

BETTERING COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN SPORTSMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS AND THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

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Bettering communications between sportsman's organizations and The Wildlife Society, my topic is an increasingly important one. Especially since it doesn't really exist and any improvement would be significant. I feel my individual qualification to comment will relate directly to the organization I represent and the identity of my counterparts.

The California Wildlife Federation is the parent sportsman-conservation organization in the State with an affiliated membership of approximately 150,000. We have over 650 clubs that belong to 15 member "Councils" representing statewide special interest groups and provincial, or geographic area groups that have common goals.

Special Interest Councils are:

- California Rifle and Pistol Association
- California Bowmen Hunters & State Archery Association
- California Wildlife Federation Conservation Council
- California Council of Trailhound Clubs
- California Association of 4 Wheel Drive Clubs
- California State Varmint Callers Association

Geographic Area Councils are:

- North Coast Conservation Council
- Siskiyou Consolidated Sportsman's Council
- Sportsman's Council of the Redwood Empire
- Associated Sportsmen of California
- Northeastern Plateau Sportsman's Council
- Sportsman's Council of Central California
- Inland Council of Conservation Clubs
- Southern Council of Conservation Clubs
- San Diego County Wildlife Federation
- Sportsmen's Council of Superior California

The C. W. F. is interested in the problems of conservation and key our operation on active utilization of the legislative process. Our organizational structure is a basic democratic type, uses the committee system in particular areas of concern, and has a paid legislative advocate in the State Legislature. Our close liaison with the national conservation scene is through the largest conservation organization in the world, the National Wildlife Federation, headquartered in the nation's capitol, Washington, D. C.

As an individual, you can see I am neither orator or intellect. What I am is the Electrical Foreman for the County of Santa Clara, a hunter, a fisherman, and a conservationist; all with relative degrees of success. The point is, I am part and representative of a group that is involved in all segments of today's society with doctors, lawyers, and Indian chiefs, and in this case, many more Indians than chiefs. They work the 40-hour week and when they can, they use the out-of-doors. Their direct concern is voluntary and relative with little time for adequate involvement. We insist on the guarantees of political freedom and we relate this to our ability to exert an influence on our environment. We are a significant economic and social factor in our community.

My counterparts and I feel the key to our future lies with the professional. But too, my counterparts and I feel that we do not always realize the total answer or opinion within the capabilities of the professional when the problem strays into areas of agency policy or politics.

We are continually exposed to fine works, comprehensive studies, and intriguing theories, and we actually do read the name on the paper. We are confused when questions arise in a specialty area, and all is quiet.

We do recognize however, that policy and politics play an increasingly significant role in resolution of professional work. Our society cannot afford the luxury of the pigeon hole for good work and good ideas for whatever reason. I want to make it clear, though it is aggravating, we can recognize many reasons some restraint might be exercised on the work and finished product of professionals and we accept this, but feel most strongly there is a better way we can, together, do a better job.

Your organization has that tremendous potential to address itself to a problem, and with unequalled qualification, move to its resolution, but only so long as there exists the necessary motivating force. In many cases, it appears this must be externally created and applied. The California Wildlife Federation can effect this when the effort is acceptable.

It is unfortunate we do not enjoy the contact opportunities to carry on any real dialogue with the educational community unless they are met as individuals in sportsman and conservation organizations. Their contribution

at this level is extremely valuable, and if this indicates to some degree, how such communication can be effective at a higher level, all the people will benefit.

It is my opinion, joint meetings of a representative body from The Wildlife Society and the California Wildlife Federation would be mutually beneficial. We would like to see The Wildlife Society utilize the machinery provided by our organization and I would like to see the California Wildlife Federation able to avail itself of the intellectual resource you possess.

Many fine pieces of legislation, and each of you can probably think of some, are not introduced in the Legislature because no method is available to carry out this important function. Testimony of certain state and federal agencies remains unchallenged because there is no 3rd party to take up the argument in critical areas that indirectly involve policy and politics of government. Official reports can, and often do, stray from the point, and here too it is so very important to raise the real question and seek the real answer.

As an example, a C. W. F. committee of citizens on anadromous fish can ask a lot of questions. If all the answers concern themselves first with the policies of related or involved agencies, significant corrections and programs are almost impossible. In fact, one agency's undue concern for another's policy is stealing from us the things we are all about. I feel this is especially so when we talk about water.

A defined and established method to communicate and carry on dialogue between the concerned user and the concerned professional is a must. We have waited too long.