



# The Alaskan Wildlifer

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Newsletter of the Alaska Chapter of The Wildlife Society

March 2006

## Highlights in This Issue:

Election 2006-08: Executive Board Candidate Nomination Statements and Electronic Ballot!  
Updates on Chapter Activities, Position Statements, and Legislative Actions  
13<sup>th</sup> Annual TWS Conference in Anchorage

## Message from the President:

In this, my last column as Alaska Chapter President, I'll summarize some of our accomplishments, and suggest a few remaining concerns that I believe still merit attention.

One of the most significant issues the Chapter addressed during my tenure involved oil and gas development. In 2003, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announced plans to lease lands in the **Northeast Planning Area in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR)**. Over the next two years, the Alaska Chapter formed a 10-member committee, reviewed the draft and final environmental impact statements, attended public meetings, and submitted over 20-pages of comments and recommendations via three letters. The Chapter determined that the No Action Alternative was warranted and appropriate to maintain the current protection of unique and irreplaceable wildlife habitats. This position was adopted by The Wildlife Society. The No Action Alternative was also supported by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Environmental Protection Agency, North Slope Borough, Pacific Flyway Council, Wildlife Management Institute, and other scientific and conservation organizations. Despite these recommendations, the BLM recently announced the decision to open 95% of the NE Planning Area to oil and gas leasing. BLM's decision to remove the protection of critical habitats in the NE NPR Planning Area discredits the role of peer-reviewed science in natural resource management. TWS should stay actively engaged to monitor the effectiveness of BLM's vague and unproven adaptive management stipulations and operating procedures as leasing, exploration, and development occur in this area.

In 2004, the Chapter formed a committee to draft a position statement entitled **Baiting, Population Reductions, and Sale of Parts of Brown and Black Bears in Alaska**. Chapter membership voiced both support and opposition to the draft. Membership decided not to move forward with a final position statement but to develop three separate technical reviews. I appreciate the efforts of Rod Boertje, Gail Collins, and Dick Shideler and their committees to complete these technical reviews. However, the reviews should be considered a first step for the Chapter. We need to become fully engaged in the topics of predator control and intensive management in Alaska. The Alaska Chapter and TWS must work with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG), the Alaska Board of Game, and the Alaska Legislature to ensure that ADFG has sufficient financial resources to adequately address predator and prey populations, and habitat quality. If we are to understand the biological, social and economic aspects of intensive management, peer-reviewed studies must begin prior to, and continue well after, any predator control effort. Further, I believe TWS should work with the ADFG to implement the recommendations and guidance outlined in the National Research Council's (1997) Report. Without a rigorous scientific approach that can be reviewed and approved by the scientific community and the public, a lack of public support, confusion, and controversy will continue to plague and jeopardize the credibility of wildlife management in Alaska. It is critical that the Alaska Chapter and The Wildlife Society not be silent on the topic of predator control and intensive management.

The Wildlife Society's 11-member committee to revise the **national position statement on old-growth forests** is chaired by Matt Kirchhoff and comprised of research and management scientists from the United States and Canada in positions of industry, university research, federal and state forest management, and conservation organizations. I have followed their correspondence and discussions over the past five months and am confident the forthcoming national position statement and publications will clarify the status and need for conservation and protection of the old-growth forest ecosystem. I also believe this effort will help raise the scientific bar for position statements by The Wildlife Society.

Last month, the Chapter sent a 3-page **letter opposing Senate Bill 85** which would repeal the restriction on use of off-road vehicles and snow machines within a 5-mile corridor along the Dalton Highway. The letter was emailed to all 40 Representatives. The Chapter's legislative subcommittee chaired by Dave Yokel and Amy Kearns alerted the Chapter's Executive Board to the bill. In the course of a week, Tom Paragi drafted a letter, the Alaska Chapter Executive Board provided comments, and a final was approved over a weekend, signed, and sent from Bethesda to Alaska representatives in Juneau. The effort showed that productivity and effectiveness come as a result of a collective workforce.

In addition to the major undertakings described above, the Chapter:

- sent a letter to each senator, representative, Alaska Board of Game member, and Federal Subsistence Board member introducing the Alaska Chapter TWS and offering assistance to address natural resource issues;
- held a joint annual meeting with the Society of American Foresters;
- commented on the "Recognition of Wildlife Needs in Forest Management" draft position statement;
- adopted review criteria for technical review and position statements;
- funded a Conserving Our Wildlife Conservation Heritage proposal;
- established the Arrangements Committee co-chaired by Howard Golden and Gino Del Frate to help plan and coordinate the 2006 National TWS Conference;
- submitted a successful plenary session on climate change for the TWS conference;
- considered a resolution supporting establishing a state wildlife conservation tag;
- reviewed/commented on a Section 404, Clean Water Act Permit by ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc. to construct a 1,250 ft. bridge over the Nigliq Channel, Colville River Delta;
- drafted a letter of support for The Wildlife Society on the Chabot/Andrews Amendment to eliminate federal subsidies for new road construction in the Tongass;
- increased support and participation with the University of Alaska-Fairbanks Student Chapter TWS;
- moved and updated the Chapter's website; and,
- implemented our first electronic ballot Executive Board election.

Speaking of the election, please read the 2006-08 Alaska Chapter Executive Board nomination documents published in this newsletter and posted on our website with the ballot. The nominations are impressive and speak highly of the quality of professionals in the Alaska Chapter.

I would be remiss not to discuss some of my shortcomings as President over the past two years. I failed to keep the membership more current with Chapter activities by publishing the newsletter on a more frequent basis; implement a membership campaign to recruit new members and regain former members; recommend the addition of a UAF Student Chapter TWS member to serve on the Alaska Chapter Executive Board; increase collaboration and communication with the Northwest Section; address the TWS Council on conservation issues in Alaska; establish viable committees especially in the areas of education, membership, and policy and political affairs; and finally, increase the collaboration with other professional and scientific societies to review and comment on projects that will significantly affect fish, wildlife and habitat resources (e.g., Pebble Creek Gold Mine). I encourage the 2006-08 Executive Board and membership to consider these issues.

In closing, I thank the current Alaska Chapter TWS Executive Board: Doug Larsen, Tom Paragi, Tara Wertz, Lisa Saperstein, Anne Morkill, and Kevin White whose dedication and efforts served the membership well. I also want to acknowledge Jim Herriges, the Chapter's newsletter editor who has quietly worked behind the scenes, editing, checking, finding errors and inconsistencies, sending reminders, and working long hours and weekends to publish what I believe have been the most professional and informative newsletters ever published by Chapter. Jim recently agreed to stay on as editor through April 2008. Finally, I thank the Fish and Wildlife Service, in particular the National Wildlife Refuge System, Division of Natural Resources, for the time and support over the past two years to allow me to work with the Alaska Chapter and The Wildlife Society.

## Meet Your Candidates

### Howard N. Golden.

#### President-Elect

I began my career in wildlife at Arizona State University, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Wildlife Biology in 1976. I completed my Master of Science degree in Wildlife Management at the University of Nevada Reno in 1982. From 1982 to 1988, I worked in temporary positions as a biological technician or wildlife biologist with BLM, FWS, NPS, and ADF&G. I began working full-time with ADF&G in 1988 as the area management biologist in Fort Yukon. Two years later I transferred to Anchorage to take my current position as southcentral furbearer biologist. I became a Certified Wildlife Biologist in 1990.

I've been a member of The Wildlife Society since 1974 and have always viewed my association with TWS as an integral part of my career. My main participation with TWS National has been in publishing technical articles in and serving as a peer-reviewer for the Journal of Wildlife Management and the Wildlife Society Bulletin. For the Alaska Chapter, I served in the following positions:

- Annual meeting program chair (1983)
- Nominating and Elections Committee member (1984-85)
- Northern Regional Representative (1988-89)
- Secretary/Treasurer (1991-92)
- Education and Information Committee member (1994-95)
- Annual meeting co-chair (1995)

I also participated in drafting a position paper for the Alaska Chapter on the use of ballot initiatives to manage wildlife (1998). The most challenging but enjoyable role I've had so far is serving for the past four years as co-chair of the Arrangements Committee for the 2006 TWS Annual Meeting to be held in Anchorage this September.

I'm inspired by the commitment and hard work of the Alaska Chapter's membership. I believe our chapter has been effective in promoting sound stewardship of Alaska's wildlife and habitat, furthering environmental education, and providing scientific analysis and advice on important environmental issues. I also think we can and should do more, particularly to enlighten the public and policy makers about important wildlife issues. This will require a larger and more active membership, which has been declining in number within Alaska and nationally. I would like to help reverse this trend.

I greatly appreciate the many opportunities I've had to work with other wildlifers for our professional organization. Thank you for nominating me as a candidate for President-elect of the Alaska Chapter. It's an honor to be considered to serve such a terrific group of wildlife professionals.

### Tara Wertz

#### President-Elect

##### Education:

- M.S. Wildlife & Fisheries Science, South Dakota State University, Brookings, SD
- B.S. Biology (Wildlife Emphasis), Murray State University, Murray, KY

##### Current Position:

- Wildlife Biologist, Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Fairbanks, AK

##### Past Work Experience:

- Permit Biologist – Project Planning (2001- 2002), USFWS Ecological Service, Fairbanks, AK
- Regional Habitat Biologist (1990-2001), Oregon Dept Fish and Wildlife, LaGrande, OR
- Forest Game Wildlife Research Technician (1988-1990), Iowa Dept Natural Resources, Boone, IA
- Photo-interpreter Specialist (1986-1988), National Wetlands Inventory, Brookings, SD

##### TWS Experience:

- Member since 1984
- Certified Wildlife Biologist 1998
- Oregon Chapter Board Member 1994-1996
- Alaska Chapter Secretary/Treasurer 2004-2006

I have regularly attended annual state chapter meetings, plus several section meetings (Northwest, Central Mountains and Plains, Midwest, Southeast). I also attended 2 national meetings: Portland, Oregon and Madison, Wisconsin.

The Alaska Chapter of TWS has made significant strides over the past couple of years in our efforts to speak out for our natural resources in a divisive political climate. Much of those efforts were possible by the ability to call upon the expertise of our membership. Most of our members find it is easy to pay dues every year to be able to say you are part of this effort. However, it is a commitment to our profession and to our resources to actually be part of that effort, to volunteer, to accept the responsibility as an active participant in committee activity, or assist in writing position statements that makes our Chapter an effective voice. In the future, I think the Executive Board needs to be more willing to pressure the membership into taking active roles in building our reputation and abilities in both the legislative and public arena.

**Jimmy Fox****Secretary - Treasurer Candidate**

I began my career improving northern bobwhite habitat as a technician with the Missouri Department of Conservation (1990). I then participated in a student career experience program with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Missouri (1991-1996), where I administered habitat improvement contracts; designed, constructed and managed moist soil impoundments; and performed wildlife surveys, prescribed burns, law enforcement and outreach. After receiving a B.S. in Biology & Wildlife Management from Southeast Missouri State University (1996), I continued with the Corps as natural resources ranger until 1998. I next transferred to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), where I worked as assistant manager for Hagerman Refuge in Texas (1998-2000), Selawik Refuge in Alaska (2000-2002), and from 2002 to present at Yukon Flats Refuge. I reside in Fairbanks with my wife, Joanna and our two children, Logan and Audrey.

With FWS, I have participated in wildlife inventorying, monitoring, and research, outreach, habitat and fire management, and law enforcement. Today, I administer refuge aviation, budget, law enforcement, public use, Web sites, maintenance, and subsistence programs. Furthermore, I work with state, federal, university, non-government and Alaska Native organizations to address a diversity of complex wildlife, habitat management, and policy issues including waterfowl productivity in the boreal forest, a land exchange agreement with Doyon, Inc., and the first FWS funding agreement with tribes. I have won volunteer awards for leading partners in bottomland hardwood reforestation efforts on private and state lands; directing the education of children and adults in wildlife conservation and hunter safety; and organizing one of the most successful National Wild Turkey Federation chapter banquets held in Texas. I have attended chapter and national TWS conferences, and currently serve on the Arrangements Committee for the TWS Conference in Anchorage.

The Alaska Chapter of TWS should be proud of its recent work on state and national issues. My priorities for the group include (1) increasing membership by attracting conservation professionals in non-traditional wildlife fields such as aviation, law enforcement, environmental education and outreach; (2) initiating an active program to recruit former members to ensure TWS maintains professional experience and knowledge; (3) sharing successes and challenges in wildlife research and management with members more frequently; and (4) increasing dialogue with news media, policy makers, and the public through letters, press releases, and advertisements. I would appreciate your support; please call (907) 456-0445 or write [jimmy\\_fox@fws.gov](mailto:jimmy_fox@fws.gov) with questions or comments.

**Mark Udevitz****Secretary – Treasurer Candidate**

Mark Udevitz is a Research Statistician with the USGS Alaska Science Center in Anchorage, where he has worked since 1990. He earned B.S. and M.S. degrees in Wildlife Biology and Management at Colorado State University and West Virginia University, and a Ph.D. in Biomathematics and Statistics at North Carolina State University. His research focuses on methods for sampling, estimating demographic parameters, and modeling dynamics of wildlife populations. Mark has been a member of The Wildlife Society since 1981 and has previously served the Society as an Associate Editor for the Journal of Wildlife Management, a Board Member and Audit Committee Chair for the Biometrics Working Group, and an Auditor for the Alaska Chapter.

He feels that the Alaska Chapter is most important for its roles in fostering communication among the state's widely dispersed wildlife community and in contributing sound scientific perspectives in regional and national debates on wildlife policy issues. He would like the opportunity to help facilitate this work as the Chapter's Secretary/Treasurer.

**Steve Lewis****Southeast Representative Candidate**

I am a Wildlife Biologist with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation in Douglas. I received a Bachelor's of Science in Biology from the Pennsylvania State University in 1992. While in school, I completed an internship with the Student Conservation Association in central Idaho conducting wildlife surveys in the Nez Perce National Forest. After graduating, I spent the next few summers working for the U.S. Forest Service in Utah completing wildlife surveys and winters in Glacier National Park working on a study of predator-prey interactions in the North Fork of the Flathead River valley. I first came to Alaska in 1998 to study the diet of northern goshawks in Southeast Alaska as part of my Master's degree. Since completing that degree from Boise State University in 2001, I have worked for the Department, first as a Fish and Wildlife Technician IV and then as a Biologist. My current work spans a range of species. I continue to work on analysis and reporting of northern goshawk data collected during the long-term project that included my Master's work. In 2002, I began working on brown bears in Southeast, first in the dense population on northeast Chichagof Island, and recently on mainland sites. I am also working on a project funded through the State's non-game program on forest owls in Southeast.

I have been a member of the Wildlife Society since 1998 and a member of the Alaska Chapter since 2001. I have attended several national meetings (in Snowmass, Nashville, and Calgary) and state chapter meetings (in Juneau and Girdwood), and I was on the planning committee for the Juneau meeting in 2003.

**Steve Lewis (continued)**

I think the Society's greatest strength lies in diverse membership and our ability to comment on issues of conservation concern as an organization. While much of our work can seem applied to the layperson, we can use opportunities to comment as a way to interpret our results and, hopefully, guide legislation and management of wildlife and habitat resources in a productive fashion. I think the Chapter needs to make an effort to involve and recruit individuals that are working with non-game species in Alaska.

**David K. Person****Southeast Representative Candidate**

I am a research biologist with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and work out of the Ketchikan Area Office. I hold a PhD. in wildlife biology from UAF, a Master's degree in wildlife biology (mathematics and statistics minor) from the University of Vermont, and a Bachelor's degree in wildlife management from the University of Maine. I have 28 years of experience in wildlife research and management that includes jobs ranging from picking dead deer off the highways of New Jersey to deriving resource selection functions for wolves on Prince of Wales Island. My current research focuses on the effects of habitat change in Southeast Alaska on predator-prey dynamics involving wolves, bears, people, and deer. I have been an active member of The Wildlife Society since 1979.

I believe The Wildlife Society is a great institution with a long and productive track record, but we live in times in which the society must do more. It has been my experience (including my own example) that many wildlife professionals are woefully unprepared to deal with the complex resource issues they commonly face. They often lack broad training in evolution, genetics, general biology, and methods of doing science. Many that I have met over the years even lack a good understanding of natural history. They frequently lack adequate data to do their jobs and often don't have the analytical tools to examine the data they do have. They need to know that "AIC" is only one of many useful tools to build models and that GIS analyses are no better than the data upon which they are based. I believe that it is important that The Wildlife Society, including the Alaska Chapter, foster, promote, and fund programs that provide training and education to its members. We should partner with agencies and universities to sponsor workshops, seminars, and develop online training opportunities that can help wildlife biologist stay current and expand their knowledge base. I will work with the Alaska chapter to develop those opportunities. I believe that this is critical to our future. All the effort expended on wildlife certification initiatives won't matter a damn unless the so-called "certified biologist" knows his or her stuff.

**Amy Kearns****Southcentral Representative Candidate**

Amy Kearns received her Bachelors of Science in Forest Game Management from Stephen F Austin State University College of Forestry and her Masters in Natural Resources Management from the University of Manitoba Natural Resources Institute. Ms. Kearns Masters research involved evaluating a habitat suitability index model written for the Barred owl in Manitoba. Ms. Kearns has been a member of The Wildlife Society since 1991 and was actively involved in the Student Chapters at both Stephen F. Austin State University and University of Manitoba. She periodically serves as a peer-reviewer for TWS publications, as needed.

Ms. Kearns has diverse work experience which includes working in the wildlife, forestry and environmental science fields. Ms. Kearns has lived and worked in Alaska since October 2001 and is currently employed as an Environmental Scientist with a Steigers Corporation. Prior to working for Steigers Corporation, she worked as a civilian Environmental Protection Specialist with the U.S. Army on Fort Richardson, Alaska, where she assisted the Army with Clean Air Act Compliance issues. In addition to working in Alaska, Ms. Kearns worked at Fort Riley, Kansas analyzing forest inventory data and served as a Wildland Fire Fighter I with the Department of Conservation Prescribed Burning Crew. Previous to working at Fort Riley, Kansas, Ms. Kearns worked for George M. Sutton Avian Research Center in Oklahoma for one field season searching for and monitoring the progress of prairie bird nests on the Nature Conservancy Tall Grass Prairie Preserve. During her tenure as an undergraduate student at Stephen F Austin State University, Ms. Kearns worked for the Institute for White-tailed deer Management and Research as a lab and field assistant for about four years. While working for the Institute, Ms. Kearns assisted in field necropsies of White-tailed deer, collecting tissue samples for further analysis in the Institute's lab.

Ms. Kearns is running for Southcentral Representative of the Alaska Chapter of The Wildlife Society and is interested in making a valuable contribution to The Alaska Chapter of The Wildlife Society in that endeavor. As the Southcentral Representative, Ms. Kearns is interested in improving the process for polling and collecting comments from the Alaska TWS membership on issues that impact wildlife within Alaska. One of the ways in which Ms. Kearns would like to improve this process is by creating a database of subject matter experts for the Alaska TWS committees to use when trying to develop position statements or responses to issues impacting Alaska's wildlife. Ms. Kearns would like to create opportunities for members to build consensus on controversial issues in an effort to produce position statements with broad support from Alaska TWS members. Ms. Kearns would like to create more opportunities for Alaska TWS members to meet as well.

**Amy Kearns (continued)**

Ms. Kearns is very interested in the various upcoming resource development projects on the horizon for Alaska that will undoubtedly impact Alaska's wildlife. Gas and oil development in the Beaufort Sea, Bristol Bay and the potential for development within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge are among the many issues facing Alaska that Ms. Kearns is interested in having the Alaska TWS membership address in upcoming years. These projects will require interested parties, such as the Alaska TWS, to be capable of responding quickly when public input is requested. As professional wildlife biologists, it is critical that TWS members in Alaska are capable of providing feedback on these resource development issues in a timely manner, without alienating its membership.

**Robin West****Southcentral Representative Candidate**

I am pleased to run for the Alaska Chapter TWS Executive Board Southcentral Alaska Representative position. Wildlife and wildlife management issues are my passion and chosen profession. After graduating from Oregon State University with a B.S. in Wildlife Science in 1978, I moved to Anchorage where I worked for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) as a staff writer - photographer, then as a biological technician working on contaminants and marine mammals issues, followed by a wildlife biologist position developing a proposed gas pipeline route that would be least damaging to fish and wildlife habitats. I did a little commercial fishing and then went to work for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Yakutat working on sport fishing issues on the Situk River. Following a brief stint in Mississippi working primarily with waterfowl, I returned to Alaska as a contaminants field specialist working on mining and oil and gas issues for the FWS. While in Fairbanks I took graduate courses from UAF in Fisheries, later to become the Assistant Project Leader for the FWS Fairbanks Fisheries Office conducting baseline studies on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Coastal Plain. From there I became the Assistant Manager of Yukon Flats NWR, Manager of Izembek NWR in Cold Bay, the Regional Migratory Bird Coordinator stationed in Anchorage, and then to my current position as Refuge Manager at Kenai NWR in Soldotna. I have worked 27 years on Alaska fish and wildlife issues, the last 10 at Kenai NWR. I am also a 30 year member of TWS. Issues of special interest to me in my current position include managing high levels of public use, fire management, wildlife monitoring, large predator management, planning for the future, understanding warming and drying trends, and wilderness management issues. While in my current position I have also been deeply involved in issues involving the spruce bark beetle epidemic, subsistence hunting and fishing, translocation of wolves, black bear baiting, Kenai brown bear conservation, and oil and gas development.

Throughout my career TWS has been a solid contributor. It has been there for me to inform of new technologies and scientific discovery. It has been there to provide a sounding board among professionals on important issues. It has been there to ensure

**Robin West (continued)**

professionalism and scientific integrity. Can wildlife biologists complete a career without being involved in TWS? Yes, but I believe that they will not be as complete. I hope to see TWS membership grow and see increased satisfaction from the membership in what the Society does for them. If elected to the Executive Board, I will support frequent and open communications, help address issues of current importance, and look to the many challenges and opportunities for the future. I personally view the biggest advances in TWS successes will be through educating the populace about who we are and what we do. Sadly, the organization is not widely appreciated among all wildlife professionals, let alone the interested public. To be heard we must have a strong voice, and a strong voice only comes with a strong and growing professional organization. Such an organization can and should help ensure the sustainability of Alaska's wildlife heritage for generations to come. I am excited about the possibility of taking an active role in such an effort.

**Brad Griffith****Northern Representative Candidate**

Brad Griffith, B.A., Zoology, University of Missouri Columbia, 1969; M.S. Wildlife Science, Oregon State University, 1977; Ph.D. Forestry, Wildlife and Range Sciences, University of Idaho, 1988. Current position – Assistant Leader (Wildlife), USGS, Alaska Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Unit, University of Alaska Fairbanks (1996 – present). Previous positions – Assistant Leader (Wildlife), Arkansas (1995-1996) and Maine (1989-1990) Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Units; Research Wildlife Biologist, USGS Alaska Science Center, Fairbanks Field Office (1991-1994).

Wildlife Society Experience – TWS member and Certified Wildlife Biologist since 1982, current member of Alaska Chapter and Northwest Section. Additional Wildlife Society activities – Member TWS Technical Committee, Climate Change Effects on Wildlife, 2002-2004; Chairman, TWS, Alaska Chapter, Ad Hoc Technical Committee to Review Feasibility Assessment for Potential Reintroduction of Wood Bison to Yukon Flats NWR, 1998-99; Treasurer, Northeast Section, The Wildlife Society, 1990-1992; Editor, *Northwest Wildlifer*, Northwest Section, The Wildlife Society, 1987-1989.

We need to re-establish a broad base of membership in the Alaska Chapter by demonstrating that TWS activities extend beyond annual meetings and quarterly newsletters, that diverse wildlife related issues are given consideration and support and that our expertise is delivered through public outreach. We need a demonstrated positive public image that could be achieved through presentations at secondary schools, information articles for local publications, and an increased and visible presence at annual meetings of NGOs that promote habitat protection and enhancement. I will facilitate and encourage these types of activities within the Interior.

## Carol McIntyre

### Northern Representative Candidate

Carol McIntyre is seeking election as Interior Representative on the Executive Board of the Alaska Chapter, The Wildlife Society. Carol earned a B.S. in Environmental Studies at East Stroudsburg University, a M.S. in Wildlife Management at University of Alaska-Fairbanks, and a Ph.D. in Wildlife Science at Oregon State University. Carol has worked as a wildlife biologist for the National Park Service in Alaska since 1985 on many ecological studies of raptors and other birds in national parks in interior and northern Alaska. She is a member of The Wildlife Society, The Ecological Society of America, the American Ornithologist's Union, The Cooper Ornithological Society, The Wilson Ornithological Society, the Association of Field Ornithologists, and the Raptor Research Foundation, and currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Raptor Research Foundation and the Alaska Bird Observatory. Carol has authored many articles about Alaska's raptors, presented her results at many professional meetings, and has served as a peer-reviewer for several journals including the Journal of Raptor Research and Condor. While relatively new to the Alaska Chapter, Carol has been a member of The Wildlife Society for nearly a decade.

### Carol McIntyre (continued)

Carol strongly supports the mission of The Wildlife Society "to promote excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education" and believes that science-based education is an essential component of wildlife stewardship. She actively promotes the use of peer-reviewed science as an integral component of the management and conservation of wildlife and wildlife habitat. Carol is eager to become more involved with the Alaska Chapter and hopes to bring new perspectives to the Executive Board based on her experience working with non-game species, conservation of wild lands, wildlife management issues in national parks, and science-education. She believes that The Wildlife Society serves an important role in shaping the current and future management of Alaska's wildlife and wildlife habitat. Carol is interested in serving on the Executive Board for many reasons including promoting science-based approaches to management of wildlife and habitat, encouraging cooperation between State, Federal and non-governmental agencies and organizations, and increasing the Chapter's involvement with global climate change issues. She will actively work to increase the Chapter's membership, encourage greater participation in the Chapter by wildlife professionals across Alaska, and foster opportunities for educating current and future wildlife professionals in Alaska.

## 2006 Election Instructions

Please take the opportunity to determine leadership of the Alaska Chapter of The Wildlife Society. Elected members will serve on the Alaska Chapter TWS Executive Board for 2 years (April 2006-April 2008). The President-Elect will serve as President (2008-2010) and Past-President (2010-2012). You should vote for only one Regional Representative based upon the region in which you reside[EJT1].

<u>President-Elect:</u>	Howard N. Golden	Tara Wertz
<u>Secretary-Treasurer:</u>	Jimmy Fox	Mark Udevitz
<u>Southeast Representative:</u>	Steve Lewis	David K. Person
<u>Southcentral Representative:</u>	Amy Kearns	Robin West
<u>Northern Representative:</u>	Brad Griffith	Carol McIntyre

On Tuesday you will receive the website link to cast your ballot. [Voting will occur from Tuesday, 28 March through Friday, 14 April.](#)

Alaska Chapter members who are TWS voting members should vote for the President-Elect, Secretary-Treasurer, and only one Regional Representative based upon the region in which you reside. Chapter members who currently receive printed newsletters will receive the March 2006 newsletter with a special mail-in ballot by 5 April. Completed ballots MUST be received by 14 April to be counted. If you have any questions, please contact Eric Taylor at [eric.taylor@fws.gov](mailto:eric.taylor@fws.gov) or 301-897-9770 ext. 215 (TWS, Bethesda, MD). See <http://www.wildlife.org/chapters/ak/index.cfm/>

<b>The Wildlife Society</b>		<b>Alaska Chapter TWS - Executive Board</b>	
<p><b>Alaska Chapter</b></p> <p><b>Newsletter Editor</b></p> <p><i>Please send articles to:</i></p> <p>Jim Herriges BLM 1150 University Ave. Fairbanks, AK <a href="mailto:jim_herriges@blm.gov">jim_herriges@blm.gov</a> 907-474-2373</p> <p><b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.wildlife.org/chapters">www.wildlife.org/chapters</a></p>	<p><b>President</b> Eric J. Taylor 301/897-9770 <a href="mailto:eric@wildlife.org">eric@wildlife.org</a></p> <p><b>President-Elect</b> Tom Paragi 907-459-7327 <a href="mailto:tom_paragi@fishgame.state.ak.us">tom_paragi@fishgame.state.ak.us</a></p> <p><b>Past-President</b> Doug Larsen 907-465-4266 <a href="mailto:doug_larsen@fishgame.state.ak.us">doug_larsen@fishgame.state.ak.us</a></p> <p><b>Secretary/Treasurer</b> Tara Wertz 907-456-0519 <a href="mailto:tara_wertz@fws.gov">tara_wertz@fws.gov</a></p>	<p><b>Regional Representatives:</b></p> <p><b>Northern:</b> Lisa Saperstein 907-456-0508 <a href="mailto:lisa_saperstein@fws.gov">lisa_saperstein@fws.gov</a></p> <p><b>South-Central:</b> Anne Morkill 907-235-6546 <a href="mailto:anne_morkill@fws.gov">anne_morkill@fws.gov</a></p> <p><b>Southeast:</b> Kevin White 907-465-4102 <a href="mailto:kevin_white@fishgame.state.ak.us">kevin_white@fishgame.state.ak.us</a></p>	

[Editor's Note: Please make note of upcoming events, personnel changes, issues and projects, or anything of interest to other AK-TWS members, and pass them on to your regional representative. Thanks.]

## News from Southeast:

By Kevin White, Southeast Representative

### **Alaska Bird Conference:**

The 11<sup>th</sup> Alaska Bird Conference and Associated Workshops, held in Juneau 6-10 February 2006, was a big success. This year's program included 50 oral presentations and 23 posters. Two special sessions--*Design Considerations for Effective Monitoring* and *Sampling and Monitoring Rare Species*--were led with 30 minute presentations by invited speakers, **Kurt Jenkins** (USGS) and **Bill Thompson** (NPS), respectively, and a third--*Ecology of Black Oystercatchers in Alaska*--detailed some of the recent work into this species group. In conjunction with the conference, there were six meetings and workshops held. The keynote speaker of the conference, **David Quammen**, presented *World in Pieces: The Wondrous and Dire Implications of Biogeography* at the banquet and a public lecture titled, *Charles Darwin in Private: The Secret Notebooks, the Big Idea*. **Bob Armstrong** gave a great public lecture called *Photographing Alaska's Birds: 45 Years Worth*.

### **Prince of Wales Island Deer Study:**

UAF Ph.D. student **Todd Brinkman** began his field-work to evaluate methods to estimate deer population density on Prince of Wales Island. The project is jointly supported by the US Forest Service, ADFG, and University of Alaska-Fairbanks. The objective is to use a combination of pellet sampling and DNA mark-recapture methods to estimate populations in four watersheds that likely have very different densities of deer. Late snowfall has hampered the pellet survey work this year but pellet collections for DNA extraction are going well. The study will continue over the next three years.

### **Coming and Going:**

No news on this front, however several local TWS members reported various comings and goings to warm and exotic locales during the long, wet winter months.



## News from Southcentral:

Anne Morkill, Southcentral Representative

Anne Morkill, Deputy Refuge Manager for the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge in Homer, has accepted the position of Refuge Manager for the Florida Keys National Wildlife Refuge Complex, Big Pine Key, Florida. Anne has worked for the BLM and USFWS in Alaska since 1992, and she served the Alaska Chapter of The Wildlife Society in various capacities.

## News from the North:

By Lisa Saperstein, Northern Representative

### People

#### *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*

**Greg Birkenfeld** moved to McGrath in February to join the Innoko National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) staff as a deputy manager. Greg was previously stationed at Imperial NWR in Yuma, AZ.

**Joanna Fox** is the new deputy manager of Kanuti NWR, based in Fairbanks. Joanna has served at three Alaska refuges, Koyukuk/Nowitna Refuge Complex, Selawik NWR, and Arctic NWR, as well as Charles M. Russell NWR in Montana. Her most recent position has been as a refuge operations specialist at Arctic NWR, where she supervised the visitor services program.

**Michael T. Hinkes**, a wildlife biologist/pilot, will be transferring from Togiak NWR in Dillingham to Yukon Flats NWR, in Fairbanks in early April. He has worked at Togiak NWR for 16 years, and prior to that spent 3 years at Yukon Delta NWR at Bethel. Before taking his career to bush Alaska, Michael worked for 6 years at the Bureau of Land Management Anchorage District Office as a Wildlife Biologist.

**Ryan Mollnow** has joined the Koyukuk/Nowitna Refuge Complex staff in Galena as the new deputy manager. Ryan and his family most recently lived in Arkansas where, over the past 3.5 years, he served as assistant manager for the Cache River NWR and refuge biologist for the Central Arkansas Refuges Complex.

**Jerry Stroebele**, refuge supervisor for northern Alaska NWRs, retired in early March after nearly 40 years with the Fish and Wildlife Service, with nearly all of this time spent working in Alaska. As refuge supervisor, Jerry supervised refuge managers of Arctic, Innoko, Kanuti, Koyukuk/Nowitna, Selawik, Tetlin, and Yukon Flats NWRs and was tasked with handling a variety of resource issues pertaining to these refuges. Prior to this position, Jerry was manager of Selawik NWR and a field supervisor for the Northern Alaska Ecological Services Office, now known as the Fairbanks Fish and Wildlife Field Office. Jerry was well known for his ability to negotiate strong conservation partnerships; he will be missed.

#### *University of Alaska Fairbanks*

**Kris Hundertmark** has joined the University of Alaska Fairbanks as an assistant professor of wildlife ecology. Kris spent 21 years with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, primarily as a moose research biologist, before retiring in 2003. He returns to Alaska from a recent 30-month stint in Saudi Arabia with the Zoological Society of London where he worked as a conservation geneticist studying endangered gazelles, ibex, tahr and other Arabian megafauna. At UAF he replaces Terry Bowyer as a big-game ecologist and is developing a research program that focuses on population ecology of Alaskan ungulates and the application of genetic analysis to answer questions in wildlife conservation.

### Other

A cooperative moose management plan for Game Management Units 21A and 21E was developed with participation from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Innoko NWR, and the Bureau of Land Management.

The State of Alaska Board of Game met in Fairbanks March 10-20 to make decisions on proposals affecting interior Alaska. Information about the meeting and actions taken can be found at the Board of Game website (<http://www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us/gameinfo/meetinfo/gcal.php>)

## 13th TWS Conference in Anchorage ([www.wildlife.org/conference/index.cfm](http://www.wildlife.org/conference/index.cfm))

### Preliminary Program Highlights

#### Plenary

- Climate Change Implications for Habitats, Wildlife Populations, and Subsistence

#### Workshops

- Urban Wildlife Management Issues in Anchorage, Alaska
- Using FLIR for Wildlife Population Surveys
- Analysis of Home Range, Resource Selection, and Space Use
- Analysis of GPS Animal Telemetry Data Using ArcGIS
- Approaches for Modeling Avian Nest Survival
- Design Refresher: Fundamentals of Sampling, Monitoring, and Experimental Design
- Planning, Monitoring, and Performance Measures for Ecological Sustainability

#### Symposia

- Disease Impacts on Wildlife Management and Conservation Efforts
- Challenging Education: Why Experiential Learning is Necessary for Professional Development
- Peak Oil, Economic Growth, and Wildlife Conservation
- Urban Carnivores: Ecology, Behavior, Conflict, and Conservation
- Pollinators: The Forgotten Wildlife
- Multi-Dimensional Evaluation of Wildlife Compensation Schemes
- Predator - Prey Ecology: Large Mammals in Terrestrial and Marine Systems
- Global Climate Change and Wildlife in North America
- Objectives and Metrics for Monitoring Wildlife on Public and Private Lands
- Canada Lynx-Habitat Relationships in the Contiguous United States

- Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) and Applications for Wildlifers
- Physiology for Populations
- Conservation Education and Outreach: The Good, Not So Bad and Downright Ugly
- Noninvasive Genotyping: Recent Advances and Future Directions
- Landscape-Level Science and Conservation in the Tongass
- Biology and Management of Marine Mammals
- Environmental Contaminants and Wildlife
- Indigenous Peoples Wildlife and Ecosystem Management: Past and Present
- Wildlife Response to Habitat Development through the Farm Bill
- Applications of Landscape Genetics to Wildlife Management
- Conducting Wildlife Science in the Public Eye

#### Special Poster Session

- ANILCA - Conservation Biology Masterpiece or Road of Endless Compromise?

#### Contributed Papers and Posters

- Ecology and Conservation of Birds
- Ecology and Conservation of Mammals
- Ecology and Conservation of Marine Mammals
- Ecology and Conservation of Reptiles and Amphibians
- Conservation of Communities, Ecosystems, and Landscapes
- Wildlife-Habitat Relationships
- Wildlife Population Dynamics and Management
- Wildlife Damage Management
- Human Dimensions, Conservation Education, and Conservation Policy
- Wildlife Diseases and Toxicology
- Biometrics in Wildlife Management
- New Technology in Wildlife Management
- Oil, Gas, Mining, and Wildlife Conservation

#### Conference-sponsored Field Trips

- A two-day trip to the **Moose Research Center and Kenai National Wildlife Refuge**
- A four-day **Prince William Sound Cruise**
- A one-day trip to the **Alaska SeaLife Center** in Seward
- Half-day **walks in the Anchorage area**

#### Volunteer Opportunities

We are looking for eager volunteers willing to donate their time and efforts to help host the 13th Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society. This will be a wonderful opportunity to meet and interact with an international group of professionals, leading scientists, and prospective employers in wildlife management, natural resources and related fields.

Volunteers **MUST** register to attend the conference. However, reimbursements to offset conference expenses are available for eligible volunteers who commit to a minimum of 8 hours of their time and are not receiving full support from their employer or educational institution. All volunteers will also receive a free conference t-shirt. Contact: Liz Solomon, Volunteer Coordinator ([elizabeth\\_solomon@fishgame.state.ak.us](mailto:elizabeth_solomon@fishgame.state.ak.us), 907/267-2209)

Volunteer Activities: Session Room/AV Monitor, Registration Desk, Speaker Preview Room, Conference Store, Photo Contest. Raffle Ticket Sales, Student Quiz Bowl, Field Trips, Local Information Desk

### Special Events

- **Conference Reception and Silent Auction – Welcome to Alaska!** Be sure to join us on Saturday evening from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Egan Center for a delightful start to our 2006 National Conference! Kick off the conference with a Native drum and dance performance by *Tsimpshian Dance Group of Anchorage*, “wild Alaskan microbrews” from the acclaimed Moose’s Tooth Brewery, appetizers, and other refreshments.
- The **Silent Auction** will feature items from Arizona and the Southwest Section of TWS to get you in the spirit of the 2007 Conference in Tucson. Also look for a fine array of goods and services assembled by our local committee. This is an important fundraiser for the conference so be prepared to bid often and high!
- **Student Activities:**
  - Student Quiz Bowl
  - Student Chapter Breakfast
  - Student Dinner
  - Student-Professional Mixer
  - Student Mentoring
  - Student Travel Grants
  - Best Student Poster/Presentation Awards
  - Student Professional Development Working Group (SPDWG)
  - Job Board
  - Associate/Certified Wildlife Biologist application assistance
- **Photography Contest**  
Calling All Shutterbugs! Don’t miss this opportunity to show your colleagues all the cool places you’ve been, what you’ve done, and your great photographs.
- **Farewell Party**  
We have adopted a truly Alaskan theme for our signature event this year: an Alaskan style barbeque at the Alaska Native Heritage Center, the state’s premier cultural destination. Native performers sharing their traditional songs and dances will provide a unique opportunity to hear the stories of the native people through their customary songs and ceremonies. This unique and exciting event will feature wild Alaskan salmon and halibut and great local beers. We will also be serving up other traditional barbecue fare.

### Hotel Accommodations:

Gino Del Frate recommends that Chapter members don't wait too long to make reservations, in case this conference attendance exceeds projections.

#### Hilton Anchorage

1-800-245-2527 907-272-7411

[www.anchorage.hilton.com](http://www.anchorage.hilton.com)

The Wildlife Society - SRP Code: WSO

\$100 s \$110 d \$130 t/q

#### Howard Johnson Plaza Anchorage

1-800-446-4656 907-793-5500

[www.hjplazaanchorage.com](http://www.hjplazaanchorage.com)

The Wildlife Society - Group Code: CGTWS

\$80 s/d \$95 t/

## Bear Management Technical Reviews

The committee on bear management (chair: Rod Boertje) submitted a draft to the Executive Committee (EC) in December, got comments from the EC in January, and hopes to have a revised draft back to the EC to distribute for member comments by early April. The committee on sale of bear parts (chair: Gail Collins) submitted a draft to the EC in February, and the EC intends to get comments back to the committee by early April. The committee on bear baiting (chair: Dick Shideler) hopes to present an initial draft to the EC by mid-April.

## Old Growth Position Statement

In June 2005 TWS Council asked the Alaska Chapter to revise the national position on old growth forest (details in the December 2005 newsletter). The resulting committee assembled by Matt Kirchhoff has worked on operational definitions of old growth in coastal spruce-fir forest over the winter and met by teleconference on 24 March to discuss policy implications in completing the final internal draft. The external draft is due to TWS Council by the end of March.

## Letter to Legislators and Other Decision Makers

In the December 2005 newsletter, president-elect Tom Paragi outlined the rationale for sending a letter of introduction from the Alaska Chapter to the Alaska Legislature (20 Senators and 40 Representatives), the Alaska Board of Game (7 members), and the Federal Subsistence Board (7 members). President Eric Taylor sent the letter with original signature to each of the 74 elected or appointed officials who frequently deal directly with wildlife policy and regulation. The letter outlines the Chapter's purpose and expresses our willingness to provide information to decision makers (see <http://www.wildlife.org/chapters/ak/AlaskaChapterIntro.pdf>).

## Conserving our Wildlife Conservation Heritage (COWCH)

A few years ago, Ellen Campbell kicked off this effort to begin conducting interviews of Alaskan biologists and game wardens from the pre-statehood or early statehood period. Ellen interviewed Jim King and Sig Olson. Recently the Minnesota Chapter was kind enough to send us an interview they had done with Cal Lensink. Tom Paragi secured an estimated cost from the Oral History Program at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks to record and edit 2-hr interviews for the Chapter. The EC approved expenditure for six interviews in Fairbanks and one in Juneau. Tom has lined up four Chapter members to contact prospective interviewees this spring and summer.

## Brief Updates on Legislative Bills

Senate Bill 170(License Fee Increase)--Details of this bill are found in the December 2005 newsletter. This bill has not surfaced this session, although Senator Ralph Seekins may be presenting a revised version soon. It is unlikely to move out of committee in this election year.

House Bill 166 (Conservation Tag)--The Senate Resources Committee held several hearings on SB 166 but has yet to pass it out of committee. It was strongly opposed by the visitor industry.

Senate Bill 85 (motorized access in Dalton Highway corridor)--In the last legislative session, Senator Ralph Seekins introduced a bill to remove the current closure of State lands to use of motorized vehicles within 5 miles of the Dalton Highway, a 300 mile supply road to Prudhoe Bay that is also called the Haul Road. The stated purpose of the bill is to increase access to lands beyond the closed area for hunting and recreation. Currently local residents who qualify for subsistence can access federal lands within the 5-mile corridor by snowmachine.

Miners need a permit to traverse the 5-mile corridor to access mining claims by motorized vehicle. If the bill passed, the Bureau of Land Management and Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Lands would have to form regulations on motorized use. The letter sent by the Alaska Chapter TWS via email (time sensitive) to all 40 State Representatives on 24 February detailed several reasons why we oppose the bill. The Chapter's letter is posted at [http://www.wildlife.org/chapters/ak/SB85\\_AlaskaChapterTWS.pdf](http://www.wildlife.org/chapters/ak/SB85_AlaskaChapterTWS.pdf). The bill passed the Senate 11-9 in early February and awaits a hearing in the House Transportation Committee, which postponed a hearing twice in March. Of the four responses back to Eric Taylor by several members of the House, three opposed and one supported the proposed bill.

## **BLM Removes Protection of Critical Goose Molting and Caribou Habitats in Northeast National Petroleum Reserve - Alaska**

On January 11, 2006, Chad Culvert, the Department of Interior's Deputy Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management, signed the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Amended Integrated Activity Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (IAP/EIS) for the 4.6-million acre Northeast Planning Area of the National Petroleum Reserve - Alaska (NPPRA). An earlier IAP/EIS culminated in a 1998 ROD that allowed oil and gas leasing, exploration and development in 87 percent of the Northeast Planning Area while prohibiting leasing in the remaining 13 percent, most within the designated Teshekpuk Lake Special Area (TLSA). The TLSA includes Teshekpuk Lake, the largest lake on the North Slope, and the ecologically sensitive area around it and to its north. This area provides critical calving, migration and insect-relief habitats for the Teshekpuk Lake Caribou Herd, which supports the highest level of subsistence harvest for several North Slope Native communities. It also encompasses the most important known goose-molting area in the circumpolar Arctic, providing secure molting habitat for tens of thousands of Pacific brant, greater white-fronted geese and Canada geese as well as several thousand snow geese. Up to 30 percent of the entire Pacific brant population, an important but declining subsistence and sport resource, relies on the molting habitat northeast of Teshekpuk Lake.

The new ROD adopts, with minor revisions, the BLM Preferred Alternative from the January, 2005 Final IAP/EIS. In keeping with a 2002 National Energy Policy directive to open more of the planning area to oil and gas activities, the ROD makes the entire area north of the lake available for leasing, with some restrictions on surface activities and buffers of varying sizes around important goose-molting lakes and caribou calving, migration, and insect-relief areas. In all, it makes 95 percent of the Planning Area available for leasing while deferring leasing on Teshekpuk Lake itself for 10 years. The new ROD also rescinds clear stipulations authorized by the 1998 ROD (intended to impart maximum protection of surface resources within the TLSA as required by the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act) and replaces them with un-tested performance-based stipulations and required operating procedures.

The Wildlife Society submitted comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (19 August 2004) and Final EIS (25 February 2005, [www.wildlife.org/chapters/ak/AKCHPTR\\_NENPRA\\_final1.pdf](http://www.wildlife.org/chapters/ak/AKCHPTR_NENPRA_final1.pdf)) recommending that the BLM adopt the No Action Alternative to ensure protection of large lakes used by molting geese; habitats used by the Teshekpuk Lake Caribou Herd during calving, migration and insect relief periods; and wetlands that hundreds of thousands of migratory birds depend on during breeding, brood-rearing and staging. Following a meeting with the BLM State Director (4 April 2005), TWS re-emphasized opposition to BLM's Preferred Alternative that would allow oil and gas leasing on hundreds of thousands of acres of previously protected land ([www.wildlife.org/chapters/ak/NENPRA\\_APRIL05\\_FNL.pdf](http://www.wildlife.org/chapters/ak/NENPRA_APRIL05_FNL.pdf)).

The recent decision by the Department of Interior to lease 95% of the Planning Area nullified the 1998 ROD, which protected critical wildlife habitat, and ignored the recommendations of The Wildlife Society. In addition to TWS, the No Action Alternative was supported by the National Audubon Society, Pacific Flyway Council, Wildlife Management Institute, Ducks Unlimited, North Slope Borough, and the California Waterfowl Association. The Environmental Protection Agency recommended that the BLM maintain lands closed or under *No Surface Activity* restrictions as specified in the No Action Alternative. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service stated that avoiding surface disturbance in the most biologically sensitive areas, as presented in the No Action Alternative, would provide the greatest level of protection (and least risk) to wildlife, and was its preferred management approach. In the 11 January 2006 news release, BLM stated the decision "...opens the way for an additional oil and gas lease sale, probably in the fall of 2006."

## Colville River Bridge Permit Application Update

The Alpine Satellites Development CD-5 project proposed by ConocoPhillips, Inc. is currently under review by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Several groups, including the Alaska Chapter TWS, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Environmental Protection Agency, and Kuukpik Corporation have submitted letters to the Corps requesting consideration of bridgeless alternatives for the project, including a Horizontal Directionally Drilled (HDD) pipeline crossing under the Nigliq Channel. Because of concerns raised by the village of Nuiqsut, the Kuukpik Corporation, and the North Slope Borough, the Corps of Engineers will hold a public meeting in Nuiqsut on March 30. A permit decision will not be made until after the additional public comment has been received and evaluated. It is our understanding ConocoPhillips has apparently not wavered from their desire to bridge the Nigliq Channel. The Alaska Chapter's comment letter to the Corps can be viewed at [www.wildlife.org/chapters/](http://www.wildlife.org/chapters/), or call Tom Paragi for a hard-copy (459-7327).

## Potential for Joint Session with American Fisheries Society

The Alaska Chapter of the American Fisheries Society is holding its annual meeting in Fairbanks sometime during the week of 13 November 2006. AFS President-elect Scott Maclean is open to the idea of a joint 1/2 day session with Alaska Chapter TWS and the Alaska Society of American Foresters on a topic of mutual interest. In November 2003, these organizations co-sponsored the session *Suburban Development in the Riparian Zone* that featured six invited speakers. A theme proposed for this year was *aquatic-terrestrial linkages*, perhaps focusing on anadromous fish as conduits of marine nutrients into coastal and boreal forest watersheds where forest harvesting occurs. Please contact Tom Paragi ([tom\\_paragi@fishgame.state.ak.us](mailto:tom_paragi@fishgame.state.ak.us), 459-7327) if you have suggestions for topics and speakers or if you are willing to help organize the session.

## Meetings of Interest

The **Alaska Northern Forest Cooperative** will have its spring business meeting in Anchorage on April 5, 2006, (9am-4pm) in Room 240 of the Attwood Building. The meeting will include planning for a fall symposium in southcentral Alaska on hardwood/deciduous species management, including aspects of wildlife habitat management. For more information, contact Bob Ott in Fairbanks (907-451-2702, [robert\\_ott@dnr.state.ak.us](mailto:robert_ott@dnr.state.ak.us)).

## Message from Candidate for TWS Vice-President, Thomas Franklin

Dear Fellow TWS Member,

The Wildlife Society is a great organization. It has a long and successful history of establishing professional standards, publishing wildlife literature, recognizing excellent work, and advancing scientific wildlife management. However, the wildlife resource and we as professionals are now facing unprecedented challenges that will require strong and effective leadership.

Politicians are contemplating actions that would seriously impact the natural resources that we value. Plans are underway to sell off valuable public lands and to intensively develop energy resources in ecologically sensitive wildlife habitat, from the Rocky Mountains to Alaska's North Slope. All the while, funding is threatened for proven conservation programs that enhance natural resources on private farms and ranches, and public refuges, forests, and grasslands. Simultaneously, traditional support for federal and state wildlife management agencies is declining. Now is the time for bold action by the leaders of our profession.

The Wildlife Society Council is pursuing a new strategic direction. While it is important to modernize our publications process and convert the journals to electronic format, TWS also must pursue many other challenges. Informing decision makers about wildlife issues, meeting the information needs agency biologists and managers, educating the general public about wildlife management, and recruiting students and young biologists into the profession are critical to the future of TWS.

The results of the Spring TWS election should provide a mandate for TWS leadership. Typically, only a small percentage of members return ballots. I urge you to read the candidates' statements in the March-April Wildlifer, and vote. The Society is at a turning point in its history and you can make a difference by electing a Vice-President and a Section Representative who understand the challenges we face and are committed to representing the concerns of all TWS members.

I am proud to be nominated for Vice-President. My 33 years as a TWS member, my time on TWS staff, and my experience as a leader in the conservation community will ensure that your voice is heard in national, state and provincial capitals and in agency headquarters. If elected, I will listen carefully to the views of all members and will advance the following priorities:

1. Influence legislation, regulations, and policy affecting natural resources
2. Meet the information needs of agency biologists and managers
3. Work with academic and agency professionals to facilitate adaptive management
4. Empower chapters and sections to be leaders in wildlife conservation
5. Inform citizens about the importance of wildlife management to society
6. Involve university students in TWS decision-making.

I look forward to working with you to achieve a bright future for wildlife and for all who dedicate their careers to wildlife conservation.

Tom Franklin

## 2006 Membership Renewal

**Renewals Available On-Line:** Renewals for the 2006 calendar year are available on-line at The Wildlife Society's store (<http://www.wildlife.org>). An individual may renew their TWS membership (\$64.00), as well as their NW Section dues (\$5.00) and Alaska Chapter dues (\$5.00). The Journal of Wildlife Management may be delivered on-line (\$25.00) or on-line and print (40.00); similarly, the Wildlife Society Bulletin can be ordered on-line (\$25.00) or on-line and print (\$40.00). TWS members can also join one or more of the 18 TWS working groups.

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### Alaska Chapter of the Wildlife Society 2006 Membership Form

If you are not a member of the The Wildlife Society but want to maintain your Alaska Chapter membership, please fill out the form below and return it to Tara Wertz at the address below (note that Chapter dues are \$5.00 for the calendar year and can be paid with a personal check made out to TWS, Alaska Chapter). If you are a member of The Wildlife Society, please continue to pay your state dues when you renew, using the form and procedure provided by TWS.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Numbers-Work: \_\_\_\_\_ Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Tara Wertz  
Arctic National Wildlife Refuge  
101 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Box 20  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701