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FISH AND WILDLIFE NEWS
A NEWSLETTER OF
THE NATIONAL MILITARY FISH AND WILDLIFE ASSOCIATION
Volume 2, No. 2. July 1985

EDITORS CORNER

CALL FOR PAPERS
1986 NMFWA MEETING

The National Military Fish and Wildlife Association workshop will be held on 21-26 March 1986 at the MGM Grand Hotel in Reno, Nevada in conjunction with the North American Wildlife Conference. Suggested topics include: agriculture/wildlife conflicts; urban/suburban wildlife; computer models for natural resource fish and wildlife programs; control of nuisance wildlife; military mission and natural resource conflicts. These are just a few to think about. A one page double-spaced abstract of your paper should be sent by 1 November 1985 to: Larry Adams, Natural Resources Manager, Naval Air Station, Patuxent River, Maryland 20670-5504, (301)386-3670 or AV 356-3670. Please indicate if you need audiovisual aids or other specialized equipment to make your presentation.

Anyone wishing to nominate individuals or themselves for NMFWA elected positions should notify Joe Ward, Nominations Committee Chairperson, by 1 Nov. 85, HQ AFESC/DEVN, Tyndall AFB, FL 32403-6001. Proposed changes to the NMFWA by-laws must be published at least 60 days prior to a general membership meeting. Copies of any proposals must be sent to us by 1 December 85 to be published in the Christmas/New Years edition. That will be the final publication prior to the March meeting.

We regret not scheduling a newsletter for early fall publication but budget constraints limits us to one more issue. As the deadline for this issue was reached (and extended) I was concerned about sufficient content. Suddenly my unreliable mailbox was inundated and the newsletter filled out nicely.

The NMFWA congratulates all the nominees in the 1985 DOD Natural Resources Conservation Award Program (details in Noteworthy News).

Steve Kruger, a student trainee working for the Ft. McCoy Fish and Wildlife Section, is eligible for non-competitive conversion to a GS-5 or 7 career/career cond. wildlife/environmental, or nat. resources position from 2 Aug.-29 Nov. 85. Contact Commander, Ft. McCoy, CPO, Student Program Coordinator, Sparta, WI 54656. (608-388-3755.)

Jock

NMFWA BOARD OF DIRECTORS
AND ELECTED PERSONNEL

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THE WILD SIDE

Gene Stout – NMFWA President

Just lucky, I guess. It so happened that the markup of the Sikes Act Bill was scheduled while I was in Washington this April for a DOD workshop. Not knowing what to expect, I attended the hearing chaired by Congressman John Breaux, a long-time champion of conservation.

It was short... about 10 minutes for the bill, but oh was it sweet! Congressman Don Young offered amendments to this bill (H.R. 1202) which obviously were well researched. Frankly, I was prepared to see progress in the form of minor improvements, which seems to be the way of government. In various ways, military wilderness had submitted a Christmas wish list to the bill drafters, but I expected only token gestures.

Was I wrong! Congressman Young's amendments included virtually every item we hoped to see included!

The bill encourages the use of professionals for fish and wildlife management and enforcement.

The bill strongly promotes the development of truly integrated cooperative plans with the state and Interior and requires their review by Interior at least every 5 years.

H.R. 1202 gives these plans, once signed by all parties, a very strong status. A provision states that "no sale of land, or forest products from land, that is subject to that plan" and "no leasing of land that is subject to that plan" shall be made "unless the effects of that sale or leasing are compatible with the purposes of the plan."

Both plan implementation and enforcement shall be exempt from contracting out under OMB Circular A-76 and any successor circulars.

(if you don't think that's important, ask your counterparts at Forts Gordon, McClellan, Benning and Riley to name a few.)

The bill protects permit funds by requiring they be spent where collected and clearly stating they "shall remain available until expended."

H.R. 1202 allows Defense to spend forestry funds that are currently deposited in the Treasury on natural resources management that implements approved plans and agreements. This provision could easily far exceed those funds formerly available through the Sikes Act.

There are those who would argue the bill is detrimental to forestry and agricultural programs. The facts are that the bill will provide more money for all natural resource programs, and that the bill only requires forestry and agricultural programs to be conducted in such a way that meets the basic needs of the Department of the Interior. Rape and pillage... no! Reasonably coordinated programs... certainly!

What is NMFWA doing with regard to H.R. 1202? Our Board of Directors authorized a letter to the Defense Natural Resources Group urging it to use its influence to obtain DOD support for the bill. The Board decided not to lobby outside DOD to gain support for the bill.

What is the status of H.R. 1202? It passed out of the House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries intact. The House Armed Services Committee passed this bill unanimously! Although unconfirmed at presstime, it appears the full House will pass the bill with flying colors. By the time you read this column the bill may be in the Senate Armed Services Committee or before the full Senate.

Most importantly, what can you do to help? Point number one... you can lobby as a private citizen for any bill, but you cannot campaign for candidates for office. Therefore, you can urge support for H.R. 1202. Ask your senators to co-sponsor and support the bill. We sent ours
a petition with many signatures on our folks and sportsmen.) If you are in a position to urge DOD support, that would help.

Some of the people interested have put together a group to help get the word out if specific support is needed. If you want to help, please let me know.

H.R. 1202 may not be perfect, but in my opinion, it is the best we’ve had in 20 years, and it is vitally needed. It has the support of many private conservation groups who are working to help us. The big question is, “Are we willing to help ourselves?”

A good bill exists. Will it pass?
Are you, personally, going to read this, nod your head, assume you can do nothing, and go about your business?

If so, don’t worry about it. It will either pass or fail due to the efforts of others, and you will have stayed away from the nasty business of politics.

Also, quit bitching! You have lost your right to gripe about the system.

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**TREASURERS REPORT**

Prior to publishing this issue, NMFWA had a checking account balance of $255.01. T. Warren

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**IN TOUCH WITH WASHINGTON**

All the attention on the legislative front has been focused towards H.R. 1202. NMFWA sent a letter to Christina Ramsey, Director of the Defense Natural Resources Group. Further information on H.R. 1202 may be found in The Wild Side.

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**INFORMATION REQUEST LINE**

**SUBJECT:** Bluebird Nest Boxes

POC: Jay Banta, Ft. Sill, 405-351-4324 (AV629)

Jay is interested in hearing from any installers with bluebird nest boxes, particularly concerning success rates, parasitism, and how the boxes are mounted. On Ft. Sill boxes placed on metal fenceposts have been readily accepted.
Restocking of species such as turkey and ruffed grouse are done in cooperation with the State Wildlife Agency.

Wildlife research is carried out on the property by several agencies and Purdue University uses the land as an outdoor laboratory for wildlife students working on advanced degrees.

Two 30 acre floodwater retarding structures capable of detaining nearly 5,000 acre feet of water are managed in cooperation with the local Soil Conservation District. Throughout the 62,463 acres, there is a heavy emphasis placed on protecting the valuable soil and water resources.

By now you may have wondered what agency of the government administers this land. While the setting could easily describe a National Forest, a National Wildlife Refuge or a State Fish and Wildlife Property, this tract of land is administered by the Department of Defense. More specifically, the Naval Weapons Support Center, Crane, Indiana, has been able to develop a sound program of natural resources management. The goal of Crane’s natural resources program is to provide the maximum benefit from the land to the largest number of people and still provide the protection necessary to conserve the resources and allow for the protection of the primary military mission.

Achieving the above goal becomes more important each year as our nation’s population grows and the wise use of our land becomes critical to our strength in future years.

NOTEWORTHY NEWS

DOD NR Workshop - Representatives from the Army, Navy and Air Force met in Washington, D.C. in April for a Natural Resources Workshop. The program started with a panel discussion by personnel from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, EPA, Natural Resources Council of America and The Maryland Department of Natural Resources on their experiences with the DOD. This was followed by a series of presentations on the assistance available to DOD from the US Geological Survey, Forest Service, Soil Conservation Service, Fish and Wildlife Service and National Park Service. A large portion of the program was devoted to "Management Considerations". These ranged from agricultural outreach to historic preservation. A recurring theme in many of the presentations was the need for natural resource managers to get command support and that the best way to get this support was to show how our resource programs support the mission, generate revenue and/or reduce operation and maintenance costs. Support for the mission was also shown to include preservation or rehabilitation of training areas in order to maintain them as realistic training environments. The presentations on archeological and historic resource preservation procedures showed that there is more to natural resource management than forestry, wildlife and agriculture. The program also covered funding and manpower, research by the US Army Corps of Engineers Waterways Experiment Station and Construction Engineering Research Laboratory, and automated data processing applications. Details on specific subjects and/or how to contact the speakers for further information can be obtained from Richard Griffith, AUTOVON 584-3792/4131 or Robert Wardwell, AUTOVON 291-5365.

Attack on DOD Wildlife - A recent Outdoor Life editorial entitled "The Military's Wildlife Noseive" attacked DOD land management policies, wildlife management cutbacks, and public use restrictions. Although there is some justification for these concerns, the NMFWA regrets that its name was used in a misleading manner. The NMFWA Board of Directors, after careful consideration, decided not to respond to the article and let the issue drop.

Deer-Aircraft Collisions - Deer-aircraft strike hazards are becoming increasingly apparent. Six reported strikes involving nine deer have occurred in just the past six months at three naval air stations. Fortunately, damage to aircraft was minimal and no personal injuries were reported. However, the potential for a serious mishap is great.
VIEWPOINT

(Ed. Note: It was great to have three guest editorialists for this issue, but no one paid attention to the 350 word limit. Therefore, some editing has occurred. Viewpoint does not necessarily represent the official position of NMFWA.)

A viewpoint in the March issue of NMFWA Fish and Wildlife News discussed the need for job vacancy advertising among DOD installations. It seems that some natural resource vacancies are filled before some of the best DOD professionals even hear about the job openings. Some mechanism is definitely needed to improve job advertising to ensure that the best person for the job at least hears about the vacancy.

It was suggested that DOD natural resource administrators commit themselves to informing other installations of their job vacancies; administrators could use mailing labels from a data-base. How many administrators have the time to get over 100 job announcements copied, folded, stuffed, labeled and sent to all interested persons? (That sounds like a job for CPAO.) It would be much easier if the administrator could make one simple call to list vacancies nationwide to DOD installations. A one-call job listing service is already available with The Nature People (TNP). (This service was presented at the 1984 NMFWA meeting. Ed.)

TNP is a professional job information service that specializes in natural resource vacancies in federal, state and local agencies, consultants, timber companies, corporations, nature centers, and other private sector employers. TNP was established in 1980 and is currently organizing as a non-profit service. TNP, Career Services, maintains professional standards and have been invited to and participated in numerous career sessions with The Wildlife Society and American Fisheries Society. Further, the Society of American Foresters and Association of Interpretive Naturalists frequently refer employers to TNP for job advertising.

DOD Conservation Awards: The DOD Natural Resources Conservation Award nominees and the individual award winner have recently been announced. The nominations for the installation award (under 10,000 acres) included Robbins AFB, Fort Leavenworth, and Kaneohe Bay MCAS (representing the Navy and Marine Corps). The announcement of the winner is pending. Larry Adams of Patuxent River NAS was selected for the individual award from nominations which also included Mike Shaughnessy of Fort Huachuca and Mike Banberger of Griffiss AFB. D. Bandel

BASH Conference - A Bird Aircraft Strike Hazard (BASH) training seminar was recently held at Vandenburg AFB. Current technology and information was presented to DOD wildlife managers and safety officers. The BASH Team at Tyndall AFB may be contacted for information or assistance (AV970-6240). B. Reinhardt.
DOD Natural resource administrators can simply call 608/378-4344 to list vacancies — or they may write to:
THE NATURE PEOPLE
Career Services
PO Box 98
Warrens, WI 54666

Beginning this summer, we are sending job inquiry letters to all DOD natural resource and environmental offices and Corps of Engineer district offices; the letters will be sent frequently to keep abreast of all DOD natural resource/environmental vacancies.

All vacancies are listed in the biweekly TNP Jobs Bulletin. The Job Bulletin is a comprehensive listing that is updated constantly; a sample listing is available to job seekers upon request. TNP has agreed with NWFPA to reduce Jobs Bulletin subscription rates from $75 to $25/year (24 issues). Offices can pool their money to reduce individual costs even more. Please make sure you state that you are a NWFPA member. Many DOD natural resource personnel have already subscribed to and are using the Jobs Bulletin.

Now you know that there is a easy, effective mechanism to advertise job vacancies to highly qualified DOD personnel. It is simply up to you to take advantage of it.
Becky Potter, The Nature People

THE STEEL ISSUE AND NWFPA

"Sport hunting is the major source of lead ingested by waterfowl and, in short, the problem of lead-poisoned waterfowl rests entirely on the hunters shoulders." (source unknown)

Leadshot vs steelshot keeps coming up as a hot issue for wildlife managers. A motion was brought up at the New Orleans NWFPA meeting to recommend as a professional body the banning of leadshot for waterfowl and upland game on military installations. (The motion was postponed to allow further consideration and discussion. Ed.)

We need to consider the facts via this newsletter well in advance so that we may act in a timely fashion at the next meeting in Reno. First, an estimated two million or more waterfowl die each year of lead poisoning from ingested pellets. Of greater concern may be the effect that the chronic level of poisoning has on the regenerative capabilities of the birds, thereby further reducing the populations. Next, weakened birds fall easy prey to predators such as bald eagles. The eagles then suffer secondary poisoning from spent lead. Finally, spent lead pellets also kill upland birds, but this does not appear to be a big problem yet.

The Wildlife Society (TWS) adopted the position in 1984 that the use of leadshot for waterfowl should be eliminated as soon as possible. It is time that we, as professional natural resource managers, also adopt the position to ban leadshot for waterfowl on military installations. Fort Leavenworth has already banned the use of leadshot for waterfowl in its current regulation.

It may be evident that the issue of convenience to the hunter was not discussed. I feel it is an invalid argument to defend lead shot for waterfowl based upon convenience of the hunter.
No doubt we will all wonder in five or six years what all the furor has been about when we read about the leadshot vs steelshot issue. It was obvious to us then that the only answer was to ban leadshot for waterfowl and wonder why it was not done at an earlier date.

One last but very important word. Prohibition in itself never works. We cannot legislate morality. We cannot legislate acting right. There is a lot of good information available from the National Wildlife Federation. There are already programs in place to help people who are concerned about the welfare of wildlife. There is no easy answer to the issue of anti-hunters. There is no way we can reconcile the dumping of tons of lead into the marshes and still say we are legitimate caretakers of the environment.

Our time to act is now. I welcome any arguments for or against the position taken in this letter.

M.C. N. Stew, Forester, DEH, Fort Leavenworth, KN.

DOD NATURAL RESOURCES FUNDING PROPOSAL

The DOD forestry program, from an economic viewpoint, is a success. All expenses incurred, be they salaries, materials, or contractual services, are funded entirely through the sale of forest products. The DOD Agicultural Outleasing Program, though in its infancy, has shown tremendous potential to match, perhaps even surpass, the forestry program in operating at a profit. While funding and accounting procedures for this program are still evolving, it seems inevitable that they will closely parallel those adopted by forestry. It is a credit to the DOD Natural Resources Program that foresters and agronomists are able to not only operate on a sound biological basis, but also at a profit. And then there is the wildlife program.

Although wildlife managers operate under sound biological principles, they score badly under business principles. Of the three DOD natural resources programs, only wildlife does not cover salaries of managers from program generated funds; salaries are funded through O & M dollars. Salaries, as any forester will tell you, compromise 65 to 85 percent of a program. Wildlife managers often angrily point at the "bloated" budgets of foresters as compared to their own non-existent ones, but they fail to remember that forestry budgets, in addition to funding materials and contractual services, fund salaries. Wildlife budgets do not.

Naturally, no one expects the wildlife management program to be fiscally self-sustaining. It is a sad economic fact that user fees generated simply are not sufficient to also cover salary costs. This fact is undeniably the motive behind the "profits from the forestry program before they are lost to the U.S. Treasury". While I personally don't believe that helping to alleviate the federal deficit with net timber sale receipts is a lost cause, I must admit that I empathize with the wildlife manager's plight. Thus, I submit the following modest proposal.

Let's deposit lease rental fees, hunting and fishing fees, and timber sale receipts into one account. From this account, let's fund salaries, materials and contractual services needed to conduct agricultural outleasing, fish and wildlife management, and forest management. In summary, let's all work from the same budget.

I admit, it is a bit of a revolutionary idea. For it to work, it would require a massive rewriting of DOD instructions, quite possible the passage of legislation, and a complete overhaul of budgeting, accounting, and reporting procedures. All are seemingly impossible tasks, but those are the easy parts. The really tough part would be that all DOD natural resource managers would need to change the way they think.
As painful as it may seem, one of us, natural resource management - even wildlife management - is subject to the principles of supply and demand, and to cost/benefit ratios. Before any expenditure for any reason can be made, it is necessary to analyze the effect the expenditure will have on all elements within the natural resource program. For instance, what silviculture techniques should be employed near critical habitats? How many snags should be left in an area of high fire danger? How much strip habitat should be left in proximity to high value agricultural leases? These are the types of question that need to be asked if we are all to work from the same budget.

Wait a minute! Aren't we already asking what the effects of our actions are on other resources? Aren't we taking measures to mitigate undesirable effects our actions cause? Aren't we practicing multiple-use management? Maybe my modest proposal doesn't require that great a change in thinking after all. Maybe the only change in thinking required is that, instead of riding upon the coat tails of foresters to fund additional wildlife projects, wildlife managers should join foresters and agronomists and practice biological and economic multiple-use management. I invite wildlife managers to lend their support: moral, spiritual and financial into a unified DOD Natural Resources Program. Maybe it's time we stopped paying lip service to the concept of multiple-use management, maybe it's time we truly started practicing it.

Jim Omans, NorDivNavFacEngCom, Philadelphia, Pa.

THE TRANSFER STATION

Al Pfister, NMFWA Western At-Large Director, left Fort Sill to become the Supervisory Natural Resource Program Manager at Fort Carson. Congratulations, Al. Who can argue with a title like that?

JOBS

Chief, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs, Quantico MCB, Vir. Anticipated late fall opening. Installations will be notified.


THE NMFWA NEWSLETTER

In order to reduce mailing costs, no more than two newsletters were mailed to the same address.

Please make sure all NMFWA members with-in your organization have an opportunity to see the newsletter.

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