



THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Northwest Section Spring 2017 Newsletter



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PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Many of us who can remember, yearn for pre-computer, pre-cell phone, pre-voice messaging days. Younger biologists may lament what it must have been like to be in the field more, as opposed to behind a computer or on a cell phone returning calls regardless of whether in the field or behind a desk. However, there is something we have in common with those that have come before us and those who will come after, “human-wildlife conflicts”.

As one of my mentors, Dr. Robert Eng, once advised me in addressing wildlife conflicts, it’s not about winning or losing, but rather requires constant maintenance for long term success. Often, approaches in dealing with these conflicts are addressing solutions to problems not clearly identified through transparent collaborative efforts. Many solutions that come forward in attempts to address human-wildlife conflicts have likely skipped over creating understanding between the interests, a limiting factor in developing solutions, i.e. the underlying human-human conflict. Understanding human-human conflicts requires a different kind of work and may often require professional facilitation.

In an excellent paper, (“Understanding and managing conservation conflicts”, 2013, Steve Redpath, et.al., found in Trends in Ecology and Evolution, February 2013, Vol. 28, No. 2), Redpath, et.al. asserts: 1), “Conservation conflicts...need to be managed to minimize negative impacts on biodiversity, human livelihoods, and human well-being.”, 2) “...hypothesize that conservation outcomes will be less durable when conservationists assert their interests to the detriment of others.”, and addressing 3, “...social

context with material impacts and evaluation of the efficacy of alternative conflict management approaches.”, may develop more effective long term solutions.

When we look around the NW at some of our long-standing natural resource conflicts, maybe we should look towards developing solutions from first understanding the root human-human conflict, i.e. a different beginning point. Thinking about the ESA, both listing and de-listing, it's not just about recovery but also about the inevitable court actions to keep species listed once recovery criteria are met.

For example, there is a huge human-human conflict that arises with grizzly bears and wolves. How much of the human-human conflict stems from changing who becomes enfranchised and disenfranchised when a species is listed (Federal Government and National NGO's versus State and state-based conservation interests), and how that works in reverse when de-listing is proposed after recovery criteria are met? How much work has our profession dedicated to building trust between the effected parties to accomplish listing, recovery and delisting of species?

Another example is the west wide long standing conflict of disease transfer between wild and domestic sheep. The woolgrowers and wild sheep interests have spent enormous personal resources entrenched in each other's belief of the other's motives, creating continual win-lose situations. As we found out in Montana, at a recent wild/domestic sheep symposium where both interests presented their science and their views, the president of the MT Woolgrowers remarked, 'the same respiratory diseases that impact wild sheep impact his domestic sheep'. In my 40+ years, that is the first time I have heard that statement from the industry. Maybe we need to actually have a conversation that moves us toward mutually beneficial solutions.

As we address human-wildlife conflicts, maybe we should be thinking more about the human-human conflict first, to develop more successful approaches to human-wildlife conflicts. That means expense in terms of human capital and dollars through professional facilitation, and transparent and inclusive collaboration. We might just find that values may be more aligned and that addressing human-human conflict by getting to know and understand each other without pretext could lead to more durable solutions. Further, measurable objectives can be collaboratively developed from this effort to determine success or failure of actions.

Looking ahead...our new President starting May 1 is Scott Brainerd, I will remain on the board as past-president. Below are initiatives we have been working on and will be developing more in the coming year. The NW section is in the process of rebuilding its presence and support to the chapters and as a conduit to the parent society. We will begin this coming year to include representatives from each of the NW Section chapters in NW Section board calls, we are reaching out to the Canadian Section and their western TWS chapters to integrate future positions and initiatives, we are seeking ways to reinstate NW student conclaves, we will be reaching out to Tribal/First Nations to solidify our joint interests and membership, and revising and updating our Section by-laws. We have increased out dues for the first time to 10 dollars to support these activities.

Finally, in developing a NW Section logo, it became obvious that many at the various chapters did not know what states were in the NW Section! The logo physically identifies the 5 states. The logo also has a figure holding a Yagi antennae and a mountain goat. Why? The figure represents distance and location, the mountain goat is the same species found in all 5 states, and both helped balance the logo. We thank Martha and Terry Lonner for their patience with us as we developed the logo. Please see logo below. One last thing, please vote for your new officers!

Thank you all for your professional and personal dedication to wildlife conservation and management.

Sincerely,
Kurt L. Alt
President, NW Section TWS

NORTHWEST SECTION DUES

Thank you to the membership for voting confidence in the Northwest Section board and increasing our dues! Dues are the only income the Section currently has, and dues are vital to maintaining operations. Dues increased from \$5 per year to \$10 per year as of 2016. This increased revenue will not only enable us to continue current operations, but will allow us to expand some programs. The Section will be particularly looking toward increased communication with member chapters and how to increase services for students. A Northwest Section Student Conclave may be in our future! Please stay tuned, as more information will follow!

2016 NORTHWEST SECTION MEETING

The Northwest Section met with the Montana Chapter of The Wildlife Society. Northwest Section executive board members Kurt Alt (president), Scott Brainerd (president-elect), Julie Cunningham (past-president) and Betsy Glenn (vice president) were in attendance, as was Harriet Allen (Northwest Section Representative to Council). We had a well-attended business meeting, with almost 20 people in attendance. Scott and Julie also co-presented a talk regarding past, present, and future of the Northwest Section with focus on the Section's history with the Montana Chapter.

Major points of discussion included the forward direction of the Section. The Section is working to increase its communication with member states, and will formalize this arrangement through state chapter representatives. The Montana Chapter identified that their past-president will be the Montana representative to the Northwest Section. Section officers will visit with the other chapters to secure these connections. Other discussion included Section relationship with Canada, particularly the Alberta, British Columbia, and Yukon chapters. In the past, these relationships brought strength and cohesion to the Section. After formation of the Canadian Section, we lost official ties to these chapters, but could seek to reform some connection.

FUTURE MEETING ROTATION

Pending Chapter concurrence, and if we stay with the recent rotation, here is the projected timeline for Northwest Section attendance to Chapter meetings.

Alaska	2018*
Idaho	2019
Washington	2020*
Oregon	2021

* Special symposium/workshop may be offered

NORTHWEST SECTION LOGO

President Kurt Alt presented a new logo for the Northwest Section of The Wildlife Society. Throughout the year, he worked with Martha Lonner from Mediaworks to design this logo. The logo identifies our 5 member states with a field biologist and a mountain goat image; an iconic wildlife species native to our states.



CURRENT OFFICERS

Scott Brainerd (AK)	President-elect	scott.brainerd@rocketmail.com
Kurt Alt (MT)	President	altwildlife@yahoo.com
Julie Cunningham (MT)	Past-President	juliecunningham@mt.gov
Betsy Glenn (OR)	Vice-President	betsyglenn1@gmail.com
Michelle Kemner (ID)	Secretary/Treasurer	michelle.common@idfg.idaho.gov
Harriet Allen (WA)	Section Rep. to Council	hallen2009@comcast.net

ELECTIONS

The Northwest Section will be electing new officers to the positions of president-elect and vice-president. Elections will occur over the month of April and officer turnover will be May 1.

PRESIDENT-ELECT CANDIDATES



KRISTINA BOYD

Kristina has been deeply involved in The Wildlife Society for 10 years, both at chapter and national levels. At the national level, she is a Leadership Institute alumna, founded and chaired the Early Career Professional Working Group, collaboratively created many professional development opportunities for national conferences, and initiated an All Working Group Collaborative Network. As President of the Montana Chapter she orchestrated its annual conference, organized professional development workshops, restructured the Chapter's policy committees into a cohesive Conservation Affairs Committee, funded and led the Chapter in the creation of a 4-year strategic plan, and is researching avenues for Chapter growth including the establishment of an endowment fund.

She has a 20-year career in wildlife that spans insects to apex predators across the western US for state, federal, and tribal agencies, universities, consulting companies, and non-profit organizations. As president of the Northwest Section, she would integrate her experience as a wildlife biologist and as Director of Development of a non-profit to enhance the Section's capacity to serve its membership.



DANA SANCHEZ

Currently an Associate Professor and Statewide Extension Wildlife Specialist at Oregon State University, Dana is a Certified Wildlife Biologist™ and 20-year veteran of The Wildlife Society. She is founding chair of the Ethnic and Gender Diversity Working Group, and served on the Editorial Advisory Board of the Wildlife Professional 2008-2012. She is a Leadership Institute alumna. She served National as a conference organizing committee and quiz bowl chair for the 2012 conference, and as an Award Committee Chair for the Diversity and McDonough awards. She has been a Northwest Section member since 1996. Dana served as Treasurer of the Oregon Chapter TWS 2011-2012. She has been a member of, and served as an officer in, student chapters of The Wildlife Society

at University of Arizona and University of Montana. If elected, Dana would like to contribute to further building and expanding the roles that the NW Section can play for its state chapters and our individual members. She would like to work with the NW Section Board, state chapters, and individual members to strategically plan for future development of the NW Section's roles and activities.

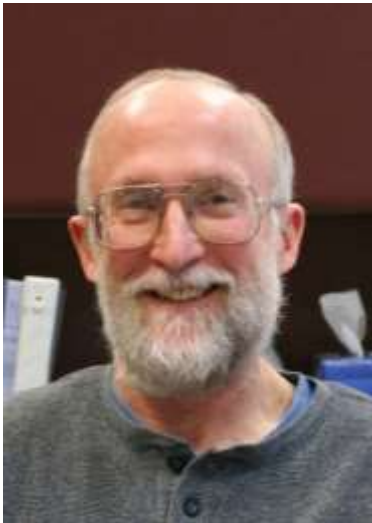
VICE PRESIDENT CANDIDATES

KIM JOCHUM



Dr. Kim Jochum is a wildlife biologist who manages the wildlife program at Fort Wainwright, Alaska through Colorado State University where she is an affiliate professor. She has worked on red fox and European hare in Germany, polar bears and humpback whales in Canada, and brown bear ecology in Russia and Alaska. She has been living in Alaska since 2009. Her conference planning experience includes being on an organizing committee or serving as a session chair at 10 national and international wildlife and polar conferences. She is currently secretary of the Alaska Shorebird Group. If elected, Kim would put her efforts toward setting up a successful NW-Section meeting in Anchorage next year and focus on encouraging members to increase communication, as well as aim to increase our membership base again.

DAVE YOKEL



Dave recently retired from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Fairbanks, Alaska, where for the last 25 years he has worked as a wildlife biologist. His primary responsibility there has been to help mitigate the impacts to wildlife and their habitat of oil and gas exploration and development on Alaska's North Slope. He has also worked for the BLM for two years in Utah and the U.S. Forest Service in northern California for two years. Prior to all that he earned a B.S. in biology from the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, and a Ph.D. in biology from the University of California, Santa Barbara. He has been a member of TWS since 1988. Dave has met and worked with a lot of great people over the last 30 years and hopes he has made a tiny contribution to the wildlife field.

AWARDS

The Northwest Section presented its two annual awards at the Thursday evening banquet of at the Montana Chapter conference. The Arthur S. Einarsen Award recognizes a lifetime achievement to the wildlife profession. The Wildlife Administrator Award recognizes excellence in program development, administration, budgeting, planning, and personnel management.

The 2017 winner of the Arthur S. Einarsen Award was Dr. Harold Picton



Photo Credit: Martha Lonner

Dr. Harold Picton is an emeritus professor of wildlife management from Montana State University (MSU) in Bozeman. In his early career, he worked along the Rocky Mountain Front pioneering elk work in the Sun River, then received his PhD and joined the faculty at MSU where he taught physiology and big game management. Notably, Dr. Picton served as president of NW Section (1970-1971). His work was highlighted by collaborations with colleagues at Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, the US Forest Service, and the National Park Service. He wrote more than 100 scientific articles that have enhanced ecological understanding on a regional level, especially articles involving grizzly bears and elk. His work featured application of complex ecological concepts such as climate science, theories in biogeography, fluctuating asymmetry, and chromatography to realized management issues or concerns. Through his retirement, he continued to publish influential books on bison and on the historical conservation efforts of Montana's wildlife.

The 2017 winner of the Wildlife Administrator Award was Quentin Kujala



Photo Credit: Martha Lonner

Quentin Kujala serves Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks' wildlife division as Wildlife Management Section Chief. He coordinates all Wildlife Division programs including habitat, game management, non-game management, research, and landowner-sportsmen relations. Quentin "came up from the field", and retains his roots as he navigates administrative issues and decisions. Quentin builds the bridge between administration and field staff across the state. His nomination letter describes him as the hub of a wheel, who strengthens every spoke. When opportunities, challenges, or difficult wildlife issues in Montana arise, Quentin is often a "behind the scenes" driving force. Examples of his work include: elk and brucellosis management, wild sheep conservation, grizzly bear delisting, bringing state and federal field biologists together across Forest boundaries to advance elk management, and bringing Technology Services together with field biologists to develop functional, useable databases. Through all the challenges, Quentin brings skill in communication, true leadership through integrity, vision, and modesty, conflict management through understanding and empathy – and all while remaining steadfast to the principles of wildlife management and the public trust doctrine.

REPORT ON TWS COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

TWS continues active engagement and implementation of its' strategic plan and providing benefits to members. Notes from this Spring include:

Council Meeting. The Wildlife Society's Spring Council meeting was held March 5-6, 2017 in Spokane, Washington, prior to the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference. An important task for the Council at this meeting was to approve a new budget and operations plans for 2017-2018. We also addressed future development and staffing of Society programs, partnerships, and opportunities for international engagement.

Jane Jorgenson. TWS suffered a huge loss in March with the passing of Jane Jorgenson. She served TWS for several decades, and was the Society's institutional memory. She was known and loved by hundreds of TWS members. Her broad responsibilities included bookkeeping, financial tracking and reporting, human resources, and contract administration. She will be greatly missed.

Budget. Executive Director Ken Williams presented a proposed budget for 2017-2018 that was discussed, refined and then approved by Council. The Society continues to be vigilant, through frequent, detailed financial monitoring, and is maintaining a strong, positive financial position, while remaining conservative in expenditures.

Leadership succession. Current TWS Executive Director Ken Williams is retiring in June, and the Society is in the process of filling the position. The Search Committee interviewed candidates just prior to the Spring Council meeting and the final selection is expected to be announced soon and the new ED will begin work in July.

2017 Annual Conference. Planning is ongoing for the 24th Annual TWS conference, which will be Sept 23-27 in Albuquerque, NM. The Call for Symposia and Workshop Proposals closed March 10 and the Education and Training Committee is in full swing reviewing 55 proposals (29 symposia, 22 workshops, four panel discussions). The deadline to submit abstracts for papers and posters is **April 10** and the conference website will open for registration May 15.

Funds have been raised for the Native American Student travel grants, which will enable us to bring between 11-15 students to the Conference, so if you know of someone who might be interested in applying for the grants, please let them know about this opportunity.

At the request from two TWS working groups (Wetlands, Student Development), headquarters will be providing a conference table during the Annual Conference so all Working Groups can be promoted during the meeting. TWS has 27 working groups, which cover a broad scope of the wildlife profession. The working groups are an important source of expertise to provide input and review for the Society's position papers and technical reports. Please consider joining a working group that you may be interested in.

Publications. Council approved Dr. Merav Ben-David from the University of Wyoming to fill the position of Editor-in-Chief of Wildlife Monographs. The Society is also encouraging members to submit ideas for articles for The Wildlife Professional, which is now published six times a year.

Membership – TWS continues to increase benefits to members, including the now free member subscriptions to our journals, weekly TWS talks and e-news, the Give Back program to encourage new TWS memberships, the new online member directory to facilitate networking among members, and the online policy library. TWS membership was 9,799 in January —an increase of 878 members from last year. The current membership mix is 53% professional, 27% student, 11% new professional, and 9% retired. Automatic renewal is also now available and has been adopted by about 30% of the membership.

A new initiative, the Give Back Program was launched in December. Under this program, renewing members may nominate a colleague for a 6 month free membership. The nominee may accept or decline. This is a great benefit that members can offer to colleagues who may want to try out membership for free. Since the launch of the program, 2,592 members have renewed online and 592 have nominated an individual for a free six-month membership. Of that number, 451 have accepted the offer. Consider nominating one of your colleagues when you renew!

Government Affairs and Partnerships. The Council approved Government Affairs and Partnerships policy priorities for the 115th Congress (through January 3, 2019). While implementing these new priorities, staff will also work in the broad scope of issues that impact wildlife professionals and their work in sustaining wildlife populations and habitats. Government Affairs staff continued to engage in policy efforts with Sections and Chapters through the Conservation Affairs Network. The new online Policy Library is now available through the Member Portal. It allows members to search for TWS policy letters, comments, and testimonies submitted since 2010.

Certification. Council approved a request from the Early Professional Working Group to amend the current certification program requirements to provide for a 3-year extension to the 10-year time limit for Associate Wildlife Biologists to apply to become Certified Wildlife Biologists. This will allow more time, if needed, for applicants to obtain the required 5 years of professional experience.

Awards. Don't forget to honor your colleagues by nominating them for TWS awards!! The deadline for nominations is **May 1**. Awards, criteria and nominating information can be found at the TWS website: www.tws.org

Hope you are having a great Spring,
Harriet Allen
Northwest Section Representative to Council