President’s Message

It doesn't seem possible that the year has come and gone already. But it has and the New Year is almost upon us. It was a relatively quite year for the New Mexico Chapter. The big news is that the New Mexico Chapter bid to host the 24th National TWS Conference in 2017 and won. For those of you who don't remember, New Mexico hosted the 1st Annual Conference in 1994. The 24th Annual Conference will be held in Albuquerque at the Convention Center. With all the hotels, restaurants and things to do within walking and easy driving distance from the Convention Center, I believe we will be able to make the 2017 conference one of the best.

Speaking of conferences, it is time to start thinking about our Joint Annual Meeting. The upcoming 2014 JAM will be held February 6-8 at the Hon-Dah Resort in Pinetop, Arizona. The AZ/NM Chapter of the American Fisheries Society will be our host. Information about the meeting and a link to online registration may be found at (http://www.aznmfishsoup.org). The final call for abstracts has been issued. The deadline to submit abstracts is January 10th. This year's JAM will feature a Student Quiz Bowl. I am very excited about the Quiz Bowl. It is an excellent way for our student chapters to get more involved in JAM and is an event intended exclusively for them! I hope we can get all of our New Mexico Student Chapters to put together a team. Our Student Chapters have a few years to practice before the National Conference in 2017. I would be proud if our Student Chapters could make a strong showing at the 2017 Conference.

Looking forward into 2014, there are a couple of things on the horizon that will affect our membership. The National TWS is restructuring it's Governmental Affairs program into what will be called the Conservation Affairs Network. The Conservation Affairs Network will do all the same things that the old Governmental Affairs program did, but is designed to operate through a group of interconnected Conservation Affairs Committees (CAC). The Nation TWS is also actively developing and promoting the Women in Wildlife (WOW) program. Both the New Mexico Chapter and Southwest Section have committed to actively participating in these processes and hope to make our CAC and WOW groups an example for other Chapters and Sections to follow. You will hear more about both of these efforts at the 2014 JAM in Pinetop.

Finally, but certainly not least – it is time to vote for your board members. New Mexico does not have a very big membership. We must rely of the active participation of all our members. We recently posted the election notification on our new website (http://wildlife.org/nm) and sent this information out to our membership with our announcements. Please take the time to cast your vote.

Regards,
Bob Osborn

NM-TWS Website: http://joomla.wildlife.org/NM/
Follow us on Twitter: @NewMexicoTWS

Wild Turkey – James Stuart, NMDGF
The NM Chapter is looking for a new Newsletter Editor.

It’s a great way to show off your creativity and you’ll get to interact closely with other wildlife professionals in the process. The editor will be responsible for formatting the newsletter and will also assist in finding articles. If interested, please contact NMTWS President Bob Osborn - Robert.Osborn@state.nm.us or outgoing newsletter editor Renae Held - rheld@hotmail.com.
The New Mexico Chapter of The Wildlife Society is requesting nominations for the wildlife Professional Award. This award is given to a New Mexico Biologist for outstanding contributions to management and conservation of wildlife. The individual is also recognized for their professional work standards and conduct.

Contributions can be in the areas of wildlife research, administration, education and training, management, conservation (including legislation), or law enforcement. These contributions can be over several years or limited to a few years of outstanding service.

Weight is given to the significance of contributions and professional work ethic, not necessarily the number of years in service. This awards will be presented at the February 2014 joint New Mexico-Arizona Wildlife Society meeting in Pinetop, AZ.

Who may receive this award?
Nominees for this award should be professionally employed resource managers, researchers, or administrators working with wildlife resources in New Mexico.

What are the evaluation criteria?
- Has the nominee performed in a manner exceeding normal job requirements?
- Has the nominee demonstrated a high degree of supervisory or administrative skill?
- Have the nominee's efforts contributed to improved management and preservation of natural resources?
- Has the nominee demonstrated a high degree of organizational effort, leadership quality and participation in natural resource management and conservation programs?
- Have the nominee's contributions increased public awareness regarding natural resource management and conservation?
- Has the nominee overcome obstacles, resistance, and material difficulties in working toward improved natural resource management and conservation?

What is the proper format for nominations?
Provide the nominee’s name, address and phone number, and address each of the questions listed above, giving details as to how the nominee meets these criteria. The Awards Committee will then rate each nomination based on a weighted evaluation of the six criteria.

Please submit nominations by January 15, 2014 to Elise Goldstein, 1 Wildlife Way, Santa Fe NM 87507 or Elise.Goldstein@state.nm.us.
Southwest Section Update - Carol Chambers

TWS Finances

What’s going on with TWS finances? The short answer is that Council received brief financial reports over the years that made it difficult to see we were overspending revenues. The recession also affected income because of the drop in interest and investment returns. We are correcting this with changes in accounting processes, review of accounts, and tight budgeting to rebuild reserve accounts. Ken Williams has been working hard during his first half year as TWS Executive Director to correct budget problems.

At the October Council meeting in Milwaukee, we reviewed expenses and approved a balanced budget. We are discussing changes to bylaws and an operating manual that will make financial reporting more transparent and provide more guidance to Council members on what and how to review. TWS is healthy, but we will be much more aware of budgets in the future.

“To recap, the financial difficulties of TWS are a result of complicated reporting, the aggregation of operational income and investment yield, a lack of a focus on accrual accounting, a failure to track changes in financial status through time, and a general lack of engagement by the Council on finances, all of which made it difficult to recognize the status and trends in TWS finances.” – Ken Williams


Upcoming opportunity from the Southwest Section

How can the Section better serve you? One idea I got from the Canadian Section is to offer a once-a-month webinar, free for SW Section members, small charge for non-Section members (so become a member!) on management, research, and policy topics. If this is of interest, let me know and the types of topics that would be of interest to you.

Topics could range from conservation genetic applications in wildlife management to communicating with lay audiences, updates on wildlife biology for T&E species or whatever our membership wants to learn. I envision a 45 minute low-cost approach that would require participants to have access to a computer and software that will show a presentation while an expert talks about the topic. I’m also interested in developing and offering Southwest Section-sponsored workshops such as ecology of venomous snakes and their safe handling techniques, communicating wildlife science. I would also like to start promoting our top-cited TWS articles through the Listserv and Facebook. Let me know your thoughts.

- Continued on page 5
Leadership Institute

The Southwest Section had three 2013 Leadership Institute (LI) graduates this year: Rachel Williams (AZ), Sarah Hamer (TX), and Krysten Zummo (NM). Because of budget shortfalls, we weren’t sure we could run LI this year. Generous contributions from Department of Natural Resources Management at Texas Tech University, Arizona Chapter TWS, and Southwest Section helped us keep LI funded. To date, 20% of LI grads have been from the Southwest Section. Many are already working as Chapter and Section officers or volunteers, as well as bringing leadership skills back to the agencies.

Meetings

The 20th annual TWS meeting in Milwaukee was successful with over 1300 attending. Unfortunately it coincided with the federal shutdown and we missed many members who were unable to attend. In future, TWS will avoid dates around the start of the federal fiscal year. Get ready for Pittsburg in 2014.

Publications


Social Media

Check out TWS on Facebook or Twitter (or both). The Southwest Section is up to 190 likes on its Facebook page, up from 140 likes in July. Job posts reach more followers so we’ll continue to post those. Like us out at The Wildlife Society Southwest Section Chapters Hub ([https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Wildlife-Society-Southwest-Section-Chapters-Hub/205755042835210](https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Wildlife-Society-Southwest-Section-Chapters-Hub/205755042835210)). Selma Glasscock and I started a TWS Women of Wildlife (WOW) Facebook page ([https://www.facebook.com/pages/TWS-Women-of-Wildlife/234411723382592](https://www.facebook.com/pages/TWS-Women-of-Wildlife/234411723382592)) in October. We are up to 699 likes (!). Like us (student and professional men and women at all stages in wildlife careers are welcome) to get us past 700. In Milwaukee this year WOW organizers Selma Glasscock (TX), Misty Sumner (TX), Tabitha Graves (formerly AZ), and others put together a symposium, workshop, and panel discussion. The workshop educated attendees about scientifically sound, practical information to use in the workplace or at home to improve professional and personal interactions and was led by Dr. Tom Kalous, *National Conservation Leadership Institute. The Symposium covered topics such as history of women in wildlife, gender-related differences, employers of choice for women and under-represented groups, mentoring, and more.*

As always if you have questions or comments, please contact me at Carol.Chambers@nau.edu or 928-523-0014 (office).
The New Mexico Chapter of the Wildlife Society is pleased to announce that Albuquerque has been chosen as the host city for the 2017 Annual TWS Conference! Stay tuned for more information as planning progresses.

Oldest Known Jemez Mountain Salamander, Believed to be 15-18 Years Old – Mark Watson, NMDGF
Bats in the Burn: June - August 2013 in Alpine AZ

Erin Saunders, Master of Science in Forestry, candidate
School of Forestry, Northern Arizona University

Perhaps you have seen what a wildfire can do across a landscape given the number and size of wildfires occurring in the southwest. We wondered what happens to animals like bats, which are difficult to study and often roost in large snags lost during fires. The increase in tree density in southwestern forests is causing a dramatic increase in the size and frequency of wildfires. Since 2002, Arizona and New Mexico have had just over 4 million acres burned due to wildfires. This has been the result of some extremely large and severe wildfires such as the Rodeo-Chediski (462,000 acres), Cave Creek Complex (248,310 acres), Wallow (538,000 acres) and the Whitewater-Baldy fire (297,845 acres).

Although wildfires rarely kill wildlife, they have immediate consequences to bat populations by drastically altering vegetation which can affect roosting and foraging opportunities. For example, fires decrease snag density that may be used as roost habitat and reduce vegetation on which prey feed. To better understand the interactions between bats and the forests in which they live, I am studying how they use habitat in ponderosa pine and mixed conifer forests. A large fire, like the half million acre Wallow Fire that burned in 2011, results in a patchy landscape of burned and unburned forest. How long will it take to replace wildfire-burned forests? Because of their slow growth rates, it could take centuries, yet many bats rely on these forests for roosting and foraging. What are they doing after wildfire? That is the question I’m working on for my thesis.

My first field season was June – August this year. I hired 6 undergraduate technicians who were so interested in working with bats, they were willing to come from around the country – Wisconsin, California, Texas, and Arizona. We arrived in Alpine, Arizona and started field work on June 17, just as maternity season for bats hit. This project was designed with two goals in mind. The first goal is to find out how bat species use various burn severities. One way we are doing this is by randomly selecting a subset of available water bodies (alias cattle tanks), in 3 burn severities [unburned (0%), low (0-50%) and high (50-100%)] and setting up mist nets. Using my field crew as well as hosting a week long bat blitz, we were able to mist net at 24 sites over the course of the summer and captured 680 bats representing 13 species. Along with species such as the big brown bat and hoary bat, we were excited to capture 5 Allen’s lappet-browed bats, which shows they are still roosting in the same areas as they were in the 1990s when previously surveyed.

The week long bat blitz was kicked off on July 8th with over 50 volunteers present from various agencies, organizations, and universities such as the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD), U.S. Forest Service, Bat Conservation International, Arizona State University, Logan Simpson Design, and Northern Arizona University. This event was hosted by the Arizona Game and Fish Department and in collaboration with the NAU School of Forestry. Over the 5-day span, volunteers helped mist-net, handle bats, and attach radio transmitters to reproductive female bats. During the day, those wanting to radio-track spent time locating transmittered female bats to their maternity roost.

The first maternity roost we found for the project. This ponderosa pine snag was approximately 24 inches diameter, burned, and hosted about 70 bats (under loose bark) when this photograph was taken. — Dr. Carol Chambers

- Continued on page 8
Another way we are describing the bat assemblage is to use acoustic monitoring. We deployed 4 AnaBat II acoustic devices starting from June till August. We left each AnaBat to record bat calls for 3 nights and ended with a total of 25 sites representing 4 burn severities (unburned, low-, moderate-, high-severity). The data has been downloaded and organized into files according to species or frequency group.

The second goal of this project is to describe roosting habitat used by reproductive female bats. This year we radio tagged 31 reproductive (lactating or pregnant) females, including big brown bats, Allen’s lappet-browed bats, long-eared myotis, Arizona myotis, fringed myotis, and long-legged myotis (2 to 9 bats from each species depending on capture numbers). We tracked them to roosts using receivers, hand-held antennae, car-top antennae, and aerial telemetry. We located 19 roosts. Two bats (Arizona myotis and long-legged myotis) shared the same ponderosa pine snag at the same time. We conducted an exit count at most of the roosts. The average number of bats exiting a roost was 68, but Arizona myotis won the count with our maximum of 220 exits at a single roost.

We will compare snags used as maternity roosts to randomly selected snags to see what females prefer. We collected vegetation measurements for each snag as well as forest structure surrounding each snag. We are just starting to analyze the bat capture data, roost and paired tree data, as well as the acoustic data. Some preliminary results show that bats used 4 tree species: white-fir, ponderosa pine, quaking aspen, and Douglas-fir. Most roosts were burned between 3% and 37% with 35% unburned and 15% completely burned. Bats used large trees with a mean diameter of 20 inches (50 cm) and mean height of 72 feet (22 m). The mean elevation of the roosts was 8200 feet (2500 m).

The project has been hugely successful thus far and we have funding for a second year of field research that will begin in June 2014. We intend to increase the number of bats we transmitter next year and plan to hold another bat blitz in summer 2014. The bat blitz has been tentatively scheduled for the 23-27 of June.

If you have questions or comments regarding this study, please contact me at ehs8@nau.edu.
NMTWS 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.

**Membership Form**

| First name |            |            |
| Last name  |            |            |
| Organization |        |            |
| Address    |            |            |
| City       | State      | Zip        |
| Telephone (day) | Fax |            |
| Email      |            |            |

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
PO Box 35936
Albuquerque, NM 87176-3593.

For updates to your mailing or e-mail address please contact dan_collins@fws.gov