



FAWN



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THE WILD SIDE

Richard R. LeClere, NMFVA President

Who are we? What are *we doing*? Where do we go from here? Is this how any of you feel from time to time? Me too! But somehow, it's okay. I've grown to accept that we are in a rapidly changing environment, and adapting to all the changes has somehow become the norm.

Some people might argue that accepting this notion of inevitable change is not appropriate. My response is "Nonsense!" If we don't actively engage ourselves in the process of change, we become victims of the change, rather than the agents for sensible change. In nature, many species that did not adapt no longer exist. A "consequential error" of this sort is not lily undesirable, but it can and should be easily avoided. We, as DoD natural resources professionals, need

to recognize the multitude of signals being transmitted, receive them, and then decide what we are going to do. This applies to the varied aspects of our existence, such as organizational structure (from DoD down through the installation), program management (what's in vogue now, and how can we use it to

accomplish the task at hand), and scientific (what does the latest research suggest-if we leave to science, we all ought to rethink what we're doing, and why).

These last thoughts are focused on our "real" jobs. But in addition to that, we have other aspects to our lives that we must assess i.e. family, hobbies, outside employment, and professional associations. It is to this last point that I would like to draw your attention. Our Association

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Sikes Act Update
by Junior Kerns

is evolving. From my perspective, it has been for as long as I have been around. However, recent discussions and actions have precipitated an acceleration of this process. For what ever reason(s), now seems to be the time to respond. Decisions will be made during the next 6-10 months that could have a substantial impact on you as an individual member and the Association in general. **DON'T LET THAT HAPPEN WITHOUT YOUR INPUT!** We all know that an organization seems to get the most productivity out of a relatively small percentage of its members, and that might be okay, but don't be the non-vocal minority that does not get involved, and then "evolves" into the vocal minority that doesn't like the results. The old saying to "ssit or get off the pot" was never more applicable than it is now!

At our recent Training Workshop and related meetings, the evolution of our Association was discussed. There were some playful suggestions offered during the re-naming exercise, but there were also some very thoughtful ones provided, too. Now, let's all try to focus on the serious side of this effort. Valerie Morrell has graciously accepted the Chair of the Development Committee, and can use our input **NOW!!!** Let's do what we do best; look at the data, evaluate the alternatives, and recommend and appropriate course of action. We as a BOD will certainly be doing what I think we do best; receive your input and proceed based on your guidance. **HOWEVER**, in the absence of your input, we, the BOD have no choice but to proceed based on our best collective judgment, and we will. Please help us, **GET INVOLVED!!!** Thanks.

The new Sikes Act amendment and reauthorization is working its way through Congress again. The Bill, which has been numbered H.R. 1141, is named the **Sikes Act Improvement Amendments of 1995**.

The Bill was introduced on 6 Mar 95 by Congressmen Young (R-AK), Saxton (R-NJ), and Studds (D-MA). The bill was initially referred to the Committee on Resources, where it was given to the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, and Oceans. Congressman Young is the Chair of the Committee on Resources. Congressman Saxton is the Chair of the Subcommittee. Congressman Studds is the ranking minority member on the Subcommittee.

The Bill, with only very minor changes (such as the title of the Bill) is identical to H.R. 3300, that the Association published last September, in the special issue of the *FAWN*. If you need a copy of the Bill, contact me.

Hearings were held at the subcommittee level on 16 Mar 95. I testified on behalf of NMFWA. The witness list included:

Congressman Pete Geren (D-TX)
Co-Chairman, Congressional Sportsmen's
Caucus

Congressman Bill Brewster (D-OK)
Past-Co-Chair, Congressional Sportsmen's
Caucus

Dr. James Geiger
Assistant Regional Director of Fisheries,
USFWS

Ms. Sherri Goodman
Deputy Under Secretary of Defense
(Environmental Security)

Junior Kerns
President, National Military Fish and
Wildlife Association

Mr. R. Max Peterson
Executive Vice President, International
Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

Opening statements were also presented by
Congressmen Young and Saxton.

All spoke in favor of the Bill, although Ms.
Goodman, in her written testimony proposed
dropping the requirement that the integrated
natural resources management plans be
"mutually agreed to by" the State wildlife
agency and the USFWS. We felt that this
would severely weaken the INRMP's. Ms.
Goodman later explained that she wanted to
make the change to allow for other agencies to
participate in the development of the plans.

We felt that there is nothing in the Sikes Act
to prevent additional agencies and groups from
participating in the development of INRMP's.
However, only the USFWS and the appropriate
State wildlife agency have statutory authority on
the installations. Likewise, it is these **signed**
plans that serve as interagency cooperative
agreements that allow installations to transfer
money to obligate and execute projects.

Copies of my testimony were provided to all
participants at the Minneapolis meetings. If you
missed out and would like a copy, please contact
me. Also, I can provide copies of the other
written statements. Call me at DSN 899-2148
or (520) 328-2148 or fax a request to x-2652.

The Bill was passed out of the subcommittee
on 30 Mar 95. It was then passed out of the full
Resources Committee on 5 Apr 95. The
committee report, which NMFWA contributed
to, has also been published. We will have
copies of that available as soon as we receive
them from the Congressional Printing Office.
(Anyone can request up to 2 free copies directly

from the printing office.)

On 7 Apr 95, Congressman Floyd Spence
(R-SC), Chairman of the House Committee on
National Security, requested that H.R. 1141 be
referred to his committee until 1 Jun 95. (This
is the committee previously known as the
Armed Services Committee.) As of this writing,
I do not know if more hearings will be
scheduled or not. We hope to be out of the
House and over to the Senate by mid-summer.

NMFWA General Business Meeting 29 March 1995

Junior Kerns reviewed the endangered
species issue raised by Senator Jesse Helms (R,
North Carolina) in regard to Fort Bragg, North
Carolina. On 7 March 1995 Senator Helms
proposed an amendment to an appropriations bill
that would exempt Fort Bragg from the
provisions of the Endangered Species Act
(ESA). The amendment was withdrawn after a
promise by Senator Chaffee (R, Rhode Island)
to hold a separate hearing on the issue. The
hearing was held 17 March 1995. The
Department of the Army did not support the
amendment. George Frampton (USFWS) also
opposed the amendment. Following the 17
March hearing, Senators Helms and Faircloth
have proposed an amendment to the ESA which
would give installation commanders the ability
to exempt their installation from the Act if it
interfered with military training and may attach
their amendment to another appropriations bill.

The Board of Directors approved a resolution
opposing the amendment at the 26 March 1995
meeting. Gene Stout moved that the Association
adopt this resolution opposing any exemptions
from the ESA for DoD installations. Brian
Locke seconded the motion.

The discussion that followed focused on
existing exemptions to the Act and revised

wording to the resolution. The existing national security exemption has never been used. Bert Bivens stated that he understood the exemption would be applied only by a political appointee. Mr. Walker informed the 17 March hearing that commanders do have exemption authority but that none wanted to be the first to try to use it. Evelyn Johnson responded that the current law, according to JAG means exemption only under total mobilization. Gene Stout informed her that the understanding within DoD is "Don't ask for an exemption, you won't get it." Phil Pierce stated that a commander can ask for an exemption, the Secretary of Defense can recommend it, but the President must approve. There is no way a commander could get his installation exempted.

Gene Stout agreed to the wording changes. Bob Progulske reviewed the wording changes to the resolution and the members voted to approve it.

Junior Kerns led a discussion of the Sikes Act Amendment. Copies of his Testimony before the House sub-committee on was distributed in the registration packets .

Bob Progulske clarified Ms. Goodman's testimony regarding USFWS and state Fish/Wildlife Agency signatures on integrated natural resource management plans (INRP). DoD was amenable to cooperating with these agencies in developing the plans but did not want their formal approval since the plans included resources in addition to fish and wildlife and other natural resources agencies are not included in the signatories. NMFWA and the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies opposed the DoD position due to statutory requirements under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and other laws.

DoD compromised on an agreement to leave the amendments to the Act as written but add language in the committee report stating that other natural resources agencies are encouraged

to participate in developing and reviewing INR plans but are not required to sign (approve) them. Marc Imlay noted that Army lawyers say that what is in the committee report is not binding if it is not included in the law. Junior Kerns will check with the committee staff to get inclusion of all lands under DoD management included as legally binding in the committee report.

Junior Kerns noted that the new wording in the Act amendment recognizes military land use. Association members can contact the committee with their suggestions and also contact the Board regarding further changes. However, we must recognize political realities if the Act is to be passed. Bob Progulske suggested contacting Junior Kerns and other committee members with their suggestions for the Act.

Valarie Morrill summarized the Development Committee's progress. Fifteen responses were received at the Show and Tell Reception display, not everyone saw (and completed) the second page of the survey of potential professional categories of members.

She discussed possible changes to the requirements for voting membership. She has received 5 mission statement submissions, numerous name change suggestions and constructive comments on a logo design. Discussed meeting at/with other professional disciplines in addition to the North American. The ASA and SAF have meeting sessions for DoD personnel. Cultural resources personnel have their own organization. NMFWA could create special interest sections in the newsletter to foster communications as the Association broadens its membership. There needs to be an ecosystem approach for professionals. NMFWA embraces all personnel involved in Natural Resources management.

In response to a question about future training for new personnel since the current workshop focus is on presentations rather than

specialized training, Valarie Morrill noted that networking was the most useful activity at meetings and that we have had focused training at each meeting.

Tim Burr suggested that when we decide on the direction and goals of the Association, everything else will fall in place. We need to decide who, what, we are and where we are going. Most agencies fund attendance at only one professional meeting a year. Tom Warren urged that the Association members decide on our focus and purpose. We have been meeting with the North Americas because of the general nature of its sessions. The Association has always been open to everyone. DoD has not had a combined professional meeting for some time.

Bob Progulske announced that future Association Meetings are scheduled for Tulsa in 1996 where Tom Poole will be Program Chair, Washington DC in 1997 and Orlando Florida in 1998. The 1999 meeting may be in Denver. The 1995 Partners in Flight meeting will be in Cape May, New Jersey at the end of September and TWS will meet in Portland, Oregon in mid-September 1995.

Tom Poole announced that the 1996 NMFWA meeting will follow the basic format of 1994 and 1995. He is seeking suggested topics for sessions. A law enforcement focus group meeting may be held on Tuesday evening. He asked if there was interest in a separate session for women's interests. The Association may try for a place on the WMI program. He is looking for 3 session chairs. The Board has approved a \$200 registration fee for the Tulsa meeting.

Bert Bivens noted that the Association may be able to have a poster session at future TWS meetings. However, we would not have the broad audience that see at the North American.

In response to a suggestion for holding 1-day field sessions within regions, Bob Progulske

recommended discussing the idea with the Regional Directors. Rich LeClerc noted that the NMFWA mailing list is available by states to facilitate coordinating/promoting regional meetings. The Department of the Army is looking at a 40 hour Natural Resources course for new managers. Junior Kerns worked on development of a course for DoD Natural Resources compliance requirements. There is a 400 page instructor guide, plus a video for command and DoD personnel. Carl Lahser mentioned the 40 hour master gardener course that is available for persons managing landscapes.

Sheridan Stone reported that Bat Conservation International is interested in an MOU with DoD on protecting bat habitat and developing a bat issue paper. BCI is available to help with bat management.

Julie Eliason discussed her plans for a member expertise data base. A list of NMFWA members with specialized knowledge/experience would be available upon request. Points of contact would be listed for specific subjects

Bob Anderson asked about member access to E-mail networks and encouraged electronic communication, perhaps a central bulletin board.

Heidi Hirsch would like a printed directory of the members; who is doing what and where. The AFPMB directory and other Service directories may fill this need.

Bob Progulske announced the new officers and the meeting was adjourned.

Resolution Passed Concerning Endangered Species Exemptions

Whereas, the National Military Fish and Wildlife Association members are more knowledgeable regarding the requirements to manage and protect endangered species on military lands than any other body; and

Whereas, the National Military Fish and Wildlife Association believes the Department of Defense is implementing the Endangered Species Act, while effectively preparing troops for their combat roles; and

Whereas, the cost of managing endangered species on military lands constitutes a minor portion of the Defense environmental budget; and

Whereas, for every highly publicized problem with endangered species management on military lands, there are dozens of successful efforts to manage these species with little fanfare or impacts on military training; and

Whereas, the Defense commitment to biological diversity is essential to protecting this nation's natural heritage and functional ecosystems; and

Whereas, Department of Defense lands have been shown to be particularly important with regard to species diversity in the United States; and

Whereas, an amendment has been offered in the United States Congress to exempt Fort Bragg, North Carolina from the provisions of the Endangered Species Act;

Whereas, this amendment has spurred the interest of some to the goal of total exemption of Department of Defense lands from the Endangered Species Act; and

Whereas, Section 7 of the Act provides for a national security exemption;

Therefore Be It Resolved that the National Military Fish and Wildlife Association, at its annual meeting in Minneapolis, Minnesota on March 30, 1995, opposes additional exemptions of the Endangered Species Act for the Department of Defense and reiterates its support for continued successful management of endangered species on Defense lands concurrent with continued effective training of our nation's military personnel.

Migratory Bird Book Available

Anyone who has not received a copy of the hardback book, *Migratory Shore and Upland Game Bird Management in North America*, as edited by Tacha and Braun, may request one. Fax a request to Junior Kerns at Yuma Proving Ground at (520) 328-2652 or DSN (312) 899-2652.

The books are free of charge to federal biologists. They were prepared by the **International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies**, under a grant from the Wildlife Restoration Fund. NMFWA is distributing copies to all DoD biologists, with the first copies being handed out to attendees at the 1995 DoD Fish and Wildlife Training Sessions in Minneapolis,

1996 Program Alert

by Tom Poole

It's not too soon to be thinking about our 1996 program. We have some good topic suggestions in hand for our program, and volunteers to chair two paper sessions.

One of the topics we will pursue is management of exotics. How many of our members deal with zebra mussels, purple loosestrife, leafy spurge, autumn olive, feral mammals, walking catfish, and a host of other species that challenge our native populations and communities? What can or should you do about Gypsy moths? What happens when the ecologist runs head on into the wild hog hunter? Kim Mello of Fort McCoy has graciously agreed to lead a session on exotics. We need papers about non-native plants and animals in terrestrial and aquatic habitats.

A second topic session will address law enforcement on military installations. The person with the field notebook (or lap-top

computer) should be better acquainted with the person with the badge. We both work to preserve and protect the resources under our stewardship, but we don't always communicate as well as we should. Mike Hunnicutt of Fort Bragg is looking for papers that represent the full range of environmental law enforcement actions on military lands. I have heard some fascinating stories during the B & B (beer and bull****) sessions at our annual meetings. It's time to step forward with formal presentations about the brass pickers, poachers, pot hunters, timber thieves, black marketeers, squatters, dope growers, midnight dumpers and other variants of Homo sapiens that occur on DoD's 25 million acres. We need to hear about the failures as well as the success stories. We also need to hear about public education programs, for what good is the stick without the carrot.

The third session is not defined at this time. I welcome suggestions and a volunteer to chair a minimum of eight papers.

There may be a fourth session. We have approached WMI with the idea of hosting or co-hosting their Wednesday morning session. Another project is an issue focus session for Tuesday night. These will be one hour, hands-on programs on topics that members want to pursue. We have two projects in mind for 1996. We would like to present a PC-GIS system demonstration, and an administrative document session that provides examples of and guidance for MOU, MOI and cooperative agreement documents. I am offering the women of NMFWA the opportunity to meet each other and see if there are issues you would like to pursue on your own. A block of time for some type of social or formal discourse among yourselves can be arranged. Let me know.

We want to hear from all resource managers. There are foresters, community planners, agronomists, pest controllers, park rangers, and a lot of other job titles in our membership files.

Several people commented about the lack of fisheries papers over the past few years. Criticisms about wildlifers *über alles* are floating around. We all farm the same patch of ground. The NMFWA program is a forum for all managers of natural resources on military lands. Make of it as you will. Call me.

Abstracts for 1995 DoD Fish and Wildlife Training Sessions

Wednesday 29 March 1995

MINNESOTA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD PERSPECTIVE ON NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT, Brigadier General Benton Murdock, Assistant Adjutant General, Minnesota Army National Guard.

Technical Session 1 -Topic: Managing Natural Resources from an Ecosystem Context

Session Chair: Thomas Wray II

SUPPORTING THE MILITARY MISSION THROUGH ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT AT EGLIN AFB FLORIDA. McWhite, R.W. AFDTC/EMN, 501 DeLeon Street, Suite 101, Eglin AFB, FL 32542-5133.

There are just about as many different military missions as there are ecosystems in the United States. Some mission activities are more destructive in nature than others. On Eglin AFB, a 464,000-acre munitions development test center located in northwest Florida, ecosystem management is the best approach to long-term management of natural resources. Our mission in the Natural Resources Division is to support the military mission. Restoration and maintenance of natural

communities through operations such as fire and off-site species conversion will provide the military the highest degree of flexibility. Military land can only absorb a certain level of high impact operations if the stewardship of natural resources is to be considered a mission of the Department of Defense. Higher levels of disruption can be sustained if ecosystems are restored and maintained in the best condition possible. Restoration and monitoring techniques used on Eglin are described in this briefing. Partnerships with military planners, scientific communities, the public, and other federal and state agencies are essential to successfully accomplishing ecosystem management. Also, a regional perspective is required to protect military flexibility in the future. These topics will be discussed briefly.

INTEGRATED NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLANS AND ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT. Stout, G. 3101 NE Kingsbriar Circle, Lawton, OK 73507. Phone: (405) 248-2543.

Integrated Natural Resources Management Plans (INRMP) are being developed along lines which emphasize overall natural resources management (ecosystem management) as opposed to traditional programs based on product-producing organizations (Fish and Wildlife, Land Management, Forestry, Agronomy, etc.). This is intended to emphasize Natural Resources as a whole over sub-organizations.

Experience with 15 military installations is used to draw some conclusions regarding ecosystem management and military natural resources management. These include: (1) If the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) were used within the spirit of the law, ecosystem management would be much easier to

accomplish. NEPA is largely ineffective when it involves important tenant organizations on installations. (2) Endangered species management has dominated natural resources management policies to the point where it is adversely affecting ecosystem management, particularly production of products from land and overall ecosystem integrity in some cases. (3) It is relatively easy to plan (INRMP) ecosystem management. It is very difficult to change organizational structure to implement it effectively. (4) There is virtually no guidance from higher levels that meets needs of installations regarding ecosystem management. There is a policy statement supporting adaptive management, but no policy changes to allow installations to have such flexibility. (5) Installation natural resources managers support ecosystem management, but have limited capability to implement it. (6) The separation of ecosystem management and biodiversity protection is creating confusion on understanding the two concepts.

A TRANSBOUNDARY LANDSCAPE APPROACH TO WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ON DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE LANDS. Scott, J.M. National Biological Service. University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho.

Department of Defense lands comprise a significant percentage of the land in the United States, particularly in the West. Many of the parcels are tens of thousands of hectares in size and provide habitat for thousands of species. In southern California, areas like Camp Pendleton represent a wildlife oasis in an otherwise a friendly urban sprawl.

To the degree that these lands are managed to benefit wildlife and their habitats, it's important that their ecological context be

understood. I will provide examples of the regional and ecological context of DoD facilities in California, Utah, and Oregon. Additional details will be provided for ongoing DoD-National Biological partnerships on sharing of environmental data and how the Gap Analysis Project can provide maps on data on vegetation, wildlife and land management.

ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT - A STATE'S PERSPECTIVE. Sando, R.W. Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Phone: Comm. (612)296-2549; Fax. (612)296-4799.

Ecosystem-based management will require organizations to adopt many changes. The organizational development and management changes experienced by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources will be discussed.

Panel Discussion on Managing Natural Resource Programs from an Ecosystem Context

Technical Session 2 - Topic: Outdoor Recreation Programs on DoD Lands
Session Chairs: Pat Walsh and Bill Fisher

OUTDOOR RECREATION AT AVON PARK AIR FORCE RANGE, FLORIDA. Walsh, P.B. Det 1, 6 SPTG/CEN, 29 South Blvd., Avon Park Air Force Range, FL 33825-5700. Phone: Comm. (813) 452-4119, ext 310; Fax. (813) 452-4161.

Avon Park Air Force Range has provided outdoor recreational opportunities to the general public in central Florida for more than 40 years. Since the installations establishment during

World War II, hunting has been the most popular recreational activity, and currently more than 20,000 hunter-days are annually spent. The installation is 106,000 acres in size and approximately 83,000 are available to the public on a regular basis. White-tailed deer, wild turkey, bobwhite quail, and wild hog are the most highly sought game species, and as such, specific management actions are taken for each, including annual monitoring of demographics and physiological condition. Fishing for black bass, various panfish, and catfish ranks next to hunting in popularity. Numerous natural and manmade ponds, streams, and 8 miles of bank access to the Kissimmee River provide year-round fishing opportunities. Non-consumptive outdoor recreation, including camping, hiking, horseback riding, and nature study, is enjoyed throughout the year at an annual rate of approximately 6,000 user-days. Four campgrounds containing wells, pavilions, barbecue grills, picnic tables, latrines, and shower houses are available for tent and RV campers, while two primitive campgrounds are accessible for hikers. Thirty-four (34) miles of hiking trails are available, two of which are National Scenic Trails. Avon Park Air Force Range is used as a center for environmental education by local schools, scout troops, Audubon and Native Plant Society chapters, and others interested in learning about the natural history of central Florida.

OUTDOOR RECREATION ON TYNDALL AFB, FLORIDA. Shea, S.M. 325 CES/CEN/42, 119 Alabama Ave., Tyndall AFB, FL 32403-5014. Phone: Comm. (904) 283-2641; Fax.(904) 283-3854.

Tyndall AFB is located on a 29,000 acre peninsula along the Gulf of Mexico in northwest

Florida. The natural beauty and abundant wildlife of Tyndall's unique coastal ecosystems attract thousands of outdoor recreation enthusiasts. The Natural Resources Flight offers many outdoor recreation activities including; hunting, fishing, camping, nature trails and exhibits, and outdoor education programs. Deer hunting is very popular among local sportsmen. Tyndall is the only public area in Florida that practices quality deer management principles. A deer research and education facility was developed to improve herd management and hunter education. Nine freshwater ponds are managed for public fishing. Over 90 miles of coastal shoreline also offers excellent saltwater fishing, swimming, and other beach activities. A primitive camping area for local scout troops and 4 boardwalks, observation towers, and nature trails for wildlife viewing are maintained. Tyndall's wildlife viewing areas were selected for inclusion in Florida's Wildlife Viewing Guide. Natural resources staff also conduct guided wildlife tours, sea turtle hatching excursions, and other outdoor education programs. Several special outdoor recreation events are sponsored annually for children, elderly, and the physically and mentally impaired.

PAST AND FUTURE MANAGEMENT OF AN INTRODUCED CARIBOU HERD ON THE ADAK, ALASKA NAVAL RESERVATION. Meehan, J.P. and J.C. Williams. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge, PSC 486 Box 5251, FPO-AP 96506. Phone: Comm. (907) 592-2406, Fax. (907) 592-3753.

To increase recreational opportunities for personnel stationed at the Adak, Alaska Naval Reservation, 23 of 76 barren-ground caribou (Rangifer tarandus) from Alaska's Talkeetna

Mountains survived captivity and were released on Adak Island from 1958 to 1959. The herd became large enough to support a sport hunt in 1964 and a hunting program was developed which eventually included hunter transportation, a permitting process and a public-use cabin system. Since 1976 the herd has been cooperatively managed between the State of Alaska, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Navy. In 1993, an intensive aerial survey was conducted as part of the Department of Defense's Legacy Resource Management Program. Surveys revealed the herd had grown to approximately 700-800 animals, higher than the population objective. Due to military cut-backs and a decrease of base personnel, sport hunting, which has been the only factor controlling herd growth, has significantly diminished. In response to decreased hunter harvest, the herd size is expected to rapidly increase, eventually damage its range and succumb to large-scale starvation during winter as seen with other insular caribou populations. Managers from the three agencies are currently addressing management options including herd reduction, relocation or removal.

Panel Discussion on Outdoor Recreation Issues

Thursday 30 March 1995

Technical Session 3 - Topic: Endangered Species Management on DoD Lands
Session Chair: Tim Beaty

STATUS OF THE TIMBER RATTLESNAKE, A STATE-LISTED THREATENED SPECIES ON THE WEST POINT MILITARY RESERVATION. Beemer, J. and R. Stechert. Natural Resources Branch/DHPW, West Point, NY Phone: Comm. (914) 938-2314; FAX (914) 938-2529.

Timber rattlesnakes (Crotalus horridus), a New York-listed Threatened Species, were studied at the West Point Military Reservation in southeastern NY in 1994 in the first year of a three-year project. The goals of the project were: determine the causes for an apparent decline in the

C. horridus population at the only known rattlesnakes hibernaculum on the Reservation; determine the home range of timber rattlesnakes from this hibernaculum; and, determine what management actions are needed to address potential conflicts between the species and the Corps of Cadets training activities on the Reservation. Three timber rattlesnakes were captured and fitted with radio transmitters to track their movements on West Point and the surrounding area. First year results have identified two new hibernacula on and/or adjacent to the Reservation and identified a disturbance-sensitive gestating area for gravid female timber rattlesnakes. The radio telemetry work has also identified coyote predation as a previously-unknown factor on timber rattlesnake populations at West Point.

P.E.T.S. PROMOTE PARTNERSHIPS AT DARE COUNTY AIR FORCE RANGE, NC. Smith, S. B., 4 CES/CEV, Dare County AFR, P.O. Box 2269, Manteo, NC 27954. Phone: Comm. (919) 736-6318; Fax: Same-Call prior to faxing.

The Range buffer lands provide support for several protected endangered and threatened species (PETS). The Range is completely surrounded by the Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge which is recognized for successfully reintroducing the red wolf (Canis rufus) back to the wild. Wild populations were extirpated through predator control activities and loss of habitat. The 1982 Amendments to the

Endangered Species Act were a catalyst for the project. Survival of wild-born pups has been significantly higher than that of released captive-born pups. The Range has been a major component in the success of the reintroduction efforts. Thirteen of 64 pups, born and reared in the wild, were born on the Range. Initiating a Geographic Information System spawned interagency partnerships that will contribute to a better understanding of the red wolf.

STRIKING A BALANCE BETWEEN RED-COCKADED WOODPECKER CONSERVATION AND THE MILITARY MISSION ON FORT STEWART, GEORGIA. Spadgenske, E.W. Environmental and Natural Resource Division, Fish and Wildlife Branch, ATTN: AFZP-DEV-W, Fort Stewart, GA 31314-5000. Phone: Comm. (912) 767-9173/2584; Fax (912) 767-2255.

The Red-cockaded Woodpecker Recovery (RCW) Plan, and a 1992 jeopardy opinion, require that Fort Stewart increase its RCW population from the current 240 clusters to 500 clusters. Fort Stewart is also home to the 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized) which must maintain constant readiness to rapidly deploy to trouble spots worldwide. Balancing the need to provide realistic training opportunities with RCW conservation requirements presents special challenges to wildlife managers. Although expansion of endangered species populations may invite increased mission conflicts in the short term, regulators are likely to increase restrictions on training in the future if negative population trends persist. This paper specifically outlines efforts to increase RCW's on Fort Stewart by employing techniques that emphasize compatibility and minimize conflict.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP OF AIR FORCE RANGES. Lillie, T.H., and J.D. Ripley. HQ USAF/CEVP, 1260 Air Force Pentagon, Washington, DC 20330-1260. Phone: Comm. (703) 695-6118; Fax. (703) 695-8943.

Air Force Ranges are national assets. They provide areas for teaching basic military techniques, sharpening flying skills, and maintaining readiness. They also protect irreplaceable resources like wetlands, endangered species, and archeological sites. In addition to that, Air Force Ranges provide opportunities for outdoor recreation and educational field trips. Over 36 ranges throughout the United States occupy more than 9 million acres. More than 60% of the land is available for dual use by the military and the public. The Air force employs 62 full-time environmental professionals and expends several million dollars each year in the operation and stewardship of its ranges. The Air Force protects and enhances the natural and cultural resources of its ranges. Measures are taken to reduce and avoid impacts to sensitive species such as the Red-cockaded Woodpecker, the Desert Tortoise, the California Least Tern, the Peregrine Falcon, and sea turtles. The Air Force is working cooperatively with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to reestablish the Red wolf and new herds of the Desert Bighorn Sheep. Efforts are also underway to restore wetlands, protect archeological sites, and inventory rare plants. Partnerships with various government and nongovernment agencies is used to facilitate stewardship. Protection and enhancement of natural and cultural resources is fully integrated with the mission of Air Force Ranges.

DEVELOPMENT OF A REGIONAL STRATEGY FOR MANAGING THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES ON DOD MILITARY INSTALLATIONS. Fischer, R.A., M. G. Harper, C. O. Martin, and D. J. Tazik. USAE Waterways Experiment Station, Vicksburg, MS, 39180. Phone: Comm. 601-634-3983; Fax 601-634-2835, and USA Construction Engineering Laboratories, Champaign, IL. Phone: Comm. 217-373-4420 x606; Fax. 217-373-4520.

The conservation and management of threatened and endangered species (TES) are concerns on DoD military installations nationwide. Most efforts to address TES issues have been conducted by individual installations on a species-by-species basis. Our goal is to provide DoD installations with an improved capability to make informed management decisions regarding listed, candidate, and sensitive species. This proactive approach will emphasize

(1) regional and community-based strategies, and
(2) methods that apply collectively to groups of species within a region. For the southeastern U.S. region, we are currently identifying the distribution of plant communities on installations; determining TES actually or potentially occurring on installations; evaluating habitat requirements, community associations, and prescribed management practices for selected species; and developing a prototype assessment and management plan. This prototype plan will be used as a guide to develop plans for other regions.

Panel Discussion on Endangered Species Management on DoD Lands

TULSA IN "96"

Technical Session 4 -Topic: Using Predator Control for Endangered Species Management
Session Chair: Tim Burr

ANIMAL DAMAGE CONTROL: FOCUSING ON THE FUTURE. Accord, B.R., Room 1624 South Agricultural Building, Washington, DC 20250. Phone: (202) 720-2054, Fax (202) 690-0053.

The mission of the Animal Damage Control (ADC) program has evolved through the years. The ADC program is addressing a wider range of wildlife damage management issues because of expanding wildlife populations, habitat losses, increased public concern about wildlife, and resource owners intolerance of unabated losses. Historically oriented to protecting livestock from predation prior to 1985, ADC has undergone philosophical and managerial changes which has led to an orientational shift in ADC activities. As a result, ADC's growth in program services has been marked by an increase involvement in the protection of human health and safety issues, endangered species and other natural resources, and new agricultural enterprises such as aquaculture.

The public's expressed desire for increased wildlife damage management services is occurring at a time when the trend in government is to downsize. To meet the challenge, ADC continues to focus on new and innovative ways of research, development, and adoption of non-lethal damage control methods which include such things as immunocontraception for wildlife, methyl anthranilate for problem wildlife, and the use of Alpha-Chloralose for urban migratory waterfowl problems. Continued emphasis on the development of new and innovative methods will help ADC meet the challenges of the future.

TURTLES AND TERNS ON THE MENU - PREDATOR CONTROL ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH RARE SPECIES IN MASSACHUSETTS. Poole, T.M., HQ. Ft. Devens; AFZD-DPW-O (Forestry); Fort Devens, MA 01433-5100. DSN: 256-2747 Comm. 508-796-2747. Fax: 2557.

Egg-laying species are particularly vulnerable to prenatal and neonatal predation by a variety of predators. The author presents an overview of predator control strategies and techniques used or considered by endangered species recovery teams in Massachusetts. Social issues that effect predator control efforts are discussed. Actual and potential applications of military assets to endangered species management situations are presented.

HOME RANGE OF BREEDING COMMON RAVENS ON CAMP PENDLETON, CALIFORNIA: RESEARCH AND APPLICATION. Linz, G. M., Denver Wildlife Research Center, North Dakota Field Station, North Dakota State University, Fargo. C. E. Knittle and R. E. Johnson, Denver Wildlife Research Center, Denver, CO.

The common raven has been identified as an avian predator on the eggs of California least terns nesting on Camp Pendleton. During May and June 1989, we radio-tagged 21 ravens within 6.5 km of the Aliso Creek least tern colony and fitted them with radio transmitters to determine if their home ranges overlapped the tern colony. Home ranges of 13 nesting adults and 5 non-nesting adults were estimated using the 95% harmonic-mean activity, minimum convex polygon, and 95% ellipse calculation methods. Nesting males and females did not differ in size of home ranges (median = 1.20 km², P=0.252). Home ranges of 2 pairs of

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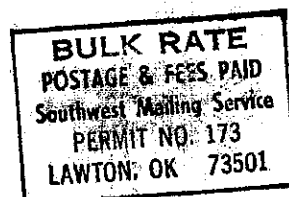
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