

# NOWA FIELD NOTES

**JANUARY 2023**



***CRAFT IMPROVEMENT TO HELP YOU WITH BETTER QUERIES – THE BIRTH OF NOWA – UNDERSTANDING WHAT A SALMON RECOVERY BOARD DOES – A REMINDER TO GET YOUR EIC ENTRIES IN – YELLOWSTONE IN WINTER – SHOW SEASON CALENDAR***

## **NOWA FIELD NOTES – JANUARY 2023**

### ***NOWA FIELD NOTES***

The NOWA newsletter is published six times a year by the Northwest Outdoor Writers Association, a registered nonprofit, tax-exempt, public supported organization under IRS 501 c3 Code. Newsletter contributions in the form of craft improvement articles, photos, member photo portfolios, news items, letters to the editor and more are welcome but cannot be compensated. Send submissions by email in Microsoft WORD format. Photos can be sent in JPEG Format. The Deadline for submissions is the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the month prior to the next edition being published. Send them to:

NOWA NEWSLETTER EDITOR - John Kruse

PO Box 4269, Wenatchee, WA 98807

Tel. 509-670-8826 - Email: [john@northwesternoutdoors.com](mailto:john@northwesternoutdoors.com)

**THIS MONTH'S COVER PHOTO – Mike Denny – Late afternoon along the Columbia River at McNary National Wildlife Refuge**

### ***NOWA OFFICERS, BOARD MEMBERS AND MORE***

The NOWA website can be found at <http://nowaoutdoors.com>

Website Editor - Dave Kilhefner Email: [Dave@kbi-ins.com](mailto:Dave@kbi-ins.com)

The NOWA Facebook Page can be found at [www.facebook.com/NorthwestOutdoorWritersAssociation/](http://www.facebook.com/NorthwestOutdoorWritersAssociation/)



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***PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE – LITTLE THINGS MATTER***



Well, it’s New Year’s Eve. And here I am writing a President’s Message not really excited at all about 2023. With the world headed the way it is I find it easy to get depressed. However, fishing, hunting or drinking helps. 😊 I don’t do enough of those things sometimes. They say everything in moderation is best and I am finding that to be true. I can leave the woes of the world behind when I am hip deep in a river, casting to rising trout, or creeping around in the bush with my rifle (God, I love it so) with all my senses engrossed in the pursuit of a whitetail. I don’t drink a whole lot these days, but a good glass of brandy in the evening truly helps as well.

On a different note, my sister gave me a trenching tool for Christmas. I needed one. For those uninitiated, a trenching tool is basically a glorified folding shovel. The handle folds and the blade folds and it forms a very small, easily stowed package. It’s a very useful and necessary tool for anyone spending time in the bush, just ask any infantryman (or infantrywoman). It is one of those things that is not a big deal if you don’t have one, until you need it. And how does this apply to our association and our endeavors? Well, the difference between good writing and great writing is often the little things, the small nuances, Inflections, active versus passive voice, etc. In my personal writing I write as though I am conversing with someone. I try to get excited when I need to be, empathetic when that is called for. Your ability to bring your emotions into your writing in a way that is palpable to your readers can make a huge difference; reading something is one thing, feeling it is another. If you’ve ever read something that made your heart race you will know what I mean.

So, for what it’s worth, there is my two cents worth of advice for you. Happy New Year my friends and fellow wordsmiths. My God grant you a joyous 2023.

Bill Luscombe

***FROM THE EDITOR – MAKING A MOVE***



Many people decide to move from their home to be closer to where their kids are. Then there's me. I'm moving to be closer to my boat.

Our kids are grown and have moved away and the home we have is far too large for us. My wife and I, after a long marriage, are also going our separate ways. Our home is listed for sale.

She will stay in Wenatchee and I'll be moving to the Columbia Basin in Eastern Washington. It's where I find myself doing most of my fishing for bass and walleye and also the place I head to for upland bird and waterfowl hunting.

My best friend of 45 plus years lives right next to Potholes State Park and that reservoir has truly become our home water to fish over the last ten years. A year ago, we went in together on a Nitro Z17 bass boat and it's stored at his shop.

I'd love to find a home right by that state park and my best friend but the pickings are slim and

I suspect I'll be a 20 to 30-minute drive away in Moses Lake, Ephrata or Othello instead. On the bright side, home prices in the Columbia Basin are about \$150K to \$200K less than they are in the Wenatchee Valley and it looks like I'll have enough money to purchase a newer rambler with around 1500 square feet in one of these towns.

I'll miss our little town of Cashmere where we have lived the last eleven years. It's a fine place with excellent schools both of our kids were lucky enough to attend before going off to college. I'll miss the friends I have in Cashmere as well but the next chapter awaits and I'm grateful that as a writer and radio show host I can work out of my home and not be tied to a specific town or business location to do the work I love to do. 2023 is definitely bringing some changes my way. It will be interesting to see how the next chapter unfolds.

Wishing all a Happy New Year -

John Kruse

**CRAFT IMPROVEMENT**

**I WANT TO FLY LIKE A BEAGLE**

*Exploit your editor's weakness and sell him/her/they more stories.*

By Gary Lewis



I am going to reveal in the second paragraph of this column, an important truth every writer of magazine articles should know. We spend a lot of time trying to find the names of the editors of the magazines and e-zines we want to write for. We try to get names and emails and numbers while their gatekeeper Bangladeshi out-sourced admin assistants try to hide them from us.

Secret revealed: Your editor's name is Ed. Call him Ed. Call her Ed. Call they Ed.

Ed, of course, is short for editor. And Ed is very proud of their title.

## FLY LIKE A BEAGLE (continued)

My favorite editor's name was not Ed when he was born. His parents called him Ned, so Ed is short for Ned, which is pretty short already. According to a recent study, people with very short names have the best potential to amass great wealth. If you have a short name like Don, Don Jr. or Bill or Musk, congratulate yourself and start saving more money, dammit.

What do Snoopy, the J. Geill's Band and a hound on the planet Anoat all have in common? They are all pathways to more money for this outdoor scribe. You see, my favorite editor, Ed, buys hunting articles and images. Every year, he has to assign 65 to 75 articles and buy approximately 300 images. To package that many potential award-winning features and columns between the glossy covers of an award-winning publication, Ed has to read one million poorly written articles as well as a hundred thousand more humdrum, paint-dry boring Me and Joe pieces. Ed gets ja-ja-jaded. That's an Aerosmith song, by the way.

I don't know what the editors in your life like, but chances are they are ba-ba-ba-bored too. It looks like such a great gig. You get a job putting together magazines about your favorite topic, whether it is skiing, sailing, hunting, fishing or mountain biking and your boss puts your name on the office door (It says Ed because the boss is paying by the letter) and then you get to sit around the rest of your life and sort through crap articles like "the best place to shoot a turkey in the butt" and "top 5 broadheads for shooting a turkey in the butt" or "the ethics of shooting a turkey in the butt." So, Ed retreats in his/her/they mind to the things that make he/she/them happy. In Ned's case, he likes beagles, rock and roll and Star Wars. So how can we exploit an Ed's weakness and sell him/her/they a story? Here are some examples.

### HOW NOT TO WRITE THE QUERY

Dear Ed,

I met a beagle the other day and he said you would be interested in an article about how to shoot a turkey in the butt with an arrow using the Force. How about I give you 2,500 words on the topic and a picture of me that my mom took in the kitchen?

Luminous beings we are, not this crude matter.

## FLY LIKE A BEAGLE (continued)

Consider the following carefully crafted queries:

### A TRI-COLOR 15-INCH BARITONE HOUND OF A QUERY

Dear Ed,

A beagle is not short, a beagle is concentrated awesome, like the feature story I want to write for you - 2,200 words of bacon-frying-down-the-block, in-the-second house-from-the-end-of-the-street awesome. Let me play you the song of my people. *Arooooo*.

Ever smell a pheasant that a pair of big-running German shorthairs didn't smell? Well, you can bet a beagle did. A hunter with a beagle can go behind the best long-legged scent-and-point pooches and make a living on the birds they leave behind. Any beagle, any time. But the difference is the beagle is not going to hold that bird in place. If you're going to hunt with a banjo hound, you're going to have to fly like a beagle, or at least keep up.

How about we treat the reader to 2,200 words of concentrated awesomeness on hunting birds with black, white and tan compact scent hounds and a dozen good pictures?

### ALWAYS IN MOTION IS THE FUTURE

Dear Ed,

Luke Skywalker once said of an important target he had to shoot, "It's not impossible. I used to bulls-eye womp rats in my T-16 back home, they're not much bigger than two meters." And it got me to thinking, I know what rats are and I think I know what womp means, but I don't know what a womp rat is. So, I looked it up.

It turns out that womp is one of those words that mean all or everything or nothing. And the word rat means sage rat, which in my corner of the world means Belding's ground squirrel. How about 1,200 words and a dozen good pictures about hunting sage rats in February with my friend Luke and Boba Fett who usually hunts solo?

Train yourself to let go of everything you fear to lose.

## FLY LIKE A BEAGLE (continued)

THIS QUERY STINKS, BUT IT STINKS LIKE MONEY

Dear Ed,

Last night at the Idaho Hunters Association banquet, I met a three-time divorced mailman who hasn't had a date in the last five Valentine's days because he has discovered a new joy, hunting ground squirrels in fresh powder. "Love stinks," he told me. "I just decided, if it's Valentine's Day, I'm going hunting. "Last year, I was hunting Monkey Island and I must have got lost, because I spent a fright night out in the cold, had nightmares, and the morning after, had a freeze frame when I tried to take a picture of my sanctuary." Anyway, how about 1,200 words and a dozen good pictures about hunting ground squirrels with a mailman in February, one of which you will want to use for the centerfold?

By my count that's eight J. Geil's Band song titles in that query. Ned will *have* to Surrender (that makes nine).

In his recent missive, Ned admitted he was a slam-dunk for any hunting articles that incorporate beagles, rock and roll lyrics or Star Wars themes, revealing one more weakness: Ned loves basketball. I'm going to bounce him a turkey hunting feature this week, timed for the NBA playoffs in May and June.

You have Eds in your life too. Figure out what they're excited about then craft your articles with allusions and references to *the things they are excited about*. If this business is about who you know, then get to know Ed. And fly like a beagle. "What part of *Arooooo* don't you understand"

*Gary Lewis is a recovering twice past president of NOWA.*

**NOWA NEWS**

**THE BIRTH OF NOWA**

By Tom Knight

Well, I had finally made it. I was a real-life, honest to goodness journalist. Thanks to getting hired after placing Number One on the state public information officer (PIO) exam and having put in five years writing news releases, numerous reports, plus editing and writing the department’s quarterly magazine, WASHINGTON WILDLIFE.

By now I had learned of the Outdoor Writer’s Association of America (OWAA). I surely would qualify. After all, I issued a weekly news release, which was sent to over one hundred newspaper columnists, TV outdoor show hosts and any other outdoor-oriented PR/scribe that wanted to be included in the department’s publication list. The weekly news release, together with writing and editing would surely qualify me. On top of that, I wrote copy for virtually all of our magazine’s content and edited department biological papers. And yes...I hunted and fished throughout Washington, accompanied game wardens and biologists...all job-oriented by necessity, of course!



Full of hope, I sent my resume and letter of intent off to OWAA Headquarters. About a week later I received a rather terse and very rude reply, that essentially informed me this August group of self-anointed wordsmiths “did not accept fish and wildlife public information officer ‘hacks,’ as they did not conform to the lofty ideals of OWAA.”

I was incensed and promptly called both Enos Bradner and Howard Grey. Enos was the dean of newspaper outdoor columnists in the Northwest. Howard was a past-president of OWAA and the Northwest’s best-known outdoor, video documentary producer. Both were my friends and had initially recommended me to OWAA. They sympathized with me, but had no suggestions where to proceed next.

I did! I reviewed the outlines for OWAA and “surprise,” the OWAA requirements of a newspaper outdoor columnist for membership, were to publish one column fifty-two weeks a year.

## THE BIRTH OF NOWA (continued)

I had an outstanding newspaper clipping service, which I instructed to provide me with clips of anything that mentioned “fish, game, hunting, environment, department personnel,” and a host of other key words associated with fishing and hunting and the department in general. That was in the days of pre-Internet and the digital world, which has since led to the demise of some dailies. But then the clippings were a vital clue as to what the general public perceived of the outdoor world, and my agency in particular.

On closer inspection, and to my not great surprise, I read all the outdoor news scribe’s columns more closely and found a great many just plain plagiarized my weekly news release. Just reprinted my words verbatim, under their byline. Easy for them to fulfill OWAA requirements, with no effort on their part. To put salt into my wounds, I knew these phony types were getting paid by their paper to do something they had to expend absolutely no effort on their part. The rest of these so-called “wildlife experts” just reworded my releases ever so slightly. A few who had a Monday afternoon deadline, would at least call me at work for more detailed information, while I was busy cranking out the weekend’s outdoor news summary. I had instructions to all ten of our regions to send me a Sunday night telegram (Internet, where were you?) summarizing the weekend’s hunting and fishing activities in their particular area of the state.

I went through a month’s worth of newspaper columns, pulled those which quoted my news releases verbatim, collected and stapled them to my appropriate news release. I also included those ardent scribes, who at least had the decency to paraphrase or reword my releases, but still they used the basic information to wrap their “own words” around my prose. I also photocopied everything for myself, Enos and Howard. Guilty parties shall go un-named, as some are still alive.

Thus armed, I sent another letter and membership application, together with the huge packet of news clips and proof of bogus columns from “well-known” outdoor scribes, off to OWAA headquarters. Enos and Howard got a likewise mailing.

Guess what? In the time it took for I suppose Enos and Howard to make phone calls, and my rather caustic package to arrive at OWAA, I received a nice note of apology from headquarters and membership credentials. Word of my endeavors reached my compatriots in Oregon, Idaho and BC fish and wildlife. I was grateful even more when I started getting feedback from PIOs in fish and wildlife agencies across the country. OWAA was now accepting we lowly wildlife agency PIOs.

## THE BIRTH OF NOWA (continued)

Now that I was a full-fledged OWAA member, I made sure I would attend the next national meeting that occurred in the Northwest. The department brass approved my expenses and I shortly arrived at the next OWAA conclave. I was totally blown away at the hypocrisy in virtually everyone I talked to. Here were all these fully self-blown-up “outdoor journalists” touting themselves at every venue of the meeting. I ran into several newly-accepted fellow PIOs from across the country, and we all had the same opinion. Most of these puffed-up types strode about self-aggrandizing, all dressed out in the latest duds they conned out of L.L. Bean, Eddie Bauer, Pendleton, Columbia Sportswear, or Cabela’s, etc... We agency PIOs all agreed that many of them were the biggest phonies we had ever had the displeasure of meeting “up close and personal.”

Back home once again, I got on the phone with Enos, Howard and a number of other Northwest outdoor journalists. We all agreed that a Northwest regional writer’s organization was needed. This would include Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Alaska and Montana. Plus, differing from OWAA, we would also include our brethren in British Columbia and Alberta.

So, in 1973 the Northwest Outdoor Writer’s Association (NOWA) was born in a Seattle meeting. I wasn’t present, as my boss had me babysitting some VIP politico the department deemed necessary for me to massage with a fishing trip. I didn’t get my name on the incorporation papers, so I was not listed as a “founding member.” That oversight did not sit well with me, but later corrected, as it was I who instigated the whole idea of a NOWA. I was eventually listed as a founding and life member, and as such am to this day. I subsequently resigned from OWAA. I’m 82 years old now, enjoying the sun and laid-back lifestyle in Costa Rica. Alas, time goes by and Ron Kerr, Frank Amato and I are the only living “Life Members.”

NOWA now has a flourishing membership with a monthly “Field Notes” newsletter incorporating writings from scribes all over the vast Northwest. I’m semi-retired and it’s been a while since I’ve had anything published. I’ve led a non-typical life. I was a WW2 POW as a child, shot at by bad guys, lead the first sport fishermen into Mongolia for taimen salmon, shot 700+ doves (legally) in one day in Columbia, almost died in a sand trap fly fishing for Arctic grayling, photographed an Asian brown bear, elk and a wolverine within a half hour of each other along the Russian border, toured much of Alaska with a truly adventurous bush pilot, and enjoyed other exotic adventures detailed in yet unpublished memoirs.

***\*Note – This is the opinion of Tom Knight, and does not reflect the official opinion of NOWA towards OWAA and its members. – John Kruse (member of both NOWA and OWAA)***

## **NOWA FIELD NOTES – JANUARY 2023**

### **NOWA NEWS**

## **EIC CONTEST ENTRIES ARE DUE BY FEBRUARY 15<sup>TH</sup>!**

A reminder that entries are being accepted for our annual Excellence in Craft contest for work published between January 1<sup>st</sup> and December 31<sup>st</sup> of 2022. Dave Kilhefner has graciously agreed to again be the coordinator for the contest. Each entry will cost you \$8 but winning payouts are \$75 for first place, \$50 for second place and \$25 for third. **You also have to pay your annual membership dues prior to entering the contest.**

The categories you can enter are:

#### **Category 1: Column of the Year**

Submit three columns from any one publication from any written media (excluding books).

#### **Category 2: Fishing Article**

Story on any and all aspects of fishing. Must be predominantly fishing, not highlighting travel or destination

2A: fishing – newspaper

2B: fishing – magazine/newsletter

2C: fishing – web only/blog

#### **Category 3: Hunting/Shooting Article**

Story on any and all aspects of hunting/shooting. Must be predominantly hunting/shooting, not highlighting travel or destination.

3A hunting/shooting – newspaper

3B: hunting/shooting – magazine/newsletter

3C: hunting/shooting – Web only/blog

#### **Category 4: Travel, Camping or Recreation Article**

Story on any outdoor subjects including backpacking, are these, canoeing, general boating, backcountry skiing, snowshoeing, dog sledding, mountaineering, boating, hiking, biking, or similar outdoor travel adventure.

4A: travel/camping/recreation – newspaper

4B: travel/camping/recreation – magazine/newsletter

4C: travel/camping/recreation – Web only/blog

#### **Category 5: Managing Our World**

Article from any written media on park, wildlife, land use, fisheries, oceans, water and environmental concerns, plants, management, education, ethics, and use.

## **THE EIC CONTEST (continued)**

### **Category 6: Photography/Artwork**

This category includes photographs as well as artwork used to illustrate any outdoor subject in any media. Photo/artwork must have been published. By entering work in Category 6 the entrant is granting NOWA one-time use of winning photos in the NOWA newsletter and Website.

6A: People – subject is any human in an outdoor setting or engaged in outdoor recreation.

6B: Fauna – subject is any living creature in an outdoor setting.

6C: Outdoors – subject is a non-living subject; plant, tree or landscape in an outdoor setting.

### **Category 7: Books**

7A: Book – Print

7B: Book – E-Book

### **Category 8: Humor** on any outdoor subject in any medium

### **Category 9: Video**

On any outdoor topic; Television/Video/Web

### **Category 10: Audio**

On any outdoor topic; Radio/Podcast/Web

### **Category 11: All Other Media and Apps**

This is our “catch all” category. If it’s outdoors related and doesn’t fit Category’s 1-10, submit it under Category 11.

You can find out more details at <https://nowaoutdoors.com/nowa-eic-contest/> and if you have any questions contact Dave Kilhefner by email at [Dave@kbi-ins.com](mailto:Dave@kbi-ins.com)

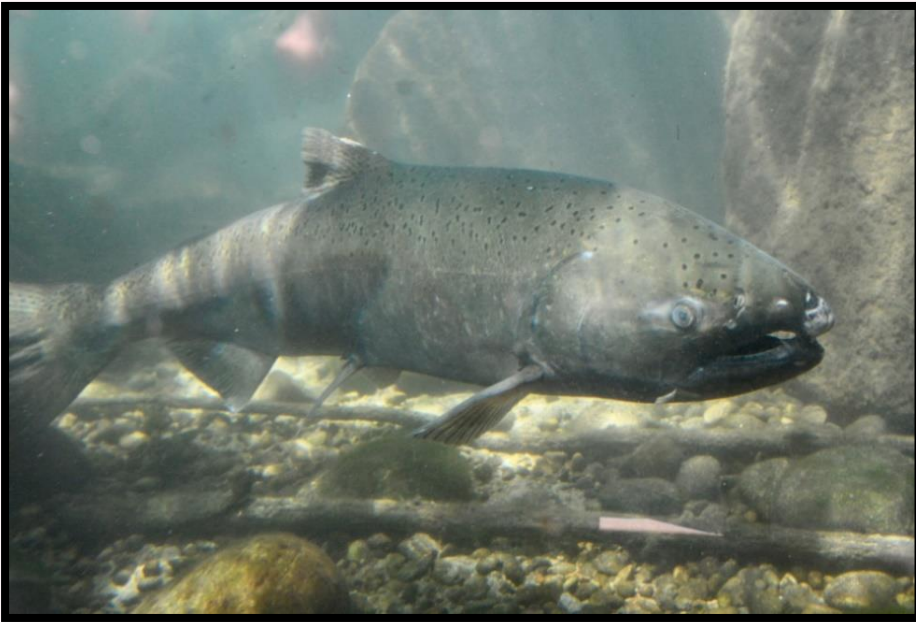
**HAPPY NEW YEAR! DON'T FORGET  
TO RENEW YOUR NOWA  
MEMBERSHIP!**

**NOWA NEWS**

**SALMON RECOVERY: FROM THE CITIZENS UP**

By Mike Denny

For the Northwest Outdoors Writers Association



Starting in the late-1980s as different salmon runs started to be considered for Threatened and Endangered Species status all kinds of folks began to have some serious discussions on the future of these northwest native fish species that so many people, ecological systems and wildlife depended on for their futures. Folks like sports and commercial fishermen, Northwest Native

tribes, State and Federal Biologists, Irrigators, Farmers, Conservationists and Western States along with the US Army Corps of Engineers, US Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries and many politicians were all searching for a way to save these very valuable fish species that were now in sharp decline. It became a hot and heated issue as people strived and worked on options to understand and comprehend the complexity of this huge issue.

By the early 1990s salmon run after salmon run ended up on the Federally Endangered species lists which restricted catches, water use and caused a lot of anger in many quarters. All kinds of proposals were made to save these salmon runs, from a moratorium on salmon fishing to cutting out gill netting, restricting marine territorial waters commercial

## **SALMON RECOVERY (continued)**

limits, knocking out the dams on the Columbia River watershed to just let the salmon populations vanish. By the 1990s there were numerous court cases being fought by all sides.

From out of this fog of battle stepped some forward-thinking folks that realized that what was happening was not working in any way to save the salmon and that the fish would be gone by the time all this litigation was over. Led by William Ruckelshaus and Norm Dicks a group comprised of fishing interests, tribes, conservationists, timber interests, State and Federal natural resource agencies all decided that in order to work out an agreement and save the remnants of the salmon runs from extinction they had to work together and the whole effort had to be from the bottom up, from the people, the citizens. So, in 2001 plans were set in motion to establish seven salmon recovery funding boards across the State of Washington with one being a separate entity, that is the Puget Sound recovery board.

In 2002 the Snake River Salmon Recovery Board was established across Walla Walla, Columbia, Garfield, Whitman and Asotin Counties with its sole mission to enhance and work together in creating and restoring the salmon runs in the rivers and streams of the northern Blue Mountains within the Columbia/Snake River watershed. The Snake River Salmon Recovery Board is made up of two citizen volunteer representatives from each county, one county commissioner from each county. There is a close working relationship with the native tribes with this board because of the 1855 treaty that set this region as part of their ceded lands. Salmon are part of who these native people are as well as part of their spiritual beliefs.

The voting members make decisions based on evidence from scientific discovery and established data. There is a paid Executive Director and two support staff that provide data, reports and review grant proposals along with members of the board that select and review project proposals on paper and on site. There is a separate group known as the “Lead Entity”. This group’s responsibility is to review and make improvements to proposed habitat enhancement projects submitted by County Conservation Districts, fishery enhancement groups and other 501 c 3s. A rotating chairman from the board runs the monthly meetings which are open to the public. There are good healthy discussions on

## **SALMON RECOVERY (continued)**

project choices based on what the most recent data suggests to be the best-informed options and best understood science. This board works hard to fulfill all the responsibilities they have taken on to strive for healthy, sustainable salmon populations in the Snake River system. Each of these seven recovery boards are citizen managed and directed.

The funding for these boards is both State and Federal funding from several different sources. The local Snake River Salmon Recovery Board is funded to the tune of 2.4 million annually. A large portion of these funds go to restore streams and rivers in the basins such as the Tucannon, Grand Ronde, Palouse, Walla Walla and Mill Creek to name a few. This local board strives to select those project proposals that will provide the greatest good for the future of salmon in this region.

\*Photos courtesy Idaho Department of Fish and Game



## **NOWA NEWS –WINTER SHOW CALENDAR**



Looking for story ideas and subjects to interview this winter? Sportsman’s shows and other shows offer a great opportunity to find multiple people and topics to cover in one place. Here’s a look at our region’s 2023 show calendar for the next two months:

Photo courtesy O’Loughlin Trade Shows

JAN 11 - 15	PORTLAND BOAT SHOW	Portland Expo Center
JAN 19 – 22	TACOMA RV SHOW	Tacoma Dome
JAN 20 – 22	GREAT ROCKIES SPORT SHOW	Billings Metrapark
JAN 27 – 29	TRI-CITIES SPORTSMEN’S SHOW	Hapo Center, Pasco
FEB 01 – 05	WASHINGTON SPORTSMEN’S SHOW	Puyallup Fairground
FEB 03 – 05	EUGENE BOAT & SPORTSMEN’S SHOW	Convention Center
FEB 10 – 12	ROSEBURG SPORTSMEN’S SHOW	County Fairground
FEB 15 – 19	PACIFIC NORTHWEST SPORTSMEN’S SHOW	Portland Expo Center
FEB 16 – 19	SEATTLE RV SHOW	Lumen Field
FEB 24 – 26	CENTRAL WASHINGTON SPORTSMEN’S SHOW	Yakima Sun Dome
FEB 24 – 26	MEDFORD SPORTSMEN’S SHOW	County Fairground
FEB 25 – 26	SALTWATER SPORTSMEN’S SHOW	State Fairgrounds, Salem

**PHOTO GALLERY – YELLOWSTONE IN WINTER**



Gordon Bloomquist shared these photos he took of mud pots and thermal features during a winter-time visit to Yellowstone National Park.



**FINAL SHOT**



George Krumm went to Montana this past November to go deer hunting. George said the hunt was difficult but he did harvest a nice buck. In addition to that he also captured this very nice photo as the sun set at the end of the day in the area he was hunting.

Here's hoping each of you as NOWA members has a great 2023 full of not only success in the field and on the water, but also full of gorgeous sunrises and sunsets - JK