

The Washington Wildlifer

Newsletter of the Washington Chapter of The Wildlife Society

**WINTER
2014-2015
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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Message from the President.....	1
2015 Joint Meeting Announcement & Details.....	2
Awards Solicitation.....	4
Recent Chapter Business.....	6
New board member nominee biographies.....	6
Report from NW Section Rep	9
Regional Reports.....	11
OLY.....	11
NW.....	14
SW.....	17
NE.....	18
Announcements.....	20
2015 Meeting Student Lodging Application.....	23
Join the Chapter!.....	24
Board, Committees & Representatives.....	25

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT
By Bruce Thompson

When you see this message, I hope that the recent Holiday Season is not a too distant memory and that you are well into a productive New Year.

Toward the end of 2014, I was reinvigorated by participation in the 2014 TWS Annual Conference in Pittsburgh, PA. It was stupendous to see the more than 1,500 participants interacting there about wildlife matters. I was especially pleased to see the continuing trend toward more diverse participants and the youthfulness of the audience. Based on the age and vitality of Conference participants, it is clear that TWS remains relevant to many backgrounds and age groups. That is healthy for our profession.

The Annual Conference also was gratifying in that the Washington Chapter received the Chapter of the Year Award bestowed by The Wildlife Society. See [elsewhere](#) in the Newsletter about that. The Chapter recognition, vitality of TWS, and overall strength of program was a superb foundation for me as I was inducted into the office of TWS Vice President. I look forward to more service to the Washington Chapter and to national TWS.

I am pleased to say that the Washington Chapter has made headway in getting all of its Standing Committees populated and active again. We are engaged in a Committee building year in 2014-2015 that should provide good foundation for future committee action. We especially want to emphasize our Conservation Review Committee actions as that can link effectively to the Conservation Affairs Network that is a Strategic Initiative of TWS nationally.

We are well underway with planning for the Joint Meeting in April 2015 conducted in partnership with a Chapter of the Washington Society of American Foresters and with the Northwest Section of TWS. You will find [important details](#) about that forum in this Newsletter and on the [Chapter website](#). I encourage you to plan to be there and to participate in our annual Chapter Business Meeting which will be a gratis breakfast meeting on Friday this year.

As you review this Newsletter, be cognizant that we are in the midst of a state legislative session that will be providing for, as well as challenging, abilities to serve wildlife conservation. I encourage all of you to periodically review the legislative website (<http://leg.wa.gov/Pages/default.aspx>) and contact your colleagues at WDFW, Washington DNR, and Ecology to learn about what legislative matters they are dealing with. Something of particular note could be how the ongoing Governor’s moratorium on use of drones is addressed. That matter has considerable implications to natural resources applications and will be important to resolve.

Good luck in the New Year with your conservation opportunities. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the Joint Meeting in Grand Mound in April.



Photo: NPS

Calling all TWS members!! The annual meeting is just around the corner and promises to be a great event!!

2015 Joint Meeting Details

by Tony Fuchs

A Unique Opportunity Coming in April.

The Washington Chapter of the Wildlife Society's 2015 Annual Meeting, held jointly with the Washington State Society of American Foresters and TWS Northwest Section, is April 15th through the 17th. The theme, "Forestry and Wildlife Management – Working Together Toward Common Goals," sets the stage for the program. It will be an exceptional opportunity to learn more about how biologists and foresters working together can support much needed early seral habitats, management of forest owls, wolf habitat, hoof rot in elk, and much more. It is also a chance to catch up on forestry and wildlife research, mix with forestry professionals and get the latest in field forestry technology.

The meeting also offers an exceptional opportunity for your family. We have arranged for a limited number of rooms to be available for meeting participants at the Great Wolf Lodge from April 14th through 16th at a rate about half of regular price. Each room accommodates four people with full indoor water park access. Great Wolf Lodge is on I-5 between Olympia and Centralia.

On Tuesday April 14th The Wildlife Society is putting on a pre-meeting Forestry 101 workshop for biologists. The class is designed to help wildlife biologists with forestry concepts. If you are interested contact Bill Vogel at Bill_Vogel@fws.gov.

Things start mid-morning Wednesday with the WSSAF Executive Committee meeting and the NW Section TWS business meeting. The annual meeting then kicks off at noon with a lunch presentation by Department of Fish and Wildlife Veterinarian Kristin Mansfield discussing hoof rot disease in Washington's elk population. Attendees will have a choice Wednesday afternoon of science presentations covering forest management and T & E species including owls, murrelets, wolves and others, or a series of speakers assembled by Jake Verschuyt and Blake Murden, presenting cutting-edge research on

early seral ungulate and migratory bird habitats in intensively managed forests. Late afternoon there will be a Student Mentoring session (we hope all you students consider coming to the meeting!) and a poster session. Wednesday evening our sponsors are hosting an icebreaker reception with refreshments and hors d'oeuvres for everyone attending the meeting.

Thursday morning everyone will gather for a plenary session where Paul Hanson (USFWS in Oregon), Brian Kernohan (Hancock Forest Management), Kyle Blum (DNR Deputy Supervisor), and others will address forestry and wildlife management cooperation, conflict and opportunity. Our luncheon speaker is Bill Richardson, Senior Lands Program Manager for the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.

Thursday afternoon is another opportunity to get technical with a choice of learning what's new in field technology, an update on forestry research and education at UW, and a session on adaptive management. There will also be a session for contributed papers. An entertaining awards banquet and fund raising auction for both SAF and TWS will follow the no-host social Thursday evening.

Friday morning features membership breakfast meetings for both organizations followed by an SAF field tour and concurrent contributed paper sessions. Don't miss this opportunity to learn, network and have fun at the Great Wolf Lodge. On-line registration will be available soon on our chapter web site: <http://drupal.wildlife.org/washington/>. For other meeting information contact Tony Fuchs at tony.fuchs@pse.com.

Lodging: A limited number of rooms at Great Wolf Lodge are available for the nights of April 14, 15, and 16 at \$94.00 per night plus a \$14.99 resort fee. This rate is for up to four person occupancy. The resort fee includes parking, Wi-Fi, access to the fitness center and water park including lifejackets and towels. For reservations go to <http://www.greatwolf.com/grandmound/waterpark> or Call 1-800-640-WOLF. Group code: **1504WILD**. The Great Wolf Lodge address is 20500 Old Highway 99 SW, Centralia, WA 98531.

Volunteers: Our annual meeting will not be successful without your participation. We encourage everyone to volunteer for something, be it working at the registration table, being a mentor during our Student mentoring session, judging the poster session, being a session moderator, and many more opportunities. Volunteering is also a great way to meet people and be a working part of your chapter. Contact Tony Fuchs tony.fuchs@pse.com (206) -276-1204 to get on our volunteer list.

Vendor Information: Interested in exhibiting at the annual meeting? Contact Wes Wasson, wsw63@centurytel.net, (253) 279-5293.

Registration questions: Registration will open at the end of January on our chapter web site. For specific registration questions contact Jim Hotvedt, hotvedt9@yahoo.com, (360) 878-7411

JOINT MEETING SPONSORSHIPS STILL WELCOMED

While we have a number of generous sponsors for the Joint Meeting already, we welcome more business, agency, and individual sponsors who are willing to financially support the professional interaction and collaboration that will occur at our Joint Meeting in April 2015.

Sponsorships can be in the form of a direct funding contribution or as items that we can use for auction/raffle purposes.

If you know of a prospective sponsor, please have them contact Tony Fuchs (tony.fuchs@pse.com) or Bruce Thompson (bcthompson248@gmail.com), preferably by **15 February 2015** to ensure they are fully acknowledged in all meeting-related media.

RAFFLE/AUCTION ITEMS NEEDED FOR JOINT MEETING

The organizers are seeking new and serviceable used items to be included as raffle and auction items for the April 2015 Joint Meeting. These can be any wildlife, hunting, fishing, camping, boating, and other outdoor-related or recreational items, including books and artwork.

Part of the success of each Joint Meeting is the proceeds from auction and raffles that are typically used to finance additional student opportunities and other conservation actions of the organizing partners.

If you have items to donate, please send the following information by **31 March 2015** to Tiffany Reed (tree490@gmail.com): description of the item(s), value of item (retail if new, current if used), who donated the item (full name, address, phone number). Items should be brought to the meeting to transfer to Tiffany. If you have a donation after that date please just bring it with you.

Considering a Presentation for the Joint Annual Meeting of TWS and SAF? What's in it for you?

Why should you consider delivering a presentation at our joint meeting in Grand Mound, WA? If you are a researcher or are working on novel or new conservation actions, you have a lot to share, and also a lot to gain. You should consider delivering an oral presentation or preparing a poster at our meeting to:

1. Update your colleagues;
2. Get organized – the process of preparing such a presentation will help you to organize your thoughts and examine issues at a broader level, if you have not already done so;
3. Obtain feedback and advice, maybe learn from other's previous attempts, successes, or mistakes;
4. Get practice answering questions on the topics, or have novel questions asked that stimulate thought;
5. Obtain financial or other forms of support; and
6. Discover new partners in your efforts.

These are only a few reasons. As long as you are at our meeting, you will also have the ability to see and hear about other's work.

Do not worry about the stated theme of the meeting. Presentations on any wildlife or forestry topics are OK. We will have a variety of concurrent sessions.



Varied thrush. Photo: NPS

Any wildlife or wildlife habitat talks are welcome (e.g., orcas to pygmy rabbits; estuaries to shrub-steppe), including mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, invertebrates, or their habitats. Presentations about wildlife conservation in forest management settings are especially applicable.

If you cannot present at our meeting in April 2015, please consider preparing a presentation for our February 2016 meeting in Coeur d'Alene. We are always looking forward to hearing from you.

ATTENTION ALL STUDENTS!!
AN OFFER YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS!

The Washington Chapter of The Wildlife Society, in conjunction with its partners for the 2015 Joint Meeting, will provide some no-cost lodging for students who attend the Meeting. This is a financial incentive to help students participate in the joint technical sessions as well as applicable business meetings of the partner organizations.

Qualified applicants are any students enrolled in undergraduate or graduate programs related to natural resources and having an association or affiliation with The Wildlife Society or the Society of American Foresters. Those selected to receive free lodging will be expected to provide 4-6 hours of volunteer help with various aspects of the Joint Meeting either in advance of or during the meeting.

The incentive will be 2 free nights of lodging (nights of 15-16 April 2015) in a shared quad room at the host hotel (Great Wolf Lodge, Grand Mound, WA). Separate rooms will be designated for male and female students. Students will be responsible for other meeting-related costs; this incentive only covers the lodging room costs and associated taxes.

To apply and be considered, please complete the [application](#) included in this newsletter or posted on the WA-TWS website at <http://drupal.wildlife.org/washington/meetings>

Applications must be submitted by **10 March 2015** (submission info is on the form).

AWARDS Nominations

by Bill Vogel

If you know someone who fits this description: *makes a substantial contribution to conservation, does more than they need to, uses foresight and anticipation to address problems early, shows their dedication, makes valuable contributions, works with partners,*

etc.you may want to consider nominating them for one of our awards.

Please also note that some awards are limited to WA-TWS members and some are limited to professional biologists, but we also have awards for landowners and other organizations – it depends on the particular award. If you know of a deserving person or organization, but are not sure how their accomplishments fit with our award categories, please call me (360-753-4367). Feel free to share this message with people outside WA-TWS; we want to learn about deserving people. Once identified, we can find WA-TWS members to help with those nominations.

Nomination Process:

If you want to nominate an entity for any of these awards – IT'S EASY! – Just send us a short note (bill_vogel@fws.gov) with the 7 items below, and have another member do the same or second your nomination.

1. Title of Award
2. Nominee
3. Submitted by
4. Seconded by
5. Date submitted
6. Rationale
7. Contact information for person(s) submitting nomination

If you want you can further strengthen your nomination by statements of support. If the nomination is successful we may ask for more information. If you have **ANY** questions or want to discuss ideas, please call Bill at (360) 753-4367.

Categories of Awards:

Special Achievement Award: The Washington Chapter of The Wildlife Society recognizes an outstanding accomplishment by a professional wildlife biologist for a specific task or project that has contributed significantly to wildlife conservation in Washington.

Leadership in Conservation Award: The Washington Chapter of The Wildlife Society 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.

Conservation Award: The Washington Chapter of The Wildlife Society 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.

Stewardship Award: The Washington Chapter of The Wildlife Society 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.

Partnership Award: The Washington Chapter of The Wildlife Society recognizes an outstanding accomplishment by one of its members 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.

Outreach Award: The Washington Chapter of The Wildlife Society recognizes an outstanding accomplishment by one of its members for outstanding efforts in providing educational opportunity to school children, user groups, or the general public related to wildlife conservation, including wildlife biology, habitat, threats, and wildlife-management principles.

Foresight Award: The Washington Chapter of The Wildlife Society 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.

Chapter Award: Awarded to individuals or organizations that have made significant contributions to the support and growth of the Washington Chapter of The Wildlife Society.

Definitions:

For the purposes of these awards by WA-TWS, Wildlife Conservation is defined as: Conservation of wildlife populations, wildlife habitats, and natural-resource values that support wildlife and their habitats. “Wildlife” includes all mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, invertebrates, and plants that compose the native biodiversity of the region. It can also include management of introduced species when the result is beneficial to native wildlife and habitats. “Conservation” includes research; science-based

evaluation, assessment, and planning; inventory; monitoring; management; law enforcement; furthering the understanding of the principles of ecology and wildlife management; and advocating sound wildlife stewardship. “Management” includes actions to maintain or enhance habitats, populations, or natural processes affecting populations and habitats, as well as the responsible control of individuals or populations of wildlife or addressing invasive species.

Recent Recipients

Harriet Allen - Leadership in Conservation Award, 2014

Port Blakely Tree Farms - Stewardship Award, 2014

Betsy Howell - Conservation Award, 2014

Dave Hays, Ann Potter, Karen Holtrop - Foresight Award, 2014

Joshua Benton - Chapter Award, 2014

Foster Creek Conservation District - Partnership Award, 2014

Elizabeth Rodrick - Special Achievement Award, 2014

Jim Botorff - Leadership in Conservation Award, 2013

Ken Berg - Special Achievement Award, 2013

David Brittell - Leadership in Conservation Award, 2011

Kent Woodruff - Special Achievement Award, 2011



Red-breasted sapsucker. Photo: NPS

RECENT CHAPTER BUSINESS

Elections for four WA-TWS Executive Board positions are coming soon. The slate of nominees is provided here and ballots will be distributed electronically in early March. Voting will be possible up to the Business Meeting on 17 April at Grand Mound. Please note the backgrounds and interests of the following nominees and take the time to vote when you get the ballot. And thanks in advance to these individuals who are so willing to provide service to YOUR CHAPTER.

Bios for WA-TWS 2015 Nominees

Board Members (2 positions):

Sara Hansen

I am currently the statewide Deer Specialist for WDFW in Spokane. I received my undergrad degree in Environmental Studies with minors in Biology and Geography at California State University-San Bernardino and my M.S. in Wildlife Biology and Management from SUNY ESF in Syracuse, NY. My graduate research involved estimating coyote abundance in New York State as part of a larger study investigating coyote and white-tailed deer population dynamics. While at ESF I also taught upper division and graduate level classes focused on wildlife science, conservation, and management. Prior to grad school, I served as a wildlife biologist for the National Park Service working on island fox recovery at Channel Islands National Park. Before that, I was employed as a field biologist throughout the country (WY, IA, SD, UT, IN, WA, NV, NM) working on diverse species including white-tailed deer, elk, Canada geese, turkey, desert tortoise, song birds, pygmy rabbits, bobcats, and wolves.

Beyond my wildlife experience, I served as advisor and quiz bowl coach for ESF's TWS Student Chapter for three years and was an active member of the New York State Chapter for four years before moving to Washington State in 2014. I have been a regular attendee and presenter at national TWS conferences since 2009 and am an alumni of this year's TWS Leadership Institute. I am also an active member of both the Early Career Professional and Public Conservation Education and Outreach Working Groups. As a member of the Washington Chapter for

the last year, I am now serving on the Education and Information Committee, but would like to become more involved with local and regional TWS functions as I settle into my work here in Washington. Becoming a Board Member would be an excellent way for me to learn more about Washington's wildlife and wildlife professionals while helping TWS continue to support and represent the wildlife science profession.

Daniel Ravenel

I am the Wildlife Section Manager for the Quinault Indian Nation. I have worked for the Quinaults since 2008 on a wide variety of projects from ESA to big game. I work on protecting the tribe's treaty rights as well as researching cougars, bears and elk to improve how we manage wildlife on the Quinault Indian Reservation. I have also participated in projects ranging from Yellowstone to the Florida Keys. My involvement in the Wildlife Society started when I was a sophomore in college. My senior year I was elected student body president for the Washington State University Wildlife Society and have been extremely interested in the society since. I try and stay involved in as many wildlife programs as I can from COASST to providing internships to young students. In my spare time I work as the lead for the Base Seattle Coast Guard Reserve Security Response team.

Ron Tressler

I have been a Wildlife Biologist for Seattle City Light (Department within City of Seattle responsible for electricity) since 2008 where I manage the wildlife and botanical resources programs for hydroelectric projects on the Skagit and Pend Oreille rivers and oversee the utility's Avian Protection Program to mitigate electrocution and collision risks. I implement and monitor habitat improvement projects on more than 10,000 acres of wildlife habitat lands, conduct wildlife surveys, and chair a committee that awards research grants for wildlife-related projects in the North Cascades. Prior to joining SCL I worked 21 years for Seattle-based environmental consulting firms on a wide variety of land and water resource management projects and wildlife surveys and assessments, including birds, amphibians, small mammals, and mollusks. I have a BS in wildlife science from Pennsylvania State University and an MS in Wildlife Resources from the University of Idaho where I did research on waterfowl nesting ecology at Bear Lake National Wildlife Refuge. I first joined TWS in 1985 and am a member of various conservation organizations. During non-work times, I like spending time outdoors with my wife and son.

I want to be a Washington Chapter Board Member to assist the Chapter in continuing to build the excellent programs that help members hone skills necessary to be effective wildlife biologists and resource managers. TWS has given me a lot over the last 30 years and I think I can use my long history of working in many of the ecosystems in the state, working on technical research and management projects, managing budgets, and collaborating with others on committees to help the TWS leadership as we move forward.

Ken Bevis

Ken Bevis has been working in Forestry and Wildlife in Washington since 1986. He has been with state, federal and tribal entities working on a myriad of issues including permitting, mitigation and even biology. Formerly a Spotted Owl Biologist (a nearly extinct breed), he now works for the Department of Natural Resources with Small Forest Landowners to improve wildlife habitats on their lands. He is Past President of Washington TWS (circa 2002) for 1.5 terms and also served as a board member in some past life. He is interested in re-engaging with TWS because “there is a continuous and driving need within our profession for collaboration, networking and continuous effort to make the Wildlife profession relevant in this fast-changing, crazed world.” And he thinks he is funny.

Kelly Cordell

Since 2004 I have worked as a Wildlife Biologist for Chelan County PUD in Wenatchee, conducting diverse wildlife monitoring ranging from remote areas to urban wildlife management. I am lucky to get to monitor and survey a wide variety of wildlife, including mountain goat, bighorn sheep, mule deer, raptors, and waterfowl. I also enjoy working on habitat restoration and mitigation projects and sensitive plants throughout North-central Washington. Prior to the PUD, I was a seasonal Wildlife Biologist for the USDA Forest Service, working across multiple Ranger Districts on the Wenatchee National Forest in wildlife, silviculture, Burned Area Emergency Restoration, and water rights issues. I have also worked as a private contractor collecting and summarizing data for WA Department of Ecology in support of Senate Bill 6861 and for private citizens conducting small-works shoreline development. I received my BS in Natural Resource Management (Wildlife Management) from Washington State University in 2001, where I also served as Secretary

for the WSU TWS Student chapter during 2000-2001. In 2009, I co-founded Chelan PUD’s Toastmasters club (Electric Toasters) and have served as President and participated annually as a Club Officer, earning my Competent Leader and Advanced Leader Bronze certifications.

I would like to become more involved in the WA TWS chapter, and am excited for the networking and leadership opportunities the chapter has to offer. I enjoy working in groups, planning and organizing, and being involved with others in the wildlife profession, which is why a Board Member position appeals to me. When not working, I enjoy experiencing the outdoors through backpacking, horseback riding, and bird watching.

Treasurer:

Kathy Brodhead

After obtaining a Bachelor’s degree in Biology from the University of Colorado, I took a series of field jobs that began a lifetime endeavor of studying wildlife. I obtained my MSc from Montana State University and completed a thesis using GIS to define habitat preferences of the endangered Southwestern Willow Flycatcher on the Gila River in New Mexico. Since graduate school and prior to working as a Forest Service Wildlife Biologist, I worked for the Rocky Mountain Research Station in Albuquerque studying breeding bird ecology in Southwestern riparian ecosystems, Canadian Wildlife Service studying the wintering ecology of surf scoters in Baja California, Mexico, and USGS Snake River Field Station in Boise conducting research to quantify the vulnerability of quaking aspen and associated bird communities to global climate change. I began working as a Forest Service Wildlife Biologist on the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest in north-central Idaho in 2013 and then recently accepted a permanent position on the Colville National Forest where I am eagerly exploring the area with binoculars and skis in my off-time.

I am excited to run for Treasurer for The Wildlife Society – Washington Chapter because I am eager to be a part of the professional wildlife community in Washington. I am dedicated to conservation and management of wildlife and wildlife habitat and I know that being active in the chapter would provide opportunities for networking and professional development. I have a strong background in project

and data management and I know I would do well keeping the financial matters of the chapter organized. I would be honored to be an integral part of TWS and I am committed to dedicating the time and energy needed to do the job well.

President-elect:

Danielle Munzing

I started my career as a wildlife biologist with the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest (OWNF) in 1997 after finishing my B.A. at the University of California, Santa Cruz. During the eight years I spent with the OWNF I worked as a research technician collecting data on a variety of species and habitats including woodpeckers, black bears, and northern spotted owls. In 2002, I continued working with the OWNF as a master's student, through Central Washington University, monitoring American marten in different forest types. I left central Washington for a wetter climate, working with the Washington State Department of Natural Resources throughout Western Washington leading their Implementation Monitoring Program out of Olympia. During that time I served on the Washington Chapter of The Wildlife Society board and later developed the Chapters' first website. I moved on from monitoring in 2010 and accepted the position as Pacific Cascade Region Biologist in Southwest Washington. I held this position for four years before transferring back to Central Washington in 2014, where I am currently the Southeast Region Biologist working with foresters and agriculture managers on conservation of a variety of species.

I have a tremendous passion for wildlife. In my free time I volunteer with the Global Owl Project banding burrowing owls in Oregon, Utah, and Colorado. Throughout my career and education I have worked with wildlife and policy issues on many levels, which has led to my strong interest in the delicate balance of managing natural resources. The Wildlife Society conference was my first exposure to networking with other professionals and I hold a lot of value in the Society and what they represent. I am excited for the opportunity to once again be involved with The Wildlife Society.

George Hart

Since 2007, I have been the Fleet Lead/Biologist for the Northwest region of the Navy. During this time, I have worked on surveys for marine mammals, sound in the water issues, and have reviewed numerous environmental analysis documents. I am a member of

the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council (secretary), the Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Process Steering Committee, and the Hood Canal Coordinating Council Science Advisory Team. Prior to coming to work for the Navy, I worked for the US Army Corps of Engineers, and the US Fish & Wildlife Service. I received my bachelor's degree in wildlife management and master's degree in wildlife science from the University of Washington.

I believe with my experience working (30+ years) in the different regulatory fields and now for the Navy I could be an asset to the Washington TWS. I have many contacts and an ability to mentor any young biologists coming into the field. I have seen too many young people not working in their field because of not being able to find a job as a biologist. Maybe I can help in that area by communicating with beginning biologists as the Washington TWS president-elect.

Treasurer's Report

by Craig Hansen

Chapter's Financial Accounts Report (through 12-31-14)

Account Name	2013 Balance	2014 Balance
Janus Fund – Scholarship	\$19,839.95	\$22,224.18
Janus Fund – General	\$8,435.35	\$9,441.75
Washington Federal – Checking	\$20,067.03	\$23,687.60*
Washington Federal – Money Market	\$3,111.78	\$3,116.46
Washington Federal – CD**	\$7,709.78	\$7,739.62**
Total Asset Balance	\$59,163.89	\$66,209.61

* Includes \$4100.00 in 2015 Annual Meeting Sponsorships

**Maturity Date 03/09/15

Notables: Received \$1,595 in new & renewal memberships; Janus Fund growth this year totaled \$3,390.63; disbursed \$2,500 Research Grant Award to Jocelyn Akins in support of her genetic work on the Cascade red fox; disbursed \$2,500 Fitzner Scholarship to Kimberly Cook at Eastern Washington University.

A financial audit is scheduled to occur February 11, 2015 with our newly-formed audit committee. The committee is comprised of TWS members Elizabeth

Roderick (ret. WDFW), Audit Committee Chair; John Grettenberger (ret. USFWS), Scholarship Committee Chair; and Lisa Egtvedt (Washington DNR), former Washington Chapter Treasurer.

Report from the Northwest Section Representative to TWS Council

by *Harriet Allen*

Lots going on at TWS as we begin the New Year!

**** Fellows nominations – two may be submitted for the NW Section**.** Here's a great opportunity to recognize two people from the Northwest Section to become TWS Fellows. A maximum of two TWS Fellows per Section may be appointed annually, but the annual Society-wide total of appointees cannot exceed 10, by a vote of Council at the March meeting.

The nomination period has officially opened, with nominations due by February 15, 2015. This is your opportunity to encourage recognition of members who have distinguished themselves through exceptional service to wildlife resources and our profession. TWS Fellows are appointed for life and serve as ambassadors for The Wildlife Society. They are encouraged to engage in outreach and other activities that will benefit and promote TWS and the wildlife profession.

To nominate a deserving individual, review the criteria and nomination process at: <http://wildlife.org/2014-tws-fellows-appointed-2015-nominations-now-open/> and then [download and submit the Fellows Program Nomination Form](#). Nominations can be submitted by Sections, Chapters or individual TWS members. Sitting members of council cannot be nominated.

Editorial Advisory Board. Thanks to Barb Hill, who is the new NW Section representative on the TWS Editorial Advisory Board. This is a two-year term and representatives help review magazine lineups and discuss possible future articles, authors, and reviewers. TWS relies on the Advisory Board to help identify relevant trends that should be covered in the magazine; to recommend journal papers to summarize in Science in Short; to recommend authors and reviewers; and to provide feedback on proposed articles and authors. Big thanks Barb for volunteering for this position to represent the Section on the board!

TWS Website. Great exciting improvements continue on the TWS website - if you haven't already, please check it out at: www.wildlife.org. Several

TWS Sections, Chapters, Student Chapters, and Working Groups have been featured in articles on the website, including the Washington Chapter, which received the award for the Chapter of the Year at the 2014 Annual Conference in Pittsburgh. The website is a great opportunity to highlight student chapter members too, which are then cross-promoted on TWS social media channels.

TWS plans to offer to host section, chapter and working group's webpages, if they desire. The advantage of having TWS host is that they will be able to provide professional web hosting so the chapters and sections can gather and submit information and photos for posting to their sites, but they won't need to find volunteers with web skills to maintain the sites.

Our TWS Government Affairs Staff have been busy. Among the many TWS conservation and policy activities:

- **15 Policy Priorities Were Approved for 2015:** Climate Change and Adaptation, Endangered Species Recovery, Energy Development and Wildlife, Federal Employee Participation in Professional Societies, Funding for Wildlife Conservation and Management, Invasive Species Prevention and Management, North American Model/Public Trust Doctrine, Strategic Conservation Planning, Wetlands Conservation, and Wildlife Health. TWS's Action Center is regularly reaching > 50% of Congress via member responses to TWS Action Alerts.
- **Conservation Affairs Network (CAN).** TWS Staff distributed the December issue of the bi-monthly CAN Newsletter to all Sections and Chapters. Assistant Director for Government Affairs Keith Norris will be attending the WA Chapter/NW Section meeting to discuss current efforts, including the CAN. This will be a great opportunity to discuss the network and conservation opportunities in person and to meet with Leslie Bliss-Ketchum (OR), who is the NW Section CAN Representative.
- **Policy Briefs, Reference Lists, Fact Sheets Available on the TWS website** (www.wildlife.org/policy): *Policy Brief Series*, six federal policy briefs related to wildlife, a new list of TWS publications that have been published since 2000 that relate to TWS policy priorities, three fact sheets on energy development and its impacts on wildlife

(Oil & Gas Development in the Rocky Mountain Region; Arctic National Wildlife Refuge; and Impacts of Wind Energy Development on Wildlife), 14 wildlife policy news articles, and seven FYI articles.

- **Position Statement Documents.** A new streamlined document is being developed that will replace several existing TWS position statements. This will distinguish position statements that require more frequent update and review from those that express the Society's enduring principles and values. Keith Norris is working with Council and the Position Statement Review Committee to develop the new document.
- **Bighorn Sheep Issue Statement.** Staff are working with TWS members, American Association of Wildlife Veterinarians, Western Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies, and the Wild Sheep Foundation to draft an Issue Statement on disease transmission in bighorn sheep management. A draft statement will be available for TWS Council to review in early January 2015.

Student Conclaves. There is a new structure for the Student Conclaves, which expands them from five to eight beginning with the 2016 Conclaves. Each conclave will be aligned with a TWS Section. This will provide the Sections an opportunity to increase their

student engagement through the planning and execution of the conclave events, while also increasing the likelihood that students will become members of the Sections through this increased engagement.

Successful Pittsburgh Annual Conference. The final attendee count was 1,552, and nearly 45% of the attendees were students!! This was the third highest attendance in the last eight years (Portland had 1,909 and Hawaii had 1,691). Planning is heavily underway for the 2015 Conference in Winnipeg, and a Winnipeg Conference page has been launched on the [TWS website](#). You can find additional information on [page 21](#) of this newsletter and on the website.

Increasing Membership. As part of multiple efforts to generate new members and donors, TWS is preparing to launch the Wildlife Partners Program. Partner members will receive a scaled down version of the *eWildlifer*, customized for professionals vs. supporters, a small conference discount, action alerts and a limited number of selected presentations from past conferences. Full members receive *The Wildlife Professional*, *eWildlifer*, access to selected conference presentations, discounts on others, and networking through sections, chapters, working groups, and student chapters.

Best wishes for the New Year and look forward to seeing everyone at the Washington Chapter/NW Section/SAF meeting in April.



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, Steve Hall (NW) at: shall@pointconsulting.us, Annemarie Prince (NE) at: Annemarie.Prince@dfw.wa.gov, Sara Gregory (SE) at: Sara.Gregory@dfw.wa.gov; or William Ritchie (SW) at: william_ritchie@fws.gov.

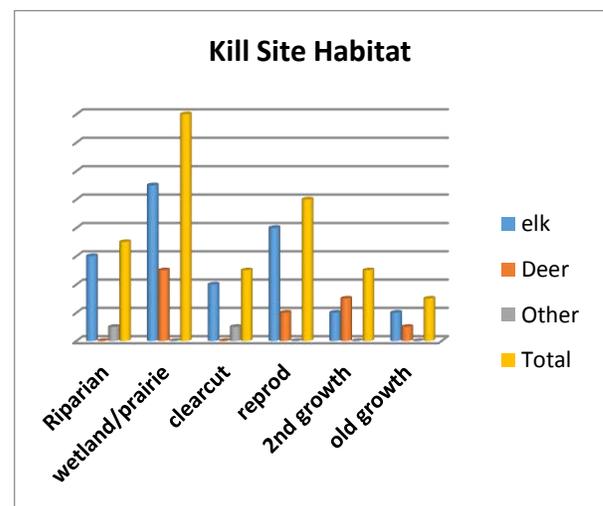
OLYMPIC REGION – Betsy Howell, USFS

Update on predator/prey research - by Daniel Ravenel, Quinault Indian Nation, Taholah

Assessing predator prey populations on the Olympic Coast has been a goal of the Quinault Division of Natural Resources. We have been successful at capturing and radio collaring five cougars, including three males and two females. The first of three main goals of the cougar study is investigation of prey selection and kill rates of cougars, which appear to be the primary predator of Roosevelt elk and black-tailed deer throughout the Quinault Indian Reservation (QIR). We have been estimating seasonal kill rates of ungulates by cougars for adult males and adult females with and without kittens. A second goal is to delineate both male and female cougar home ranges, and third, we want to estimate cougar populations on QIR lands.

Simultaneously, we have radio collared nine cow elk on QIR and are planning to radio collar an additional 10 cows during the spring of 2015 to study habitat selection and utilization.

Project staff to date have detected 84 kill sites from three radio collared cougars during 2013 & 2014. Roosevelt elk (*Cervus elaphus roosevelti*) and black-tailed deer (*Odocoileus hemionus columbianus*) composed 94% of the kill sites visited. The composition of elk and deer kills was dominated by calves/fawns and yearlings 69% of the time. The below figure shows what habitat cougars are using to make kills.



Currently staff are attempting to capture and radio collar two additional cougars to continue the study for 2015.



Radio-collared cougar on the Quinault Indian Reservation. Photo: Quinault Indian Nation



Radio-collared Roosevelt elk on the Quinault Indian Reservation. Photo: Quinault Indian Nation

Black bear mark-recapture study – by Kristin Phillips, Quinault Indian Nation, Taholah

The American black bear (*Ursus americanus*), called “chitwhin” in Tsamosan, is a culturally important species for the Quinault people. Currently, there is a lack of information regarding the black bear population on the Quinault Indian Reservation (QIR). In the summer of 2015, biologists with the Quinault Division of Natural Resources will begin their first season of an intensive genetic mark-recapture bear study. They will use a grid of barbed wire hair-snag corrals and a liquid scent lure of emulsified fish and rotten cattle blood to capture DNA samples of bears and estimate bear abundance—barrels of tasty, decomposing Chinook salmon carcasses are already sealed up in anticipation of the upcoming field season. The first year of sampling will occur within the boundaries of the QIR, but they hope to expand sampling in subsequent years to some of the nation’s ceded lands.



Update on two studies: 1) Columbian black-tailed deer and 2) lakebed recolonization – by Kim Sagar-Fradkin, Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, Port Angeles

In 2014 the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe embarked on two new studies: one to examine Columbian black-tailed deer fawn and buck mortality rates, and another

to examine wildlife recolonization of exposed lakebeds after removal of two Elwha dams.

Following up on fawn survival work completed by the Makah Tribe in areas further west, the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe is studying fawn and buck mortality rates on the Pysht Game Management Unit. In spring 2014, we captured and radio-collared 25 fawns; as of the end of 2014, 20 fawns had succumbed (mostly to predation), for an overall mortality rate of 80%. In August, we captured and radio-tagged 10 bucks; as of the end of 2014, nine of them had died (four to hunting, four to predation, and one unknown) for an overall mortality rate of 90%. We will continue our study through 2016.



Fawn capture and measurement. Photos: Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe





Applying ear-tag transmitter to buck. Photo: Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe

hinder overall revegetation and sediment stabilization efforts. During the summer of 2014 we conducted transects across Mills to survey for and collect avian scat off of large woody debris; along with WWU we are examining whether these bird scats result in successful plant germination on lakebed sediments. Additionally, during fall 2014 we conducted small mammal trapping surveys across a variety of transects on both Mills and Aldwell, resulting in successful capture of deer mice, keen's mice, several vole and shrew species, and short-tailed weasels. Finally, we conducted a series of browse and pellet surveys across a grid of sample points on both Mills and Aldwell in an effort to document ungulate use of the landscape as well as browsing pressure on numerous tree and shrub species. This study will continue through 2016.

In cooperation with the USGS-Olympic Field Station, Olympic National Park, and Western Washington University, we also began a study looking at wildlife recolonization of the newly exposed Elwha reservoirs (formerly known as Lakes Mills and Aldwell). We are specifically interested in monitoring small mammal, ungulate, and avian recolonization of the lakebeds, and determining whether various species



Townsend's vole (upper right) and deer on Mills reservoir. Photos: Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe

Checkerspot butterfly habitat restoration – by Karen Holtrop, Olympic National Forest, Quilcene

In 2014, the Olympic National Forest continued to work with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to restore habitat at Taylor’s checkerspot butterfly sites. In September, a berm was installed on a road to protect Taylor’s checkerspot individuals and other wildlife at a sensitive habitat area. In October and November, a Washington Conservation Corps crew worked for the second consecutive year to remove encroaching vegetation at three sites where butterflies have been found.



Washington Conservation Corp Crews hard at work on butterfly habitat restoration. Photo: Karen Holtrop



A local group has started an online reporting page for freshwater mussels, which are in decline throughout the nation. Photo: F. Teal Waterstrat

USFWS biologist F. Teal Waterstrat reports that the PNW Native Freshwater Mussel Working Group recently set up a page on the “iNaturalist” platform to track freshwater mussel locations. Although bivalves may not be the most iconic wildlife of the northwest, they are a fascinating and important component of our freshwater ecosystems. Freshwater mussels are thought to be declining in their distribution and abundance in Washington and throughout the nation. Information submitted to the iNaturalist site will help track mussels in Washington State and the west.

The iNaturalist project page can be found at:

<http://www.inaturalist.org/projects/freshwater-mussels-of-the-western-us>

For more about the native freshwater mussels in Washington and the west visit:

<http://www.fws.gov/columbiariver/musselwg.htm>

And WDFW and others recently launched a regional portal of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology’s international eBird program. The portal, called the Puget Sound Seabird Survey, focuses on wintering seabird populations. A similar effort, called Sagebrush Songbird Survey, is being set up to cover the Columbia Basin.

The Puget Sound Seabird Survey can be viewed at:

<http://www.seattleaudubon.org/sas/WhatWeDo/Science/CitizenScience/PugetSoundSeabirdSurvey.aspx>

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

Two New Online Wildlife Reporting Sites

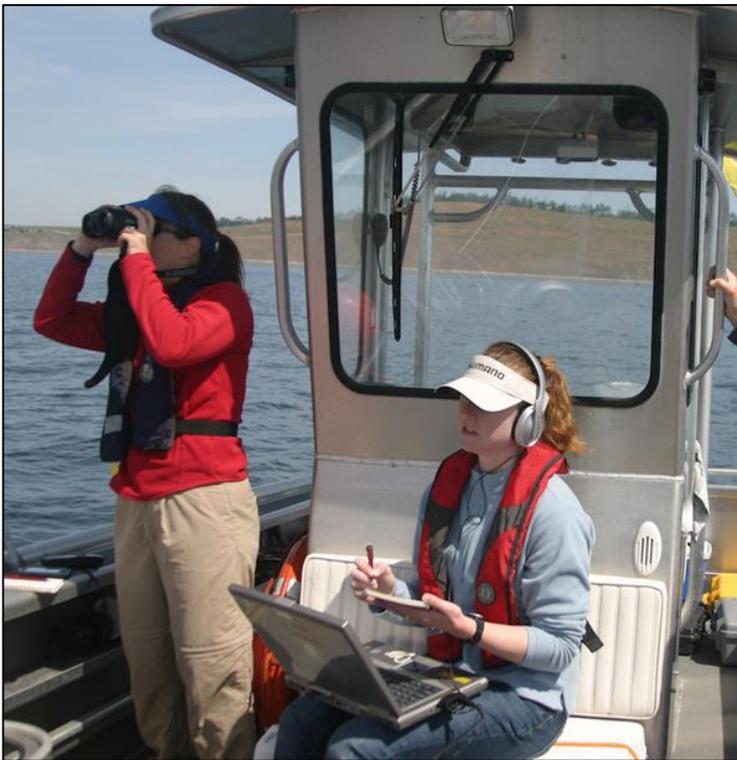
Puget Sound area biologists have two new online platforms to share wildlife information.

Southern Residents Stay in the News

Southern resident killer whales keep making headlines. Most notable was the death of 18 year-old J32, a female that apparently died due to pregnancy complications. The death brought the population estimate to 77, near the historic low of 71 reached in the 1970s following a series of captures for aquarium shows.

Soon after the reported death, NOAA announced it was able to place a satellite tag into an adult male from the same pod, J27, nicknamed 'Blackberry.' NOAA scientists were particularly excited about this tagging because they know little about J Pod's winter range

The Center for Whale Research announced that J16, a 43-year old female that has three surviving calves, had a new female calf, designated J 50, bringing the population estimate back up to 78.



NOAA Fisheries scientists Dawn Noren (left) and Marla Holt (right) collecting data on vessel noise and killer whale behavior in Puget Sound. Photo: NOAA Fisheries

ONLINE

Center for Whale Research

<http://www.whaleresearch.com/>

NOAA Tracking Site

http://www.nwfsc.noaa.gov/research/divisions/cb/eco/system/marinemammal/satellite_tagging/

Major Habitat Restoration Project Moves Forward

The Army Corps of Engineers is reviewing comments it received on its draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project (PSNERP), one of the largest habitat restoration and preservation programs ever undertaken in the United States. The DEIS considered more than 500 potential restoration sites located throughout the Puget Sound Area. The "Tentatively Selected Plan" identified in the DEIS includes 11 proposed restoration sites covering 5,300 acres, with an estimated cost totaling more than \$1 billion. All but one of the selected projects are located north of Seattle.

For more information about the project, visit <http://pugetsoundnearshore.org/outreach.html>.

Land Trusts to form Puget Sound Collaborative

Fourteen major land trusts organizations of the Puget Sound region have entered an agreement with the stated objective of acquiring 150 properties along the shores of Puget Sound and restoring an additional 30 sites over the next ten years.

The collation, called the Shoreline Conservation Collaborative, is made up of the following trusts: the Bainbridge Island Land Trust, Capitol Land Trust, Forterra, Great Peninsula Conservancy, Jefferson Land Trust, Lummi Island Heritage Trust, Nisqually Land Trust, North Olympic Land Trust, San Juan Preservation Trust, Skagit Land Trust, The Trust for Public Land, Vashon-Maury Island Land Trust, Whatcom Land Trust and Whidbey Camano Land Trust.

For more information, visit:

http://www.forterra.org/press_releases/conservation_organizations_rally_for_puget_sound

WDFW Testing Waterfowl for "Highly Pathogenic" Bird Flu

Following an outbreak of the highly pathogenic H5N2 flu strain at two BC poultry farms in December, WDFW has taken more than 1,000 samples from waterfowl killed by hunters in Whatcom, Skagit and Clark counties, Don Kraege, WDFW waterfowl section manager, told the Bellingham Herald.

So far, WDFW has confirmed two cases of wild bird infections in Whatcom County, the first time these strains have ever been found in wildlife birds in North America. This has raised serious concerns for domesticated backyard flocks that come into contact with wild birds in the Puget Sound region, as well as other parts of the state.

Read more here: <http://tinyurl.com/khya8ht>

Camera thief brings North Bend I-90 wildlife study to an early end



The person of interest in the theft of nine wildlife cameras is pictured in this image taken by a hidden WSDOT camera. Photo: WSDOT, courtesy of Snoqualmie Valley Record

A camera study to monitor large mammal movements along I-90 has been cut short due to a thief taking half of the state's 18 camera array this past November. One of the cameras that was camouflaged and placed in a tree was not stolen and, upon inspection following the thefts, included an image of what authorities are calling "a person of interest."

While the theft cost Washington State Department of Transportation about \$7,000, and ended the study, all is not lost. Monthly monitoring of the cameras has provided useful information about where large animals, including bear and elk, are crossing I-90. According to WSDOT, about 16 car-elk collisions occur annually in the North Bend area, some of which are fatal to motorists. Based on camera and other data, WSDOT plans to construct more restrictive fences on both sides of I-90 to funnel animals to safe underpasses.

Another interesting discovery was two arched culverts between North Bend and Snoqualmie were found to be the busiest known bear highway crossings in the state—and possibly anywhere.

<http://www.valleyrecord.com/news/284353461.html>

Wildlife Science Seminar: Winter 2015 Schedule

The UW School of Environmental and Forest Sciences (SEFS) is continuing its long-running Wildlife Science Seminar. Speakers will include UW faculty, local researchers and students, with species discussed including sloths, crocodiles, tree kangaroos and swift foxes. The seminars are held on Mondays from 3:30 to 4:50 p.m. in Smith 120, and the public "is heartily invited." For a full list of seminars, visit <http://depts.washington.edu/sefsblog/tag/wildlife-seminar/>

WDFW Region 4 Activities

Swan Mortality Surveys. WDFW Biologists, in cooperation with Puget Sound Energy and the Trumpeter Swan Society, continued to conduct field surveys for sick and injured trumpeter and tundra swans. Biologists have been finding approximately 20 to 30 dead swans per week. Power line strikes continue to be roughly half of all mortalities, with "unknown" cause of death making up the remainder. Swan mortalities recorded as unknown causes of death are likely to be due to disease. Laboratory results will confirm or deny the suspected presence of avian diseases.

Dogs to Sniff out Sharp-Tailed Snakes in the San Juans. The WDFW is collaborating with the UW's Conservation Canine program to use "scent detection" dogs to find sharp-tailed snakes in the San Juan Islands. The snakes were first found on Orcas Island in 2006, making the first documented sighting in western Washington since the 1950's. Since 2006, two more snakes have been found. The snakes are listed as an endangered species in Canada, where they are known to occur on just four of the Gulf Islands and in the outskirts of Victoria. They are more common in Oregon and California, the southern part of their range.

"To find a previously unknown species on a well-populated, small island at this point in time is very exciting," WDFW Biologist Ruth Milner told the San Juan Journal.



Sharp-tailed Snake. Image credit: Land Bank

ONLINE

<http://www.sanjuanjournal.com/lifestyle/265406741.html>

For complete activity reports for all WDFW regions, go to http://wdfw.wa.gov/about/wildlife_weekly/

SOUTHWEST REGION – William Ritchie, US Fish & Wildlife Service

Columbian White-tailed Deer Translocation:

Translocation work continues this winter on endangered Columbian white-tailed deer. The Julia Butler Hansen National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) and Ridgefield NWR in southwest Washington are working to establish a new subpopulation of white-tailed deer on the Ridgefield Refuge. This year's work is a follow-up to two years of translocations that have already established over 50 animals in the area.

While Ridgefield NWR lies within the historic range of Columbian white-tailed deer, a viable herd has not been present there since the early 1900s. Stabilization of a subpopulation in this area would be a big step toward recovery of the overall population. Recent estimates have put the overall population at over 800 animals, and trends suggest a regional upswing in the population cycle.

Lower Columbia River and Willapa Bay Winter Shorebird Survey: WDFW biologists Holman, Doorly, and Stephens, biologist emeritus Miller, and technician Johnson, in cooperation with biologists from the USFWS regional office, the Julia Butler Hansen NWR, and Oregon Department of Fish and

Wildlife surveyed for shorebirds in the lower Columbia River in December 2014. Species observed included black-bellied plover, killdeer, western and least sandpipers, and dunlin. Areas with suitable habitat were accessed by boat and included Gray's Bay and several islands in the lower Columbia. Surveys throughout Willapa Bay and along the North Beach (Long Beach) Peninsula were conducted in late November by WDFW biologist Buchanan, USFWS biologists from the regional office and Willapa NWR, and by volunteers. Species recorded from Willapa Bay include black-bellied plover, semipalmated plover, snowy plover, dunlin, least sandpiper, western sandpiper, long-billed dowitcher, and sanderling.

This survey effort was part of the Pacific Flyway Shorebird Survey (PFSS), a monitoring program designed to guide the management and conservation of wintering shorebirds in the Pacific Flyway. Data from this survey will contribute to the Migratory Shorebird Project, which is the largest coordinated survey of wintering shorebirds on the Pacific Coast of the Americas and spans from Canada to Peru.

Western Snowy Plover Survey: Snowy plover adult surveys and monitoring of breeding success documented a record year on the Washington coast. WDFW biologists Sundstrom, Michaelis, Hoenes, Hahn, and Doorly and Willapa NWR biologist Ritchie coordinated efforts to track the very successful breeding season. The nest success from known nests was 59% without accounting for nests that were undiscovered but successful. The metric used to calculate fledging success (the number of chicks fledged and the number of breeding adult males) equaled 1.88. Population viability analyses indicate that, on average, at least one young must fledge per adult male to have a stable population. The point estimate for the Washington population has been above 1.0 for three of the past five years. Similar results were observed at many of the occupied sites on the Oregon coast.

Waterbird and Goose Surveys: WDFW biologist Doorly, along with technicians Johnson and French-Lescalleet have been conducting the 2014-2015 General Goose Surveys at various locations in the lower Columbia River Basin. This year the surveys focused more exclusively on accurate counts of Dusky Canada geese. Surveyors record Dusky Canada goose numbers, any Dusky collars seen, as well as other species observed, including any collared waterfowl. This information is used for Dusky goose

population estimation and analysis of survival and movements of all collared geese. Collared Dusky, cackling, and resident dark geese were observed during the surveys. General goose surveys were also conducted by Julia Butler Hansen biologists on the JBH Refuge and by WDFW biologist Michaelis at sites around Willapa Bay.

The Pacific Flyway midwinter waterfowl survey (MWS) is currently underway. WDFW biologists Michaelis and Sundstrom will be conducting aerial surveys of Grays Harbor and Willapa Bay as weather permits. Willapa NWR has completed the Willapa Bay MWS Brant survey. Results found the birds to be more dispersed than in recent years and the count totaled approximately 500 fewer birds than average. Except for the October 2014 survey, winter waterbird numbers have been lower than normal this year in spite of a high forecast. Expanded winter waterbird monitoring in Willapa Bay was begun in the fall of 2012.

Southwest Washington Goose Hunt

Management: The 2014-2015 southwest Washington goose hunting season continues until late January 2015. As of December 21st, 308 hunters have checked a total of 736 geese at three check stations at a ratio of approximately 2.39 geese per hunter in Management Area 2A and 2B. Three duskies were harvested during this period. A similar program is in place in Pacific County; however, current harvest data were unavailable. Zones may close to hunting geese if dusky quotas are exceeded, though all zones currently remain open. For information regarding up-to-date zone closures, hunters in Clark, Cowlitz, and Wahkiakum counties can call the WDFW Region 5 office at (360) 696-6211, or in Pacific County at the WDFW Region 6 office (360) 249-4628, and follow the menu options for hunting and waterfowl.

Cassin's Auklet Mortality: An on-going investigation of unusually high numbers of beach cast Cassin's auklets (>10 times baseline values) is underway from coastal British Columbia to central California. Locally University of Washington biologists Parrish and Dolliver and volunteers from the Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team (COASST) in collaboration with Willapa NWR biologist Ritchie are participating. The majority of birds examined were hatch-year birds, and almost all birds were emaciated. At major breeding colonies in California (Farallon Islands) and British Columbia (Scott Islands), breeding success in 2014 was very high. It is clear that an unusually large cohort of

hatch-year auklets dispersed from breeding colonies, and initial findings from carcass examinations are consistent with starvation. However, at this time (December 2014) the event is ongoing and contributing factors to the die-off, including a possible decrease in prey (krill) availability, severe weather, and disease are being examined. Findings will be presented at the 42nd annual Pacific Seabird Group meeting in February 2015.

NORTHEAST REGION – *Annemarie Prince, WDFW*

Update on Northeast Washington Moose Study – *by Rich Harris, Washington Dept. Fish & Wildlife*

During the five days, December 2-6, 2014, staff of WDFW, ably assisted by Dr. Rachel Cook of NCASI and pilot Jess Hagerman of Northwest Aviation, Olympia, captured and fitted with GPS-transmitting radio collars 24 additional cow moose. Added to the 23 surviving animals from the 27 captured in December 2013, this brings to 47 the sample size of adult female moose (25 north of US Highway 2 [of which two were east of the Pend Oreille River], 22 south of US Highway 2) that will be monitored over the next few years for calf production and recruitment by University of Montana graduate student James Goerz (as well as WDFW and Kalispell Tribal biologists).



Moose capture in northeast Washington. Photo: WDFW

We obtained body measurements, percent fat content via ultra-sound, pregnancy, lactation status, and a tooth (for later aging) on almost all animals. There



Photo: WDFW

were no deaths or serious injuries to moose during the capture. Most moose in the northern area were captured on USFS lands; most in the southern area were captured on private industrial timber lands.

Colville National Forest Update – by Chris Loggers, US Forest Service

During the past year, the Colville National Forest (CNF) initiated projects to determine the effects of harvest activities on a variety of species. We're continuing a project started in 2013 with WDFW to determine the effects of harvest on forage quantity and quality available to mule and white-tailed deer. In 2014 we developed a joint venture between WSU and the CNF, with WDFW as a continuing partner, to expand the project. Dr. Lisa Shipley from WSU serves as the lead investigator, with Jerry Nelson from WDFW advising. Last summer, Shipley's crews surveyed vegetation in several past timber harvest units. In the summer of 2015 crews will bring hand-

raised deer to these units to determine utilization, and at some point will conduct *ex situ* feeding trials. Ultimately, the goal is to determine how different harvest types produce forage over time, how the various levels of availability translate into energetics, and ultimately how this affects population productivity. We also initiated a project to determine the effects of different harvest types on macromoths, primarily the noctuids, that serve as food for several sensitive species. We initiated monthly sampling in spring of 2014 and will expand this during 2015. Jon Shepard has been contracted to identify the collected specimens. We completed the first of a two-year project to survey for two skipper species, tawny-edged (*Polites themistocles*) and Peck's (*P. peckius*) across the CNF and on nearby BLM land. We initiated a citizen science outreach to document occurrence of western bumblebees and now have 10 sightings, with three specimens (all found deceased) going to the bee lab in Ogden, Utah for genetic work. A project to determine whether goshawk nest buffers and post-fledging areas are of adequate size

hit a hurdle we couldn't clear and we're regrouping. The CNF is re-writing its forest plan and spun off from the previous effort to develop a forest plan for the CNF and the Okanogan/Wenatchee NFs. Bill Gaines, thankfully, continues to be the lead biologist for the re-write. Within the next few months anyone wishing to comment will have the opportunity to do so. We will attempt to notify WA-TWS to send out a note.

Re-introduction of Greater Sage-Grouse to Lincoln County, WA – by Various Authors & Agencies

Declining populations and distribution of greater sage-grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) in Washington have resulted in serious concerns for their long-term conservation status. The overall population was estimated to be 902 in 2014, associated with 27 leks. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, initiated a project in 2008 to reintroduce greater sage-grouse to the Swanson Lakes Wildlife Area in Lincoln County, Washington. The project was designed to establish a third population in the state in an area with more than 200 km² of shrub steppe habitat on public lands. Prior to the first translocation in 2008 there were rare observations of sage-grouse in the release area. It was not clear whether these observations were birds dispersing from the closest population in Douglas County or whether these birds were 'remnants' from an endemic population known to occupy the area through the mid-1980s. From spring 2008 to spring 2014, 240 greater sage-grouse were translocated from southern Oregon to the Washington release site and their movements, productivity, habitat use, and survival have been monitored. In 2010 three males were observed strutting for two hens post release. In 2011, a couple hundred meters to the north of the 2010 strutting site, a lek formed with seven males observed pre-release. Since 2010 the lek has remained active and steadily grown. In 2014, 13 males were observed on the lek, pre-release. Though the lek appears to be firmly established and growing, the overall population is still below minimum viability and we propose additional translocations of sage-grouse in future springs. The complete report will be posted soon at http://wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/research/projects/grouse/reintroduction_lincoln_co/



Photo: Mike Atamian

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RESEARCH GRANT PROPOSAL & SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE EXTENDED

The Chapter Executive Board has extended the deadline for **Research Grant Proposals** to **end of day on 15 February 2015**. This change was needed because of an oversight on our Chapter website that confused potential applicants regarding a deadline change from prior years.

These proposals may cover research by students or other professionals. Funding up to \$2,500 is available through this opportunity. Funds will be awarded for use during field work in 2015. See details on the [Chapter website](#) under Awards and Grants.

The deadline has been extended to **end of day on 15 February 2015** for students interested in submitting an application for the **Richard Fitzner Memorial Scholarship** funding from WA-TWS as well. This is an opportunity to be considered for up to \$2,500 in academic support. See details on the [Chapter website](#) under Awards and Grants.

CHAPTER OF THE YEAR

At The Wildlife Society's 21st Annual Conference in Pittsburgh, PA, the Washington Chapter was recognized as Chapter of the Year for achievements during 2013, which demonstrated exceptional contributions to both The Wildlife Society and the wildlife profession. The Chapter of the Year award is presented to an outstanding TWS chapter to encourage and recognize exceptional achievements.

TWS noted in the presentation that the Washington State Chapter distinguished itself through professional interaction opportunities, student benefits, and partnerships. Many Chapter activities during 2013 related to organizing the 2014 Joint Annual Meeting with 4 partners: the Society of Northwestern Vertebrate Biology, Northwest Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (PARC), the Global Owl Project, and Researchers Implementing Conservation Action. More than 250 attendees were present, with 14 states and 4 Canadian provinces represented. The meeting featured several programs, including the 4th International Burrowing Owl Symposium and Raptors of the Northwest Symposium, and a total of 11 workshops.

The Chapter also encouraged students to become involved as committee members and attendees at the annual meeting, which featured a Student Mentoring Session. Aside from promoting student participation at local meetings, the chapter provided \$4,500 in research grants and scholarships plus reduced cost incentives for students to attend Chapter meetings.

These award winning Chapter activities during 2013 occurred when Bill Vogel was Chapter President. Bill was not able to be present to receive the award directly, but he is recognized for his tireless dedication to the Washington Chapter that led to this Award.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE ENTIRE CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP AND ITS PARTNERS!



Blake Murden (WA-TWS Board Member), Harriet Allen (NW Section Representative to TWS Council and WA-TWS Member), and Bruce Thompson (WA-TWS President) accept the Chapter of the Year Award from TWS President Jon Haufler.

22nd Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society



Photo: Assiniboine Park Conservancy

Winnipeg, Manitoba | October 17-21, 2015

Call for Proposals: Workshops, Symposia, Panel Discussions, and Special Poster Sessions

Deadline: February 6, 2015

The Wildlife Society's Annual Conference is one of the largest gatherings of wildlife professionals and supporters in North America. For more than 20 years, TWS has hosted this unique and informative event that provides more than 50 networking opportunities through working groups, meetings and receptions as well as more than 400 educational opportunities that encourage discussion and collaboration.

At our conference, wildlife professionals make new connections with colleagues in wildlife science, research, management, business and education. Students meet professionals who can provide insights on careers, job opportunities, current research and best practices, and potential mentors.

The 22nd Annual Conference is being held in Winnipeg, Manitoba on October 17-21, 2015. Don't miss out on this unusual opportunity as this

year's event marks the first time in a decade that the conference has been held in Canada!

[The Wildlife Society](#) invites proposals for workshops, symposia, panel discussions, and special poster sessions related to all aspects of wildlife ecology, management and conservation.

Session Descriptions

Symposia are comprised of a series of presentations that address aspects of a single topic. **Panel Discussions** are a forum for interactive discussion of a topic among a panel of experts and an interested audience. **Workshops** provide training on a specific skill, technique, or process and may involve one or more instructors. Workshops are intended to emphasize learning through participation, discussion, and "hands-on" activities. **Special poster sessions** are similar to symposia, but presentations are by poster rather than oral. Special poster sessions provide an opportunity for one-on-one dialogue between presenters and attendees.

For more information see the [Wildlife Society website](#).

Vth International Wildlife Congress

TWS is a key co-organizer of the Vth International Wildlife Management Congress, which will be held in Sapporo, Japan during July 26-30, 2015. Incoming TWS President Rich Baydack has invited participation and ideas on program content, symposia topics, contributed paper speakers, poster presentations, and other program ideas from TWS members. Consider whether this forum may be something for you to work toward in 2015. More information is available at <http://www.iwmc2015.org>.

Main Theme:

International Models of Wildlife Management: Beyond Cultural Differences

We all have cultural differences; however, we all share similar problems of wildlife. The 5th International Wildlife Management Congress (IWMC) is an amazing



opportunity for sharing global knowledge and experiences. Let's share and discuss our wildlife science and try to establish international models in Sapporo, Japan.

TWS Conference Dates and Locations

- 2015: International Wildlife Management Congress, Sapporo, Japan, July 26-30.
- 2015: Winnipeg, Manitoba October 17–22
- 2016: Raleigh, NC October 15–20
- 2017: Albuquerque, NM

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.
- Attend the 2015 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://drupal.wildlife.org/>. If you have questions regarding your membership status, please contact Mike Hall at 206-394-3673 or 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!

Application for Student Lodging Support

(for natural resources students at educational institutions in North America)

2015 Joint Meeting of Partners

Washington Chapter-The Wildlife Society

Southwestern Washington Section-Washington Society of American Foresters

Northwest Section-The Wildlife Society

Grand Mound, Washington – 15-17 April 2015

Applicant Information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone and E-mail: _____

Educational Institution Name: _____

Major Program of Study: _____

Advisor Name: _____

Education Program Level: Undergraduate Masters Doctoral

Reason for Requesting Support (*check/complete all that apply*):

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Delivering Presentation/Poster | <input type="checkbox"/> Serving on Committee for Meeting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Serving on other Partner Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Part of TWS Leadership Institute |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Financial Challenge (<i>explain briefly</i>) | <input type="checkbox"/> Enhance/Supplement Field of Study |

- Other (*explain briefly*)

How might receiving this support help you leverage other financial assistance or professional opportunities? (*explain briefly*):

NOTES:

- Recipients will be granted free lodging at Great Wolf Lodge for the nights of 15 and 16 April 2015. Recipients will be responsible for their own meeting registration, meals, and incidental expenses.
- Partners anticipate providing 4 to 6 student rooms, with up to 4 persons (same gender) in each room.
- Any student receiving lodging support will be required to provide 4 to 6 hours of volunteer help before and/or during the course of the meeting.
- Recipients are required to attend the meeting during at least 15-16 April 2015.

Submit completed application (electronically preferred [e.g., .pdf]) to arrive **by 10 March 2015** to:

Bruce Thompson, 10025 91st Ave NE, Arlington, WA 98223 (bcthompson248@gmail.com).

If problems with submission, call Bruce at 505-660-0533

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Washington Chapter

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