



2018 Nominees for the Alaska Chapter of The Wildlife Society Executive Board

The Executive Board of the Alaska Chapter of the Wildlife Society provides guidance and coordination to execute the bylaws of the Chapter. Members of the Executive Board served a two-year term, and 2018 marks the beginning of new terms in each position. Biographies for each nominee for each position may be found below.

Voting may be accomplished electronically at: <https://goo.gl/forms/1F1KdiwlhZRQUqOB3> through June 12, 2018.

President-Elect

One nominee: Kim Jochum

Kim Jochum - Somehow, I really enjoy extracurricular activities that include working with a diverse team of professionals. Throughout my young career I have been holding one or more positions in professional wildlife or polar volunteer organizations such as the Wildlife Society continuously. I have been a TWS member since over 10 years, am currently the Vice-President of the North-West Section for TWS (2017-2019) and served as the secretary of the Alaska Shorebird Group between 2015 and 2017. To date I have been on the organizing committee or have been a session chair at over 10 national and international



wildlife and polar conferences ranging from the International Bear Association Conference in Anchorage in 2016 to the IPY Oslo Science conference in 2010. Some of my additional former volunteer experiences include the Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS); I co-chaired the Research Activities Committee and the Virtual Poster Session for multiple years and I represented APECS on Arctic Council meetings (CAFF). Further, I guided various youth groups on outdoor trips throughout Germany, Canada, Costa Rica and the US.

As a professional Wildlife Biologist, I always strive to understand the big picture. I have a desire to understand overarching concepts and ecosystem functioning within complex systems. This desire led me to gain experience working with a variety of game and non-game species across countries and research foci since 2004. Prior to my current employment I worked on red fox and European hare reproduction and survival studies in Germany, conducted polar bear and humpback whale behavior research in Canada, as well as brown bear ecology and behavior research in Russia and Alaska for multiple seasons. During my PhD I investigated social and ecological factors impacting human-bear encounters. I have worked in Alaska since over 10 years and I am an Alaska resident since 2009.

About 3 years now I have been employed through the Warner College of Natural Resources at Colorado State University (CSU) to manage the Wildlife Program at Fort Wainwright, Alaska. My current position allows me to carry out and oversee wildlife research as well as monitoring projects of game and non-game

species in Interior Alaska, including Dall sheep as well as bat and bird species. Since 2016, I am an affiliate professor with the Fish, Wildlife and Conservation Biology Department at CSU and I advise students working on our ongoing projects. An important part of my current employment is to collaborate with state, federal and non-profit organizations on management and research projects, which I very much enjoy. Before joining CSU, I worked in the science department of a long-standing Alaskan Native organization, the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council, where I helped to establish Tribal Conservation Districts and to guide water governance.

I am very interested to put my efforts toward supporting The Wildlife Society on the Alaska Chapter level as President-Elect. I have ample experience planning conferences and am good at communicating and organizing with others while not physically in the same place. As a still early career scientist and international well-experienced wildlife biologist I would bring a new perspective to the board. If elected, I would put my efforts toward increasing member communication, continue to increase early career and student involvement in the chapter, and support the chapter in every other aspect as needed to improve our usefulness to our member base. Please contact me any time if you have additional questions. I look forward to potentially working with you all.

Secretary/Treasurer

One nominee: Kaiti Ott

Kaiti Ott – I was born and raised in Wyoming, where I was active in the Student Chapter of TWS at the University of Wyoming through undergraduate and graduate school. I made it to Alaska for the first time in 2004, when I began my Master's research in collaboration with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, on lasting effects of the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill on coastal river otters in Prince William Sound and Kenai Fjords National Park. After graduation I found work as a term Wildlife Biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in their newly opened office in Utqiagvik (then Barrow). During that time, I served as the Northern Representative to the Alaska Chapter of TWS. After a couple years conducting outreach and starting an ongoing small mammal monitoring study up north, I moved to Fairbanks and found permanent work with the Service in 2012. I also transitioned to Newsletter Editor for the Alaska Chapter, a role I find extremely rewarding. I adore interior Alaska and the lifestyle it offers...this is home. I would be honored to continue my service to the Alaska Chapter as both Newsletter Editor and Secretary Treasurer.



Southeast Region Representative

One nominee: Susannah Woodruff

Susannah Woodruff - For 15 years, my career as a wildlife biologist has focused on research and management of large mammals including wolves, Sonoran pronghorn, cougars, mule deer, and coyotes. Currently I am based in Douglas, AK as the Wildlife Research Coordinator in Region 1 with AK Fish and Game. I oversee the research program for brown and black bears, moose, mountain goats, wolves, Sitka black-tailed deer, and a variety of furbearers in Southeast Alaska. My duties include providing a vision for applied wildlife and ecological research across Southeast Alaska in concert with division needs and

ensuring research projects and priorities address information needs in a balanced, cohesive wildlife research program. In 1999 I obtained my bachelor's degree in *Environmental Science and Policy: Focus in Applied Ecology* from University of Southern Maine. I moved west to Jackson, Wyoming that fall to work as a field instructor (1999–2003) for the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) leading 30–90 day courses in the backcountry from Wyoming to Utah to Nevada to New Mexico.



In 2003, concurrent to beginning to work as a wildlife biologist for the US Fish and Wildlife Service Wolf Recovery Program in Wyoming, I started my Master's research (degree in Wildlife Biology completed in 2006 from Prescott College). My research focused on habitat and landscape characteristics of wolf and cougar kill sites in the southern Yellowstone ecosystem. As a biologist with the Wolf Program, I was involved in all aspects of wolf management and conducted research including predator-prey interactions, food habits, dispersal, habitat relationships and population health studies. Anything

“wolf” is challenging, high profile, and often controversial and I have spent hundreds of hours interacting on a highly, emotionally charged topic with ranchers, outfitters and hunters, and members of anti-hunting factions.

In 2012, I began my doctorate (completed December 2015) in the Department of Fish and Wildlife Sciences at the University of Idaho under Dr. Lisette Waits. I designed and implemented non-invasive genetic sampling/mark-recapture programs for assessing population demographics of endangered Sonoran pronghorn and provided the first estimates of survival in nearly three decades.

I have worked collaboratively and in a leading role with people within state and federal agencies as well as with tribal members and officials. Additionally, I have worked with elected officials including state legislators, members of Congress, county commissioners, and governors on wolf management issues.

Living and working in Alaska was both a personal and professional goal, and I feel fortunate to have the opportunity to now do both. I would love to become more involved in the Alaska Chapter of TWS by becoming the Southeast Regional Representative.

Southcentral Region Representative

One nominee: Kim King Jones

Kim King Jones - I received a B.S. in zoology and wildlife ecology from Oklahoma State University (OSU). As an undergraduate I inventoried small mammals of Western Oklahoma Wildlife Management Areas and worked in the OSU Collection of Vertebrates. I received a M.S. degree in biology from the University of



Arkansas at Little Rock where I studied the movements and population dynamics of *Geomys breviceps*, Baird's Pocket Gophers, in western Arkansas. In 2012 I got my start with ADF&G assisting with the Mulchatna caribou calf mortality project. For the last 5.5 years I have been a research biologist for ADF&G's Region IV in Palmer. I evaluated the potential impacts of the proposed Susitna-Watana Hydroelectric project on caribou, moose, sheep, and their habitats. I also assist Region IV research and management staff with monitoring and research programs and routine management activities. I'm currently working on a project to evaluate the effects of fire on moose and forage quantity and quality in the Alphet Hills in southcentral Alaska.

Northern Region Representative

Two nominees: Emily Williams, K Nicholson

Emily Williams - I am interested in becoming the northern-interior regional representative for the AK TWS Chapter. I am interested in being involved with the state chapter, so I can be involved with TWS at a more local level and assist chapter members in developing and strengthening working relationships across the state. I hope to boost communication among members and the parent society and build a stronger community of support for wildlife professionals.



I am an avian ecologist for the National Park Service and work at Denali National Park and Preserve, where I work on ongoing projects that seek to understand the migratory ecology, distribution, abundance, reproduction, and survival of birds that call Denali their home. I am an officer of the early career professionals working group and am actively engaged in the ethnic gender and diversity working group as well. I am currently working on an ad-hoc committee that is evaluating the diversity of past plenary

speakers at TWS conferences over time. I am thoroughly enjoying being a Florida transplant in the Great White North and am continuing to learn how to effectively pass as a Floridian-turned Alaskan, one rookie mistake at a time.

Kerry Nicholson - Kerry or "K" Nicholson is happy to complete her last term as the Northern



Representative on the Alaska Chapter Board. She has been active in TWS since starting in the UAF student chapter in 1997. She has held many board member or committee positions, been involved in organizing state and national conferences and is an alumnus of the Leadership Institute. Currently she is on the Ethnic, Gender and Diversity working group board, the diversity sub-committee for Council, on the strategic planning committee for Women of Wildlife (WOW) and as a member of several working groups within TWS like the Spatial Ecology and Telemetry working group. Basically, she is not a stranger to the innerworkings of TWS. K works for the Alaska Dept of Fish and Game as the furbearer biologist for the Interior and Northeast based out of Fairbanks. She looks forward to continuing to make AKTWS a relevant resource for those of us in

the wildlife and natural resource fields.