



FAWN



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THE WILD SIDE

Thomas Wray II, NMFVA President

Greetings from the land of hot, humid, draughty, and generally disgusting summer weather!

In recent months, the Association has embarked on two important issues that stand to revolutionize DoD natural resources conservation as we know it. I'm referring to the Sikes Act reauthorization and the DoD Conservation Law Enforcement Program.

Proposed changes to the current Sikes Act are pronounced and significant. The Association has led the way in developing language that will redefine how DoD conducts natural resources conservation on their lands. Significant improvements include replacing the fish and wildlife cooperative plan with an integrated natural resources management plan, ensuring plan implementation with compliance provisions, and conferring conservation law enforcement authority upon the Secretary of Defense.

Our initiatives have all been generally well received with the exception of the desired civil and criminal penalty clauses for failing to implement the integrated plan. This was not unexpected. Alternative enforcement provisions have been offered, including the establishment of a system of Notices of Violation, and the inclusion of military reservation commander's performance of plan implementation on their Officer Efficiency Reports. The bottom line is implementation of approved integrated natural resources management plans must be compliance driven if this DoD program is to receive the attention it deserves. I will carry this message loud and clear to the scheduled hearings for this legislative action this fall.

The pending Sikes Act reauthorization also breathes new life into an initiative the Association has been battling with the past six years — conservation law enforcement. DoD may soon have the authority to develop their own bona fide program which is long overdue. Once again, the Association

has stepped to the forefront by volunteering time and expertise to outline the elements of such a program. Our Law Enforcement Committee has accomplished this initial task and the results have been presented to the Defense Natural Resources Council. I expect we will continue to be a major player in the evolution of this program.

I commend the Association's efforts in assuming an all important role in the transactions of these two critical initiatives. Our assumption of this role demonstrates the stature we have achieved within the natural resources community as a valuable think tank. In actuality, we have simply been doing what we enjoy and comes natural to us — promoting sound natural resources conservation. We represent our clients well!

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TRANSACTIONS OF THE 1993 TRAINING SESSION

For those of you who were not fortunate enough to attend the 1993 training session this past March (or who have already forgotten about it), here is a capsule summary of the presentations given during the joint DoD session:

TRAINING NEEDS ASSESSMENT FOR NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT by Lois U. Adams

The US Army Environmental Strategy into the 21st Century defines the Army's leadership commitment and philosophy for meeting present and future environmental challenges. The vision statement of the Strategy states that the "Army will be a national leader in environmental and natural resources stewardship for present and future generations as an integral part of our mission." The Army strives to achieve environmentally sustainable operations at all its military installations to enhance national security and quality of life, and to meet similar environmental goals in all Army civil works operations.

Just as good training is instrumental in winning wars on the battlefield, proper training, education and awareness will play a critical role in ensuring the Army can achieve its environmental vision. This presentation outlined procedures that the Army is taking to assure quality natural resources management training and solicited input from the conference attendees in support of those procedures.

RESULTS OF US ARMY THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES SURVEY by Alison Hill

This paper reported on the results of a 1992 threatened and endangered (T&E) species survey that was sent to more than 205 individual installations, bases, training centers, and major commands nationwide. Respondents to the survey included personnel from across the military services and from various internal organizations. More than 61% of the FORSCOM, TRADOC, AMC National Guard, and Air Force installations/bases responded to the survey. Information included general T&E field surveys, numbers of listed T&E and candidate species, legal issues facing the military, data/information/documentation needs, T&E monitoring regime, T&E staffing levels, mission restrictions and impacts, population stability, management/recovery information, funding, and lessons learned.

FORCES COMMAND ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM by James Van Epps

The US Army Forces Command (FORSCOM) is the largest major command in the DoD, with over 1 million soldiers. We own some 35 installations and over 4.3 million

acres of land. The FORSCOM Engineer has the environmental program responsibility, with assistance on endangered species issues from the J3 Operations Directorate. FORSCOM installations have over 150 different Federal and state listed and candidate species. Since last year's workshop, Fort Irwin has shifted its land acquisition efforts to different localities to avoid some prime desert tortoise habitat, based on the results of new surveys funded by the installation.

USING THE ASSESSMENT SYSTEM FOR AIRCRAFT NOISE (ASAN) FOR WILDLIFE by Robert Kull

The Air Force's Assessment System for Aircraft Noise (ASAN) is a PC software system developed to model aircraft noise from Military Training Routes and supersonic Military Operating Areas. The purpose of ASAN is to assist route planners and environmental planners in the development of the Environmental Impact Assessment Process (EIAP) documents. The overall goal is to support planners in the preparation of scientifically supportable and legally defensible assessments of the effects of aircraft noise on humans, animals, and structures. This presentation briefly described ASAN and provided details regarding current wildlife and domestic animal models being implemented. ASAN uses the Geographical Analysis Support System (GRASS) as the Geographical Information System to develop maps for assessments.

MANAGING FOR BIODIVERSITY: NEW OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR DOD by J. Douglas Ripley

This presentation provided a review of the current debate on the significance and relevance of biodiversity, including a discussion and explanation of the most widely accepted definition of the term biodiversity. Examples from military lands were used to illustrate the definition of biological diversity that can be practiced as part of an integrated natural resources program. The presentation concluded with an outline and explanation of the newly formed DoD Biodiversity Task Area formed under the auspices of the Legacy Resource Management Program.

CULTURAL RESOURCES'S ROLE IN AN INTEGRATED MILITARY CONSERVATION PROGRAM by Maria L. Bourassa

Cultural and natural resources professionals have traditionally worked together to ensure the wise stewardship of the lands entrusted to their care. However, in some situations the natural competition between these two important components of the military environmental agenda has resulted in the perception that the two disciplines are mutually exclusive.

The purpose of this presentation is to demonstrate the great benefits that result when military cultural and natural

resources managers work cooperatively together to accomplish mutually important tasks. Examples from recent Base Closure and Realignment Act activities, the Legacy Resource Management Program demonstration projects, and other DoD joint efforts were used to illustrate the success of cooperation and to suggest new opportunities for expanded cooperative efforts.

STATUS OF THE DOD PARTNERS IN FLIGHT PROGRAM by Joseph Hautzenroder

DoD has been a significant player in the Partners in Flight (PIF) program since its inception. Each of the military services, in addition to many other Federal, state, and private organizations, have signed a cooperative agreement to support PIF. A network of DoD natural resources personnel has been established to represent DoD on each of the regional and technical working groups throughout the country. This network will work on an inter-service basis to promote and implement the program. DoD installations occupy many acres of land useful to neotropical migrants. These areas will be highlighted in our management plans and projects developed to enhance habitat and monitor population trends. DoD will develop an action plan to support PIF. Part of the action plan will indicate the level of support DoD now provides through the Legacy Program and other natural resources management programs.

NEPA AS A TOOL FOR REDUCING RISK TO PROGRAMS AND PROGRAM MANAGERS by Thomas H. Lillie

Major Federal actions such as the DoD acquisition programs are vulnerable to program delays due to failure to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Failure to follow NEPA could also, in some circumstances, put environmental managers at risk of personal, civil, or even criminal liability. Given sufficient time and funds to complete an environmental impact analysis process, the risk of delays or personal liability can be negligible even for programs found to have a significant impact on the quality of the natural and physical environment. NEPA is the decision-maker's tool for reducing the risk of program delays or indictments as a result of environmental non-compliance issues.

INTEGRATED NATURAL RESOURCES PLANNING: PROCESS VS. CONTENT by Jeff Trousil

The Fort Sill Ecological Services Center began writing Integrated Natural Resources Management Plans (INRMP) for other installations in January 1992. Since then, we have experience with such plans for four Army and two Air Force installations. Guidance on plans has traditionally been content-oriented. However, installation differences require considerable flexibility in content. In addition, plans no longer emphasize items such as maintenance and cultural resources.

Relationships with the military mission are now central to program success. Moreover, the process of preparing these plans, if done with an open mind, can lead to a plan being a catalyst for constructive change as opposed to simply documenting existing, traditional programs. The proper use of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) would do more to resolve natural resources issues than any other tool, and is an essential part of an INRMP. An honest implementation chapter is essential to making an INRMP an effective document for action. NEPA documentation of the plan is required, and the entire plan should be the Cooperative Plan required by the Sikes Act.

DEVELOPING PARTNERS FOR RESEARCH AND RESEARCH MANAGEMENT by Sarah G. Bishop

This presentation outlined the steps taken to date by Partners in Parks, a private conservation organization, to develop a training course for DoD natural and cultural resources managers on how to most effectively find and work with volunteers to accomplish military conservation projects. Building upon a similar course developed for the National Park Service, the DoD course will be specifically tailored to DoD needs and will be presented in two separate workshops for DoD personnel funded through the Legacy Resource Management Program.

LETTER TO PRESIDENT CLINTON

The following is the text of a letter to President Bill Clinton drafted by the NMFWA Board of Directors in March:

Dear President Clinton,

The members of the National Military Fish and Wildlife Association support your efforts to promote fiscal responsibility within the Federal Government. We realize this will involve making difficult choices and decisions. While we recognize a need to be fiscally prudent, we feel it is critical that the Department of Defense (DoD) not impair its ability to properly conserve its natural resources.

The Association is an organization of over 550 natural resources conservation professionals from throughout DoD. We are involved in forestry, land management, natural resources law enforcement, and outdoor recreation, as well as fish and wildlife management. We are charged with maintaining, protecting, and enhancing environmental quality, while supporting the military mission. We also play a vital role in protecting and enhancing rare species and wetlands.

We feel it is important to be able to anticipate program needs to plan and act accordingly. To do so requires a stable corps of professional managers within DoD. We urge you to give careful consideration to maintaining adequate staff and

operating funds to meet the Department's natural resources conservation needs. We also urge that staffing and budget changes be made carefully and that natural resources programs not be eliminated or gutted to the point of being ineffective.

The recent establishment of the Legacy Resource Management Program appropriation has brought new life to the DoD natural and cultural resources programs. Yet, each year we face rescissions that sacrifice their integrity. The continuity of our programs cannot be ensured without a guarantee that we can count on these funds.

Many installation natural resources programs generate revenue and some are self supporting. These programs must be left intact. Diversion of revenues to other activities should not be allowed to undermine existing profitable programs.

Base closure and realignment could leave some lands without adequate natural resources protection programs in place. Past DoD ownership has provided unique and, in some cases, the last remaining habitat for some rare species. We believe these lands should be used to promote biodiversity. Serious consideration must be given to maintaining the quality of these lands rather than releasing them for development.

Again, we urge you and your staff to carefully weigh all alternatives in order to maintain quality DoD natural resources conservation programs and personnel, while restoring fiscal responsibility to Federal Government programs.

A is A

The Secretary of Defense has said that we are to be the leader in environmental stewardship. At the same time **Defense consistently refuses to accept Congressional funding for the Legacy program** and makes it difficult to spend it even when Congress prevails.

Defense policies and regulations demand that we proactively manage natural resources within the spirit of environmental laws. At the same time the **Defense environmental funding system refuses to fund anything which is not a reaction to a violation** of such laws.

Defense creates this picture of its environmental well being depicted as supported by four equally important pillars, including Conservation. At the same time **Defense only significantly funds the Compliance and Restoration pillars.**

It was Aristotle who noted that "A is A". A is not B, no matter what people or documents say. A is A, and only A. It is what it is. Defense is Defense.

VIEW FROM OSD

L. Peter Boice

It would be easy to seem too enthusiastic about the **new climate for conservation programs in DoD**. But it is clear that our new Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for

Environmental Security, Sherri Wasserman Goodman, brings a **greater awareness of and understanding for conservation issues** than any of her recent predecessors. Skeptics would say that this would require very little improvement indeed, and probably be correct. However, I believe there will be **improved support for conservation issues** among all federal agencies.

A very visible change is the addition of a new **Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Conservation and Installations**, Russell Milnes. Russ will give us added clout for high-level issues such as budgeting and policy changes.

We are on the verge of completing several significant policy changes which should help most of you. Ms. Goodman has committed to **completing resource inventories** of all DoD lands and waters, to **enhance ecosystem management**, to **integrated resource planning**, and to **full implementation of the Legacy program**.

How will this effect you? By **increasing the funding priority of many resource projects**. By **getting Legacy funds to you sooner**, and with greater certainty. By providing much needed **personnel assistance** through temporary Legacy funded positions. By providing you an opportunity to work at HQ or MACOM level, through **Legacy-funded fellowships**. By **increasing the support and oversight** our office can provide.

I look forward to continuing to work with you to identify and resolve the natural resource issues which are near and dear to us all.

SIKES ACT UPDATE

Marjorie McHenry

NMFWA is continuing to work closely with staffers on the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee on the revision of the Sikes Act. This major revision will significantly affect the management of natural resources on our installations.

As it now stands (1 Sep 93), the revision will replace the Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Management Plans with Integrated Natural Resources Management Plans with the same cooperators (the USFWS and State wildlife agency). Perhaps most importantly, the revision will require implementation, not just preparation, of these plans. Plans will be required to have the same provisions as in the old Cooperative Plans plus provisions to ensure no net loss in quality of training lands, the integration of all programs within INRMPs, wetlands protection and restoration, consideration of conservation needs of all biological communities, and sustained multipurpose use by the public of natural resources.

This revision will also give the Secretary of Defense the authority to enforce laws now under the purview of Interior when violations occur on installations. This will resolve a long standing conflict between Defense and the USFWS regarding

federal game warden commissions. The revision also requires public comment on INRMPs. Very importantly, this revision requires "sufficient numbers of professionally trained natural resource management staff" to comply with the Sikes Act. The existing words "when feasible" have been removed. The bill also includes an expansion of the term military reservation to include National Guard lands.

The Association is working to include some other improvements, but their fate is uncertain. Much to the credit of the Association and DoD, the above items are agreed on by both parties. The only point of contention is enforcement of this Act. Defense wants internal enforcement as much as possible, while NMFWA is pressing hard for external enforcement with penalties.

As it stands now, the Sikes Act revision will resolve many of the items the Association formerly wanted from a Military Land Management Act. This is definitely a good bill, and NMFWA is working hard to get it through Congress.

We expect a Committee hearing in late September or early October. It will then go to the House and Senate Armed Services committees prior to votes by the full House and Senate. At this time there is no need for you to contact your Senators and Representatives. The Association will send out an Action Alert if and when such contacts are needed. If we do this, please make it a priority to have you and your co-workers make as many phone calls and write as many letters as possible. This is truly a great opportunity to take giant steps with our programs.

Committee members are Marjorie McHenry, Junior Kerns, Gene Stout, Tom Warren, and Thomas Wray II. Contact them for further information.

PARTNERS IN FLIGHT UPDATE

Joe Hautzenroder

I hope by now that "Partners In Flight" is a phrase that each one of you can relate to. The Partners In Flight Program has been highly publicized on TV and radio as well as in many conservation journals, magazines, and news letters including the FAWN. Newly developed partnerships and success stories are many and DoD has played a big part in the effort. The following is a list of some noteworthy projects, some underway and some being developed:

Establishment of MAPS (Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship) stations on DoD installations throughout the country.

Development of bird lists/brochures for many DoD installations.

Studies to determine the impacts of timber harvesting on neotropical migratory birds.

Studies to determine the effects of various other land management activities and military impacts on neotropical

migrants.

Wetland enhancement projects for the benefit of neotropical migratory birds.

Support to the Colorado Bird Observatory to develop a Bird Prioritization Scheme.

Development of a DoD/PIF display.

Development of a DoD Action Plan and Information Brochure.

Development of a NTMB workshop at the next NMFWA meeting.

If not for the network of dedicated DoD land managers involved in this effort and Legacy Program dollars our work would not be so noteworthy. It is very important that we keep the network fully integrated into the various regional and technical working groups. I cannot stress enough how important it is to stay in touch with your regional representatives and to support the goals and objectives promoted by these working groups. We are currently looking for someone to represent DoD in the western region since Natasha Kline left the Air Force. Please call me if you are interested. And, if you are not in the DoD/PIF Network and would like to be, please call me.

Awhile back I requested slides and pictures of neotropical birds, their habitat, and habitat enhancement projects. I received some but need a lot more. I know you all are very busy but I sure would appreciate your assistance. We need these pictures to develop the DoD display and Action Plan/Brochure. I am hoping to have the display and Action Plan ready for the North American Conference in Anchorage this March. We are also going to devote about a day and a half to neotropical bird issues during the DoD sessions. I am working with Peter Stangel of the Fish and Wildlife Foundation to develop the agenda. I am sure you will be impressed with the topics and speakers. Our intent is to bring you speakers that will bring you up to speed on the issues and with whom you can develop partnerships.

We are also trying to promote Cooperative Agreements with the U.S. Agency for International Development which is currently seeking partners/proposals for areas in Latin America, the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network to address the neotropical shorebird aspects of PIF, and with Dr. Syd Gauthreaux of Clemson University to study migration patterns and management of neotropicals with the use of NEXRAD radar. If you would like to be directly involved with these efforts please give me a call.

If you haven't seen it already there is a draft DoD/PIF Action Plan being circulated for review and comment. The purpose of this document is three fold. First we need a guide that we as land managers can use to address the management of NTMBs. Second we need a well put together document to educate installation commanders about the plight of neotropical birds and how critical the resources and land they control are to the health of these birds. And lastly we need to show the

public and our partners that we are putting forth very significant efforts to support the Partners In Flight program. I encourage you to get a copy of this draft document and review it. It is our intention to get feedback from all levels. We are particularly interested in your comments on the Vision Section, the Program-Wide Priorities, and the Program-Wide Action Section. The most important aspect of this whole effort is that you have and feel an ownership in the direction and implementation of this Action Plan. Please give me your input.

CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM UPDATE

Thomas Wray II

The membership owes a word of thanks to the Law Enforcement Committee for their recent hard work and accomplishments. The committee (Michael Dunning (Chairperson), Jeff Trousil, Mike Hunnicutt, Steve Shea, Bill Rogers, Jeff Bossart, and Thomas Wray II) spent the last two months drafting a proposal entitled 'A Unified and Standardized DoD Conservation Law Enforcement Program' at the request of the Defense Natural Resources Council (DNRC). On 10 Sep 93, the proposal was presented to the DNRC, and was well received. Contact Michael Dunning at 719-576-8074 if you want a copy.

All agreed that further action should be delayed until reauthorization of the Sikes Act. The expected results of this action should pave the way for development of this DoD program.

Some DNRC members felt the Conservation Law Enforcement initiative should be expanded to include soil and water conservation as well as environmental laws - an Environmental Law Enforcement Program. They felt it would have a better chance of succeeding with the expanded initiative. A larger program translates into a need for more training, more funding, and more personnel. It also sets the stage for fueling the existing competition between natural resources and environmental. Needless to say, many important decisions lie ahead of us as this program evolves.

While we await the Sikes Act reauthorization, I request you jot down incidence where DoD natural and cultural resources have been impacted due to the absence of an adequate conservation law enforcement program. I am not interested in names, dates, or locations, but simply the impact and results. This laundry list will complement our proposal by identifying the problems this program initiative must resolve. **Please call (DSN 249-4186), fax (703-663-4016), or send your input by 1 Dec 93 to:**

NMFWA
12428 PINECREST LANE
NEWBURG, MD 20664

PROPOSED BYLAWS CHANGES

PROPOSAL 1. The following changes specify certain committee members, creates two 'full' committees by deleting the special committee designation, and creates three additional 'full' committees. Some committee members are identified to enhance productivity, while the 'full' committee designations reflect the permanence and importance of these committees.

To implement this proposal, the following Bylaws changes are required:

NOTE: Changes from the original text are indicated as thus: parts to be deleted are lined through, while parts to be added are shaded.

Article IV. Section 4. Membership Committee

The Chairperson ~~shall be responsible for obtaining additional committee members as required~~ and the Regional Directors shall comprise the Membership Committee.

~~Section 5. Special Committees~~

~~The President may appoint Special Committee(s) as he/she deems necessary for operation of the Association. Special Committee(s) terms expire upon completion of an assigned task or when the President leaves office. The following Special Committees shall be formed following each annual meeting:~~

~~Part 1. Section 5. Awards Special Committee~~

The Awards Committee Chairperson shall be appointed by the President. The Chairperson, At-Large Directors, and two non Board members shall comprise the Awards Committee. The Chairperson shall select the two non Board committee members. This Awards ~~Special~~ Committee will seek nominations, ... The Committee will prepare press releases for each recipient and provide these to the Secretary/Treasurer ~~on the date of award presentations~~ nominators.

~~Part 2. Section 6. Resolutions Special Committee~~

The Resolutions Committee Chairperson shall be appointed by the President. The Chairperson is responsible for obtaining additional committee members as required. This Resolutions ~~Special~~ Committee will ...

Section 7. Law Enforcement Committee

The Law Enforcement Committee Chairperson shall be appointed by the President. The Chairperson is responsible for

obtaining additional committee members as required. This Committee is responsible for formulating and implementing the Association's Annual Law Enforcement Training Refresher Course. The Committee shall also respond to DoD law enforcement issues as requested by the President.

Section 8. Poster Committee

The Poster Committee Chairperson shall be appointed by the President. The Chairperson is responsible for obtaining additional committee members as required. This Committee is responsible for preparing and presenting the Association's poster at the Poster Session of our annual training session.

Section 9. Archives Committee

The Archives Committee Chairperson shall be appointed by the President. The Chairperson is responsible for obtaining additional committee members as required. This Committee is responsible for ensuring the Association's archives are kept up to date.

Section 10. Special Committees

The President may appoint Special Committee(s) as he/she deems necessary for operation of the Association. Special Committee(s) terms expire upon completion of an assigned task or when the President leaves office.

PROPOSAL 2. Early announcement of election results will facilitate an orderly transition of elected Board members.

To implement this proposal, the following Bylaws changes are required:

Article VI. Section 2. Newly elected members of the Board shall be announced at the first Board meeting of the annual training session and the results posted at the registration desk. All elected members

PROPOSAL 3. These changes simply identify additional responsibilities for Regional and At-Large Directors, and reflects changes proposed under PROPOSAL 1.

To implement this proposal, the following Bylaws changes are required:

Article VI. Section 6. Regional Directors

.... members of the Board. They shall assist the President as required, particularly with regard to membership development, and serve as members of the Membership Committee.

Article VI. Section 7. At-Large Directors

... members of the Board. They shall assist the President as required, particularly with special projects, and serve as members of the Awards Committee.

PROPOSAL 4. This change allows the Association to amend the Constitution and Bylaws by written correspondence.

To implement this proposal, the following Bylaws changes are required:

Article IX. Amendments

... 30 days prior to the vote. Proposed amendments may also be made by written correspondence with their advertisement in the Association's Fish and Wildlife News. Approval by ballot is with a two-thirds majority of the responding voting membership.

VOTING MEMBERS ARE REQUESTED TO COMPLETE THE ENCLOSED BALLOT, ACCORDING TO INSTRUCTIONS, AND RETURN BY 1 DEC 93.

BALLOT

Proposed changes to the NMFWA Constitution and Bylaws

A **YES** vote will **ADOPT** the changes. A **NO** vote will **DEFEAT** the changes. **CIRCLE YOUR CHOICE FOR EACH PROPOSAL.**

PROPOSAL 1	YES	NO
PROPOSAL 2	YES	NO
PROPOSAL 3	YES	NO
PROPOSAL 4	YES	NO

Please return the ballot by 1 DEC 93 TO;

**NMFWA
12428 PINECREST LANE
NEWBURG, MD 20664**

AWARDS NOMINATIONS NEEDED

Each year NMFWA tries to recognize those individuals that have made outstanding contributions to your programs.

Please take a few moments to review these nomination categories. If you have any questions concerning the nominations process, or would like a nominations form, please contact Doug Lister at COMM (301) 826-3670 or DSN 326-3670. **Nominations will not be accepted after 31 Dec 93**, so please respond now. Thank you for making the Association awards program a success.

PRESIDENTIAL AWARD: This award has been established as the Association's highest award to recognize outstanding leadership, commitment, and ethics in the natural resources field. Actions taken in the above categories must have been targeted towards improvement of natural resource management on military installations. All current and past employees of DoD are eligible for this award.

SUPPORT: For persons who indirectly assist natural resources.

Military Support of Natural Resources. This area is for military personnel who, through their position, have given support to natural resources programs above the norm.

Civilian Support of Natural Resources. This area is for civilians who have supported natural resources above the norm. Individuals may be employed by DoD or a supporting agency.

VOLUNTEER: For a group or an individual assisting in natural resources programs.

Education. This area is to recognize efforts in natural resources education. Includes interpretation, hunter education, troop training by individuals, groups or interagency cooperation.

Management. This area recognizes volunteer efforts on installations which assist program managers in a variety of natural resources projects. Includes research, revegetation, fish/wildlife habitat enhancement, and endangered species management by interns, private citizens, groups or organizations.

PROFESSIONAL: For persons working in natural resources conservation. Includes both DoD and non-DoD employees.

Management. This area covers all aspects of natural resources management. Includes lifetime achievements, special projects, or anything showing great dedication to the profession.

Law Enforcement. This area recognizes any of the wide variety of professions dealing with fish and wildlife law enforcement. Includes game wardens, JAG officers, lawyers, judges, etc.

Technical. This area recognizes people who are critical to

natural resources management but who often go unrecognized. Individuals may include tractor and heavy equipment operators, biological technicians, clerical, laborers, or others who provide technical services to the program.

NMFWA SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD NOMINATION

Person/Group Nominated _____
Nominee's Address _____

Phone _____
DSN _____ Commercial _____

Nominator _____

Nominator's Address/Activity _____

Phone _____
DSN _____ Commercial _____

Award Category (Circle One)

- Presidential
- Support-Military Volunteer-Education
- Support-Civilian Volunteer-Management
- Professional-Management Professional-Technical
- Professional-Law Enforcement

Please provide 1 - 2 pages of supporting documentation of the nominee's accomplishments. Send the application to:

Commanding Officer
Public Works Dept., Code 862-DL
Naval Air Station
Patuxent River, MD 20670-5409

1993 LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING

Michael Dunning

This year's wildlife law enforcement training was held at Fort Carson, Colorado, from June 14-18. We feel it was a great success and would like to thank all those who participated.

We originally planned for approximately 50 participant, however only 36 attended. The class was also originally billed as refresher training, so we of course expected officers with a certain experience level. This was true for the most part, however many of those attending had very little to no experience as wildlife officers.

The classroom training was well received. Some of the most appreciated classes were wildlife forensics, officer survival and wildlife laws.

Scenario training seemed to catch peoples attention. Almost every comment I received praised this type of training. It was quite eye-opening for a lot of officers, to be placed in realistic situations which could happen on any given day, to any one of us. Even experienced officers had very positive comments about the benefits of such training.

When this training was designed there was quite a bit of emphasis placed on getting the officers out of the classroom and onto the field. Each scenario was designed to give the most realistic training possible and in situations which we may all encounter.

There was quite a variation in how each officer handled some of these situations. Some officers place themselves deeply in situations which were well above their heads, others were so over zealous in their actions that liability problems could occur and yet others acted quite appropriately. This obvious variation in training brought to view the reality of the absolute need for DoD to develop a standardized wildlife law enforcement training program.

We made a video recording of almost all the classroom training as well as some of scenario training. As soon as the videos are processed and edited I would be glad to send a copy to any organization who would like one, for law enforcement training. If you have an interest, all I ask is that you reimburse the cost of the blank tapes. If interested, please contact me at the address or phone number below.

DECAM-NR
HQ & 4th Inf. Div., (Mech)
c/o Michael Dunning
AFZC-ECM-NR, Bldg 302
Fort Carson, CO 80913-5000
719/576-8074

Thanks, to all of you who did attend. I hope that you found the training a beneficial experience.

NE REGION FIELD NOTES

Tom Poole, NE Regional Director

Badger AMP, WI - George Graham reports a request by Wisconsin DNR to establish a native plant seed orchard on the installation.

Lakehurst NAS, NJ - A small but dedicated group of volunteers is assisting John Joyce with bluebird nest boxes on this inland naval installation. John reports a 60% nesting success rate for 1993, the third year of cooperative effort. (See John's article below for more details.)

Upper Connecticut River Basin, ACOE NED, VT & NH - Several fish and wildlife actions are brewing at flood control projects in this part of New England. Mark Rosenthal reports deflectors were placed downstream of Union Village Dam by the local Trout Unlimited chapter. Atlantic salmon fry have been released for the third year in tributary rivers that flow through corps projects in the basin. A local "grass roots" organization negotiated the purchase of hydro-power rights (FERC license) from a developer to protect the salmon run as well as a nearby waterfall. Other actions in the works include a watchable wildlife agreement with Vermont and negotiations for a Section 1135B wetlands mitigation site.

Fort McCoy, WI - The USFWS will soon issue a biological opinion and incidental take allowance for Karner Blue Butterfly on the installation. Kim Mello laid a lot of ground work to expedite the process.

NAWC BLUEBIRD NESTBOX PROGRAM

John Joyce

In the summer of 1990, I was approached by Bill Hanley, a member of the Navy Lakehurst Rod and Gun Club, about the possibility of starting a bluebird trail on the Navy base here at Lakehurst. Bill and I discussed the project and agreed that we should visit the nearby Colliers Mills Wildlife Management Area to survey their trail with Mr. Tom Mulvey, a retired state employee and bluebird expert. Tom has had a successful bluebird nestbox trail at Colliers Mills for years, and he gave us many valuable recommendations.

Twenty-one bluebird nestboxes of varying designs were purchased with Fish and Wildlife funds and I had them in place by early March, 1991. We had been noting locations with bluebird activity for the previous year and I placed many of the nestboxes in these locations. Other nestboxes were installed in areas with prime bluebird habitats (abandoned fields with knee-high grass and scattered pine trees).

An enthusiastic group of four volunteers, three from our Rod and Gun Club, was recruited to monitor four or five nestboxes each on a weekly basis. The bluebird nestbox

program has been a great success story from the beginning. We expanded to 25 nestboxes in 1992 and 29 in 1993, with 2 more volunteers to help monitor the boxes. For 1991 and 1992, the New Jersey state average for bluebird occupation was 25% (the state collects this data in their nestbox record program under non-game species, and NAWC Lakehurst is a participant). Here at the Naval Air Warfare Center, the bluebird occupation rate was 57% in 1991, and 68% in 1992. While we won't find out for several months what the New Jersey rate is for 1993, NAWC recorded an astounding 86% occupation rate for this year! For the first three years of our program, our bluebird fledgling count has been 58, 69, and 120.

While our 1993 success will be hard to duplicate next year, we plan to add as many as sixteen new nestboxes to the program that were donated from outside sources. The NAWC Bluebird Nestbox Program is yet another excellent example of how dedicated volunteer help can be an invaluable tool in managing DoD natural resources.

111TH A.O.U. MEETINGS

Junior D. Kerns

I attended the 111th Slated Meetings of the American Ornithologists' Union, June 10-12, 1993 at the University of Alaska in Fairbanks, Alaska. Over 230 scientific papers were presented, including a number of interest to DoD wildlife managers. One half day session was devoted to "Biology of Red-cockaded Woodpeckers", many papers dealt with the response of birds to environmental contaminants, and others dealt with biodiversity and neotropical migrants. Papers of specific note include:

Brood Sex Ratios in Red-cockaded Woodpeckers. Melinda S. LaBranche, Dept. Biology, SUNY College, Fredonia, NY.

Selection of Cavity Trees of Red-cockaded Woodpeckers by Black Rat Snakes. Joseph C. Neal and Warren G. Montague, USFS, Quachita NF, Waldron, AR and Douglas A. James, Dept. Biol. Sci., Univ. Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR.

Nesting Habitats of South Florida Red-cockaded Woodpeckers. Reed Bowman and Cristopher C. Huh, Archbold Biol. Sta., Lake Placid, FL.

Red-cockaded Woodpecker Cavity Trees: Relationships of tree age with heartwood and sapwood thickness. Richard N. Conner and D. Craig Rudolph, Wildl. Hab. and Silv. Lab, Nacogdoches, TX.

Factors affecting the success of Red-Cockaded Woodpecker Translocations. Dawn K. Carrie, Sam Houston NF, Cleveland, TX and Richard N. Conner and D. Craig Rudolph, Wildl. Hab. and Silv. Lab, Nacogdoches, TX.

Experimental Reintroduction of Red-cockaded Woodpeckers.

Richard N. Conner and D. Craig Rudolph, Wildl. Hab. and Silv. Lab, Nacogdoches, TX and Dawn K. Carrie, Sam Houston NF, Cleveland, TX.

The Status of the Largest Population of the Red-cockaded Woodpecker in relation to other Populations. Frances C. James, Charles Hess, and Gregory Hagen, Dept. Biol. Sci., Florida State Univ., Tallahassee, FL.

Minimizing White Phosphorus Poisoning of Waterfowl at Eagle River Flats, Alaska. Larry Clark and John Cummings, USDA/Denver Wildl. Res. Ctr., c/o Monell Chem. Senses Ctr., Philadelphia, PA.

Differential Susceptibility to White Phosphorus Poisoning Among Ducks at Eagle River Flats, Alaska. Benjamin B. Steele, Dept. Natural Sci., Colby-Sawyer College, New London, NH and Leonard R. Reitsma, Dept. Sci., Plymouth State College, Plymouth, NH.

I have copies of the abstracts of all presentations, but am not aware of any attempt to publish the papers by the AOU. Copies of the "Abstracts" booklet may still be available from the AOU national headquarters. I will provide copies of selected abstracts upon request, but since the booklet is over 80 pages total, I will not attempt to provide complete booklets to everyone.

AIRBOAT REPORT AVAILABLE

Junior D. Kerns

The following report is available in limited quantity from the Natural Resources Office at Fort Wainwright, Alaska:

The Use and Environmental Impacts of Airboats on the Tanana Flats; Fort Wainwright, Alaska: January 1990.

The report was prepared by the US Army Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory in Hanover, New Hampshire. The primary author was Dr. Charles H. Racine.

The report evaluates the use and impact of airboats on about 65 square miles of Fort Wainwright, Alaska. Evaluations of impacts to land use and the wetlands themselves, impacts to access streams, impacts to large mammals, and impacts to waterfowl were considered.

Although not enough evidence was found to show impacts (or lack of impacts) to many natural resources, there was enough data to show a significant negative impact to trumpeter swans in the airboat use area. Also, the presence of many encroachment cabins, accessible only by airboats in summer months, was documented. The report also contains an excellent bibliography on the impacts of off-road vehicles and airboats on northern ecosystems.

Although prepared in 1989, the report was not allowed to be released until 1993, after a change in the Command of the Sixth Infantry Division (Light), a civilian retirement, and the

retirement of a previous Director of Engineering and Housing. They found the report at odds with a decision to which they had committed. Since the scientific evidence did not fully support their position that use of airboats on large areas of Fort Wainwright did not have adverse impacts on natural resources, the report was suppressed.

In a sense of "better late than never", the Command is currently reevaluating its policy of not regulating or restricting the use of airboats on Fort Wainwright.

Copies of the report may be requested from:

Environmental Resources Division
APVR-FW-PW-ER
Fort Wainwright, AK 99703-5500

NATIONAL EAGLE REPOSITORY

Scott Olsen

Like many other places, Sierra Army Depot has had a problem with raptors being killed by electrocution. Although measures have been taken to correct the problem, it still leaves the issue of what to do with the carcasses of dead raptors.

I contacted our local US Fish & Wildlife Service Special Agent, Lawrence Owens, of the Sacramento District. He informed me that certain raptor species could be sent to the National Eagle Repository in Ashland, Oregon to be permitted out for religious purposes.

I contacted Mr. Jim Kniffin of the National Eagle Repository for further information. He told me that there was a long line of individuals and organizations that were waiting for permitted raptor parts to be used for religious purposes. Bald Eagles, Golden Eagles, and Red-tailed Hawks were desperately needed to fill the ever growing list of persons requiring permitted raptor parts. He indicated that if the Eagle Repository could supply these raptor parts to these people, the loss of birds due to poaching could be reduced.

The loss of a beautiful bird such as a Bald Eagle is tragic. If we as an organized group of professional wildlife biologists could limit the poaching of even one bird, I believe we have an obligation to do everything in our power to do so. The following are the procedures for sending dead Bald Eagles, Golden Eagles, and Red-tailed Hawks to the National Eagle Repository:

1. Each facility should obtain a permit to handle wildlife, including Threatened and Endangered Species, from their local USFWS office.
2. A Special Agent from the Service will set up an official notification procedure required for all injured wildlife. This notification procedure could consist of a phone call or an official written report indicating the suspected cause of injury

to the wildlife species. Permission should be obtained from the USFWS before any birds are sent to the repository.

3. The birds should be mailed frozen. Wrap and pack birds accordingly. The package should be sent by overnight delivery (i.e. Express Mail, Federal Express, etc.) on either a Monday or Tuesday. Do not identify the contents! Include a note on the suspected cause of death. Call Mr. Kniffin at 503/482-4191 to notify him that the bird is on its way. Ship the package to the following address:

The National Eagle Repository
Attn: Jim Kniffin
1490 East Main Street
Ashland, OR 97520

I believe that the military has an obligation to care for its installation's natural resources. This is a perfect opportunity to show outside organizations that the military is committed to this goal by putting forward a united effort to reduce the loss of our Threatened and Endangered Species. If you have any questions or comments please contact me at 916/827-4769.

AIR FARES TO ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

Junior D. Kerns

To assist your offices in budgeting for the 1994 Fish and Wildlife Training Workshop in Anchorage, Alaska next March, here are the unrestricted round trip government contract fares that were in affect on 31 march 1993.

Washington, DC	\$628
Atlanta, GA	\$690
Chicago, IL	\$776
Los Angeles, CA	\$458
Honolulu, HI	\$812

These were the highest fares for this time of year in many years. Often there are price reductions in the first calendar quarter due to "out of season" considerations. Cost for the restricted non-government fares can run up to \$200 less than the government fares.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

One student, currently under the Cooperative Education Program in Fort McCoy's Fisheries and Wildlife Program. Will be available for noncompetitive appointment between January and April 1994. Eligibility is within DoD or other Federal agencies and is not restricted by the current DA hiring freeze. For more information, contact Kim Mello, DSN 280-2252 or COM 608-388-2252.

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