CMPS Newsletter

Excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education http://joomla.wildlife.org/CMP

Photo by Mark Gocke

Fall 2013 Volume 57 Number 3



CMPS Officers

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William Vodehnal

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Karie Decker

Vice President:

Mike Conover

Secretary/Treasurer:

Laurel Badura

TWS Council Representative:

Gary White

Board Members at Large:

Emily Munter

Andrea Orabona

Randy Larsen

Max Post van der Burg

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A Message from the President William Vodehnal—Nebraska

Fall is a cool time of year and a time when I finally take a moment to enjoy my favorite pastimes and reflect on the year. Due to a busy fall meeting schedule, last Saturday was my first opportunity to enjoy one of my favorite fall sports, waterfowl hunting on a Nebraska Sandhills wetland. This particular morning was splendid and beyond my expectations. As I was toting decoys and all the other gear necessary for the hunt in the dark of night, the noise around the



marsh was deafening and naturally brought a smile to my face. Coyotes howling in the background soon gave way to the serenade of white-fronted geese, Canada geese, Sandhill cranes, occasional pheasant crow, grebes, and numerous mallards, shovelers, pintails, and other ducks. I still get a chill with the whirl of wings flying directly overhead. I was in utopia.

When activity began to lull, I took time to pour a cup of coffee and enjoy my surroundings. I looked over to my favorite canine friend, Clyde, and he was as intent on scanning the skies for approaching fowl as the time we first sat down on the marsh. He was so focused with the passion of the hunt that he seemed to be in a trance. I only wondered what was going through his mind, but knew he was living the dream and passionate about his task at hand.

I couldn't help but think if I've been as passionate about the wildlife profession as I should be on a daily basis after 32 years in the profession. Have I contributed the best way possible to mentoring others seeking a chance to work within this profession I enjoy? Have I worked to expand my personal professional development along my journey or just accept the day to day duties I must perform? I continually strive to push myself and engage in the profession and The Wildlife Society is a great means to do so.

I believe many other fellow biologists and students ask themselves the same questions and may have grown complacent in their careers. I encourage you to engage and be more involved within the profession. One means of engaging is to attend state chapter, section, and annual meetings of The Wildlife Society. I've been attending many state chapter meetings in the Central Mountains and Plains Section and have been enthused by the quality of work

A Message from the President

presented and networking that occurs during these meetings. The annual meeting in Milwaukee was great for networking and there seemed to be a particular focus on student/professional interaction. Mentoring youth is a major focus of mine.

Dr. Jon Haufler began his term as President of The Wildlife Society during the meeting in Milwaukee. He stated four objectives during his President's Address that apply to all of us in the Society.

His objectives were:

- 1. Maintain focused on the financial health of The Wildlife Society (TWS).
- 2. Increase membership in the parent society from agency biologists. Why doesn't everyone belong?
- 3. Evaluating the future of TWS journals under digital publishing and open access environments. How do we do a better job of spreading the knowledge we've learned?
- 4. Continue efforts to expand the diversity of TWS membership.

Well, I better close on my reflection and get back to the matters at hand. Clyde seems to have spotted something coming my way and I hope to not disappoint him again. He looks at me cross-eyed when I miss. Have a great fall and continue doing the great things you do for wildlife.

Bill

Central Mountains and Plains Section Quiz: Do You Know Your Section?

Compiled by Andrea Orabona, Central Mountains and Plains Section Board Member At-large from the Central Mountains and Plains Section web site http://wildlife.org/cmp/

- 1) When and where did the Central Mountains and Plains Section (CMPS) start?
- 2) What 7 States make up CMPS?
- 3) How many CMPS members were there in 1955? How many in 2010?
- 4) When were the CMPS Bylaws first organized? How many amendments have there been since then? What is the date of the current Bylaws?
- 5) How many items are in the CMPS Mission Statement and the Strategic Plan? Does CMPS use a "Section Involvement Decision Matrix"?
- 6) What are the objectives of the CMPS?
- 7) How many CMPS Annual Meetings have taken place? Are Proceedings available?

Central Mountains and Plains Section Quiz: Do You Know Your Section?

- 8) How many Position Statements has CMPS submitted and on what subjects?
- 9) What newsletters are available electronically on the CMPS web site?
- 10) Does CMPS have a travel grant program for students?
- 11) How many individuals or entities from Wyoming have received an award from CMPS over the years?
- 12) What are the two ways you can join CMPS?
- 13) Who is your current CMPS Executive Board of Directors?

Section Business

The Wildlife Society Council Report

Gary C. White, Central Mountain and Plains Section Representative

TWS Council met October 4–5 and 9 at the 2013 annual TWS meeting in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. In addition, Council members participated in a 2-day strategic planning meeting prior to official Council meetings. Needless to say, it was a long haul.

TWS Budget

As in past years, the budget was one of the main items of discussion for Council. Executive Director Williams provided a details budget in an Excel spreadsheet, along with a series of scenarios on how various cuts to the budget would affect the long-term health of the Society. Council approved a budget that is pretty bare bones, but with one difference from past years. Rather than just worrying about cutting expenses, we approved a plan to build revenues.

A provisional membership category was approved to be implemented in the new Membership Portal on the TWS web site. The strategy is to get cooperating subunits to include their membership database in the TWS membership database (remember the Association Management System "Member Nation" from last spring's newsletter?).

Given that generally 50% of the subunit membership is not a member of the parent society, the plan is to increase membership by getting some of these folks to join. After all, the subunits only exist because the parent society exists. So, supporting the parent society seems like the logical and reasonable thing to do. Council believes that this marketing strategy will pay dividends and increase membership, given that various enticements will be offered to join. The provisional membership category is also planned to be used to recruit agency professionals as well. At the moment, some reprogramming of Member Nation is being done to accommodate the provisional membership category.

Creating a Conservation Affairs Network - A New Way of Doing Business at All Levels

The following is information I've taken from TWS Government Affairs and Partnerships staff about a new Conservation Affairs Network that Council endorsed. I have put a copy of the draft document on the CMPS web site if you want to study the plan in more detail:

http://wildlife.org/CMP/sites/wildlife.org.CMP/files/documents/Conservation%20Affairs% 20Network.pdf

Things are changing in the world of Conservation Affairs for The Wildlife Society. In an effort to support and strengthen our subunits, the Government Affairs and Partnerships staff are working with members to develop a Conservation Affairs Network focused on the Section level. Traditionally, each TWS subunit has functioned independently when dealing with conservation affairs related issues — only engaging headquarters or neighboring subunits when deemed necessary. For some, this process has worked fine. For others, the lack of a communication structure or standard guidance has posed a difficult barrier to overcome. Depending on the scale and complexity, volatile nature, or comfort and understanding of a particular issue and the players involved many subunits and members have shied away from heavily engaging in the conservation affairs arena. Although it is up to any given subunit to engage in conservation affairs, the lack of a cohesive effort has its downsides for each of us as wildlife professionals.

TWS staff recognizes this difficulty and are looking forward to working with each of our subunits to create a system of support that works! At the TWS Annual Conference in Portland, staff met with representatives from each Section to discuss how a Conservation Affairs Network could function. Essentially, the network features coordination at the Section level through the creation of consistent Conservation Affairs Committees (CACs) that are comprised of representatives from each Chapter within the Section. The Section CAC would be responsible for tracking and taking action, if appropriate, on regional issues of concern, shopping down support to Chapters who need assistance addressing issues that are too volatile or sticky on a local level for direct Chapter involvement, and shopping up regional issues that may have national significance to headquarters to address. The Section CAC would also serve as the hub for communication and inter-subunit collaboration for a particular issue. Chapters would, of course, still function with a high level of autonomy and could tailor a system to address conservation affairs issues in a way that best meets the unique needs of an individual chapter.

The Conservation Affairs Network is still in the planning and assessment stage. Your Section leadership and TWS staff need to know if this is a priority for you and your colleagues. We also need to know what is working on the Chapter and Section level, where extra support is needed, and what additional roles such a network can fill. If designed correctly, with the right member input and strong grassroots support, TWS' Conservation Affairs Network can help decrease workload for every subunit currently engaged in conservation affairs, reduce duplicative efforts, increase resource sharing, increase communication and inter-subunit collaboration, and provide a mechanism to better engage all levels of our Society on critical issues that affect

natural resource management and the wildlife profession.

If you are interested in learning more about conservation affairs or getting engaged with your Section or Chapter's CAC or the Conservation Affairs Network please contact your Section or Chapter President or TWS Government Affairs Staff (laura@wildlife.org or terra@wildlife.org) for more information.

The Wildlife Professional

The Wildlife Professional (TWP) is managed through the Rules of Governance for magazine. Part of the arrangement involves the Editorial Advisory Board (EAB). Council approved a change in the Rules of Governance that would have the EAB take a more active role in advising the Editor-in-Chief Lisa Moore and TWS Staff on the future content of TWP issues and review of proposed articles. EAB will continue to be a reviewer for articles and will recommend authors for selected topics. The EAB will help the EIC/TWS staff with the potential theme/content of the TWP in advance based on discussion during the quarterly meetings/conference calls. This will help provide incentive for TWS members to serve on the EAB. The EAB will also be made up of more subject-matter experts to provide review of TWP articles.

In addition, the Council Subcommittee on Publications will be taking a more active role in working with the EIC and EAB. Specifically, one member of the Subcommittee is identified to be actively involved in EAB and TWP meetings and correspondence and will alert Council on potentially controversial issues or other significant issues in a timely fashion.

These changes were endorsed by Council to further enhance the already successful TWP.

Extended Agency License for TWS Journals

Wiley-Blackwell has developed a new state agency subscription capability: unlimited electronic access to *Journal of Wildlife Management*, *Wildlife Monographs*, and *Wildlife Society Bulletin* at all state sites for one price of \$4,500 a year. It looks like this capability will also be rolled into the agency membership category. So, state agency folks, think about this option as something for your agency.

NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR CMPS COUNCIL

The CMPS board is responsible for seeking nominations for the TWS CMPS Council position currently held by Gary White. The bylaws state that a representative can serve on Council for only two 3-year terms and Gary will complete his second term in the fall 2014. Thank you Gary for your excellent service on Council for CMPS. Gary has offered to chair the nomination committee to seek candidates, thus send your nominations to Gary White gwhite@warnercnr.colostate.edu by January 1, 2014.

The Wildlife Society-Central Mountains and Plains Section Annual Conference, Cedar City, Utah Business Meeting, August 14, 2013

Section Representative: Gary C. White, Colorado

President: William Vodehnal, Nebraska

Past-President: Nicole Frey, Utah
Vice-President: Mike Conover, Utah
Secretary-Treasurer: Lisa Church, Utah

Newsletter Editor: Sara A. Peterson, Nebraska

Board Members: Randy Larsen, Utah; Max Post van der Burg, North Dakota; Sarah Bucklin, Wyoming;

Karl Grover, Kansas

Program: Mike Conover and Nicole Frey, Utah

Arrangements: Nicole Frey, Utah

Dues: \$1.00

Meeting called to order by Bill Vodehnal, with minutes recorded by Nicki Frey at 10:30 am MST. Board members in attendance: Bill Vodehnal, Nicki Frey, Mike Conover, and Randy Larsen. A quorum of the Board was not present.

Treasurer's report given by Lisa Church

Beginning balance on October 4, 2012: \$11,500.32

Total Deposits \$1,063.00

Total Debits \$2,837.02

Balance as of August 8, 2013: \$9,726.30

Additional savings balance: \$2,500.00

Membership dues have apparently not been paid by the Utah Chapter – Vodehnal will investigate.

Committee Reports

Audit-Vodehnal advised he would meet with Church for audit and invited others in membership to participate if they desired. No official audit conducted.

Membership-Vodehnal discussed purpose of Membership Committee and encouraged universities and current members to encourage students and others to join student and state chapters and parent TWS.

Nominations and Elections-Vodehnal advised voting for board positions and by-laws revision ends at the end of Old Business. Paper ballots were given to those desiring to vote. He reviewed each of the candidates and gave brief biological sketch along with intent of by-laws revision.

Publicity-Current Newsletter editor, Sara Peterson, has left Nebraska for the east coast and Vodehnal is looking for new Newsletter Editor; Peterson has provided template, thus transition should be easy.

Resolutions and Statement-Vodehnal spoke briefly about letters in most recent CMPS newsletters
1st Issue concerning removing wildlife as authorized purpose for management of Missouri River by COE; 2nd Issue relative to cap on CRP and linking conservation compliance to crop insurance. Vodehnal feels it is important for the Section to engage on issues relative to 7 states and will need help with this endeavor. More will be discussed later as Conservation Affairs becomes more prevalent with guidance from parent TWS.

Old Business

TWS Council Report by Gary White.

- White advised that Ken Williams is the new Executive Director and Katie Edwards has replaced Shannon Pederson for Certification Program and Section/Chapter Management. Council will be having a retreat with Williams to discuss and plan new direction.
- Membership Database discussed and Council looking for new ways to get people to join TWS. Several ideas were discussed to attract membership and all should send ideas to White. Need to demonstrate the Society's impact on knowledge transfer.
- White and Vodehnal discussed TWS financial issues and assured that Council is progressing with resolving financial issues. Council is addressing \$1 million shortfall or loss of \$120,000/year for past 8 years. TWS has cut services this year and more cuts are expected in ensuing years until shortfall can be rectified. One service cut by parent TWS this past year was Leadership Institute and Chapters/Sections were asked along with other donors to keep this important program going. Stay tuned as more is to come.
- CMPS Student Travel Grant name change to Wayne Sandfort Student Travel Grant was discussed as Bob Lanka and Len Carpenter had visited with Wayne's widow to see if she was okay with changing the name in honor of Wayne. Sandfort was first president of CMPS Section and supported young professionals and students. Motion by Bob Wood, 2nd by Carl Wolfe to change the name in honor of Wayne Sandfort. Motion carried by vote of 15 yes, 0 opposed.

Close of Elections-Final tally of votes by Randy Larson.

New Business

- Introduction of New Officers-Karie Decker (NE) is the new President Elect. Sara Bucklin (WY) and Karl Grover (KS) are leaving the board in the at-large positions and replaced by Emily Munter (NE) and Andrea Orabona (WY). Also, the by-laws have now officially changed to allow electronic voting and elections would cease 14 days prior to the annual meeting to facilitate and encourage newly elected board members to attend. Vodehnal destroyed the ballots.
- Section Dues-Vodehnal was contacted by parent TWS inquiring if Section desired to change CMPS membership dues. Consensus of those in attendance was to keep the dues the same.
- Conservation Affairs Network-Vodehnal advised several section representatives have been working with Laura Bies and Terra Rentz from TWS Government Affairs to get Conservation Affairs within State Chapters/Sections more organized. There is a need to provide greater involvement within State Chapters/Sections, communications between State Chapters/Sections/parent TWS, etc. A draft template of how Conservation Affairs was provided to Section Presidents and more will be discussed next week in a conference call and during the annual meeting in October in Milwaukee.
- AFWA Letter Sign On-Vodehnal advised that CMPS has been contacted by TWS Government Affairs and Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) to sign onto a letter to save funding for State and Tribal Wildlife Grants, North American Wetland Conservation Fund, Neotropical

Migratory Bird Fund, Forest Legacy Program, and Land and Water Conservation Fund. Funding has been eliminated in House Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee. Mike Conover motioned, 2nd by Jim Hayes to support and sign onto AFWA letter. Motion carried.

- TWS Rangeland Working Group-Vodehnal advised that this is a new working group being organized by parent TWS with Megan K. Clayton as the first chair. First meeting will be during the annual meeting in Milwaukee and this will not be recognized as a formal working group until there are 100 members and survived a 3-year probation period.
- 8th International Congress for Wildlife and Livelihoods on Private and Communal Lands-Del Benson was present to invite CMPS to be a sponsor for this meeting to be held September 7-12, 2014 in Estes Park, Colorado. Wyoming is scheduled to host next meeting of CMPS and Colorado declined to host CMPS meeting and 8th International Congress since they are already hosting a sheep and other meeting at this time. It would be difficult for Wyoming to host meeting in Colorado with respect to membership attendance.
- 2014 TWS CMPS Annual Meeting-Tony Mong and Martin Grenier offered to host 2014 CMPS meeting in Sheridan, Wyoming, during mid-August. Bob Wood motioned, 2nd by Bob Lanka to have the 2014 CMPS meeting in Sheridan, WY. Motion carried. Vodehnal advised that CMPS board will work with Benson to see if CMPS can help in some way with a session at 8th International Congress.

Vodehnal advised he will be seeking State Chapter Annual Meeting dates for the newsletter.

Newsletter Dates

Fall/Winter-October 30.

Spring-March 30.

Summer-May 15.

Awards given

Two professional awards given, Greg Schenbeck (Manitoba), and Nicole Frey (UT).

Carl Wolfe received the Distinguished Service Award for the Section.

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 am MST.

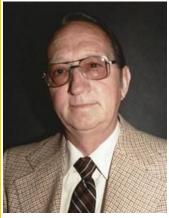
Minutes Recorder: Bill Vodehnal



Photo taken at Bryce Canyon during the CMPS Annual Conference.

Pictured left to right: Jim and Jo Ann Hayes, John Silovsky, Bob Wood, and Bill Vodehnal

Student Travel Grant Name Changed to Honor First CMPS President



At the 2013 annual Central Mountains and Plains Section business meeting in Cedar City, UT, members voted to change the name of the Section's Student Travel Grant program in honor of Wayne W. Sandfort. "Renaming this grant the Wayne Sandfort Student Travel Grant allows our Section to honor a founding member, our first president and a true professional who spent a career mentoring students and early career professionals," said current Section President Bill Vodehnal.

Wayne was a long-term member of The Wildlife Society and the Society was a big part of his life. In 1954 he was one of the organizers of the Section and in 1955 Wayne became the Section's first President. Wayne also

served as Regional Representative to TWS Council from 1970-73, Vice President of the Society in 1974–75 and was a Charter Member of the Colorado Chapter. For his long service to The Society, Wayne received Honorary Membership in 1991.

Born in Humboldt, Nebraska, Wayne attended Colorado State University where he obtained both his undergraduate and graduate degrees. Wayne was the first student in the Colorado Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit. After one year at Colorado State, he joined the U.S. Army where he spent three years in the 139th Engineering Forestry Company. Wayne fought in the Battle of the Bulge, and was for some time behind German lines.

Wayne worked for 33 years with the Colorado Game and Fish Department as an Upland Game Biologist, leader of statewide Upland Game Bird Surveys, Game Research Chief, State Game Manager, and Assistant Director. He was instrumental in initiating many research projects in Colorado and he was the author of numerous publications on wildlife. Throughout his career Wayne mentored many employees of the Department, always supportive of their professional careers. He retired in 1983. In 2009, he received a special citation from Governor Bill Ritter for his extraordinary service to Colorado.

Outside his professional career, Wayne loved to hunt and fish. He especially enjoyed hunting sage grouse in northwestern Colorado and fishing at Bonny Reservoir in southeastern Colorado. Wayne passed away on November 10, 2011 at the age of 87. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Virginia (Ginger), three children Del, Cal, and Melissa, five grandchildren, and two great granddaughters. He will be remembered as a kind and caring person, devoted to helping young professionals throughout their careers and to wildlife and their habitats.

Submitted by Len Carpenter and Bob Lanka



Wayne Sandfort pictured speaking with students and a meeting. Just another one of the many things that he loved to do.

Reflections from students that received the Wayne Sandfort travel Grant this year:

From Avery Cook:

In return for assistance with travel funding for my trip to Milwaukee for this year's national meeting of The Wildlife Society I was asked to reflect on how the conference impacted the remainder of my education and future career. There were many beneficial impacts to attending the conference: I acquired knowledge that can be immediately applied to my thesis research, attended talks that provided new ways of looking at problems, and established connections within the professional community.

The first day of the conference I had the opportunity to attend the workshop on modeling spatial behavior and habitat using the Adehabitat R Packages. The knowledge gained from the workshop can be directly applied to my Master's research modeling Greater Sage-grouse habitat use in NW Utah. Attending the workshop gave me boost in the implementation of the model designs supported by the packages and will help me complete my analysis using the most up to date methods available.

Symposia and contributed paper sessions, the heart of the conference, updated my knowledge on the latest research in my field, provided different angles to look at current conservation issues and let me learn about topics usually outside of my field of study. Some of the highlights included symposia focusing on disease (CWD), symposia focused on the human elements of wildlife management (issues surrounding leaded ammo and fishing tackle, carnivore management), as well as symposia focused on impacts of renewable energy development.

Throughout the conference I had the opportunity to reconnect with colleagues and meet other professionals in our field. Both formal functions such as the student professional mixer and Student Research in Progress Poster Session, and informal settings during breaks and after the conference concluded each day provided opportunity to interact and network. Presenting at the poster session was especially valuable in impacting my remaining education as it enabled me to give a relatively detailed account of my research and receive quite a bit of constructive feedback.

The conference was valuable as a part of my education and development as a professional. I thank the CMPS section of the Wildlife Society for awarding me the Wayne Sandfort Student Travel Grant and helping make my trip to Milwaukee possible.

From Leila Mohsenian:

"Describe what aspects of or interactions at the TWS national conference you feel will have an impact on your remaining education and future career."

Being awarded the Wayne Sandfort Student Travel Grant provided me with the opportunity to attend the 2013 National TWS Conference in Milwaukee, WI and afforded me the chance to gain insight about upcoming research in the field of wildlife biology, as well as network with professionals in the field. The aspect of the conference that I believed had the most profound impact on me were the interactions I was able to have with professors, managers, biologists, and other notable wildlife professionals. Connecting with individuals who have a wide variety of experiences gave me a chance to see what can be done with the degree I am pursuing, along with the opportunity to make personal connections with people who could potentially become my employer or graduate professor. I now have a better understanding from the priceless conversations I was able to have during the student-professional mixer of what skills and abilities future employers are looking for when hiring interns and employees. Thanks to this travel grant, I will use the knowledge obtained at the conference to focus my education and volunteer endeavors with our Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society towards gaining these skills and abilities to make me and my fellow wildlife students the most marketable candidates we can be.

The following letter was sent to Mathias Wallace of the Nebraska National Forests and Grasslands on behalf of CMPS members regarding the need for outfitter and guide permits on public lands under their jurisdiction in Nebraska and South Dakota.

William L. Vodehnal, Certified Wildlife Biologist Nebraska Game and Parks Commission Wildlife Division—Sandhills District P.O. Box 508 Bassett, NE 68714-0508

Office: (402) 684-2921 Cell: (402) 760-3097 Home (402) 684-2565

Email: bill.vodehnal@nebraska.gov

October 1, 2013

Mathias Wallace

Nebraska National Forests and Grasslands

125 North Main Street



Chadron, NE 69337

Dear Mr. Wallace:

The Central Mountains and Plains Section (CMPS) of The Wildlife Society is responding to your recent request for comments on the need for outfitter and guide permits on public lands under your jurisdiction in Nebraska and South Dakota. CMPS encompasses the states of Utah, Wyoming, Colorado, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas. The Wildlife Society is a professional organization that strives to ensure that wildlife and habitats are conserved through management actions that take into careful consideration relevant scientific information. We are advocates for effective wildlife policy, law, and programs that benefit wildlife and stewardship of our public trust natural resources. One of the priorities of The Wildlife Society is endorsement of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation, better known as the Public Trust Doctrine, which addresses government ownership of wildlife and natural resources and should be managed for the public.

The national forests and national grasslands that you administer in Nebraska and South Dakota are extremely important native grassland ecosystems. Federal laws, regulations and your current Land and Resource Management Plan provide a strong mandate to conserve grassland biological diversity, and the importance of this mandate will continue to grow given declining grassland acreages (cultivation) and increasing grassland degradation (cheatgrass and other invasives) across the central and northern plains. These public lands are especially important to several flagship grassland species, including black tailed prairie dog, black-footed ferret, northern swift fox, sharp-tailed grouse, and greater prairie-chicken. Issuance of outfitter and guide permits for hunting and other outdoor activities could substantially increase recreational use and activity in some areas, resulting in possible negative impacts to wildlife, wildlife habitat and biodiversity. For these reasons, we recommend that your needs assessment evaluate resource capacities for potentially impacted wildlife species or habitats and that you use the best quantitative information available to conduct the assessment.

We also recommend that, when assessing the need for outfitting and guiding permits for hunting on public land, you consider the relatively small amounts of public land available for hunting in Nebraska and South Dakota, approximately 2% and 6% of the total land area in each state, respectively. At the same time, outfitting and guiding services for hunters on private or leased lands are considerable, and we are unsure of the need for additional services on the limited public land acreage. Small game hunters are declining across the Great Plains states and much of the decline is related to lack of hunting opportunity along with increases in fee hunting on private lands, thus a reliance on public lands. Allowance of outfitters and guides to federal lands could cause hunters to lose even more interest and cause further declines in hunter base. Access for hunting is specifically addressed in the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation http://wildlife.org/documents/technical-reviews/docs/ptd_10-1.pdf with concerns for hunters in the future.

The Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society recommends that Special Use Permits not be issued to outfitters and guides during your needs assessment process. Thank you for allowing us to comment and if you have any question, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

William L. Vodehnal, President

Central Mountains and Plains Section

The Wildlife Society

The following letter was signed on behalf of many conservation organizations regarding the 2013 Farm Bill issue:

October 29, 2013

Dear Farm Bill Conferee,

As the House and Senate begins conferencing the final 2013 Farm Bill, the undersigned groups, representing millions of members across the country, urge you to protect grasslands, wetlands, healthy soil and clean water by supporting a national sodsaver provision and re-coupling basic soil and water conservation measure to premium subsidies for crop insurance. Both of these provisions, included in the Senate bill, ensure that taxpayer dollars are not used to incentivize risky or environmentally destructive practices. Conservation compliance and sodsaver are among the top farm bill priorities for our groups, and both will be determining factors as we consider our support for a final bill.

For decades, in exchange for a publicly funded safety net, farmers have committed to adopt land management practices that successfully reduced soil erosion and protected wetlands. By shifting subsidies away from direct payments and towards a strong crop insurance safety net, this new farm bill creates a loophole in the longstanding requirements that those who receive subsidies take minimal steps to protect the public good. Without these key protections, billions of taxpayer dollars spent on crop insurance over coming years will subsidize soil erosion that will choke our waterways, increase the cost of water treatment and dredging, and reduce the long term productivity of farmland. It will also allow for the destruction of tens of thousands of acres of valuable wetlands, resulting in increased downstream flooding, loss of wildlife habitat and decreased water quality. To keep these protection in place, it is critical that the final farm bill re-couple conservation compliance with crop insurance premium subsidies and does not weaken existing wetland conservation provisions.

Native grasslands across the country are disappearing at an alarming rate, threatening grassland-dependent wildlife species as well as the ranching and hunting industries dependent on those lands. From 2011 to 2012 alone, nearly 400,000 non-cropland acres were "broken out" for crop production. These acres are being lost across the entire country. In fact, over this period, more that 65 percent of these losses occurred outside of the Prairie Pothole Region states. A nationwide sodsaver provision will reduce taxpayer-funded incentives to destroy these critical grassland resources. Most of the land that is being converted from native ecosystems to cropland is marginal, highly erodible, or prone to flooding. Bringing this marginally productive land into crop production provides little benefit to taxpayers, increases long-term costs due to erosion and nutrient loss, and ultimately leads to reduced water

quality, less capacity to reduce flooding and the loss of valuable wildlife habitat. Sodsaver does not prohibit farmers from breaking out new land; it ensures that if they do, they do so at their own risk by partially reducing the cost to taxpayers. It is critical that sodsaver apply to the entire country. A regional approach, such as included in the House bill, is not adequate to protect our nation's remaining native grasslands.

We thank you for you efforts to complete the 2013 Farm Bill, and we strongly urge you to support soil, water, and wildlife habitat conservation in the final bill by including a national sodsaver provision, relinking basic conservation measures to eligibility for crop insurance premium subsidies, and opposing efforts to weaken existing wetland protections. Doing so will save money and ensure long term farm productivity by protecting our nation's vital natural resources.

Signed,

49 National Groups, 27 Regional Groups (i.e. CMPS), and 204 State and Local Groups.

Chapter Updates

Chadron State College

Amanda Hicks—President



The Chadron State Wildlife Club is pleased that their membership is up this year. There are quite a few Freshman that have been involved with the activities thus far. We wanted to make this year fun for everyone so we are trying to do activities that don't always require a gun or fishing gear. The first activity we did was a trap shoot. Everyone that attended enjoyed it and we stayed out shooting until the sun went down. We had planned a camping trip but it was unfortunately cancelled due to weather and unexpected circumstances. Our

Homecoming theme this year is "Heroes of Homecoming." To keep with this theme and incorporate wildlife, we painted a Bald eagle with armor and a cape. We had an elk shed raffle/fundraiser at our homecoming game on October 5th. Our annual Ice Fishing Tournament will be taking place Saturday, February 1st. We look forward to many more activities as a club!

Kansas State University

Allison Bays—Chapter President

It has been a good year for the KSU Chapter. The year started off with speakers giving advice on how

Chapter Updates

to find a successful job after graduation, the advantages of grad school, and how to make personal and professional connections. The club also participated in some fun activities including a float trip that also included members from the KSU's American Fisheries Society. The club participated in a black-footed ferret survey to help the species reintroduction in Kansas. Dr. Horne came to the club to talk about the herps of Kansas; this fun presentation included interesting animal sounds and videos.

This year we decided on a new approach for TWS by introducing focus groups. These special groups are focused around certain wildlife enjoyments including: wildlife photography, the Sunset Zoo, Mammalogy, Ornithology, and Sunday night fishing!

Our next meeting is on Halloween. This meeting will discuss the ferret survey project and there will be a costume contest. The upcoming year will present various speakers, activities for the focus groups, a bird banding project with Dr. Boyle, a herp count with Dr. Horne as well as the Ft. Riley herp count. In the Spring, the KSU Chapter will be attending the Kansas Natural Resource Conference as well as hosting our annual banquet. We are looking forward to the numerous opportunities presented to us in this upcoming year.

University of Wyoming

Nichole Cudworth—Author of Article

The Wyoming Chapter wrapped up another successful year of the fellowship program. Patrick Rodgers, an incoming senior at the University of Wyoming was this year's fellowship recipient. For more information on the program, check out the latest The Wildlife Professional for an article written by last year's fellow, Clareesa Zook. In other news, in a response to a request from the Governor's office, President Tony Mong organized and moderated a meeting of an ad hoc committee to review proposed protocol for determining winter range of sage-grouse in an area of energy development. The committee, comprised of experts from within Wyoming and across the country, provided recommendations for improvement and data needs. The final recommendations were well-received and future steps were taken to address these data deficiencies. The Chapter hopes to continue to pursue these opportunities to provide a scientific voice for wildlife and wildlife habitat in Wyoming. Finally, as this newsletter was being compiled, the Chapter is in the middle of their annual meeting in Rock Springs. Although it is too early to tell, I'm sure the meeting will be an overwhelming success. Next summer, the Chapter will host the CMPS annual meeting in conjunction with the Chapter's annual meeting in Sheridan. We hope you can join us to hear more about the work of your colleagues throughout the Section and celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Wyoming Chapter. See you there!

University of Nebraska—Lincoln

Kyle Schumacher—President

The University of Nebraska – Lincoln Wildlife Club is having a very active year so far. Our annual welcome back barbecue, held at the beginning of the fall semester, brought in a great crop of hardworking recruits. Some of our members also bonded over a canoe trip down the Niobrara River. We have been trying to get more creative with our meetings to increase participation from our member base and cater more to what our members expect from the club. We have already had a meeting with Aaron

Chapter Updates

Druery, the land manager at Pioneers Park Nature Center. He talked with us about invasive species and his job as a "glorified weed killer." In the future we plan to also host Dennis Ferraro, a herpetologist and professor at UNL, Dudley Sorensen, a conservation officer for Nebraska Game and Parks, and McKenzie Berry, an environmental educational specialist for the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District. Traditionally, one our biggest meetings of the year is when Dennis Ferraro, a herpetologist and natural resources online educator at UNL, brings alligators in for the club to interact with. Meeting with wildlife professionals helps our students to network and to expand their interests and knowledge of wildlife.

UNL Wildlife Club has also made a push to contribute more to the Nebraska wildlife community. We participate in as many Nebraska Game and Parks expos as we can. Many of our members volunteer for deer checks. The Lower Platte South NRDhosts "nature nights," regularly at local elementary schools. Our club has consistently volunteered, bringing furs and skulls to help educate young children about the importance of protecting wildlife. We are also continuing our work with the adopt-a-stream program, cleaning up trash along Dead Man's Run on UNL's East Campus.

Besides participating in intramurals, volunteering around the community and networking with professionals, the club is staying busy planning this year's Western Student Conclave. Finalizing the schedule and raising money to keep conclave costs low for participants has proven a challenge, but one that we know we will ultimately conquer. With many events in the works, including a wildlife photography workshop and a viewing of the sandhill crane migration, participants should expect an incredible experience with all the wildlife Nebraska has to offer.

Western State Colorado University

Heather Miller—President

As the season gets colder some of our members took advantage of these last few weeks of fall and fled to the hills of Lake Irwin where we learned more about our alpine friends the pika. The field trip was led by Liesl Erb who studied these lagomorphs while obtaining her PhD in University of Colorado.

We are excited to welcome Professor van Hoven, a researcher and professor from South Africa, on 11/7/13 for a special lecture on the Status of Wildlife and Conservation Efforts in Africa. Along with the WSCU, campus the community has been invited to attend as well.



Heather, Shawn, Liesl, Kyle and Robert sitting by pika haystacks.

Chapter Updates

Colorado State University

Colin Wait—President

The Colorado State University student chapter of The Wildlife Society has been keeping very busy this semester despite some obstacles along the way. First, we are sad to see our chapter co-adviser, Dr. Paul Doherty, step down this semester due to other commitments, but are very excited to welcome Dr. Stewart Breck, USDA/NWRC, to our board in Dr. Doherty's place.

We scheduled several events to welcome back returning members and recruit new members. Our first event of the year was a barbeque hosted by our chapter, the CSU student chapters of the American Fisheries Society (AFS), and Society for Conservation Biology (SCB). We plan to continue working closely with these students chapters and jointly host events throughout the year. Floods and inclement weather caused us to cancel our annual camping trip at McGregor Ranch, Estes Park, CO and a bird banding workshop with the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory. We were able to reschedule the camping trip later in October in the Poudre Canyon, near our Pingree Park campus, and plan to reschedule the bird banding for next semester. We were thankful that the government reopened just in time for our chapter to tour the black-footed ferret breeding facility north of Fort Collins. This was a very special trip and we learned about one of the greatest success stories in conservation biology.

We have hosted several professionals at our regular meetings. Together with SCB, we co-hosted Dr. Delwin Benson, who is organizing the International Wildlife Management Conference set for September 2014 in Estes Park, CO. He encouraged our chapters to get involved with the conference and we have since formed a committee to assist Dr. Benson by doing various tasks such as reaching out to other student chapters across the country to get involved. Eric Odell, of Colorado Parks and Wildlife, shared with us the process and planning involved in a possible wolverine reintroduction in Colorado and he and Dr. Breck both shared their knowledge on carnivore ecology.

In October, we sent eight members to The Wildlife Society Annual Conference, Milwaukee, WI. These members represented our chapter at field trips, workshops, symposiums, and social events. We thank the Colorado Chapter of TWS and our department for helping to fund this trip. Additional funding was provided by our annual banquet, held in October at a local restaurant, C.B. & Potts. The fundraiser had approximately 60 attendants and we raised funds through games, silent auction, and raffle ticket sales.



Upcoming Events

Wyoming Chapter Meeting—October 29-31,2013 in Rock Springs, Wyoming.

Kansas Chapter Meeting—January 30-31, 2014 in Wichita, Kansas.

Colorado Chapter of TWS Annual Meeting

Wednesday, Feb. 5: Workshops, including Advanced Wildlife Anesthesia and Landscape Genetics

Thur. Morning Plenary: Crawling, Running, Flying ... Wildlife Migration and Movement in Colorado and Beyond

Thur. Afternoon Plenary: Wildlife Research & Energy Development in the Piceance Basin

February 5-7 in Fort Collins, CO

Colorado Chapter of TWS Annual Meeting

Friday Morning: CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS,

POSTERS

To submit a talk or poster, please send a title and abstract by

January 3, 2014 to: evan.phillips@state.co.us

Workshop and plenary agendas and hotel and registration information will be posted to the Chapter website by early

Nebraska Chapter Meeting—February 27-28, 2014 in Kearney, Nebraska.

Utah Chapter Meeting—March 19-22, 2014 in St. George, Utah.

Western Student Conclave—March 14-17, 2014 at Mahoney State Park, Nebraska.

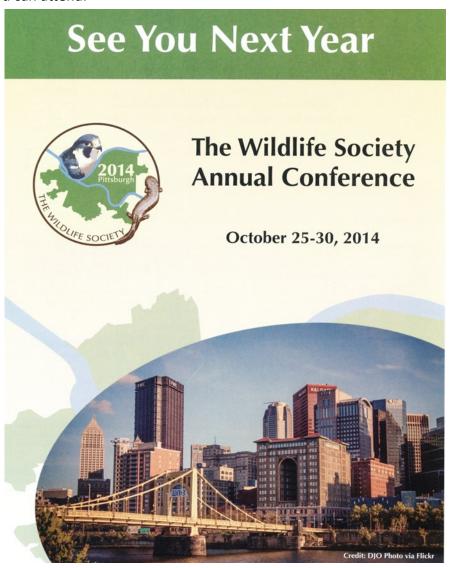
CMPS Annual Meeting—August 26-28, 2014 in Sheridan, Wyoming.

Upcoming Events

TWS Annual Conference—October 25-30, 2014 in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania.

Pittsburg, 2014

Next year's annual conference will be in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, October 25–30. Save the dates. The TWS conference is one of the most successful and beneficial professional meetings you can attend.



Raptors of the Northwest Symposium

February 5-7, 2014; Pasco, WA

The **Raptors of the Northwest Symposium** (RNWS) will be part of a Joint Meeting with several other meetings and symposia, including the annual meeting of the TWS Washington Chapter and the 4th International Burrowing Owl Symposium. The specific dates for the Raptor Symposium are February 5-7, 2014; other meetings/symposia will overlap and/or extend past these dates. The venue will be the Red

Upcoming Events

Lion, in Pasco, WA, which is ¼ mile from the Pasco Airport.

The geographic areas to be focused on during the raptor symposium are the NW U.S. states, including Alaska, and the Western Canadian Provinces. Both diurnal and nocturnal raptors will be addressed. The theme is "Linking Raptor Research to Critical Conservation and Management Needs."

We want there to be widespread and diverse geographical and organizational involvement and support from as many agency, academic, NGO, and other land management stakeholder groups as possible; so if you have suggested contacts, we would welcome them.

For more information on the Joint Meeting, or to submit an abstract (for all meetings), please see http://wildlife.org/washington/sites/wildlife.org.washington/files/images/2014%20Joint%
20Meeting%20Call%20for%20Papers.pdf. Please specify that you are interested in the RNWS.

Jeffrey L. Lincer, Raptor Symposium Organizer

SoCal Chapter Rep. to TWS WS

JeffLincer@ gmail.com; (619) 668-0032

Answers to the Central Mountains and Plains Section Quiz: Do You Know Your Section?

Compiled by Andrea Orabona, Central Mountains and Plains Section Board Member At-large from the Central Mountains and Plains Section web site http://wildlife.org/cmp/

- 1) The Central Mountains and Plains Section (CMPS) of The Wildlife Society was initiated on 2 February 1954 at the Colorado A & M College in Fort Collins. A discussion was opened on the question "Should we organize a Section or other formal body of Wildlife Society members for all or a part of Region IV?" A motion that "we form a definite organization for Region IV with a President, Vice-President, and Secretary/Treasurer to perfect the organization" was made. Voting results showed 23 in favor and 1 against this motion; Society members thus formally approved the Central Mountains and Plains Section. A full synopsis of CMPS's history can be found under the Who We Are link on the CMPS web site.
- 2) CMPS includes the States of Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming. Prior to the formation of the Canadian Section in 2007, it also included the Provinces of Manitoba and Saskatchewan.
- 3) CMPS started with 39 members in 1955. As of August 2010 (the last reported date), there were 1,987 members. Membership details are on the CMPS web site under Financial Statements and Membership in the History section under the Who We Are link.
- 4) CMPS Bylaws were first organized on 22 April 1955. Amendments occurred in 1980, 1986, 1987, 1990, 2006, 2008, 2009, and 2013. The current Bylaws have a data of 14 August 2013. The CMPS Bylaws are on the web site under the Who We Are link.

Answers to the Central Mountains and Plains Section Quiz: Do You Know Your Section?

- 5) CMPS has a 5-item Mission Statement and a 5-item Strategic Plan, including a "Section Involvement Decision Matrix" to guide its involvement in policy issues. These can be viewed in the Mission/Strategic Plan section under the Who We Are link.
- 6) Objectives state that the CMPS shall promote principles, policies, and objectives of The Wildlife Society as stated in the Society's Bylaws: A) To encourage proper management of all wildlife in the geographical area of the Central Mountains and Plains Section, the ecosystems in which they live, and the other natural resources of the region in a manner that reflects sound biological principles and benefits to wildlife and humans, B) To create and maintain an organization that promotes professional association solidarity and exchange of ideas among persons interested in the general field of wildlife management, and C) To support the objectives of The Wildlife Society and its Code of Ethics. More information can be found on the CMPS web site under the Who We Are link.
- 7) Starting in 1956, there have been 58 CMPS Annual Meetings. Proceedings for 49 of those meetings are available electronically on the web site under the Proceedings link.
- 8) CMPS has submitted 3 Position Statements thus far: 2005 commented on the status of populations and habitat of the Greater Sage-Grouse; 2009 recommended against a petition to change the experimental and nonessential status for black-footed ferrets reintroduced into the wild to Endangered; and 2009 requested the Environmental Protection Agency to rescind a new registration for the pesticide Rozol and not register the pesticide Kaput for use on prairie dogs. To read the Position Statements in their entirety, visit that section of the web site under the Who We Are link.
- 9) CMPS newsletters from April 1981 through Summer 2013 are available electronically on the web site under the Newsletters link.
- 10) CMPS offers the Wayne W. Sandfort Travel Grant Program, which assists wildlife students with expenses incurred while attending the annual TWS Conference. Travel grants of up to \$500 each are awarded. Wayne W. Sandfort was a leader in wildlife management and research in Colorado and a long-term member of The Wildlife Society. At the 2013 CMPS Annual Meeting, the student travel grant program was renamed the Wayne W. Sandfort Student Travel Grant Program because Wayne was the first President of the Section, was one of the organizers of the Section, and he was interested in students. To read more, visit the Student Travel Grant link on the CMPS web site.
- 11) Since 1960 when the first CMPS award was presented, 14 individuals or entities from Wyoming have received either a CMPS Professional Award, Citizen's Conservation Achievement Award, or Special Award for Professional Ability and Dedication: 1973 Professional Floyd Blunt, Citizen's Bob Milek; 1981 Special Dave Lockman; 1986 Citizen's Oliver Scott; 1987 Citizen's Foundation for North American Wild Sheep; 1990 Citizen's Norma Hunt; 1994 Citizen's Don Johnson; 1998 Citizen's Gretchen Hurley; 2000 Professional Kevin Hurley; 2002 Professional Beth Williams and Ron Lockwood; 2008 Citizen's Miles Land and Livestock Company; 2012 Professional Tom Ryder, 2012 Citizen's Thunder Basin Grasslands Prairie Ecosystem Association. All award recipients can be found on

Answers to the Central Mountains and Plains Section Quiz: Do You Know Your Section?

the CMPS web site under the Who We Are link.

- 12) There are two ways to join CMPS: 1) include the Section in your annual parent TWS membership renewal, or 2) join the Wyoming Chapter of TWS (or another of the CMPS State Chapters), where \$1 of your Chapter dues goes to CMPS to make you a member and entitle you to receive the CMPS newsletter three times per year. Membership details are under the Who We Are link on the web site.
- 13) Your current CMPS Executive Board of Directors includes: President Bill Vodehnal (NE); President Elect Karie Decker (NE); Vice-President Mike Conover (UT); Secretary/Treasurer Laurel Badura (NE); Newsletter Editor Amanda Hicks (NE); Board Members At-Large Emily Munter (NE), Andrea Orabona (WY), Randy Larsen (UT), and Max Post van der Berg (ND); and Section Representative to TWS Council Gary White (CO). Past Board members can be found on the CMPS web site in the Officers and Executive Board section under the Who We Are link. Current Board members are housed under the Officers link. Remember, we are here to serve *you* and the *wildlife resource* that fuels our passion!

For more details on these and other Central Mountains and Plains Section topics, visit the informative and up-to-date CMPS web site at http://wildlife.org/cmp/.

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November 2013

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