



THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Northwest Section

Spring 2016 Newsletter

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President’s Message

The Northwest Section’s current operational procedure is to hold its annual meeting with each of the 5 member chapters on a rotating basis. Like most of us, I attend my home state (Montana) meetings every year, the National conferences when I can get the funding (I’ve made it to 7 so far), and the Northwest Section meetings when we used to hold them. But until I started work with the Northwest Section as an officer under this new operations plan, I’d never been to another state’s meeting. Now, I’ve attended Washington’s meeting (2015) and the Oregon’s Chapter 50th meeting (2016). I have a few connections in Washington and Oregon gained over the years of agency work and research, but not many. So I showed up at these conferences a relative stranger. But very quickly, I felt I “fit in”. As wildlife professionals, our similarities far exceed our differences.

The Oregon Chapter celebrated its semi-centennial with a plenary session panel discussion of notable past presidents reflecting on the past, present, and future of Oregon TWS. These leaders reminisced about the origins of their chapter, recounted humorous incidents, gave advice to students and young professionals, and pondered how to address the challenges to come. Even though I didn’t know the speakers, I empathized completely with their stories of being students sleeping on hotel room floors, driving through the night in crowded cars to make a meeting, and being thoroughly intimidated by the impressive professionals they met. I loved hearing their stories of their favorite technician jobs, and the funniest moments they had when setting up their annual conference. I commiserated when I heard them brainstorm about how to expand

membership and stay relevant in a changing world. And of course it was wonderful to hear the panel outreach to the crowd about the benefits of TWS membership, saying: “it’s not what TWS can do for you, it’s what you can do for TWS”, and “TWS is worth paying for”.

Listening to these speakers from Oregon, I could have been listening to anyone from back home in Montana. **We have unity in purpose and in challenge.** Our common goals are to understand and communicate the best available science in wildlife management, to inform policy, and to mentor the next generation. The Section can enhance communication between the states through newsletters, sponsoring symposia, and other outreach. The Section can provide policy assistance for issues of importance. In the future, it is my hope that the Section can again provide grants and assistance to students and others working on projects that cross our geographic boundaries.

As Section president for just a few months more, this may be my last chance to write to you, the membership. Based on what I have learned during my term thus far, I would like to encourage you to attend another state’s TWS meeting if you have not already. It is worth doing. The differences are fascinating, the similarities overwhelming. Next, get involved with the Section! There are plenty of opportunities. This has been a rewarding and enjoyable experience. Finally, keep your TWS membership current, and vote for the proposed dues increase. The Section’s ability to maintain service to the member states depends on it. Even if not your state’s year in our meeting rotation, the Section is and will continue to work to keep the communication flowing, to recognize those whose careers have had interstate importance, and to provide support for every member chapter.

– *Julie Cunningham*

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2017 Northwest Section Meeting

The Northwest Section consists of five member states: Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, and Washington. The goal of the Section is to provide enhanced communication and awareness of wildlife science, management, and policy and issues with a regional focus and support the Chapters in their efforts and activities. The Section also serves to enhance communication between/among the Parent Society and individual chapters. The Northwest Section is one of 8 sections represented to TWS Parent Society Council as a voting member, helping determine policy and direction for the Parent Society.

Next year, we are pleased to announce the Northwest Section will be meeting with the Montana Chapter TWS, location and date to be determined. For more information, go to Montana's website at: <http://wildlife.org/montana-chapter/montana-chapter-annual-meeting/>

Pending Chapter concurrence, and if we stay with the recent rotation, here is the projected timeline for Northwest Section attendance to Chapter meetings.

Montana	2017	
Alaska	2018*	
Idaho	2019	* Special symposium/workshop may be offered
Washington	2020*	
Oregon	2021	

Northwest Section Dues

The Section has spent the last 2 years addressing operations, spending, and dues. During the 2015 business meeting in Washington, a proposal to increase dues was officially vetted. At this business meeting, we committed to analyze spending and to create alternative proposals to vet through the membership. The summer newsletter called for more membership feedback, and the fall 2015 newsletter reflects our findings. Newsletters are available on our new website at: <http://wildlife.org/nw/>. Based on feedback from membership, we initially proposed two scenarios: a balanced budget mid-level dues increase from \$5 to \$8, and the preferred alternative of moving from \$5 to \$10. We gathered more feedback from members, and found almost unilateral support for proposing only the \$10 structure. During the 2016 business meeting in Oregon, we received more support for moving toward the preferred alternative. As one veteran agency biologist suggested to us: "When we agency staff raise our license fees, if we only raise enough to do what we're doing now, we end up with a shortfall again in 5 years. Raise the dues enough to do what you want to do!" **Thus, on the upcoming spring ballot, you will see two options: 1) no dues increase and 2) increase from \$5/year to \$10/year.**

In my last editorial on the subject, let me say that I believe in this increase. To prevent "deficit spending" I went to the Oregon meeting out-of-pocket, asking the Section only to pay conference registration fees. The other officers either do the same, or travel with employer support. Your dues do not go to provide junkets or boondoggles – your dues go to support chapters.

Awards

The NWS sponsors 2 awards: the Arthur S. Einarsen Award and the Wildlife Administrator Award. The Einarsen Award recognizes service to the wildlife profession. The Wildlife Administrator Award recognizes program development, administration, budgeting, planning, and personnel management.

The 2016 winner of the Arthur S. Einarsen Award was Dr. W. Daniel Edge. Dr. Edge served as Department Head and professor in the department of Fisheries and Wildlife at Oregon State University, and is currently Associate Dean in the College of Agriculture. He has authored or co-authored more than 50 peer-reviewed publications, secured more than a million dollars for research grants and educational programs, taught courses at 5 different colleges/institutions (including the Pakistan Forest Institute and Smithsonian Institution), and mentored hundreds of graduate and undergraduate students. Dr. Edge is an involved TWS member at every level, with experience on many working groups, program committees, and leadership positions.



Dave Kennedy, Northwest Section past-president, presents the Arthur S. Einarsen award to Dr. W. Daniel Edge. (Photo credit: Abbott Schindler)

The 2016 winner of the Wildlife Administrator Award is Debbie Hollen. Ms. Hollen is the former Natural Resources Assistant Director for the Forest Service (FS) Pacific Northwest Region, and her work has enhanced wildlife conservation and management across the Section. She served as instigator for the development of the Pacific Northwest's Terrestrial Restoration and Conservation Strategy (TRACS). She advocated for FS funding for the Challenge Cost Share (CCS) program which annually funds over a million dollars for restoration project implementation, additional T&E species inventory and wildlife research. She supported funding for T&E species including the



Josh Chapman (FS Regional biologist) and Dave Kennedy present Ms. Debbie Hollen the Wildlife Administrator Award. (Photo credit: Abbott Schindler)

Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Grizzly Bear reintroduction efforts; restoration projects for Western Snowy Plover, Silverspot and Taylor's Checker Spotted butterflies, and Oregon Spotted Frog restoring important habitat and proactive conservation agreements for Pacific Fisher and wolverine. She represented the FS in the development of the 2011 Northern Spotted Owl recovery plan and the 2012 re-designation of critical habitat. Recently Debbie has accepted a new position as the Director of State and Private Forestry for both Alaska and the Pacific Northwest Region (Region 6) of the FS.

Conservation Affairs Network Update

Welcome to new CAC Chair, Holly Michael! Holly retired in 2015 from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Holly has worked for 40 years across the nation in fish and wildlife research, management and policy. She spent the last 10 years as Conservation Policy Coordinator in the ODFW



Director's office. She is now contracting with the Western Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) as Coordinator for the Crucial Habitat Assessment Tool program (CHAT). This program, covering 17 western states provides data and spatial maps of fish, wildlife and habitats for use in planning and conservation of landscape-scale projects, and for identifying and managing crucial habitats and connectivity corridors. Holly was the Oregon Governors' representative for CHAT from its inception.

Holly is also the U.S. Co-Chair of the Pacific Birds Habitat Joint Venture, which is an international partnership between the U.S. and Canada committed to conserving crucial habitats for migratory birds. This Joint Venture has been advancing avian habitat conservation since 1991.

She is a Past-President of the Oregon Chapter of TWS, and served 2 terms as a Board member. She spends much of her retirement time travelling the world.

What is the Conservation Affairs Network?

Launched in 2014, the Network creates a venue for streamlined communication, collaboration, and cooperation on policy matters important to wildlife professionals. The Conservation Affairs Network is designed to engage and unify the efforts of The Wildlife Society, The Network operates through Conservation Affairs Committees (CAC) established within TWS Sections and Chapters. These committees are charged with identifying and addressing policy priorities within their region, and communicating their activities and needs with other CACs, Sections and TWS Staff.

Learn more at:

<http://wildlife.org/policy-2/conservation-affairs-network/>

Chapter News: Montana Forms CAC



At its 2016 annual meeting, Montana Chapter TWS members held the inaugural meeting of the Conservation Affairs Committee. Within the Northwest Section, Idaho and Oregon also have state-level CACs. Welcome and congratulations to the Montana CAC!

Inaugural meeting of Montana's Conservation Affairs Committee. From left to right, Kristina Boyd, Sonja Anderson, JoAnn Dullum, Paul Santavy, Jon Haufler, Steve Gnaidek, Alan Wood, Amy Seaman (chair), Brent Mitchell, and Dale Becker.

Chapter News: Idaho Mourns Randy Smith

Randy Smith, long time ICTWS member and recipient of the Charles E. Harris Award (2010), died February 4, 2016. Randy retired from the Idaho Department of Fish and Game in 2014 after a 30 year career, most of which as the wildlife population manager in the Magic Valley Region of Idaho. Randy was instrumental in starting new populations of bighorn sheep, wild turkey, Columbian sharp-tailed grouse, and ruffed grouse. He was recognized by FNAWS (2001 & 2004) for his work in bighorn sheep restoration at Jim Sage Mountain and Cache Peak. His influence spanned across state borders so much so he was awarded the Robert L. Patterson Award from the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Technical Committee (2010) and the Northwest Section TWS Outstanding Administrator Award (2014). He was recognized multiple times by the IDFG for his excellent wildlife work including Outstanding Achievement Award – Wildlife Population Management (1993-1994), Employee of the Year – Senior Resource Management (2001 & 2007), and the Wildlife Mentor Award (2013). Randy received numerous letters and comments of commendation from the public for his helpfulness and professionalism in serving them. He was a champion for the wildlife cause, a well-respected colleague, caring mentor, loyal friend, dedicated public servant, and a loving husband and father.



Randall "Randy" Smith 1952-2016