

The Alberta Wildlifer

Official Newsletter of the Alberta Chapter, The Wildlife Society

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Editors: Sue Cotterill and Matt Besko

President's Message

Alberta's Land Use Issues Challenge Wildlife Professionals

We live in one of Canada's fastest growing provinces. On average, Alberta's population increases almost 3% per year, approaching 30% in a ten year period. This growth rate is expected to continue for some time, at least that is what many of the presenters said at the land use conference, titled "The Land Supports Us All" held in Edmonton last February.

I attended this very timely and informative conference along with many of our ACTWS members—in fact, some of our members made excellent presentations there. The talks were broad-ranging and covered all sectors and addressed many of the major land use related issues facing Alberta. The list included: urban

development, conventional oil and gas and heavy oil development/forecasts, agriculture industry development, forest industry development, tourism and recreation. The conference presenters forecasted that as our population grows and the demand for land increases, the number of land use conflicts between various industry sectors, the public and private individuals will escalate! Closer to home, the list of land use and resource issues challenging Alberta's wildlife professionals will also continue to increase. Current and future issues are: managing wildlife and habitat in an rapid growth province, controlling wildlife diseases, managing water and riparian resources, species at risk, biodiversity and degradation of natural systems, managing public lands and protected areas and access management, and understanding climate change. The list goes on!

Most industry, government, nongovernment organizations, and many members of the public are aware of the land use crunch and have a reasonably good understanding of the issues. Unfortunately, in Alberta it appears that the importance of first recognizing and then addressing the land use issue hasn't gotten through at the political level yet! Perhaps this part of "the Alberta Advantage Strategy"?

Many of the presenters at the land use conference talked of Alberta's growth and development forecasts and stressed the importance of "getting out in front" of development by establishing an effective planning process that would include a collaborative stakeholder process. Whether government initiates and leads land use planning in Alberta remains to be seen. However, when the land use planning process begins, wildlife professionals must be active participants providing science based information and advice that will lead to wise land use planning and resource management.

Over the years, Wildlifers have become pretty good at representing wildlife interests in a collaborative stakeholder process. We should carefully examine our

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most successful programs and use them as templates for future land use exercises in the province. One of the best examples is our “Cows and Fish Program”. If you examine our track record, the most successful land use programs that recognize and benefit wildlife have been developed under a collaborative stakeholder process.

There is little doubt the province’s land use issues and conflicts will continue to become larger and more frequent. Whether we participate as a professional group or as individuals in our day to day activities, let’s ensure that we continue to be major players at the decision making table.

Good luck!

Jack Nolan, *President*

Chapter News

Annual General Meeting Update

Starting on page 16 of the newsletter, see:

- AGM Announcement
- AGM Registration Form
- Call for Papers
- Abstract Guidelines
- Abstract Submittal Form

Student Awards

The Alberta Chapter of the Wildlife Society Student Awards for the Academic Year 2002-2003

The Alberta Chapter annually presents academic student awards to promote interest and reward excellence in the field of wildlife conservation. This year there are three \$1000 awards being offered to successful candidates enrolled in: a) technical programs; b) university undergraduate programs; and c) university graduate programs.

Student submissions for each award category are reviewed by ACTWS member committees and awards will be presented to successful candidates at the ACTWS annual conference in March 2003.

Applicants must have a demonstrated interest in wildlife management. Details of each award, including submission requirements, are outlined below.

For further information please contact **Ron Bennett, Awards Committee Chair at 780- 951-8673 or Ron.Bennett@ec.gc.ca**

Robert (Bob) K. Goddard Memorial Scholarship

Eligibility

This award is open to students that are presently enrolled in a technical program in the Province of Alberta, focusing on wildlife biology or management. Program examples include, but are not limited to: Renewable Resource Option (NAIT), Fish and Wildlife Major (Lakeland), Renewable Resource Management Diploma or Fish and Wildlife Technology Certificate (LCC). Please note that programs in conservation enforcement are not eligible for this award.

Submission Requirements

- Transcript of marks for courses taken and a list of courses planned for remainder of program, if any.
- Summary of volunteer or work experience in the wildlife field.
- Letter of reference from a faculty member or other professional biologist.
- Typed essay (300 words or fewer) outlining career goals and relevance to this award.

Applications must be received by **January 15, 2003**. Send applications to the Alberta Chapter of The Wildlife Society, Box 4990 Edmonton, AB T6E 5G8, Attn: Scholarship Committee.

Alberta Chapter – The Wildlife Society \$1000 Undergraduate Award

This award is open to students planning a career in wildlife management and preparing to enter the final year of a 4-year Alberta university program in Biological Sciences, Forest Science, Animal Sciences, Zoology, or related field of study, in September 2003. The award funds will be disbursed upon confirmation of registration for the next year of full-time enrollment.

Submission Requirements

- Transcript of marks for courses taken, and a list of courses planned for their final year.
- Summary of volunteer or work experience in the wildlife field.
- Letter of reference from a faculty member or other professional biologist.
- Typed essay (300 words or fewer) outlining career goals and relevance to this award.

Applications must be received by **January 15, 2003**. Send applications to the Alberta Chapter of The Wildlife

Society, Box 4990 Edmonton, AB T6E 5G8, Attn: Scholarship Committee.

Alberta Chapter – The Wildlife Society \$1000 Post-Graduate Award

This award is open to students planning a career in wildlife management and accepted into a full-time post-graduate degree program at an Alberta university in Biological Sciences, Forest Science, Animal Sciences, Zoology, or related field of study.

Submission Requirements

- Transcript of marks for undergraduate and graduate courses.
- Outline of proposed thesis work.
- Summary of volunteer or work experience in the wildlife field.
- Letter of reference from a faculty member or other professional biologist.
- Typed essay (300 words or fewer) outlining career goals and relevance to this award.

Applications must be received by **January 15, 2003**. Send applications to the Alberta Chapter of The Wildlife Society, Box 4990 Edmonton, AB T6E 5G8, Attn: Scholarship Committee.

Service Awards

The Alberta Chapter of The Wildlife Society is seeking Nominations for the following two awards:

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, non-consumptive 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.

Dedicated Service Award

The Alberta Chapter of The Wildlife Society Dedicated Service Award is granted to an ACTWS member in recognition of exceptional individual dedication to the Chapter and Chapter activities. The awards committee is asking for nominations for this award.

Nominations

Please submit your nominations for both these awards, by **January 3, 2003**, to:

Harry Stelfox
 Fish and Wildlife Division
 Alberta Sustainable Resource Development
 2nd Floor, 9920-108th St., Edmonton, AB
 Phone: (780) 427-2044, Fax: (780) 422-5136
 E-mail: harry.stelfox@gov.ab.ca

1996	Bill Glasgow
1995	Mike Dorrance
1994	Margo Pybus

2002-2003 Nominating Committee

Volunteers are needed to help out on the Nominating Committee to organize and run the 2002-2003 elections of the Alberta Chapter's executive board. This important committee is responsible for contacting and selecting members who want to run for positions on the Chapter's executive board. The Executive positions are: President, President-Elect, Secretary-Treasurer, and four directors of which two are elected each year for a two year term.

If you are interested in assisting with our election process, or running for a position, please contact:

Mike Norton at 780-951-8687 or mike.norton@ec.gc.ca

Previous Recipients of ACTWS Awards

<i>William Rowan Award for Distinguished Service</i>	
2002	Lu Carbyn
2001	Don Thomas
2000	Valerius Geist
1999	Ian Stirling
1998	Bill Samuel
1997	Ernie Kuyt
1996	Dave Boag
1995	Morley Barrett
1994	Ed Telfer
1993	Bill Wishart
1992	John Stelfox
1991	William Fuller

<i>Dedicated Service Award</i>	
2002	Jack Nolan
2001	Kirby Smith
2000	Ron Bjorge
1999	Jon Jorgensen
1998	Blair Rippin
1997	Brad Stelfox

2004 Conference of The Wildlife Society in Calgary – Planning Update

I'm learning that planning a very large conference is truly a moving target! I had a telephone chat with Sandra Staples-Bortner quite recently. Sandra is the Program Director with TWS, and has very significant involvement in, and responsibilities for, organizing the Annual Conferences of TWS. Sandra (and others) are currently involved in preparing for the 2002 Conference in Bismarck, North Dakota and the 2003 Conference in Vermont, as well as the 2004 Conference in Calgary. Sandra mentioned that a conference planner was being hired to work with her on contractual and other details for the Vermont Conference, at the request of the Arrangements Committee in Vermont, and that the same approach would likely be followed for the 2004 Conference (in Alberta). Sandra envisions that hiring the conference planner to work with her will result in elimination of several of the subcommittees that I outlined to you in the last newsletter, and reduction in the roles of several other subcommittees of the Arrangements Committee, as well. The subcommittees that are most likely to be affected are **Associated Meetings, Audio Visuals and Computers, Meals and Entertainment, Merchandise, and Signs**. Sandra also mentioned that it may be preferable, with the changing roles, to have two co-chairs for the Arrangements Committee, rather than a chair and a vice-chair.

I trust that you join with me in wanting the conference planning to be done as efficiently and effectively as possible, and that you will welcome the addition of a salaried conference planner to the initiative. From my point of view, that will result in a reduced workload for the Arrangements Committee, but there will still be lots to do! It's just that the subcommittees that I described to you earlier, and asked you to volunteer for may not exist in some cases, or may exist with reduced responsibilities in some other cases. That said, I think it's probably wise to let organizing the 2003 Conference in Vermont go a bit further, and allow things to stabilize a bit (in terms of structure, roles, and responsibilities), before proceeding much further with talking about roles on the Arrangements Committee for the 2004 Conference. The other reason that seems sensible is that hiring of the Conference Planner to work with Sandra Staples-Bortner will shorten the timelines that are required for the Arrangements Committee. I had begun to work towards having the committee in place about two years ahead of the conference, at Sandra's earlier recommendation. It now appears that a shorter timeline will suffice.

With respect to other progress in conference planning, a number of dedicated and skilled individuals have stepped forward to volunteer for roles on the Arrangements Committee and subcommittees. I sincerely thank each of those volunteers. It is a bit early to finalize a slate of volunteers and their roles (because of uncertainty about committee structure, and subcommittee sizes), though.

One of the first tasks for the Arrangements Committee will be to develop a **conference logo**. It will be needed by June 1, 2003. TWS advises to start early on that, and to keep it simple! Creating the logo is the responsibility of the Merchandise Subcommittee. That is one of the reasons that I would really like people to come forward soon to lead and to serve on the Merchandise Subcommittee. Options for the logo are to have it created by either an artistic member of TWS or one skilled in graphic design, a graphic design artist from a wildlife agency in the hosting province, or a merchandise vendor. The existing "Annual Conference Handbook" for TWS lists the following factors for consideration in logo design: **simplicity** (include "The Wildlife Society" or "TWS", the conference year, and the conference city); **sharp graphics**; **two colors** only; **appropriateness to the conference locale**; and, **artistic quality**. If you have ideas for either an artist to create the logo, the logo itself, or think you would like to lead or serve on the Merchandise Subcommittee to help oversee the process, please contact me.

As mentioned earlier, I will be having some further discussions with executive and members of the Manitoba Chapter of The Wildlife Society about their involvement in several subcommittees of the Arrangements Committee. Those discussions will take place at the Annual Conference of TWS in Bismarck, North Dakota next month. I also hope to see a number of members of the Alberta Chapter in Bismarck.

You are more than welcome to contact me at any time, if you have any suggestions or questions about arrangements for the 2004 Conference in Calgary. Thank you for your interest and support.

Arlen Todd

Interim Chair, Arrangements Committee

2004 Conference of The Wildlife Society

Phone: 403-297-7349; e-mail: arlen.todd@gov.ab.ca;

fax: 403-297-2843

Student Chapter News

Lethbridge Community College Student Chapter

Both Josh and I are very excited to be taking over the torch at LCC with The Wildlife Society. Last year's membership size was, I believe, the biggest to date at LCC and we are looking forward to carrying that momentum forward. As far as specific projects are concerned, we will try to participate in some ongoing and continuing projects from last year that went well. They include the Big Horn in your Backyard project which took place in Radium and Invermere, B.C. We would also like to continue with the Trout Unlimited Rescue Project which takes place each year in the canals and irrigation channels of Southern Alberta. Also near the end of the last school year a handful of members began participating in a Deer Impact Study in Taber, AB which we hope to continue. As far as new projects, we are hoping to start a regular Lethbridge Coulee nature hike and clean-up to observe some of the flora and fauna of the local Coulees while picking up trash at the same time. As always we will have at least one mixer to raise funds for projects, do membership drives and raise the awareness of the LCC Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society. Of course there are always new projects that come to our attention during the year and we are hoping with such a large group there will be an array of ideas

for possible projects. Unfortunately I do not have a list of all the current executives to date, but both Josh (President) and I (Vice President) are looking forward to an exciting new year. If you have any other questions feel free to contact me at the below address.

Sincerely,

Mecah Klem, *Vice President*

University of Alberta Student Chapter

2002/2003 executive members (to date) for the U of A Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society are:

- President: Stephen Taerum
- Vice President: Janet Ng
- Treasurer: Tammy MacMillan

We are still looking for undergraduate and graduate students to fill the roles of: Secretary, Membership, and Social Convener.

We will have at least one seminar each month given by a faculty member or other guest speaker. Our first speaker will be Dr. Fiona Schmiegelow on September 17, 2002, in ESB 3-27. We will continue our wetland project in southwestern Edmonton, where we are comparing the waterfowl, invertebrates, vegetation, and abiotic features between artificial and natural wetlands. Also, a student study on urban deer in Edmonton is supported by our group. These two studies provide valuable field experience for volunteers, who are always more than welcome. We will also be having another Improv Night, where a number of faculty members give seminars on slides they have never seen before. This year, our chapter of The Wildlife Society will be selling T-shirts, as well as calendars displaying photos taken by our chapter members.

Stephen Taerum, *President* and Janet Ng, *Vice President*

Parent News

2002 TWS Conference, Bismarck, ND:

Rick Baydack (Manitoba) has arranged a reception for Canadian Wildlifers, to be held 7-10 p.m. on Friday September 27 in the Canonball Room. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

2003 Annual Northwest Section and Oregon Chapter Meeting and Workshops

**Hosted by: The Oregon Chapter of The Wildlife Society
The Hilton - Eugene, Oregon
February 10-14, 2003**

Call for Papers

You are invited to submit abstracts for presentations to any sessions listed below. At least twelve of these sessions will be held at the 2003 combined annual meeting of the Oregon Chapter and Northwest Section of The Wildlife Society at the Hilton in Eugene, Oregon from February 10-14, 2003. Presentations will be 25 minutes in length, including an introduction of the presenter and time for questions. There will be no written papers associated with presentations. Students are especially encouraged to submit papers. We are also seeking moderators for each session, unless indicated by an asterisk. If interested in moderating a session, please contact Lori Hennings at the e-mail address below.

Please submit the following information with each abstract:

- 1) Lead author name, affiliation, mailing address, phone and fax numbers, and e-mail address.
- 2) Names, affiliations and contact information of additional authors.
- 3) Session for which the abstract is submitted (MUST be one of the following):

- Adaptive Management
- Building Constituencies, Media, and Communication
- Carnivores
- Ecology and Conservation of Birds
- Ecology and Conservation of Large Mammals*
- Ecology of Large Ungulates
- Ecosystems and Landscapes*

- Effects of Altered Floodplain and Hydrology on Wildlife
- Environmental Contaminants
- Invasive Species
- Population Monitoring and Viability Analysis
- Regional Conservation Planning
- Snags and Downed Wood
- Sound Science and Ethics
- Wildlife Diseases
- Open Session

* Session moderator has been located.

4) ABSTRACT - You must use the following guidelines and example; please note that the abstract you submit will be the FINAL that is printed for the paper sessions.

Submit abstracts by **29 November 2002** to:

Lori Hennings
Planning Department
Metro
600 NE Grand Avenue
Portland, OR 97232-2736
(503) 797-1940
lhennings@easystreet.com

Authors will be notified about the selection of their presentation by **20 December, 2002**.

Abstract Guidelines and Format Example

Guidelines

- Please submit your abstract electronically to Lori Hennings at the electronic address identified above.
- If you do NOT have access to e-mail, then submit your abstract on a floppy disk with a hard copy; clearly label both with pertinent ID information including name of lead author, abstract title, session, and lead author contact phone number and e-mail address.
- The person submitting the abstract should provide a separate, detailed list of information for each author, including: place and full address of employment, e-mail, and phone number; what authors are students; and whether the presenting author is a student, and if so, whether he or she wants the presentation judged. Place an asterisk next to presenting author.
- Use WordPerfect or Microsoft Word
- Single space
- Use a Paragraph Indent for all but the first 2 lines
- No hard returns within a paragraph

- **No more than 100 words** (excluding abstract title and author information)

Format Example

Jordan, Jess*¹ and John P. Hayes². Bat activity along two third order streams in the HJ Andrews Experimental Forest. ¹Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR, 97331; ²Department of Forest Science, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR, 97331.

Wood in streams has been shown to be critical for aquatic organisms, however few studies have investigated the importance of wood in streams to terrestrial organisms. We measured bat activity over three habitat types along two third order streams in the HJ Andrews Experimental Forest. Bat activity was measured using Anabat II detectors and analysis software. Twelve randomly selected sites were sampled twice resulting in 24 detector nights. Activity over pools was consistently greater over pools than riffles. These data emphasize the importance of pools for bats and suggest that more structurally complex stream conditions may enhance quality habitat for bats.

Call for Posters

A poster session will be held at the Annual Meeting in February. If you have information you would like to share with other biologists, please consider displaying a poster this year. Tables and wall space will be provided for displays. If you are interested in participating, please contact:

Bruce Campbell
South Willamette Watershed District
Springfield Field Office
3150 Main St.
Springfield, OR 97478
Bruce.h.campbell@state.or.us

At a minimum, please include the title of your poster, your name, affiliation, and complete contact information. You may submit an abstract but this is optional. Deadline for submissions is **29 November, 2002**.

Conservation Issues

Conservation Committee report for the first half of 2002

Blair Rippin – *Conservation Committee Chair*

The Alberta Chapter's mandate allows for actions to be taken on issues that appear to threaten sound conservation of the province's wildlife. Such actions are generally designed to provide Albertans and/or their elected representatives with science-based information relevant to each issue, encouraging ecologically sound decisions. During the first half of 2002 the following wildlife-related issues were given executive attention. The action taken is described below.

1) Big Game Farming

Within this topic there were three separate issues.

a) *Livestock Industry Diversification Act (LIDA) review*

LIDA is the Alberta government act governing most of the activities relative to big game farming. It was initially enacted in 1993 when big game farming became a sanctioned industry. The Act is currently undergoing a review. The process began in mid 2001 and involved a multi-agency committee that provided input. ACTWS was invited to sit as a member but indicated they would provide input via other means. To date the committee has completed its task and was disbanded. A draft of revised legislation scheduled for review in June has been delayed until further notice. ACTWS will review the draft when available.

b) *Big game hunt farms (Cervid Hunting Preserves)*

When big game farming was sanctioned in Alberta in the late 1980s, the legislation specifically prohibited hunting of farmed wildlife within big game farms. Over the past few years the big game farming community has actively lobbied to have hunting of owned wildlife on "Cervid Hunting Preserves".

Opposition from various sources contributed to the issue becoming considerably controversial. The Premier originally stated that hunting would not be permitted unless there was demonstrated public support for the activity.

The pro-lobby group conducted province-wide public meetings and met with various MLA committees. On August 6 a caucus committee voted against Cervid

Hunting Preserves. However, the Premier indicated there would be an effort to facilitate market opportunities for big game farmers.

ACTWS originally took action on big game farming in the early 1990s with a detailed summary of related issues sent to the government of the day (this document is available on the ACTWS website, www.albertadirectory.com/actws). Rather than enter the controversy on the value-based topic of hunting, it was decided that the original ACTWS document was still relevant and covered the specific issue of hunting. The action therefore would have been to resubmit the original document with an updating covering letter. However, that is no longer required because of the caucus decision.

c) *Disease issues on big game farms, specifically Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)*

The original ACTWS document (as above, see ACTWS website) on big game farming placed considerable emphasis on the threat big game farming presented to wildlife in the form of parasites and disease. Tuberculosis, brucellosis, and brain worm (*Paralaphostrongylus tenuis*) were of foremost concern at that time (CWD had not been discovered in Canadian captive stock at that time).

Since 1993, some of the ACTWS concerns have been realized (e.g. tuberculosis), which resulted in an extensive culling and compensation program. In addition, several actions were taken to exclude imports of wildlife.

More recently, chronic wasting disease (CWD) has been discovered in captive wildlife in a neighboring jurisdiction. This resulted in extensive culling of captive herds in Saskatchewan. In addition, several cases of CWD have been discovered in wild deer in Saskatchewan. This spring CWD was discovered in an elk on an Alberta big game farm.

CWD is potentially devastating to specific ungulate species (e.g. mule deer). As a monitoring measure the Alberta government killed and tested a few hundred deer near the Saskatchewan border during the summer of 2001. That sample plus many more samples from hunter-killed deer have tested negative for CWD (June 2002). Further testing of hunter-killed animals is planned for this fall.

ACTWS action will involve the resubmission of the original document along with an update reiterating original concerns with the added concern about CWD.

2) Bison Issues

Legislative changes over the past several years have resulted in bison having two official designations. In most of Alberta, bison (this now can include both plains and wood bison, although the latter still have a confusing status involving the 'endangered' category) are considered domestic (non-wildlife) animals and as such can be privately owned and farmed for livestock and meat products. In the northwest corner of the province, however, the wood bison is present and any bison occurring there are considered to be "endangered" wildlife. Bison inhabiting national parks remain protected under Parks legislation but animals straying from those parks are considered to have no wildlife status and can be hunted without a license.

There were two bison issues considered.

a) *Bison grazing on crown land*

Although Alberta bison are not considered "wildlife" (with the exceptions noted above), the proposal to extend the opportunity to ranchers to graze their bison stock on leased crown land has potential implications to wildlife.

Crown land grazing of domestic bison has occurred for several years in the province but without official sanction. Several complaints and concerns were received over the past few years about bison fencing being barriers to wildlife and the threat of spreading disease to other domestic stock and wildlife. As a result, a public committee was struck to obtain input that would provide the basis for a decision whether or not to continue the practice and if continued, the conditions under which it would be governed.

The multi-agency committee (including ACTWS membership) met during 2001 and early 2002 and provided considerable input. Most members felt that the fencing (prohibiting free wildlife movement) and disease (related largely to TB and brucellosis near Wood Buffalo Park) issues would essentially limit crown land grazing of bison to a very few sites in southern Alberta. To date, however, there has not been a decision on the matter. ACTWS will be notified when a decision has been made.

b) *Bison status*

As described above, the present official status of bison in Alberta is confusing. To add to the confusion, there are tentative plans to protect a few small free ranging herds and perhaps re-establish others. Consequently there is a

need to clarify overall bison management in the province.

The action will involve submission of a letter offering the expertise of ACTWS (a science-based NGO).

3) Water Resource Planning Issues

Over the past two years, a number of controversial water-related issues have been reported in the media. Much of this has resulted from drought-like conditions in the province's agricultural area and the threat of 'global warming'.

The Meridian Dam proposal and the possible resurrection of the old "PRIME" project resulted in considerable attention being focused on the future of Alberta's natural aquatic systems. The Environment Minister has conducted a number of internal and public reviews of the situation, presumably to provide for the basis of decisions about future water management in the province.

Other than a notice urging members to individually respond to a recent (May) Alberta Water Resources questionnaire, there has been no ACTWS action taken to address water-related issues from a wildlife/wildlife habitat perspective.

ACTWS will remain vigilant for opportunities in the near future (likely in the form of committee membership) to provide comment on future water resource issues relative to wildlife conservation.

4) Effectiveness of Provincial Wildlife Conservation Agencies (Fish and Wildlife, ACA)

During the past decade and recently over the past few months, the Alberta government has chosen to undertake severe reductions in the professional staff and their responsibilities relative to management of wildlife resources. At this point it is questionable whether an effective program of management can be conducted by the remaining staff and their meagre budgets.

Action was taken on this issue in the form of a letter (*see pages 11-12*) to all MLAs. Subsequently a reply was received from the Minister of Sustainable Resource Development (*see pages 14-15*).

5) Forest Management

The boreal mixed-wood forest has been subjected to very intensive exploitative pressures over the past few decades, generally for fibre (lumber and pulp), petroleum, peat, agriculture, and for infrastructure development.

The forest harvesting industry has developed intensive silvicultural practices that have the potential to dramatically alter the former composition and age structure of the forest. The most recent tools in the arsenal are chemicals designed to control vegetative competition with commercially valuable tree species and may include pesticides to combat unwanted invertebrates. The potential for fundamental changes in the forest has the potential to result in profound effects in the quality and quantity of forest-dwelling wildlife and their habitat.

Recently there has been some media attention focused on the plight of the boreal forest by the academic community, and Alberta Fish and Game Association has funded a review of possible consequences to forest wildlife from the silvicultural use of the herbicide glyphosate. ACTWS felt that additional concern of a general nature at this time would likely not stimulate industry or government action to investigate further. However, it is felt there would likely be better opportunities to comment on more specific issues as they arise in the near future.

Recently Published

Anderson, E.M., and Boutin, S. 2002. Edge effects on survival and behaviour of juvenile red squirrels (*Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*). *Can. J. Zool.* 80(6):1038-1046.

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

Upcoming Events

Chronic Wasting Disease – Technical Meeting

The Alberta Cooperative Conservation Research Unit (ACCRU) and the Alberta Conservation Association (ACA) are hosting a one-day technical meeting

regarding Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). The meeting will take place on Saturday, January 11, 2003 at the Days Inn in Nisku. The goal of the meeting is to provide factual trustworthy information in an Alberta context to a wide range of wildlife, veterinary, and health professionals as well as various wildlife users. This is an advance notice: more details to come later.

[submitted by Margo Pybus, Bill Samuel, Mark Boyce]

Access Management: Policy to Practice

Call for Papers & Posters

A Conference Presented by the Alberta Society of Professional Biologists

March 18-19, 2003

Telus Convention Centre

120 Ninth Ave SE Calgary, AB

For more information see: www.aspb.ab.ca

Forests of the Northern Lights: Current and Future Boreal Forest Values – Conservation Goals and Market Trends

September 20-22, 2002, Winnipeg, Manitoba

For more information, contact:

http://www.borealnet.org/resources/northern_lights.html

Change of Address?

Have you moved or changed your e-mail address recently? If so, please let us know! Send your updated contact information to chris.shank@gov.ab.ca.

Next Issue

Expect the next newsletter in your mailbox December 1, 2002. You are encouraged to submit any type of article (letter to editor, research, stories, humor, poetry, conservation issues, etc.) for the next newsletter by e-mailing it to sue.cotterill@gov.ab.ca by November 15, 2002.

Letter from the ACTWS

June 20, 2002

Alberta Chapter of the Wildlife Society
Box 4990
Edmonton, Alberta
T6E 5G8

Hon. Ralph Klein, Premier, and
Hon. Mike Cardinal, Minister of Alberta Sustainable Development
Government of Alberta,
Edmonton, Alberta.

Dear Sirs:

The Wildlife Society is a large, international organization of biologists that promotes professionalism and responsibility in science-based conservation of wildlife. The **Alberta Chapter of The Wildlife Society** represents 275 dedicated wildlife specialists working in industry, government, and NGOs throughout the province. Because of our focus and concern about the continued welfare of the province's wildlife, we question the wisdom of recent announcements of substantial reductions in staff and funding in the Wildlife Management Division of Alberta's Sustainable Resource Development Department

We understand that on June 21 of this year a large portion of the professional expertise and nearly 300 years of combined experience in the field of wildlife management will have been removed from the provincial Wildlife Management Division. It appears incongruent this is occurring at a time when Alberta's population is rapidly expanding and the pressures on the landbase (and water) for industrial, recreational, urban, and agricultural development are extreme and will lead to increased landuse conflicts in the province. The need for effective wildlife conservation is required as never before. It seems apparent there is a lack of understanding and concern for the value and complexity of maintaining a healthy natural environment.

The dramatic staff and funding reduction appears to be largely unplanned (based on a buy-out offer to more experienced staff) with no regard to preserving continuity in effective long-standing programs that have evolved over several years to meet the mandate of the province's wildlife management agency. It will essentially result in the collapse of the former network of central and field biological staff that worked as a team to collect the biological information necessary to meet the Division's mandate.

We fear the Division will now be unable to meet its regular mandated obligation to monitor wildlife populations, assure their protection and health, as well as manage consumptive use regimes. A foreshadowing of this eventuality is already evident in the discontinuation of the hunter harvest return questionnaire that operated for 16 years in collaboration with Alberta's sportsmen groups, providing information to support many of the harvest and management decisions.

Certainly new obligations such as that initiated by recent passing of federal legislation pursuant to endangered species protection and recovery will present a major challenge with diminished fiscal resources. Previous public feedback in other areas has indicated a strong negative stance on relinquishing provincial roles to federal staff.

We urge you to consider the probable consequences to the wildlife resource, as the majority of Albertans place a very high value in a healthy natural environment.

Specifically we would appreciate hearing your reply to the following:

- Will additional funding be made available to facilitate the Division in meeting its regular mandated obligations?
- How will the remaining staff be reorganized to fill lost key positions?

-
- Will some functions be discontinued and/or will offices be shut down?
 - What plans are in place to address the provincial role pursuant to new federal legislation relevant to endangered species protection and recovery?
 - Can we expect a seamless continuation of efforts to annually produce hunting and trapping regulation programs?
 - Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is now a reality on Alberta's big game farms, with potential devastating effects on wild ungulates. Will adequate resources be allocated to combating this disease?
 - Can we expect to see the completion and implementation of species management plans (some of which have been in draft form for several years)?
 - Can we expect that the Division will continue to provide input and propose effective protective and/or mitigative measures for land use proposals?

We await your reply, which will hopefully provide assurance that the provincial wildlife management agency will have adequate fiscal and staffing resources to address the necessary management obligations as set out in the Alberta Wildlife Act.

Yours truly

B. Rippen, Conservation Committee Chair
Alberta Chapter of the Wildlife Society

Cc: All Alberta Members of the Legislative Assembly

Letters in Response

See pages 13-15 for responses from Premier Klein and Honourable Mike Cardinal, Minister of Sustainable Resource Development.

Recreation of e-mail response from Debby Carlson, Liberal MLA:

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Dear Mr. Rippen:

Thank you for the copy of your June 20th letter to the Hon. Ralph Klein and Mike Cardinal regarding cutbacks in the Fish and Wildlife Division. I would like your permission to table it in the Legislature in the fall sitting.

Debby Carlson,

MLA, Edmonton Ellerslie

Response to Ms. Carlson from ACTWS Executive Board

Blair Rippen responded to Debby Carlson on August 19, on behalf of the Executive Board, and indicated that the Board would be pleased to have the letter tabled in the Legislature. The Board also offered to provide additional information on the topic of Fish and Wildlife Division cutbacks, if requested.



THE PREMIER OF ALBERTA

July 11, 2002

Mr. Blair Rippin
Conservation Committee Chair
Alberta Chapter of the Wildlife Society
Box 4990
Edmonton, Alberta
T6E 5G8

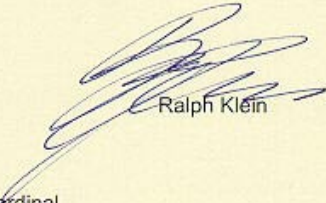
Dear Mr. Rippin:

I wish to acknowledge your June 20, 2002 letter regarding recent changes in the provincial Wildlife Management Division.

I appreciated being made aware of your views and have taken the liberty of forwarding your comments to the Honourable Mike Cardinal, Minister of Sustainable Resource Development, so that he may have an opportunity to review your concerns and provide you with a further response on behalf of the Government of Alberta.

Thank you for taking the time to write.

Sincerely yours,



Ralph Klein

RK/cmb

cc: Honourable Mike Cardinal

Legislature Building, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5K 2B6 Telephone (780) 427-2251 Fax (780) 427-1349



ALBERTA SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Office of the Minister

DM02-JFH-0466

July 8, 2002

Mr. B. Rippin
Conservation Committee Chair
Alberta Chapter of the Wildlife Society
Box 4990
Edmonton, Alberta
T6E 5G8

Dear Mr. Rippin:

Thank you for your letter of June 20, 2002 regarding the wildlife management program area of Alberta Sustainable Resource Development (SRD). I appreciate the opportunity to respond to your concerns on behalf of the Alberta government.

Alberta government departments undertook a review of their programs and budget allocations based on current fiscal realities. SRD's review identified a substantial imbalance between fiscal resources allocated to manpower versus programs and operations. A decision was made to offer a Separation Payment for Restructuring (SPR) program to staff as one means of addressing this problem. The program was completely voluntary and was not targeted toward any particular staff component or program area.

The SPR program resulted in a number of staff members within the wildlife management program deciding to take advantage of the offer. There continues to be experienced and dedicated staff in place to plan and deliver the province's wildlife management program. SRD remains committed to ensuring that Alberta's wildlife resource is managed for long term sustainability.

With respect to the hunter harvest questionnaire, this survey was discontinued due to a variety of reasons, including program priorities and budget. This program has provided valuable information for game management purposes and SRD intends to reactivate it in some form in the near future.

.../2

420 Legislature Building, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5K 2B6 Telephone 780/415-4815, Fax 780/415-4818

♻️ Printed on recycled paper



- 2 -

In regards to your specific questions, I would like to provide the following information.

1. The government's budget process provides opportunity to seek additional funding for particular program pressure areas. The department will identify those program areas for my consideration.
2. Reorganization of staff to fill key positions that have been vacated is currently under review.
3. There are no current plans to discontinue functions or shut down offices.
4. Alberta has established a very successful species at risk program. The Fish and Wildlife Division remains committed to delivering this program.
5. Hunting and trapping regulation programs will continue as in the past.
6. Chronic Wasting Disease has been detected in only one game farmed elk in Alberta. The department considers this disease a serious potential threat to Alberta's wildlife resources and intends to allocate sufficient resources to address it appropriately.
7. While plans are produced to document management strategies, species management planning is an on-going activity that results in regular adjustments to management approaches. This process will continue.
8. The Fish and Wildlife Division will continue to participate in the variety of processes designed to minimize the negative impacts of various land use activities on the wildlife resource.

Alberta government is committed to the effective management of the province's wildlife resources and will continue to make the necessary investment in this important program area.

Thank you again for providing your comments on this matter.

Sincerely,

Mike Cardinal
Minister
MLA, Athabasca/Wabasca Constituency

cc: Honourable Ralph Klein
Premier

All Government MLAs

2003 ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND MEETING, ALBERTA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

February 28 - March 1, 2003; Red Deer Lodge, Red Deer, Alberta



Co-hosted by:

The Alberta Chapter of The Wildlife Society,
University of Alberta Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society,
and Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, Fish & Wildlife Division



INTEGRATED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT, IMPLICATIONS FOR WILDLIFE is the focus of the plenary session, which will open the conference (starting early morning on February 28). Dr. Brad Stelfox, a well-known wildlife ecologist and author of program ALCES, is a confirmed plenary speaker. Other high-profile speakers are invited, including Ian Dyson (confirmed) and Al Sanderson. The eventful two days will be filled with contributed papers on a wide range of topics in wildlife research and management. Guiding principles for planning the conference are to provide attendees with the highest quality and most current information possible, at an affordable price. So, please join us in Red Deer for an exceptional event and two days of camaraderie!

Location and Transportation

The Red Deer Lodge (4311 49 Avenue Red Deer, Alberta) is centrally located in the city of Red Deer. The hotel is on the south edge of town center, and just a short walking distance to shopping, restaurants, pubs, and other points of interest. For more information on Red Deer Lodge go to: <http://www.greatcanadianhotels.com/reddeer.html>.

Red Deer is located in central Alberta, about 150 km south of Edmonton, on Highway 2. Calgary International Airport is only a ninety minute drive from the town of Red Deer. All major car rental companies are available at the Calgary International Airport, and regular bus service operates directly from the airport to Red Deer as well. For more information on Red Deer go to: <http://www.city.red-deer.ab.ca/default.htm>.

Lodging

The conference and meetings will be held at the Red Deer Lodge. The lodge has reserved a block of 60 rooms at special conference rates. To receive the special rate, be sure to make reservations by **January 2, 2003** at 1-800-661-1657 (mention that you are attending The Wildlife Society meeting, Alberta Chapter). The rate is \$95 Canadian/room/night, for single or double occupancy, plus 12% tax. The rates mentioned above are extended to delegates of the conference both three days before and three days after the conference. When making reservations, you will require a valid credit card number or cheque or money order deposit. When requested, deposits will be returned if the Red Deer Lodge receives notice of cancellation at least 48 hours prior to the expected time of arrival.

A variety of other hotels and motels are located near the Red Deer Lodge. However, we have not arranged discounted rates at any of the others, so please book a room early at the Red Deer Lodge.

Registration

Please take advantage of early registration discounts by completing and returning the registration form (see following pages) with full payment (in Canadian funds only) by **February 7, 2003**. On-site registration will be available at the conference. Partial registrations will not be accepted.

Reception and Wildlife Auction Fundraiser

The welcoming reception and social (including no-host cash bar) is on Thursday evening, February 27. The fundraiser auction of wildlife-related items will occur on Friday evening, starting at 7:30 pm. Proceeds go entirely to the Alberta Chapter's student scholarship fund.

We are currently looking for an auction coordinator. If you are interested in taking on this position, or have an item that you would like to donate to the auction, **please contact Mark Boyce** (780-492-0081; boyce@ualberta.ca). Both large and small-ticket items, custom-made goods, and new purchases or used items will all be gratefully appreciated.

Call for Poster Papers

A poster session will run during February 28-March 1. Posters on wildlife management, research, monitoring, new techniques, and work just getting underway are always of interest. Persons who are beginning their projects are encouraged to submit posters, rather than papers for oral presentation. If you are interested in participating, please contact Mark S. Boyce, Department of Biological Sciences, Room Z 907, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB Canada T6G 2E9 (Phone 780-489-0081; fax 780-492-9234; e-mail boyce@ualberta.ca).

Wildlife Photo Contest

Conference registrants are invited to submit their favorite original photos for a contest at the conference. Contact Troy Sorensen, if you are interested (phone 780-778-7116; e-mail troy.sorensen@gov.ab.ca). Further details will be posted on the Alberta Chapter's website, as the conference approaches (www.albertadirectory.com/actws).

Contributed Papers Sessions

Concurrent sessions for contributed papers (see following pages for **Call for Papers**) will run Friday afternoon (February 28) and all day on Saturday (March 1).

Lunches and Alberta Chapter Awards

Friday and Saturday lunches are included in the registration fee. The annual awards of the Alberta Chapter, TWS, will be presented during the Saturday lunch.

Corporate Donations to Support the Conference

Corporate donations have contributed significantly to the quality and viability of TWS meetings organized in Alberta in the past. Thank you for your support and generosity! If you or your employer can make a financial donation to support the conference, please consider doing so. Donations both large and small will be gratefully appreciated. Please make cheques payable (preferably in **Canadian funds**) to **Alberta Chapter, The Wildlife Society** and mail to **ACTWS, Box 4990, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6E 5G8**. Donations received before February 15, 2003 would be most appreciated! Donors will be recognized in the printed conference materials, and at the lunch on Saturday, March 1.

REGISTRATION FORM FOR THE 2003 ANNUAL MEETING, ALBERTA CHAPTER TWS

February 28-March 1, 2003, Red Deer Lodge, Red Deer, Alberta



To simplify our paperwork please complete one form per person.

Name _____

Affiliation _____

Address _____

City _____ Province/State _____ PC/Zip _____

Phone (Office) _____ Home _____ E-mail _____

Conference registration (no partial registrations)	Cost	Total
Friday-Sunday, February 28-March 1, 2003		
Early registration, post-marked on/before Feb. 7 th		
Regular member	\$55.00	_____
Student member	\$35.00	_____
Late registration, after Feb. 7 th (on-site, please)		
Regular member	\$70.00	_____
Student member	\$45.00	_____

Lunch

- Do you plan to attend the lunch on Friday (please circle)? Yes No
- Are you bringing a guest (if so, add additional cost)? \$22.00 each _____
- Do you plan to attend the lunch on Saturday (please circle)? Yes No
- Are you bringing a guest (if so, add additional cost)? \$22.00 each _____

Total Amount Paid _____

Do you have any special needs (i.e., vegetarian)? If so, please specify _____

Please make cheques payable (only in **Canadian** funds) to: **Alberta Chapter, TWS**. Purchase orders and credit cards will **not** be accepted. Please mail your registration form, with full payment, to:

Mark S. Boyce, President-elect
 Alberta Chapter TWS
 Department of Biological Sciences
 University of Alberta, Edmonton T6G 2E9

Form can be downloaded from website: www.albertadirectory.com/actws

Cancellation policy: A full refund will be provided when requested before January 15, 2003. For cancellations on or after January 15, 2003, there will be a handling fee of 25% of the total bill.

CALL FOR PAPERS

2003 ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND MEETING,
ALBERTA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Co-hosted by:

The Alberta Chapter and University of Alberta Student Chapters of The Wildlife Society,
and Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, Fish & Wildlife Division



You are invited to submit abstracts for presentation at any of the contributed papers sessions to be held at the 2003 meeting in Red Deer, Alberta during February 28-March 1, 2003. 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. Abstracts will be printed in the program booklet as they are received; otherwise, written papers will not be associated with presentations.

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 for the paper sessions). Submit abstract and associated information by **January 10, 2003** to:

Mark S. Boyce

Department of Biological Sciences

University of Alberta

Edmonton, Alberta Canada T6G 2E9

Phone: 780-492-0081; Fax: 780-492-9234

e-mail: boyce@ualberta.ca

Abstracts will be acknowledged within three days, and authors will be advised of the final decision on their abstract (and the session in which it will be given) by February 14, 2003.

Abstract Guidelines and Format Example

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.
- E-mail (**preferred**): Submit the abstract, other required information, and abstract submittal form by e-mail. Abstract submittal forms can be e-mailed to you on request. Or, check the Alberta Chapter website (www.albertadirectory.com/actws). You will be notified of the receipt of your abstract within three days.
- 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).
- 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.....

Send abstracts to:

Mark S. Boyce

Department of Biological Sciences

University of Alberta

Edmonton, Alberta Canada T6G 2E9

Phone: 780-492-0081; Fax: 780-492-9234

e-mail: boyce@ualberta.ca

Please Note: The abstract that you submit will be the FINAL that is printed for the paper session—changes will not be possible.

ABSTRACT SUBMITTAL FORM

2003 ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND MEETING, ALBERTA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY



Co-hosted by:

The Alberta Chapter and University of Alberta Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society, and Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, Fish & Wildlife Division

Type of presentation: Paper _____ Poster _____

Equipment required: Slide projector _____ Overhead projector _____

PowerPoint projector _____ Other (specify) _____

Title of abstract submitted: _____

Name of person submitting _____ Phone _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State/Province _____ PC/Zip _____

Fax _____ E-mail _____

Name of presenter (if different from submitter) _____

Is the presenter a student? (Yes/No) _____

The time limit for contributed papers is fifteen minutes, plus five minutes for questions and discussion (total of twenty minutes).

Send original abstract (preferably by e-mail, snail mail less preferred) and biosketch of **presenter** with this form
-OR - Send original abstract (floppy disk), hard copy and biosketch with this form to:

Mark S. Boyce

Department of Biological Sciences

University of Alberta

Edmonton, Alberta Canada T6G 2E9

Phone: 780-492-0081; Fax: 780-492-9234

e-mail: boyce@ualberta.ca

DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING ABSTRACTS IS **JANUARY 10, 2003**