

NORTHWEST OUTDOOR WRITERS ASSOCIATION  
**NOWA FIELD NOTES**

NOWA NEWS FEBRUARY 2016



...Michel Hersen photo

DIAMOND LAKE 101  
CALL FOR BOARD MEMBER APPLICATIONS  
CRAFT IMPROVEMENT  
CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM  
SUPPORTING MEMBER NEWS/OPINION  
ALASKA EARTHQUAKE SPURS FISH EVOLUTION

# NORTHWEST OUTDOOR WRITERS ASSOCIATION

NOWA NEWS FEBRUARY 2016

[www.northwest-outdoor-writers-association.org](http://www.northwest-outdoor-writers-association.org)

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE/PROMOTING NOWA

## ROLLIN, ROLLIN, ROLLIN

Four more months and counting for the big annual NOWA conference! Still lots of things to do before we get there. First of all, I greatly appreciate all those who promptly renewed their membership, thank you! The nominating committee still needs at least two more bodies for the board of directors! If you are interested to take part, please contact Gary Lewis or myself. A complete governing board is very important. We meet once per year and keep in touch via email outside of that. Think about the benefits of expanding your horizons as you engage with people on the board from all levels of experience in outdoor communicating. Volunteering to be on the board doesn't have to be strictly business, you might just add a few more feathers to your learning cap of skills!

One of our primary fund raisers for NOWA is the big raffle and silent auction at the conference. Donations are essential to having a successful raffle program and now is good time to start thinking about items for this event. If you have connections with outdoor vendors, excursions, vineyards, breweries, electronic equipment or anything appealing that yields fun or useful benefits, then please contribute! By the way, the donations don't have to be new either, I have dropped my tickets into many a cup for the likes of used, but not abused, prizes such as books, classic outdoor magazines dated before I could even raise a pen, pocket knives, antique tackle, etc, donated from member's personal collections. If you have a donation/s, please contact Jo Wilson, [gijowilson@q.com](mailto:gijowilson@q.com), 503-390-4557.

Saturday at the conference is the Craft Improvement Workshop day. Completing the roster for presenters can be challenging for this event and the Vice President can always use assistance to line up programs. Interested to give a program pertaining to outdoor communication or tools for promotion? Do you know someone who can? Forward your offerings to Craig Schumann, [crsscs@hotmail.com](mailto:crsscs@hotmail.com), 541-778-1194.

Do you know who the supporting members are for NOWA? Take a good look at the membership directory to find out. Most all of them offer discounts of some kind. Give a product a fair shake and see if it works for you. If it does, write up a review for a column or in your website and while you're at it, let the company know what you think of it and tell them thanks!

I believe we are on a good start for 2016 and the incoming help is always appreciated, the more the merrier!

...Joe

## PROMOTING NOWA



... Dennis Dauble manning the NOWA booth at the Shuyler Sportsmen Show in Pasco, WA.

On January 22-24, NOWA members, Wayne Heinz and Dennis Dauble volunteered themselves to promote memberships for NOWA during the Shuyler Sportsmen Show in Pasco, WA. Shuyler Productions was very generous to provide a booth space for \$60. What I find most incredible was that Wayne and Dennis came up with a terrific game plan to cover this expense (even after the two and another donor chipped in to pay for the booth) by hosting a raffle! Wayne was able to drum up a salmon-steelhead trolling rod and a 8 ½ survival knife, while Dennis kicked in a half dozen salmon plugs. The tickets were a \$1 each and after it was all said and done it generated \$146! They both entertained discussions about NOWA and its membership benefits while also handing out brochures and membership applications. Perhaps when you see these guys at the conference you might buy them a beer! I'm sure I can speak on behalf of NOWA that we greatly appreciate all their time and donations to promote NOWA!

Wayne is already planning to prepare for the next Shuyler Sportsmen Show in Yakima, WA on February 19-21 barring no blizzard conditions to travel there. If you are interested to help out, please contact Wayne Heinz at 509-946-9135. Consider the incentives to helping out; free admission to the show, and you can sell your books and/or DVDs, etc. Consumer shows are a lot of fun and you get to meet a lot of nice outdoor enthusiasts. Who knows, you might have an opportunity to network with some show vendors and score an outdoor article or speaking engagement! Wayne will gladly accept all volunteers regardless of how long he/she can attend.

Cheers to Wayne and Dennis!

...Joe

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

## What NOWA Can Do For You - What You Can Do For NOWA

Some twenty plus years ago at an Outdoor Writers Association of America business meeting the topic came up to change the name to Outdoor Communicators Association. A heated discussion ensued. The same thing happened with NOWA. I read in last year's minutes that novel idea once again surfaced. The rationale? We're not all writers. I guess some of us don't read either. But notice our Mission statement at the top of page 2 in the NOWA Directory.

### Mission

The NORTHWEST OUTDOOR WRITERS ASSOCIATION (NOWA) is a society of professional outdoor communicators magazine and newspaper writers, book authors, editors, photographers, radio and television broadcasters, videographers, illustrators, and artists – dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in outdoor journalism. Our subjects of interest include fishing, hunting, boating, camping, hiking, wildlife viewing, and all other activities that focus on the enjoyment of the outdoors. In addition, our members are increasingly involved in environmental issues and the preservation of wildlife habitat and wilderness areas.

**The best way for us to say who we are is not to change our name but to be so actively engaged in our craft that our reputation precedes us. It might also get the attention of prospective supporting members!**

My goals for the coming year are your goals as listed on the middle part of page 2 of the Directory. "Further the improvement and ethical development of professional communication skills. Provide a network of professional assistance and support for all members." Will you join me in working towards these goals? Consider running for the Board of Directors.

Serving as a board member can be one of the most important, challenging and rewarding experiences of your life. This is an opportunity to learn more about NOWA and establish a solid network while interacting with other committed professionals, your fellow board members.

Directors exercise responsible oversight and a spirit of public service to NOWA through the good times and the bad. But this means recruiting members with the best skills, as well as the wisdom, honesty, and integrity to follow the organization's by laws as a measure to success.

### What You Need to Know BEFORE You Serve on a Board

Terms are three years and board members are expected to attend the annual board meeting held the day before the conference. Board members need to be familiar with the By-Laws of NOWA (published in the back of the Membership Directory). Board members are expected to serve with members on committees to do the grassroots work of the organization.

## What Does the Board of Directors Do?

The board takes an active part in the budget planning process, discusses and approves the budget annually. Board members have important legal and fiduciary responsibilities that require a commitment of time, skill and resources. They have a legal and ethical responsibility to ensure that the organization does the best work possible in pursuit of its goals, supporting the purpose and mission.

Think about whether serving on the board is the right fit for you.

You can do this by asking the following questions:

- Do I have the time and commitment level to be an effective board member?
- Am I comfortable with the organization's efforts?
- What will I bring to the board?
- Am I proud, comfortable and enthusiastic to be a part of NOWA?
- Am I committed to the ethical and moral responsibility, along with my fellow board members, for the well-being of this organization?
- Will I work in good faith with my fellow board members and Executive Director toward the achievement of the organization's goals?

The Nominating Committee is looking for Regular and/ or Retired members to serve on the Board. According to NOWA By-Laws, only members eligible to vote can hold the position of an officer or director. If you would like to serve or have a nomination, please fill out the form on **Page 5** and send it to President Joe Warren to forward your information to the Nominating Committee.



Persons who have not been nominated by the Nominating Committee and who wish a place on the ballot as an officer candidate or Board of Director candidate, shall be placed on the ballot if they have obtained the signatures of ten regular or retired members on a nominating petition. Petitions must be submitted by the due date for nominations (TBA) to the Chair of the Nominating Committee.

...Adela

**To Apply See Page 5...**

# BOARD MEMBER APPLICATION

Name of Prospective Board Member \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone(\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ (home); (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ (office)

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_

Areas of Expertise (please check all that apply) \_\_\_\_\_ Business/Corporate \_\_\_\_\_

Human Resources \_\_\_\_\_ Education \_\_\_\_\_ Legal \_\_\_\_\_ Financial Management \_\_\_\_\_

Public Relations/Marketing \_\_\_\_\_ Fundraising \_\_\_\_\_ Non-Profit management \_\_\_\_\_ Government \_\_\_\_\_

Philanthropic community \_\_\_\_\_ Industry \_\_\_\_\_ Volunteer Management \_\_\_\_\_

Other areas of expertise/skills: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Special Interests/Hobbies \_\_\_\_\_

Membership in other Associations, Service or Social Clubs

(include offices held & committees) \_\_\_\_\_

Other Board Experience \_\_\_\_\_

Other Volunteer Service \_\_\_\_\_

Reasons this person might be a good board member \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Current interest and/or involvement in our organiza-  
tion \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# DIAMOND LAKE RESORT

## DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH



I remember our first true “outdoor conference” held in 2000 at the Flying M Ranch, Oregon. The weather was chilly and rainy that spring, but no doubt, everyone was enthused by the rugged venue. For the first time in 27 years NOWA moved outside! All previous conferences had been held in the city. Flying M Ranch offered our Supporting Members the opportunity to really “show their stuff” in an outdoor environment.

This year our conference at Diamond Lake Resort will top the others! President Joe Warren and I drove from Portland the middle of January to meet with John Jonesburg, manager of the resort. We kept asking ourselves, “Why hasn’t NOWA been here? This place is awesome”. Magnificent scenery, great accommodations and limitless opportunities for story material. If you’ve never been to a NOWA conference or have attended only a few you won’t want to miss this one!

The resort is nestled amongst huge Douglas Fir trees, surrounding a lake filled with trout and dwarfed by towering peaks. The extensive trail system hosts every kind of activity you desire in winter, spring and summer. We were amazed at the number of people enjoying snow machining, downhill skiing, ice fishing, tubing and dogsledding. Accommodations include motel-style rooms, two bedroom cabins (that include cooking facilities) and free places to camp.

Our NOWA conference is scheduled April 29 – May 1. According to John there’s a possibility we can be fishing from boats on the open water while others go snow cat skiing in the surrounding mountains. This uncrowded shoulder season will be the perfect time to explore all the options. Yes, this place is definitely a diamond in the rough!

Diamond Lake Resort, situated in the Crater Lake National Park is 100 miles south of Bend, Oregon. The journey is part of the

overall experience so allow yourself time to take it all in.

All highways leading to Diamond Lake are well plowed and sanded for winter travel. Located just 5 miles north of Crater National Park on Highway 138

- 79 miles east of Roseburg on Highway 138
- 85 miles north of Medford by Highways 62 and 230
- 85 miles north and west of Klamath Falls via Highways 97 and 138 west
- 100 miles south of Bend using Highway 97 south and 138 west

Use the conference for a recruiting tool and invite your peers to join us! When a non-member joins NOWA within 30 days of the conference the membership dues will be waived for the current year. When you sign up three new members you’ll get a \$50 bonus. How’s that for value?

...Adela Jackson



# DIAMOND LAKE FISH STOCKING



## STOCKING CHANGES IN DIAMOND LAKE'S FUTURE

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife plans to add tiger trout to its standard Diamond Lake rainbow trout stocking this June. These brook and brown trout hybrids are reproductively sterile and known to prey on smaller fish – biologists are banking on them to help keep tui chub in check.

A single tui chub was found in a trap net this past fall, and biologists know all too well their life history of explosive population growth in Diamond Lake.

“We know what chub are capable of in Diamond Lake, and we are working with our partners to get ahead of the curve. We looked at many options, and tiger trout came out on top,” says Greg Huchko, Umpqua District Fish Biologist. “We wanted to stock a mix of brown and tiger trout, but only tigers are available this year. We will be looking into sterile brown trout for next year in addition to tiger trout.”

Huchko said he’s been meeting with the Umpqua National Forest, Douglas County, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to discuss stocking, and biologists agreed that stocking sterile tiger and/or brown trout was the best choice. Both species are known to prey on smaller fish.

“Many strains of rainbow trout have been stocked in the past, but unfortunately, our creel surveys showed that even those we thought would prey on tui chub were feeding primarily on insects,” Huchko said. “In the early 2000s, we also experimented with a stocking of North Umpqua strain spring chinook with the hope they would eat tui chub, but most of them migrated out of the lake.”

Fisheries biologists will monitor tiger trout abundance in Diamond Lake although they expect minimal numbers of these trout to migrate into Lake Creek.

“Our goal is to design and implement a stocking strategy that

controls tui chub to maintain water quality and angling opportunities. Any tiger trout that may leave or be removed from Diamond Lake are sterile so there is not the risk of these fish species reproducing in the North Umpqua watershed or elsewhere,” said Jason Wilcox, Umpqua National Forest fisheries biologist.

Pending funding, ODFW plans to purchase up to 20,000 three-inch and 5,000 eight-inch tiger trout from Cold Springs Trout Farm, a private hatchery in Utah. The tiger trout would be in addition to ODFW’s regular stocking of 300,000 rainbow trout fingerlings and will likely be catch-and-release only to protect these fish and maintain their numbers.

ODFW and partners also outlined a stepped-up monitoring plan for Diamond Lake, including hiring two seasonal technicians to conduct additional removal of tui chub and golden shiners via beach seines, fyke nets, electro-fishing, and trap nets. Also, ODFW plans to monitor the tiger trout population by continuing creel surveys and operating a smolt trap near the lake’s outlet.

ODFW applied for grants to fund monitoring and fish stocking. The [Umpqua Fisheries Enhancement Derby](#) is also helping raise money by holding a “fish frenzy” at its annual derby banquet and auction Friday, January 29.

For every dollar donated, funds will be split to purchase both fish and capture nets for monitoring. A night’s lodging in a cabin at Diamond Lake Resort and use of two large, two-person snowmobiles for the day comes with each \$1,000 donation while a \$500 donation receives a night’s lodging and use of two single-person snowmobiles.

In September 2006, ODFW successfully treated Diamond Lake with rotenone to eliminate an estimated 90 million tui chub at a cost of nearly \$6 million, restoring water quality and the recreational rainbow trout fishery.

**ODFW:** Greg Huchko, 541-440-3353

**Umpqua National Forest:** Jason Wilcox, 541-957-3360

...Article and Photos submitted by Duane Dungannon



# 2016 NOWA Conference

April 29 – May 1, 2016

## Registration Form

**Diamond Lake Resort** • 350 Resort Drive • Diamond Lake, Oregon 97731  
**NOWA's Conference Rate:** \$59 for motel rooms; 2 bedroom cabins start at \$139

Please book your room by March 20, 2016 • <http://www.diamondlake.net>

**Wine Social & T-Shirt Exchange:** Thursday evening, April 28

**Reservations:** 541-793-3333

Your Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

New Member

1st Conference

Guest or Spouse Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

**Banquet Only:** Guest or Spouse Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

**Conference Registration – Member:** \_\_\_\_\_ people x \$ 99.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Conference Registration – Guest or Spouse:** \_\_\_\_\_ people x \$ 99.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Banquet Only (see Notes) – Guest or Spouse:** \_\_\_\_\_ people x \$ 50.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Non-member Registration:** \_\_\_\_\_ people x \$150.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

When a non-member joins NOWA within 30 days of the conference the membership dues will be waived for the current year.

**Registration After April 1, 2014:** \_\_\_\_\_ Late Fee/s x \$ 10.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

If you are registering for the conference after April 1, 2014

**Please add a \$10 late fee per person.**

**TOTAL (US funds) \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

### Notes:

**Banquet only** applies to guests and/or spouses who are not attending any other function than the Banquet on Saturday evening. All supporting members are subject to the Registration Fee. Full Registration Fee includes the banquet *plus* break refreshments *plus* hosted meals.

**Room Share:** Are you interested in sharing accommodations/cost?  YES

**Book Display:** Do you have a book/s to bring to the conference for display?  YES

**Registration due date:** Conference registration forms must be **RECEIVED at NOWA HQ by April 1, 2016.**

**After April 1:** Your registration fee is \$109. If registering after April 1, please email [nowa@kmc-media.com](mailto:nowa@kmc-media.com) to indicate you will be attending. Bring your registration form and payment to the conference.

**Make check payable, in US funds, to NOWA and send with this form to:**

**NOWA HQ • PO Box 1420 • Beaverton, OR 97075**

541-977-7116 • [nowa@kmc-media.com](mailto:nowa@kmc-media.com)

**Cancellation / refund policy:** Refunds of conference registration fees will be made on the following basis:

30 days prior to the conference date of April 29, 2016	Full refund
15 days prior to the conference date of April 29, 2016	50% refund
7 days prior to the conference date of April 29, 2016	No refund

Conference registration **late fees are non-refundable.**

Rev: 12/8/15

# WRITING RULES TO LIVE BY

## THE BEST BEAR ATTACKS NEVER HAPPEN



...Chuck Robbins photo

Yesterday one of my favorite editors called me. He was working on a book project – an anthology of bear attack stories. And he wondered if I had any stories to tell. Note: the word tell rhymes with sell.

It's preferable to not have a personal bear attack story. My preference would be to have someone else be attacked by a bear and then tell their story. But I couldn't think of any of those types of stories in my files either.

While the editor spoke – outlining what he was looking for and his low budget, I mind-mapped my ideas. It would have been easy to tell him I didn't have what he was looking for, but that didn't seem profitable.

Instead, I offered four ideas. One was the story of the hunt when I took my first bear. It was coming straight at me when I shot it, but I can't say it was an attack. I think I was in its way. Second idea: a spoof on being "Bear Aware" in which I hold forth on when bears are dangerous and when ways of thinking are dangerous. Third idea: the account of my friend Pistol Pete who was stepped upon and shat upon by a scared black bear. Fourth idea: the account of how I thought I was being charged by a bear and it turned out to be an earthquake.

Technically, none of those stories were bear attacks. But, when I proposed the ideas, the editor chose not one of them, but all of them.

Best of all, each of the stories were already written. I'd been paid for each one already. They required a bit of tweaking, but I was able to accomplish that in less than an hour.

It would have been simple to tell the editor I had no bear attack stories, but because I took it seriously and he had an open mind, I was able to retell two of my favorite hunting stories and two of my favorite humor stories and be paid for them. All with less than an hour of work.

One of the most important principles an outdoor writer must remember is that of the "Evergreen" article. Peter Schroeder has told us at conferences, time and again, that he only writes Evergreen articles. A writer can spruce up an old story and make money on it again and again, selling it to different markets over many years.

Another rule I go by is that I will not work on a project that pays less than \$50 per hour.

If it takes me five hours to make \$200, that project is not worth my time. And I don't write for free (except for the NOWA newsletter).



Another rule that works for me is that I go to our annual NOWA conferences and pay attention to how other communicators make their businesses work. Over the years, I've been able to implement just a few of the good ideas I've learned at conferences and they have paid off.

Our genre doesn't pay as well as other genres. We have to work harder to make the same amount of money. But we have more fun doing it and, when we work smarter, we can thrive in this business.

In 2016, NOWA is meeting at Diamond Lake in Oregon. This conference venue will inspire with its rustic simplicity, its location and the good fishing in this legendary still water. Hope to see you there.

...Gary Lewis



...Hunting the Palouse, Gary Lewis photo

**NOWA 2016 CONFERENCE  
DIAMOND LAKE, OR  
APRIL 29-MAY 1, 2016  
BE THERE..OR BE SQUARE**

## THE EDITOR –NOWA FIELD NOTES

This is intended to be an open letter to all NOWA members and specifically to the NOWA Board of Directors.

I have been a NOWA member for more than 30 years. During that time our number one problem has been declining membership. Today that problem seems to me to be critical. Not only is our membership declining, but the age of existing members is climbing. It seems to me each year we have fewer young, hungry go-getters, and more old, retired or semi-retired fogies, such as myself. At the same time our finances are prospering. Today we have more than \$50,000 in the bank, but we have no plans or goals as to what to do with that money.

Every year folks like Jo Wilson, Debbie Kerr, Joelle Keizer and my wife Pam work tirelessly on the silent auction and raffle in order to add to our coffers. Simultaneously our finance committee has toiled, successfully, I might add, to wisely invest our funds with an eye toward income and growth. But for what purpose no one seems to know. It seems to me NOWA is akin to an aging miser who clings to a fistful of dollars while on his deathbed.

I believe NOWA needs to consider ways to use our tremendous resources to entice more members to attend our conferences and to attract new members. Our money is of absolutely no use if we have no members.

I have some ideas as to how NOWA can use some of our war chest to increase membership and conference attendance. We could consider waiving, or significantly reducing, conference fees for one year. We could subsidize the cost of rooms or meals at the conference. Or we could pay for several top notch speakers to be keynoters at a conference.

I'm sure the NOWA Board can come up with other ideas to wisely invest our money in enhancing the conference experience or in recruiting new members.

To that end I am hereby requesting the NOWA board consider my suggestions at the next board meeting.

I look forward to comments from other NOWA members and to the response to this letter from our board.

...Submitted by Dave Vedder, Gary Lewis photo



## BACKCOUNTRY HUNTERS AND ANGLERS... THEODORE ROOSEVELT CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP

A coalition of sportsmen's groups and businesses is presenting a new approach for gaining hunter and angler support for national monuments proposed under the Antiquities Act. Where appropriate and with the backing of local sportsmen, national monuments can help conserve public landscapes important for hunting and fishing.



In a new report, [“National Monuments: A Sportsmen’s Perspective.”](#) 28 groups and businesses, including Backcountry Hunters & Anglers, the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership and Trout Unlimited, outline a series of tenets for creating national monuments that are aligned with the intent of the Antiquities Act. Also featured in the report are profiles of existing national monuments where sportsmen played a supportive founding role.

“National monument designations offer a means to conserve large landscapes important to fish and wildlife and valued by sportsmen,” said Land Tawney, president and CEO of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers. “Numerous monuments are open to hunting and fishing, with recent designations - such as Berryessa-Snow Mountain in California and Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks in New Mexico - specifying that sportsmen can continue to pursue our passions within their boundaries.

“As the original conservationists, sportsmen are an important constituency in attracting public support of proposed monuments,” Tawney continued. “Oftentimes, we know these lands better than anyone else. We must participate in the initial discussion of any monument proposal and remain engaged as management designations are made.”

The sportsmen call for local involvement in management decisions, a stakeholder-driven public process that includes state and local governments, multiple use management, reasonable public access, state management of fish and wildlife resources and continued hunting and fishing opportunities, among other criteria.

“The Antiquities Act is a powerful tool, and sportsmen believe it should be used thoughtfully,” said Joel Webster, Western public lands director with the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership. “In a cooperative and productive spirit, sportsmen are defining when and how this tool should be used in places that are important for hunting and fishing. We encourage other invested citizens to come to the table and resolve public lands management issues with the same solutions-oriented attitude.”

“In places like Browns Canyon and Rio Grande del Norte, national monuments have proved to be an effective way to imple-

# SUPPORTING MEMBER NEWS

ment collaborative public land management solutions that conserve world-class hunting and fishing opportunities,” said Corey Fisher, senior policy director for Trout Unlimited. “In these instances and others, Congress failed to enact widely supported proposals, and the Antiquities Act provided a path forward to bring to fruition these community-driven initiatives.”

The report was officially released at Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument last weekend. Established in May 2014, Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks encompasses 496,330 acres and offers diverse hunting opportunities desert mule deer, mountain lion, javelina, waterfowl and quail. Sen. Martin Heinrich of New Mexico, an avid sportsman, attended the event, along with sportsmen, biologists and media members.

Sporting groups and businesses support the strategy outlined in the report. They include Abel, Airflo, American Fly Fishing Trade Association, Berkley Conservation Institute, California Waterfowl, Charlton, Echo, First Lite, Fishpond, International Federation of Fly Fishers, Mystery Ranch, Muley Fanatic Foundation, North American Grouse Partnership, onXmaps, Oregon Pack Works, Orion the Hunter’s Institute, Pheasants Forever, Professional Bowhunters Society, Pure Fishing, Quail Forever, Redington, Rio Products, Ross Reels, Sage and Wild Sheep Foundation, as well as BHA, TRCP and TU.

“Conserving quality public lands that will be permanently available to sportsmen and -women should be of the utmost importance to any outdoor company,” said Kenton Carruth, co-founder of First Lite, a hunting gear company. “Supporting monument designations that allow hunting and fishing and protect public lands is at the core of First Lite.”

[Read “National Monuments: A Sportsmen’s Perspective.”](#)

Contact: Katie McKalip, BHA, 406-240-9262, [mckalip@backcountryhunters.org](mailto:mckalip@backcountryhunters.org); Kristyn Brady, TRCP, 617-501-6352, [kbrady@trcp.org](mailto:kbrady@trcp.org)

## CAMP CHEF



### Pro DLX Pellet Grill

With the Camp Chef DLX Pellet Grill, just about anybody can enjoy the mouth-watering foods on the back patio. The DLX pellet grill has been designed with the backyard user in mind giving them the oppor-



tunity to take their outdoor cooking to the next level.

Built with innovative digital control features, this unit includes both high and low smoke settings with a continuous fan for even smoking and cooking. Add that to the large 18 pound capacity hopper and this thing is simply worry-free, leaving the user with less-fuss and more time to socialize at the neighborhood barbecue.

The LED temperature readout gives specific, accurate readings using dual sensors to measure internal food temperatures and smoke chamber temperatures. Camp Chef’s heavy-duty construction increases thermal efficiency. These features help eliminate any temperature guessing and provide users with accurate results.

When finished smoking, the cleaning is simple. A patented easy ash clean-out system allows users to empty ash with the pull of a lever.

This pellet grill has been designed with an added side shelf to keep clean and organized for cooking and preparation. An added warming rack provides even more space when cooking. Additional accessories are available. An included recipe booklet will simplify the learning curve for those who have never smoked meats before. MSRP: \$834

### Stryker Stoves & Accessories

Camp Chef, an industry leading manufacture of outdoor cooking equipment is proud to expand its Mountain Series line with the introduction of the all new Stryker stoves and cookware accessories. Designed to pack and go, the Stryker is built for those who need light weight cooking gear on or off the trail.

The Stryker will be available in two models. One model burns isobutene (MS100), and the other model burns propane (MS150). This now gives outdoorsmen and women the option of using disposable propane canisters with a lightweight camp stove.

To reduce cooking time and fuel consumption the Stryker is designed with Heat Ring technology that increases heat efficiency by 30%. The Heat Ring creates a larger surface area that effectively captures and transfers heat for a rapid boil. It takes just two minutes to boil a half liter of water.

The Stryker stove comes complete with a tri-legged stand, burner with matchless ignition, and an insulated 1.3 liter pot. Components pack tightly inside the insulated pot making it very small and light weight at only 18.3 ounces (not including fuel). A mesh carry bag is included for convenience and storage.



Stryker cookware accessories include a 1.5 liter tea pot with Heat Ring technology and a pot/pan set. Folding handles and light weight material make it easy for packing into the backcountry. Accessories are sold separately.

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## BOAT US

With the latest technical advances in recreational boat lights – both for navigation and aesthetic purposes – recreational boaters have more choices than ever when upgrading their boat's lighting. However, the US Coast Guard wants boaters to know that some of the new lights aren't up to snuff and could increase the chances of a collision. It has found that some sold for navigation purposes don't meet regulations, and other aesthetic lighting products such as LED ropes and underwater lights may go against the light provisions of the nautical rules of the road. The [BoatUS Foundation](http://BoatUS.org) for Boating Safety and Clean Water shares these concerns has these three tips when shopping for or installing boat lights:



**1) Navigation lights have to be “approved”.** Some manufacturers are selling navigation lights that don't meet regulations. These lights are typically cheaper, but do not provide the proper color quality, brightness or cut-off angles that boaters rely on to avoid collision. So how do you know you are buying a good nav light? The US Coast Guard (USCG) says things to look for include 1.) USCG approval, 2.) The rated visibility of the light in nautical miles, 3.) Meets ABYC A-16, 4.) “Tested by: *laboratory name*,” along with 5.) Manufacturer and model #.

**2) Don't let your boat's lights confuse.** The USCG reports that some boaters have hazardously installed unapproved red and green LED strip lighting on the bow, which hampers other boaters efforts to avoid collision. Also avoid displaying any light that could be confused as another navigation light or another vessel. And do remember flashing blue lights are reserved for law enforcement – at a distance, wave action combined with the steady rocking of below the waterline high-intensity blue lights can give the appearance of a police vessel.

**3) Don't install lights that prevent the operator from maintaining a good lookout.** When running between sunset and sunrise, it's critical that those behind the wheel maintain their night vision, so the #1 goal is to keep light out of the operator's eyes. Glare from existing nav lights may be a problem, or reflections from aesthetic lighting such as LED rope lights wrapped around a helm station hinder eyesight.

A helpful video by West Marine, “How to Choose the Right Navigation Lights for Your Boat,” can be found at <http://goo.gl/o4oYoC>. To see lights tested at night by the BoatUS Foundation, visit [BoatUS.org/findings/48](http://BoatUS.org/findings/48).

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## ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK FOUNDATION

The Rocky Mountain Foundation calls on the full Congress to vote in favor of critical conservation and sportsmen issues just approved by Congressional leadership in the latest omnibus budget agreement.



The legislation, which is mandatory to avoid a government shutdown, reauthorized the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) through 2018. It also permanently authorized an incentive toward the creation of conservation easements on privately owned land which will assist farmers and ranchers to permanently protect important wildlife habitat.

A bipartisan effort of western congressional leaders worked together to secure this legislation for wildlife, sportsmen and landowners; all critical elements to healthy elk country.

“We are grateful to Senators Bennet, Crapo, Daines, Gardner, Heller, Risch, Tester and Wyden as well as Representatives Simpson (Idaho) and Zinke who all had key roles in negotiating and overseeing the approval of these two extremely vital and essential conservation programs,” said David Allen, RMEF president and CEO. “We now urge RMEF members across the nation to contact their Congressional representatives to vote in favor these issues as part of the current budget agreement vote set for Friday. And we call on the president to sign it into law.”

Congressional leaders appropriated \$450 million for LWCF in FY2016, a \$100 million increase from FY2015 levels. Since 1990, RMEF has utilized more than \$85 million in LWCF funding across 62 projects in ten different states in partnership with federal agencies to protect, conserve and open access to some of the most vital elk country in the United States.

On the downside, Congress came up short on several fronts including permanently fixing the wildfire funding dilemma which continues to drain federal budgets, modest and much-needed forestry reform, and delisting gray wolves in Wyoming and Great Lakes states—a common sense approach that would have ensured consistency in their management. Many view the lack of support for these two issues as negotiating chips given up in this compromise legislation.

“These issues have been and will remain priorities for RMEF and our members since they need to be addressed and are not going away anytime soon,” added Allen.

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## MACK'S LURE

To read the February Mack Attack please visit [www.mackslure.com](http://www.mackslure.com)



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# 1964 ALASKA EARTHQUAKE...

...SPURRED RAPID EVOLUTION FOR A FEW FISH



... Oceanic (top) and freshwater (bottom) stickleback collected from a pond on Middleton Island show distinctions between two populations. The top fish in each pair is female (their abdomens are swollen with eggs) and the bottom is male.

...Courtesy Emily Lescak

Species normally evolve gradually in a process that unfolds over thousands -- sometimes millions -- of years. But scientists say they have discovered an Alaska fish population that appears to have transformed in the last 50 years -- a lightning-quick transformation, at least by evolutionary standards.

The changes happened after the [1964 earthquake](#), the most powerful ever recorded in the United States, rearranged terrain around Southcentral Alaska and abruptly changed the habitat of some of the region's threespine stickleback, a small, widely distributed fish.

When the quake lifted parts of Prince William Sound and the Gulf of Alaska by as much as several meters, it created freshwater ponds on several islands.

The stickleback that found themselves in those new ponds adapted rapidly when their habitat changed from saltwater to fresh, according to a [new study](#) by scientists from the University of Alaska Anchorage, University of Oregon and other institutions. The study was published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

The research focused on about 1,000 threespine stickleback collected between 2005 and 2011 from ponds that hadn't previously existed on three of the islands -- Middleton, Montague and Danger -- that were thrust upward by the earthquake, said [Emily Lescak](#), the lead author and a postdoctoral fellow at UAA.

The stickleback in the newly formed ponds had the physical features of freshwater varieties, she said. They were smaller and more squat in shape, a contrast to the bigger and more elongated long-distance-swimming saltwater stickleback. And like typical freshwater stickleback, they had only a small amount of bony armor

on their sides, compared to the full rows that are characteristic of ocean stickleback.

Still, despite their freshwater-like outward physical features, the fish from the post-earthquake ponds were "dramatically different" genetically from nearby stickleback in longtime freshwater bodies, Lescak said.

Instead, they were fairly closely related to the nearby ocean stickleback, indicating that they were the descendants of fish that came from the sea, she said.

"The most probable ancestors were oceanic fish," she said.

Threespine stickleback are small and abundant fish found in coastal waters of Eurasia, eastern Asia, North America, Greenland and Iceland, according to a [species profile](#) from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. They live in habitats ranging from open ocean to freshwater inland lakes. Adults spawn at 1 to 2 years of age.

Some threespine stickleback live full time in saltwater, some full time in freshwater and some are anadromous, moving between ocean and freshwater environments and occasionally mingling with the freshwater populations, Lescak said. It is easy to tell the difference between ocean-dwelling and freshwater-dwelling stickleback, even when ocean stickleback make their forays into freshwater bodies.

The different populations around the world have their own genetic identities, which have been [shown to be in flux over time](#). That makes the fish good material for evolutionary biologists.

"Stickleback have been studied extensively since the time of Darwin, so we know more about them than most vertebrates. They show independent and parallel evolution from oceanic to freshwater forms around the northern hemisphere, and the morphology, physiology and genetics of this diversification has been extensively studied," co-author [Frank von Hippel](#), a UAA biology professor who has focused on stickleback, said in an email.

Some previous genetic research in Alaska, carried out by some of the co-authors of the new study, showed how [stickleback in the Cook Inlet region evolved after the last ice age](#) so that they could live in a freshwater environment.

"One of our big questions concerns how quickly evolution can occur in wild populations," Lescak said.

On these three islands, at least, it appears that evolution happened within five decades. It might have happened even faster, in just a few generations," she said.

...Courtesy Alaska Dispatch News,