



*American Fisheries Society*  
*Western Division*

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WESTERN DIVISION  
AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

July 30, 1990

TO: AFS Executive Committee

FROM: Cay C. Goude, WDAFS President

SUBJECT: 1990 Annual Report

**CHAPTER MEETINGS:**

Western Division officers attended all the annual chapter meetings which were held. The meetings were well attended and very informative. The chapters have been submitting articles to "The Tributary" to facilitate communication within the Division.

The Montana Chapter received the "Chapter of the Year Award" for the second year in a row. This award was based on numerous activities of the Chapter including the following: development of a Montana Chapter Action Agenda; an extremely active environmental concerns committee; development of a riparian resource management symposium; and, conducted a grazing audit of all national forests and BLM areas in Montana.

Some of the Chapter highlights include:

The California/Nevada Chapters continued financial and technical assistance to NRDC regarding the Friant Contract renewals on the San Joaquin River. Last year the Division and the Society supported this effort with a \$500.00 and \$1,000 contribution, respectively. NRDC is still pursuing their lawsuit against the Department of the Interior and the Bureau of Reclamation for failure to comply with the ESA and NEPA prior to renewing long-term water contracts. The Cal/Neva Chapter requested the Division and the Society to continue to support this effort. At our annual business we again provided a \$500.00 contribution to NRDC (see attached memo).

The Idaho and Oregon Chapters joined in with Oregon Trout to co-petition NMFS to examine the status of wild stocks of Snake River chinook salmon and a wild stock of lower Columbia River coho salmon under the Endangered Species Act. The Idaho Chapter had previously informed NMFS in 1987 that if significant improvements were not made in wild stocks of chinook returning to Idaho by 1995, the chapter would seek listing. Wild stock continue to remain precariously low. Numerous variables have contributed to their demise but low survival of seaward migrating smolts appears to be a major factor. The Idaho Chapter submitted a resolution to the Division requesting support on their petition to NMFS to list these species under the ESA (see attached resolution). In addition, the Division allocated \$500.00 to the chapter to defray costs for this issue.

**COMMITTEES:**

Ken Hashagen did an outstanding job as chair of the Riparian Committee. He reinstated the Division's riparian award program which was titled the Riparian Excellence Award. Ken received assistance from Don Martin who presented the award at our annual meeting. Roger William, USFS, District Ranger, Heppner Ranger District, Uma Tilla National Forest, Oregon and Al Bammann, BLM, Gila Resource Area, Safford District, Arizona both received this award. Cy Jamison presented the award to the BLM recipient. Next year the award will be expanded to other agencies.

The Environmental Concerns Committee is currently seeking representatives from all regions within the Division. The committee recently prepared comments on the Draft EIS for the Strawberry Valley Management Area, Uinta National Forest, Utah. We expect the activities of this committee to greatly expand this next year.

All committees are being re-appointed or changed at this time by Dave and I to allow a quick and smooth transition in September.

#### ANNUAL MEETING:

Dave Burns did an excellent job arranging the Division's annual meeting (including sunny weather) in Sun Valley, Idaho. The technical sessions were well attended and informative. The Division had approximately 200 members in attendance. Larry Nielsen and Paul Brouha came to our meeting and both gave short addresses at our business meeting. Paul also presented an hour orientation which numerous attendees expressed how valuable and informative this was. It was recommended that the orientation be expanded next year.

The retreat was held at Redfish Lodge and Dave Burn was the facilitator. The objective of the retreat was to develop a Division Action Agenda. The retreat was very productive and based on everyone's efforts the Division should have a Draft Action Agenda by October.

Ron Goede received our "Award of Excellence". Ron received this award for maintenance of a fish and disease control program for the State of Utah which is used as a model nationwide.

WAFWA requested the Western Division to meet with them in 1992 in Scottsdale, AZ. The issue was brought before the membership at our business meeting and the membership voted not to meet in 1992 with WAFWA. This action does not preclude future meetings with WAFWA and a survey will be sent out in the newsletter concerning future meetings with WAFWA.

The issue of splitting the Western Division was also brought before by the membership at our business meeting. Susan Martin, chair of this committee presented the pros and cons of this issue. The membership voted not to split the Division; however, it was recommended the committee pursue the areas of concerns presented in the committee's report. These issues centered on improving coordination and association between the chapters and Division.

The election results will not be available until August 15, 1990. We will have the results at the Society business meeting.

The 1991 Western Division meeting will be in Bozeman, Montana, July 17 - 20. The conference will be held at the university.

#### ACTION ITEMS:

1. Request the Society support (by both financial and technical assistance) NRDC in their lawsuit against DOI and the Bureau of Reclamation regarding the Friant water contract renewals.

Recommended motion: The Society provide a \$1,000 contribution to support NRDC's lawsuit regarding the Friant water contract renewals as well as provide technical assistance to NRDC when appropriate.

2. Request the Society support Idaho and Oregon Chapters petition to NMFS to examine the status of wild stocks of Snake River chinook salmon and a wild stock of lower Columbia River coho salmon under the ESA.

Recommended motion: The Society write a letter to NMFS in support of the petition to list the Snake River chinook salmon and a wild stock of lower Columbia River Coho salmon under the Endangered Species Act.