

Date: 12 August 2007
To: Jennifer Nielsen, Gus Rassam
Subject: WDAFS Annual Report
From: Bob Hughes

Aquatic Stewardship

The Alaska Chapter sent a letter to Commissioner Denby Lloyd of Alaska's Department of Fish and Game regarding a proposed stocking project that plans to use hatchery fish to make up for recent escapement shortfalls at McDonald Lake, near Ketchikan. On the surface, this project seems to be in conflict with several parts of the Sustainable Salmon Fisheries for the State of Alaska, and we requested that he clarify the State's intent.

The Arizona/New Mexico Chapter created a new subcommittee this year called Environmental Affairs. To date, the chapter has submitted letters commenting on renovation projects in the headwaters of the Verde River, barrier construction in the Blue River drainage, and national issues such as the re-registration of Antimycin A and Rotenone.

The Bonneville Chapter continues to monitor and attend public meetings addressing the Southern Nevada Water proposal. The chapter remains concerned about the proposed action and its potential impacts to the fisheries of the west desert. An agreement between UT and NV is pending. In other lobbying efforts, the chapter helped convince the Utah Senate Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee member to remove some problematic parts of a piece of legislation that was introduced in the State Senate this past session. The bill addressed the current fish health policies in the State and the chapter members felt that the changes would disrupt the balance between aquatic stewardship and economic viability of both private and public aquaculture.

A high priority for the Cal-Neva Chapter has been collaboration with the newly formed Mexican Chapter of the Western Division. The Chapter routinely communicates with the Mexican Chapter through the International Section and the Chapter's International committee. Two Chapter officers attended the La Paz (Mexican Chapter) meeting in May 2007 delivering \$2,000 in financial support and assisting the Mexican Chapter in a variety of functions. The Chapter, along with the Western Division is starting to communicate with Mexican scientists on resource related issues – successfully achieving the parent Society goal of global leadership.

The WD provided student travel support for Mexico Chapter members to attend the Mexico Chapter meeting and the AFS annual meeting in San Francisco, and Bob Hughes attended the Chapter meeting, representing the Division.

Bob Hughes and Jeff McClain met with Miguel Cisneros (Chief of the Mexico Fisheries Institute) to discuss ways in which the WDAFS can aid Mexican fish conservation efforts, and Lourdes Rugge facilitated Dr. Cisneros' attendance at the AFS 2007 annual meeting.

The Cal-Neva Chapter supported the proposed upgrading of the listing of delta smelt under the California Endangered Species Act from threatened to endangered (by letter), joined as supporters to on a petition to list long fin smelt as threatened, submitted a letter to Senator Diane Feinstein regarding the pending legislation for the San Joaquin River Restoration Program, submitted a letter to State Assembly Member, Wolk in support of A.B. 1032, instream mining restrictions, and submitted a letter to the California Regional Water Quality Control Board supporting the eradication of northern pike from Lake Davis.

The CO/WY Chapter formed committees to address illicit introductions of fish species in Colorado and Wyoming, as well as the oil and gas boom in both states

The University of Wyoming Student Subunit participated in gill netting and removal of lake trout at Yellowstone Lake, Yellowstone National Park.

The Oregon Chapter commented on the draft environmental impact statement regarding the hydropower relicensing for the lower four dams on the Klamath River, which will also allow the Chapter to comment on the final EIS.

Over three years ago, an excellent Position Paper on Marine Reserves was drafted by several ORAFS members, adopted by the ExCom, and posted on its website (see orafs.org/pdfdocs/marinerespos03.pdf). On October 12, 2006, Past President Barry McPherson made a presentation to the Oregon's Ocean Policy Advisory Council (OPAC) in which he briefly summarized the ORAFS position paper that promotes establishment of a network of marine reserves off Oregon. He presented them with copies of the position paper and explained that ORAFS now had a Marine Habitat and Ecology Committee that would be looking at OPAC's findings as they were published.

The Montana Chapter ExCom drafted a letter to the editor of a local newspaper expressing its concerns related to a general decline in the enforcement of Montana's laws protecting riparian areas. MTAFS in the process of writing a more prescriptive letter with proposed actions for Conservation Districts to address this problem.

The Montana Chapter funded several fish conservation projects via its Resource Action Fund, including an assessment of pearl dace in eastern Montana, continuing work on westslope cutthroat trout on the Sun Ranch, and sponsoring a data compilation and review to aid Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks with ongoing work in the Shields River Basin.

The Montana Chapter's legislative committee wrote several letters expressing the Chapter's science-based position on bills in the Montana State Legislature. It hired a lobbyist again this session to assist the Chapter in identifying and tracking bills.

At the request of Trout Unlimited, the WDAFS conducted a formal peer review of an Oregon State University thesis and recommendation concerned with the introduction and dispersal of whirling disease in Alaska.

Information Transfer

The AK Chapter supported the publication of “Sockeye Salmon Evolution, Ecology, and Management”, the proceedings of a special session held at the 135th Annual meeting in Anchorage.

The Arizona/New Mexico Chapter welcomed two new subchapters this year. The New Mexico State University Chapter had its bylaws accepted by the Governing Board earlier in 2007 and the Arizona State University chapter has submitted its bylaws to be reviewed and accepted by the Governing Board at the upcoming National Meeting in September in San Francisco.

In conjunction with its annual meeting, the Arizona New Mexico Chapter put on two continuing education classes at a significant cost reduction to members. The first class titled “GIS and raster-based analysis for Fishery Professionals” was a huge success and built on previous offered courses. The second course titled “Rotenone and Antimycin Use in the Southwest” was also a huge hit and covered project development and planning and provided case studies as examples.

The Bonneville Chapter sponsored a plenary session at its annual meeting that addressed the issues and concerns regarding Mercury in the environment in Utah. Guest speakers from USGS, UDEQ, UDWR and the Fishing Public presented information and then answered questions from the audience. The chapter’s newsletter then published a story that highlighted the information and detailed the locations of Mercury Fish Consumption advisories in Utah.

The 2007 AFS Annual Meeting is co-hosted by the Cal-Neva Chapter and the Western Division, and members of both units have been working on the meeting for the past two years.

The Cal-Neva Chapter sponsors and participates in a number of activities geared towards non-professionals, including the annual American River Salmon Festival (which draws thousands of people from all over the Chapter's region), the University of California, Davis, Picnic Day, and the South Yuba River Citizen's League (SYRCL) River Teachers education program. At the Salmon Festival and Picnic Day, Cal-Neva and the student subunit operated a booth and/or display that included information on our organization and mission (including brochures for the Chapter and Student subunit), information about fishes geared towards the general public, displays of live fishes, and merchandise.

The CA/NV Chapter and the student subunit have developed brochures that were distributed at various public events, including the American River Salmon Festival, UC Davis Picnic Day, and our Annual Meeting. The Chapter and the student subunit both have websites that include information on the organizations and their mission, the quarterly newsletter, and links to other relevant sites (including the Western Division and Parent Society).

The CO/WY Chapter provided financial support to the BLM for Cheyenne Fishing Day. This is an educational day where Chapter members educate youth about fisheries and fishing activities.

The CO/WY Chapter sponsored a booth at the Wyoming Game and Fish Department's Hunting and Fishing Heritage Expo. Chapter representatives promoted the missions of the AFS and Chapter to adults and youth, and provided interactive displays that focused on the Hutton Program, careers in fisheries, fish aging techniques, western native species, and aquatic nuisance species. The Membership Committee provided information regarding the Hutton Program to fisheries staff and human resource administrators at the Colorado Division of Wildlife and Wyoming Game and Fish Department. Members met with state agencies to discuss the Hutton Program and to promote AFS to new employees. The Colorado State University Subunit provided an educational opportunity by surveying and assessing a Colorado stream with a secondary school class.

The Oregon Chapter has a printed a brochure (see orafs.org/pdfdocs/orafsbrochure2.pdf) that summarizes Chapter membership, committees, issues, publications, awards, activities, meetings, and outreach. The brochure is distributed at professional and public gatherings and posted on our website. ORAFS also continues to display a "Traveling Poster" at appropriate meetings and events (see orafs.org/poster.htm). The poster was displayed at the Northwest Fish Culture Conference during December 2006 in Portland, Oregon. The ORAFS poster is also posted on our website. The Oregon Chapter continues to distribute our popular "Stream Continuum Poster" (can be ordered at orafs.org/market.htm). The poster shows a cross-section of a stream with examples of the flora and fauna that inhabit the gravel up through the riparian area. We distribute the poster at no cost to educators individually, at events, and also through teacher workshops, and sell it for a modest amount to others. ORAFS regularly publishes its activities and public position statements on the Chapter's website which is available to anyone using the internet (orafs.org).

The Oregon Chapter continues to sponsor and participate in the Coastal Cutthroat Trout Technical Working Group, a multi-state and provincial group of professional biologists seeking to better understand and manage coastal cutthroat trout. The Oregon Chapter was successful in finding funds for a professional facilitator and writer, who has drafted the 2006 Science Workshop's proceedings. The Chapter helped plan the 2007 Coastal Cutthroat Trout Monitoring Workshop, with invited participants from California to Alaska, held in June 2007. Through a collaborative effort with editors from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Oregon State University, ORAFS published the proceedings of a Redband Trout Workshop. Copies of the proceedings were sold at the ORAFS 2007 Annual Meeting and will be sold through the Chapter website and at other professional meetings and events, including the 2007 Parent Society meeting. The Oregon Chapter provided \$500 to the Northwest Fish Culture Conference during December 2006 in Portland, Oregon, and maintained a bank account to hold funds for the business of conducting the conference. The Chapter also granted two \$250 assistance grants to help Oregon hatchery workers attend the conference. The Chapter is represented

by Past President Barry McPherson on an Advisory Committee to the Oregon Hatchery Research Center, a new collaborative effort between the Oregon Department of Fisheries and Wildlife and Oregon State University to study mechanisms causing differences in hatchery and wild fish and find ways to manage hatchery fish for a variety of benefits without harming wild fish populations. The Chapter loaned its poster display boards to the NW Fish Culture Conference held in Portland, OR, in December 2006. The Oregon Chapter continues to have a liaison to the Oregon Chapter of The Wildlife Society. The ORAFS website contains links to many collaborative entities in Oregon, the Pacific Northwest, and nationally.

The Oregon Chapter is working diligently to complete editing and begin publishing the 2005 Coastal Cutthroat Trout Symposium proceedings, hopefully by fall 2007.

The Montanan State University student subunit of the Montanan Chapter co-hosted a “field day” with the student subunit of the Wildlife Society as classes finished and students got ready for the field season. The event kicked off the beginning of our monitoring campaign on Mandeville Creek.

The Montana Chapter published the abstracts of its 2006 meeting in the Intermountain Journal of Sciences.

The WDAFS has completed the data acquisition and editing phases of the Western Native Fish Project, including an AFS symposium book. The next phase, which will require additional funding, is to put the data base for the 300+ native fish of western North America on an interactive website.

The Bull Trout Committee of the WDAFS submitted a manuscript to Fisheries summarizing the results of a survey of bull trout biologists, including issues with current and future limiting factors plus possible mitigating measures.

Member Services

At the 2006 Annual Meeting, the CA/NV Chapter offered courses in backpack electrofishing and effective presentation skills.

The CO/WY Chapter provided an excellent Continuing Education Workshop at the 2007 Annual Chapter Meeting entitled, “Ecology and Management of Western Great Plains Stream Fishes: Thinking and Working at the Riverscape Scale.” The Continuing Education Committee also arranged a tour of the Colorado Division of Wildlife’s Bellvue Fish Hatchery and Watson Rearing Unit in conjunction with the 2007 Annual Chapter Meeting.

The Oregon Chapter organized and conducted a professional development workshop on February 27 – 28, immediately prior to the 2007 Annual Meeting. The workshop was titled Assessment and Evaluation of Reintroducing Native Fishes and was developed and

led by Jason Dunham of the US Geological Survey office in Corvallis, Oregon. It attracted 24 attendees.

The Alaska Chapter supported the AFS Equal Opportunity Section travel fund.

The Arizona New Mexico Chapter, in cooperation with Aquatic Consultants Inc., awarded a total of \$2000 in competitive scholarships to undergraduate students in New Mexico and Arizona as part of their Miles McInnis Scholarship program.

The Arizona New Mexico Chapter supported the U of A and New Mexico State Student Subunits financially by paying for National AFS memberships for all officers and providing lodging for our annual chapter meeting.

Cal-Neva Chapter provided financial assistance to complement the donations by the Western Division and Parent Society for the attendance (including housing) of ten Mexican Chapter students and scientists at the chapter's annual meeting.

In 2006, CAL/NEV offered Society and Chapter memberships to people who paid the full registration fees at the Chapter annual meeting. Of the 57 non-members who paid full registration fees at the annual meeting, 37 applications were submitted for membership.

The CO/WY Chapter discounted annual meeting registration rates to Young Professionals, Students, and Retirees.

The CO/WY Chapter supported the Colorado State University and University of Wyoming Student Subunits financially with annual donations, and travel expenses to the 2007 Annual Chapter Meeting. The Chapter waived the 2007 Annual Chapter Meeting registration for outstanding student volunteers.

AFS members receive a discount on registration rates at the Oregon Chapter's annual meeting and workshops, and nonmembers who make a commitment to join at the annual meeting also receive this rate.

The WDAFS funded two students involved with AFS leadership activities to attend the AFS annual meeting in San Francisco. The WDAFS also funded student travel through the Equal Opportunities Committee and the Canadian Aquatic Resources Committee.

The Oregon Chapter supports development of college students into fishery and aquatic professionals in multiple ways. The first is through a Student Representative that serves as a member of the Executive Committee, participating in monthly conference calls and meetings/retreats and helping to conduct the Chapter's annual meeting. The ORAFS President is the designated contact for students with concerns and ideas. The President and Past President attended the November 2006 meeting of the Oregon State University Student Subunit to acquaint them with the Chapter, encourage students to present papers and posters at the ORAFS Annual Meeting, invite them to participate in the Student Mentor Session at the Annual Meeting, recruit them as volunteers to help with the

Annual Meeting, and encourage them to apply for ORAFS Student Scholarships. At the November 2006 Student Subunit meeting, the ORAFS President granted the Subunit \$1,000 to assist with a field trip. This grant was used on a tour to the southern Oregon coast where students learned about wetland restoration and salmon broodstock collection from federal and state agency biologists. At the ORAFS Annual Meeting March 1, 2007, the Oregon Chapter granted another \$1,000 to the Oregon State University Student Subunit to help 49 students go on an educational field tour in the spring. The trip included the Sonoran Desert and upper Gulf of California where they met with biologists working in the US and Mexico. The Oregon Chapter actively involved students in the Annual Meeting by waiving registration and providing lodging in exchange for volunteer service at or prior to the meeting (about 40 students volunteered from 3 different colleges). The Student Mentor Session at the meeting provided an opportunity for students, both undergraduate and graduate, to interact with fishery professionals to learn about career specialties, find internship and job prospects, and develop other professional opportunities. Snacks and non-alcoholic beverages were provided and approximately 40 students and 35 mentors attended the session. A competition for Best Student Paper and Best Student Poster was held at the Annual Meeting, with 18 students competing for best paper, and 11 competing for best poster. The winners received framed certificates at the meeting and were awarded 1-year AFS student memberships. The Chapter continued its program of awarding scholarships in a competitive process. Scholarships of \$1,500 were awarded to four outstanding candidates in the undergraduate (A.S. and B.S), M.S., and PhD categories (one per degree category).

The Arizona New Mexico Chapter updated its webpage and provided forms for interested individuals to download to become members.

The CA/NV Chapter enhanced its website to include a new appearance, catchy logo, database, page for chapter letters and media articles, links to species basic biology and hot topics. In addition, conference registration for the 2008 annual meeting in Lake Tahoe will be provided to registrants on-line. We worked with the Parent Society to improve membership access to the Chapter list server and improved the accuracy of the standing list.

The CO/WY Chapter provided a laptop at its 2007 Annual Meeting so that members could update their contact information.

The CO/WY Chapter is actively updating its website to promote the Chapter and Western Division activities. The Continuing Education Committee completed a web-based survey to generate potential topics of interest for the upcoming 2007 Annual Chapter Meeting, as well as Chapter Meetings in the future. The Chapter website (<http://www.fisheries.org/co-wy/>) has become a primary means for disseminating information to members. The Chapter has worked hard to keep the website information accurate and up-to-date. The website provides Bylaws, Rules, and Procedures of the Chapter; the Annual Program of Work; the current Annual Budget; lists of past award recipients, past officers, current officers and committee members; annual meeting updates; business meeting minutes; recent and past versions of the Chapter newsletter;

annual meeting details; links to Parent Society, Western Division, and student subunit websites; and other items of interest to Chapter members or the general public.

The Oregon Chapter continued updates to its web site to increase the content and use the most current web tools. The web page is easy to navigate and has new photographs. The site includes workshop and meeting announcements, newsletters, officer and committee contact information, letters, statements and testimony from the Chapter, current and upcoming events, job announcements, Chapter publications and ordering information, committee activities, alerts on important resource issues, and links other AFS web sites, state and federal agencies and other conservation-based organizations. The web site also includes our mission statement, meeting minutes, bylaws, position descriptions, archives, expanded job listings and other documents. We continue to use the web page for up-to-date communication with Chapter and other AFS members. It is especially valuable to keep attendees informed on events leading up to the Annual Meeting, providing registration forms, guides for authors and presenters, and the most current meeting and workshop programs. The Oregon Chapter also maintains a List Serve and is working to encourage more Chapter members to sign up. This is a very quick and easy way to communicate with a large group of members at one time, provide announcements, request assistance, and enhance communication between newsletter publication dates. We are working on using this tool to help our committees to communicate effectively within their groups as well. The Oregon Chapter is exploring how to better equip the Executive Committee and external committees to communicate and make decisions through the use of a blog site. This emerging communication vehicle can be set up with a distribution email such that when new material is posted, it will automatically forward the notice. With the adoption of this technology, the chapter will be able to increase communications between the Executive Committee, External Committees, and others on topics that may concern the Chapter. This will allow the determination of priority issues, available expertise and ability to respond. The blog is currently on a trial run with the external committees and Executive Committee. The Oregon Chapter continues to develop its Chapter member database so it will be able to track new, student, and potential members. We use the email distribution list to maintain and increase member participation. Committee chairs use specific email lists to encourage active committee participation by current members.

The WDAFS uses a list serve of members to notify them of issues of concern, including announcements that the web published newsletter is available, notices of officer election, meeting announcements, scholarship opportunities, and continuing education needs. The WDAFS has updated its website, employed a new webmaster, and uses both regularly to inform members and other interested persons. The WDAFS conducted monthly conference calls and a mid-year meeting that included WDAFS, Chapter, and Committee officers.

The CAL/NEV Chapter continued support for an exceptional grade school education program (offered by the SYRCL).

The CO/WY Chapter provided a Membership Services booth at the 2007 Annual Chapter Meeting. Information was provided on Professional certification for members, the Hutton Program, AFS membership, AFS catalogs and brochures, and a job board for those members seeking employees or employment. The Chapter encourages professional development of Chapter Officers by providing financial assistance to them so that Officers may attend Parent Society and Western Division Meetings.

The CO/WY Chapter continued funding of endowments at Colorado State University and the University of Wyoming. The Chapter presented two student scholarships via the Chapter Scholarship Endowments at Colorado State University and the University of Wyoming.

The CO/WY Chapter provides up to 6 free memberships to undergraduate students at Colorado State University and the University of Wyoming.

The ID Chapter completed a major revision to its bylaws that were approved by the Parent Society. A new student unit, the Portneuf Unit, was completed at Idaho State University and was approved by the Parent Society.

The Oregon Chapter is in the fourth year of a five-year (2004-08) strategic plan (at orafs.org/pdffdocs/ORAFS%20Strategic%20Plan%202004-2008%2011%2005%2003%20FINAL.pdf). The Chapter developed and followed an annual work plan for year 4 (attached and at orafs.org/pdffdocs/workplan_2007.pdf). The annual work plan includes specific activities that address goals and objectives of the strategic plan. The Oregon Chapter completed a multi-year effort to update/re-organization of its Administrative Handbook. The handbook now reflects the current and near future roles of officers, committees, and the Chapter in general.

The ID Chapter held its annual Native Fish Workshop in the Kootenai River drainage July 23-26, 2007. This year's workshop was hosted by Vaughn Paragamian and Eric Stark and featured slimy sculpin, torrent sculpin, longnose sucker, burbot, white sturgeon, and lake chub.

The CO/WY Chapter is updating Colorado State University and University of Wyoming libraries with all Annual Chapter Meeting Proceedings that are known to exist, as well as ensuring that all Proceedings are contained within the Chapter archives. The Chapter has decided to preserve its institutional memory by submitting the Chapter archives to Spearfish National Fish Hatchery in Spearfish, South Dakota-in the same location as the archived material of the Parent Society.

The Idaho Chapter hired a Boise State University history graduate student to write its Chapter history. The project was completed in May and can be viewed at: <http://www.idahoafs.org/history.php/>.

The Oregon Chapter published an article about AFS certification in its quarterly newsletter, and offered three scholarships of \$100 each to reimburse successful member's

certification application fees. Two members were awarded scholarships in the last year for successfully obtaining AFS certification.

The WDAFS contributed to co-hosting the 2007 AFS annual meeting: Eric Wagner (President-elect) served as symposium chair, Joe Margraf (Past-president) was meeting room coordinator, and Bob Hughes raised over \$15K in sponsorships.