations of distinguished professionals, or if you are interested in student travel assistance, see the information below and contact Shelly Adams, who I'd like to welcome as the new Chair of the NW Section Awards Committee. Finally, I can't believe it, but I have served for close to my 2-year

term, and the Section will need to recruit new candidates to lead the Section. We have scoped over the last several months (in 2 newsletters and through a canvassing effort) for candidates for Section President, and we've got an esteemed candidate, Dr. Terry Bowyer, who I believe will provide an unparalleled level of enthusiasm, productivity, and prominence to the Section. Please be sure to cast your official ballot online by Feb. 21 (read more below). See you in Fairbanks!

Sanjay Pyare,
Northwest Section President

NORTHWEST SECTION NEWS

Officer Elections: We will be holding elections for Section President. After soliciting nominations in 2 of our newsletters and a canvassing effort by executive officers, we have one candidate for President, Dr. Terry Bowyer. We will be conducting elections online, and elections are now open through Feb. 21, 2009. To cast your ballot, please visit:

www.doodle.com/fm3az75zzxvqzzg8



Dr. Terry Bowyer is Professor and Chair of The Department of Biological Sciences at Idaho State University. He is a Fellow of the American

Association for the Advancement of Science, The Arctic Institute of North America, and The Wildlife Society.

He has received the Arthur S. Einarsen Award from the Northwest Section of The Wildlife Society, The Distinguished Moose Biologists Award, and the C. Hart Merriam Award from the American Society of Mammalogists. His research interests include the ecology and behavior of large mammals, and he has published extensively on sexual segregation and birth-site selection in ungulates. He continues to study the population ecology of ungulates and carnivores, and recently has become interested in effects of scale on life-history characteristics of mammals. He and his wife Karolyn reside on a small farm in Blackfoot, ID. He is an avid angler and hunter, and especially enjoys hunting upland birds and waterfowl with his Labrador retrievers, Pepper and Otis.

New Awards Committee Chairperson:

We'd like to extend a warm welcome to our new awards chairperson, Shelly Adams. Shelly will lead the awards committee, composed of members from around the Section, to solicit and review nominations for our 2 section awards, the Einarsen Award and the Wildlife Administrators Award. She will also coordinate student travel awards associated with our annual conference.



Shelly received a degree in Biology from Portland State University and is completing a M.S. through Arizona State University. She is

currently a wildlife biologist for an environmental consulting company in the Pacific Northwest, but has worked in many ecosystems throughout the United States and has a particular fondness for the Sonoran Desert. Among her favorite hobbies include hiking, traveling, and scuba diving.

Seeking Award Nominations:

The Northwest Section is soliciting nominations for 2 Section awards, the Arthur S. Einarsen Award and the Wildlife Administrators Awards. The Einarsen Award recognizes individuals who have made outstanding regional contributions to wildlife research in the Pacific Northwest, and the Wildlife Administrators Award recognizes individuals who have made outstanding regional contributions in facilitating wildlife management and research within their organizations. The deadline for nominations is Feb. 28, 2009. Nominations will be reviewed by the Section awards Committee and will be

presented to the Awardee at the joint conference in Fairbanks, Alaska this year. Please send nominations, which award, brief justification for the nomination, and your contact information to:

shelly.adams@amec.com. For more info, contact NW Section Awards Chair, Shelly Adams.

Student Travel Awards for Fairbanks

Meeting: The Northwest Section will be providing up to 4, \$500 travel awards to students to attend the joint conference in Fairbanks, Alaska this year. Student presenters from institutions outside of Alaska will be given priority, and then pending funding availability, we will consider Alaska student presenters. The deadline to apply is Feb. 28, 2009.

Please send a CV, your presentation abstract, and a cover letter with information about other funding sources you intend to use to attend the conference to:

shelly.adams@amec.com. For more info, contact NW Section Awards Chair, Shelly Adams.

2009 Joint Northwest Section-Alaska Chapter Conference, Fairbanks, Alaska

April 7-8: You are invited to join fellow wildlife researchers, managers, educators, students, and administrators from across the state for the annual meeting of the Alaska Chapter of The Wildlife Society and the Northwest Section. The meeting will be held in the Wood Center on the campus of the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Due to the fact that it is mid-semester, all lodging for out-of-town registrants will be off campus. Fountainhead Hotels, operators of Wedgewood Resort and Sophie Station Hotel, is offering special



Black Bear
Robert Savannah,
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

rates for conference attendees and offers free shuttle service to and from the airport (www.fountainheadhotels.com). Other hotels near campus are: Fairbanks Princess, Pike's Waterfront Lodge, Extended Stay, Alpine Lodge, River's Edge Resort, Super 8, and Comfort Inn. Hotels are far enough from campus (most within 2-3 miles) that you will need a vehicle for commuting to campus. Stay tuned to this website for more details: joomla.wildlife.org/alaska/

NORTHWEST SECTION REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

I've completed my first year as your Section Rep and I thank you for the honor of representing the Northwest US at TWS Council. Council met for several days in November at the TWS annual conference in Miami and covered a wide range of topics including approving the new strategic plan, approving policy priorities for '09, and accepting the draft position statement on lead in ammunition and fishing tackle. This may be a controversial position, so I urge you to visit the TWS website and review and comment on the draft.

Another controversial topic under discussion is "unified membership," in that a national member is automatically also a member of the appropriate section and chapter, and vice-versa. Almost all professional organizations use this system. This allows TWS headquarters to coordinate electronic voting and conference registration, and facilitate communication among all members, for example; and the full membership at all levels is available to assist and support TWS on important policy issues, ethics concerns, and national-level activities. There are

certainly pros and cons to unified membership (including unified dues), and Council has struggled with this issue for many years before I arrived on Council, and we're still struggling.

Finally, as you are probably aware, TWS provides a number of opportunities to recognize, at the national level, outstanding service to the Society and our profession - TWS Fellows, Special Recognition Service Awards, Honorary Membership, Jim McDonough Award...a considerable list. These award categories, along with the nomination

dues dates, can be found on the TWS website. The NW Section, however, appears to be poorly represented among the award recipients over the years. Several of our chapters have named awards, and the Section itself has the Einarsen Award. I urge chapters to nominate members for recognition at the national level, our outstanding members surely deserve wider recognition!

Council will meet again in March. Please feel free to contact me with your concerns: dalellenc@hotmail.com

Ellen Campbell,
Northwest Section Representative

ALASKA CHAPTER NEWS

Position Statements: Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The revision of the ANWR position statement was completed and approved by our Chapter members by a vote of 50 to 3. I again want to congratulate and thank committee chair Dick Shideler and members Steve Arthur, Eric Taylor, Brad Griffith, and John Schoen for a job well done! The position statement is now under review by TWS Council for its adoption as a TWS position statement. Following a review by TWS membership, we hope to see a final this spring. We will post the new position statement on our website. I'm very pleased to announce that several Chapter members have volunteered and were appointed to revise and update

two existing position statements. Kyle Joly, Mark Bertram, and Wade Willis will address Intensive Management of Big Game. Cindi Jacobson and Karen Blejwas will tackle the Wildlife Management by Ballot Initiative position statement. Both committees will strive to have drafts ready for Executive Board and member review by April 2009. Progress continues with the position statement on — Disease risk of using pack goats in alpine areas of Alaska.

Alaska Chapter Donations: The Executive Board recently approved donations to a couple of worthy causes. The Alaska Chapter donated \$300 to the TWS 2008 Conference in Miami. This is a similar donation to those we've

made in the past, which we know from having hosted the conference in 2006, is always helpful to the organizers.

We also donated \$250 to the TWS Leadership Institute. The Leadership Institute was established in 2006 to prepare the next generation of wildlife professionals to move into management and leadership positions. It's geared toward young professionals who have been out of school for 2-3 years, are currently employed full or part-time in wildlife management or conservation, and can show evidence of leadership potential.

Participants are selected by a committee of TWS members and engage in distance learning opportunities, hands-on activities, workshops, and intensive mentoring from more seasoned professionals. Participants are then monitored during their careers to determine the program's success. The assessment by TWS so far is that the institute has been very successful. The Executive Board and I strongly encourage any recent wildlife grads who meet the requirements to apply for this opportunity in professional growth.

Find out more at the following website: joomla.wildlife.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=147&Itemid=175.

Listing of Cook Inlet Belugas: In spite of opposition from the State of Alaska, the Cook Inlet population of Beluga whales has officially been listed under the Endangered Species Act. On 17 October, NOAA announced that despite existing protection measures the population has declined nearly 50% between 1994 and 1998. NOAA estimated the Inlet population to be at 375 individuals for both 2007 and 2008 survey years - a departure from a high of 653 in 1994 and a low of 278 in 2005.

Commissioner of Fish & Game Denby Lloyd said "This listing does not provide additional protection for the whales beyond what already exists under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and will require lengthy consultation for many activities now taking place or being planned in Cook Inlet." John Schoen, Senior Scientist of Audubon-Alaska, hopes that "the listing decision is not too late for the Cook Inlet beluga whale population's recovery", and states in an Audubon press release that "it is unfortunate that the population was not listed in 2000, when the scientific evidence was overwhelming that it should be listed under the ESA." For more information, see:

alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/protectedresources/whales/beluga.htm

Howard Golden,
Alaska Chapter President

WASHINGTON CHAPTER NEWS

Susan Piper was elected President at the March 2008 meeting. The WA-TWS Board met in May 2008 to begin development of a five year plan to boost chapter membership and develop long-term sources of funding. A draft five year plan will be released in March 2009 to the membership for comments and suggestions. In the short-term, the WA-TWS board is soliciting ideas from members about potential funding

sources and ways in which students at universities, colleges, and junior colleges in Washington State can be integrated into chapter activities on a regular basis.

The 2009 meeting will be held February 17-20 at Skamania Lodge, Stephenson, WA. The meeting will be held jointly with Northwest Society of Vertebrate Biologists.

AJ Kroll,
Washington Chapter President

MONTANA CHAPTER NEWS

The Montana Chapter, Media Works and Tim Crawford successfully collaborated to publish "Montana's Wildlife Legacy – Decimation to Restoration". The book is a historical wildlife account providing the most complete written reference of Montana's wildlife legacy. The book documents how exploitation and technology brought the legendary wildlife resources of Montana to the brink of extermination by the end of the 19th Century. This led to major wildlife restoration and conservation efforts during the 20th Century. "Montana's Wildlife Legacy - Decimation to Restoration" was co-

authored by Chapter Charter member Dr Harold Picton and Chapter member Terry Lonner. More information regarding this book is available at: www.montanawildlifelegacy.com/

The Montana Chapter Effects of Recreation Ad Hoc Committee is working on updating the "Effects of Recreation on Rocky Mountain Wildlife: A Review for Montana." The Effects of Recreation report and bibliography has and continues to generate interest from wildlife professionals.

Ryan Rauscher,
Montana Chapter President

IDAHO CHAPTER NEWS

We are in the midst of planning our annual meeting for 2009 which will be held in Moscow from 10-12 March at the Best Western University Inn. We hope to see you there. The Herpetological and Bat Working Groups will meet on Tuesday, the 10th. Our opening session speaker on Wednesday will be Dr. Paul Krausman from the University of Montana and our banquet speaker will be Doug Smith from Yellowstone National Park. Paul is a well known researcher and author. He is the Boone and Crockett Professor of Wildlife Conservation at the U of M. Doug is a Wildlife Biologist with the NPS and is in charge of the Wolf Recovery effort in the

Park. In between Paul and Doug we have a strong schedule of papers that should make this a great meeting.

Also look for our updated Chapter website: www.ictws.org/ to register for the meetings online. Sylvia Copeland and Jon Dudley have done a huge amount of work on the website project and we are optimistic that it will really enhance the mission of our Chapter. See you in Moscow!

Dave Stricklan,
Idaho Chapter President

SECTION DATES TO REMEMBER

Feb. 21	Election Deadline for new Section President
Feb. 28	Deadline for Einarsen Award Nominations
Feb. 28	Deadline for Student Travel Award applications
March 15	Alaska-Northwest Section Abstract Submission Deadline
April 7-9	Joint Conference with the Alaska Chapter, Fairbanks

ADDITIONAL MEETINGS

- Washington Chapter Annual Meeting. Feb 18-21 at the Skamania Lodge, Stephenson, WA. See website for details: washingtonwildlifesoc.org
- Idaho Chapter Annual Meeting. March 10-12 in Moscow at the Best Western University Inn. See website for details: ictws.org/meeting.php
- 44th North American Moose Conference and Workshop at Idaho State University in Pocatello, Idaho, on June 14-17, 2009: isu.edu/bios/mooseconference.shtml

CHAPTER NEWS

Alaska: joomla.wildlife.org/alaska/
Idaho: www.ictws.org
Montana: www.montanatws.org
Oregon: joomla.wildlife.org/oregon
Washington: www.washingtonwildlifefesoc.org

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