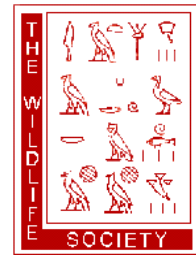




The Alaskan Wildlifer

Newsletter of the Alaska Chapter of
The Wildlife Society

November 2007



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Message from the President

Providing leadership - A highlight of my attendance at the 14th annual meeting of The Wildlife Society in Tucson, Arizona last September was the privilege to briefly address about 60 colleagues at the Leader's Lunch. I spoke of our chapter's accomplishments over the last couple years and what we plan for the future. More rewarding to me than the congratulations received on having Alaska be recognized for *2007 Chapter of the Year* were questions from other chapter officers from around the country about how they can adopt some of our strategies in science education, member services, and membership recruitment. It reminded me that many of those ideas came from Chapter members—please keep them coming! In my address I acknowledged the involvement by a few Chapter members beyond Alaska. The list includes service at the Northwest Section level by Michael Goldstein (past President) and Sanjay Pyare (President) and service as Northwest Representative on TWS Council by Wini Kessler (2001-07) and now by Ellen Campbell, who recently retired to Oregon from Juneau. Our past President, Eric Taylor, spent part of 2005-07 on detail at TWS Headquarters to conduct a national survey of participation in professional societies by USGS and USFWS employees. Eric was honored in giving a plenary presentation in Tucson on the key survey findings, which will be detailed in an upcoming issue of the *Journal of Wildlife Management*. I encourage Chapter members to follow the path of these "home grown" leaders by stepping up and serving in whatever capacity you can in our organization.

WANTED: Officer Candidates for Executive Board

We are seeking individuals willing to volunteer their help in keeping our organization active in wildlife conservation in Alaska. Most officers on the Executive Board (3 regional representatives and the Secretary-Treasurer) serve 2-year terms, whereas the President-Elect serves for 6 years total (2 years each as President-Elect, President, and Past President). Officers conduct business primarily by email, enabling informed discussion prior to decision making by vote. Representatives primarily solicit information for the quarterly newsletter, whereas the Secretary-Treasurer handles periodic financial duties or correspondence. Officers should make a reasonable effort to attend the annual membership meeting held in conjunction with the scientific conference in Anchorage, Fairbanks, or Juneau. Non-voting members who contribute to discussion include a Student Chapter Representative (normally 1 year) and Newsletter Editor.

We are seeking nominees by early January so that brief biographies and a ballot can be published in the February 2008 newsletter. The election will occur in March by ballot with the option for email voting, likely through our parent organization website as in 2006. New officers will be installed at the membership meeting on 24 April in Anchorage. Please consider donating professional service to the Alaska Chapter.



TWS journal archives now available for free. You may have already heard about this fantastic new service in *The Wildlifer* (Issue 342, Summer 2007, page 8), which makes older TWS publications available for downloading articles at no cost by any member, with no subscription required. However, there is a small trick to logging in. It helps to bookmark the TWS journals webpage (www.wildlifejournals.org), click on "archive" for the journal of interest, then click on the option for backdated issues listed as "available to members of The Wildlife Society through JSTOR". That will take you to the "Wildlife Online" log-in screen where you enter your last name as your "User Name" and your 5-digit code (from your mailing label) as your "Password". Note that this is the opposite order of entry used in the TWS Store (for renewing memberships or ordering journal subscriptions).

Wildlife Online (JSTOR): User Name = last name, Password = 5-digit code on your mailing label

TWS Store: Membership ID = 5-digit code, Password = <password you set>

Once inside JSTOR, you can select "browse" to see individual issues or use "search" based on keywords or author names. The "economy" PDF for faster download is pretty crude, so you might skip right to "high quality."

News from Southeast:

By Steve Lewis, Southeast Representative

Doug Larsen was promoted to Director of Wildlife Conservation (DWC) for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) in August. Doug served as Chapter President during 2002-04 and led the effort to develop a strategic plan for our organization. Doug joins three other Chapter members who have served as Director of DWC since 1990: David Kelleyhouse, Wayne Regelin, and Matt Robus.

News from Southcentral:

By Robin West, Southcentral Representative

People

Mike Rearden, Refuge Manager of Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge, is leaving Bethel to take a position at the University of Alaska - Anchorage. Mike will be working with the Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program (ANSEP) to try and increase the

recruitment, retention, and placement of Alaska Natives into biology and resource management positions. Anyone interested in this topic should contact Mike at UAA.

News

Chugach National Forest recently released a Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record-of-Decision regarding Kenai area winter access. The Forest Supervisor chose the Modified Preferred Alternative, which established a range of winter activities on the Seward Ranger District in response to diverse community and citizen interests. See www.fs.fed.us/r10/chugach/news_releases/kenai_workshop/kwa-new.html for more information.

News from the North:

By Carol McIntyre, Northern Representative

People

Chase Marshall joined the staff of Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) in July as the new Fire Management position representing the three Fairbanks-based refuges. Marshall has 17 seasons/years of experience in fire management with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. His previous position was District Fire Management Officer in Region 6, where he oversaw wildland fire management on Refuges and Wetland Management Districts across much of North Dakota

Wiseman resident Kristin Reakoff joined the Kanuti NWR staff this spring as an interpretive park ranger stationed at Coldfoot. She will represent Arctic, Kanuti, and Yukon Flats Refuges at the Arctic Interagency Visitor Center and coordinate local, regional, and national outreach activities for Kanuti Refuge.

Jim Lawler is the new coordinator of the National Park Service's (NPS) Arctic Network Inventory and Monitoring Program. Jim will continue to work out of the NPS Fairbanks Administrative Center office.

Robin Corcoran, wildlife biologist at Innoko National Wildlife Refuge, transferred in September to the Salton Sea Refuge in southern California

News

The Innoko National Wildlife Refuge's Comprehensive Conservation Plan should be released in January 2008



The Innoko NWR staff completed 3 Breeding Bird Survey routes in June, banded over 1,000 greater white-fronted geese, and sampled approximately 120 northern pintails for avian influenza in August.

The Innoko NWR hopes to conduct a moose density estimate over one-half of the refuge in February.

2008 Annual Meeting of the Alaska Chapter TWS

By Howard Golden

The annual meeting of the Alaska Chapter of the Wildlife Society will be held on 23-24 April, 2008 at The Millennium Hotel in Anchorage. The meeting will begin with the plenary session on State/Federal Dual Regulation of Wildlife featuring an historical perspective from invited speakers with a panel discussion and open forum. Following the plenary session, technical and poster sessions will cover a wide variety of wildlife issues relevant to Alaska. The meeting will be preceded on 22 April by workshops and field trips. Planning is underway to have three workshops: moose research and management, and introductions to ArcGIS ModelBuilder, and the Statewide Digital Mapping Initiative. Contact Kalin Kellie (kalin.kellie@alaska.gov) about the moose workshop or Liz Solomon (elizabeth.solomon@alaska.gov) about the GIS and mapping workshops. Early plans for field trips include the SeaLife Center and local wildlife sites. The banquet will feature John Organ (recent TWS President) as our keynote speaker, who will talk about TWS perspectives on predator-prey management. A raffle and door prizes are other highlights to anticipate. More detailed information about the meeting and "A Call for Papers" will be provided in January. Please mark your calendars and plan to come enjoy a fun and informative meeting. For more information, contact Howard Golden (howard.golden@alaska.gov) or Robin West (robin_west@fws.gov).

National TWS News

By Winni Kessler (excerpted from *Northwest Wildlifer*)

TWS Council conducted a wide variety of business during its meeting of 21-22 September, including the following actions:

- Reinstated funding to support student conclaves starting in 2008 (something we had

reluctantly suspended during the budget crisis a few years ago).

- Launched an effort to identify the 20 top issues facing wildlife and wildlife professionals.
- Approved creation of a new TWS/Caesar Kleberg Award for Applied Science, enabled by a new endowment from the Kleberg Foundation.
- Approved creation of an advisory/oversight board for the *Journal of Wildlife Management*.
- Approved new guidelines to facilitate the establishment and success of TWS Working Groups.
- Agreed to establish a committee to develop a position statement on lead introduced into fish and wildlife habitats by hunters and anglers.
- Approved the wildlife priority issues for the TWS Government Affairs Program.
- Agreed that draft position statements on oil and gas development, wind energy, and wildlife fertility control are ready for member review.
- Voted affirmatively to continue publishing *The Wildlifer*, with emphasis on electronic distribution.
- Approved the 2007 budget and the proposed budget for 2008 (both firmly in the black!)

In some respects it's hard to believe that 6 years have passed since you first elected me as your representative. But then I think of all that has been accomplished in that time, and have to marvel at the progress. Just in the last 12-18 months, TWS has: launched the new publication, *The Wildlife Professional*; combined the *Bulletin* and the *Journal* into one publication with improved format, more content, and much greater speed in getting results into print; rebuilt the TWS electronic infrastructure including a vastly improved website; opened the TWS online store; initiated email blasts so that important announcements reach TWS members; digitized all TWS publications and opened the legacy collection (1937-95) to the world; made all publications 1995 and beyond available electronically to member subscribers (no charge) and others on a pay-per-view basis; created a new Canadian Section; launched the TWS Leadership Institute; linked with mainstream media by joining the Environmental News Network; and on and on.

This has been an exciting and rewarding time to be on TWS Council and I feel greatly enriched, personally and professionally, by the experience. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve; it was a privilege and a pleasure.



Chapter Comments on Northeast NPR-A

By Tom Paragi

The value of the area surrounding Teshekpuk Lake for wildlife habitat has been recognized by our profession for over 5 decades. This area includes calving and insect avoidance habitat for the Teshekpuk Lake caribou herd and the largest molting area for geese in the North American and Siberian arctic. A 1998 Record of Decision by the BLM established a Surface Protection Area of nearly 600,000 acres within the 4.6 million acre Northeast National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A) Planning Area that prohibited leasing for oil and gas exploration and development. In 2004, the current administration began attempts to open this area for development. Our Chapter website contains three documents from TWS since 2004 that provided detailed documentation of concerns with oil and gas surface occupancy and development in the Northeast planning area surrounding Teshekpuk Lake. Of particular concern is the rate of climate change and its effects on the environment for wildlife and subsistence hunters on the North Slope.

In September 2006, the U.S. District Court found deficiency in the final Amended Integrated Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement (IAP/EIS) for oil and gas exploration and development in the Northeast NPR-A. The court identified the need to conduct a cumulative effects analysis of development on fish and wildlife resources within the NPR-A. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) wrote a Supplemental IAP/EIS to address cumulative effects and opened the comment period during 23 August to 6 November 2007. Geoff Carroll and John Schoen drafted comments on the Supplemental IAP/EIS, Tom Paragi compiled the comments, and Eric Taylor provided a final review. TWS provided comments to the BLM under signature of Dr. Michael Hutchins, Executive Director.

The TWS letter stated that BLM had presented no new information to address our original comments. TWS also found the cumulative effects assessment to be inadequate by virtue of lacking quantitative estimates of potential impacts among the various alternatives considered, particularly in light of existing data sets, GIS capabilities, and the recent and forecasted trends in climate. Under the circumstances, the precautionary approach and most responsible action is

to support Alternative A (*No Action*); maintain the *No-leasing* and *No Surface Activity* areas in the *Teshekpuk Lake Surface Protection Area*; and maintain the lack of road connection between the *Teshekpuk Lake Surface Protection Area* and other oilfield developments on the North Slope.

Meetings and Announcements

13th Biennial Alaska Bird Conference. Every two years, 150 to 200 scientists and educators convene at the Alaska Bird Conference to share ideas, information, and research results about Alaska's avifauna. The first Alaska Bird Conference was held in Anchorage in 1982. Twenty-five years and twelve conferences later the Alaska Bird Conference has grown into a partnership bringing together students, professionals, and expert birders from all over Alaska, as well as the Lower 48 and Canada. The list of conference sponsors includes agencies, academia, non-governmental organizations, members of the business community, and the Alaska Chapter of the Wildlife Society.

The Alaska Bird Observatory (ABO) is hosting the 13th Alaska Bird Conference from March 4 to 7, 2008 at the Westmark Hotel in Fairbanks, Alaska. The conference will include scientific presentations, a poster session, a banquet and keynote address, special awards, several pre-conference workshops including a hands-on program DISTANCE workshop and a statistics refresher, associated meetings including Boreal Partners in Flight, Alaska Shorebird Group, Alaska Raptor Group, an Educator Resource Fair, an art show, and a free public lecture by the keynote speaker, author and naturalist Scott Weidensaul.

For more information go to the conference web site: www.alaskabird.org/ABOAKBirdConferenceHome.html or contact Alaska Bird Observatory 907-451-7159

The VI International Moose Symposium will be held on 13-23 August 2008, in Yakutsk, Russia, under the theme "*Moose in Virgin and Anthropogenic Altered Landscapes*." The symposium features a 4-5 day field trip in Lenskie Stolby National Nature Park. Letters of interest and questions should be sent to Innokentiy Okhlopkov, the symposium General Secretary, at: mountlab@ibpc.ysn.ru.



Governor Palin Considering Habitat Division Move

Compiled by the Editor

According to a report by the Alaska Public Radio Network on October 24 (aprn.org/2007/10/24/), Governor Palin's administration is considering whether to reverse former Governor Frank Murkowski's executive order that downsized and moved the Division of Habitat Conservation from ADFG to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

APRN reported that Deputy Commissioners Dick LeFevre (DNR) and Ken Taylor (ADFG) have met with staff from both agencies. LeFevre said that they are considering " *What worked and what didn't work under the Habitat function being located in Fish and Game. . . And then what presently works and what does not work with the habitat function located in DNR. And if the habitat function were to be moved back to Fish and Game, what changes should be made, if any, to the current habitat function in the organization structure.*" They plan to issue a report that will lay out the facts under both scenarios so that their commissioners can decide on a recommendation for the governor. Their report will be made public and is expected out no later than early December.

Several calls for a return of habitat permitting to ADFG have been recently reported. The Alaska Federation of Natives recently approved a resolution urging Governor Palin to move the Habitat Division back to ADFG. If the Palin administration agrees to do so, two separate legislative efforts may become moot. Anchorage Representative Les Gara has sponsored legislation that would shift habitat permitting oversight back to Fish and Game, and an initiative petition to remove the Habitat Division from DNR and place it back in ADFG was recently certified by Lt. Gov. Sean Parnell.

Changes in Tundra Fire Regimes

By Randi Jandt

New tundra fires. Fires on Alaska's North Slope have been considered rare events. Only 134 fires north of latitude 68° N were recorded in fire history kept by Alaska Fire Service since 1956. The 2007 Anaktuvuk River fire was an unprecedented event in that it burned in September, that it was so large (256,000 acres, the largest fire in the state this year), and that it burned all the way from the coastal plain to the foothills, crossing several ecotones. Thick smoke from

the fire caused concern from villages on the North Slope. This September was the second warmest on record, with half-normal precipitation, and it coincided with record retreat of Arctic pack ice from the coast, possibly bringing warmer, drier conditions. If this condition occurs more frequently, will large fires on the North Slope also become more frequent? And, what will be the effects on vegetation, wildlife, and communities?

New findings from old tundra fires. The early (within 10 years) regeneration of vegetation following tundra fires was addressed in early studies, including changes in active layer depth, primary production, and nutrient availability (Wein and Bliss 1973, Racine et al 1985, Racine et al 1983). Generally, primary plant production (of cottongrass, mainly) recovered within 2 years of the burn, with luxuriant flowering, active layer increased up to 50% by the following June, and 99% of regeneration was from resprouting, not seeds. Vavrek et al (1999) showed that vascular plant diversity recovered within 23 years of fire in tussock tundra. None of these studies followed plots long enough to determine regeneration rates for slower-growing bryophytes. Randi Jandt, Kyle Joly, Randy Meyers and Jeanie Cole with BLM recently were able to re-measure plots from 1972-1981 fires to determine the regeneration rates for these species, especially "reindeer" lichens, and are finding their recovery to be very slow (Jandt et al, in press: http://instaar.colorado.edu/AAAR/browse_abstracts/abstract.php?id=2535). The findings of Thomas, et al (1996) from Canada in retrospective studies show reindeer lichen communities don't reach peak biomass levels for over 100 years following fire, and Alaska may be similar. We do know that, at 34 years post-fire, the BLM study plots have only about 1% lichen cover in areas which previously had >40% cover, and that vascular cover continues to dominate burned areas.

These findings have caused us to question previously accepted ideas about post-fire succession in tundra. Northern and western Alaska have been significantly warmer since the phase-shift of the Pacific Decadal Oscillation in the late 1970's. Recent studies identified changes in tundra species following fire which were not documented in the early 1970's studies. Racine et al (2004) found *Salix pulchra* (diamond leaf willow) colonized a 1977 burn on the Seward Peninsula, whereas Wein and Bliss state that no new species colonized their tundra fires in 1968 and 1969. Sturm et al. (2001) and Silapswan et al. (2001) showed increasing shrub cover in northwest and arctic Alaska to be widespread, and it appears fire has the



potential to be a rapid catalyst for this ecosystem shift. Lichens and mosses grow slowly and depend on atmospheric moisture for growth. Lichens also are easily outcompeted where conditions are good for faster-growing vascular plants. Even areas without fire disturbance appear to have declining lichen and moss cover (Joly et al in press, Jorgensen and Buckholtz 1993), likely a result of this competition in a warmer climate and again, fire (and possibly grazing) disturbance provides a rapid catalyst for this conversion. Tundra warming experiments in greenhouses at Toolik Lake have produced exactly the kind of changes we are starting to pick up in field studies (Walker et al 2006). The impacts of widespread changes in plant communities on wildlife have yet to be determined. (Contact Randi Jandt at randi_jandt@blm.gov for cited literature.)

AK Chapter Committee Reports

By Jimmy Fox

Education & Information and Membership Committees

With an increasing number of members, the Alaska Chapter should step up efforts to educate the public and policymakers about wildlife and habitat issues of concern. If you have an issue you would like to have the chapter address, or you would like to get involved in committee activities please contact Jimmy Fox at jfox1990@alaska.net. Remember to visit the Alaska Chapter Web site (www.wildlife.org/chapters/ak/) to view official chapter position statements and correspondence.

Membership in the Alaska Chapter this year was higher than ever before, so we can all relax and watch The Wildlife Society's Chapter of the Year leap tall buildings in a single bound, right? I don't think so. Ensuring responsible use of Alaska's wildlife and habitats requires your active participation. I believe this next year we must all redouble our efforts to invite colleagues to join and get involved in resource issues. This is an exciting time to be a member of TWS and change is in the air in Bethesda - just take a look at the new Web site, magazine, and journal. If you're not excited about being a part of this you should be!

The membership committee has been working with TWS to improve access to and administration of the TWS membership directory. TWS has greatly improved their Web site, but it could be better, and we're committed to working with them to ensure we have

access to the chapter membership listing in the membership directory. In August we spent several hours reconciling our chapter membership roster with the national membership roster. It was noted that chapter memberships were not always recognized on the national membership directory so please check your profile to make sure it is accurate. We've also requested of TWS that membership be on a 365-day renewal period not a calendar year. By elapsing memberships on December 31st each year there is little incentive for someone to join TWS and the chapter in the last half or last quarter of the year. With computer technology it would seem to us that a 365-day membership period would be manageable.

Finally, we shamelessly request your help in recruiting your friends and colleagues. We still have several of the uniquely-engraved ulus from The Ulu Factory that commemorate the 13th annual TWS Conference held in Anchorage. Any current member of the Alaska Chapter who recruits a new member will receive an ulu. This cutting edge offer will be available to Alaska Chapter TWS members who recruit a new member (one ulu for each new member an individual recruits = multiple gifts possible). The ulu will be packaged and mailed to your residence or, if you prefer, to the new member. What a deal, and just in time for the holidays!

Trying to think of a retirement gift for your coworker - why not a membership in TWS and the Chapter? Need some recruitment tips to jumpstart the conversation? Provide a copy of our newsletter; talk about the Chapter's efforts to protect the Teshekpuk Lake Caribou Herd and waterfowl molting and breeding wetlands in NE NPR-A; describe the Wildlife Society's new magazine *The Wildlife Professional*; pull up and walk through the Chapter's Web site (www.wildlife.org/chapters/ak/); or explain the benefits of membership in The Wildlife Society and the Alaska Chapter as you see them. Membership can be obtained online on The Wildlife Society's Web site (www.wildlife.org).

AK Chapter TWS initiates new website format

Liz Solomon, the Alaska Chapter Webmaster agreed to work with TWS in creating the first Chapter website on the new TWS website. Check out the results of her hard work at

www.wildlife.org/chapters/ak/

Liz can be contacted at ADFG, 333 Raspberry Road Anchorage, AK 99518, phone 907-267-2209, elizabeth.solomon@alaska.gov.



Member Contributions

(Note: This section allows Chapter members to discuss topics or ideas pertinent to our organization, following review by the Executive Board. The purpose is to stimulate member involvement and professional discussion. Opinions of the authors do not necessarily reflect those of TWS, the Alaska Chapter TWS, or the contributor's employers.)

Are We Goblins or Gurus?

By Dave Person

As wildlife scientists we labor in relative obscurity. Most politicians, policy makers, and the public don't have a clue what we do. To them we are "animal counters" and the most important question they can conceive to ask us is "well, how many (moose, deer, owls, little brown birds, etc...) are there?" Like goblins in Harry Potter's Gringott's Bank, we are expected to provide information upon request and then, without comment, sink back into the bowels of the earth to await our next summons. The politicians and policy makers take our information, interpret it as they please, and use it to arrange (or derange) the affairs of their "wizarding" world.

Such is the essence of our role in managing natural resources recommended by Mills and Clark (2001), an opinion piece reviewed by Tom Paragi in a previous issue of this newsletter. We inform the decision makers about the science and then let them assess the information, risks, and prospective actions. Unfortunately, there are serious flaws in that perfect world. If we expect our science to contribute to solutions of ecological and environmental problems under the scenario promoted by Mills and Clark, we must assume decision makers actually understand the science behind what we tell them, that they are at least minimally capable of using the information in rational and logical ways, that they realize there are some things (concerning ecology) they need to know that must be learned after kindergarten, and that they actually give a damn. Those assumptions are problematical and therein lies a tale.

The tale is Ronald Pulliam's story of his time as head of the National Biological Survey described in his essays "The political education of a biologist, parts I

and II" published in the Summer and Fall issues of the Wildlife Society Bulletin in 1998. Pulliam's tenure at the star-crossed agency was frustrated by disinformation that abounded within Congress about NBS, poor understanding by politicians of the agency's scientific mission, and general ignorance among the public of scientific methods and biology. There was outright hostility toward the agency and information it produced. Any expectations he had about the capacity of politicians to understand and apply sound science were dashed along with his hope that NBS would serve as a clearinghouse and source of reliable scientific information. The end result was that NBS was zero funded and eventually ceased to exist. As Pulliam learned, the objectivity and detachment of the messenger did not save NBS from boiling in the leaky cauldron of public policy making.

Should we be goblins, trying to find security in our vaults of irrelevancy and never attempting to influence policy makers by using our science to assess the risks and consequences of their actions? Or should we be gurus, using our talents, knowledge, and experience to advise and mentor policy makers? Should we teach them about the value of scientific enquiry and to be cautious when reliable information is lacking? Perhaps as an antidote to Mills and Clark, it would be well to review the Fall 1995 issue of the Wildlife Society Bulletin, which contained a series of papers concerning advocacy and wildlife science. Of course, if we dare to meddle in the affairs of wizards (or are they muggles?) we must be prepared for the charges of special interest and bias. To that I say emphatically "YES, I am biased". My special interest is the belief that ecosystems and wildlife are important to human well being and that science is the most efficient and effective pathway to reliable knowledge. I am also biased in the belief that for every complicated question or issue, there is a simple, easily understood, and completely wrong answer that will be irresistible to policy makers and the public. Of course, that point of view probably would turn any "Decider" into a raging "Dementor".

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 by the 25th of October, January, April, or July. Thanks. Editor



2006-2008 Alaska Chapter Executive Board

President: Tom Paragi, ADFG, 1300 College Road, Fairbanks, AK 99701, tom_paragi@alaska.gov; phone 907-459-7327, fax 452-6410

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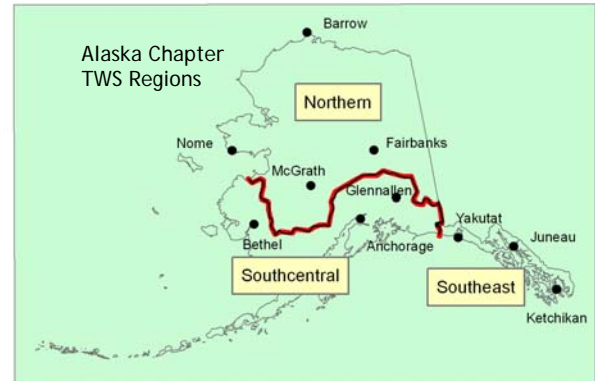
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UAF Student Chapter TWS Representative (non-voting): Cortney Pylant, PO Box 751522, Fairbanks, AK 99775 fsc1p17@uaf.edu



2008 Membership Subscription and Renewal--Online

New memberships and renewals for the 2008 calendar year are available on-line at The Wildlife Society's store (<https://store.wildlife.org/>). An individual may renew their TWS membership (slight increase for 2008: \$66 regular, \$33 student or retired) as well as their NW Section (\$5.00) and Alaska Chapter (\$5.00) memberships. In addition, journals can be ordered (delivered on-line or on-line and print) and TWS members can join one or more of the 18 TWS working groups. A Family membership is available (\$103). All members will receive *The Wildlife Professional* magazine in addition to *The Wildlifer* newsletter.

AK Chapter student retention program underway

Our Chapter just awarded its first upgrade (\$32) from student to regular membership in TWS. Jan Tomsen graduated from UAF in May and had served as the UAF Student Chapter representative on the Executive Board during 2006-07. Congratulations and welcome aboard, Jan! The Chapter has received an application from a second student. There are eight more awards available to students graduating in calendar year 2007.