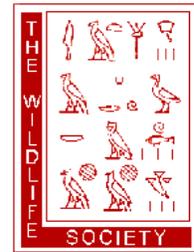




The Alaskan Wildlifer

Newsletter of the Alaska Chapter of
The Wildlife Society

February 2008



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Message from the President

Reflection and looking forward

It has been my privilege to serve as President for the last two years. In reviewing newsletters and reflecting on our many accomplishments, I thank the Executive Board for helping the Alaska Chapter make sound strategic and financial decisions. Eric, Howard, Carol, Robin, Steve, and Mark provided valuable counsel, along with input from our editor Jim and the student reps Jan and Courtney. I also thank the same few stalwart members, many of whom have over the last three decades stepped forward to serve the Chapter when the work needed to get done by a deadline. Read the old newsletters and the same names appear time and again. In addition to their help, a brief email or phone call of encouragement from these folks provided me with inspiration to forge ahead when the tasks appeared a bit overwhelming.

I set three goals in my first newsletter address in the May 2006 *Alaska Wildlifer*: increase member participation, continue collaborative efforts with other organizations, and increase public outreach on resource issues. First, we have increased membership in the last couple years, including some new members who jumped in to help with the annual meetings—thank you! However, general member willingness to participate in important tasks like position statements and technical reviews (especially as committee chair) has been waning in recent years. Hopefully our present focus on student recruitment into the Chapter will help bring new energy and volunteerism into our ranks.

Second, collaborative efforts with other groups often come down to a person or two with dual membership and a sense of why collaboration is important. Our joint annual meetings with the Society of American Foresters achieved roughly equal participation, but AK Chapter TWS member attendance at the American Fisheries Society meetings in autumn was limited to a few TWS members who happened to live in the town where the meeting occurred. We must continue to seek partners for mutual benefit in education and technical exchange. Finally, “outreach” means different things to different people. We tried a few new angles to put conservation messages out to legislators and conservation planning groups with some success. However, we have a long way to go in establishing Alaska Chapter TWS as a “go-to” source with public name recognition for science education on wildlife issues in Alaska.

Looking ahead, there are many worthwhile projects for the next Board to tackle. Recruitment and involvement of students, young professionals, and professionals new to Alaska is critical for our organization to remain in the forefront of emerging conservation issues, including the changing demography of the wildlife profession.

Human adaptation to changing climate and rising price of fossil fuels (and its effect on commodity prices) will be a tremendous challenge to Alaskans, particularly for communities not connected to the road network. Greater use of local resources for



food, energy, and shelter is being considered with rising cost of energy. This will be compounded by growth of human population in Alaska, which is expected to reach 836,000 by 2030 (<http://www.labor.state.ak.us/research/trends/oct07pop.pdf>). Increased production and use of renewable resources (wood biomass, fish, wildlife, livestock, agricultural crops) will have implications for wildlife conservation and management, particularly because these resources are inextricably linked to social values about land use and hunting. For example, continued suburban sprawl into portions of the Matanuska, Susitna, and Tanana Valleys will affect traditional access and limit options for future commercial uses, such as agriculture and forestry. The Alaska Chapter has the broad member expertise to ensure objective evaluation of ecological factors and associated human values regarding wildlife and providing public education on these topics.

Aside from the current focus on developing natural gas (which will increase fossil carbon emissions!), the rising price of oil has spurred a rapid increase in evaluation of renewable energy at high latitude: solar, hydro, biomass, biodiesel, wind, geothermal, and nuclear. Pilot projects with solar, wind, chip biomass, and geothermal are underway with new technology, and existing technology for wood pellet production is developing as a small-sector industry in Alaska. Our role is to help society understand the various consequences of developing fossil and renewable fuels on wildlife populations and habitat and associated human uses of wildlife (consumptive and non-consumptive). For example, TWS issued a position on oil development in the Arctic Refuge a couple decades ago but also just released Technical Review 07-2 on *Impacts of wind energy facilities on wildlife and wildlife habitat*. We have an obligation as professionals to understand the relative tradeoffs of various energy options on wildlife resources to make our conservation messages germane in the broader societal debates on land use. Alaska has a low population but as an energy producing state whose population relies heavily on air transportation, it has per capita the highest energy use and carbon emissions (*National and state energy use and carbon emissions trends*, Howard Geller and Toru Kubo, American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy, September 2000). A joint meeting of the Alaska Chapter TWS with energy specialists in an engineering society to evaluate costs and benefits of future energy options for Alaska might be mutually beneficial to both professions.

AK-TWS Officer Elections in March

We will hold officer elections through 31 March by electronic or paper ballot (candidate profiles and paper ballot provided in this newsletter). We recently verified eligible voters as members of both the Alaska Chapter and TWS. **The electronic voting screen will require member access**, so if you haven't already established a username and password for renewal, you should do so this month by contacting Shannon@wildlife.org. New officers will be installed at the business meeting on April.

Board of Game meeting

The Alaska Board of Game will meeting in Fairbanks during 29 February to 10 March to address regulation proposals for the Interior region. Proposals include issues related to intensive management (antlerless hunts, predator control), delay of opening date for moose hunting season in September because of warming trends, and a proposed state game refuge on the eastern end of the Denali Highway because of concerns with mining. Proposals can be reviewed at <http://www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us/gameinfo/meeinfo/2007-2008/feb08-final.pdf>.

Review of TWS position on Arctic Refuge

TWS asked our Chapter to review the national position on energy exploration and development in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for possible revision, which occurs for all national positions every five years. I asked a few members with firsthand knowledge of the refuge to identify substantive changes in knowledge or issues in the last position, which was last revised in 2003. They identified the recent decline in muskox, reports on climate change issued by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the National Research Council (NRC), and the potential for polar bears to be listed under the Endangered Species Act. A committee chaired by Dick Shideler is working on a revision that will be submitted to Chapter members for review later this winter.

Progress on evaluation of disease risk from use of pack goats in alpine habitat

Jim Herriges has taken over as chair and is drafting a position for review by the committee that includes several sheep biologists and veterinarians. A draft position for review by Chapter members is expected later this winter.

News from Southeast:

No news submitted.



News from Southcentral:

By Robin West, Southcentral Representative

People

Grant Harris, Wildlife Biologist with Chugach National Forest, has taken a position with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Albuquerque as a Landscape Ecologist.

Cindi Jacobson, formally a Wildlife Planner with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has taken a new position as Assistant Director for the Department's Division of Wildlife Conservation.

Judy Jacobs with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Ecological Services program in Anchorage was recognized for her efforts as the primary author of the Draft Short-tailed Albatross Recovery Plan. Judy was one of 16 recipients of the 2006 National Recovery Champion Award that honors Service employees and their partners for outstanding contributions to assist recovery of threatened or endangered species in the United States.

News

The interagency "All Lands/All Hands" management group focusing on on-the-ground treatment of spruce bark beetle infested forest areas of the Kenai Peninsula reported treating 3,522 acres in 2007. This is up from 2,292 acres in 2006. Treatment methods include cutting and removal, fuel break creation and slash burning, and prescribed fire or other managing fire for resource benefits. The work is done by local, state, federal, or native organizations or contractors and is recognized as having direct benefits on wildfire safety near communities, and a variety of direct and indirect effects on the area's wildlife.

The Glacier Ranger District of Chugach National Forest is completing the planning process for the Spencer Integrated Weed Management Project. Non-native plant species will be targeted by cutting, hand-pulling and/or application of herbicide in small areas. For more information contact Betty Channon at (907) 754-2326.

Dr. Michael Bruce from the Center For Disease Control is conducting a study examining the exposure of Alaskans to avian influenza viruses. He is looking for wildlife biologists/research volunteers to participate in his study. He would like to take a

blood sample from participants who have handled wild birds or bird eggs for at least one field season within the last five years, and also have participants fill out a short questionnaire. If you are interested in this study please contact Dr. Bruce at zwa8@cedc.gov.

The draft revised Comprehensive Conservation Plan and EIS for Kenai National Wildlife Refuge is due out for public comment in May 2008. For more information, or to get on the mailing list, contact Rob Campellone at (907) 786-3982.

News from the North:

By Carol McIntyre, Northern Representative

People

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game recently hired **Charlotte Westing** as the Assistant Area Biologist for Unit 23 in Kotzebue. Charlotte has spent the last several years working in Dillingham as an Assistant Area Biologist for Commercial Fisheries Division. Charlotte received a Master's of Science degree in 2002 while working with Colleen Matt of ADFG on land uses in the Palmer Hay Flats.

Jim Dau was transferred from the Unit 23 Area Biologist position to a Western Arctic Herd caribou research-management position in March 2007. He will remain in Kotzebue.

Perry Barboza now serves as the Coordinator for the Wildlife Program at University of Alaska-Fairbanks (UAF). Please contact Perry (ffpsb@uaf.edu) or any of the Wildlife Faculty at UAF about activities, projects and internships for undergraduate and graduate students. The Wildlife Faculty includes Perry Barboza, Erich Follmann, Brad Griffith, Falk Huettmann, Kris Hundertmark, Christine Hunter, Mark Lindberg, Todd O'Hara and Abby Powell.

Governor Sarah Palin appointed **Craig Fleener** of Fort Yukon as a member of the Alaska Board of Game. Craig is a member of the Alaska Chapter TWS.

News

Innoko National Wildlife Refuge Activities. Staff at the Innoko National Wildlife Refuge continues to work on the revision for their Comprehensive Conservation Plan. They hope to have a public draft



available by mid February. Refuge staff plan to carry out a moose census the last 2 weeks in February 2008. The last census effort was 4 years ago and was cut short due to weather.

Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge Land Exchange. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has released a draft environmental impact statement for a proposed land swap within the Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge. The statement describes the potential impacts of the proposed exchange with Alaska Native corporation, Doyon Ltd., as well as the effects of two modified proposals and the option of *No Action*. Digital copies of the EIS and more information on how to comment on the proposal can be found at the project Web site, <http://yukonflatseis.ensr.com>. **Comments are due 25 March.**

Polar Bear Listing Decision Postponed. In January 2008, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced it would miss the statutory deadline to reach a decision on listing the polar bear as threatened under Endangered Species Act, saying it would take up to a month more to reach the decision. That put the listing decision after the sale of oil drilling rights in Alaska’s Chukchi Sea, which occurred on February 6th. The lease sale area overlaps with major parts of the polar bears core habitat. Select Committee Chairman Rep. Edward Markey sent a letter to Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne on January 18, 2008 requesting that the Secretary should postpone the pending oil lease sale on the critical habitat of the polar bear while he is still considering the status of the bear under the Endangered Species Act. The Interior Department’s response is posted at <http://globalwarming.house.gov/tools/assets/files/0343.pdf>. Rep. Markey also introduced legislation that would have required that the Interior Department delay the oil lease sale in the Chukchi Sea until it had made a decision on the polar bear, and had established “critical habitat” for the polar bear, but the lease sale was held before the bill was considered by the House (see below).

MMS Finalizes Chukchi Sea Lease Sale. The Minerals Management Service (MMS) held its first Federal Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) oil and gas lease sale in the Chukchi Sea since 1991 on February 6, 2008. On January 2, 2008, the agency issued the [Final Notice of Sale for Chukchi Sea Sale 193](#), which outlines the sale area, terms and conditions for the sale, and requirements for protecting the environment and natural resources of the area. The Chukchi Sea Sale 193 area contains about 29.7 million acres offshore Alaska from north of Point

Barrow to northwest of Cape Lisburne. The sale area extends from about 25 or 50 to 200 miles offshore.

Elect your new Executive Board—Here’s How

Please take the opportunity to determine leadership of the Alaska Chapter of The Wildlife Society. Elected members will serve on the Alaska Chapter TWS Executive Board for 2 years (April 2008-April 2010). The President-Elect will serve as President (2010-2012) and Past-President (2012-2014

Voting will begin in late February and end on 31 March 2008. Alaska Chapter members should vote for the President-Elect, Secretary-Treasurer, and only one Regional Representative based upon the region in which you reside. You may read candidate profiles and vote through the “Elections” link (left column) at [http://www.wildlife.org/chapters/ak/index.cfm/](http://www.wildlife.org/chapters/ak/index.cfm) but **you will need your national TWS username and password to access electronic voting.** Chapter members who currently receive printed newsletters will receive the February 2008 newsletter with a special mail-in ballot. Completed ballots **MUST** be received by 31 March to be counted. If you have any questions, please contact Tom Paragi at 459-7327 or tom.paragi@alaska.gov.

2008-2010 Executive Board Candidates	
<u>President-Elect:</u> Kris Hundertmark	
<u>Secretary-Treasurer:</u>	
Karen Rode	Meg Hahr
<u>Southeast Representative:</u>	
David K. Person	Susan Oehlers
<u>Southcentral Representative:</u>	
Liz Jozwiak	Todd Rinaldi
<u>Northern Representative:</u>	
Kyle Joly	Christine Hunter



Candidates for 2008-2010 Executive Board

Kris Hundertmark Candidate for President-Elect

Education:

BS Forest Science, Penn State University, 1978
MS Wildlife Science, Oregon State University,
1981
PhD Biological Sciences—Wildlife, University of
Alaska Fairbanks, 2001

Work Experience:

2005-present
Assistant Professor of Wildlife Ecology
Department of Biology and Wildlife and Institute
of Arctic Biology
University of Alaska Fairbanks

2003-2005

Conservation Geneticist
Zoological Society of London
King Khalid Wildlife Research Center
Thumamah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

1982-2002

Wildlife Biologist
Division of Wildlife Conservation
Alaska Department of Fish and Game

TWS Experience:

Certified Wildlife Biologist
Member since 1978
Organizing Committee, NW Section Meeting,
Juneau, 1987
Secretary-Treasurer, Alaska Chapter, 1988
Southcentral Representative, Alaska Chapter,
1992
Organizing Committee, National Meeting,
Anchorage, 2006

It has been my extreme good fortune to have worked for most of my career in Alaska, with its incredible abundance and diversity of wildlife and habitats. What wildlifer could ask for more? Working overseas for a few years with endangered species made me even more acutely aware of the abundance of riches we have here and its value to society and to conservation science. I am pleased to know that our state chapter is active in advocacy for sound management of wildlife and habitats and my goals as an officer of the chapter are to ensure that the chapter remains a credible and

constructive participant in statewide and national discussions of resource management and policy. Also, I want to see our chapter continue its recent trend of growth and I am particularly interested in continuing and expanding our outreach to students, other professionals, policymakers and the public. Having worked at an agency, an NGO, and a university I believe I can bring a broad and balanced perspective to chapter leadership. I believe our chapter is making a difference and that we need to continue doing so; therefore, I will devote my time and energy to ensuring our continued effectiveness.

Karyn Rode Candidate for Secretary-Treasurer

I am a wildlife biologist in the Marine Mammals Management unit with the US Fish and Wildlife Service in Anchorage. I earned a PhD (2006) and an MS (1999) from Washington State University and a BS (1996) from Colorado State University. My research has broadly focused on wildlife-human interactions and their effects on ecology, nutrition, and population dynamics. My background is diverse including working both as a research biologist and wildlife manager. As a PhD student, I worked for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game conducting a large-scale experimental study on the interactions between human activities, including bear-viewing and angling, and brown bear behavior, nutrition, and condition. In this capacity, I worked as a research biologist providing science to inform management and policy decisions. Currently, as a wildlife biologist with US Fish and Wildlife Service, I am involved in using existing scientific information to identify research priorities for management, and policy, including management of polar bears and walrus under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and evaluating the status of polar bears under the Endangered Species Act. These experiences have provided me with a solid understanding of the perspectives of research biologists and wildlife managers and the need to bridge the gap between science, management, and policy; a concept more easily articulated than achieved.

In addition to working in southeastern and southcentral Alaska and the Alaskan arctic, I also spent several years working in central Africa studying and finding ways to mitigate effects of human activities on primates and elephants. From these diverse experiences, I have gained an appreciation of the roles of state and federal governments, non-governmental organizations, private companies, consulting firms, and academia



in wildlife management. I think that one of the most important roles the Wildlife Society plays in Alaska is in improving communication between these diverse groups and ensuring that management and policy are solidly-based on the best available science. I would enjoy the opportunity to serve as Secretary/Treasurer and continue to foster communication and collaboration to determine sound management of Alaska's diverse wildlife resources.

Meg Hahr

Candidate for Secretary-Treasurer

I am a wildlife ecologist with the National Park Service, Kenai Fjords National Park in Seward, Alaska where I have worked since 2006. I have a B.A. in English with a minor in Biology from Rutgers University (1992) and a M.S. in Environmental Studies (wildlife emphasis) from the University of Montana (2001). My first wildlife field work was as a Student Conservation Association intern for the Bureau of Land Management (1994) in western Oregon where I assisted in monitoring populations of northern spotted owls, Cascade frogs, Oregon slender salamanders, harlequin ducks and marbled murrelets. After this experience, I spent two years as an Agroforestry Specialist with the U.S. Peace Corps in sub-Saharan West Africa where I provided technical assistance to rural, subsistence farmers and herders in the areas of rangeland management, soil conservation, reforestation, wildlife conservation, watershed management, and sustainable agriculture. In addition to these community development efforts, I established and conducted surveys of resident and migratory birds in wetlands, rangelands, and riparian areas of the Niger River.

I began my career with the National Park Service as a wildlife technician in 1998 at Glacier National Park where I monitored bears, bighorn sheep, mountain goats, elk, harlequin ducks, bald eagles, gray wolves, golden eagles, and northern goshawks. Additionally, I conducted a winter distribution and habitat use study of Canada lynx, fisher, and wolverine in Glacier National Park for my masters thesis. I moved to Alaska in 2002 to manage the wildlife and natural resources program at Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park in Skagway, Alaska. My efforts there focused on bear management, habitat restoration, and inventory and monitoring of landbirds, waterbirds, western toads, and forest owls. Additionally, I was a founding member and served as Co-Chair and Vice President

(2003-2006) of Taiya Inlet Watershed Council, an interagency partnership aimed at protecting and restoring watershed health and salmon populations in the Taiya Inlet Watershed. As the Kenai Fjords ecologist, I am primarily responsible for designing, implementing and managing the park's wildlife program, which entails identifying research needs, securing funding for priority projects, providing oversight of research and monitoring efforts, negotiating cooperative agreements, collaborating with wildlife ecologists, resource managers and specialists from other parks, agencies or universities, coordinating complex field projects, and directing day-to-day operations of field staff. My efforts are currently focused on seabird monitoring, black oystercatcher research, and brown and black bear management.

I have been a member of the Wildlife Society including the Alaska Chapter since 2003 and am also a member of the Ecological Society of America. I attended the 2006 annual meeting of TWS in Anchorage and have been very impressed by the efforts of the Alaska Chapter especially in the areas of policy, consensus building and member development and support. I would like to increase my participation in the Alaska Chapter and use my skills and perspective as a federal wildlife manager to assist wherever needed. Efforts where I might be most effective include: program management, fundraising, partnership-building and public outreach.

David K. Person

Candidate for Southeast Representative

Education:

B.S. Wildlife Management, University of Maine
Orono

M.S. Wildlife Biology, University of Vermont

Ph.D. Wildlife Biology, University of Alaska
Fairbanks

I have more than 25 years experience managing large mammal populations and doing research on ungulates and their large mammal predators. I am also trained in statistics and quantitative analyses on ecological data. I have worked with white-tailed and black-tailed deer, coyotes, red and grey foxes, and wolves. My primary focus recently has been how habitat changes in the temperate rainforests of Southeast Alaska affect predator-prey dynamics between wolves and Sitka black-tailed deer. I am particularly interested in teasing apart bottom up effects of habitat from top-down forcing from predation. I have been an active member of the



Wildlife Society since 1977 and a member of the Alaska Chapter since 1998. I am a frequent contributor to the chapter newsletter. I believe wildlife biologists have an extremely difficult job of understanding complex ecological systems, managing or maintaining those systems, and explaining our actions and relevancy to the public. Biologists are often unprepared to deal with the complexities of resource management and I believe it is important that the Alaska Chapter assist them developing the tools to do their jobs and to act as a forum for disseminating information and discussing important topics.

Susan Oehlers
Candidate for Southeast Representative

I am a wildlife biologist on the Yakutat Ranger District of the Tongass National Forest. I completed my bachelor's degree at the University of Minnesota in 1994, completing internships in both wolf and white-tailed deer studies while in college. My first formal position in wildlife biology was with the Shasta-Trinity National Forest in Northern California, where I contributed to a wide variety of projects, including owl and other raptor surveys, furbearer surveys, and fisheries and watershed inventories. I first started working in Alaska on the Chugach National Forest, Glacier Ranger District, in 1995, involving numerous projects such as bird banding, goshawk surveys, moose habitat studies, and public education. Since 2002, I have been working for the Yakutat Ranger District, alternating with attending school at University of Alaska Fairbanks, where I recently completed my master's thesis on habitat selection and sightability of moose on the Yakutat Forelands. As a district biologist, I am involved in a wide array of wildlife projects and issues, from songbirds, waterfowl, and seabirds to deer, moose and sea lions, subsistence issues, and fisheries and watershed projects.

I believe the Wildlife Society provides an excellent forum for information sharing and exchange among wildlife professionals. Too often, particularly for those of us in isolated areas of Alaska, we seem to be working in a vacuum. I believe that the Alaska chapter should continue to promote and expand communication and opportunities for information exchange between members, as well as with other groups, including NGOs, local communities, and native organizations. It also has become clear during recent chapter meetings that we need to continue to actively recruit new members, including students, and strive to provide financial assistance

for travel to meetings. I appreciate the opportunity to be considered for the Southeast representative, and look forward to further involvement with TWS.

Elizabeth (Liz) Jozwiak
Candidate for Southcentral Representative

I have been a wildlife biologist with the USFWS, Kenai National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) in Soldotna since 1999. My formal education includes degrees in Zoology (B.S., University of Wisconsin), and Fishery and Wildlife Biology (M.S., Colorado State University). I started my Alaska field experience as an SCA volunteer intern in 1985 on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge investigating caribou energetics within the 1002 study area for the Denver Wildlife Research Center. Following a brief field position with the University of Mexico at a research station in Los Tuxtlas, Veracruz studying Coati habitat requirements, I moved to California where I worked for NOAA, National Marine Fisheries Service as a biological technician. I later became a wildlife biologist for NMFS Protected Species Branch where I worked toward reducing the impacts of gill net entanglements to pinnipeds, turtles, and gray whales, and also served as the first coordinator of the California Marine Mammal Stranding Network. I returned to Alaska to work with a variety of terrestrial wildlife species at the Kenai NWR, and took the opportunity to complete a master's thesis entitled "Wolf pack territory dynamics, dispersal, and response to harvest on the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge". In 2001, I accepted a 6 month detail with USGS, National Wildlife Health Center in Madison, Wisconsin working with pathologists and veterinarians investigating avian and mammalian disease outbreaks including West Nile Virus surveillance and monitoring.

My current area of interest continues to be carnivore and large predator management, and understanding the cyclical role of disease in wildlife populations. Of special concern to me are the long term effects of exotic and domestic livestock on the health of wildlife populations in Alaska. I am also a strong supporter in fostering cooperation and information exchange with wildlife professionals abroad and have facilitated several cooperative work programs for students and scientists from Canada, New Zealand, Poland, Wales, and Belgium.

I have served as a founding board member of the Disease Working Group of TWS since 2006, and in addition to being an Alaska Chapter member, I have been a member of The Wildlife Society for the last 23 years. The Wildlife Society has been my



foundation for its professionalism, ethics, and scientific integrity. I would like to give back to the Society by serving as the Southcentral Alaska representative. I am interested in serving on the executive board because I believe that TWS serves an important role in promoting a science-based approach to the management of Alaska's fish and wildlife.

Todd Rinaldi
Candidate for Southcentral Representative

I grew up in rural Cape Cod, Massachusetts where I was impressed at an early age by the beauty of the natural world. As a young adult, I worked as a commercial fisherman until the decline of the fisheries in the early nineties. In 1992, I began working on a BS in Ecology at Unity College in Maine. While in school, I began to spend my summers in remote Alaska working for the U.S. Forest Service and the National Park Service. Upon graduation, I continued working throughout Alaska and in South America until 2001 when I accepted a position with the wildlife research section of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Anchorage. It was through this position that I began to ask research questions relating to wolf movement, energetics, and the effects of human activity on predator dynamics. I am presently finishing my thesis titled, "Movement Strategies of Wolves in Relation to Human Activity and Prey Resources," through the College of Ecosystem Science and Management at the University of Northern British Columbia.

During my six years as a member of The Wildlife Society, I have strived to be an active and productive participant. I have been fortunate to attend the last three National Meetings and took on leadership roles within three planning committees for the 2006 Annual TWS meeting in Anchorage and again in planning this year's upcoming Chapter Meeting. In addition, I have made it a point to attend both National and Chapter business meetings. Here are some specific ways I have recently served the Alaska Chapter:

- Program Committee Member, 2008 Alaska Chapter Meeting.
- Media and Photography Committee Co-Chair, 2006 TWS Annual Meeting.
- Fundraising Committee Member, 2006 TWS Annual Meeting.
- Geographic Information System, Remote Sensing, and Telemetry Working Group.

As we have moved in to the 21st century TWS has certainly stepped up to meet the challenge. New national leadership and staff have worked hard to create new publications with modern formats. An aggressive membership campaign has yielded a dramatic increase in membership (the first membership increase since 1996). In addition, some critical position statements have been defined such as the position on Economic Growth and ANWR. These are solid steps; however, TWS must continue to move forward to remain strong. I applaud the creation of the TWS Leadership Institute which creates an opportunity for recent graduates to take an active role in TWS while fostering leadership skills. This is an important approach that will attract young professionals and ensure that TWS will remain a respected and professional organization that is integral to the scientific community.

I am excited to be running for the Alaska Chapter TWS Executive Board South Central Representative. In the coming years, I would like to see an Alaskan at the TWS Leadership Institute. To accomplish this, I want to work with our colleges and universities, specifically here in south-central, to encourage more student involvement. In this same light, I would like to work at increasing the number of our members that take active roles within TWS. I believe this is an important step that can be accomplished at the local level to build our reputation within Alaska and across the nation.

Kyle Joly
Candidate for Northern Representative

I am eager to become more involved with the Alaska Chapter, learn more about the inner workings of TWS, get more involved with Alaska-specific wildlife issues, to bring new perspectives and energy to the Executive Board, and to increase TWS' exposure to decision makers. I feel that TWS plays an important role in wildlife management, but that its role could be strengthened. I am interested in serving on the Executive Board for many reasons including; promoting sound science to make wildlife and habitat management decisions, encouraging cooperation between State, Federal and non-governmental agencies and organizations, and increasing the Chapter's involvement with global climate change issues. I will actively work to increase membership and its diversity, to encourage greater communication with policy makers, wildlife interest groups and professionals, to increase



participation within the Chapter, and to develop wildlife-related educational opportunities.

I earned a B.S. from Syracuse University in Biology and a M.S. from the Pennsylvania State University in Ecology. I first came to Alaska in 1994 and have worked for the National Park Service in Eagle and Skagway, the USGS' Alaska Science Center in Anchorage as a Research Wildlife Biologist, and am currently working in Fairbanks as a Wildlife Biologist for the Bureau of Land Management. I have spent the last 10 years working on projects investigating how fire shapes vegetative succession and how that in turn affects caribou habitat use. I have authored many articles, presented results at many professional meetings, and have served as a peer reviewer for several journals. Besides being a relatively new TWS member, I have also been a member of the Society for Conservation Biology since 1999.

Christine Hunter Candidate for Northern Representative

I am an Assistant Professor of Wildlife Ecology at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. I earned a B.S. in Wildlife Resources at the University of Idaho, an M.S. in Wildlife Science at Purdue University and a PhD. in Zoology at Otago University. Between completing degrees I gained a variety of field experience in the Northwest working on projects as diverse as bighorn sheep winter range use, elk use of prescribed burns, impacts of timber harvesting on woodpecker guilds and breeding ecology of Vaux's swifts. My current research focuses on the population dynamics of seabirds and marine mammals.

I am committed to the Chapter goals of sound science-based management of Alaska's wildlife and habitat, increasing education opportunities, increasing public awareness of wildlife issues, and providing scientific analysis and advice on important environmental issues. The commitment and dedication of the Alaska Chapter and the executive board are evident in the recent growth in membership, the development of position statements on many important issues and the promotion of responsible wildlife management practices. Although relatively new to Alaska and the Alaska Chapter I am eager to become more involved and support these endeavors. I am an active member of the Wildlife Society, have attended national TWS meetings and have authored

and peer-reviewed articles in the Journal of Wildlife Management.

Meetings and Announcements

13th Biennial Alaska Bird Conference. The Alaska Bird Observatory is hosting the 13th Alaska Bird Conference from 4 to 7 March 2008 at the Westmark Hotel in Fairbanks, Alaska. Award winning author Scott Weidensaul will be the special guest and keynote speaker. Mr. Weidensaul will present a **Free Public Program Tuesday, March 4, - *Living on the Wind: The World of Migratory Birds*** - an exploration of how and why birds migrate, and the conservation challenges they face. Mr. Weidensaul will also present the **Keynote Address on Thursday, March 6 - *Return to Wild America: A Yearlong Search for the Continent's Natural Soul***. In 1955, naturalists Roger Tory Peterson and James Fisher published their best selling book *Wild America*, chronicling a now-legendary 30,000-mile trip across North America. Fifty years later, author Scott Weidensaul retraced their epic journey, to see what we've gained and lost, and to catch a glimpse of what the future holds for wildlife and wild lands. The conference is also hosting the "In Celebration of Alaska's Birds Art Show" on Wednesday, March 6, from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm. For more information about the Alaska Bird Conference, please visit <http://www.alaskabird.org/> or contact Alaska Bird Observatory 907-451-7159

The 2008 Western Alaskan Interdisciplinary Science Conference and Forum (WAISC) "*Weathering Change Monitoring Uncertainty*," will be held April 4-7, 2008, in Dillingham Alaska. This conference will highlight local efforts that provide a more interdisciplinary approach to scientific inquiry and resource management. Organizers welcome submissions from all individuals and organizations collecting data in western Alaska. Visit <http://www.uaf.edu/waisc/> for more information.

Forging a Partnership Between Recreation and Wildlife Planners: A Rendezvous in Missoula, Montana, 13-15 May 2008. This conference will provide a forum for planners in both fields to learn from each other, generate new ideas for collaborative approaches to planning, and foster camaraderies among recreation and wildlife professionals. Further information is available at www.planners08.com



Annual Meeting of the Alaska Chapter of the Wildlife Society 22-24 April, 2008 at the Millennium Alaskan Hotel, Anchorage Call for Papers and Registration

You are invited to join fellow wildlife researchers, managers, educators, students, and administrators from across the state for the annual meeting of the Alaska Chapter of The Wildlife Society.

The meeting will be held at the Millennium Alaskan Hotel, which is an entirely non-smoking hotel. It is near the airport, close to other hotels and restaurants, and offers free shuttle service to the airport and downtown Anchorage. Lodging information is provided below.

TENTATIVE PROGRAM

Tuesday, April 22:

Pre-Conference Workshops

- Introduction to the ArcGIS ModelBuilder: 8:00 am - 12:00 pm
- The Alaska Statewide Digital Mapping Initiative: 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
- Current Moose Management and Research: 8:00 am - 4:30 pm

Field Trips: Due to the high cost of liability insurance, the Alaska Chapter will not be sponsoring field trips. Marian Snively (marian.snively@alaska.gov or 267-2412) will be happy to talk with any members who may wish to organize trips on their own.

Wednesday, April 23:

- Registration: 7:30 am - 8:00 am
- Opening Remarks: 8:00 am - 8:15 am
- Plenary Session: 8:15 am - 12:00 pm
- Technical Sessions: 1:30 pm - 5:00 pm
- Poster Reception/Social: 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Thursday, April 24:

- Technical Sessions: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
- Business Meeting: 11:30 am - 1:30 pm
- Banquet & Keynote Address: 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS — APRIL 22

All workshops will be held away from the Millennium Alaskan Hotel. Shuttles will be provided for anyone needing transportation. For more detailed information on workshops see - <http://joomla.wildlife.org/alaska/>

1. Introduction to the ArcGIS ModelBuilder

This half-day training session, presented by Liz Solomon, (ADFG) is intended to provide an introduction to geoprocessing in ArcGIS using ModelBuilder. Learn how to extend the capabilities of a GIS and automate the workflow through the development and implementation of simple models. The workshop will be a hands-on session demonstrating the basics of how to build, manage, repair, and distribute models. This workshop is ideal for intermediate level GIS users; however portions may be suitable for beginners as well. Participants should be familiar with ArcGIS Desktop and have a basic understanding of the geoprocessing framework within ArcGIS.

2. The Alaska Statewide Digital Mapping Initiative

This half-day workshop is presented by Peter Hickman from the *Geographic Information Network of Alaska, UAF (GINA)*. The Alaska Statewide Digital Mapping Initiative's primary goal is acquire new and better maps for Alaska and make existing map products more easily available. In addition to the online viewers and download options available at <http://www.alaskamapped.org>, the SDMI publishes data through open standards Web Map Services (WMS) and Web Feature Services (WFS) that can be implemented in a variety of mapping software platforms. This workshop will walk through incorporation of the AlaskaMapped WMS and WFS in both ESRI ArcGIS Desktop and Server, and the GINA SwathViewer.

3. Current Moose Management and Research

This all-day workshop is coordinated by Kalin Kellie (ADFG), and is designed to keep biologists informed of current research and management of moose in Alaska. The topic of the morning session is "*Effects of weather and habitat composition on moose survey techniques and results across Alaska*". Invited speakers from around the state will present hands-on experience dealing with regional habitat and weather



challenges to surveying moose. Presentations for the afternoon will focus on current or recently completed research on moose biology or a closely related topic. We are currently accepting abstracts for afternoon speakers (15-minute talks, 5 minutes for questions).

PLENARY SESSION — APRIL 23

The plenary theme for this year's meeting is "*State-federal dual regulation of terrestrial wildlife management*" featuring an historical perspective, invited speakers, and a panel discussion/open forum.

TECHNICAL SESSIONS — APRIL 23 & 24

Attendees are encouraged to give oral presentations or present posters regarding wildlife-related research, management, education, recreation, and biometrics.

We seek presentations on a wide range of topics, including wildlife and habitat management projects, research findings, data analysis and study design, new field techniques, conservation issues, land-use and wildlife planning, marine wildlife, human dimensions, education, wildlife recreation, wildlife economics, and non-game programs.

A half-day session will explore the issue of invasive species (contact Joe Meehan at joe.meehan@alaska.gov for session information).

The poster session will occur Wednesday evening, April 23, at 6:00-8:00 pm during a reception/social in the Millennium Alaskan Hotel, and displays will continue throughout the next day. There will be a variety of hors d'oeuvres along with two cash bars. The reception/social is included with full registration. Conference attendees registering by the day or who would like to bring a guest are welcome to purchase additional reception/social tickets for \$10 per person.

The deadline for submission of abstracts for papers or posters is March 15, 2008. Information on formatting and submitting abstracts, oral presentations, and posters can be found on the Alaska Chapter TWS website: <http://joomla.wildlife.org/alaska/>.

We hope you will make a presentation at the conference, and that you will encourage your colleagues to do so as well. For more information contact Cindi Jacobson at cindi.jacobson@alaska.gov or (907) 267-2301.

TWS BUSINESS MEETING — APRIL 24

The Alaska Chapter business meeting will be held during lunch (11:30 am - 1:30 pm) on Thursday, April 24. All members are encouraged to attend and to welcome your newly elected executive board members to their offices. Pizza and salad will be provided.

BANQUET & KEYNOTE ADDRESS — APRIL 24

The banquet will be held at the Millennium Alaskan Hotel on Thursday evening, April 24, beginning at 6:30 pm, preceded by a cash bar starting at 6:00 pm. Dinner will be a buffet with two entrees, a variety of salads, and dessert. The banquet is included with full registration. Conference attendees registering by the day or who would like to bring a guest are welcome to purchase additional banquet tickets for \$40 per person.

John Organ, Past President of The Wildlife Society, will be the featured speaker. The tentative title of John's talk is "*Predators, Prey, and North American Wildlife Conservation: Perspectives from the East.*"

STUDENT TRAVEL & PRESENTATION AWARDS

The Alaska Chapter strongly encourages student participation at the annual meeting and is providing travel reimbursement and presentation awards to wildlife students.

Travel scholarships will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis with preference given to students presenting papers that meet the March 15 deadline for abstracts. After March 15 the travel scholarships are available to any wildlife or biology student on a first-come basis. The chapter has donated \$600 to help defray the cost of a UAF van for up to 8 Fairbanks students and is offering \$400 for 2-4 Juneau students to fly to the conference. Students should contact Falk Huettmann (student chapter advisor) in Fairbanks (fffh@uaf.edu) or Sanjay Pyare in Juneau (sanjay.pyare@uas.alaska.edu) to apply for student travel awards (ie. either a cash award or, for students traveling from Fairbanks, a seat in the van).

The Alaska Chapter is also offering first place (\$50) and second place (\$25) prizes for "best oral presentation" and "best poster presentation" by students. UAF faculty Perry Barboza and Falk Huettmann (student chapter advisor) will be the judges. At least 3 students per category will be needed for the contest, which is open to students from any Alaska campus. Students wishing to participate should check the box for student presenter on the registration at <https://secure.alaskamade.com/aktws/>



TRAVEL & LODGING

Conference participants are eligible for a **10% discount** on airfares **booked online** through Alaska Airlines. When making reservations simply use the special e-certificate code: **ECCMB0131**.

The following hotels are offering special conference rates, available on a first-come, first-served basis. Be sure to book your reservation early and mention the conference for these rates. All hotels are within 1.5-2 miles of the airport, are within easy walking distance of the conference site, and offer free shuttle service.

The Millennium Alaskan Hotel (4800 Spenard Road) has blocked out 25 rooms for participants for April 22-24. All rooms are non-smoking, double/double. Rates (not including 12% tax) are \$83 for single and double, \$103 triple, and \$123 quad. The conference block of rooms will be held until April 8. For reservations contact: www.millenniumhotels.com or (866) 866-8086.

Anchorage Airport Courtyard by Marriott (4901 Spenard Road) is offering \$99 king/2 DBL (double occupancy) through April 4. For reservations contact: www.marriott.com or (800) 314-0782.

Coast International Hotel (3450 Aviation Ave.) is offering \$69/79 single/double occupancy. For reservations contact: www.intlinnanchorage.com or (800) 663-1144.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

You may register online at <https://secure.alaskamade.com/aktws/> or by using the mail-in registration form included in this announcement. **Please note that registration cost increases after April 6.** Full conference registration fees cover facilities costs, conference catering, poster reception/social, banquet, and meeting materials. A one-day registration is also available. Fees for workshops and extra reception/social and banquet tickets may also be paid with this form. Once payment is made, you will receive a confirmation and receipt by e-mail or regular mail. Registration materials will be available at the conference beginning April 23, and will include abstracts, name tag, reception/social and banquet tickets, and Anchorage visitor information.

Habitat Division to Return to Department of Fish and Game

Governor Sarah Palin announced the Habitat Division will be returning to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The following is excerpted from the Governor's 5 February news release:

The decision to return habitat permitting functions to the Department of Fish and Game acknowledges that the responsibilities of Habitat Division are better aligned with the overall mission and structure of the Department of Fish and Game.

"We are absolutely committed to the protection of wildlife habitat," Governor Palin said. "But we are just as committed to responsible development of our other resource industries such as oil and gas, mining and timber, and we're going to make sure that development occurs through strong oversight and cooperation between the departments."

The Governor will submit an Executive Order to the legislature to return fish habitat permitting responsibilities to the Department of Fish and Game. Detailed planning for the move will begin immediately and movement of personnel and supervision will occur by July 1, 2008.

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.)

Uncommon Sense

By Dave Person

The hunter pounds his gnarly hand down on the counter. "I'm a logger", he says, "and these damn scientists or so-called experts don't have no common sense. They got to understand that we have to balance cuttin' trees with protecting dicky birds or whatever." The smiling politician announces, "My bill will balance the needs of local communities with protecting the environment. It is just plain common sense." The government bureaucrat tells the panel, "The only common sense solution is to balance the needs of consumptive and non-consumptive users of the



resource. For that we need consensus between stakeholders." Common sense, balance, and consensus - buzzwords that help people convince themselves and others that they understand the issues and are making good decisions. The trouble with common sense is that it is all too common and often does not make any sense. Einstein defined it as the collection of prejudices we all acquire before age 18. The problem with balance is that neither side can gain any weight, and balance points, like beauty, are in the eye of the beholder. The trouble with consensus is that agreement to do the wrong thing is worse than no consensus at all. You are just going downhill faster while holding hands.

Perhaps before anyone sanctifies the presumed wisdom and correctness of common sense, balance, and consensus they should read Dietrich Dörner's book "*The Logic of Failure: Recognizing and Avoiding Error in Complex Situations*". It is invaluable reading for all natural resource policy makers, managers, and scientists and is a natural complement to Holling's book "*Adaptive Environmental Assessment and Management*" and Walter's "*Adaptive Management of Renewable Resources*". Dörner is a professor of psychology and director of the Max Planck Institute program of cognitive anthropology in Berlin, Germany. For over 20 years, he focused on the psychology of decision making with the goal of improving how people think about and address difficult and complex problems. He used computer-simulated scenarios that involved social, environmental, and economic factors similar to the computer game, SimCity, to explore how people singly or in groups performed solving problems. His results were an eye-opening expose' of how ill equipped most people are to think about and manage complex situations.

To put a real-world face on the problem, he described the decisions and actions of the engineers responsible for the Chernobyl nuclear power plant disaster. That event did not result from poor reactor design, lack of safety procedures and backups, or incompetent personnel. It happened because intelligent, conscientious, and well-trained engineers made a series of small but rational errors that ballooned into a catastrophe they did not see coming. They did not comprehend the magnitude of the nonlinear dynamics associated with reactor operation and dismissed small deviations from normal readouts on their instruments as unimportant. Any one of those anomalies would have been insignificant had it occurred in isolation but they all were linked in a time-series of events that went unrecognized by the engineers. They paid for their mistakes with their lives and the lives of many others.

Dörner argues that evolution has not endowed most humans with an inherent capacity to deal with complex nonlinear problems, particularly those that require long periods of time to recognize and resolve, or that do not fit within our simple preconceived notions of how things should work. Our ancestors were mostly concerned with day-to-day issues such as where to find food or how to avoid predators. That narrow, short-term focus served them well as long as their ecological footprint was small. Now, however, the ecological footprint of modern man is huge and we must manage complex problems that involve whole ecosystems and even the entire planet.

Dörner believes that we must learn how to think about those issues before we can deal with them. His book is not comfortable reading. Indeed, I recognized myself in some of his descriptions of people who performed poorly during the experimental simulations. Common sense, notions of balance, and consensus do not guarantee good decision making. One person mentally equipped to address complex problems is far more valuable than a gaggle of stakeholders who are not.

As Dörner describes, good decision makers identify clear goals, are not constrained by dogma or overly simplistic ideas about the systems they manage, often make many decisions and corrections rather than "muddling through" with the same strategy, address the important problems affecting their systems rather than only addressing those they think they can solve, and learn from their mistakes. They also know that within complex systems they cannot do just one thing because all the components of the system are connected and they understand that most "solutions" are really tradeoffs that often have unintended consequences. They know their decisions merely define one of many possible paths upon which an inexorable chain of events will unfold. Good decision makers realize that most of their decisions will eventually need modifying, and consequently, they frequently monitor the results of their actions. So next time some policy maker, group of stakeholders, or politician confidently announces that they have devised the "win-win", balanced, or common sense solution to some complex environmental problem, offer them the following advice from Brecht and Weill's *Threepenny Opera*:

*"Go make yourself a plan
And be a shining light.
Then make yourself a second plan,
For neither will come right."*



Our progress in wildlife GIS studies is over 10 years behind its potential: It's time to focus on improved management of land, water rights, and global wealth

by Falk Huettmann

One of the leaders in the GIS field recently published "*GIS Best Practices: GIS in Wildlife Conservation*" (<http://www.esri.com/library/bestpractices/wildlife-conservation.pdf>). Neatly available online as a PDF and stacked with classic glossy maps of charismatic wildlife species and proud field investigators showing off handled study animals, this shiny publication of 47 pages lacks not only a TWS endorsement but deeper scientific substance or a peer-review. This portrayal of "best practices" unfortunately represents state-of-the-art prior to 1990, not today. Modern adaptive management is not served by such portrayals. Thus, this technology (and marketing campaign that comes with it) fails to provide us with TRUE progress for wildlife and habitat, society, or global sustainability.

For the GIS insider, this does not come as much of a surprise. For years software quality has stagnated and we have seen a counter-productive overcapitalization of technology while policy decisions often suffer from lack of consideration of GIS products and lack of open access to data for mapping.

Here I briefly outline some of the key flaws in the "Best Practices" document; they occur as well in many of the current wildlife applications, mapping philosophies, contracts, and funding proposals.

GIS map overlays without research design considerations: Overlaying GIS layers, e.g. wildlife point data (surveys, GPS or telemetry) with a classified habitat and elevation layer often presents the 'dream' for many wildlife practitioners and managers. However, for most generalizations in the wildlife discipline this cannot be done with data that are opportunistically collected, merged from various sources, without a proper research design, or from data that lack sound descriptions. Using only a handful of GIS layers ignores the remaining 30 or more that we now have readily at our fingertips and that are needed for capturing ecological realities. Findings from such approaches are often flawed and rarely carry statistical and biological confidence.

Home range subjectivity: For decades we have seen research projects that try to outline home ranges. For example, our literature is overwhelmed with papers on local deer, moose, wolf, and bear home ranges. Different techniques present different results and conclusions. The application of kernels improved this

situation, but often they still lack a sound justification of cut-offs. Accuracy assessment of these home range maps is rarely given, nor considerations of the overall population context.

Spaghetti graphs are misleading: Another classic and equally misleading map shows how animals with telemetry transmitters move through the land- and sea-scape. In addition to very low sample sizes, and drugged up animals, findings are probably biased due to the 'duty cycle' filtering and the transmitter package the animal carries. Usually, only modeled findings corrected for such biases can produce valid results. Spaghetti graphs can have biological value for hypothesis testing but less so for generalizations and sound management. In wildlife management we usually need the latter two items.

Lack of state-of-the-art statistical and certified software applications for management and policy: Software applications (notably the open code "R") have 'exploded' in recent years, providing us with powerful tools that can automate calculations and predict complex results. However, the wildlife community still lacks a certified set of software tools we can trust to provide consistent and objective results that would hold up in court for sound decision-making. Many software applications are so crucial for decision-making these days that they are basically part of policy, although few are really hard-wired in legal text and procedures.

Missing support for Open Source GIS, Open Access Data, publication initiatives, and metadata: GIS means primarily software as well as data publication. Data management is one of THE topics in most funding programs, with Open Access gaining in popularity. However, most wildlifers and telemetry projects do NOT share their data. This topic is rarely mentioned in publications. Wildlifers love to obtain free satellite images, but they do not contribute much raw data to the public in exchange. There is a huge loss of potential for synergy when data are not shared with the global village. The widely experienced lack of metadata for most wildlife species is in full support of this argument.

Classified landcover concepts provide for incomplete habitat information: Another misleading dream of the techno-fix era is classified satellite images. It frequently occurs that proprietary decisions are driven by the remote sensing companies or contractors. Classification accuracy is often <95% (our usual standard) and poorly described and assessed. As demonstrated in the "Best Practices" paper, valid and creative spatial habitat concepts



(such as those brought forward by landscape ecology, fragmentation metrics, or socio-economics) are frequently ignored.

Computing for cumulative impact models, spatial Population Viability Analysis (sPVA), and automated Environmental Impact Studies (EIS) are lacking: Assessing the cumulative impacts is a legal base requirement when economic development is proposed. Together with PVAs that consider spatial issues (sPVA), these techniques are key for evaluating sustainable development proposals.

Funders use GIS and wildlife for marketing and pseudo-progress: Publications like this "Best Practices" are full of examples of aggressive funding promotion campaigns and how GIS is used as a techno-fix to present the public with pseudo-progress in wildlife management where there actually is none. Globally, we continue to lose species and habitats. GIS studies for sustainability are a crisis discipline where not much has been won—at least yet. Wildlife is a public, global resource. It must not be driven by self-centered economic-marketing campaigns or monopolistic views of software companies obsessed with selling techno-

fixes that make things worse or are not pertinent to the world's survival.

In conclusion: The classic rift between field biologists and the (GIS) computing community is apparently still not resolved. Potential remains large though and, when realized, will aid sustainability world-wide. In the meantime, our beloved wildlife remains poorly managed and faces excessive threats. We can do better than what the "Best Practices" industry document outlined and should always strive for excellence. It should be in our best interest to provide sustainable wildlife leadership on this issue and move progressively forward instead of just presenting shiny maps and concepts that are financially motivated and over a decade old.

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

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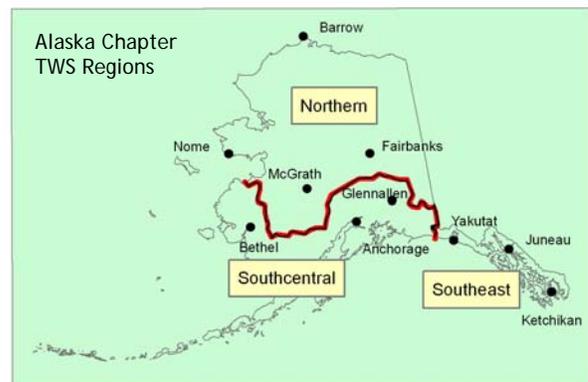
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Annual Meeting of the Alaska Chapter of The Wildlife Society

Millennium Alaskan Hotel
Anchorage, Alaska
April 22-24, 2008

Registration Form

Name: _____

Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-Mail: _____

Please fill in all that apply (all costs are per person):

	Fee	Payment
Full Meeting (includes poster reception/social & banquet)		
Regular.....	\$180	_____
Late Regular (after April 6).....	\$220	_____
Retired.....	\$110	_____
Student	\$80	_____
Daily Attendance (does not include poster reception/social or banquet)		
Regular.....	\$80	_____
Retired.....	\$40	_____
Student	\$25	_____
Poster Social (daily attendees or guests only).....	\$10	_____
Banquet (daily attendees or guests only).....	\$40	_____
Workshops (you must be registered for the conference to attend workshops)		
Introduction to the ArcGIS ModelBuilder*	\$45	_____
The Alaska Statewide Digital Mapping Initiative*	\$45	_____
<i>*Contact Liz Solomon at elizabeth.solomon@alaska.gov or (907) 267-2209 for availability.</i>		
Current Moose Management and Research.....	\$5	_____
	Total	_____

Full-time Students

I request a travel award to attend this conference

I will be making an oral or poster presentation

On-line registration is preferred and is available at: <https://secure.alaskamade.com/aktws/>.

Otherwise, please make checks out to the Alaska Chapter of The Wildlife Society and send checks and registration to Mark Udevitz at: USGS Alaska Science Center, 1011 E. Tudor Road, Anchorage, AK 99503; e-mail mark_udevitz@usgs.gov; Fax (907) 786-3636. Direct questions concerning registration to Mark at (907) 786-3365.