

## Welcome to the Native People's Wildlife Management Working Group

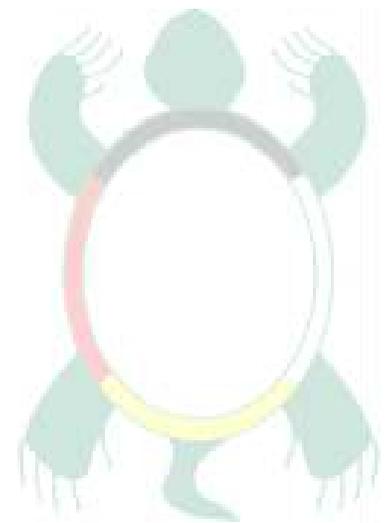


### ~ Our Mission ~

The Native Peoples' Wildlife Management Working Group promotes improved relationships between state/provincial/federal wildlife managers and tribal wildlife managers through improved communications. The Working Group provides a forum for Tribal and agency wildlife professionals to discuss wildlife management on reservations and aboriginal lands and to share viewpoints on proposed policies affecting wildlife management in Indian Country. The Working Group works to enhance wildlife management on and off reservations through joint activities.

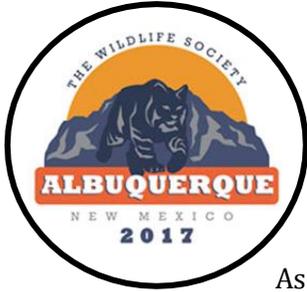
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## The Wildlife Society 24th Annual Conference, Albuquerque, NM 2017

### NATIVE STUDENT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM



### *Would you like to attend the 24th Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society?*

As a scientific organization for professionals who manage and conserve wildlife and habitats, The Wildlife Society (TWS) is increasingly concerned about the lack of ethnic and cultural diversity within the profession. Diversity is essential if the profession is to grow and meet the nation's conservation challenges. The indigenous community has enormous potential to enrich diversity within the wildlife profession.

TWS has an active Native People's Wildlife Management Working Group composed of wildlife professionals and students, tribal and non-tribal, who recognize native people's cultural, spiritual, and biological connections to the land. TWS and the Working Group have been exploring ways to promote the early development of Native American and indigenous wildlife professionals.

The Wildlife Society believes that one of the most effective ways to support indigenous wildlife students is to give them the opportunity to attend TWS's Annual Conference – the largest gathering of wildlife professionals in North America. The Society is therefore raising funds to enable indigenous students to attend the 24th Annual Conference, to be held in Albuquerque, NM Sept 23-27, 2017 through the Native Students Professional Development Program.

**How the Program Works:** Individuals selected for this program will receive funds to help cover registration fees, lodging, meals, and transportation to and from the conference. Program participants will also receive a one-year membership in The Wildlife Society and become members of the Native People's Wildlife Management Working Group.

As TWS members they will receive the quarterly magazine *The Wildlife Professional*, monthly electronic newsletter *The Wildlifer*, the *Wildlife Society Bulletin*, discounts on TWS peer-reviewed publications such as *The Journal of Wildlife Management*, and access to the TWS website, blog, job board, and other online resources.

**Eligibility:** Candidates must be members of a Native American, First Nations, or Indigenous Tribe, or identify as Native Alaskan or Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, and currently enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate program in a relevant academic discipline such as wildlife biology or ecology. Applicants must display a record of academic excellence and a strong interest in pursuing a career in wildlife management or conservation. Qualified applicants will be evaluated by a panel consisting of the Chair of the Native People's Wildlife Management Working Group, two other working-group members, a TWS staff member, and representatives from other program partners.

**DEADLINE: Email all application materials to Serra Hoagland (serrahoagland@gmail.com) no later than July 7th, 2017.**

**For more information about the conference click here:** <http://wildlife.org/tws-24th-annual-conference/>

**Applications:** Submissions must include name, address, email, phone number, tribal affiliation, name of college or university, current level of study (undergraduate, graduate, post-graduate), field of study, and a copy of most recent *official* transcripts, showing courses and grades. Also include an essay (500-750 words) explaining why you would like to participate, how this program might benefit your career development, how your personal and cultural experiences and skills contribute to the wildlife profession, and any other special circumstances you may have. Mention any relevant extracurricular activities, societies, honors, or awards.





**We are always looking for ways to fund our Native Student Professional Development Program.**

**If you are interested in funding this program or would like to provide ideas for funding, please contact Serra Hoagland at [serrahoagland@gmail.com](mailto:serrahoagland@gmail.com)**

## The Wildlife Society, 24th Annual Conference, Albuquerque, NM 2017

### **TWS Annual Conference Registration!!**

**September 23-27<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

If you already know you will be attending the conference, register now. If you're still unsure, or if you're awaiting approval from your organization, check out the full detailed schedule and download the PDF of this year's educational and training program. These resources can be used to help with justification and planning your conference experience, not to mention get you excited about coming to Albuquerque!



Early indications are that this year's conference could break the all-time attendance record of over 2,000 wildlife professionals and students. With over 950 educational and training opportunities, over 40 networking opportunities, 21 workshops throughout the week, three field trips, and all new student events, we hope you'll join us in Albuquerque to experience TWS Live!

Best Regards,

Ed Thompson  
Chief Operating Officer  
The Wildlife Society

**To Register:** <http://twsconference.org/>

## TWS NEWS

### ***Native Americans to begin USFS projects this summer***



--TWS News, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017

The Native American Research Assistantship Program begins its third year, a program made possible by the Premier Partner relationship between the U.S. Forest Service and The Wildlife Society. The Research Assistantship program provides valuable knowledge to Native American students and recent graduates who are interested in becoming wildlife biologists. The program allows these individuals to learn and gain beneficial



*A female Mexican spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis lucida*) is mid-air between Elisha Flores (left) and Chase Voirin (right) on the Mescalero Apache Indian Reservation, NM. Flores and Voirin participated in the 2016 Native American Research Assistantship program with Dr. Serra Hoagland, Liaison Officer (Biologist) at the Rocky Mountain Research Station.*

hands-on experience while working with a wildlife professional on the approved project.

The USFS has worked closely with TWS to develop mentoring opportunities for Native Americans to work as research assistants with USFS Research & Development (R&D) scientists. R&D funding will be used to provide living stipends for upper-level during their mentorship, while TWS will provide administrative support and coordination.

Three individuals have been selected for research assistantships, which will last for approximately 12-14 weeks, beginning in late spring of 2017 and running through late summer of 2017.

*Story Continues pg*



## TWS News

Kelci Renshaw, a current student at Humboldt State University, will be mentored by Serra Hoagland, a Liaison Officer (Biologist) at the Rocky Mountain Research Station. Their project topic will be “Assessment of wildfire risk in treated and untreated Mexican spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis lucida*) territories on tribal lands.”

Harlan Tso, a current student at Northern Arizona University, will be mentored by Teresa Lorenz, Research Wildlife Biologist at the Pacific Northwest Research Station. Their project topic will be “Space use, survival, and nesting ecology of avian cavity excavators in prescribed burns”.

Nekai Eversole, a recent graduate of Fort Lewis College, will be mentored by Deahn Donner, a project leader and research landscape ecologist at the Northern Research Station. Their project topic will be “Evaluating regional and landscape-scale movement patterns of wood turtles”.

“More and more our agency recognizes the value of traditional ecological knowledge and indigenous land stewardship as a necessary component of natural resources management,” said Dr. Carlos Rodriguez Franco, Deputy Chief of U.S. Forest Service Research and Development. “The Native American Research Assistantship Program trains the next generation of Native Americans as natural resource scientists, as it also helps us maintain our trust responsibility and service with Native American tribes through collaborative and participatory research approaches.”

TWS Native People’s Wildlife Management Working Group also provides educational and networking opportunities for Native Americans. They are very thankful for the support of Native American students interested in wildlife biology and management. For more information on the working group click [here](#).

As a Premier Partner of TWS, the USFS also provides funding for travel grants to Native American students to attend the TWS Annual Conference. The USFS and TWS would like to extend their thanks to the scientists who submitted project proposals and to the individuals who will be mentoring the three Native Americans in this year’s program.

**Original Article:** <http://wildlife.org/native-americans-to-begin-usfs-projects-this-summer/>



## TWS Conference Plenary: Crossroads of Cultures



By: Dana Kobilinski  
TWS NEWS: May 11th, 2017



*As U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources and Environment deputy undersecretary, Arthur “Butch” Blazer visits with members of the Greening Youth Foundation while hiking at Cascade Springs in Georgia.*

From ethnic diversity in the workforce to technology advances applied in the field, diversity is constantly changing the wildlife profession.

At the TWS 24th Annual Conference, which will take place Sept. 23-27 in Albuquerque, N.M., the opening plenary session on Sept. 24 will offer you the opportunity to learn about the importance of cultural changes in your profession and how this relates to conserving habitat and other wildlife resources.

This session will set the stage for you to recognize current challenges in your field as a result of changing cultures and how to handle those challenges. The speakers will also help you broaden your perspectives on how wildlife conservation will look in the future. “[Attendees] will have a greater appreciation for cultural considerations and weave that into what we do day-to-day in wildlife conservation,” TWS President Bruce Thompson said.

### Crossroads of cultures

The first slate of speakers will look at a range of cultural considerations affecting professional communications, from tribal relationships to law enforcement.

*Story Continues Next Page*



## TWS News



**Arthur "Butch" Blazer (Pic 1)**

Now retired, Arthur "Butch" Blazer served as the U.S. Department of Agriculture deputy undersecretary for natural resources and environment in the Obama administration. He has remained involved in encouraging the next generation of wildlifers, especially Native American youth.

Blazer will speak about one of his passions: tribal youth conservation. "I'm hoping through my presentation and others, that we will be successful in educating the conference attendees in what tribes are faced with."

In his past work, Blazer, a member of the Mescalero Apache tribe in south central New Mexico, managed the nearly half-million-acre reservation for the tribe and helped found the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society in the early 1980s. He has also been active in TWS.

"As we all know, wildlife knows no boundaries," Blazer said, "and when [animals] leave the reservation and come onto a reservation or pueblo from another jurisdiction, it's important for people to work together to try and manage as best we can the overall holistic environment from which these animals live."

**Hilary Tompkins (Pic 2)**

One aspect of cultural influences in wildlife conservation includes the involvement of Native American tribes in conversations between state and federal agencies about legal issues. Hilary Tompkins, a former solicitor for the Interior Department, will speak about some of these issues as a member of the Navajo Nation.

Her position included representing the department in judicial litigations, negotiations and contracts between federal and state agencies and tribes. She also served as chief counsel to New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson from 2003 to 2008 and special assistant U.S. attorney in the Eastern District of New York.

*"I'm hoping through my presentation and others, that we will be successful in educating the conference attendees in what tribes are faced with."—A. Blazer*

Her legal experience includes work with the Navajo Nation Supreme Court in Arizona and the Navajo Nation Department of Justice as a tribal court advocate.

**Alexandra Sandoval (Pic 3)**

In 2014, Alexandra Sandoval became the second female director of the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish in its 112-year history. She was appointed to the position after serving as the agency's chief financial officer and the chief of the Administrative Services Division. Sandoval will speak about the importance of recognizing the benefits of diversity within and outside a state agency.

"Today we are at the crossroads for wildlife management in the United States," Sandoval said. "The tremendous range of social interests and demands is at an unprecedented level. We must promote diversity, in all its forms and fashions, to advance our organizations and wildlife management for future generations."

### It Doesn't Stop There

Sessions including another plenary, symposium and others will provide further insight into how different aspects of culture are important in the wildlife profession not only now, but in order to understand where the wildlife biology field is headed in the future.

You won't want to miss the second plenary session on Tuesday, Sept. 26 featuring a diverse range of speakers who will discuss how millennials and a more urbanized culture are impacting the wildlife biology field.

And the discussion of cultural changes doesn't end with these two plenaries. "The main plenary, the second plenary and special symposia, in combination with content scattered across the contributed sessions, will all further participants' insight into different kinds of cultural considerations for effective wildlife conservation," Thompson said.

*For more information, be sure to check the conference website:* <http://twsconference.org/plenaries/>.

*More on this article:* <http://wildlife.org/conference-plenary-crossroads-of-cultures/>



## TWS News



### ***Bison Return to Wind River Reservation***

*By: Matthew Trott, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*

*--TWS NEWS, June 19th, 2017*

*People watch the release of the bison. ©Pat Hnilicka/USFWS (left)*

*(right) The bison await their release. ©USFWS*



As of November 2, the Eastern Shoshone Tribe had restored six of the seven ungulates found in the area of Wind River Reservation in Wyoming before the arrival of Lewis and Clark: moose, whitetail and mule deer, elk, pronghorn and bighorn sheep. **On November 3, came No. 7: bison.**

The Service and the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) worked with the Eastern Shoshone to return bison to the land. “Recognizing both the ecological significance of buffalo as well as importance to tribal communities, NWF has partnered with tribes for over 20 years to restore and protect bison,” says Garrit Voggesser, NWF’s tribal partnerships director. Pat Hnilicka, project leader of the Lander Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office in Lander, Wyoming, says that one of the jobs that the partners worked on was habitat improvement. They removed about a mile of decrepit barbed-wire fencing that bison could get tangled in. They are also working to rehab some irrigated meadows so that they are more productive and can support more bison.

Beyond ensuring that the land would be hospitable to bison, the project also needed bison that were of the type that roamed there hundreds of years ago. The Service’s Lee Jones worked to find a herd of bison that not only fit that genetic requirement but also had a sterling reputation for being disease-free. The disease brucellosis has cost billions in direct costs and money spent to develop a treatment. Brucellosis infects bison, and Jones says, the disease “is a huge concern in Wyoming.”

That led her to Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge in Iowa. The bison there trace their lineage to the National Bison Range in Montana, and are ecologically appropriate for restoration in the Rocky Mountains. Iowa has also been brucellosis- and tuberculosis-free for many years, Jones says. And on November 3, 10 bison were released on the reservation. “While this was a culmination of years of hard work, it was a new beginning, not an ending. We plan to release more this coming fall,” Voggesser says. “We hope to have hundreds of buffalo on thousands of acres in the next few years.”

With those 10 bison, they are starting a new herd, which is not easy, Jones says. “It is an incredible step they took, absolutely incredible.” The day of the release was equally incredible. “This is the best day of my life bringing the bison here,” Jones remembers a bystander telling her. This project is “a career highlight,” Hnilicka says.

“Today, Boy-Zhan Bi-Den – Buffalo Return in the Shoshone language – has become a reality,” says Jason Baldes, bison representative for the Eastern Shoshone Tribe. “This restoration effort, 40 years in the making, returns buffalo to our lands, our culture, our community, and generations to come.”

*“This restoration effort, 40 years in the making, returns buffalo to our lands, our culture, our community, and generations to come.”—Jason Baldes*

Note: While bison and buffalo are used interchangeably, the scientific name for the North American animal is bison. Update: The bison are already reproducing. The first bison calf to be born in 130 years on Wind River Reservation “hit the ground” May 2.

***The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is a Strategic Partner of TWS.***

**More on the article here:** <http://wildlife.org/bison-return-to-wind-river-reservation/>





## TWS NEWS

### ***Bison Reintroduced to Canada's Oldest National Park***

*By: Dana Kobilinski*

*TWS NEWS: March 7th, 2017*

In the first week of February, 16 plains bison set foot in Banff National Park for the first time in more than a century. Employees with Parks Canada loaded the bison (Bison bison) into shipping containers on the back of flatbed trucks at their home range in Elk Island National Park in Alberta. They then drove the trucks for 450 kilometers before airlifting the containers the final 25 kilometers by helicopter into a remote section of Canada's oldest national park, where bison haven't roamed for more than 140 years ago.

"Bison are actually called ecosystem engineers," said Karsten Heuer, the bison reintroduction project manager at Banff National Park. "Because they've been missing, there has been a real problem in not just the absence of the physical mammal, but the absence of their ecological role. The intent is to reverse the absence and bring back a major player to the ecosystem."

Heuer said the species' grazing behavior helps maintain habitat for grassland-loving species of birds and amphibians. Archeological discoveries of bison bones and skulls as well as traditional stories of First Nations people provide evidence that bison historically roamed Banff.

Planning for the reintroduction effort was decades in the making. Among other preparations, Parks Canada and other scientists completed a detailed environmental analysis that examined the potential effects of bringing bison back to Banff.

"When talking about bringing [bison], the largest herbivore in Canada, to Canada's first national park where it existed once, there are not too many negative effects," Heuer said. However, since the land has changed since the bison were last here, Parks Canada took into consideration aspects such as adjacent land use and effects on at-risk species such as caribou.

Heuer said the project also involved consulting with a variety of stakeholders, including First Nations people, who held ceremonies for the bison when they left Elk Island and when they arrived in Banff.

The reintroduced animals will be held for 16 months in a remote 45-acre pasture in the heart of the reintroduction zone where they will be fed and monitored while they adapt to their new environment and calve twice. In June 2018, Parks Canada expects to open the gates and release them into rest of the 1,200-square-kilometer zone, where biologists will monitor the species for five years, examining factors including survival, predation rates by species like grizzlies and wolves and the bison's effects on vegetation.

"It's glamorous and flashy and exciting to be flying bison, but it's tremendously expensive and a lot to ask of these initial founder animals," said Heuer, who said he hoped sound management can prevent the need for future reintroduction efforts of other species.

"This provides foresight to avoid the losses in the first place," he said.

*Photo Courtesy of Parks Canada*



*"Heuer said the project also involved consulting with a variety of stakeholders, including First Nations people, who held ceremonies for the bison when they left Elk Island and when they arrived in Banff."*

*View More photos here:*  
<http://wildlife.org/bison-reintroduced-to-canadas-oldest-national-park/>



**Canada**



## Research Highlight

### *Meet Natovipoka (Celina Gray)*

*--Submitted by Celina Gray, July 2017*

Oki Hello, niidaniko my name is Natoyipoka or Celina Gray, amskapi piikani; I am Blackfeet and Little Shell Chippewa. I recently received my A.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries at Salish Kootenai College in Montana, I plan on continuing my education for a Bachelors and then Masters Degree in Wildlife Biology.

Tony Ten Fingers, Oglala Lakota said, “As you develop your awareness in nature, you begin to see how we influence all life and how all life influences us”. My Native American heritage has also taught me that we borrow this earth from our children, so we must love, respect and safeguard what is not ours to take advantage of. I believe that by working with tribes and their natural resource programs I will be part of a revitalization and restoration of treaty rights that will better influence the lives and environments of not only my three-year-old twins and the tribal youth of today but successive generations also.

My passion for my cultural ties to the natural world have ignited a fire that drives me through the various challenges of being a young mother who provides for my family as a fulltime student. I am proud to have sustained a 3.0 GPA or above this past year. I want to be a figure of success for all tribal youth to look up to. My elders taught that you always have something to learn but too you may know more than someone, so you must always act as a humble listener and responsible teacher. Native Americans were the first ecologists, knowing that the simplest creature effects the balance of its surroundings. Still today Native peoples are the front runners for environmental protection, and as a student I strive to do my part even with a family in tow. Attending the annual Wildlife Society national conference allows me to give my perspective to a scientific community that rarely hears it and desperately needs it.



Tribes and individual tribal members have faced opposition and criticism when they attempt to exercise their treaty rights, in terms of hunting, fishing and gathering. I hope to facilitate a shift in ideals towards practicing cultural subsistence living. My children are enrolled Makah, and their tribe is in the middle of NEPA processes that is attempting to diminish and delay their right to hunt gray whales off the coast of Washington state. In the 1855 Treaty of Neah Bay, the tribe ceded 90% (some 300,000 acres) of their land to the United States, receiving assurance that their hunting and fishing rights would be secured. This could be dubbed the treaty right case of the century if the Makah are denied their inherent rights especially because treaties are the “supreme law of the land” under the U.S. Constitution. The U.S. Supreme Court has described the federal government’s role in upholding treaties as “moral obligations of the highest trust and responsibility.”

*“My Native American heritage has also taught me that we borrow this earth from our children, so we must love, respect and safeguard what is not ours to take advantage of.”—Celina Gray*

I know through continued education I may be an asset in these situations and that is my ultimate goal. I want to positively impact the lives and environment around me. By participating in not only the Wildlife Society but other diversity programs like SEEDS (of the Ecological Society of America), I am able to socialize with like-minded individuals.

*Story Continues On Next Page....*

## Research Highlight Continued...

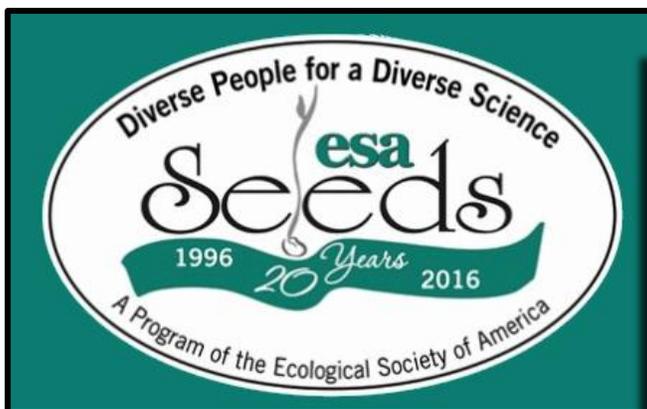
Individuals that have unique experiences in the fields of wildlife, tribal and federal governments. Besides being a race minority within the Wildlife field, I am a woman. It's a goal of mine to reach out and meet Native Americans and women within my field. I feel that networking and seeking a higher education allow me to stay inspired by seeing and meeting other women in my field, one such woman is the Wildlife Society's own, Serra Hoagland. She is one of three Native women to hold a PhD in Wildlife Biology in the U.S., that is a huge accomplishment. I am grateful to have Serra's example of scholarship and friendship.

My commitment to positive solutions for environmental challenges and issues impacting Indian country are why I was chosen to go on a leadership retreat for diversity in the field of ecology (courtesy of SEEDS), to be a Native Fellow at Salish Kootenai College and most recently chosen to be a 2017 Udall (tribal policy) Scholar. I have participated in conferences like the Society for American Indian Government Employees (SAIGE), internships and research symposiums under NSF (Research Experience for Undergraduates & Annual Tribal Colleges and Universities Research Symposium) and other tribal/private internships like the Elwha River Dam removal and River Restoration Program by the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe of WA & the Student Conservation Association.

I have become passionate about interweaving traditional ecological knowledge and practices with my modern science education. To be more specific, last summer I took a qualitative and quantitative approach to research, studying how the sugar content (brix %) of huckleberries could affect resource partitioning between local tribal harvest (IRB approved community surveys) and foraging bears (scat & transect surveys). Two summers previous to that I was live trapping river otters, gathering baseline data for the response of a riverine environment to salmonid nutrient return after dam removal. I have held grant writing assistance positions, worked at tribal heritage centers, and participated in various professional societies that have Native American interests in mind.

This summer thanks to Salish Kootenai College being a Native American Research Center for Health, I will be genetically identifying hatchery and wild Michigan walleye and potential hybrids. Later in the summer we will look into the heavy metal (arsenic and mercury) content of such fish. This is important because walleye is a traditional food for Midwest tribes and literature reviews hint that the presence of heavy metals in a regular diet (like subsistence fishing) could facilitate already prevalent diseases for Indian communities, like type 2 diabetes.

I yearn for a diverse set of research experiences and classroom study within the tribal and wildlife fields, because to me that is how I will gain a solid foundation of knowledge to benefit policy change for the protection of treaty rights. While I have tall aspirations, my children and family keep me grounded. In my spare time, I write about being a college mom for the Tribal College Journal, I bead, draw and make and sew regalia as a creative outlet, and I try to raise my children in the outdoors like I was; so, they too can appreciate how we as Indigenous people are and always will be connected to the land and creation.



***Interested in SHARING YOUR RESEARCH with the Native People's Wildlife Management Working Group Community?***

For every Newsletter, we highlight research that is currently or has recently been conducted by a(n) Native/Indigenous individual or conducted in Native/indigenous country. Please feel free to write and submit an article to the NPWM Working Group Newsletter to share your knowledge with us!

(See below for submission contact)



## In Other News...

### ***New Zealand's Whanganui River granted legal status as a person after 170-year battle***

*--March 16, 2017*

A river in New Zealand has become the first landmark in the world to be recognized as a living entity, after a 170-year battle.

The Whanganui River, which flows 145 kilometers from the central North Island to the sea, was given legal personhood by the country's parliament on Wednesday.

The river is a sacred and revered waterway to New Zealand's Maori Iwi people and its interests will now be represented by an Indigenous group.



***The Whanganui river is sacred to New Zealand's Maori people. SUPPLIED: WIKIMEDIA***

It will be jointly represented by a member appointed by the Maori community, and one appointed by the government.

The country's Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations Christopher Finlayson said the passing of the Te Awa Tupua Bill was a battle hard fought for.

"Whanganui Iwi has fought for recognition of its relationship with the Whanganui River since the 1870s," he said.

"Today brings the longest running litigation in New Zealand's history to an end."

Negotiations between New Zealand's government and Whanganui Iwi formally began in 2009.

The Whanganui River Deed of Settlement was signed in 2014 and legislation was introduced in 2016.

Mr. Finlayson said the approach to granting a river legal personality was unique.

"It responds to the view of the Iwi of the Whanganui River which has long recognized Te Awa Tupua through its traditions, customs and practice.

"This legislation recognizes the deep spiritual connection between the Whanganui Iwi and its ancestral river and creates a strong platform for the future of Whanganui River."

Gerrard Albert, a spokesperson for the local Maori people, told the Telegraph the community had long been concerned about the government's impact on the "health and wellbeing" of the river.

"We have always believed that the Whanganui River is an indivisible and living whole — Te Awa Tupua — which includes all its physical and spiritual elements from the mountains of the central North Island to the sea," he said.

"It has been a long, hard battle ... While today we close the book on this part of our history, tomorrow we start writing a new one."



***The Whanganui River On New Zealand's North Island Will Soon Be Given Legal Personhood. (FLICKR/Kathrin and Stefan Marks/ CC By-Nc-Nd 2.0)***

***View Original Article:*** <http://mobile.abc.net.au/news/2017-03-16/nz-whanganui-river-gets-legal-status-as-person-after-170-years/8358434?pfmredir=sm>

## Student Opportunity



The Minorities in Natural Resources Conservation (MINRC) subcommittee is *actively seeking minority students to participate in the 71st Annual Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA) Conference*. The conference will be held on October 29, 2017 - November 1, 2017 in Louisville, Kentucky. Students are expected to arrive on Saturday, October 28, 2017 no later than 12:00 p.m. to attend a welcome meeting and conference orientation with MINRC professionals. During the SEAFWA Conference, MINRC will conduct student workshops that will provide valuable career development information. Students will participate in round table discussions to share information on selected topics relevant to seeking employment in the natural resource field. A keynote speaker will motivate the students to continue their quest to reach their goals. There will also be opportunities for students to speak with professionals regarding employment prospects.

**For more information on the conference, go to:**  
<http://www.seafwa.org/conferences/2017>

**MINRC will pay for the following expenses:** Hotel (2 students per room), Meals, Conference registration, Airfare or reimbursement of gas with a receipt (Students are responsible for their means of transportation to and from their local airport and personal miscellaneous expenses.)

### Student Application Available Here:

<http://minrc.org/student-info/>

**Completed application and all materials are due September 15, 2017 and must be submitted electronically to [betty.bryant@agfc.ar.gov](mailto:betty.bryant@agfc.ar.gov).** Students will be notified during the week of October 1, 2017 to confirm their registration status, where and what time to report to the conference.

## Conference Update



### SEAFWA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

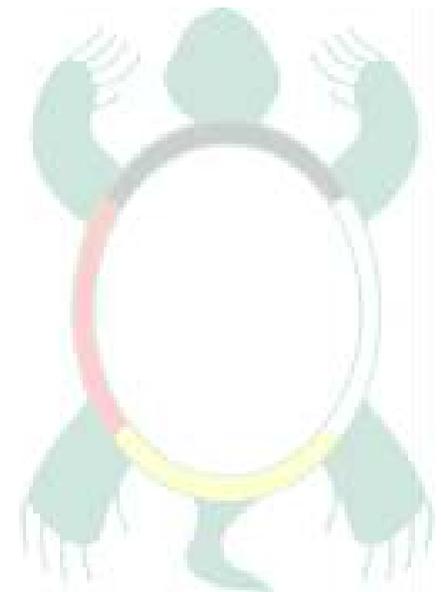
**Sunday, October 29 - Wednesday, November 1, 2017  
 Louisville, Kentucky**

The annual conference of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies is a forum for the exchange of ideas and critical information regarding the management and protection of fish and wildlife resources primarily in the southeast. The conference attracts over 500 representatives from state and federal agencies, citizen's organizations, universities, and private wildlife research groups, fisheries and wildlife scientists, agency enforcement personnel, and other natural resource related organizations.

Hosted by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife, the 71st Annual Conference, "Creative Conservation Strategies for 21st Century Challenges" will be held at the Galt House Hotel in the heart of Louisville, Kentucky.

### For More Information:

<http://www.seafwa.org/conference/overview/>





## Submission Requests for Newsletter

Calling all Working Group members!! We want to know what is going on where you are! As a national (and now international!) working group, it is difficult to always keep up on what members in other parts of the country and other reaches of the world. Keep members of our group informed on issues and announcements pertinent to wildlife management and conservation in Indian Country. Please feel free to submit any of the following for inclusion in the newsletter:

- Job and internship openings
- Scholarship opportunities
- Research and management on indigenous lands
- Policy regarding wildlife management as it pertains to Tribes

Any other announcement or information you'd like to get out to your colleagues in Tribal wildlife management. Please submit to Molly O'Grady, NPWM Communications Coordinator, at: [mtograzy1158@gmail.com](mailto:mtograzy1158@gmail.com). Submissions are accepted on a rolling basis.

## How to Join NPWM Working Group

If anyone is interested in joining the NPWM Working Group, please visit your TWS login website (through **wildlife.org**) and select the "Add Subunits/Publications to Active Membership" button. To be eligible for a membership in a working group, interested individuals must be a current member of The Wildlife Society. It is not required to be affiliated with a Tribe to participate. Student dues are waived by the working group. If you have any questions concerning working group dues or how to join, contact the membership coordinator at (301) 897-9770 or by E-mail at [membership@wildlife.org](mailto:membership@wildlife.org).

For more information on our Working Group, Check out our TWS webpage! <http://wildlife.org/npwmwg/>

## Working Group Officers

### Chair:

Heather Stricker  
([Heather.Stricker@uwsp.edu](mailto:Heather.Stricker@uwsp.edu))

### Chair-Elect & Professional Development Director:

Serra Hoagland  
([serrahoagland@gmail.com](mailto:serrahoagland@gmail.com))

### Past-Chair:

Michel Kohl  
([michel.kohl@aggiemail.usu.edu](mailto:michel.kohl@aggiemail.usu.edu))

### Secretary-Treasurer:

Paige Schmidt  
([paige\\_schmidt@fws.gov](mailto:paige_schmidt@fws.gov))

### Media Specialist:

Brandi D. Sadi  
([Brandi.D.Saidy@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:Brandi.D.Saidy@aphis.usda.gov))

### Communications Specialist:

Molly O'Grady  
([mtograzy1158@gmail.com](mailto:mtograzy1158@gmail.com))

## Calendar of Events

**Aug 6-11, 2017**

The Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting,  
Portland, OR

**Aug 8-10, 2017**

Southwestern Regional Native American Fish and  
Wildlife Society Conference  
Mescalero Apache Indian Reservation

**Sept 23-27, 2017**

The Wildlife Society 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference  
Albuquerque, New Mexico

**Oct 29<sup>th</sup>-Nov 1, 2017**

Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies  
Annual Conference  
Louisville, Kentucky

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