Wintry Greetings!

Hello from the snowbound south-central mountains. I trust that everyone had nice holiday seasons and are enjoying productive starts to the New Year. The “Godzilla” El Niño that we’ve all heard so much about has certainly been impacting weather throughout the state this winter, and the above-average snowpack bodes well for the coming spring and summer seasons.

As of this writing, we are less than three weeks away from the Joint Annual Meeting to be held at Little America in Flagstaff, AZ. I hope that many of you have solidified plans to attend, as the Arizona Chapter of The Wildlife Society has been working hard to provide a great experience for attendees this year. There are several educational workshops with space remaining, and there will be plentiful opportunities for networking as well as numerous wildlife and fisheries-related talks from students and professionals. There is still time remaining to register, so I encourage you to make plans if you haven’t already.

Perhaps the most pressing issue facing New Mexico wildlifers is preparing for the 2017 Annual Conference in Albuquerque. Although we’re still awaiting further guidance from the Parent Society, we know that several important tasks will require all willing members of the New Mexico Chapter to pitch in. Specifically, we need help identifying potential sponsors for the conference, as well as with ideas for field trips and activities in and around Albuquerque for conference-goers. Also, we will be working on a meeting logo sometime soon, so if you have artistic or design skills, please don’t hesitate to offer assistance.

For those of you traveling to the Joint Annual Meeting in early February, I strongly encourage you to attend the New Mexico Chapter Business Meeting which will be held in the Aspen Room at Little America from 4:30-6:00 pm on Thursday, February 4th. During this meeting we will be discussing the 2017 Annual Conference in Albuquerque, as well as revisions to the New Mexico Chapter by-laws. Attendees will be asked to vote on the amended by-laws, so we need as many members as possible to join us at the meeting.

This will be my last message to you as President of the New Mexico Chapter. I will be turning the reins of the chapter over to the very capable Ginny Seamster while in Flagstaff. I can assure you that I will do my best to continue to serve the membership while in the role of past-President, and while working to plan and execute the 2017 Annual Conference. I want to thank everyone for giving me the opportunity to serve you as President of the New Mexico Chapter. It’s been a great experience. I look forward to seeing you in Flagstaff!

-Quentin

NM-TWS Website: http://wildlife.org/NM/
Follow us on Twitter: @NewMexicoTWS
NM TWS Facebook Page: https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Wildlife-Society-New-Mexico-Chapter/122478411098284
Share with Wildlife Program Releases Newly Funded 2016 Projects – Ginny Seamster

Fall is a busy season for the Share with Wildlife program at New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (Department). Project proposals were due in late September and there was an excellent response; 44 proposals were submitted. The proposals were reviewed by the Share with Wildlife program coordinator and a number of scientists from the Department and other agencies and organizations. The review committee was fortunate that there were so many stellar proposals to choose from. However, this also made their job of selecting a set of projects to fund in 2016 that much more challenging. After the review committee met and the initial project list was vetted within the Department, a set of 8 projects were selected for 2016.

Eight is fewer than the number of projects that has been funded in previous years, but there are several projects that are larger than what has been funded recently, and the total budget is the same as that for 2015. There is one project focused on rehabilitation and education; all other projects focus on research. The rehabilitation and education work will be performed by the New Mexico Wildlife Center (Center). In addition to helping support day to day rehabilitation activities at the Center, the award will support implementation of a river ecology-focused curriculum involving monthly field- and classroom-based lessons led by Center staff. Elementary and middle school students will learn how to collect samples for use in monitoring water quality and basic concepts from physics, chemistry, and biology. The Center staff also make educational presentations at the Center using animals trained specifically for this purpose.

The seven research projects were spread out across five broad vertebrate taxonomic groups – amphibians, birds, fish, mammals, and reptiles. The amphibian projects will consider the effects of rain and disease on a species of toad (see image of an Arizona toad (Anaxyrus microscaphus) below) found in the Gila and assess the population structure and genetic diversity of a species of salamander endemic to the Sacramento Mountains. The bird project will continue surveys for two species of warbler (see an image of a Red-faced warbler (Cardellina rubrifrons) below) that are found in mountain ranges around the state and support development of population estimates for these species. The fish project will involve development and testing of genetic markers that, if successful, would allow for non-invasive sampling of two species of fish of conservation concern. The two mammals projects will involve: 1) surveying for a rare chipmunk endemic to mountain ranges in southeastern New Mexico and obtaining a much needed update regarding its current status in the wild; and 2) gathering information on the natural defenses that several species of bats found in New Mexico have against a fungal disease (White-nose syndrome (WNS)) and whether there are particular species and locations that should be monitored more closely for WNS.– continued
Share with Wildlife Program, continued

The reptile project will involve systematic surveys for a turtle found in Southeastern New Mexico that was identified for status review by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in July 2015.

The Share with Wildlife coordinator is excited to work with the project proposers on getting these projects going. For more information on the projects, please see the Applications-Reports tab on the Share with Wildlife website (http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/conservation/share-with-wildlife/) or email the Share with Wildlife coordinator (Ginny Seamster; virginia.seamster@state.nm.us). The total budget for Fiscal Year 2016 is $165,000.

2015 Law Enforcement Operations in Southeastern New Mexico - Jason Kline

Winter is a busy time at the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, especially for the Department’s Conservation Officers. There are many hunting seasons open during this time of year, Conservation Officers spend countless hours in the field, checking hunting licenses and making sure rules and regulations are followed. This year, officers in the Alamogordo Supervisory District, in southeastern New Mexico, targeted two Game Management Units (GMUs) for heightened surveillance. Veteran Corporal, Curtis Coburn, directed visiting officers whom traveled to assist in the operations. They conducted saturation patrols in GMUs 37 and 38 during two rifle deer hunts. This saturation patrol, dubbed Operation 38 Special, was conducted to combat the egregious violations common to GMU 38. The operation was expanded to GMU 37 in response to the number of violation-related calls received from this area, as well as the hunting-related high traffic observed.

GMU 38 encompasses the area around Corona, New Mexico. The Corona deer hunts are historically very busy and contain some of the highest violation rates of all deer hunts in the state. This year, deer population trends were lower than the historical area average. To address this decreased population, the numbers of deer permits were reduced roughly a third from 2014 to 2015. There has been a reduction in hunter numbers in this area since the implementation of draw hunts. However, the remoteness and lack of residents living in the area has led to many unreported, undetected, and flagrant violations being committed.

To carry out Operation 38 Special, GMU’s 37 and 38 received eight times the normal officers during both “any legal weapon” deer hunts. In addition to daytime patrols, artificial wildlife operations and night patrols/camp checks were conducted. Officers worked in day/night shifts and, in addition to a total of 299 hours spent on patrol, conducted 8 artificial wildlife (unofficially termed “decoy”) operations. These operations involve setting up and monitoring hunter activity near artificial deer to prevent illegal road hunting activities and hunting without a license violations. The number of contacts and citations made over the 10-day period were impressive; Conservation Officers contacted 451 individuals and issued 41 citations. Citations issued during the operation were for violations ranging from hunting without a license, to shooting from the roadway, to unlawful possession of a deer.

Based on the success of this year’s operation, the Department would like to expand the number of officers involved for next year’s hunts. To report wildlife-related violations, please call 1-800-432-GAME or report poaching on-line through the Department’s Operation Game Thief website (http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/enforcement/operation-game-thief-overview/).
Developing Partnerships: Slaughter Mesa Habitat Project - Kevin Rodden

It has always been paramount to work with partners to accomplish projects benefitting wildlife, now more than ever. In today’s society, as we become narrow-minded or single-species focused, we can lose sight of the bigger picture. The Slaughter Mesa Restoration Project is an example of partners working together benefitting multiple species such as pronghorn, elk, and mule deer. In 2005, the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish approached the United States Forest Service to collaborate on a project designed to improve habitat conditions on Slaughter Mesa. The historical grasslands were being lost due to Ponderosa Pine, Piñon Pine and Juniper encroachment. This project of approximately 30,000 acres was developed to restore the grasslands and create corridors for pronghorn moving to and from historical wintering grounds near Mangas and Omega, NM.

Slaughter Mesa is located approximately 20 miles to the south of Quemado, NM in GMU 15 in the heart of some of the best elk hunting in New Mexico. Pronghorn that use this grassland during the spring, summer, and fall months were likely being impacted by predation due to the lack of corridors to the lower winter country. Historical fire suppression in this fire adapted ecosystem has resulted in the encroachment. Slopes with a browse component, such as mountain mahogany, have not been burned or disturbed and has resulted in the browse becoming old and decadent. Burn plans have been developed in blocks and conducted after the slash has cured on the ground for at least two years. Also, USFS and Department personnel worked collaboratively to design projects utilizing mechanical thinning to remove encroaching trees in the historical grasslands. To date, approximately 15,000 acres have been treated on Slaughter Mesa – burning, thinning, or a combination of both. Corridors have been created with mechanical thinning to enhance pronghorn movement. The goals of restoring historical grasslands and movement corridors are being met, however this has been good for numerous species and every time Department or Forest Service personnel conduct site visits on Slaughter Mesa, more and more animals are seen using the area. The Slaughter Mesa Project is a prime example of what can be done when agencies come together to partner for the good of the land.

This partnership has been funded used from the Department’s Big Game Enhancement Fund, the Habitat Stamp Program, USFS, RMEF and grants such as the Rural Schools Grants.

Updating the Density Estimates for Black Bears in New Mexico - Matthew Gould

Since 2004, the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF) has estimated the state’s black bear population by coupling density estimates with the distribution of primary habitat generated by Costello et al. (2001). In light of recent advances in sampling, genetic, and statistical methodology, NMDGF initiated steps to update their density estimates for New Mexico black bear populations. In 2012, NMDGF began a collaborative project with New Mexico State University and the New Mexico Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit to estimate the density of black bears in the Sangre de Cristo, Sacramento, and Sandia Mountains (Figure 1). Previous density estimates used by NMDGF to set harvest limits were 17 bears/100 km2 for the Sangre de Cristo and Sacramento Mountains and 13.2 bears/100 km2 for the Sandia Mountains. —continued on next page
These 3 mountain ranges constituted 5 study areas: the northern (2012; 6,400 km²) and southern Sangres (2013; 3,525 km²), the northern (2014; 925 km²) and southern Sacramento (2014; 3,725 km²), and the Sandia Mountains (2014; 300 km²).

We sampled each population using two concurrent non-invasive genetic sampling methods - hair traps and bear rubs. We sent hair samples to Wildlife Genetics International where individual identity and gender were determined for each sample suitable for analysis. We used these data to generate individual bear capture histories that we then used to estimate density in a spatially explicit capture-recapture framework.

We cumulatively set 557 hair traps and 112 bear rubs collecting 4,083 hair samples. We identified 726 (368 M; 358 F) individuals and the sex ratio for each area was ~50%. Our preliminary density estimates varied within and among mountain ranges (Table 1). Our results suggest that the density is similar (southern Sangres and southern Sacramento) or higher (northern Sangres, northern Sacramentos, and Sandias) than the previous density estimates used by NMDGF (17 bears/100 km² and 13.2 bears/100 km²). The NMDGF will couple these density estimates with an updated black bear habitat map to establish harvest levels for responsible management and assured longevity of New Mexico’s black bears.

Table 1. Spatially explicit capture-recapture based density estimates for five New Mexico black bear populations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study Area</th>
<th>( \widehat{D} ) (bears/100 km²)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Northern Sangre de Cristo Mountains</td>
<td>23.7 (19.4 – 29.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Sangre de Cristo Mountains</td>
<td>18.6 (13.0 – 26.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandia Mountains</td>
<td>18.4 (10.1 – 33.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Sacramento Mountains</td>
<td>23.1 (17.5 – 30.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Sacramento Mountains</td>
<td>17.1 (12.1 – 24.2)</td>
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Open Gate: Providing Access for Hunters, Anglers, & Trappers in New Mexico - Ryan Darr

Articles about declining hunter, angler and trapper numbers are old news to most wildlife professionals. In much the same way, it is well known that these losses will have major impacts on fish and wildlife conservation under our existing user pay, user benefit system. Multiple studies have investigated the lack of recruitment and retention among sportsmen and women and found that one of the major contributing factors is lack of access and opportunity. The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF) has taken a progressive approach to addressing these issues and enriching New Mexico’s Outdoor Heritage with the Open Gate Hunting and Fishing Access Program.

Open Gate is a private-land leasing and access program with the goal of improving access for hunters, anglers and trappers. Since 2006, the program has leased quality private lands to directly provide - continued on next page
Open Gate: Providing Access, continued

hunting, fishing and trapping opportunities. Open Gate also leases and develops right-of-way corridors to improve access to public lands with limited accessibility. Private landowners may receive a variety of incentives for providing opportunity or access, including: financial compensation, liability protection under state statute, and property signage to ensure safe and respectful use of enrolled private lands.

Open Gate also provides technical guidance and opportunities for cost-share assistance to participating landowners interested in implementing habitat management projects that benefit wildlife and fish. NMDGF provides participating private landowners with flexible lease agreements that respect private property rights. Legal species, dates and access details are negotiable; however, lease rates vary relative to opportunity provided. The program also adjusts lease rates based on habitat quality and proximity to a population center, specifically targeting areas that provide the greatest benefit to the largest number of hunters, anglers, and trappers.

Funds for Open Gate leases are provided solely by hunters, anglers and trappers through their purchase of Habitat Management and Access Validation stamps. Therefore, properly-licensed individuals may use Open Gate leases and access corridors at no additional cost. The program maintains an interactive map and property details on the Open Gate web page, http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/hunting/maps/open-gate-program/, to help users easily locate and use properties that meet their interests.

Open Gate currently improves access and opportunity with dozens of participating properties. The program and incentives provided have been well-received by landowners and users alike. NMDGF hopes that the growing Open Gate Hunting and Fishing Access program will continue to be a step in the right direction to increase hunter, angler and trapper recruitment and retention in New Mexico. Please help support this valuable program as a wildlife professional by spreading the word about the Open Gate program anytime you interact with a landowner who may be a suitable fit for the program. You also can support Open Gate as a hunter, angler or trapper (or someone thinking about trying these activities) by visiting an Open Gate property in your area this weekend.

Positions Recently Filled at New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

Bob Osborn - Assistant Chief of Private Land Programs, Wildlife Management Division

Bob Osborn is the new assistant chief of private land programs with the New Mexico Department Game and Fish. Bob has worked for the Department for 6+ years, first as the elk private land use system program coordinator and most recently as the private land program manager. Prior to coming to New Mexico, Bob worked in South Dakota, Texas, Minnesota and Wyoming for various state and federal agencies and private companies. Bob has been a member of The Wildlife Society (Parent, Section and State chapters) since 1983. Bob is a certified wildlife biologist, a past secretary/treasurer for the Minnesota Chapter of The Wildlife Society and a past-president for the New Mexico Chapter of The Wildlife Society.

Austin Teague - Northeast Regional Wildlife Biologist

Austin has been with NMDGF for 3.5 years, and previously was a Conservation Officer in the Clayton and Guadalupe Districts. Prior to NMDGF he received his Bachelor's degree from Texas Tech University, and worked as a wildlife technician in many states. His first priority with his new position is getting his office organized to his liking, and furthering his knowledge of the Department's private lands systems. He feels honored to continue the legacy of sound management for big game species in the North East area of New Mexico. And if any one knows of a soccer league he can join close to Raton, NM please let him know!
Positions Recently Filled at NMDGF, continued

Kevin Rodden - Southwest Regional Wildlife Biologist

Kevin Rodden is the new Southwest Regional Wildlife Biologist with the New Mexico Department of Game & Fish (NMDGF). He has been with NMDGF for 17 years, previously as the Datil District Officer, Southwest Regional Depredation Coordinator, Southwest Regional Game Manager, statewide deer and pronghorn biologist, and most recently the Southwest Regional Habitat Biologist. Prior to NMDGF Kevin worked for Arizona Game and Fish Department improving access for sportsmen/women. Kevin received his Master’s Degree from Western New Mexico University and his Bachelor’s Degree from New Mexico State University. Kevin is an avid outdoorsman, spending time with his family hunting, fishing, and camping. Kevin will be using his experience to manage wildlife in the Southwest Area for future generations. In his current position he plans to address issues limiting hunter opportunity.

Update from the Student Development Working Group - Krysten Zummo

The Student Development Working Group is a subunit of The Wildlife Society that focuses on the needs and interests of the society’s student members. Since it’s inception in 2010, the working group’s mission has been to promote increased awareness of TWS membership benefits, expand the knowledge and technical capabilities of members, and the help prepare student members for professional wildlife careers.

Each year we host and support numerous workshops and symposia at the annual conference of The Wildlife Society that focus on critical skills for undergraduate and graduate students. In most recent years, we have hosted events training students in critical skills of publication, the desired skills of employers, and effective management of student chapters. We also organize a special poster session just for students to allow both undergraduates and graduate students the opportunity to present their research at a national level and receive feedback from professionals.

This year the working group is focusing on increasing activities outside of the conference, and improving communications between students and the different levels of TWS, as well as amongst one another. One of the concerns that we hear most from students is that they feel disconnected with their local chapters, both student chapters from nearby universities as well as state chapters/sections, and would like to feel more connected. We are looking to provide students with a way to communicate more effectively and efficiently with their local chapters.

We are looking forward to the upcoming year and everything being planned for the conference in Raleigh, NC! We welcome new ideas and involvement from students and would love to hear from you! If you would like to learn more about the working group or get involved, please feel free to contact any of our officers or check out our Facebook page. We hope to hear from you!

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Robert Lewis, Secretary: Robert.lewis@aggiemail.usu.edu

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The Southwest Section Geospatial Advisory Committee has been busy this fall. Collaboration among committee members allowed the committee to put on a webinar, “Climate Projection Data and its Application: From Comparisons and Code to Transformations and Tools.” The webinar was an hour long, interactive talk by Dr. Jeremy Weiss, a Climate and Geospatial Extension Scientist at the School of Natural Resources and the Environment at the University of Arizona. Dr. Weiss was an excellent speaker and provided ample information for those seeking to model a changing climate. In particular, he provided information regarding the datasets that are available and factors to consider in choosing a dataset appropriate to your project. A YouTube video of the presentation is available at: https://youtu.be/22SMjKU3yoM. Special thanks are due to committee members Melissa Merrick (University of Arizona) and Ken Boykin (New Mexico State University) for helping to put on the webinar. The webinar was held as part of the monthly Southwest Section professional development webinar series.

The committee has also submitted and had an article accepted by the parent society publication, The Wildlife Professional. Titled “A Toolbox of Apps: How Mobile Technology Supports Wildlife Data Collection,” the article provides examples and discussion concerning the use of applications (i.e., apps) on mobile devices for data collection and the sharing of information related to wildlife management. Examples include app development and other work done by the Arizona Game and Fish Department, Missouri Department of Conservation, and New Mexico Department of Game and Fish. Arizona Game and Fish Department has developed an app for reporting roadkill locations around the state of Arizona. Missouri Department of Conservation has worked with a contractor to develop multiple apps that target different user groups (i.e., hunts, fishermen, nature-lovers/fall color enthusiasts). The article also describes apps developed specifically to support citizen science, as well as the use of mobile apps in the classroom by programs such as New MexicoView. New MexicoView is coordinated by Dr. Ken Boykin with the Center for Applied Spatial Ecology at New Mexico State University. Dr. Boykin is teaching students in southern New Mexico to collect land cover data using their mobile phones (see screenshots above) that can be used by NASA scientists in many ways, including validating land cover classifications based on satellite images. This article should be published in the March/April issue of The Wildlife Professional.

Lastly, members of the Geospatial Advisory Committee have helped identify the topic for one of the workshops to be held at the February 2016 Arizona/New Mexico Joint Annual Meeting. The workshop will be led by Dr. Jeremy Weiss from the University of Arizona (see further information on Dr. Weiss above) and will be a good follow up to the webinar that Dr. Weiss gave for the Geospatial Advisory Committee earlier this year. The workshop will delve into workflows related to acquiring, processing, and generating useful products from climate data. Workshop participants will use open source software (R and QGIS). More information on the workshop can be found here: https://aztws.com/event/ incorporating-climate-change-data-workshop/

Section members wishing to learn more about the committee or join, should contact co-chairs Ginny Seamster (virginia.seamster@state.nm.us) and Leland Pierce (leland.pierce@state.nm.us).
From the SW Section Representative - Fidel Hernández

Hello Fellow Chapter and SW Section Members,

This is my inaugural newsletter article as your Southwest Section Representative. I recently assumed this role at the 22nd Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society (TWS) in Winnipeg, Manitoba in October. As you know, Carol Chambers was our representative for the past 6 years and did an outstanding job. I was able to attend the Council meetings prior to the beginning of the conference, and it was a great experience to shadow Carol during these few days and learn gems of wisdom from her 6-year tenure as the SW Section representative. She has been a tremendous help getting me up-to-speed on the workings of the Section and TWS Council. Her wealth of experience has been invaluable during this transition, and I sincerely appreciate her willingness to help. Thank you, Carol.

I look forward to serving as your TWS Council representative for the next 3 years. My goal is to build on Carol’s success during the past 2 terms and cultivate the energy, enthusiasm, and excitement that currently surrounds the Section and our parent Society.

In a Nutshell
Below is a concise synopsis of the latest happenings at the national level based on our recent TWS Council meetings in Winnipeg. You may find additional information in the respective sections following these bulleted highlights.

• After a recent decline in TWS membership, this member loss rate has been curbed and efforts now are focused on growing the numbers through recruitment and retention. Current membership is about 9,400 members.
• Financially, 2013 was the turn-around year for TWS. TWS currently is exhibiting financial growth and is experiencing accelerated progress in financial equity.
• The 22nd Annual Conference of TWS in Winnipeg, Manitoba was a tremendous success. It met or exceeded all performance indicators and had more than 1,500 attendees.
• Many exciting new changes have been or will be implemented during the coming months to better serve TWS membership and increase the value of membership. For example, The Wildlife Professional (TWP) has increased its offering from 4 to 6 issues per year. In addition, a new partnership with American Public University (APU) allows TWS members to enroll in courses at a reduced cost. This is an important new change given that APU has restructured its curriculum and now offers courses that apply towards wildlife certification should members be lacking in particular courses.
• Our new President, Gary Potts, has outlined his presidency goals and is focusing his sights on increasing and facilitating TWS engagement with state, provincial, and federal agencies. He is working closely with the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) to strengthening these ties.

Membership
TWS membership has stabilized after a recent decline. Current membership is at 9,403. This is only 84 members down from last year, and TWS membership shows evidence that the steep downward trend has been arrested. Part of the reason for this stabilizing trend reflects focused work on improving benefits to members such as a new website, conference enhancements, and service to Sections and Chapters. The current member composition is 55% regular members, 26% students, 9% new professionals, and 9% retirees. The greatest gains in membership were in the student category; the greatest losses were in the professional category. A recent analysis of TWS membership indicated that the greatest loss occurred during the first year of membership and that improvements in retention of first-year members needed to involve better communication of membership benefits. TWS also noted upcoming changes to increase benefits to current members including greater frequency of The Wildlife Professional, updating the Member Directory, launching a conference presentation archive and a policy database, and offering a 5% discount on courses taken from American Public University.

Finances
The financial status and outlook for TWS has improved greatly in recent years. In reviewing the operational—continued
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From the SW Section Representative, continued

budget for July 2014 – June 2015, actual revenues ($2,446,079) were higher than expected revenues ($2,329,912), and actual expenses ($2,255,900) were lower than expected expenses ($2,282,477). This resulted in a surplus ($237,888) that was nearly twice the anticipated surplus ($122,435) in the budget. In addition, the total equity position for TWS increased dramatically over the year, with a growth in equity of $190,368 or 21%. This represented a remarkable improvement in the financial situation of TWS. One reason for this improvement was significant growth in the Contributions category. TWS has invested in development positions and has experienced subsequent success in attracting outside financial support. One of its new initiatives was The 1,000, a program started in June 2014 by TWS Chief Operating Officer Ed Thompson and former President Bruce Leopold. The goal of the initiative is to unify 1,000 members through annual donations ranging from $100 to $1,000 in support of TWS Strategic Plan Initiatives. The 1,000 exceeded expectations ($50,000) and generated $104,000 in its first year.

Annual Conference
The 22nd Annual Conference in Winnipeg, Manitoba was a tremendous success. Conference registration exceeded 1,500 attendees and placed Winnipeg in the top 3 of the last 9 conferences. The conference revenue goal of $220,000 was exceeded, and there was evidence of increased member engagement including sold-out fieldtrips and increased workshop registration. Student participation was high, comprising 46% of registrants. The Southwest Section shined at the annual conference, with several Chapter members of the Section winning national awards:

- **Excellence in Wildlife Education:** Nova J. Silvy, Texas A&M University
- **Ethnic and Gender Diversity Award:** Diana Dona-Crider, Texas A&M University
- **TWS Outstanding Book: Wildlife Science:** Connecting Research and Management by Joseph P. Sands, Stephen J. DeMaso, Matthew J. Schnupp, and Leonard A. Brennan, Texas A&M University-Kingsville
- **Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society:** Texas A&M University-Kingsville
- **TWS Fellow:** David G. Hewitt (Texas A&M University-Kingsville), Jim Ramakka (Retired)

In addition, TWS approved interim status for two new student chapters: Student Chapter of TWS at University of Arizona- Yuma and the Student Chapter of TWS at Texas Christian University. We look forward to supporting and engaging with these new student chapters as they work towards achieving permanent status.

Please mark your calendar for the 23rd Annual Conference, which will be held in Raleigh, North Carolina during October 15 – 19, 2016. Also, note that the annual conference will come home to where it all started, the Southwest, for 2017. The 24th Annual Conference will be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico during September 23 – 27, 2017. Quentin Hays, President of the New Mexico Chapter of TWS, is chairing the Local Arrangements committee and is leading the charge for the conference. The NM Chapter has begun the planning process for the 2017 annual conference. Quentin will be identifying the strategic needs during the coming months, so stay tuned for future details. As the details unfold, we look forward to helping Quentin and the NM Chapter of TWS in making the conference a success.

Presidential Agenda for Incoming TWS President Gary Potts
President Potts announced his theme for his TWS presidency: Expanding the Partnership. President Potts will use the recent survey on TWS members as a foundation for strengthening linkages with state, provincial, and federal agencies. His personal attention will focus on AFWA and strengthening the TWS-AFWA partnership. President Potts has noted that AFWA and its constituent agencies depend on societies like TWS for the latest science, continuing education, certification, and innovative thinking. He shared examples including online access of TWS journals for state and provincial agencies and a forum for addressing science and issues concerning lead (Pb) in the environment, the latter of which resulted in a new Lead Science Website for AFWA members. President Potts also noted progress in communicating work of the state and provincial wildlife agencies through The Wildlife Professional. He identified ongoing science needs including pre-listing species conservation; landscape-scale habitat analysis; drought, fire, and climate analyses; and data information and management. He noted that new and emerging technologies, training, certification, and continuing education are another area where TWS could be of great service to states and provinces. States highly value certification, with about 15-20 states identifying certification as important in recruitment. President Potts also challenged Section Representatives to outreach to State and Student Chapters to increase local involvement. President Potts will have an article featured in The Wildlife Professional describing his goal of expanding...
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From the SW Section Representative, continued

the partnership. In addition, next year’s annual conference in Raleigh will have an opening plenary on this theme.

There are numerous exciting changes occurring at the national level. I encourage you to remain involved. Thank you for this wonderful opportunity to represent our SW Section. If I can be of any help, please do not hesitate to contact me via e-mail (fidel.hernandez@tamuk.edu) or phone (361-593-3926).

Until next time,

Fidel Hernández

New Share with Wildlife License Plates Now Available

The Share with Wildlife program would like to announce the release of a new Share with Wildlife license plate. The Department will be advertising the plates more widely soon, but you can order a plate using the following form available on the MVD website (http://realfile.tax.newmexico.gov/mvd10092.pdf) or call your local MVD office to see if they have the plates available.


Please join us for the 2016 joint annual meeting of the New Mexico and Arizona Chapters of The Wildlife Society and the American Fisheries Society. The meeting will be held at the Little America Hotel at 2515 East Butler Avenue in Flagstaff, Arizona on February 4th - 6th.

The workshops will be held on Thursday from 8 AM to 4 PM. Workshop topics include Piscicide, Interview and Resume Building, Communication for Conservation, Wildlife Legislation and Advocacy, New Technologies and Apps, Drone Technologies, Climate Change, and Venomous Reptiles.

The plenary session will be held on Friday from 8:30 AM - 12 PM. The subject of the plenary will be “Who Will Manage the Future of Our Public Lands?” The cost is $25 at the door or online at https://aztws.com/events/. Plenary session speakers will include Arizona House of Representatives Chairwoman Brenda Barton, Montana State Senator Jennifer Fielder, Arizona State Lands Commissioner Lisa Atkins, Coconino County Supervisor Mandy Metzger, USDS Forest Service Regional Forester Cal Joyner, and ASU Professor of Law Paul Bender.

There will be a photo contest and wildlife art show. For the photo contest there will be cash prizes for first place in each of the following categories: wild mammals, wild birds, wild herpetiles, wild fish, wild invertebrates, landscape, wildlifers “caught in the act”, and best of show. There will also be a cash prize for best of show in the wildlife art show.

There will also be a Student Quiz Bowl and Student Paper/Poster Competitions. For conference registration please visit www.regonline.com/JAM2016_AZ-NMChapters_AFS_TWS and visit www.aztws.org for more information.
Becoming a Student Member of the Wildlife Society

For only $41 a year, less than $3.50 per month, you can become a student member of the TWS Parent Society. Student membership has many benefits including saving $200 on TWS Annual Conference registration, 5% discount on American Public University online courses, up to 30% discount on textbooks, access to 52 issues of the eWildlifer with direct links to wildlife news and job announcements, and access to 104 video presentations from the most recent TWS Annual Conference. Membership also includes 6 issues of The Wildlife Professional magazine. Student membership in The Wildlife Society can help you interact with professionals through member-only Working Groups, enhance your resume with professional society membership, and is required to achieve Associate Wildlife Biologist® certification. For more information visit www.wildlife.org/join/.

Migratory Bird Treaty Centennial 1916 - 2016

This year, 2016, is the centennial of the Migratory Bird Treaty between the United States and Great Britain, for Canada. This treaty, signed on August 16th, 1916, along with four other treaties that followed, form the base of efforts to conserve migratory birds that cross international borders. Throughout this year, the USFWS will work with their partners to increase awareness, promote actions, and increase support for the conservation of migratory birds. To get involved in this effort to celebrate the centennial of the Migratory Bird Treaty please email MBTreaty100@fws.gov or visit www.fws.gov/birds/MBTreaty100.php for more information.

Please Cast Your Votes for TWS Board Members by January 22nd

Please cast your vote for the officers and other board members for the New Mexico Chapter of the Wildlife Society for 2016. You can cast your votes using the following ballot by January 22nd, 2016: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1G8SxdJnuYF0nCc-NcvDHPkkH8CGVLWjzj7iS0UrPRREM/viewform. Brief biographies of the nominees for positions up for election in 2016 are listed below.

President-elect, Scott Carleton: I am currently Assistant Unit leader United States Geological Survey, New Mexico Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit and Affiliate Assistant Professor in the Departments of Fish, Wildlife, and Conservation Ecology and Biology at New Mexico State University. Prior to my current position I was a Post-doctoral Research Associate with the Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at the University of Wyoming. I have an MSc degree from University of Arkansas, studying the breeding ecology of the resplendent quetzal in Costa Rica, and a PhD from the University of Wyoming, studying broad-tailed hummingbirds, rufous hummingbirds, mourning and white-winged dove in the Southwest, and applying isotope ecology to describe diets and migration of birds.

Secretary, Bill Dunn: Bill Dunn is owner of Big Picture Conservation LLC, an environmental consulting firm in Albuquerque and has a PhD in Landscape Ecology from the University of New Mexico. He has been a wildlife and landscape ecologist for 35 years (16 with New Mexico Department of Game and Fish) and has worked to conserve bighorn sheep, bears, cougars, furbearers, and Lesser Prairie-Chickens.—continued on next page
Please Cast Your Votes for TWS Board Members, continued

He authored the book “Becoming a Compelling Communicator for Conservation” and teaches professional communication at University of New Mexico and Texas Tech University.

Treasurer, Dan Collins: I am currently employed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-Region 2 Migratory Bird Office in Albuquerque, NM as their Migratory Game Bird Coordinator. I deal with the management, assessment, and surveying of all migratory game birds within Region 2 (Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Arizona) as well as participate in both the Central and Pacific Flyways. I have degrees in Biology from Greensboro College (B.S.), Natural Resource Management from Sul Ross State University (M.S., “Ecology of a Badger (Taxidae taxus) population on the Chaparral Wildlife Management Area, Texas”), and Wildlife Ecology from Stephen F. Austin State University (Ph.D., “Moist-soil managed wetlands and their associated vegetative, aquatic invertebrate, and waterfowl communities in east-central Texas).

Newsletter Editor, Ron Kellermueller: I have a B.S. in Zoology from Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO. I am currently the Mining and Energy Habitat Specialist, Ecological and Environmental Planning Division, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish. For 11 years I was the raptor biologist at Hawks Aloft, Inc. in Albuquerque, NM where I monitored raptor distribution, nesting success, and productivity throughout the state. I also worked as a biologist with the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife for four years on the Cedar River sockeye salmon enhancement project near Seattle.

Board Member, Kristin Madden: Kristin is the Deputy Chief for the Migratory Birds program for Region 2 with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Previously, she was the Bird Program Manager and migratory game bird biologist for the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish. She has a Master’s degree in wildlife biology/environmental studies and conducted her research on nest-site aggression in Cooper’s hawks in Albuquerque. Kristin has been an avian biologist and wildlife rehabilitator in New Mexico for over 16 years and is a former Clinic Director for Wildlife Rescue Inc. of New Mexico.

Board Member, Todd A. Rawlinson: I serve as the Wildlife Habitat Specialist for the Lincoln National Forest. I have worked with the US Forest Service for 13 years as a Researcher and Wildlife Biologist focusing a majority of my efforts on threatened and endangered species in the forest landscape. My current work is concentrated on providing technical advice and leadership for wildlife habitat requirements and management needs across the Lincoln National Forest (LNF). Prior to Federal Service, I worked directly with the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Conservation Ecology at New Mexico State University as a Jaguar (Panthera onca) Research Specialist in Sonora, Mexico.

Board Member, Casey Cardinal: I started with NMDGF in May 2015, and am managing the Department’s Turkey and Upland Game program. This involves working with New Mexico’s wild turkey, quail, grouse, pheasants, and harvestable tree squirrels. I have spent my first few months getting acquainted with the state, and am excited for the program’s potential to positively impact habitats and wildlife in New Mexico. I was born and raised in Wisconsin, where I received my B.S in Wildlife Ecology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. My Master’s degree is in Wildlife Biology from Utah State University, where I studied ecology and habitat use of greater sage-grouse. Prior to moving to New Mexico, I was a Private Lands Biologist implementing Lesser Prairie Chicken habitat projects in Southeastern Colorado.
NM-TWS is an active affiliate of The Wildlife Society that is dedicated to promoting sound management and conservation of New Mexico's wildlife resources.

Membership is open to all professionals, students, and laypersons interested in wildlife research, management, education, and administration.

Our chapter works to maintain communication among wildlife professionals; encourages communication between those professionals and the general public; supports continuing education through grants, workshops, and regional meetings; encourages student involvement in the wildlife profession; and actively participates in shaping management and conservation policy through letters, public statements, and resolutions.

Please join or update your membership today!

Thank You!

Please complete the membership form and mail it with your $8 dues to:

The Wildlife Society
New Mexico Chapter
P.O. Box 35936
Albuquerque, NM 87176-3593

For updates to your mailing or email address please contact Dan Collins, dan_collins@fws.gov