

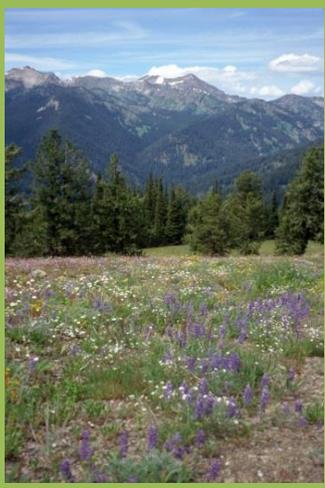
# The Washington Wildlifer

## Newsletter of the Washington Chapter of The Wildlife Society

### SPRING 2014

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Message from the President.....	1
2014 Annual Meeting Summary.....	3
Awards.....	4
Recent Chapter Business.....	8
Tribute to Dave Britnell.....	13
Regional Reports.....	14
OLY.....	14
NE.....	19
SE.....	22
NW.....	24
SW.....	26
Announcements.....	29
Join the Chapter!.....	30-31
Board & Representatives.....	32



#### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT By Bruce Thompson

##### President's Message

I am preparing this message when the euphoria of the 2014 Joint Meeting is still fresh in my mind. You will see elsewhere in this Newsletter where we describe the professional opportunities and learning experiences that were so apparent during that partnered endeavor. I offer to Chapter members and their colleagues that there is so much opportunity to engage in leading and influencing what we do through volunteering your time, insight, and dedication to helping with Chapter events. Opportunity will arise soon with planning for the 2015 meeting.

In beginning this stint as Washington Chapter President, it is important to recognize how we each are writing chapters in our respective book of professional experiences. But, we don't need to be thinking of any as the final chapter. My career has included the good fortune to be associated with The Wildlife Society for more than four decades in a variety of capacities. Those opportunities have included chapter and section committee service, board positions with three state chapters in the Southwest and Northwest, editing a TWS peer publication, and serving on TWS Council. Each of those activities could have been a final chapter in a book of experiences, but they haven't. That is because there is no end to the ways that you can serve natural resources, serve your profession, and serve a professional organization. I am delighted to have found many familiar colleagues here upon my return to the Pacific Northwest as well as seeing the vibrancy that is brought by many students

and new professionals who are just getting started and are beginning to engage in our forums and work in similar ways.

This message is to just briefly remind you about how those opportunities can be realized through The Wildlife Society, your Section, and your state Chapter. Think about the ideas you have had for what could be a special event or special information tool that can be made available through the Chapter. Consider the times you have said, "It would be so much better if WA-TWS would ...!" Act on those conservation messages that you think need to be communicated in a way that only the platform of a professional organization like TWS can provide. I challenge all of the more than 300 past and current Chapter members as well as the new generation that we see at technical meetings to get active in what the Washington Chapter will be doing in coming months and years. Don't hesitate to let me know about some of your ideas and how we can work together to realize more partnered activities, recognition of our peers, and provide opportunities to help you be a more productive and informed professional. Send your thoughts to [bcthompson248@gmail.com](mailto:bcthompson248@gmail.com).

– Bruce  
Thompson



**The 2014 Joint TWS Meeting was a huge success and we want to express our gratitude to the generous sponsors who made it possible!**

**THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS!**

**PLATINUM**



Washington Department of  
**FISH and WILDLIFE**

**SILVER**



**PORT BLAKELY  
TREE FARMS LP**

*Integrity and Innovation since 1864*

**BRONZE**



SIRTRACK



PARTNERS IN TELEMETRY



WASHINGTON  
SFI 01148



**Hancock  
Forest  
Management®**

*A Division of Hancock Timber Resource Group,  
A Manulife Asset Management Company*



**Parametrix**

ENGINEERING . PLANNING . ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

**SUPPORTING**



**BLUE LEAF  
ENVIRONMENTAL**



**RED LION®  
HOTELS**



## 2014 Annual Meeting Synopsis

– by Bill Vogel

Wow! What a meeting. The February 2014 Joint Meeting of the Washington Chapter of The Wildlife Society and four other partner organizations exemplified some incredible opportunities that only happen occasionally. It was truly a monumental venue for professional interaction with the Society for Northwestern Vertebrate Biology, Northwest Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation, the 4<sup>th</sup> International Burrowing Owl Symposium, and the special Raptors of the Northwest Symposium. During the course of the five-day meeting in Pasco there were 260 registrants with participants from at least 14 states, Washington DC, and four Canadian provinces. Those participants included 58 students, 22 new professionals (employed less than three years), and 11 retirees, as well as nearly 170 general registrants. Our partners helped with this participation. The entire array of technical presentations, workshops, special sessions, plenary program, international symposia, and other forums were admirable in the information exchange that they promoted. All of these events truly rose to the meeting theme of *Enhancing Conservation Program Delivery Among Agricultural and Other Natural Resource Interests*.

Our partners surely brought in some interesting folks we normally don't get to meet. Personally, I was very happy to meet Dr. David Bird, a professor emeritus from McGill University and coauthor of *Raptor Research and Management Techniques*. It was also great to learn so much about unmanned vehicle systems (includes unmanned aerial vehicles, which, as Dr. Bird noted, everyone calls drones), their role in wildlife management – and challenges. We also had AeroSensor-Northwest on hand to give the vendors' view of these innovative systems.

Having a meeting with five partners is challenging, but all of the partners had nothing but praise for the organizational skills of Bruce Thompson and the way he included them in all aspects of planning and implementing the meeting. The entire Board of our Chapter appreciates the hard

work and dedication Bruce put into this meeting.

The week started with some very pertinent associated meetings such as a discussion on how to coordinate, prioritize, and organize shrub-steppe monitoring in Washington State. The discussion was led by WDFW and benefitted from the contributions of numerous partners. NW-PARC began their program on Monday and GLOW kicked off their Symposium on Tuesday. We had about 10 free workshops on Tuesday and Wednesday, covering issues ranging from hunter access issues to silviculture and wildlife. The student mentoring session (a popular event with the students) was held on Wednesday just prior to the poster session and welcome reception. We had over 20 entries in the poster session and concluded Wednesday with auctions and raffles.

Thursday kicked off with a joint plenary that featured three speakers. Betsy Bloomfield of Cowiche Canyon Conservancy asked, "If habitat is the key to wildlife, what is the key to habitat?" She was followed by Dr. Michael Adams of USGS, who shared information about amphibian declines and conservation. Finally, Dr. Bird of McGill University described the application of unmanned vehicle systems to wildlife research and management. Thursday and Friday continued with many concurrent technical sessions. WA TWS held a board meeting at lunch Thursday followed by a business meeting for all members later in the day. See article on recent business below.

Our banquet was delicious as were all the meals. The highlight of the banquet was Dr. David Manuwal sharing a presentation called "Honoring Wildlife Professionals that Served in the Military (1914-2014)". It was a tribute to those that served in the military and have made or are making contributions to vertebrate ecology and conservation. The illustrated presentation set to stirring music reflected



Photo: A. Lyons

on nearly 200 people who have served our country and natural resources. I recognized many names, but was thrilled to see an old friend, Al Harmata; a recent acquaintance over the phone, Daniel Ravanal; and our own Bruce Thompson. I think everyone in the audience recognized a number of faces and names -- often past and current colleagues. There were a number of very famous people in our profession including naturalists, artists, and past directors of agencies. It was really exciting!

As is often the case, there was so much going on it is impossible to catch every talk you would like. A high point for me was hearing from Lowell Diller about the pilot barred owl removal experiment and the amazing results regarding the responses of northern spotted owls after just a few years of the experiment. During our varied technical sessions, there was something for everyone with talks about raptors to rodents, and rattlesnakes to *Rhyacotritons*. There were, of course, some great presentations on burrowing owls and a lot of good information about farm bill programs and other programs targeting wildlife habitat in agricultural and shrub-steppe areas.

### Special Thanks – from Bruce Thompson

Special thanks go to the primary organizers from among the partners and to the many Committee Chairs and volunteers. The key representatives from partner organizations and entities included **Steve Wagner** with SNVB, **Kris Kendell** with NW-PARC, **David Johnson** with GLOW, and **Jeffrey Lincer** with RICA. **Becky Hill** with SNVB provided exceptional service in organizing and monitoring the online registration process. **A.J. Kroll**, assisted by **Teal Waterstrat**, **Eric Lund**, **Jeff Lincer**, and **David Johnson**, oversaw development of a very substantial technical program. **Harriet Allen** and **Erim Gomez** organized and facilitated the Student Mentoring Session. **Sara Gregory** organized and managed a diverse set of volunteers who helped all week with activities from registration desk staffing to aiding technical aspects of the multiple technical sessions. Opportunities to contribute to conservation and scholarship through silent auction and raffle events on Wednesday and Thursday were overseen by **Denim Jochimsen** with NW-PARC. Coordinators and speakers too numerous to mention here were instrumental in providing the wide array of well-attended workshops available during the week. And ultimately, **Mike Passmore**, as Steering Team Lead, provided the logistical and coordination “glue” that

made for an exceptional forum all week, including preparation of the striking printed and online program.

## Student Poster and Oral Presentation Awards

The Winners each receive a certificate and \$100. The Runners-up each receive a certificate and \$50.

### Oral Presentations:

*Winner:* **Stephan Selego**, Oregon State University for his talk entitled " Invasive, Native, and Aquaculture Red Swamp Crayfish Differ in Expression of Behavioral Types Across Temperature Gradients.

*Runner-up:* **Alexandra Froese**, University of Winnipeg for her talk entitled " Breeding and Foraging Ecology of Burrowing Owls in Southwestern Manitoba

### Poster presentations:

*Winner:* **Alexandra Anderson**, Boise State University for her poster entitled "Assortative Mating as a Mechanism for Advancing Nesting Phenology in American Kestrels (*Falco sparverius*)"

*Runner-up:* **Christina Baggett**, Oregon State University for her poster entitled "The Interactive Roles of Male Pheromones and Female Mating Receptivity on Scent Choice in Female Red-legged Salamanders"

## AWARDS – by Bill Vogel

Following a delicious meal (prime rib, pork loin, salmon and some vegetarian choices) and the banquet presentation, we presented awards. We again recognized **Stephanie DeMay** as our 2013 Research Grant recipient for her work on pygmy rabbits and **Tia Monzingo** as our 2013 Richard Fitzner Scholarship winner. We then presented the following awards:

**Chapter Award**—*Recognizes individuals or organizations that have made significant contributions to the support and growth of our chapter.*

Shortly after we issued a plea for assistance in the development of a Facebook page for the chapter, **Joshua Benton** stepped forward and offered his services. And when we had the temerity to ask if he'd also be willing to help establish and maintain our new website, he didn't hesitate for an instant. He said he would love to help out, and he waded right in. The results have been spectacular. Josh created a beautiful and engaging Facebook page for us and he's been keeping it well fed with a slew of fascinating stories and pictures. Be sure to stop by our [FACEBOOK](#) page in the very near future, check it out, and **Like** it. In addition, Josh has done an excellent job of bringing materials from our old website over to our new [website](#), and keeping it up to date, informative, and looking sharp. The Board is deeply grateful to Josh for his willingness to step up—and for his contributions to the support and growth of the WA TWS by maintaining our Internet presence. We also thank Mike Hall for his work before Josh joined us as well as his continued work with Josh and other issues.

**Partnership Award**—*Recognizes an outstanding accomplishment for working with and establishing partnerships that otherwise would not have existed or functioned as well without their initiative, and which has resulted in significant advancement of wildlife conservation.*

**Jonathan Merz**, district manager, accepted the award for Foster Creek Conservation District (FCCD). The district and its farmers have been close to the land for many generations and are blessed with and challenged by an interesting landscape and geological history. Their level of cooperation with other agencies and entities has always been high. For years, under the Conservation Reserve Program, they had to get a special waiver to exceed the sign-up limits on a county basis (>30%). Several years ago, when the waiver was not available, they worked with NRCS to sign up many of these landowners into similar programs that were available, rather than lose the years' worth of progress at developing good shrub-steppe habitat. They also are approaching full enrollment under the State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement program. Many of the farmers are 5<sup>th</sup> - generation and maintaining the rural lifestyle is very important to many people in the district.

There is an overall aura of partnership and cooperation in the operation of Foster Creek

Conservation District. They base their actions on common sense and science and are willing to talk through issues. They involve many partners on a routine basis. As a result, northern Douglas County has substantial wildlife resources and habitat. As an example, they support a population of greater sage-



*Jonathan Merz, district manager of Foster Creek Conservation District, receiving Partnership award from Bill Vogel. Photo: Wendy Arjo*

grouse – a species that is mostly absent from other parts of the state.

Although the FCCD is one of 47 conservation districts in the state, it regularly takes a leadership role in conservation issues that has significance across the state of Washington, and even across the country. In no area has the FCCD's ability to lead and collaborate become more evident than with the development (and pending approval, we hope) of the Douglas County Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan. The Plan is a 50-year project to allow the agricultural community to conserve local wildlife while continuing to sustainably operate their farms and ranches. The species of wildlife addressed include greater sage-grouse, sharp-tailed grouse, pygmy rabbit, and Washington ground squirrel. The planning efforts of the District involved the WDFW, the Washington Department of Natural Resources, the USFWS, the Audubon Society, The Nature Conservancy, and private landowners. The efforts to produce the conservation plan helped generate the political will and communication necessary to focus more conservation spending in Douglas County—efforts which will certainly benefit the species of conservation concern.

**Foresight Award**—

*Recognizes an outstanding contribution by a professional biologist for outstanding foresight and efforts to address conservation of species and/or habitat in a timely manner. For instance, endangered or threatened species listing decisions and conservation can be aided by information collected and efforts initiated prior to the when the urgency is well understood or publicized. This includes initiating monitoring, research, or enhancement projects prior to a species reaching levels or legal status where such actions are necessary.*

Taylor's checkerspot butterfly was federally listed in November 2013. Several years prior to that WDFW and USFS wildlife biologists

began work with the species in the northeastern corner of the Olympic Peninsula. It was less than seven years ago when the Taylor's checkerspot was first reported in the upper elevations on the Olympic National Forest. The following year, in 2008, surveys by WDFW and Olympic National Forest biologists confirmed that it was Taylor's checkerspot, becoming the highest-elevation location known for the butterfly in Washington State. The team continued with surveys for other suspected habitat in the Dungeness watershed, eventually defining four concentrations of occupation of Taylor's checkerspot.

**Dave Hayes** and **Ann Potter** of WDFW, working with **Karen Holtrop** of the Olympic National Forest, surveyed for adults and larvae, and developed a site management plan in the Dungeness watershed. The plan has transitioned into active management on three of four occupied sites, which included small conifer and shrub removal to expand historical habitat.

With declining Federal and state agency wildlife budgets, this work would not have advanced this far (nor soon) without the leadership and collective efforts of these three. We should also provide recognition to Shelley Ament and Anita McMillan of WDFW and Ted Thomas, USFWS, for their assistance.



*Ann Potter & Dave Hayes working to protect Taylor's checkerspot (clockwise).  
Photos: Karen Holtrop*



**Conservation Award**—*Recognizes an outstanding accomplishment (program or project) by an organization, municipality, county, company, and/or individuals for significant contributions to wildlife conservation, including efforts involving outstanding initiative, innovation, and personal risk of failure.*

WA TWS presented our Conservation Award to **Betsy Howell** of the Olympic National Forest, for her effort on the fisher reintroduction program on the Olympic Peninsula. The program has been led by the National Park Service, WDFW, USGS, and Conservation Northwest. Many people from many agencies worked very hard as part of their jobs to make this project work. The USFS was a cooperator in the NEPA planning; but, at that time, funding and staffing for surveys was not dedicated to the project. As the animals were released on the Olympic National Park and dispersed to the outer reaches of the Peninsula, including National Forest lands, the fisher team realized they would be unable to follow-up aerial detections with ground surveys at all locations. Betsy Howell took the initiative to organize volunteers from Conservation Northwest to survey on the National Forest. She secured funding from USFWS to purchase remote-sensing cameras and fund fisher surveys that the lead agencies couldn't conduct. Her efforts have also assisted in the acquisition of \$60,000 from the U.S. Forest Service regional office to the interagency fisher team for

surveys on state, tribal, and Federal lands. This funding is a significant contribution. Betsy's work has also evolved into new survey efforts and partnerships for pine marten including Adventurer's and Scientists for Conservation and PNW Research Station. Betsy coordinates about 24 volunteers and spends many weekends working on this effort. She has been doing this along with her regular workload without missing key deadlines. The partnership with the National Park, WDFW, and USGS has only strengthened because of Betsy's dedication to carnivore conservation. Because of this, Betsy is our recipient of the Conservation Award.



*Kris Kendell, Denim Jochimsen, Betsy Howell and Brandon Fessler (l to r). Kris and Denim are the co-chairs for PARC and Brandon is the webmaster for PARC. Photo: Steven Spear*

**Stewardship Award**—Recognizes an outstanding accomplishment (program or project) by a landowner or group of landowners for significant management of their property for the conservation of wildlife.

**Port Blakely Tree Farms** has been a leader in the timber industry with respect to developing and implementing Conservation Agreements for quite some time. They have gone the extra mile to integrate forest management with wildlife conservation. They were among the first three entities to develop a truly habitat-based, multi-species Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) in Washington State—one of only four HCPs nationwide that utilized that broad approach. Port Blakely's compliance with that HCP has been exemplary. They also completed the first large-scale Safe Harbor Agreement for spotted owls and marbled murrelets. They took the initiative, thereby paving the way for others. In their cooperative spirit, they also included the State in this planning process and thereby supported the State's efforts to develop such

agreements with landowners. As a result, almost half of Port Blakely's forests in Washington State are managed according to voluntary conservation agreements made with the USFWS to enhance survival and to develop habitat for several listed and non-listed aquatic and terrestrial wildlife species.

Port Blakely Tree Farms has continued to exhibit a high level of stewardship not only in the manner in which they manage their lands, but also through their collaboration with others. They have followed through on the development of sound plans with a high degree of implementation – often going over and above what the plan says. They continue to be leaders in the industry for the use of sound science and the adoption of good land stewardship.

**Special Achievement Award**—Recognizes an outstanding accomplishment by a professional wildlife biologist for a specific task or project that has contributed significantly to wildlife conservation in Washington.

**Elizabeth Rodrick** was recognized for her 35-year career with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, during which she was dedicated to ensuring that the landscape future in Washington includes large and significant protected blocks of important fish and wildlife habitats. Her name is synonymous with habitat conservation and building partnerships for wildlife in Washington. Among her notable achievements in resource protection were working with many WDFW staff and the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program to help WDFW secure grants totaling \$146 million that resulted in the acquisition of nearly 137,000 acres of fish and wildlife habitat in Washington, as well as leading efforts to secure federal Cooperative Endangered Species Act funding for acquisition of conservation lands and conservation planning that were used to permanently protect over 60,000 acres of fish and wildlife habitat. Elizabeth has always approached conservation efforts as a collaborative community undertaking, both within WDFW and with outside partners. The results of her leadership and dedication to habitat conservation are a legacy to all of the current and future citizens of Washington.

**Leadership in Conservation Award**—Recognizes a long-term contribution to the field of wildlife conservation. This award honors a person or organization that has made sustained and significant contributions over many years to wildlife conservation.

**Harriet Allen** was recognized for her 30-year career with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife as a biologist working on spotted owls and leading the Endangered and Threatened Species section lead in the Wildlife Program. The results of her research and surveys provided some of the basis for the state and eventual federal listing of the owl. In the early 1990's, as a result of controversy surrounding the owl's listings, she led and coordinated a 20-member stakeholder group consisting of members from forest industry, agriculture, business, and multiple conservation NGOs to develop a transparent, thorough, science based process for the listing and recovery of State E&T species. The result of this group's recommendation was adoption of a series of state rules that provide the authority and framework for the process still used by WDFW to guide listing and recovery of specially classified species in Washington. In the ensuing years Harriet and the Endangered & Threatened species team were responsible for developing 30 status reviews and 16 recovery plans for E&T species on such species ranging from butterflies to killer whales. For many years prior to her retirement in summer 2013, Harriet was recognized statewide, regionally, and nationally for her dedication to conservation of species facing habitat and demographic challenges. She remains active in Northwest conservation endeavors and was elected in 2013 as the Northwest Section Representative to TWS Council.

### AWARDS FOR THE FUTURE

Our work in 2013 was just a beginning in demonstrating how much accomplishment there is to recognize. But it can't be done without diligent effort from Chapter members who take the time to prepare a nomination on behalf of worthy individuals. So start early and submit nominations in coming months rather than waiting until very late and perhaps not submitting at all.

#### How to Nominate a Person or Organization:

Check our [website](#) for a description of all of our awards. Send us a short note and have another member do the same, or have them second your nomination. If you want, you can further strengthen the nomination by additional statements of support. If the nomination is successful, we may ask for more information and will coordinate with the persons making the nominations. If you have any questions, contact Bill Vogel.

Recommended format for note of nomination:

*Title of Award:*

*Nominee:*

*Submitted by:*

*Secoded by:*

*Contact Information for persons submitting nomination:*

*Date Submitted:*

*Rationale:*

## RECENT CHAPTER BUSINESS

**Results of elections:** Many thanks to all who participated in our recent elections, both by voting and (especially) by running for board positions. After tallying the results, we are pleased to announce **Tony Fuchs**, Puget Sound Energy, will be our president-elect (progressing through president and past-president in the next three years). Tony was at the meeting in Pasco and has hit the ground running with respect to understanding WA-TWS business and our upcoming activities. We also installed new Board member **Jeff Kozma**, Yakama Indian Nation. **Blake Murden**, Port Blakely Tree Farms, will transition from Past-President to Board Member. **Mike Hall**, Parametrix, will be returning as our Secretary and all-around hard-working good guy! At the conclusion of the business meeting, **Bill Vogel**, USFWS, transitioned into the Past-President role as **Bruce Thompson**, WDFW, assumed the presidency. We are looking forward to reaping the continued rewards of Bruce's experience with TWS in other States, Sections, and at the National Level. We send our thanks to **Suzie Rizer**, Blue Leaf Environmental, and **Jon Kemp**, EnCo, for their dedication as Board Members over the last two years and look forward to their continuing involvement with the Chapter.

### Report from the Northwest Section Representative to TWS Council – by Harriet Allen

I attended my first two meetings as the Northwest Section Representative to the TWS Council (October 5-6, 2013 in conjunction with the TWS Milwaukee Annual Meeting, and March 9-10, 2014 in Denver in conjunction with the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference). I have been amazed at the complexity of issues and number of initiatives that are happening as part of the Council activities.

The Wildlife Society is governed by a 13-member Council elected by the TWS membership: four officers (President, President-Elect, Vice President, and immediate Past President), eight Section Representatives (seven U.S. & one Canadian), and one Student Liaison appointed by the Student-Professional Working Group. As section representatives, we each serve a three-year term, and can serve two terms if re-elected. Some of the highlights from the meetings:

### **TWS Finances/Budget**

Ken Williams, TWS Executive Director, reported on the budget at the March 2014 Council meeting. To deal with serious financial challenges in the last few years, TWS has reorganized and re-staffed in Headquarters, and has changed some business processes and partnerships. Proposed changes to TWS bylaws regarding administrative and fiscal management and other changes were voted on and approved by the membership.

For the first time in several years, the Society came in under budget for 2013. At the 2013 Milwaukee meeting, the Council approved a 2014 budget that meets TWS priorities and has a projected operational surplus of ~\$100K. This represents a milestone for TWS, as we begin to rebuild our assets and move toward a sounder financial footing. Many steps have been taken to improve business practices: financial tracking and reporting processes have been revamped, the Investment Review Committee reviews investments, and there have been changes in management of the Society's investment portfolio. These and other changes are making important positive differences in TWS financial management.

### **Staff Changes**

There was a significant contraction and turnover in staffing in 2012-13 and three new staff hires in February 2014:

- Mr. Ed Thompson, Chief of Operations. His responsibilities include working on membership, marketing, and annual conferences.
- Ms. Hedy Ross, Development Officer. She will work with TWS officers, members and staff to build membership, connect with TWS partners, and secure funding from government grants, private foundations, corporate donations, and individuals to enhance the TWS financial status.
- Keith Norris, Deputy Director of Government Affairs and Partnerships. He oversees the TWS Technical Review process, provides support to

TWS subunits on conservation policy issues through the Conservation Affairs Network, and represents TWS in policy activities with other partners.

### **Three New Initiatives**

- *Conservation Affairs Network* – The Conservation Affairs Network is a new initiative aimed at uniting Chapters, Sections, and Headquarters staff around conservation affairs and policy related issues. It was developed after a meeting of Section officers at the 2011 Annual Meeting in Portland, Oregon, that identified a need at all levels of the organization and a desire to increase effectiveness as Wildlife Professionals in the conservation affairs arena. It is beginning to be implemented in Spring 2014. Staff hosted calls with all Section and Chapter officers to discuss the final guidance document and to discuss the Network challenges and opportunities. Each region has expressed a commitment to engage in the Network and officers are discussing the initiative with members. Each region is approaching the process slightly differently and Section Officers and Council Representatives are helping facilitate the discussion and implementation (we discussed it at the Washington Chapter, the Northwest Section, and the Oregon chapter meetings). Implementation timelines will vary for each subunit, but it is anticipated that most subunits will have Conservation Affairs (or related) committees established and connected to the Network by the end of 2014. TWS staff created a canned Power Point presentation to assist officers in talking about the Network. The Power Point was distributed via e-mail to all current officers in the TWS database. If any officer or member needs a copy of the Power Point and/or the associated narrative they can request it from Laura Bies ([laura@wildlife.org](mailto:laura@wildlife.org)) or Keith Norris ([knorris@wildlife.org](mailto:knorris@wildlife.org)).
- *TWS membership*. This will be a focus of Ed Thompson's position: to engage subunits and wildlife professionals in federal, state, and non-governmental organizations, reach out to potential partners, shore up the TWS renewal process, and find effective ways to bolster membership, bring in revenue, strengthen partnerships, and extend the reach and effectiveness of the TWS voice. An important part of this and other efforts will be enhancing

and updating the TWS website and social networking sites.

- *5-Year Strategic Plan.* The Council agreed on a 5-year strategic vision for the Society, which includes building on new challenges and opportunities to expand membership and member services, integrate wildlife science more effectively with wildlife conservation and management, better connect the national office with sections and chapters, include underrepresented groups more fully in the Society, and become a more effective voice for wildlife professionals.

Subcommittees and ad hoc committees that I am currently serving on include: Diversity Subcommittee, Bylaws Subcommittee, Ad hoc Committee on Improvement of Agency Biologist Membership, and the International Wildlife Management Congress Committee. Standing and ad hoc subcommittees submitted interim reports at the March Council meeting on the status of activities they are working on.

- The Diversity Subcommittee is looking at potential changes in member services and benefits to better accommodate the changed and changing demographics of TWS, including the recommendations from the 2013 Women of Wildlife (WOW) symposium and professional development symposium at the Annual Conference in Milwaukee.
- The Improvement of Agency Biologist Membership Ad Hoc Committee is planning a survey of state, federal, and provincial agency biologists, AFWA members, and TWS state/provincial chapter members to understand what beliefs or perceptions are inhibiting them from being members at the parent society level and what can be done to increase their participation in the parent society.
- An important issue facing the TWS will be the consideration of future publication models for the Society's journal publications and how TWS can maintain high standards of rigorous peer-review in new publishing venues. The Future of Journals Ad Hoc Committee compiled information on new trends in electronic publishing and open access journals, evaluating funding options through traditional reader-pay systems versus open access systems and expanded publishing opportunities through electronic-only outlets. The committee is also considering the role of evaluation measures

such as traditional journal impact factors versus other measures and their potential application to future TWS publications. Last year, new Rules of Governance for *The Wildlife Professional* were approved by Council. As part of the restructuring of the Editorial Advisory Board (EAB), plans are to recruit an EAB member from each TWS Section and working group.

- The Wildlife Society Fellows Program – the Northwest Section did not submit any names this year for the TWS Fellows Program. We will want to make sure that we submit up to two names from any of the five Chapters next year. Up to 10 fellows can be selected each year, with no more than two from each Section. Anyone can submit nominations for Fellows. It's always great to recognize our peers who have contributed so much to the profession and I know we will forward some great nominations next year. The deadline this year was February 15<sup>th</sup>. The Wildlife Society Fellows Program recognizes members who have distinguished themselves through exceptional service to their profession. Fellows appointments are for life and are announced at the Annual Conference.

#### TWS Conference Dates and Locations

- *2013: Milwaukee, WI October 5-10*  
The meeting was successful with 1,394 registrants. Minutes of the Fall 2013 TWS Council meeting are posted on the TWS website at: <http://www.wildlife.org/who-we-are/council>. Unfortunately the meeting coincided with the federal shutdown and about 100-150 members were unable to attend. In the future, TWS will avoid dates close to the start of the federal fiscal year.
- *2014: Pittsburgh, PA October 25-30*



In conjunction with the Pittsburgh Annual meeting, TWS is proposing a one-day meeting of 1 or 2 representatives from each chapter and section to discuss challenges faced by subunits - building membership, finding volunteers, meeting organization, fundraising, sponsorship, activities, advocacy, etc. The purpose of the meeting will be to share ideas and activities on what has and hasn't worked. Headquarters staff is currently gauging section and chapter interest in attending this meeting.

- *2015: International Wildlife Management Congress, Sapporo, Japan, July 26-30.*
- *2015: Winnipeg, Manitoba October 17–22*
- *2016: Raleigh, NC October 15–20*
- *2017: During the Council Meeting in October 2013, Albuquerque was voted on as the site of the 2017 Annual Conference. After that, the American Fisheries Society (AFS) approached Executive Director Williams about having the 2017 conference take place in Tampa in collaboration with the AFS. Council discussed the opportunity of partnering with AFS and supported the concept of exploring a joint meeting with the AFS in Tampa in 2017 and having the 2018 meeting in Albuquerque.*

### New TWS Publications

The Proceedings of the IV International Wildlife Management Congress (Durban, South Africa, 2012) is available at

<http://wildlife.org/documents/conferences/iwmc/proceedings.pdf>. James W. Cain III (NM) and Jason Marshal (formerly AZ) edited the Proceedings.

Essential Readings in Wildlife Management and Conservation, edited by Paul R. Krausman and Bruce D. Leopold (<http://wildlife.org/publications/special-publications/essential-readings>). It is available to TWS members at a 25% discount (use code HTWS) at [www.press.jhu.edu](http://www.press.jhu.edu).

### PS – A Reminder

When you shop on Amazon, you can help support The Wildlife Society by clicking on <http://wildlife.org/amazon>. TWS will earn a commission for everything you buy at Amazon at no extra charge to you. This is a great way to help support your Society.

### Secretary's Report – by Mike Hall

In other news, we are working on establishing permanent e-mail addresses for our chapter officers (President, Treasurer, and Secretary), to make it easier to contact the people who hold those positions. We have also heard from a number of people who appreciate receiving job announcements via e-mail, so we plan to keep that going. If you have any thoughts about what you would like to hear from the

Chapter and how you'd like to see that information conveyed, we'd love to hear from you.

**2015 Meeting Planning Update:** We are in discussions with the Society of American Foresters (SAF) in Washington State regarding a joint meeting in April of 2015. The Northwest Section of TWS also plans to join us. We anticipate holding the meeting within the geographic area of the host SAF chapter (Grays Harbor), most likely in the general area of Olympia or Chehalis. This is a good time to start thinking about a presentation or a poster. For more information, contact Tony Fuchs.

**2016 Meeting Planning Update:** Bill Vogel (WA TWS) and Don Kemnar (Idaho TWS) have been in early discussions regarding the possibility of a joint meeting in 2016, which would likely be held in the Post Falls or Coeur d'Alene area. The Boards of both Chapters have approved moving forward with planning for this meeting. For more information, contact Bill Vogel.

**Future Workshops:** We are tentatively considering several workshops over the next few years. This is a wonderful time for you to contribute ideas, energy, and/or time to something that will benefit your chapter, other biologists, and the resource. Ideas being discussed include:

- basics of silviculture and forestry;
- ecology of rare or imperiled species;
- invertebrates
- wetland delineation, ecology, and management;
- citizen-science techniques;
- invasive species management
- employment-oriented topics.

If you have ideas, would like to help, or would like to offer a workshop, please contact Bill Vogel.

**Awards:** WA TWS may consider establishing an Awards Committee similar to what we do with research grants. In the interim, the Board will continue to process nominations for the 2015 meetings.

**Other:** WA TWS Board continues to reach out for ideas on boosting participation at meetings, increasing chapter membership, improving outreach to and coordination with students, and soliciting volunteers at annual meetings and workshops. We believe we have made some large strides in recent years and we hope—with your help—to build on our progress.

## Treasurer's Report – by Craig Hansen and Blake Murden

### Chapter's Financial Accounts Report (through 12-31-13)

<u>Account Name</u>	<u>December 31, 2012</u>	<u>December 31, 2013</u>
Janus Fund – Scholarship	\$15,136.49	\$19,839.95
Janus Fund – General	6,428.85	8,435.35
Washington Federal – Checking	14,732.17	25,793.31*
Washington Federal – Money Market	3,106.81	3,111.78
Washington Federal – CD	7,671.22	7,709.78
<b>Total Asset Balance</b>	<b>\$47,075.54</b>	<b>\$64,890.17</b>

**\*Includes \$9,420.45 proceeds from 2013 Annual Meeting.**

**Notables:** Received \$1,380 in new & renewal memberships; Janus Fund growth this year totaled \$6,709.96 (~30%!!); disbursed \$2,500 Research Grant Award to Stephanie DeMay in support of her work on the Columbia Basin pygmy rabbit; disbursed \$2,500 Fitzner Scholarship to Tia Monzingo at WSU.

### 2013 Meeting Financial Outcome

The 2013 Joint Oregon/Washington Annual Meeting was very productive monetarily (see details below). After all expenses were deducted, the TWS – Washington Chapter share of the proceeds was \$9,420.45, although a small portion of that (\$160.00) was in memberships. It should be noted that Sponsorships totaled \$16,800.00, which covered nearly 50% of our meeting costs.

Income - Registration & Misc	\$40,909.11
Income Sponsorships	16,800.00
<b>Total Meeting &amp; Sponsorship Income</b>	<b>57,709.11</b>
Total Expenditures	35,586.26
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>22,122.85</b>
TWS–Washington Chapter Meeting Proceeds*	8,185.45
Income - Dues	160.00
Income – Workshops	1,075.00
<b>Total Share of the Proceeds</b>	<b>\$ 9,420.45</b>

\* based on proportion of OR & WA Chapter attendees

Upcoming Audit—We initiated planning for our financial audit in 2014 and established our audit committee. Elizabeth Roderick (ret. WDFW) volunteered to chair the audit committee and was joined by John Grettenberger (ret. USFWS) and Lisa Egtvedt (WDNR).

## A Tribute to Dave Brittell

Editor's note: *The following is a compilation from different authors, all responding to the untimely loss of Dave Brittell. As many of you already know, and as you will read below, Dave was an amazing individual. Thank you to Bob Everitt, Harriet Allen, Ruth Milner, and the folks at WDFW for sharing your kind words with us and helping me paint this picture.*



Professional biologists lost a champion with the death of Dave Brittell in early February, 2014. Dave was a dedicated servant to the State of Washington, the Department of Fish and Wildlife and to the natural resources and citizens of Washington for 38+ years, retiring in 2013. Dave was truly a friend, mentor and leader. His trademark leadership mantra of "Hard on Issues and Soft on People" resonated both internally and externally with staff, peers and the people of Washington.

Dave was a respected leader and a recognized advocate for fish and wildlife throughout his entire career. He was well known and well thought of by peers in WDFW and by the staff and members of all the other natural resource agencies and conservation groups with which he worked. Dave was active in The Wildlife Society throughout his career. A member since the late 1970's, Dave was the first associate member of the Washington Chapter until the necessary experience elevated him to the level of a certified wildlife biologist. He served on a variety of boards and committees of the Washington Chapter and Northwest Section including Chapter President. He was recognized with the Wildlife Society's "Leadership in Conservation Award" in 2010, a testament to his overall career and legacy of acquiring and protecting ~300,000 acres of fish and wildlife habitat and recreational lands in Washington. We are able to readily point to the land that Dave conserved as something lasting and tangible; but his overall impact on conservation extends to the immeasurable positive impact and influence he had on those around him. Dave has long been recognized for his recruitment of quality professionals, his mentoring, his efforts to further their education, and his unconditional support for wildlife professionals and their families. When Dave engaged in conversation he always made that person the center of his attention, and as one biologist commented, when Dave congratulated you for a job well done, it was a special moment that left you knowing you had done something worthy. This positive influence will continue to benefit Washington's natural resources for years to come.



Dave's professional success was due in large part to the love and support of his wife Diane, his two grown daughters, and his grandchildren, all who carry his love of the outdoors. His annual trip on the PCT with his daughters was always a highlight of his summer.

We are honored to have known Dave. He embodied the best of all of our values; commitment to family, friends and community, honesty, fairness, and humor, and a dedication to conservation that will last forever through the lands he protected and the people he inspired. He will be missed, but never forgotten.

The family has established the **Dave Brittell Memorial Scholarship Fund**.

Anyone wishing to donate to the fund can go to any branch of Sterling Bank and make a deposit. Funds will go to students wanting to study wildlife at a Pacific Northwest college. And the following link, <http://www.funeralalternatives.org/portfolio-item/brittell-dave/>, will take you to a public memorial page where you can add your own comments and express your thoughts about Dave. All comments will be provided to Dave's family.

## REGIONAL REPORTS



The regional reports help to keep members informed of the various wildlife and habitat management, habitat restoration, and research projects occurring throughout Washington. If you do not see your important work represented here please consider contributing to the next issue by contacting Betsy Howell (OLY) at: [bhowell@fs.fed.us](mailto:bhowell@fs.fed.us), Steve Hall (NW) at: [shall@pointconsulting.us](mailto:shall@pointconsulting.us), Annmarie Prince (NE) at: [Annmarie.Prince@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:Annmarie.Prince@dfw.wa.gov), Sara Gregory (SE) at: [Sara.Gregory@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:Sara.Gregory@dfw.wa.gov); or William Ritchie (SW) at: [william\\_ritchie@fws.gov](mailto:william_ritchie@fws.gov).

### OLYMPIC REGION – *Betsy Howell, USFS*

#### **Bobcat and Cougar Studies - Shannon Murphie, Makah Tribe**

The Makah Tribe continues to monitor cougar populations on the northwest Olympic Peninsula. Since the project began in 2010, we have captured 17 cougars including three adult males, five sub-adult males, four adult females, one sub-adult female and four cubs. Two adult females gave birth to cubs in August 2013, but litter size is unknown at this time. Currently, we are monitoring one adult male and three adult females with GPS collars. One adult female, one adult male, and two sub-adult males have been harvested and two collars have completely failed, remaining unrecovered. Collared individuals are recaptured as necessary to maintain our sample and new individuals are captured opportunistically. The fix success of GPS collars remains at about 83% providing us with nearly 33,000 locations to date. We have investigated approximately 840 clusters, recovering prey at 85% of these sites, resulting in at least 16 individual prey species including deer, elk, beaver, raccoon, coyote, bobcat, bear cub, skunk,

river otter, grouse, duck, red-tailed hawk, mountain beaver, rabbit, fish and other small birds. Prey composition remains consistent at 61% deer, 19% elk, 8% beaver, 6% raccoon, and 6% other species, with female diets dominated by deer (70%) and male diets dominated by elk (62%). Prey intervals and the number of days at a kill vary by individual but average about six days between kills and 4.5 days at a kill site. Of all the deer and elk found at clusters, 53% are young-of-year, 35% are adults, and 11% are juveniles between one and two years of age. Home range sizes for females range 87-256km<sup>2</sup> and for males range 166-440km<sup>2</sup>. Composite home range and minimum relative density estimates indicate 2.15 adult cougars per 100km<sup>2</sup>.

*Collared bobcat coming into baited camera station. Photo: Makah Tribe*

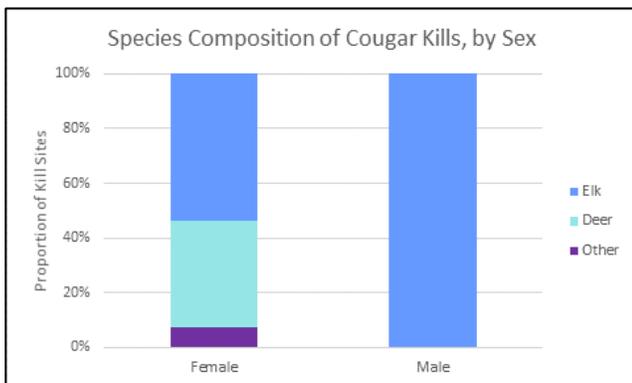


The Makah Tribe continues bobcat capture efforts and monitoring within the Hoko GMU (601). Since March 2012, we have captured 18 bobcats including nine adult males, six adult females, two sub-adult males, and one sub-adult female. We are currently monitoring four adult males and three adult females with GPS collars. To date, one adult male and three adult females have died; one from cougar predation, one harvested, and two suspected malnutrition. The fix success of GPS collars averages 58%, providing us with about 10,875 locations to date. We have investigated over 140 clusters, recovering prey at only 34% of those sites. Deer have been found at 58% of bobcat clusters, likely due to the larger prey size and greater number of GPS locations at kill sites, however 40% of those deer have been scavenged from a cougar kill or other natural mortality. Mountain beaver (15%), other small prey such as small birds and rodents (12%), rabbits (5%), and

grouse (2.5%) make up the majority of other prey found at clusters. Actual prey composition of bobcat diets likely contains greater amounts of small prey but, given bobcat behavior and the limitations of our GPS collars, we have been unable to accurately estimate it simply by relying on cluster analysis. Home range sizes range from 3.1km<sup>2</sup> to 11.1km<sup>2</sup>. Female home range estimates have not been analyzed at this time but will be included in future updates. Composite home range and minimum relative density estimates of males indicate 16 adult male bobcats per 100km<sup>2</sup>, or approximately 54 adult male bobcats within the Hoko GMU.

### Cougar Study - Daniel Ravenel, Quinault Indian Nation

Assessing cougar (*Puma concolor*) populations on the Olympic Coast has been a goal of the Quinault Division of Natural Resources and the Community since 2010. We have been successful at capturing and radio collaring five cougars, including three males and two females, on the Quinault Reservation. We currently only have three adult cougars collared. Cougars are fitted with Lotek GPS satellite collars and are set to acquire a location fix every three hours. With low calf to cow ratios and recruitment in elk populations and with little information about deer mortality, the Quinault wildlife staff has set out to accomplish three main goals. The first goal is to describe and quantify the relationships of cougars to their prey, specifically Roosevelt elk and black-tailed deer. Looking at predation rates is done by cluster analysis from the radio-collared cougars. Results of the analysis so far have resulted in male cougars selecting elk calves while female cougars have selected both elk and deer without any significant difference.



The second goal of the study was to delineate and define home ranges of both female and male cougars. This is currently being done through two methods

using the minimum complex polygon and the Kernel Density Estimate. The third and final goal of the study is to estimate cougar populations. To date we have examined reproductive rates of two cougars and found a total of three kittens; one pictured below.



Examining reproduction rates of cougars on the Quinault Indian Nation. Photo: Kenny McCoy, Quinault Indian Nation

### Recent Changes to Taxonomic and Conservation Designations for Forest Carnivores in the Pacific Northwest – Keith B. Aubry, PNW Research Station, U.S. Forest Service

During the last few years, several of us have been working with the Natural Heritage data base managers in Washington and Oregon to update the NatureServe designations (NatureServe 2013) for both montane red foxes and coastal marten populations in the Pacific Northwest. These new designations more accurately reflect the current conservation status of these taxa, especially the much more precarious status of coastal marten populations compared to those that occupy interior regions. We have also been working to implement recent taxonomic changes for these carnivores in NatureServe, as needed. The NatureServe designations have important implications for conservation efforts in this region, so it is imperative that they accurately reflect current understandings of the conservation status of these and other species of concern.

*Cascade and Sierra Nevada red foxes*—A recent genetic study (Sacks et al. 2010) has shown that the geographic range of the Cascade red fox (*Vulpes vulpes cascadenis*) is limited to the Cascade Range in Washington, and that montane red foxes in the Oregon Cascades represent the northern extent of the range of the Sierra Nevada red fox (*V. v. nicator*), rather than the southern extent of the range of the Cascade red fox. Not surprisingly, the Columbia

River is much more of a barrier to gene flow among high-elevation red foxes than was previously assumed. These new understandings are now reflected in the NatureServe database, where both of these montane red fox subspecies are designated as “G5T1T2”. G5 means “secure at the species level”, whereas T1 and T2 refer to their status at the subspecies or population level, where they are considered to be “critically imperiled – T1” or “imperiled – T2”. Note that there are also montane red foxes in the Willowa Mountains of Oregon, but those are Rocky Mountain red foxes (*V. v. macroura*) that are connected to populations in Idaho, rather than to those in the Cascade Range.

**Coastal marten populations**—A recent synthesis of the taxonomic status of martens in North America (Dawson and Cook 2012) has provided compelling evidence that marten populations in the western U.S. and southwestern Canada are distinct from other marten populations at the species level. This is not a new idea; rather, it represents a return to the original taxonomic designations given to North American martens. Thus, marten populations in southwestern North America (including all marten populations in the western contiguous U.S.) should now be classified as the Pacific marten (*Martes caurina*), whereas all other populations in North America are still considered to be American martens (*M. americana*). Again, both this taxonomic change and a high level of conservation concern for coastal marten populations are now reflected in NatureServe. Interior marten populations in Washington and Oregon are now listed as “*Martes caurina* pop. 1 (Pacific Marten – Interior Population)” and are ranked as “G4G5T4T5”, which means they are considered to be “secure” or “apparently secure” at both the species and population levels, whereas coastal marten populations in Washington and Oregon are listed as “*Martes caurina* pop. 3 (Pacific Marten – Coastal Population)” and have a designation of “G4G5T1”, which means “critically imperiled” at the population level.

**Fisher**—Lastly, recent genetic studies (Koepfli et al. 2008, Sato et al. 2012) have shown that the

genus *Martes* is polyphyletic with respect to the fisher (i.e., more than one genetic lineage is included within the genus), and that fishers are actually more closely related to wolverines (*Gulo gulo*) and tayras (*Eira barbara*) than they are to martens! In accordance with the recommendations made by Sato et al. (2012), the scientific name for the fisher has been changed to *Pekania pennanti*. The fisher was previously considered to be the only member of the sub-genus *Pekania* within the genus *Martes* but, with these new understandings, *Pekania* has now been elevated to the genus level. Most recently published papers on the fisher have included this taxonomic change. In NatureServe, fisher populations in WA, OR, and CA (*Pekania pennanti* pop. 1—the West Coast Distinct Population Segment), which is currently a candidate for listing under ESA, has a designation of “G5T2T3”, which means that these populations are considered to be “imperiled—T2” or “vulnerable—T3”.

#### Literature Cited

- Dawson, N.G. and J.A. Cook. 2012. Behind the genes: diversification of North American martens (*Martes americana* and *M. caurina*). Pages 23-38 in *Biology and conservation of martens, sables, and fishers: a new synthesis*. K.B. Aubry, W.J. Zielinski, M.G. Raphael, G. Proulx, and S.W. Buskirk, editors. Cornell University Press, Ithaca, New York.
- Koepfli, K.P., K.A. Deere, G.J. Slater, C. Begg, K. Begg, L. Grassman, M. Lucherini, G. Veron, and R.K. Wayne. 2008. Multigene phylogeny of the Mustelidae: resolving relationships, tempo and biogeographic history of a mammalian adaptive radiation. *BMC Biology* 6:10.
- NatureServe. 2013. NatureServe Explorer: an online encyclopedia of life [web application]. Version 7.1. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available at <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>. (Accessed: February 5, 2014).
- Sacks, B.N., M.J. Statham, J.D. Perrine, S.M. Wisely, and K.B. Aubry. 2010. North American montane red foxes: expansion, fragmentation, and the origin of the Sacramento Valley red fox. *Conservation Genetics* 11:1523-1539.
- Sato, J.J., M. Wolsan, F. J. Prevosti, G. D'Elia, C. Begg, K. Begg, T. Hosoda, K.L. Campbell, and H. Suzuki. 2012. Evolutionary and biogeographic history of weasel-like carnivorans (Musteloidea). *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution* 63:745-757.

#### Cougar Study – Bethany Tropp, Skokomish Indian Nation

The Skokomish Tribe is continuing the effort to deploy GPS collars on cougars in the Southeast Olympic Peninsula. The GPS collars take points every three hours and data are used to establish home range and to determine locations that might be kill sites. These locations are searched to determine prey selection and kill frequency. As more collars are deployed, it will provide information on differences



Bethany Tropp and Shane Miller of the Skokomish Indian Nation with collared cougar. Photo: Jeff Moore of Skokomish Indian Nation

between male and female cougars and different age classes, and produce a density estimate of the cougar population in the area. The project has hit some snags, with one cougar dying of natural causes and another being harvested shortly after collaring. Currently the Tribe has one cougar collared and is working to capture more.

### **Pacific Marten and Fisher Surveys – Betsy Howell, Olympic National Forest**

This is the Olympic National Forest's second winter of working with the non-profit organization Adventurers and Scientists for Conservation to conduct surveys for coastal Pacific marten. Twenty-three volunteers were recruited and have been monitoring 20 remote camera stations from the Dosewallips River in the northeast part of the forest to Lake Cushman in the southeast. This range of landscape represents the area for which we have verified documentation of marten from the past 26 years (the last siting was from 2008). The stations will be monitored from January through early April. Though we have not yet documented a marten, two sites have had visits by uncollared fishers in an area of the forest where, based on earlier radio telemetry data, there appeared to be little fisher activity. These stations now also have hair snare boxes and we hope to collect some hair that will determine the identity of these animals.



*The many volunteers who are very interested in finding the elusive coastal marten! Photo: Kyle Noble, ONF*

In terms of the non-invasive monitoring data gathered on fisher from the 2013 summer, early DNA results are in and will be published in the annual report later this year. Of the 52 hexes surveyed, fishers were detected on cameras at 7/52 hexes and via DNA at 7/52 hexes. Though not all of the cameras worked all of the time and not all of the DNA samples amplified,

through both devices we detected fishers at 9/52 hexes. From the DNA results, three animals were recaptures of founders and four were new individuals. The DNA work continues with these new animals to determine their family trees.

*Recent photo of a fisher, triumphant after it had obtained the bait! Photo: ONF*



### **River Otters and American Dippers - Kim Sager-Fradkin, Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe**

The Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, in collaboration with the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute, the United States Geological Survey- Olympic Field Station, and Olympic National Park, is in the final year of a four-year study looking at river otter (*Lontra canadensis*) and American dipper (*Cinclus mexicanus*) use of the Elwha River during removal of two hydroelectric dams, which commenced in 2011 and is expected to be completed by 2014. Our primary objective is to collect information on how otters and dippers use the Elwha River to meet their spatial, habitat, and dietary requirements, and how salmon restoration might alter the way in which those requirements are met.



*River otter leaving the trap. Photo: Lower Elwha Staff.*

We have captured and implanted 10 otters with radio-tracking devices and are monitoring 246 banded dippers across four watersheds with varying degrees of salmon availability. We are also collecting biological samples (blood, hair, feathers, claws) from both otters and dippers, which allow us to use stable isotope ratios of nitrogen and carbon for determining the contribution of marine-derived nutrients (delivered to



*River otter on the Elwha River. Photo: Lower Elwha Staff.*

streams by spawning salmon) in otter and dipper diets. In dippers, we are examining ecological impacts of marine-derived nutrients by measuring annual survival and indices of body condition, reproductive success, and life-history variation in areas with and without migrating salmon. For both otters and dippers we are also providing a baseline of isotopic variation prior to and during dam removal.

To date, tagged otters have moved extensively throughout the Elwha watershed and Strait of Juan de Fuca, traversing the upper Elwha dam when it was still fully intact, exhibiting range expansion after removal of the lower dam, and moving up to 20 km west and east along the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Several otters make extensive use of Port Angeles harbor, prompting us to collect blood for examining contaminant loads in otters. Using stable isotope analysis, we have found strong separation patterns in both stable-carbon and -nitrogen ratios, indicating that otters and dippers in areas with salmon are receiving substantial marine-derived nutrients through consumption of salmon or other marine biota or, in the case of dippers, potentially through consumption of invertebrates that use an enriched nitrogen pool. Further, we have been observing changes in stable-nitrogen isotopes in the middle Elwha where anadromous fish have returned since the Elwha Dam removal. In fact, over the course of the study, stable-nitrogen ratios in the middle Elwha

(where anadromous fish have returned) have become more similar to those in the lower while diverging from the upper Elwha (where anadromous fish are still obstructed). Finally in dippers we have found that females breeding in areas without salmon are in poorer body condition than those in areas with intact migrations.



*An American dipper observed on the Elwha River. Photo: Chris Tonra.*

## NORTHEAST REGION – *Annemarie Prince, WDFW*

### **Lisa Langelier's Retirement** - *Jerry Cline, WDFW*

Lisa Langelier, Project Leader for the Inland Northwest National Wildlife Refuge Complex, retired after a 24 year career with the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Lisa's federal career started at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal in 1990. In 1994, she was posted to the 40,000 acre Little Pend Oreille National Wildlife Refuge as the first Refuge Manager on that installation after 29 years of Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife management. Lisa's first challenge was building a staff and a refuge management program from scratch, while establishing a trusting relationship with the state agency and the local community after a long period of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service absence. A major accomplishment was the adoption of a refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan; one of the first such plans implemented in the National Refuge System. A controversial part of that plan was the cessation of the long established livestock grazing program on the refuge, a decision that resulted in Lisa and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service being named in a lawsuit brought by the Stevens County Cattleman's Association, the Stevens County Conservation District, Stevens County Farm Bureau, Stevens County Commissioners, and a number of individual ranches and ranchers. Lisa and her staff worked diligently to assemble almost 10,000 pages of documentation supporting the plan and defending against the lawsuit, supported by the Defenders of Wildlife and the Friends of the Little Pend Oreille NWR as defendant- interveners. The United States District Court found in favor of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, thus upholding the refuge management plan. Some of Lisa's other notable accomplishments on the Little Pend Oreille NWR included a 700 acre land acquisition, establishing a refuge recreation program compatible with the Refuge's purpose, instituting a habitat management program including timber thinning and prescribed fire, and the design and implementation of a seven-mile long auto tour. In 2007, a reorganization in the Refuge system resulted in Lisa becoming the Project Leader of the Inland Northwest National Wildlife Refuge complex, encompassing the Little Pend Oreille as well as Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge in Cheney, Washington and Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge, in Bonner's Ferry, Idaho. During this time Lisa worked with the Kootenai NWR staff writing and implementing their first Comprehensive



*Lisa Langelier. Photo: USFWS*

Conservation Plan. She also oversaw the addition of 1100 acres to the Turnbull NWR land base. Lisa's career is an example of how a dedicated conservationist, working diligently through both favorable and diverse circumstances, can have a lasting impact on the public's natural resources for decades to come.

### **Moose Research in NE WA** - *Rich Harris, WDFW*

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) initiated an ecological study of moose in Region 1, north of Spokane, Washington. To begin this effort, 27 female moose were captured by chemical darting from helicopter during December, 2013. These animals were distributed within two study areas: 12 in WDFW District 1 on either side of Flowery Trail and 15 in WDFW District 2 both north and south of Mt. Spokane State Park. All animals were fitted with GPS radio-collars. We also collected blood samples, a tooth for ageing, and information on



*WDFW staff processing a cow moose. Photo: WDFW*

pregnancy status and body condition on most animals.

In conjunction with our academic partner in this project, the University of Montana (Missoula), WDFW will be monitoring these animals throughout the year (but particularly during the crucial summer calving season) to document factors affecting survival and recruitment of new cohorts. The study will examine the influences of habitat conditions, weather, parasites, and predators on moose population dynamics. The collared moose will also be used as part of the calibration in a WDFW initiative to improve annual surveys of moose

abundance throughout northeastern Washington. We anticipate working in cooperation with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, and the Kalispel Tribe on these projects. We expect to capture and mark a similar number again in winter 2014-15.

Moose in northeastern Washington have evidently increased in the past decade, and have expanded their range within Washington to the west and south. However, many moose populations in the U.S. and Canada have decreased recently, and this study may assist in understanding these declines. Concurrently, Washington moose hunters are being asked to assist by bringing the heads of harvested moose to the Spokane office for parasite surveillance. In particular, WDFW is concerned about the spread of the arterial worm *Elaeophora schneideri*, which is known to have deleterious effects on moose in nearby states. Veterinary investigation of an initial sample of 12 moose harvested during the 2013 hunting season showed no evidence of infection in Washington. We plan to continue hunter-assisted surveillance in future years.

WDFW would like to extend particular appreciation to the many private and public land-owners who have graciously allowed us to study moose on their lands. In particular, WDFW acknowledges Hancock Forest Management, Inland Empire Paper Company, Riley Creek Lumber Company, Stimson Lumber Company,



*Recently collared cow moose. Photo: WDFW*

the Colville National Forest (USFS), Little Pen Oreille National Wildlife Refuge (USFWS), Washington Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) Idaho Department of Lands (IDL), the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG), and Mt. Spokane State Park. Thanks also to Jess Hagerman and the staff at Northwest Helicopters.

#### **A Little History.....The First NE Washington WDFW Regional Biologist - Keith Guenther, Wildland Solutions**

Stanley Guenther was the first Regional Biologist for the WDFW (at that time the Game Department) assigned to northeast Washington from 1949-1973. He was born just 100 years ago at home in Stevens County near Hunters, Washington in February 1914.

Well founded rumors have it he seldom went to high school his senior year at Hunters HS during winter, unless there was a basketball game to be played, or in the spring, unless baseball games were on the agenda.

After high school for several years he trapped coyotes and bobcats in the winter, and picked apples in Orondo, WA during the fall. Working on the rocky family farm situated on upper Hunters creek as needed. His older brothers accused him of just disappearing into the hills way too often. He liked to

explore the hills, creeks and mountains, especially new places he had never seen before.

When he was 22 he heard about a new college degree program at Washington State College called Wildlife that sounded interesting to him. With the help of an older brother he got a job in one of the college dormitory kitchens that provided essential room and board before heading to the rolling hills of Pullman and WSC in 1936. (Nepotism can be good)

College meant going to classes on a regular basis; he apparently did and graduated in 1940. In 1940 the Washington Game Department was pretty much a law enforcement agency and only had one biologist for the whole state!

I knew my father had been hired by the Game Department shortly after graduating from WSC, but never gave the how or why any thought whatsoever until a Department of Game Christmas party I happened to attend in Olympia during the late 1960's. I was approached by a gentleman (I later found out was chief of law enforcement) who wanted to know if I was Stan Guenther's boy. I admitted as much, and he went on to tell me that in 1940 the Game Department was not sure if they wanted to hire any "college boys". They decided to take a chance on Stan Guenther from WSC and Bob Rennie who had also just graduated from college at the UW. The only reason these 2 "college boys" were hired was because Stan had spent several years trapping coyotes and Bob had spent his summers herding sheep in the high North Cascades mountain meadows. The Game Department folks doing the hiring decided that the practical work experiences that Stan and Bob had acquired might offset their college experience enough for them to be useful employees. Bob Rennie was hired to work at a fish hatchery cleaning fish raceways. Stan Guenther was hired to work from a drafty cabin and baby sit an introduced herd of antelope fawns in the sagebrush hills near Yakima.

That's the way it happened in 1940, the good old days.

### **Snoqualmie Pass East Project - Kris Ernest,** *Central Washington University*

Steve Wagner, Kris Ernest, and Paul James at Central Washington University continue their wildlife research and monitoring efforts on WSDOT's I-90 Snoqualmie Pass East project. Focal taxa include amphibians & reptiles, small mammals, and salmonid fish. New and planned wildlife crossing structures

provide opportunities for graduate students to conduct master's research on ecological and population genetic aspects of wildlife connectivity. Contact information: Steve Wagner [wagners@cwu.edu](mailto:wagners@cwu.edu), Kris Ernest [ernestk@cwu.edu](mailto:ernestk@cwu.edu), Paul James [jamesp@cwu.edu](mailto:jamesp@cwu.edu)



*Small mammal team live-trapping near Price Creek.  
Photo: Rich Villacres, CWU*

### **Howard Ferguson Announces His Retirement -** *Kevin Robinette, WDFW*

Howard is the District Wildlife Biologist for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife in Spokane. Many of us have had the great pleasure of working with him on various wildlife projects over his 20 plus year career with WDFW. Howard and his wife Cheri have decided that it is time for him to retire from the agency to pursue other activities. No doubt those activities will include more travel and more time with his grandson.

Howard has been an outstanding employee at WDFW and will be sorely missed. He came to work for the old Game Department in 1993 as a game survey coordinator in Olympia. In 1995, he moved to Spokane and became the Urban Wildlife Biologist. He primarily worked with non-game animals, but was also heavily involved in growth management, environmental education programs, and the development of Watchable Wildlife programs for the area. In 2001, Howard was promoted to the District Wildlife Biologist position working with both game and non-game animals ranging from small birds to moose. Lately, Howard has been involved in some very important work documenting jackrabbit numbers in the Columbia Basin (featured in fall 2013 newsletter).

Those of us who know him know of his keen interest in the outdoors. Howard loves to birdwatch and botanize at the same time. He is also somewhat of a techie and an avid reader. Howard also backpacks, hikes, snorkels, SCUBA dives, skis, snowboards, canoes, kayaks, and sails. Howard is a great friend to many of us and would tell us that most importantly; he enjoys the company of his family and friends on his adventures. Best wishes Howard, to you and Cheri in your retirement.

Howard's last day with WDFW will be March 31. A retirement party is scheduled for April 26<sup>th</sup> in Spokane. Details are currently being worked out.



Howard Ferguson. Photo: Mike Atamian

## SOUTHEAST REGION – Sara Gregory, WDFW

### New Zealand Mudsnails Found in Hanford Reach

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife has reported that two juvenile New Zealand mudsnails

have been detected on one of the islands in the Hanford Reach section of the Columbia River in Richland, Washington. This is the first documented introduction of the mudsnail in the Hanford Reach. Previously, in 2012, the mudsnail was detected downstream in Lake Wallula. It has been in the Snake River system since 1987. These invertebrates have the ability to reproduce asexually and survive extreme temperatures giving them the potential to outcompete other native aquatic species. More information can be found [here](#).

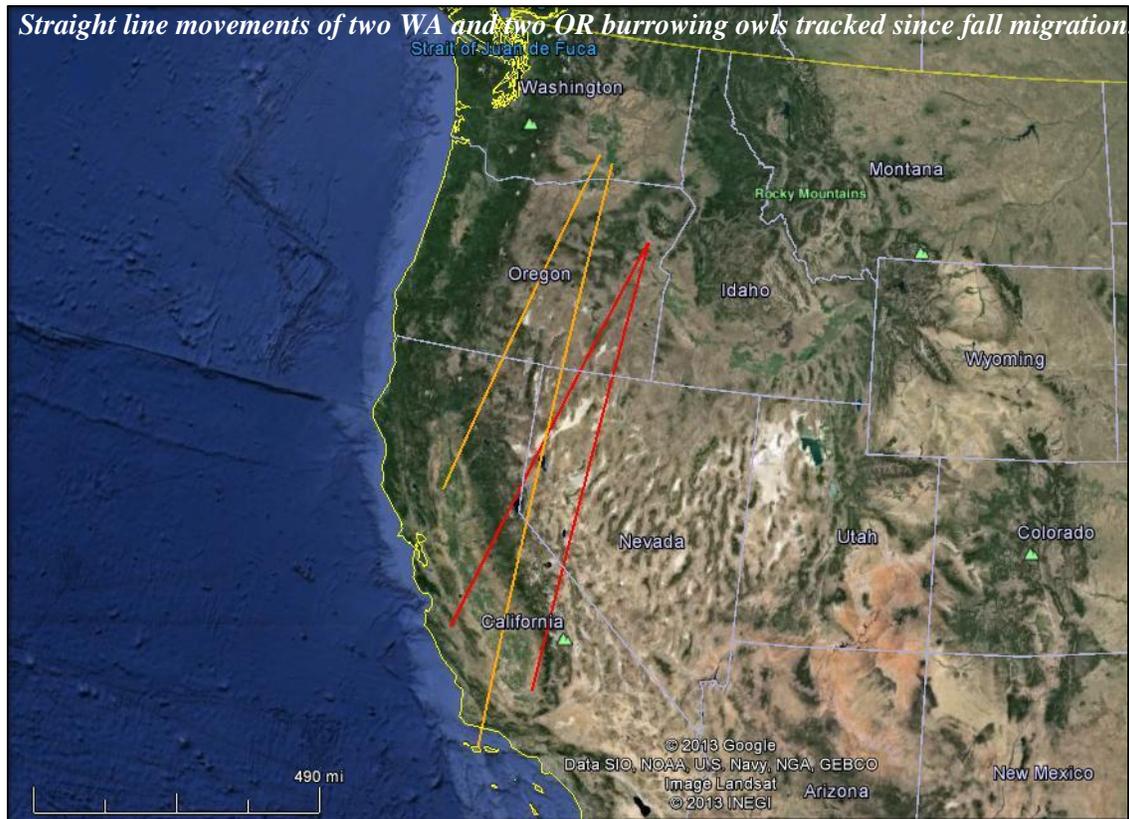


### Burrowing Owl Migration Study Gets Underway

Benson, A. J. 2014. New Zealand mudsnail sighting in Richland, WA (red dot). Retrieved 2/12/2014 from [newzealandmudsnaildistribution.aspx](http://newzealandmudsnaildistribution.aspx)

During the summer of 2013, The Global Owl Project (GLOW) marked 10 burrowing owls in the western U.S. with solar powered GPS platform transmitter terminals (PTT). Two of these owls were captured with help from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service around the Tri-Cities, Washington. After spending the summer in Washington, these owls traveled up to 1,000 miles south last October and landed in California. Two owls from northeast Oregon have also moved to California.

More from David Johnson of GLOW regarding the map below: "The 2 lines in ORANGE reflect those units that have either fallen off the owls or have stopped transmitting. We cannot say that these endpoints (both in CA) reflect overwintering sites or not, rather, just that the owls were able to get to that point. We recovered one PTT near Colusa, CA, and the other unit stopped transmitting just after the owl made it to Santa Rosa Island\*. \*This unit started transmitting again in February 2014.



The two lines in RED reflect the two owls that are still alive (as of 6 and 8 December 2013) and signals are still being received. We will see if the owls/PTTs make it through the winter.

The full measure of success in our PTT efforts is that the owls migrate, spend the winter, and return to their breeding grounds in spring (wherever that might be). Otherwise, we are simply tracking their fall, winter, or spring movements. So, we must be careful not to overstate our data.”

### **Farm Bill Program Aimed at Ferruginous Hawk Habitat**

Ferruginous Hawks (*Buteo regalis*) have been threatened in Washington since 1983 and although a recovery plan has been in place since 1996, hawk numbers have continued to decline. By 2010, only around 10% of Washington’s Ferruginous Hawk territories were occupied and even fewer had a confirmed nesting pair. Loss of native shrub-steppe habitat from familiar sources like fire, agricultural conversion, and suburban development along with disturbance near nest sites and a reduced prey base are among the likely causes of the current trend. Both habitat restoration and reduction of disturbance are among the recovery plan’s listed objectives but 15

years into the plan, it was clear more needed to be done.

In 2012, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife biologists resolved to expand their hawk conservation efforts on private lands, where up to 75% of Ferruginous’ nests can be found. In partnership with the Federal Farm Service Agency or FSA, WDFW developed a habitat improvement and restoration program that focuses on the area around historic nesting sites and in October 2012, FSA was authorized to enroll up to 20,000 acres into the program in Benton, Franklin, and Adams counties. The program is part of the USDA’s Conservation Reserve Program or CRP but is unique in that it has specific wildlife objectives whereas general CRP is primarily meant to improve soil and water quality.

Through the program, landowners can receive rental and incentive payments for planting areas near nests with a high-diversity mix of native grasses and forbs that are good for wildlife, specifically Ferruginous Hawks and their prey. In most cases, these incentives are higher than the payments associated with general CRP, making the hawk program an attractive alternative. Because the program is incentive-based and voluntary, the hope is that it represents a win-win scenario for landowners and wildlife. Landowners benefit from a reliable annual income that can buffer against commodity market uncertainty and the hawks

benefit from new habitat, increased prey base, and reduced disturbance. Furthermore, the project represents a targeted and efficient approach to hawk conservation that relies on partner agencies and allows WDFW to address habitat objectives on private land at minimal cost to agency.

WDFW biologists have been promoting the program since it was announced but uncertainty surrounding the Farm Bill has limited the number of enrollees. Despite being on the books for nearly a year and a half, landowners were only able to sign up for the program during four months in 2013. Other obstacles that have limited landowner interest include long-held attitudes regarding the viability of native seed mixes, the cost of these mixes, and FSA payment policies. However, with a new Farm Bill in place as of February 2014, the Ferruginous Hawk CRP program is expected to be reauthorized in the coming months and WDFW staff will again be working with FSA to promote the program.

For more information, please contact: Ryan Stutzman  
WDFW Private Lands Biologist, 509-778-2630,  
[ryan.stutzman@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:ryan.stutzman@dfw.wa.gov)

## **NORTHWEST (PUGET SOUND) REGION - Steve Hall, Point Environmental Consulting, Inc.**

### **Sea star apocalypse has biologists worried**



*A healthy leather sea star eating a dying mottled star.  
Photo: Donna Gibbs via nbcnews.com*

A major die off of sea stars in Puget Sound – as well as along the entire West Coast of US and BC – have biologists wondering and worrying. While many TWS members might not think of sea stars as “wildlife,” anytime a major component of an

ecosystem starts to collapse, biologists should take notice.

According to a website hosted by author Neil McDaniel

<http://www.seastarsofthepacificnorthwest.info/>, Puget Sound, as well as BC and Alaska, host the most diverse and dense populations of sea stars in the world. They are a major component of the intertidal and subtidal zone, where their predation controls much of the other types of creatures of the highly productive nearshore area, including sponges, snails, clams, mussels, barnacles, sea cucumbers, tunicates, tubeworms, sea pens, anemones, corals, scallops, and even other starfish.

A loss of such a keystone group of species could have major ecological effects cascading through the food chain, possibly affecting marine mammals and birds. This issue is something Puget Sound watchers should definitely keep track of!

For more information, PBS has a good video report on the die off:

<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/mysterious-epidemic-devastates-starfish-population-pacific-coast/>

### **Puget Sound Wintering Swan Populations on the Rise**

According to the Everett Herald, Puget Sound country’s winter populations of trumpeter and tundra swan are increasing. This year’s six-county count, from King to Whatcom plus San Juan counties, totaled 14,421 swans, 66 percent of which were in Skagit County.



*WDFW biologist prepares to capture a sick swan. Photo: WDFW*

This increase population is amid reports of increased mortality, with the Bellingham Herald reporting 261 dead swans this winter in Whatcom County, a 75 percent increase over the normal. Some of the deaths are attributed to aspergillosis, according to said state wildlife biologist Chris Danilson. The disease is caused by a fungus typically contracted from infected food. According to WDFW, the disease is a natural part of the overall population dynamics and is not a major concern.

ONLINE

<http://www.bellinghamherald.com/2014/02/07/3461505/fungal-disease-killing-swans-at.html>

### Humane Society Rescues Whatcom County Rehab Center



*Whatcom Humane Society Wildlife Rehabilitation Services manager Alysha Elsby, left, and volunteer Amy Armstrong. Photo: Andy Bronson, The Bellingham Herald*

Whatcom County's Northwest Wildlife Rehabilitation Center closed its doors on Valentine's Day, citing that the numbers of orphaned and injured wild animals were too much for the nonprofit to handle financially. But almost immediately, the Whatcom Humane Society stepped up to take over operations.

Executive Director Laura Clark told the Bellingham Herald that the decision to take over after the center's closure as a "no-brainer" because of the lack of other options for care and rehabilitation for injured and orphaned wild animals in the county. "We feel very strongly that the Whatcom Humane Society had a moral and ethical obligation to step up and provide this service," Clark said.

ONLINE

<http://www.bellinghamherald.com/2014/02/15/3478111/whatcom-humane-society-to-take.html#storylink=cpy>

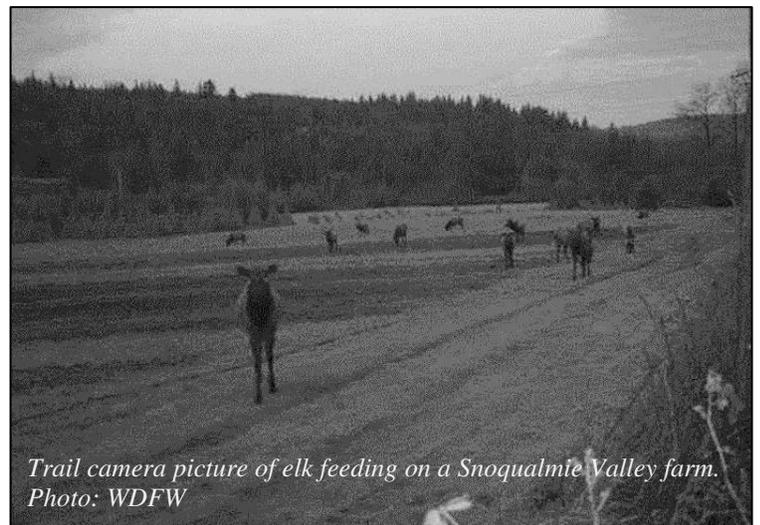
### WDFW Region 4 Reports

Here's a sampling from recent Region 4 weekly activity reports:

The Snoqualmie Bear Project continues with biologists locating dens, placing cameras to document emergence and cub numbers, recollar/adjust collars on sub-adult males, and potentially collar yearling cubs. Twenty-nine collared bears are currently denning within the study area.

The North Cascades Elk Working Group is preparing to release a draft heard plan in time for an April meeting. The plan is intended to address issues in Skagit and Whatcom counties stemming from increased elk populations amid increased human populations, including a boom in agri-tourism businesses. In support of the planning effort, the WDFW and Point Elliot Tribes are continuing to clover trap and radio collar elk in this area to monitor elk populations and movement patterns.

Upper Snoqualmie Valley Elk Management Group (USVEMG) and WDFW biologists continue efforts to manage elk depredation to vegetables, flowers and Christmas trees in the Snoqualmie Valley. Current efforts include using trail cameras and GPS collars to monitor movements, as well as direct removal of problem animals through the Maser Hunter program.



*Trail camera picture of elk feeding on a Snoqualmie Valley farm. Photo: WDFW*

The WDFW is continuing to train volunteers in the Puget Sound area on using the WDFW General Wildlife Observation wildlife reporting system, which is available online at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/viewing/observations/>

Assistant District Biologist Chris Anderson is continuing his work on the Mountain to Sound Greenway Technical Advisory Board, where he is helping to develop landscape-scale metrics to measure wildlife function, with a current focus on the Snoqualmie Valley.

ONLINE

[http://wdfw.wa.gov/about/wildlife\\_weekly/](http://wdfw.wa.gov/about/wildlife_weekly/)

### Final Report Issued on Killer Whale Death

On February 24th, the Northwest Marine Mammal Stranding Network issued a final report on the death of southern resident killer whale (SRKW) L112 (Sooke), which washed up on Long Beach in February 2012. Major findings in the report include:

- L112 died from blow to head, but its source is unknown.
- L112 was likely to have been off southern the Washington or northern Oregon coasts at the time of her death rather than in the inland waters of the Salish Sea.
- Military sonar or explosive deployments, in-water construction, interactions with commercial fisheries and earthquakes were determined to be unlikely causes of death.
- Vessel strike and injuries from an aggressive attack, such as ramming, by a larger animal, could not be ruled out.
- Heavy metal concentrations in the liver and kidney and persistent organic pollutant levels in blubber were within levels reported from other SRKWs.
- Analysis of feces from L-112 detected Chinook salmon and halibut, consistent with dietary preferences of SRKWs.

According to the Center for Whale Research, the SRKW population totaled 81, as of September 2013. Since SRKW are believed to only breed with other SRKW, the population is one of the most endangered marine mammals in the world.

[http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/protected\\_species/marine\\_mammals/killer\\_whale/1112\\_stranding\\_final\\_report.html](http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/protected_species/marine_mammals/killer_whale/1112_stranding_final_report.html)

## SOUTHWEST REGION - *William Ritchie, USFWS*

### Pacific Flyway Shorebird Survey within the Columbia River Estuary and Willapa Bay

This past winter citizen scientists and partner biologists conducted shorebird surveys at multiple locations around the Columbia River Estuary and Willapa Bay. This survey has been conducted each year at selected sites along the Pacific Flyway and was a pilot year for these two new sites. This is a challenging area to survey with tides, river flow, weather, and access challenges. Overall the survey was a successful effort with many observations which included flocks of wintering dunlin, western sandpipers, greater yellow-legs, black-bellied plover, marbled godwit, least sandpiper, willet, killdeer and semi-palmated plover (few sightings). The Pacific Flyway Shorebird Survey (PSSS) is a coordinated multi-partner monitoring program led by Point Blue Conservation Science designed to guide the management and conservation of wintering shorebirds in the Pacific Flyway.

Large-scale environmental changes, including urbanization, extreme weather and climate variation, agricultural flooding, and wetland restoration and management, are affecting wetland habitats throughout the Pacific Flyway. The influence of these changes on shorebird populations is not well understood. Past surveys of shorebirds in the Pacific Flyway were a snapshot of population and habitat conditions through the 1990's and do not reflect these more recent landscape level changes. The annual PFSS will help fill existing information gaps and provide guidance to resource managers on how best to conserve shorebird habitats in the face of environmental change.

Data is currently available online at the [Explore Data](#) section. All data is stored in the [California Avian Data Center](#). CADC is hosted by Point Blue and provides a secure, well-tested platform for storing, managing, analyzing, and visualizing ecological monitoring data. Contact Vanessa Loverti, Wildlife Biologist, USFWS Region 1 Migratory Birds.

## Snowy Plover and Streaked Horned Lark Surveys on the Washington Coast and Columbia River



*Snowy plover on the Willapa National Wildlife Refuge.*  
Photo: Ken Scheffler, USFWS

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and Willapa National Wildlife Refuge conducted annual surveys to monitor breeding phenology, nest success, fledging success, and the number of nesting adult western snowy plovers (*Charadrius nivosus nivosus*) on the southern Washington coast. Overall, 44 adults and 40 individual plover chicks were counted, 30 nests were found, and a total of 21 juveniles were known to have fledged. Clutch initiation and

fledging were slightly delayed again this year, but greater hatching success at Leadbetter Point, with the onset of predator management, may account for the lower number of nests and improved hatching success.

Surveys conducted in January 2014 in association with the annual rangewide nonbreeding survey found 67 wintering snowy plovers, the highest number on record for Washington State. Data from recent years has indicated a significantly declining population in Washington. Streaked Horned larks (*Eremophila*

*alpestris strigata*) were also censused in conjunction with the plover surveys. Contact: Cyndie Sundstrom, WDFW Wildlife Biologist, or William Ritchie, Biologist, Willapa NWR.

The Lewis and Clark NWR is once again collaborated with the Center for Natural Lands Management (CNLM), WDFW, and other USFWS staff in conducting streaked horned lark surveys on the lower Columbia River. While counts are typically low, this area represents a significant contribution to the population. Contact Paul Meyers, Biologist, Julia Butler Hansen NWR or Hannah Anderson at CNLM.

## Columbia White-tailed Deer Translocation along the Lower Columbia River

After moving 37 endangered Columbian white-tailed deer from Julia Butler Hansen Refuge for the Columbian White-tailed Deer to Ridgefield National



Wildlife Refuge under emergency conditions last year, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is planning to relocate up to 55 more deer this year and next to aid recovery of the species. The deer were moved last year because a dike at the Julia Butler Hansen Refuge was in danger of failing and putting the deer at risk.

A newly constructed setback dam has since minimized the risk to the



refuge. The deer scheduled to be moved to Ridgefield Refuge this year and next will come from private lands on Puget Island in the Columbia River. Ridgefield Refuge is developing a sub-population of the endangered deer, which are unique to southwest Washington and western Oregon. The area surrounding Ridgefield Refuge – roughly 60 miles upstream from Julia Butler Hansen Refuge and Puget Island – is within historic Columbian white-tailed deer

*USFWS capturing Columbia white-tailed deer for translocation. Photos: Rebecca Toland, USFWS & Tim Jewitt*

range. Jackie Ferrier, project leader at Willapa National Refuge Complex, which includes Hansen Refuge, says the goal is to have three stable and secure populations. Two populations already exist at Julia Butler Hansen Refuge. Contact Paul Meyers.

### Black-tailed Deer Research Project

WDFW Research Scientist and Chief Investigator Cliff Rice, private contractors Northwest Helicopters, and WDFW Biologists Bergh and Holman attempted adult doe captures associated with the black-tail research project in both the Coweeman (550) Game Management Unit (GMU) and Washougal (568) GMU. The adult females are captured by helicopter net-gunning. Conditions were excellent in the Coweeman GMU and eight adult does were captured. Unfortunately, poor flying conditions and the more complex forest structure in the Washougal GMU made capturing deer much more challenging as the week progressed. Three does were captured in GMU

568 and additional captures may be scheduled later in the winter.

Once captured, the does are outfitted with collars that record the deer's location every five hours and convey this information to a satellite. The collars also generate a traditional VHF signal for field location. The does are additionally outfitted with a vaginal implant transmitter (VIT) which communicates with the doe's satellite collar. Upon birth, the VIT lets the collar know that fawns have been born and WDFW staff is notified by e-mail and text message. Following notification, fawn searches are initiated. Thanks to Northwest Helicopters, primarily pilot Jess Hagerman and net-gunner Brian Greenhaw, for their skill in this challenging capture effort. Contact Eric Holman, Wildlife Biologist, WDFW Region 5.



WDFW successfully capturing black-tailed deer. Photos: WDFW

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### GLOBAL WILDLIFE RESOURCES:

Global Wildlife Resources has scheduled several wildlife chemical immobilization training courses for spring, 2014. Each course is the most extensive wildlife handling training in North America with live animals and designed for state/tribal/private/federal wildlife professionals, zoo caretakers and captive wildlife organizations, animal control officers, university students, and veterinary technicians. Attached is a course announcement for each class. A student rate is available for full time college students. GWR courses in spring 2014 include:

April 22-24, Boise, ID  
 May 6-8, Lansing MI  
 May 20-22, Belgrade, MT

Each one is a practical field-oriented course with hands-on labs every day. Few courses in the country have live animals. On the third day of this course, you will be able to chemically immobilize goats, which simulate deer in an excellent way. If you would like to see a video of a typical lab, [watch this video of our Day 3 lab](#) in which we had four wolf-dogs at the WOLF Sanctuary near LaPorte, CO. *Imagine you are in a similar lab chemically immobilizing goats with safety, professionalism, and care and respect for the animal!*

You can register through our website [Course Schedule](#). Most courses become full so register early to get a seat! Our website has additional information including testimonials.

Feel free to contact Mark Johnson, DVM, if you have any questions, 406.586.4624, [mjohnson@wildliferesources.org](mailto:mjohnson@wildliferesources.org)

### Scholarship and Grant Awards

#### **Richard E. Fitzner Memorial Scholarship**

Dick Fitzner was a biologist, educator, artist, naturalist, hunter and fisherman. He also served as President of the Washington Chapter of The Wildlife Society. Dick always offered enthusiasm, inspiration and encouragement to the many wildlife biologists that knew him. Through an annual memorial scholarship fund, established in Dick Fitzner's honor, the Washington Chapter of The Wildlife Society hopes to help encourage and inspire future wildlife biologists.

To scholarship is designed to provide financial aid to wildlife oriented biology students who will have junior or senior standing at a college or university in the state of Washington during the fall semester/quarter of the year in which the scholarship is awarded. Applications are due by May 31st each year. The scholarship is awarded during that summer for the fall semester. Preference will be given to students with a demonstrated need for financial aid; a history of experiences, activities, and interests in the field of wildlife biology; college course work applicable to field biology; and grades. College transcripts and two letters of reference from instructors or past employers must accompany the application form.

The fund shall provide up to \$2,500 toward the tuition of the selected student(s) for the fall term during the year in which the scholarship is granted. The funds shall be paid to the Registrar at the college or university being attended, and credited toward the student's tuition for the fall semester/quarter.

The application form may be found at our [website](#) and may provide some guidance to 2014-2015 applicants. Applications are due May 31<sup>st</sup>.

*NOTE: Applications for the 2015-2016 school year will be due in December of 2014.*

#### **Research Grant**

The Chapter provides up to \$2,500 in grant money for wildlife research projects in Washington State. **The deadline for submission of proposals is May 1st this year.** Proposals are reviewed by the Grant Committee and final funding decisions will be made by the Board.

Proposals should be two to three pages in length and include the following information: Introduction, Methods, Timetable, Budget, Products to be Produced, and a Curriculum Vitae. Funding requests will not exceed \$2,500. Student proposals are welcome.

Proposals are rated based on the following criteria: appropriateness of the project to the goals of The Wildlife Society, adequacy of proposed methods to the project objectives, researcher's experience, and importance of research in relation to the requested funds.

Grant recipients will be expected to present results of their project at a future Annual Meeting of the Chapter and/or provide a write-up for the Chapter newsletter. Recipients are also expected to be (or

become) members of the Washington Chapter at the time the funds are received ([Go to Membership](#)).

If you have questions please contact John Lehmkuhl (509-669-7373; [jlehmkuhl@nwi.net](mailto:jlehmkuhl@nwi.net))

**NOTE:** Applications for 2015 will be due in December of 2014.

### **Opportunities for Students**

The Washington Chapter of the Wildlife Society offers several opportunities for students:

- Become involved in the Student Chapters at the University of Washington (<http://students.washington.edu/uwtws/>) or Washington State University (<http://www.wildlifeclub.wsu.edu/>)
- Apply for a [grant](#) or [scholarship](#) to support your research. Links to supporting information can be found on the left side of our main webpage.
- Attend the 2014 Annual Meeting.

### **THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY ONLINE MENTORING PROGRAM**

TWS' Online Mentoring program is a great way to

build professional relationships that will help advance a student's or young professional's career, while gaining knowledge from wildlife professionals. Already a professional? We are always looking for mentors to volunteer. It is easy to sign up, just go online to our [Online Mentoring Program](#) with your TWS Member ID number and register.

### **Join the Washington Chapter of the Wildlife Society!**

For more information the Chapter, including membership forms, please visit our website: <http://wildlife.org/Washington/>.

If you have questions regarding your membership status, please contact Mike Hall at 425-458-6244 or [mhall@parametrix.com](mailto:mhall@parametrix.com). He will be happy to help you out. And if you are ready to renew your membership you can use the form on the next page or on our website. Folks who are members at the National level can also check by logging in as members at <http://store.wildlife.org>. Remember chapter membership dues are only \$10 (\$5 if you are a student). It's an inexpensive way to stay connected and support wildlife!



*Photo: D. O'Conner*



# *The Wildlife Society*

## Washington Chapter

### BOARD

#### President

Bruce Thompson  
Washington Department of Fish  
& Wildlife  
360-902-2505  
[Bruce.Thompson@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:Bruce.Thompson@dfw.wa.gov)

#### President-Elect

Tony Fuchs  
Puget Sound Energy  
[tony.fuchs@pse.com](mailto:tony.fuchs@pse.com)

#### Past President

William O. Vogel  
360-528-9145  
[william\\_o\\_vogel@yahoo.com](mailto:william_o_vogel@yahoo.com)

#### Secretary

Mike Hall  
Parametrix  
425-458-6244  
[mhall@parametrix.com](mailto:mhall@parametrix.com)

#### Treasurer

Craig Hansen  
ENVIRON  
360-556-7168  
[olyhanse@comcast.net](mailto:olyhanse@comcast.net)

#### Representative to NW Section

A.J. Kroll  
Weyerhaeuser Company  
253-924-6580  
[aj.kroll@weyerhaeuser.com](mailto:aj.kroll@weyerhaeuser.com)

#### Northwest Section

#### Representative to TWS

#### Council

Harriet Allen  
360-866-8754  
[hallen2009@comcast.net](mailto:hallen2009@comcast.net)

#### Board Position #1

Jeff Kozma  
Yakama Nation  
509-865-5121 x 6343  
[kozj@yakamafish-nsn.gov](mailto:kozj@yakamafish-nsn.gov)

#### Board Position #2

Wendy Arjo  
Ageiss, Inc  
360-742-3396  
[wendya@ageiss.com](mailto:wendya@ageiss.com)

#### Board Position #3

Blake Murden  
Port Blakely Tree Farms  
360-596-9437  
[bmurden@portblakely.com](mailto:bmurden@portblakely.com)

#### Board Position #4

Tyler Hicks  
360-823-3538  
[uplandsandpiper@hotmail.com](mailto:uplandsandpiper@hotmail.com)

#### Student Chapters Liaison

Vacant

#### Newsletter Editor

Andrea Lyons  
U.S. Forest Service  
509-664-9232  
[allyons@fs.fed.us](mailto:allyons@fs.fed.us)

### COMMITTEES

Scholarship Committee  
John Grettenberger  
360-923-1424  
[grettenbergerj@gmail.com](mailto:grettenbergerj@gmail.com)

Grants Committee  
John Lehmkuhl  
509-669-7373  
[jlehmkuhl@nwi.net](mailto:jlehmkuhl@nwi.net)

Bill Gaines  
Washington Conservation  
Science Institute  
509-860-4974  
[bgaines@genext.net](mailto:bgaines@genext.net)

#### Awards Committee

John Lehmkuhl  
509-669-7373  
[jlehmkuhl@nwi.net](mailto:jlehmkuhl@nwi.net)

#### Workshop Committee

William O. Vogel  
360-528-9145  
[william\\_o\\_vogel@yahoo.com](mailto:william_o_vogel@yahoo.com)

### REGIONAL

### REPRESENTATIVES

**Northeast**- Annemarie Prince  
Washington Department of Fish  
& Wildlife  
(509) 684-2362 x20  
[Annemarie.Prince@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:Annemarie.Prince@dfw.wa.gov)

#### Northwest – Steve Hall

Point Consulting  
206-441-1882  
[shall@pointconsulting.us](mailto:shall@pointconsulting.us)

#### Olympic Peninsula -

Betsy Howell  
U.S. Forest Service  
Olympic National Forest  
360-956-2292  
[blhowell@fs.fed.us](mailto:blhowell@fs.fed.us)

#### Southwest – William Ritchie

Willapa National Wildlife  
Refuge  
360.484.3482  
[william\\_ritchie@fws.gov](mailto:william_ritchie@fws.gov)

#### Southeast – Sara Gregory

Washington Department of Fish  
& Wildlife  
509-545-2201  
[Sara.Gregory@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:Sara.Gregory@dfw.wa.gov)

If you need to continue receiving hardcopies of newsletters, please contact Mike Hall. Our intent is to minimize distribution of hardcopies to save costs and reduce our carbon footprint.