



The Alaskan Wildlifer

Newsletter of the Alaska Chapter of the Wildlife Society

December 2005

Highlights in This Issue:

Mr. Taylor Goes to Washington

Candidates for chapter positions requested

Alaska Chapter to revise national position statement on old growth forest

2006 TWS Conference: Call for papers and award nominations. Arrangements Committee update.

University of Alaska Student Chapter TWS gets active

Wildlife news around Alaska and the Northwest

Two pioneers in Alaska bear conservation retire

Colville River bridge permit application: Chapter comments requested by December 16, 2005

Wildlife-related Alaska legislation

And many significant chapter actions

Message from the President:

Eight months have passed since our last newsletter. I apologize, but hope the content and quality of this newsletter compensates in part for the delay.

In this column, I'll summarize the activities and accomplishments of the Alaska Chapter since our last newsletter and acknowledge the individuals responsible. I hope these examples might encourage you to become more active in the Alaska Chapter, perhaps by running for a position on our Executive Board, volunteering for a committee, or just contacting me to show an interest to contribute.

Bear Management Technical Review Papers

I would like to thank Tom Paragi (for volunteering to pull together three technical review committees), the three technical review committee chairs (Rod Boertje, Gail Collins, and Dick Shideler), and all members that have contributed to this effort. An update on the status of the technical reviews are provided on page 6.

Northeast National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska

To date, the Secretary of Interior has not issued a Record of Decision for the Northeast National Petroleum Reserve Final Amended Integrated Activity Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). In late March 2005, Henri Bisson, State Director, Bureau of Land Management, met with Tom Franklin, Executive Director (Acting) at The Wildlife Society's headquarters in Bethesda, Maryland to discuss the North Slope Science Initiative and the NE NPR-A FEIS. On 4 April 2005, The Wildlife Society re-emphasized opposition to the Bureau of Land Management's Preferred Alternative that would allow oil and gas leasing on hundreds of thousands of acres of previously protected land. The Wildlife Society's position was provided in scoping comments (30 October 2003) and in reviews of the draft amendment to the Northeast Integrated Activity Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (IAP/EIS) (19 August 2004) and the FEIS (25 February 2005). The recommendation to maintain current protection as a no-lease zone as determined in the previous planning process was also provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, North Slope Borough, Association of Village Council Presidents, Ducks Unlimited, Audubon Alaska, Pacific Flyway Council, Wildlife Management Institute, and the California Waterfowl Association.

A committee comprised of ten members of the Alaska Chapter reviewed the draft and final IAP/EIS and the North Slope Science Initiative and helped develop correspondence submitted by The Wildlife Society.

National Position Paper: *Recognition of Wildlife Needs in Forest Management*

In the November-December 2004 issue of *The Wildlifer*, TWS Council published a draft position paper entitled *Recognition of Wildlife Needs in Forest Management*, seeking member review and comment. The draft position paper updated and consolidated two existing TWS position statements, *Management and Conservation of Old-Growth Forests* and *Recognition of Wildlife Needs in Forest Management* into one comprehensive statement. Matt Kirchhoff chaired a committee to review and compile member comments requested in our February 2005 newsletter and later via email. In correspondence to Tom Franklin, Executive Director (Acting) dated 11 March 2005, the Alaska Chapter stated:

We support the Council's decision to review and update issues and recommendations presented in the existing position statements. However, we do not support the draft position statement as currently written because of the near complete disregard of the issues, status, and conservation of old growth forests.

In April 2005, TWS acknowledged the significance of our review and requested the Chapter re-draft the position statement for consideration by the TWS Council. On 2 May 2005, the Alaska Chapter submitted a revised draft of the position paper. On 6 June 2005, TWS Council rejected the Chapter's revision. The position statement *Recognition of Wildlife Needs in Forest Management* was approved September 2005 (see *The Wildlifer* No 333:20-21). However, TWS Council also recognized the lack of attention to old-growth in that position statement, and so requested the Alaska Chapter assume responsibility to re-write the *Management and Conservation of Old-Growth Forests* as a separate position statement.

Matt Kirchhoff, Committee Chair, is working with professional foresters, biologists and ecologists from state and federal agencies, and academic institutions with recognized expertise in old-growth ecosystems including Bill Beese, John Schoen, Dave Person, Ted Swem, Tom Paragi, Jim LaBau, Jerry Franklin, Sari Saunders, Paul Alaback, and Andy MacKinnon. The committee met via teleconference in early October and decided to address the conservation and management of old-growth forest in the Pacific Northwest, including coastal Alaska, coastal British Columbia, and coastal Washington, Oregon, and California. The committee expects to have a draft for review by March 2006.

2nd Joint Meeting Alaska Society of American Foresters and the Alaska Chapter of The Wildlife Society, April 2005, Fairbanks

I want to recognize the significant effort of Tom Paragi, Program Committee Chair, who with 9 other members of SAF and TWS organized an impressive meeting that should be used as a model for additional collaborative efforts. The meeting was well attended by professional foresters, wildlife biologists, and students in both disciplines. The two invited panel sessions, 26 paper presentations, and 11 posters provided a forum for collaboration between the two societies. Discussions have already started between TWS and the American Fisheries Society to consider organizing a joint meeting.

Decline in Membership

Mirroring a decline in TWS membership in recent years, the number of wildlife professionals in the Alaska Chapter TWS has declined by 26% between 1998 and 2005. I am not sure why the Alaska Chapter incurred a net loss of 69 wildlife professionals, but the decline is cause for concern, particularly given the relatively recent history of wildlife management in our state. The 2006 Annual Conference presents a unique opportunity for the Alaska Chapter to strengthen our professional society via an increase in membership. **Consider speaking with a colleague, dropping off a membership brochure, jotting down the TWS website for someone, or answering questions about the 2006 Annual Conference from colleagues to encourage participation. And while you're at it, renew your TWS and Chapter memberships on-line now at <http://www.wildlife.org>.**

Elections

Efforts to recruit members of the Alaska Chapter TWS to run for Executive Board positions often prove painful and disheartening. In the past 4 years, candidates were unopposed for President Elect, Secretary-Treasurer, and most of the regional representatives. Reasons cited by members declining to run for office include: (a) professional and personal schedules do not allow for additional responsibilities; (b) the additional work load and

time commitment will not be compensated in salary or benefits, (c) concerns regarding conflict of interests between an employer's position and TWS must be addressed via a conflict-of-interest waiver or other approval, and/or (d) lack of experience or knowledge in state issues and/or TWS. I have heard these reasons and admittedly used several of them to avoid having my name appear on the ballot.

Voter turnout is another dismal reality. In 2001, I was elected President-Elect by six votes. The six were the total number of votes, not the margin of victory. This is partially because I ran unopposed for the position (see above). But for whatever reason(s), 97% of the Alaska Chapter members had better things to do than decide who was to direct their professional representation in TWS.

The lack of interest and participation by members in TWS national elections was recently addressed in *The Wildlifer* (see Issue No 326, pg. 17 and Issue No. 327, pg. 6). It was suggested that TWS seek out candidates with significantly opposing views and perspectives or opinions perceived as controversial to help draw members to the voting booth. While perhaps contrasting opinions would increase interest and voter turn-out, I would hope that as professionals, we are concerned with the direction and leadership of the society that represents our profession, and this would be sufficient impetus to get involved and to vote.

Please consider nominating yourself or a colleague for President-Elect, Secretary-Treasurer, or one of three Regional Representatives. I will be happy to discuss the responsibilities, time commitments, expectations, or other concerns with you regarding these positions. The Alaska Chapter's reputation with The Wildlife Society's office is excellent based on past leadership and willingness to address critical conservation and management issues. Please submit nominations to me by 15 February 2006. We will conduct the 2006 Alaska Chapter election via electronic balloting in March 2006 but will send hard copies of ballots to all members without internet access.

University of Alaska Fairbanks Student Chapter TWS

Congratulations to the 2005-06 UAF SCTWS Executive Board and thanks to Dr. Falk Huettmann, Assistant Professor of Wildlife Ecology, for serving as the faculty advisor. Student Chapter President Darce Holcomb has met with biologists from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for ideas on field trips, speakers for meetings, training/educational opportunities, and collaborative events of interest to students in biology and wildlife. I am happy to hear about the renewed interest and activities of the UAF SCTWS and encourage all Chapter members to contact Darce (fbscwlf@uaf.edu) with ideas on field trips or other activities that could benefit student wildlife professionals at the University of Alaska. See page 12 of the newsletter for more details and check out <http://www.uaf.edu/wildlife/> for announcements, upcoming events, and some neat T-shirts and sweatshirts. You may contact the University of Alaska Fairbanks Student Chapter, The TWS by writing to: fbscwlf@uaf.edu or Student Chapter Wildlife Society, University of Alaska Fairbanks 211 Irving I, Fairbanks, Alaska 99775.

2006 Annual TWS Conference

Gino Del Frate and Howard Golden are co-chairs of the Arrangements Committee for the 13th Annual TWS Conference in Anchorage, 23-27 September 2006. Working with Gino and Howard are about 20 chapter members who are co-chairs for 11 subcommittees responsible for field trips, fund raising, student activities, media relations, audio visual support and other functions critical to the success of a major conference.

The conference is expected to draw more than 1400 national and international wildlife professionals and is a valuable forum to hear a wide range of research and management topics, present results of field investigations to a large audience of peers, develop professional contacts, and participate in workshops on new methods and technology. As a side note, the American Fisheries Society meeting was held September 2005 in Anchorage. The previous attendance record was set in 1993 when 1,913 individuals attended. However, the Anchorage AFS meeting had around 2,800 people. The AFS meeting is expected to be the largest meeting of the year held in Anchorage (see Fisheries 30(1):28-32)

The call for contributed papers and posters within the broad theme of *Excellence in Wildlife Stewardship through Science and Education* is currently underway. Abstracts must be received by 15 February 2006. In addition to attending and presenting oral and poster presentations, I encourage Chapter members to volunteer to ensure this conference is a success. The TWS Conference Arrangements Committee still needs help with field trips, local information, photography contest, student activities, and other tasks. If you are interested in

volunteering, please contact Howard Golden (howard_golden@fishgame.state.ak.us, 267-2177) or Gino Delfrate (gino_delfrate@fishgame.state.ak.us, 267-2198).

Other Chapter News

Alaska Annual Conservation Tag (House Bill 265 and Senate Bill 166)--In early April 2005, Alaska State Representative Hawker and Senator Bunde introduced companion bills in the State House and State Senate that would require those who take a commercial tour to view wildlife to purchase a \$5 annual wildlife conservation tag. The revenue from tag sales would be deposited in the State of Alaska Fish and Game fund for wildlife and fisheries management programs. Doug Larsen and Michelle Sydeman submitted a draft resolution to the Alaska Chapter for review. Because time limitations prohibited a review by the Chapter membership, the resolution was reviewed by the Executive Board. I reviewed the draft resolution, legislation, and comments provide by the Executive Board and spoke with the Director, Division of Wildlife Conservation, ADFG. I did not sign the resolution because (a) the legislation was tied up in at least 4 committees and would likely not emerge for vote; (b) several members of the Executive Board expressed concern regarding terms, phrases or sentences in the legislation; and (c) the legislation will likely emerge for consideration in January 2006. I recommended that the Alaska Chapter work directly with the ADFG to provide more effective support to help gain additional funding for management and conservation of fish and wildlife resources.

Alaska Chapter Website: New Location, Updates and Call for Comments-- The Alaska Chapter wishes to thank Dr. Eric Rexstad for his past support in developing and maintaining the Chapter's website at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. In June 2005, Eric began work as a Research Fellow with the Research Unit for Wildlife Population Assessment, Centre for Research into Ecological and Environmental Modeling, University of St. Andrews. As a result of Eric's departure, the Alaska Chapter lost support for our website hosted by the UAF Biology and Wildlife Department. The Alaska Chapter Executive Board approved my request to send TWS \$500 to move the website from UAF to TWS (2005) and provide professional support (2005-06). James Mathieson, TWS Information Systems Manager, will complete the UAF to TWS transfer in December and begin to revise and update the website. Please review our website (<http://www.wildlife.org/chapters>) and send me your comments and suggestions on content and format. You might also check out the following TWS Chapter websites: Colorado (<http://www.cws.cnchost.com/>), Texas (<http://www.tctws.org/>), Wyoming (<http://www.wildlife.org/chapters/wy/index.cfm>), or Missouri (<http://www.motws.org/index.html>) to gain new perspectives on TWS websites. Please **send comments and suggestions to me (eric@wildlife.org) by 1 January 2006.**

2006 Annual Chapter Meeting--As a result of the 2006 TWS Conference being in Anchorage, I requested the Executive Board change format of the 2006 Alaska Chapter TWS meeting to limit presentations to the 2006 TWS Conference Arrangements Committee and the Executive Board. Symposia, and contributed paper and poster sessions would be dropped. The restricted format was necessary because of limited time and personnel to plan and implement a chapter meeting in addition to the anual TWS conference. The request was approved by membership at the 2005 TWS Alaska Chapter business meeting.

Chabot/Andrews Amendment FY2006 Interior Appropriations Bill--On 10 May 2005, Tom Franklin, Executive Director (Acting) requested the Alaska Chapter review the Chabot/Andrews Amendment to the FY 2006 Interior Appropriations bill for consideration of support by TWS. The amendment would eliminate federal subsidies for the construction of logging roads by private companies into the remaining roadless areas of the Tongass National Forest. The Alaska Chapter drafted correspondence for TWS that recommended members of congress support the amendment; TWS submitted the letter to Congress on 17 May 2005. On 19 May 2005, the House of Representatives blocked a straight yes or no vote on the amendment. I thank John Schoen for drafting the letter and the 7 other members of the Alaska Chapter who reviewed and provided editorial comments for the letter sent by TWS.

Chapter Donation to Operation Migration--In late October 2005, the Florida Chapter TWS issued a request and financial challenge to all TWS Chapters to match their donation of \$500 to Operation Migration to help offset funding deficit associated with efforts to establish a whooping crane migration between Florida and Wisconsin (see <http://www.operationmigration.org/>). After additional correspondence with the Florida and Wisconsin Chapters and the Director of Fund Development for Operation Migration, the Alaska Chapter contributed \$500.

Alaska Chapter President in Maryland

Starting this past September, I began a one-year appointment with The Wildlife Society in Bethesda, Maryland. The position is part of a Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Survey and TWS to better establish relationships between the three organizations to promote excellence in wildlife science, policy, and education. Over the next year, I hope to assess the real and perceived values of TWS and other professional societies to the Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Geological Survey. Fundamental characteristics of professional societies include journal publications, conferences, advocacy and policy development, technical reviews, position papers, certification, and leadership positions at chapter, section and national levels. Their value for biologists in both agencies will be assessed. At the request of TWS, I will maintain my position with the Alaska Chapter until April 2006 when President-Elect Tom Paragi will assume the role of President. In the meantime, please feel free to contact me at 301-897-9770 or at eric@wildlife.org.

Finally, because of significant changes occurring in The Wildlife Society, I encourage you to read the last two issues of *The Wildlifer*.

September-October issue (No 332):

- (a) Michael Hutchins hired as the new Executive Director, TWS.
- (b) All peer-review articles from JWM and WSB will be combined into one journal in 2007 and TWS will launch a new, large-format color magazine.
- (c) Wildlife Policy articles include information on the new U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director, TWS comments on a proposed wind turbine farm near Horicon Marsh NWR; FY2006 federal budget updates, and state wildlife grants.
- (d) 13th TWS Conference, Anchorage (23-27 September 2006): Call for Contributed Papers and Posters (**due date 15 February 2006**)

November-December issue (No. 333):

- (a) W. Daniel Svedarsky, elected TWS Vice-President
- (b) 12th TWS Conference: highlights from Madison, WI
- (c) 13th TWS Conference: Student Travel Grants, Student Chapter of the Year Award, Best Student Presentation and Posters Award, Request for Associated Meetings, Call for Nominations for 2006 TWS Awards
- (d) Scientific Peer Review Draft Position Statement: (**comments due 1/20/2006**)
- (e) Delisting of Grizzly Bears in the Yellowstone Ecosystem Draft Position Statement (**comments due 1/20/2006**)
- (f) Wildlife Needs in Forest Management Position Statement (adopted 9/2005)
- (g) Wildlife Policy Activities: Endangered Species Technical Review, Wildlife Information Network (WIN) grants, Refuge System FY 2007 Budget

Message from the President-Elect

Increasing the effectiveness of the AK Chapter among legislators and policy-makers

Two goals of the Alaska Chapter are to

- *Advocate the use of sound biological information for wildlife policy decisions, and*
- *Increase public awareness and appreciation of the wildlife profession.*

The Chapter has been working toward those goals since it was founded in 1971. The Chapter has frequently provided comments to state and federal agencies on regulatory and planning processes that involve wildlife populations, human-wildlife interactions, and habitat conservation. Chapter members have testified as topic experts for their respective organizations before the Alaska Legislature and the U.S. Congress on key issues, such as oil exploration and development in the arctic and timber harvest in coastal temperate rainforest. I did an informal poll of long time Chapter members and found two whom had testified as a TWS representative before Congress (one before the both the House and Senate) on logging in Southeast during the late 1980s. Bringing broad professional knowledge to bear in the public process is arguably one of our greatest roles in wildlife conservation.

Our effectiveness in ensuring that the conservation perspective is considered in the decision making process depends in part on how early we become involved in the legislative, regulatory, or policy-making process. From my perspective, we too often are caught in a reactive role whereby our comments advocating wildlife concerns

are worded to counteract what we believe to be weak conservation standards. The result is that our comments may be perceived largely as negative, especially once the people involved in crafting legislative bills or policy have developed ownership in a draft. The potential for positive interaction and informed decisions is highest when we can bring in objective and timely information, or at least clarify alternative perspectives, during initial stages of crafting a policy or legislative bill. As a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, TWS cannot directly lobby, but as a professional society we can make ourselves known to legislators and offer technical guidance from among the breadth and experience of our 200 members.

I am drafting a one-page cover letter describing the Chapter that will be sent to members of the federal and state delegations prior to the start of the new sessions in January. The same letter will be sent to directors of state and federal agencies that oversee land management decisions in Alaska. We have advertised our organization in the past for similar reasons, but the increase in development proposals statewide and particularly the potential for a population increase with gas pipeline construction justify another effort in making decision makers aware of our organization. **If you have thoughts on this topic, please send me an email (tom_paragi@fishgame.state.ak.us) or call 459-7327.**

Progress on three technical reviews on bear management

At the May 2004 annual meeting in Girdwood, several members asked the Chapter to draft a position on three topics of bear management that were recently enacted or under consideration in Alaska. A Chapter committee produced the draft position statement: "Baiting, Population Reductions, and Sale of Parts of Brown and Black Bears in Alaska" published in our September 2004 newsletter. Written comments were submitted by nearly a quarter of the Chapter membership. Opinions about the draft position varied widely, but common themes were that the three topics were different enough to warrant individual treatment and that a detailed review of available data should be used to justify a position (see February 2005 newsletter).

In May 2005, three separate committees were formed to draft technical reviews of the topics that would summarize the state of knowledge, define research needs, and provide the decision basis for whether a position was appropriate. Progress by these committees is as follows:

Sale of parts (Chair: Gail Collins) - the committee has revised its second internal draft and will be submitting a draft to the Executive Committee for review shortly

Predation management (Chair: Rod Boertje) - the committee has revised its third internal draft and will be submitting a draft to the Executive Committee for review shortly

Baiting (Chair: Dick Shideler) - the committee is working on its first draft

Following initial review by the Executive Committee, each technical committee will revise the draft as necessary, and then it will be distributed to the membership for review. Comments will be addressed by the technical committee with a final review of comments and revisions by the Executive Committee. Final products will be printed in the newsletter and put on the Chapter website.

Colville River Bridge Permit Application: Chapter Comments Requested by December 16, 2005

The Alaska Chapter TWS seeks member review and comments on a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit application by ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc. for proposed work on the Colville River Delta in association with the Alpine development project and possible oil and gas exploration in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska. The major proposed work includes placing fill in the construction of:

- a 1250-foot bridge over the Nigliq Channel.
- a 0.1 mile gravel access road west for access to a manual pipeline control valve.
- a 4.2 mile gravel access road from drill site CD-2 to CD-5.
- a 9.8 acre drill site (CD-5).

The complete project description can be reviewed at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Alaska District website (http://www.poa.usace.army.mil/reg/PN_Scanned/October/POA-2005-1576.pdf)

The construction of a 1,250-foot bridge crossing the Nigliq Channel of the Colville River and 4.2 miles of all-season road would connect the Alpine development in the Colville River Delta to proposed wells in the Northeast National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A). This would result in a development scenario quite different from that in the 1998 Corps permit for Alpine, which described a roadless development with minimal surface activity and industrial infrastructure to protect high value fish and wildlife habitats on the Delta. A 2004 Record of Decision by the Corps permitted two drilling pads east of the Nigliq Channel (on the Colville River delta) but cited insufficient information on which to base a decision regarding environmental effects associated with the bridge and road aspects of a proposed pad west of the channel.

The Colville River drains nearly 30% of the North Slope and the Delta is one of the most biologically productive and diverse riparian areas in arctic Alaska. The river and connected water bodies support 20 species of fish and compose about 70% of the overwintering fish habitat on the North Slope. Colville River wetlands provide breeding habitat for migratory birds, including federally threatened spectacled eiders. The salt marsh and coastal tide flats of the outer Delta are the most extensive found along the Alaskan coast of the Beaufort Sea and serve as critical habitat for hundreds of thousands of shorebirds during brood rearing and migration staging.

Tom Paragi chaired an ad hoc committee on short notice to prepare Chapter comments to meet the original deadline of 26 November 2005. However, an extension of the comment period, allows time for all members of the Alaska Chapter to review the proposed project and draft comment letter. Contact Tom by email (tom_paragi@fishgame.state.ak.us) for a copy of the draft. **Please send comments by Friday 16 December 2005 to Tom Paragi** by email (preferred) or phone (907-459-7327).

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[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 section representative. Thanks.]

News from Southeast:

By Kevin White, Southeast Representative

Kensington Mine/Juneau Access Road: The Kensington Mine, located near Berners Bay, has been permitted and mine infrastructure construction activities have begun. Recently, local conservation groups have announced plans to sue the mine over apparent Clean Water Act violations associated with planned disposal of mine tailings in a lake with a small population of Dolly varden char.

The Juneau Access Road would extend the existing Juneau road system to new ferry terminal 8 miles south of Skagway. A Record of Decision (ROD) is expected in early 2006. The cumulative impact of these two projects on wildlife populations in the Berners Bay and upper Lynn Canal areas represents an important wildlife conservation issue for regional agency biologists.

Berners Bay harbors a very large and regionally significant eulachon ("hooligan") and herring spawning runs in early spring. The marine and terrestrial predator aggregations attracted to this event are exceptional. In addition, throughout the proposed road corridor and mining areas, regionally important populations of mountain goats, bears, moose and wolverines are expected to be impacted to some extent by proposed development activities. In response to these concerns, ADFG recently received funding from Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities and Coeur Alaska to begin mountain goat studies in this area. Proposals for additional studies on moose, brown bears and wolverines are pending.

Prince of Wales Island Deer Study: Dave Person and UAF graduate student Todd Brinkmann have received funding from USFS and ADFG to begin a project to develop a method for estimating deer population and monitoring population trends in Southeast Alaska. The experimental method will combine pellet-group survey techniques with DNA-based population estimation.

Southeast Alaska Bat Research: Julia Boland (Oregon State University graduate student) and Winston Smith (USFS) recently received funding from ADFG, OSU, and the USFS to initiate a bat research study in southeast Alaska. Thus far, they have surveyed six areas in southeast Alaska for bats (Yakutat, Juneau, Chichagof, Mitkof, Wrangell, and Prince of Wales). To date they have captured little-brown bats, long-legged bats, California bats and Keen's bats and sighted flying silver-haired bats. They are creating an echolocation call library of all bats captured. Each habitat type will be assessed for the level of use by bats.

University of Alaska-Southeast (UAS) Landscape Ecology Research:

Old growth connectivity--With the USFWS, USFS, and Juneau Forest Science Laboratory, UAS researcher Sanjay Pyare has been working to complete a GIS-based assessment of functional connectivity among old-growth reserves in the Tongass National Forest using 3 seasons of northern flying squirrel dispersal data collected in a managed forest matrix on Prince of Wales Island.

Western Toad Distribution & Phyleogeography --In a collaborative project involving UAS, ADFG, USFS, NPS, and USGS field work was conducted this summer to establish a distributional baseline for *Bufo boreas*, the western toad, in 3 monitoring areas across Southeast. Additional UAS-led research activities have focused on initiating a GIS-based study to model regional distribution as well as a phyleogeography of toads within the Alexander Archipelago and nearby mainland.

Moose Distribution and Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) Access in Yakutat--This fall, UAS researchers Sanjay Pyare and Karin McCoy assisted the USFS Yakutat Ranger District in conducting a spatially explicit analysis of moose habitat use in the Yakutat forelands, using GPS-collar data previously collected by USFS, UAF, and ADFG. This analysis was specifically focused on assessing the extent to which OHV access influenced habitat use by moose.

USFWS Avian Research Studies:

Distribution and abundance of forest owls--USFWS biologist Michelle Kissling and ADFG collaborator, Steve Lewis, recently completed the first year of a 3-year study focused on determining the distribution and abundance of forest owls in southeast Alaska. The study will ultimately be used to determine effective survey designs.

Brown creeper nesting ecology-- Michelle Kissling has been conducting research on brown creeper nesting ecology to develop survey protocols for cavity- and bark-nesting birds in southeast Alaska.

Kittlitz's murrelet spatial variability--In yet another research effort, Michelle Kissling has been conducting research on spatial variability of Kittlitz's murrelets in the Icy Bay area, along the north coast of the Gulf of Alaska. This collaborative study between the USFWS, NPS and ADFG has focused on gathering information for development of a long-term monitoring plan for Kittlitz's murrelets in Icy Bay. Preliminary estimates indicate a decline of approximately 34% over a three-year period (11% per year, 2002-2005) in this area. Only eight possible Kittlitz's juveniles out of nearly 1200 murrelets were observed, suggesting that either juveniles dispersed outside of the bay immediately after leaving the nest, juveniles were not identified correctly on the water, or reproductive output of Kittlitz's in Icy Bay was extremely low.

Personnel News: Ryan Scott was recently hired by the ADFG to fill the Douglas assistant area biologist position left vacant by Polly Hessing (who recently took a position at the McNeil River Wildlife Sanctuary). ADFG also hired Karin McCoy, recent M.S. graduate of Univ. of Montana, to work as a research technician on a new mountain goat study in northern SE Alaska. The University of Alaska Southeast hired Sanjay Pyare as the new assistant professor of GIS and Landscape Ecology. In addition to maintaining his ongoing research program in southeast Alaska, he will be teaching courses in introductory and applied GIS.

News from South-central:

By Anne Morkill, South-Central Representative

Aleutian Oil Spill Update: The *M/V Selendang Ayu* freighter grounded on Unalaska Island on December 8, 2004, and subsequently released an estimated 320,000 gallons of oil and 14,000 gal of marine diesel. The Unified Command had completed clean-up efforts by September on approximately 20 miles of oiled shoreline. Shoreline cleanup assessment teams will be deployed in May 2006 to re-inspect several beaches where clean-up efforts did not yet achieve endpoint criteria. More than 1,600 oiled or dead birds of at least 30 species and 5 dead sea otters were documented. Federal and state natural resource trustees are compiling pre-assessment data on marine wildlife, anadromous salmon, marine invertebrates, intertidal habitats, and human uses of those resources to determine the full extent of damage.

Murrelet Studies: The USGS Alaska Science Center's Marine Ecology Project reported on their 15 years of research on Kittlitz's and marbled murrelets, with studies ranging from morphology, genetics, diet, distribution, abundance, and behavior. Most notably, population surveys in 2005 revealed that the number of Kittlitz's murrelets observed at Unalaska Island may represent a significant portion of the estimated world population. Further, genetics work indicates that Kittlitz's from mainland Alaska and those from the Aleutian Islands may represent reproductively isolated cryptic species, providing important information for their conservation and management.

Evermann's Rock Ptarmigan Translocation: Steve Ebbert of the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge is leading a multi-year effort to re-establish breeding populations of Evermann's rock ptarmigan in the far western Aleutian Islands. Crews captured 13 ptarmigan at Attu Island in 2005, including 11 females and 2 males. All were transported to Agattu Island where a graduate student from Kansas State University will track the birds throughout the summer. All of the radio-marked hens laid and incubated eggs, demonstrating success in reintroduction of these endemic birds to former breeding range after introduced Arctic fox were removed in previous years.

Sea Otters in SW Alaska Listed as Threatened: Recent survey data indicate that the southwest Alaska population of northern sea otters has undergone a precipitous decline of up to 68% since the mid-1980s. Based on this decline and the fact that recent surveys show continuing decline, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service listed the southwest population as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. The listing affects sea otters located along the Alaska Peninsula, Kodiak archipelago, and Aleutian Islands.

Personnel News: While Eric Taylor serves a one-year detail with The Wildlife Society, NPS Biologist Page Spencer, was selected to detail in Eric's position as the USFWS Regional Refuge Biologist in Anchorage.

News from the North:

By Lisa Saperstein, Northern Representative

Yukon Flats NWR Land Exchange Update: The USFWS has agreed to prepare a full environmental impact statement (EIS) on a proposed land exchange between the Service and Doyon Limited within the Yukon Flats NWR, with public scoping meetings beginning in late January 2006. The Service hopes to have a draft EIS ready for public review by December of 2006. A series of public meetings to solicit public input and comments on the draft EIS will be held in the spring of 2007 before a decision is made to pursue or not pursue the exchange. For more information contact the refuge at 800/531-0676 or click the "Current Topics" button at <http://yukonflats.fws.gov/>.

South National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska Planning: The Western Arctic Caribou Herd (WACH) Working Group submitted scoping comments to BLM for the South NPRA following a meeting in Kotzebue on October 4, 2005. Representatives from ADFG, USFWS, NPS, and BLM provided technical assistance to the committee. ADFG gave an overview of WACH data, and BLM described the scoping process to the committee. The Alaska Regional Office-USFWS also submitted scoping comments to BLM.

2005 Fire Season--Third Biggest: On September 1, 2005, it was estimated that 624 fires burned more than 4.4 million acres statewide in 2005, making it the third largest fire season recorded (http://fire.ak.blm.gov/news/news_1.htm). Within northern Alaska, 331 fires burned more than 3.9 million acres. The top fire season occurred in 2004, when 6.59 million acres burned statewide. Since the 1950s (when reliable records were begun), there were no two years in a row with more than two million acres burned, until 2004-2005.

Top-five fire seasons by year and acres burned (from Alaska Fire Service records, updated 9/28/05)

Standing	Year	Acres Burned
1	2004	6.59 million
2	1957	5.06 million
3	2005	4.57+ million
4	1969	4.01 million
5	1990	3.18 million

+ not all fire reports had been completed as of 9/28/05

Senate Bill (SB) 85: An additional round of public hearings on SB 85, a bill to repeal a ban on off-road vehicle (OHV) use in the Dalton Highway corridor, were held in Coldfoot, Fairbanks, Nome, Barrow, and Chugiak in mid-October. The bill was introduced in January 2005 and received considerable public opposition. Concerns associated with the bill include public safety, pipeline security, damage to tundra habitat, unsustainable hunting pressure, and vulnerability of projects at the Toolik Field Station.

OHVs in the White Mountains: The summer off-highway vehicle management portion of the White Mountains National Recreation Area Resource Management plan will be amended. The amendment will affect only the area already designated as semi-primitive/motorized in which summer use of small OHVs is allowed. All new alternatives eliminate the damage thresholds of the old plan, but share the goal of eventually having most OHV traffic occur on a system of managed trails. The *designated trail* and *resource protection* alternatives largely restrict OHVs to designated trails, while the *adaptive* alternative allows continued off-trail use. For more information, see <http://www.co.fairbanks.us/landmgt/WMNRA>. There is no formal public comment period, but input will be accepted until a decision is made, likely in mid-December.

Personnel News

Kenton Moos will report in December as the new refuge manager of the Koyukuk and Nowitna NWRs based in Galena. Kenton and his family have lived in Bethel for the past three years where he served

as the assistant refuge manager of the Yukon Delta NWR.

Tony Booth will report in February 2006 as the new refuge manager of the Tetlin NWR. Tony came to Alaska in 1977 in a position with Northern Alaska

Robin Corcoran joined the staff of Innoko NWR in McGrath in May as a wildlife biologist. Robin conducted her MS research on the Yukon Flats and will be responsible for the bird programs on the refuge.

Merry Maxwell, deputy manager of Kanuti NWR, has accepted the refuge manager position at Pahrnagat NWR in Nevada, 90 miles north of Las Vegas. Merry moved south in mid-November.

Mike Vivion, Pilot/Wildlife Biologist, has accepted a teaching position with the University of Minnesota and will be retiring from the USFWS effective December 1, 2005. Mike spent the last 19 years of his career with the Yukon Flats NWR and made significant contributions to the waterfowl program.

Patrick Snow reported to Kotzebue as the new Supervisory Refuge Operation Specialist for the Selawik NWR. Originally from McGrath, AK, Patrick previously served as a Refuge Operations Specialist for the Yukon Delta NWR.

Ecological Services and has worked in the Service's Regional Office in Anchorage since 1992, most recently as Regional Refuge Permits Coordinator.

Susan Georgette is the new Outreach Specialist for the Selawik NWR. A long-time resident of Kotzebue, she moved over to the refuge from ADFG Subsistence Division where she served as Subsistence Resource Specialist.

Harry Reynolds retired in August after 33 years with the ADFG, primarily researching grizzly bears in interior and northern Alaska. He continues a second term as president of the International Bear Association and is currently working on a project on Gobi bears in Mongolia.

Kalin Kellie was hired as a research biologist by ADFG in Fairbanks to assist on a variety of regional projects. Kalin had been a technician for the Department since 1999 and last spring completed a master's degree at UAF on moose dispersal.

Roger Seavoy was appointed as the McGrath Area Biologist for ADFG after serving as assistant and area biologist the last 7 years in Bethel. Roger replaces **Toby Boudreau**, who left McGrath for Idaho in June.

The 6th annual workshop of the Committee for Noxious and Invasive Plants Management in Alaska (CNIPM) was held in Fairbanks October 25 - 26. The group's goal is "*to heighten the awareness of the problems associated with non-native invasive plants and to bring about greater statewide coordination, cooperation and action to halt the introduction and spread of undesirable plants*" (<http://www.cnipm.org/>). The meeting agenda included presentations on invasive plant surveys around the state and future strategies for managing invasive plants.

The **Koyukuk River Moose Hunter Working Group** met in Fairbanks on Oct. 25-26. The group met to discuss the future of the Koyukuk River Moose Management Plan for Game Management Unit 24 and the northern portion of Unit 21D. The five-year plan was originally intended to be in effect from 2000-2005. The working group was initiated by ADFG and consisted of members from rural and urban ADFG advisory committees with an interest in the Koyukuk River moose population, representatives of the federal Western Interior Regional Advisory Council, and commercial operators. Agency personnel have been involved as technical advisors.

The **Fire Effects Task Group** met in Fairbanks on October 27. The group consists of fire personnel, biologists, and researchers from different agencies and research institutions. Agenda items included updates on fire research and federal initiatives (LandFire, Fire Regime Condition Classes), burn severity work, updates on projects funded by the Joint Fire Science Program, and a developing fire effects protocol. Diana Olson of the Pacific Wildland Fire Research Lab gave a presentation on the FireHouse Fire Research Web Page, a clearing-house for fire-related information for Alaska and the northwest (<http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/fera/firehouse>).

Michelle Prehoda, a graduate student at Michigan State University, presented her paper "Mooseherb: A Simulation Model in Stella to Determine the Impacts of Moose Herbivory on Plant Succession" at the 41st Annual North American Moose Conference and Workshop in May, 2005, based on work on the Selawik NWR.

2006 TWS National Conference: Arrangement Committee Update

By Gino Del Frate

TWS Anchorage is now a reality and downtown Anchorage will be full of Wildlifers next September. All of the sub-committees of the Arrangements Committee are now well aware of this fact and working hard to make this an enjoyable event for all attendees. Over the last 6 weeks, committee members have met across the state. Decisions on quantity and types of merchandise to order, what types of field trips, where to have our receptions are all some of the exciting activities going on. By the time this newsletter is printed, letters from the fund-raising committee will be out to potential donors across the state. If any members are contacted by potential donors, please voice your support for the conference. Located just a couple of blocks from the Egan Center, the Anchorage Hilton and Howard Johnson are currently designated as conference hotels and both will have a block of rooms with conference rates.

We need more help! Many of the committees could use additional help. If you have a certain type of expertise or desire to help with a certain committee, please contact Howard Golden at howard_golden@fishgame.state.ak.us or myself at gino_delfrate@fishgame.state.ak.us and we will direct you to the appropriate sub-committee chair. If you would like to volunteer next fall at the meeting then Liz Solomon (elizabeth_solomon@fishgame.state.ak.us) would like to hear from you. A list of all subcommittees and their chairs is available at the Alaska chapter web site (<http://www.wildlife.org/chapters>).

While not part of the Arrangements Committee responsibilities, we know that the Program Committee has also been busy and should have decisions on symposia and session topics soon. The September-October 2005 (No. 332) and November-December 2005 (No 333) issues of *The Wildlifer* provide additional information, submission guidelines and deadlines. Contributed paper and poster abstracts are due 15 February 2006! Also, remember to get your photos ready for the photo contest.

We are currently anticipating that between 1,300 and 1,600 wildlife professionals will attend the 2006 TWS Conference. However, if the American Fisheries Society Annual Conference is an indication of the potential we may be expecting many more. I would recommend that everyone make their plans (and reservations) early. This will help us better estimate how many will be attending. We look forward to seeing everyone there!

UAF Student Chapter TWS

By Darce Holcomb, President

In the past semester, the University of Alaska Fairbanks Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society has attained record membership, established a regular business meeting schedule, and increased collaboration with state, federal and non-governmental conservation agencies and organizations. The UAF-SCTWS has approximately 80 members, nearly double the membership in recent history. We hold one business meeting and two guest seminars each month. Fund raising events include, bake sales, barbeques, and our new TWS shirts and mugs. Our faculty adviser is Dr. Falk Huettman. The 2005-06 UAF-SCTWS officers are:

Darce Holcomb, President	Johnny Hagood, Vice President
Jeff Wells, Secretary	Carl Roberts, Treasurer
Jonathan Fiely, Executive Officer	Simon Wigren, Executive Officer
Michelle Salinas, Executive Officer	Micha Miller, Executive Officer

During the Fall 2005 semester, the UAF SCTWS:

- demonstrated how to identify mammal skulls and furs to school children at the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's 2005 Fall Festival
- participated in aerial surveys for moose with the USFWS and ADFG
- sponsored a booth on The Wildlife Society at the Far North Conservation Film Festival
- sponsored two UAF-SCTWS teams to compete in the UAF Natural Resource Management Department's Forest Sports Festival
- collaborated on research projects with ADFG and the UAF Large Animal Research Station

- hosted a seminar series, with speakers from UAF, resource agencies, and conservation organizations

Our big fundraising event, the Alaskan Game Dinner, will occur on April 8, 2006 at the Musher's Hall (mile 6 on Farmers Loop Rd). We are looking for donations (tax deductible) to auction as a fund-raiser. Please see www.uaf.edu/wildlife for the schedule of events and to order merchandise. Other future activities include a field trip to the Seward Sea Life Center, sending representatives to the TWS Northwest Section meeting, volunteering at the Alaska Trappers Association Banquet, and banding migratory birds with the Alaska Bird Observatory, and continuation of the seminar series.

For information on the UAF SCTWS, please contact Darce Holcomb at fbscwlf@uaf.edu or visit www.uaf.edu/wildlife.

Senate Bill 170: Alaskan Wildlife Policy Issues

Senate Bill No. 170 was introduced by Senator Seekins of Fairbanks in April, 2005 <http://www.legis.state.ak.us/PDF/24/Bills/SB0170A.PDF>. This bill covers a broad range of issues affecting the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and wildlife policies in Alaska. The bill was referred to the Resources Committee during the first session of the 24th Alaska Legislature. In October 2005, the Resources Committee held public hearings regarding SB 170 in Nome, Fairbanks, Coldfoot, Barrow and Chugiak. The bill will be considered by the Senate again during the upcoming second session of the 24th Legislature, which convenes January 9, 2006.

License fees for hunting, trapping and fishing in Alaska have not increased for about 15 years. Operating costs for ADFG have increased during this time, and the agency has a critical need to increase its revenue to continue providing the services it has in the past. Although ADFG generally supports the fee increase as proposed in SB 170, the Department intends to work with the Legislature to design the best legislation for the management and conservation of fish, wildlife, and habitat resources. Currently, the proposed legislation would:

- shift the authority for many important functions from ADFG to the Boards of Game and Fisheries (BOG/BOF). Since the boards are part-time committees (e.g., BOG meets only twice per year), this would result in potential time lags and delays in implementing management actions.
- require that ADFG spend all new revenue resulting from fee increase on the management of wildlife for consumptive use. ADFG currently uses most of its funding to manage game species; however, the Department needs additional monies to support education and outreach and to assess potential effects of resource development projects on wildlife and fish habitats.
- require ADFG to gain legislative approval prior to transferring funds between projects. Because many management activities (e.g., aerial surveys) are weather dependent, the Department needs flexibility to move funding within and between programs to address alternative questions.
- modify intensive management laws. The justification to change intensive management laws is unclear.
- create a means for members of the public to "buy out" the hunting privilege for potentially habituated wolves and brown bears near viewing areas in state game sanctuaries and national parks. The fee would include the value of hunting permits plus foregone revenue to the State for hunting these species.
- alter the methods and means used to hunt black and brown bears for purposes of reducing bear predation on ungulate populations. Effectiveness of some of the proposed methods and means for predator control are unknown, as are implications for public safety.
- would allow the sale of any wildlife part, including meat.
- would remove nongame species out of ADFG jurisdiction unless the Board of Game specifically adopted a regulation directing the Department to manage a species. In essence, this bill could result in no state agency having jurisdiction over nongame wildlife species.

The Alaska Chapter of The Wildlife Society will monitor the progress of SB 170 during the upcoming session. **If you have an interest in working on this issue, please contact Dave Yokel**, co-Chair, Conservation Review Committee (dave_yokel@blm.gov or 907-474-2314).

Northwest Section News:

2006 Northwest Section Annual Meeting in Boise, Idaho

The Section will co-host a meeting on March 6-8, 2006 with the Idaho Chapter, The Northwest Scientific Association, and the Northwest Lichenologists. The Conference Theme and Plenary Session are entitled: *Science, Natural Resource Management, and the Public Good: Towards a Democracy of Information and Management*. Dr. Michael Hutchins, new Executive Director of TWS, will give a plenary address. The topic will focus on promoting science in natural resources policy and management as we explore the role societies and professionals play in advocating science-based decision making. The deadline for submission of abstracts is December 16, 2005. The Northwest Section is offering grants to partially support student travel, registration, and/or lodging expenses. <http://www.ictws.org/whatsnew.htm>

NW Section Awards

Nominations for two awards are being accepted by the Awards Committee until January 3, 2006. The **Arthur S. Einarsen Award** recognizes outstanding service to the wildlife profession by individuals residing in the area encompassed by the Northwest Section of The Wildlife Society. The **Wildlife Administrator Award** recognizes and rewards excellence in the areas of wildlife program development and administration. Contact Lowell Suring (lsuring@fs.fed.us).

Openings for NW Section Leadership Positions

If you are interested in Northwest Section leadership, the following positions will become available this spring: President-Elect, Secretary/Treasurer, and Vice-President. Please let Mike Goldstein know of your interest (mgoldstein@fs.fed.us; 907-586-7905).

Wini Kessler (Northwest Section Representative) reports on the Annual Meeting in Madison (Excerpts from the NW Section Newsletter).

The Members Forum focused on the various changes that will improve the quality, delivery, utility, impact, and cost-effectiveness of our publications. The improvements include:

- Accelerated publication schedule in 2005 and 2006 to catch up on the backlog of the Journal of Wildlife Management (JWM) and Wildlife Society Bulletin (WSB) manuscripts.
- Increasing the amount of articles published in each JWM issue.
- Increasing the frequency of publication.
- Marketing our publications to enhance subscription rates and impact, improving the revenue stream from our publications, and lowering the cost of publications to members.
- Transition to electronic publication as the primary access mode, with an option for printed copy.
- Movement of all peer-reviewed articles to the JWM.

A particularly exciting development is the evolution and expansion of the WSB into a new members' magazine that will offer a wealth of management, policy, news, field methods, opinion pieces, and other information to every TWS member as a basic benefit of membership (i.e., no subscription charge to members).

Council took up a variety of important business in 2 ½ days of meetings. The first day was dedicated to strategic discussions about the future of TWS. There was consensus about the need to articulate the particular niche that TWS fills in the conservation arena, and to position the Society to serve a more effective role in the future. In the months ahead, TWS members will be asked for input into these important discussions. Council also affirmed the need to increase the value of TWS to members and partners, and discussed ideas for doing this. A variety of issues were discussed on days 2 and 3, including action on the following items:

- Approved a petition to develop a new Student Professional Development Working Group.
- Approved a recommendation to facilitate a Retired Professionals Network by providing space on the TWS website, and to honor retirees by means of a reception at the 2006 Annual Meeting in Anchorage.
- Approved a position statement on Wildlife Needs in Forest Management and a draft position statement on Scientific Peer Review for Regulatory Decisions.

- Created an *ad hoc* subcommittee to solicit input on the new publication (the members' magazine) and develop plans for its design and content.
- Re-name TWS publications. In accordance with the preferences expressed by members, the new members' magazine will be named *The Wildlife Professional*. No name changes will be made to *The Journal of Wildlife Management* or *Wildlife Monographs*.

Meetings of Interest:

The 11th Alaska Bird Conference and Workshops will be held 7-9 February, 2006 in Juneau, Alaska. The call for abstracts and details regarding the conference can be found at www.abc2006.juneau-audubon-society.org.

The 2nd Alaska Amphibian Conference will immediately follow the AK Bird Conference, February 10-11, 2006 in Juneau. <http://www.stikine.org/akherps2006>

The 33rd Annual Meeting of the Pacific Seabird Group will take place at the Alyeska Prince Hotel in Girdwood, Alaska, from 15-18 February 2006. For more information and to register go to: <http://www.pacificseabirdgroup.org/mtg.html>

The 71st North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference, with a theme of *Natural Resource Conservation: The Other Homeland Security*, will be held 22-25 March 2006 in Columbus, Ohio. Associated workshops include *Wind Energy Development and Wildlife Management*, and *Current Status and Future Directions of Waterfowl Harvest Management*. www.wildlifemanagementinstitute.org/pages/TOC.html

The 15th Biennial Northern Wild Sheep and Goat Symposium will be held April 2-6, 2006 in Kananaskis Country, Alberta (near Canmore). Abstracts should be submitted to Beth MacCallum, program chair, at ovis@telusplanet.net by January 15, 2006. For additional conference information, contact Jon Jorgenson (403-678-5508 ext. 291, Jon.Jorgenson@gov.ab.ca).

The 11th North American Caribou Workshop, April 23 - 26th, 2006, Jasper, Alberta, Canada. Workshop Theme: Managing Caribou Populations That Are At Risk. Titles for presentations will be accepted until February 28, 2006. Abstracts must be received by March 31, 2006. Information can be found at the Alberta Chapter of The Wildlife Society Website www.albertadirctory.net/actws.

Two pioneers in Alaska bear conservation retire.

Larry Aumiller: After 30 years of managing the McNeil River State Game Sanctuary (34 years with ADFG), Larry Aumiller recently retired from state service. Larry made significant and unique contributions to the Department, to the McNeil River Sanctuary, and to worldwide efforts in bear conservation.

Larry's formative years were spent in Colorado where his grandfather nurtured an interest in the outdoors while fishing in the Rocky Mountains. His interest in bears was kindled by a TV documentary featuring Frank and John Craighead's Yellowstone grizzly research.

After graduating from Kansas University with a degree in commercial art and a Vietnam-era tour of duty in the military, Larry headed to Alaska in a Volkswagen bug painted in timely psychedelic colors. His interest in fishing led him to King Salmon where he worked several seasons for the divisions of Commercial Fisheries and Sport Fish. While in the Bristol Bay area, he found that he loved the wilderness, long treks and encounters with wildlife.

Former King Salmon area wildlife biologist Jim Faro noticed Larry's keen interest in bears and hired him to manage field operations at the McNeil River Sanctuary in 1976. Larry quickly noticed that bears became more tolerant of humans when people were consistent in their activities and behavior. He applied this knowledge by guiding groups of visitors at McNeil River rather than allowing them to wander and interact with bears at random. The result of this consistent human behavior was increased safety and a reduction of threatening encounters with brown bears to almost zero. Larry went on to develop a world-renowned bear-viewing program that is emulated by many bear-viewing and wildlife viewing sites worldwide.

Larry came to the Department without formal biological training, but through his careful observations of bears and extensive reading, he developed an amazing understanding of bear behavior widely recognized by bear biologists. Larry's thousands of hours viewing bears have led to new insights into bear behavior and the process of habituation. His work at McNeil River has helped change people's understanding and attitudes toward bears and bear encounters. He has co-authored a number of scientific publications and is well-known as a quiet but persistent advocate and spokesman for bear conservation. He was often featured in popular articles, books, and documentaries, and has shared his incredible images of brown bears in support of bear conservation. Because of his significant contributions to the worldwide efforts to conserve bears, Larry was awarded the Olaus Murie Award by the Alaska Conservation Foundation in 1999.

A visitor to McNeil River once commented that his visit to the sanctuary was an "once-in-a-lifetime experience" and how fortunate Larry was to have that experience day-after-day and year-after-year. Now thirty years later, we wish Larry the best of luck in his pursuit of even more "once-in-a-lifetime" experiences.

Harry Reynolds

Internationally known bear biologist Harry Reynolds retired from ADFG in August, 2005, after 33 years. During his tenure, Harry contributed significantly to the world's knowledge of grizzly and brown bear ecology and population status, as well as capture techniques.

Harry grew up in Yellowstone National Park where his father was a ranger. In the summers during his high school, undergraduate and graduate studies, Harry worked with Frank and John Craighead on pioneering grizzly bear research in the park. John Craighead was his major professor while Harry completed an MS with a study of golden eagle ecology in 1969. Also under the Craigheads' guidance, Harry worked on a NASA project developing satellite telemetry on elk in 1970-71, probably the first satellite telemetry used on any wildlife.

In 1972, he moved to Alaska where he and Patricia had seasonal jobs with the NPS in Denali as rangers. He was hired by ADFG to work at the lab in Anchorage in fall of 1972. In 1973-74, he started a grizzly bear research project for the Arctic Gas Project in Northeast Alaska, within the boundaries of what was then called the Arctic Wildlife Range (now ANWR).

Beginning in late 1974, Harry spent two years as the Barrow Area Biologist where he started a grizzly project in the western Brooks Range at Driftwood that became one of the longest-running grizzly projects in North America. He continued that study after moving to Fairbanks in fall of 1976 to become the Interior/Arctic bear biologist, a position he held until retirement. He established another long-running study in the Alaska Range, investigating the decline of grizzly bears, and was the co-investigator on grizzly bear ecology in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, part of the "1002 studies."

Harry's involvement in bear research has spanned nearly five decades, during which he has probably handled more grizzly or brown bears than any other biologist in the world. He helped pioneer the early years of radio and satellite telemetry and capture drugs, and has contributed significantly to development and refinement of capture techniques. He gained a reputation as a truly excellent field biologist. Recently, Harry assisted in the development of a new method of obtaining estimates of grizzly bear density.

Harry has been a member of the International Association for Bear Research and Management for about four decades, served as a Council member for many years and is currently continuing his second term as president. He was recently recruited to consult on bear research in Mongolia, where he has helped train crews who have successfully captured and collared the first bear in many years from a critically endangered population of Gobi brown bears.

During his career, Harry remained very open and approachable by other biologists and students alike and has been consistently willing to share knowledge and insights. Harry mentored many students who became professional biologists in different parts of Alaska and the U.S.

Harry has truly made a mark on brown and grizzly bear research in the world. After a long and remarkable career, he is now dedicating himself to bear conservation throughout the world. We wish him well on his continued efforts and look forward to learning more about bears from him.

Thomas M. Franklin leaves TWS, joins Izaak Walton League

Eric J. Taylor

Tom Franklin, Acting Executive Director, left The Wildlife Society in June to become the Conservation Director for the Izaak Walton League of America. Tom began work with TWS as Field Director (1983-91), then became Policy Director (1991-2004) and was the Acting Executive Director (2004-05). In looking over the Alaska Chapter TWS archives, I quickly realized the frequent and significant support that Tom provided on conservation issues in Alaska. I surveyed 15 3-inch binders that store TWS policy correspondence from 1983-2005 with the purpose of listing TWS correspondence on Alaskan conservation issues signed by Tom Franklin. During about the late 1980s, I gave up because I knew our newsletter editor would not allow such a lengthy article. In summary, the list of letters, testimonies, and other documents produced during this era is truly impressive - below is only a sample:

- 1986: letter and testimony by TWS on the importance of maintaining old forests on the Tongass National Forest.
- 1990: letter: U.S. Forest Service describing field review of Tongass National Forest management practices to protect fish and wildlife habitat.
- 1991: letter: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers requesting consideration of Alaska Chapter and ADFG comments on a proposed fish ladder and introduction of salmon in the Paint River.

support for Dr. David Klein to provide testimony before the House Subcommittee on Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation and the Environment related to possible oil exploration within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge
- 1992: letter: Environmental Protection Agency stating opposition to exempt Alaska wetlands from mitigation guidelines under the Clean Water Act.
- 1995: co-authored publication: Kirchhoff, M.D., J. W. Schoen, and T. M. Franklin. *A model for science-based conservation advocacy: Tongass National Forest case history*. Wildlife Society Bulletin 18:453-458.
- 1998: letter: U.S. Senate, stating opposition to the King Cove Heath and Safety Act of 1997 (S. 1092) that would authorize a road through 11 miles of Izembek National Wildlife Refuge, including 7 miles of congressionally designated wilderness
- 2001: letter: President Bush, Vice-President Cheney, Secretary Norton, Energy Committees, and Executive/Legislative offices distributing TWS's position statement on the Arctic NWR
- 2002: letter: U.S. Forest Service stating draft supplemental EIS is deficient and provides no scientific basis for excluding Tongass National Forest from the Roadless Area Conservation Rule
- 2003: letter: U.S. Forest Service, opposing the USFS proposal to exempt the Tongass and Chugach National Forests on the Roadless Area Conservation Rule amendments
- 2004: letter: Bureau of Land Management, recommending BLM adopt the No Action Alternative in the draft amendment, Northeast Integrated Activity Plan /Environmental Impact Statement for the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska
- 2005: letters: Bureau of Land Management, NE NPR-A Final Amended IAP/EIS, opposing BLM Preferred Alternative, supporting the adoption of the No Action Alternative, and requesting information on North Slope Science Initiative

letter: Alaska Chapter TWS requesting Chapter update the national position statement *Management and Conservation of Old-Growth Forests*

Matt Kirchhoff, Wildlife Biologist, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, stated: "*Tom was always available for discussion by phone, always on top of Alaska issues, [and] a great supporter of the Alaska Chapter.*" The professional standing of TWS on Tongass National Forest issues resulted in Tom being invited to Alaska by the U.S. Forest Service on several occasions to review forest practices.

John Schoen, Senior Scientist, National Audubon Society, Alaska State Office, testified twice before Congress on the Tongass Timber Reform Act on behalf of TWS. John acknowledged Tom's professional guidance during the congressional briefings adding that Tom also testified several times on the Tongass Timber Reform Act. John stated: "*Tom was also very active in addressing Arctic Refuge conservation issues on behalf of the Alaska Chapter and TWS. [He] has been a long-time, strong supporter of responsible conservation in Alaska and has worked through TWS to ensure that Alaska's voice is heard. The Alaska Chapter owes a debt of gratitude to Tom Franklin for his effective policy work on behalf of wildlife conservation in Alaska.*"

Dave Klein, Professor Emeritus, University of Alaska Fairbanks, stated: *I have always respected Tom for his dedication toward the goals of The Wildlife Society and his support for wildlife conservation issues whether they be in Maine or Alaska, Africa or Louisiana. When, in the past I have been asked to testify before Congressional committees on ecosystem processes, ecological values, and potential consequences of oil development in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, it was Tom, working closely with conservation organizations, who provided assistance in setting up the meetings with Congress, in securing financial support for my presence in Washington, and most importantly in providing the encouragement and assurance that my testimony would have significant influence on subsequent Congressional action on the Arctic Refuge.*

During the past year, Tom's leadership prompted TWS to provide science-based recommendations to the Bureau of Land Management on the proposed oil and gas lease sale in the northeast National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska, recommending continued protection of critical goose molting habitat and caribou calving areas near Teshekpuk Lake.

In recognition of Tom's 22 years of professional service and dedication to The Wildlife Society, he was honored with an award at the 2005 TWS Conference in Madison. Tom can be reached at the Izaak Walton League of America at tfranklin@iwla.org or 301-548-0150.

TWS Working Group for the Steady State Economy

The Alaska Chapter received a request from Patrick Magee, past Chair of the TWS Working Group for the Steady State Economy, to publish the following essay. The primary goal of the Working Group is to promote understanding of the conflict between economic growth and wildlife conservation and to seek solutions to the problem (the steady state economy is one) within our profession, but also in society as a whole. The working group is focusing much of their attention in 2006 on education. One of the mechanisms is to reach wildlife professionals through publishing essays in chapter newsletters. The essay is a brief summary of the Working Group's mission and current activities.

Economic growth precludes wildlife conservation

By Mike Larson, Chair, TWS Working Group for the Steady State Economy

The fundamental conflict between economic growth and wildlife conservation may be the greatest obstacle to achieving excellence in wildlife stewardship. Currently, economic growth enjoys unquestioned supremacy as a policy goal at all levels of government. However, TWS issued a technical review recognizing the fundamental conflict (Trauger et al. 2003) and during 2004 adopted a position on economic growth. This article is intended to provide a brief synopsis of the fundamental conflict, address a couple potential concerns about the steady state economy, and ask for your help in resolving the fundamental conflict.

Economic growth is an increase in the production and consumption of goods and services. Nationally, Gross Domestic Product is an index of the size of the economy, which is a function of human population size and the per capita rate of resource consumption. All sectors of the economy require the consumption of finite natural resources. As more resources are allocated to the human economy, fewer remain in the economy of nature. Our economy grows, therefore, at the competitive exclusion of wildlife in the aggregate. Furthermore, the laws of physics dictate that perpetual economic growth is an oxymoron.

We cannot rely on technology to resolve the conflict. Technology, including substituting rare resources with more common ones, has the potential to mitigate the fundamental conflict but only to the extent that it increases the efficiency of resource use without contributing to increases in the rate of resource use. Unfortunately, new technology that makes it to the market, when coupled with the goal of economic growth, invariably serves to accelerate resource consumption (Czech 2003).

The only alternatives to economic growth are a declining economy (i.e., recession) and a steady state economy (SSE), which consists of mildly fluctuating human population size and per capita resource use that do not change in magnitude over the long term. Since the mid-1800s renowned economists from John Stuart Mill to Herman Daly have advocated a SSE, described how society would function under a SSE, and provided ideas about how to transition to a SSE. Under a SSE overall wealth and the size of economic markets (e.g., Nasdaq) would be constant but capitalism could still operate as people and business firms compete, resulting in relative economic winners and losers. For example, the wildlife profession could grow under a SSE but only at the expense of a less sustainable economic sector, such as automobile racing.

Please learn more about macroeconomics, the fundamental conflict, and the SSE. Discuss them with your colleagues and friends. Consider becoming a member of TWS's Working Group for the Steady State Economy (WGSSE), whose mission is to address the fundamental conflict by discussing it with peers, policy makers, and the general public and by promoting a SSE as a feasible and positive alternative to the growth paradigm. The WGSSE also advocates a stronger policy position on economic growth by TWS. You can find literature citations and additional information at our web site (<http://www.wildlife.org/wg/steadystate>)

2006 Membership Renewal

Early Renewals Available On-Line: Renewals for the 2006 calendar year are now available on-line at The Wildlife Society's store (<http://www.wildlife.org>). For example, 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 several of the 18 TWS working groups.

Alaska Chapter of the Wildlife Society 2006 Membership Form

If you are not a member of the National TWS and want to maintain your 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 National, please continue to pay your state dues when you renew, using the form and procedure provided by National.

Name: _____

Affiliation: _____

Mailing Address: _____

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

E-mail: _____

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