



OFWIM news

President's Message: Vivian Hutchison

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The year is moving along at lightning speed! This year we have been focused on a number of issues for OFWIM – some of them exciting, and some of them just necessary...

Plans for this year's meeting have been coming together well, and we are anticipating a great conference in Shepherdstown, WV. This year's theme is "Common Problems – Common Solutions: Advancing Natural Resource Management Goals thru Collaboration and Technology". The National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) will be a fabulous place for gathering OFWIM members. It's time to start thinking about a presentation you would like to make at the meeting – the "First Call for Papers" is out and the deadline for submissions is Friday, August 17th. We look forward to hearing from you soon! For more information about the meeting theme, see the website: www.ofwim.org

In addition to submitting your abstract, there is also the opportunity to apply for the Best GIS Web-based Technical Application and the Best Non-GIS web-based Application, to be awarded at this year's conference. Submit your application today!

The OFWIM website has undergone a big change this year. We have successfully switched the website from its longtime home at the Conservation Management Institute (CMI) in Virginia to the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) in Oregon. There are a few details yet to fall into place, but they are a



NCTC

Brian Jonkers / U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Submit your nominations for OFWIM Awards!

See page 3 for details.

work in rapid progress. This changeover has been a monumental task, and Robin Carlson (OFWIM Secretary) has been handling the details of the transition brilliantly. Our utmost thanks go to PSMFC for hosting OFWIM!

Earlier this spring, I attended the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) Annual Meeting, and made a presentation on OFWIM's behalf to the Technologies and Data Utilization Committee. Much interest in OFWIM was generated, and we discussed ways in which the AFWA committee could interact with the OFWIM community to create a positive impact on both organizations. These ideas are still being explored, and OFWIM has taken a first action - we reorganized our regional representatives to reflect the regions used by AFWA. We hope this will help provide greater coordination between the two organizations in the future.

I hope you are having a great year, and look forward to seeing you in September!

Best regards,

Viv

Viv Hutchison
2007 OFWIM President



Canaan Valley, WV

Provided by wvpics.com

Get your Nomination in for OFWIM Awards

A nomination form must be submitted in order to win.

The Organization of Fish and Wildlife Information Managers (OFWIM) gives two awards each year, a GIS and a Non-GIS Web-Based Technical Application Award which 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. Nomination forms can be found on the web at www.ofwim.org.

Eligibility for this award is open, but nominee must have retained complete creative control over the website and technical application. Nominees may be individuals or agencies/organizations. This form may be used to nominate the submitter's work or that of others.

For additional information, please contact Robin Carlson at (415) 242-5784 or rcarlson@dfg.ca.gov.



NOMINATION DEADLINE: August 17, 2007.

The award winner will be notified at the OFWIM 2007 Conference, September 17-21, 2007.



NCTC Auditorium
Ryan Hagerty
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**OFWIM
Awards:
GIS
&
Non-GIS
Web-Based
Technical
Application
Award**

Get your
Nominations
in today!

Committee Updates

Communications Committee:

The Communications Committee (Shelaine Curd-Hetrick, Robin Carlson, Lisa Zolly, and Greg Wilke) have been actively working on both the newsletter schedule and the updates to the web page. Without the dedication of Robin and Gary to updating the web site, it would not be such a useful resource to the OFWIM members. We are looking forward to highlighting information from you in our upcoming newsletters.



Continuing Education Committee:

This committee has not been active, although some activities have been completed by the Meeting Planning Committee as they relate to the upcoming 2007 conference in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. The Meeting Planning Committee has suggested several training courses be made available at the conference. Because the conference is being held at the National Conservation Training Center, there will be the opportunity to provide low cost or free training in several areas. Although the classes have not been confirmed, the committees are looking into offerings in open source GIS, metadata and National GAP programs.

Data Standards and Technology Trends Committee:

This committee has not been active.

Meeting Planning Committee:

The meeting planning committee is comprised of four members: Sabra Schwartz, Lila Borge Wills, Keith Wethington, and Marcia McNiff. The committee has had several phone meetings to help plan the upcoming 2007 meeting in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. The committee suggested main themes and topics for the meeting as well as suggesting training sessions and instructors. Potential presenters for topics were also identified. This information was provided to the executive committee for final approval. The committee also helped produce the first call for papers. The committee will assist with local logistics as needed as the conference nears. The committee may also contacts individuals to try to secure presenters for main topics and roundtable discussions.

OFWIM Committees:

Communications Committee

Chair

Shelaine Curd Hetrick
Shelaine@iiaweb.com

Vice-Chair

Robin Carlson
rcarlson@dfg.ca.gov

Continuing Education Committee

Chair

Sabra Schwartz
sschwartz@azgfd.gov

Vice-Chair

(currently vacant)

Data Standards and Technology Trends Committee

Chair

Scott Anderson
scott.anderson@ncwildlife.org

Vice-Chair

Beth Stys
beth.stys@myfwc.com

Meeting Planning

Chair

Sabra Schwartz
sschwartz@azgfd.gov

Vice-Chair

(currently vacant)

Membership and Outreach Committee

Chair

Janet Hess-Hebert
jhessherbert@mt.gov

Vice-Chair

Aliya Ercelawn
aercelawn@tnc.org

Elections, Awards and Nominations

Chair

Viv Hutchison
vhutchison@usgs.gov

Vice-Chair

Beth Stys
beth.stys@myfwc.com

Membership and Outreach Committee:

This committee has been active and will provide an update in a later newsletter.

Elections, Awards, and Nominations Committee:

This committee has been active this year fulfilling established goals. The committee is responsible for developing and implementing various award and recognition programs for OFWIM, and for developing a slate of candidates for the annual elections. The following tasks have been accomplished to date or are in progress:

- Applications for student scholarships were distributed to various university contacts with GIS or Wildlife and Fisheries programs throughout the United States
- The committee is working on securing nominees for President-elect and Member at Large in 2008
- Award opportunities for Best Web-based and Best Non Web-based GIS applications have been updated and posted on the website
- Forms have been updated for Best Paper Presentation and Best Poster for the 2007 conference

Service awards and plaques will be ordered prior to the conference.

Participants on this committee are Viv Hutchison, Robin Carlson, Sabra Schwartz, and Becky Gwynn.

**CONTACT THE COMMITTEE CHAIR
FOR MORE INFORMATION.**

GET INVOLVED!



Black Water Falls

Provided by wvpics.com

Information Management In Canada

Eric Woodsworth

Biometrician—Canadian Wildlife Service

If you work for government, or indeed any large organization, you will know that the wheels can move slowly, and one hand often doesn't know what the other is doing. Sometimes the old platitudes actually do fit. In recent years many organizations have embraced the themes of knowledge management, in an effort to mobilize the talents of staff, break down silos to improve horizontal communication, reduce redundancy, and improve learning.

In the last few years Environment Canada (a department of the Government of Canada) has undertaken a radical restructuring which regroups staff into fewer vertical programs supported by horizontal services such as finance, human resources, IT (information technology), and IM (information management). Most regional management structures



Fitting duckling with a web tag

Photo provided by Eric Woodsworth

have been eliminated since they represented silos, making coordinated program delivery problematic. But in my view, improving IM structures and processes is even more important than reorganizing program delivery structures, especially in an organization like Environment Canada, where an estimated 80% of our business is IM. Let's face it: a lot of redundancy and inefficiency in large organizations results from poor information sharing and management.

The restructuring of Environment Canada included an explicit recognition of information management as a critical component of a successful environmental organization, and identified it as an activity distinct from IT. This was a major step forward for information management in the Department. For the first time the department has a Chief Information Officer, and will soon have a Director-General of IM. By design, the IM organization provides a service-provider role, supporting department-wide IM applications such as data/metadata entry and repository tools, and a consulting/outreach role in which it works with programs to promote and implement government-wide and departmental standards and policies. Both functions are based on the high-level needs of the department; we will do it because we must, not because we have the technology. Contrast this with the historical pattern

Congrats to Lila Borge Wills

*Winner of the
Great Lakes
satellite image
on canvas
donated by
Brian Huberty,
Regional NWI
Coordinator
U.S. Fish and
Wildlife Service*

Note:

*Editorial apologies for
omitting the above
donation in the
February Newsletter.*

IM in Environment Canada

that most of us know too well: inconsistency in use of standards, no organizational IM plan or policy, spotty metadata, inaccessible data, and uncertainty about sharing rules for recent research data, sensitive data, or data from partnerships.

The vision? That more complete information of higher quality yields better science, better management decisions at all departmental and political levels, better public information to keep the politicians and public servants honest, and ultimately human behaviour modification yielding ecological sustainability.

The reality? Many structural changes have been made, but many gaps need to be filled. Policies have to be approved, standards and tools need to be selected and developed, staff need to be hired or re-profiled, resources need to be allocated. Beyond those superficial issues, we all know the road will be slow because:

- Human behaviour is slow to change. The status quo is usually preferred.
- We have very few leaders whose IM credibility is respected, who have the passion and strength to negotiate the necessary changes at all management levels, and who are willing to stick with this difficult task until change is realized.
- Environment Canada includes many scientific communities of practice: wildlife, water, weather, climate, toxics, not to mention the many administrative units. It will be hard to build trust among what used to be silos, in order to create a team approach and cohesive strategy.
- Since many science cultures exist in the organization (not to mention the bilingual fact in Canada), communications must be clear, consistent, and persistent, and take account of cultural diversity.
- Policies must be responsive to technological change, and not thwart positive organizational change.
- Human resource issues must be dealt with strategically, allowing skilled staff to work in the new IM paradigm and outside of traditional crisis management, while addressing the knowledge literally walking out the door as baby boomers retire.

As the organization redesigns itself, we have to learn when to say no to new projects, which should improve focus and morale and hopefully yield more time and resources for IM.

OFWIM plays a role in this process too, by providing numerous examples of excellence in IM from which we can learn. For this reason I hope Environment Canada will increase its participation in the group in coming years.



*Organization of Fish and Wildlife
Information Managers*

New OFWIM Brochure

*Please distribute
the new brochure
available now on
our website!*

www.ofwim.org



Organization of Fish and Wildlife Information Managers

**SECOND CALL FOR PAPERS!
TRAVEL GRANTS AVAILABLE – APPLICATION ATTACHED!**

**OFWIM 2007 Conference
September 17-20, 2007
National Conservation Training Center (NCTC)
Shepherdstown, WV**

Common Problems – Common Solutions: Advancing Natural Resource Management Goals through Collaboration and Technology

Effective application development and use of information technologies and services

- Web services (intranet and internet)
- Open source technology
- 'Off the Shelf' programs
- Online resources

Managing information for a changing landscape

- Transportation: Linkages/corridors, New SAFETEA-LU 6002 regulations
- Energy: wind farming, pipeline projects
- Invasive species
- Timber harvest
- Predictive range and habitat mapping

Information management for State Wildlife Action Plans

- Species, habitat, and threat monitoring
- Conservation action reporting - showing and measuring successes
- Regional or national roll-ups or implementation collaborations
- General data management tips and tricks - best practices
- Workshop to compare data management approaches supporting the State Wildlife Action Plans: develop recommendations for components of an "ideal" approach.

Prioritization for land acquisition

- Implementation and information management
- Focusing development
- Multi-state collaborative approaches: examples

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 1.5 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 August 17, 2007

Submit session topics and abstracts for papers, panel discussions and symposia to:	Submit abstracts for poster presentations and requests for access to Internet ports during the Hacker's Ball to:
Sabra Schwartz Arizona Game & Fish Dept. 602.789.3618 sschwartz@azgfd.gov	Janet Hess-Herbert Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks 406-444-7722 jhessherbert@mt.gov

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION FORMDeadline for submission of all abstracts is ~~Friday July 13, 2007.~~*August 17, 2007*

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.
Please list the URLs that you will be accessing during the Hacker's Ball (the Training Center will ensure that none are blocked by their firewall):

Select one:

- My poster is ____" by ____"
 My poster is ____" by ____"

Abstract (1500 chars):**Biography (750 chars.):**Submit session topics and abstracts for **papers, panel discussions and symposia** to:

Sabra Schwartz
Arizona Game & Fish Dept.
602.789.3618
sschwartz@azgfd.gov

Submit abstracts for **poster** presentations and requests for access to **Internet ports** during the Hacker's Ball to:

Janet Hess-Herbert
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
406-444-7722
jhessherbert@mt.gov

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.

www.ofwim.org

Request for Travel Funding Assistance by **State Fish and Wildlife Agency Personnel** to Attend:

The Organization of Fish and Wildlife Manager's 2007 Conference
 September 17-20, 2007
 National Conservation Training Center
 Shepherdstown, WV
<http://www.ofvim.org/>

Name: _____ Date: _____
 Position Title: _____ Agency/Organization: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Grants will be awarded based on need, under-representation by state in previous OFWIM meetings and regional representation. Providing either a presentation and/or poster at the meeting will also be considered in the selection process.

Assistance Needs:		Estimated costs to attend:	I can cover these costs:	I need help with these costs:
Travel – Airfare (Check Baltimore, Dulles and Regan)	(round trip)			
Travel to conference– (shuttle may be provided but estimate car rental)	___ miles @ \$___ p/mi.			
Room and 3 meals/day \$110/day (grant requires sharing double room)	___ nights @ \$___			
Other Costs?	Explain:			
TOTALS				

Please submit this form by mail or email by July 20, 2007 to:

Janet Hess-Herbert
 Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
 1420 E. 6th Avenue
 Helena, Montana 59620
 jhessherbert@mt.gov
 406-444.7722

Grant Awardees will be chosen and contacted by email no later than August 1, 2007.

2007 Individual Membership Form

Use the form below to join OFWIM as a new member or to renew your membership for 2007. 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 2007 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 2007 OFWIM annual membership period is January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007. 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 the appropriate amount (in U.S. dollars!) payable to **OFWIM**, to:

Aliya Ercelawn, OFWIM Treasurer
c/o The Nature Conservancy
711 Navarro, Suite 410
San Antonio, TX 78205

(210) 224-8774; aercelawn@tnc.org

OFWIM 2007 Membership Form

Name: _____

Agency: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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

Email: _____

Memberships

Annual Dues

Individual Member – 2007 (one voting membership) \$25

Organizational Member — 2007 (six voting memberships) \$100
- Membership Form must be filled out for each member

Please pay in U.S. dollars \$ _____



Harman, WV
Provided by wvpics.com

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OF FISH AND
WILDLIFE
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OFWIM Annual Conference

September 16-21, 2007
National Conservation Training Center (NCTC)
Shepherdstown, WV

Deadlines to Remember

July 20, 2007	Travel Assistance Request Form
August 17, 2007	Abstract Submission
August 17, 2007	Nomination for OFWIM Awards
September 16, 2007	Attend OFWIM Annual Conference

Please send newsletter comment, suggestions,
and articles to Shelaine Hetrick
Shelaine@iiaweb.com

Next Issue: September 2007 (Pre-conference issue)
Article Deadline 01 August 2007

www.ofwim.org