



# CMPS Newsletter

Excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education

Spring 2017 Volume 63

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## Message from the President

As winter's snow made the transition to spring's green-up, I stumbled upon Ken Burns' 2012 documentary titled "The Dust Bowl", and thought how timely that was. After attending the excellent joint CMPS/SDTWS Annual Meeting in Oacoma in late February and hearing informative and engaging presentations on the theme, "*Precision Conservation: The Interface of Agriculture, Wildlife, and People*", this documentary certainly hit home with me. I was so impacted by the opportune intersection of our joint meeting and viewing this fascinating and frightening film, that I took notes as I watched it. Here I offer a synopsis of pertinent information, some as excerpts of the scenes and some as my own remarks.



The Dust Bowl has been labeled "the most destructive human-caused environmental catastrophe of our time". During the decade or so of the Dust Bowl, did we lose much? Yes. Did we learn more? Yes. Have we made strides to balance our equally important natural resources and agricultural economy? Yes. This has been accomplished by our federal government and states working together to implement beneficial programs, share knowledge, cooperate on funding, and learn from past mistakes. We have certainly improved the devastation of the Dust Bowl years, and have applied measures to ensure a robust agricultural economy and thriving environmental ecosystem, both of which benefit our nation. This balance is a continuing challenge we should gladly shoulder for our Section and the inhabitants within – both human and wildlife – so we can continue to prosper and move forward with this mutually favorable state of affairs.

As declared in The Dust Bowl documentary: 'A mid-1930s report to President Franklin Roosevelt from a fact-finding tour undertaken by Hugh Bennett, head of the Soil Conservation Service, and his committee stated that "80% of the Great Plains was in some state of erosion. The basic causes were an attempt to impose upon the region a system of agriculture to which the Plains were not adapted". In 1935, the federal government determined that "the Nation cannot afford to let the farmer fail", and placed agronomist and erosion specialist Howard Finnell in

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<http://wildlife.org/cmp>

## Message from the President (continued)

charge of conservation efforts for the entire Dust Bowl region. Mr. Finnell introduced terracing and contour farming to the Great Plains, and the contrast between contoured fields that captured and held the finally welcomed rains, and fields that were still farmed the old way, was nothing short of remarkable. By May of 1936, nearly 40,000 farmers had adopted Mr. Finnell's methods. In 1937, Soil Conservation Districts were established, which were intended to enforce better farming practices through consensus. During this time, the federal government entered the agricultural community as never before, and it has never left. The government started buying back land from homesteads that were "dusted out", and slowly began to return the land to permanent grassland. In an attempt to entice farmers to plant less, some received payments to not grow cash crops at all. By the end of 1937, the amount of dangerously eroded land had been reduced by half, despite the dust storms that still persisted. In 1939, the Soil Conservation Service announced that the soil was in its best condition in 7 years, thanks to better farming practices. By the end of that year, the Dust Bowl had shrunk to one-fifth its previous size, and the devastating drought cycle had broken. However, in the first 5 years of the 1940s, land devoted to wheat production expanded by almost 3 million acres; land prices soared, compared to those during the Dust Bowl years; and once again, even some of the most marginal lands were put into production. "The same process is starting in the very same place", Howard Finnell warned, at the very same time that people simply assumed it could never happen again. Yet, when the wet cycle ended in the early 1950s and was replaced by a 2-year drought, the horrendous dust storms picked up once more. Fortunately, the damage to the land was mitigated by those farmers who had continued using Howard Finnell's conservation practices. And the soil blew less because of the nearly 4 million acres of land that the federal government purchased and permanently restored as National Grasslands during the worst of the Dust Bowl years. So, at least a few lessons had been learned. In the words of Oklahoma Panhandle homesteader, Caroline Henderson, who had the foresight and resolve to bequeath her land upon her death to be placed in trust on the condition that it never be plowed again, "To prepare the ground as well as we may, to sow our seeds to cultivate and care for, that is our part. Yet, how difficult it is for some of us to learn the results we must leave to the great, silent, unseen forces of nature, whether the crop be corn or character". Fortunately, we have now moved beyond the insufficient understanding of the ecology of the Great Plains region.'

Let each and every one of us do what we can to continue to cultivate the character of our beloved Great Plains—and all our nation's grasslands—for the benefit of wildlife and the generations to come...

Andrea Orabona  
CMPS President



## Section Business

### CMPS Annual Meeting Awards

The 2017 CMPS Awards were presented at the CMPS Annual Meeting in Oacoma, South Dakota.

#### 2017 CMPS Professional of the Year Award

The CMPS Professional of the Year Award winner for 2017 is Chuck Berdan. Chuck's career began as a student at the University of Minnesota, Crookston, in 1969, and he transferred to South Dakota State University, where he completed his degree in Wildlife and Fisheries sciences in 1974. During his career, Chuck worked with a great many wildlife species including pheasants, Burrowing Owls, black-footed ferrets, and sage-grouse. He began working as a ranger for the US Army Corps of Engineers in 1975 on the Missouri River, moved to the Bureau of Land Management in 1978 working as a forestry technician, before moving to Wildlife Biologist and Realty Specialist duties in 1983 – duties he covered until his retirement in 2012. Chuck was instrumental in fostering strong working relationships with South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks in Western South Dakota, by attending regional meetings and working with program managers in habitat, wildlife, and fisheries management. Chuck dealt with many of the typical management strategies on public lands; working with lessees, improving habitat conditions, dealing with off-road travel, and implementing hunting and fishing access plans. He was instrumental in improving habitat and management on the 175,000 acres of BLM lands in South Dakota. Chuck worked with kids fishing and outdoor education events and has been a Hunt Safe instructor since 1979. He is committed to involving youth in conservation efforts and the importance of hunting and fishing in our culture and the understanding of how wildlife conservation is funded in North America. Finally, Chuck continues to be involved in conservation activities today as a member of the South Dakota Sage-Grouse Local Working Group and as a Director of the Center of the Nations Sportsman's Club – active in formulating responses to state wildlife issues and legislation. Congratulations to Chuck Berdan... recipient of the 2017 CMPS Professional Award!



#### 2017 South Dakota Chapter Certificate of Appreciation

Mary Brashier (retired from South Dakota State University) of Aurora, SD received a "Certificate of Appreciation" from the SD Chapter of TWS in recognition of over 35 years of dedicated service and expertise at SDSU as an editor, author, and quality control supervisor of numerous reports, articles, booklets, and books; many of which were focused on family farm and ranch operations and others were focused on state and federal professional management and preservation of various wildlife and fisheries fauna and their habitats for all citizens to enjoy.





## Section Business

### **CMPS Annual Meeting Awards (continued)**

#### **2017 CMPS Citizen's Conservation Achievement Award**

CMPS's Citizen's Conservation Achievement Award winner for 2017 is Dr. Regg Neiger. During his 30-year career at South Dakota State University (1987-2016), Dr. Neiger worked as a Veterinary Pathologist in the SDSU Veterinary Diagnostics Lab in Brookings, SD. Regg provided numerous diagnostic services to a large variety of fish and wildlife projects – several which had regional impact effects within the CMPS states and beyond. Although Regg's responsibilities were primarily associated with livestock and household pets, he was always willing to assist with diagnostic procedures involving wildlife species. As a result, Dr. Neiger worked with a wide variety of wildlife ranging from elk, bison, deer, and various mid-sized predators and fur bearers, to rabies and plague investigations in smaller mammals, birds, and waterfowl; to various poison effects found in dead birds in household yards. Often his diagnostic expertise was used to assist with cases involving wildlife law enforcement procedures, or to design wildlife research projects involving wildlife ranging from jackrabbits to waterfowl to big game. Besides providing his diagnostic skills in the lab or for field and lab research projects, Regg also served on graduate project and thesis committees and sometimes as principle thesis advisor. Many times he was listed in acknowledgments for his services in various projects. Dr. Neiger also provided university lectures, guest lectures at professional meetings, and authored or co-authored several scientific publications involving wildlife diagnostics throughout his career. Regg was a team member, providing advice and assistance to the first wind power turbine effects project (collisions) on birds and bats within the Northern Great Plains Buffalo Ridge Wind Farm in western Minnesota and eastern South Dakota. He also was key in assisting with research in determining the source of waterfowl die-offs from avian cholera (mycotoxin occurrence in waste corn) in Nebraska. Congratulations to Dr. Regg Neiger... recipient of the 2017 CMPS Citizen's Conservation Achievement Award!



**CMPS members! It's not too early to consider submitting a nomination for the CMPS Awards for 2018! We are all aware of colleagues or acquaintances worthy of these recognitions. Awards nomination criteria can be found on the CMPS website <http://wildlife.org/cmp> under the 'Who We Are' tab. Please e-mail your nominations to CMPS Vice-President, Jim Hays ([jim\\_hays@tnc.org](mailto:jim_hays@tnc.org)) by January 31, 2018 for them to be considered. Interestingly, the Professional and Citizen's Conservation Achievement Awards have been presented to folks from the same state at least 11 times since 1960.**

**Thank you!**

**Jim Hays, CMPS Vice-President**

## Section Business

### Student Development Working Group

The Student Development Working Group promotes increased student awareness of The Wildlife Society membership benefits, works to expand knowledge and technical capabilities of student members, and helps prepare student members for professional wildlife careers. The Working Group facilitates networking between students and experienced TWS members by hosting meetings, workshops, poster sessions, a mentoring program, and a Student Chapter leaders' breakfast. The Working Group also selects the recipient of The Wildlife Society's Student Chapter Advisor of the Year Award.

Our Working Group features the latest students' news in The Student Chronicles. We actively post on our TWS Student Development Working Group Facebook page. We deliver new topics, current student research, and professional skill building.

We look forward to being the voice for students in the Parent Chapter of The Wildlife Society. We are always here to welcome new student members, and look forward to helping and providing for the next generation of the wildlife profession.

If you have any questions about The Wildlife Society's Student Development Working Group, please contact Chair Kristi Confortin at [kaconfortin@bsu.edu](mailto:kaconfortin@bsu.edu).

Please visit this link for the Student Development Working Group Facebook page:  
[https://www.facebook.com/TWS-Student-Development-Working-Group-252817268125541/?ref=aymt\\_homepage\\_panel](https://www.facebook.com/TWS-Student-Development-Working-Group-252817268125541/?ref=aymt_homepage_panel).



Congratulations to Undergraduate Student Jason Matthews and Graduate Student Colleen Harrell, winners of TWS's Student Development Working Group travel grant to the 23rd Annual Wildlife Society Conference in Raleigh, North Carolina. The winners are shown here with Past SDWG Chair Krysten Zummo and Current Chair Kristi Confortin. Students can apply for these grants once again for the upcoming TWS Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

### The Wildlife Professional Editorial Advisory Board

Thanks go to Lindsey Messenger for her hard work as the CMPS representative on the Editorial Advisory Board (EAB) for The Wildlife Professional (TWP)! However, Lindsey has since moved out of the CMPS area. Therefore, the CMPS Executive Board is seeking nominations for anyone interested in serving on TWP's EAB. TWP EAB now has representatives from all Sections, a few At-large Board Members, and a revolving sub-set of Working Group representatives. There is no limit on the term of Section representatives, whereas the Working Group representatives and At-large Board Member terms are limited to 2 years. EAB member roles include participation in quarterly conference calls to discuss upcoming topics and issues of TWP, as well as contribute information for the Section-specific news at the beginning of each issue. Members are also asked, on occasion, to review articles submitted for publication according to individual expertise. Please send any nominations to our CMPS President, Andrea Orabona, at [andrea.orabona@wyo.gov](mailto:andrea.orabona@wyo.gov).



# Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

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## Section Business

### Looking Out for Wildlife and You

By Stephanie Ferrero, Central Mountains and Plains Section At-large Board Member

You may wonder what happens outside of Central Mountains and Plains Section (CMPS) meetings and newsletters. What does the CMPS Executive Board do throughout the year?

In addition to regular conference calls that facilitate communication across our Section, the CMPS Executive Board constantly monitors wildlife issues within the Section and beyond. We keep close watch on conservation matters because we know responding to these is essential to reaching our objectives. CMPS is tasked with promoting sound biological management within our geographic boundary. Accordingly, we have a responsibility to take a stand on important wildlife decisions. The Wildlife Society (TWS) has a reputation of supporting sound science through a rich history and the professionalism of our members. As a result of our respected reputation, we tend to have groups and individuals seek endorsement by CMPS. Endorsement requests include a variety of projects related to wildlife.

CMPS has a strategic process for evaluating and responding to endorsement requests. All requests are considered under the guidance of CMPS and TWS bylaws. To receive approval, projects must fully align with our bylaws. Clearly, we only want to support projects that are in agreement with what we stand for as an organization. If an endorsement request meets bylaws requirements, elected CMPS Executive Board members take a majority vote on whether to support the project or not according to what each member thinks is in the best interest of the Section. CMPS Executive Board members often consult field experts or refer to established literature to inform their decisions. The Executive Board is cautious about supporting projects that may cause a misunderstanding about CMPS or TWS. For example, when a controversial conservation issue arises, CMPS decides if it is necessary to take a stance on the subject to promote wise wildlife management. The reason for commenting on conservation issues is our mandate in the CMPS objectives.

More information on CMPS objectives can be found in the bylaws at:

[http://wildlife.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/CMPS-Bylaws\\_20150727.pdf](http://wildlife.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/CMPS-Bylaws_20150727.pdf)

The Wildlife Society Government Affairs and Partnerships with Keith Norris is an additional resource within The Wildlife Society that outlines our positions on important wildlife topics (<http://wildlife.org/position-statements/>). Our goal is to serve you and the natural resources in CMPS. Please contact CMPS President Andrea Orabona ([andrea.orabona@wyo.gov](mailto:andrea.orabona@wyo.gov)) if you have any questions or wildlife issues of relevance to the Section that the Executive Board should address.



Stephanie Ferrero, CMPS At-large Board Member

## Section Business

### CMPS Wayne Sandfort Student Travel Grant

The deadline for the 2017 CMPS Wayne Sandfort Student Travel Grant is July 15, 2017.

The Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society announces the availability of travel grants for students planning on attending the Society's 2017 Annual Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Travel grants of up to \$500 each will be awarded to a limited number of Student Chapters of TWS to assist with expenses incurred while attending the TWS Annual Conference. Students may apply through their college Student Chapter of TWS or individually to CMPS. Applications must be submitted electronically by July 15, 2017 to CMPS President, Andrea Orabona ([andrea.orabona@wyo.gov](mailto:andrea.orabona@wyo.gov)).

Preference will be given to:

- Current undergraduate students.
- Students who are currently or who have recently been involved in activities of TWS, CMPS, or a local TWS Chapter.
- Group applications of up to three individuals may be submitted through Student Chapters of TWS located within the CMPS geographic boundary.

To be eligible, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Be a member of the State or Student Chapter.
- Be a member of the Central Mountains and Plains Section.
- Be a member of The Wildlife Society.
- Be a recent Baccalaureate graduate or enrolled at least half time in a program leading to a degree in wildlife biology or a closely related field at a college or university within the geographic boundary of CMPS.

To learn more about the Wayne Sandfort Student Travel Grant, visit the CMPS website (<http://wildlife.org/cmp/student-travel-grant/>). Applications for the grant can also be downloaded from the website ([Application DOC file](#) or [Application PDF file](#)). You can also learn more about who [Wayne Sandfort](#) was and why CMPS named this travel grant program after him.

Wayne W. Sandfort was a leader in wildlife management and research in Colorado, and a long-time member of The Wildlife Society. Mr. Sandfort was the first President of the Central Mountains and Plains Section, was one of the organizers of the Section, and was very interested in students.







## Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

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**Lucas Knowlton (University of North Dakota's Student Chapter President) sent this letter to Bill Jensen (North Dakota TWS), Rick Nelson (North Dakota TWS), and Bob Lanka (CMPS Section Representative to TWS Council). Lucas's words beautifully illustrate how important The Wildlife Society is to us all, and how important the learning experiences and networking opportunities are, especially for the development of young professionals and students who will continue to lead the Society.**

Hi Gentlemen,

I first want to say thank you for an amazing experience at the conference this past week. I know there were a lot of key players in the facilitation of this event, but I especially want to thank you for all of your hard work and dedication, as well as taking the time to connect with and further motivate me. I have previously attended two national conferences and three state conferences, but this one genuinely hit home.

As I began this past Fall as the University of North Dakota Student Chapter President, I was nervous to say the least. I wanted our Chapter to thrive. I wanted people to get as involved as possible, because I knew (and have experienced firsthand) how many opportunities The Wildlife Society had to offer. Seeing many of my fellow students get more and more involved throughout the year, especially at the conference this past week, brought me an immense amount of joy. When I get to know people, fellow students for example, I always keep in mind that no two people share the same path through life. We all have a unique background that contributes to our life "story", and ultimately how we perceive and respond to things today. Some people grew up in big cities, some in rural; some raised in wealthy families, and some come from nothing at all; some who experienced troubled families, and some from the most caring of all. Our morals, work-ethic, and drive are all shaped by the things we've been through and experienced thus far in life.

Although I may be "young" and fairly new to The Wildlife Society, it doesn't deter me from expressing my sincere gratitude for the opportunities that it has provided me. TWS has ultimately given me a strong sense of community in every aspect of my life, primarily through the relationships I've made. There were people from my Chapter that I didn't think I had a thing in common with, but little did I know, they would become my best friends. I'm not the only one who's experienced these connections, either. Over the past six months I've seen many new friendships spark and grow, and I give full credit to The Wildlife Society for facilitating wonderful opportunities to connect and grow. At a place like the state conference, we see students come from all over the country with a great diversity of backgrounds, hobbies, research interest, internship experience, and goals for the future. Many would agree when I say that we all have one thing in common; an overwhelming passion for our natural resources and wildlife. This passion is something many will never understand, unfortunately, because they've never gotten the opportunity to experience the joy of these wonders.

As a TWS member, it is my priority to foster this connection that we share. Being able to congregate around the common goal of conservation continues to bring us as TWS members together, making us stronger as a whole. Whether it be an aviation student wanting more time outdoors, or a fisheries and wildlife biology major planning to dedicate his or her career to the field, we can find common ground and excitement in the pursuance of our wildlife passions, regardless of how different our backgrounds may be. Facilitating student events like electrofishing and duck-banding, for example, a couple UND favorites, allows us and anyone who participates with the opportunity to either experience or further endeavor in this passion. Getting just one person to fall in love with wildlife and the outdoors is a notable feat. Years later, that person may introduce their children or someone they know to these resources in hopes that they too will find happiness from the outdoors. If we can't conserve our wildlife and promote outdoor recreation for future generations, then there





# Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

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will be no demand or appreciation for it. As less and less people appreciate these resources, there will be less and less advocating for their funding. It's scary to think that future generations may never get to experience the things that I have been fortunate enough to, which is why I am so thankful for and confident in actions of The Wildlife Society.

As we came together this past week in a time of uncertainty for the things we love, we were surrounded by those who share our same passion. Hearing from so many respected professionals and leaders reminded us that there are still many people that care as much as we do. As Bob Lanka said in his talk, we have been in this position before. We've overcome adversity in the past and this just another opportunity to do so, something we are highly capable of together. As you all spoke many uplifting words in your talks and speeches, it felt as though the morale of the room changed in a positive manner. I experienced a great deal of pride for being involved in such a great organization, as well as gained heightened motivation to continue pursuing my goals, many of which we share. All of the work and effort you put in allows us to gather and grow stronger, which is why we will continue to make great strides.

My involvement with the UNDTWS and NDCTWS has been nothing short of a privilege, and I hope it continues long into the future.

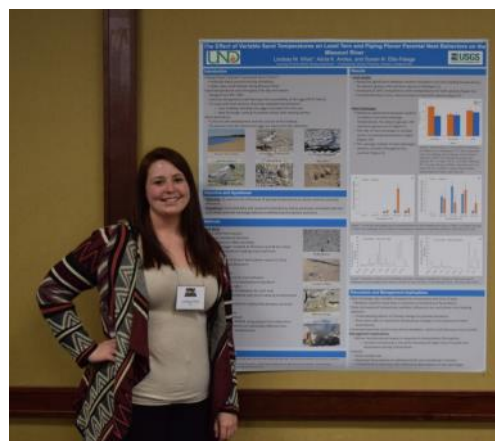
I look forward to seeing what this year will bring for the NDCTWS, and I wish you all the best of luck in your roles! I know that we are in wonderful hands.

Thank you for being great role models and leaders.

Best,  
Lucas Knowlton  
President  
University of North Dakota Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society



Top: Brandon Ramsey received the Valley City State University Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award, presented by NDTWS President Rick Nelson



Right: UND Undergraduate Student and UNDTWS Secretary, Lindsay Wise



Lucas Knowlton, UNDTWS President, received the UND Undergraduate Student Scholarship Award, presented by NDTWS President Rick Nelson

UND Student Chapter of The Wildlife  
Society members and Advisors



## TWS Council Report

### **Bob Lanka, Central Mountains and Plains Section Representative to TWS Council, March 2017**

Unfortunately, I must begin this column by passing on some incredibly sad news. Jane Ellen Jorgensen, a 30-year TWS staff veteran, died March 7<sup>th</sup> from cancer. I had the good fortune of knowing Jane. She was an exemplary human being, full of kindness and life and a love of The Wildlife Society. Her loss will be deeply felt by our TWS family. For more, see the TWS web page at <http://wildlife.org/tws-mourns-loss-of-long-tenured-employee-jane-jorgensen/>



Jane Ellen Jorgensen, 1952-2017

## COUNCIL ACTIONS

TWS Council met March 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> in Spokane, WA at the 82<sup>nd</sup> North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference (<https://wildlifemanagement.institute/conference>). While there, the Council discussed several issues with an update on the TWS 2016-2017 budget, and considered and ultimately passed the TWS 2017-2018 budget.

For the 2016-2017 budget, projected income (not including investments) was \$2,743,830 and projected expenses were \$2,652,744, including a \$62,500 Council approved add on to pay for providing TWS members free electronic access to publications for the last 6 months of the current fiscal year. As of the end of January, we are currently about \$21,000 ahead of our projected surplus of about \$91,000. All surplus funds go into the TWS Permanent Reserve Fund. This is a Council controlled fund with the goal to build this fund until it reaches an amount equal to 6 months operating costs or about \$1,327,000 for the current fiscal year. As of the March Council meeting this fund was about \$850,000 or just under \$500,000 short of the goal. Hopefully, we will get another \$100,000 closer at the end of this fiscal year.

For 2017-2018, Council approved a budget of \$2,691,794. This budget includes a full year of free member access to TWS publications (cost \$125,000) and full Council approved staff levels for all TWS programs for the full year. These staff levels are the same as in the current fiscal year; we will simply have these folks on for the full year rather than a partial one. Even with the additions, cuts in other places resulted in an approved budget only \$39,050 or 1.5% higher than the current budget. Projected revenues should result in a surplus of about \$94,000.

You might be asking, why build a budget with a projected surplus? The answer is simple. Revenue is based on projections of conference, publication, membership, and donation income. If there is a downturn in any one of these items, developing a budget with a reasonably projected surplus will provide TWS some room to weather the storm and still finish the year at break even or better.

One last budget item, then I promise to move on. TWS revenue comes from four basic sources. Publications revenue, including our contract with Wiley, is the largest single source of income at 34.9%. Conference revenue, including donations and sponsorships specifically dedicated to the conference, comes next at 33.9%



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## TWS Council Report (continued)

with membership dues next at 25.1%. These three items total 93.4% of the total annual income of TWS. Unrestricted grants and partnerships, as well as Endowment Fund investment revenue used to support two 6-month interns in the Government Affairs and Partnership Program, along with other miscellaneous income makes up the rest. Our contract with Wiley runs from 2016-2022.

Council approved seven Government Affairs and Partnerships (GAP) Policy Priorities for the 115<sup>th</sup> U.S. Congress:

### **1. Empower wildlife professionals by incorporating wildlife science into decision making:**

- a. Work to enhance the Lacey Act to prevent the spread of invasive species and wildlife disease
- b. Work to ensure the Endangered Species Act retains science as the foundation for decision making while advancing meaningful and reasonable modifications that will enhance its effectiveness in conserving at-risk native wildlife and ecosystems

### **2. Enable wildlife professionals by supporting sufficient funding for management, conservation, and research:**

- a. Work to advance the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish & Wildlife Resources recommendations to fund state efforts to conserve the full array of fish and wildlife species
- b. Work to advance conservation titles within the Farm Bill

### **3. Assist wildlife professionals by bringing science to on-the-ground conservation:**

- a. Work cooperatively with federal and state managers and the public to meet and sustain appropriate wild horse and burro management levels
- b. Work to advance the conservation of wild sheep in the USA and Canada by promoting policies that incorporate current science and strategies to minimize the potential of disease transmission from domestic sheep
- c. Work to support Chapter and Section efforts through continued enhancements to the Conservation Affairs Network.

## GIVE BACK PROGRAM

TWS initiated a Give Back program beginning December 2016. This program allows renewing members of TWS to "sponsor" a person for membership in TWS who is currently not a member by simply providing that person's e-mail address. TWS then contacts the potential member and offers them a free 6-month trial full benefit membership. They can accept or decline. For those that accept, during the six months TWS will present our Society to the potential member and ask them to consider joining. At the end of January, 349 individuals had accepted the Give Back invite. Time will tell how many will become members. Thanks to those that nominated a colleague.



## TWS Council Report (continued)

### ODDS AND ENDS

TWS's website averages 49,000 hits a month and our social media audience will be approximately 112,000 by the end of June. The 1,000 is projecting donations at \$70-75,000 this fiscal year. In the 2.5 years of The 1,000, members have donated over \$200,000 to TWS strategic initiatives. Final number of attendees for the Raleigh Conference was 1,865, the third highest total ever. Our 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference will be held in Albuquerque, NM September 23-27, 2017. As of February 2017, there were 999 TWS members from our Section, 10.9% of the total TWS membership. Ours is the fifth largest section out of eight. Within our Section, Colorado has the largest number of TWS members at 322. 2016 was the first full year of publishing 6 issues of The Wildlife Professional (TWP). Sixty-four more pages were published in 2016 than 2015. I hope you replied to TWP's readership survey. Of the 675 or so members that took hard copy journals in 2016, about 20% converted to electronic only in 2017. Wiley's subsidy for producing hard copy content is going down so getting paper copy journals will go from \$60 to \$80 in 2018. After that, the subsidy ends and the full cost of about \$115/year will be charged. The latest edition of the Techniques Manual is due out in late 2018. Dr. Merav Ben-David of the University of Wyoming replaced Dr. Eric Helgren of the University of Florida as Editor-in-Chief of Wildlife Monographs. Government Affairs and Partnerships staff had over 100 meetings with Congressional staff in January, introducing TWS and our policy positions, as well as participating in the approval process for Presidential appointments. Two valuable additions to the Conservation Affairs Network (CAN) are the Policy Priorities Reference List and the new Policy Library, both of which can be found on the CAN section of TWS's website (Library will launch a little later this year). In 2016, 86 Certified Wildlife Biologist and 93 Associate Wildlife Biologist applications were approved, up substantially from the past 5 years. With The 1,000 paying membership dues, the Early Career Professional Working Group now has over 900 members. A similar increase was also seen for the Student Development Working Group.

Thanks for all you do. Until next time...

To contact Bob Lanka, our Section Representative to TWS Council, please email him at [bob.lanka@wyo.gov](mailto:bob.lanka@wyo.gov) or call his office at (307) 777-4600.



Bob Lanka, CMPS Representative to TWS Council

## Chapter Updates

### **Emporia State University**

From January 2-6, 2017, the Emporia State and Kansas State University Student Chapters took a joint field trip to Wyoming where we assisted the Wyoming Game and Fish Department with trapping mule deer for a research project. We learned a trapping technique for large ungulates and had a chance to meet wildlife professionals in Wyoming. Tony Mong (Wyoming Game and Fish) was our local host and coordinator of the trapping effort. He was very helpful and informative.

Several members of the ESU Student Chapter also attended the Kansas Natural Resources Conference from January 26-27, 2017. We attended a stream workshop, attended the Kansas Chapter of TWS Business Meeting, saw research presentations, met with wildlife professionals, and ran a silent auction fundraiser for the ESU chapter.

On March 2, 2017, members from our Chapter had the opportunity to observe the mating display of the American Woodcock at Lyon County State Fishing Lake. Dr. Bill Jensen and his graduate students led the trip.

On March 4, 2017, members from our Chapter assisted with the Quail Forever (Lyon County Chapter) banquet. During this event our members had the chance to witness a fundraising banquet by a non-governmental organization. Our members also got the chance to establish professional relationships with individuals in the Quail Forever chapter, which may lead to future job opportunities.

We plan to assist with prescribed burning of ESU's Natural Areas this spring.

Our annual banquet and officer elections will be held in conjunction with the ESU Department of Biological Sciences' Earth Day Picnic on April 22, 2017 at ESU's Ross Natural History Reservation.



Students from the ESU and KSU Student Chapters of TWS, along with Advisor Dr. Bill Jensen, assisted Wyoming Game and Fish Department wildlife biologist Tony Mong with a mule deer trapping and tagging project in Wyoming





## Chapter Updates

### **Kansas State University**

The year has been off to a great start here at KSU. The campus is roaring with talk of classes and other activities. Among this excitement is the KSU Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society. We started the semester by having seven graduate students explain their research and give us just a taste of what our school has to offer for research and experience. Once February rolled in, we had Zeb and Frank from the National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON) come share some valuable information about NEON. NEON is a nationwide organization that collects data via surveys and uses these data to detect trends in wildlife, as well as shares their data nationwide. In addition to this, we had Adam Ahlers, a new professor at Kansas State University, come and speak with us about his experience with The Wildlife Society. Though he is new at Kansas State, he has had an ongoing presence in The Wildlife Society and is involved in many working groups. Not only was he a member of his Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society, but a member of The Wildlife Society Parent Chapter.

Spring is finally here and so is Jessica Mounts, the Executive Director for Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams (KAWS). To start March off Jessica came to give a brief talk to our Student Chapter. Jessica has been employed by the state for many years before taking on this role in KAWS, and she informed of us of the good, the bad, and the ugly of working in the wildlife/fisheries industries.

Up and coming events include officer elections and a float trip down the Kansas River to celebrate Earth Day. We also have our annual banquet at Konza meeting hall.



KSU Student Chapter members visited a local bison ranch owned by Ed Dillinger (in the cowboy hat), where they toured the ranch and learned about bison and ranching

A large group of KSU Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society members enjoyed a fall float trip, where they rented canoes from the recreation center for the weekend, floated down the Kansas River, and camped on the river bank for the night







# Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

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## Chapter Updates

### Nebraska

#### Nebraska Chapter of The Wildlife Society Annual Meeting

This year, our Chapter met in conjunction with the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference held in Lincoln from February 6-8 at the Cornhusker Hotel in Lincoln. This Conference brings together wildlifers from all across the Midwest. There was a wide range of scientific papers, speakers, student posters, socials, mixers, symposia, a trade show, workshops, and even a Super Bowl Party this year. Thanks to Nebraska Game and Parks and the University of Nebraska Lincoln for hosting. The Conference rotates among the member states and provinces; next year it is in Milwaukee. The Conference theme was *Private Landscapes, Public Responsibilities*, and three speakers kicked off the event. Dr. John Organ, Chief of the USGS Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Units, spoke on "Why We Need Public-Private Collaboratives". Dr. Douglas Austin, Executive Director of the American Fisheries Society, followed with "Peering Into the Future of Fisheries and Positioning Ourselves for Success". Dr. Byron Kenneth Williams, CEO of The Wildlife Society, concluded with "The Importance of Public-Private Partnerships for the Future of Conservation". Points made by the speakers included: traditional sources of funding will not be enough, the need to look to NGOs and companies, embrace activism, partnerships offer both challenges and opportunities, strengthening the science management link, and the changing political climate will bring challenges.



NETWS and Midwest Fish and  
Wildlife Joint Conference in Lincoln

#### Nebraska Chapter of The Wildlife Society Career Professional Award Recipients

**Emily Munter** has been a member of the Nebraska Chapter of The Wildlife Society for almost 18 years. Throughout her membership in TWS, she has attended the National Leadership Institute, held board positions within the State Chapters, such as Treasurer, President-Elect, President, Past-President, and At-large Board Member. Emily has also assisted with the Awards Committee for 7 years and held an At-large Board Member position within the Central Mountains and Plains Section. Emily started her career with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission as an administrative assistant before being hired as District Manager for the Habitat Partners Section in the Panhandle. She now works for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Nebraska Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program conducting restoration of river habitats and grassland habitats on private lands. Emily's approach to partnerships has made her a



Emily Munter, NETWS Career Professional Award Winner

## Chapter Updates

### Nebraska (continued)

well-respected leader in her field and a valuable mentor to those around her. Partners describe her as sincere, hard-working, and dedicated. Over her 16 years in the field, Emily has demonstrated a high degree of professionalism when working with peers, and executed habitat conservation based on sound science for the benefit of wildlife and plants of the State of Nebraska. Emily has recently moved to Alaska.

**Tom Welstead** received his B.S. in Wildlife from Colorado State University in 1976. After graduation he started work at Plattsmouth Wildlife Management Area (WMA). In 1978, Tom hired on permanently as a biologist at Oak Valley WMA near Battle Creek. He worked there until 2003, when he became Management Section District Manager of the Northeast District in Norfolk. Tom has been a long time member of the Nebraska Chapter of TWS and is a consistent member of the Public Lands Committee. The mission of The Wildlife Society is “To inspire, empower, and enable wildlife professionals to sustain wildlife populations and habitats through science-based management and conservation.” Tom has dedicated a long career with efforts that certainly mirror this mission of science based management. Tom spent much of his career “in the field”, conducting the day-to-day planning, execution, and evaluation of habitat (and consequently wildlife) management. Tom’s decisions were always well thought out, based on scientific fact, and always in the best interest of the wildlife or habitat in question. If you know Tom, you well know he’s a fierce defender of wildlife and all things natural, and the right of the public to enjoy our natural resources. Throughout Tom’s career, he has been a long time Hunter Education Instructor, instilling not only safe hunting skills but also an appreciation for wildlife into hundreds of students. Tom’s career is chock full of accomplishments, so we’ll list only a few. Tom was directly involved with the river otter reintroduction efforts in northeast Nebraska in the 1980s, which has proven successful since. Tom has been a long-time member of the Canada goose banding team that travels the state annually, and has led many “fail proof” operations to capture geese. Last, but not least, Tom has been a lifetime mentor to countless individuals over his career, providing guidance in matters professional and personal alike. Chances are, at the next NETWS meeting Tom will be a “former wildlife professional” and will finally be able to speak his mind freely!



Tom Welstead, NETWS Career Professional Award Winner

### Nebraska Chapter of The Wildlife Society Outstanding Service Award

**Lon Lemmon** began his wildlife conservation career with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission in 1966 and retired in 2005, working his entire career at the Ponderosa Wildlife Management Area (WMA). During this span of 4 decades, Lon played a key role in an impressive array of wildlife conservation projects across the Nebraska panhandle from acquisition and development of numerous WMAs, to bighorn sheep reintroduction



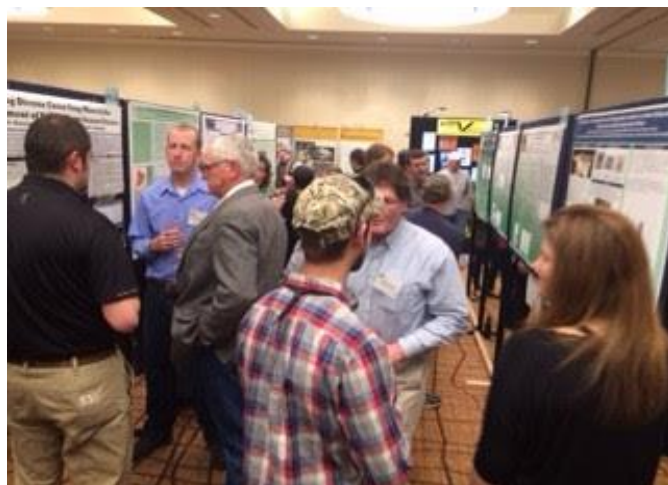
## Chapter Updates

### Nebraska (continued)

and bison management in the Wildcat Hills and Fort Robinson State Park. He was a key player in setting up the Clear Creek controlled waterfowl hunting area on the North Platte River above Lake McConaughy. Lon and other agency staff trapped elk, deer, bighorn sheep, wild turkeys, and pronghorn for relocation or to support research. If they didn't have a trap, Lon and his conservation assistant Frank Ehlers would design and build one. Lon also designed and constructed numerous wildlife water catchments on the Pine Ridge WMAs. This same type of water catchment is being used today on both public and private lands in the panhandle. One of his most memorable wildlife capture projects occurred recently when he volunteered to assist in the capture and ear tagging of several mountain lion kittens in the Pine Ridge. When recently asked about his favorite wildlife habitat project over the years, Lon quickly referred to a 1,200 acre prescribed burn in the Ponderosa WMA in 1998. This project remains the largest single prescribed burn to date in the Pine Ridge. Lon's professionalism did not stop with his on-the-ground work as a wildlife manager. Lon also set a high bar with his people skills, as you'd be hard pressed to find a hunter who didn't get the red carpet treatment after asking Lon or his wife, Carolyn, for information or help. They all share the same story how they met Lon and Carolyn at the Ponderosa and have never forgotten the sincerity and friendship they were shown by this couple. Decades later, many of these same people still keep in contact with Lon and Carolyn. To this date, Lon and Carolyn continue to mentor youth in hunting and other outdoor activities. They volunteer their time and equipment to conduct auctions for local fund raising events including the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Ducks Unlimited, and the Nebraska Chapter of The Wildlife Society. Both Lon and Carolyn continue to be active and vital members of the banquet committee for the Pine Ridge Chapter of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. After lifelong wildlife careers, Lon and Carolyn continue to work shoulder to shoulder delivering wildlife conservation to western Nebraska communities.

### Nebraska Chapter of The Wildlife Society to Host the 2018 Central Mountains and Plains Section Annual Meeting

For planning purposes, we polled the NETWS membership about next year's annual meeting. The majority of respondents indicated that a joint meeting with the Central Mountains and Plains Section (90% of 53 responses) in February/March is preferred. One member suggested that the Program Committee be mindful of the registration dues because the cost of the 2017 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference was extremely prohibitive for the NETWS meeting activities. Meeting topics suggested included changes in government policy with the new administration, state legislative actions, CRISPR technology, environmental stability for best wildlife management practices, environmental impacts of the Keystone Pipeline, Sandhills prairie management, energy and wildlife, landscape level management, Rainwater Basin Joint Venture research, meso-carnivore status, funding sources for wildlife research, State Chapter presentations (e.g., addressing the TWS Mission) and round table discussion, agriculture-related or urban impacts on wildlife, updates from other conservation groups and organizations, CMPS regional issues (e.g., public land ownership), and threatened and endangered species.



Student posters at the NEWTS and Midwest Fish and Wildlife Joint Conference in Lincoln, Nebraska



## Chapter Updates

### University of Nebraska—Lincoln

After a nice long break from classes, we had Chapter members test their aiming skills by blow darting animal targets for our first January meeting. Since then, we've also done compass bearing activities, had a taxidermist talk about his work, and hosted a Project Flying WILD workshop to get students more hands on experience. Our club has participated in three Lower Platte South Natural Resource District nature nights and presented at the Lincoln Public Schools Science Fair. At these events, we bring our skulls and furs collection to give students and their families an up close and hands on learning experience about local wildlife. Over spring break, we had seven members attend the North Central Student Conclave in Indiana. Some of the favorite activities included hiking, herping, and a visit from a conservation officer and his K9.

Still to come is a fish shocking demonstration, another stream clean up, a volunteer day at the Lee G. Simon's Conservation Park and Wildlife Safari, and a trip to South Dakota to help with the Rocky Mountain Goat Alliance surveys. We are also hosting our annual banquet Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup> to recognize all the outstanding work our members have put forth this past year as well as acknowledge our new officer team for the 2017-2018 school year.



Members and activities of the University of Nebraska—  
Lincoln Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society

## Chapter Updates

### University of North Dakota

The University of North Dakota's Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society has had a great semester thus far, and is very excited for the events yet to come this semester. The North Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society Annual Conference was an amazing experience for everyone who attended. The UND Student Chapter had 20 students attend the conference (14 undergraduate and 6 graduate) who participated in a wide array of events. Among those events, students volunteered for registration and the fundraiser social, networked with professionals and students from around the state, and delivered poster and oral presentations. We had 7 students who presented posters, 2 participated in the lightning round, and 5 students gave oral presentations, 2 of whom were undergraduates. Students who attended were extremely thankful for the opportunity to learn more about the ongoing efforts and The Wildlife Society as a whole. We want to thank the NDCTWS for putting on yet another great conference. We also want to thank our UND alumni for supporting us at the UND Alumni Social during the conference. The following article was posted on wildlife.org covering the experiences taken away from the conference by some UND students: <http://wildlife.org/und-students-reflect-on-state-chapter-meeting/>.

In addition to the state conference, we also held an ice-fishing event on Devils Lake. Eight members took advantage of the warm temperatures and adventured out on to the ice to catch a few northern pike. A grill-out was had and the members were all smiles, as this trip was certainly one to remember. Northern pike caught on this trip will be prepared at our annual wild game supper and will be enjoyed by many. Shortly after the ice-fishing excursion, we were fortunate to have Phil Mastrangelo of the NDTWS Executive Committee attend one of our meetings to provide insight into what makes a successful application for jobs in the wildlife field. He also discussed his path through the wildlife profession and offered up advice to our undergraduate members. This presentation served as a great way to provide guidance to our members in regard to being successful in the field.



UND Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society attendees at the ND Chapter of The Wildlife Society Annual Conference



## Chapter Updates

### **University of North Dakota (continued)**

With the coming of spring, elections were also held for new officer positions within our chapter. We are excited to announce that all of our positions will be held by new members. This will give these members fantastic leadership opportunities and experiences that will last them a life time. TWS has afforded us so much throughout the last year, and the current officers are thrilled that the newly elected members will be able to reap the benefits as well.

Looking forward, our Chapter will be busy with a multitude of events to close out the year. Brad Dokken, the outdoor writer for the Grand Forks Herald, will be talking to us about effective science communication. On April 21<sup>st</sup>, we will be hosting our annual Glenn Allen Paur Memorial Lecture. This year's guest speaker will be Ron Stromstad, who will be speaking to us on "What They Don't Teach You in College". This annual event honors Glenn Allen Paur, a UND fisheries and wildlife graduate who died in a boating accident only days after his graduation in 1978. On April 22<sup>nd</sup>, our Chapter will host the annual Wild Game Supper Fundraiser. Students will prepare various dishes made of wild game meat that has been donated throughout the year. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year, and one that we are all very excited for.

Written by John Palarski and Lucas Knowlton



University of North Dakota Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society  
ice-fishing event on Devils Lake

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# Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

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## Chapter Updates

### South Dakota

#### **Joint Meeting of CMPS and SDTWS a Success!**

By Alex Solem and Joshua Stafford, SDTWS

With spring arriving in full force, the mad-dash to prepare for the upcoming field season begins. And although it's nice to leave the harsh prairie winter behind, it's a good time to reflect on some of the more exciting things that happened during the cold months. The highlight for those of us involved with The Wildlife Society was surely this year's joint meeting of the Central Mountains and Plains Section (CMPS) and South Dakota's State Chapter of The Wildlife Society (SDTWS). This meeting offered the opportunity for stewardship and networking between wildlife professionals from all aspects of management throughout South Dakota and surrounding states.

This year's theme and panel of speakers was formed by the current South Dakota Chapter President, Joshua Stafford; the theme was: *"Precision Conservation: The Interface of Wildlife, Agriculture, and People"*. At first, this theme may seem technical and complicated, but the various aspects came together and addressed a broad array of wildlife management issues that are contemporary and relevant to all wildlife professionals. This theme provided the ability to talk about wildlife through social, agricultural, and legislative viewpoints. It offered a diverse platform to hear from agricultural producers, wildlife scientists, private citizens, and legislative experts on what drives conservation in South Dakota. These conservation issues are certainly relevant in other CMPS states, as well.

One particular highlight was that of the keynote speaker, Dr. Barry Dunn, President of South Dakota State University. President Dunn was kind enough to join this meeting at its banquet and offer a presentation. President Dunn's rich academic background and success as a ranch and farm operator offered important insights into conservation from the aspect of all the stakeholders in South Dakota. He spoke of agricultural supply and demand, the potential for over-production, and desire for proper land stewardship from many of South Dakota's agricultural producers; not to mention the values associated with wildlife in the eyes of the public. Another invited presentation was given by Drs. Fredrick Errington and Deborah Gwertz of Trinity College and Amherst College, respectively. Anthropologists by training, they presented a reading of a paper they published recently on the interface of agriculture, conservation, and economics in the context of economic "value", human "values", and sociological mores. Dr. Errington is the son of famous ecologist Paul Errington, and part of the discussion involved their relationship to a plot of land in South Dakota that the family recently donated to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This different and distinct approach to understanding conservation in the context of various pressures offered Society members a unique take on what they deal with day-to-day.

The agenda was full of engaging talks on various recent and ongoing wildlife research projects and, of course, was a great opportunity for our many professionals to catch up with friends and former co-workers. SDTWS was able to honor Neal Martorelli as 2016's Outstanding Master's Student and Brandi Felts as 2016's Outstanding PhD Student, both from South Dakota State University. Also, CMPS had the unique opportunity of awarding Charles "Chuck" Berdan as this year's recipient of the Professional Achievement Award, and Dr. Regg Neiger as the recipient of the Citizen's Conservation Achievement Award. A silent and live auction and raffle generated considerable funds for both organizations, and provided a good bit of laughs for those who attended. Feedback from the joint event indicated that it was successful and provided more and broader information and opportunities because the two groups were able to come together. We hope to use lessons learned from the 2017 joint CMPS and SDTWS meeting to model other jointly-held meetings in the future to maximize opportunities for Society members.

## Chapter Updates

### Utah State University

It has been a busy year for Utah State's Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society!

We kicked off the year by attending the 2016 TWS Conference in Raleigh, NC. We were able to network with a variety of wildlife professionals, listen in on fascinating seminars, and showcase our own research during the Student Research in Progress poster session. Bret Mossman (President) conducted a study about the role of ducks in restoring Great Salt Lake wetlands, Maggie Hallerud and Daniel Johnson (Vice-President and Public Relations Officer, respectively) are researching cougar presence in Logan Canyon using camera traps, and Rylee Jensen (Historian) studied behavioral preferences within a killer whale population in Washington state. We have had many more opportunities to present our undergraduate research at multiple venues, including USU's Student Research Symposium, the Utah Chapter TWS Conference, and Utah Conference on Undergraduate Research.

A week later, we had the opportunity to take students to the Goshute Mountains of Nevada to band raptors with HawkWatch International. This was a great opportunity for students to participate in field



A cougar from Maggie Hallerud's camera trap study



Utah State University students at TWS's Conference in Raleigh



Listening to a HawkWatch biologist after capturing a Red-tailed Hawk in the Goshute Mountains



TWS member Nikki Tatton releasing a Sharp-shinned Hawk at the banding event



## Chapter Updates

### Utah State University (continued)

work, work alongside biologists, and learn how to collect data for current research. We were able to handle and release species such as Red-tailed and Sharp-shinned Hawks.

Other big trips that we take annually include the Utah Chapter TWS Conference and Yellowstone National Park. This year, the Utah Chapter Conference was held in Bryce Canyon, where several students once again presented research and won awards in the process. Bret Mossman even won the best overall student talk, including graduate students! On the other hand, our Yellowstone trip is coming up at the end of April. The Chapter's faculty advisor, Dr. Dan MacNulty, has studied wolves in Yellowstone since their reintroduction and, during this annual trip, he leads students through the Park and teaches us about its ecology, native wildlife, and the Wolf Project's history. And, of course, there's great wildlife viewing in the process!



Listening to Dr. Dan MacNulty in Yellowstone National Park



Educating students about TWS at a booth during the college's opening social



TWS President Bret Mossman presenting at the State Conference



Students building American Kestrel nest boxes



## Chapter Updates

### Wyoming

The Wyoming Chapter of The Wildlife Society has had a successful winter. The Wyoming Chapter recognizes their new Board members including President Holly Copeland, President-Elect Ben Wise, Past-President Matt Hayes, Secretary Daly Edmunds, Treasurer Nyssa Whitford, At-large Board Member Corinna Riginos, At-large Board Member Janet Marschner, Student Chapter Liaison Ian Abernathy, and Newsletter Editor Brian Zinke. The Wyoming Chapter also congratulates Dr. Merav Ben-David from the University of Wyoming for being named the new Editor-In-Chief of The Wildlife Monographs.

The Wyoming Chapter TWS held our annual meeting in Cody, and discussion began about how to increase the visibility of the Wyoming Chapter and engage the Chapter in policy aspects that pertain to wildlife. They have been working to monitor recent house bills (House Bill No. HB271 "Game Bird Farms – Greater Sage-Grouse") and plan to continue to watch for other pertinent legislation.

At the annual meeting, the Wyoming Chapter presented Lindsey Sanders with the 2016 Graduate Student Scholarship. Lindsey is a Master's student at the University of Wyoming in the Wyoming Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit. She studies predator-prey dynamics on natural gas fields in western Wyoming, and how human disturbance affects sagebrush-obligate songbirds. Unfortunately, the Wyoming Chapter is unable to continue funding for the 2017 Fellowship Program, which previously provided excellent opportunities for undergraduates in wildlife. However, the Wyoming Chapter is providing three \$100 scholarships for members who would like to apply for their certification as a TWS Certified Wildlife Biologist, which increases job potential, credibility, training and expertise, and network of colleagues. Please visit the Wyoming Chapter website for more information.

The next annual meeting of the Wyoming Chapter will be December 5-7, 2017 at the Virginian Lodge in Jackson, Wyoming. Please see the new conference website at <http://wytwsconference.org/>.



Lindsey Sanders, University of Wyoming Master's student, received the 2016 Graduate Student Scholarship from the Wyoming Chapter of The Wildlife Society

## Chapter Updates

### University of Wyoming

In December, the University of Wyoming Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society received the International Otter Survival Fund's (IOSF) "Otter Oscar". Since 2001, we have been conducting two yearly surveys in Rocky Mountain National Park; at the end of April and in late September. We survey both banks of the Colorado River for river otter latrine sites. At each site we record the location using handheld GPS units and characterize it with respect to topography, composition of terrestrial vegetation, composition of river substrate, and presence of feces. As the chair of IOSF wrote: "It was an incredibly hard decision to pick a winner, but the judges felt that your group should receive the Oscar for Community Achievement for all the work you have already done with your regular monitoring of the otters in the Rocky Mountain National Park. To continue this project for over 15 years provides such valuable data and, to be honest, there are not that many areas where this is being done." This spring's survey will be on April 30<sup>th</sup>.



Members of the University of Wyoming Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society, along with Student Advisor Merav Ben-David (center), proudly display their "Otter Oscar" award from the International Otter Survival Fund



# Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

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## Upcoming Events

### **Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Deer and Elk Workshop**

Sun Valley, Idaho

May 1-4, 2017

#### WEBSITE AND REGISTRATION

Information forthcoming at [http://www.wafwa.org/workshops/deer and elk workshop/](http://www.wafwa.org/workshops/deer_and_elk_workshop/).

#### VENUE AND LODGING

Sun Valley Resort, Sun Valley, Idaho.

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### **Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Mountain Lion Workshop**

Estes Park, Colorado

May 15-18, 2017

#### WEBSITE AND REGISTRATION

Information forthcoming at [http://www.wafwa.org/workshops/mountain lion workshop/](http://www.wafwa.org/workshops/mountain_lion_workshop/).

#### VENUE AND LODGING

YMCA of the Rockies, Estes Park, Colorado.

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### **TWS 24th Annual Conference**

Albuquerque, New Mexico

September 23-27, 2017

#### WEBSITE AND REGISTRATION

Updates and more information will be available at <http://wildlife.org/tws-24th-annual-conference/> as they become available.

#### VENUE AND LODGING

Holiday Inn, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

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### **2017 Wyoming Chapter Annual Meeting**

Jackson, Wyoming

December 4-8, 2017

#### WEBSITE AND REGISTRATION

Information forthcoming at <http://wytwsconference.org/>.

#### VENUE AND LODGING

Virginian Lodge, Jackson, Wyoming. A room block will be available for \$65-78 per night.





# Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

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## Executive Board Meeting Minutes (December 9, 2016)

President Andrea Orabona called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m.

**Board Members Present:** Andrea Orabona, Laurel Badura, Jim Hayes, Aleshia Fremgen, Stephanie Ferrero, Bob Lanka, Justin Hamilton, Shelly Deisch.

**Newsletter:** Aleshia reported the newsletter deadline was set for December 1, 2016.

**Auction Proceeds from the Colorado Chapter:** Laurel will update the Board via e-mail about whether or not we've received auction proceeds from the Colorado Chapter.

**Social Media:** Aleshia shared updates and information (i.e., Newsletter) about additions to our social media pages.

**CMPS Annual Meeting in 2018:** Nebraska is the host Chapter. Laurel Badura is the point of contact for this.

**Bylaws Changes:** Board members will review the bylaws, use track changes, and then send them to Andrea. She will review all suggestions and send them to The Wildlife Society and the membership for approval. Reviews of the bylaws are due for first review on December 31, 2016. Andrea will review the changes by January 5th and send them back to the board by January 11th. The final date for Board member comments will be Friday, January 13th, 2017.

Bob suggested changes need to also be sent to the membership, as well as Mariah Simmons at The Wildlife Society. The changes need to be sent to membership via the newsletter because the newsletter is the official record. After the bylaws have been published for 30 days, they can then be voted on and approved.

Suggested bylaws changes from Jim include:

Section 2 Clause B—Formalize the name of the student travel grant to the Wayne W. Sandfort Student Travel Grant Award.

Article 4 Section 1—Change the "Society" to "The Wildlife Society"

Article 5 Section 1 Clause B—Remove "Provinces"

Andrea suggested the following Board members be appointed to the following committees:

Audit Committee—Jim Hays and Andrea Orabona

Nominations/Elections—Justin Hamilton

Awards—Jim Hays

Publicity—Aleshia Fremgen

Program Committee—Stephanie Ferrero, Shelly Deisch, and Andrea Orabona

Arrangements Committee—Karie Decker and Shelly Deisch

Membership—Laurel Badura

Resolutions and Position Statements—Lindsey Messinger

Andrea requested that each Board member come up with a name for the elections. She would also like their phone number and e-mail so she can contact them personally.

Andrea suggested we should attend the Section's Annual Meeting in South Dakota (February 2017) and consider having our Annual Business Meeting in South Dakota in August. Jim reminded everyone five 5 Board members need to be at the Annual Business Meeting to have a quorum.

## Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

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### Executive Board Meeting Minutes (December 9, 2016), continued

**Treasurer's Report:** The current account balance is \$11,313.00. Laurel wrote checks for the Student Travel Grant and to reimburse Grant Frost for shipping the plaque to our award winner that could not make the Colorado CMPS meeting. Stephanie motioned to approve the Treasurer's report. Shelly seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Secretary's Report:** The Secretary's report from the September 2016 meeting went out in the newsletter. Jim motioned to approve the Secretary's report. Justin seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**CMPS Website:** Andrea is working with Mariah Simmons to update the CMPS website.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.





# Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

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## Executive Board Meeting Minutes (January 13, 2017)

President Andrea Orabona called the meeting to order at 11:03 a.m. (CST).

**Board Members Present:** Andrea Orabona, Laurel Badura, Jim Hays, Aleshia Fremgen, Shelly Deisch, Stephanie Ferrero, Adam Behney, Justin Hamilton.

**Website:** Andrea requested photos for the CMPS website from Adam and Shelly, who are new Board Members.

**TWS Membership:** Andrea would like to remind Executive Board Members that they must be members of The Wildlife Society Parent Chapter in order to sit on the CMPS Executive Board.

**Secretary's Report:** The Secretary's report from the December 9, 2016 Board Meeting was sent to the Board members for review. Edits were made to the meeting minutes by Andrea and Laurel suggested one change to the meeting minutes during the Board meeting. Jim motioned to accept the meeting minutes as amended. Stephanie seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Update:** The current account balance is \$10,803.66. We received 2016 membership dues from Nebraska, Colorado, and Wyoming. Jim asked if we've received funds from the CMPS meeting auction. Laurel will check. Shelly motioned to accept the Treasurer's report. Justin seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Section Representative to TWS Council:** Andrea reported that we need to nominate two members to run for candidacy for Section Representative to TWS Council. TWS needs candidates by mid-February. This is a major time commitment for people. If we have one very good candidate who is willing to take on this role, Andrea is fine with submitting one name. Andrea suggested submitting Bob Lanka to serve another term. The Board agreed that Bob was a good choice. Andrea will submit this paperwork to put forth Bob's name.

**Awards Candidates:** Jim sent out a nomination for the Professional Award for the Board's review and Andrea received a nomination for the Citizen's Conservation Achievement Award. The Annual Meeting in South Dakota is at the end of February. Additional nominations should be sent to Jim.

**SDTWS/CMPS Annual Meeting updates:** Shelly will work with Nathan Baker to ensure we have a meeting room set up for the Annual Business Meeting luncheon. Shelly asked if we need to send out another reminder that our Annual Business Meeting is coming up. Andrea received feedback from some CMPS members regarding a February meeting. We will have a quorum present of Board members at the Annual Business Meeting. Andrea will send out a remainder to members about the Annual Meeting February 27 – March 1, 2017. Andrea will also touch base with Josh Stafford to see if there's anything else we need to do regarding speakers. Shelly will organize a conference call for Board members and work with Nathan to set up a meeting space.

**Bylaws:** Andrea e-mailed the bylaws changes to the Board for their review. The Board discussed bylaws changes to submit to TWS Parent Chapter for approval. The Board discussed each of the items offered for change and agreed the changes were appropriate. Shelly suggested that each state pick a representative that would interact with the CMPS Executive Board.

**Tenure of Office Discussion:** There is some confusion about the tenure of officers. Andrea proposed that Board Members don't start their term until August. In this way, we avoid the differences in dates of the Annual Business Meeting. Elections take place at least 30 days prior to the start of terms in August. Andrea will send out the proposed changes to membership for their review.

Meeting adjourned at 12:44 p.m. (CST).





# Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

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## Annual Business Meeting Minutes (February 28, 2017)

President Andrea Orabona called the meeting to order at 10:20 AM.

**Executive Board Members Present:** (in person) Andrea Orabona (President), Jim Hays (Vice-President), Justin Hamilton (At-large Board Member), and Shelly Deisch (At-large Board Member); (via conference call) Laurel Badura (Secretary/Treasurer), Stephanie Ferrero (At-large Board Member), Adam Behney (At-large Board Member), and Aleshia Fremgen (Newsletter Editor). Twenty-four CMPS members were also present for the meeting. This constitutes a quorum.

**CMPS Background:** Andrea Orabona gave a presentation on the background of CMPS, reviewed bylaws and proposed changes, discussed our Wayne Sandfort Student Travel Grant, and talked about the Spring Newsletter. Andrea emphasized that the Central Mountains and Plains Section is the liaison between State and Student Chapters and The Wildlife Society (TWS), and that we are here to serve our members.

**2016 CMPS Annual Business Meeting Minutes:** Andrea Orabona read the minutes from the 2016 CMPS Annual Business Meeting in Steamboat Springs, Colorado. Bill Vodehnal made a motion to approve the minutes; Lynn McDaniels seconded the motion; discussion included a request from Gary White to change the word National in the minutes to The Wildlife Society, as TWS is now international in scope; Andrea stated that this could not be changed in the newsletter that has already been sent out, but that we would make those corrections from here on out; motion to approve the minutes passed unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report:** Laurel Badura gave the Treasurer's report. Our total expenses were \$2,435.82, and \$11,011.60 is our total current income. Laurel gave an update on the CD in question. The CD had been cashed out and included in our total income. It looked like an additional \$2,400, but it was actually part of our balance. She does have a few more checks to deposit, which total around \$1,100, and we also have two awards to pay for. Gary White made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report; Bill Vodehnal seconded the motion; motion to approve the Treasurer's report passed unanimously.

**TWS Council Updates:** Bob Lanka, Section Representative to TWS Council, gave a presentation on TWS Council updates. He talked about The Wildlife Society turning 80 years old today; discussed upcoming national meetings; discussed member numbers, statistics, and demographics; reviewed new member benefits; and presented his Section challenge with an emphasis on recruiting new members from First Nation Tribes. Bob also discussed TWS's Leadership Institute; the Give Back Program; the 1,000 Program; and legislative work with the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress. He gave an overview of presidential legacies, and how TWS needs to be involved with wildlife issues regardless of our current President and Administration. He offered quotes by Teddy Roosevelt, Rachel Carson, Aldo Leopold, and the first TWS journal in 1937 that talked about science and advocacy. These were all examples to show that we are facing some of the same challenges that our predecessors faced. Bob made a pitch to join TWS, because we can have a bigger impact on conservation by joining together than we can each accomplish individually.

**Nominations for TWS Council:** Andrea Orabona discussed nominees for the upcoming opening of the Section Representative to TWS Council position. The renewal is in October 2017, and we will be able to vote in June through TWS. The two nominees are Bob Lanka and Adam Ahlers. Thanks to both candidates for their willingness to serve CMPS and TWS in this capacity!

**CMPS Awards:** Jim Hays discussed the CMPS Citizen's Conservation Achievement Award and the Professional Award. Both awards winners are from South Dakota this year and will be at the banquet this evening to receive their awards in person. Jim encouraged everyone to nominate worthy recipients for these awards. Jim also discussed that he chairs the Audit Committee, and that the Treasurer's report was reviewed by the Audit Committee before the meeting and was found to be accurate.

**Bylaws Changes:** Andrea Orabona discussed our CMPS bylaws and that they were reviewed by the Executive Board and updated to include things like conference calls, website information, voting electronically, etc. Andrea will make final suggested changes, send them to TWS for approval, and then make them available via our



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### Annual Business Meeting (February 28, 2017) continued

newsletter so members can vote on accepting the changes.

**Newsletter Update:** Aleshia Fremgen discussed the newsletter and asked for members to send information to her for the 2017 Spring Newsletter. She also discussed changing the deadlines to April 1<sup>st</sup>, July 1<sup>st</sup>, and November 1<sup>st</sup> to better accommodate scheduled events. Newsletters will be released approximately 2 weeks after the deadline. Aleshia also asked for information for the CMPS Facebook page.

**CMPS/Nebraska Joint Meeting Update:** Laurel Badura gave an update on the next CMPS meeting, which will be a joint meeting between CMPS and the Nebraska Chapter of The Wildlife Society. The meeting will be in February or maybe January, following the results of the Nebraska survey on meeting time. Program development ideas can be sent to Laurel. They have discussed having it in Kearney, but no meeting location has been decided upon yet. Updates will be provided by Nebraska TWS to CMPS members about the meeting.

**CMPS Annual Meetings:** Andrea Orabona discussed the trial basis of how states can host the CMPS Annual Meeting: 1) CMPS meeting is held in August separate from the host's State Chapter meeting, 2) State Chapter moves its meeting to August for a joint meeting, or 3) CMPS meeting is moved to be held jointly with the host's State Chapter meeting. This trial suggestion was made at the 2016 Annual Meeting in Steamboat Springs, as some members thought it was costly to have two meetings per year and potentially difficult to get members to attend both. This is a trial basis, and for now the decision is made by the host state.

**Conservation Affairs Network:** Bill Vodehnal discussed the Conservation Affairs Network. There are bi-monthly conference calls to discuss what is taking place at the State Chapter and Section levels, and with TWS. Along with Keith Norris, members have discussed the Farm Bill and the issues of feral horses and burros on public lands. They are in the process of cataloging all position statements, letters, etc. from State Chapters and Sections from the last 10 years. Bill and Andrea Orabona have also been working on a Land and Water Conservation Fund letter; Congress is authorized to spend \$900 million but they have been spending \$300-\$400 million per year to various projects and land acquisitions. These funds go back to the states. Bill has submitted a letter to Andrea for review from the Section. Bill encouraged the South Dakota Chapter to write a letter to their Congressional delegation regarding LWCF allocation, as well. The Wyoming Legislature introduced a bill on privatization of wildlife that would allow permitted individuals to collect up to 1,000 wild Greater Sage-Grouse eggs and raise them in captivity for later release.

**Nominations for CMPS Elections:** Andrea Orabona discussed the opening for President-Elect and two At-large Board Member positions that will come open this August. President-Elect is a 4-year commitment (President-Elect for 1 year, President for 2 years, and Past-President for 1 year). The At-large Board Member position is a 2-year commitment. The terms of Justin Hamilton and Adam Behney (who took over for Lindsey Messenger after she moved out of the Section's region) will end this August. Position descriptions are on the CMPS website and in the bylaws.

**CMPS Banner:** Lynn McDaniels stated that the CMPS banner displayed at the meeting needs to be updated (it still includes 3 Canadian provinces). Andrea Orabona replied that it was found in someone's office and sent to her and is the only banner we currently have, but a new one would be ideal.

**Rangeland Working Group:** Bill Vodehnal is working on the Rangeland Working Group, and asked Section members to be involved in available TWS working groups. It only costs \$5 to join.

**Distinguished Service Award:** Gary White stated that the Section has not nominated a candidate for the Distinguished Service Award for the last 2 years. Gary discussed that each Section is allowed to nominate one member per year, and encouraged the Section members to nominate a deserving candidate. The award is for long-term distinguished service to The Wildlife Society and is to award someone for "always being there". See the website for more details. Award nominations should be sent to Jim Hays.

**Meeting adjourned:** Gary White made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Bill Vodehnal seconded the motion; motion to adjourn the meeting passed unanimously. Andrea Orabona adjourned the meeting at 11:36 AM.



# Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

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## CENTRAL MOUNTAINS AND PLAINS SECTION DIRECTORY

| Position  | Held By              |
|---|----------------------|
| <b>STATE CHAPTERS</b>                           |                      |
| <u><b>COLORADO</b></u>                          |                      |
| President                                       | Pat Magee            |
| Past-President                                  | Tony Gurzick         |
| <u><b>KANSAS</b></u>                            |                      |
| President                                       | Brad Rueschhoff      |
| President-Elect                                 | Justin Hamilton      |
| <u><b>NEBRASKA</b></u>                          |                      |
| President                                       | Jennifer Prenosil    |
| President-Elect                                 | Matt Steffl          |
| <u><b>NORTH DAKOTA</b></u>                      |                      |
| President                                       | Rick Nelson          |
| President-Elect                                 | Rick Warhurst        |
| <u><b>SOUTH DAKOTA</b></u>                      |                      |
| President                                       | Joshua Stafford      |
| President-Elect                                 | Alex Solem           |
| <u><b>UTAH</b></u>                              |                      |
| President                                       | Brock McMillan       |
| President-Elect                                 | Riley Peck           |
| <u><b>WYOMING</b></u>                           |                      |
| President                                       | Holly Copeland       |
| President-Elect                                 | Ben Wise             |
| <b>STUDENT CHAPTERS</b>                         |                      |
| <u><b>CO STATE UNIVERSITY</b></u>               |                      |
| President                                       | Bryce Davis          |
| President-Elect                                 | Griselda Landa-Posas |
| Advisor   | Stewart Breck        |
| Advisor   | Larissa Bailey       |
| <u><b>WESTERN STATE COLORADO UNIVERSITY</b></u> |                      |
| President                                       | Mady Smith           |
| President-Elect                                 | James Antley         |
| Advisor   | Patrick Magee        |

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| <u><b>EMPORIA STATE UNIVERSITY, KS</b></u> |                    |
| President                                  | Tyler Thomsen      |
| President-Elect                            | Chase Beyer        |
| Advisor                                    | William Jensen     |
| <u><b>KS STATE UNIVERSITY</b></u>          |                    |
| President                                  | Caroline Skidmore  |
| President-Elect                            | Richard Rogers     |
| Advisor                                    | David Haukos       |
| <u><b>CHADRON STATE COLLEGE, NE</b></u>    |                    |
| President                                  | Grant Gydesen      |
| President-Elect                            | Will McClintic     |
| Advisor                                    | Teresa Frink       |
| <u><b>UNIVERSITY OF NE - KEARNEY</b></u>   |                    |
| President                                  | Emma Keele         |
| President-Elect                            | Nicole Pauley      |
| Advisor                                    | Dustin Ranglack    |
| <u><b>UNIVERSITY OF NE - LINCOLN</b></u>   |                    |
| President                                  | Courtney Anderson  |
| President-Elect                            | Jessie Hall        |
| Advisor                                    | Dennis Ferraro     |
| <u><b>WAYNE STATE COLLEGE, NE</b></u>      |                    |
| President                                  | Kylie Comba        |
| President-Elect                            | Marty Kreitman     |
| Advisor                                    | Mark Hammer        |
| <u><b>ND STATE UNIVERSITY</b></u>          |                    |
| President                                  | Micki Palmersheim  |
| President-Elect                            | Hanna Karevold     |
| Advisor                                    | Erin Gillam        |
| <u><b>UNIVERSITY OF ND</b></u>             |                    |
| President                                  | Lucas Knowlton     |
| President-Elect                            | John Palarski      |
| Advisor                                    | Jay Boulanger      |
| Advisor                                    | Susan Ellis-Felege |

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| <u><b>VALLEY CITY STATE UNIVERSITY, ND</b></u> |                     |
| President                                      | Brandon Ramsey      |
| President-Elect                                | Joshua Becker       |
| Advisor  | Bob Anderson        |
| <u><b>SD STATE UNIVERSITY</b></u>              |                     |
| President                                      | Heidi Becker        |
| President-Elect                                | DJ Reker            |
| Advisor  | Kent Jensen         |
| <u><b>BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY, UT</b></u>     |                     |
| President                                      | Jordan Rosell       |
| President-Elect                                | Levi Watkins        |
| Advisor  | Thomas Smith        |
| Advisor  | Randy Larsen        |
| <u><b>UNIVERSITY OF UTAH</b></u>               |                     |
| President                                      | Colter Dye          |
| Advisor  | Amy Sibul           |
| <u><b>UT STATE UNIVERSITY</b></u>              |                     |
| President                                      | Bret Mossman        |
| President-Elect                                | Margaret Hallerud   |
| Advisor  | Dan MacNulty        |
| <u><b>WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY, UT</b></u>       |                     |
| President                                      | Austin Grimes       |
| President-Elect                                | Eric Atwood         |
| Advisor  | John Cavitt         |
| <u><b>UNIVERSITY OF WY</b></u>                 |                     |
| President                                      | Britany Wagler      |
| President-Elect                                | Trevor Throrvaldson |
| Advisor  | Merav Ben-David     |