



The Northwest Section of The Wildlife Society

Empowering Wildlife Professionals to Sustain Wildlife
Through Science-Based Conservation

Summer 2017 Newsletter

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Northwest Section Members,

Hi! My name is Scott Brainerd, and I am the new Northwest Section President. My one-year term started in May, and I am looking forward to working with the Executive Board as we begin our process of rebuilding the capacity of the Section. Next May, president-elect Kris Boyd will take over the reins and serve her one-year term as president. Congratulations, Kris! Congratulations also to Kim Jochum, our new Vice President. Her two-year term started in May, and she will be responsible for planning the joint session with the Alaska Chapter annual meeting to be held next spring. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Kurt Alt for his tenure during the past year, as he assumes his new role as past-



president. And also Julie Cunningham, who in her role of past-president the past year has really provided a lot of stimulus and energy in our discussions regarding a vision for the Section. Thanks also to Julie for volunteering to be our newsletter editor! I look forward to a busy and productive period as we work to develop and implement a strategy for the Section.

As president, I will work with the Executive Board to increase the profile of the NW Section and its relevance to component chapters and membership, first and foremost. We cannot do this without having the state chapters on board. The Section has experienced a period of low activity during the past ten years. In recent years, the Section has been rebuilding, and has as an aim to hold joint meetings with member chapters every year, with joint sessions every other year. This is a good start, but I would like to see increased interaction and collaboration between the Section and its member chapters. To that end, and in accordance with our current bylaws (from 1993), we have added chapter representatives to the Executive Board. I view this as essential if we are to succeed in developing a Northwest Section that is relevant to our regional chapters.

A little history: The Northwest Section was founded in 1949, and included chapters in Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Wyoming and Alaska as well as British Columbia, Alberta, Yukon and Northwest Territories in Canada. Wyoming later joined the Central Mountains and Plains Section, and the Canadian Chapters joined the Canadian Section when it was formed in 2007. Thirty years ago, the Northwest Section was a vibrant organization that regularly held stand-alone annual meetings with specific themes, which on occasion produced published proceedings. There were about 1400 members in the Northwest Section in the early 1980's, whereas today we have only about 400 members. Thus, there is potential to grow the Section with the aim to focus on matters of common interest for member chapters pertaining to wildlife conservation.

I've been around for a while – I remember the big Northwest Section meetings during its heyday in the 1970's and 1980's when the Section was very active and held stand-alone regional conferences on important themes pertaining to wildlife conservation in the region. Back then, western Canadian chapters were also very active in the Section. Several hundred members attended these meetings, which occurred annually and were hosted by member chapters on a rotating basis. We had some great conferences – I attend several of these during 1982-1986 that were held in Alaska, British Columbia, Washington, Oregon and Montana in that time frame. I especially remember the 1982 symposium held in Juneau, Alaska, that was entitled "Fish and Wildlife Relationships in Old-Growth Forests" aka "The Old Growth symposium". That meeting was jointly sponsored by the Alaska District, American Institute of Fishery Research Biologists, the Alaska Council on Science and Technology, and the Northwest Section. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game was involved in the technical aspects of the program; as a young technician, I was responsible for ensuring that the slide and overhead projector worked, which they did most of the time! A hefty, peer-reviewed proceedings from that meeting was published a few years later¹.

¹ Meehan, W. R., T. R. Merrell, Jr., and T. A. Hanley. (Eds.) 1984. Fish and Wildlife Relationships in Old-Growth Forests: Proceedings of a symposium held in Juneau, Alaska, 12-15 April 1982. American Institute of Fisheries Research Biologists 425 pp.

In May, our Executive Board decided to develop a strategic plan that will provide a vision and goals to guide development of the Section and its role relative to member chapters and the parent society. The Wildlife Society has a [strategic plan](#) that can inform the formulation of the Section strategy. In addition, state chapters also have strategic plans, including [Montana](#) and [Alaska](#). Kris Boyd, our president-elect, will oversee this process. She led a similar strategic planning effort for the Montana Chapter when she was its president. At our last board meeting in late June, she outlined an approach for such a process that will occur later this summer and fall with a finished product by the end of the year. A working group will formulate the strategic plan, which will provide a vision, goals and objectives to guide the Section in developing programs and capacity to serve the needs of the chapters in the region. Our dated bylaws will be revised to reflect the priorities and needs defined in this strategic plan.

I am excited to see where this process leads us. We can learn from our past and from what our chapters and neighboring sections have done and are doing. Whether the Section will return to its days of former glory (as I remember them!), or find a different path to provide added value for our membership and the Wildlife Society as a whole, remains to be seen. I am optimistic, however, that we can develop an organization that will be strong, vibrant and relevant, and be carried forward by a new generation of wildlife professionals in years to come. Stay tuned - you will be hearing more about this process in the coming months.

CURRENT NORTHWEST SECTION OFFICERS

Kristina Boyd (MT)	President-Elect	boyd.kristina@yahoo.com
Scott Brainerd (AK)	President	scott.brainerd@rocketmail.com
Kurt Alt (MT)	Past-President	altwildlife@yahoo.com
Kim Jochum (AK)	Vice-President	kim.jochum@colostate.edu
Michelle Kemner (ID)	Secretary/Treasurer	michelle.common@idfg.idaho.gov
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Julie Cunningham (MT)	Newsletter editor	juliecunningham@mt.gov
VACANT	CAN/CAC Representative	

STATE CHAPTER REPRESENTATIVES TO THE NORTHWEST SECTION BOARD

Kelvin Johnson (MT)	kelvinj@mt.gov
Nathan Svoboda (AK)	nathan.svoboda@alaska.gov
Katy Stuart (WA)	katyshipe@gmail.com
David Shepherdson (OR)	ortws.pres@gmail.com
Ross Winton (ID)	ross.winston@idfg.idaho.gov

NORTHWEST SECTION STRATEGIC PLANNING

The Northwest Section will be delving into a strategic planning process over the next several months that will help create a vision and game plan for how we will support our members, chapters, and parent society over the next 5 years. We expect the process to entail both online and in-person conversations and strategic exercises. President-Elect Kristina Boyd is currently seeking funding to hire a facilitator and assist participants with travel to the in-person retreat, which we expect to be held near Bozeman, MT this November. We are recruiting participants through our member chapters, and if you would like to participate please contact the board of your state chapter to volunteer as a chapter representative. We would love to see a diversity of people participating from all career stages, employers, backgrounds, and philosophies! And if you support our effort but cannot participate, you can help by sponsoring our effort through a tax-deductible donation. Help shape our future with your voice! Contact Kristina Boyd for more information at boyd.kristina@yahoo.com<<mailto:boyd.kristina@yahoo.com>>.

Kristina Boyd, M.S., CWB

NORTHWEST SECTION 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
Montana	2022*

* Special symposium/workshop may be offered

STATE CHAPTER MEETINGS

The Northwest Section meeting will be held jointly with the Alaska Chapter conference this year. Stay tuned to the Northwest Section newsletter and the Alaska Chapter website for more information. Also in our section, note that the Oregon and Washington State Chapter TWS meetings will be held jointly in Portland, Oregon. The theme of the meeting will be: “Regional Strategies Addressing Global Challenges for Wildlife and Habitat Conservation”.

STATE	DATE (2018)	PLACE	WEBSITE
AK	TBD	Anchorage, AK	http://wildlife.org/alaska/meetings/
ID	TBD	TBD	http://ictws.org/meeting.php
OR	2/13-2/16	Portland, OR	https://ortws.wordpress.com/category/events/annual-meetings/
MT	2/19-2/23	Butte, MT	http://wildlife.org/montana-chapter/montana-chapter-annual-meeting/
WA	2/13-2/16	Portland, OR	http://wildlife.org/washington-chapter/washington-chapter-annual-meeting/

CANADIAN SECTION MEETING UPDATE

Past-president Kurt Alt attended the Canadian Section of The Wildlife Society meeting on behalf of the Northwest Section. The Canadian Section meeting was joint with the Canadian Society for Ecology and Evolution, and was held May 7-11 in Victoria BC. The Section granted Kurt \$350 to cover registration costs. The purpose of this meeting was to re-establish connection with Alberta and British Columbia, former member provinces in the Northwest Section, to discuss how to work together on cross-boundary wildlife issues. The Northwest Section still has members from the Canadian Section, and there are many issues we share in common. Kurt spent time with members from British Columbia and Alberta to discuss how to collaborate on resource issues through parent society. Kurt met with members from British Columbia interested in re-forming the B.C. Chapter. However, B.C. will have a unique set of challenges in addition to TWS’s parent society certification requirements. Provincial government has its own process to consider that will be necessary for all B.C. wildlife biologists who work with the provincial government.

Kurt is now a member of the Canadian Section of TWS.

NORTHWEST SECTION BYLAWS REVISION UPDATE

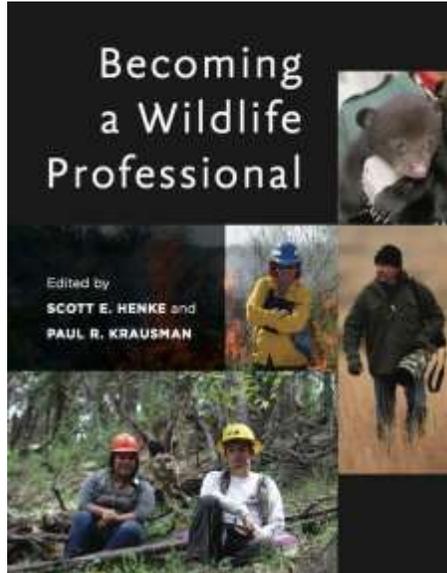
The Northwest Section board will review bylaws this summer, with plans to provide a draft to membership for their review and comments by fall. Stay tuned to our newsletters for more information!

NEWS FROM NATIONAL

New from TWS and Johns Hopkins University Press Review By Nancy Savage; Director of TWS Publications and Communications

“Becoming a Wildlife Professional” is the first comprehensive book to describe the entry-level jobs available for the next generation of wildlife biologists and conservationists. If you are a student preparing for a wildlife career or new professional looking for career advice, this new book published by The Wildlife Society in cooperation with Johns Hopkins University belongs in your library!

Editors Scott E. Henke and Paul R. Krausman include detailed chapters on how students should prepare for a vocation in the wildlife profession while offering pragmatic advice about applying for and obtaining a job. The book presents over 100 diverse career options that are available to aspiring wildlife workers, including work in biological field research, forestry, rehabilitation, ranching, photography and refuge management. It also details each position’s educational and technical requirements, challenges, salaries and opportunities for advancement and offers advice from a range of seasoned experts who actually hold these jobs and have used these techniques to secure employment.



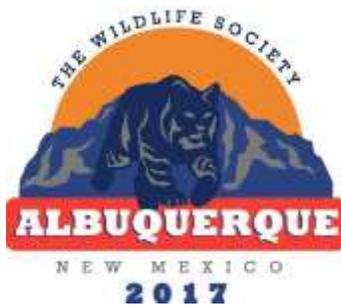
“Becoming a Wildlife Professional” also conveys important philosophical messages about the responsibilities and challenges of a career in wildlife conservation and management.

With all this information in one place, the book is an essential text for wildlife science students interested in making themselves marketable for employers across a wide spectrum of wildlife jobs.

TWS members receive a 30 percent on all titles published by the Society in cooperation with Johns Hopkins University Press. Be sure to enter the discount code HTWS at checkout.

[Order your copy today.](#)

The TWS member price is **\$59.50**



TWS’s 24th annual conference will be held in Albuquerque, NM September 23-27, 2017. More details can be found at <http://wildlife.org/2017-conference/>