



The Alaskan Wildlifer

Newsletter of the Alaska Chapter of the Wildlife Society

January 2002

Message from the President

By: Gino Del Frate

It is now time to begin planning your trip to Fairbanks in May. The Alaska Chapter will co-host our annual meeting with the Alaska Society for American Foresters. This event is shaping up to be an excellent meeting and I hope all can attend. The meeting will be held 2-4 May at the Wood Center on campus at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks. Our theme will be "Coordinating Forestry and Wildlife Management at the Landscape Level". See the announcement in this newsletter or on our website.

The TWS Council selected Calgary, Alberta as their location for the 2004 annual conference. That was the bad news. The good news was that they were confident that the Alaska Chapter would be able to host a future conference. We have been offered the opportunity to host either 2005 or 2006. The Egan center in Anchorage (the only venue large enough to hold 2000 wildlifers) is booked for the desired time slot in 2005 so it looks like we will be busy in 2006. Thanks to all the committee members who stepped forward to volunteer. We will have a brief organizational meeting in May in Fairbanks during our annual meeting and should start official planning next year.

Our next newsletter will come out in late March or early April. In that issue will be annual elections for President Elect and Secretary/Treasurer. Because of our updated bylaws the executive Board elections will be staggered with election of regional representatives in odd years and officers in even years. All positions are now 2-year terms. The tradition for President Elect is that this position should rotate through all regions of the state. This year's candidates should be from interior Alaska. Anyone interested in running for President Elect should contact Tom Paragi ASAP in Fairbanks. Chances are he may contact you if you don't call him. Remember that the success of our organization depends on the active participation of all members.

News from the North

Submitted by Tom Paragi

ADF&G is sponsoring planning efforts for moose management on the Yukon Flats of eastern interior Alaska. Much of the 39,000 square miles in Game Management Unit 25D is part of the Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge (YFNWR). The committee includes participants from the villages of Birch Creek, Stevens Village, Venetie, Beaver, Fort Yukon, Circle, Chalkyitsik, and Arctic Village as well as staff from ADF&G and YFNWR. One of the goals of planning is to increase the harvestable surplus of bulls in key hunting areas adjacent to local villages. A draft plan is expected to be available for public review in mid-winter.

Personnel changes--**Shelly Szepanski** left a technician slot at ADF&G in Fairbanks to become the assistant area biologist in McGrath. There were several personnel changes across the northern region in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service this autumn (fortunately most stayed in Alaska!). **Mike Spindler** became refuge manager at the Koyukuk-Nowitna Refuge Complex in Galena after having served there since 1990 as an assistant manager/pilot and more recently as a supervisory biologist. **Greg McClellan** left his position as subsistence coordinator at the Yukon Flats

National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) in Fairbanks to become the deputy manager in Galena. The new subsistence coordinator for the Yukon Flats, Kanuti, and Arctic NWRs is **Wenona Brown**, who had most recently been working for a consulting firm to update the Yukon Flats fire management plan. **Geoff Beyersdorf** transferred to Galena from Togiak NWR over the summer to become the subsistence coordinator at Koyukuk-Nowitna. **Sam Patten**, who retired from Fish and Game this spring, was selected to replace **Perry Grissom** as Fire Management Officer at Yukon Flats. Perry and his wife, biologist **Ann Johnson**, moved to the Sacramento River Refuge Complex in California. **Fred Deines** retired as deputy manager at Yukon Flats and moved to Wisconsin; his position was recently filled by **Barry Whitehill**, former assistant manager at Kanuti NWR. **Gene Peltola**, formerly a pilot/biologist with Yukon Delta NWR, was hired as refuge manager at Selawik NWR in Kotzebue, replacing **Leslie Kerr**, who is now the manager at Kodiak NWR. **Gary Wheeler** transferred up from Ecological Services in Anchorage to be the new oil and gas specialist at Arctic NWR; he replaced **Anne Morkill**, who is now the deputy manager for the Aleutian Islands Unit of the Alaska Maritime NWR. **Anne Marie Larosa** transferred up from Modoc NWR in California to become the new deputy manager at Arctic Refuge. **Barbara Boyle** is leaving her job as refuge operations specialist at Arctic Refuge to become the deputy manager at the Southeast Louisiana Refuge Complex. **Raphaella Stimmelmayer** has recently joined the Tanana Chiefs Conference, Inc. as a Wildlife biologist. Her main focus will be on the development of TCC's newly initiated traditional foods contaminant assessment program (FOODCAP) for military-impacted Tribes in Interior Alaska

In the Ecological Services branch of USFWS, the Fairbanks office has two new fish and wildlife biologists in their Habitat Conservation division. **Tara Wertz** will review and assess potential impacts to fish, wildlife, and habitat resources resulting from proposed wetland development projects in the Interior. Tara has worked for the National Wetlands Inventory, Iowa DNR, and most recently for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, where she managed habitat programs for big game and upland birds. She has been a member of TWS since 1984 and served on the TWS Oregon Chapter Board for 2 years.

Jim Zelenak will review and assess potential impacts to fish, wildlife, and habitat resources resulting from proposed oil and gas projects and other developments in the arctic. Jim has experience with raptors in Montana and Alaska and most recently was conducting wolf and goshawk trapping and telemetry on Prince of Wales Island and assessing timber harvest effects on wildlife and subsistence resources. Ecological Services in Fairbanks has divisions in habitat conservation, endangered species, and environmental contaminants and can be reached at 456-0203.

We need a couple good people!--The Alaska Chapter is now seeking president-elect nominees from the northern region as part of a rotating participation from among our three geographic regions. It's our turn up north to find two or more candidates for the 2004-06 presidential term. We will send out election ballots with the March 2002 newsletter. Please consider bringing your skills and involvement to the Chapter. Contact our current president Gino Del Frate in Homer (235-8191) for a run-down on what being president entails.

News from Southeast

Submitted by Tom Schumacher

On January 14th the ongoing seminar series hosted by ADF&G featured a presentation on what Adaptive Management really is and how it can be used for making decisions in resource management. ADF&G biometrician Grey Pendleton selected publications to be read, gave a presentation on Adaptive Management, and led the discussion that followed. Attendees learned that what agencies often call adaptive management is not really adaptive management. The next seminar will be on sightability issues related to wildlife surveys. For more information on these seminars contact Matt Kirchhoff at (907) 465-4328.

From Jan 15th – 17th ADF&G Div. of Wildlife Conservation held their annual Regional Meeting in Juneau. Regional Director Kim Titus provided his perspective on the status of the Division within the region. Division Director Wayne Regelin presented updates on several topics of interest including WCRP funding and some of the new projects and positions that will be funded by that source. The remainder of the meeting centered on in-depth discussions of issues related to management of black bears, mountain goats, and deer and the difficulties associated with estimating population sizes in the dense forests of Southeast Alaska. As part of the discussion of black bears Lily Peacock, Ph.D. candidate at the University of Nevada, Reno, gave an update on her work censusing black bears on northern Kuiu Island using tetracycline as a biomarker. This technique holds some promise, but is not without problems.

Deb Rudis at the USFWS field office in Juneau is developing a standard protocol to use when reporting sick, injured or dead birds to the FWS. The protocol will address what to do in cases where illegal take is suspected or when there are die-offs from disease or contaminants. For more information contact Deb at (907) 586-7648.

Also at the USFWS field office in Juneau Mike Jacobson is working on a public review dealing with how to not attract bald eagles to fish processing facilities. This is an increasing problem at fish processors in Dutch Harbor where dense populations of wintering eagles contaminate and depredate fish being delivered by vessels. For more information call Mike Jacobson at (907) 586-7333.

Upcoming Issues and Meetings:

The number of cruise ship and other tourists in Southeast Alaska has dramatically increased in the last decade and that trend may continue. Most passengers come to Alaska to view the landscape and wildlife, often by going on day trips or multi-day excursions into remote areas. The increased number of people likely has an effect of wildlife and their habitat, but to date neither this effect nor baseline conditions have been quantified. In an effort to begin addressing this issue the US Forest Service will host a workshop in Ketchikan on March 28th titled "Modeling the Impacts of Recreation Visitation on Wildlife Populations in Misty Fiords National Monument". The objective of this workshop will be for biologists to review pilot databases and provide input on using recreation data and wildlife habitat data for effects analyses. For more information contact Gene DeGayner (907) 772-5858 or Kim Hastings (907) 723-8376.

Personnel Changes

Peter Olesiuk, harbor seal researcher with ADF&G will be leaving his position to return home to Canada. **Lela Chatham**, long time program technician with ADF&G in Ketchikan is retiring after 20 years with the Department. **Ellen Lance**, Forest Service biologist on the Thorne Bay District is leaving her position to move to Anchorage. **Steve Brockman** is now the acting field supervisor in the Juneau Field Office of the USFWS.

News from Southcentral

No news from southcentral this time.

Graduate Program in Regional Resilience and Adaptation

**The Interdisciplinary Graduate Education and Research Training (IGERT) Program
at the University of Alaska Fairbanks
<http://www.regional-resilience.uaf.edu>**

Target date for applications February 1, 2002, or until filled

The University of Alaska Fairbanks offers a graduate training program in **Regional Resilience and Adaptation (RR&A)** to train scholars, policy-makers, and managers to address issues of regional sustainability in an integrated fashion. This program prepares students to address a major challenge facing humanity: To sustain the desirable features of Earth's ecosystems and society at a time of rapid changes in all of the major forces that shape their structure and functioning. The program provides training at the PhD and Masters level. It integrates the tools and approaches of ecology, economics, anthropology, climate dynamics, philosophy, and community and regional development in a systems framework to understand the functioning of regional systems. Our underlying assumptions are: **The major problems facing the world must be addressed at the regional scale, and no solution is tenable unless it is ecologically, economically, and culturally sustainable.** The program emphasizes high-latitude ecosystems, where current management issues require an application of the integrated understanding of these disciplines. This approach is, however, equally applicable to all developing and developed nations, and we welcome students who seek to apply this training to any region of the globe.

The RR&A program provides training at the PhD and Masters levels. Our goal is to educate a new generation of scholars, policy makers, and managers to integrate the perspectives of natural and social sciences in addressing both the basic understanding of regional systems and the application of this understanding to management issues. The program provides training to graduate students from the University of Alaska and to graduate students at other universities who wish to enroll for one year of intensive course work in Regional Resilience and Adaptation at the University of Alaska. We provide course work and a seminar program that integrates ecology, economics, and anthropology in a systems-modeling framework. We also provide faculty mentorship and internships in areas outside each student's parent discipline. The RR&A program is associated with numerous research programs at the University of Alaska and in state and federal agencies. These research programs provide interdisciplinary research opportunities for RR&A students. The program emphasizes cross-cultural

communication through heavy involvement with the Alaskan Native American community and with managers, businesses, and conservation groups.

We offer NSF-funded fellowships to PhD candidates entering the program. Additional funding is available to both PhD and Masters students through participating departments. A detailed description of the program and application forms are available at or by contacting F. Stuart Chapin, III (terry.chapin@uaf.edu) at the Institute of Arctic Biology, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, AK 99775. February 1 is the target date for reviewing applications to the RR&A program, although applications received after that date will also receive consideration. We strongly encourage applications from ethnic minorities and other under-represented groups.

Job Announcements

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

Three biological positions are open with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Koyukuk-Nowitna National Wildlife Refuge in Galena:

WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST/PILOT GS11/12. A biologist and pilot with ability to supervise a small staff of three is sought to lead the wildlife program at the refuge. Minimum pilot qualifications are private pilot.

WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST/GIS GS7/9/11. A biologist with interest in habitat research and GIS skills is needed for moose browse and vegetation mapping projects.

FIRE MANAGEMENT OFFICER GS9/11. Experience in fire management and fire ecology needed to continue a program of wildland fire studies and small prescribed burning program.

Recruitment through www.usajobs.opm.gov is anticipated during the month of January. For more information contact Mike Spindler or Greg McClellan at 907-656-1231. E-mail mike_spindler@fws.gov or Greg_McClellan@fws.gov

Biologist III, Alaska Bird Observatory – Experienced ornithologist needed to manage various field projects from April - September 2002. Duties will include setting up research designs and protocols for censusing projects and habitat studies around interior and south-central Alaska, overseeing and participating in fieldwork, supervising and evaluating field crews, analyzing data, and writing reports and manuscripts. This is a new position and other duties may develop as the season progresses; good potential for part-time work during winter months or even permanent full-time work. At ABO, the desire and ability to pursue new funding sources increases work opportunities! Qualifications: Master's degree in the biological sciences and at least five years of relevant experience, strong technical writing and statistical skills, supervisory experience, ability to manage projects within budget, able to identify Alaska forest birds by sight and sound, positive attitude and strong work ethic, and a valid driver's license, good driving record, and access to a vehicle to reach project sites. Must be in excellent physical condition, capable of making common sense decisions concerning wildlife interactions (e.g., bear and moose), and able to work independently and as part of a team. Monthly salary \$2,500-\$3,000/month, DOE. Position is based in Fairbanks. Applications and resumes accepted through March 1, 2002. To apply, send a cover letter highlighting your qualifications, a resume, and a completed ABO application (which may be downloaded from our web site) to Alaska Bird Observatory Jobs, P.O. Box 80505, Fairbanks, AK 99708-0505. Clearly state the job(s) for which you are applying and the time frame for which you are available. For more information about ABO and its programs, visit www.alaskabird.org. Questions may be sent to birds@alaskabird.org.

The Wildlife Society 9th Annual Conference

Hosted by the North Dakota Chapter
September 24-28, 2002
Bismarck, North Dakota

- ◆ **Network with Your Colleagues**
- ◆ **Keep Up-to-Date with Technical Information**
- ◆ **Featuring technical paper and poster sessions, workshops, symposia, working group meetings, student activities, exhibits, and social events.**



*Excellence in Wildlife Stewardship
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301/897-9770
tw@wildlife.org
<http://www.wildlife.org>

2002 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 2002 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: _____

Call for presentations at the joint annual meeting:

ALASKA SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FORESTERS (SAF)
ALASKA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY (TWS)

"Coordinating Forestry and Wildlife Management at the Landscape Level"

2-4 May 2002, Wood Center, University of Alaska, Fairbanks

The organizers of the joint annual meeting announce the call for oral presentations (TWS only) and poster abstracts (SAF and TWS). The meeting theme describes the need for the forestry and wildlife professions to work together in resource planning and management beyond the stand scale. We have invited speakers from several organizations and regions of Alaska to help define challenges and opportunities so managers can discuss practical issues for implementing projects at the landscape level. Statewide perspectives are being sought, although discussion will likely focus on how this topic applies specifically to the Tanana Valley in the Interior.

Wednesday May 1, 2002

1:00—5:00 PM

SAF Executive Committee meeting in the large conference room at the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, 3700 Airport Way (northwest corner with University Avenue), Fairbanks--open to SAF members

Thursday May 2, 2002 (start of joint meeting at UAF)

AM

7:45 —8:15 Registration (poster set-up can continue during breaks throughout the day)

8:15—8:30 Introductory Remarks

- SAF Yukon River Chapter (Bob Wheeler or John Fox)
- TWS Alaska Chapter (Gino Del Frate, President)

8:30—9:15 How to integrate day-to-day management with natural landscape conditions: Examples from the Kenai Peninsula. (Ed Berg, USFWS)

9:15 Questions

9:30 Panel discussion with respect to first presentation topic (10 minutes each for talk and follow-up) with panelists representing:

- Area Forester (ADNR)—Marc Lee
- Regional Biologist (ADF&G)—Dale Haggstrom
- Land Manager (U.S. BLM)--Bob Schneider
- Land Manager (ADNR)—Harry Bader
- Land Manager (Alaska Native Organization)—Doug Hanson (TCC)

10:20 Break

10:45 General Discussion

12 Noon Lunch (TWS business meeting 12:00-2:00)

PM

1:00—5:00 SAF Business Meeting

2:00—5:00 Wildlife technical session for TWS members (open topic)

6:00—7:00 Icebreaker/Mixer (SAF and TWS); attendance at poster presentations

7:00—9:00 Joint Banquet (SAF and TWS) with Keynote Speaker

- 7:45—8:00 SAF Awards Presentation
- 8:00—8:45 Banquet Address: "Coordinating Forestry and Wildlife Management at the Landscape Level" (John Schoen, Alaska Audubon)

Friday May 3, 2002 (20-30 minute presentations)

AM

- 8:00—9:45 Roads/Access
Road access issues in landscape management:
- Wildlife: (Rod Flynn, ADF&G)
 - Forestry: (Chris Maisch, ADNR)
 - Fisheries: (Jim Durst, ADF&G)
- 9:45—10:00 Break
- 10:00—12:00 Riparian Zone Management
- Topic 1—New forest practice standards in riparian zones (Marty Freeman, ADNR)
 - Topic 2— Stand dynamics of riparian white spruce [incorporate natural disturbance]. (Trish Wurtz, USFS)
 - Topic 3--Timber harvesting for habitat management in riparian white spruce (Audrey Magoun, consultant)
 - Topic 4—Implications of river dynamics on timber harvest and habitat (Bob Ott, TCC)

PM

- 12:00—1:00 Lunch
- 1:00—2:15 Climate change and landscape management
- Topic 1—Implications of climate change on natural disturbance regimes (Ed Berg, USFWS)
 - Topic 2—Practical applications of climate change research to forest and wildlife management (Glenn Juday, UAF)
- 2:15—2:30 Break
- 2:30—3:45 Resource Inventory and Information Transfer
- Topic 1—Data needs for landscape level management in the Tanana Valley (Tom Paragi, ADF&G)
 - Topic 2—Current capabilities for data analysis and information transfer in the Tanana Valley (Tim Hammond, BLM; Will Putman, TCC; Dave Verbyla, UAF; Gordon Worum, ADNR)
- 3:45—5:00 General discussion by participants: “What steps can we take, working together, to achieve effective landscape management?” (Alison Ariens, ADNR-moderator)

Saturday May 4, 2002

Field Trips (opportunities to return for travel arrangements at various times)

Part 1:

- 8:00—11:00 Visit to Creamers Field Refuge, 1300 College Road
- ADF&G habitat and public programs (John Wright, ADF&G)
 - Activities of the Alaska Bird Observatory (e.g., passerine banding station)
 - Habitat manipulation projects (agricultural fields and prescribed burns)

Part 2:

- 11:00—11:30 Travel to first site near Twin Bears Camp, Chena Hot Springs Road
- 11:30--12:30 Picnic lunch
- 12:30—2:00 Walking tour of floodplain succession with logging and fire history (Bob Ott)

Part 3:

- 2:00—4:00 Travel to Granite Tors trailhead and walking tour of recent fire and beaver activity (Tom Paragi)

Part 4:

- 4:00—6:00 Travel to Chena Hot Springs resort and a short hike in the area or a dip in the hot springs (\$10 hot springs fee includes towels; bring bathing gear)
- 6:00—7:00 No host dinner/snack at the resort
- 7:00—8:30 Travel back to UAF campus

Additional presentations are welcome as posters (any forestry or wildlife topic), which can be displayed beginning at the 7:45 AM registration on Thursday and will be attended during 6-7 PM on Thursday 2 May. While SAF holds a business meeting on Thursday during 1-5 PM, TWS will have its business meeting during noon-2 PM and will host oral presentations on wildlife topics during 2-5 PM.

Abstracts for oral presentations (TWS only) or posters are due by 15 April 2002. Abstracts should be submitted electronically as Word documents or text files (preferably via e-mail as an attached file) to: Tony Gasbarro, Alaska Cooperative Extension Service, P.O. Box 756180, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Alaska, 99775-6180,

tgasbarro@hotmail.com. Oral presentations will be 15 minutes + 5 minutes for questions; please indicate the type of projector needed (overhead transparency, slide, or LCD) and include a brief biography for your introduction. Posters should be no larger than 3 ft x 4 ft and preferably suitable for pushpin mounting on a fabric wall.

Please limit the entire abstract (title, author names and addresses, body of abstract) to 250 words. Use Times New Roman 12-point font if possible, and stay within 1-inch margins. Use numerals to depict all numbers, and avoid the use of undefined acronyms. Typewritten abstracts will be accepted ONLY if the author does not have any access to electronic submittal options. Please ensure that the abstract is error-free to minimize editorial needs when preparing the bound abstract booklet.

Invited speakers may describe solely the theme of their presentation, whereas poster and oral TWS presentations on research topics should include a statement of objectives, brief description of methods, concise presentation of results, and a summary of conclusions. Title and author format should mimic the following example, with an asterisk to denote the presenting author:

Songbird use of harvest-retention patches in riparian white spruce

William Biologist^{1*} and Frank C. Forester²

¹Alaska Fur and Feathers, Div. Feathers, 201 Cushman St., Fairbanks, AK 99701, wbiol@alaska.net ²Boreal Fiber Institute, Dept. Biodiversity, P.O. Box 17, Tok, AK 99780, frankcf@bfi.com

Registration information and the full meeting agenda can be found on society websites at <http://mercury.bio.uaf.edu/ak-tws/> or <http://nrm.salrm.uaf.edu/~jfox/saf.html>. Full-time students will be admitted free for all technical sessions and are encouraged to participate. Maps of the campus and Fairbanks can be found at <http://www.uaf.edu/campusmap/>.

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