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Group Newsletter

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TWS Wildlife Damage Management Working Group Newsletter: Vol. 10, Issue 2 Fall 2003

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INTERACTIONS

Fall 2003

Vol. 10, Issue 2

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FORWARD

I hope everyone had a great summer. I cannot believe it is already fall and time for another newsletter. It is also **Time For Elections!** We have 3 Executive Board positions up for election – the ballot is included in this newsletter (see insert) along with biographies of the seven candidates. Please take some time to read the biographies and mark the ballot with your top 3 choices. This year you may return the ballot either by regular mail or by e-mail!

I enjoyed visiting with a number of Working Group members at The Wildlife Society meeting in Burlington, Vermont. Our Working Group meeting was well attended as usual, with 42 persons present. The minutes of the meeting appear in this newsletter. At the meeting it was decided that The Working Group will put together one or two proposals for symposia to be held at the next TWS meeting in Calgary, Canada in September 2004. The proposals suggested are: Mesocarnivores, Cormorants and Other Bird Impacts, and Issues Related to Feeding and Baiting of Wildlife. Proposals will be finalized and submitted to TWS by 31 October 2003.

Progress is being made toward the publication of the 10th Wildlife Damage Management Conference proceedings. The majority of the papers have been received and edited for publication. We hope to have the proceedings to the publisher by the first of the year. The 11th Wildlife Damage Management Conference will be held in Traverse City, Michigan in May 2005. Reserve this date on your calendars!

The Working Group is sponsoring 2 symposia at the upcoming 3rd International Wildlife Management Congress in Christchurch, New Zealand, in December 2003. The symposia “Diseases at the Wildlife-Human Interface” and “Wildlife Damage Management in the United States: Past, Present, and Future” will be integrated with similar symposia proposals dealing with these topics in New Zealand and Australia.

– Kathy Fagerstone,
Chair



**Newsletter of The Wildlife Society's
Wildlife Damage Management
Working Group**

<http://wildlifedamagegroup.unl.edu>

WORKING GROUP ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was opened at 12:00 pm by Kathy Fagerstone, Chair. Officers present included Jim Armstrong, Frank Boyd, Dale Nolte, and Rich Chipman. Gary Witmer filled in for Secretary–Treasurer Ray Sterner. Forty-two persons were present. Introductions were made and an attendance list was compiled.

The minutes of the annual meeting (9/25/02) in Bismarck, North Dakota, were voted on and approved. Gary Witmer read Ray Sterner’s report on membership and financial status and the report was approved by the Working Group members. The Working Group membership (as of 8/31/03) was 265, up 5% from 2002. The Working Group account balance as of 12/31/02 was \$8,724.57. A year-end audit of the checking account was conducted by Dr. Richard Bruggers on 9 January 2003, and all was found to be in good order. The balance as of 8/31/03 was \$26,153.69. Most transactions during the year were related to the 10th Wildlife Damage Management Conference conducted by the Working Group in April 2003. The current balance does not include an anticipated \$5,000 payment by USDA Wildlife Services for sponsorship of the Conference, nor the anticipated cost of \$5,000 for publication of the proceedings. Note that this credit and debit should negate each other.

Ray also raised a number of issues related to the secretary–treasurer

position and activities. He asked that the board consider creating two separate positions---that of secretary and that of treasurer. This would entail a change in the by-laws. He also asked that consideration be given to changing the date that the new secretary–treasurer assumes duties so that the previous audit is completed before the new person begins. In addition, he mentioned that it is difficult for the new person, upon assuming responsibilities of secretary–treasurer, to become immediately enmeshed in a large-scale activity such as the financial aspects of the Wildlife Damage Management Conference. Finally, now that there is a much larger amount of money in the Working Group’s account, he suggested that the annual audit be made more formal to avoid the possibility of fraud. After discussion, it was voted and moved to form an audit committee to oversee the annual audit.

There was a brief discussion of the board positions. It was noted that a board member serves a 2-year term and that can be renewed once before the person must be off the board for at least one term. The board positions are staggered so that 3 persons are added each year, leaving 3 “experienced” persons on the board for one more year before they are replaced. The nominating committee has a slate of candidates and bio data will be published in the next newsletter in preparation for the upcoming election [see p 6–7].



Old Business included an update by Paul Curtis on the goose and deer publications being distributed through Cornell University; over 4,000 copies of the goose booklet and over 1,000 copies of the deer booklet have been sold. Kathy Fagerstone noted that the Wildlife Fertility Control booklet (TWS Technical Review 02-2, 2002) is available, but no one knew how many copies have been sold. Danny Martin was not present to give an update on progress on the urban coyote booklet. Jim Parkhurst noted that progress is being made on the overdue Proceedings of the 8th Eastern Wildlife Damage Management Conference. He is still hoping to save some publication costs and estimates that it will be out by early next year.

The newsletter is available on the website (see front cover of *INTERACTIONS* for URL) and is e-mailed to persons who provide their e-mail address; otherwise, hard copy can be mailed to persons without e-mail access. Anyone not receiving the newsletter in one of these forms should contact Kathy Fagerstone (Chair), Dallas Virchow (Webmaster), or Danny Martin (*INTERACTIONS* Editor).

It was noted that the final ruling on the Cormorant EIS was due out about 18 September 2003 and that the Record-of-Decision should come out soon after that. The Working Group had provided comments on the Draft EIS, recommending an alternative that would allow greater active management of cormorant populations. An expanded

Depredation Order would use a site-specific approach in 23 states and would involve state, federal and tribal agencies. The Order would apply to public lands and waters and to the protection of the aquaculture industry. The Working Group also provided comments on the proposed intensive management and/or eradication of introduced mute swan populations in North America because of the harm they are causing to the environment and native species. Unfortunately, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently agreed to withdraw all permits for state and federal agencies to kill mute swans because of the ruling by a federal judge in response to a lawsuit brought by the Fund For Animals, an animal advocacy group. It was noted that Working Group input on wildlife damage issues is often needed with very short notice. Kathy thanked those who have assisted in drafting responses and encouraged other members to participate in the future.

Kathy noted that the 10th Wildlife Damage Management Conference, held in Hot Springs, Arkansas was very successful despite the facilities being a little small for the 250 attendees. Gary Witmer noted that about 50 manuscripts are being processed for the Proceedings, which should be out by early next year. He thanked those who provided peer-editing assistance on manuscripts.

The Working Group will sponsor 2 symposia at the upcoming 3rd International Wildlife Management Congress in Christchurch, New Zealand, in December 2003. The symposia,

“Diseases at the Wildlife-Human Interface” and “Wildlife Damage Management in the United States: Past, Present, and Future” will be integrated with similar symposia proposals dealing with these topics in New Zealand and Australia. It was noted that the early registration deadline for the conference was 22 September. Over 750 persons have already registered for the conference and 528 speakers have been selected for presentations on a broad array of topics.

In **New Business**, it was noted that a second call for papers has gone out for the 21st Vertebrate Pest Conference, to be held in Visalia California, 1–4 March 2004. Abstracts should be sent to Duane Schnabel, CDFA or Kathy Fagerstone, NWRC.

Jim Miller noted that he is involved in putting on a session on “Managing Large Mammalian Predators and Their Populations to Avoid Conflicts” at the 69th North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference (Spokane, Washington 16–20 March 2004). He noted that he still needs a few speakers, so contact him if interested. [*Late update*: Jim has all his speakers now lined up!]

The members discussed the call for symposia for the TWS 2004 Annual Meeting (Calgary, Alberta, 18–24 Sept. 2004). Proposals are due 31 October 2004. Dennis Slate and Rich Chipman plan to re-submit their Raccoon Symposium proposal, but perhaps expand it to include skunks and other meso-carnivores. Mark Tobin may re-submit their Cormorant Symposium proposal,

but perhaps expand it to include bird impacts to fisheries in general. Jim Miller suggested a symposium on issues related to the feeding and baiting of wildlife. Contact Jim if you have an interest in that topic.



Next, the discussion turned to the location of the 11th Wildlife Damage Management Conference (proposed for late May 2005). Sites at Sandusky, Ohio and Traverse City, Michigan were discussed. The group overwhelmingly favored the Traverse City site. Strong state or federal agency involvement at the local level will be important for the success of the Conference. There was a call for volunteers interested in helping plan the Conference. Numerous persons volunteered, including David Drake, Rich Chipman, Art Smith, Jim Armstrong, Gary San Julian, Wendy Arjo, Dale Nolte, Ben West, Rick Wadleigh, Paul Curtis, and Jim Parkhurst. Some possible topics for symposia or sessions that were mentioned included, wolves, cormorants, piping plovers and other T&E species, bovine tuberculosis, and updates on the state-of-affairs with invasive species.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 pm.

– Gary Witmer
on behalf of Ray Sterner,
Secretary/Treasurer

**2003 WILDLIFE DAMAGE MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP
BOARD MEMBER BALLOT**

This ballot should be either mailed or returned via e-mail by 1 December 2003. For regular mail, fold on the dotted lines so that the mailing address appears on the outside, tape it shut and affix first-class U.S. postage. This will ensure delivery to the ballot counting committee. It is important that you vote for no more than three Board Members.

Please indicate your choices by **CIRCLING** the candidates' names you are voting for. Names are in alphabetical order.

BOARD MEMBER CANDIDATES (vote for three):

David Bergman

Richard Bruggers

Dale Nolte

Andy Radomski

John Steuber

Ben West

Desley Whisson

fold here

fold here

Danny Martin
Editor, *INTERACTIONS*
Dept. of Biological Sciences, MSU
242 Trafton Science Center S.
Mankato, MN 56001

PLACE FIRST CLASS UNITED STATES POSTAGE HERE
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**Ray Sterner
USDA-APHIS-NWRC
4101 LaPorte Ave.
Fort Collins, CO 80521-2154**

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Two Dead in Alaska Brown Bear Attack

On 6 October, Tim Treadwell and Amie Huguenard were found dead in Katmai National Park (N.P.), Alaska. Both were presumed killed by a brown bear. Tim was a self-trained bear expert who resided in Malibu, California.

Treadwell had spent the previous 12 summers observing and videotaping brown bears in Katmai N.P. He was known to approach and even touch bears, and N.P. Service officials disapproved of his actions and message.

National Park Service officials killed an aggressive male brown bear when they arrived at Treadwell's campsite. Human remains were then found nearby. (adapted from several news sources, contact editor for details). For more information on this story: www.juneauempire.com/stories/100903/sta_bear.shtml

Research: Livestock Depredation by the Gray Wolf in Northern Minnesota

Palani K. Whiting, Brock R. McMillan, and William Paul.

The gray wolf population in Minnesota has been increasing since 1974, when it was listed under the Endangered Species Act. With increasing numbers, the range of wolves in Minnesota has expanded south into areas previously thought unsuitable. Consequently, the potential for conflict with humans and livestock

has increased. Livestock depredation events by the gray wolf in Minnesota were analyzed to determine annual and seasonal patterns of verified depredations during 1987-2000. Complaints of livestock depredations were obtained from the Minnesota USDA Wildlife Services program.

There were over 2,000 complaints from 1987 to 2000. Of those, approximately 50% were verified as actual events of gray wolf depredation. The number of verified depredations by the gray wolf increased at roughly double the rate of the size of the gray wolf population during the same time period.

Cattle were the most common prey during all seasons except winter, when depredations of cattle and domestic dogs were similar. In contrast to other prey species, which did not change, the proportion of depredation events involving dogs increased during the study. There was considerable variation in the number of events among seasons with more depredations in late spring and summer than during other seasons. In addition, the number of depredations during spring was negatively correlated to winter severity and the population size of white-tailed deer.

Based on these data, it appears that there will be a disproportionately greater potential for interaction between wolves and humans as the population size of the gray wolf increases and the range continues to expand into more populated areas.

Eastern Cougar Network

The Eastern Cougar Network website posts information on cougars in the Midwest and Eastern U.S. Website URL: www.easterncougarnet.org

Coyote BMPs Available

The Best Management Practices (BMPs) for capture of coyotes in the Eastern U.S. are available at: www.furbearermgmt.org/03ecbmp.pdf

Review of Brown Tree Snake for Possible Addition to Lacey Act

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is currently reviewing comments on the *Boiga* genus of snakes for possible addition to the Lacey Act. Comments must be submitted on or before 12 November 2003 to:

Chief, Div. of Environ. Quality;
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service;
4401 N. Fairfax Dr., Ste 322;
Arlington, VA 22203.

See the Working Group's website for more details.

6th Mt. Lion Workshop Proceedings Available

Copies of the Proceedings of the 6th Mountain Lion Workshop are available. The Proceedings are 80 p, and the cost is \$10 (payable to: Sul Ross State University). Payment should be send to:

Marylee Flowers
Dept. Natural Resource Manage.
Sul Ross State University
P.O. Box C-16
Alpine, TX 79832

Upcoming Meetings:

64th Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference

When: 7–10 December 2003
Where: Kansas City, Missouri
Registration: \$175 regular, \$75 student, before; \$250 reg., \$125 student after 31 October.
Contact: 1-888-310-8900 (or)
www.Midwest2003.com

3rd International Wildlife Management Congress

When: 1–5 December 2003.
Where: Christchurch, New Zealand
Information:
<http://wildlife2003.landcareresearch.co.nz/>

Eastern Cougar Conference 2004

When: 29 April–1 May 2004
Where: Morgantown, W. Virginia
Submit Presentations to:
Dr. Jay Tischendorf, Director
American Ecol. Research Institute
P.O. Box 1826
Great Falls, MT 59403 (or)
Jay_Tischendorf@Merck.com

10th WCT Seminar

When: 9–11 February 2004
Where: Biloxi, Mississippi
Registration: \$250 before and \$300 after 1 January 2004.

21st Vertebrate Pest Conference

When: 1–4 March 2004
Where: Visalia, California
Pre-registration: \$200 regular, \$50 student before 1 Feb. 2004.
Information:
www.vpconference.org/04-conf.html
Contact: Desley Whisson,
(530) 754-8644

Western Coordinating Committee–95 Ann. Meeting

When: 15–17 November 2003.
Registration: \$35.
Information:
<http://wcc-95.unl.edu/>
Contact:
jobrien@govmail.state.nv.us

Executive Board Candidates:

David Bergman is a TWS Certified Wildlife Biologist and currently holds the position of State Director for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's Wildlife Services (WS) in Phoenix, Arizona. He oversees a diverse wildlife damage management program that includes rabies management, wildlife hazards at airports and airbases, protection of agriculture, the Mexican wolf program, wildlife diseases, protection of human health and safety, and protection of natural resources. He also provides the logistics for a multitude of research projects in Arizona such as beaver damage research, carnivore predation, and wildlife hazards at airports. His previous roles within the field of wildlife damage management include Staff Wildlife Biologist for WS Headquarters, Wildlife Biologist for WS North Dakota and South Dakota Programs, and Wildlife Technician for the WS National Wildlife Research Center. David received his B.S. from the University of Nebraska–Kearney and completed his M.S. research at Texas A&M University–Kingsville.

Richard Bruggers is a Research Wildlife Biologist and since 1994 has served as Assistant Director of the USDA APHIS WS National Wildlife Research Center (NWRC). The mission of the NWRC is to conduct research to resolve problems caused by

the interaction of people and wildlife. As Assistant Director, Rick provides direction and oversight to the NWRC's research and support programs as well as it's human and fiscal resources. Rick represents the NWRC on APHIS/WS committees and participates on the WS Management Team. He routinely represents WS and NWRC with cooperating universities and agencies, and has led the NWRC's research efforts to develop chemical methods for brown treesnake control. Prior to joining the NWRC in 1979, Rick was a biologist with the United Nations involved in finding solutions to bird pest problems in Africa. After joining the NWRC, he was a research scientist and manager of NWRC's International Research Program. He has conducted applied research and provided technical assistance in many developing countries of the world and has served as an adjunct faculty member for a number of international graduate students. Rick obtained a B.A. from Hope College, and a M.A. and Ph.D. from Bowling Green State University.

Dale Nolte is a supervisory research wildlife biologist, serving as leader for the National Wildlife Research Center's (NWRC) field station in Olympia, Washington. The directive of this field station is to develop non-lethal means to alleviate the negative impacts of foraging wildlife on forest resources. Dale has experience researching a variety of rodents, lagomorphs, ungulates, and carnivores. Recently,

Dale has begun to address problems caused by nutria and beaver in the southeast U.S. He also has collaborated with international projects to reduce rodent damage to agricultural crops, and he provided expertise to address concerns when roof rats invaded the Phoenix, Arizona area. Dale serves as an adjunct faculty member at Mississippi State University, Utah State University, and Washington State University, and as an Affiliated Scientist at Monell Chemical Senses Center. He played a primary role in the original concept and the continued function of the Collaborative Research Team, a consortium of major government and private forest landowners and managers. Dale received his B.S. and M.S. degrees from Kansas State University. He obtained his Ph.D. from Utah State University, and conducted a post doctorate at the Monell Chemical Senses Center.

Andy Radomski I am seeking your vote to become an active Board Member for the Wildlife Damage Management Working Group, primarily to further our mission of promoting a better understanding of the challenges in managing human-wildlife conflicts. I would also provide comments on the forum to TWS members on advancing our skills and knowledge of wildlife damage management practices. Professionally: I am a certified wildlife biologist and a Research Wildlife Biologist with the USDA-ARS, “the in-house research arm of the U.S. Department of Agriculture”, in Stuttgart, Arkansas. I have conducted research on fish-eating birds at aquaculture facilities since 2000. I have worked on a variety of wildlife damage management issues and I will offer my experience, energy, and knowledge on upcoming issues that our Working Group will undoubtedly confront. I obtained my Ph.D. from Texas A&M University & TAMU-Kingsville in 1999, my M.S. from Texas Tech University in 1989, and my B.S. from University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point in 1987. I am married and have 2 children, 2 dogs, and 2 cats.

John Steuber received his B.S. degree at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, with a double major in Wildlife Management & Biology. For his graduate work he attended Texas A&M University and majored in Wildlife Science. He worked as a wildlife technician for the U.S. Forest Service (CO), U.S. BLM (WY, UT), and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (MN, TX). From 1982-87 he worked as a

wildlife biologist in South Texas for Dresser Industries on their hunting & fishing leases and for Clive Runnells Enterprises, a large ranch complex. He began working for USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services in 1987 and has worked in the Texas, Washington, and California WS programs prior to becoming the State Director in Oklahoma. John is a member of TWS and has served in several positions, including President of the Oklahoma State TWS Chapter. John is a certified wildlife biologist.

Ben West is currently an Assistant Extension Professor in the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries at Mississippi State University. Ben received his B.S. in Natural Resources Management at the University of Tennessee-Martin in 1995. He completed his M.S. in Wildlife Science from Virginia Tech in 1998 where he worked to understand and manage the damage caused by a large and growing white-tailed deer population in the state. Finally, he completed his Ph.D. in Wildlife Science at Utah State University in 2002. During his Ph.D. studies, he researched the impact of predation and livestock grazing on duck production. His professional interests include wildlife damage management, youth education, and wildlife conservation on private lands. For leisure, Ben enjoys hunting, fishing, competitive shooting, and reading.

Desley Whisson received her Ph.D. in Wildlife Management from the Queensland University of Technology, Australia, in 1994. Her dissertation focused on cultural control techniques for rodent pests in Australian sugarcane. Prior to moving to California in January 1995, Desley spent a year in Mexico at the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico where she was primarily involved with research on pocket gophers. Since January 1995, she has held the position of Extension Wildlife Specialist at the University of California at Davis, and is involved in research and extension activities related to vertebrate pest management, especially rodents. Her current projects focus on the management of invasive species. She is an active member of the Vertebrate Pest Council.

Don't forget to vote! Please fill out the ballot on page 4 and mail it by 1 December 2003 (OR) e-mail your 3 choices to :
ray.t.sterner@aphis.usda.gov
Include your name, the name of 3 candidates, and type "WDM Election" in the subject line.

Daniel Martin, Editor
INTERACTIONS
Dept. of Biol. Sciences, MSU
242 Trafton Science Center S.
Mankato, MN 56001

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP / THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

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Annual basic membership dues are \$56.00 of which 15% pays for the bimonthly newsletter, *The Wildlifer*, which is received by all members. Dues for full-time students are \$28.00. **TWS accepts U.S. dollars drawn on a U.S. bank only or by credit card.**

WITH YOUR PAID MEMBERSHIP you may subscribe to the *Wildlife Society Bulletin* for an additional \$23.00. *The Journal of Wildlife Management* with *Wildlife Monographs* for an additional \$26.00, or ALL publications for an additional \$48.00. Members may also join a section, chapter, and/or working groups.

WORKING GROUP DUES (\$5.00 each)

01 - Wildlife Planning & Administration
02 - Wildlife Economics
03 - Biological Diversity
04 - Biometrics
05 - College and University Wildlife Education
07 - GIS, Remote Sensing, & Telemetry
08 - Restoration
09 - Native Peoples' Wildlife Management

11 - Sustainable Use of Ecosystem Resources
12 - Wildlife Damage Management
13 - Wildlife Toxicology (\$7.00)
14 - Urban Wildlife
16 - International Wildlife
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