

**The Wildlife Society – Wyoming Chapter
Strategic Plan 2011-2014
April 1, 2011**

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Purpose and Intent

The Wyoming Chapter of The Wildlife Society (Chapter) recognizes that our profession is growing increasingly diverse (e.g., membership needs, issues, opportunities, etc.) and as such the Chapter believes it has an obligation to represent and serve the professional community of scientists, managers, educators, and planners who manage and conserve wildlife and their habitats in Wyoming. This document is intended to guide operations of the Chapter by identifying opportunities to address needs of the Chapter and its membership to enhance wildlife conservation opportunities in the State. Implementation of this plan will improve the Chapter's ability to focus its resources (e.g., board, membership, assets, etc.) to become not only a voice for the wildlife professional, but a leader in wildlife conservation.

Our Vision

The Chapter seeks a state where people and wildlife co-exist, where biological diversity is maintained, and decisions affecting the management, use, and conservation of wildlife and their habitats are made after careful consideration of relevant scientific information and with the engagement and support of an informed and caring citizenry.

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Five programmatic objectives have been identified that reflect the Chapter's vision and the purpose and intent of this plan. Each of these objectives identifies specific strategies that must be addressed by the Chapter to attain desired outcomes.

Objective I: Identify, support, and promote the Chapter's role as the scientific voice concerning conservation of wildlife and their habitats in Wyoming.

Strategies:

- (1) Pursue opportunities to increase credibility of the Chapter.
- (2) Review and comment on important wildlife issues in Wyoming via multiple forums.
- (3) Increase visibility of the Chapter by promoting issues to the Central Mountain and Plains Section (CMPS) and The Wildlife Society whenever possible.
- (4) Pursue opportunities to engage political decision makers in Wyoming.

Objective II: Identify, support, and promote the Chapter's role in the context of all levels of The Wildlife Society.

Strategies:

- (1) Improve links between the Chapter and the University of Wyoming Student Chapter by identifying opportunities for collaboration where both subunits benefit.
- (2) Identify opportunities to support and enhance CMPS and The Wildlife Society programs that benefit the Chapter's membership.
- (3) Improve outreach efforts (e.g., newsletter, website, etc.) for information dissemination to the Chapter's membership and other levels within The Wildlife Society.

Objective III: Facilitate, support, and promote opportunities to development young professionals and future leaders in the wildlife profession

Strategies:

- (1) Develop a Chapter mentoring forum to benefit students, young professionals, and new Wyoming professionals.
- (2) Pursue opportunities to support existing professional development programs (e.g., The Wildlife Society's Leadership Institute).
- (3) Identify opportunities to host or co-host conferences on topics and issues relevant to Wyoming wildlife professionals.
- (4) Develop a Chapter internship or fellowship program to benefit students or recent graduates in Wyoming.

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Objective IV: Identify, support, and promote opportunities to increase and diversify membership and member involvement (e.g., Board and committee participation) within the Chapter.

Strategies:

- (1) Pursue opportunities to recruit professionals currently not members of the Chapter.
- (2) Seek to engage and activate the Chapter's membership (e.g., voting, review, delegation, etc.)
- (3) Pursue opportunities to maintain membership involvement on boards of CMPS and The Wildlife Society.

Objective V: Identify, support, and promote opportunities to increase and diversify finances of the Chapter to secure its financial future.

Strategies:

- (1) Develop a Fiscal Procedures Manual to provide guidance and maintain continuity for the Treasurer and future board members. The Manual should be comprehensive and include all fiscal topics that relate to the operation of the Chapter such as, Annual Budget Proposal Development and Approval, tax reporting, account management, financial institution information and contacts, signatories, safety nets (i.e., reserves or minimum account balances), audit schedule and process, etc. The Manual should be updated as needed and each board member should be provided a copy at the start of their term.
- (2) Develop a Finance Committee to advise and provide recommendations to the Board for investing and diversifying the Chapters finances.
- (3) Actively pursue opportunities to generate revenue for the Chapter.
- (4) Actively pursue investment opportunities for existing funds to maximize their yield.