



# THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Northwest Section

Fall 2015 Newsletter

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## President’s Message

Quotes from Teddy Roosevelt pervade our professional and personal lives as wildlife biologists. His quotes about conservation and hunting are beloved due to their tie to our professional origins and values. My personal favorite is the excerpt from his speech “Citizenship in a Republic” about the man in the arena; that it is better to fail while daring greatly than to be among the “cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat”. The President’s Message for this newsletter will begin with a less-famous quote from TR: **“I believe that the more you know about the past, the better you are prepared for the future.”** With this philosophy in mind, I have been perusing old newsletters from the Northwest Section. Believe it or not, 1995 is already 20 years ago (just before I began my undergraduate education at University of Montana). Past President Dale Toweill’s message from the September issue reflects on his return from the National meeting in Portland and exhorts the following:

Like many of you, I frequently urge my professional co-workers to join The Wildlife Society, and to become active in the state or provincial chapter and section activities. Some join, but often the response is “What’s in it for me?” I only wish all of those who ask that question could have seen the camaraderie, the energy, the effort that was evident at the national convention. There is a vast, multi-talented, diverse group of people that really are the drivers and movers of our profession – people whose contribution exceeds the bare minimum required to obtain a paycheck. Those of you who see this newsletter know that; you have taken the initiative to become national and section members. I am asking you to do more – to continue to get your co-workers involved in The Wildlife Society. Because when we all work together, we can accomplish some pretty amazing things. – Dale Toweill, 1995

The Northwest Section is at a pivotal time in defining its role for its individual members, its component State Chapters, and for the Parent Society. How have times changed? Twenty or more years ago, the Northwest Section was able to fund student travel scholarships *solely through interest earned on an account*. The days of 7.5% interest rates on CDs are long gone: today, our activities are funded only through memberships and we must balance annual income and expenses. For us to be of service and for us to be relevant, we must evaluate our dues structure. The next section of this newsletter will present an argument for a dues increase. Let me tell you a bit why this is important to me personally and professionally. In 1999-2001, I attended Northwest Section meetings as an undergraduate student. Fascinated by the diversity of papers presented and research conducted, I began to shape my career ambitions. The Northwest Section funded a travel grant to our student chapter TWS. Between all the matching funds we garnered, we brought 19 students in 2 vans to the annual meeting of the Northwest Section in Banff. As a graduating senior, I served as student representative to the Northwest Section. The Section assisted with my travel to TWS National in Reno where I attended a young leaders' breakfast and met with Council. In 2008, I was fortunate to be selected for TWS's Leadership Institute. I served the Montana Chapter as president in 2010. Today, I have returned to the Northwest Section writing this president's message. So, "what's in it for me?" TWS was there for me when I needed it: when I was a student and an early-career professional, it broadened my horizons and supported me with scholarships and mentorship. Now it is my turn to step up for the Section. An extra \$5 a year? Sign me up. The Section is worth it.

Where will the Northwest Section go in the future? It depends on you, the membership. Now, just as Dave Toweill wrote twenty years ago, **I am asking you to do more**. Think about how the Northwest Section can serve you, whether you are a student, early in your career, right in the prime of your career, or a retired professional. So what exactly am I asking you to do? 1) **read** this newsletter, 2) **communicate** your thoughts to the board, 3) **volunteer** on the board or committees, and 4) **reach** into your pocketbook and pull out an extra \$5 per year for Northwest Section membership. That extra \$5 per year will take the Northwest Section out of a deficit and into a functional role where members will see value-added. "What is in it for me?" was the question. The answer is "what you put into it". Now together, let's work to accomplish some amazing things. – Julie Cunningham

## Northwest Section Dues

### EXPENSES

The Northwest Section works to give back to its component chapters by supporting their meetings on a rotating basis, through awards recognizing excellence of its members, and through sponsoring Parent Society programs to benefit all TWS members. Administrative costs are less than 1% of total expenses. The Northwest Section is currently operating at a deficit.

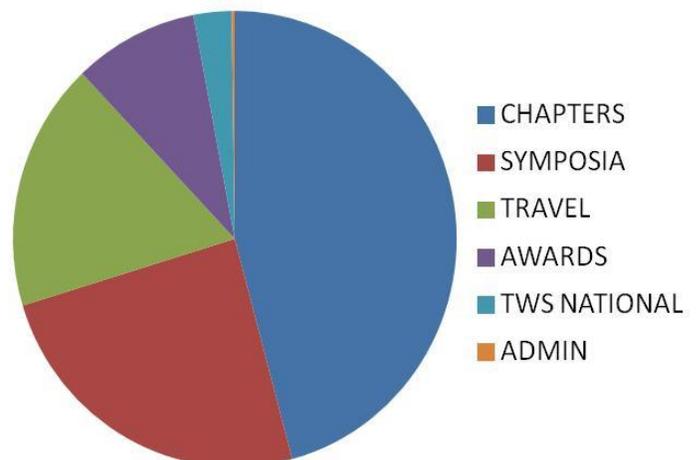


Figure 1: Pie chart categorizing all Northwest Section expenditures using 2010-2014 budget summaries

- **Direct Service to our Component Chapters**

Our main outflow is a direct return to our component state chapters. The Northwest Section pledges \$1,500 to support state chapter meetings on a rotating basis. During the time table of this pie graphic, the Northwest Section sponsored the Oregon Chapter meeting in 2010, the Washington Chapter in 2011, Montana in 2012 (concurrent with their chapter's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary), Alaska in 2013, Idaho in 2014 (concurrent with their chapter's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary) and will be returning to Oregon in 2015 to celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

- **Symposia**

Biennially, the Northwest Section sponsors a symposium of broad or regional interest. In 2012, the symposium was concurrent with National's meeting in Portland, and with a focus on predator-prey dynamics, was so well-received as to be standing room only. In 2014, the symposium was held concurrently with the Idaho chapter's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary meeting, and examined wildlife research technology and methods over the prior 50 years. Costs for these symposia are additional to the \$1,500 pledged directly to chapter meetings as discussed above.

- **Information Exchange: Officer Travel**

The third-highest outflow goes to officer travel expenses. In "the old days" the Northwest Section held stand-alone meetings and membership came to us: today, we go to the membership. Officers attend state chapter meetings on the rotation described above to enhance networking and information exchange. We work to keep officer travel expenses to a minimum by matching costs with officer employers, sharing lodging as possible, and encouraging officers to find other means to afford travel. We occasionally assist in cost-sharing officer travel to the Parent Society meetings. This also helps information flow from national to the state chapters: the officers who attend the Parent Society meetings are also attending the state chapter meetings, so we can both represent the component state chapters at the Parent Society and represent the Parent Society to the state chapters.

- **Awards**

Recognizing the excellence of Section members is an important tradition dating back to the foundation of the Section. It is an opportunity to bring a higher level of recognition to conservation professionals who have made a difference through their lives and careers. Funds go to the plaque we present as well as to support their travel to receive this award, if needed.

- **Parent Society Programs**

The fifth source of expense is to sponsor Parent Society programs. This has included donations to Women in Wildlife (2012, \$250) and The Leadership Institute (2013, \$300). These programs help engage and retain key segments of our membership. The Leadership Institute provides demonstrated return to TWS as its alumni have gone on to other leadership roles (your current Northwest Section President is an alumna from 2008!)

- **Administration**

In the last 5 years, our only administrative expense was to purchase new checks. We no longer print and mail newsletters, but do this all electronically. Unlike some sections, we do not pay staff and we do not have office space. We work to keep overhead low. Our officers often donate minor items or minor needs.

## INCOME

Did you know our only source of income is from membership dues? We have about 417 members at last look. Our current annual fee is \$5. There are 8 sections of TWS: the most commonly charged fee is \$10/year, the average fee is \$8.63/year, the maximum is \$20 and the minimum is \$1.

## BUDGET PROJECTIONS

Over the last 5 years, we are operating at a deficit of about \$1,100 a year. Increasing dues from \$5 to \$8 will balance that budget (at 400 members, moving from \$5 to \$8 is the difference between \$2,000 annual revenue and \$3,200 annual revenue). We should be able to maintain our current level of involvement. However, increasing dues to \$10 a year will enable us to *expand* our programs and enhance our service to the members. This could include:

- Increased sponsorship to state meetings
  - Assist with plenary and symposium speakers
  - Undergraduate and graduate scholarships to Section meetings
- Small grants and awards to fund projects of regional interest
- Policy involvement for issues of regional importance
- Increased start-up funds for new student chapters
- Increased involvement of CAN/CAC

In the summer newsletter and subsequent correspondence with the chapters, membership and leaders were asked their input on this decision. To date, we have received few responses. Among those responses included the desire to evaluate mid-level budget increase scenarios. With that in mind, there are three budgetary scenarios that the Northwest Section board will continue to evaluate: 1) do nothing, 2) raise dues from \$5 to \$8 per year to balance the budget, and 3) raise dues to \$10 per year to expand the Northwest Section's ability to operate and serve.

Please think about these three options and contact me at [juliecunningham@mt.gov](mailto:juliecunningham@mt.gov) with any opinions. Final options will be vetted in the upcoming winter newsletter and will go before membership for a vote in spring.

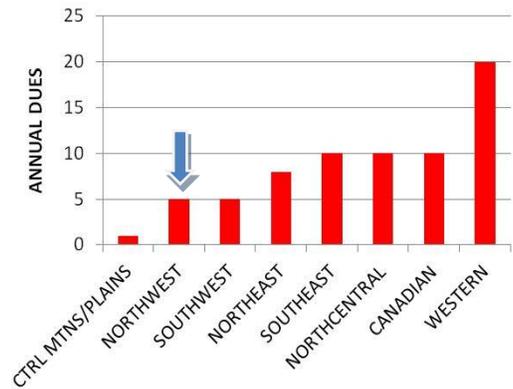


Figure 2: 2015 dues structure for current sections of TWS. Blue arrow highlights Northwest Section.

## 2016 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.

This year, we are pleased to announce the Northwest Section will be meeting with the Oregon Chapter TWS in Seaside, Oregon February 3-5, 2016. This meeting marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Oregon Chapter TWS. For more information, go to <https://ortws.wordpress.com/>

## Future Meeting Rotation

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
Washington	2020*

\* Special symposium/workshop may be offered

## Awards

The NWS sponsors two awards: the Arthur S. Einarsen Award and the Wildlife Administrator Award. The Arthur S. Einarsen Award (established 1966) recognizes outstanding service to the wildlife profession by individuals residing in our Section. Previous recipients have included Jack Ward Thomas, Oz Garton, E. Charles Meslow, Terry Bowyer, Jack Connelly, Kate Kendall, and Lisette Waits to name just a few. The Wildlife Administrator Award recognizes excellence in areas of wildlife program development, administration, budgeting, planning, and personnel management. Individuals receiving this award have been clearly and directly responsible for improved wildlife conservation by enabling others, facilitating positive management actions, developing new programs or cooperative efforts that bring benefits to the wildlife resource, and by developing policy, law, or direction which benefits wildlife resources.

The nominees must reside and work within the section and be nominated for relevant action and responsibilities that they have accomplished within the past two years. Nominees for the Einarsen award should be society members (chapter, section and/or parent levels) but the administrator/manager nominees do not need to be society members.

With the upcoming conference in February 2016, we are under a tighter-than-usual deadline to receive awards nominations. Do you know someone deserving of recognition? If so, provide a letter (or letters) of support to: Kurt Alt ([altwildlife@yahoo.com](mailto:altwildlife@yahoo.com)). Awards will be presented at the annual NWS meeting (Seaside OR, February 3-5, 2016). NWS will accept nominations through **January 15, 2016**.

## IN TWS NEWS: Northwest Section members honored

At the 2015 TWS meeting in Winnipeg, several members residing in the Northwest Section received the honor of becoming a TWS fellow. Congratulations to John Haufler, Barb Hill, and Steve Belinda. Congratulations also to Shawn Riley who once worked in the Northwest Section and to Kevin Hurley who has just moved this year from Wyoming (Central Mountains-Plains) to Montana.

Congratulations also to Mr. Warren Aney, who received the distinguished service award.

## Conservation Affairs Network Update



Our **thanks** go to our out-going Conservation Affairs Committee Chair, Leslie Bliss-Ketchum who served with dedication, good humor, and energy. Our best wishes go to her as she focuses her attention on her family.

Are you interested in volunteering with The Wildlife Society? CAC provides an opportunity to make a difference in regional wildlife policy. Please contact any board member (below) or Keith Norris from TWS in Washington D.C. at [knorris@wildlife.org](mailto:knorris@wildlife.org)

## Contact Information

Kurt Alt (MT)	President Elect	<a href="mailto:altwildlife@yahoo.com">altwildlife@yahoo.com</a>
Julie Cunningham (MT)	President	<a href="mailto:juliecunningham@mt.gov">juliecunningham@mt.gov</a>
Dave Kennedy (OR)	Past-President	<a href="mailto:dave.kennedy@live.com">dave.kennedy@live.com</a>
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Michelle Kemner (ID)	Secretary/Treasurer	<a href="mailto:michelle.common@idfg.idaho.gov">michelle.common@idfg.idaho.gov</a>
VACANT	CAN Representative	
Harriet Allen (WA)	Section Rep. to Council	<a href="mailto:hallen2009@comcast.net">hallen2009@comcast.net</a>

## 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/>