

American Fisheries Society

WESTERN DIVISION NEWSLETTER

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PRESIDENTS REPORT

Time is rapidly slipping by since our annual meeting in Kalispell at which time the Division set forth a number of specific goals and objectives regarding committee assignments and workshops.

The stream habitat symposium, coordinated by Bob Wiley, has been rescheduled for September 1982 in Jackson, Wyoming. The symposium will emphasize field participation. As it stands now, the number of participants will be held to approximately 50 and it will be on an invitation basis.

The Acquisition and Utilization of Aquatic Habitat Inventory Information Workshop, coordinated by Neil Armantrout is scheduled for October 1981 in Portland, Oregon. Letters are being sent to federal and state agencies to generate support for the symposium. Additional information is in this newsletter.

Several Western Division committees have been very active this fall. Glen Phillips, Membership Committee Chairman, has worked very closely with the National Membership Committee and Western Division Chapters. Glen's efforts will insure that the Western Division remains the largest division by membership in the Society.

John Peters has worked very hard in the area of the resolutions. He has developed a format for Western Division resolution presentation to annual meetings. Please review the format found later in the newsletter.

John has also been attempting to establish a mitigation committee which will consist of Western Division AFS members and members from the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. The committee will explore the mechanism by which mitigation is awarded to state and federal agencies for fish and wildlife losses.

As most of you are aware, the Western Division had its field trip with the Forest Service in Idaho (Sawtooth National Recreational Area) to review in the field riparian habitat conditions on Forest Service administered lands. Errol Claire, Oregon, represented the Division at this review and did a super job. A field report summarizing the trip was submitted to Carl Sullivan for use in discussion with the Chief of the Forest Service. Carl's report indicates some very significant actions resulted from our efforts.

As for the Western Division Riparian Committee, Don Duff is again chairing this committee, and is doing an excellent job. He has set forth an objective of preparing a Best Management Practices paper for riparian habitat to be completed by July 1981, and has assigned committee people to work on various phases of this paper.

Don Duff was recognized by the AFS for his efforts in guiding the riparian habitat committee, and his involvement with the Bonneville Chapter and was

PRESIDENT'S REPORT Cont'd.

presented one of the seven AFS distinguished services awards at our annual meeting in Louisville, Kentucky, this year.

Each Chapter president has reviewed copies of the Western Division riparian habitat position papers, and asked that each of the Chapters distribute the position papers to state and federal agencies and interested groups who have jurisdiction in riparian habitat management in their states or provinces. It was also requested that a list of names and addresses of those receiving the position paper be forwarded to Don Duff, Chairman of the Riparian Committee, so that the Division could follow up and send copies of the Best Management Practices paper to those receiving the position paper. I would request those Chapters who have not yet sent these papers out, please do so, and send the names of those receiving the papers to Don as soon as possible. Additional copies of the report are available from me. Since we spent \$900 of Division money to print the position papers, a donation of \$1 or more per copy to pay postage and handling would be appreciated.

Bob White, President-Elect is in the process of preparing our program for the Hawaii meeting. He is being assisted by Stan Moberley, Alaska, and Brian Waters, California.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your support this year, and I am looking forward to working with you during the remaining six months of my tenure as President of the Western Division.

Gordon Haugen

EDITOR'S NOTE

The final newsletter for this administrative year will be completed by Mid-May. I encourage you to submit fisheries articles, Chapter information, announcements or other timely news for inclusion. Remember, this newsletter is only as valuable as you make it.

WESTERN DIVISION, AMERICAN
FISHERIES SOCIETY
GUIDANCE DOCUMENT FOR RESOLUTIONS
December 1980

1. The Western Division - American Fisheries Society encourages state chapters and individual members to become involved in issues important to the profession. The Western Division believes that the resolution process is an important way to identify critical issues and ultimately effect change to benefit fishery resources. Only issues directly related to the Fisheries Society, fishery resources, and their management, and aquatic ecology will be considered by the Western Division.
2. Resolutions submitted to the Western for action should focus on issues that have implications of a regional or national nature. Issues that focus on a local area or occur solely within a state are best handled at the state or chapter level unless broader support is needed. The Resolutions Committee will screen each resolution submitted to determine the geographic scope of the resolution action. Those resolutions that are submitted to the Western Division limited to a local or state issue shall be accompanied by a written justification statement for broad support or they shall be returned to the chapter or individual with a written explanation why they were not acted upon at the Division level.
3. If a resolution is submitted to the Western Division that requires immediate action and cannot wait for submittal and approval by the membership at the annual meeting, the Resolutions Committee will submit the resolution to the Western Division Executive Committee for their review. In the event the Executive Committee does not approve immediate action, the chapter or individual submitting the resolution will be informed by the Chairman of the Resolutions Committee and the reason or reasons for denial will be stated.

4. In order to efficiently process a resolution, the following must be included:

A. The title of the resolution must explicitly state what the issue of concern is, preferably on one line.

B. The text of the resolution should identify the nature of the issue or concern (resolved portion of the resolution).

C. The text of the resolution should recommend a course or courses of action to correct the problem (RESOLVED portion of the action).

EXAMPLE

WESTERN DIVISION AMERICAN
FISHERIES SOCIETY
RESOLUTION NO.

PLACE (City, State)

DATE (Adoption Date)

TITLE

WHEREAS
WHEREAS
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT SO RESOLVED
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED

D. The Resolutions Committee should be responsible for making format and editorial corrections to a resolution prior to submittal to the membership at the annual meeting.

5. Often a resolution is sufficiently complicated or controversial that it will need explanation to the membership. A chapter or individual submitting a resolution should be prepared to discuss it at the business meeting and be willing to accept changes recommended by the membership. Also, a proposed resolution will be acted on if it is felt that the Western Division's membership has adequate preexisting knowledge of the resolution's subject.

6. Since the primary purpose of a resolution is to identify an action that will result in a change that benefits fisheries resources, the resolution must be monitored following its adoption by the Western Division. The action taken in response to a resolution should be reported to the membership. It is the responsibility of the chapter or individual to monitor and report to the Chairman of the

Resolutions Committee how effectively actions have been implemented. The Chairman, in consultation with the Western Division President, will determine how to inform the membership of the successes or failures of the resolution.

Nothing in this procedure prevents a chapter or an individual from proposing a resolution under new business. However, we hope that a standard format and standardized system will allow the business meeting to handle Resolutions expeditiously.



WESTERN DIVISION MEETING
Ala Moana Hotel
Honolulu
July 13-16, 1981

The Program for our 1981 Western Division AFS meeting in Honolulu has been organized by the program committee consisting of Brian Waters, Stan Moberly and Bob White. A general session on fish allocation, which was requested by the Western Association President Kenji Ego, was developed by Stan Moberly and will be moderated by Kirk Beiningen. The session will explore fish allocation problems from the viewpoints of Indian vs. Non-Indian, U.S. vs. Canada, and the Pacific Councils. Technical session topics will include (1) Fisheries Economics, (2) Billfish Sport Fisheries, (3) Tuna Management (4) Aquaculture Information, Current Issues, Legislation, Problems and Strategies, (5) Freshwater Contributed Papers (6) Marine Contributed Papers and possibly a session on The Sagebrush Rebellion. Also Ted Blahm will present an excellent slide presentation on the impact of the Mt. St. Helens eruption on aquatic systems.

Registration will start July 12 and the technical sessions will be on the 14, 15 and 16th.

AFS-USFS RIPARIAN
ECOSYSTEM FIELD TOUR

As a result of the concern for the impacts of grazing on western riparian ecosystem by members of the Western Division, the U.S. Forest Service agreed to participate in a field trip to assess current riparian habitat conditions. Attending for the Western Division were Errol Claire, Carl Sullivan and Don Duff; Among U.S. Forest Service representatives were Bill Platts and Carter Gibbs from Intermountain Research; Dale Jones, Jerry McIlwain and Bill Evans from Washington D.C. and numerous people from the Intermountain Region.

Others in attendance were Dick Denny and Jim Peek of The Wildlife Society; Keith Argow of Trout Unlimited; Joe Greenley of Int. Assoc. of Fish and Wildlife Agencies; and local representatives of livestock and woolgrowers association that were permittees on the areas.

The trip included 4 stops on the Boise National Forest and the Sawtooth National Recreation area.

Following are some excerpts from Errol Claire's report and a list of points that Carl Sullivan developed for specific discussions with U.S. Forest Service top administrators in Washington D.C.

It became obvious early in the tour that Central Idaho has been subjected to some of the most intensive historic grazing of any area I'm aware of. It was pointed out that over 200,000 sheep once used valleys in the Sawtooth Mts. causing severe damage to these mountainous ranges and valley bottoms. Evidence of bedding grounds and erosion from sheep driveways is still present today.

Since the late 1800's, total sheep use has been dramatically reduced.

Reduction in sheep however, has been partially offset by domestic cattle, which graze these high mountain valleys. Since cattle tend to concentrate heavier in the valleys and meadow areas, impacts on riparian ecosystems tend to be very severe. This overuse is not only confined to the meadows but also is very evident on the adjacent foothills. This damage is reflected in the poor condition of the range which has been heavily invaded by sagebrush. At one stop overlooking the upper Salmon River west of Stanley, the entire allotment was in poor condition, including the riparian habitats.

From an overall standpoint, the Sawtooth NRA contains some of the worst overgrazing problems I've seen. Management to recover these ranges appears non-existent. General range conditions on the Boise Forest appeared somewhat better but specific management to resolve use conflicts is still lacking.

There appeared to be a general lack of close coordination between their aquatic biologists and the range people. One of the range staff on the Boise Forest commented that he had never been told that grazing on willows was a problem. In addition, it was clearly evident that Idaho Fish and Game was not closely involved with the problem.

Throughout the trip there appeared to be a general lack of support for using fencing as a tool to force cattle off the critical riparian areas. Few exclosures have been built and those that exist were not maintained. The major exclosures visited were associated with Bill Platts' research.

Very little was said about a program to improve communications with ranchers and other agencies. Most of the discussions with ranchers have been on a local basis.

There appeared to be a general support for further research on the problem. Platts' research has not come up with specific recommendations for management of cattle to protect riparian ecosystems but still remains in the data collection stage.

Considerable discussion centered on the problems of politics in Idaho. If the Forest Service reacts too quick they get saddled with appeals and court cases. They prefer to move slowly and cautiously, getting their facts together.

I would say in general, that the Idaho forests are at least 10 years behind Oregon forests in recognizing and resolving riparian problems. This issue is just now coming into focus in Central Idaho.

In summary, I felt this tour was a good session which allowed people with varied points of view to come together and interact with each other. Through this interchange will come future riparian habitat management direction. It also let the Forest Service

know that the issue is of concern to a wide variety of interests. Picking Central Idaho as a site for the tour was good because they certainly have a problem. It was very evident, however, where cattle had been eliminated from the riparian zone, recovery in Idaho paralleled that of other states.

Carl Sullivan discussion list:

1. Every riparian area we visited was degraded to some extent and the Sawtooth NRA has a serious overgrazing problem. The contrast between the impacts of cattle and sheep were quite dramatic with cattle causing by far the greater problem.

2. If something productive is to come from this joint riparian initiative it is vital that USFS personnel at all levels accept the fact that a problem exists. Several AFS professionals spoke to this point during the trip and I believe that virtually the entire delegation would agree.

3. Communication between FS Range Conservationists and Biologists is poor and quite often occurs after it is too late for the biologist input to influence decision-making.

4. We are aware that the Forest Service must address the needs of the rancher while protecting fish and wildlife values and we urge expanded public relations efforts with Permittees and related interests. Special emphasis might be given to recognizing outstanding Permittees and to informing the public about the implications for private lands.

5. Stream management priorities and goals need to be a part of every district grazing plan. The establishment of priorities will require a detailed inventory of riparian systems with special emphasis on high value streams, critical spawning areas, migration barriers, etc. Funds and personnel are destined to be always in relatively short supply so it is vital that they be directed to where they will do the most good.

6. Fencing is not the universal panacea for protecting delicate streams and shorelines, but it is an invaluable grazing management tool which in some situations may be the only practical answer. The Forest Service should make better use of stream fencing and better use of its authority to require Permittees to build and maintain fences.

(Chief Peterson responded that the Forest Service seldom forces Permittees to build fences in order to avoid giving them too great an equity interest. A Forest Range Management Improvement Fund is available for fence building by the Forest or for purchase of materials for erection by Permittees.)

7. Total livestock exclusion, at least for a number of years, will be required to protect or restore some riparian areas. The Forest Service should not be timid in ordering closure for such areas. To better prepare for this eventuality the Forest Service must be constantly alert for opportunities to retire grazing units and terminate leases having such areas "banked" for emergency use by permittees who are caught by a total closure order, will greatly improve management flexibility. (Chief Peterson noted that extended livestock exclusion will not in and of itself correct overgrazing problems unless followed by improved grazing practices.)

8. We understand the Forest Service Region 4 Range Manual authorizes grazing to 50% utilization. In achieving this overall goal, riparian areas are often grazed to a far higher percent utilization. Why is this permitted?

9. Grazing management plans and prescriptions are virtually never followed properly. Permittee transgressions, oversights and errors are almost always forgiven without penalty. Allotments appear to be much too large and herding seems far too casual and unorganized. The Forest Service has the authority to adjust 10 year grazing permits whenever necessary to protect the habitat. This authority is almost never invoked despite what may be very compelling circumstances.

10. We believe field level communication between the Forest Service and state fish and game biologists needs to be improved.

11. Forest Service riparian management criteria need to allocate resources to fish and wildlife just as for livestock. The establishment and/or restoration of woody plants along stream margins needs to be accepted as an important management objective.

Management criteria should also include establishment of adequate shading, stability of stream width and depth, and protection of undercut banks.

12. Degraded stream recovery through installation of instream structures and artificial plantings should be recognized as a viable and valuable management technique. Such initiatives should receive much greater application wherever resources permit.

13. The Forest Service apparent practice of relying almost entirely on rest/restoration management to protect and restore riparian habitats will not get the job done.

14. Budgeting for riparian habitat research is inadequate and should be improved. Putting present policies into practice, however, must not wait until final research results are available, for many answers are already known and can now be incorporated into all grazing plans.

At the conclusion of our meeting Chief Peterson said the next step would be a formal Forest Service response to our letter with copies of both letters to receive wide Forest Service distribution. He will also call a meeting with Region 4 administrators at the earliest opportunity to direct that an action plan be developed which is responsive to our riparian report. He said the plan will be implemented and suggested a return field trip to the Boise National Forest in two years to view the hoped-for improvements. Denney that the riparian problem was not limited to the waterways, Peterson agreed to work with the Wildlife Society and all interested groups in developing a comprehensive riparian ecosystem management plan for a large watershed in Colorado. Denney agreed to submit a more detailed proposal in writing.

In summation, I found the Forest Service staff receptive and responsive. I truly believe that excellent progress has and is being made toward improved practices for regulating grazing on public-owned riparian habitats. I'll do my best to keep everyone advised and want to close by saying that the Western Division has earned the praise of the entire Society and all others who are interested in protecting riparian habitat values.

THE ACQUISITION AND UTILIZATION OF AQUATIC HABITAT INVENTORY INFORMATION (PLANNED SYMPOSIUM)

DATES: 28-30 October, 1981

SPONSORS: Western Division, AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY, plus other professional organizations and governmental agencies.

PROGRAMS: The program will consist of contributed papers presented in sessions centered on specific topics. If submission warrant, concurrent sessions will be held. A poster session will be held. General topics of the symposium follow, although the actual session titles will depend upon paper submissions:

1. Defining the aquatic ecosystem and its individual components
2. Methodology for measuring the habitat components
3. Relating habitat components to species utilization
4. Interfacing aquatic habitat inventories with other resource inventories
5. Using habitat inventory information to evaluate habitat condition and potential
6. The use of inventory information and evaluation procedures in aquatic habitat classification systems
7. The use of inventory data and evaluations in resource planning and impact analysis
8. Data storage, retrieval and analysis systems

Two other program items are being considered if sufficient interest is shown. One is a "film festival"

of films and slide-tapes concerned with aquatic habitat inventories. The second is a demonstration of computer systems or models for the storage and use of inventory information.

ARRANGEMENTS: Rooms have been reserved at the Hilton Hotel, 921 S.W. Sixth Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97204, which is the site of the symposium.

A registration fee, yet to be set, will be requested of each attendee. The cost will be about \$75-100, and will include lunches, banquet, break refreshments and a copy of the Proceedings.

BACKGROUND: Aquatic systems exist in close relationship with other resources. With the need for all resources increasing, the ecosystems in which aquatic systems are found continue to be modified. The demand for use of aquatic habitat and aquatic resources continues to increase. At the same time, the loss of habitat and to competing demands have placed added stress on the resource, resulting in a reduction in quality and quantity. To help satisfy competing demands for resources, more precise information is needed on aquatic resource conditions and trends, aquatic species habitat requirements, habitat needs and management options, information that will help in making sound resource and land allocations. Increasingly, biologists are being asked to detail existing habitat conditions, to develop management strategies, and to predict the outcome of various management options. This has created a need for improved methods of conducting aquatic habitat inventories, evaluating the condition of the resource, and developing management recommendations.

Fish management agencies, land management agencies, and other interested groups face the need to allocate limited resources in the most efficient manner. This requires better information on the resources available, their condition and need, desires of the resource users, and potential benefits from expenditure of funds. Inventory and evaluation techniques provide the information on which such decisions are based.

New techniques are being developed for conducting inventories, evaluating the information obtained, and incorporating the information into the decision-making process. Many of these developments consider more than local aquatic resources, with attention being increasingly paid to larger aquatic basins and networks. Computers have made it easier to incorporate new technology into the process and to handle the data obtained in inventories, often through increasingly sophisticated remote sensing. A variety of individuals and organizations are working on the development of new techniques and procedures for the acquisition and utilization of aquatic inventory information, with efforts at all levels from field inventory to the modeling of ecosystems.

At the present time there is no regular forum for exchange of information on the acquisition and utilization of aquatic inventory information. The proposed symposium would be a method for bringing together interested people for an exchange of such information. Publication of the Proceedings will make the information available to a wider audience.

PARTICIPATION: Individuals wishing to participate in the program are asked to send an abstract of their presentation, 300 words or less, to the Chairman prior to July, 1981. Individuals or organizations interested in demonstrating a computer program or in participating in the "film-festival" are asked to send a description of their offering, time involved and equipment requirements.

FURTHER INFORMATION: For further information, contact general chairman, Neil B. Armantrout at Box 2965, Portland, Oregon, 97208, or (503)-231-6870, (FTS 429-6870).

NORTH AMERICAN BENTHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

PROVO, UTAH, APRIL 27-30, 1981

This first meeting in Western North America promises to be worth attending with special sessions on: Ecology of Rocky Mountain Watersheds, Functional Ecosystem Theory in Stream Systems, Taxonomy and Ecology of Stoneflies (Plecoptera) in North America etc. Registration fees of \$20 for professionals and \$10 for students plus \$12/day room and board costs at the Brigham Young University dormitories.

Dr. Richard W. Baumann
290 Monte L. Bean Life Science Museum
Brigham Young University
Provo, Utah 84602

NORTH AMERICAN JOURNAL OF
FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

The American Fisheries Society is launching a new journal addressing fisheries management. The objectives of the journal are to encourage publication of papers presenting new ideas in fish management, document success and failures of fishery programs and to encourage communication among managers from all interests in fishery science.

Acceptance of papers for publication will be based on potential service to fishery managers from a broad perspective of interests. Clarity of presentation and stated purpose of the communication will be important. All ideas of fishery management are considered acceptable for publication; the reader and history will determine the ultimate value to managers.

Comments on published papers and reasoned rebuttal by the author will be encouraged to further communication among readers. All people involved in fishery management, whether or not members of AFS, are invited to submit papers.

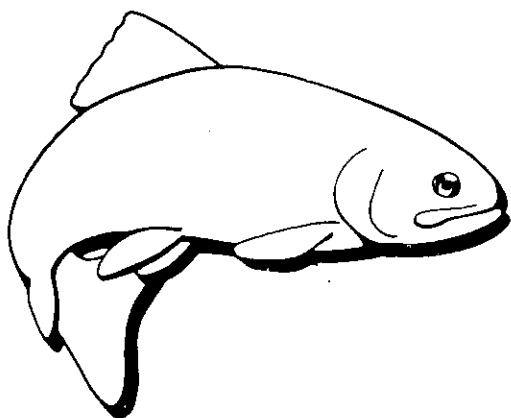
The new journal will compliment the current array of publications of the Society and make it possible for more members to share their views on fishery management and gain recognition for their efforts.

Carl Sullivan will be announcing the editor's position and calling for manuscripts in the AFS Dairy and a special mailing to states and universities. Page charges will be the same as those of Transactions, \$50.00.

Please submit candidate papers to Carl Sullivan at AFS headquarters. Your thoughts, ideas, and papers will make the new journal a success.

WESTERN DIVISION NEWSLETTER
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