



# CMPS Newsletter

Excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education

Photo credit: Sheraton Steamboat Springs

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**President-elect:**  
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**Secretary/Treasurer:**  
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**TWS Council Representative:**  
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### Newsletter Editors:

Aleshia Fremgen  
Stephanie Ferrero

Spring 2016 Volume 60

## Message from the President

<http://wildlife.org/CMP>



CMPS colleagues,

With so much going on this spring, I hardly know where to start. I'd like to begin by congratulating and welcoming 2 new student chapters to CMPS. University of Utah and Weber State University, we are thrilled to have you join the CMPS Family!

I also want to remind everyone that registration is open for the annual CMPS conference in Steamboat Springs, CO Aug 8-11. View meeting information, preliminary schedule, field trips and workshops, then register at <http://wildlife.org/colorado2/cmeps-meeting/>.

Now that spring is here (with summer just around the corner), I hope you all have many opportunities to get outside and enjoy the fresh air. I was lucky enough to spend some time at the grand canyon this week for some training, and lots of sunshine, and good friends. It's views like this that can't help but slow us down, absorb the view and remember how lucky we are to work in this profession.



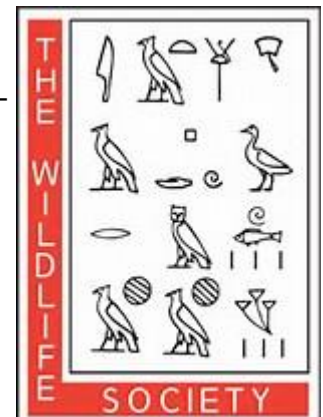
Looking forward to seeing you all in Steamboat and sharing our stories

Karie

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# Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

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## Section Business

### Seeking Nominations for Officers to CMPS Board

CMPS is seeking candidates to fill 3 positions that will become vacant during the August CMPS meeting in Steamboat Springs, CO. Two At-Large Board and the Vice President positions will be filled. The two at-large positions are 2-year terms. See below for Board Position duty descriptions. We desire to have the list of candidates in the 2016 Summer Newsletter (**due ~June 1, 2016**) and voting to end 14 days prior to the annual meeting. A board committee has been formed and will be calling for potential candidates, but if you desire to be considered, please email Andrea Orabona ([andrea.orabona@wyo.gov](mailto:andrea.orabona@wyo.gov)). Please strongly consider serving at the Section level for TWS.

- VICE-PRESIDENT. The Vice-President shall assume the duties of President during any absence or upon any inability of the President to serve, and shall perform any duties assigned by the President. This office shall preside over the Awards Committee. In the event the Vice-President cannot serve in the President's absence, the Executive Board shall appoint a President, pro tempore.
- MEMBERS-AT-LARGE. Members-at-Large shall assist in the general administration of Section business affairs.

### CMPS Award Nominations Due June 15, 2016

The Central Mountains and Plains Section (CMPS) of The Wildlife Society offers two awards annually to honor the accomplishments of worthy groups or 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: both presented to recognize an outstanding contribution towards furthering the enhancement of wildlife endeavors within the Section. Nomination criteria for each award can be found at <http://wildlife.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/Awards-Criteria.pdf>

Nominations should be e-mailed to the CMPS Vice President, Jim Hays ([jim\\_hays@tnc.org](mailto:jim_hays@tnc.org)) and must be received by June 15, 2016, to be considered.

Please give some thought to potential candidates, research the criteria, and provide nominations to Jim before June 15! I'm sure we can all think of worthy nominees for each award.

### CMPS WAYNE SANDFORT STUDENT TRAVEL GRANT APPLICATION

The Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society announces the availability of travel grants for students planning on attending the Society's 2016 Annual Conference in Raleigh, NC. 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, 2016** to Karie Decker ([karie.decker@nebraska.gov](mailto:karie.decker@nebraska.gov)). Complete application instructions available here: <http://wildlife.org/cmp/student-travel-grant/>



# Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

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## Section Business

# CMPS 2016 Annual Meeting

*“Seeing the wildlife through the trees: challenges and conservation of forests and wildlife”*  
Steamboat Springs, Colorado  
August 8-11, 2016

### Highlights of this year’s conference:

Introduction to R and Introduction to conservation detection dog workshops

Plenary speakers on the contemporary challenges to forest and wildlife management including topics such as:

Collaborative Forest Restoration Program

High elevation forest

Fire

Bark beetle impacts

Contributed papers and posters, and a new session of Ignite Talks

Four fun field trips exploring Steamboat’s ecosystems and wildlife



Photo credit Sheraton Steamboat Springs

## WEBSITE AND REGISTRATION

You can register for the meeting at <http://wildlife.org/colorado2/cmeps-meeting/> as well as get all the up to date meeting information including the preliminary schedule at a glance, information about plenary speakers, field trips, and workshops.

## VENUE AND LODGING

The meeting will be held at the Sheraton Hotel in Steamboat Springs. Discounted rooms (\$99/night) are available **now until July 15th**. There is a \$10 per day resort fee. Please reserve hotel rooms at <https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/events/start.action?id=1603149342&key=266EDB42>

## CALL FOR PAPERS, POSTERS & IGNITE TALKS

Abstracts for presentations, posters, and Ignite talks are due **June 30th, 2016**. Please email abstract submissions for presentations and posters to Mindy Rice ([mindy.rice@state.co.us](mailto:mindy.rice@state.co.us)) by June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Please go to <http://drupal.wildlife.org/colorado/node/23> for information about submitting under the call for papers tab!



# Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

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## Section Business

### TWS COUNCIL REPORT

#### Bob Lanka, Central Mountains and Plains Section Representative

TWS Council met March 13-14 in Pittsburgh, PA in association with the 81<sup>st</sup> Annual North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference.

#### TWS Budget and Finances

For the current fiscal year, there is good and bad news. Looking only at income and expenditures and projections through the end of the fiscal year (June 30) we should be about \$200K to the good. That is the good news. Now the bad news. Anyone who has a retirement account invested in the stock market knows the market has been on a major downward correction over the past several months. Our investment funds have mirrored the market and through January 2016 had declined by \$113K. Fortunately, TWS operations, our day to day activities if you will, are not dependent upon any investment income. So with a long-term view on investments, TWS is riding out this downturn and looking forward to better days ahead. So am I.

While I know investment strategies are not why any of you are members of TWS, I want to discuss our investments a bit. We have 4 categories of investment funds.

1. General Operating Fund – This is the fund used to run day to day activities of TWS. These are unrestricted funds under the control of Executive Director Ken Williams. Think of this fund as the TWS checkbook.
2. Permanent Reserve Fund – This fund was established by life member dues and the building fund. These funds are subject to TWS Council restrictions on their use.
3. Endowment Fund – This fund was established by contributions from donors who restricted in writing the range of activities their donation could be used for. These are donor-restricted funds.
4. Award Fund (Kleberg, Rusch, McDonough) – This fund was established by donor contributions that were earmarked to fund specific awards.

Over the years there had been a mixing of monies within the Permanent Reserve, (council controlled), and Endowment (donor controlled) Funds. At our March meeting Council asked TWS Staff to move monies under Council control from the Endowment Fund to the Permanent Reserve Fund. Once done, the Permanent Reserve Fund will be well on the way to fulfilling its “rainy day fund” vision. The target for this fund is to maintain a balance at least sufficient to cover ½ year of TWS operating expenses. This move is also good news if for no other reason than it greatly clarifies the intent of each investment category and allows someone like me to talk to you in a semi-intelligent way about what these funds are for and how they will be used.



# Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

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## Section Business

### **COUNCIL REPORT CONTINUED...**

#### **Publications**

In January this year you received the first of six issues of *The Wildlife Professional* for 2016. Thanks to the work of Director of Publications and Communications Nancy Sasavage and her staff, production and mailing costs were reduced and she was able to increase this member benefit from 4 to 6 issues per year. The May/June Issue will focus on State Wildlife Action Plans.

Dr. Paul Krausman and Dr. David Haukos have begun their terms as Editor-In-Chief of the Journal of Wildlife Management and Wildlife Society Bulletin respectively. Both editors have gotten together and developed guidelines clarifying what type of content each journal will accept (See JWM 80: 189-191 and WSB 40: 5-6 for details). Both journals will bring forward more topic focused sections in the future. The March, 2016 issue of the Bulletin focused on captive cervids. Plans are underway on a section on long-term population monitoring for the March 2017 issue. There will be a special section on bighorn sheep and their management in the Journal in early 2017. Finally, Drs. Krausman and Haukos developed a uniform author guide for both journals. Having one guide will help authors who submit to both journals and editors as they move some content from one journal to another to more closely match content type.

The publishing world is rapidly changing. TWS is having numerous conversations with our publisher, Wiley, on issues like Open Access, Open Data, Impact Factors and the like. As decisions are made regarding any of these topics I will let you know. It is safe to say that the publishing world and likely our publications will look much different a few years from now than they do today.

#### **Operations**

During the first year of the Wildlife Partners program 619 individuals signed up including 242 students, 211 professionals and 166 supporters. Of those, 22 have converted to TWS membership (3.6%).

Prior to the launch of the new website, Wildlife.org in October 2014, the old TWS website was drawing about 21,000 visits per month. With the new website that average has increased to 38,000 per month. Social Media outreach is also growing with a current audience of 92,500 (Facebook 48,200, Twitter 34,000 and LinkedIn 10,300). With about 9,000 members, these website and social media numbers indicate that TWS efforts to reach a broader audience with our message are succeeding.

#### **Upcoming Meetings**

The 2016 CMPS meeting is scheduled for August 8-11 in Steamboat Springs, Colorado. Registration is now open (<http://drupal.wildlife.org/colorado/node/23>). Thanks to the Colorado Chapter TWS for making this happen. Hope to see many of you there.

The 2016 TWS Annual Conference will be held in Raleigh, North Carolina October 15-19. Check out the TWS website for more details <http://wildlife.org/tws-23rd-annual-conference/>.



# Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

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## Section Business

### COUNCIL REPORT CONTINUED...

#### Recent Travels and Thanks

Since my last update I have had the pleasure of attending state chapter annual meetings in Wichita KS, Mandan ND, Chamberlain SD and Kearney NE. I would like to again express my heartfelt thanks to the South Dakota and Nebraska chapters on 50 years of TWS service. It was very good that TWS President Gary Potts was able to attend both these meetings as well and relay his message of appreciation for all the work going on in these states and more importantly that every member is important to him and to TWS. To all that helped plan these four meetings, thanks for putting in the time that made each of them exceptional in every way. Thanks to all the members for your kindness and hospitality, I appreciated it. Citizen and professional wildlife conservation awards were presented at each meeting. Congratulations to all who were recognized by your state chapter for your work and service to TWS. I wish all of you could have been with me in North Dakota when Randy Kreil was awarded the North Dakota Award and in South Dakota when Chuck Berdan was awarded the Wildlife Professional Award. To see how much receiving the highest honor bestowed by their state chapter meant to them is something I will never forget. Congratulations gentlemen, well done!

#### Closing Thoughts

In my last Council Update I spoke at length about membership and the value of membership in our professional society, The Wildlife Society. During Wiley's update at the recent council meeting they presented the results of their Professional Society Membership survey. They had 14,000 responses. In summary:

1. Member's of professional societies value peer reviewed journal content and the opportunity for continuing education.
2. Quality of content is the top reason people join. They renew because they feel connected to the community.
3. A surprising percentage of nonmembers haven't joined because they were never invited.
4. Members are satisfied with their societies more often than not and most read the publications.

So, if you are a member, I hope you feel connected to the TWS community of wildlife professionals and that you will ask a friend to join you as a member of The Wildlife Society now or when you renew. Check out the TWS website at <http://wildlife.org/join/> to see a complete list of member benefits and to join. Thanks for all you do.



# Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

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## Section Business

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

*Compiled by Andrea Orabona,  
Central Mountains and Plains Section President-Elect,  
from the Central Mountains and Plains Section website  
<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 2016?
- 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?
- 6) How is the CMPS Strategic Plan organized? Does CMPS use a "Section Involvement Decision Matrix"?
- 7) What are the objectives of CMPS?
- 8) How many CMPS Annual Meetings have taken place? Are Proceedings available?
- 9) Does CMPS offer a newsletter to members? Are these available electronically?
- 10) Does CMPS present any awards? If so, what are they?
- 11) Does CMPS have a travel grant program for students?
- 12) How many Position Statements has CMPS submitted and on what subjects?
- 13) Is CMPS involved in The Wildlife Society's Conservation Affairs Network?
- 14) Who is the current CMPS Executive Board?
- 15) What are the two ways you can join CMPS?



# Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

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## Chapter Updates

### Kansas

#### **2016 Snipe Award – Jim Hays**

This award exemplifies what it means to be a professional in our society and in our chosen line of work. As Teddy Roosevelt said “the credit belongs to the man in the arena, the man who spends himself in a worthy cause”

The person in the arena the Chapter would like to recognize this year is Jim Hays.

Jim started his career as a seasonal technician working for the Colorado Department of Wildlife in 1976. The following year Jim started his career with KDWPT as a fish biologist aid and seasonal worker at the Pratt Fish Hatchery. From 1978-1984 Jim worked at the fish hatchery as a hatchery assistant.

Starting 1984 and for the next 10 years Jim served as the District Wildlife Biologist in Ellsworth County and the surrounding area. During this time Jim assisted with a trap and transport effort to bring pronghorn back to Kansas to supplement a diminished population.

In 1994 Jim was back in Pratt working as a terrestrial ecologist with the environmental services section and then serving as the land acquisition coordinator for KDWPT, working closely with Ducks Unlimited to acquire critical waterfowl habitat in Kansas.

In 2004 Jim took the Environmental Services Section Chief position. During his tenure Jim worked to improve the Departments data management of threatened and endangered species occurrence and mapping. He helped coordinate the Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration project in SE Kansas. Damage assessment funds from this project have gone towards land purchasing and restoration efforts in the former mining lands of Southeast Kansas.

Jim retired from KDWPT in 2007 after 30 years with the Department. But he was just getting started. After retirement Jim went to work for The Nature Conservancy of Kansas, serving as their Conservation Projects Coordinator. In this position Jim has been instrumental in helping TNC develop and maintain industry relationships and opportunities to review and influence specific Kansas wind energy projects, striving to prevent development in intact native landscapes. In his position with TNC, Jim maintains regular contact with energy companies and partners for proper siting of wind projects and transmission lines. Jim is the property manager for the Anderson County Prairies TNC property, which host a population of Meads Milkweed. When a highway project was threatening several plants, Jim got the shovel out and helped relocate several plants out of harm’s way.

Jims serves on the Kansas Technical Committee where he brings a wealth of knowledge and perspective beneficial to wildlife resources in Kansas.



## Chapter Updates

### Kansas



Jim Hays (left) and Bill Jensen (right).  
Contributed by Mark Sexson.

TNC described Jim as their “go to guy”. No matter the issue Jim brings thoughtful advice and is able to contribute to finding a solution.

Jim has been involved with TWS most of his career. Serving as Chapter Board member and board member of CMPS and now is vice president of CMPS.

#### **History of the KCTWS Snipe Award**

The first Snipe Award was presented to Steve Capel in 1987, but what was the history and intent behind this quarter century-old traveling icon? The board of KCTWS recognized that certain individual members often put forth efforts that warranted special recognition.

A certificate was proposed and developed, but the Board also felt that the Chapter needed something that could be passed on and was a type of recorded history. Although difficult to admit, I must give some of the credit to the Kansas Fisheries Society. Their **Bullfrog Award** spurred the idea for a light-hearted traveling trophy geared toward KCTWS. The **Snipe Award** was designed to spur conversations about the organization and the people who received it. Unlike the Bullfrog, the Snipe has survived trips from one end of the state to the other for over two decades.

At the time the award was created, the proverbial “snipe hunt” was still alive and well. For those too young to remember this rite of passage to adulthood, the art of live snipe hunting involved a group of teenagers, some older and wiser, and obviously at least one much younger and less enlightened hunter. More than one bag holder was preferred, if more uninitiated volunteers could be found. The bag holders would be spread out across the country side, charged with the very important job of holding the burlap bag open while shining a flashlight into the bag so the snipe would know where to run. This individual was positioned in a field or pasture and the others left to beat the bushes to flush the snipe and encourage it to run for cover. The snipe would see the light and the security of the bag and run into it. The younger hunter was schooled in how to close the bag quickly in case the snipe changed its mind. Of course it was essential that the snipe hunt was conducted in the dark of night as that was the only time snipe were active. It could take hours to catch one of these elusive night snipe. In some cases the sun would be coming up before the hunt could be considered a failure.



# Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

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## Chapter Updates

### **Kansas**

The builder of the Snipe Award (that would be me) took some creative license by adding another well-known and accepted practice of catching live birds; namely the very skilled technique of hiding where you knew a bird would land so you could quietly reach out with a salt shaker and sprinkle salt on the birds tail. If you were successful in salting the tail, the bird would be unable to fly and thus would be yours for the taking. Rumor has it that as an additional measure to ensure success, some “bag and flashlight holding” snipe hunters were also issued salt shakers to prevent the snipe from flying away before the bag was secured.

It is important to be able to laugh at ourselves and acknowledge that life should not be so serious as to prevent us from stopping and watching the clouds now and then. The Snipe Award allows us to do that, while still honoring someone who has done something special for the profession we all hold dear in our hearts. Most of us got into this field because something deep inside us said it was the right thing to do. It was not to make a lot of money, or become famous. It was to do our small part to protect and enhance the natural resources that we loved.

I have been honored over the years to see this esteemed trophy move from awardee to awardee. I have seen it proudly displayed in offices of universities, zoos, private homes, regional and field offices. It has not been hidden in the corner or in a box but has been front and center for all to see. I knew when I installed the glass some 25 years ago that before long I would hear the award met with an untimely death. Perhaps taking a tumble from an open tailgate somewhere on a back road, out there where wildlife still goes about its business, in spite of what we humans are up to. But this has not happened and recipients have treated it with care and respect. Not because of the box and bird, or the story behind it, but because of the names inscribed on the small plaques at its base.

The story of the snipe hunter is also a message for those of us working in the wildlife field, and for those just getting started. The mission of The Wildlife Society has always been to search for knowledge and to use this knowledge to assure wildlife habitats and the wildlife that require them will survive into an uncertain future. The Snipe story reinforces the fact that there is misinformation out there that we as professionals have an obligation to set straight through information and education. Laugh, smile, and attempt to not take yourself too seriously, while remembering that we, the members of the Kansas Chapter of The Wildlife Society, are one of the best hopes for the wildlife of tomorrow. Happy Snipe Hunting!



# Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

## Chapter Updates

### South Dakota

The South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting on the shores of the Missouri River from February 29<sup>th</sup> – March 2<sup>nd</sup> at Cedar Shore Resort in Oacoma, South Dakota. We had 152 registered attendees at this year's annual meeting. The SDTWS membership meets annually each spring to exchange scientific information through presented papers, debate current issues in wildlife management and land use, and conduct chapter business. This year's meeting went very well with several very interesting and engaging presentations. Our special session on February 29<sup>th</sup>, titled "A Look at the Past, Present, and Future in Wildlife Conservation", included presentations from The Wildlife Society President, Gary Potts who presented on adapting to challenges and opportunities in the wildlife profession, and South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Secretary, Kelly Hepler who spoke about how the mix of science, politics, and common sense drives decision making. We also had presentations on wildlife species success stories and how the use of unmanned aircraft can be used in wildlife research and management. Additionally, Jed Meunier – Great Grandson of Aldo Leopold presented the Green Fire Video – Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for our time.



The Wildlife Society President, Gary Potts along with Central Mountains and Plains Section Representative, Bob Lanka present a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Certificate to the South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society for 50 years of service to the wildlife profession. Receiving this certificate is SDTWS President Nathan Baker and immediate Past-President, John Kanta.

## Chapter Updates

### South Dakota



Shane Mahoney was our keynote speaker and gave an engaging address titled “Conservation Matters” during our awards banquet. This address can be viewed here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GxquyhaKjgg&feature=youtu.be>

Josh Stafford was elected president-elect and Ben Lardy was elected as an executive board member. Nathan Baker also took over as president. Awards given at this year’s meeting were: Wildlife Professional of the Year, Chuck Berdan; M.S. Student of the Year, Matt Gottlob; Best Student Presentation, Matt Gottlob; Best Open Presentation, Adam Janke. A Past-President plaque was also given to John Kanta for his service as SDTWS President in 2015-16.



# Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

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## Chapter Updates

### **Colorado State University Student Chapter**

Greetings!

In February, the Colorado State University Chapter of the Wildlife Society sent 6 members to attend CCTWS' annual meeting in Colorado Springs. They were able to participate in this great opportunity to connect with wildlife professionals and learn about the current research that is happening the field of their potential future careers. One member, Rebecca Much, was able to present her poster on "An Analysis of Items Carried in the Mouths of Carnivores". Overall, this was a great experience and we certainly look forward to next year.

This year, we have had the pleasure of partnering with the CSU chapter of the Society for Conservation Biology. Due to the amount of members that belong to both societies and the similarities in presenters, this was a natural course of action. This semester we have hosted CSU professor Dr. Rick Knight, who gave a compelling presentation on the life of Aldo Leopold. Dr. Gary White and Katy Werner, who talked about their experiences on the Polar Bear field trip during last year's TWS annual meeting in Winnipeg. And Karla Hernandez from the National Alliance for Jaguar Conservation of Mexico talked about her organization's role in protecting the Jaguar in Mexico.

Later on this spring we are excited to host Ellie Mock from the Denver Zoo, and representatives from Colorado Natural Heritage Program and the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory. In addition, we are hosting the ever popular trapping techniques workshop with Colorado Parks and Wildlife and we are fortunate to host another Hunter's Education Program for our members. Ed Arnett, from the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, has graciously accepted to teach a Wildlife and Natural Resource Policy Workshop for members.

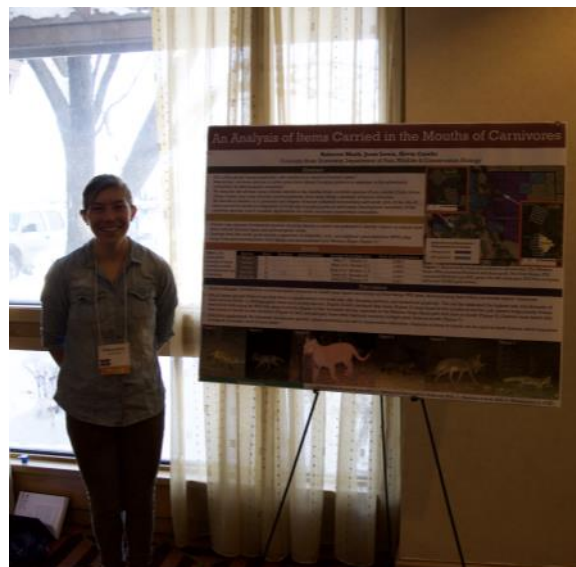
Lastly, we are once again participating in Collaborative Colorado. This event consists of a wide range of natural resource student clubs helping elementary aged students learn about their environment! This leads us to our new overall goals of collaboration with other natural resource societies in order to promote interdisciplinary relationships and to promote environmental education to younger generations.



# Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

## Chapter Updates

### Colorado State University Student Chapter





# Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

## Chapter Updates

### **Western State Colorado University Student Chapter**

To begin, every Wednesday afternoon our chapter has teamed up with our local Mentors program (analogous to Big Brothers and Big Sisters program) to teach biology classes for underprivileged youth in the Gunnison Valley. This is an afterschool program. This semester we have taught them how to find macroinvertebrates in The Gunnison River and brought equipment so that students were able to bring home specimens of their own to study. We have also gone and identified different plant species along the Gunnison River, snow-tracked for bunnies, coyotes, and beavers, looked at browsing done by ungulates on various shrubs, and various other wildlife oriented activities. This has been an incredible opportunity for our chapter to give back to the Gunnison community and we could not be happier for the opportunity to hang out with these awesome kiddos.

In January, we also were able to use funds to take a trip to The Ridgway hut, near Ridgway Colorado. This was a seven mile trek through the snow to make it to a remote cabin at the base of Mt. Sneffels. Here we looked for snowshoe hares, and other wildlife who utilize this snowy habitat throughout the winter. We also used the opportunity to do some back-country skiing and experience the solitude of hiking to this hut in the middle of the winter. The scenery of this area was dramatic to say the least and a great time was had by all who made the enormous trek out to the cabin.

Also in January, we teamed up with The United States Forest Service as well as Colorado Parks and Wildlife in order to participate in a snow-tracking workshop. Fifteen people were allowed access into an area that is closed to all human traffic throughout the winter, as it is a crucial wintering habitat for ungulates in The Gunnison Valley. Here we were able to put stories together under the guidance of Colorado Parks and Wildlife by looking at prints in the snow. We saw evidence of play by coyotes, bobcat tracks, and many ungulate browsing areas. Overall this was a good time for students to get to know a Colorado Parks and Wildlife officer, Danny Zadra, as well as to network with The United States Forest Service.



President Dustin Hannasch explains coprophagy to Mentors program participants. These kids loved learning that and how to identify rabbit footprints in snow (January 2016).



# Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

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## Chapter Updates

### **Western State Colorado University Student Chapter**

Beginning in January and ending the first week in April, two of our members, Erin Twaddell and Dustin Hannasch were selected for an internship with The United States Forest Service. This internship was designed as a snow-tracking internship within purported Canada Lynx habitat linkage area. The aim of the internship was to glean wildlife usage in the area as well as to hopefully spot a Canada Lynx or its preferred prey, the snowshoe Hare. This was great résumé experience to have as well as a valuable opportunity to work with our local United States Forest Service office.

In early February, five members of TWS were given the opportunity to go to the annual meeting of the Colorado Chapter of the Wildlife Society in Colorado Springs. Here, our members networked with many diverse biological professionals and also saw presentations of the incredible studies going on in the field of wildlife biology. We were extremely appreciative to be able to utilize funds given to us by The Colorado Chapter of the Wildlife Society to attend the event and we were able to make some valuable connections. The amount and sheer diversity of studies happening was awe-inspiring and members who were able to attend left feeling inspired by the field of wildlife biology.

Also in February, we heard from a local biologist, Jason Beason from Paonia, Colorado. He presented to our students about Yellow-Billed Cuckoos in western Colorado and the impacts of organic agriculture on the populations of these birds. We learned about the population dynamics and unique lifestyle of the Yellow-Billed Cuckoo while enjoying some pizza purchased with some of our funds.

In March, for our Spring Break, ten of our students decided to volunteer in order to perform conservation work in conjunction with The Grand Canyon Trust. This work entailed performing spring restoration work along the base of Vermillion Cliffs National Monument. We did activities such as remote trigger camera maintenance, rock-bar construction for water erosion prevention, invasive species pulling and control, and transplanting native plant species to increase survivability. This work was inspiring and meaningful, working on desert oases which support such a diverse array of species. Through looking at pictures collected by the game cameras we saw animals such as bobcats, coyotes, rabbits, birds of prey, desert bighorn sheep, and bats who utilized the springs as an important resource for their lives. Also at the springs, we saw tadpoles and a vast array of macroinvertebrates who were loving life in these wonderful cold water pools. We stayed at a place called Kane Ranch. This ranch was es-



Last day of an incredible three-day weekend spent at The Ridgway Hut, a mere 7 mile hike (January 2016).



## Chapter Updates

### **Western State Colorado University Student Chapter**

established in 1877 and we were lucky enough to stay and hangout in the original sandstone building built in 1877. It was the opportunity of a lifetime and we could not have been more grateful to have made the journey utilizing funds given to us from The Colorado Chapter of the Wildlife Society. Overall we improved pools and seeps of the springs for wildlife usage and were wonderful ambassadors of Western State Colorado University and The Wildlife Society.

On April 1<sup>st</sup> we put on our annual Biology Bonanza event for Elementary and Middle School aged students where we set-up many biology oriented workshops for kids to get some hands-on experience with biology. Some of the workshops included animal tracking, jell-o cells, and wildlife bingo. This was a chance to hang out with some awesome kids and hopefully to inspire some students to begin a life-long love of biology.

To wrap-up the semester we are looking forward to our largest fundraising event of the year: Bingo night at our local B.P.O.E. Elks Lodge. Last year we raised over \$850 for our student chapter of The Wildlife Society as well as for our sister club the student chapter of The National Biological Honors Society. This event requires everyone from our chapter to sell tickets, and help out during the night of the event. It provides an ample opportunity to get further exposure of our clubs and promotes our mission to the community.

This semester has been a success, in large part due to the funds provided by The Colorado Chapter of The Wildlife Society. We have been able to put on and participate in many events that would have been otherwise unattainable without a solid bank account. We look forward to continuing to serve our community and enhance college students' careers for the next year and many years to come. To keep up with our student chapter, or to see more cool photos check out our website at

[www.western.edu/tws](http://www.western.edu/tws).



Working on a snow-tracking workshop with Colorado Parks and Wildlife and The United States Forest Service, students learned how to tell stories through footprints (January 2016).

## Chapter Updates

### Utah University—welcome!

[Read the full story about their work: We may have forgotten that the University of Utah campus is an ecosystem, an](#) environment for student learning to take place *and* a habitat for other species to live and thrive. A small group of students are paying attention to the latter issue by working to increase the kestrel populations on campus and learn more about the species' natural history. working to increase the kestrel populations on campus and learn more about the species' natural history.

working to increase the kestrel population. Kestrels are the smallest falcon species. They are birds of prey—also known as raptors—that feast on small mammals and insects that are plentiful food sources along Red Butte Creek and the manicured turf across campus. The problem is that kestrel populations have steadily been in decline. Another species of falcon, the Peregrine, has nested on top of the Joseph Smith Memorial Building in downtown Salt Lake for decades. The falcons are known as Salt Lake's resident falcons and have returned year after year since the late-eighties.

A dedicated group of bird enthusiasts are attempting to recreate kestrels' seasonal nesting behavior. High in the trees, you'll spot a dozen simple, wooden, rectangular birding boxes. The purpose of the boxes is to reintroduce the bird to the campus ecosystem and foster nesting behavior, hopefully increasing the local kestrel population.

Biology student installs nesting box to monitor kestrel behavior this spring.

Colter Dye, a biology student at the U, is at the forefront of this initiative. He says the idea hatched after taking a biology class last spring. He discovered an earlier project that Community Engaged Learning (CEL) students in the biology department developed in 2013 to provide nesting habitat for western screech owls on campus. Dye was inspired to expand the screech owl project into a more robust kestrel research programs on campus and learn more about the species' natural history.





# Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

## Central Mountains and Plains Section Directory

### CMPS Officer Contacts and CHAPTER officers

#### CMPS

President—Karie Decker  
karie.decker@nebraska.gov

President-elect: Andrea Orabona  
andrea.orabona@wyo.gov

Vice President: Jim Hays  
jim\_hays@tnc.org

Secretary/Treasurer: Laurel Badura  
Laurel\_Badura@fws.gov

#### At-large Board Members

Justin Hamilton  
Justin.hamilton@ksoutdoors.com

Lindsey Messinger  
lmessinger2@unl.edu

Mindy Rice  
mindy.rice@state.co.us

Silka Kempema  
Silka.Kempema@state.sd.us

#### Council Representative

Bob Lanka  
bob.lanka@wyo.gov

### STATE CHAPTER OFFICERS

#### COLORADO

President Tony Gurzick  
President-elect Pat Magee

#### KANSAS

President Bill Jensen  
President-Elect Brad Rueschhoff

#### NEBRASKA

President Laurel Badura  
President-elect Jennifer Frisch

#### NORTH DAKOTA

President Bill Jensen  
President-elect Rick Nelson

#### SOUTH DAKOTA

President Nathan Baker  
President-elect Joshua Stafford

#### UTAH

President Kevin Labrum  
President-Elect Brock McMillan

#### WYOMING

President Matt Hayes  
President-elect Holly Copeland

### STUDENT CHAPTER OFFICERS

#### CO STATE UNIV.

President Carter Miller  
Advisor Stewart Breck  
Advisor Larissa Bailey

#### WESTERN STATE COLORADO UNI- VERSITY

President Dustin Hannasch  
President-elect —  
Advisor Patrick Magee

#### EMPORIA STATE UNIV. - KS

President Tyler Thomsen  
Advisor William Jensen

#### KS STATE UNIV.

President Emily Ferlemann  
Advisor David Haukos

#### CHADRON STATE COLLEGE - NE

President Kalen Grint  
Advisor Teresa Frink

#### UNIV. OF NE - KEARNEY

President Kelsey Seifert  
Advisor Dr Thomas Freeman

#### UNIV. OF NE - LINCOLN

President Cole Neibauer  
President-elect Courtney Anderson

Advisor Larkin Powell  
Advisor Dennis Ferraro

#### WAYNE STATE COLLEGE - NE

President-elect Kylie Comba  
Advisor Mark Hammer

#### ND STATE UNIV.

President Kira Karels  
Advisor Erin Gillam

#### UNIV. OF ND

President Lucas Knowlton  
Advisor Jay Boulanger  
Advisor Susan Ellis-Felege

#### SD STATE UNIV.

President Josh Goeman  
Advisor Kent Jensen

#### BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIV. - UT

President Jordan Rosell  
Advisor Thomas Smith  
Advisor Randy Larsen

#### University of Utah

President Colter Dye  
Advisor Amy Sibul

#### UT STATE UNIV.

President Kade Lazenby  
Advisor Dan MacNulty

#### UTAH VALLEY UNIV.

President Michelle Forster  
Advisor Melissa Monk

#### Weber State University

Advisor John Cavitt

#### UNIV. OF WY

President Jace Cussins  
Advisor Merav Ben-David



# Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

## Answers to the Central Mountains and Plains Section Quiz:

### Do You Know Your Section?

*Compiled by Andrea Orabona,*

*Central Mountains and Plains Section President-Elect,  
from the Central Mountains and Plains Section website*

<http://wildlife.org/cmp/>

- 1) The Central Mountains and Plains Section (CMPS) of The Wildlife Society (TWS) was initiated on February 2, 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 link to the full synopsis of CMPS’s history, “Where did it all begin?” by Jerry Kobriger, can be found on the website in the CMPS History section under the Who We Are link.
- 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. A link to each State Chapter can be found on the CMPS website in the Chapter Links section under the Who We Are link, as well as under the Membership link.
- 3) CMPS started with 39 members in 1955. As of August 2010 (the last reported date), there were 1,987 members. Membership details are available on the CMPS website under the Membership link.
- 4) CMPS Bylaws were first organized on April 22, 1955. Amendments occurred in 1980, 1986, 1987, 1990, 2006, 2008, 2009, 2013, and 2015. The current Bylaws are dated July 27, 2015. The CMPS Bylaws are on the website in the Mission and Objectives section under the Who We Are link.
- 5) CMPS has a 5-item Mission Statement:
  1. Provide a forum for CMPS members to share regional science and policy issues.
  2. Serve as a voice for science in regional policy.
  3. Serve as a regional voice for science in national and international policy.
  4. Serve as a liaison between TWS and CMPS Chapters.
  5. Encourage wildlife professionals to become active members and leaders in TWS.

This information can be found in the Mission and Strategic Plan link in the Mission and Objectives section under the Who We Are link.



## Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

- 6) Using the 5 items from the Mission Statement as a basis, the CMPS Strategic Plan outlines details for accomplishing each item in the Mission Statement, including a “Section Involvement Decision Matrix” to guide CMPS’s involvement in policy issues. This information can be found under the Mission and Strategic Plan link in the Mission and Objectives section under the Who We Are link.

### CMPS Strategic Plan:

1. Provide a forum for CMPS members to share regional science and policy issues.
  - a. Hold an annual conference where members may share regional scientific research, regional policy issues, and regional solutions.
    - i. Provide a technical session as a forum for student research within the Section.
    - ii. Provide a technical session to highlight a pressing wildlife issue.
    - iii. Provide a training or workshop session.
  - b. Issue a newsletter to members 3 times per year that will provide:
    - i. State and Student Chapter updates.
    - ii. Updates on regionally important research.
    - iii. Updates on regionally important policy deliberations and decisions.
    - iv. Information on other meetings of interest.
  - c. Circulate bulletins or alerts on regional issues when deemed necessary.
2. Serve as a voice for science in regional policy.
  - a. Provide a regional voice for wildlife science in policy issues that are Section-wide in scope or have the potential to have Section-wide impacts to wildlife conservation, including sensitive species within the CMPS region. Priority issues that the CMPS Executive Board (the Board) has identified are:
    - i. Energy development.
    - ii. Reauthorization and implementation of the Farm Bill.
    - iii. Grassland and native prairie conservation.
    - iv. Prairie pothole conservation.
    - v. Sagebrush and mixed mountain shrub conservation.
    - vi. Forest habitat loss due to insect infestation.
    - vii. Water hydrology and management in relation to wildlife ecology and management.
  - b. Develop Position Statements on the above issues utilizing TWS technical reviews and position statements.
  - c. CMPS Position Statements will be developed utilizing expertise from member states.



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

*Section Involvement Decision Matrix*

	Issue Addresses >1 Board Priority	Issue Addresses 1 Board Priority	Issue Addresses 0 Board Priorities
Issue is Section-wide in scope	1	2	3
Issue in more than 1 member state but not Section-wide in scope	2	3	4
Issue in 1 state only	3	4	5

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



## Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

- ii. Develop and/or sponsor targeted workshops to educate members about specific issues or tools pertinent to a region or profession.
  - e. Put special emphasis on recruiting students to join TWS.
    - i. Encourage Student Chapter members of TWS to attend the TWS Annual Conference through a CMPS student travel grant program.
      - 1. Priority will be given to undergraduate students.
      - 2. Priority will be given to students who are or have recently been active members of a Student Chapter.
      - 3. This program is available only to students who are members of CMPS, TWS, and a Student Chapter.
    - ii. Support TWS efforts to develop future leaders for TWS and our profession.
    - iii. Provide a technical session during the annual CMPS meeting as a forum for student research from within the Section.
- 7) 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.
  - C) To support the objectives of The Wildlife Society and its Code of Ethics.

More information can be found on the CMPS website under the Objectives link in the Mission and Objectives section under the Who We Are link.
- 8) Starting in 1956, there have been 60 CMPS Annual Meetings. Proceedings for 49 of those meetings are available electronically on the website in the Proceedings from CMPS Annual Meetings section under the Annual CMPS Meeting link.
- 9) All members of CMPS receive a newsletter, delivered electronically, 3 times per year (spring, summer, and fall/winter). CMPS newsletters from April 1981 through Winter 2015 are available electronically on the website under the Newsletters link. Submit articles to the Newsletter Editors – Stephanie Ferrero (NE) and Aleshia Fremgen (CO).
- 10) CMPS offers 2 awards, the Professional Achievement Award and the Citizen's Conservation Achievement Award. The Professional Achievement Award is presented annually to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution towards furthering the enhancement of wildlife endeavors within the Section. The Citizen's Conservation Achievement Award may be presented annually to lay individuals or groups that have made an outstanding contribution towards enhancement of wildlife endeavors within the Section. Criteria for each award and a



## Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

list of past award recipients can be found on the CMPS website in the Awards section under the Who We Are link.

11) CMPS offers the Wayne W. Sandfort Student 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, he was one of the organizers of the Section, and he was interested in students. To read more, visit the Student Travel Grants section under the Who We Are link on the CMPS website.

12) 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.

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 the Position Statements section of the CMPS website under the Who We Are link.

13) CMPS is involved in TWS's Conservation Affairs Network, and has submitted 3 letters thus far on issues of interest to the Conservation Affairs Network and Section. Topics covered included the Missouri River, the Conservation Reserve Program and Farm Bill, and outfitters and guides on National Forests and Grasslands in Nebraska and South Dakota. A link to each letter is available on the CMPS website in the Conservation Affairs section under the Who We Are link.

14) The current CMPS Executive Board includes:

President	Karie Decker (NE)
President-Elect	Andrea Orabona (WY)
Vice-President	Jim Hays (KS)
Secretary/Treasurer	Laurel Badura (NE)
Board Member At-large	Justin Hamilton (KS)
Board Member At-large	Silka Kempema (SD)
Board Member At-large	Lindsey Messinger (NE)
Board Member At-large	Mindy Rice (CO)
Section Representative to TWS Council	Bob Lanka (WY)

More information on CMPS leadership is available on the website. Current Executive Board members can be found in the Leadership and Governance section under the Who We Are link. Past Executive Board members can be found under the Officers and Executive Board link in the CMPS History section under the Who We Are link. Remember, the Executive Board is here to serve *you* and the *wildlife resource* that fuels our passion for what we do!





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15) There are two ways to join CMPS:

1. Include the Section in your annual parent TWS membership renewal.
2. Join your State Chapter of TWS, where \$1 of your Chapter dues goes to CMPS to make you a member and entitle you to receive the CMPS newsletter 3 times per year.

CMPS membership details are on the website under the Membership link. A link to each Chapter can be found on the CMPS website under the Membership link, as well as in the Chapter Links section under the Who We Are link.

*For more details on these and other Central Mountains and Plains Section topics, visit the informative and engaging CMPS website at <http://wildlife.org/cmp/>.*

2015. The current Bylaws are dated July 27, 2015. The CMPS Bylaws are on the website in the Mission and Objectives section under the Who We Are link.