

Date: 10 Feb 2007  
To: Jennifer Nielsen, AFS President  
Subject: WDAFS Mid-year report  
From: Robert M. Hughes, President WDAFS

### **Motion Report**

1. Split the gross profit from the annual meeting, including the trade show, to 20% to any co-sponsoring, co-hosting, co-organizing, and co-locating Chapter and Division, with the remainder to the parent Society, effective 2010.

### **Aquatic Stewardship**

*AS Goal 1 (Local and Global Leadership)-lead outreach and advocacy efforts for sustainable fisheries from local to global levels*

The Alaska Chapter sent a letter to Governor Palin recommending that she, by executive order, transfer the authority to protect anadromous fish habitat from the Department of Natural Resources to the Department of Fish and Game.

The Bonneville Chapter and the Western Division wrote a letter of concern regarding the Southern Nevada Water Authority's proposed groundwater development project that involves construction of a series of wells and pipelines in Northern Nevada to supply water to the Las Vegas area. A subcommittee was formed to stay informed on this issue, such that the Chapter can act in its role of aquatic stewardship.

At the request of fish health biologists with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources the Bonneville Chapter sent a letter to the Utah Senate Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Committee members regarding a proposed amendment to the current State Fish Health Policy. The Chapter's Legislative Action and Fish Culture and Health Committees felt that the current State Fish Health Policy Board is appropriate and balances aquatic stewardship and economic viability of both private and public aquaculture. Proposed amendments to the Aquaculture Act could have large-scale ramifications for the fish species of the Bonneville, Sevier and Colorado River Basins.

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 expected in April.

*AS Goal 2 (Stewardship Education)-educate those outside the scientific arena on the complex issues surrounding fisheries and aquatic natural resources*

The Idaho Chapter financially supported the Living Stream learning tool at Kamiah High School. The artificial stream, complete with live fish and now fully operational, is used to teach students about healthy streams and fisheries.

The Idaho Chapter funded resident and anadromous fish mounts for the Morrison-Knudson Nature Center.

The Idaho Chapter's Anadromous Fish Committee printed and distributed interpretive brochures regarding anadromous fish conservation.

The Idaho Chapter financially supported Trout in the Classroom, an education program geared towards elementary school students that focuses upon fisheries and stream resources.

*AS Goal 3 (Promotion of Stewardship)-promote the sound stewardship and conservation of aquatic ecosystems*

The Montana Chapter funded several fish conservation projects via its Resource Action Fund, including an aquatic macroinvertebrate study in the Flathead Valley.

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

The WDAFS funded burning an additional 1000 Cutthroat Trout Documentary DVDs that are now being distributed to interested individuals, institutions, and public TV stations.

### **Information Transfer and Outreach**

*ITO Goal 1 (Visibility)-improve the visibility of AFS*

The Idaho Chapter funded Wildlife Express, an IDFG publication featuring native fish.

The Idaho Chapter contributed to Salmon and Steelhead Days both financially and through the participation of Chapter members. Salmon and Steelhead Days is an annual youth educational program devoted to anadromous fish conservation through fun activities.

The University of Wyoming and Colorado State University Student Subunits sold Chapter t-shirts, mugs, and pint glasses.

The Colorado/Wyoming Chapter sponsored a booth at the WY Game and Fish Department's Hunting and Fishing Heritage Expo. Chapter representatives promoted

the missions of the AFS and Chapter, and provided interactive displays that focused on the Hutton Program, careers in fisheries, fish aging techniques, western native species, and aquatic nuisance species.

*ITO Goal 2 (Collaboration)-collaborate with other scientific and professional organizations*

The Alaska Chapter cosponsored publication of the American Fisheries Society Symposium on Sockeye Salmon.

The Bonneville Chapter contributed financial assistance and was instrumental in the donation of 50 boxes of books from John Nickum to the AFS Disaster Response Program.

Colorado/Wyoming Chapter members continued to participate in the Hutton Program. The Membership Committee provided information regarding the Hutton Program to fisheries staff and human resource administrators at the CO Division of Wildlife and WY Game and Fish Department.

The Program Committee of the Colorado/Wyoming Chapter collaborated with the Wildlife Society in preparing the plenary session at the 2007 Annual Chapter Meeting.

The Idaho Chapter completed the proceedings of "Exploring the Differences between Fine- and Large-Spotted Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout" now available online at: [http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/caribou-targhee/fisheries/documents/proceedings\\_yct\\_spot.pdf](http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/caribou-targhee/fisheries/documents/proceedings_yct_spot.pdf)

The Mexico Chapter is working on its First Biannual Meeting with the Mexican Fisheries Society, and on a bid for the 2011 AFS Annual Meeting in Mazatlan.

*ITO Goal 3 (Professional Stature)-improve public perceptions about the professional stature of AFS members*

*ITO Goal 4 (Information Network)-use information networks to their greatest capacity*

The Colorado/Wyoming Chapter is updating CSU and UW libraries with all existing annual chapter meeting proceedings, as well as ensuring that all proceedings are contained within the Chapter's archives. The Chapter's Archivist is arranging and organizing the Chapter archives for storage in a permanent location (most likely at the DC Booth Library in Spearfish, SD).

The Western Native Fish Project of the WDAFS has received data from every western state plus Mexico, British Columbia, and Yukon. Most data have been reviewed and validated, or someone has been identified for validation. Many corrections were

required on the data supplied. Current and historical distributions for 300 native species are presented at the 4<sup>th</sup> field HUC scale. The data base for each species will also include its name, a photograph, relative abundance, critical habitat, threats, and references. A draft of the final report will be out for review around late March. Final products will include a *Fisheries* article and a website.

The Bull Trout Committee of the WDAFS surveyed bull trout biologists as requested by the Montana Chapter. The objectives of the survey were to (1) summarize current bull trout information, (2) identify gaps in current understanding of bull trout biology and management, (3) identify consistency of limiting factors across regions, and (4) evaluate the effectiveness of regulatory actions. Survey results indicated that (1) limited data exist to identify population and habitat changes, (2) non-native species, forest management, and migration barriers were the most common limiting factors, and (3) ESA listing has been and will continue to be the most effective regulatory mechanism in protecting bull trout. A draft manuscript for *Fisheries* has been prepared and is undergoing WDAFS review.

The WDAFS ExCom and key committee chairs participate in monthly conference calls, and held a two-day mid-year meeting in November for strategic planning purposes. All Chapters and three standing committees were represented. At least one WDAFS officer attends each Chapter meeting.

*ITO Goal 5 (Public Policy)-actively influence public policy*

The WDAFS has formed an ad hoc committee to review the Federal Columbia River Power System Biological Opinion concerning management of the river and its fisheries.

**Member Services**

*MS Goal 1 (Professional Development and Recognition)-provide services for professional development and recognize volunteer accomplishments*

The Alaska Chapter sponsored a technical writing course for AFS members at its 2006 annual meeting.

The Bonneville Chapter and the Utah State University Student Subunit offered a Bioenergetics short course at a subsidized cost and Health Condition Profile training at no additional charge for meeting registrants. The chapter supports the USU Student Subunit financially with annual donations.

At the Bonneville Chapter's Annual Meeting, scholarships are presented for Best Poster and Best Student Presentation. In addition, financial awards are offered for (1) equipment or labor associated with a small restoration project, (2) matches for other funding, (3) graduate student research projects, and (4) continuing education, travel, or professional training. Bonneville Chapter student member Kris Homel won a best

paper award at the 2006 AFS meeting in Lake Placid, New York. Kris was able to attend the national meeting after winning the Best Student Poster award at the Chapter meeting in 2006.

The Best Paper/Poster and Awards Committees of the Colorado/Wyoming Chapter recognized the accomplishments of Chapter members at the 2007 Annual Chapter Meeting.

The Membership Committee of the Colorado/Wyoming Chapter provided a membership services booth at the 2007 Annual Chapter Meeting; information will be provided on professional certification for members, the Hutton Program, AFS membership, and AFS catalogs and brochures. A job board for those seeking employment and those seeking employees will also be provided.

The Colorado/Wyoming Chapter arranged a plenary session at its 2007 chapter meeting focusing on the energy industry in CO and WY, so the membership can develop a better understanding of to manage, preserve, and protect aquatic resources. It also held a continuing education workshop "Ecology and Management of Western Great Plains Stream Fishes: Thinking and Working at the Riverscape Scale." The Continuing Education Committee arranged a tour of the CO Division of Wildlife's Bellvue Fish Hatchery and Watson Rearing Unit in conjunction with the 2007 meeting.

The Idaho Chapter and students from Idaho State University established a new Portneuf student subunit at Idaho State University to join the existing Palouse Unit (University of Idaho). The Chapter also revised its bylaws to address inconsistencies, organization issues, and confusing sections.

To document its rather colorful history, the Idaho Chapter hired a historian from Boise State University. The document, expected to be completed by Summer 2007, will add a sense of heritage and community to the Chapter.

The Idaho Chapter established 3 new student scholarships and 1 student support grant. They are the Idaho High School Student Scholarship (\$250), Idaho Undergraduate Student Scholarship (\$500), Idaho Graduate Student Scholarship (\$500), and Idaho Student Support Grant (\$50-750). Information about these grants is available on the chapter website: <http://www.idahoafs.org/links.php>

The Idaho Chapter established a new Outstanding Mentor Award to recognize a fisheries professional that has shown substantial devotion to assisting or mentoring Idaho fisheries students and professionals.

The Idaho Chapter's Fish Culture Committee presented a workshop on Current and Emerging Pathogens of Fishes in the Pacific Northwest, featuring Dr. Ken Cain from University of Idaho and Dr. Keith Johnson from Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

The Montana Chapter publishes its newsletter, the Outlet, on a bi-monthly basis.

At the Montana Chapter annual meeting, over 90 people registered for a continuing education course on moving fish and water through culverts.

The Montana Chapter hosted a membership drive at its annual meeting in mid-February. For the December newsletter, the Chapter president wrote an essay on why membership is important to fisheries in Montana. It now has active student sub-units at Montana State University in Bozeman and at the University of Montana in Missoula.

The Oregon Chapter organized continuing education workshops on grant writing and native fish restoration at its annual meeting, which also featured 160 platform presentations in 5 concurrent sessions and 25 posters.

The Oregon Chapter, Coastal Cutthroat Trout Symposium, and the WDAFS awarded coastal cutthroat research scholarships of \$5000 to Allan Costello (Ph.D.) and \$3000 to Sarah Haque (M.Sc.). Funds were generated from the Coastal Cutthroat Trout Symposium (sponsored by the Alaska, Humboldt, North Pacific International, and Oregon Chapters) plus the Lower Umpqua Flycasters.

The WDAFS and the Sustainable Fisheries Foundation awarded a total of \$3600 in competitive scholarships to Ph.D. and M.Sc. students. Winners were Kiza Gates (Montana State U.), Mike Meeuwig (Montana State U.), George Pess (U. of Washington), and Carl Saunders (Colorado State U.).

*MS Goal 2 (Science-Based Information)-provide scientific and technical information*  
The Colorado State University and University of Wyoming Student Subunits feature weekly meetings where speakers within the fisheries profession provide presentations of their fisheries research and work experiences.

Chapter annual meetings were held or are scheduled as follows: AK (14-16 Nov, Fairbanks), AZ/NM (6-8 Feb, Albuquerque), MT (14-16 Feb, Missoula), ID (21-23 Feb, Boise), CO/WY (26 Feb-1 Mar, Fort Collins), OR (28 Feb-2 Mar, Eugene), Bonneville (19-21 Mar, Logan), Mexico (2-4 May, La Paz), North Pacific International (6-8 June, Tacoma), CA/NV (2-7 Sep, San Francisco).

The California/Nevada Chapter and the WDAFS are co-convening their annual meetings with the Parent Society's in San Francisco. Both subunits have invested considerable time to insure that the meeting is a scientific, technical, social, and economic success.

The Oregon and Arizona/New Mexico Chapters are planning WDAFS meetings for 2008 and 2009 in Portland and Albuquerque, respectively.

*MS Goal 3 (Online and Web Services)-provide online information networks*

The Bonneville Chapter revamped its website to provide valuable information to members. A newsletter, the Lateral Line, is posted on the web-site and is distributed through a list-serve. In addition, a student website was recently overhauled and will be maintained by the subunit. Both web sites offer links to other AFS web sites and will gradually increase in content. Finally, the Bonneville Chapter has upgraded both the hardware and software used for hosting mailing lists.

The Colorado/Wyoming Chapter, as well as the CSU and UW Student Subunits, maintain active and current websites. The Newsletter Committee has provided two editions of the Chapter's electronic newsletter to members via email and the Chapter website. The Chapter actively updates its website to promote Chapter and Western Division activities. The Chapter provides access to other scientific and professional organizations through the Chapter website, as well as the UW and CSU Student Subunit websites.

The Continuing Education Committee of the Colorado/Wyoming Chapter completed a web-based survey to generate potential topics of interest for the 2007 chapter meeting.

The WDAFS obtained a new webmaster who has continually updated the website with new information. Its newsletter is now distributed electronically by a new editor, saving about \$7000 annually in printing and postage costs.

The WDAFS and several of its Committees and Chapters have yet to find the Parent Society's website and member lists fully functional. This creates serious difficulties when subunits attempt to communicate with their members through the website or those lists.

*MS Goal 4 (Diversity)-increase membership diversity*

The Colorado/Wyoming Chapter provides up to 6 free memberships to undergraduate students at CSU and UW; 1 application has been received for 2006-2007.

The WDAFS provided \$3000 in scholarships for students to attend fisheries meetings. These include \$500 to the CARS Clemens-Rigler Fund, \$500 to the AFS

EOS fund, and \$2000 for student travel to the 2007 meeting in San Francisco, \$1000 of which was earmarked for travel by Mexican students nominated by the Mexico Chapter.

*MS Goal 5 (Strategic Plan Implementation)-implement and monitor progress on the Strategic Plan*

The North Pacific International Chapter's ExCom surveyed fish biologists in Washington and British Columbia to help recruit members and officers, increase meeting attendance, and consider a name change.

*MS Goal 6 (Financial Security)-assure financial security*

The Idaho and Alaska Chapters each contributed \$1000 to the AFS joint annual meeting in San Francisco. To date, the WDAFS has collected an additional \$2000 in sponsorships for the meeting and provided \$7,500 in seed money (out of \$10K budgeted).

The Budget Review Committee developed a fiscally responsible FY 07 Colorado/Wyoming Chapter budget. The Arrangements Committee developed the 2007 Annual Chapter Meeting budget and ensured that the Chapter would safely cover meeting expenses, and likely receive sufficient revenue.

The Fundraising Committee of the Colorado/Wyoming Chapter sought and received \$3,100 to assist with expenses from the 2007 Annual Chapter Meeting.

The Colorado/Wyoming Chapter sold stocks that were not producing, and invested a total of \$7,000 in the Western Division Investment Fund. Additional funds will be invested following the 2007 Annual Chapter Meeting. The Chapter completed and filed taxes for tax year 2005-2006.

The Colorado/Wyoming Chapter supported the CSU and UW Student Subunits financially with annual donations.

At its mid-year meeting, the WDAFS ExCom voted unanimously to open its grant endowment fund to Chapter participation. The goal for the fund is to reach a level sufficient for its dividends to fund the Division's grant and awards programs. It currently contains \$107K.

The WDAFS ExCom is also striving to maintain sufficient cash reserves in checking, savings, and CDs to fund its activities and expenses for two years (about \$50K).

The WDAFS books were audited and found in order.