



# Washington Wildlife Federation Wildlife News

January - March 2010.....*Advocacy for fish and wildlife conservation and outdoor recreation.....*

**WWF Mission:** *To preserve, enhance, and perpetuate Washington's fish, wildlife and habitat through education and conservation programs.*

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affiliate of the  
National Wildlife Federation



[www.nwf.org](http://www.nwf.org)



## President's Perspective: Copenhagen

*Mark Quinn  
WWF President*

When you mention Copenhagen, some people still think about tobacco. Others realize the international climate talks were held there just before Christmas. Those of us who were hoping for a break through climate change agreement between the 160 nations gathered there were likely disappointed. Seeing that President Obama was only going to be there for a day, I was ready to write off U.S. leadership on climate change. Fortunately, when the President did show up he went straight to work and did manage to hammer out an agreement (it is non-binding) between the largest developing and developed nations. Although less than all of us had hoped, it was better than what was forecasted as the meeting was drawing to a close. Perhaps the most impressive aspect of the meeting was the 100,000 citizens who showed up to advocate for a binding agreement between nations to begin the process of reducing global greenhouse emissions.

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## HUNTING ETHICS AND OUR YOUTH

*By John McGlenn, WWF Board Member and Master Hunter*

The behavior of hunters, as seen by the general public, is a major factor in the picture of hunting in America. Bad behavior will result in legislation unfavorable to hunters and steer parents and youth away from hunting as a beneficial and honorable activity.

So what is needed to bolster the image of hunters?

- Responsible individuals who know and care about hunting need to be active, vocal and visible in their communities and see that young people are properly exposed to hunting.

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Washington Outdoor Women presents its  
2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Introduction To Waterfowling  
March 27<sup>th</sup> 2010



## Introduction To Waterfowling

Pull on those boots or waders and head out into the field with us for a hands-on Introduction to Waterfowling! WOW is once again partnering with Ducks Unlimited (DU) to offer this popular one-day workshop. By the end of the day, you'll be familiar with the history of waterfowling, its techniques, its ethics and conservation efforts. WOW instructors and Ducks Unlimited staff will help you with shotgun patterning and shooting moving clays, setting duck decoys, calling, the use of blinds, and understanding (by seeing) why a retriever is such an important partner in this hunting experience. This is a hands-on, active day, conducted in duck hunting terrain. It requires lots of walking and potentially challenging wading situations so knee high rubber boots, hip boots or chest waders are a must for the ponds and blinds.

Registration is \$85. The fee includes all instruction, equipment, shotguns, ammunition, clays, a light breakfast and hearty lunch and a WOW shirt. The workshop takes place on a private hunt club in the Snohomish Valley, near Monroe. You must be 18 to participate.

For a registration form, log onto [www.washingtonoutdoorwomen.org](http://www.washingtonoutdoorwomen.org)

WOW's 2010 Annual Weekend Workshop will be held September 17-19<sup>th</sup> at River Ranch in Carnation. Registration for that event opens June 1<sup>st</sup>. WOW's Shotgun Workshop will be held in May or June at the Tacoma Sportsmen's Club in Puyallup. Check the website for further details.



**WASHINGTON OUTDOOR WOMEN**  
*Teaching Women Outdoor Skills since 1998*  
*Matching Potential with Opportunity*

# Siting Strategies for Western Renewable Energy Projects

*By Mark Heckert, NWF and WWF Board Member*

The need to switch from fossil fuels to renewable sources of energy, such as wind and solar, is essential to protect our wildlife and western ecosystems from global warming. As society moves to make the necessary transition, new challenges are posed for wildlife through the siting of these renewable energy developments and their energy transmission corridors. The information needed to minimize these threats is also closely associated with challenges facing wildlife to adapt to climate change. The Western Governors Association Wildlife Council is examining ways to meet these challenges by taking measures that minimize adverse impacts to wildlife. The information needed to do this is termed a Decision Support System (DDS).

Last year, The Western Governors Association (WGA) appointed a Wildlife Council to advise and coordinate the efforts of the states to identify the most important wildlife habitats so that new energy transmission corridors could be routed appropriately. The WGA applied for a grant from the Department of Energy to fund this effort. Montana's Governor Brian Schweitzer is the current Chair of the WGA and enthusiastically endorsed this project at the meeting of the WGA's Wildlife Council in Helena last October. At this meeting, Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks presented their efforts to assemble data on critically important wildlife habitats into a database that will, ultimately, be available to help direct Montana development decisions, including energy transmission corridors, away from the most sensitive wildlife habitats. Montana's effort is designed to make habitat protection proactive and helpful for siting renewable energy developments away from crucial wildlife habitat areas. At the Wildlife Council meeting, other western states presented pilot projects about how to accomplish these objectives within 6-12 months of receiving funding from the DOE grant.

A white paper prepared by the Wildlife Council provides definitions and guidelines for Wildlife Decision Support systems, and descriptions of each state's pilot projects are available at the Council's website:

[www.westgov.org/wga/initiatives/corridors/index.htm](http://www.westgov.org/wga/initiatives/corridors/index.htm)

In association with this meeting of the Wildlife Council, the National Wildlife Federation organized a workshop to better inform partners in the west about this effort, to help direct the Council's efforts toward the most productive directions, and to find

ways the conservation community could assist the Wildlife Council in its efforts. This was accomplished by two half-day meetings held at the Montana Wildlife Federation's offices before and after the Wildlife Council's meeting. These meetings were attended by about 45 participants, representing many of the groups working on wildlife adaptation solutions to climate change, such as corridors, linkage zones, and protection of critical habitats. Representatives from NWF affiliates in Oregon, Washington, Wyoming, Arizona, New Mexico, and Montana attended this workshop and described the efforts of their organizations to protect key habitats for wildlife as we work toward solutions to climate change.



**California Wind Farm – Photo by USFWS**

- The organized hunting community – Federal, State, Hunter/Conservation groups and businesses - needs to convey compelling messages regarding our resources, the role of hunters in conservation, and the need for hunters to know and exhibit safe and considerate behavior at all times.

Much of a child's character and intellectual capacity are formed by the time they reach the 1<sup>st</sup> grade. I am a believer in kids hunting at a young age, as long as they are carefully watched and mentored by a knowledgeable adult. This produces good citizens and ethical hunters. Our daughter and two sons had their licenses and started hunting when they were 9 or 10. Now our daughter's 8 year-old daughter wants to attend Hunters Education.

We all know that safe and considerate behavior is not universal among our citizenry. Look at the drivers who drive well above the speed limit, dart in and out of traffic, and crowd into exit lanes at the last minute. These are not the types we want in the field with loaded firearms or participating in depredation hunts in populated areas. They would ignore basic safety and courtesy and violate regulations if they thought they could get away with it.

This country is not ready for the German system where only those who have completed rigorous training and passed extensive testing are allowed the privilege of hunting. But we should be looking for a more reliable

means of ensuring that licensed hunters do hunt safely, ethically and courteously. The Hunters Education Class is not enough to make a polished ethical and safe hunter. It takes extensive training, reminding, and practicing during years of skill development, historically provided by parents in a rural society. We have to find new ways of keeping the standards high and passing them on to new hunters.

There is a program in Washington that is certainly a move in the right direction. It is the Master Hunter Program, organized and run by the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

To become a Master Hunter one must: (1) complete a



**Hunting Dad coaching his daughter**

study program and pass an exam covering a broad spectrum of hunting and ethics issues, (2) show proficiency with firearms or archery, (3) do community service, (4) attend a CORT class (Crime Observation and Reporting Training), (5) sign the Master Hunter Code of Ethics Agreement, and (6) pass a background investigation. This program, while holding promise for retaining the traditions and ethics of hunting, could benefit from more rigor and publicity.

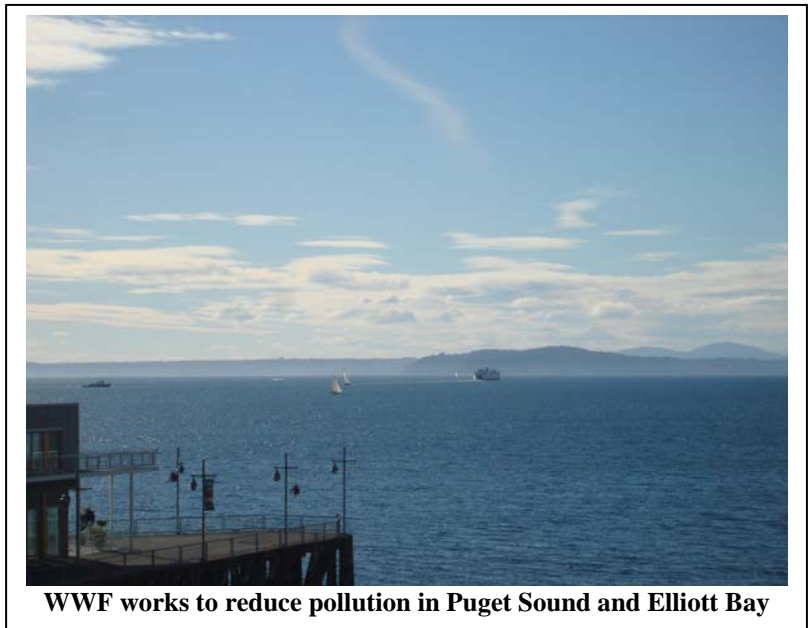
The Master Hunter Program should evolve so there is more required to become and remain a Master Hunter. There should be more recognition for community service, teaching and mentoring aspiring young hunters, and taking pride in setting a good example for hunters at large. Also the community needs to hear stories of hunts that are done in the proper manner and of private land owners opening their lands to responsible hunters.

As with any complex technical and social process, there is no "silver bullet." It will take concerted effort by many individuals and collaboration between many organizations to ensure a strong and enlightened future for hunting. The Washington Wildlife Federation is discussing an outdoor skills program for youth, fashioned in the style of our Washington Outdoor Women program. *We'd like to hear your thoughts on the subject...*

For people who are skeptical about the science of climate change, not only is it occurring, but it is occurring faster than earlier science had projected. They should consider that doing something about man-made climate change is really about addressing energy and our use of fossil fuels. I was encouraged to hear President Obama identify energy and climate change in his State of the Union address on January 27th. Although he recognizes the public's declining interest in addressing climate change, he accurately pointed out that the underlying problem is energy. We must move forward developing clean energy in the US or watch as China and other countries do it for us and reap the economic benefits at our expense.

Now is the perfect time for a divided Congress to do something that is bipartisan and enormously relevant. They can pass an energy bill that stimulates the economy, reduces pollution, and increases national security. Hold your national leaders accountable and challenge them to work on a solution to a problem that we've known about for over 40 years but have done little to solve - reducing our dependence on fossil fuels.

At a local level, the recession and loss of state revenue will impact natural resource management and almost every other aspect of state government. Just how those cuts will occur is still being decided by the legislature, but WWF is advocating, along with many others, on three environmental priorities this session. The first priority is what is known as the Safe Baby Bottle Act, which phases out BPA in baby bottles, food and beverage cans, and other consumer products. More and more evidence shows that the chemical bisphenol A (BPA) is harmful to children's health. Laboratory studies have linked BPA to cancer, miscarriage, obesity, reproductive problems, and hyperactivity. Yet, manufacturers can still legally use BPA in products such as baby bottles, infant formula cans, and other food containers.



**WWF works to reduce pollution in Puget Sound and Elliott Bay**

The second priority is working for clean water and supporting legislation that addresses storm water runoff and raises additional revenue to fight oil-caused pollution in the state waterways like Puget Sound and the Spokane River. At this point, the only likely legislation this year appears to be an increase in the existing hazardous substances tax that is mostly paid by the 5 oil companies that sell oil and gas products in the state. If it were to pass, the public would see the impact at the pump.

The third priority is to sustain core environmental protections and not let them be eroded by looming budget cuts. They have already been severely reduced by recent cuts and we cannot afford to lose these core programs that protect our air, drinking water, wildlife habitat and other natural resources.

Don't be afraid to call your local legislator and ask them what they're doing to protect Washington's natural resources. If they can't give you a good answer, you may want to reconsider who you vote for next time around.

# TEAMING WITH WILDLIFE (TWW) UPDATE

## Post-Copenhagen, Congress is Back in the “Hot” Seat

The global climate talks in Copenhagen have laid the groundwork for a climate bill to move in Congress this year. The US Senate plans to push a clean energy jobs and climate bill this spring. Senator Maria Cantwell remains actively involved in Senate climate negotiations and recently introduced her own climate bill. As she remains the focus of our efforts to secure dedicated state wildlife funding in a final senate climate bill, WWF joined 14 other Washington-based groups on January 19, in a sign-on letter urging the Senator to co-sponsor the Natural Resources Climate Adaptation Act of 2009 (S.1933). Introduced by Sens. Jeff Bingaman (D-NM), Max Baucus (D-MT), and Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), S. 1933 is a “standalone” bill that calls for safeguarding natural resources from climate change with dedicated funding. By co-sponsoring S. 1933, senators have an opportunity to show their support for safeguarding natural resources while they work toward an agreement on other components of the more comprehensive climate bill. We hope Senator Cantwell will co-sponsor S. 1933 to expand her support for wildlife adaptation funding.

## Washington Coalitions are Teaming Up for Wildlife!

Teaming With Wildlife (TWW) is joining forces with the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition (WWRC) to ensure a future for Washington State’s fish and wildlife and their habitat. In this effort, we will be extending TWW’s reach on state-level wildlife conservation program funding and policy which further TWW’s goals here in Washington, like the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program. And WWRC members will help us secure dedicated federal funding for state wildlife conservation. We will be working together to establish the joint Wildlife WA Listserv which will become a critical tool in sharing information and action items important to you. Stay tuned for more info on this powerful new partnership soon!

In the meantime, please continue to spread the word to conservation-minded groups and businesses and urge them to endorse TWW at <http://www.teaming.com/action>.



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***YOU CAN RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP ONLINE AT:***

**[www.washingtonwildlife.org](http://www.washingtonwildlife.org)**

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