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THE WILD SIDE

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NMFWA has its roots in a small group of military fish and wildlife managers meeting in San Antonio, Texas in 1977 at the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. Sixty persons attended the first training session of the yet to be named group in 1980. NMFWA was first chartered in 1983 with passage of a Constitution and Bylaws. The first FAWN was published in 1984 when membership was estimated at about 100. By 1995, membership reached nearly 500, and now stands at well over 800. We have come a long way.

Over the years, NMFWA has dealt with various issues affecting fish and wildlife management – wildlife law enforcement, hunting, trapping, endangered species, DOD Legacy program, and, of course, the Sikes Act. The latter has led to the most controversial actions of the Association, and continues to weigh in on our most troubling deliberations due to the issue of Government outsourcing.

The Sikes Act and outsourcing are with us still, and have been since the first Sikes Act resolution passed in 1984. We have weathered the storm these past two decades primarily on the merits of our arguments, and we enter the next facing that very same challenge, surely an enduring icon of the Association itself. DOD natural resource management personnel continue to lose their jobs due to commercial activities review, leave under threats of job loss, or have their duties handed over to contractors. The Association's position is clear – DOD's actions are unlawful, fiscally irresponsible, and contrary to the long-term interests of American defense preparedness and environmental security.

While this particular issue remains urgent and ever with us, we should not forget Association's core reason for being, namely:

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NATIONAL MILITARY FISH AND

JOIN NMFWA NOW!

- Improved communication on a year-round basis.
- Professional training opportunities emphasizing management of military installations.
- Coordination with Command levels for the resolution of common problems.
- Promotion of sound, professional management of DOD administered lands.
- Promotion of professional communication with counterparts in other agencies and organizations.

The Association has been increasingly successful in these charges. We have advanced with the times and established an effective web site. Our annual training sessions manage to get better every year, as does the content of the FAWN. We are a credible professional organization respected by our peers. But this success is not ours alone. It is also DOD's. DOD's credibility is intimately tied to evolution of the Sikes Act and the ever increasing professional stature of its natural resource management employees.

NMFWA can take pride in its success and the substantial contributions it has made to DOD's credibility as an effective steward of the public trust. We not only conserve and protect the public trust resources that have been entrusted to DOD by the American people. We also ensure sustainability of resources critical to combat preparedness of America's Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, and Airmen.

In the coming months, the Association will:

- Continue to enhance the effectiveness of our web site, electronic communication network, and the FAWN.
- Develop a top-notch training workshop.
- Work with our organizational partners (Wildlife Management Institute, The Wildlife Society,

American Fisheries Society, Partners in Flight, Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation, etc.) to promote conservation of fish and wildlife resources nationally.

- Promote new partnerships of mutual benefit, the most recent example being PEER (Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility).
- Communicate our positions to Congress, DOD, the military services, and others that can assist in promoting the Association's agenda.
- Explore legal options and remedies relative to Sikes Act and FAIR (Federal Activity Inventory Reform) Act violations.

I encourage all members to:

- Utilize the web site and bulletin board features to share opinions and lessons learned.
- Know and communicate with your NMFWA Regional Director regarding issues on which you can work together.
- Keep abreast of developments under the FAIR Act. Find out if your position is affected and know your rights as an "interested party" to file a challenge.
- Write letters to your Congressional delegation. Let them know your opinion on issues such as outsourcing. Individual jobs have been saved by interested lawmakers.
- Stay involved in local, state, and regional activities of peer organizations and programs.
- Help develop new allies.
- Plan to attend our 2001 Annual Training Workshop in Washington, DC. Offer to present a paper. Attend our workshops, technical sessions, and Board meetings. Be there and be heard.

**DEADLINES FOR SUBMITTING
ARTICLES TO EDITOR FOR
UPCOMING FAWN EDITIONS:**

15 AUGUST for SEPTEMBER 2000

15 DECEMBER for JANUARY 2001



INVASIVE SPECIES WORKING GROUP

At the NMFWA annual meeting in Chicago, there was a lot of interest in forming an invasive species working group. I'm in the process of contacting those individuals who indicated interest in the group and left me their email addresses. If you didn't make it to the meeting and are interested in getting involved with this working group, please send me your email address. Perhaps next to human population expansion, invasive species may pose the biggest threat to ecological integrity and bio-diversity. A working group would be ideal for sharing information on management and control

strategies, research, educational efforts, etc. Email or call me at 608-388-5766 or DSN 280-5766.

Kim Mello mellok@emh2.mccoy.army.mil



Minutes from NMFWA Board of Directors

The Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting of the National Military Fish and Wildlife Association (NMFWA) was held in the St. Andrews Room, Hyatt Regency O'Hare, Rosemont, Illinois. The meeting was called to order by President Mark Hagan at 1810 on March 26, 2000.

The first order of business was the President's Report. Mr. Hagan provided a summary of the business that was conducted over the past year via official correspondence and electronic mail. Six letters were sent to the following organizations and individuals by President Hagan: 1) Southwick Associates offering them an opportunity to post information on the NMFWA website; 2) an invitation to all prospective speakers of the Herpetology Working Group Workshop; 3) former NMFWA President Slater Buck wishing him well in his new job with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; 4) Wildlife Management Institute (WMI) committing to meet in conjunction with the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference through 2005; 5) Peter Boice supporting the concept of a Department of Defense (DoD) Natural Resources Workshop; and 6) response to a 10-year old student from Ester School, New York.

Due to the ability for the BOD to effectively conduct business via electronic mail and after President Hagan established a rule of order to conduct business with electronic mail, eight motions were passed during the year. President Hagan reported on the following motions and associated outcomes:

(1) Commitment to meet jointly with the WMI through the year 2005 – **Passed Unanimously**. (2) NMFWA's Herpetology Workshop Working Group will officially represent NMFWA with Partners for Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (PARC) – **Passed Unanimously**. (3) Reimbursement of fees and expenses to David White for preparation of two legal memoranda – **Passed Unanimously**. (4) NMFWA providing a printed set of mailing labels to Forestry Suppliers, Inc. for a one time mailing - **Motion Did Not Carry**. (5) Allow Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) to post information on the NMFWA web page and to send an electronic mail message through the webmaster to the NMFWA membership that explains PEER activities. It was also moved that NMFWA allow PEER to offer membership in PEER – **Both motions Passed Unanimously**. (6) NMFWA provide a sum of \$5,000 to retain the services of legal counsel to join suit to

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Minutes — continued

reinstate the two natural resources professionals at Edwards AFB – **Motion Carried.** (7) NMFWA establish a Reserve Account to receive contributions from members, non-members, individuals and organizations. The Account to be held separately from the regular operating account of NMFWA and subject to annual review by the Audit committee and that the President will appoint a special committee to establish long term policy guidance for the use of the Reserve Account funds. Until then these interim policies shall apply: a) the BOD will have full discretionary authority in any disbursements to be made based on a simple majority vote and b) this shall not restrict the use or disbursement of regular operating funds –

Passed Unanimously. (8) NMFWA to de-

velop a fact sheet with PEER on the benefits of individual membership in PEER. This would be a one time mailing - **Motion Carried.**

President Hagan discussed the establishment and status of the NMFWA web page (www.nmfwa.org). The webmaster, Mr. Jess Cobb, signed a contract with NMFWA last year at the 1999 NMFWA (DoD) Training Session. It was suggested that a web site committee be established. It was recommended that the new Board of Director Handbook and perhaps a Job Announcement Section be posted on the web page. The effectiveness and value of the bulletin board on the web page was discussed. It was decided that this issue would be considered by the new BOD.

President Hagan reported that Ms. Marjorie McHenry had completed and distributed the NMFWA Brochures. If anyone is interested in obtaining copies they can contact Ms. Tammy Conkle.

NMFWA BOARD OF DIRECTORS – 2000



Left to right:

- Jim Bailey — At-Large Director
- Glen Wampler — Vice President
- John Joyce — Regional Director, East
- Mark Hagan — Immediate Past President
- Scott Smith — Regional Director, East
- Coralie Cobb — Regional Director, West

- Tammy Conkle — Secretary/Treasurer
- Mike Passmore — Newsletter Editor
- Dave Tazik — President
- Pat Walsh — At-Large Director
- Rhys Evans — Regional Director, West
- Don Pitts — President Elect

Ms. Tammy Conkle, provided the Secretary/Treasurer report. The motion to approve the minutes from the Board of Directors Meetings that were held at the 1999 NMFVA Training Session as presented in the Fish and Wildlife Newsletter (FAWN) passed unanimously. Ms. Conkle reported that new stationary had been ordered for the organization. In addition, a new banner was also obtained and would be used at the registration table this year. Ms. Conkle reported on the financial status of NMFVA. For the calendar year 1999 there was a beginning balance of \$26,263.30 and an ending balance of \$27,543.98. The total amount of expenditures was \$46,445.23 with \$35,145.74 being spent on annual NMFVA Training Sessions. The remaining expenses included the Legal Expenses (\$3,323.64), FAWN (\$3,133.96), Advanced Funds for Herpetology Workshop (\$1,500), Postage and Delivery (\$609.75), Webmaster Fees (\$580.00), Office Supplies (\$279.06), and Bank Charges and Reimbursement (\$247.00). The total income for 1999 was \$39,358.57 of which \$36,504.75 came from the 1999 NMFVA Training Session. The remainder of the income resulted from the Law Enforcement Course and interest from the bank.

The Archives Committee report was provided by Chairman Tom Warren. In order to make the files complete, Mr. Warren needs to know those individuals who were presented awards last year. Ms. Conkle brought up the issue of whether items with the old NMFVA logo on them should be forwarded to Mr. Warren. These items will be kept by the Secretary/Treasurer.

Mr. Glen Wampler, Chairman of the Awards Committee, reported that four awards would be presented at the annual banquet. In recognition of their efforts the following individuals and groups are to be presented plaques: 1) Student Conservation Association for Volunteer support at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar and Southwest Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, 2) California Polytechnic State University for support of Endangered Species Conservation Programs at Camp Roberts and Camp San Dr. Tazik reported that Mr. Jeff Ruch of PEER proposed a Military Chapter be established in

Luis Obispo National Guard Training Sites, 3) Ms. Julie Thomas for her professional management in assisting the California Army National Guard implement their Fairy Shrimp Conservation Program, and 4) Mr. David Fritz for professional management through his dedication to conservation work within the Fort Sill ITAM Program.

Mr. Jim Bailey, Chairman of the Audit Committee, reported that the audit will be done during the week. The Audit Committee determined that the NMFVA account balance at the end of 1998 was \$26,484.86.

Dr. Dave Tazik, Chairman of the Government Affairs Committee, reported on the status of NMFVA legal counsel as well as NMFVA involvement in the Edwards AFB legal suit. Specifically NMFVA had hired Mr. David White as legal counsel, but he will not be able to continue in this capacity. Mr. White developed several legal memoranda, drafted a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, evaluated the potential for legal action under the FAIR Act, assisted in discussions with Alan Perkins regarding the Edwards AFB suit, and the establishment of a PEER Military Chapter. The decision or settlement resulting from the Edwards AFB law suit will, hopefully, set a legal precedent as to whether natural resources management positions are Inherently Government In Nature. New legal counsel will need to be obtained and it is suggested that Mr. Perkins be retained in this capacity.

With a desire to develop a solid legal suit challenging the commercialization of the Department of Defense natural resources managers positions the Government Affairs Committee sent a message asking the NMFVA membership to file protests, if their jobs were listed subject to privatization. Under the FAIR Act individuals qualify as “interested persons”, therefore they can file protests. In addition to involving the membership, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests were prepared with the assistance of Mr. White and signed by President Hagan. The information requested involves all natural resources positions being considered for commercialization throughout DoD.

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Minutes — continued

PEER. With a Military Chapter PEER could more readily follow and respond to issues that arise at installations. The Military Chapter, if established, would be completely independent of NMFWA.

President Hagan composed an Action Alert that was mailed and posted on the NMFWA web page soliciting members for their support and donations. Currently, it appears that contributions will not be tax deductible. NMFWA is not considered a charitable organization.

A letter was sent to Congressman Don Young asking his support regarding outsourcing natural resource positions, but no response was received. Mr. Jim Copeland wrote a letter to Senator Trent Lott and appears to have successfully protected his position although Senator Lott was not inclined to extend his support beyond the State of Mississippi. A generic letter was also posted on the NMFWA web page so that members had a sample letter to send to their congressman. Jim Miller, Past President of The Wildlife Society also sent a letter to Sherri Goodman, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Environmental Security), regarding the outsourcing issue. The Florida Chapter of the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) has drafted a resolution on outsourcing DoD natural resource positions. This resolution will be presented at the national NWF meeting in March 2000. Mr. Walsh reported that a history of A76 (Outsourcing) Process at Avon Park Air Force Range (AFR) was available. Mr. Walsh also stated that there was an announcement made by the Air Force that Environmental Flight Department of Avon Park AFR was exempt from the A76 (Outsourcing) Process.

Mr. Pat Walsh and Mr. Don Pitts completed and distributed an Outsourcing Survey. The Outsourcing Handbook composed the Government Affairs Committee in 1998 was finalized and posted on the NMFWA web page.

The Host Committee Chair, Dr. Hal Balbach reported that as of Friday afternoon there were 150

pre-registrants to the NMFWA Training Session. Other arrangements associated with the Training Session were also discussed. Suggestions were also provided for the 2001 Training Session. During Dr. Balbech's discussion, Ms. Conkle explained that NMFWA now had the capability to accept credit cards, but it would cost an additional 3.5 % for each transaction. Ms. Conkle made a motion to accept credit cards at the 2000 NMFWA Training Session. After discussion, the motion was modified to allow the NMFWA to accept credit cards, with associated expenses, in 2001. The motion did not carry. Mr. Evans then made a motion to accept credit cards with the amount of registration to cover costs at the 2001 Conference. **The motion carried.**

The new Chair of the Law Enforcement Committee is Mr. Brian Hostetter, Naval Air Station Oceana, Virginia.

The Membership Committee Chair, Mr. Greg Lee, was not in attendance, but it was reported that there are approximately 850 members. Dr. Balbach reported that 830 letters with registration information for the 2000 NMFWA Training Session were distributed with approximately 23 returned. Mr. Beemer suggested that the database be modified to allow for longer addresses and that NMFWA promote mailing information to home addresses instead of work addresses. Mr. Evans suggested that NMFWA develop mailing list guidelines and recommend that members use their home address.

Dr. Mike Passmore, Newsletter Committee, recently took over the responsibility of the FAWN Editor from Mr. Rick Bunn. He explained that the last issue cost over \$1,000.00. The FAWN is to be distributed in January, May, and September and any submittals are due the 15th day the month prior to distribution. Dr. Passmore is reviewing format changes and requested ideas from the BOD.

Ms. McHenry, Chair of the Nominations Committee, reported that 460 ballots were distributed to

the designated voting members. One hundred (100) ballots were returned with 51% of the votes cast via the web page, 10% were cast via electronic mail, 31% were received via facsimile, and 8% were sent by the U.S. Postal Service. The results of the election were as follows:

President Elect – Mr. Don Pitts,
Dyess AFB, Texas
Vice President – Mr. Glen Wampler,
Fort Sill, Oklahoma
At Large Director – Mr. Pat Walsh,
Avon Park ARB, Florida
Regional Director East – Mr. John
Joyce, Naval Air Engineering Station, New
Jersey
Regional Director West– Ms. Coralie
Cobb, Southwest Division, NAVFACENG-
COM, California

Ms. McHenry also encouraged the BOD to contact the members and get them involved.

Ms. Wanda Deal, Chair of the Poster Committee, reported that the poster was set up at the WMI 2000 Conference with the brochures. Ms. Deal would like to update the poster with information on the Sikes Act.

Mr. Pitts, Program Committee Chair, stated that the Native American Affairs session was cancelled. Mr. Pitts also reported that the Herpetology and Pollinator workshops had good participation and went well.

Dr. Thomas Wray, WMI Committee Chair, informed the BOD that a special session topic on NEPA was accepted and will be co-chaired by NMFWA and the Environmental Protection Agency. Individuals from WMI's Program Committee also expressed interest in a possible DoD special session at the 66th North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference (North American) in 2001. A proposal was submitted to the Committee on May 8, 1999 for consideration.

WMI notified Dr. Wray that in 2001 the North American will begin on Friday and terminate on Tuesday. North American conferences held from 2002-2004 will officially convene on a Wednesday and conclude on Sunday. Due to WMI's schedule changes, NMFWA Training Session dates will have to be rearranged. Dr. Wray will attend a WMI Program Committee meeting on April 14, 2000. Future conference locations and dates were provided:

66th North American - March 16-20, 2001, Omni
Shoreham, Washington D.C.
67th North American – April 3-7, 2002, Hyatt
Regency Dallas, Dallas, TX
68th North American – March 26-30, 2003, Adam's
Mark Winston Plaza, Winston-Salem, NC
69th North American – March 15-24, 2004,
Doubletree Hotel Spokane City Center, Spokane, WA

Ms. Coralie Cobb, Show and Tell Session Chair, reported 26 persons registered for the Session. Due to the recent establishment of the Reserve Account Committee, Mr. Scott Smith, the new Chair, had nothing to report but asked for clarification on the purpose and tasks involved.

Mr. Beemer, Herpetology Working Group (HWG) Chair, stated that over the past year this working group has achieved many of its goals. First and foremost, there was active communication among the working group members and several questions from the NMFWA membership were answered. The HWG coordinated a Herpetology Workshop, hosted by Mr. Jay Rubinoff, at the 2000 NMFWA Training Session. In addition, a session entitled "Herps on DoD Terms" was chaired by Mr. Joyce.

Mr. Evans distributed the Advertising Guidelines in September 1999 and received only three responses. A modified version was posted on the web page on February 1, 2000 stimulated no additional responses, therefore it is assumed that everyone had an opportunity to look at the guidelines as drafted. It was noted the guidelines can be modified. A motion to accept the Advertising Guidelines was carried.

Mr.
Ev-

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National Forum on Bats and Mines

Alison Dalsimer (DALSIMAA@acq.osd.mil)

This forum is sponsored by **OSM** and Bat Conservation International (BCI) and is scheduled for November 14 to 16, 2000 in St. Louis. Steering committee members represent a number of State and Federal agencies, bat biologists and BCI. The conference is focused on improving bat protection and conservation associated with mine reclamation, mine permitting and mine operations. The intended audience includes **AML** professionals and managers, federal and state mine permitting personnel and managers and the mining community.



The steering committee is making a serious effort to locate all Federal agency personnel involved in mine closure, bat protection and mine permitting decisions. Information concerning this forum can be found on the following web sites:

<http://www.mcrc.osmre.gov/PDF/bat%20brochure.pdf>

<http://www.mcrc.osmre.gov/PDF/BAT%20AGENDA.pdf>

NASHVILLE — 2001

Dave Tazik (tazikd@wes.army.mil)

NMFWA BOD Meeting
The Wildlife Society 7th Annual Conference, Nashville, TN
Wednesday, 13 Sep 2000
3:30 - 5:30 PM
Room 204 Nashville Convention Center

Mark Your Calendars!!!

NMFWA AWARDS

Jim Beemer (yj6936@exmail.usma.army.mil)

At the NMFWA Awards Banquet in Chicago, several folks were honored for their contribution to the field of conservation. **(1)** California Polytechnic State Endangered Species Support Group was recognized for their efforts in assisting the California Army National Guard implement the endangered species conservation programs at Camp Roberts and Camp San Luis Obispo National Guard Training Sites. **(2)** Julie Thomas received an award for her effort in assisting the California Army National with the fairy shrimp conservation program at Camp Roberts and Camp San Luis Obispo National Guard Training Sites.

Also receiving an award was **(3)** the Student Conservation Association for their volunteer support of Botanists, Wildlife Biologists and Natural Resources Managers at MCAS Miramar and Southwest Division Naval Facilities Engineering Command. **(4)** David Fritz of Fort Sill Oklahoma was recognized for his incorporation of natural resource conservation into ITAM projects. **(5)** Rhys Evans received the award for the best presentation at the annual workshop. It was titled *Desert Tortoise Line Distance Sampling Methodology -- an Update*.

So how do you get someone you know considered for one of these awards? Contact your new Awards Chairmen, Jim Beemer, at (914) 938-2314 or yj6936@exmail.usma.army.mil

From The Government Affairs Committee

Don Pitts (donald.pitts@dyess.af.mil)

The Federal Activities Inventory Reform Act

On October 12, 1998, President Clinton signed into law the Federal Activities Inventory Reform Act of 1998 (FAIR Act; PL105-270). The FAIR Act directs Federal agencies to submit each year an inventory

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Gov't Affairs — Continued

of all their activities that are performed by Federal employees but are not inherently Governmental (all Commercial Activities). An Inherently Governmental Activity is one so intimately related to the exercise of the public interest as to mandate performance by Federal employees. All other work performed by Federal employees is considered a Commercial Activity.

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) will review each agency's Commercial Activities Inventory and consult with the agency regarding its content. Upon completion of this review and consultation, the agency must transmit a copy of the inventory to Congress and make it available to the public. The FAIR Act establishes an administrative appeals process under which an interested party may challenge the omission or the inclusion of a particular activity on the inventory. Finally, the FAIR Act requires agencies to review the activities on the inventory. Each time that the head of an executive agency considers contracting with a private sector source for the performance of such an activity, the head of the executive agency shall use a competitive process. When conducting cost comparisons, agencies must ensure that all costs are considered.

Under FAIR, Defense has targeted over 2800 "Natural Resource Services" positions at 164 Army, Navy, and Marine Corps installations for cost comparison or direct conversion (<http://gravity.lmi.org/dodfair/index2.cfm>). Air Force positions are listed elsewhere (Federal Register Vol. 64, No. 218, 12 November 1999).

If you haven't already, you should investigate this web site or Federal Register notice and determine if your job is affected. If it is, you do have a right to submit a challenge as an "interested party" under FAIR. Guidelines are provided on the web site. You can also write your Congressional delegation and ask them to intercede on your behalf. Jobs on at least one installation were saved after one of their Senators got involved. The Sikes Act as amended (PL99-561), and as

Sikes Act and Outsourcing

codified in 16 USC 670a, prevents the DOD from contracting natural resource management responsibilities on military bases unless it is not practicable using available resources. In the event that it is not practicable, using available resources, to carry out natural resource activities by using DOD employees, priority for such contracting must be given to Federal and state resource agencies. Because contracting with state and Federal resource agencies eliminates many concerns that Congress identified with contracting with private entities, such contracts need not be the lowest-cost alternative. Congress clearly intended that contracts with the private sector be limited to labor intensive activities that do not involve expertise in natural resource management, except in limited circumstances where it is not practicable to use DOD personnel to conduct these activities, and where state and Federal resource agencies are unwilling or unable to perform these functions. This determination is supported by a recent finding of the Commercial Law Division, Air Combat Command, US Air Force. A legislative history of the Sikes Act can be found on the NMFWA web site (www.nmfwa.org).

The Gonzales Amendment, 10 USC Sec. 2465, on

Gonzales Amendment and Outsourcing

its face, prevents DOD from expending funds for the purpose of entering into a contract for performance of firefighting functions at any military installation or facility. The legislative history of the amendment (see www.nmfwa.org) shows that Congress intended this provision apply not only to personnel who are full-time firefighters, but to all "firefighting functions currently being performed by DOD civilians." Thus, the provision applies to any contract for firefighting services that are currently being performed by any DOD civilian. Natural resource management positions that contain firefighting responsibilities are thereby protected from commercial activities review.

***National Wildlife Federation Passes
Resolution Supporting Enforcement of
the Sikes Act***

The National Wildlife Federation at its March 2000 national meeting passed the following resolution, entitled “Enforcement of the Sikes Act as it Relates to Natural Resource Management on Military Lands:”

“WHEREAS, the Department of Defense (DoD) is charged with management of approximately 25 million acres of public trust lands on military installations, which contain valuable natural resources, important habitats for fish and wildlife, excellent recreational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, management of fish, wildlife and other natural resources on these military installations is governed by the Sikes Act (16 U.S.C. 670a, as amended), which requires DoD to develop, implement, accomplish, and adequately fund integrated natural resource management plans; and

WHEREAS, effective balancing of the often-conflicting requirements of military readiness and conservation of natural resources demands capabilities that can best be provided by a cadre of dedicated public servants that understand both the military mission and natural resource management, and who are skilled at integrating the demands of both to satisfy the public trust; and

WHEREAS, in numerous instances DoD has contracted out natural resource management on military lands and reduced the current number of professional natural resource management positions on military installations; and

WHEREAS, this reduction in the number of professional resource managers and the overall level of expertise available “in-house” serves to limit the flexibility of DoD to react to wildlife issues and is eroding DoD wildlife management programs; and

WHEREAS, the National Wildlife Federa-

tion has supported the Sikes Act and actively supported management of these public trust lands for sound and long-term sustainable use of the natural resource base;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Wildlife Federation in its Annual Meeting assembled March 16-18, 2000, in Seattle, Washington, recognizes that management of natural resources on military lands is a government function that must be carried out by qualified, professionally-trained individuals within DoD; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Wildlife Federation recognizes and supports that the intent of Congress in the Sikes Act was to maintain an effective program for managing natural resources on military installations by keeping professional DoD personnel with appropriate training and expertise in resource management; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Wildlife Federation calls upon the Secretaries of Defense and the various branches of the military services to terminate current efforts to reduce professional natural resource positions in military institutions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Wildlife Federation supports the development, implementation, accomplishment and adequate funding of integrated natural resource management plans on all military bases; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Wildlife Federation supports, in the event it is demonstrated not to be practicable, using available resources to carry out natural resource activities by DoD personnel, that priority be given to state and federal resource agencies when contracting out natural resource activities on military installations, as required by the Sikes Act, as amended.”

CATS INDOORS!!

Linda Winter (lwinter@abcbirds.org)



Free-roaming domestic cats are often a serious problem on military bases. Military personnel move to a base, get a cat or two, have to move again and just leave the cats. They don't realize that this practice is cruel to the cat as well as the local wildlife. It can also create a human health problem if colonies of cats congregate around a food source like the mess hall. Free-roaming cats can transmit diseases and parasites to people such as rabies, cat-scratch fever, toxoplasmosis, roundworms and fleas. Military bases often provide excellent wildlife habitat, and cats are numerous, alien predators that can wreak havoc on local bird and small mammal populations.

Concern about domestic cat predation on birds became so great that three years ago American Bird Conservancy (ABC) initiated a citizen education campaign called Cats Indoors! The campaign seeks to educate cat owners and the general public that cats, wildlife and humans all benefit when cats are kept indoors. The campaign also supports humane removal of free-roaming cats from wildlife preserves.

Campaign materials include an education kit with 13 fact sheets, a four-color brochure and poster, Keeping Cats Indoors Isn't Just For The Birds, and a new teacher's activity guide for grades K - 6. Print and TV Public Service Announcements are also available. The campaign encourages cat owners to keep their cats indoors, spay or neuter their cats from eight weeks to four months of age, never abandon a cat, and never feed stray cats unless a home will be found for them.

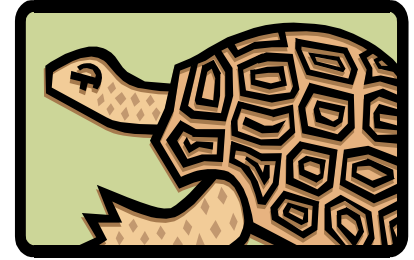
Cat rescue groups that advocate trap/neuter/release of stray cats have proliferated over the past ten years, and some attempt this practice on military bases. However, according to Guidelines for Reducing Feral/Stray Cat Populations on Military Installations in the United States, it is against policy to maintain cat colonies in these locations.

The recommended practice is to trap and permanently remove the cats. For more information on cat predation on wildlife or how to make an outdoor cat a contented indoor pet, visit ABC's web site at www.abcbirds.org, or call (202)778-9666.

Line Distance Sampling for Tortoises Successful

Rhys Evans (evansrm@29palms.usmc.mil)

At the Chicago Technical Session, I presented an "update" presentation on the pending start of tortoise population monitoring utilizing "Line Distance Sampling." Two months later, we're done for the year, and the preliminary results look great! Contractors walked more than 250 kilometers, found 29 tortoises and established a very strong baseline. This methodology, as explained in Chicago, is a 25 year-plan due to the delayed sexual maturity of the (threatened) species and the long recovery period as determined by the USFWS. Work will continue next spring.



Technical Papers — Chicago 2000

Session 1: BATS. Session Chairman: Chester Martin

Overview of Bat Research and Management on DoD Installations. Chester O. Martin, U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center (CEERD-EN-S), Waterways Experiment Station, 3909 Halls Ferry Road, Vicksburg, MS 39180-6199, (601) 634-3958, martinc@wes.army.mil

Bats: Protection, Projects, and Partnerships. Sheryl Ducummon and Jim Kennedy, Bat Conservation International, Inc., Post Office Box 162603, Austin, TX 78716, (512) 327-9721, sdicummon@batcon.org and jkennedy@batcon.org

Addressing Concerns for Bat Species on Military Installations, with Examples from Fort Drum, Crane Naval Surface Warfare Center, Camp Atterbury, and Fort Leonard Wood. Amy Henry, Karen Tyrell, Russ Rommé, and Angela Schmidt. BHE Environmental, Inc., 7039 Maynardville Hwy, Suite 7 Knoxville, TN 37918, (865) 922-4305, AHenry@bheenv.com

Conserving Bats During a Building Demolition Project at Camp Roberts National Guard Training Site, California. Julie J. Eliason, California Army National Guard, HQ Camp Roberts, ATTN: CACR-EV, Camp Roberts, CA 93451-

5000, 805-238-8265, eliasonj@calguard.ca.gov

Endangered Bats in Your Belfry - Meeting Single Species Requirements with an Ecosystem Approach. Thomas F. Glueck, U.S. Army Maneuver Support Center and Fort Leonard Wood, ATZT-DPW-EE, Natural Resources Branch, Fort Leonard Wood, MO 65473-5000, (573) 596-2814, glueckt@wood.army.mil

An Assessment of Indiana Bat Habitat on the U.S. Army Armament Research, Development, and Engineering Center, Picatinny Arsenal. Darrell E. Evans, U.S. Army Engineer Research Development and Engineering Center (CEERD-EN-S), Waterways Experiment Station, 3909 Halls Ferry Road, Vicksburg, MS 39180-6199, (601) 634-2675, evansd@wes.army.mil

Session 2: COOPERATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE RESEARCH UNITS AND DOD: Partners in Conservation. Session Chairman: Col. Thomas Lillie, USAF, Department of Defense liaison to the Department of Interior

The Cooperative Research Units Program. Byron K. Williams, Chief, Cooperative Research Units, USGS, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, VA 20192

Inventory, Monitoring, and Related Resource Assessment by Cooperative Research Units on Military Installations: Southwest Examples and Linkages. Bruce C. Thompson, USGS-Biological Resources Division, New Mexico Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, New Mexico State University, Box 30003 MSC 4901, Las Cruces, NM 88003. Patrick Morrow, Daisan Taylor, David Anderson, and David Holdermann; U.S. Army White Sands Missile Range, CSTE-DTC-WS-ES-ES, WSMR, NM 88002. Brian Locke, ATZC-DOE-Natural Resources, Bldg. 1105, Fort Bliss, Texas

79916. Ray Carthy, USGS-Biological Resources Division, Florida Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, University of Florida, Box 110450, Gainesville, FL 32611.

Case Studies of Threatened and Endangered Species Research on Military Installations in Florida. H. Franklin Percival, Raymond R. Carthy, Margaret M. Lamont, Carl J. Petrick, Richard W. McWhite, Deborah L. Miller, Florida Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, USGS-Biological Resources Division, PO 110450, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611-0450. AAC/EMSN Eglin Air Force Base Natural Resources Branch, 501 DeLeon Street, Suite 101, Eglin AFB, FL 32542-5133, Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, University of Florida, Panama Junior College Milton Campus, 5988 HWY 90W, Milton, FL 32583.

Alternative Futures In The California Mojave Desert: An Integrated Land-Use Planning Framework For Evaluating Land-Use Impacts On And Around Military Installations. Thomas C. Edwards, Jr., USGS Biological Resources Division, Utah Cooperative Research Unit, Utah State University, Logan, UT 84322-5210 USA, 453-797-2529 <tce@nr.usu.edu> Robert W. Holst, Program Manager, Compliance and Conservation, SERDP, 901 N Stuart St, Suite 303, Arlington, VA 22203 USA, (703) 696-2125, <holstrw@acq.osd.mil> David Mouat, Desert Research Institute, Quaternary Sciences Center, 2215 Raggio Parkway, Reno, NV 89512-1095 USA, 775-673-7402, <dmoat@dri.edu> Mary Cablk, Desert Research Institute, Quaternary Sciences Center, 2215 Raggio Parkway, Reno, NV 89512-1095 USA, 775-673-7371, <mcablk@dri.edu> Richard E. Toth, Department of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning, Utah State University, Logan, UT 84322-4005, 435-797-0502. Ross Keister, USDA Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station, Corvallis, OR 97331 USA, 541-737-2397, <ross@krait.fsl.orst.edu>

Session 3: HERPETOLOGY ON DOD TERMS. Ses-

sion Chairman: John Joyce

Northern Pine Snake Studies On NAES Lakehurst. John Joyce, Natural Resources Manager, Naval Air Engineering Station, Code 83000EB5-2, Route 547, Lakehurst, NJ 08733-5065. <JoyceJG@navair.navy.mil>

The Occupation Of Steep Slopes By Desert Tortoises In The Western Mojave Desert. Ty Gardner, Graduate Student, Utah State University

Variation in Herptile Distribution in Bottomland Hardwoods in Arkansas. L. Jean O'Neil, U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center, CEERD-EN-S, 3909 Halls Ferry Road, Vicksburg, MS 39180. 601-634-3641; oneill@.wes.army.mil

Herpetofaunal Studies at Avon Park Air Force Range, Pat Walsh, OLA Det 1, 347 OG/CEVN, 29 South Blvd. Avon Park, FL 33825-5700. <walshpat@avonpark.macdill.af.mil>

The Role of Reptiles and Amphibians in Ecosystem Management Programs. John W. Lamb, 1100 Kindel Drive, Arnold Air Force Base, Tennessee 37389-1800, (931) 454-5378, John.Lamb@arnold.af.mil.

Gopher Tortoise Population Response to Military Disturbances on Camp Shelby, MS. Deborah M. Epperson, Mississippi Natural Heritage Program, MS Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks.

Session 4: LEGACY PROJECTS ON BASES. Session Chairman: Alison Dalsimer

Past, Present, Future: How Legacy Helps at the Installation Level. Alison Dalsimer,

Invasive Species and other Efforts at Fort McCoy. Kim Mello, DTM, AFRC-FM-

TMR-B, 110 East Headquarters Road, Fort McCoy, WI 54656-5226 (608) 388-5766; <mellok@emh2.mccoy.army.mil>

Legacy Project Sets Early Cornerstone for Fort Polk's Integration of Natural and Cultural Resource Management. Kim Majerus, U.S. Army Construction Engineering Research Laboratory (USACERL) and Jackie Smith, Fort Polk, Louisiana

Regional Conservation in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Tommy Wright, U.S. Navy, EFA Chesapeake.

Essential Fish Habitat: General Compliance and Coordination with the National Environmental Policy Act. Thomas Egeland, Director, Natural Resources Management Policy, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (I&E)

Session 5: WILDLIFE DAMAGE CONTROL. Session Chairman: Gene Leboeuf

Innovative Ideas for A Successful Bash Program. Matt Klope

Managing Forests In The Airfield Environment. Kevin G. Porteck, HQ AFCEE/ECC 3207 North Road, Bldg. 532 Brooks AFB, TX 78235-5363 (210) 536-631 kevin.porteck@hqafcee.brooks.af.mil

Growing Population of Threatened Aleutian Canada Goose is Becoming A Bird Aircraft Strike Hazard for Air Force. Gene V. Augustine, US Air Force, 611 CES/CEVP, 10471 20th St Rm 336, Elmendorf AFB, AK 99506-2200), Vernon Byrd, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Alaska National Maritime Wildlife Refuge, 2355 Kachemack Dr Ste 101 Homer AK 99603, and Jason Woods US Department of Agriculture, Wildlife Services, 1800 Glenn Hwy Ste 12 Palmer AK, 99645

An Update on the Wildlife Damage Management Program at O'Hare International Airport. Laurence M. Schafer, USDA-APHIS-WS, O'Hare Int'l Airport, AMC Bldg., Rm. 241, PO Box 66142, Chicago, IL, 60666. (773) 686-6742.

BASH database uses at Elmendorf Air Force Base:

Some flew, some did not. Kate Wedemeyer, Elmendorf AFB, AK

Session 6: TECHNICAL SOLUTIONS FOR NATURAL RESOURCES MGMT.
Session Chairman: Rhys Evans

Involving the Public in a Complex Decision--The Decline of the Northern Bobwhite at Avon Park Air Force Range. Pat Walsh, Avon Park Air Force Range, FL

Environmental Contamination and Sensitive Species: An Innovative Solution to Impact Assessment. Angela C. Schmidt, Karen Tyrell, Russ Rommé, and Amy Henry. BHE Environmental, Inc., Cincinnati, OH.

Desert Tortoise Line Distance Sampling Methodology – an Update. Rhys M. Evans, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Division, U.S. Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, CA

Development of a Wildlife Information Management System (WIMS). Darrell E. Evans, U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center, Waterways Experiment Station, Vicksburg, MS; Stephen B. Sutton, MevaTec Corporation, Huntsville, AL

Habitat Suitability Mapping using Qualitative Indices and Multivariate Spatial Regression Analysis for the Mojave Fringe-Toed Lizard (*Uma scoparia*). Jeff Foisy, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Division, U.S. Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, CA; Jill S. Heaton, Department of Geosciences, Oregon State University, Rhys Evans, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Division, U.S. Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, CA.

Session 7: INVASIVE SPECIES. Session Chairman: Kim Mello

Fort McCoy's Invasive Plant Species Control Program. Kim Mello, Brent Friedl, Joe Washington, and David Beckmann; Directorate of Training and Mobilization, AFRC FM TMR B (Wildlife Program), 110 East Headquarters Road, Fort McCoy, WI 54656 5226. 608-388-5766. <mellok@emh2.mccoy.army.mil>.

Biological Control Of Noxious Weeds On Fairchild Afb, Washington. Gerald T. Johnson, 92 CES/CEVN, 100 W. Ent Street, Suite 155 Fairchild AFB, WA 99011 (509) 247-2313 <gerald.johnson@fairchild.af.mil>.

Controlling Giant Reed (*Arundo Donax*) In Southern California. Richard E. Griffiths, Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, California, 90 West Lakeview Way, Woodland Hills, UT 84653 801-423-8495; <djodjo@juno.com> and Judy Mitchell, Mission Resource Conservation District, Fallbrook, California. P.O. Box 1777, Fallbrook CA 92088 760-728-1332; missionrcd@tfb.com and Dawn M. Lawson, Southwest Division, Naval Facilities, Engineering Command, Code SGPRN.DL, 1220 Pacific Highway, San Diego CA 92132. 619-532-3775; lawsondm@efdsww.navy.mil, and Slader G. Buck, Resources Management Division, Assistant Chief of Staff, Environmental Security, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California.

Bald Eagles at the Savanna Army Depot. Terrence N. Ingram, Executive Director, Eagle Nature Foundation, Ltd.



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