



Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Washington Volunteer Newsletter – Spring/Summer2002

Volunteers Become Imperial Partners

Thanks to the unbridled passion, dedication, and commitment to the mission of the Foundation, Imperial Partner has been achieved! Volunteers of the Washington Workshop were awarded Imperial Habitat Partner status in October of 2001 following the final submission and audit of the 2001 White Pass Workshop financial package.

Imperial Partner is only awarded for donors who contribute a minimum of \$10,000 toward the mission of the Foundation. The participants of the Washington Volunteer Workshop have contributed \$11,229! All of these dollars were raised during the weekend activities of annual workshops held in August of each year, since beginning our Habitat Partner participation in 1997 under the leadership of then State Chairs Dick Sevchek and Lee Fouts.

Known for leading the way in banquet efficiency throughout the nation, the volunteers of our state once again have “set the bar” for other volunteers. Frank McMahon, Western Washington State Chair, said he was “awestruck” when volunteers began a friendly “match” challenge by Ric Nichols, Development Chair from Redmond during the closing discussion. Ric challenged those remaining on Sunday morning “before we leave” to match his dollars, 1 for 1, up to \$900. McMahon said he was humbled by the frenzy that followed, demonstrating once again the level of dedication of Washington volunteers. This simple yet spellbinding challenge alone ended in a donation for the Workshop Habit Partnership fund of over \$2,700!

Regional Director Seeks New Challenges

Lloran Johnson, Western Washington, Northwest Oregon, and Alaska Regional Director, said Adios to friends and volunteers on June 3rd after 5½ years of devotion to the mission of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. Lloran, his wife Christy, and their pup Bugle made the decision to leave the rain forests of the coast for more predictable weather in Montana. Lloran, who says he was “looking for a great place to work” when he came to us as Field Director, says he knows he’ll find something to keep his bones active and his heart racing. An avid archer and crack rifle shot, Lloran knows there are majestic elk, mule deer, and many friends waiting to meet up with him under a tall pine tree in elk country. Good hunting, Friend, from all of us.

Chapter Chairs

Wayne Marion , Keith
Ingraham, Tom
Thompson, Rodger
Wallace, Don Stanton,
Mike Newman, Paul
Sadler, Max VanValey,
Dan Guy, Ric Nichols,
Sandy Zadina, Jim
Guenther, Norma Kajita,
Ed Knudson, Monte
Miller, Joe Floener, Tom
Gordon, Jim Allen, Justin
Allen, James Tryee, Merle
Clemmo, Dale Maki, Gary
Brathovde, George
Kohout, William Moore,
Steve Shining, Nick
Brunner, Larry Hendren,
Gayle Sanders, Mike
Bowe, Dave Kraal

District Chairs

Dan Howell, Gary
Hansen, Jan Anderson,
Rick James, Charles
Ellithorpe, Ric Nichols

Webmasters

Jack Nichols, Ken Kajita,
Kevin Reaume

State Chairs

Doug Marsh
Frank McMahon

Regional Director

Kevin Brown

Box Score Net Dollars for Mission!

Colville	\$57,278	Longview	\$38,415
Olympia	\$39,380	Tri Cities	\$69,439
Omak	\$44,034	Chehalis	\$33,660
Bellingham	\$30,853	Walla Walla	\$36,029
Moses Lake	\$48,503	Enumclaw	\$24,248
Everett	\$56,853	Yakima	\$39,178
Moses Lake	\$48,503	Tacoma	\$40,257
Vancouver	\$54,938	Wenatchee	\$28,815
Spokane	\$38,924	Aberdeen	\$19,168
Port Angeles	\$34,784	Ellensburg	\$ TBD
Bremerton	\$ TBD	Workshop	\$ TBD
Bellevue	\$28,000	Mt. Vernon	\$32,225



L to R - Chehalis Chapter Co-Chair Jim Guenther, Regional Chair Lee Fouts, Chapter Co-Chair Sandy Zadina, RD Lloran Johnson, District Chairs Rick James and Jan Anderson

Washington Leads the Way!

Throughout this year's banquet season a lot of discussion was centered around how well our banquets could do in the wake of September 11th, with the economy being down and the stock market on a roller coaster ride. Well, here in Washington we took this as a challenge! To date, our attendance is up and our supporters have continued to come and have a great time for a great cause, to the tune of over \$807,000 net. We have not had a single chapter fall below 50% net-to-gross and a number of chapters have topped 70%. Way to go Washington! By your watchful eye on expenses and donations, and your creative purchasing we have been able to maximize our dollars raised. I just want to personally thank all of you for your hard work and thriftiness. I also want to remind you to get out and participate in one of the hands-on projects coming up, visit a project site or just go and enjoy elk country this summer. After all, the reason we work so hard maximizing those dollars is to conserve and enhance more elk country. So take the time to get out and enjoy the habitat you helped conserve, there's a lot of it!

Great job and thanks!
Kevin Brown, E WA &
N ID Regional Director

Chehalis Chapter Partners for Mission

Sandy Zadina, Co-Chair for the Chehalis Chapter, believes that community relationships really work. Check this out!

Sandy was in the community soliciting for donations for the upcoming banquet. When she contacted the manager of the Olympic Club (a turn of the century men's club converted to a period eatery) to inquire about a potential donation (she was thinking something along the lines of a basket of microbrews & beer mugs, however, didn't really request anything specific), he indicated they offer a benefit night three or four times per year to various organizations. This benefit is a great opportunity for McMenamins (Olympic Club) to introduce new clientele to their establishment/business while also benefiting various charitable organizations. He said they had held these benefits for various organizations, but never for wildlife and felt this would be a great opportunity for all.

Nothing was required from RMEF. Just need folks to show up and eat! Fifty percent...of all proceeds from food, drinks, and all the fixin's on March 13 between the hours of 5:00 p.m. and closing (1:00 a.m. - yep, for those who had to work on Thursday morning, it was going to be a long day and short night!) would be a cash donation for RMEF (Chehalis Chapter)!

After many discussions, Joel (the Manager) sent Sandy some text, she put flyers together, did some local posting, used Bull Stop on our NW Home Page, and mailed flyers to most of our local members and placed a few in businesses around town. She dropped flyers off at the Olympic Club so they could begin advertising in-house.

Finally, after lots of innovative and creative planning, over \$1,000 was given to the Chehalis Chapter as a cash donation for their banquet!

The future of American wilderness depends on American civilization's deliberately keeping it wild.

Roderick Nash, *Wilderness and the American Mind*

Doug Marsh New State Chair

I was appointed to replace Darci Teel whom had been our Eastern Washington State Chair for two years. A big THANK YOU to Darci for all her time and effort in a job well done. I have been a member of RMEF and helped found the North Cascades Chapter in Omak in 1989. Lianne and I have been married for 33 years and were both raised in SW Montana. We have two sons, Travis, in the US Coast Guard in Sitka, Alaska and Matt, a senior at WSU studying Wildlife Management and Fisheries. Travis helped start and has chaired the Sitka Chapter of the RMEF for the past 2 years.

I was in the aircraft maintenance/salvage business for 30 years and retired in 2000. Lianne will retire this spring after teaching school for 33 years. Please feel free to contact me at 509-826-5458 or e-mail swampy@televar.com. I am looking forward to working with all of the volunteers in hopes we can help the RMEF grow even more than it has in the past 18 years. The NW volunteers are in fact a very dedicated and hard working group. We are the envy of the other states with our super fund raising and will continue to be so. The Northwest's accomplishments were pointed out at the State/Regional meetings in Missoula last month to the delight of Frank McMahon, Lee Fouts, and myself. Thanks again for all your hard work in helping to "Pass It On".
Doug Marsh

Chronic Wasting Disease

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a transmissible neurologic disease of elk and deer characterized by loss of body condition, behavioral abnormalities, and death. Chronic Wasting Disease has been with us for some time (Colorado detected it 20 years ago) but just now seems to be spreading and is in fact a threat to the free roaming elk and deer populations in North America. At this time there is no know test that can be done on live deer or elk to detect CWD. It is once contracted 100% fatal to the animal. The only reliable test is to the brain tissue and that is done after the animal dies. There are some groups working on test that can be done on live deer and elk but at this time there is nothing in the near future to help in this area.

A bit of history of CWD: 1967 - It was found in captive deer in Colorado; 1977—Classified as a disease (spongiform encephalopathy) in Mule deer; 1979 - Recognized in captive mule deer and elk in Wyoming and captive elk in Colorado; 1981 - Found in wild elk in Colorado; 1986 - Found in wild elk in Wyoming; 1990 - Found in wild mule deer & white-tail deer in Wyoming; 1994 -Found in wild white-tail deer in Colorado; 2000 - found in wild mule deer in Nebraska and Saskatchewan.

Colorado has been testing for CWD both on free ranging and captive elk and so far none west of the Continental Divide have tested positive. There is some evidence that CWD affects deer more than elk but it has been detected in elk in Montana, Colorado, and Canada. Wisconsin is proposing a large reduction in their deer herds this fall due to positive test on their white tail deer.

We will be hearing a lot about CWD in the future so please read all the information you can so we as volunteers can be as informed as possible. There is a posting to the RMEF web site (www.elkfoundation.org) dealing with Chronic Wasting Disease or go directly to the link by clicking on www.rmef.org/conservation/section.html?main=/chronic.html. Dr. Gary Wolfe (past RMEF CEO) will be representing the new CWD Alliance between the RMEF, Boone & Crockett Club and the Mule Deer Foundation. He was to have testified before a Congressional subcommittee on May 16th and was one of only three people invited to represent non-governmental organizations.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has determined that "there is no evidence of transmission" of CWD to humans. Again lets become informed on CWD and help bring about a solution to a disease that could affect our wild elk and deer herds.

Doug Marsh

Washington Elk Relocation 2002

For three weekends in March, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife worked in cooperation with the Mukleshoot Indian Tribe and nearly 200 volunteers to relocate 82 cow elk from the Chehalis River Valley. With the help of members from several different organizations and staff from the WA DFW, the elk were captured from several different sites in Grays Harbor, Mason, and Thurston counties in western WA and moved to the Green River Watershed north of Enumclaw, WA.

The volunteers were from the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (Kitsap, Twin Harbors, Olympia, Port Angeles and Chehalis Chapters), Eyes In the Woods and Washington Backcountry Horsemen. These folks provided physical labor (to move the tranquilized elk and repair fences), volunteer veterinary care (under the supervision of the state's wildlife veterinarian, Dr. Briggs Hall), and transportation of the elk (with their own horse trailers).

There were two goals for this project. 1) To increase the number of breeding animals in an area where the elk herd has fallen below biologist's established management goal. 2) To decrease the number of animals in several agriculturally sensitive areas where the DFW has had to deal with numerous landowner complaints.

The process of tranquilizing and relocating this many elk required 3 helicopters (provided by Weyerhaeuser timber, long-time partners with the DFW) to dart the elk and to transport them to the processing/loading area and 14-16 horse trailers to carry them to their new home. Originally planned to take 5 days (over 2 weekends), the project required an additional 3 days to make up for weather difficulties.

Charles Ellithorpe, District Chair

Elk Crossing Guards

As we prepare for our banquet each year, we all try to find new ways to increase the level of participation from our banquet attendees. From rounding out our auction merchandise to new games, we make every effort to raise as much money as possible. This past March the North Puget Sound Chapter in Everett, Washington started their "Elk Crossing Guard" program. Born out of a brainstorming session at one of the pre-banquet committee meetings, the idea was to find a way to entice our attendees to donate \$20 cash.

The chapter purchased "Elk Crossing" pins from RMEF and printed "Elk Crossing Guard" certificates on certificate quality parchment. The certificates were personalized with the attendee's name and the banquet date. In addition to selling the certificates to adults, each child was presented one for attending. The chapter purchased enough to continue this for several years to come. Sales at the first banquet were slow, but with the proper presentation the committee feels they can increase sales in the future.

Gary Hansen, District Chair



Roosevelt Elk near Matlock, WA

Habitat Partner/Life Member Reception and Tour Planned

On May 10th, letters of interest were sent to Life Members and Habitat Partners in Washington State thanking them for their generous commitment to the Elk Foundation, and to invite them to participate in a reception and project tour at the Oak Creek Wildlife Area near Naches. Late this summer, attendees will meet for some light refreshments, and receive a tour of some of the projects that have been completed in the wildlife area by our cooperative partners from WDFW, the Forest Service, and private timber companies. Volunteers from throughout the state will be involved in conducting the tour and hosting the reception. Rick Lane, CEO of RMEF, and Dave Torell, VP of Northwest Field Operations, will be on hand to share the Foundation's vision of the Pass It On campaign. As of this writing and publishing (late May), there have been 52 responses, with 33 folks who will share in the days activities and help to strengthen our elk county legacy and *Pass it On!*

Pass It On!

WHITE PASS WORKSHOP AND SUMMER RENDEZVOUS ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK FOUNDATION WASHINGTON VOLUNTEER WORKSHOP AUGUST 10TH & 11TH, 2002

Come celebrate our success in the new millennium as we look ahead to the future of the Elk Foundation, the *Pass it On* campaign, and your Elk Country Legacy. Mix fun, little work, more fun, interesting topics, even more fun, new ideas, lots of fun, renewing old friendships and making new ones, and having FUN.

Registration includes three meals on Saturday and one meal on Sunday. Camping is free in the lot across from the Lodge. Portable toilets will once again be provided. Rooms are available at the Lodge on a first-call basis. You are responsible to make your own lodging arrangements. Contact "The Village Inn Condominiums" @ 509-672-3131. We will have a youth program during the day sessions and a small fundraiser Saturday night before having S'mores around the campfire (fire season permitting).

NUMBER ATTENDING	_____ Adults @ \$20	= \$ _____
	_____ Children (5-12) @ \$10	= \$ _____
	_____ Children under 5	FREE
	TOTAL	= \$ _____

Names and addresses of those attending:

Names and ages of children (children under 5 should be accompanied by an adult):

(You may be asked to sign a release for children to participate in activities)

I would like to help with _____

I'd like to talk about _____

Make checks payable to: RMEF

Mail checks to: Dan Howell, District Chair
3322 Old Pacific Hwy S
Kelso, WA 98626
(360) 425-9611

**Don't miss this chance! See you at the crest of the Cascades!
Mail your check and this form today!**

Registration fee may be applied all or in part to the Washington Volunteer Workshop Habitat Partnership

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
Washington Volunteers
7630 Alice Court SE
Olympia, WA 98503



Pass It On!

Build An Elk Fence?

What elkaholic that you know would BUILD an elk fence? That group from Tacoma in the Mt. Rainier Chapter did just that this spring!

Don and Marilyn Rasmussen, ranchers near Eatonville, needed to have new fences put around their farm near Eatonville. There were some conditions...Don wanted to make sure there was plenty of access for the local resident herd to continue to use the timber and pasture of the farm. Don also wanted to continue to support RMEF, and "contracted" with the Mt. Rainier Chapter for labor in exchange for a sizeable cash donation.

True to his word, Don and volunteers from the chapter designed the perimeter fence with special gate access in the areas that

the elk had become accustomed to using! Volunteers gathered on 4 weekends, working long hours each weekend tearing down old fence and placing over a mile of new posts, fence, and gates.

At the end of the grueling and back-straining work, Don had new fence that would keep his beef inside the farm, while allowing elk free rein when they felt the urge, and the chapter had a cash donation of \$1,500!

Seen below are a few of the members of the Mt. Rainier Chapter after they gathered for lunch on one of the wet, soggy, and typical Western Washington days (Wait! Those are shadows – the sun's out!

