



The mission of the Oregon Chapter of The Wildlife Society is to promote wise conservation and management of wildlife resources in Oregon by serving and representing wildlife professionals.

# Raven

*Newsletter of the Oregon Chapter of The Wildlife Society*

SPRING 2006 ISSUE 1

## A message from our President

**M**y year as president-elect flew past and now I find myself in the pilot seat of an organization that I hold in high esteem. My first president's message focuses on three topics: 1) involvement in ORTWS—a way of giving back; 2) the 2006 board and officers; and 3) status of our membership.

### Chapter Involvement

I was introduced to The Wildlife Society as a student member and was an active participant in the student chapter at North Carolina State University. As a young college graduate, I moved to Oregon to survey for spotted owls, and soon afterwards joined the Oregon Chapter of TWS to stay connected and current in my chosen field. I vividly recall the intimidation that I felt sharing the same room with highly acclaimed scientists. Some had developed the models that I was applying in my new job, while others authored textbooks that I used in college. As the years passed I got to know more people in the Chapter and grew more comfortable in that setting. The more I learned the more I realized how little I actually knew. Then the value of ORTWS started to sink in.

I met researchers and managers from many states, provinces, agencies, industries, and private organizations. Each workshop and annual meeting resulted in new contacts, acquaintances, and friends. Through the technical sessions I was exposed to a much broader view of the wildlife "landscape" than what my job provided. Eventually I began to recognize principles and concepts that may apply to different species or management scenarios. No longer was I stubborn to just hear presentations that applied to my geographic area.

After nearly 10 years of learning and benefiting from the Chapter, I decided it was time to offer something back. Two unsuccessful attempts at securing a board position nearly crushed me. With encouragement from fellow Chapter members, and some effort on my part to help with tasks for the Chapter, and I was finally elected to the board.

Serving under then Chapter President Cheryl Friesen made my introduction to the board a welcome one. Cheryl's professional, gentle but firm leadership style proved a good model for how the board should function. Over the next several years I served as vice president-elect, vice president, and president-elect, and now in my current role. I must confess my initial terror of actually being entrusted to this position. However, after assessing the wonderful people who make up the board and other officer positions, I calmed considerably. There is little chance for failure with the quality of people who surround me on the board. I wish every Chapter member could see and appreciate the quality of folks who sit on the board and act on their behalf. My experience on the board has revealed a level of professionalism, diversity of opinions and ideas, sacrifice of time and energy, and dedication to wildlife and our profession that is quite impressive.

So what does my journey have to do with your involvement in the Chapter? I share my experience in hopes that you will recognize how ORTWS has contributed to your career, and possibly to motivate you to give back to the Chapter in whatever capacity you can.

### The 2006 Board and Officers

I welcome two new faces to the board, Rob Horn of Medford BLM, and Sherri Chambers, US Forest Service. Numerous people have told me of Rob's qualifications and how fortunate we are to have him on the board. I'm looking forward to serving with Rob and getting to know him better. Sherri and I were field partners on an owl crew at the beginning of our wildlife careers, so we know more about one another than I care to admit. Sherri is very results oriented, a good listener, and a patient, respectful professional who will compliment the existing board nicely.

Fortunately for me, Marcia Humes of ODF returned as secretary. She is hard working, dependable and thorough. We are also fortunate to retain Marie Morin as treasurer who  
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## NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

### EDITORS-AT-LARGE

The Newsletter Editors receive help and input from Editors-at-Large, who write or solicit wildlife research briefs, news, information, or dates of important meetings from their region. *YOU* can help by providing them with stories for the newsletter! Those who graciously volunteer their time include:

**NW—Jeffrey Kee**, Parametrix Inc., email: [jkee@hevanet.com](mailto:jkee@hevanet.com);

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### NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

Following are deadlines for submission of material to the Oregon Chapter Newsletter, published quarterly. Please submit all information, hard copy or diskette (Microsoft Word), to:

Lisa DeBruyckere  
Creative Resource Strategies  
6159 Rosemeadow Lane NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Or email Lisa DeBruyckere at [lisaandgeorge@hevanet.com](mailto:lisaandgeorge@hevanet.com) on or before 15 March, 15 June, 15 September, and 15 November.

### OUR LOGO

*The Raven logo commemorating the 1995 Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society in Portland incorporates an adaptation of a Northwest Coast Indian Depiction of Raven. The Society's name and conference year and location also are incorporated into the logo. Indian legends of the Pacific Northwest portray Raven as a mythical being with supernatural powers. Raven is the benefactor of mythological people of long ago. In these legends Raven, along with Mink and Coyote, helped the Creator plan the world. They make such decisions as in which direction rivers should flow and that humans would not live on earth forever. It is Raven who brought salmon to the coastal streams of the Northwest.*

## Officers and Board Members, Oregon Chapter of The Wildlife Society, 2004–2005

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### COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND APPOINTMENTS

Annual Meeting: Betsy Glenn, Michael Pope, and Mark Penninger

Awards: Matt Hane

Conservation Affairs: Michael Pope

Database Coordinator: Marcia Humes

Finance and Audit: Marie Morin

Fundraising: Jeff Reams

Government Affairs: Stephen Kafoury ([skafoury@hevanet.com](mailto:skafoury@hevanet.com))

Grants and Scholarships: Jeff Reams

Historian: Jim Harper

Information and Education: Bruce Campbell

Legislative Affairs: Warren Aney

Membership: Marcia Humes

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Newsletter Coordinator: Mark Penninger

Nominations: Dick Schmitz

Sales: Marcia Humes

Student Representative: Emily Hamblen ([hamblene@onid.oregonstate.edu](mailto:hamblene@onid.oregonstate.edu))

TWS/AFS Liaison: Nancy Breuner

Website: Betsy Glenn

Workshop Coordinator and Continuing Education: Betsy Glenn

ORTWS Web Site: <http://fw.oregonstate.edu/tws/index.htm>

TWS National Web Site: <http://www.wildlife.org/>

has an often thankless and time consuming job. Marie brings a wealth of experience and always has original ideas to contribute. Jeff Reams of Turnstone Environmental returns for a second term as board member. Jeff brings a unique perspective from the consulting industry, is hard working and has a sense of humor that lightens the mood of our meetings. Betsy Glenn moves into the vice-president seat after a busy year as VP- elect. Her abilities are evident in the wonderful job she did organizing and carrying out the concurrent sessions at this year's annual meeting at Agate Beach. Michael Pope and Bruce Campbell, both of ODFW, were elected vice-president elect and president-elect, respectively. These two bring years of experience, technical and political astuteness, and continuity to the board. Other board members who will remain in their terms in 2006 include Nancy Breuner (ODFW), Miriam Hulst (ODFW), Matt Hane (Weyerhaeuser), and Don Whittaker (ODFW). Emily Hamblen (OSU) will continue her role as student liaison. Lori Hennings of Portland Metro also remains on the board as past president. I am truly fortunate to learn from and be associated with such fine people.

### **Status of ORTWS Membership**

I sheepishly admit that my main goal for 2006 was to not screw anything up for the Chapter! There were no grandiose ideas of sweeping reform or restructuring. However, some things are beginning to surface as I begin a busy year. First, it would be worthwhile to examine why our Chapter has dipped from over 500 strong in the mid-1990s to about half that today. As with most complex problems, a combination of several factors is likely at play here:

- Reduced budgets have reduced the overall number of biologists in larger agencies;
- Other professional societies have attracted some members away from TWS;
- Individuals or groups feel alienated because of certain events, trends or experiences;
- Lack of personal outreach to many potential members; and
- Failure of the Chapter to illustrate the relevance of membership.

This list summarizes many conversations that I have had with current and former Chapter members over several years. This is not an exhaustive list and I would be interested to hear your thoughts on this topic. If we consider each of these items, perhaps some solutions will emerge.

**Reduced budgets and number of biologists**—My experience comes from the US Forest Service. I entered the job market near the time of the spotted owl listing. I witnessed entire national forests go from one biologist, in

and in some cases, a technician for each district, to each district having a journey level bio, one or more entry level bios, and several seasonal technicians! I have since watched those large district programs shrink to one journey level bio, zoned between two or more districts, with some seasonal help as funding allows. If this pattern is true for BLM, then there is no doubt that our pool of Oregon biologists has shrunk since the mid-1990s.

### **Attraction to other professional societies—**

This factor is based much more on speculation than experience. There are many other professional societies, new and old, that appeal to specialists among us. There are societies for entomologists, mammalogists, herpetologists, ornithologists, conservation biologists, and the list goes on. I believe one of our strengths is the comprehensive nature of the work of our members. ORTWS has some of the most respected ecologists in the world among its members. From my first exposure to TWS I was awestruck by the breadth of topics covered by our publications and at our technical meetings. Game management, threatened and endangered species conservation and recovery, habitat relationships, chemical contaminants effects on wildlife, population dynamics, natural resource policy, disturbance ecology, and predator/prey relationships is a short list of the topics currently being researched and applied by professionals in our chapter. The diversity in the work of our organization is what has captured my interest and imagination.

Perhaps some of our former members have become focused on a much narrower aspect of the incredibly broad wildlife discipline. However, it is my hope that these former members will eventually recognize TWS as an all-encompassing professional society that is equally concerned with ecological process and function, as it is with game management and national and international conservation policy. Many current TWS members are members of other (even several) professional societies, which can be a great way to have your focus and diversity, too ("cake and eat it , too").

**Alienated groups or individuals**—During conversations with former and current Chapter members, I have heard an array of stories about unfortunate encounters or events that have led to hurt feelings or disappointment in the Chapter. Other more general trends have turned some members away from TWS. A wide swing from predominantly game management to non-game has not set well with some members. From my perspective the most effective biologists are those who balance the concepts of game and non-game, policy, habitat conservation and restoration, and public involvement in wildlife management without dismissing any of these critical components. Our profession needs a balance of these skills to effectively represent the wildlife



resources. Generalizations about the “lean” of the Chapter are neither constructive, nor pertinent. You are the Oregon Chapter. The board turns over on a regular basis which provides opportunities for change. If you are displeased with the way the Chapter is being operated, I encourage you to become more active and help influence its direction. An organization as large as ours will never suit the entire membership all of the time. If we stick to the missions of our Chapter and the parent Society, follow our Strategic Plan, and remain open to input from the membership, then we will rebound and continue to be the voice for wildlife professionals in Oregon.

**Lack of personal outreach**—I predict that our membership would grow substantially if each current member simply approached one person who works in a wildlife-related field about membership in ORTWS. Whether it’s your supervisor, a newly recruited employee, or an active member in a conservation group that you work with, there are people who would benefit the wildlife resources and themselves from membership in ORTWS. We should extend an invitation to them. The worst they can do is say “no.”

Another type of personal outreach that would help is to tap the vast talents of wildlife and habitat managers across the state who are not regularly involved in ORTWS. These people have abundant knowledge and experience to share with our membership. I will be personally contacting some of these folks in 2006 to encourage them to share their work at the 2007 Annual Meeting. An early invitation gives people time to digest the idea rather than waiting for the “call for papers” in November.

In the early to mid-1990s the Chapter’s annual meeting had a strong showing of wildlife enforcement officers who shared interesting and often exciting cases of forensics, investigations and arrests that are so important to the whole wildlife management picture. For reasons unknown to me, we lost that segment of the Chapter for the most part. I will make an asserted effort in 2006 to re-involve this segment of Oregon’s wildlife managers into the Chapter.

Then there are entire segments of wildlife professionals that we may have failed to reach. For instance, there are biologists working for US Fish and Wildlife Service enforcement division who inspect international wildlife shipments and enforce the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) in support of US Customs and Boarder Protection. These folks would likely enjoy and benefit from interacting with the various other segments of wildlife professionals in Oregon. The Oregon Department of Transportation, Bonneville Power Administration, tribal biologists, Oregon

Department of Parks and Recreation, and Army Corps of Engineers are just a few groups that I suspect we are not involving to the extent possible.

**Failure to illustrate relevance of membership**—Many of us fall into a routine, a comfortable place where conflict can be managed or avoided. After a few years of this routine it may seem unimportant to maintain membership in professional societies. After all, things are going pretty smoothly without it. My hope is that the Chapter can reach out to these individuals and impress upon them the value they add to ORTWS, and the strong voice we carry in Salem and in many natural resource-related circles. We need to promote the work we do and show the wildlife professionals in Oregon how this work contributes to a better climate for wildlife and our profession, and how their involvement is mutually beneficial to them, the Chapter, and most importantly, the wildlife resources.

Thank you for persisting through my long-winded ramblings. I hope something here strikes a chord with you to take action or reflect on where you fit into ORTWS.

*Mark A. Penninger, President*



Always the wildlife biologist, President Mark Penninger holds detritus from the digestive tract of an elephant while vacationing in Namibia in 2005.



## **Implementing the 2005 Workshop, “Managing Northern Spotted Owl Habitat in Dry Forest Ecosystems”**

**May 16–18, 2006  
Southern Oregon University Campus  
Ashland, Oregon**

**Sponsored by: Fish & Wildlife Service,  
Forest Service, and  
Bureau of Land Management**

Details coming soon. Save the date!

### **Background**

This workshop follows up on some of the recommendations from the 2005 workshop, “Managing Northern Spotted Owl Habitat in Dry Forest Ecosystems.” The 2005 synthesis report is available at <http://www.fws.gov/oregonfwo/index.asp>. Go to “Dry Forest Ecosystems” in the “Topics of Interest” drop down menu.

### **Purpose**

A primary goal of the 2006 workshop is to bring fire/fuels specialists, silviculturists, and wildlife biologists together to collaboratively develop silvicultural practices that are beneficial to northern spotted owls while addressing high fuel load concerns. A secondary goal is to enhance the dialogue among resource agencies and continue to build on the common ground recognized at the 2005 workshop.

### **Content**

The 2006 workshop will comprise scientific presentations, case studies, a field trip and group exercises. The emphasis will be to engage discussion and use the interagency and interdisciplinary nature of the participants to develop workable silvicultural practices and fuel reduction treatments that will maintain northern spotted owl habitat.

Although much of the workshop content will be specific to the Klamath Province, the exercises and discussions are designed to provide key information and processes usable to derive silvicultural practices for managing owl habitat in other dry provinces.

### **Audience**

Similar to the 2005 workshop, the target audience is forest fuels managers, silviculturists, wildlife biologists, project planners, Level I and II representatives and local unit managers responsible for managing northern spotted owl habitat in dry forest ecosystems on federal lands.

### **Contacts**

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## Summary of the 2006 Oregon TWS Conference

**W**ho would have expected frost and frozen sand on the beach and snow in Newport! While it was cold outside, based on attendance and feedback, the conference was a “hot” success.

The three and one-half day pre-conference workshop and conference was attended by over 240 people. The 2-day conference was tipped off by a very stimulating and entertaining plenary presentation by Marla Rae, Chair of the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission. There is never a dull moment when Marla is in the house. The conference provided 2 concurrent sessions, Wildlife and Transportation Issues and Mammal Ecology, Wednesday afternoon. Thursday's proceedings included 3 concurrent sessions: Avian Ecology, Forest Wildlife Ecology and Management, Lessons of Conservation Planning and the Third Annual Policy Forum, Grazing on the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, and Wetland and Riparian Ecology and Management. Friday morning's sessions were the Open Session, Avian Ecology 2, and Human Dimensions and Public Outreach.

According to Treasurer Marie Morin's preliminary figures, income from registration fees, banquet tickets and such totaled about \$27,325. This figure also includes a limited number of annual chapter dues. When raffle ticket sales (about \$1,500), auction income (about \$600) and agency/corporate donations (about \$5,000) are added, total revenue for the 2006 conference exceeded \$34,000 (gross).

The Chapter and profession got its money's worth from our banquet speaker, Ed Bangs. While in Oregon Ed presented a seminar at OSU, gave a paper in one of the conference sessions, participated on the panel of the policy forum session, and presented well-received banquet entertainment. Although the Board goofed this year and forgot to provide evaluation forms for the conference, I had a number of people approach me after the banquet and complement us on inviting Ed to speak at the banquet. When I passed the kudos on the Ed, he responded in the typical Bangs fashion, “good to hear the talk went well. At last—something for all those tax dollars...”

A very big THANK YOU to all of the folks who pitched in and made the 2006 Conference a success.

*Bruce Campbell*

**W**hat our students had to say about the conference . . .

Thirty undergraduates from OSU Fisheries and Wildlife Science attended the 2006 Annual Meeting and as always, this experience had a profound effect on their academic and professional development. The

students were unanimously positive about the experience, all of whom ranked the meeting 8 and above on a 10-point scale. Twelve students were members of Oregon TWS and 8 said they would join in the future. Twenty-six students volunteered at the meeting and felt it contributed significantly to their positive experience; volunteering helped students feel that they were contributing, thus they became more comfortable interacting with professional biologists. The mentor session was very well received; however suggestions for the future included 1) providing a list of attendees so students could follow up later; 2) including a “speed-dating” concept where everyone shifts at regular intervals; 3) hosting a longer session; and 4) grouping mentors into professional “areas” such as big game management, etc.

We extend our deep gratitude to all of you who took a few moments to welcome them into the fold and to share your career background, professional interests and sound advice with students. If you have ever doubted the impact you make, please take a look at the comments below:

“Thank you for this extraordinary experience.”

“The conference was really a great opportunity to network.”

“I thoroughly enjoyed this experience.”

“The conference was very stimulating, informative and useful.”

“All the professionals were willing to talk to you and make you feel like you were going to accomplish something in the future.”

“Talking to the biologists really got me thinking about what I want to do.”

“Mentors and other contacts are priceless in this field.”

“One must stick with their guns and provide the best scientific information possible.”

“It will be great to have my voice heard in the future and know that I am affecting wildlife management practices like those I met at the conference.”

“As wildlife professionals we need to be able to converse with the public and listen to their input in order to gain their trust in what we are trying to accomplish.”

“Experience is key - get it anyway you can.”

“The main eye-opener for me was the necessary use and knowledge of statistics demonstrated through all the talks.”

“I liked going to this conference because you can be offered a job on the spot.”

“Many of the presentations.....helped rekindle an interest in all parts of nature.”

“It was a laid back environment which made it easier to meet professionals.”

“The best part of the meeting was that we were able to see what people did in the real world.”

“A degree is not going to get you in the door; it’s the experience you get while working on your degree.”

“It really helped to reinforce the importance of our classes.”

“...great place to meet and interact with professionals who are in the field.”

“Be open-minded. I wasn’t going to go to any presentations about birds but I went to one and it was one of the most interesting ones that I went to.”

“The policy forum was awesome and showed me that conflict means we are educating the public.”

“The conference really showed me how many different possibilities there are when you get into the field of wildlife science.”

“The best aspect of the conference was being able to meet professionals and talk to them about their work and also receive advice.”

“It most definitely had a positive effect on my professional development.”



## Awards

Joshua Halofsky, won the Les Eberhardt Award for the presenter of the best student paper and the Dimick Award for the best overall paper at the 2006 Annual Meeting of the Oregon Chapter of the Wildlife Society. Joshua presented the paper, “The Relative Influence of Wolves Versus Other Factors on Historic Aspen Recruitment in Yellowstone National Park.” Our emphatic congratulations go out to Joshua for a terrific presentation!

Best posters submitted for the 2006 TWS annual meeting:  
Undergraduate Student poster: Emily Hamblen, OSU.  
Graduate Student poster: Holly Ober, OSU.

Congratulations to the 2006 TWS Oregon Chapter Scholarship recipients:

Donna Fouts — Kathy Johnson Outreach Scholarship  
Pete Loschl — Outstanding New Graduate Student Scholarship  
Cheron Ferland — Advanced Graduate Student Scholarship



# **TWS OREGON CHAPTER ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING February 16, 2006 Newport, Agate Beach Inn**

**ATTENDEES:** Board Members: Nancy Breuner, Marcia Humes, Bruce Campbell, Lori Hennings, Michael Pope, Betsy Glenn, Matt Hane, Emily Hamblen, Don Whittaker, Mark Penninger, Miriam Hulst, Jeff Reams, Marie Morin, Greg Smith

Stephen Kafoury and Warren Aney

About 45 additional chapter members

## **Legislative Update**

Warren explained the difference between Legislative Affairs and Conservation Affairs, and how the two often overlap. Conservation Affairs deals with issues that arise at the agency level, such as ODFW's wolf plan or cougar plan. Legislative Affairs responds to issues that arise at the legislature or with individual legislators. He explained that the Chapter's goal is to inform and not to advocate, unless TWS has a specific policy that we advocate.

Stephen reported on the following activities from the past year:

- There was no action on ODFW's Wolf Plan by the legislature.
- A group called Ranching for Wildlife wants authority to give tags for hunting on their land—there was no action on this issue last session.
- Funding of nongame wildlife—no increase in fees last session.

Some upcoming issues where the Chapter has potential to provide input:

- Selection of new ODFW director
- "The Big Look" review of land use system
- More involvement in local concerns, e.g. cities and counties; METRO

## **Financial Update (Marie)**

- A handout provided an annual budget report summary for 2005.
- The Mutual fund value as of November 2005 was over \$31K. Our goal is to reach about \$40,000 and then fund 4-\$500 scholarships a year from the interest generated.
- There was a problem associated with using the credit card reader at last year's meeting. Unfortunately, some transactions never were processed, resulting in about \$3,000 worth of payments that we never received.

## **President's Update**

Last year, the Chapter provided input on ODFW's Harvest and Habitat modeling process, ODFW's cougar plan, Sage grouse plan, and the Wildlife Conservation Strategy.

## **Upcoming Workshops**

Wildlife and Fire in the Wildlife Urban Interface is April 18–19; State Forests Conference is Oct 3–5, and the Chapter has been offered space at this meeting for a workshop at no cost.

## **Student Board Member Vote**

Issue: there is a student member that participates on the Board, but this person is not a voting member of the Board. A motion was made to allow the TWS/Student liaison to be a voting member of the Board.

## **Discussion**

A concern was raised that the student chapter is almost exclusively OSU students; other universities have not been very involved in the student chapter, although it is supposed to represent all students in the state. One suggestion was that the Fish & Wildlife (F&W) club meetings could go on tour to other universities in the state to encourage involvement by other universities.

There was discussion about whether the students are members of the parent society. Rebecca explained that all the F&W Club members are members of either the American Fisheries Society (AFS) or TWS.

In the next newsletter we will put this issue out for a vote of the membership. We were strongly encouraged to ensure we include the actual language that will be used in the by-law change, including a description of how the student liaison to the Board is selected. An informal showing of hands was taken and the majority were favor of allowing the student member to vote; two people were opposed, and several people did not vote either way.

## **Other issues**

Other potential by-law changes that have been suggested include allowing the President/Vice President positions to run unopposed, and whether prior Board experience should be a requirement for President. The former was suggested because it is often difficult to find members willing to run for officer positions. This has occasionally resulted in unwilling people running just to meet the requirement for two people to be on the ballot.

A member reminded us that a decision had been made about 10 years ago to alternate annual meetings between eastern and western Oregon. He pointed out that we have met on the west side 2 years in a row now.

The meeting wrapped up with recognition of the outgoing Board members: Bruce Campbell, Lori Hennings, Marcia Humes, Michael Pope, Jeff Reams, and Greg Smith.

**Upcoming Conservation  
Roundtable:  
“The Ins and Outs of Conservation  
Markets: Beginning to Answer the  
Tough Questions”**

**Friday, May 5, 2006, 8:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m.  
Alumni Lounge, 3rd floor  
Putnam University Center  
Willamette University  
Salem, Oregon**

**T**his roundtable is being convened by the Willamette Partnership (LINK) and hosted by Willamette University's Public Policy Research Center.

Space is limited to 100 people, so be sure to register early. Register now at: <http://www.willamette.edu/go/cmr>. Join us on May 5th for the first gathering of the Conservation Markets Roundtable. We will combine a morning of panel presentations from leaders in the world of conservation markets with an afternoon of small group dialogues to raise and discuss the tough questions tied to creating conservation markets in the Northwest.

The Willamette Partnership, a diverse group of watershed stakeholders and the roundtable's convener, recently received a targeted watersheds grant from the Environmental Protection Agency to begin a water quality trading program in the Willamette Basin. The trading program will initially focus on temperature, then expand to include other values. The Partnership is a new nonprofit organization with a diverse board of directors including members from business, agriculture, conservation, academia, and local government. As the Partnership begins work it is clear that the region needs an informal way to discuss the challenges of creating conservation markets. Conservation markets are not new, but their popularity and expanded use has jumped onto the national policy stage in the last five years.

The discussions we have at the Roundtable will be packaged, made available, and used to guide the work of the Willamette Partnership and others looking to use new policy tools to achieve conservation goals.

To bring in new perspectives on this topic, representatives from the office of Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski, US Forest Service, US Environmental Protection Agency, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, David Evans and Associates, and others will share their experiences, activities, and visions related to emerging conservation markets. Then it will be up to us to discuss some of the most pressing issues related to conservation markets.

We will be sending out a second email shortly with further details. Register now! We look forward to seeing you at the roundtable on May 5th.

**Did Your Credit Card  
Statement have an “Extra”  
TWS Charge Recently?**

**A**s many of you already know, TWS Oregon Chapter's Board voted in late 2004 to acquire the ability to process credit cards, in addition to accepting checks and cash at meetings. The Board knew that there is a fee for every transaction, plus another fee that is a percent of the amount of the transaction. A slight increase in registration fees is the method whereby that extra cost is recovered.

There are two methods that we now have available for charging credit cards: using an online secure “virtual terminal” on the computer, where the card numbers are entered on the keyboard, and the second method is to physically swipe the card in a card swiper (or key the numbers into the card swiper). The card swiping machine was obtained in late 2004 for use at the 2005 annual meeting in Corvallis, but the majority of the credit card transactions for the 2005 meeting were processed correctly ahead of time over the virtual terminal on the computer. During our preparations for the 2006 meeting in Newport, it came to our attention that the transactions that were physically swiped at the 2005 meeting in Corvallis were authorized for payment (i.e. a receipt was generated), but due to our lack of experience, the charges were never correctly “settled” (meaning that the amount was never taken out of the customer's account and did not show up on the customer's 2005 statements). All of the 2006 annual meeting credit card transactions (both those done ahead of time on the virtual terminal, and those physically swiped at the meeting) were processed correctly.

We apologize profusely for any inconvenience or confusion that this delay in billing may have caused. Funds generated by our Annual Meeting, our workshops, and merchandise (tee-shirts, mugs, etc.) represent the majority of the Chapter income. Not only is our income used to fund college scholarships, student assistance to meetings, and grants, but we also must pay facilities rental, banquet and break catering, guest speaker travel, and numerous other expenses associated with hosting a large yearly meeting. We have re-run some of the affected credit cards from the 2005 meeting, as advised by our credit card processing provider (Merchant Warehouse), and that amount should have already shown up on credit card statements. We sent letters to everyone whose card was swiped at the 2005 Corvallis meeting explaining the problem, except for two persons who did not put a mailing address on their registration form last year and cannot be relocated. If you have any questions regarding this, call the Chapter treasurer at (503) 762-7587.

# INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO WILDLIFE/HIGHWAY INTERACTIONS

A new NCTC pilot course, is now open for student applications in the DOI LEARN system: <http://training.fws.gov/applic.html> -- (Search the Catalog for keyword: "TEC7189")

If you are dealing with road or highway construction on a refuge, or wildlife impacts of roads on or next to natural resource lands, or permit review of road impacts or modifications for wildlife, this course is for you. Designed for both resource biologists and engineers, this class will cover the latest innovations and issues concerning wildlife and roadway interactions.

Course Name: Innovative Approaches to Wildlife/Highway Interactions

Course Code: TEC7189

Course Dates: May 31 - June 2, 2006 or

August 23 - 25, 2006

(wk before FWS Transprt Bill Wrkshp)

Location: Shepherdstown, WV (NCTC)

Tuition: \$510 (Free to FWS Employees, NPS/BLM discounts)

Topics include an overview of wildlife issues relative to pre-existing highways and future highway planning, differences in impacts and solutions between low volume and high volume roads, structural and nonstructural solutions to wildlife mortality and habitat connectivity, and an introduction to current resources on wildlife/highway crossings and interactions. This course is taught through partnership with the US Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Research Station.

College Credit: 1 semester hour. Text description posted on web at:

<http://training.fws.gov/TEC/Catalog/tec7189.html>

Note: If you are a Department of the Interior employee and haven't logged into DOI Learn yet to apply for an NCTC course, you should visit the NCTC DOI Learn Info Site at [http://training.fws.gov/doi\\_learn](http://training.fws.gov/doi_learn) - read the FAQ's and download the "First Time User" instructions for your office. Both you and your supervisor will need to establish DOI Learn accounts for you to apply for training. Non-Interior applicants may log into the system and apply for the course as a "guest user."

Course Questions? Please contact:

Glenn Gravatt, Technical Training Manager

NCTC Conservation Land Management Branch

[Glenn\\_Gravatt@fws.gov](mailto:Glenn_Gravatt@fws.gov)

(304) 876-7456

## Wolfree, Inc.

**Wolfree, Inc.** is a 501(3) charitable non-profit corporation with a mission to serve people, their communities and the Earth through innovative science education, ecological research and restoration.

Wolfree mentors lead groups of 5-6 students (grades 5 through 12) on one to multiple day field trips, exploring wildlife, forestry, aquatics and other topics using the scientific method. A typical day includes: field journaling, map and compass work, learning to use field guides, data collection and presenting findings to peers at the day's end. Times vary, although are approximately from 8am-3pm. Please see our field calendar on our website for more information: [www.beoutside.org](http://www.beoutside.org).

Due to increasingly limited resources, our current mentor pools are drying up and we are looking for folks with some background in the natural sciences who have an interest in working with elementary and or secondary aged students to come out and mentor. New mentors can attend at Hopkins Tree Farm near Oregon City, or shadow a Wolfree staff for a day before leading a group. Contact the website for the latest training dates.

Wolfree works at sites throughout the region, this spring primarily at Wildwood along the Salmon River 15 miles east of Sandy, OR, Hopkins Tree Farm near Oregon City, North Santiam State Park east of Salem and Battle Ground Lake in Washington. We also have programs in Central Oregon around the Deshutes National Forest.

Sara Ennis, Project Manager

516 SE Morrison, Ste. 710 Portland, OR 97214 (503) 239-1820 fax:(503) 239-1183 [sennis@beoutside.org](mailto:sennis@beoutside.org)

# Searching for Wildlife Jobs

With the advent of the internet, searching for jobs in the wildlife field has become easier. However, the task can still be daunting without some information and guidance. Following are several hints and internet locations to use when searching for that perfect wildlife or closely related job. Job searches can be categorized as federal, state, and university or non government.

The website for virtually all federal jobs is [www.usajobs.opm.gov](http://www.usajobs.opm.gov). The homepage of this site will allow you to tailor your search using numerous criteria such as specific job announcements, job series, and location. There are hundreds of federal job series, several that may interest wildlife job seekers are Wildlife Biologist (0486), Biological Science Technician (0404), and Biologist (0401). Other series may interest some such as Ecologist, Park Ranger, or Range Technician. Feel free to browse, some of the series titles are quite interesting and esoteric such as Autopsy Assistant, Nondestructive Tester, and Oiler/Greaser.

When applying for federal jobs, be aware of the basic requirements for each series. The Wildlife Biologist series requires the applicant to have at least 9 semester hours of botany; this surprises many job seekers. Also be aware that experience in a different series such as Biological Science Technician may not count towards experience as a Wildlife Biologist. Once you find a job that interests you, follow the directions to apply. Most jobs require you to apply online. The agency will guide you to their online resume creator which will save your resume, ready to be updated or sent to other job announcements. One frustrating aspect of the online application is that virtually all federal agencies seem to have a different resume creator, forcing you to create a resume for each agency. Some examples are the Forest Service using AVUE, the BLM using Quickhire, the USGS using OARS, the Army Corps of Engineers using Army Centralized Resumix, and the USFWS actually allows a written resume (dinosaurs!). Follow the directions closely.

Other job opportunities are with state agencies and each state has a different process. Two job websites for the State of Oregon are [www.oregonjobs.org](http://www.oregonjobs.org) and [www.dfw.state.or.us](http://www.dfw.state.or.us). The first includes jobs for most state agencies. The second lists job openings for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Although many wildlife jobs are with government agencies, there are a large variety of other positions available to biologists. These run the spectrum from volunteering, to university positions, to private companies. Unlike the federal and state positions, there is no centralized location for job announcements. However there are many very useful websites. Some of the more convenient and most inclusive are:

<http://wfsc.tamu.edu/jobboard>

[www.wildlife.org/jobs](http://www.wildlife.org/jobs)

[www.cbfwa.org](http://www.cbfwa.org)

[www.environmentalcareer.com](http://www.environmentalcareer.com)

[www.monster.com](http://www.monster.com)

Many other websites exist. Search the internet and follow the links. Hopefully this information will help those seeking your first job or an upgrade from your current position. Happy job hunting.





# Portland Audubon Society Peregrine Falcon Hack Site Internship

**D**escription of internship: The Audubon Society of Portland is looking for 1–2 “hack site” interns to assist in releasing captive-raised peregrine falcons into the wild. Interns will live on a local Portland-area wildlife refuge and will be responsible for feeding and monitoring young falcons during a six-week time period as the birds learn to fly and hunt on their own. Internship will provide a great opportunity to learn about various aspects of bird of prey management including hacking, field monitoring, captive rearing, captive care and treatment, and handling. Interns will be provided with housing and a \$1,500 stipend.

Hacking is an ancient process in which young, captive-raised falcons are transferred to a release site approximately one week prior to the time that they would typically be able to fly. The birds are housed for one-week in a hack box placed atop a 30-foot tall tower. The falcons spend one week in the hack box during which time an attendant provides food through a built-in chute. The front of the box is open and allows the falcons to view and become familiar with their surrounding habitat. After a week's time, the box is opened and the young falcons are allowed to emerge. The objective of this process is to have the falcons associate the tower with food such that after release they will continue to return to feed on food placed daily on the tower. Falcons will instinctually begin attempting to fly and hunt on their own, but will not become proficient for several weeks. Providing food at the tower replicates the support that they would receive from their parents. The hack site intern will oversee this entire process. The internship will also provide additional opportunities to learn about and participate in other aspects of caring for captive birds of prey.

## Requirements:

- At least one season of field monitoring experience.
- Access to a car for the duration of the internship.
- Flexibility to serve six-week internship between June and August of 2006 (timing of falcon release is uncertain).
- Comfort climbing and working on 30-foot tall tower.
- Ability to spend long hours in the field alone in all types of weather.
- Ideal candidate would be pursuing a degree in biology, ecology, wildlife management or related topic. Audubon is happy to assist with students pursuing academic credit for the internship.
- Intern will be provided with housing and a \$1,500 stipend to cover expenses. Intern is responsible for all personal expenses including mileage and food, and any tax liability on stipend.

## To Apply:

Submit cover letter, resume and contact information for two references to:

Bob Sallinger

Audubon Society of Portland

5151 NW Cornell Road

Portland, OR 97210

Application deadline: March 31, 2006.

For more information please contact: Bob Sallinger at (503) 292-9501 ext. 122 or [bsallinger@audubonportland.org](mailto:bsallinger@audubonportland.org).



## Peregrine Falcon Recovery and the Portland Audubon Peregrine Falcon Project:

Peregrine falcon populations were severely depleted by widespread use of the pesticide DDT during the 1940s, 50s and 60s. By 1970, there were no peregrines known to be nesting anywhere in Oregon. In 1972, DDT was banned and peregrines were listed under the Federal Endangered Species Act. Since that time the species has made a steady recovery. Today there are more than 100 known nest sites in the State of Oregon. Although peregrines were delisted under the Federal Endangered Species Act in 1999, they remain listed as endangered under the State of Oregon Endangered Species Act.

Although peregrines typically nest on cliffs, they also have been known to substitute large manmade structures such as bridges and buildings. Today at least four Portland area bridges serve as peregrine nest sites. Included among these is Portland's Fremont Bridge, believed to be the most productive nest site in the entire state of Oregon. Since 1994 when peregrine first began nesting on the Fremont Bridge, Portland Audubon Society has played an active role in managing, monitoring, researching and providing public education programs for our local peregrine population.

Although every effort is made to avoid disturbing bridge nesting falcons, there are times where major construction or maintenance projects on the bridges would unavoidably result in nest failure. To address these situations, Portland Audubon developed a program that is designed to be able to remove either eggs or young falcons from these sites, raise them in captivity and then return them to the wild through a process known as “hacking.” The program has been so successful over the past four years, that Audubon now receives requests to provide this service for peregrine nests subject to unavoidable disruption throughout the Pacific Northwest.



# Bald Eagle Nest Survey Report

*Highlights of the 2005 survey of bald eagle breeding areas in Oregon and the Washington portion of the Columbia River Recovery Zone. Compiled by Frank B. Isaacs and Robert G. Anthony, Oregon Cooperative Fish And Wildlife Research Unit, Oregon State University, Corvallis.*

- 2005 was the 28th year of our survey of bald eagle breeding areas (1978–2005) and the 35th year for which we have tabulated data (1971–2005) on nesting bald eagles in Oregon (OR) and the Washington portion of the Columbia River Recovery Zone (WA).

- 2,385 observations were used to summarize the 2005 survey. 307 people, including volunteers and representatives of 39 organizations, contributed to the survey. We thank all of them! Without their efforts the survey would have been much less complete.

- History of bald eagle use has been compiled for 1,472 nest trees and 2 manmade structures (1,315 in OR, 159 in WA) at 575 breeding areas (513 in OR, 62 in WA). Bald eagle nests have been discovered in 33 of 36 (92%) counties in OR, and 6 of 7 (86%) counties in the WA portion of the Columbia River Recovery Zone. Counties in OR with no reported nests are Sherman, Gilliam, and Morrow. There are no nests known in the Benton Co., WA portion of the study area.

- 87 previously unknown nests were documented in 2005 (68 in OR, 19 in WA); 28 were at 28 previously unknown breeding areas (23 at 23 in OR, 5 at 5 in WA), and 59 (45 in OR, 14 in WA) were at previously known breeding areas.

- 513 of 541 (456 of 479 in OR, 57 of 62 in WA) breeding areas surveyed (95%) were occupied (OC) by bald eagles. 491 nestlings (437 in OR, 54 in WA) were observed at 484 OC breeding areas (432 in OR, 52 in WA) where nesting outcome was determined. 6,060 eaglets have been counted at nests in OR since 1971.

- Nesting success was 66% in OR and 65% in WA, resulting in 5-year nesting success of 65% in OR and 62% in WA. Young/successful breeding pair was 1.53 in OR and 1.59 in WA. Three nestlings were observed at 8 breeding areas in OR and 5 in WA during 2004.

- Productivity was 1.01 young per occupied (YG/OC) breeding area in OR and 1.04 in WA, resulting in 5-year productivity of 1.04 YG/OC breeding area for OR and 0.99 for WA. This was the 4th consecutive year that the 5-year productivity for OR was greater than the Recovery Goal of 1.00.

- Nesting success for Recovery Zones with at least 5 OC breeding areas was highest in Recovery Zone 12 (Willamette Basin) with 1.15 YG/OC breeding area, and lowest in RZ 22 (Klamath Basin) with 0.87.

- Productivity was  $\geq 1.00$  YG/OC breeding area for all but RZs 11 (High Cascades; 0.94) and 22 (Klamath Basin; 0.87). The Klamath Basin productivity was the lowest since 0.73 was recorded in 1993. Both 1993 and 2005 had unusually wet late-winter and spring weather. Changes in survey technique instituted in 2004 also may have contributed to the 2005 Klamath Basin result.

- Net increase in the OR population was 3.2% for 2005. Annual net increase averaged 6.9% from 1995–2004. The annual increase for 2003 and 2004 was 4.2% and 5.7%, respectively. We suspect that the variation in the annual increase is the result of survey technique, and that more effort would result in a higher increase because many areas have not been searched thoroughly.

- The bald eagle nesting population in the Columbia River RZ (10) increased by 18.2%. This was the largest annual increase recorded for that area, and it resulted in the nesting population in RZ 10 surpassing the Klamath Basin (RZ 22) nesting population by 1 nesting pair (130 occupied breeding areas in RZ 10 vs. 129 in RZ 22).

- During an aerial survey on 15 June 2005, 2 peregrine falcon eggs were observed on a bald eagle nest in a dominant live conifer on the WA side of the Columbia River. This was the first time we have observed peregrine falcon eggs on a bald eagle nest. The eggs were out of the scrape and no adults were present at the time of the survey, indicating that the nesting attempt had failed.

- On 16 February 2006, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service re-opened the 90-day comment period on three proposals related to removing the bald eagle from the federal threatened species list. Visit the following website: <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/baldeagle.htm>. You can view the proposals and learn where to send comments.

- We are grateful to the following cooperators for major funding for the 2005 bald eagle nest survey: USDA FOREST SERVICE, Regional Office - Portland; USGS FOREST AND RANGELAND ECOSYSTEM SCIENCE CENTER, Corvallis; US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, Portland; US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, Portland; USGS BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES DIVISION, Reston, VA; BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, Portland; OREGON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT, Salem; and OREGON EAGLE FOUNDATION, INC., Klamath Falls.

- We are especially grateful for the outstanding assistance that came from the many resource managers and volunteers who helped complete the 2005 survey. Without their help this project could not have been completed!

- We intend to coordinate the survey again in 2006, and hope that you will continue to contribute to this project.

*Frank B. Isaacs*

## A Howling Good Time

**A**lthough busy with The Wildlife Society annual meeting, OSU Fish and Wildlife club members still found time to have an active term. We started out the new year howling with owner Lois Tulleners-White of the White Wolf Sanctuary. Club members spent the day out at the White Wolf Sanctuary learning about exotic wildlife laws, wolf behavior, and the difficulties of public perception. The White Wolf Sanctuary gives rescued wolves who are injured, unwanted or abandoned a protected area to spend their lives. Over 40 acres of wolf proof fencing allow the wolves to run freely in natural habitat.

Club members then teamed up with the Audubon Society for habitat restoration at the Hesthavn sanctuary. Previously a horse pasture, students got down and dirty while planting native flowers to attract butterflies and birds. This was followed by burning invasive grasses and seeds to stop their spread on the property. Ray Drapek, Hesthavn director, educated students about native and invasive species as well as the process of restoring habitat.

On an overnight trip to the old mining town of Opal Creek, Fish and Wildlife club members learned basic wilderness survival skills such as shelter building, edible plants, and orienteering while searching for wildlife tracks in the snow. Students made treks in search of tailed frogs but came back with wild chanterelles and hedgehogs instead.

The last trip of the term was the Marine Mammal extravaganza tour. Led by graduate student Jon Scordino, who is researching the distribution of juvenile Steller Sea Lions, and undergraduate researcher Emily Hamblen, students were fortunate enough to see four marine mammals common to the Oregon coast. At Sea Lion Caves students spotted over 200 Steller sea lions, a threatened species. They then traveled north to Strawberry Hill Wayside. Students watched harbor seals while looking into tidepools filled with purple sea urchins, hermit crabs, and sea anemones. Of course no trip to the coast is complete without seeing the California Sea Lions on the Newport docks. The most exciting event that day was actually the most unexpected—multiple gray whales were seen headed north on their migration to Alaska.

As always the club continues to plan more wildlife events. Our next trip is to Catalina Island in California to learn about bald eagle rehabilitation and habitat restoration.

*Emily Hamblen, OSU TWS Liaison*



## Wildlife and Fire in the Wildlife Urban Interface

TWS-Oregon Chapter  
April 18–19, 2006

There is a growing concern and emphasis regarding large wildfires in the western US, particularly where human lives, homes, buildings and other infrastructure are at risk. There is a parallel concern for wildlife populations and habitats in low and moderate elevations where human development has had profound detrimental effects. The Oregon Chapter of the Wildlife Society is sponsoring a workshop on integrating wildlife needs into the wildland urban interface. The two-day workshop will explore techniques for managing forests and rangelands that border human communities, while maintaining the integrity of the landscape for wildlife.

### Workshop Registration Form Oregon Chapter of The Wildlife Society

One person per form please. It helps simplify our paperwork. Thanks.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone - Office: \_\_\_\_\_ Home: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Cost

Member\* \$ 50 \_\_\_\_\_  
Nonmember\* \$ 65 \_\_\_\_\_  
Student\* \$ 30 \_\_\_\_\_

#### TOTAL

\*There may be partial scholarships available for private landowners. Please call Nancy Bruener for more information at (541) 388-6444.

Make checks payable to Oregon Chapter, TWS. VISA/MASTER-CARD accepted.

Account No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail your registration form and payment to Marie Morin, 4920 SE 140th Ave., Portland, OR 97236.

ORTWS tax identification number is 23-7035908.

Cancellation policy: We will offer a full refund for cancellations before April 3, 2006. For cancellations after April 3, 2006, there will be a handling fee of 25% of the total bill.

Form can also be found on the Oregon Chapter, TWS website: (<http://fw.oregonstate.edu/tws/>)



# Working” Buffer Strips Provide Both Profit and Protection

By Miles Merwin

Oregon farmer Rob Miller planted his first buffer strip of native cottonwood 25 years ago along the riverbanks adjacent to his cropland. “Working” buffer strips have since then not only protected this valuable farmland from erosion, but have also provided a profitable wood crop. They are now an integral part of a diversified farming operation that includes row crops, a research and production nursery, and specialty crops. Mt. Jefferson Farms, owned by second-generation farmer Rob Miller, produces a variety of row crops on about 200 acres of fertile alluvial soil along the North Santiam River in the Willamette Valley south of Salem. According to Miller, the farm originally had 600 acres of irrigated cropland along the river, but 400 acres were lost to erosion and siltation following periodic river flooding. The remaining acreage has been saved by the planting of riparian buffer strips.

## Riparian Buffers

Following his father’s interest in poplars, Rob Miller visited the Poplar Institute in Rome, Italy, in the mid-1960s. There he procured cuttings of 100 hybrid clones for testing on the family farm. He planted the first buffer strips of native black cottonwood (*Populus trichocarpa*) and hybrid poplars in 1970. The original plantings have withstood several major floods along the river, and portions of it have since been harvested several times for high-value wood products. “My aim is to show landowners that buffer strips can be profitable,” Miller said, “or at least a break-even proposition.”

The original planting of native black cottonwood was commercially thinned in 1980 and 1994. The 1994 harvest yielded 10,000 board feet per acre, almost all of which was sold for veneer peeler logs at a value of \$350 per thousand board feet. The harvest produced a total gross return of \$70,000. Miller said that other sites on his farm planted with black cottonwood in the mid-1970s have yielded 20–25,000 board feet per acre of veneer grade logs.

Rob Miller has also planted poplars and cottonwoods in upland areas of his farm where the soils are too

poor to grow economic yields of row crops or grass seed. In a 10 year old test planting that includes native black cottonwood and several clones of hybrid poplar, the native cottonwood has grown about half as fast as the hybrid poplar. However, where Miller has planted native cottonwoods on better soils adjacent to the riverbank, they have attained merchantable size for veneer in as little as 12–15 years.

About 200 acres of riparian buffer strips are now managed on a sustainable basis at Mt. Jefferson Farms. The plantings range from 200 to 1,000 feet wide along 2 miles of river frontage. Rob Miller’s aim is to harvest and replant portions of the buffer strips every year to achieve an annual sustained yield of timber while maintaining their protective capacity. He manages these multipurpose buffer strips

as a profitable wood crop, to protect his farmland from erosion and flooding, and to prevent excess nutrients and agricultural chemicals from reaching the river. Miller sees the use of riparian buffer strips to protect water quality as a proactive step to meet expected future regulation which may mandate controls on farming operations near riparian areas.

In addition to the riparian buffer strips of cottonwood and poplar, Miller has

effectively utilized several bioengineering practices to prevent streambank erosion. Both poplars and willows are densely planted as “live stakes,” and cuttings are used to construct fascines and brush mattresses to help protect the river banks. Buffer strips, combined with bioengineering measures, have reduced erosion and siltation of Miller’s farmland during recent floods while large barriers of rock rip-rap installed in an effort to protect the neighboring farm on the opposite side of the river have not been successful for the landowner.

A zonal design is used to establish riparian buffer strips at Mt. Jefferson Farms. In the zone closest to the river, native cottonwood and native understory plants are established. In some areas with suitable soils, hybrid poplars are densely planted (1 X 1 foot spacing) near the riverbank, both to control erosion and as a stool bed for cuttings. In the next zone away from the river, a variety of trees are planted at wider (8 X 8 foot) spacing for timber. In addition to hybrid poplar, Rob Miller is also planting Knobcone-Monterey hybrid (KMX) pine and leyland cypress for wood production on a sustainable cycle of harvest and coppicing or replanting.



Photo of a buffer strip by M. Merwin

## Nursery Operations

Mt. Jefferson Farms is also one of Oregon's first and largest hybrid poplar nurseries. The company has growing grounds and greenhouse facilities near Salem. Every year, the nursery supplies millions of dormant cuttings, from 8-inch "sticks" to 10-foot "whips" for landscaping, farmland plantings, and industrial fiber plantations.

The nursery also does selection, breeding and genetic improvement of hybrid poplars for private industry and public agencies. Many new poplar clones, obtained from Washington State University, University of Washington and other sources, have been screened in greenhouse and field trials. Clones are tested not only for growth, but also for their capacity to uptake nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus. Clones which are highly efficient at absorbing excess nutrients will be used for "phytoremediation" treatment of wastewater. Embryos of trees selected through greenhouse and field screening are multiplied by tissue culture at Oregon State University in Corvallis, and the resulting plantlets are then grown out at the nursery to sufficient size for field planting.

In 1992, Rob Miller began selecting and custom-propagating a variety of other native tree and shrub species for ornamental and environmental purposes, e.g. wastewater treatment, filter strips, bioengineering, and watershed revegetation. Customers for contract propagation include both public agencies (e.g. USFS, BLM) and private companies. The aim is to vegetatively propagate plant material for replanting in the same watershed or zone where it originated. By using locally-collected native plants rather than introducing off-site genetic material, Miller said that the survival rate for revegetation projects can be improved. Species which the nursery has propagated include spirea, alder, cottonwood, rose, berries, conifers, willow, cypress and grasses.

A three-phase process is used at Mt. Jefferson Farms for contract propagation. Phase 1 begins with the arrival of cuttings collected by the customer from plants already growing at the project site. Testing is performed to develop successful methodologies for vegetative propagation of each species. At the same time, greenhouse evalu-

ations for nutrient absorption capacity are conducted in cooperation with the Oregon Graduate Institute of Science and Technology and OSU.

In phase 2, mother blocks are established at the nursery as a source of cuttings for large-scale multiplication. In phase 3, the best plant materials developed through phases 1 and 2 are established in test plots to evaluate their suitability for buffer strips, phytoremediation, bioengineering, veneer production, etc.

Other farming enterprises at Mt. Jefferson Farms include essential oils (e.g. mint, marigold, parsley), seed (e.g. grass, sage, coriander), and specialty crops (e.g. tea, ornamental plants). Rob Miller and a partner are currently screening over 900 varieties of tea (*Camelia sinensis*) to select adaptable cultivars for a new perennial crop in Oregon.

The introduction of commercial tea cultivation in the US might also provide a new opportunity for agro-



Hybrid poplar.

forestry. Since tea bushes grow best under shade, Miller said that there would be the potential for alley cropping combinations of tea with hybrid poplar or other suitable tree species.

*(This article appeared originally in the Temperate Agroforester, July 1997. For more information, contact Rob Miller, Mt. Jefferson Farms, P.O. Box 12708, Salem, OR 97309).*



# First wolverine radio-collared in Pacific Northwest

PORTLAND, Ore. February 17, 2006—The closest encounter most wildlife biologists have with wolverines in the Pacific Northwest is seeing a set of the animal's tracks in the snow. But wildlife biologist Keith Aubry recently got the call he had eagerly anticipated for several weeks.

A member of his research team called from a site high in the northern Cascade Range of Washington to report that a wolverine had just been captured. Aubry, a carnivore expert and research wildlife biologist at the US Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station in Olympia, Wash., and Jeff Copeland, a wolverine researcher with the Rocky Mountain Research

in north-central Washington via aerial surveys, remote cameras, and winter tracking.

"What we learn about wolverines from this effort will help us determine the species' status and management needs," said Rohrer, who is the project field coordinator for the Methow Valley Ranger District in Winthrop.

The capture is the culmination of several years of survey work in north-central Washington to document wolverine presence to begin to understand their habitat needs. "We know so little about these rarely seen animals that this is an exciting opportunity to learn more about their general ecology in the north Cascades," said Fitkin of WDFW.

Wolverines (*Gulo gulo*) weigh about 20 to 40 pounds, depending on sex and age, and are the largest land-based member of the mustelid family that includes weasels, badgers, and otters. They are primarily found in boreal forest and tundra habitats in the far north, but also occur in mountainous terrain at the southern end of their current range in the Cascades and Northern Rockies. They prey on everything from moose to mice, and often rely heavily on scavenging for food during winter.

"The young female wolverine we collared weighed about 19 pounds, and was in excellent health and condition. She hasn't had kits yet, and is probably just a year old," said Aubry. "It's likely that her parents and possibly siblings are in the same general area, so chances are good that we will collar additional individuals in the traps we've set."

Rohrer and Fitkin will continue to monitor three wolverine traps placed before snowfall in locations where wolverines had previously been detected. The log-cabin-style box traps have been set since mid-January, and are checked every day. They are baited with carrion and provide captured animals with a secure and comfortable space until they are released.

A key reason for conducting this research is the need to understand the wolverine's habitat requirements in the Northwest and maintain the habitat without conflicting with other land uses. With help from satellites 600 miles overhead, Aubry hopes to follow wolverines in the north Cascades for at least 2 more years.

This pilot study was supported by funds from the USDA Forest Service and USDI Bureau of Land Management Interagency



Keith Aubry - left and Jeff Copeland - right. Photo by Cathy Raley.

Station in Missoula, Mont., rushed to the Methow Valley to fit the young female wolverine with a satellite radio collar to initiate the first scientific study of wolverines ever conducted in the Pacific Northwest.

Other members of the interagency team, including wildlife biologists John Rohrer of the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest and Scott Fitkin of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), traveled by snowmobile to a remote location south of the Pasayten Wilderness in Okanogan County. After immobilizing the wolverine with a sedative, Aubry and his team quickly went to work to evaluate the health of the animal, take measurements and tissue samples for genetic analyses, and install a radio collar to report her movements to Aubry via satellite for the next 18 months. "With this technology, we can now begin to gather reliable information on the movements, home range, and habitat of wolverines in the Pacific Northwest," said Aubry.

The wolverine is a Federal Sensitive Species and a Washington State Candidate Species for protective listing. Since the mid-1990s, biologists have documented the presence of wolverines







Immobilization - Photo by Cathy Raley.

Special Status/Sensitive Species Program with additional funding and support provided by the Pacific Northwest Research Station and the WDFW. Continued research on wolverines in northern Washington will depend on the availability of future funding.

## “Legacy” Award goes to Sally Olson-Edge

Sally Olson-Edge was Editor of the Oregon Chapter newsletter from 1992 to 2006—that is one heck of a long stint. Sally produced the newsletter quarterly, and as most of you know, it required something beyond patience. First, no matter how far out she set the deadline, most of us failed to get our articles in on time. Second, some of us tried to avoid our responsibility entirely, thus Sally performed tireless hounding, hounding and more hounding. Third, once she finally got the darn articles in, they weren’t that well-written and required a fair amount of editorial input (read...major rewriting). And fourth, once it was laid out and press-ready, invariably it would have to be re-formatted one more time because one more person had just one more thing to go in it. Though all this, Sally kept her sense of humor, developed strong and personal relationships with an ever-changing Board and produced one of the finest state chapter newsletters in the U.S.

But wait... there’s more. In addition to her contribution as the Oregon Chapter Newsletter Editor, Sally was also a steady contributor to the Chapter overall, frequently attending Board meetings, regularly attending Chapter meetings, and always providing thoughtful input.

But wait....there’s even more. In addition to her service to the Oregon Chapter, Sally was also in service to the National Chapter. She was Editorial Assistant for the Wildlife Society Bulletin in the early 1990s, Program Assistant for the Second Annual National Wildlife Conference held in Portland, Oregon in the mid-1990s and Program Assistant for the Second International Wildlife Management Congress held in Hungary in the late 1990s. She is also co-author of five manuscripts in The Wildlife Society Journal or Bulletin.

Many of you may not know much about Sally’s background. She has a BS in Fish and Wildlife Management from Montana State University and a MS in Wildlife Biology from University of Montana (no need to put the dates on those – as for most of us, it was way long ago) where she worked on mountain plover. She began her career as a Peace Corps Volunteer in the Philippines and YCC Crew Leader National Bison Range. She has worked in locations as far-flung as Thailand and Pakistan and species as diverse as desert tortoise to grizzly bear. In addition, to her editorial skills, she has been an accomplished researcher and an effective wildlife educator, teaching in both classroom and field settings.

Without a doubt, Sally gave us outstanding service and is handing over a legacy. Her comments.... “they asked me to do a newsletter and I ended up with it for 13 years; now I’m looking forward to doing some art.”

*Thanks, Sally, from all of us!*

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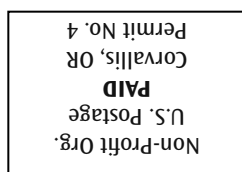
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