



On the Wings of Eagles

October, 2000

NEW RESEARCHERS AND PROJECTS TOP LIST FOR 2001

The American Bald Eagle Foundation has begun the new millennium by establishing some new associations to bolster our research and education programs. As mentioned in our July newsletter, founder Dave Olerud and national trustee Ed Shirley, met with a number of organizations across the USA this summer to form new alliances. In November, Douglas Grann, president and CEO of Wildlife Forever, will be visiting ABEF headquarters in Haines, Alaska to attend the annual ABEF National Trustees meeting. It is our goal to finalize programs discussed this summer in which "Wildlife Forever" and the ABEF will jointly support research projects in conjunction with the University of Minnesota Raptor Center and the Bird TLC in Anchorage, Alaska.

In more specific areas of research, the ABEF has selected two dedicated research biologists working in Yukon Territory, Canada to receive ABEF financial support. Rick Farnell, a long time friend of the ABEF research program, has been selected for his research work on caribou and early man in the areas north of the Chilkat Valley and the Tatshenshini wilderness. He has already made some astonishing findings related to food gathering techniques of early man, especially in the areas of weapons and tools that were used. Rick's work is on a very time restricted schedule however due to the fact that the snowpatches where these discoveries were made are fast disappearing. It is unlikely that these snowpatches will survive more than 3-4 more years at their current rate of melting. Beneath these snowpatches are literally thousands of years old caribou dung along with items used by early man to harvest these animals. During this year's Alaska Bald Eagle Festival, Rick will be making a presentation and sharing the results of his research with those in attendance. We look forward to working with Rick over the next two years.

Bob Hayes is the second biologist the ABEF will assist financially. It is no coincidence that we have also selected Bob, another Yukon biologist. His research is in the area of wolf predation on moose and caribou in the area of Aishihik, near Haines Junction. Bob is also studying how wolves recover from wolf control; for the last 8 years he has concentrated on comparing lethal and non-lethal methods of wolf control. His current research project is comparing the responses of moose and caribou calf survival between the territories of wolf pairs who are controlled non-lethally, i.e., fertility control with no pups, and that of larger wolf packs without fertility control. Bob believes we need to find new ways of providing subsistence harvest of wildlife that is complimentary with long term conservation and habitat protection. Furthermore, methods other than aerial killing need to be explored.

Director's Corner

by
Dan Hart

With the year 2000 season about to end, we must now reflect on what we have accomplished during the last 270 or so days. The first thing that comes to mind is a question we must ask ourselves every single year; Did we successfully complete our primary mission for the year 2000? I am happy to report the answer is emphatically YES! As of September 30, over 43,000 visitors have come to the ABEF and heard our presentation about the "web of life," and how each and every living thing fulfills its obligation to preserve life on planet earth. Whether predator or prey, animal or plant, all living things are intimately interconnected by the simple fact that life can only be created from pre-existing life. We shared this wonderful story with each of our visitors and to no one's surprise, all were truly amazed at the clear and concise manner in which our founder, Dave Olerud, was able to convey this very complex story. Based on the direct feedback we received the great majority left the museum with a new understanding of nature's plan. Our next major accomplishment was to increase ABEF membership; once again we were blessed with the largest membership increase in our

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