

Volume XXII

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ow is the time to submit your articles on events or field studies taking place on your installation.

See **FAWN** deadlines on page 19

THE WILD SIDE

Chester Martin – NMFWA President (Chester.martin@nmfwa.org)

It is hard to believe that this is my last Wild Side and that the NMFWA annual meeting and training session is less than two months away. Where has the time gone? It seems like only yesterday that I accepted the gavel from Jim Beemer. This has been an eventful year for the Association, one in which several Washington-level decisions were made that will have various effects on natural resource management activities at DOD installations. Specifically, exemptions to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and certain provisions amending the **Endangered Species Act and Marine** Mammal Protection Act will make it necessary for installation natural resources personnel to become even more vigilant to ensure appropriate conservation and management of important habitats for native species. NMFWA doctrine continues to assert that fish and wildlife resources on DOD installations can be managed effectively in a manner that will not result in adverse impacts to the military mission. It is up to us, as

professional natural resources personnel, to interact with installation training and testing offices to ensure the health of military lands for both the stated military goals and environmental quality.

Allow me to reflect for a few moments on some highlights of the past year. As I mentioned in my initial Wild Side column, one of my first actions was to deliver testimony to Congress on April 10, 2003 regarding reauthorization of the Sikes Act. The focus of my testimony was on ensuring reauthorization of the Act and promoting required funding and implementation of Installation Natural Resource Management Plans (INRMPs). I stressed that implementation of INRMPs is critical, not only for appropriate conservation of natural resources, but also for protection of the military mission. However, there are numerous examples of situations where INRMPs have been "completed," only to sit on the shelf and gather dust. Completion of

The Wild Side — continued

INRMPs is not enough. Failure to fund and implement the plans remains a concern, since the Sikes Act contains no compliance provisions. Although compliance provisions were suggested during negotiations for both the 1997 and 2003 amendments, these recommendations were not incorporated into revisions of the Act.

Another issue of critical importance emphasized in my testimony was the Sikes Act requirement that DOD use sufficient numbers of professionally trained in-house natural resources management personnel and natural resources law enforcement personnel to carry out the preparation and implementation of INRMPs. This requirement is tied to Section 1 of the Sikes Act where the clear, concise language precludes the use of OMB Circular A-76 and any successor process to contract out services necessary for implementation and enforcement. This is not to say that the implementation of all projects should be conducted exclusively with government personnel. In fact, we should all be respectful of the tremendous services and support provided by many of our on-site contractors. I am aware of many examples of installation contract personnel working above and beyond the call of duty to ensure that DOD natural resources are properly addressed and managed. It is my opinion that NMFWA should show greater appreciation for the work done by contract personnel and acknowledge their contributions to the Association.

As also stated in the Sikes Act revision of 2003, NMFWA continues to support access to military lands for all appropriate public uses, such as hunting and fishing. Although increased security following 9-11 has restricted access and affected our ability to allow hunting on many installations, it is important to continue these programs to keep populations of certain game species in check and maintain habitat quality. We are also committed to continued support of the requirements of the Disabled Sportsmen's Access Act of 1998. This is a very high priority with me since I had a weeklong stay in a military hospital while serving in Vietnam and observed first-hand the extent of debilitating combat injuries to many soldiers and

sailors. In my opinion there is no better use of our installation natural resources than to provide a quality recreational experience for veterans who have become disabled fighting for our country.

Another highlight on a less than positive note was the formal ethics complaint brought against our Association due to what was perceived as inappropriate comments on our webpage and use of government equipment for private interests (i.e., NMFWA). We did our best to resolve this issue by deactivating and modifying certain sections of the website, reviewing DOD ethics guidelines and submitting this information to the BOD, and revising e-mail protocol. This action seriously affected our ability to communicate for several months, but we seem to be back on track. Although I understand the reasoning behind the complaint, it bothers me that the NMFWA President (namely me) wasn't confronted with the problem before it was considered necessary to go formal with the complaint, which resulted in involving all service branches in trickle-down legal actions. Hopefully, we can do a better job of avoiding this kind of action in the future.

Then there was the informal NMFWA meeting during The Wildlife Society (TWS) annual conference in Burlington, VT, which was highlighted (for me) by my kidney-stone attack. The meeting went well and was attended by 17 DOD personnel and contractors. We were all proud to see the Fort Riley Threatened and Endangered Species Management Team receive the TWS 2003 Group Achievement Award at the conference. Other installation awards are routinely posted in THE FAWN. We are doing a better job of advertising our Association and can now boast well over 1,000 members, but I still run into natural resources personnel at professional meetings who are not aware that we exist. In fact, at the recent 2004 Range Sustainability Conference I had discussions with several Washington-level personnel who had never heard of NMFWA. We simply need to take every opportunity to promote our Association and get some positive press for the good things that we are doing.

As we move into the new year, there are many challenges ahead – encroachment issues, fragmentation, range sustainability, modifications to endangered species programs, increased security measures, changes in installation hunting and fishing practices, additional base closures, and on and on. Many of these issues will be addressed in training sessions at the 2004 meeting in Spokane. We must be proactive and ready to meet these challenges with the same dedication and enthusiasm that we have demonstrated for the past 20+ years. My thoughts and prayers will be with the Association and its leaders as you continue to promote sound natural resources management on DOD lands. In closing, I want to thank my Board of Directors, Committee Chairs, Working Group Chairs, and all other NMFWA members who have made various contributions to the Association over the past year. You have all inspired me and made my job worthwhile. It has indeed been an honor to bring my career to a close by serving as President of an Association that is second to none. — CM



1. INRMPs: How Well are They Implemented? Integrated Natural Resources Management Plans were required by the Sikes Act Improvement Act of 1997 and have been written for most installations since then. The focus of this session is how are INRMPs being implemented and how effective they are.

Chair - Ron Smith (404) 464-8752. Ronald

Chair - Ron Smith, (404) 464-8752, Ronald. Smith4@usarc-emh2.army.mil

2. Part I. Implementing INRMPs On A Shoestring? The session will highlight installations that successfully implement their INRMPs with minimum funding: the way they team with other units on base and partner with off-base groups. It will share ideas, lessons learned, and stories from both sides of the coin -- the good, the bad, and the ugly.

Chair - Mary Anderson, *AFCEE Brooks City-Base*, *TX* (DSN 240-3808, COM: 210/536-3808) mary. anderson@brooks.af.mil



Lake Coeur d'Alene; courtesy of Coeur d'Alene Chamber of Commerce/ Joel Riner

- 2. Part II. Can We/Are We doing Ecosystem Management on the Installations? Looking at handling some tough issues with ecosystem management. Chair Jean O'Neil, DSN 446-3641, COM 601-634-3641, l.jean.o'neil@erdc.usace.army.mil
- 3. Basic Biology, Modern Technology. Today's technology (satellite telemetry, remote cameras, Personal Digital Assistants and laptops) has revolutionized the fundamentals of gathering biological data (population monitoring, species identification, density estimations). Modern equipment can do in minutes what used to take hours. This session highlights field examples of data analysis and management that will be useful both to the field biologist and the bureaucrat who longingly looks back at days in the field. Chair - Robbie Knight, Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach, CA (760)731-3425; DSN 873-3425; Knight.Robert@sbeach.navy.mil Cochair - Rhys Evans, MAGTFTC Twentynine Palms, CA, (760) 830-7396 x234, DSN 230-7396 X234
- 4. New Frontiers in the Footsteps of Lewis and Clark. Part I Evolving Fisheries Issues in the Pacific Northwest. Since the Lewis and Clark expedition 200 years ago, the state of fisheries and waterways in the Pacific Northwest has been altered considerably. This session will outline some of the changes and impacts that have occurred since Lewis and Clark's time. We will also present on-going research addressing two of the critical issues faced by today's scientists working to improve fish passage.

continued..... page 4

2004 Training Sessions—continued

Chair - Bob Johnson, *Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL)*, *Richland, WA*, COM 509-372-0999, bob.johnson@pnl.gov

4. Part II – Alaska's Recreational Fisheries And Agency Interactions With The Army, Air Force, and Coast Guard.

Chair - Charlie Swanton, *Alaska Dpt Fish and Game*, charles swanton@fishgame.state.ak.us

5. Burning for You: Prescribed Fire. Military lands, especially firing ranges, preserve some of the last fire-dependent ecosystems left in North America. This session will look at the use of fire as a tool in ecosystem management and restoration, changes in DoD Fire Policy, and ways to help natural resources managers restore fire to the installation.

Chair – Dan Gonnering, *Volk Field, WI*, DSN 871-1397, Daniel.Gonnering@wicrtc.ang.af.mil

6. The Endangered Species Act and the Military Mission: Is There Common Ground? The Department of Defense faces many challenges when it comes to the Endangered Species Act and sustaining military readiness. Can DOD accomplish its mission and still meet ESA obligations? This session will look at the progress DOD has made to date and some of the challenges that lie ahead. It will provide some success stories and some innovative methods that natural resources managers may use to successfully meet their ESA challenges. Cochairs – Jim Hessil, Fort Huachuca, AZ, DSN 821-7084, james.hessil@us. army.mil, and Kim Mello, Fort McCoy, WI, DSN 280-5766, kim.mello@emh2.mccoy.army.mil 2004 NMFWA Training Sessions

7. Hunting, Fishing and Wildlife Law Enforcement after September 11. Conservation law enforcement in the military took on new roles and responsibilities in light of terrorist threats. The hunting program also changed due to stricter controls on access and firearms. This session examines the changes. Chair – Brian Hostetter, *Natural Resources Program Manager*, *NAB Little Creek Storefront*, *VA*, (757) 462-8564 (ext. 391), DSN 253-8564 (ext. 391), hostettereb@pwcnorva.navy.mil



Sunday, 14 March 2004

1700-1845 NMFWA Registration (DbleTree Ballroom) 1900-2200 NMFWA BOD Meeting (Shades, DoubleTree Hotel Main Floor)

Monday, 15 March 2004

0700-0800 NMFWA Registration 0800-0945 Herpetology Working Group 1000-1145 Bat Working Group

1200-1245 NMFWA Registration

1300-1445 DoD meeting

1500-1730 Service Breakouts

1800-1900 NMFWA Registration

1730-1900 Icebreaker Social

Tuesday, 16 March 2004

0700-0800 NMFWA Registration

0800-0945 Invasive Species Working Group

1000-1145 Session 1. INRMPs: How Well are They Implemented?

1200-1245 NMFWA Registration

1315-1500 Session 2. Part I. Implementing INRMPs On A Shoestring? and Part II. Can We/Are We doing Ecosystem Management on the Installations?

1515-1700 Session 3. Basic Biology, Modern Technology.

1900-2200 New BOD meeting

Wednesday, 17 March 2004

0700-0800 NMFWA Registration 0800-0900 DoD Partners-in-Flight

0900-1200 WMI Plenary

1200-1245 NMFWA Registration

1315-1500 Session 4. New Frontiers in the Footsteps of Lewis and Clark: Part I – Evolving Fisheries Issues in the Pacific Northwest and Part II – Alaska's Recreational Fisheries And Agency Interactions With The Army, Air Force, and Coast Guard.

1515-1700 Session 5. Burning for You: Prescribed Fire. 1900-2200 Show and Tell, hors d'oeuvres

Thursday, 18 March 2004

0700-0800 NMFWA Registration

0800-0945 BASH Session

1000-1145 Session 6. The Endangered Species Act and the Military Mission: Is There a Common Ground?

1200-1245 NMFWA Registration

1300-1445 Session 7. Hunting, Fishing and Wildlife Law Enforcement after Sept 11

1515-1700 Business meeting

1700-2200 Buses leave/return from Dinner Cruise on Lake Coeur d'Alene, Dress semi-formal

Friday, 19 March 2004

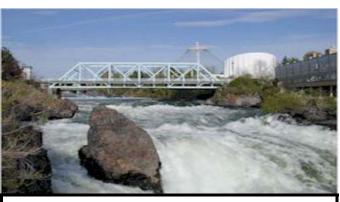
0800-1130 Field trip to Fairchild AFB 1330-1600 BOD meeting

Spokane 2004

The training NMFWA puts on each year is rivaled by no other training I know of as far as applicability to managing natural resources on military installations. Other training may focus on specific aspects of the installation NR program, but this is the only training sponsored and driven wholly by and for the folks who actually do the day-to-day, on-the-ground, natural resources management.

Yet, as good as NMFWA training is, there are other reasons you will not want to miss NMFWA 2004 in Spokane:

- 1. When you have a problem at your installation, there is probably someone in NMFWA who has "already been there and done that." You are not alone but you need to know who to call. NMFWA folks are some of the most dedicated, helpful colleagues you will ever meet and you will meet them in Spokane.
- 2. Often our thinking can narrow down to what we are familiar with, the way things have always been. The national scope of natural resources management and new horizons will open to you. Your paradigms will shift as you are exposed to others with differing expertise.
- 3. You will have to keep a pen and paper with you at all times to write down names, numbers, email addresses and to jot down a "To Do" list for when you get back to the installation. The inspiration may come at any time.
- 4. NMFWA members include people who have been places most of us have not. There are warfighters, former presidents of the National Wildlife Federation, friends of generals, admirals, experts who have testified before Congress, contractors who make megabucks, lawyers, computer geeks, GIS whizzes. You need to meet these people.
- 5. The Iraq War has been won, not just beginning as it was last year in Winston-Salem.
- 6. Spokane is one of the best locations yet for a natural resources conference.



Spokane Falls: courtesy of Coeur d'Alene Chamber of Commerce/ Joel Rinerery.asp

- 7. This will be the first opportunity in years to take a field trip to see the implementation at an actual installation of what we are studying. Jerry Johnson has done an outstanding job at Fairchild AFB and has much to show us besides how to progress from natural resources to head of the Environmental Flight.
- 8. The award banquet/dinner cruise on Lake Coeur d'Alene will be spectacular and promises to fill up early. The boat can only hold 160, so go to www.nmfwa.org and register as soon as you can.
- 9. The theme, timing, and location of this conference have a unique historical angle celebrating the 200th anniversary of the greatest military natural resources expedition in United States history, the Lewis and Clark Voyage of Discovery.

Although travel budgets have been slashed this year, if you have to borrow a canoe or bateaux and paddle your way to Spokane, by all means, start paddling.

Jim Copeland, Program Chair (Jim.copeland@nmfwa.org)



Host hotel - Doubletree Spokane City Center

Show & Tell Reception

On-Line Registration

What lessons have you learned? What words (or pictures) of wisdom do you have to share? Do you have a computer program that could help out others? How are you implementing your INRMP? Have you been able to avoid critical habitat designation...what did you do right? Have you figured out how to acquire off-site buffer or mitigation lands? Participate in this year's Show and Tell reception and let everyone know. The Show and Tell is a great opportunity to network with natural resource professionals in an informal atmosphere over beverages and hors d'ouevres. We need YOU to share the insight and wisdom of your installation's successes, lessons learned, high (or low) points, achievements, accolades, good deeds, unique programs, partnerships, new ventures, pet projects, money saving techniques and/or how not to reinvent the wheel!!!! This is the time to share with your counterparts so we can learn what is going on in your part of the world. In years past the Show and Tell presentations have come in all sorts of format: poster boards, video presentations, computer demonstrations, slide shows and combinations thereof. Installation contractors can contribute their achievements as well. If you would like to participate, please fill out the on-line application. If you have questions, contact me via email.

Dennis Herbert (Dennis.Herbert@us.army.mil)



M. Passmore

Silent Auction

You have never seen an auction like the NMFWA Silent Auction! Folks from all over the country bring something that shows off their region. I don't think Terry will agree to auction his Pipes for the good of the group, but I'm sure he and each of you have something to offer for auction.



Kim Mello brings cheese from Wisconsin, Jim Beemer a bottle of New York wine, others homemade crafts or food. But anything goes and it all benefits the NMFWA Reserve Account, funds to fight the contracting of our Natural Resources jobs. Whatever you have to donate, bring it on. Some people will bid hilariously outrageous amounts for your trinkets (and you may be one of them).



Example of items donated for NMFWA '03 Silent Auction

Everyone intending to participate in either the Show and Tell or the Auction please notify me via email as to your intent or with any questions.

Dennis Herbert (Dennis.Herbert@us.army.mil)

Photography Contest

The 6th annual **NMFWA** Photography Contest will be held in conjunction with the Show and Tell Reception. This year we have a new category for Botany. Please indicate on the pre-registration form that you wish to participate. Late registrants may enter, but advance notice is important for space requirements.

Contest rules are as follows:

- 1. Photos must be taken by the participant. Anyone registered at the NMFWA conference is eligible to enter.
- 2. Photos must be mounted on stiff backing such as photo board, art board, or foam core, etc. Matting is optional. Do not submit photos in glass frames. Each photo must have the name and address of the photographer clearly marked on the back, along with the entry category.
- 3. Photos must be at least 5 X 7 inches and no larger than 11 X 14 inches in size (not including mat or board). Color and black and white prints are acceptable. Slides are not allowed.
- 4. Each photo must qualify in one of the following categories:
 - a. Wildlife (any species is acceptable)
- b. Installation field activities (photo must have been taken at a DoD installation or project site to qualify for this category)
 - c. Landscapes/scenic (any location is acceptable)
- d. Humor/fun (includes wildlife or people in humorous poses, people taking part in fun activities such as NMFWA meeting, studio shots, etc.)
- e. Botany (any plant species is acceptable, this includes fungi and alga).
- 5. Each participant may enter up to two photos in each category. One prize will be awarded in each category. Participants at the Show and Tell Reception will vote on the winning photos. Winners will be honored at the Awards Banquet.
- 6. Bring your photos with you and submit them before the Show and Tell Session.

Dr. Terry L. Bashore at (757) 764-2416 or DSN 574-2416 or terry.bashore@langley.af.mil

NMFWA 2004 Elections

Once again, it is time for the membership to select those individuals that will represent the organization for the coming year. The Board positions up for election this year include President-Elect, Vice President, Treasurer, At-Large Director (2 yr. term), Regional Director - East (2 yr term) and Regional Director-West (2 yr. term). We have a full slate of candidates - at least two for each office - and each individual is to be commended for agreeing to run and serve if elected.

In order to save the Association money on printing and mailing costs, this notice serves as the official announcement of Association elections. The actual ballot and candidates statements will only be available through the NMFWA website at www. nmfwa.org. Voting members may either vote online or print the ballot out and mail it in. Write-in candidates are permitted.

Voting must be completed no later than 5 March 2004. The ballot will be available on-line on or about 29 January 2004. Mail-in ballots should be sent to me at: James Beemer, 20 Roxanne Boulevard, Highland, NY 12528-2827.

For voting purposes, only those NMFWA members who are full-time government employees (DoD civilians or state National Guard) directly involved in the management of natural resources on military installations are eligible to vote. In order to verify voting status, each ballot must contain the individual voter's full name and his/her government agency employer. Ballots that are received lacking this information will not be counted. Ballots are only viewed by the Immediate Past President and are kept strictly confidential.

Be sure to support your Association by voting. Participation in elections has declined drastically in the last five years (less than 15% of eligible voters casting ballots). On-line voting takes less than five minutes while printing out and mailing a completed ballot takes less than 15 minutes.

Jim Beemer, Chair, Nominations Committee and Immediate Past President (ravenwindrider@earthlink.net)

DoD Partners in Flight Meeting

The Department of Defense Partners in Flight program will host an update meeting at the Spokane NMFWA workshop. Our meeting will be from 08:00 – 09:00 on Wednesday, March 17. Anyone interested in learning about bird conservation activities throughout DoD is encouraged to attend. We will provide updates on our activities over the past year, as well as current status on migratory bird legislation. In addition, we want to hear from you on how the DoD Partners in Flight program can better work with NMFWA natural resource professionals to provide bird and habitat information for the INRMP update process. We will have our new lapel pins to hand out to all who attend. Program materials, including the first few in our series of Fact Sheets, will also be available. We look forward to seeing you in Spokane!

Chris Eberly, DoD Partners in Flight Program Manager, (ceberly@dodpif.org)

Invasive Species WG Session

The Invasive Species Working Group meeting will be held on Tuesday, Mar 16th from 0800-0945 in the Double Tree Ballroom Salon III. The meeting will be informative! For those of you not familiar with the ISWG, here's a little background information:

- currently > 100 members;
- been in existence for ~3+ years;
- have officers, a Charter, and three ad hoc committees (Website, Database, and Outreach) with Chairs; have sponsored technical sessions on invasives;
- and try to keep members updated on invasive issues via email.
- Officers of the ISWG are:

Dick Gebhardt and Brian Hostetter (Cochairs); Matt Hohmann (Recording Secretary); and Kim Mello (Past Cochair). Chairs of the committees are: Jeanne Dye (Database), David Beckmann (Website), and Kim Mello (Outreach).

Agenda:

8:00-8:15 am: Welcome and Introductions
Dick Gebhardt and Brian Hostetter –
Co-chairs
Matt Hohmann – Recording Secretary

8:15-8:20 am: Committee Reports

8:20-9:30 am: Presentations

- * Results of a survey on invasives at Installations Jeanne Dye
- * Fire Ants Michael Denight
- * "Mini" presentations agenda still being finalized

9:30-9:45 am: Other business

Icebreaker In Spokane!!

On Monday evening starting at 5:30 pm, NMFWA welcomes both Old Timers and Newcomers to the first annual NMFWA Icebreaker at LUIGI's. Only a block south of the Convention Center, LUIGI's offers Spokane's finest Italian Cuisine for \$10-20, as well as drinks, wine, beer, and hors d'oeuvres.

The DoD session and Service Breakouts will probably be about more budget cuts and may tend to leave you feeling hopeless and depressed. The Icebreaker will try to help you restore a positive attitude. Relax and dine among friends as we gather for food and fellowship.

This tradition began when Tammy, Coralie and Rhys were all sitting at the same banquet table and met a new NMFWA member who had eaten takeout in her hotel room the previous three nights. Do not miss the informal networking opportunities: meet new friends and help one another with common problems!

The tradition started with a Newcomer's Breakfast held for the past two years. It was good to meet at 6:30 a.m. and squeeze into the upper room at Murphy's in Winston-Salem last year, but this year will be a new experience!

Rhys Evans (Rhys.Evans@nmfwa.org)

NMFWA AWARD NOMINATIONS NEEDED!!!

The deadline for award nominations to be presented at the upcoming NMFWA Training Workshop in March is approaching fast! Please take a minute to review the award information below and recognize folks that are making a difference with your natural resources management program. Remember, any individual can make a nomination (you don't have to be a NMFWA member) and awards can be presented to any individual or group that meet the Special Achievement Award criteria below. Award information is also available on the NMFWA web site at http://www.nmfwa.org

Nominations should be submitted via e-mail to Jim Hessil, the Awards Committee Chair (james. hessil@us.army.mil).

The NMFWA Awards Committee will review all nominations and nominees will receive a plaque, award certificate or NMFWA Presidential congratulatory letter. Don't delay – deadline for all award nominations is February 6, 2004!

NOMINATION CATEGORIES

- 1. <u>SUPPORT</u>: For persons who indirectly assist natural resources.
- a. Military Support of Natural Resources. This area is for military personnel who, through their position, have given support to natural resources programs above the norm.
- b. Civilian Support of Natural Resources. This area is for civilians who have supported natural resources above the norm. Individuals may be employed by DOD or a supporting agency.
- 2. <u>VOLUNTEER</u>: For a group or an individual assisting in natural resources programs.



- a. Education. This area is to recognize efforts in natural resources education. Includes interpretation, hunter education, troop training by individuals, groups or interagency cooperation.
- b. Management. This area recognizes efforts on an installation which assist program managers in a variety of natural resources projects. Includes research, revegetation, fish/wildlife habitat enhancement, and endangered species management by interns, private citizens, groups or organizations.
- 3. <u>PROFESSIONAL</u>: For persons working in natural resources conservation. Includes both DOD and non-DOD employees.
- a. Management. This area covers all aspects of natural resources management. Includes lifetime achievements, special projects, or anything showing great dedication to the profession.
- b. Law Enforcement. This area recognizes any of the wide variety of professions dealing with fish and wildlife law enforcement. Includes game wardens, JAG officers, lawyers, judges etc.
- c. Technical. This area recognizes people who are critical to natural resource management but who often go unrecognized. Individuals may include tractor and heavy equipment operators, biological technicians, clerical, laborers, or others who provide technical services to the program.

Please send your nomination to *james.hessil@us. army.mil*, using the following form:

NATIONAL MILITARY FISH AND WILDLIFE ASSOCIATION FISH AND WILDLIFE SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD NOMINATION

Person/Group Nominated		
Nominee's Address		
	Commercial	
Nominator		
Nominator's Address/activity		
Phone: DSN	Commercial	
Award Category (circle one)		
Support – Military	Volunteer – Education	
Support – Civilian	Volunteer – Management	
Professional – Management	Professional – Law Enforcement	
Professional – Technical		

Description of Accomplishments and/or Achievements: Please provide a one page description of the nominee's accomplishments.



Environmental Stewardship Division Staff at White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico, as of October 2003.

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Left to Right: Dr. David L. Anderson, Junior D. Kerns, Michael G. Mallouf, Patrick C. Morrow, Daisan E. Taylor (pre Taylor-Glass), Cristina L. Rodden, Rita A. Bernard, and Trish Griffin. Missing was Bobby G. Myers.

SERDP Funding Opportunities

The SERDP program (www.SERDP.org) recently released its FY05 call for proposals. As you know, SERDP funds basic and applied research that identifies, develops, and transitions environmental technologies that relate directly to Department of Defense environmental requirements. SERDP develops Statements Of Need (SONs) that call for specific types of proposals under each of its pillars (Compliance, Conservation, P2, etc.). Under Conservation, there are SONs for "Identification of Vectors for Transport of Non-Indigenous Species by DoD", "Development of an Advanced Monitoring Strategy for Migratory Birds on Military Lands", "Developing Terrestrial Biogeochemical Cycle Models for Fort Benning Ecosystems" (part of the SEMP initiative), and "Improved Remote Sensing Technologies for Detection of T&E Species and Their Habitat" (which is especially interested in burrowand cave-dwelling species). More information is available at http://www.serdp.org/funding/funding. html, and a direct link to the SONs is http://www. serdp.org/funding/FY2005/sons.html.

Following is the formal blurb describing the announcement:

Funding & Opportunities — SERDP funds environmental research and development through a competitive process. Because both government and private sector parties may compete for SERDP funds, there are two announcements for each solicitation: (1) a Call For Proposals to the federal sector and (2) a Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) for the private sector. There are usually two solicitations annually.

CORE SOLICITATION: The Core solicitation provides funding in various amounts for multi-year projects. This year's solicitation was released November 6, 2003. Preproposals from the non-federal sector are due January 8, 2004, and federal proposals are due via your Executive Working

Group member March 4, 2004. Detailed instructions for both federal and non-federal proposers are available by contacting the author (Alison A. Dalsimer — adalsimer@hgl.com)

"SEED" SOLICITATION: SERDP has, for the past few years, issued a separate solicitation for SERDP Exploratory Development (SEED) proposals. SEED proposals are, by definition, limited to a maximum of \$100K and a period of performance of one year. The FY 2005 SEED solicitation was released on November 7, 2003. All SEED proposals are due February 5, 2004. Instructions are available by contacting the author.

SELECTION PROCESS: SERDP responds to the high-priority requirements of the Department of Defense. From these requirements and the underlying SERDP Strategic Guidance, Statements of Need (SON) for the SERDP thrust areas are developed for each solicitation on an annual basis. These SONs are the core of each solicitation. Only proposals addressing the SONs will be reviewed. SERDP uses a multiple step competitive process to select projects for funding. To learn more about how to apply for SERDP funding and the selection process, contact the author.

Alison A. Dalsimer adalsimer@hgl.com

Electronic or Post Office???

Ah, my usual "soapbox" topic......

We continue to seek ways to reduce costs of operations for the Association. One of our major expenses each year (according to Tammy's books) is the production/distribution of THE FAWN. A recent change in print shops (we're now handling it all electronically) and other handling/mailing improvements have resulted in a 15 percent savings.

Additionally, the percentage of our membership receiving the newsletter by email (saves \$\$) is now over 50 percent (Yea!). We will actively pursue opportunities for additional cost savings in 2004. And as always, keep those articles coming!

Editor — (michael.f.passmore@erdc.usace.army.mil)

WHAT'S HAPPENING
WITH INVASIVE
SPECIES!?
(News from the Working Group)

Note: A suggestion was made to have an Invasive Species Working Group column in the FAWN. It was thought that this would be a good opportunity for sharing information, informing others on what's going on, and providing readers with points-of-contact on particular invasive species within DoD.

Information is welcome from all levels (installation, HQ, etc.) and Services. We encourage readers to submit articles and updates for each issue of the FAWN on anything related to invasive species initiatives.

Fort Drum, NY:

Fort Drum is currently developing an Invasive Species Management Plan and will hire one person for the upcoming field season to continue compiling known information and surveying specifically for non-native plants throughout the installation. The primary known invasive species on Fort Drum include:

black locust (Robinia), black swallowwort (Cynanchum), buckthorn spp. (Rhamnus), common reed (*Phragmites*), garlic mustard (*Alliaria*), honeysuckles (Lonicera), Japanese knotweed (Polygonum), leafy spurge (Euphorbia), purple balsam (*Impatiens*), purple loosestrife (*Lythrum*), reed canary grass (Phalaris), and spotted knapweed (Centaurea).

See:

http://www.drum.army.mil/garrison/pw/FishAndWild.html

Raymond Rainbolt (Ray.Rainbolt@drum.army.mil)

NAS Meridian, MS:

- -- continued spot treating kudzu with Tordon K on 20-acre site, 10-year effort
- -- began treating roadside cogon grass (1-ac) with Chopper prior to timber sale

Jim Copeland (jim.copeland@cnet.navy.mil)

Fort Detrick, MD:

Invasive species at Fort Detrick include: Tree of Heaven (Ailanthus altissima), Mimosa (Albizia julibrissin), Garlile Mustard (Aliaria petiolata), Japanese Barberry (Berberis thunbergii DC), Musk Thistle (Cardus nutans L.), Oriental Bittersweet (Celastrus orbiculata), Canada Thistle (Cirsium arvense (L.) Scop., Crown Vetch (Coronilla varia L.), English Ivy (*Hedera helix*), Lespedeza, Bicolor (Lespedeza bicolor Turcz.), Privet (Ligustrum sinense), Japanese Honeysuckle (Lonicera japonica), Bush Honeysuckle (Lonicera mackii), Royal Princess Tree (Paulownia tomentosa), Common Reed (Phragmites australis), Mile a Minute Weed (*Polygonum perfoliatum* L.), Multiflora Rose (Rosa multiflora), Japanese Wineberry (Rubus phoenicolasius Maxim.), Japanese Spirea (Spiraea japonica L.f.), Periwinkle (Vinca minor).

Betty Boyland (Betty.Boyland@DET.AMEDD. ARMY.MIL)

COE West Point Project, GA and AL:

"O&M contractor treats ~50 acres of kudzu/wisteria per year with Transline herbicide"-

Bob Patterson



Water Hyacinth (M. Passmore)

Devens Reserve Forces Training Area, MA:

Songbirds and Spotted Knapweed - A 6-year cooperative effort to monitor grassland bird species populations on Devens training lands will continue in 2004. Singing males are counted and many of them are banded with observable colored bands. Estimated breeding territories are recorded. Brood counts and fledgling success rates are recorded. A secondary objective over the past three field seasons has been to observe impacts of invasive plants, particularly Spotted knapweed, to the habitat structure. Observations indicate Grasshopper sparrows seldom utilize locations dominated (75%+ coverage) by knapweed.

Ten-meter test plots have been established and monitored for two field seasons and a variety of control efforts applied. Repeated annual mowing of knapweed sites in bloom to reduce seed production and stress the mature plants, followed by late summer application of 2,4-D to kill exposed rosettes is our most successful tactic to date. A total of 100 acres of knapweed-infested grassland were treated in 2003. Native plant response to release is highly variable. Reseeding efforts in 2003 were unsuccessful.

One question the project team has is "Does the allopathic chemical excreted by knapweed remain in the soil after the plants are killed?"

Most of the project costs are funded by an ornithological study grant from a private source. Cooperators include volunteers, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Massachusetts Audubon Society.

Autumn Olive and ITAM - Many of the old-field habitats and maneuver corridors on Devens had become choked with Autumn olive and associated multiflora rose and barberry. Past training activities had damaged terrain to the point where in-house rough mowing machines could not traverse the sites and control plant growth. Funding from the Integrated Training Area Management program allowed the garrison to execute a five-year

rehabilitation effort that combines mowing with a Brown Brontosaurus to shatter thickets and expose the ground surface for grading and filling actions. This provides access with conventional tractors with brush hogs and boom sprayers to control the cut-down-to-size mature plants and subsequent seedlings.

Tom Poole (tom.poole@DEVENS.ARMY.MIL)

Fort Bliss, TX and NM:

Fort Bliss conducts yearly monitoring for a number of exotic and invasive plants. Documentation includes the use of technologies such as GIS and Satellite imagery. The species of greatest concern is the African rue (Peganum harmala, FAM: Zygophyllaceae). Ongoing efforts to control this perennial species include mechanical and chemical approaches. Management of this weed takes into account its life cycle. For example, the canopies of the plants are removed (weed-whacking) during the growing season before the fruits and seeds are produced. The plants resprout vigorously after this treatment and then herbicide is applied to the foliage and soil. The chemical used kills plants and prevents seeds already in the soil from germinating. These type of control cycle has been >90% successful at a heavily infested stand and the procedure will be implemented at other newly discovered populations.

Rafael D. Corral, Ph.D. (corralr@bliss.army.mil)

Whiteman AFB, :

Whiteman has several invasives including fescue encroaching upon our remnant native grasslands. *Sericea lespedeza* is located on some remnant prairie in the roughs of the golf course and on other remnant grasslands around base. Multiflora rose is located as single plants scattered all across the base in unmaintained areas. Teasel is located on some disturbed tracts across the base.

Eastern Red Cedar, black locust, and osage orange are some of the non-native invasive trees. Bush

Invasive Speciers — continued

honeysuckle is also located in some remnant grassland areas and along most of the riparian areas on base.

The sericea has been treated for two seasons with Remedy and smaller patches have been severely damaged and almost eliminated. Mowing is also being used against some populations. The multiflora rose is being cut and hand treated with a 20% Round-up solution. Prescribed burning is being used to control the multiflora rose, teasel, cedar, locust, Osage orange, tall fescue, and bush honeysuckle. Fescue populations are being treated with Round-up. Teasel is being controlled by mechanical means such as digging and cutting. The trees and bush honeysuckle are also being hand cut and treated with the 20% Round up solution.

Neil Bass (neil.bass@whiteman.af.mil)

Fort McCoy, WI:

--priority species include: leafy spurge, spotted knapweed, garlic mustard, wild parsnip, and woody shrubs such as glossy buckthorn, honeysuckle, and autumn olive --obtained approval from the USDA and State to introduce up to 9 spp of insects for biocontrol of spotted knapweed. In August, the knapweed root weevil (Cyphocleonus achates) was released --using an integrated weed management strategy for garlic mustard that includes fire, hand pulling, and herbicides (2,4-D and glyphosate) --over 400,000 flea beetles (Aphthona spp) were released in 2003 for the biocontrol of leafy spurge --developing a biocontrol project with local schools and other agencies --hosted a teachers workshop on invasive species

--hosted a teachers workshop on invasive species in August that was attended by 20 individuals --currently planning an informal workshop for garlic mustard and spotted knapweed in February --preparing an Invasive Plant Species Management Plan that will be included with the INRMP --developing a wetland survey to identify and control invasives such as reed canary grass and glossy buckthorn

Kim Mello (kim.mello@emh2.mccoy.army.mil)

NAS Fallon, NV:

Naval Air Station (NAS) Fallon, Nevada, is located in northern Nevada about 65 miles east of Reno. At NAS Fallon the Navy manages 240,000 acres of land. NAS Fallon operates a 14,000-foot runway, four training ranges, an electronic warfare range, and associated special use airspace within the Fallon Range Training Complex. Weeds such as Russian knapweed (Centaurea repens), salt cedar (Tamarix ramosissima), and vellow star thistle (Centaurea solstitialis) have been spreading onto the Navy's rangelands. Russian knapweed is a deep rooted, perennial weed threatening Nevada's crop and rangelands. It thrives on rangeland and irrigated ground. Russian knapweed invaded cropland on Navy agricultural leases that were abandoned for lack of water during the drought of the late 1980s and early 1990s. Russian knapweed prefers sites that have higher precipitation such as drainages, irrigated fields, and runoff areas. Once established Russian knapweed is extremely drought tolerant. Cattle and sheep will graze the knapweed in the spring when it is young and tender. When overgrazing occurs, desirable plants become stressed, which gives Russian knapweed a competitive advantage.

No one control method alone will result in satisfactory control of Russian knapweed. To control the knapweed on the Navy lands we collected weed management information from the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension. A contractor was hired to apply an appropriate herbicide, Picloram (Tordon), to begin the control program on 500 acres of Navy lands. The most effective time to apply the herbicide to the knapweed is during the fall after the first frost. The herbicide application controlled about 95% of the Russian knapweed. In the contract we also required that the area be revegetated. Long term control of Russian knapweed can be obtained through vigorous competition from perennial plants. Without plant competition Russian knapweed quickly reinvades. In the weed control contract, we required plants such as crested wheatgrass, thickspike wheatgrass, fourwing saltbush, and basin wildrye be planted on the areas where the

knapweed was controlled with the herbicide. There are many varieties of grasses that can be used in Nevada to successfully compete with Russian knapweed. The precipitation a site receives is the single most important factor in choosing a plant for revegetation. You also must consider the intended use of the area, availability and price of the seed, soil type, and ease of establishment.

This year we also removed about 200 salt cedar shrubs in our weed control program. Salt cedar are invasive, introduced shrubs that are rapidly spreading to riparian areas in Nevada. The salt cedar is spread along the irrigation system that flows through NAS Fallon. The Irrigation District uses a foliar spray treatment on the leaves of the salt cedar to control it along their 300 miles of irrigation canals and drains. The herbicides Arsenal and Rodeo are used by the Irrigation District to control the salt cedar. Salt cedar is a deciduous shrub or small tree that can grow to 20 feet in height. Salt cedar flowers in the spring and the flowers are small pink to white in color. Salt cedar is classified as an "phreatophyte" meaning that it uses very large amounts of groundwater to complete its life cycle. The salt cedar produces concentrations of toxic levels of salts on the soil surface below the plant, thereby inhibiting the growth of desirable native plants. To control the salt cedar on Navy lands we hired a contractor that cut the shrubs down. An herbicide was then applied to the stump. Garlon (Trichlopyr ester) is the most effective herbicide available for the cut stump treatment.

Last spring on two of our agricultural lease parcels I found some yellow star thistle growing. Yellow star thistle infests cultivated fields, pastures, and waste lands in the west. Its roots grow faster and deeper than those of many native forage plants and shrubs. Yellow star thistle is palatable to livestock in the spring before the flower head produces spines. The long-term ingestion of this weed causes the neurological disorder "chewing disease" in horses. There were only two small patches growing (20 plants), so I pulled the yellow star thistle plants out by hand.

On larger infested areas there are herbicides such as Transline that will control the yellow starthistle. In the springtime we will monitor the knapweed, saltcedar, and starthistle control areas and use herbicides for any spot re-treatment that is required to control the invasive weeds.

Gary R. Cottle NAS (Gary.cottle@navy.mil)

Navy Region Mid-Atlantic (Oceana and Little Creek, VA):

- * Continuing control on two acres of kudzu at NAS Oceana utilizing Roundup.
- * Tree-of-heaven control utilizing cutting/herbicide stump treatment completed on about one acre at NAS Oceana.
- * Initial herbicide application completed spring '03 for control of English Ivy and phragmites on NAB Little Creek.
- * Completed spray plans and contract for aerial application of herbicides to control phragmites on NAB Little Creek and NAS Oceana, Dam Neck Annex, however, hurricane Isabel forced delay of this project until fall of '04.
- * Continuing nutria control efforts on NSA Norfolk, Northwest Annex. This critter is causing erosion problems on certain drainage ditches in outleased agricultural areas.
- * Continuing efforts to develop in-house Regional invasive species control plan.
- * Prescribed burn plans have been developed and approved for four Regional bases. Control of certain invasives including kudzu, phragmites and lonicera is management focus for certain burn areas.

E. Brian Hostetter (HostetterEB@PWCNORVA.

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Salt Cedar or Tamarisk (*Tamaix sp.*)





Yellow Star Thistle (U. Calif)



Zebra Mussel (USGS)



Kudzu (Jack Anthony)



Leafy Spurge (U. Nebraska)



Purple Loosestrife (Manitoba Purple Loosestrife



Spotted Knapweed (Idaho One Plan)

The Walker River Paiute Tribe is trying out an experimental method of eradicating tamarisk (*Tamarix sp.*) on their reservation. The Tribe had been battling tamarisk for decades, putting everything from machines to insects to the task, without much luck. So far, it seems they may have found the best control from a herd of goats.

Tamarisk, or salt cedar, is one of the largest noxious weeds in the West. It is not a native plant, but it has adapted well to Nevada's desert climate. One tree can use up to 200 gallons of water per day. It is a deep-rooted plant that pulls salts out of the soil and exudes it out of its leaves, so nothing else can grow around it. For the Tribe's grazing lands, that is bad news.

Chuck O'Rourke with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and Ed Biggs and Tracy Jean Wolf with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, joined the battle to help the Tribe combat the weed and restore native vegetation. Wolfe developed a conservation plan outlining the steps to follow and O'Rourke was successful in obtaining funding to pay for the goats.

Goats have been used successfully on other weeds in the western U.S. Several years ago, one canyon in Idaho could feed 250 cows per month before leafy spurge was found. Leafy spurge crowded out the native grasses and reduced the grazing capacity to 12 cows per month. Chemicals were sprayed on the land, costing \$150 per acre. The spray killed the leafy spurge as well as every broadleaf plant growing in the area. "When we looked at the canyon, the leafy spurge was four feet tall. The only animals living in it were snakes, mice and skunks. There were no deer or anything else," said Hugh Bunten of Lakeview, OR. Bunten set up a goat grazing plan with the Idaho Resource Conservation District and other government agencies. The new technique he was pioneering worked—the goats

stayed in their herd, they ate the leafy spurge and, after three years of return visits, they had almost cleared the canyon of the noxious weeds.

In addition, the goat's digestive system kills the seeds of the plants they are eating, so germination from seed is greatly reduced. "We go back each year, but now we need only a handful of goats. They have become addicted to the leafy spurge. When turned loose, they mount a regular search-and-destroy attack on the few remaining noxious plants," Bunten said.

The Walker River Tribe is counting on this same success for their land. About 600 goats were brought in and temporary fences were put up to keep the goats in a confined area about three acres in size. Once the goats have done their job attacking the tamarisk in that area, they are moved to another area. About 3,000 acres of tamarisk will be treated. So far, they have done a remarkable job stripping the leaves off the tamarisk and gnawing at the trunks.

The goats will be brought back next summer for the next treatment. Before that however, the area will be seeded with native grasses and forbs. Then, the goats will trample the seed into the ground and fertilize it while they are attacking the tamarisk.

If everything goes as hoped, a third treatment won't be needed.

Johnny Peterson, Hawthorne Army Depot, NV (john.peterson12@us.army.mil)

NOTE: The Walker River Paiute Reservation is an adjacent landowner of Hawthorne Army Depot; they share boundaries of Walker Lake, which is southeast of Carson City. The tribe has initiated this unique approach to tamarisk removal, while others in the area are using more conventional methods, including mechanical removal, herbicides, and the Chinese leaf beetle. More information can be obtained from contacting Tom Dudley at tdudley@cabnr.unr.edu.

Beale AFB (CA) Native Grassland Restoration and Associated Studies

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Background:

California's native grasslands are one of the most critically endangered vegetative communities in the world. It is estimated that less than 1% of the original grassland dominated by native species remains. In addition to increasing native biodiversity, returning species such as native bunchgrasses to the California grassland may have many functional benefits for land managers. These bunchgrasses are deep-rooted, perennial species that help decrease soil erosion, increase nutrient cycling in the soil, and provide valuable habitat for wildlife. These grasses also serve as an excellent source of forage for grazing animals and help reduce the annual grassland fire hazard because the grasses remain green well into the summer dry season.

Program Goals:

Long-term management goals for Beale Air Force Base's nearly 15,000 acres of grasslands involve the reintroduction of native grasses to the base. In support of this goal, the Environmental Flight has conducted extensive research designed to test the most effective method of native grass establishment and management.

Research Studies:

Between 1997 and June 2000, a UC Davis Ph.D student conducted fieldwork on the largest of these research projects. The study addressed the management and restoration of purple needlegrass (Nassella pulchra) and the effects of various management techniques on overall plant species diversity. Over five acres of native grasslands were restored using over 16,000 seedlings grown from locally collected seed. The overall survival rate for the plants was over 95% after two years. The report recommended a prescribed burning and cattle grazing management regime that promotes the persistence of the bunchgrass on the base.

Research Benefits:

In autumn of 1999, a second grassland study was initiated. This study implemented the recommended management regime on a ten-acre plot of land that was heavily infested with yellow starthistle (*Centaurea*

solstitialis), which is one of California's most widespread noxious weeds. The restoration process included burning, herbicide application, and drill seeding the site in the autumn and following up with spring herbicide application



and mowing to reduce competition with weeds. The grasses from the 1999 planting have out competed yellow starthistle and medusahead (*Taeniatherum caput-medusae*) at the site for several years. Long-term studies of vegetation and wildlife are planned to determine the ultimate success of the restoration.

Yellow starthistle near the flightline is perceived to increase the Bird Air Strike Hazard by attracting birds to the enormous amount of seed and protective cover it provides. Control of this weed around the flightline consists of burning and spot treatments of herbicide. Combining the results of the grassland restoration projects and studies of bird use of the native grasses will determine if native grassland restoration is an appropriate method to control starthistle near the airfield. One hypothesis is that wildlife will be attracted to the native grasses because they evolved over many years to exist with these plants. Over the past few years, two California State University, Sacramento, M.S. students studied use of starthistle by both birds and

rodents at Beale AFB. Both studies proposed that further research should be conducted to look at native grassland restoration plots in relation to use by these wildlife species.

The Future:

Funds generated from the Beale AFB cattle grazing program and from HQ Air Combat Command Invasive Species funds will support future grassland restoration in areas heavily infested with yellow starthistle and medusahead. An additional 20–40 acres of restoration is planned for each fiscal year.

Kirsten Christopherson (Kirsten.Christopherson@beale.af.mil)



DEADLINES FOR SUBMITTING ARTICLES TO EDITOR FOR UPCOMING FAWN EDITIONS:

31 May for June 2004

Articles on installation activities or other issues relevant to the association may be submitted through your respective Regional Directors (Eastern Region—Scott Smith or Joe Hovis; Western Region—Coralie Cobb or Rafael Corral) or sent directly to me.

Electronic files should preferably be in MS Word©, Times New Roman, font (12). One or two clear pictures (JPG) may be beneficial (more may be negotiated) and will be used, barring space constraints.

—THANKS!!—

Mike Passmore (michael.passmore@nmfwa.org)

Bat Working Group Session

The Bat Working Group session will be held on Monday, 16 Mar from 10:00 to 11:45 a.m. in Spokane Falls Ballroom A, DoubleTree Hotel Main Floor. The session will include a series of short presentations on bat studies and management activities at a variety of installations, followed by a business meeting to discuss bat research and management needs on DoD lands. A summary of FY 03/04 activities will be presented, including NMFWA participation in the North American Bat Conservation Partnership, installation presentations at professional meetings, status of regional bat working groups, and results of the BCI Bats and Forests Workshop. There is still room on the agenda for several additional presentations. Anyone interested should submit a short abstract to Chester.Martin@nmfwa.org no later than 6 Feb. All personnel interested in bat conservation and management are invited to attend the session and share information on their bat projects.

Chester O. Martin Chair, NMFWA Bat Working Group



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