



# American Fisheries Society

*Western Division*

To: Paul J. Wingate, AFS President

From: Dennis P. Lee, Western Division President

Subject: 1996 Midyear Report to EXCOM

Action Requested: None.

## Division Officers

President  
President-Elect  
Vice President  
Secretary-Treasurer  
Past President

Dennis Lee  
Tom Nessler  
Peter Bisson  
Jean Baldrige  
Carl Burger

## Division Chapter Officers

Alaska  
Arizona/New Mexico  
Bonneville  
California / Nevada  
Colorado / Wyoming  
Hawaii  
Humboldt  
Idaho  
Montana  
New Mexico State Student Chapter  
North Pacific International  
Oregon  
Portland

Dana Schmidt  
Ernest Jaquez  
Kevin Christopherson  
Edward Bianchi  
Gordan Sloane  
Ken Leber  
Roger Barnhart  
Dave Cross  
Brad Shepard  
Shawn Denny  
Bryan Hebden  
Kirk Schroeder  
Vic Kazinski

## Western Division Committees (Internal Affairs)

Archivist	Venice Beske
Arrangements Chair	Linda Pendergast
Audits	Lou Carufel
Awards/Nominations	Carl Burger
Equal Opportunity	Ken Hashagen
Membership	Peter Bisson
Newsletter Editor	Greg Kindschi
Program	Bob Hughes

## Western Division Committees (External Affairs)

Bull Trout	Karen Pratt
Environmental Concerns	Michael Ward
Habitat Inventory Procedures	Mike Young
Native People's Fisheries	Kelly Meyer
Native Salmon Stocks	Pat Higgins
Old Growth Forests	Dave Ward
Resolutions	Dennis Tol
Riparian	Jill Silvey
Threatened and Endangered Species	Leo Lentsch
National Nominating Committee Representative	Ginger Thomas

**Division Highlights:**

Where possible, this report highlights areas that complement the AFS 1996 Annual Program of Work goals and accomplishments.

The 1996 Western Division Annual Meeting will be held in Eugene, Oregon from July 14-18, 1996. The meeting theme is "Regional Status and Trends in Fish Biodiversity" (Goal A). Scheduled plenary and technical sessions talks on the underlying issues in assessing and managing biodiversity include: The Importance of Biodiversity; Effects of Climate and Oceanic Patterns on Salmonids; Effect of Climate Change on Fish Species Richness; Life History Strategies and Responses to Disturbances, Biological and Socioeconomic Effects of Groundfish Harvest; Metapopulations and Biodiversity Assessment and Management; Statistics and Precautionary Biodiversity Management. A one-day "Watershed Restoration Workshop" will be held on July 18, 1996 (Goal A.2:a.), and Rich Gregory is moderating a point-counterpoint panel on "Exploitation versus Preservation (Goal A.2:c.).

Greg Kindschi, Editor of The Tributary, the official newsletter of the WDAFS, reported that 3,528 issues are distributed with each mailing. This newsletter serves as a forum to WDAFS members for fisheries related information (**Goal C and F.1**).

Division President Dennis Lee has continued to hold teleconferences with Division officers to improve communication and help implement the Strategic Plan (**Goal F.1**). Requests for fishery-related grant proposals were solicited in The Tributary. The WDAFS annually funds fishery-related grants as part of it's annual work program (**Goal F.4**). Nominations have been solicited for several WDAFS awards including Award of Excellence, Award of Merit, Award of Special Recognition, Robert Borovica Award, and the Conservation Achievement Award (**Goal A.2:b.**).

During the past year, Dennis Tol working with guidelines from the WDAFS EXCOM, has revised the Division's bylaws to reflect the Divisions committee structure and formalize Society and Division advocacy procedures. A draft was published in Volume 21, No. 1, February 1996 of The Tributary. A final draft will be submitted to the Society for review and acted upon by the WDAFS membership at the 1996 Annual Business Meeting in Eugene, Oregon.

## Chapter Reports

### Alaska:

Past President Carl Burger attend the Alaska Chapter Annual Meeting in Wasilla, Alaska, on November 13-16, 1995 (**Goal A**).

### Arizona/New Mexico:

The Arizona/New Mexico chapter held their Annual Meeting February 1-3, 1996 in Sierra Vista, Arizona (**Goal A**).

### Bonneville:

The Bonneville Chapter will hold it's 1996 Winter Meeting on February 28-March 1, 1996 at Utah State University, Logan, Utah. The meeting will be a joint meeting with thw Wildlife Society and the theme is "A Century of Utah Fish and Wildlife Management - Insights to the Future" (**Goal A and Goal C.2**).

**California/Nevada:**

The California/Nevada Chapter will host their Annual Meeting February 28-30, 1996, in Ventura, California (Goal A). The General Session will target "Southern California Freshwater Systems" and a one-day Symposium entitled "Status and Management of Southern Steelhead" will precede the meeting (Goal A.2:a.). The California/Nevada Chapter continues to be very active in fishery related issues (Goal C.1:a.).

The Chapter is actively planning the 127th Annual Meeting of AFS schedule for Monterey, California from August 24-27, 1996. Jennifer Neilson is Program Chair, Ken Hashagen is Local Arrangements Chair, and Dan Odenweller is contact for Trade Show information. Several planning meetings have already been held and committees selected. The Annual Meeting will be held at the Monterey Convention Center and the Doubletree and Marriott Hotels will act as accommodation hosts.

**Colorado/Wyoming:**

The Colorado/Wyoming Chapter will hold their Annual Meeting March 19-21, 1996, in Ft. Collins, Colorado. This year's meeting will include a one-day continuing education workshop entitled, "Conservation Biology" (Goal A.2:a.). The Chapter has been active in a variety of conservation roles and President Gordon Sloane recently outlined a number of work items in the Chapter's newsletter, The Angler (Goal C.1:a). The Chapter also recently selected an official logo for the Chapter created by Chuck Wheller of Laramie. The logo will appear on Chapter stationary and the newsletter.

**Humboldt:**

The Humboldt Chapter continues to host a monthly meeting and is planning their Annual Spring Conference for April, 1996 (Goal A). President-Elect Brett Harvey is in charge of chairing the planning and program committee. The Chapter has been active in a number of local fisheries-related environmental issues.

**Idaho:**

The Idaho Chapter will hold their Annual Meeting February 29-March 2, 1996 in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho (Goal A).

**Montana:**

The Montana Chapter held their annual meeting February 13-16, 1996 in Kalispell, Montana (Goal A).

**North Pacific International:**

The Sustainable Fisheries Foundation and the North Pacific Chapter will host the International Sustainable Fisheries Strategy Conference in Victoria, British Columbia, from April 26-30, 1996 (Goal A.2:a and Goal C.1:c.). The purpose of the conference will be to exchange information on the current status of fisheries resources, the institutional and legal constraints on fisheries management, and on the opportunity for restoring salmonid productivity and use to levels that assure availability of the resource (Goal C.1:a). The Chapter will also hold their annual meeting in connection with the conference.

**Oregon:**

The Oregon Chapter hosted their Annual Meeting at Sunriver, Oregon on February 21-23, 1996. The theme for the meeting was "Restoration of Aquatic Ecosystems", with an emphasis on practical applications (Goal A.2:a). Chapter members are also actively involved in helping planning the 1996 WDAFS Annual Meeting and the Chapter will act as host. The Oregon chapter hosted a Searun Cutthroat Trout Symposium (Goal C.4:b.2.) and continues to be very active in fishery related issues (Goal C.1:a.).

**Portland:**

The Portland Chapter will hold their Second Annual Meeting On May 30, 1996 in Troutdale, Oregon (Goal A). The meeting will feature speakers on various local fisheries topics (Goal C.1). The chapter is in the process of revising it's bylaws and hopes to have a revised draft available for the annual meeting. The Chapter will co-host the 10th Annual Stream Habitat Improvement Workshop on August 19-22, 1996, at the LeSells Stewart Center on the campus of Oregon State University in Covallis, Oregon (Goal A.2:a.). The objective of the workshop is to present the state of the art on how to "worry intelligently about stream habitat improvement."

## Committee Reports

### **Bull Trout:**

At the request of the State of Montana, this committee is reviewing Montana's proposed strategy for bull trout restoration efforts (Goal C.1:a.). The committee under the direction of Chair Karen Pratt will solicit help from various chapters.

### **Environmental Concerns:**

In concert with the Native Salmon Stocks Committee, the Environmental Concerns Committee is tracking current and upcoming fishery legislation and developing a system to electronically link the WDAFS chapters and committees for the exchange of fish data and information (Goal C.2). This committee is also reviewing WDAFS needs for a Divisional water quality position statement (Goal D.1:d.).

### **Historian:**

Chair Venice Beske continues to locate and review important WDAFS materials suitable for archiving. The committee goal is to have an institutional history available for the Division's 50th Anniversary in 1998.

### **Native People's Fisheries:**

For the second year, this committee is offering an annual travel grant for Native American/First Nation undergraduates students within the WDAFS (Goal E.3:a. and Goal G.2:e). The committee offers a grant of up to \$500.00 for one or more students to attend the WDAFS Annual Meeting to encourage participation. The application procedure includes an essay on career goals and why they want to attend the Annual Meeting.

### **Old Growth Forests:**

This committee reviewed the draft EIS on the California Spotted Owl Management Plan and is tracking new legislation and information on the "Headwaters Forest", an area in Northwestern California that provides old growth redwoods and important coho salmon habitat (Goal C.1).

**Resolutions:**

This committee's efforts have been directed at consolidating information and updating the WDAFS Bylaws. The results of their work was recently published in The Tributary.

**Riparian:**

Based on information received from Executive Director Paul Brouha, information on a revived draft of S.852 "Livestock Grazing Act" was sent to Chapters requesting appropriate action and a WDAFS letter of comment sent to the bill author, Senator Domenici (Goal C.1).

**Nominations:**

Carl Burger has solicited nominations through The Tributary for two WDAFS elected offices, Vice-President and National Nominating Committee Representative (Goal E).

**National Nominating Committee Representative:**

The WDAFS representative is Ginger Thomas, a member of the Montana Chapter.

This concludes my 1996 WDAFS Mid-year report.

Respectfully submitted,



Dennis P. Lee  
Western Division President