
Strategic Plan

MONTANA CHAPTER of THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Montana Chapter of the Wildlife Society is to serve and represent wildlife professionals in all areas of wildlife conservation and resource management.

GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND ACTION ITEMS

Goal 1. Develop and maintain a program that facilitates continuing education and professional development of wildlife professionals.

Objective 1.1. Coordinate and develop a training program

Action Items:

1. Hold an annual meeting with Technical paper presentations.
2. Provide information to members about other conference, training, and workshop opportunities.
3. Survey members annually to assess training needs.
4. Support development of training sessions to meet training needs, in coordination with agencies and other organizations.
5. Provide financial support for students and members with limited support.
6. Encourage members to participate in National Wildlife Society training, conference, and certification programs.
7. Seek to coordinate annual meetings with agency meetings to facilitate participation and financial sponsorship of members.
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Objective 1.2. Promote professional standards and ethics.

Action Items:

1. Publish or make available **The Wildlife Society's ethics statement.**

Goal 2. Promote sound stewardship of wildlife and their habitats through the application of scientific information.

Objective 2.1 Sponsor annual awards to recognize outstanding contributions and achievements in wildlife management.

Action Items:

1. Solicit nominations for 3 Chapter awards: Distinguished Service Award, Wildlife Biologist of the Year Award, and Bob Watts Wildlife Communications Award.
2. Provide scholarships to two outstanding wildlife students annually.

Objective 2.2 Assume a leadership role in advocating policy, administrative rules, or laws that affect the conservation and stewardship of wildlife in Montana.

Action Items:

1. Evaluate and respond in a constructive manner to key issues or legislative proposals potentially affecting wildlife and habitats in Montana.
2. Develop and maintain close liaison with other professional organizations and government agencies to increase the credibility and effectiveness of Chapter involvement.
3. Support lobby efforts at the State legislature on behalf of wildlife, by providing financial support to Montana Audubon's professional lobbyist.
4. Bring key issues to the attention of the Northwest Section or the parent chapter as appropriate.

Objective 2.3 Encourage members to take action on matters affecting wildlife resources.

Action Items:

1. Publish timely information such as legislative updates in the Chapter newsletter.
2. Adopt resolutions and position statements concerning key wildlife issues in Montana, as source information for officers and members.
3. Publicize opportunities for members to participate in conservation affairs in the Chapter newsletter.
4. Organize opportunities for members to become more familiar with the State legislative process.

Objective 2.4 Support publication and distribution of sound scientific information about wildlife in Montana.

Action Items:

1. Publish abstracts of papers given at Chapter meetings and workshops.
2. Assist with publication of the Intermountain Journal of Science, and encourage presenters at Chapter meetings to submit papers to IJS or other peer-reviewed journals.
3. Encourage informed reporting of wildlife management issues through contacts with news media.

Goal 3. Increase public awareness and appreciation of wildlife.

Objective 3.1 Seek opportunities for members to provide information on wildlife science, policy, and management to the public.

Action Item:

1. Encourage members to work with landowners, communities, and local governments in promoting wildlife conservation.
2. Build budgetary support for wildlife programs through initiatives such as *Teaming With Wildlife*.

Objective 3.2 Promote and assist in wildlife education programs in schools.

Action Items:

1. Develop a list of available educational materials and tools and distribute to schools, members, and other natural resource professionals.
2. Encourage or sponsor training for members in educational and interpretive techniques.

Goal 4. Develop an active and diverse membership and maintain an organization that provides excellent service to members.

Objective 4.1 Actively promote membership in the Chapter among professionals, educators, and students.

Action Items:

1. Provide information about The Wildlife Society and the Montana Chapter to potential members.
2. Actively us liaisons wit other organizations to advertise the Chapter.
3. Actively solicit new members and renewals through the Chapter newsletter.

Objective 4.2 Recruit a diverse membership.

Action Items:

1. Survey membership records to identify any geographic, professional, or cultural areas needing active recruitment.
2. Identify and progress towards removing any institutional barriers to membership.
3. Develop state-level memoranda of understanding with state and federal agencies for participation with TWS.
4. Continue to rotate geographic location of Annual Meetings to assure opportunity for participation by professionals throughout the state of Montana.
5. Consider diversity of representation in appointing committee and other Chapter leadership assignments.
6. Provide opportunities for a greater degree of student participation and mentoring.

Objective 4.3 Develop a financial plan to accomplish Chapter goals.

Action Items:

1. Enumerate annual financial needs of the Chapter.
2. Develop a list of proposals or opportunities, by priority, for the Special Projects Fund.
3. Develop guidelines for the use of Chapter funds.
4. Develop guidelines and opportunities for the acceptance of gifts and bequests to the Montana Chapter.

Objective 4.4 Provide periodic review of Chapter Goals and effectiveness in meeting Goals.

Action Items:

1. Review and update Strategic Plan annually at the Executive Board meeting.
2. President will publicize the Strategic Plan and report progress annually to members.

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