



FAWN



FISH AND WILDLIFE NEWS

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THE NATIONAL MILITARY FISH AND WILDLIFE ASSOCIATION

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THE WILD SIDE

Marjorie McHenry - NMFVA President

As my tenure being president of this great Association comes to a close, I would like to share a short review of the events of the year thus far. At our last business meeting it was voted to allow the formation of working groups within NMFVA. Since then, the Board has received and approved the request for a Herpetology Working Group. They will be meeting at our next annual meeting to develop a charter and objectives. Please contact Jim Beemer, NMFVA Eastern Director, if you would like to join this group. I would also like to encourage the formation of other interest groups as this concept expands within the Association.

Several amendments to the Association Constitution and Bylaws were passed. Two new standing committees were established. The Audit Committee is chaired by Valerie Morrill, a past

Secretary-Treasurer of the Association. The Committee will be examining the records prior to our next business meeting. The Government Affairs Committee is chaired by Mark Hagan, and has been working mainly on the outsourcing/privatization issue.

At the last business meeting an emergency resolution was passed regarding the Legacy Resource Management. The initial goal of this resolution was to attempt to restore the amount of funding to original levels and have this funding distributed to installation level projects. While this is a worthwhile goal, additional communication and information concerning the recent Legacy guidance as established by Congress explains why DOD has not funded installation specific projects. Thus, no official resolution was sent to DOD. Additional informa-

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tion will be provided in this issue and/or at the DOD policy session at our Workshop. This situation emphasizes the need for an active Government Affairs Committee to keep up on what is happening at the Congressional and DOD level on issues that affect the Association.

I received a letter from John R. Davey, Director of Requirements, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense, in response to our letter to Rudy de Leon. The following is the basic response: "The Defense Department has taken a number of steps to ensure that inherently governmental and exempt functions are properly identified. The guidelines and criteria issued for the current review were comprehensive and provided rationale for properly identifying inherently governmental and exempt functions based on the OFPP Policy letter 92-1, OMB Circular A-76, and other relevant instructions and supplemental handbooks. The criteria specifically allowed for exemptions based on laws, treaties, Executive Orders, and international agreements."

"While we recognize that management of fish and wildlife resources and policy related functions are inherently governmental, other functions performed in support of fish and wildlife management may not be. For instance, fact gathering, such as inventorying natural resources, is generally not an inherently governmental function. When conducting their inventory, the Army coded all manpower involved in actions that require discretionary authority over policy matters, exercise management authority, or that require value judgements when making decisions on behalf of the Department as inherently governmental. Only manpower performing functions in support of fish and wildlife management were coded R, 'Subject to Review.'"

This seems to be the DOD guidance, and yet there still seems to be a wide variation among the services and various installations as to how it will apply. For this reason, the Government Affairs Committee is assembling an information packet

that would be available to members who are faced with the outsourcing issue on their installation.

Now that a logo has been selected, I am hoping to have my staff finalize the format for a new brochure before our March Meeting. This project was started almost five years ago, so it is definitely past due for completion. I have tasked my Directors to collect some photos for possible use in the brochure. Please assist them in this endeavor if you want to see photos of sites other than the Orchard Training Area.

The final details on the WebSite agreement are being negotiated, and I hope it will be on line shortly after the first of the year. I think this is exciting and will provide the Association more public exposure. On this topic, I would like to commend Dave Tazik and Julie Eliason for their efforts in getting our Workshop agenda printed in the Wildlife Management Institute Program this year. The Association has received more recognition in this issue that I ever remember seeing before. I look forward to seeing you all in California.

As I close this Wild Side commentary, my final as your president, I would like to thank those members who have devoted their time and effort assisting me this year. I don't think there is any way to anticipate the challenges of being president of this great organization until you are actually placed in that position. The assistance of the Board of Directors and other dedicated members are what make it all possible. Although I was not in favor of having the office of president be a two year term, I understand why it could be beneficial. You spend the first year learning what all you should be doing, and the correct way to accomplish things. By the second year, when you might be more effective, someone else starts the learning cycle once again. Thanks again for your support, and I encourage others to get more involved as we face the challenges of natural resource management in the 21st Century.

UPCOMING NMFVA ELECTIONS

Nomination ballots for electing new Association Officers and Board members will be mailed to voting members in January. Currently, the following are candidates for office: President-Elect - Dave Tazik

and Glen Wampler, Vice President - Don Pitts, Secretary-Treasurer - Tammy Conkle, Directors - Jim Bailey, Scott Bebb, Coralie Cobb, Wade Eakle, Rhys Evans, Carl Lahser, and Scott Smith.

Rick Griffiths - djodjo@juno.com

1999 NMFVA CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

I am looking forward to this year's NMFVA conference. It will be great to see all of you again. Here are a few tips to facilitate the registration process. First concerns conference pre-registration. If you register early, your nametag, payment receipt, and conference package will be waiting for you when you arrive. Even if you are not sure if you will be attending, please fill out the registration form and send it in. Secondly, **PLEASE DO NOT PAY THE**

WILDLIFE INSTITUTE. It is the responsibility of the Secretary/Treasurer to insure the Association only pays for the people attending the conference. This happens on the last day of the conference. Last, please ensure your payment is only by one of the following methods: government or personal check, cash, or a government form, which I will send off to get paid. Credit cards will not be accepted.

Don Meuschke - donald.meuschke@whiteman.af.mil

DESPERATE WOMEN

*We are looking for a few good men and women to share their installation achievements, successes, failures, deeds, program highlights, recent ventures, pet projects, great management plans, latest undertakings, and/or money saving techniques!!!! You do not have to *aim high* we are just looking for willing participants to save our reputations, at the least, by participating in the annual NMFVA SHOW AND TELL SESSION at the upcoming annual meeting. Projects can be presented in several formats: poster boards, video presentation, slide shows, or any combination thereof. Please note that installation contractors can contribute their achievements as well.*

If you are remotely interested, have any questions and/or feel sorry for us please contact Norma Brossa (MCAS Pendleton) or Tammy (Shepherd) Conkle (MCAS Miramar) as soon as possible. Norma can be reached by telephone at DSN 365-9582, commercial (760) 725-9582, or e-mail: brossan1@pendleton.usmc.mil. Tammy can be reached by telephone at DSN 267-6498, commercial (619) 537-6498 or e-mail: conklet@miramar.usmc.mil. Remember, *it's not just a job it's an adventure*, so **SHARE YOUR LATEST ADVENTURE!** Thanks for your support. If you have any questions please e-mail me or give me a call.

Tammy Conckle - conklet@miramar.usmc.mil

NMFVA ANNUAL AWARDS

It's time to turn in those nominations for folks that in some way have been a special help to our natural resources. NMFVA acknowledges these folks with various types of awards at our spring meeting.

Everyone likes a pat on the back once in awhile and this is as good a chance as ever. Take time to jot down a few of the accomplishments of that great helper or leader. Let everyone know just how much you appreciate folks that go the extra mile!

Nomination categories include Support (both civilian and military), Volunteers (education and management), and Professional (areas of management, law enforcement, and technical).

I need these by 19 February. For more detailed information about each category and a nomination ballot, contact Glen Wampler at one of the following: e-mail wamplerg@doisex1.sill.army.mil or (580) 442-4324 or DSN 639-4324, or FAX (580) 442-7207.

Glen Wampler - wamplerg@DOIMEX1.SILL.ARMY.MIL

**ANNUAL TRAINING WORKSHOP - NATIONAL MILITARY FISH AND WILDLIFE ASSOCIATION
28 MARCH - 2 APRIL 1999, BURLINGAME, CALIFORNIA
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

Sunday, 28 March

- 12:30-5:30 p.m. Bat Conservation Workshop, Host: Bat Conservation International
- 5:30-7:30 p.m. Board of Directors Meeting
- 7:30-9:30 p.m. Committee Meetings
- 7:30-8:30 p.m. Registration Desk

Monday, 29 March

- 8:00-10:00 a.m. Registration Desk
- 4:00-6:00 p.m. Registration Desk
- 5:00-9:00 p.m. Committee Meetings

Tuesday, 30 March

- 8:00-10:00 a.m. Registration Desk
- 4:00-5:00 p.m. Registration Desk
- 5:30-7:00 p.m. New Board of Directors Meeting
- 7:30-9:00 p.m. Government Affairs Committee Meeting

Wednesday, 31 March

- 7:00-8:00 a.m. Registration Desk
- 8:00-8:30 a.m. Opening Session
- 8:30-11:50 a.m. Technical Session 1, DOD Integrated Natural Resources Management Planning
- 1:00-3:05 p.m. Technical Session 2, Southwest Desert and Arid Lands Management
- 3:05-3:25 p.m. Break
- 3:25-5:00 p.m. Technical Session 3, Monitoring DOD Activities to Meet Regulatory Requirements
- 5:00-9:00 p.m. Committee Meetings
- 7:00-10:00 p.m. Show and Tell Reception

Thursday, 1 April

- 7:00-8:00 a.m. Registration
- 8:00-9:50 a.m. Technical Session 4, Managing Riparian Corridors and Buffers
- 9:50-10:10 a.m. Break
- 10:10-12:00 noon Technical Session 5, Managing Forest Ecosystems
- 1:00-2:15 p.m. Technical Session 6, Working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- 2:15-2:35 p.m. Break
- 2:35-5:00 p.m. Business Meeting
- 6:00-10:00 p.m. Awards Banquet

Friday, 2 April

- 7:30-9:00 a.m. Department of Defense Conservation Planning Session
- 9:00-11:30 a.m. Service Breakouts: U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Marine Corps, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- 1:00-3:30 p.m. Board of Directors Meeting

Dave Tazik - tazikd@ex1.wes.army.mil

LOGO BALLOT/QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

The votes are in and have been tallied. Out of 65 votes cast, 33 selected choice "C" as the new NMFWA logo. Choice "A" was second with 13 votes, choice "D" (the current logo) was third with 10 votes, and choice "B" got nine votes. The logos are reproduced below; choices A-C are left to right on the top row.

On the questions asked:

Question #1: Could you access the FAWN if it were posted on the NMFWA web site? Fifty-eight said YES, two said NO, and one said MAYBE. Note:

Many of the smaller installations still do not have full electronic communications, yet.

Question #2: Would you prefer an electronic copy of the FAWN? Thirty-six said YES, 25 said NO, and one said MAYBE. I guess many members still prefer to get a hard copy, but it is obvious that some of our expenses can be reduced through an electronic FAWN for those members that want it.

James Beemer - yj6936@exmail.usma.army.mil



GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Government Affairs Committee (GAC) has been working on a letter to be sent to Secretary Cohen regarding outsourcing and workforce reductions. The GAC is working on compiling information regarding outsourcing and downsizing into a handbook. Points

of contact for various agencies are also being compiled by the GAC. The GAC has been in contact with Peter Boice and the Legacy staff to investigate the legal requirements and guidance for requesting funds through this program.

Mark Hagan - Mark.Hagan@edwards.af.mil

NATIONAL MILITARY FISH AND WILDLIFE ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

The National Military Fish and Wildlife Association (NMFWA) met in the Niagara room of the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Buffalo, New York. The meeting was called to order by President Marjorie McHenry at 1900 on 24 September 1998.

Those present introduced themselves and noted whether they were NMFWA members, received the Fish and Wildlife Newsletter (FAWN), and attended the annual NMFWA conference. Several attendees mentioned that they could only attend the Wildlife Society conference because other personnel would attend the NMFWA conference. It was also noted that some people are not receiving the FAWN. It was mentioned that people don't have to attend the annual conference or pay fees to be a NMFWA member.

Being a member of NMFWA offers an opportunity to network with other biologists and natural resource managers. There is always a need for people to become members of the Board of Directors (BOD) or get involved in other aspects of NMFWA business affairs.

The FAWN comes out only a few times each year and there is a need to update the membership list for NMFWA. Updating the membership list and placing the FAWN on the web page should increase the availability of information.

NMFWA members that have not done so need to vote on changing the logo. Once the logo has been decided, the NMFWA brochure can be finalized. Everyone is encouraged to submit photographs for the brochure. Photographs are also needed for the NMFWA poster.

A Government Affairs Committee (GAC) has been formed this year. A position paper on outsourcing and workforce reductions is being developed. Letters are being written to provide the NMFWA position to

various military departments and other agencies. It was noted that the Defense Quadrennial Review is behind the reductions in military and civilian positions. There are three rounds of reductions planned in July and September 1999 and September 2000. There was some discussion on eliminating functions versus positions with the bottom line being the reduction in the number of positions as the Department of Defense (DOD) goal. Points of contact for other agencies are needed and people are welcome to join the GAC. Most reduction decisions will likely be made at the installation level. The GAC is trying to put information together in a handbook. The GAC is also working on a letter regarding Legacy funding.

It was stated that working groups within NMFWA would be an excellent way to increase communications. A herpetology working group has already been formed. Kim Mello is trying to start up a working group on invasive plants.

A directory of the NMFWA membership with areas of expertise does not exist. Rick Griffiths and Bill Berry might help in developing this type of directory. There is a DOD Pest Management and Natural Resource directory.

Julie Eliason is looking for help in soliciting donations for door prizes, Show-and-Tell, etc. Anyone that knows of businesses or artists that might want to donate should contact Julie Eliason. Volunteers are needed to help at the 1999 NMFWA conference (i.e., working at the registration desk, operating audiovisual equipment). There was some discussion about commercial support at the conference next year, the fact that the NMFWA membership list is not given out, and the possibility of listing supporters in the program.

There being no further discussion the meeting was adjourned at 2015.

Mark Hagan - Mark.Hagan@edwards.af.mil

GO WEST, YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN

The 1999 NMFWA training conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency San Francisco Airport Hotel in Burlingame, California, which is near San Francisco. Our training sessions will be held in conjunction with the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference, which is sponsored by the Wildlife Management Institute (WMI). The WMI conference will be held March 29-30, 1999 and the NMFWA conference will be held immediately following the WMI conference on March 31- April 2, 1999. The cost for attending both conferences is \$200. A bat conservation workshop, sponsored by Bat Conservation International, will be held on Sunday, March 28, 1999,

before the WMI sessions begin. The bat workshop will be limited to 50 participants and an extra registration fee of \$40 will be charged to cover costs for this workshop. The annual NMFWA Show-And-Tell Reception, which is always a source of information and fun, will be held the evening of Wednesday, March 31st. The awards banquet will be held the evening of Thursday, April 1st.

We have two great field trips available, which will be lead by our one-and-only Doug Ripley. A 4-hour trip to the Presidio of San Francisco will be offered the afternoon of Tuesday, March 30th, and a short birding

trip to Coyote Point Park near the Hyatt Regency, will take place the morning of Thursday, April 1st. You can sign up for these informative and interesting field trips when you register for the conference.

San Francisco has something to offer everyone. You can meander through the museums and gardens in Golden Gate Park, walk across the Golden Gate Bridge, visit the shops in historic China Town, ride a trolley car to Fisherman's Warf, visit Alcatraz Island, or take a boat cruise around San Francisco Bay. The Bay Area has great museums, concerts, musicals, and plays to offer, as well as thousands of restaurants to

choose from, offering cuisine from all over the world. The conference location is not far from other scenic areas such as Pt. Reyes National Seashore, Napa wine country, or Highway 1, which travels the dramatic California coastline. Take this opportunity to get the latest information about natural resource protection on DOD lands and explore the Golden State.

If you have not received your registration packet by the end of January, please contact Julie Eliason, Host Committee Chair at DSN 949-8265, CML 805-238-8265. We'll see you in California in March.

THE INRMP

Since taking on the very interesting task of chairing the Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan (INRMP) session in San Francisco, my mind was already on the subject. Now several occurrences on my own base have reinforced some ideas.

I've always considered the INRMP a major document for the base. It's signed by the commanding general, and the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is signed by our vice-commander as Chairman of the Environmental Protection Committee. Pretty hefty stuff; not something the average snuffy wants to mess with. Given this clout, we have established that all other plans affecting natural resources are component plans of the INRMP.

Consider these other plans. There's landscaping, urban forestry, commercial forestry, grazing, Bird Aircraft Strike Hazard (BASH), Integrated Pest Management, land management, wildlife management, fishery management, grounds maintenance, wetlands and floodplains, Threatened/Endangered species, just to name a few. There is potential for some of these plans to be renegades, adversely affecting wildlife and natural resource goals.

However, once the component plan concept is established, all these plans are required to conform to the master INRMP. This places wildlife and natural resources professionals firmly in the review process of all component plans. Obviously, since the INRMP is the master plan, signed by the general, the components must change to come into compliance and eliminate conflict. A conflict between components with others or the INRMP is untenable, and it is incumbent upon the biologists to ensure compatibility.

Ugly as the word may sound, we're talking "control".

This coordination is essential to sound base management. It would be somewhat counter productive, for example, to be nurturing a population of horned lizards (which almost exclusively eat harvester ants) while the entomology shop is out spraying the base for harvester ants. This would be akin to the forestry plan cutting the longleaf pines cordoned off for Red-cockaded Woodpeckers. Stupid conflicts, sure, but they happen every day. Control and conformity are the solution, and this is accomplished through the component plan process.

The INRMP has had a thorough environmental review, and has a signed FONSI. In most cases, the component plans can be umbrellaed under that FONSI. Therefore, everything in the INRMP and its components is environmentally approved. Granted, in some cases, pest management for example, an individual environmental assessment may be appropriate. Still, using the umbrella of the INRMP FONSI can eliminate a lot of work, assessment, staffing, etc.

The use of the FONSI also tightens the control. When an action outside any of the component plans is proposed, it is automatically not authorized because it is not covered by the signed FONSI. An all-new environmental assessment must be written and a FONSI signed.

These controls can be frequently used to prevent unwise, hasty action on your installation. The biologists are ensuring compatibility of all component plans with the INRMP, and the additional clout of the environmental assessment and FONSI further assures control and responsible action.

Don Pitts - Donald.Pitts@dyess.af.mil

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

I am soliciting information and articles related to the conservation of biological diversity on military lands to include in the Biological Diversity Newsletter. This quarterly newsletter is published by the Biological Diversity Working Group of The Wildlife Society.

The intent of the newsletter is to share lessons learned in the application of practical tools, technologies, and techniques in conservation of biological diversity; i.e., moving from theoretical discussion to practical application. Of particular interest is the challenges and opportunities associated with integrating conservation of biological diversity with agency missions.

Articles tend to be in the range of 250 to 1500 words. We would appreciate your ideas and contributions that you might like to make. I would be happy discuss your ideas with you (see contact info below). You may also send your articles directly to the newsletter editor, Mr. Bob Harmes (NGMO-EMN, Skeleton Training Site, Missouri National Guard, Jefferson City, MO 65101-1203; e-mail:harmesr@moarng.ngb.army.mil).

Goals of the working group are to:

- a. Develop and promote a fundamental understanding of the biodiversity concept, the causes and consequences of degradation of biodiversity, and the relationship between biodiversity and socio-economic considerations.
- b. Promote conservation of biodiversity both within the wildlife profession and outside to other professions whose activities have impacts at the regional, national, or international level.
- c. Promote the conservation of biological diversity as a responsibility of professional wildlife biologists, and articulate their role in the management and enhancement of biological diversity.
- d. Promote partnership among international, federal, state and local agencies, nongovernmental organizations, private sector representatives and other interested publics for the conservation of biodiversity.

Dave Tazik - tazikd@ex1.wes.army.mil

The North American Waterfowl Conservation Act has \$500,000 to support projects that evaluate the effectiveness of Act projects and refine linkages between migratory bird population processes and wetland habitats. The program requires matching funds. The request for proposals is anticipated in early 1999. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will administer the grants. For more information contact North American Waterfowl and Wetlands Office, 703-358-1784 or e-mail: r9arw_nawwo@fws.gov.

FIELD NOTES - U. S. AIRFORCE

Andrews AFB, Maryland. Several hundred acres of land under radio transmitter towers at the Brandywine Complex of Andrews AFB, Maryland, are providing a source of native plant seeds for natural revegetation in the Washington, DC, area. For operational reasons, the grasslands require annual mowing, trimming, and other maintenance and the radio control towers and the network of communication lines that underlie the fields prevent any other land use such as crop cultivation or grazing. In the forty years since the antennas were constructed, the sites have developed into lush meadows with a very high diversity of native plants.

Results of the base biological inventory revealed that these grasslands are among the most biologically diverse known in Prince George's County. As outlined in the Base Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan, the base developed a partnership with the National Capital Region of the National Park Service (NPS) in which the NPS uses its equipment and personnel to perform the annual mowing of the prairies in exchange for the hay thus obtained which contains the native plant seeds. The NPS cuts, dries, bales, and removes all seeds and plant propagules for sowing on NPS lands in the National Capital Region. The bene-

fits of this program include a savings by the Air Force of mowing costs while providing an extremely valuable natural seed source for enhancing the biological diversity of important public lands in our Nation's Capital. For additional information contact Brian LaFlamme at laflammeb@andrews.af.mil or DSN 858-2579, commercial (301) 981-2579.

Dover AFB, Delaware. As part of the base biological inventory, Dr. Milton Beck, the base natural resources manager discovered that approximately 17 acres of Eastern deciduous woodlands located within an Explosive Safety Quality Distance arc contained many old trees. After consulting with the Delaware Bureau of Forestry, Dr. Beck and the Delaware State Forester determined that the area contained four or more trees contending for the State of Delaware "Trees of Record" status and that the forest represented one of the best preserved old growth stands in the state. To ensure the protection of the forest, the base designated it as an Ecological Reserve Area through an Inter-agency Agreement with the State of Delaware Bureau of Forestry, the first such designation on an Air Mobility Command base. For additional information

contact Dr. Milton Beck at Milton.Beck@do-ver.af.mil, DSN 445-6850, commercial 302-677-6850.

Arnold AFB, Tennessee. Census data collected at Arnold AFB, Tennessee, during the past 33 years document dramatic increases in Great Blue Herons on the Sinking Pond, a National Natural Landmark located on the 40,000 acre base. According to John Lamb, the base zoologist, a census conducted by the Tennessee Ornithological Society in 1965 revealed a total of 25 active nests in the Sinking Pond rookery. A survey in 1988 revealed the presence of 227 active nests and the most recent survey, performed in June 1998, found heron nests in 319 trees containing 743 active nests! John Lamb estimates that there are 1,500 adult Great Blue Herons nesting in the Sinking Pond area. The Sinking Pond rookery is among the largest in the State of Tennessee and demonstrates dramatically the very special protection that military bases often afford wildlife. For additional information contact Ms. Pam King, DSN 340-7609, commercial 931-454-7609.

Douglas Ripley - Douglas.Ripley@pentagon.af.mil

The Boreal Partners In Flight now has their Web site up and running. Check it out for information on Alaska birds and PIF efforts: <http://www.absc.usgs.gov/research/bpif/bpif.html>. The National site is found at <http://www.PartnersInFlight.org>. - Chris Eberly, DOD Partners In Flight, ceberly@dodpif.org

CECOS COURSE

NATURAL RESOURCES COMPLIANCE
(CANTRAC NO. A-4A-0087, CDP: 3369)
8-12 February 1999 San Antonio, TX
3-7 May 1999 San Diego, CA

This course offers instruction in specific natural resource laws, regulations, policies, Executive Orders, DOD Instructions, and other guidance, noting Service-specific requirements. The course addresses stewardship, preservation, and process; fish, game, and wildlife management laws; protection of wetlands, waterways, and other protected ecological areas; forest and land use management laws; and interservice cooperation. Practical exercises and guest speakers are included.

Target Audience: Natural and cultural resource managers and personnel, environmental lawyers (or law-

yers in that capacity), civil works natural resource managers (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers), natural resources law enforcement personnel, and environmental staffs. Sponsor for this course is CNO (Code N45D).

Register for CECOS FY99 classes online via the CECOS website: <http://www.cnet.navy.mil/cecos/cecos.htm>. If unable to register via internet, call CECOS Registrar at FAX: DSN 551-2918, commercial (805) 982-2918 to request FAX QUOTA REQUEST FORM. Quotas are still available. Information packets will be sent to registered students 4-5 weeks before class start date. Courses are "tuition free" to military and civil service employees of DOD and USCG.

Steve Covell - covellsa@cecos.navy.mil

FIELD NOTES - U. S. MARINES

Bat gate: The Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, CA installed a bat-compatible exclusion gate in the historic "Benchmark 19 Mine" on this facility. The mine was found in a contracted survey to host an important maternal colony of pallid bats (*Antrozous pallidus*) as well as suitable habitat for Townsend's big-eared bats (*Corynorhinus* [= *Plecotus*] *townsendii* - a California species of concern). Probably dating from the 1880's, this mine was being frequented by military personnel for shelter and exploration. Determined to be both hazardous to personnel and suitable bat habitat, a reinforced concrete and re-bar structure was designed and constructed at the mine opening. The design was developed with the advice of local bat biologists and the USFWS. The completed gate keeps unauthorized personnel out, yet allows bats in (and biologists have access with the aid of a unique socket wrench and a removable bar). A video of this project will be available for viewing at the NMFWA Technical Session in March 1999. For additional information, call Rhys Evans at MCAGCC

NREA, (760) 830-7396 x234 or DSN 957-7396 x234, or e-mail evansrm@mcagcc.usmc.mil.

Desert Tortoise Predation Study: The Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, CA will be starting the second season of a project to determine primary mortality causes for the Desert Tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*) at the Center, which is located in the Mojave Desert. The desert tortoise is Federally listed as "threatened" in their range north and west of the Colorado River. The use of radio telemetry, x-rays of gravid females, "thread trailers" and daily monitoring of nests has allowed contractors from Utah State University to locate and attach transmitters to newly hatched tortoises, which weigh less than 25 grams upon hatching. This project will be the topic of a presentation during the Southwest Desert and Arid Lands Management Technical Session at NMFWA Workshop '99. For additional information, call Rhys Evans at MCAGCC NREA, (760) 830-7396 x234 or DSN 957-7396 x234.

THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY 6th ANNUAL CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 7-11, 1999

Excellence in Wildlife Stewardship through Science and Education, Austin, Texas. Deadline for Call for Papers is February 10, 1999. For information, please contact: The Wildlife Society, 5410 Grosvenor Lane, Bethesda, Maryland 20814; (301) 897-9770, FAX (301) 530-2471, email tws@wildlife.org, WEB www.wildlife.org.

Preliminary Program: Accomplishing Wildlife Management in Latin America; An opportunity for North-South cooperation with wildlife conservation in Mexico; Thinking globally and acting locally for wildlife; Motivating the masses: foundations and changing practices in extension conservation education; Conserving biodiversity on non-industrial, private lands; A half-century of a Sand County Almanac; Perspectives on the future of wildlife management from the new professionals; Emerging issues in wildlife management on private lands;

Educating the public on wildlife damage management issues; The use of genetic analysis in the conservation and management of wildlife species; Large mammal restoration; Ecological and sociological considerations; Role of private lands in waterbird conservation along the Gulf Coast; Balancing diversity in the next millenium: scientific and cultural value of human resource diversity in the natural resources profession; Bats and humans: education, conservation, and management; Wildlife dispersal: population implications; Analysis of radiotelemetry data: past, present, and future; Data stewardship: biological metadata to ensure data longevity; Using GIS and remote sensing for better decision making; Excellence in wildlife education: an exchange of ideas; Managing endangered species in an urban environment; Wildlife toxicology; Contributed papers and posters on a wide range of topics.

NMFWA LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING

The 1999 NMFWA Wildlife Law Enforcement Refresher Training will be moved back to the East Coast this year. NAS Oceana has graciously (?) volunteered to sponsor this training during the week of 26-30 April. Cost is \$200 per person, and class size is limited to 35 people.

This course is intended as a refresher for those DOD individuals with prior wildlife law enforcement training. For additional information, please contact Brian Hostetter at (757) 433-3438, DSN 433-3438, or bhoss1@juno.com.

DoD PARTNERS IN FLIGHT

We trust most of you will be able to attend the NAWNRC and NMFWA meetings in California this March. Both agends look great. While not on the formal agenda we will be having a DOD PIF Meeting on Tuesday 30 March, from 1300-1600 in the Bayside A&B Rooms. Please note this and plan to attend. Our intent is to have a strategic planning-type meeting just

for the Regional and Technical Working Group people, rather than the general-type meeting we had last year in Orlando. Please be prepared to discuss issues of concern with your Working Groups as well as general ideas for making the DOD PIF Program more effective.

Joe Hautzenroder - hautzenroderje@hq.navy.mil
Chris Eberly - ceberly@dodpif.org

LEGACY'S 1999 PROGRAM - WHAT'S COMING IN 2000

As most regular FAWN readers know, the Legacy Resource Management Program was established in 1991 to enhance natural and cultural resource stewardship on military lands. The program is guided by three major principles: stewardship, leadership, and partnership. And, these principles underlie our eight areas of emphasis, which are:

- Regional Ecosystem Management
- Integrated Natural Resource Management
- Monitoring and Predicting Migratory Patterns of Birds and Animals
- Curation of DOD Owned and Controlled Archaeological Properties and Documents
- Invasive Species Control
- Cultural Resources Management
- Program Management
- National and International Initiatives

For complete information about Legacy and what types of projects we're now able to fund, please visit our brand new projects database: Legacy Tracker <<http://memphis.lmi.org/int/dienemann/legwelcome.nsf>>. This exciting new tracking system offers an easy-to-use submission system for project applications. It also allows anyone in the field to quickly access information regarding current and past Legacy-funded projects, as well as all proposals submitted for consideration. So, visit the site, register yourself (click on "register" at bottom of the opening screen),

and check it out! For FY99, Legacy will fund 58 projects, totaling \$9.8 million.

As most of you are aware, 1997 Congressional conference language changed the legislative direction of Legacy funding. As of FY98, project fund expenditure is supposed to occur within a single fiscal year (although Legacy gives priority to continuing efforts), and site-specific, single-species projects can no longer be funded. Instead, projects chosen for funding must focus on regional DOD-wide initiatives, promote partnerships and cost efficiencies, support the military mission, and allow for greater flexibility in conflict avoidance. In addition, projects that demonstrate new technologies also qualify for consideration.

In FY98, Legacy funded four projects totaling nearly \$100,000: 1) Biological Control of Purple Loosestrife at Ft. Drum; 2) Exotic Plant Control at Ft. McCoy; 3) Exotic Weed Management Holloman AFB; and 4) Invasive Plant Species Awareness educational project. The PTI Steering Committee will meet in January to determine which of the more than 60 proposals (six of which were submitted by installations) will receive funding.

Many of you have taken the opportunity to e-mail and phone us. We hope you will continue to do so. Although we must deal with the political realities surrounding Legacy and its mission, our ultimate goal is to help those in the field get good conservation done.

Alison A. Dalsimer - dalsimaa@acq.osd.mil