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The Wildlife Society's Committee on Wildlife Damage Control
Terrell P. Salmon, Wildlife Extension, University of California, Davis, CA 95616

ABSTRACT: In 1982, the President of the Wildlife Society created a Committee to make recommendations on what the Society should do to be an attractive organization for wildlife professionals specializing in wildlife damage control. The Committee, composed of 7 professionals in wildlife damage control, made 13 recommendations to the Society. Which, if implemented will improve the Society's relationship with wildlife damage control professionals.

INTRODUCTION

In April, 1982, Dale A. Jones, President, The Wildlife Society, formed a new Vertebrate Pest Committee. He charged the Committee "to develop some recommendations to Council on what the Society should do to be an attractive organization for those wildlife people who have chosen to specialize in the Vertebrate Pest Management Area." He further stated that "We have undoubtedly failed the professionals in this category, and should try to be responsive to their needs."

The 7 members of the Committee are professionals working in some aspect of vertebrate pests *management*.

Membership - Wildlife Society Committee
of Vertebrate Pest- Control of

Terrell P. Salmon, Chair
University of California, Davis

F. Robert Henderson
Kansas State University

Walter E. Howard
University of California, Davis

Edward Kozicky
formerly of Winchester Group Olin Corp.

James E. Miller
USDA *Extension Service*

Rick Owens
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

John Stair
University of Arizona.

Their experiences are quite diverse and range from field application of wildlife control programs to *extension and* research on wildlife problems and solutions.

COMMITTEE APPROACH

At the onset of the Committee assignment, the members had ideas regarding the needs of wildlife damage control professionals and how the Society might better fulfill those needs. We felt the most efficient way to address the questions would be a 3-part approach. First, we designed a survey which was intended to be distributed to professionals working in this field of wildlife damage control. The objective was to obtain information from individuals actually working in the field regarding their needs, perceptions of the Society, and some indication of their training and area(s) of specialization. The second phase was to review the Society's journals, i.e., Journal of Wildlife Management and Wildlife Society Bulletin, to evaluate their function in transmitting information relative to wildlife damage control. The Committee felt this was an extremely important phase of our work since the Journal and Bulletin represent the major vehicle used by the Society to interface with wildlife professionals. The third phase of our Committee work involved development and discussion of relevant questions in wildlife damage control. We used information obtained from the surveys and from the Journal and Bulletin reviews, as well as our experiences and interactions with other wildlife professionals, to discuss these questions and formulate our opinions. We then developed the recommendations regarding the major issues we discussed.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee finished their deliberations and submitted the Final Report to the Society on September 30, 1983. The recommendations covered the following areas:

1. Publication of wildlife damage control articles in the Journal of Wildlife Management and the Wildlife Bulletin.
2. The title "Wildlife Damage Control."
3. Society Position Statement on Wildlife Damage Control.
4. Wildlife Damage Control training including college courses, workshops, seminars, etc.
5. Wildlife Damage Control training materials.
6. Continuing education in Wildlife Damage Control.
7. Professional conduct of **AU** wildlife professionals.

A total of 13 recommendations were submitted dealing with the above areas. The Committee recommended increased involvement in wildlife damage control by The Wildlife Society. It also stressed the importance of a positive approach to wildlife damage control. The Society must clearly demonstrate that wildlife damage control is a critically important aspect of wildlife management. This step alone will greatly improve the Society's relationship with wildlife professionals with responsibilities in Wildlife Damage Control.

