



Summer 2015, Vol 60, No. 1

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CMPS Newsletter

Excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education
wildlife.org/CMPS



Message from the President

CMPS Colleagues,

Summer is quickly approaching, and many of our biologists are headed out to the field. Don't forget to take a minute and soak up all that's out there. For those of us with less time in the field, make it a priority this summer to go check on a field site, assist with nest monitoring or mammal trapping for a few days, help put some goose bands on...whatever you can find to get you out there! Rain or shine, soak it up. We will all get back together this fall and share our stories from afield. Summer will fly by in a hurry! I feel like our various State and Student Chapter meetings have just recently completed, but am already looking forward to the next round, I am so appreciative that these opportunities still

exist. While I wasn't able to make it out to each of our states, I am certain that many new connections were made and older ones reignited during these events. In the fast-paced media-driven environment we find ourselves in these days, I hope we never forget how important it is to all get together in person. If you are able, we do have another opportunity coming up...the CMPS Annual Meeting. Registration is open, and you still have a chance to submit your abstract. Come share your field adventure, latest research findings, or freshly completed manuscripts...tell your story. Thanks to Kansas for getting this all put together for us! Hope to see you all there!



CMPS Annual Meeting—Final Call for Papers

Submission for oral and poster presentations for the 2015 Annual CMPS Meeting is June 26. The meeting will be held Aug 10-13 in Manhattan,

Kansas. Plenary sessions at the conference will address the theme:

“Grassland Strongholds: Biodiversity and Management”

Registration is also open, make your plans now! Complete information can be found online at drupal.wildlife.org/kansas/

Section Business

Nominations to CMPS Board

CMPS is seeking candidates to fill 3 positions that will become vacant during the August CMPS meeting in Manhattan, Kansas. Two At-Large and the President-elect positions will be filled. The two at-large positions are 2-year terms. During odd numbered years, the President Elect is selected and they will succeed to a 2-year term as President after serving a year as President Elect.

The list of candidates follows this paragraph. Please use this link to vote for CMPS leadership: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MRZLRQ>

Thank you to those who entered their names as candidates. Voting will end July 27 (14 days prior to the annual meeting).

President Elect Candidates

Troy Grovenburg



I am an Assistant Professor of Wildlife Ecology in the Department of Natural Resource Management at South Dakota State University (SDSU). I received my B.A. in Economics from Colorado State University, M.B.A. specializing in Operations Management from the University of South Dakota, and my M.S. and Ph.D. in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences from SDSU. My research interests include wildlife-energy interactions, habitat and resource selection, land use changes, landscape modeling, and environmental toxicology. As such, my research covers a range of species including raptors, pheasants, sage-grouse, white-tailed deer, waterfowl, and grassland nesting birds. I have been a member of The Wildlife Society since 2004, am a Life Member of the South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society, and became a Certified Wildlife Biologist in 2013. I recently served as the Secretary/Treasurer of the South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society and am currently the Chair of the Certification Committee for the Chapter.

Andrea Orabona



I earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Wildlife Biology with a minor in Outdoor Recreation from Colorado State University, and a Master of Science degree in Zoology with a Wildlife Conservation and Management concentration from the University of Wyoming. My thesis research was on behavior and dispersal of white-tailed prairie dogs in Shirley Basin, Wyoming to determine, in part, if the population was sufficient to support black-footed ferret reintroduction.

I was fortunate to have several diverse experiences with seasonal work, including black-footed ferret telemetry in Meeteetse, Wyoming; deer mice mark/recapture along the South Platte River in Colorado; Yuma Clapper Rail population research near Yuma, Arizona;

and Kokanee salmon dispersal in the Green River of Wyoming and Utah. Since 1992, I have worked for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department as the Nongame Bird Biologist, specializing in monitoring and management of avian Species of Greatest Conservation Need across the entire State.

My participation in The Wildlife Society began as an undergraduate at CSU, where I served as President, Treasurer, and Legislative Affairs Committee chairperson of the Student Chapter. My commitment to The Wildlife Society has continued for over 3 decades through the Wyoming State Chapter and the Central Mountains and Plains Section. At the state level, I have participated in the Legislative Affairs Committee; served as Newsletter Editor; chaired the Information and Education Committee, Nominations Committee, and Resolutions and Position Statements Committee; and served as Secretary, President-elect, and President. I recently volunteered to chair the Celebrating Our Wildlife Conservation Heritage (COWCH) Committee for the Chapter, and look forward to logging more interviews with the pioneers and pillars of our profession. At the section level, I am serving a term as a Board Member At-Large (expires August 2015), and helped organize the joint meeting of CMPS (60-year anniversary) and WYTWS (40-year anniversary) held in Sheridan, Wyoming in 2014.

I am interested in continuing my service to TWS by running for President-Elect of the Central Mountains and Plains Section. With escalating human-caused pressures on wildlife populations and habitats and declining involvement in and understanding of the natural world by the general public, I feel it is more important than ever to provide a strong, steadfast voice for wildlife conservation.

If elected, one of my goals as President-Elect of CMPS is to continue to strengthen participation in our Section by engaging students, early career biologists, and seasoned professionals in topics and issues that are relevant to wildlife management and conservation in today's world.

At-Large Board Member Candidates

Justin Hamilton



I am a Public Lands Manager for the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism and manage nine properties in northeast Kansas. Prior to my current position, I worked in southwest Kansas as a Public Lands Manager and for a short time as a Wildlife Biologist Technician. I have a Bachelor of Science degree in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Management from Northwest Missouri State University, and a Master's degree in Biology with an emphasis in wildlife management from Fort Hays State University. My thesis research observed the effects of prescribed fire on vegetation, insects, and grassland

nesting birds in western Kansas. As a student I held several temporary positions with entities such as the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service, Missouri Department of Conservation, University of Missouri-Columbia, The Sternberg Museum of Natural History, and the Kansas Wetland Education Center.

My involvement with The Wildlife Society started as an undergraduate student at Northwest Missouri State University. As president and public relations officer for Northwest's wildlife club, I enjoyed getting members involved in the annual workshops provided by the Missouri chapter. I later became involved with the Kansas Chapter as a graduate Student at Fort Hays State University. Currently, I am the newsletter editor, web master, and a board member for the

Kansas Chapter of TWS. Over the past couple years, I have become an Associate Certified Wildlife Biologist through TWS and I have also pursued acceptance into The Wildlife Society's Leadership Program. I am enjoying being more involved with the Kansas Chapter of TWS and I am excited about the possibility of being more involved at the sectional level with CMPS.

Shelly McPherron



Shelly McPherron is an Environmental Biologist with JEO Consulting Group, Inc. in Lincoln, Nebraska. Shelly is the Team Leader for the Environmental Sciences Department where she specializes in threatened and endangered species surveys, wetland and stream restoration projects, GIS, and NEPA. Prior to her current position she has worked across much of the Midwest through seasonal work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, University of Nebraska at Kearney, and the Omaha Henry Doorly Zoo. Some of her experiences included research on the mortality of sandhill cranes at electric transmission lines over the Platte River, population density studies of black-tailed prairie dogs and burrowing owls, and CWD testing of elk. Shelly holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Zoology from Colorado State University and a Master of Science degree in Biology with an emphasis

in Wildlife Biology from the University of Nebraska at Kearney. Her thesis research involved developing and validating a GIS habitat suitability model for the endangered American burying beetle in southwestern Nebraska. Shelly has been involved with The Wildlife Society as a student at Colorado State University and is currently serving as a Board Member At-Large with the Nebraska Chapter. In her spare time Shelly enjoys hiking, rock climbing, snowboarding, and volunteering with outreach groups for environmental education. Shelly looks forward to the opportunity to be more involved at the sectional level of The Wildlife Society.

Lindsey Messinger



I currently work for the Nebraska Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln as the Hunter Survey Specialist and coordinate a multi-year, state-wide effort to assess hunter use of public access lands across Nebraska. Earlier this year, I received my Master of Science degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln where my research focused on assessing immediate behavioral responses of ring-necked pheasants to non-consumptive predation risk in the form of recreational hunting. I received a Bachelor of Science degree in Zoology and Environmental Studies from Ohio Wesleyan University in 2006 and a Master of Science degree in Geographic Information Science from the University

of Denver in 2012. I have worked for state and federal agencies in Idaho and Colorado prior to my graduate and professional work in Nebraska including the Bureau of Land Management, Colorado State University, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Colorado Division of Wildlife. My involvement with The Wildlife Society is varied. I currently serve at the Central Mountains and Plains section representative on the editorial advisory board for *The Wildlife Professional*, as secretary for the Early Career Professional working group, and as co-chair on the Information and Education committee with the Nebraska Chapter. I will have the opportunity to be a part of the 2015 Leadership Institute this summer and fall and look forward to serving our society in additional capacities. As a recent graduate student and an early career professional, I am particularly interested in increasing involvement and opportunities for the newest cohort of

wildlife professionals. Outside of work, I enjoy hunting, hiking, traveling, and spending time with my dog.

Manda Walters



Manda Walters, is a Communications Specialist for Colorado Department of Natural Resources - Division of Parks and Wildlife. Prior to her current position she worked as a science teacher at Rapid City Area Schools in South Dakota and an evaluator for the University of Wisconsin - Population Health Institute. Manda serves as a public affairs noncommissioned officer in the Colorado National Guard and deployed with the South Dakota National Guard to Afghanistan in 2013. Manda holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and a Master's in Human & Community Resources from University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point. As a student she served as a teaching assistant to the UWSP Department of Biology and taught undergraduate biology courses. In addition she served as a student ambassador, student government representative and CWD sampler. Manda grew up on the banks of the Mississippi and continues to enjoy the outdoors through fishing, hiking, mountain biking and camping in Colorado with friends and family.

CMPS Proposed Bylaw Changes

A simple change to the CMPS bylaws was proposed to help clarify roles for administrating the Annual CMPS Meeting. Please review the changes below (in red) and cast your vote when voting for CMPS Board Members.

Section 3. FINANCE – The Section shall be financed with funds derived from dues, special assessments, work projects, contributions, and an auction held at the Annual Meeting. **The Executive Board will confer with each hosting state regarding arrangements for auction proceeds at least 6 months prior to the Annual Meeting.** Such funds shall be received and disbursed by the Secretary-Treasurer under the supervision of the Executive Board.

CMPS Student Travel Grant

The deadline for the 2015 Wayne Sandfort Student Travel Grant is **31 July, 2015**.

The Central Mountains and Plains Section (CMPS) of The Wildlife Society (TWS) announce the availability of travel grants for students planning on attending the Society's 2015 Annual Conference in Winnipeg, Canada. Travel grants of up to \$500 each will be awarded to a limited number of student chapters of TWS to assist with expenses incurred 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 31** to Karie Decker (karie.decker@nebraska.gov). Required application information <http://drupal.wildlife.org/CMP/Student%20Travel%20Grant>

CMPS Award Nominations – June 15

The Central Mountains and Plains Section (CMPS) of The Wildlife Society gives two awards annually to honor the accomplishments of worthy individuals. The Professional Award is given to a professional individual or group and the Citizen's Conservation Achievement Award is given to an individual or group of citizens to recognize an outstanding contribution towards furthering the enhancement of wildlife endeavors within the Section. Nominations for an award must include a nomination letter emphasizing the basis for determining 'an outstanding contribution towards furthering the enhancement of wildlife endeavors within the Section.' In addition, at least one supporting letter of nomination is required (from a separate individual) and inclusion of a detailed Resume/CV (for individual nominations) of the nominee is encouraged. Nominations should be emailed to the CMPS Vice President, Jim Hays (jim_hays@tnc.org). Nominations must be received by June 15, 2015 to be considered. Complete information is available on our website: <http://drupal.wildlife.org/cmp/sites/wildlife.org.cmp/files/images/Awards%20Criteria.pdf>

Thank you and Good Luck Amanda!



Amanda Hicks, CMPS Newsletter Editor, has recently taken a job in Wyoming and had to, unfortunately, resign as Editor. She has been an active member of her Student Chapter (Chadron State College), the Nebraska Chapter, and the Section at various levels since her freshman year. Her service and dedication to TWS in Nebraska will be missed! Fortunately, she did not go far, and keep in touch through WY TWS. I asked her to sum up her thoughts/experiences about her passion for wildlife and TWS and was so motivated, I thought I'd share (with her permission, of course). We want to send Amanda the best of luck and thank her for all she's done.

I grew up in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. It was a given from the start that I would grow up to be involved with wildlife somehow. I started volunteering for wildlife related opportunities as early as I possibly could. Growing up, I always knew being a wildlife biologist was what I wanted to do. When I got to college at Chadron State College in Chadron, Nebraska, I got involved with the Wildlife Club there advised by Teresa Frink. She eventually became my college advisor and I switched from a General Biology Major to a Comprehensive Major in Rangeland Wildlife Management. My freshman year I was highly involved with the Wildlife Club. I went to every event and volunteer opportunity I could. That was also the first year I went to a Nebraska Chapter of The Wildlife Society Meeting at Ponca State Park. That was quite the experience! At the end of my freshman year, I was elected to be the Secretary/Treasurer of the Wildlife Club for my sophomore year. I served those duties and went to my second Nebraska Chapter of TWS meeting in Chadron and my first TWS Student Conclave in Laramie, Wyoming. I had a blast and couldn't wait to keep learning about wildlife and volunteering any chance I had. At the end of my sophomore year, I was elected to be the president of the Wildlife Club for my junior year. Being president was something I looked forward to very much. I loved being able to hold meetings and let the students know what was going on around the area and hold events such as a photography contest, ice fishing tournament, and elk shed raffle. We all attended the Nebraska Chapter of TWS meeting in Kearney and the TWS Student Conclave at

Mahoney State Park in Nebraska. I was also asked that year to be the newsletter editor for the Central Mountains and Plains Section of TWS. I accepted and was excited to be able to volunteer for another great organization. The end of my presidency came and it was passed along to Brandon Werner. He did a great job! My senior year I still attended Wildlife Club meetings and attended the joint meeting between CMPS and Wyoming TWS in Sheridan, Wyoming as well as the Nebraska TWS meeting in Ogallala. All of these meetings and volunteer opportunities have been great networking and learning opportunities for me. I am grateful for all of the people in my life who have encouraged me to keep learning and pursuing a wildlife biologist title.

Now that I have graduated with my Bachelor's Degree, I am working for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department in Lander as a Nongame SPV Technician. This temporary position is a great starting point for me. I will be working around Meeteetse, Wyoming with small mammals and white-tailed prairie dogs taking samples to help USGS determine if the vaccine for plague is working or not. The ultimate goal is to be able to eventually get black-footed ferrets back to Meeteetse. The second part of my job is going to be in Shirley Basin, Wyoming spotlighting and capturing black-footed ferrets. Data will be collected from the ferrets and then they will be released where they were caught. I am beyond excited for this opportunity. I plan on going to graduate school...eventually. I cannot thank everyone enough who has helped me along the way. To name just a few, Steve and Jennifer Hicks, Teresa Frink, Bill Vodehnal, Pam Sprenkle, Jim Neely, Clint Atkinson, Karie Decker, and Lee Jones. There are so many more and I am grateful for all of them. I appreciate the opportunity I had to be the CMPS newsletter editor. I regret having to give it up because I will be out in the field for several months. The Wildlife Society is a fantastic organization that everyone in the wildlife field should be aware of and involved in. I hope to see everyone at future TWS meetings! So long, and God bless!

Amanda Hicks

Chapter Updates

Western State Colorado University



Photo: TWS Members and Danny Zadra of CPW during our snow-tracking workshop

Western State Colorado University's Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society started-off our spring semester with a well-attended presentation by Sara Miller (USFS) on Canada Lynx & Re-Introduction in Colorado. This presentation was a launching platform for students interested in applying for an internship with the US Forest Service, monitoring Lynx movements and habitat use of species in the Cochetopa area. A couple of weeks later, the amazingly knowledgeable Danny Zadra (CPW) along with Matt Vasquez (USFS), Brandon Diamond (CPW), Nick Gallowich (CPW), and Sara Miller (USFS), led students from our chapter on a snow tracking workshop in the State Wildlife Area.

In early February, our Student Chapter President, along with our faculty advisor and recent Western graduate, Kit Haven (Graduated from Western this past December), attended the Colorado Chapter of The Wildlife Society Annual Meeting in Grand Junction. Kit won Best Undergraduate Poster for the entire State Chapter!



Later in February, several members of our student chapter participated in a Hunter's Education Course led by Colorado Parks and wildlife and BLM biologists.

In the end of February, we collaborated with Tri-Beta, Chemistry Club, and Pre-Health Club to host a WSCU Biology annual tradition - Biology Bonanza! – This is an annual community event designed for children to participate

and learn about various aspects of biology and science with fun individual workshops where they can create and play in an educational way. This year's Biology Bonanza was held at the Gunnison Community Elementary School, and we hosted over 70 kids!

During March we had some fun of our own, with a moonlight snowshoe around a popular local trail at Hartman's Rocks, and a few of our members attended the Sand Hill Crane Festival in Monte Vista, CO. April was also busy for our chapter! We began the month with a trip to Denver to visit the Botanical Gardens, the Aquarium, and the Museum of Natural History. On April 21, we hosted local District Wildlife Managers Brandon Diamond (CPW) and Nick Gallowich (CPW) for an evening presentation about what it's like to work as a



Wildlife Manager and many stories from their time in the field.

The finale of our chapter's spring semester occurred on April 24, when we held our biggest fundraiser of the year - Benefit Bingo at the Gunnison Elk's Lodge. This was an incredibly successful joint event with Tri-Beta Biological Honor Society. Over 70 people showed-up to play Bingo and support the two clubs. What a great way to round out a fantastic year with the WSCU Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society!



Our chapter was able to attend these events, projects, workshops and conference due to the funding provided from the Colorado Chapter of the Wildlife Society which provided funds for travel and lodging to the Colorado Chapter meeting. WSCU's Thornton Undergraduate Research Program also assisted in travel and lodging costs to this meeting. In addition, students sold coffee and baked goods on Monday mornings weekly from August-December. CMPS generously offered a travel stipend for the national meeting, but students were not able to attend.

May 9, 2015

Thank you for supporting the University of Wyoming Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society as we attended the Western Student Regional Conclave at Texas A&M University Kingsville. This year we excelled in many of the competitions and activities and placed 3rd overall:



Members of the University of Wyoming Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society displaying their “uniforms” at Conclave 2015 in Kingsville, Texas. These colorful bandanas and unique t-shirts were designed by Lindy Collamer (in green).

- As a group, we ranked 2nd place in poster presentations
- Rebecca Burton – 1st place in animal photography
2nd place in shooting .22 rifle
- James Erdmann – 1st place in orienteering
- James Erdmann and Rhiannon Jakopak – 2nd place in team orienteering
- Sara Locker – 2nd place in landscape photography
3rd place in painting/drawing
- Logan Merrill – 1st place in archery
1st place in individual plant identification
2nd place in the free form picture category
- Nicole Meyer – 1st place in painting/drawing
- Bobby Riotto – 1st place fly casting
- Shea Williams – 3rd place in shotgun shooting
- Shea Williams and Garrett Smith – 2nd place in radio telemetry
- Kyle Wilson – Honorable mention for the longest fly fishing cast

The conference hosted some interesting field trips including a visit the Welder Wildlife Refuge where we went kayaking and searching for reptiles; a tour of a deer breeding facility at the Las Palmas Exotic Ranch; a visit to the red drum/spotted sea trout hatchery and fishing; and workshops at the Game Warden Academy. All these activities were also enriched by the chance to meet and interact with our professional peers from 14 other universities and colleges across the west.



Bobby Riotto (red bandana) and James Erdmann (yellow bandana) explain Bobby's poster to judge Dr. Scott Henke.

Shea Williams (left) and Logan Merrill (middle) discuss one of their posters with two of the judges.



The University of Wyoming Conclave shooting team displaying their weapons. From left: Logan Merrill, Shea Williams, Garrett Smith, and Rebecca Burton with assistant Nicole Davis.

After spending the first night of the trip to Conclave with Logan Merrill's parents in Colorado, we headed south to Texas. On our way we stopped at the Comanche National Grassland for a short hike and presentation by Garrett Smith on management of Canada geese. From there we continued to Palo Duro

State Park south of Amarillo Texas, where Nicole Davis educated us about horned lizards. We spent the night camping and eating around a campfire.



Kayaking (above) and some of the amphibians and reptiles (below) at the Welder Wildlife Refuge



On our way back from Kingsville we stopped at Aransas National Wildlife Refuge. A 2.5-hour boat trip along the coast provided unparalleled observations of Whooping Cranes, bottlenose dolphins, Roseate Spoonbills, nesting Great Blue Herons, and many other fantastic birds. James Erdmann presented a talk on barrier islands. Kyle Wilson described the conservation efforts of Whooping Cranes. The ill effects of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill were covered by Rhiannon Jakopak, while Rebecca Burton discussed the conservation of sea turtles. Last but not least Ana Bode presented on the recovery of Brown Pelicans while we were under attack by large swarms of wasps.



The red rocks of Palo Duro (left) and dinner around the campfire (right)

At Aransas National Wildlife Refuge we met with biologists Donald (Keith) Westlake and James Panaccione who explained the mission of the refuge, the effort to conserve Whooping Cranes, the challenges of managing natural resources amid oil and gas development, and problems with invasive species. Their insights were interrupted by yawning of a couple of alligators, calls of a bull frog and the prancing of a rail. Our appreciation of American alligators increased following a thorough presentation

by Bobby Riotto. The best observation we had was of a great blue heron swallowing a huge fish. It took at least 20 minutes.



Wildlife observations in Aransas National Wildlife Refuge from aboard the M/V Skimmer

After spending the night at Stephen F. Austin State Park (and meeting Nicole Meyers' parents to celebrate her birthday), we arrived early in the morning at Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge. Refuge manager Terry Rossignol and biologist John Magera with their colleagues drove us to

watch the birds lekking. It was an amazing experience although a bit discouraging given that, as Karly Higgins shared with us, the population persists only as a result of supplementation with captive-bred individuals. We learned about soft-release practices, efforts to eradicate fire ants, and habitat management.



We continued north to Wichita Mountains National Wildlife Refuge, where Nick Plata the environmental education specialist guided us through some of the remarkable landscapes of the refuge. We saw elk (shedding their antlers), the purest Texas longhorns, and the famous heart-shaped rock. We learned about river otter reintroductions in the west from Sara Locker, and Shea Williams told us about the history of bison management.



Without your support, this successful trip would not have been possible – many thanks!!

Ana, Bobby, Garrett, James, Karly, Kyle, Lindy, Logan, Nicole (D), Nicole (M), Nicole (R), Rebecca, Rhiannon, Sarah, and Shea

UPCOMING EVENTS

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

2015 Annual Meeting of the Central Mountains and Plains Section of
The Wildlife Society



Hosted by

The Kansas Chapter of The Wildlife Society and Kansas State University



Submission Deadline: 26 June 2015

This is the **final** call for oral and poster presentations for the 2015 Annual Meeting of the Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society being held 10-13 August at the Bluemont Hotel in Manhattan, Kansas. Plenary sessions at the conference will address the theme:

“Grassland Strongholds: Biodiversity and Management”

We are accepting abstracts for oral and poster presentations by professionals and students on wildlife-related topics. Presentations pertaining to grassland wildlife and management are encouraged.

Abstracts must be submitted electronically using the template on the attached page or from the Kansas Chapter of The Wildlife Society webpage on the call for papers link

drupal.wildlife.org/Kansas

Abstracts are due **26 June 2015**

Oral presentations: 20 minutes are allotted for each presentation; 15-minute presentation followed by 5 minutes for questions and answers. Oral presentations are limited to Microsoft PowerPoint; no other formats will be accepted.

Poster presentations: should be no more than 4 feet by 4 feet in size.

Email abstract information as a Microsoft Word attachment to:

Justin Hamilton at Justin.hamilton@ksoutdoors.com

Direct questions regarding this call for papers to:
Justin Hamilton
Kansas Dept. of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism
206 N. 1600 Rd.
Lecompton, KS 66050
785-887-6882 (office) 785-256-5260 (cell)
Justin.hamilton@ksoutdoors.com

Instructions:

- Provide all required information in one Word document
- Provide the presentation title, author(s) name, authors' affiliations, and contact author's postal and email addresses
- **Abstract text cannot exceed 250 words**
- Authors will be notified the status of their submission via email by 13 **July 2015**
- Email abstract as a Microsoft Word attachment to: Justin Hamilton at:
Justin.hamilton@ksoutdoors.com
- **ABSTRACTS ARE DUE 26 JUNE 2015**

Abstract Example

- 1. Submitter/Author:** Justin Hamilton
- 2. STUDENT OR PROFESSIONAL:** Professional
- 3. Institution:** Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism
- 4. Mail Address:** 24421 Parallel Road Tonganoxie, KS 66086
- 5. Telephone/Fax Numbers:** Phone 913-845-2665
- 6. Email Address:** justin.hamilton@ksoutdoors.com
- 7. Submitting for the ORAL or POSTER session:** Oral presentation

EFFECTS OF PRESCRIBED BURNING ON GRASSLAND NESTING BIRDS ON CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM AREAS IN GOVE COUNTY, KANSAS

Justin V Hamilton^{1*}, Randy D. Rodgers¹, Elmer J. Finck²

¹Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism, 512 Southeast 25th Avenue, Pratte, KS 67124, USA

²Fort Hays State University, 600 Park Street, Hays, KS, 67601, USA

The effects of prescribed burning on grassland nesting birds in the tallgrass prairie are well documented. Research shows some species to be more abundant in areas that have been burned recently, while others are more abundant in less disturbed grasslands. However, limited research has been conducted on the effects of prescribed burning on grassland nesting birds in the mixed grass prairie. The objectives of our research were to assess the effects of prescribed burning on vegetation and on nest site selection and nest success. In 2008, we monitored 80 nests from 9 avian species in burned and unburned areas of CRP. In 2009, we monitored 109 nests from 7 avian species on burned, unburned, and one-year post-burned areas of CRP. Our results showed no significant difference in nest density and daily survival probability of grassland nesting birds on burned and unburned areas in 2008 and burned, unburned, and one-year post-burned areas in 2009. Significant differences in vegetation characteristics occurred between burned and unburned areas in 2008, and among burned, unburned, and one year post burned areas in 2009. A significant difference in vegetation characteristics between nest sites and random points was also observed in 2008 with percentages of forbs being greater on random sites. Our results indicated prescribed burning had no effect on nest density or daily survival probability of grassland nesting birds. However, burning did have a significant difference on vegetation characteristics, which might have contributed to differences in insect biomass.

2015 Annual Meeting of the Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society
“Grassland Strongholds: Biodiversity and Management”
10-13 August 2015, Manhattan, Kansas

Hosted by the *Kansas Chapter of The Wildlife Society* and *Kansas State University*

Tentative Schedule and Venues

| Dates & times | Event | Venue |
|----------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| <i>Monday, Aug. 10</i> | | |
| 0800-1200 | Workshop: FRAGSTATS | Bluemont Hotel |
| 1200-1300 | Lunch | Local Manhattan eateries |
| 1300-1700 | Workshop: R | Bluemont Hotel |
| 1300-1800 | Registration | Bluemont Hotel |
| 1700-1900 | Dinner | Local Manhattan eateries |
| 1900-2200 | Opening social | Flint Hills Discovery Center |
| <i>Tuesday, Aug. 11</i> | | |
| 0600-0800 | Early-bird Field Trip | Konza Prairie Biological Station |
| 0700-0815 | Registration | Bluemont Hotel |
| 0800-0815 | Welcome | Bluemont Hotel |
| 0815-0915 | Plenary I: Ecology of the Flint Hills | Bluemont Hotel |
| 0915-0930 | Break | Bluemont Hotel |
| 0930-1150 | Concurrent paper sessions (20 min slots) | Bluemont Hotel |
| 1150-1320 | Lunch | Local Manhattan eateries |
| 1320-1500 | Concurrent paper sessions (20 min slots) | Bluemont Hotel |
| 1500-1520 | Break | Bluemont Hotel |
| 1520-1700 | Panel discussion I: T/E Species issues | Bluemont Hotel |
| 1800-2200 | Supper, poster session, and social | Konza Prairie Biological Station |
| <i>Wednesday, Aug. 12</i> | | |
| 0600-0800 | Early-bird Field Trip | Bolton Wildlife Area |
| 0700-0815 | Registration | Bluemont Hotel |
| 0800-0815 | Announcements | Bluemont Hotel |
| 0815-0915 | Plenary II: Management of Tallgrass Prairie | Bluemont Hotel |
| 0915-0930 | Break | Bluemont Hotel |
| 0930-1150 | Concurrent paper sessions (20 min slots) | Bluemont Hotel |
| 1150-1320 | Lunch | Local Manhattan eateries |
| 1320-1500 | CMPS board/member meeting | Bluemont Hotel |
| 1500-1520 | Break | Bluemont Hotel |
| 1520-1700 | Panel discussion II: Tools for Conservation of Private Lands | Bluemont Hotel |
| 1700-1800 | Pre-banquet social and raffle bids | Bluemont Hotel |
| 1800-2300 | Banquet, Plenary III, and Raffle | Bluemont Hotel |
| <i>Thursday, Aug. 13</i> | | |
| 0800-1200 | Field Trip | Tallgrass Prairie Nat'l Preserve |

Central Mountains and Plains Section Directory

| COLORADO | | | |
|---|-----------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
| State Chapter | | | |
| President | Tony Gurzick | tony.gurzick@hotmail.com | |
| President Elect | | | |
| Past President | Ryan Monello | ryan_monello@nps.gov | |
| Secretary | Chase Taylor | | |
| Treasurer | Nathan Seward | Nathan.seward@state.co.us | |
| Colorado State University Student Chapter | | | |
| President | Savanna Smith | savsmith@rams.colostate.edu | |
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