



The Alberta Wildlifer

Official Newsletter of the Alberta Chapter, The Wildlife Society
Winter 2004, Vol. 15, No.3
Editor: Dave Hobson

President's Message

Seasons Greetings. I wish you all a restful and enjoyable Christmas and a New Year filled with positive wildlife events. Given the short time period between the TWS meeting and our annual meeting this March, the new Executive of the Alberta Chapter of the Wildlife Society has been very active.

We have made arrangements at the Nisku Inn (adjacent to the Edmonton International Airport) to hold our 2005 Annual Meeting on March 11-12th (with an evening Social on March 10th). Highlights of the upcoming meeting include a plenary session on the morning of March 11th where invited speakers will examine the efficacy of the federal Species at Risk Act since it's implementation in June 2004.

I would like to thank Mark Boyce and Brett Calverley (the new Chair of the Conservation Committee) for taking the time to meet with government officials from the Department of Sustainable Resource Development and Energy to discuss the ACTWS position paper on Access and Wildlife (see report by Mark in this Newsletter; the position paper us posted on the ACTWS website). On another front, Greg Wagner represented the ACTWS at a Public Roundtable on the Sale of Public Land. This event was held in Calgary on October 23rd, 2004 and the Alberta Wilderness Association sponsored it. Greg reported that there was universal concern expressed about the recent notice sent out to public land leaseholders earlier this summer/fall, which offered leaseholders increased opportunities to purchase public land. This will be an issue that the ACTWS will probably want to ask the Conservation Committee to examine in more detail.

Speaking of dedicated individuals working on behalf of ACTWS, it's time to nominate individuals both for the Dedicated Service Award and the William Rowan Award (nominations can be sent to Dale.Eslinger@gov.ab.ca). Additionally, student scholarships will be available once again and applications should be forwarded to Lisa.Wilkinson@gov.ab.ca.

Nominations are also required for the next ACTWS Executive. We have the President- Elect position and 2 Directors to fill. If you would like to let your name stand for one of these positions or you know someone who would, please contact Dale.Eslinger@gov.ab.ca. Remember, our organization relies entirely on volunteers to make it work.

The Wildlife Society's head office has circulated a position paper, which discusses the negative impact that our increasing human population/consumption rate of material goods is having on wildlife habitat. TWS has asked each State/Provincial Chapter to provide a response to the papers content and goals. I would encourage all members of ACTWS to review the abstract of a new TWS publication *The Relationship of Economic Growth to Wildlife Conservation*, which can be found at <http://www.wildlife.org/publications/index.cfm?tname=pubs&pubid=pub21> and a supporting document (pdf format) available at http://www.wildlife.org/publications/WSB2801/2SC_CZECH.pdf

and provide their comments to me (Kirby.Smith@gov.ab.ca).

Finally, I would encourage each and every member to attend the ACTWS Annual Meeting March 10 – 12, 2005 at the Nisku Inn. Rumor has it that there will be an ACTWS Basement Boogie Band Revival (including new celebrities) following the Friday night Auction. Hope to see you there.

Sincerely,

Kirby Smith

Editors Note

This edition of the newsletter is largely devoted to providing information on the spring AGM and conference as well as requesting your nominations and submissions for the various awards and scholarships. Mark has provided a short report on the Chapters input into the provincial access management planning process now underway.

Chapter News

2005 ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND MEETING, ALBERTA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

March 11-12, 2005 at the Nisku Inn

Plenary Session Species At Risk Act: Perspectives from Alberta
(invited speakers TBA)

Call For Papers

You are invited to submit abstracts for presentations at the ACTWS Annual Conference. Presentations will be twenty minutes in length, including introduction of the presenter and time for questions.

You are also invited to submit abstracts for poster presentations.

All abstracts will be printed in the program booklet.

Please submit the Abstract Submittal Form with each abstract, and include the following information:

1. Lead author name, affiliation, mailing address, phone number(s), and e-mail address
2. Names and affiliations of additional authors
3. Title of abstract

4. ABSTRACT (You must use the following guidelines and example; please note that the abstract you submit will be the final that is printed in the program booklet).

5. Biosketch

Abstract Format Guidelines:

- Use Microsoft Word (**preferred**) or WordPerfect.
- Hard copies of abstracts must be typed single-spaced within a 10 X 16 cm space. Use a one-line space between the title and the text block.
- Font size should be 10 point, Arial font preferred.
- No hard returns within a paragraph.
- Abstract should be a distillation of the purpose, methods, results and conclusions, and should not exceed 250 words.
- Geographical location of the work should appear in the abstract or title.

Format example (measures 10 X 16 cm)

Foruew, E. Z. and U.R. Krasey. A NEW WAY TO CONDUCT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT IN THE BOREAL FORESTS OF ALBERTA. Wildlife Science Group, Alberta Natural Resources Service, #625 Ivory Towers, Edmonton, AB T6J 1E9 and Department of Regional Perspectives, Athabasca University, Athabasca, AB T4T 7K3.

Begin text here. This is where you tell us what you are going to tell us.....

Biosketch Guidelines:

- Follow first four bullets of abstract format guidelines
- Include pertinent background information on presenter
- Limit to three sentences

Abstract Submission Guidelines:

- The abstract submittal form is included on the following page, and can be found on the Alberta Chapter website (www.albertadirectory.com/actws).
- E-mail (**preferred**): Submit the abstract, other required information, and abstract submittal form by e-mail.
- No e-mail: Submit a disk with the required information, a hard copy, and the abstract submittal form.
- Clearly label all submitted information with the pertinent information (i.e., name of lead author, abstract title, and lead author contact phone number and e-mail address).
- Send abstracts by **January 28, 2005** to: **Lisa Wilkinson** Lisa.Wilkinson@gov.ab.ca

Alberta Fish and Wildlife Division

#203, 111-54th Street

Edson, AB T7E 1T2

Phone: 780-723-8556; Fax: 780-723-7963

Abstracts will be acknowledged within three days (unless received during December, in which case receipt will be acknowledged by Jan 3/05), and authors will be advised of the final decision on their abstract (and the session in which it will be given) by February 18, 2004.

Request for Awards Nominations

ACTWS William Rowan Distinguished Service Award

The William Rowan Distinguished Service Award is presented to an Alberta wildlife biologist who has made outstanding contributions to the management and conservation of wildlife and their habitats. These contributions might involve excellence in research, teaching, public allocation (hunting, nonconsumptive use), habitat protection and development, land use planning, impact assessment, endangered species management, work in professional associations or any other area of the wildlife management profession.

The awards committee is asking for nominations from the membership for this prestigious award. A nomination involves a letter of support from a Chapter member along with the candidate's curriculum vitae/resume. The letter should explain the value of the nominee's contributions in the areas outlined above.

Send nomination to:

William Rowan Distinguished Service Award Committee
The Alberta Chapter of The Wildlife Society
Box4990
Edmonton, Alberta
T6E 5G8

For more information contact: Dale.Eslinger@gov.ab.ca.

Alberta Chapter of The Wildlife Society Dedicated Service Award

The purpose of this award is to recognize individuals providing exceptional dedication to the Chapter and Chapter activities. This may include formal or informal contributions supportive of ACTWS. Candidates will be current or previous members of ACTWS.

Send nomination to:

ACTWS Dedicated Service Award Committee
The Alberta Chapter of The Wildlife Society
Box4990
Edmonton, Alberta
T6E 5G8

For more information contact: Dale.Eslinger@gov.ab.ca.

Request for ACTWS Scholarships Submissions

Robert (Bob) K. Goddard Memorial Scholarship

This award is presented to students enrolled in a technical program focusing on wildlife or a related field of study at an established institution in Alberta.

Ian Ross Memorial Scholarship

This award is presented to undergraduate students enrolled in their 3rd or 4th year at an accredited University in Alberta. Program areas are environmental design, biological sciences, forest sciences, animal sciences, zoology or a related field of study.

ACTWS Graduate Student Scholarship

This award is presented to a full-time graduate student enrolled at an accredited University in Alberta. Program areas are environmental design, biological sciences, forest sciences, animal sciences, zoology or a related field of study.

For more information on all these awards, contact Lisa.Wilkinson@gov.ab.ca.

Call for Auction Items

A live and silent auction will take place on Friday evening. The proceeds of this auction will go towards the student scholarships. If you'd like to donate an item, please contact Jan Ficht. Jan.Ficht@gov.ab.ca

Report from the Conservation Committee

Access Management in Alberta

2004 December 14

On 2004 November 9, Brett Calverly and I presented our policy resolution on access management to 3 representatives of the Alberta government's access management program. We met with Glenn Selland, Executive Director of the Land Use Operations Branch for SRD, David Bartesko, Program Manager for the Access Management Program in SRD, and Jennifer Steber, Director of Land Access and Development in Alberta Energy. Generally the points raised in our policy resolution were well received. In fact, Glenn's comment was that we were "preaching to the choir." The Province has been actively pursuing an Access Management Program and the first draft of this effort was presented to industry stakeholders in Fort McMurray last week.

We requested an opportunity to provide input and reviews of the developing Access Management Plan but were advised that the government was unable to receive public comment until the Plan had cleared branch heads and the Standing Policy Committee. Yet, industry input has been solicited already. The government system of shunning public involvement until policies have been developed seems contrary to true engagement of input from public. That said, we must acknowledge that these 3 key people, who largely are responsible for drafting the Access Management Plan, were happy to meet with us and clearly understood the issues and our concerns.

Mark S. Boyce

Past President

Feature Articles

Grizzly Bear Research Moves North

For the last 5 years the Foothills Model Forest Grizzly Bear Research Project has been conducting research into grizzly bear habitat, health and the effects of human activity and development from the Berland River to the Montana border. For the first 3 years, the work was conducted in the Foothills Model Forest study area, which was bounded by Highway 16 to the north and the Brazeau River to the south. In 2003, the study area was expanded to include the area between Highway 16 and the Berland River as well as between the Brazeau and Clearwater Rivers. Finally, in 2004, we concentrated solely on the area between the Clearwater River and the Montana border.

The research project is now moving into its second phase, which is to continue the research north from the Berland River to the NWT border. Within the next 5 years, all of Alberta grizzly bear range will be mapped and RSF models developed which will provide the tools necessary for land managers to account for grizzly bear needs in all forms of resource planning. Along with providing the maps and models necessary for resource planning, the study will also look at grizzly bear health parameters in the context of changing landscape conditions.

The objective of the study for the first 5 years was: *To provide resource managers with the necessary knowledge and planning tools to ensure the long-term conservation of grizzly bears in the Yellowhead Ecosystem.* The knowledge obtained from this study was aimed at:

- Providing information that will support management programs to provide stable/increasing grizzly bear populations over time,
- Identifying habitat and landscape conditions that contribute to or limit viable and regionally connected grizzly bear populations,
- Developing a set of validated, user friendly, GIS based computer models for the Northern East Slopes Region, which will provide predictive capability

when resource managers are making land use planning decisions in known grizzly bear range.

The objective for the next few years remains the same but has been expanded to include all Alberta grizzly bear range. The research will focus on 2 elements:

1. Developing grizzly bear habitat maps, probability of grizzly bear occurrence maps, and bear travel corridor maps for all grizzly bear population units in Alberta.
2. Improving our understanding of grizzly bear health, specifically body condition and reproductive health parameters, as these relate to landscape and environmental parameters.

In 2004, the Foothills Model Forest Grizzly Bear Research Project was also tasked with developing and conducting a DNA population inventory of grizzly bears between Highways 16 and 11. It is expected that, in 2005, a DNA inventory will be conducted between Highways 11 and 1. This information will provide a scientifically validated basis on which to develop management programs and to set harvest rates for grizzly bears.

Beyond the main objectives of the study, the research project has also helped develop and test new telemetry technology including a digital camera linked to standard GPS collars and designed to provide an image along with individual location data. It is hoped that this will assist in habitat use analysis by providing a form of ground-truthing of satellite image analysis. The project also tested the first version of a radio-collar that marries GPS technology with satellite uploading and transmission of location data. This technology has the potential of significantly reducing flying costs and provides the convenience of daily transmission of GPS data through e-mail.

Another undertaking of this study is to improve the safety and efficiency of grizzly bear handling by testing immobilizing drug combinations to reduce induction times and drug volume requirements and to allow the use of reversal drugs to shorten recovery times. Presently, non-reversible Telazol is the standard drug used for bears. Use of a xylazene/telazol combination (XZT) has successfully reduced drug volumes as well as shortened induction and allows reversal, thereby

reducing recovery times. The combination has been demonstrated to be reliable and safe. These tests have been conducted under supervision of research veterinarians from the Western College of Veterinarian Medicine in Saskatoon.

Dave Hobson



Dave Hobson

<http://www.esa.org/montreal/>

Earth System Processes 2: Ancient Earth Systems, Modern Earth System Processes, and Earth System Futures

August 8-11, 2005, Calgary, Alberta

For more information:

<http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/esp2/>

10th International Specialist Conference on Watershed and River Basin Management

September 13-15, 2005 / Calgary, Alberta

For more information click on title.

Upcoming Events

Alberta Conservation Association (ACA) Partners in Conservation (PIC) Conference: Collaborative Habitat Strategies for Alberta

January 27-28, 2005 / Calgary, Alberta

For more information click on title.

Forest Leadership Conference: Partnerships towards Sustainability

March 1-4, 2005 / Toronto, Ontario

For more information:

<http://forestleadership.com/>

90th Ecological Society of America (ESA): Ecology at Multiple Scales

August 7-12, 2005 / Montreal, Quebec

For more information:

Recently Published

Please send any references of recently published articles to dave.hobson@gov.ab.ca. Articles of interest include those authored by ACTWS members on Alberta wildlife.