



NEWS

2015 Montana Chapter Meeting
**Wildlife Disease
Challenges for Research and
Management in the 21st Century**

February 23rd – 27th
Helena
Red Lion Inn

See page 2 for more details...

Message from the President

Two and a half grand: the amount of money the chapter paid to send me to the TWS conference this year in Pittsburgh, PA.

One hundred hours: the amount of time I spent during that week on preparing for, attending, and documenting the conference.

Priceless: the value I hope to convey that this expense is worth to the chapter (and myself).

Kristina Boyd



If you feel that the parent society has no bearing on MT chapter business or your professional and (because the two are inextricably linked) personal life here in Montana, I aim to convince you otherwise.

Leadership: Montana is well-represented in the larger TWS leadership, and our connection is growing stronger. Jonathan Haufler and Paul Krausman are recent TWS Past-Presidents. Julie Cunningham (a MT Chapter Past-President) is a Leadership Institute (LI) Alumna and President-Elect of the Northwest Section. Sonja Smith (MT Chapter Treasurer) was an LI Scholar this year. I am an LI alumna, founded the Early Career Professional Working Group, and am serving on the Editorial Advisory Board of The Wildlife Professional. Other LI alumni who have served the Chapter or are in Montana include Whisper Means (a MT Chapter Past-President), Shawn Cleveland (a MT Chapter Past-President), and Jami Belt (all-around Rock Star – see p.8). Leadership involvement in TWS, or anywhere, should be built on a desire to effect positive momentum in our lives and the lives of our colleagues. This is what our leadership in MT is working toward, from a strategic international scale down to the scale of individual professional/personal satisfaction. Inspired? Leap into the deep end with us!

Collaboration: Communication is a hard thing to get right, and movement toward better collaboration between all TWS subunits has been substantial over the past two conferences. Specific meetings to facilitate communication and collaboration were held for Sections and Chapters, Working Groups, and Conservation Affairs Committees. All of this will mean a higher level of functionality within our Chapter and Section as this network strengthens. Already, we are seeing support from other subunits on conference organization, strategic planning, policy engagement, and the special interests of TWS working groups. The parent society now has almost 30 working groups, and all of them require an active membership to be effective. Please, take a look at them and see if there's one that intrigues you (<http://wildlife.org/network/tws-local/working-groups>). Get involved (or stay involved) and bring that energy back to our Chapter for the enrichment of our local membership.

Diversity: What can I say? We don't do enough to celebrate our diversity and make it an institutional commitment, and our parent society agrees. Not only do we need to do better at communicating with the public, but we need to make some quantum leaps in communicating within ourselves. Tell your stories: to your employee, your boss, your co-worker. Ask for their stories: listen well. Make time to communicate with and support your professional family. And take the risk of including those who may not fit the mold. Building our creativity, utilizing unique perspectives, and incorporating interdisciplinary approaches to wildlife management is key to our future. This will be one focus of our Chapter as we begin a new strategic planning phase next year. Stay tuned!

Submit your 300 – 800 word story to mttws.president@gmail.com for the spring newsletter

2015 Montana Chapter Annual Meeting

Wildlife Disease: Challenges for Research and Management in the 21st Century
February 23rd – 27th, 2015 at the Red Lion Colonial Hotel in Helena, MT

President Elect

Conference Committee: Contact Brent Lonner, mtws.preselect@gmail.com

A few individuals expressed an interest in helping out at the meeting through the recent MT TWS Annual Conference survey. The survey was anonymous, however, and I did not receive contact emails. Please contact me to reiterate your interest.

Brent Lonner



Hotel Information

Government Rate

\$89/night

Online booking code “MONT0223”

Or call 406-443-2100 *and mention* The Wildlife Society

Non-Government Rate

\$99/night

Online booking code “MCWS0223”

Rates available until January 24th. The legislature will be in session during our meeting so make your reservations early. Other hotels nearby include: Super 8 (406-443-2450), Fairfield Inn and Suites (406-449-9944), and Howard Johnson (406-443-2300).

Abstract/Presentation and Poster Submission (see p.10 for format guidelines)

Presentations on all aspects of wildlife conservation and management are welcome, and university students are encouraged to participate. This year we are actively seeking presentations by wildlife and habitat researchers and managers with a focus on wildlife disease. Special consideration will be given to teams of research and management professionals who present the management need, policy, and application aspects as well as the data collection and analysis aspect of a project. Oral presentations will be scheduled in 20 minute blocks for individuals or 40 minute blocks for teams, which include 5 minutes for questions. Student posters are to be set up Thursday morning. Awards will be presented for best student posters and presentations.

The deadline for abstract submission is December 19, 2014. Electronic submissions are preferred. Please submit your abstracts to me at mtws.preselect@gmail.com or 91 2nd Lane SE, Fairfield MT 59436. Questions? Call Brent at 406-590-1637.

Silent Auction Donations: contact Chris Hammond, mtws.pastpres@gmail.com

Support outstanding wildlife students in our state by donating items to the silent auction. All proceeds go towards the Wynn G. Freeman Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Annual Award Nominations: contact Brendan Moynahan, brendan_moynahan@nps.gov

Please start thinking about nominations for the annual awards.

The deadline for nominations is January 16, 2015. Awards will be presented for the following:

- 1) Distinguished Service Award: For cumulative achievements in wildlife conservation.
- 2) Biologist of the Year Award: For achievements in wildlife conservation during the last five calendar years.
- 3) Bob Watts Communication Award: For significant communication in Montana on Montana wildlife
- 4) Wildlife Conservation Award: For past or current outstanding contributions to the conservation of Montana wildlife habitat or populations demonstrated by a Montana-based individual, group, or organization.

2015 Montana Chapter Annual Meeting (continued...)

Wildlife Disease: Challenges for Research and Management in the 21st Century February 23rd – 27th, 2015 at the Red Lion Colonial Hotel in Helena, MT

Small Grants Proposals (see p.11 for format guidelines): contact Claire Gower, cgower@mt.gov

Through this grant program, our Chapter aims to provide funding for a variety of projects that are consistent with our goals of:

- 1) Developing and maintain a program that facilitates continuing education and professional development of wildlife professionals,
- 2) Promoting sound stewardship of wildlife and their habitats through the application of scientific information,
- 3) Increasing public awareness and appreciation of wildlife, and
- 4) Developing an active and diverse membership and maintain an organization that provides excellent service to members.

Funds are available on an annual basis, generated through annual meeting registration, auctions, and workshop proceeds. The amount of funds available will vary from year to year, depending on the Chapter's program and priorities. Grants typically range between \$100 and \$1,000. Students, wildlife professionals, and nonprofit organizations that are active in wildlife conservation are eligible to apply.

Eligible uses of the funds include supplies, equipment for schools and nonprofit organizations, printing, and communications. Ineligible uses include salaries, stipends, per diem and personal equipment. Please note that grants to students will be awarded through their respective university. The Montana Chapter TWS is not responsible for paying indirect costs.

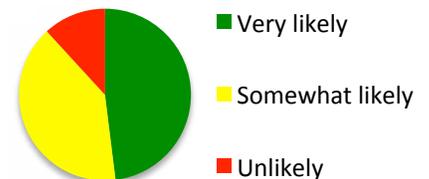
Proposals are due by November 30th, 2014. Grants will be awarded at the annual meeting in February. Questions? Call Claire at 406-994-5953.

2014 Annual Meeting Survey Results

Thanks to all those that completed the survey this fall. The overall response rate was 36% (132 individual responses). There were a total of 20 questions primarily related to obtaining feedback on our annual meeting.

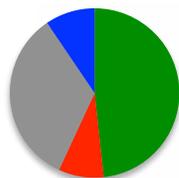
Residence to the west or east of I-15 was split nearly equal in respondents, being 54% and 46% respectively. Almost 90% of respondents indicated they would very likely or somewhat likely attend an annual meeting if it were held in the eastern half of MT. This is important information since our meeting attendance goal is to maintain strong participation with fair representation across the state. These answers appear to support holding an annual meeting in the eastern half of the state sometime in the near future.

I would attend the annual meeting if it were held somewhere in the eastern half of Montana



The timing of the Business Meeting on Thursday morning (7:00 am) works for me

- Yes
- No
- I am not concerned with Chapter business
- What is this "Business Meeting" you speak of?

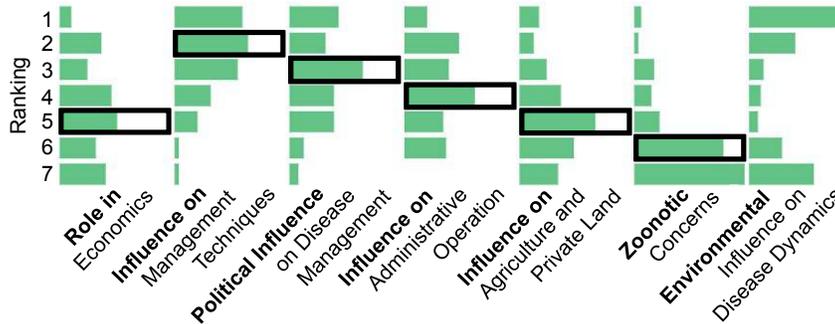


Over 90% of respondents supported the current general schedule and events of the annual meeting. Having said that, we did receive good feedback related to trying to make things that much better. And we identified a need for improvement from a question pertaining to the timing of the business meeting. Over 40% of respondents stated that they either are not concerned with Chapter business or are unaware of what the business meeting even is. The business meeting is traditionally the one time of year when we can meet as a group and discuss matters related to the functionality of our state chapter. There appears to be a clear need to engage and educate members more with respect to what TWS is, who we represent, and how the Chapter functions.

2014 Annual Meeting Survey Results (continued...)

In juxtaposition to this, 95% of respondents either strongly agree or somewhat agree that the Montana Chapter is effectively pursuing its goals and accomplishing its objectives during the annual meeting. So, even though there appears to be a lack of interest related to the business meeting, folks seem to feel that our annual meeting is serving its purpose.

Distributions and medians of importance rankings within disease topics (1=highest, 7=lowest)



Specific to this year's annual conference theme questions (Wildlife Disease related), feedback is already proving to be of significant help with respect to making decisions on plenary session topics and guest speakers. The most popular category of professional interest was the influence of disease on traditional management techniques. The least popular was zoonotic concerns to humans. And there was a marked divide between interest in the

influence of environmental change on disease dynamics. In terms of interest in specific wildlife diseases, the top 5 were: Blue Tongue / Epizootic Hemorrhagic, Chronic Wasting, Brucellosis, White-nose Syndrome, and Pasturella.

About 75% of respondents indicated that they would be interested in attending an optional field trip on the Tuesday before the conference begins. So we will likely be looking into potential options for this year's annual meeting in Helena. If anyone has any ideas please contact Brent Lonner.

If there is any interest in obtaining further information related to the results of this survey, please contact Brent Lonner. Thanks again to all those that responded to the survey.

Board Reports

Education Committee

Terry & Martha Lonner, Steve Gniadek and representatives from the University of Montana's Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society managed a booth at the Montana Education Association Educator's Conference in Missoula on October 16th and 17th. The student chapter reps were: Jenah Mead, Desiree Jorgenson, Leanne Schuh, Sarah Zielke, William Loomis, Ryan Hazen and Erika Swanson. They were very helpful and added a nice touch to our booth.

Our goals at the conference were to:

- 1) Promote the Montana TWS Chapter and the Profession of Wildlife Management, and
- 2) Learn how to connect and/or reconnect students to wildlife through their teachers, school administrators and by conversations with other exhibitors.

This was our second appearance at the annual teacher's convention and our goal of gaining exposure for the Chapter and Montana wildlife among educators was well received. About 2,000 Montana educators from many of the 385 public junior high and high schools, as well as representatives from numerous private schools, attended. There were even a few educators from out-of-country that stopped by our booth (India, Columbia, Russia, West Africa and Kazakhstan). Seventy-nine exhibitors were present, but we had one of the more conspicuous and interesting exhibits in the arena and it generated a lot of interest. The chapter banners, chapter brochures, attractive display posters, continuous showing of the Back from the Brink DVD,



UM Student Chapter reps Jenah Mead and Desiree Jorgenson managing the booth (photo by Terry Lonner).

Board Reports (continued...)

Education Committee

free Back from the Brink posters, an informational handout about the Intermountain Journal of Sciences along with an online computer demonstration of IJS's presence on the internet, and a small handout on the U of M's student chapter Education Outreach Program all combined to attract attention from attendees. Most of the educators that stopped by our booth were interested in **how to contact a local wildlife biologist** as a resource for information and possible guest speaker at their school.



Many educators found our booth interesting and informative (photo by Terry Lonner).

A brief questionnaire was presented to educators with four questions to get their feedback on how the Montana TWS chapter can help them with wildlife education. Ninety-five percent of the educators that filled out this questionnaire indicated they would attend a presentation by the Chapter on Montana's wildlife resources at a future Montana Education Association Annual Convention. Therefore, we will consider giving a presentation at next year's conference instead of having an exhibit. However, **we need more Education Committee members** that are up on current events, issues and techniques in wildlife management and research and are willing to help out at future conferences.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Education Committee, please contact Terry Lonner at tlonner@mediaworksvideomt.com.

Right: A new Montana Chapter banner (design donated by Martha Lonner.)

THE MONTANA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Wildlife Professionals Dedicated to Excellence in Wildlife Conservation and Stewardship

The Montana Chapter of The Wildlife Society was chartered in 1965 by its parent organization - The Wildlife Society (TWS)

- The Wildlife Society was founded in 1937 & is an international, non-profit, scientific & educational association that promotes excellence in wildlife stewardship.
- It serves & represents professional wildlife scientists, managers, educators and others who work actively to conserve wildlife and habitats worldwide.

PRODUCTS & SERVICES -

- Distributes essential, practical & scientific information to assist with wildlife conservation.
- Provides research results, policy information & practical tools in print and electronic formats - see contacts below.
- Supports vibrant professional networks that allow solutions to wildlife conservation challenges.
- Assists with the shaping of public policy in wildlife conservation.

EDUCATION -

- Strongly supports educators to teach students about using a scientific approach in wildlife conservation.
- Promotes wildlife professionals to have at least a college level education in fish & wildlife management or closely related field & become certified through TWS's Certified Wildlife Biologist program.
- Conducts an annual conference for the exchange of information through professional presentations and workshops.

Public Agencies are Responsible for Ensuring the Perpetuity of Montana's Wildlife Species Diversity for Future Generations

Species Category	Number of Species
Big Game	13
Game Birds	12
Game Fish	28
Wildflowers	18
Insects	11
Amphibians	11
Reptiles	11
Mammals	11
Plants	2
Wildlife	279

PHILOSOPHY -

- The Chapter firmly advocates The North American Public Trust Doctrine in Natural Resource Law.
- * This Doctrine establishes a trustee relationship of government to hold & manage wildlife for the benefit of the resources and the public.

For More Information
The Montana Chapter of the Wildlife Society
www.mttws.org
Intermountain Journal of Sciences
www.intermountainjournal.org

Other Subunit News

University of Montana Student Chapter

On September 27th, 42 members of the student chapter of The Wildlife Society of the University of Montana joined forces with Back Country Horsemen (BCH) of Missoula and Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks to remove over 3.25 miles of barbed wire fence from Blackfoot Clearwater Wildlife Management Area to prevent wildlife from being injured or killed by getting entangled in the fencing.

The event was organized by FWP biologist Jay Kolbe, BCH, and TWS Student Chapter president Jason Hanlon. This is the third year the Wildlife Society has participated and the largest group of volunteers the event has ever drawn.

"These fences had become a hazard to both wildlife and horsemen using the WMA. Because taking them down is extremely labor intensive - having such a large and enthusiastic group pitch in made a huge project like this possible," said FWP Wildlife Biologist Jay Kolbe. Over the past five years, 20 miles of hazardous, unnecessary fencing has been removed through this annual event.

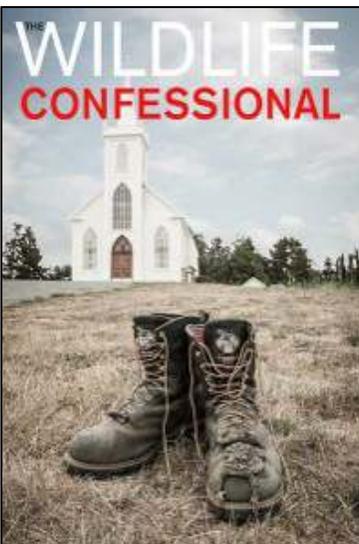


Students and professionals bond over good old-fashioned hard work (photo by Jenah Mead)



Removing barbed wire on the Blackfoot Clearwater WMA is a popular tradition with UM students (photo by Francis Hujar).

TWS Western Section



thewildlifeconfessional.
wordpress.
com.

Call for Submissions This anthology of stories by wildlife professionals will endeavor to show the humor and poignancy in the day-to-day adventures that sometimes define and enlighten us or that, sometimes, we'd rather forget.

Who Can Submit: Anyone in the wildlife field (biologists, game wardens, land managers, researchers, students) with a good wildlife story to tell. If you've told – or been told – a good yarn over a campfire or a cold beer or a long car ride... yep, those are the stories we're looking for.

Subject Matter: Submissions can be humorous, reflective, poignant, inspirational, but should ultimately embody professionalism and a respect for the natural world; submissions should be non-fiction, but should not be technical or how-to in nature.

Submission Format: Submissions should be in a format supported by Microsoft Word, and should include complete contact information (full name / job title / affiliation / address / phone / e-mail).

Submittal Deadline: Submissions must be received by May 15, 2015.

Mail submissions & questions to editors.wildlifeconfessional@gmail.com.

TWS Northwest Section

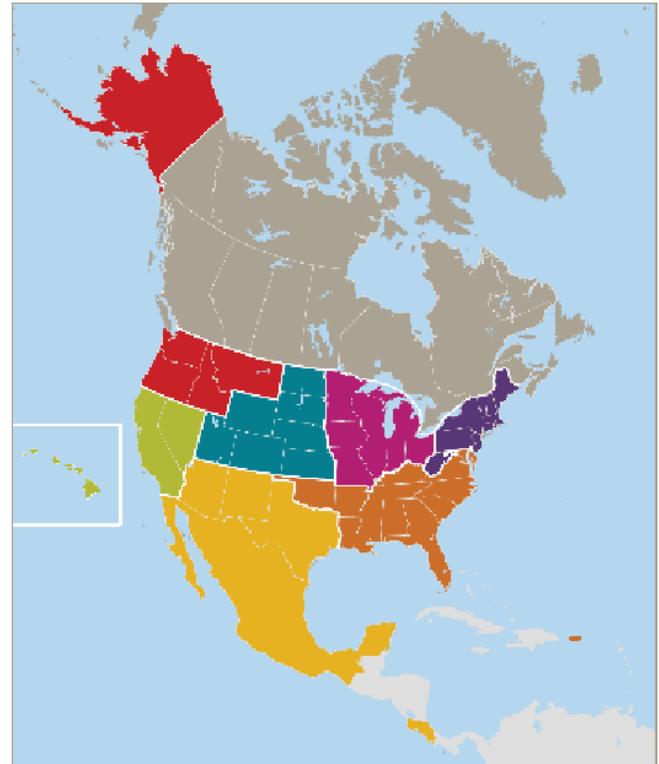
About us: The Northwest Section (NWS) of The Wildlife Society is a regional network providing communication between its 5 member states: Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana. The NWS serves in bottom-up and top-down capacities: to enhance information exchange between the states on regional wildlife issues, and between the states and our parent society.

To serve our component chapters, NWS rotates between state chapter meetings and facilitates speakers, awards, special sessions, and symposia. In 2012, we celebrated with the Montana Chapter at their 50th anniversary meeting. The 2013 meeting was in Alaska. The 2014 meeting was concurrent with Idaho's 50th anniversary. In 2015, NWS will meet with Washington in a joint meeting with the Society of American Foresters (SAF), and in 2016 we will meet with the Oregon Chapter.

2015 Meeting call for papers: NWS is meeting with Washington's chapters of TWS and SAF in a joint conference at Great Wolf Lodge in Grand Mound, WA, to be held April 14-17. NWS will be bringing regional perspective to the special plenary session on forest management and wildlife. We invite abstracts for presentations and poster sessions, workshop concepts, mini-symposia proposals, and ideas for other facets of the program. All topics in wildlife biology and conservation programs are welcomed, although emphasis in some sessions will be placed on management of forests for wildlife, cooperation in forest management, and application of research findings to conservation and management practices.

The deadline for abstracts is December 15, 2014.

For more information, please visit WA TWS at <http://wildlife.org/washington>



■ Northwest Section ■ Western Section ■ Canadian Section
■ Central Mountains & Plains Section ■ North Central Section
■ Southwest Section ■ Southeastern Section ■ Northeast Section

Call for award nominations: NWS sponsors two awards:

- 1) The Arthur S. Einarsen Award: Established in 1966, it recognizes outstanding service to the wildlife profession by individuals residing in our Section. Previous recipients have included Jack Ward Thomas, Oz Garton, E. Charles Meslow, Terry Bowyer and Jack Connelly. Nominees for this award should be society members (chapter, section and/or parent levels).
- 2) The Wildlife Administrator Award recognizes excellence in areas of wildlife program development, administration, budgeting, planning, and personnel management. Individuals receiving this award have been clearly and directly responsible for improved wildlife conservation by enabling others, facilitating positive management actions, developing new programs or cooperative efforts that bring benefits to the wildlife resource, and by developing policy, law, or direction which benefits wildlife resources. Nominees for this award do not need to be society members.

All nominees must reside and work within the section and be nominated for relevant action and responsibilities that they have accomplished within the past two years. These are intended to be individual, not group awards.

Do you know of someone deserving of recognition? If so, provide a letter (or letters) of support to:

Julie Cunningham, juliecunningham@mt.gov, 1400 S. 19th Ave, Bozeman, MT, 59718.

NWS will accept nominations through January 31, 2015. Awards will be presented at the annual NWS meeting.

TWS Northwest Section (continued...)

The Conservation Affairs Network: TWS helps wildlife professionals communicate science-based management and conservation information. Since 1972, TWS has tracked wildlife legislation at the federal level, and hired a Policy Director in 1991. Today, we have a Government Affairs and Partnership Program to help provide scientific information to policy-makers, protecting individual biologists from potential conflict of interest. To address important policy issues WITHOUT additional meetings, TWS is developing Conservation Affairs Network (CAN). CAN engages and unifies the efforts of The Wildlife Society, its 200+ units, and its nearly 10,000 members to advance wildlife conservation policy issues at the national, regional, and local levels. CAN operates through Conservation Affairs Committees (CACs) established within TWS Sections and Chapters. CACs identify and address policy priorities within their region, and communicating their activities and policy needs to other CACs and TWS Staff.

If you are interested in learning more about CAN, CACs, or TWS's Government Affairs program, contact Leslie Bliss-Ketchum for NWS-level information, or Keith Norris (knorris@wildlife.org) for the national program.

Contact us!

If you are interested in learning more about any of the above topics, if you would like to volunteer, or have any thoughts or questions about how NWS can help serve you or your chapter, please contact us!

Julie Cunningham (MT) – President-Elect	juliecunningham@mt.gov
Dave Kennedy (OR) – President	dave.kennedy@live.com
Barb Hill (OR) – Past President	b2hill@msn.com
Kurt Jenkins (WA) – Vice President	kurt_jenkins@usgs.gov
Bruce Ackerman (ID) – Secretary-Treasurer	bruce.ackerman@idfg.gov
Leslie Bliss-Ketchum (OR) – CAN representative	bliss.ketchum@gmail.com
Harriet Allen (WA) – Section representative to council	hallen2009@comcast.net

Montana Chapter *Fleece in Action*



Jamie Belt, Glacier National Park's Citizen Science Coordinator, releases a marmot with only the armor of her TWS fleece to shield her (photo by Ben Turnock).

Member Stories

Black-Footed Ferret Population Gets a Boost on the Fort Belknap Reservation

By Kristy Bly kristy.bly@wwfus.org

Under the excited eyes of 35 tribal and non-tribal participants on September 17, 2014, twenty endangered black-footed ferrets were released into black-tailed prairie dog colonies on the Fort Belknap Reservation in northern Montana. Black-footed ferrets were first reintroduced on the Reservation in 1997, but an outbreak of sylvatic plague swept through the release sites in 1999 and decimated populations of ferrets and prairie dogs, the ferret's main food item. Since then, prairie dog populations have rebounded, new plague management tools are in place, and the Fort Belknap Fish and Wildlife Department, in partnership with the World Wildlife Fund, Defenders of Wildlife and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, are working together to return the masked bandit of the prairie to the Reservation.

Thirty-two ferrets were released into prairie dog colonies in the Snake Butte area last fall.



Michael Kinsey, a biologist for the Fort Belknap Reservation, releases a black-footed ferret into a prairie dog burrow on Sept 17, 2014
(photo by Kylie Paul / Defenders of Wildlife).

There are less than 500 black-footed ferrets in the wild, which is well below the 3,000 needed to recover the species. The Tribes of Fort Belknap play an important role in national recovery efforts by providing habitat for black-footed ferrets; notably, the Reservation became the first ferret reintroduction site to occur on tribal lands in the late 1990s. Now, the Fish and Wildlife Department is once again playing a leading role in recovering the species. As black-footed ferrets have long been culturally significant to the Tribes, their return to the Reservation will help strengthen the unique relationship between black-footed ferrets, prairie dogs, and the Fort Belknap Indian community.



Chase Main and Richard Boushie, wildlife technicians and conservation officers for the Fort Belknap Fish and Wildlife Department, lead participants to the prairie dog burrow where a black-footed ferret will be released, (photo by Kevin Ellison / World Wildlife Fund)

"Hopefully that's what's going to happen. I think it will be better for all of us, both as Indian people and for people in general. It's a good day for conservation."

"I kind of feel like now they might be ready to survive here and flourish," said Harold "Jiggs" Main, director of the Fort Belknap Fish and Wildlife Department.

Format Guidelines

2015 Montana Chapter Annual Meeting Abstracts (see p.2 for submission criteria)

Please submit your abstract electronically to the appropriate address identified on p.2

If you do NOT have access to email, please submit your abstract on a CD with a hard copy; clearly label both with pertinent ID information including name of lead author, abstract title, and lead author contact phone number and email address.

The person submitting the title/abstract should provide a separate, detailed list of information for each author including: place and full address of employment, email, and phone number, what authors are students, and whether the presenting author is a student and if so whether he/she wants the presentation judged. Place an asterisk next to presenting author.

Follow the format for publication in the **Intermountain Journal of Sciences**, www.intermountainjournal.org
Use WordPerfect or Microsoft Word, single space, a paragraph indent for all but the first 2 lines, and no hard returns within a paragraph.

Abstracts should be no more than 250 words (excluding abstract title and author information) and should contain a statement of the issue, project objectives, a brief summary of the methods, major findings, and key conclusions.

Format Example

***Please be sure to follow this format (see detailed instructions above). Abstracts in a different format may be returned to the author for reformatting and will need to be resubmitted.

TEN YEARS OF WOLF-UNGULATE DYNAMICS IN THE MADISON-FIREHOLE DRAINAGE OF YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

Matthew S. Becker *, Ecology Department, Montana State University, Bozeman, Montana59717
Robert A. Garrott, Ecology Department, Montana State University, Bozeman, Montana59717
Patrick J. White, Yellowstone Center for Resources, Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming82190

This study utilizes long-term research on a tractable and relatively unexploited wolf-elk bison system in central Yellowstone, from 1996 to 2006, to investigate wolf recolonization dynamics, predation rates, and prey selection. Employing a combination of ground-based radio-telemetry and ground-tracking and monitoring methods, over 670 kills, 1400 locations, and 3200 kilometers of tracking data were amassed from multiple wolf packs preying on a resident elk herd and a migratory bison herd. The ratio of wolves to ungulates is possibly the highest predator-prey ratio ever recorded, as wolf density, space use, and predation pressure in the study area increased dramatically before sharply dropping in the winter of 2006. Wolf use of the study area increased from a few itinerant wolves, to multiple established packs, before decreasing to primarily one pack. Elk comprised the preferred prey for wolves, and the ratio of preferred to alternative prey was predictably variable, both within and between winters, as bison migration occurred. Considerable variation in wolf predation rates was also demonstrated, both within and across years and packs. Prey selection trends demonstrate that wolves are increasingly utilizing bison as prey, such that bison comprised the majority of wolf diets in winter 2006. The potential implications of this on future wolf-ungulate dynamics are addressed.

Format Guidelines (continued...)

Montana Chapter Small Grants Proposals (see p.3 for submission criteria)

Proposals should be 2-3 pages in length, typed, single spaced, and should contain the following sections:

- a) Title
- b) Applicant's name, address, phone number, e-mail address, and affiliation. If the applicant is a student or wildlife professional, please provide a Curriculum Vitae and the name of your advisor. If the applicant is representing a club or organization, please provide the organization's mission statement and a brief description about membership and the types of activities completed and/or sponsored in the recent past.
- c) Please indicate whether the applicant is a current member of the State, Regional, and/or National Chapter of The Wildlife Society.
- d) Scope and Objectives – Provide a description of the background and objectives of the project. Specifically explain how the project relates to the Chapter's mission and goals.
- e) Project Implementation – Provide a brief summary of how project objectives will be accomplished.
- f) Expected Outcomes – Provide a description of anticipated products or outcomes of the project.
- g) Budget and Timelines – Provide an itemized budget for the overall project, showing amount requested, cost sharing (if applicable), and time schedule for the project.
- h) Supporting Materials – if this is an educational project, please provide pertinent educational materials to the Montana Chapter for review.

Funding requests should not exceed \$1,000.

Proposal Rating

Proposals will be rated based on the following criteria:

- a) Significance of the proposed project in regard to its research and/or educational value for wildlife conservation.
- b) Adequacy of proposed implementation in relation to the project objectives.
- c) Importance of project in relation to the requested funds.

Preference will be given to members of the Montana Chapter (see <http://www.montanatws.org/chapters/mt/index.cfm?tname=membership>)

Acknowledgements

Grant recipients will be expected to present final results or a progress report of their project to the Grant Committee within one year of grant allocation. Additionally, grant recipients may be asked to present their project at a future Annual Meeting of the Chapter and/or provide a write-up for the Chapter newsletter. All printed materials supported by the Chapter shall contain an acknowledgement of support.