President’s Message

How can it be time for another newsletter already? If you are asking the same question, time must be flying by for you too. It is difficult to believe school is out for the summer and the conference is in a short four months from now. OFWIM activities have been expanding this year and I want to recognize a few.

The Executive Committee is reviewing and suggesting a few changes to our by-laws, including a new membership level for students. Please look for more information in the next few months, as the changes will need to be voted on and approved by the entire organization.

The various committees have been very active. The Elections, Nominations, and Awards Committee has been busy modifying awards, creating a new Collaborative Award, and soliciting nominations for officer positions. The Training and Education Committee is working on the first WebEx demonstration – look for more information soon. The Communications Committee is very active; producing our newsletter, sending correspondence for special messages, and working on creating a new web portal for better communication and document distribution. There will be an announcement once it is complete and ready to use. The Membership and Outreach Committee has been active as well. There is an increase in the number of organizational memberships in 2008. OFWIM members have also provided outreach at numerous professional conferences they attend. If anyone is in need of a poster for display, or brochures to hand out, please contact me.

I want to welcome Jen Pollock as our new Member-at-Large. Rick Lorenzen was elected at our business meeting last year. However, due to additional work load from his parent agency, and reduction in his resources, he felt it best to step down and allow someone with more time to serve the remainder of the year. Jen graciously agreed. Thanks Jen! Thanks also to Rick for his service. Rick hosted the conference two years ago in Minnesota and has been an active member for years. Let’s hope he has the opportunity to become more active in coming years.

The conference plans for Albuquerque, New Mexico at the end of October are almost complete. Key note speakers, field trips, and registration information have been completed. You are now able to register for the conference online. The first Call for Papers was sent. Look for additional information regarding award nominations later in the Newsletter.

As the annual conference and business meeting nears, please remember to submit your abstracts, award nominations, and membership renewals. The conference registration form will allow for both individual and organizational memberships this year.

Safe travels this summer holiday and send in those abstracts to ensure a well-attended and productive fall conference!

Warmest regards,

Sabra Schwartz
OFWIM 2008 president

Raffle Donations are needed!
Contact Lisa Zolly (lisa_zolly (at) usgs.gov) if you have a donation.
The 2008 OFWIM Conference is rapidly approaching. This newsletter has all of the information you’ll need to get ready for the event!

**Conference Overview**

**Monday, Oct. 27**
- Morning/Afternoon: Field Trips
- Evening: Welcome Social

**Tuesday, Oct. 28**
- Morning/Afternoon: Conference Sessions
- Evening: Hackers’ Ball

**Wednesday, Oct. 29**
- Morning: Conference Sessions
- Lunch: Annual Business Meeting
- Afternoon: Conference Sessions
- Evening: Banquet

**Thursday, Oct. 30**
- Morning: Conference Sessions

**Registration**

Online registration for the conference is now available at:

**OFWIM Online Registration**

**Lodging**

The conference will be held at the Albuquerque Grand Airport Hotel ([http://albuquerquegrandairporthotel.com](http://albuquerquegrandairporthotel.com)). To reserve a room, call 505-843-7000. Please state that you are with the “Organization of Fish and Wildlife Information Managers” to receive the conference rate. Reservations must be made by September 26, 2008 in order to receive the conference rate.

Conference rates are: $70/single room; $90/double room.
Organization of Fish and Wildlife Information Managers

Call for Papers
OFWIM 2008 Conference
October 27-30, 2008
Albuquerque, NM

USING INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY TO MOVE
FROM PLANNING TO IMPLEMENTATION

Possible topics:

Implementing State Wildlife Action Plans
  - Updates from the states
  - Opportunities for collaboration and partnerships
New Technology and Applications
  - Putting technology to new uses for fish and wildlife management
  - Comparing existing technology on the market
  - New online multi-user applications
Managing Regional Issues
  - Renewable energy
  - Fire
  - Invasive species
  - Transportation: new SAFETEA-LU 6002 regulations
Focus on Taxonomic Groups
  - Innovative technology and collaborations for managing specific taxonomic groups

This call is for papers, panel discussions, and poster presentations related to the conference theme or to fish and wildlife information management in general.

Individual papers should be 15 minutes in length to allow time for discussion. Panel Discussions should fit in 1½ hour sessions. A unique feature of the conference is the “Hacker’s Ball,” an OFWIM tradition that combines the poster session with live demonstrations of applications.

Deadline for submission of all abstracts (with speaker biography) is Friday July 11, 2008. Please use the form on the following page.

Submit session topics and abstracts for papers, panel discussions, symposia, poster presentations and requests for Internet ports at the Hacker’s Ball to:

Robin Carlson
Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
Phone: (415) 242-5784
E-mail: Rcarlson (at) dfg.ca.gov
OFWIM 2008 Conference
ABSTRACT SUBMISSION FORM
Deadline for submission of all abstracts is Friday July 11, 2008.

Name:
Organization:
Address:

Phone:
Email:

☐ I am submitting an abstract for a presentation.
☐ I am submitting an abstract for a panel discussion.
☐ I am submitting an abstract for a poster at the Hacker’s Ball.

For posters only:
☐ I will need internet access for my Hacker’s Ball poster/presentation.

Abstract (1500 chars):

Biography (750 chars):

Please see OFWIM web site for examples of previous biographies and abstracts. Please note all presentations will be made available on the OFWIM web site (http://www.ofwim.org/).

Submit session topics and abstracts for papers, panel discussions, symposia, poster presentations and requests for Internet ports at the Hacker’s Ball to:

Robin Carlson
Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
Phone: (415) 242-5784
E-mail: Rcarlson (at) dfg.ca.gov
The Southwestern Regional Gap Analysis Project (SWReGAP) provides regional datasets for Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Nevada, and Utah. These datasets allow ecoregional analysis of biotic elements and current conservation status for an area that approximates nearly one-fifth the conterminous U.S. This includes a 125-class land cover dataset, 819 terrestrial vertebrate species habitat models, seamless regional stewardship dataset, and gap analysis statistics by state and region. SWReGAP was a cooperative effort involving many state and federal natural resource agencies, conservation organizations, tribal resource programs, and universities.

We are working with cooperators on several specific conservation efforts. This includes a range-wide habitat model for Gila Monsters using species occurrence records provided by state wildlife agencies. We are comparing the SWReGAP model and this point-based model across the states of Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico and Utah. Nevada Department of Wildlife and Southwest Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (SWPARC) identified this project. Another project compares SWReGAP state’s species of greatest conservation need (SGCN) to “gap species” identified through SWReGAP. Analysis may identify species that should be reviewed for Wildlife Action Plan updates. A third project identifies conservation focal areas using key habitats, factors that affect those habitats, SGCN richness, and gap management status to identify areas of potential conservation focus within the Southwest region.

We scaled down habitat models and stewardship data to address the Clark County (Nevada) Multispecies Habitat Conservation Plan. We also assessed species occurrence modeling in comparison to SWReGAP models. Data has also been used by Bernalillo County, NM and Pima County, AZ. We have provided spatial data assistance to NMDGF for the Western Governor’s Association and Biota Information System of New Mexico (BISON-M). Potential future projects include identification of high priority habitat and conservation focus, and informing habitat stamp programs, land acquisitions, and mineral leases and regulations. Specific to species, projects may include...
using information for species evaluation, monitoring, recovery plans, potential reintroduction areas, as well as refinement and assessment of habitat models.

We are initiating a project to combine NWGAP and SWReGAP habitat models using a subset of SGCNs common to both regions and incorporate California. Effort is underway to complete land cover and stewardship nationally by 2010 with planning in place for national species distribution models to follow.

State Wildlife Action Plans (SWAPs) are obvious connections between SWReGAP and state agencies. SWReGAP provides a consistent baseline framework for regionalization and revision of SWAPs and other efforts (e.g. SWPARC).
**Field Trips**

We have not yet finalized the field trips that will be offered at the 2008 Conference, so we are asking you to vote for your favorite two options from the four listed below. When you submit your registration online, you will have the opportunity to select your two favorites.

**Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge**

Sevilleta is located in the Chihuahuan desert 20 miles north of Socorro, New Mexico. In 1988 the Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge became the host to the Sevilleta Long Term Ecological Research (LTER) Program. The Program is conducted by the University of New Mexico's Department of Biology and is funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation. The LTER conducts a variety of research. The dominant theme examines long-term changes in ecosystem attributes.

**Bandelier National Monument**
http://www.nps.gov/band

Bandelier National Monument's 33,000 acres lay on the slopes of the Jemez Mountains. With elevations from just over 10,000 feet at Cerro Grande to just over 5,000 feet at the Rio Grande, the landscape encompasses sloped mesas cut by steep-walled canyons. Formed by massive volcanic eruptions over 1 million years ago, this place is home to a diversity of plant and animal life. Bandelier's human history extends back for over 10,000 years when nomadic hunter-gatherers followed migrating wildlife across the mesas and canyons. By 1150 CE Ancestral Pueblo people began to build more permanent settlements. Reminders of these past times are still evident in the park as are the strong ties of the modern Pueblo people.

**Valles Caldera National Preserve**
http://www.vallescaldera.gov/

The Valles Caldera Trust was created by the Valles Caldera Preservation Act of 2000 to preserve and protect the historic Baca Ranch of New Mexico’s Jemez Mountains. The groundbreaking legislation that provided for the federal purchase of this 89,000-acre ranch nestled inside a volcanic caldera also created a unique experiment in public land management.

**Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge**

The Refuge is located at the northern edge of the Chihuahuan desert, and straddles the Rio Grande, approximately 20 miles south of Socorro, New Mexico (about 96 miles from ABQ). The heart of the Refuge is about 12,900 acres of moist bottomlands—3,800 acres are active floodplain of the Rio Grande and 9,100 acres are areas where water is diverted to create extensive wetlands, farmlands, and riparian forests. Tens of thousands of birds—including sandhill cranes, Arctic geese, and many kinds of ducks—gather each autumn and stay through the winter.
OYWIM Student Scholarship Award
Highlight Your Important Fish and Wildlife Academic Research:
Apply for the Student Scholarship Award

Each year OFWIM recognizes academic and professional excellence among students in fisheries or wildlife that emphasize information management and/or geographic information systems (GIS) by awarding a scholarship. The scholarship gives students the opportunity to present their research to practitioners from many agencies and organizations across the country by providing funding to attend the annual conference. Up to $1,000 will be awarded for travel reimbursement to the successful applicant.

The criteria for selection include academic excellence; professional activities; and promise of future professional involvement and significant contribution to the field of wildlife-related information management and/or GIS. Eligible students must be enrolled full-time at an accredited college or university.

Submit your application by August 8, 2008.

For more information about the OFWIM Student Scholarship, please download the Application Form at <http://www.ofwim.org/docs/2008/OFWIMScholarship2008.doc>.

OYWIM Travel Grants
Available for the 2008 OYWIM Conference and Annual Meeting

Approximately 8 travel grants will be awarded to current or retired professionals seeking to attend the 2008 OYWIM Conference and Annual Meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Grants will be awarded based on need, under-representation by state in previous OYWIM meetings, and regional representation. Each recipient of a travel grant will be eligible for reimbursement of conference-related expenses up to $500.00 per award. Award recipients must present a formal paper or poster at the 2008 OYWIM Conference. The deadline for applications is August 8, 2008. Grant recipients will be notified by August 22, 2008. The application form will be available soon at www.ofwim.org.

OYWIM Awards in 2008
Recognizing Excellence in Technological Innovation and Collaboration!

Web-Based Technical Application Award 2008

The OYWIM Web-Based Technical Application Award recognizes excellence in the development and deployment of a fish or wildlife information-related technical application on the Web. Nominated applications will be evaluated for their usability, innovation, use of current technology, success in meeting their stated goals, and relevance to fisheries and wildlife information technology.

Collaborative Project Award 2008

The OYWIM Collaborative Project Award recognizes outstanding collaboration in the development and deployment of a wildlife information-related technical application. Nominated applications will be evaluated for their technical accomplishment, innovation, success in meeting their stated goals, and success in developing and sustaining a partnership.

To nominate yourself, your group, or another person or group that you work closely with for one of these awards, please download a nomination form from the OYWIM website (www.ofwim.org).

Nominations for both awards are due by August 14, 2008.
2008 Individual Membership Form

Use the form below to join OFWIM as a new member or to renew your membership for 2008. Individual Members are entitled to vote in the annual election and hold office. Current members are notified of new newsletters and have access to special OFWIM web content. Current members also receive a discount on 2008 conference registration.

If you work for an organization with 4 or more individuals interested in OFWIM membership, you may benefit from obtaining an Organizational Membership. Information about Organizational Membership can be found at: http://www.ofwim.org/org/membership.html

The 2008 OFWIM annual membership period is January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008. To become a new member of OFWIM or renew your current membership, please complete and mail the form below with a check or money order for $25 (in U.S. dollars!) payable to OFWIM, to:

Aliya Ercelawn, OFWIM Treasurer
The Nature Conservancy
711 Navarro, Suite 410
San Antonio, TX 78205
(210) 224-8774
aercelawn (at) tnc.org

OFWIM 2008 Membership Form

Name: ________________________________________________
Agency: ______________________________________________
Address: _____________________________________________
City: ___________________________ State: ____ Zip:_______
Phone:(____)_________________ Fax:(____)______________
Email: ______________________________________________

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OFWIM 2008 Organizational Membership Form

Use the form below to become an Organizational Member or renew your current Organizational Membership. Organizational Members may list up to six (6) individuals who will have full member privileges. These individuals will be entitled to vote in the annual elections and hold office. Current members are notified of new newsletters and have access to special OFWIM web content. Current members also receive a discount on 2008 conference registration.

The 2008 OFWIM annual membership period is January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008. To become an OFWIM Organization Member, please complete and mail the form below with a check or money order (in U.S. dollars!) payable to OFWIM. Please list the names and contact information for up to six (6) individuals on the form below. An organization may have more than one Organizational Membership. For additional Organizational Memberships, please submit a separate list of individuals for each Membership (up to 6 per Organizational Membership).

Send completed form and payment to:

Aliya Ercelawn, OFWIM Treasurer
The Nature Conservancy
711 Navarro, Suite 410
San Antonio, TX 78205
(210) 224-8774
aercelawn (at) tnc.org

OFWIM 2008 Organizational Membership Form

Organization Name: ________________________________________________

Primary organization contact:

Name: ___________________________________________________________

Title: ___________________________________________________________

Address: _________________________________________________________

City: _______________________________ State: ____ Zip: ____________

Phone: (_____)________________ Fax: (_____)________________

Email: __________________________________________________________

How did you hear about OFWIM? __________________________________

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OFWIM organizational membership form page 1 of 2
Please list up to 5 individuals below plus the Primary Organizational Contact on the previous page (for a total of 6), within your organization for Individual Membership:

1) Name: ________________________________________________
Address:_________________________________________________
City: _______________________________ State: ____Zip:________
Phone:(_____)_________________ Fax:(______)________________
Email:___________________________________________________

2) Name: ________________________________________________
Address:_________________________________________________
City: _______________________________ State: ____Zip:________
Phone:(_____)_________________ Fax:(______)________________
Email:___________________________________________________

3) Name: ________________________________________________
Address:_________________________________________________
City: _______________________________ State: ____Zip:________
Phone:(_____)_________________ Fax:(______)________________
Email:___________________________________________________

4) Name: ________________________________________________
Address:_________________________________________________
City: _______________________________ State: ____Zip:________
Phone:(_____)_________________ Fax:(______)________________
Email:___________________________________________________

5) Name: ________________________________________________
Address:_________________________________________________
City: _______________________________ State: ____Zip:________
Phone:(_____)_________________ Fax:(______)________________
Email:___________________________________________________
OFWIM 2008 Conference

USING INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY TO MOVE FROM PLANNING TO IMPLEMENTATION
October 27-30, 2008
Albuquerque, New Mexico

www.ofwim.org

Don’t forget to renew your membership!

Please send newsletter comments, suggestions and articles to Shelaine Hetrick

Shelaine (at) iiaweb.com

Article Deadline for Fall Issue: August 15th