



FAWN



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THE WILD SIDE

Marjorie McHenry - NMFVA President

The summer has almost slipped away again, and I am sure you have all been very busy. So busy, it seems, I have heard from very few of you regarding any issues of concern. Thus, I will bring you up to date on some of the issues the Board of Directors has discussed. In June, Steve Shea accepted position as a wildlife biologist with the St. Joe Corp. and resigned as Eastern Regional Director. Steve will be missed, and we wish him well in his new career outside DoD. The Board voted to ask Scott Smith to fill the remainder of Steve's term, as he was the runner-up for the position in our last election. Scott graciously accepted the task, and we welcome him back to the Board.

The Board also voted to proceed with establishing a web site for the Association. Through the efforts of Tammy Conkle and Don Meuschke, an individual has been identified who will set up the site, design the web page, and serve as webmaster for a very reasonable price. We are developing a Memorandum of Agreement for a two year period. This will provide time to

evaluate how much it is utilized, membership response, and to what extent it will reduce our printing and postage expenses. A prototype has already been set up at the following address: <http://www.aznet.net/~cobb/nmfwa/>.

The issue of outsourcing continues to be one of both concern and confusion. On April 20, 1998, a memorandum on Inherently Governmental and Commercial Activities Inventory Procedures was signed by Under Secretary of Defense, Acquisition & Technology, Jacques Gansler and the Under Secretary of Defense, Personnel & Readiness, Rudy deLeon. The purpose of this inventory is to classify civilian and military manpower authorizations as an inherently governmental function, a commercial activity exempt from OMB Circular A-76 competition, or a commercial activity eligible for competition. Each service was asked to develop supplemental instructions for conducting the inventory. In the Army's memo, all natural resource positions were coded *Subject to Review*.

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In the last issue of the FAWN, the Government Affairs Committee submitted a lengthy DRAFT position paper for your review. It's content had not been reviewed by the Board of Directors, and I hoped it would generate some comment from the membership. I am very sorry to report that we heard from only two individuals. Are these the only members who care enough about this issue to respond? A letter will be written to

deLeon and Gansler to request clarification on the memorandum. Although the FAWN has not previously had an editorial section, this issue will include, with consent of the author, the condensed comments of Scott Bebb. If the outsourcing issue is of importance to you, and if you have input which would be helpful, please contact the Government Affairs Committee and get involved BEFORE our March meeting.

mchenrym@id-nget.army.mil

NMFWA OUTSOURCING POSITION

The following is the revised NMFWA position on Commercial Activities, A-76 Outsourcing. This is an excerpt from a letter which will be sent to Secretary of Defense, William Cohen.

Recently, there has been an initiative to reduce the military and civilian workforce within DoD. The methods and terminology associated with this initiative differ between the military departments, Commands, and installations. Frequently used terminology include A-76, cost comparison, outsourcing, contracting out, downsizing, and reengineering. The initiative is being applied to many functions within DoD, including natural resources management.

The National Military Fish and Wildlife Association's position is that natural resource functions are exempt from the workforce reduction initiative. The Association offers the following reasons why natural resource functions are exempt from workforce reductions.

There are several laws, regulations and policies specifying that natural resource management is an inherently governmental function. The Sikes Act Reauthorization (Public Law 99-561) states that natural resource management is an inherently governmental function. There is similar language regarding the in-

herently governmental nature of natural resource management and its exclusion from A-76 and Commercial Activities review in 16 USC 670a and 32 CFR, Parts 169 and 190. DoD Instruction 4715.3 and DoD Directive 4100.15 provide guidance that natural resource management is inherently governmental in nature and shall not be contracted out to the private sector. This legal and regulatory aspect clearly demonstrates the importance of natural resource management in support of military readiness.

Realistic military training and testing is required to maintain and enhance the readiness of the armed forces. Realistic training and testing depends on well managed natural resources. DoD natural resource professionals are a unique cadre of personnel that understand not only natural resource management, but also military mission requirements. It is unlikely this combination of knowledge and skill in managing natural resources and supporting military activities can be replaced by the private sector. These DoD natural resource professionals are important assets that are critical in maintaining a strong military capability. With over 25 million acres of DoD lands, natural resource personnel face a major challenge in providing resource management and supporting the military mission over such a vast area.

Mark Hagan, Mark.Hagan@edwards.af.mil

READY-OR-NOT, OUTSOURCING ON THE HORIZON

The following is a letter regarding the Association's role in DoD's implementation of outsourcing from NMFWA member Scott Bebb (Fort Bragg). The opinion of the author in no way represents the opinions, policies, or actions of the Board of Directors of the Association or membership.

I've been a member of the NMFWA since 1986. I've seen a lot of issues come and go. This one, however, scares me. What scares me is that the NMFWA, as our voice, has not developed a focused strategy for dealing with this issue. My main concern is that the NMFWA position paper (*FAWN, May 1998*) is akin to bringing a pocket knife to a gun fight. I hope the Association realizes that when dealing with bean-counters we need to talk about beans. Concepts such as adaptive management, ecological health, and natural system

complexity are not in their vocabulary, nor do these ecological concepts lend much to the discussion of beans.

As much as we hate to admit it, there are functions in natural resources management that can be contracted out. We're doing it already. Outsourcing is not going to go away. The Association's focus should be to determine, once and for all, what those functions are. We also need to be postured to fight like hell when there are inconsistencies. We can't afford to wait for a precedent setting case because each CA study is so variable in outcome. Win one, lose one; this function is GIN, this one is not; this SJA said this, this one said that; *ad. nauseum*. I don't believe in presenting problems without some possible solutions, so in my humble opinion:

(1) Redraft the position paper with input from the legal side. Rely heavily on the laws and regulations and remove the fluff. Let's turn our hat around the right way and get off the soapbox. Get a lawyer to draft it. Hire one if need be.

(2) Additionally, since there are variable outcomes and interpretations across the services. Individual service task forces should be established to facilitate and coordinate action within their respective branches of DoD. Army CA timelines, procedures, etc. are different than those implemented by the Navy. This committee (*NMFWA Government Affairs Committee*), or their legal representative, could request from DoD all CA/A-76 outcomes and establish patterns or lack thereof.

(3) Get all respective Major Commands involved. If we are going to be negotiating, then let's develop, as an Association, our alternatives. We can't go into this unarmed, we need a legally defensible position. We need a data call for the Major Commands to consoli-

date and compile any fiscal data demonstrating where we are already at fighting weight, where we have taken steps already to trim down, how long we have been operating with annually reduced budgets, amount of contractor support already in place, and the success stories of doing more with less. Headquarters should have these data.

(4) Don't wait for the next NMFWA meeting to get this thing rolling. Time is of the essence. All branches of the services have computers, web-pages, VTC capabilities, and/or telephones.

(5) Push the membership to be personally involved in individual CA studies. Share the information. Comparable data and procedures are a must across the services. The aforementioned committee and/or task force could establish these guidelines. I would be most happy to discuss these issues with the membership and I offer my assistance if needed. Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

Scott Bebb, 910-432-5325, bebb@bragg.army.mil

USE OF GIS IN THE MANAGEMENT OF RED-COCKADED WOODPECKERS AT DARE COUNTY BOMBING RANGE, NORTH CAROLINA

Red-cockaded Woodpeckers (RCW), *Picoides borealis*, use a pond pine pocosin forest for nesting and foraging habitat. This is an atypical habitat from that reported in the scientific literature, and research on the RCW in pocosin habitat is limited. Wildlife biologists at Dare County Range (DCR) began surveying and monitoring RCWs in 1994. A total of 15 nesting clusters have been documented thus far; nine are active and six are inactive.

Geographic Information and Global Positioning Systems (GIS/GPS) technology, and a relational database are being used to manage a complete inventory of RCW cavity trees in known clusters. The locations of all known nest trees are determined using Trimble Pathfinder GPS technology and a base station. MapInfo is currently being used as the GIS software, but we plan to use ArcView in the future.

Data sources for the GIS include black and white digital orthophotographs from the county, digital National Wetland Inventory maps from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, vegetation cover digitized from infra red aerial photographs, and a map of the road network produced by using GPS mounted on a 4-wheel all terrain vehicle.

The RCW data layers include a table for all RCW tree locations, a surrounding 200' diameter nest tree buffer

zone, a cluster centroid, and a ½ mile foraging buffer zone around the cluster. The available forage area for each cluster is delineated by using the Thiessen statistical weighting method in ArcInfo. Work is underway to map all potential contiguous foraging habitat, assignment of relative values for identified foraging sites, and the mapping of all nesting habitat, the location of potential recruitment stands, nesting habitat, and possible sites for recruitment stands.

The relational database will be used to track RCW population and status, tree and cavity condition, management activities, competitor problems, needed inserts or restrictors, to keep historic records in same location, to query conditions over a period of time, and produce custom reports. Using the database, we will determine RCW population status and trends, breeding success, number of birds per cluster, and changes in these numbers over time.

The project will benefit the DCR natural resources program in several ways. It will provide proactive management planning and reporting of RCW management, justification of budgets, personnel and equipment, and enhanced integration of threatened and endangered species management with other natural resource management and range activities.

Scott B. Smith, 4cevdare@relay1.seymourjanson.af.mil

NOISE IMPACTS ON ANIMALS: METHODOLOGY

The military is increasingly concerned with the impacts of noise on animals. A high quality study requires specialized expertise in both acoustics and the biological sciences. In this article we briefly outline study requirements and some pitfalls to avoid. The motivation for devoting scarce resources to assessing noise impacts on animals is to minimize restrictions on training activities. These can arise from claims of damage to domestic animals and from wildlife regulations. The Endangered Species Act (ESA) requires federal agencies to carry out programs to conserve threatened and endangered species (TES). Regulators at the state and national level have legal responsibility to preserve TES. If available information is not adequate to assess the impact of a particular type of noise on a species, the regulator or the courts may make conservative rulings that negatively impact military readiness.

Noise sources of concern include fixed and rotary wing aircraft, small arms, explosions, and armor/artillery. It is critical to understand that all of these require specialized measurement equipment, procedures, and metrics to meaningfully characterize the stimulus. These noises vary widely in instantaneous transient amplitude, duration, spectral energy content, and suddenness of onset. Ordinary sound level meters and metrics are inadequate. A study that uses impeccable biological procedures and metrics, but inadequate noise stimulus metrics, wastes resources because the study results cannot be extrapolated to other locations or even to the same location under different noise conditions.

Another important consideration of noise impact assessment is "frequency weighting." When assessing noise impact, only noise that is audible to the study species should be accounted for in the noise metric. An example is the familiar "A" weighting, which discriminates against noise energy according to human hearing range and sensitivity. This will in general not be appropriate for another animal species that has a significantly different audiogram. It will be useful to obtain at least a reasonable estimate of the audiogram of each study species and use this information to derive an appropriate weighting function or guide interpretation of data.

Noise models exist that can help define noise exposure for a population. Parameters of interest include the number of animals exposed and the noise exposure type, level, time frame, and number of repetitions. Selection of impact criteria is a critical issue. Criteria for noise impact on humans include annoyance, sleep disturbance, and hearing damage. For domesticated species the issue may be damage to individual animals or impacts on production and profits. For TES the primary issue is survival of the species. In this case the challenge is to determine or infer long-term impacts on the total population in a relatively short-term study.

Response to noise can be characterized by measurement of proximate effects, that is the direct and immediate response of the animal to the noise stimulus. A proximate effect could be a behavioral (e.g., flight) or a physiological (e.g., change in heart rate) response. Experience with humans and animals has shown that the dose-response relation is typically different for each type of noise. It is important to consider whether an animal is responding to noise or to some other aspect of a potentially disturbing activity.

Establishment of a dose-response model should include consideration of habituation, that is, reduced severity of response as the animal becomes accustomed to the noise. Animals may rapidly become habituated to noises that prove to be benign. The literature offers guidance as to the mathematical form of a habituation function. The ultimate level of effect is whether the stimulus causes significant changes in the number of individuals in the population. The connection between proximate effects and population effects can be made by means of an intermediate level of effect, "individual fitness," which is typically evaluated in terms of mortality or reproductive success. As a specific example, consider that a bird might flush from a nest (a proximate response) as a result of noise. It is possible that this could lead to failure of the nest, especially if it occurred repeatedly. Monitoring is required to determine reproductive success of disturbed and of undisturbed nests. A population model is required to determine if failure of some percentage of nests has impact on survival of the population.

Larry Pater, L-PATER@CECER.ARMY.MIL

WMI PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING

On 9 April 1998, Bob Wardwell represented the Association at the 1999 North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference Program Committee Meeting in Washington, DC at the Cosmos Club. He did not see Monica Lewinsky.

Bob presented several ideas for session topics to the program committee including Interagency Cooperation for Ecosystem Management (e.g., the Mojave Desert Initiative), Pacific Rim Conservation issues, and privatization and outsourcing. All were well received.

Interested DoD personnel should track the development of their program and strongly consider giving a presentation at this meeting.

Bob reported that the Association was singled out twice during the proceedings as a valuable contributor to WMI's annual meeting. On that note, our new Board voted unanimously last month in Orlando to continue meeting in conjunction with the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference through the year 2001.

Thomas Wray, twray@nswc.navy.mil

LEGACY FUNDING

At the NMFWA conference last month in Orlando, several people raised concerns about the Legacy Program. There was confusion about what's happening with the program, whether or not it's still viable, and what sorts of projects qualify for funding. First, the Legacy Program has not gone away. We are still viable and funding valuable projects in support of DoD's conservation program. Second, the scope of our funding guidelines has changed somewhat since the program's inception. Moreover, we are here for you.

In its founding legislation, Legacy was put into place until the year 2003. We firmly expect to be in existence at least until that date. Although our funding has been cut from a high of \$50 million, there is significant support to continue an annual appropriation of \$10 million, which is in line with our founding legislation. It is important to note, however, that the full amount of appropriated funds do not always reach the program level.

Many people expressed concern that they were not notified that Legacy funds were available, or they were not notified until after the March 16 deadline for pre-proposal submissions. In order to correct this problem in the future, the Legacy team will post the guidelines and pre-proposal application procedures on the Web.

The FY99 *Areas of Interest* will soon be posted at www.denix.osd.mil/denix/Public/ESPrograms/Conservation/conservation.html. We are not able to accept further proposals for the FY99 funding cycle. We do not expect the information to change much for FY00 funding.

For FY00 funding, the request for proposals and pre-proposal submission guidelines will be posted at a web site by late summer or early fall. Please remember that single species or site-specific projects are not likely to be funded unless they show benefit as a model for a larger context. Broad regional and national initiatives are more likely to receive preferential funding decisions. This is a function of the dynamic nature of the Legacy Program and the political realities of funding constraints.

If you have questions about the program, or want to talk about specific project ideas, please don't hesitate to contact us by either e-mail or telephone. Also, please let us know if you would like a copy of Peter Boice's view graphs, which he was unable to present at the conference. We look forward to working with you.

Alison Dalsimer, 703-604-1774,
dalsimaa@acq.osd.mil

FINAL ACTION FOR THE SIKES ACT COMMITTEE

The Sikes Act Committee, which was instrumental in the passage of the Sikes Act Improvement Act of 1997 last August, completed one final task. The committee members (consisting of Rick Griffiths, Joe Hautzenroder, Marjorie McHenry, Gene Stout, Pat Walsh, Tom Warren, and Thomas Wray) presented an award to the committee chairman, Junior D. Kerns, on 28 August 1998. The purpose of the award was to provide recognition for the individual most responsible for the suc-

cessful passage of the Sikes Act, from the group of people who worked most closely with its passage. The award was an independent initiative of the committee, rather than an official NMFWA action. The award was a decorative wall clock with an engraved plaque stating "Junior D. Kerns, for leading the National Military Fish and Wildlife Association's efforts in renewal of the Sikes Act Improvement Act of 1997."

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE SEEKS CANDIDATES

The Nominations Committee invites those National Military Fish and Wildlife Association members, who are interested in helping the Association grow, to become candidates for election to the Board of Directors. Offices to be filled in the 1999 election include the President-elect, Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer, one Eastern Director, one Western Director, and one At-Large Director. The Secretary-Treasurer and directors will serve two-year terms. The President-elect and Vice President serve for one year.

All candidates must be voting members of the Association and the President-elect should have served at least one year on the Board of Directors. Successful candidates will take office at the end of the Annual Business Meeting in March 1999. Members interested in becoming candidates may request a copy of the

Board of Directors Handbook from NMFVA President Marjorie McHenry (208-422-4180, mchenrym@idngnet.army.mil).

The committee is seeking at least two candidates for every position. Candidate information needed includes name, office for which nominee is a candidate, duty station, present position, NMFVA activities, professional activities and interests (includes past employment, natural resources professional organizations, and current special interests, research and other projects, etc.), candidate statement of views and goals as a NMFVA Board Member, and a passport-style photograph suitable for reproduction. If you want to be a candidate, send this information to Rick Griffiths at 657 W 100 N, Provo, UT 84601 or FAX to Marjorie McHenry (208-442-4169).

Rick Griffiths, djodjo@juno.com

INTERESTING NATURAL RESOURCES WEB SITES

If any NMFVA member finds an interesting web site that they would like to share with the membership, forward the address to me and I will include it in this column for future FAWNs. Some that I have found so far:

<http://members.aol.com/owlbox/owlhome.htm>. Follows a pair of barred owls incubating, hatching, and rearing two owlets in a nest box.

<http://members.aol.com/Tjacmc/>. Plans for floating platforms for nesting birds and for turtles, plus habitat improvement.

<http://www.gstout.com/>. Gene Stout's Web Page- excellent source of information on DoD and conservation matters for both natural and cultural resources.

<http://www.bio.tamu.edu/users/heather/boxturt.htm>. Information on box turtle research and conservation.

www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbl/homepage/longylst.hm. Longevity records for various bird species compiled by the Bird Banding Laboratory.

Jim Beemer, yj6936@exmail.usma.army.mil

HERP WORKING GROUP

Do you have an interest in reptiles and amphibians? Do you have knowledge you wish to share regarding herps? Would you like to find solutions to questions regarding the protection and management of herps on your installation? Then, the NMFVA Herpetology Working Group (HWG) might be just the thing for you!!!! So far, seven members have signed up as potential members of HWG. Several e-mail discussions/faxes have occurred so far. If at least ten members sign up, I plan to have an organizational meeting

at the NMFVA Annual Meeting & Training Workshop in San Francisco in March.

Members interested in being a part of this group can contact me by phone (914-938-2314, DSN: 688-2314) or by e-mail. If you have an interest in herps, consider joining. Signing up does not commit you to any assignment or project. It only commits you to sharing ideas and information on herps and their management on military installations.

Jim Beemer, yj6936@exmail.usma.army.mil

CALL FOR DONATIONS

As Host Committee Chair for the NMFVA training conference next March, I would like to solicit help from the membership in obtaining monetary donations from companies to help offset the cost of the conference, and merchandise to be used as door prizes, prizes for the photography contest, or items for the silent auction. Merchandise donations can range anywhere from a coffee cup or T-shirt to a free dinner, art carv-

ing, or limited edition wildlife print. Any and all donations are welcome, and they are tax deductible to the donor. If you know of a business or artist who might be willing to donate money or merchandise to NMFVA, or if you are a good salesperson and can convince someone to donate a prize, please contact me at 805-238-8265 or DSN: 949-8265. Julie Eliason, Camp Roberts, CA.

LOGO BALLOT REVISITED

Just a short reminder for those NMFWA members who have not done so already, to please send your NMFWA Logo Ballot & Questionnaire as soon as possible. So far, only 56 ballots out of 600+ have been received from NMFWA voting members concerning selection of a new NMFWA logo or retaining the original logo. This rate of return is very low for so important a question.

Two possibilities might explain the low response. One, a deadline for receiving ballots was not established. A second possibility was that you tried faxing the ballot but couldn't get through. The fax difficulty arose from a typographical error resulting in an incor-

rect fax number on the ballot. The correct fax number is: 914- 938-2324 or DSN: 688-2324. To address the deadline issue, ballots must be received by November 11, 1998. The results will be announced in the January issue of the FAWN.

Perhaps you set it aside thinking you will get to it later. Take a few moments to complete the ballot now and either mail or fax it to me today. One logo selection just barely has a majority at this time with the remaining votes evenly divided among the other three choices.

Jim Beemer, yj6936@exmail.usma.army.mil

FIELD NOTES

Naval Air Station Oceana is conducting an experimental planting of native warm season grasses on the airfield perimeter. Through agricultural outlease funding and contracting with a local farmer, 25 acres were planted in varieties of switchgrass, orchardgrass, indiangrass, little bluestem, and other species. Two sites were planted in a "poor soil" seed mix and two sites planted in a "good soil" seed mix. The planting is intended to reduce grounds maintenance costs, improve range quality, and will be monitored closely to determine the program's relationship to bird and animal strike hazards on the airfield. Annual maintenance of the seeded areas includes cutting and prescribed burning. For additional information, contact Brian Hostetter at ebhoss@aol.com or 757- 433-3438.

John Noble, a Fort McCoy fisheries biologist, reports using DERA funds to create and restore fish habitat as part of a landfill closure. The project involved stream bank restoration with rip-rap barriers. For questions, call John at 608-388-5796 or DSN: 280-5796.

John Joyce (Lakehurst NAS) protected a 400-acre grassland from mowing, thereby enhancing the site for nesting Savannah and Henslow's Sparrows, two declining species in the East. Sometimes a seemingly small change in management practices can significantly contribute to the regional ecology of a species--something not always easily accomplished on a military base.

The US Military Academy at West Point, NY was the chosen site for a ceremony designating the Hudson River as an American Heritage River on 30 July 1998. The designation was officially bestowed by Secretary of the Army Louis Caldera at the ceremony held at West Point's Trophy Point amphitheater. The Hudson

River was one of 14 US rivers chosen for this designation. The designation enables local communities to better protect and promote biological and cultural heritage.

Peter Boice has written an excellent article that appeared in the August 1998 issue of FISHERIES, the official publication of the American Fisheries Society. The article was titled *Recreational Fishing on US Department of Defense Lands* and highlighted programs at Jim Creek Naval Radio Station, Fort Sill, Tyndall Air Force Base, and Fort Carson.

Fort Carson biologists are cooperating with other agencies working with the Mexican Spotted Owl in southern Colorado on Federal and private lands, targeting research and monitoring goals established by the Southern Rocky Mountain Recovery Unit. This summer the group conducted occupancy and breeding surveys for the owl in canyons bordering the installation. In September, several juvenile and adult owls will be captured and radio-tagged, in anticipation of investigating juvenile dispersal, habitat use, and use of Fort Carson lands. The ultimate goal is the delisting of the owl in the region. To this end, Chris Bandy, Fort Carson's Wildlife Manager, recently attended the recovery team meeting in Flagstaff, representing the regional recovery unit.

If the rumors are true, then the Mountain Plover, a grassland species nesting on Fort Carson and Pinon Canyon, will be listed in the near future. To meet this latest challenge, Fort Carson biologists are conducting post-breeding surveys for staging areas and coordinating with the Fort Carson Fire Department to plan prescribed burns to test if plovers can be induced to move from their favorite nesting area in the center of a heav-

ily used tank/Bradley range to its periphery, thereby reducing impacts to training.

Because the spread of exotic plants threaten biodiversity and ecosystem management initiatives on Fort McCoy, Kim Mello developed an aggressive program to control four invasive species: leafy spurge, spotted knapweed, glossy buckthorn, and purple loosestrife. In addition to these species, control efforts also target sweetclovers, reed canary grass, and in particular, brome and quackgrass threatening an oak barrens natural area. In 1998, Fort McCoy will treat more than 200 acres with herbicides. In addition to an aggressive control program, GIS mapping and database linking of infested areas will continue. The database will facilitate tracking of treatment chronology for each site. In support of the project, several NGO entities including The Prairie Enthusiast, local schools, boy scout troops, and volunteers provided valuable assistance, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation provided support by way of a \$10K grant. The money was used to hire a private contractor to treat leafy spurge and spotted knapweed infested sites. In addition to Mello's exotic plant program, other recent habitat projects on Fort McCoy include prescribed burning, native plant seed collection for site restoration, and wetlands and aspen management.

For the first time, a pair of bald eagles nested in the North Flowage of Fort McCoy and successfully fledged two eaglets. Fortunately, the nestlings fledged before the nest was blown over during a wind storm. Ospreys also nested in the Flowage and successfully raised two young. Since 1983, 57 osprey have fledged

from the Fort McCoy nesting sites, of which 54 have been banded. If the eagles nest again in 1999, it will be interesting to see what happens--the eagles usually dominate the smaller osprey. There are no official sightings of wolves on the fort yet, but Fort McCoy biologists are certain they occasionally visit the base! The 1998 Fort McCoy spring turkey harvest was the highest (147) on record since the first season opened in 1990, but the deer harvest declined. The lower than expected deer harvest was probably the result of two consecutive years (1995 and 1996) of stressful winter and spring conditions that depressed reproductive success and fawn survival. Surveys and harvest data showed a drop in the doe-to-fawn ratios, fawn weights (particularly doe fawns) and a sharp decline of yearlings. Fortunately, the winter of 1997-1998 was mild. Early surveys indicate good fawn production, but it will take a couple of years to see an increase in the population.

In other related Fort McCoy news, a severe windstorm in early July damaged thousands of acres of forests on the installation and surrounding area. On Fort McCoy alone, 3000 acres of forest and red pine plantations received heavy damage, with an additional 6000 acres sustaining medium to light damage. Three thousand acres of damaged timber have been sold in emergency and salvage timber sales, with more sales expected. The amount of down timber in and around Fort McCoy could present dangerous wildfire conditions for the future. For more information or questions, contact the wildlife staff at 608-388-5766 or by e-mail: mellok@emh2.mccoy.army.mil

1999 TECHNICAL SESSIONS

As reported in the last FAWN, proposed technical sessions for our next annual meeting include the following:

Innovative Wildlife Management Techniques Developed on DoD Installations: Pat Walsh (941-452-4254) & Carl Petrick (850-882-4164)

Working with the US Fish and Wildlife Service: Slader Buck (760-725-4637)

Southwest Desert and Arid Lands Management: Bill Fisher (619-532-1488)

Monitoring of DoD Activities to Meet Regulatory Requirements: Nancy Read (805-734-8232)

Managing Forested Ecosystems: Bill Woodson (410-612-7080)

Riparian Corridors and Buffers: Chester Martin (601-634-3958)

Integrated Natural Resources Management Planning: Don Pitts (915-696-5049)

Show and Tell Reception: Norma Brossa (760-725-8584)

Host Committee Chair: Julie Eliason (805-238-8265)

Program Chair: Dave Tazik (601-634-2610)

Support your Association and help make our next meeting a great success by lending a hand. Contact program and committee chairs now to ask how you can help!

BAT CONSERVATION-- A SPECIAL TRAINING SESSION: A special one-half day session on Bat Conservation is under consideration for our 1999 annual meeting. Bat Conservation International (BCI) has proposed the following topic areas for inclusion in this session: (1) Introduction to Bats: Ecological and Social Importance, (2) Endangered and Sensitive Bat Species, (3) Habitat Requirements, (4) Threats to Bats and their Habitat, (5) Strategies for Bat Conservation and Habitat Management, (6) Education, Training, and Resources Tools for Bat Management and Conservation, (7) Conservation through Cooperation and Partnerships, and (8) Getting the Word Out.

Bats are animals of exceptional ecological and economic importance. They are primary predators of vast numbers of night-flying insects, including many crop

and forest pests. They play vital roles as seed dispersers and plant pollinators in some areas and many are keystone species upon which other plants and animals depend for survival. Although long-standing misconceptions have branded bats as undesirable, in reality they are ecologically indispensable.

BCI is a leader in education, research, and conservation initiatives to protect bats. BCI addresses this unique challenge by changing attitudes--not by confrontation. They have helped gain protection for many of the world's most important remaining bat populations. The proposed training session will cover the latest tools and techniques that can be incorporated into DoD land management plans.

If you are interested in participating in this technical session, and especially if you have information and lessons learned from DoD lands to contribute, contact me at 601-634-2610 or by e-mail.

Dave Tazik, tazikd@mail.wes.army.mil

1999 FIELD TRIPS

1. Trip Leaders: Doug Ripley and his wife Arlene will lead these trips. As native San Franciscans, these trips highlight some of their favorite natural areas in the Bay Area, and in several cases were the sites of their graduate biological research while students at San Francisco State University.

2. Proposed Trips:

a. Coyote Point Park

(1) Location: Burlingame

(2) Time Required: 2 hours (best in afternoon)

(3) Comments: Located on the western shore of the Bay very near to the conference hotels. Should be fairly good for shorebirds and waders. Not especially attractive area but very convenient to hotel and should be good birding.

b. San Francisco State Fish and Game Refuge

(1) Location: About 4 miles due west of Burlingame (about 10 miles by road).

(2) Time Required: 3-4 Hours (best in morning)

(3) Comments: Established in the early 20th Century as the watershed for the City of San Francisco's water supply, a visit to this beautiful area introduces the visitor some of the best remaining mixed evergreen forests

and chaparral of the Santa Cruz Mountains. The trip would consist of a hike along the Sawyer Camp Road which is open only to pedestrians. Early spring wildflowers will be numerous, and many woodland birds (warblers, sparrows, woodpeckers, etc.) should be present. Some waterfowl will be seen on the reservoirs.

c. Pescadero State Beach and San Mateo County Coast

(1) Location: 30 Miles from Burlingame

(2) Time Required: 4-5 Hours (any time)

(3) Comments: Travel through the redwoods and other conifers of the Santa Cruz Mountains and visit several excellent birding sites along the Pacific Coast. Pescadero State Beach is spectacularly scenic and has great birding. Return via Pacifica.

d. The Presidio of San Francisco

(1) Location: About 20 miles north of Burlingame on the northern tip of the San Francisco Peninsula.

(2) Time Required: 4-5 hours

(3) Comments: Arguably one of the most spectacular former military installations in the world, the Presidio was finally relinquished to the National Park Service in 1994 after over 200 years of occupation by the Army. This trip will offer an opportunity to hike along

trails offering spectacular views of the City, the Golden Gate Bridge, and the rugged coastline. We will visit the habitat for several extremely rare serpentine endemic plants (e.g., the Federally listed Raven's Manzanita, which consists of one individual!). We should have good opportunities for birding both in the uplands and along the shore. Other areas of interest will include habitat restoration work begun by the Army and continued by the National Park Service and some of the over 300 properties on the National Register of Historic Places. The Park Service maintains a visitor's center.

(4) Optional Extension: Muir Woods National Monument, Marin County

(a) Time Required: 3 additional hours

(b) Description: Travel across the Golden Gate Bridge and through the spectacular Marin Headlands to Muir Woods. Here one can see old growth groves of one of the world's most famous and serenely beautiful trees, the California Coast Redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*).

3. Point of Contact: Douglas Ripley, HQ USAF Natural Resources Manager, HQ USAF/ILEVP, 1260 Air Force Pentagon, Washington, DC 20330-1260. Phone: 703- 604-0632, DSN: 664-0632, Fax: 703-604-1812.

Doug Ripley, Douglas.Ripley@af.pentagon.mil

ISEERB CULTURAL AND NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION COURSES (CECOS FY99)

To request a seat in any of these Conservation Courses, register after 8 September 1998 online via the CECOS Website: www.cnet.navy.mil/cecos/cecos.htm.

Confirmation packets containing classroom site logistical information will be mailed to enrolled students approximately five weeks prior to class convening date. If you have any questions concerning registration procedures or confirmation packets, please call the CECOS Registrar at 805- 982-2895. Until you receive a confirmation letter, do not assume that you are properly registered for any of these courses.

INTRODUCTION TO CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT LAWS AND REGULATIONS (CANTRAC NO. A-4A-0070, CDP: 3358) This three-day seminar provides an integrated overview of all pertinent laws and regulations needed to understand and fulfill cultural resource management responsibilities. The curriculum is designed around a series of interrelated case studies discussed during the seminar. The seminar is taught in conjunction the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and is approved by the Interservice Environmental Educational Review Board (ISEERB). Course content includes, but is not limited to the following: National Historic Preservation Act, Archeological Resources Protection Act, American Indian Religious Freedom Act, Native American Graves Protection & Repatriation Act, and Project Planning, Programming and Implementation.

Target Audience: Primary duty and collateral duty personnel that are non-cultural resources specialists who during the performance of their jobs are responsible for cultural resources management and compliance with federal laws and DoD policy. *Course dates:* 1-3 December 1998 Groton, CT; 6-8 April 1999 Silverdale, WA; 15-17 June 1999 Charleston, SC.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION LAW AND SECTION 106 COMPLIANCE (CANTRAC NO. A-4A-0073, CDP: 335C) This three-day seminar emphasizes legal compliance (the Section 106 process) through the use of actual case studies. It addresses legislation and the process to meet the requirements of the law. Course content includes but is not limited to the following: the stewardship role, use of historic properties, communications with related oversight agencies, i.e., State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. Sponsor for this course is the OASN (I&E), Navy Federal Preservation Officer. This course is approved by the Interservice Environmental Educational Review Board (ISEERB). *Target Audience:* DoD activity personnel assigned to cultural resource duties to achieve and maintain compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and other related cultural resource regulations. It is recommended that this course be taken after taking our Introduction to Cultural Resource Management Laws and Regulations course. *Course dates:* 17-20 November 1998 Pensacola, FL;

26-29 January 1999 San Diego, CA; 10-13 August 1999 Silverdale, WA.

NATIVE AMERICAN TRADITIONS AND CULTURES (CANTRAC NO. A-4A-0085, CDP: 3366) This new course features region-specific geo-cultural variations on Native American traditions, cultures, issues, and communication modes within a nationwide core curriculum. This course trains participants in cross-cultural communications, Government-to-Government consultations, Tribal sovereignty, areas of conflict, and dispute resolution. Federal statutes and Executive Documents require the Department of Defense (DoD) and its components to protect cultural resources, such as archaeological and sacred sites, associated with Native American Indian peoples. Requirements include identification and inventory of those Native American cultural resources that are on DoD lands or affected by DoD actions, advance consultation with Native Americans, safeguarding Native American sacred objects and sites from the effects of military operations, enabling access to sacred sites on military lands, and consultation regarding disposition of human remains and funerary objects. Training objectives are (1) Sensitize employees to Native American cultural resources typically found on Federal installations today, and improve employee understanding of the cultures, traditions, and lifeways which provide contextual meaning; (2) Identify and explain factors in the history of Native Americans, and describe interaction with Euro-Americans and United States Government institutions, that might affect government-to-government interaction today; (3) Enhance employees' communication skills applicable to productive interaction with Native American Indians; and (4) Instruct employees how to meet responsibilities under laws, regulations, and other guidance that govern relations and interactions with Native Americans. Sponsor for this course is OASN (I&E), Navy

Federal Preservation Officer. This course is approved by the Interservice Environmental Educational Review Board (ISEERB). *Target Audience:* DoD employees who have assigned duties related to these cultural resource protection matters. *Course dates:* 22-26 February 1999 SW site To Be Determined (TBD); 24-28 May 1999 NW site TBD; 12-16 July 1999 NE site TBD.

NATURAL RESOURCES COMPLIANCE (CANTRAC number A-4A-0087, CDP: 3369) This course offers instruction in specific natural resource laws, regulations, policies, Executive Orders, DoD Instructions, and other guidance, noting Service-specific requirements. Course addresses stewardship, preservation, and process; fish, game, and wildlife management laws; protection of wetlands, waterways, and other protected ecological areas; forest and land use management laws; and interservice cooperation. Practical exercises and guest speakers are included. This course is approved by the Interservice Environmental Educational Review Board (ISEERB). *Target Audience:* Natural and cultural resource managers and personnel, environmental lawyers (or lawyers in that capacity), civil works natural resource managers (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers), natural resources law enforcement personnel, and environmental staffs. Sponsor for this course is CNO (Code N45D). *Course dates:* 2-6 November 1998, Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD; 8-12 February 1999, San Antonio, TX; 3-7 May 1999 San Diego, CA.

Course Director for above courses: Mr. Stephen A. Covell, A.I.C.P. Conservation Director, Navy Civil Engineer Corps Officers School (CECOS - Code 42), 3502 Goodspeed St., Suite #1, Port Hueneme CA 93043-4336; 805-982-5078, DSN: 551-5078.

Stephen Covell, covellsa@cecos.navy.mil

The January 1999 FAWN

Avoid holiday stress and send your January FAWN articles and announcements to me in early December. For those of you with internet access, the September FAWN issue will be available at our prototype web site (www.aznet.net/~cobb/nmfwa/). I will also post a

zipped copy of the FAWN in Adobe Acrobat at the NMFWA web site. You will need a copy of *Acrobat Reader 3.01* to read and print the document. Call or e-mail me for more information.

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