



The Alaskan Wildlifer

Newsletter of the Alaska Chapter of the Wildlife Society

October 2003

Message from President Doug Larsen

I am excited about our upcoming opportunity to host the 2004 Annual NW Section Conference in Alaska next May 1-3, in conjunction with our Alaska Chapter meeting. Dr. Terry Bowyer is putting together a great technical program for the conference that will include an opening special session on predator-prey dynamics featuring Dr. Dale R. McCullough from the University of California. Juxtaposed with the NW Section/Alaska Chapter meeting and conference will be the 10th North American Caribou Conference, which will run from May 4-6. The theme of the conference will be “caribou and climate” and will include presentations on a number of climatological influences on caribou behavior and population dynamics. I look forward to seeing you at the conferences and to rekindling old acquaintances.

On another subject, it has recently come to my attention that membership in The Wildlife Society has been on a gradual decline for the past seven consecutive years. Studies of membership have shown that about half of section and chapter members are not members of our parent Society. It's important for individuals in this situation to understand that their support through membership in the Society is critical to our profession and our policy activities. If you are not currently a member of the Alaska Chapter, the NW Section, or our parent Society, I encourage you to become a member. For details about special membership provisions that have recently been implemented, please contact Marie Carter (marie@wildlifer.org; 301 - 897-9770). Membership in the Alaska Chapter, NW Section, or parent Society can be accommodated by contacting Jackie Kephart (jackie_kephart@fishgame.state.ak.us). Details about membership in the NW Section can be obtained from Marion Cherry (mbcherry@fs.fed.us), and about membership in our parent Society from John Organ (john_organ@fws.gov).

As we seek collectively to manage and conserve Alaska's wildlife as a group of professionals united under one banner, I encourage you to become members in the Society if you aren't already. I also encourage you to take time out of your

busy schedules to join your peers and colleagues in Girdwood next May to develop new or rekindle old friendships, and to contribute to our knowledge and understanding of wildlife issues and opportunities in the state. See you in Girdwood!

Statewide News

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is moving the application period for seasonal hire of summer jobs in Alaska to an even earlier date this year. The application period will now be October 15 to November 17 for summer 2004. Application materials can be obtained from the USFWS Regional Office in Anchorage (786-3301).

The 4th Alaska Noxious and Invasive Plants Management Workshop is 28-29 October 2003 at the Millennium Hotel, Anchorage. Contact Michele Hebert of Cooperative Extension Service in Fairbanks (474-2423) for information. Past workshop proceedings and other features of the Alaska Committee for Noxious and Invasive Plants Management are available on the CNIPM website (www.cnipm.org).

The Alaska Chapters of TWS and the Society of American Foresters (SAF) are jointly sponsoring an invited session on "Suburban development in the riparian zone" at the 2003 meeting of the Alaska Chapter of the American Fisheries Society in Fairbanks. The panel session will be 8 AM-noon on Wednesday, 5 November at Wedgewood Resort, and TWS members will receive "AFS member" registration rates for the meeting. Visit the AK AFS website for information (<http://www.fisheries.org/afs-ak/>).

News from the North

By Tom Paragi-Northern Representative

The Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group has adopted a Cooperative Management Plan and is seeking endorsements. Contact John Trent of ADF&G in Anchorage for information (267-2191).

Terry Bowyer, Institute of Arctic Biology at UAF, received the 2003 C. Hart Merriam Award from the American Society of Mammalogists for outstanding research contributions to the science of mammalogy. He also was an author on the article that received the 2003 Outstanding Publication Award from The Wildlife Society: Kie, J.G., R.T. Bowyer, M.C. Nicholson, B.B. Boroski, and E.R. Loft. 2002. Landscape heterogeneity at differing scales: effects on spatial distribution of mule deer. *Ecology* 83:530-544.

In October 2003, the Bureau of Land Management will begin the scoping process for an amendment to its land-use plan for the northeastern portion of the National Petroleum Reserve - Alaska. The original plan was completed in 1998. Since then, two oil and gas lease sales have been held, and exploratory drilling has taken place in each of the last four winters. ConocoPhillips has announced a discovery, and an environmental impact statement is being written for its potential development. Two primary reasons for the plan amendment are to reevaluate the mitigation measures associated with oil and gas activities in the original plan and to take a second look at making the area around and including Teshekpuk Lake available for oil and gas leasing. The original plan did not allow for leasing in this area due to its importance as a molting area for large concentrations of geese and as calving and insect-relief habitat for the Teshekpuk Caribou Herd. The area around Teshekpuk Lake has been designated as a Special Area by the Department of Interior since 1977 and is recognized as one of the most important wildlife habitat areas on the coastal plain. For information contact Dave Yokel of BLM (474-2314) or Geoff Carroll of ADF&G (852-3464).

DNR Division of Lands is coordinating interested parties on a feasibility study of carbon sequestration in boreal forest of the Interior. Carbon sequestration would involve active forest manipulation and an increase in roads. It would likely focus on hardwood management as both a fiber source (carbon-neutral fuel or pulp) and a means to maintain a forest fuel type that reduces risk of wildland fire near communities and stands of commercial white spruce. Provided that judicious planning of treatments will maintain representative stand types and forest age classes across the landscape, hardwood management would overall be a positive influence on wildlife habitat compared with the present policies on fire suppression, which tend to reduce the extent of disturbance that would normally occur in upland spruce forest. However, forest management that would shift stand age distribution toward younger forest at the landscape scale may have detrimental effects on several nongame species associated with late-seral forest. Increasing access to areas now functioning in part as refugia from hunting pressure may necessitate changes in hunting regulations (such as season length or permit hunts) to maintain a sustainable harvest or quality of hunting experience. Social and environmental benefits of renewable fuels include reduced reliance on production, transportation, storage, and burning of fossil fuels, particularly in remote areas. Contact Tom Paragi for more information (459-7327).

Personnel changes—**John Coady** retired after 32 years with ADF&G, many of them as regional supervisor for northwest Alaska based in Nome and Fairbanks. His retirement celebration will be in Fairbanks on 19 November. He began his career as a moose researcher in the Interior and also served as a pilot. **Steve Murphy** has accepted the position of president of ABR, Inc., an environmental consulting firm in Fairbanks, Anchorage, and Forest Grove, OR. He will continue to provide guidance for research programs in ABR's three offices as Research Director with expertise in avian studies and animal behavior (particularly as it relates to industrial development) and impact assessment. **Steve Kovach** was hired as the Innoko Refuge biologist in McGrath. He was previously the big game biologist at Yukon Delta Refuge

since 1996 and had conducted brown bear research for the Subsistence Management Office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Alaska since 1991. **Diane Sanzone** is the new Arctic Network Coordinator for the National Park Service. She recently came from a post-doc at Woods Hole, MA and has previously done ecological research out of Toolik Field Station and on the Arctic Refuge. **Falk Huettmann** has recently joined the wildlife faculty of the Department of Biology and Wildlife at UAF. A German native, he received his Ph.D. in Canada and has worked extensively on both birds and mammals in areas of landscape ecology and ecological modeling.

News from Southeast

By Tom Schumacher – Southeast Representative
No news from southeast this time.

News from Southcentral

By Herman Griese- Southcentral Representative
No news from southcentral this time.

Call for Papers-Northwest Section of the Wildlife Society Meeting, Girdwood, AK, Spring 2004

The Northwest Section and Alaska Chapter of The Wildlife Society will hold a joint meeting on 1-3 May 2003 in Girdwood, Alaska. There will be a special opening session on Predator-Prey Dynamics featuring Dr. Dale R. McCullough from the University of California. Contributed oral and poster presentations are welcome. Electronic copies of abstracts (< 300 words including title and affiliations), in the format of The Journal of Wildlife Management, should be sent to R. Terry Bowyer at ffrtb@uaf.edu no later than March 31, 2004. Questions can be addressed to Terry at (907) 474-5311.

Call for Papers – 10th North American Caribou Conference, Girdwood, AK, Spring 2004

The 10th North American Caribou Workshop will be held at the Alyeska Prince Hotel in Girdwood, Alaska during 4–6 May 2004. The workshop will immediately follow the annual meetings of the Alaska Chapter and Northwest Section of The Wildlife Society that will also take place at the Alyeska Prince Hotel on 1–3 May.

The theme for the 10th North American Caribou Workshop is “Caribou and Climate” and a main focus of the workshop is intended to be the effects of weather and climate on caribou population dynamics, including effects of climatic oscillations, global warming, severe storms, and other weather-related events. Posters and presentations on other timely topics involving caribou research and management are welcome as well.

The following is a list of tentatively identified sessions that will likely be included in the workshop (Final decisions on sessions to be included will depend on the level of interest and number of presentations):

1. Influence of climate on arctic caribou herds.
2. Effects of severe storms on caribou population dynamics and behavior.
3. Trends in population size and distribution of Peary caribou and caribou of the high arctic.
4. Influence of climate on the southern distribution of woodland (including mountain) caribou.
5. Melting snowbeds in Yukon and what they reveal.
6. Population dynamics and conservation of small caribou herds, particularly those in Alaska and Yukon.
7. Fortymile Caribou Herd conservation and management.
8. Human dimensions of climate change as related to North American caribou.

The organizing committee is particularly interested in contributions from First Nations and Native peoples from throughout the north, especially in the session on the effects of severe storms on caribou. There is a considerable amount of traditional knowledge about the effects of weather and storms on caribou and we would like to use this workshop to summarize as much of this information as we can.

A WORD ABOUT THE VENUE:

The Alyeska Prince Hotel is located off the Seward Highway in the spectacular Chugach Mountains about 100 km southeast of Anchorage in Southcentral Alaska. There is a tramway to the top of the mountain from the hotel and there is access to Prince William Sound, and the Kenai Peninsula. There will also be opportunities before and after the workshop to drive to these areas and tour Prince William Sound by boat. For more information you can view the following web sites: www.travelalaska.com and www.alyeskaresort.com.

Registration for the workshop will begin in late October 2003. Hotel reservations may be made at any time directly with the Alyeska Prince Hotel (available through their website). Cost for rooms will be \$85.00 for a single or double (additional \$25.00 for triple occupancy) for workshop and Wildlife Society meeting participants.

Pat Valkenburg, Chairman
Organizing Committee

10th North American Caribou Workshop
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USA
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Phone: 907 479 5588 or 907 459 7241 (msg)
Website: <http://www.10thnacw.org/>

Request for Nominations

2004 is an election year for the Northwest Section. The Executive Board is seeking nominations for Section Officers. You are encouraged to nominate Section members (with their approval) or yourself for the offices of President Elect, Vice President, or Secretary-Treasurer. Nominations should be made by 15 December. The President Elect serves 1 year on the Executive Board in that office, 2 years as President, and 1 year on the Executive Board as Past President. As President, this person has general supervision of the Section's officers, appoints committee chairpersons, and presides at meetings of the Executive Board and the Section. The Vice President assumes the duties of the President in the President's absence and assists the host chapter with the program for the Annual meeting. The Secretary-Treasurer is responsible for the files, records, and funds of the Section.

Please contact the current officers if you have questions about any of these positions. Contact information is on the last page of the Northwest Section newsletter or contact Lowell Suring.

Please send the name, mailing address, email address, and the office your nomination is for to:

Lowell H. Suring
USDA Forest Service
Forestry Sciences Laboratory
316 East Myrtle Street
Boise, Idaho 83702

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 15 January 2004 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.**

Job Announcements

(send future job announcements to Kevin White at kevin_white@fishgame.state.ak.us)

No job announcements submitted.

2004 Membership Renewal

Current membership status is noted on the address label for this newsletter. Members interested in renewing their membership to the Alaska Chapter of the Wildlife Society should send their membership dues to Jackie Kephart in Fairbanks. If you renew through headquarters with your national and sectional dues continue to do so. This is the easiest way for us to keep our membership files straight. Our membership list is usually updated before each newsletter is sent, so hurry to renew your membership and you will continue to receive the Alaskan Wildlifer in the future.

Alaska Chapter of the Wildlife Society 2004 Membership Form

If you are not a member of National chapter and want to maintain your membership please fill out the form below and return it to Jackie Kephart at the address on the front of this newsletter. If you are a member of National please continue to pay your state dues when you renew.

Name: _____

Affiliation: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone Numbers-Work: _____ **Home:** _____ **Fax:** _____

E-mail: _____

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