

CENTRAL MOUNTAINS AND PLAINS SECTION THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Central Mountains and Plains Section (CMPS) of The Wildlife Society (TWS) is to:

1. Provide a forum for CMPS members to share regional science and policy issues.
2. Serve as a voice for science in regional policy.
3. Serve as a regional voice for science in national and international policy.
4. Serve as a liaison between TWS and CMPS State and Student Chapters.
5. Encourage wildlife professionals to become active members and leaders in TWS.

STRATEGIC PLAN

1. Provide a forum for CMPS members to share regional science and policy issues.
 - a. Hold an Annual Section Meeting where members may share regional scientific research, regional policy issues, and regional solutions.
 - i. Provide a technical session as a forum for student research within the Section.
 - ii. Provide a technical session to highlight a pressing wildlife issue.
 - iii. Provide a training or workshop session.
 - b. Issue a newsletter to members three times per year that will provide:
 - i. State and Student Chapter updates.
 - ii. Updates on regionally important research.
 - iii. Updates on regionally important policy deliberations and decisions.
 - iv. Information on other meetings of interest.
 - c. Circulate bulletins or alerts on regional issues when deemed necessary.
2. Serve as a voice for science in regional policy.
 - a. Provide a regional voice for wildlife science in policy issues that are Section-wide in scope or have the potential to have Section-wide impacts to wildlife conservation, including sensitive species within the CMPS region. Priority issues that the CMPS Executive Board (Board) has identified are:
 - i. Energy development.
 - ii. Reauthorization and implementation of the Farm Bill.
 - iii. Grassland and native prairie conservation.
 - iv. Prairie pothole conservation.
 - v. Sagebrush and mixed mountain shrub conservation.
 - vi. Forest habitat loss due to insect infestation.
 - vii. Water hydrology and management in relation to wildlife ecology and management.
 - b. Develop Position Statements on the above issues utilizing TWS Technical Reviews and Position Statements.
 - c. CMPS Position Statements will be developed utilizing expertise from member states.

- d. The Board will use the following decision matrix to guide its involvement in policy issues. Issues ranked “1” will receive highest priority. The Board will defer comment on issues ranked 3, 4, or 5 to interested State Chapters.

SECTION INVOLVEMENT DECISION MATRIX

\	Issue addresses >1 Board priority	Issue addresses 1 Board priority	Issue addresses 0 Board priorities
Issue is Section-wide in scope	1	2	3
Issue is in more than 1 member state but is not Section-wide in scope	2	3	4
Issue is in 1 state only	3	4	5

3. Serve as a regional voice for science in national and international policy.
 - a. When TWS is addressing an issue that is deemed by the Board as important to CMPS or where CMPS has particular expertise, the Board or its designees will offer to assist TWS in development of Position Statements and Technical Reviews.
4. Serve as a liaison between TWS and CMPS State and Student Chapters.
 - a. Where applicable and appropriate, provide input to TWS on policy or procedural issues being considered by TWS Council that are deemed by the Board as important to CMPS and its Chapters.
 - b. Where applicable and appropriate, CMPS will encourage State and Student Chapter support of TWS initiatives.
 - c. Serve as a conduit to TWS for issues developed by Section Chapters that are important in the Section.
5. Encourage wildlife professionals to become active members and leaders in TWS.
 - a. Promote membership to all wildlife professionals.
 - b. Promote involvement of members in the TWS Leadership Institute, as well as local leadership training opportunities.
 - c. Support and promote workshops that educate members about regional issues and/or management tools pertinent to wildlife and natural resources management.
 - d. Provide travel grants for students to attend national TWS meetings annually.
 - i. Develop a regional mentoring program to improve connections and interactions among students and professionals, in addition to the traditional student-professional partnering.
 - ii. Develop and/or sponsor targeted workshops to educate members about specific issues or tools pertinent to a region or profession.

- e. Put special emphasis on recruiting students to join TWS.
 - i. Encourage Student Chapter members of TWS to attend the TWS Annual Conference through a CMPS Student Travel Grant program.
 - 1. Priority will be given to undergraduate students.
 - 2. Priority will be given to students who are or have recently been active members of a Student Chapter.
 - 3. This program is available only to students who are members of CMPS, TWS, and a Student Chapter.
 - ii. Support TWS efforts to develop future leaders for TWS and our profession.
 - iii. Provide a technical session during the CMPS Annual Meeting as a forum for student research from within the Section.