

THE FAWN



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THE WILD SIDE

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

See **FAWN** deadlines on page 2

Let me begin my first “Wild Side” by thanking NMFWA members for selecting me as the Association’s 2003-04 President. I have been with NMFWA since its official establishment in 1983 and have seen it emerge from a backroom gathering of loosely organized but highly-motivated individuals to a well-tuned instrument of professionals whose importance is recognized by conservation organizations nation-wide. We have come a long way in our first 20 years, and we have a lot to be proud of. I am especially pleased to be the lead-off president for the next 20 years.

There are many issues looming on the horizon, and we must be up to the challenge of supporting our membership and ensuring that the natural resources on our installations are protected from environmental misuse and maintained in a state of readiness that provides optimal conditions for training our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines.

I also wish to thank the NMFWA Board of Directors and all committees, working groups, session chairs, speakers, and support personnel for a highly successful annual meeting and training session in Winston-Salem, NC. Jim Bailey is to be commended for putting together an excellent program and ensuring that presentations were of their traditional high quality. Tammy Conkle did her usual excellent job of making sure that everything fell into place. Don Cockman and the Host Committee did a great job supporting the meeting and made sure that

we were properly entertained during the awards banquet. The music was outstanding, and there was much frivolity on the dance floor; I didn’t know Jim Copeland had those kinds of moves left in him (see pg. 19). Our technical sessions addressed important natural resource topics and were well attended not only by NMFWA members but also by representatives of other agencies and organizations. We were especially entertained by the final session entitled “20 Years of NMFWA.” Congratulations go to Tom Warren, Slader Buck, Gene Stout, and Junior Kerns for highlighting historical events and providing some very enlightening (and in some cases somewhat disturbing) facts (?) about some of our members. I especially take issue with Gene’s prediction that I would eventually be NMFWA’s eldest active member and wasn’t planning to retire until the year 2023 (I like even years – 2020 is more to my liking).

What a way to begin my term of office! I had barely gotten my feet wet as President when I found myself on a flight to Washington, DC, to deliver testimony to the House Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans regarding reauthorization of the Sikes Act. The focus of NMFWA testimony was on reauthorization of the Act and ensuring funding and implementation of INRMPs. We emphasized that implementation of INRMPs was critical not only for

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The Wild Side — continued

appropriate conservation of natural resources, but also for protection of the military mission. We also stressed the importance of the Sikes Act requirement that DOD use sufficient numbers of professionally trained Natural Resources management and law enforcement personnel to carry out the preparation and implementation of INRMPS. This is tied to the language in Section 1 of the Act, where the clear, concise language precludes the use of Circular A-76 and any successor process to contract out services necessary for implementation and enforcement. The Association also continued to support access to military lands for all appropriate public uses, such as hunting, trapping, and fishing, with emphasis on supporting the requirements of the Disabled Sportsmen's Access Act. I want to especially thank Junior Kerns for his guidance in developing written NMFVA testimony. Jim Beemer, Jim Bailey, Jim Copeland, Dave Tazik, and Rhys Evans also made significant contributions

The Board is currently dealing with other important issues that potentially affect us as an organization and influence our ability to effectively manage natural resources on military installations. I encourage all members to interact positively with DOD and their respective service branches to promote sound, professional management of DOD administered lands. We must also continue to improve our credibility by working with our organizational partners (e.g., Wildlife Management Institute, The Wildlife Society, American Fisheries Society) to promote the continued conservation and wise use of fish and wildlife resources on government lands. All members are encouraged to visit the NMFVA website at www.nmfva.org and provide articles for publication in the FAWN. If you routinely visit the website, you will notice that several sections have recently been deactivated. We are presently revising the Government Affairs Committee section and membership contact information to ensure that these sections comply with appropriate standards for presentation. They should be back on-line in the near future.

In conclusion, I ask all members to support NMFVA in 2003/04 and become active as committee members and in other support roles. We especially need some of our younger members to step forward and accept positions on the Board and as committee chairs. Several of us have held positions with the Association for many years and will soon need a break. In fact, I recently turned the ripe old age of 60 and am beginning to fear that Gene Stout's statement may come true – not the prediction that I would retire in 2023 but that I would eventually be the oldest active member of NMFVA.

One final note – we are planning a get-together during The Wildlife Society Annual Conference in Burlington, VT, 6-10 Sep 03. Jim Beemer is securing a room for an informal NMFVA meeting; the exact time and place will be announced on our web page at a later date. All NMFVA members present at the conference are invited to attend the meeting.



We sent “HIM” to Testify for Us In Congress????

DEADLINES FOR SUBMITTING ARTICLES TO EDITOR FOR UPCOMING FAWN EDITIONS:

**30 SEPTEMBER for OCTOBER
2003**

**31 DECEMBER for JANUARY
2004**

Articles on installation activities may be submitted through your respective Regional Directors (Eastern Region— Scott Smith and Joe Hovis; Western Region —Coralie Cobb and Hildy Reiser) or directly to me.

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

Mike Passmore
(michael.f.passmore@erdc.usace.army.mil)

NMFWA Board of Directors Meeting March 23, 2003

Meeting was called to order by Jim BEEMER at 1907.

Board members in attendance:

President: Jim BEEMER

President-Elect: Chester MARTIN

Vice-President: Jim BAILEY

Immediate Past-President: Don PITTS

Treasurer: Tammy CONKLE

Newsletter Editor: Mike PASSMORE

Regional Director – East: Joseph HOVIS

Regional Director – East: Scott SMITH

At-Large Director: Rhys EVANS

At-Large Director: Jim COPELAND

Board Members not in attendance:

Secretary: Julie Eliason

Regional Director – West: Coralie Cobb

Regional Director – West: Hildy Reiser (present later in the week)

Other association members in attendance:

Host Committee Chair: Don COCKMAN

Awards Committee Chair: Jim HESSIL

Invasive Species Working Group Co-Chair: Kim

MELLO; Junior KERNES; Rick GRIFFITHS;

Bryan MORRILL

EVANS was appointed to take notes in the absence of ELIASON.

Past President's Report (PITTS):

- Ø Was unable to find many members to run for Board Positions.
- Ø 67 votes were received, all electronic.
- Ø Elected:
 - o President-Elect: Jim Bailey
 - o Vice President: Jim Copeland
 - o Secretary: Hildy Reiser
 - o Regional Director-East: Scott Smith
 - o Regional Director-West: Rafael Corral
 - o At-Large Director: Dick Gebhart

Vice-President's Report: Will report activities at Program Chair

Director's Reports:

- COPELAND: Will report activities at Government Affairs Committee
- EVANS: Will report activities at Outreach Committee
- No report: HOVIS (new in position), SMITH.
- No report: COBB, REISER

President's Report (BEEMER):

- Ø Ten motions were acted upon in the "electronic board meeting." One motion was tabled for Winston-Salem / died for lack of second (later determined to be "overcome by events." This motion (COPELAND), that "NMFWA reopen the Sikes Act and do whatever is necessary to get a moratorium on further contracting" was never seconded.
- Ø Reported on symposium at American Fisheries Society
- Ø Additionally reported on upcoming program on USMA West Point, National Wild Turkey Federation, to be broadcast on TNN
- Ø Reported that he had responded to many e-mails as a result of "contact NMFWA" on website
- Ø Closed report by thanking the Board for their service.

Committee Reports:

- Ø Awards (HESSIL): Brief summary of awards provided, they will be presented at Banquet on Thursday. Judges for "Best Paper" have been selected.
- Ø Archives (for Tom Warren, presented by BEEMER): Warren sent a 30-page report to Beemer and Martin.

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BOD Minutes — continued

- Ø Program (BAILEY):
 - o There will be 7 Technical Sessions (1 was dropped from the program)
 - o ESA Workshop was completed successfully, however with lighter attendance than what was planned
 - o “Environmental Law Workshop” was changed to “Environmental Concerns Workshop,” based on input from HQ US Navy
 - o WMI (Dick McCabe) has asked if NMFWA would designate Program Chair longer in advance of meeting. Discussion. No motion or vote, tabled to incoming BOD.
 - o BAILEY thanked session chairs and speakers in advance
- Ø Host (COCKMAN):
 - o Awards banquet will be off-site at Tanglewood Park.
 - o Newcomers' breakfast off-site at Murphy's Restaurant.
 - o Visitors' Bureau to staff a table co-located with NMFWA to assist members in selecting maps, attractions, eating places, etc.
 - o Obtained approx 70 door prizes.
 - o Ft Bragg donated 55 "Fort Bragg Limited Edition" RCW prints to be given as gifts to speakers and session chairs.
 - o Field trip to Pilot Mountain State Park. Bus transportation cancelled due to fewer than 35 people signing up.
 - o Host Committee will provide a much more detailed after action report to the 2004 host committee chairperson after the conference.
- Ø Membership / Newsletter (PASSMORE):
 - o Presented demographics and membership numbers, Association continues to grow, current membership slightly more than 1000, about 55% voting.
 - o Has list of voting vs. non-voting members. Asked BOD to review.
 - o Encourages members to provide

e-mail addresses, as this saves us very significant printing and mailing costs. We currently have e-mail addresses of approximately 40% of members.

- o Encourage more members to read newsletter on line (either at website or via PDF delivery as e-mail attachment).
- Ø Audit Committee: No report provided
- Ø Government Affairs Committee (COPELAND):
 - o NMFWA has been invited to present (for 5 minutes) at Sikes Act reauthorization hearing, Congressional subcommittee, 10 April
 - o Edwards AFB case is basically closed (note: statements by PEER later in the week appear to contradict this statement)
 - o Copeland is stepping down from committee to concentrate on V.P. and Program Chair Duties.
 - KERNNS has agreed to serve as GAC Chair
- Ø Outreach Committee (EVANS): Report on website, poster and brochure. Website visitation is up. Poster has been displayed at four different meetings this year. Brochure supplies need to be counted and centralized.
- Ø WMI (Thomas Wray, by BEEMER): Request for session topics for 2004 WMI conference in Spokane, sent to Wray by 2 April.
- Ø Reserve Account (SMITH):
 - o Account is currently in low (or no) interest account.

MOTION: (EVANS) Place Reserve Account in interest bearing account. Second: BAILEY.

MOTION PASSED, UNANIMOUS.

- Ø Slight change to guidelines, add “Silent” to item #5

MOTION: (MARTIN) Split revenue from Silent Auction, half to general account, half to reserve account. Second: EVANS. Discussion: BEEMER – table to next Board. KERNNS – Let

Reserve Account Board determine. Also, make them responsible for fund-raising. EVANS – If they take more responsibility for Silent Auction, they can take all proceeds. CONKLE - The amount is currently insignificant. Can't support serious legal action. General discussion: Does the membership care if Silent Auction funds go to Reserve Account? Consensus: Table this issue to the Reserve Committee. MOTION WITHDRAWN. SECOND WITHDRAWN.

- Ø Reserve Account Committee needs an odd number of votes / participants
- Ø Need approval of Reserve Account and RA Committee Guidelines

MOTION: (EVANS) Accept Reserve Account Fund guidelines with one minor change to item #5 as noted above. Also, add, at 1(c): "...other actions as deemed appropriate by the Governing Board." Second: PITTS. **MOTION PASSED, UNANIMOUS.**

- Ø Law Enforcement Committee: No formal report presented. Annual Training will be held at Vandenberg AFB, CA, mid-June.
- Ø Treasurer's Report (postponed from earlier in the meeting, CONKLE had briefly stepped out of the room). 149 pre-registrants (far more than ever before). 7-8 "walk-ups" today. Brief discussion of why we encourage pre-payment by credit card to WMI (to save transaction fees). Also discussed problems with conference pre-registration via the website. Some of the earliest registrants were not successful in completing the registration process, however most of these issues were resolved within about one week. Dec. 17, 2002 balance: \$37,962.32.

MOTION: (PITTS) Approve Treasurer's Report. Second: MARTIN. **MOTION PASSED, UNANIMOUS.**

MOTION: (CONKLE) Give remaining pewter NMFWA pins to attendees at Newcomer's Breakfast. Second: PITTS. **MOTION PASSED, UNANIMOUS.**

Working Group Reports:

- Ø Brief Reports provided by Kim MELLO (Invasive Species), Chester MARTIN

(Bats). No report provided for Herpetology.

Unfinished business:

- Ø BEEMER: Motion (by COPELAND) on December 15 (regarding Sikes Act) is "Overcome by Events." KERNS: "We have no choice, so it doesn't matter."

New Business:

- Ø Meeting sponsorship. Brief discussion followed, EVANS pointed out that we have approved guidelines (which may need to be updated). More discussion of this Friday and by new BOD. TABLED.
- Ø Newcomer's breakfast: 28 pre-registered. Additional BOD members expected to attend.
- Ø MARTIN: Conflict between dates of meetings by NMFWA, AEC and Tri-Service. Determination (not a vote): MARTIN will send an official letter, keeping the tone positive, informing other groups of our already scheduled meetings.
- Ø PASSMORE: Reiterated need for review of membership list, vote/no vote status.
- Ø BEEMER: Received a video from USFWS. Suggested we send it to Silent Auction.
- Ø KERNS: Informed BOD of "Service to America" medals for civilian service. Contact him for additional details.
- Ø BEEMER: Brief discussion of FAIR Act determination and appeal at USMA West Point. All Army Sikes Act functions were determined NOT "Inherently Governmental."
- Ø PITTS: Stated that he has enjoyed nearly eight years on the NMFWA BOD. He will take some time off and return once he has his PhD.
- Ø BEEMER: Official notification to BOD that Eliason had submitted resignation as Secretary, prior to election, due to new non-Federal employment.

MOTION: (BAILEY) Award "ironwood" dolphin to Eliason for service. Second: Martin. **MOTION PASSED, UNANIMOUS.**

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BOD Minutes — continued

MOTION: (PITTS) Award similar item to Alison Dalsimer, for her years of service at Legacy and DoD. Second: Martin. **MOTION PASSED, UNANIMOUS.**

After call for additional business, BEEMER opened floor for motion to adjourn.

MOTION (EVANS): Adjourn Meeting. Second: PITTS. **MOTION PASSED, UNANIMOUS.**

Meeting adjourned at 2112 on the above date.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhys M. Evans
At-Large Director



Go Terry!!

At-Large Director Report
Rhys Evans

Two items to report...

In my last report, I mentioned that I would be chairing a concurrent symposium (technical session) at the annual meeting of the Western Section of The Wildlife Society in Irvine, CA. The subject was

“Current Wildlife Management Practices and Trends on Military Lands.” A total of ten speakers presented (including Tammy Conkle, who heroically jumped in to fill a late cancellation) on a wide variety of topics. We had a rather small room, but it was “Standing Room Only” for a large part of the meeting. I think we’ll try to do it again in a few years – the 2005 meeting in Sacramento will likely get two or three times as many participants. My next item is the normal website update. Our site (www.nmfw.org) continues to provide information and other resources to our members and visitors. We have several North Carolina highlights items, preliminary info for Spokane and more. The Bulletin Board continues to get moderate use. The jobs board has a steady supply of interesting career opportunities. There is always room for more, so if you know of a vacancy announcement, post it! One concern is that our two bulletin boards have been getting more “inappropriate postings” lately – nothing truly offensive or pornographic (yet), but “Spam” nonetheless. If you see an inappropriate message, drop me a line, and we can remove it quickly (Chester and our webmaster can, too).

On the same general subject, we all get more unwanted e-mail these days, so I’ll share a few quick suggestions. Some people establish free, “trash” accounts at Hotmail or similar servers, and only check them occasionally, using these addresses when someone you don’t know asks for your e-mail address. This is a good tactic, but it can defeat the purpose if you don’t check it somewhat regularly for the 2% of valuable information you may get. Another good suggestion is to NEVER, under any circumstances, respond to an unwanted e-mail. Even responding “Please remove my name from your distribution list” is counted as a successful message by some of these creeps. If you’re really angry about unwanted e-mail, write your congressman or your Internet Service Provider – they can do more about it if they hear enough complaints.

That’s it for now. If members have any concerns for your Directors, please let us know...

NMFWA General Business Meeting March 27, 2003

1. Call to order by President J. Beemer at 1506. First order of business was to accept the Secretary's Report as submitted by J. Eliason. Julie Eliason resigned as Secretary for NMFWA because of accepting a new position. Her report is on file.

2. President Beemer called for the Treasurer's Report. T. Conkle announced that pre-registration was "awesome" this year. Individuals pre-registering with Wildlife Management Institute (WMI) saves NMFWA about \$7.50 (2%-3%) for each credit card transaction.

Tammy further discussed the Show & Tell. This event is more expensive to conduct since the organization can no longer bring food into the hotels. Hotels provide the food and beverages that are expensive.

The Threatened and Endangered Species Workshop earned \$1,120.

See report for balances of two principal accounts maintained by NMFWA, the Reserve Account & the Business (Operating) Account.

3. J. Bailey commented that Jim Copeland is sending along a list of ideas for training sessions at the next annual meeting.

4. Pres. Beemer recognized Tammy for her fine efforts as Treasurer.

5. Outgoing Association President Beemer gave his final address to the membership. He reflected on his 11-year association with NMFWA; going back to his first meeting and how welcomed he was into the group. He stated that he felt that NMFWA was "one of the finest group of professionals" he has had the pleasure of working with.

One of the key goals of his tenure was to broaden contact with other professional societies & organizations. He tried to increase the visibility of NMFWA with these other groups. This was critical.

He thanked the Board of Directors & the Committee Chairs for their hard work, and he also thanked the membership for their comments & suggestions during his time in office. He gave particular thanks to R. Griffiths. Pres. Beemer ended by noting that it had been a true honor serving as President of the NMFWA.

6. There was then a call for Director Reports. At-Large Director, R. Evans: 29 folks attended the Newcomers' Breakfast. They discussed having a Newcomers' Lunch at the Spokane, WA, meeting. He said they did this at the Western Section of The Wildlife Society, & that 75-100 folks attended the breakfast.

Eastern Director, S. Smith: C. Petrick left DOD in February 2003, and was replaced by J. Hovis.

Western Director, C. Cobb: no report

Western Director, H. Reiser: For those folks in the SW Region of DOD Partners in Flight (AZ, NM & W. TX), DOD PIF contacts will receive information requests on presence of USFWS Bird Species of Concerns on your respective installations, and other updates in the next few weeks.

7. PEER representative, D. Myers, general council for PEER said a few words. PEER has had a 3-year informal relationship with NMFWA. They have supported state, federal and municipal employees. Sixty non-profit organizations and foundations support their organization.

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Gen Bus Minutes — continued

Mr. Myers continued: PEER gave an “atta-boy” to a Flagship level officer who alerted PEER because he was concerned about a subordinate’s lack of adherence to regulations. PEER has spent \$80-\$90K to date on military concerns/cases. He stressed that PEER needs to get involved early on to work on behalf of any individual that may be the target of punitive actions in whistle-blowing cases, or other forms of harassment.

A major case PEER is involved with involves the Sikes Act and outsourcing of natural resources position at Edwards AFB, CA. Judge Mora (Central CA District) is currently answering the third of three questions on the AF’s motion of dismiss the case. Decision will be occurring during the debate on reauthorization of the bill.

PEER sees 3 major areas of concern:

- 1) Outsourcing – critical debate. PEER has this at the front of their agenda for the next 24 months. PEER feels that NMFWA should be working with PEER to ensure greater protections in the Sikes Act.
- 2) Sikes Act Revision
- 3) DOD exemptions from major environmental legislation. This is an explosive issue. PEER leaked the internal DOD (Wolfowitz’s) briefing on getting exemptions through executive orders/ rulemaking vs legislation to the Senate. PEER see most folks on the Hill having little knowledge on this issue and thus the issue is running below the radar. DOD would basically like to eliminate compliance to natural resources laws/ legislative mandates

8. T. Wright spoke next on the Society of Range Management. He has been a member for 20 yrs. For the June 2004 meetings in Salt Lake City, he would like to see a NMFWA sponsored session. Soliciting ideas and actually presentations from NMFWA members. B. Bivings said he will send out an e-mail to Army Force Protection Com bases. R. Griffiths said he would assist with this event. R. Evans made a motion to support T. Wright’s

suggestion. **THE MOTION CARRIED FOR NMFWA TO SUPPORT A SESSION AT THE 2004 SOCIETY OF RANGE MANAGEMENT.** Depending on response from members, T. Wright would either arrange for a 1/2 day or full day session.

9. Committee Reports followed general business. Awards – J. Hessel: He received a number of good nominations for each category. S. Cannon won 2002 Best Paper Award in the Technical sessions last year.

Archives - T. Warren: No report

Program Chair – J. Bailey: Brochure fee to Wildlife Management Institute (WMI) was \$574.88. He thanked all the session chairs and the host committee for their hard work & making this year’s program a success. (Round of applause from the meeting attendees.)

Host – D. Cockman: “I’m ready to hand the job off to the next person.”

Law Enforcement: Last training session was in Alaska. There was a great turn-out. The 2003 training will be held at Vandenburg AFB, CA, 16-20 June. Preregister by phone or e-mail to Stan Rogers. Posting will also be on the NMFWA’s website. Major concern continues to be problem of getting enforcement officers trained through FLESI. All the services need to get together to move forward with commitment to standardization of training & enter into formal agreement/ partnership with FLESI.

Membership/Newsletter – M. Passmore: Membership has broken the 1000 member barrier (1015 total). The organization has increased by 200 in the last 2 years. Brief breakdown: 55% voting members, and 17% are non-DOD affiliated. Most members are associated with the Army. Three issues of the newsletter have been published. Use of electronic mailing has saved over \$500.00 in bulk mailing costs (savings probably closer to \$700-\$800). However, the editor only has e-mail addresses for 40% of the membership. This is a priority to improve this percentage. Passmore asked the members to go to the website and refill out the membership form.

Outreach – R. Evans: Reported that the organization is getting low on NMFWA brochures. The posture was displayed at 4 meetings in 2003. W. Deal helped with updated the info and photos. In order to get the display to someone, he needs 10-14 day advance notice. Visitation to the website is up. There were over 4,500 visits since January 2003. The Bulletin Board link is lightly used. The Job Board is the 4th most visited site, but few jobs are listed.

Government Affairs – J. Copeland: Separate report submitted.

Reserve Account – S. Smith: His draft report was accepted. He thanked D. Meyers for his assistance.

WMI – T. Wray: In the middle of April, WMI will meet for program/idea discussions for the 2004 WMI program. Tom would like a lot of input from NMFWA folks. The ideas should be policy oriented, and he needs a 2-3 sentence write-up.

Nomination Committee - D. Pitts: He begged folks to run for office. There was only one contested election, Eastern Region Director. S. Smith beat T. Smith. Director at Large was D. Gephardt; R. Corral was elected as Western Regional Director; H. Reiser as Secretary; J. Copeland as Vice-President, and J. Bailey is new President elect.

10. Working Group (WG) Reports:

Herpetology – T. Bashore: This WG is well attended, but only 27 official members (including 6 new members). Long-term monitoring of herps is one of the group's most important goals. The WG recently adopted SSAR nomenclature system. The chairman is T. Bashore, and J. Lamb is the recording secretary. So far, they have a listing of 125 herp-associated projects on 134 installations. There have been 291 confirmed species and subspecies identified on DOD installations. Guidance for Conservation of Herps on DOD Installations as developed by the WG was also recently adopted by DOD.

Invasive Species – K. Mello: This WG had 90 members, but looks like they will break 100 members in 2003. New officers were elected. A big effort within the WG right now is to stress information exchange. There are 2 subcommittees, website and database committees. They sent out survey, but only got 18 responses. A dismal response level.

Bat – C. Martin: C. Martin is beginning a 2-year term as chairman of this WG. R. Evans is the recording secretary. The Bat WG has its charter approved. There are 20 official members, but there were 45 attendees to the 2003 WG meeting.

11. Unfinished Business: none noted.

12. New Business: 10 April is the day scheduled for Sikes Act hearing on Capitol Hill. C. Martin will be giving testimony.

13. Floor Opened: J. Kerns: Sikes Act reauthorization is important for all of us. Kerns has accepted taking over the assignment as Govt. Affairs Committee chair, especially to see SA reauthorization through. In the reauthorization, primary focus will be on securing language for mandatory funding of INRMPs, on-site DOD personnel to manage resources and law enforcement duties. There will be no public position on the DOD's legislative initiatives to be exempted from a wide variety of environmental laws. Asked for input from the membership.

T. Poole: Told the membership about the 2003 TWS meetings in Burlington, VA, 6-10 September. Encouraged folks to attend.

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Gen Bus Minutes — continued

T. Bashore: Talking about the photography exhibit contest. Wanted to know how did the categories for entries come about? They want to add a Botany Category for 2004. Encouraged the membership to take more photos & submit them.

T. Stance: Talked about the decline of Northern Bobwhite Quail. It has been severe the last few years, and he wanted to form an Upland Game Bird Working Group. J. Beemer suggested he post his idea on the Bulletin Board and put in blurb in the FAWN to see if any interest is generated. He could then go from there.

H. Hirsch: She has been working on the law enforcement training/FLESI issue. Army & Navy say its not important; the Air Force is sort of agreeing with that stance, and the Marine Corp is moving forward with writing a Marine Corp order. Marine Corp is starting to draft a MOU with FLESI. Senator Grassley would be the button to push on this issue.

M. Dunning: DOD has to show commitment on this issue. There are 2 issues: standardized training & credentials for all DOD conservation officers, and DOD needs to “join” FLESI. P. Boice has not sent anything on this issue up to the Services.

B. Bivings: He will try to change the Army’s mind on this.

M. Dunning: This whole issue has been around since 1986, and no progress has been made. He is getting frustrated.

M. Sledge, Elmendorff AFB, Chief Conservation Agent: No one has asked the field folks what they need; our needs are not solicited.

D. Cockman: Surprised that Army leaders are not aware of this issue.

The discussion waned, with no motions or real conclusions.

J. Beemer: recommended that the elections should all be electronic on the website. Voting was record low, with only 67 ballots cast.

New President, C. Martin, made a few comments. He has been a long-term member, and he is committed to improving the organization. He challenged each member, especially new members to become active in the organization through commitment. He thanked the new Board of Directors.

T. Glick made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by D. Pitts.

Meeting was adjourned at 1629.

2004 NMFWA Training Session

“The Endangered Species Act and the Military Mission: Is There a Common Ground?”

The session will address the challenges to the military mission that ESA poses and some ways that we have found to deal with them. Ideally, we would like several presentations on good news stories from installations, one or two from installations where ESA is negatively impacting the mission, and one or two presentations from the military or higher command point of view.

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





**TO RUN FOR A NMFWA BOARD
POSITION IN 2004. CONTACT JIM
BEEMER AT
RAVENWINDRIDER@EARTHLINK.NET
OR BY PHONE AT 845-938-3857.**

2003 Awards Committee Report

Committee Chair: Jim Hessel
Committee Members: Jim Copeland,
Rhys Evans, Kim Mello, Dan Gonnering

Twelve award nomination packages were received before the deadline, representing all seven categories of the Special Achievement Awards. Nominations were divided among the following categories: Professional-Technical (1), Professional-Management (3), Professional Law Enforcement (1), Civilian Support of Natural Resources (2), Military Support of Natural Resources (1), Volunteer Education (1) and Volunteer Management (3). The committee voted on the nominees for each category to determine the award recipients. Award recipients will be presented acrylic awards in recognition of their accomplishments at the NMFWA Awards Banquet on March 27, 2003. The recipients are the following:

Mr. Thomas A. Wright

Professional Management Special Achievement
Award: For His Outstanding Contributions to
Natural Resources Management at 26 Navy and
Marine Corps facilities in the Chesapeake Bay
Watershed

Mr. Christopher Pray

Professional-Technical Special Achievement
Award: For His Exemplary Efforts in Support of
Natural Resources Programs
At the U.S. Military Academy, NY

Dr. Michael Passmore

Volunteer Education Special Achievement
Award: For His Exemplary Efforts as Newsletter
Editor for NMFWA

Mr. Mark Sledge

Professional Law Enforcement Special
Achievement Award: For His Outstanding
Service as a Conservation Enforcement Specialist
at Elmendorf Air Force Base, AK

**Marine Wing Support Squadron 373, Third
Marine Aircraft Wing**

Military Support of Natural Resources Special
Achievement Award
For Their Exceptional Contributions to the Natural
Resources Program at
Marine Corps Air Station Miramar

Mr. Lowell Stevens

Civilian Support of Natural Resources Special
Achievement Award
For His Exceptional Efforts in Support of Natural
Resources Stewardship at Fort Bragg, NC

Bragg Chapter of Quail Unlimited

Volunteer Management Special Achievement Award
For Their Outstanding Habitat Improvement Efforts
at Fort Bragg, NC

The Board of Directors evaluated a nomination for a Lifetime Achievement Award. After reviewing the nomination the Board agreed to recognize Colonel Thomas Lillie with a Lifetime Achievement Award for his outstanding contributions to natural resources stewardship as Military Liaison, Department of Interior.

The Awards committee spent \$252.47 on seven awards. The Board of Directors authorized this expenditure.

The Awards Chair will select several individuals from workshop attendees to judge for the Best Presentation Award. The Best Presentation Award will be announced at the NMFWA Awards Banquet on March 27, 2003.

I would like to thank everyone who took the time to submit an award nomination and recognize folks making outstanding contributions to natural resources management on DoD lands. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Board and Awards Committee members for their efforts with this year's nomination process. It was a pleasure to serve with them.

Respectively Submitted:
Jim Hessel
Chair, NMFWA Awards Committee
March 21, 2003

Technical Presentations Winston-Salem, NC 2003

Abstracts of these presentations can be viewed at: www.nmfwa.org

Technical Session A INVASIVE SPECIES

Introduction to Technical Sessions Jim Bailey

Chair: Dick Gebhart

USAERDC, CERL, Champaign, IL

Why DoD is Interested in Invasive Species.

Alison Dalsimer, Natural Resources DoD Legacy Program - CTR 3400 Defense Pentagon, Rm. 3E791 Washington, DC 20301-3400; (703) 604-1774; fax: (703) 607-3124; [alison.dalsimer\(AT\)osd.mil](mailto:alison.dalsimer(AT)osd.mil)

NBII Tools for Invasive Species Management.

Dorothy M. Gibb, Ph.D., *Horne Engineering Services, Inc., 2750 Prosperity Avenue, Suite 450, Fairfax, VA 22031-4312, (703) 641-1100, dgibb@horne.com*; Annie Simpson, *NBII, National Program Office-USGS, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, VA, 20192, (703) 648-4281, asimpson@usgs.gov*; Lee Graham, Ph.D., *HARC, 4800 Research Forest Drive, The Woodlands, Texas, 77381, (281) 364-6018, lgraham@harc.edu*; John "Jack" Hill M. Hill, Ph.D., *NBII, 4800 Research Forest Drive, The Woodlands, Texas, 77381, (281) 363-7999, jhill@harc.edu*.

Pricing Invasive Plant Management

Steven Manning, Invasive Plant Control, Inc

Invasive Species Policy

Christopher P. Dionigi, Assistant Director for Domestic Policy, Science, and Cooperation National Invasive Species Council, Department of the Interior, Office of the Secretary, 1849 C Street, N.W. Washington, DC 20240, main: (202) 513-7245, direct: (202) 354-1876, fax: (202) 371-1751, Chris_Dionigi@IOS.DOI.gov

Fort A.P. Hill's Integrated Non-native Invasive Plant Management Plan
Matthew Hohmann, U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center, Construction Engineering Research Laboratory, P.O. Box 9005, Champaign, IL 61826

Technical Session B

MONITORING AND SCIENTIFIC VALIDITY

Chair: Terry Bashore

Langley Air Force Base, VA

Science: a public trust.

Terry L. Bashore

Raptor Associations With Prairie Dog Colonies: Implications For Bird Air Strike Risk.

Merriman J. W., P. J. Zwank, Clint W. Boal, and Terry L. Bashore

Duration and Frequency of Poned Water on Three Playas in the western Mojave Desert, California

Robert Lichvar, Greg Gustina and Robert Bolus

Light, Carbon Dioxide And Octenol-Baited Mosquito Trap And Host-Seeking Activity Evaluations For Mosquitoes In A Malarious Area Of The Republic Of South Korea. Douglas A. Burkett, Won J. Lee, Kwan W. Lee, Heung C. Kim, Hee I. Lee, Jong S. Lee, E. H. Shin, Robert A. Wirtz, Hae W. Cho, David M. Claborn Russel E. Coleman and Terry A. Klein

An Experimental Approach for Predicting Short- and Long-Term Effects of Training Activities at Multiple Scales.

Justin E. Herrick USDA Jornada Range Experiment Station, Las Cruces, NM, Jayne Belnap, USGS, Moab, UT, M. Hildegard Reiser, Holloman AFB, NM and Justin Van Zee USDA Jornada Range Experiment Station, Las Cruces, NM

continued..... page 14

Tech Abstracts — continued

Technical Session C

Wildlife and Fisheries Oriented and Utilization-based Appreciation Opportunities on Military Lands

Chair: Thomas Smith

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Engineer Research and Development Center, Construction Engineering Research Laboratory Champaign, IL 61826 (217-352-6511 x7414) [Thomas.smith@erdc.usace.army.mil]

National Wildlife Refuge System Overlays on DoD lands - A Beneficial Partnering Effort or an Unworkable Challenge? – Slader Buck

Rapid Assessment Screening of Conservation Assets and Liabilities (RASCAL) Methodology
George Teachman

National Rifle Association and Conservation

Robert “Doug” Merrill, National Rifle Association Regional Representative, Fariview, NC (828-628-0410) [Rmerrill@narhq.org]

National Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife Associated Recreation

Rob Southwick Southwick Associates, Inc., P.O. Box 6435, Fernandina Beach, FL 32035 (904-277-9765) [Rob@Southwickassociates.com]

Women in the Woods – The Devens Experience

Thomas Poole U.S. Army, Ft. Devins, MA (978-796-2747) [tom.poole@DEVINS.ARMY.MIL]

Practical Applications of Bowhunting on DoD Lands and in Urban Settings

J.R. Absher, International Bowhunting Organization, P.O. Box 398, Vermillion, OH 44089 (440-967-2137). [ibo@ibo.net]

Modern Day Trappers – Opportunities for Ecosystem and Wildlife Management

Robert Colona Conservation Director, National Trappers Association, P.O. Box 632018, Nacogdoches, TX 75963
[NTAheadquarters@nationaltrappers.com]

Falconry – Ancient Hunting Methods in Modern Times

Bob Pendergrass Southeastern Director, North American Falconers Association, 6620 Bringle Ferry Road, Salisbury, NC 28146.
[bobpend@co.rowan.nc.us]

Technical Session D

SURVEY AND MONITORING TECHNIQUES

Chair: Don Pitts

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, ERDC, Champaign, IL

Innovative Inventory and Monitoring Techniques for the Indiana Bat: Canine Assisted Detection of Maternity Roosts and Species Identification via DNA Analysis of Scat.

Matt Hohman, US Army Corps of Engineers, ERDC-Champaign, P.O. Box 9005, Champaign, IL 61826. (217-352-6511)

Using Automated Radiotelemetry To Monitor Wildlife Activity

Larry Pater, David Delaney, WM. Cochran and George W. Swenson Jr. US Army Corps of Engineers, ERDC-Champaign, P.O. Box 9005, Champaign, IL 61826 (217-352-6511)

Desert Tortoise Line Distance Sampling – (Another) Update.

Rhys M. Evans, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Division, Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command, Twenty-nine Palms, CA

Surveying for Gopher Tortoises (*Gopherus polyphemus*)

Deborah Epperson, The Nature Conservancy, Camp Shelby Field Office, CSTS-ENV, Building 6678, Camp Shelby, MS

Monitoring of the Endangered Species, Louisiana Quillwort (*Isoetes louisianensis*), on Camp Shelby Training Site, MS.

Lisa Yager, Camp Shelby Field Office, CSTS-ENV, Building 6678, Camp Shelby, MS 39407 (601-558-2931) [lyager@tnc.org]

Attempts At Using Archeological Instrumentation for Locating Egg Clutches of the Gopher Tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*).

Don Pitts, Army Corps of Engineers, ERDC-Champaign. P.O. Box 9005, Champaign, IL 61826. d-pitts@cecer.army.mil



Technical Session E

Wildlife Hazards: What Managers Need to Know

Chair: Hildy Reiser
Holloman Air Force Base, NM

Federal Laws, Rules, Regulations and Required Permits Associated with Hazards to Wildlife.

Tom Bennett, USFWS, Div. of Law Enforcement, Raleigh, NC

Raptor Electrocution Retrofitting at the US Army Dugway Proving Ground.

Rick Harness, EDM International, Inc., Ft. Collins, CO.

Ospreys, *Pandion haliaetus*, are Not Cleared for Landing or Take Off at Otis Air Force Base.

Joanne Mason, Univ. of Mass Cranberry Station, East Wareham, MA

Avian Protection Plans - The Essential Elements

Rick Harness, EDM International, Inc., Ft. Collins, CO

Technical Session F

WILDLIFE HEALTH (DISEASES AND PARASITOLOGY)

Chair: Rhys M. Evans
US Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command, Twenty-nine Palms, CA

Disease and Parasitism: Introductory Remarks and Rambling Thoughts.

Mark Hagan, Nat. Resource Manager, Edwards AFB, CA

Prevalence and Distribution of Upper Respiratory Tract Disease in Gopher Tortoises (*Gopherus polyphemus*) at Camp Shelby Training Site

Deborah Epperson and Colleen Heise, Camp Shelby Field Office, The Nature Conservancy

Parasites of the Black-tailed Jackrabbit, *Lepus californicus texianus*, in the Trans-Pecos Region of Texas. Don Pitts, Construction Engineering Research Laboratory, Army Corps of Engineers, Champaign, IL. (217-367-4987) [d-pitts@cecer.army.mil]

Chronic Wasting Disease on White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico

Patrick Morrow, Wildlife Biologist, Environmental Stewardship Division, CSTE-DTC-WS-ES-ES, White Sands Missile Range, NM 88002 (Phone: 505-678-7095, DSN: 258-7095) [morrowp@wsmr.army.mil]

West Nile Virus and Birds: Current status, knowledge, and trends

Chris Eberly, Dept. of Defense Partners in Flight, The Plains, VA; Patti Bright, American Bird Conservancy, The Plains, VA

Viruses – Old and Emerging Wildlife Disease

Agents. Thomas Smith, US Army Corps of Engineers, Engineer Research and Development Center, Construction Engineering Research Laboratory, Champaign, IL (217-352-6511) [thomas.smith@erdc.usace.army.mil]

Avian Cholera and Avian Botulism: Preparedness or Paranoia?

Rhys M. Evans, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Division, Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command, Twenty-nine Palms, CA

Technical Session G

20 YEARS OF NMFVA

Chair: Tom Warren
Fort Carson, CO

It's going to be a surprise.
(and it was!)

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**Army Recognizes Top
 Environmental Programs**
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WASHINGTON (Army News Service, Feb. 6, 2003) -- Army programs making strides in endangered species protection, historic preservation, waste reduction, environmental restoration and pollution prevention received recognition Jan. 22, 2003, as the Army announced winners of its highest honor for environmental stewardship.

The Army presented the 2002 Secretary of the Army Environmental Awards to six installations and two teams on March 18 during a ceremony at the Garrison Commanders Conference in Charlotte, NC. This year's winning accomplishments include returning a species of wild turkey to its historic habitat, restoration of a World War II defense outpost in Alaska, preservation of one of the oldest active military bases in Texas, a 40-percent reduction in land-filled solid waste in California, and a 70 percent reduction in pesticide use in Hohenfels, Germany. Each year, environmental professionals from around the world compete for Department of the Army awards in natural resources conservation, cultural resources management, environmental quality, pollution prevention and environmental restoration. Award winners stand out as leading examples of how the Army invests in environmental stewardship on the 16.7 million acres of land it manages while it trains and prepares America's soldiers to fight the global war on terrorism. Environmental stewardship plays a crucial role in the Army's readiness mission, according to officials from the U.S. Army Environmental Center at Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD. They said the Army invests in environmental programs to move beyond mere compliance with regulations and sustain realistic training and testing capabilities in the most responsible ways possible. These investments have resulted in the conservation of some of the

nation's most pristine and biologically diverse ecosystems and valued cultural sites, USAEC officials said.

Following are highlights from winning programs for each award category.

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION

U.S. Army Intelligence Center and Fort Huachuca, AZ., is reintroducing the Gould's Wild Turkey to its historic habitat. The center is discovering rare barking frog populations and reducing water use by nearly 50 percent since 1993. Fort Riley, KS, was the runner-up.

CULTURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (Team)

The "Formerly Used Defense Sites" project team, Alaska District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, was awarded for the cleanup and restoration of Fort Tidball, a historically significant World War II defense outpost on the 1,320-acre atoll of Long Island (about 6 miles east of Kodiak Island in Alaska). The runner-up award went to the cultural resources team, Fort Drum, NY.

CULTURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (Installation)

The Texas Army National Guard is continuing its stewardship of three historical sites: the Camp Mabry Historic District, in Austin, which is Texas' third oldest active military installation and listed on the National Register of Historic Places; Camp Bowie (Burned Rock Middens) in Brownwood; and the Antoine Wine Cellar at Camp Swift near Bastrop, TX. Fort Drum, NY, is the runner-up.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (U.S. Installation).

The Texas Army National Guard is substantially decreasing hazardous waste through reuse and recycling, including reducing waste from paint solvent by 136 percent and anti-freeze by 360 percent. The command is recovering 1,800 gallons of motor oil and 3,100 gallons of diesel fuel.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (Overseas Installation)

The 282nd Base Support Battalion, Hoenfels, Germany, is opening a state-of-the-art hazardous waste control center and collecting 3,358 tons of recyclables. The BSB is cutting the use of pesticides by 70 percent and reducing sludge disposal by 80 percent.

POLLUTION PREVENTION (Installation)

The National Training Center and Fort Irwin, CA, is reducing waste going to landfills by 40 percent through recycling and composting. The NTC is saving 44 million gallons of water annually by modifying a reverse osmosis plant and a vehicle wash facility. NTC is also composting 60,000 cubic yards of wood pallets, ammo boxes, target scrap and yard waste. Fort Campbell, KY, is the runner-up

POLLUTION PREVENTION (Team)

The Pollution Prevention team, U.S. Forces Command headquarters, GA, is developing the Installation Sustainability Program, an Army-wide pollution prevention initiative to reduce constraints on military training, enhance the quality of life for soldiers and their families, and improve community relations. The program lays out a plan for installations to achieve a positive balance between military readiness and environmental stewardship. Anniston Army Depot, AL, is the runner-up.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION

Letterkenny Army Depot, PA, is awarded for accomplishments in the long-term cleanup of soil and groundwater at sites first used in the 1940s for the maintenance, modification, storage and demilitarization of vehicles, missiles and ammunition. The depot removed 14,300 tons of contaminated soil from scrap yards, landfills and storage areas. IT pursued advanced technologies to clean groundwater through three pilot programs that test the use of injecting hydrogen peroxide and other solutions into the groundwater's bedrock aquifer to identify contaminants and neutralize them. The U.S. Army Garrison, Fort Detrick, MD, is the runner-up.

2004 NMFVA Training Sessions

Fellow NMFVA members,
We stand poised in our bateaux and flatboats ready to set off on a Voyage of Discovery beyond the Great Divide..... Well OK, maybe we are not Lewis and Clark or even Sacajawea, but we are going on to Spokane for NMFVA '04 anyway.

Planning for the Technical Sessions is well on its way, but we really need your 2 cents worth. Please peruse the topics and see if you do not see a presentation that you could give or perhaps nominate someone that you would like to see tell us more about their area of expertise. Then call the session chair with your idea or call me. The '04 program is a team effort, and without your paddling we will never make it up the Missouri River!!

Jim Copeland, Program Chair, COM 601-679-2482, DSN 637-2482; jim.copeland@cnet.navy.mil

1. Burning for You: Prescribed Fire. DoD Fire Policy/Planning, Fire's Role in Ecosystem Restoration

Chair — Dan Gonnerring, Camp Douglas, WI; DSN 871-1397, Daniel.Gonnering@wicrtc.ang.af.mil

a. **Starting Cooperative Burns With The Nature Conservancy;** Sabrina Kirkpatrick, Fort Chaffee Maneuver Training Center, AR; DSN 962-2883, COM 479-484-2883; sabrina.kirkpatrick@ar.ngb.army.mil

b. **DoD Burning Policies, How's and Why's;** Peter Black, Camp Lejeune, NC; DSN: 484-2195, COM 910-451-2195/5549; BLACKPETE@C1b.USMC.mil

c. **Training and Burning, National Interagency Prescribed Fire Training Center Cooperative Agreements with DoD;** Phil Weston, Director of NIPFTC; COM 850-523-8633; Phillip_Weston@fws.gov

continued..... page 18

2004 Sessions — continued

2. INRMPs: How Well are They Implemented? Effectiveness of INRMP's, Measures of Merit

Chair — Ron Smith, COM 404-464-8752, Ronald.Smith4@usacrc-emh2.army.mil

a. **Implementing INRMPs at Remote Air Force Sites in Alaska;** Gene Augustine, 611CES/CEVP, Elmendorf AFB, AK; COM 907-552-0788; Gene.Augustine@ELMENDORF.af.mil

b. **Native American Consultation for INRMPs;** Dell Greek, Fort McCoy, WI; COM 608-388-4795; Wendell.Greek@emh2.mccoy.army.mil

c. **Implementation of Naval INRMPs;** Tamara Conkle, Navy Region Southwest, San Diego, CA; COM 619-545-3703; Conkle.Tamara@ni.cnrsw.navy.mil

d. **FWS Views on INRMPs;** Debra Schlafmann, CA-NV Ops. Office FWS, Sacramento, CA; COM 916-414-6464; debra_schlafmann@fws.gov

e. **Implementation of Camp Pendleton INRMP;** Ken Quigley, Natural Resources Dept., MCB Camp Pendleton, CA; DSN 365-9733

Backup Speaker: Lessons Learned from 100 INRMPs; Gene Stout, Gene Stout & Assoc., Loveland, CO; COM 970-663-4393

3. The Endangered Species Act and the Military Mission: Is there a Common Ground?

The session will address the challenges to the military mission that ESA poses and some ways that we have found to deal with them. Ideally, we would like several presentations on good news stories from installations, one or two from installations where ESA is negatively impacting

the mission, and one or two presentations from the military or higher command point of view.

Cochairs — Jim Hessel, Fort Huachuca, AZ; DSN 821-7084; james.hessel@us.army.mil and Kim Mello, Fort McCoy, WI; DSN 280-5766; kim.mello@emb2.mccoy.army.mil

4. How is Ecosystem Management Being Implemented on Your Installation?

Chair — Jean O'Neil, Waterways Experiment Station, ERDC; COM 601-634-3641; ONEILL@WES.ARMY.MIL

5. Hunting, Fishing and Wildlife Law Enforcement after September 11

Chair — Brian Hostetter; COM DSN 462-4571; hostettereb@pwnorva.navy.mil

6. Fisheries: (AFS will pick topic and speakers)

7. **Implementing INRMPs on a Shoestring?** The session will highlight installations that successfully implement their INRMPs with minimum funding: the ways they team with other units on base and partner with off-base groups. This is your chance to 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

8. Catchall Session

Chair — Robbie Knight, Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach, Det. Fallbrook (code N45WK); COM 760-731-3425, DSN 873-3425; Knight.Robert@sbeach.navy.mil

Back to Genesis — the Judeo-Christian philosophical underpinnings of caring for the earth. Richard A. Clewell, Installation Management Agency, Northwest Region, Rock Island, IL; DSN 793-8252; clewellr@ria.army.mil

Lewis and Clark — the US Army's first baseline environmental survey. Joseph P. Dudley, PhD; COM 703-693-0551; joseph.dudley@hqda.army.mil



NMFWA Banquet Action 2003

Legacy Funds Available for Department of Defense National Public Lands Day Projects – September 20, 2003

Funds are available for base-level projects that support the goals of National Public Lands Day (NPLD) for any Department of Defense site. The goal of National Public Lands Day is to improve the quality of public lands and to educate the public about natural resource issues and stewardship. The focus this year will be improving and preserving this country's habitats – the forests, mountains, prairies, plains, rivers, wetlands, and urban streams that are home to a rich diversity of animals, birds and plants.

The 10th annual National Public Lands Day will be held September 20, 2003. Military installations that permit public use of facilities for recreation, and would like to participate in National Public Lands Day 2003, are eligible to apply for DoD Legacy funds of up to \$6,000. *The deadline for applications is April 1, 2003.* Priority will be given to projects that emphasize improving habitats. Funds may be used for tools and equipment, materials, and enhancements such as trail materials.

Coordinated by the National Environmental Education & Training Foundation (NEETF), National Public Lands Day is a public/private

partnership that last year garnered nearly 70,000 volunteers. These volunteers contributed \$8 million worth of improvements to 430 sites in all fifty states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Japan, and Germany. In 2002, there were 15 military sites participating in the event. NEETF provides approved sites with a checklist/manual, promotional posters and brochures, a press kit, and items of appreciation for volunteers. NEETF also works with each site to help develop an effective environmental education component to the project.

NEETF plans to announce awards by **May 15, 2003**. NEETF will distribute funds, and will require a purchase order from successful applicants or their vendors. We anticipate providing funds to approved sites in early July of 2003. For more information, visit www.npld.com or contact Robb Hampton at 202-833-2933, ext. 462 or hampton@neetf.org.

NEETF, 1707 H Street, NW, Suite 900, Washington, DC 20006, Fax: 202-261-6464

Society for Range Management Annual Meeting 24-29 January 2004

The 57th annual meeting of the SRM will be held in Salt Lake City, UT. There will be a session on natural resource management on DOD lands and I am soliciting abstracts for the meeting. Over my years associated with SRM, many did not realize that DOD is the 3rd largest federal land manager and the members are amazed at the extensive work we do as natural resource managers. Besides getting to interact with many NRCS, BLM, FS land managers, many of those leaders attend these meetings and it is a great opportunity to show these agencies what a great NR steward DOD is.

Before 1 September, please enter your abstract at this website: <http://srm2004.byu.edu/program.asp> The session is "Integrated Natural Resource Management on Department of Defense Lands". I encourage each of you (especially those out west) to submit a presentation. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at wrightta@efaches.navfac.navy.mil or 202-685-3447.

Tommy Wright
Natural Resource Manager, EFACHES

Ecological Society of America 2003 Annual Meeting

SEMP partners, and those interested in DoD land management issues....

As we have previously noted, and placed on the SEMP calendar at the website (www.cecer.army.mil/KD/SEMP), our evening session is definitely in the program. Here is the way it is listed in the preliminary program. Note that there was no advance sign-up for it in the registration process because we aren't charging any fee to attend!

We would like to see you there!

EV-5: Ecosystem Management Challenges for Defense Installations
Monday, August 4, 8 PM to 10 PM, Hyatt Regency Savannah, Second Floor, Regency Ballroom B

ORGANIZERS:

William D. Goran
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Hal Balbach
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DESCRIPTION:

The U.S. Department of Defense conducts training and testing missions on over 25 million acres of land and adjoining waters across the nation. More space is likely to be needed to support future military training and testing requirements. Management of these Defense land, water, and airspace resources involves a

challenging balance between mission requirements and stewardship. It is critical to undertake ecological research in order to meet this challenge. Some of these key questions include: (1) the role of Defense installations in regional ecosystem planning; (2) unique research questions regarding ecosystem management on Defense lands such as sustainable use dynamics, scale and patterns of disturbance on Defense installations, thresholds of mission impacts, nutrient dynamics, and relative productivity; (3) resolving competing national goals: military readiness and stewardship; and (4) concerns regarding encroachment, threatened and endangered species, and invasive plants and animals. This session will identify these challenges, discuss how Defense land managers currently meet them, and compare ecosystem management issues on Defense installations with similar issues on other public lands.

Hal Balbach
(h-balbach@cecer.army.mil)

The Wildlife Society 2003 Conference Burlington, Vermont 6-10 September

TWS 10th Annual Conference - Burlington 2003

Here are links to copies of the Burlington 2003 conference advertisement and preliminary program.

[http://www.wildlife.org/
conferencestudentconferenceflyer.pdf](http://www.wildlife.org/conferencestudentconferenceflyer.pdf)

[http://www.wildlife.org/conference/
PreliminaryProgram03.pdf](http://www.wildlife.org/conference/PreliminaryProgram03.pdf)

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NOTE: *Titles and affiliations are for informational purposes only and do not present the individuals as spokespersons of the Department of Defense or agency/installation listed.*

Michael F. Passmore, Editor
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