



FAWN



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A NEWSLETTER OF
THE NATIONAL MILITARY FISH AND WILDLIFE ASSOCIATION

VOLUME VII NUMBER 3

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THE WILD SIDE

by NMFWA President, Slader Buck

Something is happening in DoD resources management. Something we expected, but may be greeting with mixed emotions. Things are rapidly changing and we are finding ourselves more involved in diverse issues, longer-term projects and working in other disciplines. To say that our jobs are getting more complex is an understatement. Just how complex may be illustrated by one fact. In 1971, it took just 33 pages in the Environmental Law Reporter to provide a summary of federal environmental law. Today it takes 3,500+ pages.

As DoD resource managers, we can no longer afford the comfortable luxury of working primarily in one discipline such as wildlife, fisheries, range, or forest management, soil conservation, agronomy or conservation law enforcement. Today, no matter what our primary specialty, our role within DoD demands a variety of skills. In addition to our primary interest, we have to be part lawyer, part engineer, part public relations specialist, and part educator. This seems to surprise some people. After all, to many, we are still "rangers." It's interest-

ing (and amusing...) when, after asking a simple question such as "Why is the project located here?" you get that expression that says "Why are you questioning this decision?" or, more appropriately, "Why are YOU asking that question?" Sometimes it's even more amusing when you get the answer...

The reality is, all federal employees are being questioned and we should consider that as part of our job. As resource managers, we can expect it. In 1975 there were 200 conservation-oriented groups with 4 million members. Today there are 350 groups with over 12 million members. "Outside" interests - from other agencies to animal rights groups - are questioning federal agencies on just about every major management action they take. In my opinion, this is healthy for resource management, and although it may slow down program implementation, it makes for better resource management in the long run. Don't just think your programs might get questioned - they will.

How can we help our Commands and DoD? We can help by identifying and addressing the issues first, by asking and answering the questions before they are asked - by being ahead in the game and doing it right the first time. Two examples of important issues we will face, particularly on those installations that have intense military training, are incidental take of endangered species and cumulative impacts. Both of these have the potential to be "show-stoppers." I doubt that many installations are addressing the cumulative effects of all their actions on the land via their Master Plans or addressing this issue in an EIS. We should, not only because we will be asked about it, not only because it is required under the law, but also because it is wise resource management.

These issues, and others, will be discussed at our next meeting. Several Association committees are working hard to ensure that this meeting is our best. The primary goal of our annual meeting is to provide training in these issues and in specific topics - the "nuts and bolts" of resource management that will help each of us do a better job on a day-to-day basis. We have been invited to meet with the DNRC and Tom Wray, as our DNRC liaison, is working very closely with the DNRC in helping to plan our role in the upcoming DNRC Natural Resources Meeting. Unfortunately, we do not have specific information on the exact time or location to pass on to you at this time. The Board is putting together the program and Tom Glueck is updating our poster. Both the Board and Tom will need help from all of us. There is more information on these committees elsewhere in this newsletter.

Lastly, I'd like to welcome Thomas James as your new At-Large Director West. Wade Eakle is still with us, but he has accepted another job. Wade has agreed to continue assisting the Association with special projects, and we will be sure to keep him busy! The At-Large Directors are your direct link to the Association. If you haven't personally heard from your At-Large Director, you can expect to soon. Communication is the key to this organization. So - let's hear from YOU!!

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NMFWA 1991 MEETING - CALL FOR PAPERS

"Getting The Job Done: Bringing It Down To The Installation Level" is the theme for this year's NMFWA annual meeting. Specifically, we are looking for topics that address any aspect of Endangered Species Management, Waterfowl Management, Law Enforcement, Installation Closure, Wildlife/Fisheries Partnerships or Cost-Share Projects, NEPA Compliance, Coordination/Cooperation with other Installation Components, Wetlands Management, Mission Essential Aspects of a Natural Resources Program, Funding Issues, Hunting Issues, or Animal Damage Control. Of course, any other topics will also receive consideration.

This is an important opportunity to share experiences and knowledge with other natural resources professionals. If you have participated in a noteworthy natural resources event at your installation, please consider sharing your thoughts with us at the meeting.

This year we are planning to meet with the DoD Natural Resources Workshop. Although no final decision has been made regarding the location and/or dates, it appears that the most talked about option is to hold the joint meeting at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado during the month of June 1991. A full-week meeting is planned with technical presentations, service sessions, work groups, and field trips. Dr. Thomas Wray II, our Vice President, is the Association's representative on the DNRC Agenda Committee. He is working with the Committee to ensure that the Association's requirements for our technical presentations, business meeting, and banquet are addressed. Keep in contact with your At-Large Director for further updates.

I am disappointed to inform you that our Program Chair for this upcoming meeting, Deck Major, has reluctantly decided to relinquish this responsibility. Citing personal and professional reasons, Deck feels compelled to step down from this appointment. He has graciously offered to continue supporting us, and this meeting, to the greatest extent possible, but feels that the Association would benefit from a reassignment of these duties. Therefore, we are now in the market for a volunteer to carry on, and build upon, the foundation that has been laid for this next meeting. If you feel you have the time and desire to make this kind of commitment, please do not hesitate to let one of your Board members know as soon as possible.

For now, those wishing to present a paper should submit a title to Dr. Thomas Wray II [Code C8305, NSWC Dahlgren, VA 22448-5000, (703) 663-8684 or AV 249-8684] no later than 1 January 1991 so that a presentation schedule can be developed. Abstracts will be required by the end of January.

NMFWA 1991 MEETING - POSTER SESSION

As you have just read, things are still a little up in the air about our upcoming meeting. One thing we all know for sure is that the time for that meeting is coming up quickly. Therefore, the Poster Committee is soliciting your assistance in up-dating our Association poster. We could always use photos of us "getting the job done." We should all be photo-documenting our program accomplishments, so how about sharing some of those masterpieces and having them appear on our poster for all to see. Each submission should include information

about the specific subject in the photo, installation name, and photographer's name. For more information about the format of submittals (i.e. slides, prints, negatives), call Tom Glueck, Fort Leonard Wood, MO (314) 596-7749 or AV 581-7749.

NOMINATION COMMITTEE

The Nomination Committee needs your help. We will be contacting the Association members asking for participation to run for the following positions: President, 2 (East & West) Vice Presidents, Secretary/Treasurer, 4 Regional Directors, and 2 At-Large Directors.

I'm encouraging each of you to please think about the upcoming elections and nominate future leaders for our Association. The next elections will be the first year that we will be using the new mail-in ballot system as noted in our amended bylaws. So please, consider running or nominating individuals for the above positions. Call an NMFWA Board member; you can be part of "The rest of the story!"

HONOR THOSE WHO SERVE!!!!

Honor those individuals who have made exceptional contributions to natural resource programs within DoD by submitting nominations for the National Military Fish and Wildlife Association awards program. If you know people, activities, or organizations who you feel have made contributions to your program, now is the time to recognize those individuals. It only takes a short time to submit a nomination for someone who may have donated hours of their time to improving natural resources, so please take the time to do so now.

You are not limited by category. You may consider areas such as habitat enhancement, endangered species, law enforcement, public relations, training, hunter safety, publications, or any other area you feel merits recognition. Let's just make sure we let them know that we appreciate the excellent work.

Nomination forms can be obtained by calling or writing to the Awards Committee Chairman, Alan Dyck, HQ, USAG, Fort Pickett, ATTN: AFZA-FP-E, Fish and Wildlife Management, Blackstone, VA 23824 (804) 292-8501 or AV 438-8501.

1990 DOD WILDLIFE LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING SESSION

The 1990 Wildlife Law Enforcement Training Session was held at Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point, North Carolina on 4-8 June 1990. A total of 30 civilian and military personnel with wildlife law enforcement responsibility attended the course. Some 15 different installations were represented, including installations in Alaska and Hawaii.

The one week session, designed primarily as a refresher course, included classes in federal laws and regulations, field investigations, officer survival, wildlife forensics, and Pressure Point Control Tactics. Instruction was conducted by wildlife enforcement officers from military installations, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, and the Naval Investigative Service.

One highlight of the course was an afternoon/evening session conducted by the NC Wildlife Resources Commission that included "live fire" firearms decision training on a Hogan's Alley type pistol range, and a demonstration of the equipment and techniques used in working a "firelighting" (shooting deer at night) detail.

EDITOR'S NOTE: We are looking for someone to host the 1991 version of this annual training event. If you are interested and need further information about this extremely worthwhile endeavor, write to Bill Rogers at MCAS Cherry Point, NC or call him at (919) 466-3242 or AV 582-3242. We need your help.

SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT

The current active Association membership is 433. Twenty-six persons have not responded to our latest request that they update their membership. Expenses since the last report were: postage, \$95.00; lapel pins, \$253.78; printing (stationery and envelopes), \$72.71; this issue of the FAWN, \$400.00. All the registration fees for the 1990 meeting have been received. Our current balance is \$4,716.74.

Animal Damage Control Agreement Between DoD and US Department of Agriculture

A recently signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Department of Defense and the US Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA/APHIS) provides a mechanism for utilizing USDA/APHIS expertise in installation animal damage control operations. The MOU establishes procedures for planning, scheduling, and conducting control of animals deemed injurious to agriculture, natural resources, property, human health and safety, and species that are reservoirs for zoonotic diseases (except routine commensal rodent control). The MOU is intended to expedite cooperation between individual DoD installations and USDA/APHIS personnel in conducting animal damage control on the installations.

Under the MOU, DoD will contact USDA/APHIS when animal damage control assistance is needed, contact State and federal wildlife management agencies as appropriate, provide installation access, provide security and logistical support, and include the requirements for animal damage control in the Installation Pest Management and Natural Resources Management Plans. USDA/APHIS has agreed to review and evaluate requests for control, provide information on control methods and materials, develop control work plans, provide overall coordination and management of USDA/APHIS control activities including interagency coordination, and conduct the control where appropriate funding is provided.

The MOU provides for review of biological, environmental, and health/safety concerns prior to implementing control. It also states that, unless specific authority has been delegated to USDA/APHIS or DoD, control procedures will be coordinated with the appropriate State and federal agencies responsible for managing the species to be controlled.

If you would like a copy of this MOU, call the DoD Pesticide Hotline.



PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

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