I recently read over the initial Wild Side columns from previous NMFWA presidents. They often started with a statement about what an honor it is to serve as President of this association. As much as I fought the urge to start my first column the same way, I now understand that sentiment in a way I couldn’t until the gavel was passed to me in Crystal City this past March. It is truly an honor, and rather humbling, to be entrusted with this responsibility. And yes, the shoes really are large!

One advantage an incoming President has is that he or she has already been “baptized by fire” as Vice President / Program Chair. Having said that, I want to recognize Tammy Conkle for the fantastic conference we had in Crystal City. The logistics of a meeting in Washington, DC, always seems more onerous than other venues, and Tammy pulled it off with a style that is uniquely hers. I admit I was a bit skeptical of having a dinner cruise for our banquet, but I must say it was one of the most enjoyable banquets I’ve attended in my 12 years as a NMFWA member. Thanks, Tammy! I’m sure Steve Helfert feels no pressure, however (!). I know he already has a great program in preparation for Milwaukee next March. So mark your calendars for 22-26 March 2010.

I want to point out the transition in FAWN editor. Thanks to Rick Lance for his excellent work the past 3 years as editor. Compiling this newsletter takes creativity, initiative, and of course, time. We’ve had a history of excellence, and I’d like to welcome Laura Busch to the editor’s desk. Laura has done a great job on the program book for the past couple NMFWA meetings, and I know she will appreciate your contributions to future issues of the FAWN. This is a great venue to communicate with the membership.
Mike Passmore pointed out the growing recognition of NMFWA and the excellence in resource management on military lands in his Wild Side column last June. I will be so bold as to say we have arrived as an entity that is respected within not just the DoD, but the broader natural resources community. In addition to our association with the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference, equal partner status at the North American banquet, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service “Military Conservation Partner Award”, we now have our Certified Military Natural Resources Professional program in place. In my job with the DoD Partners in Flight program, I have the opportunity to visit numerous military installations and participate in partnerships around the country. DoD is now considered an integral component of these partnerships. And the “movers and shakers” in most of these partnerships are active NMFWA members. Gone are the days that DoD natural resource personnel were not considered “professionals” in the same sense as those of other resource agencies. We are now rightly recognized as leaders and innovators. Our experiences with potential resource-mission conflicts and our creative win-win solutions have earned us our place at the partnership table. There are many success stories out there. Please share yours in this newsletter so others can benefit from your experiences.

Serving on the NMFWA Board is a wonderful experience. Now that I have had the privilege of running a Board meeting, I am even more impressed with this association. We all spent an intense week at the March NMFWA meetings attending technical sessions, evening events, morning events, and working group meetings. I was not expecting the level of energy and professionalism that the Board demonstrated at the Friday Board meeting. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to the Board for their dedication to advancing the mission of NMFWA and serving the membership so capably. I would also encourage all NMFWA members to consider submitting your name for a Board position this coming year. There is no better way to get to know your peers and have a hand in shaping natural resources and conservation on military lands. This is YOUR association. If you have comments or suggestions on any aspect of NMFWA, we want to hear from you. Better yet, we need you to become involved in whatever capacity you are able – writing an article, communicating with your Regional Director, assisting at the annual meeting, or running for a Board position. I look forward to working with you, the members of NMFWA.
The Buzz on Legacy’s NMFWA Pollinator Workshop
By: Alison Dalsimer

Sponsored by the DoD Legacy Resource Management Program, the Pollinator Habitat Restoration for DoD Land Managers workshop, conducted at this year’s NMFWA meeting, was intended as an informative and interactive workshop on pollinators... their status, their plight, and what DoD’s land managers can do to make a difference on the ground. Although only 47 people pre-registered, 80 attended, and each and every one stayed the entire time!

For those of you unable to attend the workshop, we enjoyed a series of excellent presentations including:

- **Dr. Gabriela Chavarria** (Science Center, Natural Resource Defense Council), who provided an overview of pollinators, including their importance, their plight, and what’s happening to help them.
- **Dr. Jay Evans** (USDA Bee Lab), who discussed the problem of declining honey bee populations and the surprisingly small, though real, impact of Colony Collapse Disorder.
- **Dr. Sam Droege** (Monitoring Department, US Geological Service), who described how gravel pits and other seemingly barren patches of land can be turned into oases for pollinators if grass and trees are not planted.
- **Robert Johnson** (Wildlife Habitat Council), who provided an overview of WHC’s corporate pollinator programs, and described their ongoing partnership efforts with managers at Fort Lewis and at bases in the Chesapeake Bay region.
- **Kim Winter** (National Wildlife Federation), who described in detail NWF’s backyard and schoolyard pollinator programs.

Also invited, but unable to attend, was Dr. Scott Black of the Xerces Society who was to provide recommendations for land managers on how tools such as fire, grazing, mowing, herbicides, and insecticides can be adjusted to benefit pollinators.

In addition to the presentations mentioned above, the workshop featured nearly a dozen displays/posters including those on ongoing pollinator projects, creating backyard habitats, lots informational handouts, and several cases of bee specimens on loan from the Smithsonian. For fun, we had a pollinator crossword puzzle and quiz, and offered pollinator related give-aways (books, chocolate, fruit snacks, wind chimes, yard art, nuts, a bee box, a bottle of wine, a canvas bag, pollinator stamps, and more).

The feedback we received was overwhelmingly positive. In fact, the response was so enthusiastic that Peter Boice (DoD’s Deputy Director, Natural Resources) pledged funding (up to $6500/project) through Legacy’s National Public Lands Day Program specifically for pollinator projects, we started a DoD Pollinator list serve and created DoD Pollinator Workshop website, AND (if that weren’t enough) we’ve been asked to do a technical session highlighting DoD pollinator projects at the 2011 NMFWA meeting!

Thank you to all who attended the workshop and helped make it the success it turned out to be. Please feel free to visit our website at [www.dodpollinatorworkshop.com](http://www.dodpollinatorworkshop.com) and, if you’d like to join our list serve, please email me at Dalsimer_A Alison@bah.com.
NMFWA Sponsors TWS Meeting
Rhys Evans

The NMFWA Board of Directors approved a motion to sponsor the 2009 meeting of The Wildlife Society in Monterey, California. TWS expects as many as 2000 professionals and students to attend this meeting. NMFWA members Dr. Rich Fischer and Rhys Evans are co-chairing a special symposium which will surely be of interest to our members (and will hopefully draw in scores of other audience members), Defense Department Lands: Islands of Biodiversity. President Eberly and others are working on a different symposium, Conservation Reliant Species: Our New Relationship with Nature.

Along with those two symposia, there will be dozens of concurrent sessions, several workshops, a few poster sessions, the entertaining and educational student "quiz bowl," and more! Social "mixer" events include a welcome reception at the world-famous Monterey Aquarium. The location is outstanding, it would be great to see many NMFWA members in attendance (see page 8 for meeting info).

NMFWA’s sponsorship will be of benefit to the association. We will have a small advertisement in the program (shown), a display in the exhibit hall, links to our website on the meeting and TWS websites, and a small sign on display at one of the refreshment breaks. So, on behalf of TWS (and as a proud NMFWA member and past officer), thank you, NMFWA!
NMFWA Gets a new Working Group

The Fish and Wildlife Recreation Working Group is made up of installation natural resource managers and others interested in providing and/or promoting natural resource-based recreational opportunities on military installations. The group has convened during the last two NMFWA annual meetings and have discussed a spectrum of relevant topics including public access and access control; recreation permits, administration and fees; disabled access recreational opportunities; youth recreational opportunities; and outreach materials.

The Fish and Wildlife Recreation Working Group is currently working with the NMFWA webmaster to develop a page on the NMFWA web site which will highlight fish and wildlife-related recreational activities on military installations across the United States.

If you are interested in joining or learning more about the working group, please contact Raymond Rainbolt at Raymond.E.Rainbolt@us.army.mil.

Charter for the Fish & Wildlife Recreation Working Group of the National Military Fish & Wildlife Association

ARTICLE I. NAME, SCOPE, AND AFFILIATION

Section 1. NAME - The name of this organization shall be the Fish & Wildlife Recreation Working Group of the National Military Fish & Wildlife Association, hereinafter referred to as the Working Group.

Section 2. SCOPE - This Working Group shall have as its scope of organization the development and transfer of information relative to recreational activities natural resource professionals deal with directly or indirectly on military installations. Specific subjects within the scope of this working group include but are not limited to hunting, fishing, trapping, wildlife-viewing, public access, permits, and fish and wildlife management activities in support of recreational activities.

Section 3. AFFILIATION - The Working Group shall conform to the Bylaws, goals, objectives, policies and positions adopted by the National Military Fish & Wildlife Association, hereinafter referred to as the Association or NMFWA.
ARTICLE II. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Section 1. GOALS - Consistent with the goals of NMFWA, the Working Group's goals are:

1. Facilitate communication and information exchange among members of NMFWA interested or involved with natural resource-related recreational programs.

2. Increase awareness and appreciation within Department of Defense (hereinafter referred to as DOD) of issues related to natural resource-related recreational programs and associated natural resource management.

Section 2. OBJECTIVES - To aid in the achievement of these goals, the Working Group objectives are:

1. Provide regular communication among members of NMFWA interested in natural resource-related recreation programs through various means including meetings and workshops, e-mail discussions, newsletters, and other publications.

2. Promote membership in NMFWA to DOD and other federal, state, Tribal, and non-governmental natural resources professionals interested in natural resource-related recreation programs.

3. Provide information and technical assistance to NMFWA members in the area of natural resource-related recreation programs to include fish and wildlife management, permit administration, regulations, etc.

4. Make recommendations to the NMFWA Board of Directors for specific actions by NMFWA in the area of recreation and associated natural resource management.

5. Develop draft technical reviews, position statements, and other materials in the area of recreation and associated natural resource management for consideration by the NMFWA Board of Directors.

6. Provide information and technical assistance to government officials, journalists, educators, other organizations, and the general public in the area of recreation programs and associated natural resource management on military installations.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. MEMBER - Membership in the Working Group shall be available to any member of NMFWA with an interest in natural resource-related recreation on military installations. Working Group membership shall be available only to members of NMFWA.

Section 2. NUMBER OF MEMBERS - The Working Group shall be comprised of not less than ten (10) NMFWA members to maintain active status.

ARTICLE IV. ELECTIONS AND OFFICERS

Section 1. NOMINATIONS - The Past Chair or Co-chairs shall nominate a slate of two candidates for each of the elective positions, namely: Chair, (or Co-Chairs) and Recording Secretary. In some years one person may not want to Chair the Working Group. For these years, Co-Chairs may be elected.
Natural Resource Conferences Roundup


The Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting  [www.esa.org/albuquerque/](http://www.esa.org/albuquerque/)


Joint Meeting of Society for Range Management and Weed Science Society of America  
Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel, Denver Colorado, February 7-11, 2010

2008/2009 Board of Directors Meeting

15 March 2009 at Crystal Gateway Marriott Arlington

Attendees:
   President: Dr. Mike Passmore, President Elect: Chris Eberly, Past President: Terry Bashore, Vice President: Tammy Conkle, Vice President Elect: Steve Helfert, Treasurer: Jonathan Wald, FAWN/Membership: Dr Richard Lance, Regional Directors: West: Sandy Baldwin, East: Laura Busch, Central: Dr Richard Fischer, At-Large: Coralie Cobb, At-Large: Randy English, East Elect: Mabel O’Quinn, COMMITTEES: Awards: Lisa Markovchick, Members: Jim Bailey, Amy Burgess

Meeting called to order by Dr. Mike Passmore at 1806.

Passmore: Welcomed everyone, especially those on the new BOD (2009-2010). Thanked Lisa for the updated to the Awards program and leading the effort to support the revised award categories. And discussed Presidential Awards and the new categories and how they are to be nominated by the Past Presidents. Terry Bashore queried as to whether anything needed to vote on this. Lisa Marcovchick confirmed that the processes that were gone through did not require a vote. Mike Passmore then discussed how this process would support and get past presidents involved. This was also coordinated though the Past Presidents. Lisa asked Terry Bashore if the past presidents were willing to participate and codify this process and Terry Bashore responded that they would. Lisa also asked what the timeline for updating the handbook and Mike responded it would be addressed in the handbook changes later on the agenda.

Passmore gave out certificates to the BOD and Committee Chairs from 2009/2010.

Passmore: Addressed the NMFWA Booth, NMFWA Bottles, and two NMFWA Brochures. One promotes our sessions and Scott Wiedensaul's talk at this conference. The other is a generic NMFWA Brochure. Jonathan queried as to whether the brochures would be available on the web and Mike said yes, after they were reviewed by the BOD. Also, the NMFWA Poster has been updated from the TWS Miami meeting.

Membership Chair – Update membership list as well as solicit membership. Need a new chair. Dr Passmore also explained how the membership was solicited in the FAWN. Richard Lance explained what he did as the membership chair. Mike Passmore discussed how the membership list has been “cleaned” in the past and the issues associated with dues. Amy Burgess volunteered to be the new Membership Chair.

Terry asked whether the brochure should be done every year. Mike thought that we should at least hand out the agenda. Also, Chris wanted to clarify what type of paper would be used.

Government Affairs Committee – Junior resigned and now Terry will be the chair. We need to go back to the handbook to see what the relationship to the BOD. Doc Bailey was concerned that there were no positions filled and how the committee members would be tracked. Terry said that travel should be considered when the members and the chair are nominated and considered due to possible coordination efforts in DC.

Continued on next page
2008/2009 Board of Directors Meeting, continued

Outreach Committee – Mary did work on the poster and the brochure and changes to the web-site. Tammy added that she thought that sponsorship policy needed to be spelled out by the committee. Mike thinks this needs to be addressed in the handbook. Mary will continue her post.

Mike suggests that we set up a committee to work through updating handbook and what needs to be updated in the handbook. Mike volunteered to do this.

Support to TWS – Funds were provided to TWS ($1500) and Rhys is suggesting that we do it again for 2009 for the meeting in Monterey. There was discussion about the benefits sponsoring at the $2500 level at the meeting in Monterey. Chris pointed out that Richard Fischer was hosting a Session that both Chris Eberly and Tammy Conkle were speaking at. Also, Tammy pointed out that the meeting will be in Monterey in close proximity to NPS Monterey. Terry wanted to address whether we had come up with guidelines for what we sponsor. It was generally discussed what the sponsorship policy did and what it needed to do.

NMFWA Permanent Address: The permanent address is Thomas Wray’s address. Confirm with Thomas that he is willing to allow his address to be the permanent address. Jonathan thinks that we should have one address that was a PO Box.

Newsletter Process – We do not send hard copies anymore. Yahoo groups will be the way to send information to the membership. There was further discussion on how to get folks to update their address in yahoo.

Table Cover - Mike thought the table cover was a good idea, but it was too late to order for this year, so he suggested that to be done for next year.

NMFWA Visa Card – Treasurer has the only Visa card issued to NMFWA.

Nominations Committee – Mike was clarifying what positions were needed for 2010/2011.

LL Bean Shirts – The association voted to purchase to buy shirts for the incoming BOD. Should we order more in a higher quantity so we get a better deal for future BOD or to sell at next year’s meeting? Terry suggested that we put an order form on the website and Mike was concerned about the discount and individual orders. Jonathan suggested we simply make the announcement and put a link on the website and let membership purchase their own items.

Breakaway from WMI and Joint Meetings – Mike suggested the endorsement from Mr. Alex Beehler from OSD would not be sent if we broke off due to partnership issues. TWS has approached us about doing a joint meeting with them, but we put them off until September. Pros and Cons for both relationships was discussed.

Meeting was adjourned at 2024.
2009/2010 Board of Directors Meeting
20 March 2009 at Crystal Gateway Marriott Arlington

Meeting called to order by President-elect Chris Eberly

2008/2009 BOD Members present include Steve Helfert, Dick Gebhart, Thomas Wray, Randy English, James Weaver, Gerald Johnson, Jonathan Wald, Mabel O’Quinn, Rich Fischer, Mike Passmore, Sandra Baldwin, Laura Busch, Amy Burgess, Doc Bailey, Coralie Cobb, John Holloway, Lisa Markovchick, Scott Belfit, Rick Lance, Eric Britike, Tammy Conkle

Introductions – new members; sign-up sheet sent around
Cultural Resources topic – CR included in the awards program? Within the AF many times the NR and CR functions overlap; 2-hour session proposed for the 2010 meeting, chaired by Jerry Johnson…Doc Holiday, Mable as speakers or know of speakers…Jason Kirkpatrick?

2009 program suggestions –
Proposed luncheon…maybe do award announcements at this function or at the banquet

Awards presented at plenary or banquet or luncheon.
Combining members meeting and luncheon?
Break-out sessions valuable, but maybe need more time…move to afternoon to give those “unlimited” time into the evening if need be

Working Groups on Friday and Monday, most sessions scheduled during the week
Cut down by 1 the number of talks per session to allow for Q&A

More time (5 minutes) in between sessions

Thomas Ray and David Pease were originally registered for WMI, not NMFWA…were there others?

Web site needs to be VERY clear and not “limit” it to members only; maybe a clearly distinct separate registration page for NMFWA workshop registration

The program booklet….space for notes, sponsor pages, eliminate duplicate schedule

T-shirts recommended for giveaway next year
Sponsorship…for TWS last year ($1000) we received 1 free registration and booth space…Do we sponsor again this year? How much and what do we get? Chris Eberly will research with Rhys and find out what we get at different levels

NMFWA Poster…display board proposed for purchase…Michael Passmore will be focal point for board details and cost

Handbook Updates
Sponsorship policy – receiving sponsorship and giving sponsorship; show and tell; Michael Passmore will be the focal point and Randy English, Coralie Cobb, and Sandy Baldwin will assist
Table Cover…$300 to $400 for a single color; 8 foot long cloth; podium cover? Michael Passmore will head this up and get information out to everyone

Conference Pins…necessary? Jonathan will contact Junior to inquire about ordering 150 pins for next year and what is the break point?

Continued on next page
Nominations...given to Michael Passmore...need more for president elect, vice president, and treasurer
Committee Chairs
Archives – Tom Warren
Audit – Corallie Cobb
Awards – Lisa Markovchick
Government Affairs – Terry Bashore
Law Enforcement – Chris Zimmerman
Membership – Amy Burgess
Newsletter – Deleted
Nominations – Immediate Past President
Outreach – Mary Anderson
Web – Laure Busch
WMI – Thomas Wray
Host Committee - ?

Working Groups
What are the WGs? How often do they get a session? Update Handbook to include this
Web Site – Laura Busch will lead effort to update. Share point based. Laura will research and provide details to BOD. Need to find out if our server has share point. How much space we currently pay for? Send changes to Michael Passmore
CLEP – Committee still needed? Annual refresher support (seed $) by NMFWA still required?
Updated list to BOD of BOD/Committee Chair/WG chair names, email, and phone numbers
Motion made to purchase David Beckmann a NMFWA LL Bean shirt. Seconded and passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned

Have an idea for the annual meeting, program, or FAWN?

Contact your Regional Director to bring it up to the BOD.

They are your voice for NMFWA
2009 Invasive Species Working Group (ISWG) Activity Report

Officers of the ISWG Board in 2008 were Taura Huxley, Co-Chair, 2-year term, Mary Anderson, 1-year term, and Jackie Smith, Recording Secretary.

Officers of the ISWG Board for 2009 will be: Taura Huxley, Co-chair 2-year term, Alison Dalsimer, Co-chair 1-year term, Jackie Smith, Recording Secretary. Committee Chairs will be Mary Anderson for the Outreach Committee, with Jane Mallory as Outreach Committee co-chair, and David Beckman for the Website Committee.

At the NMFWA annual meeting in Crystal City, VA, in March 2009, we had our tenth ISWG meeting which was attended by about 65 individuals.

We will be planning a technical session for the 2010 Meeting in Milwaukee, WI.

Taura Huxley-Nelson gave a presentation to the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and provided the following summation:

For the AFWA presentation, I gave a brief overview of size of DoD lands, examples of mission impacts resulting from invasive species (such as at Fort Hunter Ligget and Fort Irwin). I also discussed dissemination of information and swapping success stories and passing along requests for information. Also discussed incorporation of SWAPs into INRMPs and how this is a primary channel through which the state agencies in particular can partner and communicate with the service branches in IS issues. It was a good start to building a collaborative relationship with AFWA.

One of the most important roles of the ISWG is to share information and keep the membership well informed on what is happening with invasive species. We are continually striving to provide current and relevant information to our members through our emails. Please submit any items you wish to share with Taura, Alison or Mary and we will work on getting it out to the members.

It’s not too early to start thinking about NMFWA Annual Meeting in 2010. If you have any suggestions for Invasive Species technical sessions or items you would like addressed at the Working Group Meeting, please contact Taura Huxley-Nelson (taura.huxley1@navy.mil) or Alison Dalsimer (Dalsimer_alison@bah.com). If you have an article you would like published in the FAWN, send to Laura Busch (laura.busch@nmfw.org).
Meeting was called to order by Ray Rainbolt (RR), at approximately 1800 with 23 members present.

Presentations
Sierra Club, represented by Bart Semcer (BS) and Tim Guilfoile (TG), discussed the Military Families in the Outdoors Initiative. Outdoor recreation makes up two-thirds of the Sierra Club’s mission statement. The multi-partner initiative the Sierra Club is promoting involves YMCA, Outward Bound, and NMFWA, among other partners. They are offering programs and scholarships including Operation Purple camps for bringing together military-dependent children to bridge family mobility and parental absence issues through the outdoors. Additionally, TG has 1,800 fishing rods available for youth outdoor programs including those on military installations. The effort has reached 140,000 youths in two years. The equipment is available free-of-charge by contacting TG.

Contact info:
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www.sierraclub.org/watersentinels/no_kentucky

In addition to some individual installation representatives’ interest, Lew Gorman (LG), USFWS Liaison to DoD, said that he would contact Morale, Welfare, and Recreation representatives for a large-scale effort.

RR mentioned that a thematically appropriate movie, Red White and Green, was being shown during the week as part of the DC Environmental Film Festival. For more information, see:
http://sierraclub.typepad.com/military/2009/03/red-white-green.html

Administration
The charter of the Fish & Wildlife Recreation Working Group was submitted to the NMFWA Board of Directors on 23 January 2009. With one minor change, a revised charter was submitted to the Board of Directors for final approval on 28 January. The charter was approved in February.

The first administrative issue was the election of officers. David McNaughton (DM), Ft. Indiantown Gap, PA, nominated RR for chair. The nomination was seconded and with no other nominations, the following motion carried unanimously. RR then nominated DM for recording secretary. The nomination was seconded and with no other nominations, the following motion carried unanimously.

Continued on next page
RR reminded attendees of Executive Order 13443 (16 Aug 2007), Facilitation of Hunting Heritage and Wildlife Conservation which may be used as funding or other justification for programs. “The purpose of this order is to direct Federal agencies…to facilitate the expansion and enhancement of hunting opportunities and the management of game species and their habitat.” I have already used it in my funding justifications. See EO 13443 at the following: [http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/executive-orders/2007.html](http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/executive-orders/2007.html)

RR asked the group for possible directions for the group in the long-term and for this coming year. There is some interest in forming a session for next year. LG brought up the Career’s in Nature, Getting People Outdoors, and the Connecting with Nature programs. He stated that the Department of the Interior is getting $50 million for this agenda. This money could possibly be used DoI-wide for internship possibilities with DoD. RR suggested the foci of policy, outreach, and disabled access in recreation programs. LG suggested discussion on trails. RR will pursue these agenda items with Chris Eberly, NMFWA President-Elect and DoD Liaison to Partners in Flight.

**Policy**
DoD will revise Instruction 4715.3 (3 May 96) Environmental Conservation Program this year. Allen Schultz (AS), Ft. Bragg, NC and Tim Beatty (TB), Ft. Stewart, GA expressed support to create an official position for NMFWA (if warranted). This area will be pursued once a draft DoDI 4715.3 is released.

AS introduced the new Common Levels of Service (CLS) funding scheme adopted by the Army this year. Outdoor recreation is said to be on the lowest rung for support with funding implications. RR suggested that we see what the Army Breakout Session on 17 Mar would have in store. (Specific issues in the CLS program were not discussed at that breakout due to limited time for questions).

**Outreach**
The Working Group needs a website. Other groups’ websites have become stale and do not offer much in terms of content. RR suggested that the website should include links to installation program websites as a one-stop-shop for installation fish and wildlife recreation programs. These pages are difficult to find, and a central repository will help the group as a whole. A link to DoD-PIF listing installation birding lists and related information should also be linked.

The Working Group will be submitting items to the FAWN. RR would like a submission per issue highlighting the fish and wildlife recreation program from an installation based on that installation’s Working Group Factsheet which could also be posted on the web. Currently, the group has submissions from Ft. Drum, NY; Ft. Riley, KS; and Ft. Indiantown Gap, PA. Installations are asked to continue to submit factsheets to RR via email. RR also has the template if anyone still needs it.

**Disabled Access Opportunities**
The topic was originally suggested by Clay Ware, but the initiative faded as a group effort when Clay changed positions and it was up to individual installations to proceed on their own.

Fort Drum reopened two previously-closed areas for disabled access only hunting this year, and 6 sites are available. There are three archery only sites and three shotgun/archery sites. The installation also has produced a brochure. The program is open to Warriors-in-Transition as well as to public users with state-issued disability permits. In order to avoid as much permanent signage as possible, a sign as a center point of the hunting site was posted with a designated radius where hunting is allowed.
Tom Poole (TP), Ft. Devens, MA: Massachusetts holds a 3-day hunt for mobility impaired users. The hunt includes private land in the Berkshires and has now expanded. Ft. Devens now offers a training-area venue to the program. The hunt is managed by volunteers. Electric ATV’s, hunter partners and assistants, and vehicle blinds are all possible for use. The key to the program is to offer a venue close to a metropolitan area for a larger user audience. Occasionally volunteers will put on a drive, and occasionally the users will be placed on stands. Out of 6 participants last year, 3 deer were harvested. Ft. Devens allows the users to hunt coyote, deer, and turkey with shotguns.

Q: Are you (RR) working with Wounded Warrior?
A: (RR) Ft. Drum is working with the installation Warriors-in-Transition program. Success has been limited. They had to brief as a group, presenting difficulties due mainly to bad timing. It was good to see who was interested, but the program needs to get smarter as to how to work with them.

Christopher Zimmerman (CZ), Ft. Carson, CO: Carson has given out permits.

AS: Bragg has 600 soldiers in the Warrior-in-Transition program. The installation provides a guided hunt and a youth hunt. Wounded Warriors are different and not necessarily moved to the WiT program. The commander wants all units treated the same, posing some difficulties in permitting equal numbers from the units. On post QDMA put time in to the program (2-month process), but the commander needed 15 hunters (1 from each unit) and limited the requirements for qualification. Disabled and retired permits numbers are unknown in terms of the size of the target audience. Rifle area has to be training free for rec use. The program set a number of blinds in a number of areas around post to get around training area closures. The areas are opened to all hunting if the blinds are not requested. Requests must be in the day before hunting. Volunteers are getting special programs going, but AS must interfere to preserve the commander’s equality objective, making the program a bit of a cat corral.

TB: Fort Stewart Wounded Warriors are incorporated in the workforce. There are 6-7 WW’s at any given time taking advantage of education or development programs. They are mainly engaged in force multiplier tasks. Many are ambulatory. How do you target people with more challenges?

TP: Massachusetts sets special restrictions past “disabled,” such as ambulatory difficulties. The state handles the screening process.

AS: In North Carolina, anyone can get a doctor’s note. If you can’t walk without aids, you can gain access to the disabled training areas on post.

TB: Maybe the Working Group can get some DoD guidance on it?

TP: Another disability group such as one of the NGO’s might be a good source.

RR: Ray looked at it too, but didn’t want to be the one to choose who could or couldn’t participate unless the numbers of people interested warranted further requirements. At this time, there are not enough users to show the need.

CW: Standardizing is difficult. AEC/ODEP is in a grudge match too. Everything is very site specific with no good overall solution. Craig Kindlin from Letterkenny Army Depot, PA has been going down to Walter Reed and bringing back soldiers to his hunting program.

Continued on next page
DM: A major goal of the programs like Wounded Warriors is to provide the soldiers immediate MWR and psychological remedies. Processing them through state requirements and waiting for disability paperwork does not fit that mission. Don’t wait for the paperwork and lose the audience.

RR: There is lots of paperwork including hunter education courses, licenses, etc. necessary to hunt for New York in the first place.

AS: Get the right guys in front of the media.

Mark Gates (MG), Barksdale AFB, LA: There is no good state program for determining disability. The installation has built 6 platforms this year. They consider lung capacity as well as full mobility issues when handing out special permits. The disabled access permit is free. It’s discouraging to see a disabled hunter dragging out a deer by his or herself.

TB: Ft. Stewart is also looking at fishing access in the form of wheelchair-accessible piers.

TP: Winter poses special challenges. Some guys are just looking for some privacy to avoid humiliation. Help guys to rig canoes, ice blinds, etc.

TB: Out of 15 disabled access users, 4 fell out of tree stands. They are willing to speak to others. Other interfaces come from interaction with different kinds of people.

RR: Websites are relatively unavailable for the topic. This would be another good place for links on the Fish & Wildlife Recreation Working Group web site.

DM: Ft. Indiantown Gap holds a veterans’ fishing program for the veterans’ homes each year. The local sportsmen's clubs from around the area come in once a week to provide fishing poles, assistance, supervision, and hot dogs. The hot dogs take some precedence, but the program gets some otherwise confined people outdoors and enjoying outdoor recreation.

Open Floor

Check in/out

Q: John Haddix (JHa), Donnelly Training Area, AK. How do you track recreational users? Greeley has difficulties with phone lines from time to time, making tracking difficult and potentially losing hunters.

TB: We use software.

AS: Sign in/out is done in person. Remote stations are set up for outer areas of post.

Jim Asmus (JA), Camp Pendleton, NC: We do the same.

AS: Personal check is used to reroute complaints, gain info on poachers, and get better reporting records. Range control is a big help. AS reports the number of search and rescue operations (hunters failing to check back in) each year to the commander.

JHa: It can take 14 hours to get to some of the hunting ground. Air transport is widely used. 3 installations with nearly 2 million acres combined all use the same system. It can take an extra 6-hour drive to hunt if hunters have to check in first in person.

Continued on next page
Joe Hovis (JHo), Ft. Indiantown Gap NGTC, PA: Compare the extra time to critical needs like readiness and safety.

RR: How about a Netflix model: a 14 day mail out / mail in system of a GPS unit?

AS: Maybe it’s possible to use some sporting goods outlets such as Dick’s to do some check-in.

**Hunting Councils**

Q: (RR) Can anyone describe Ft. Hood’s hunting council?

TB: They have a unique system of councils on Hood with a different tradition that is possibly unappealing to other installations.

James Watkins (JW), Ft. Knox, KY: Fort Knox’s council developed from units and inputs to the hunting program. They don’t develop policy; they just provide advice.

TB: Ft. Stewart has an advisory council. There is no public participation, just soldiers and staff. It’s helpful for contentious issues, but they have to be political about it.

RR: Ft. Drum has a Semi-Annual Natural Resources Conservation Meeting where fish and wildlife recreation is always discussed and attendees includes the state, USFWS, and installation directorates, but not individual users.

**Website**

LG: PiF developed their website with Legacy funding. Perhaps the WG can put in for WG website development.

JHo: A similar proposal for the herp WG got shot down. Why not bring it up at the membership meeting for a full NMFWA site? Send the websites to your command staff for easy internal outreach.

RR: Yes, bring it up for membership. Find Chris Eberly and ask about website updates.

TB motioned for adjournment and JW seconded. With all in favor, the group adjourned at 1920.
THINK ABOUT BECOMING A MEMBER OF NMFWA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

It is not too early to think about running for a position on the NMFWA Board of Directors. The membership will have a chance to vote on the following Board seats in the fall:

- President-Elect
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Director At-Large
- Director East
- Director West
- Director Central

The President-Elect and Vice President serve for 1-year. The other positions are 2-year positions. NMFWA has national and international recognition from within DoD, the Congress, State Resource Management Agencies, Professional Resource Management and private Non-governmental Conservation Organizations. Being a board member of a prestigious national organization is a significant plus on anyone's resume. If you have an interest in running for the Board of Directors or want to discuss possibly running contact Mike Passmore (Immediate Past-President) @ michael.passmore@nmfwia.org, DSN.

Got a whale of a tale? Submit it to the FAWN for the next newsletter.
Contact laura.busch@nmfwia.org
NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL MILITARY FISH AND WILDLIFE ASSOCIATION

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