Hello IWMWG members!

We are fast approaching the 21st Annual Conference for TWS in Pittsburgh and our own Annual Meeting of the Working Group (WG). A draft agenda for the WG meeting is posted in this newsletter, along with the date, place, and time, so be sure to make a note on your personal schedules.

We should have a full and substantive Annual Meeting with reports on the International Congress for Wildlife and Livelihoods on Private and Communal Lands held in Estes Park in September and on the 5th International Wildlife Management Congress to be held in Sapporo Japan in July of 2015. Members from Japan who will be hosting the International Congress will attend our WG meeting which will provide a good opportunity to ask questions and get more details on the sessions and speakers for Sapporo. The draft agenda (page 6 of this newsletter) identifies topics for the WG meeting and some of the issues we will discuss. I have highlighted several of these issues below.

The May 2014 issue of The Wildlifer included a draft of the Strategic Plan for TWS for the next 5 years. President Jon Haufler notes - in his President’s Podium in the same issue - that feedback from TWS members is welcome. The TWS Council and staff will review the plan and comments, with intent to approve the final (continued on page 5)

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**TWS President-Elect Rick Baydack Has International Focus**

By Theresa Fiorino

You might say The Wildlife Society has been a career-long passion for University of Manitoba Professor and TWS President Elect Rick Baydack. Rick began his professional career in Natural Resource consulting before moving on to a PhD in Wildlife Biology at Colorado State University. After joining TWS’s Manitoba Chapter, he “never looked back,” becoming the Manitoba Chapter President in 1987 and ultimately driving the formation of TWS’s Canadian Section.

Because of his Canadian roots, Rick’s work with TWS is inherently international. However, from his earliest days he demonstrated interests and experience that lie far beyond North American borders. "The first conference I was involved with I chaired the International Affairs Committee and we put together a joint symposium on international biodiversity conservation. At the time, TWS was very nationally focused and I think we still struggle on the international level.”

Currently, Rick is active organizing the TWS co-sponsored 5th International Wildlife (continued on page 7)
Managing Chihuahuan Desert Wildlife in Northern Mexico

Interview by Martha Desmond

TWS IWMWG Past Chair Martha Desmond interviewed Nancy Hernández and Pedro Calderón, founders of the Chihuahua, Mexico non-profit IMC Vida Silvestre, to learn about non-profit wildlife conservation and management in northern Mexico.

MD: Tell us about your NGO.

IMCVS: Our non-profit organization is called IMC Vida Silvestre (Investigation, Management and Conservation of Wildlife). We established IMC Vida Silvestre about one year ago as a consolidated NGO based out of Chihuahua, Mexico. Our staff consists of four individuals, all with Master in Science Degrees, M.C Nancy Hernández (Director), M.C Pedro Calderón (Wildlife and Grassland Management Specialist), M.C Roberto Rodríguez (Geographic Information Systems Specialist) and M.C Manuel Ochoa (Biologist for Janos, Chihuahua Region).

MD: Where did you both receive your training in wildlife management?

IMCVS: We both have Bachelor’s Degrees in Ecology and Master of Science Degree’s in Natural Resource Management from the Universidad Autónoma de Chihuahua (UACH), with an emphasis on Range and Wildlife Management and Conservation. Nancy received her Master’s degree on an international project between New Mexico State University and UACH. Pedro received his Master degree researching desertification with The Nature Conservancy.

MD: What made you decide to start a non-profit organization in northern Mexico and are there many similar organizations like yours in northern Mexico?

IMCVS: Pedro and I have worked as independent consultants for a variety of NGO’s (both U.S. and Mexican based) in northern Mexico over the past 15 years. Recently (past 5 years) we have been working with the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory (RMBO) on long term research focusing on the management and conservation of desert grasslands. We made the decision to start our own NGO when we began to have increased responsibilities with RMBO and other institutions in Mexico, including The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and some universities. An official company has a stronger presence and can better manage funds from U.S. and Mexican grants to be applied in Mexico for the benefit of specific wildlife species and habitat conservation in general. There are similar companies to ours in northern Mexico. However, few of them work to actively preserve habitat, especially grasslands. Our main focus is working to preserve Chihuahuan Desert Grasslands in Chihuahua, Mexico.

MD: What types of projects do you work on and who contracts with you?

IMCVS: Again, our main focus is the conservation and management of Chihuahuan Desert grasslands. We work in two main regions of the state of Chihuahua: Valles Centrales (extensive grasslands in north-central Chihuahua Mexico) and Janos (the recently established biosphere reserve in the northwest part of Chihuahua). In these two regions, we work on several projects with similar goals, including monitoring grassland birds, raptors (including the endangered aplomado falcon) and other key species such as pronghorn antelope. We also work actively with land owners to focus on best management practices to promote better range management and sustainable ranching practices. Our work with the ranching community also includes technology transfer to benefit ranchers on private and ejido (community-owned) lands by promoting sustainable cattle production to avoid conversion to intensive agriculture. Our partners include the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory (RMBO), where we are involved in multiple aspects of a long term project focused on grassland conservation; the Universidad Autónoma de...
Chihuahuan Desert Wildlife (continued from page 2)

Nacho Leon (UANL), Universidad Estatal de Sonora (UES) and Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México in programs for the conservation of species at risk (PROCER - Programa de Conservación de Especies en Riesgo) through the Mexican Commission for Natural Protected Areas (CONANP); and finally, we are working with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) on a grass bank project in the northwestern Chihuahuan Desert.

MD: Do you work much with private landowners? How do they feel about managing their land to improve wildlife habitat in Mexico?

IMCVS: We work a lot with private landowners and it is always different. In our experience when you implement actions for grassland conservation these actions also benefit sustainable cattle production. The landowners agree to these actions because of the benefit to their cattle operation, not just benefits to wildlife. It is more difficult to work with ejidos because these are communal lands and involve many varying opinions. It requires a lot more effort but it is possible.

MD: What is the impact of your work on wildlife management in Mexico, along the US/Mexico border and elsewhere?

IMCVS: The state of Chihuahua contains 80% of the Chihuahuan Desert Grasslands. We are working to preserve these natural grasslands and their native wildlife and stop the progress of intensive agriculture. We do this for the protection of all ecological services coming from native grasslands, including protecting ground water for sustainable use by humans, and for the unique wildlife that occurs in this region, including aplomado falcons, pronghorn antelope, black-tailed prairie dogs, golden eagles, and approximately 150 species of migratory birds that pass through and winter (ie Sprague’s pipits, Baird and grasshopper sparrows, etc). We hope our efforts will support solutions to global issues such as climate change through carbon sequestration, desertification through soil stabilization and human health issues along the US Mexico border such as respiratory diseases as a result of dust storms from increased desertification.

MD: What do you find to be the most rewarding aspect of what we do is the trust that RMBO and other international organizations have in our work, and also the vision of the international actions to preserve habitat in Chihuahua, and along the US/Mexico border. The most difficult aspect we have encountered is trying to explain the bureaucracy in Mexico; sometimes the bureaucratic processes are more complicated than the technical actions. Managing budgets and personnel also takes a large effort.

MD: What advice would you give to people who want to get involved in international work but never have?

IMCVS: Well, you must “Get Involved”. If wildlife research, management and conservation is really a passion, then have a conscience, look for and chase opportunities, observe, study and always keep learning in and out of school, develop essential and sound skills, and a long term vision. Be aware of successful key stakeholders in international work, professional societies, working groups, and "Get Involved".

MD: What are your dreams for IMCV Vida Silvestre?

IMCVS: Our dream is to preserve all of the grasslands we can, so in the future, our children and their children can enjoy the majesty and beauty of Chihuahuan grasslands. We also dream that we, as an organization, grow in order to be a long term sustainable NGO, have the capacity to preserve as much habitat as we can, and to involve all the people with our same interest.
Beatrice Nervo is a Ph.D. student at the University of Torino in Piedmont, Italy. Her research is focused on the ecology of dung beetles. After completing her Master’s degree, Beatrice had the opportunity through the private, nonprofit Fondazione CRT to work in the US as an intern at Zion National Park.

Beatrice Nervo interned from Italy for 9 months in GIS and Wildlife Management at Zion National Park in Utah. My main project at Zion NP consisted of creating a bighorn sheep habitat suitability model to individuate overlapping areas between bighorn suitable areas and domestic livestock in Zion NP and vicinity. Another important goal of this model was to individuate the presence of ecological corridors that allow bighorn populations to move and communicate with one another, therefore contributing to genetic variability, as well as the potential for disease transmission. I evaluated the desert bighorn sheep (Ovis canadensis) ranges within Zion National Park (Utah) with a habitat evaluation method and geographic information system technology.

The individuation of suitable areas for bighorns within the Park provides a useful tool for making management decisions and focusing efforts on priority areas. One of the most persistent questions in the management of the bighorn populations is whether or not they compete with domestic livestock for available forage or available space. The most important habitat-use variables for bighorn sheep include escape terrain (determined by slope and landscape ruggedness), elevation, vegetation, aspect and water sources. Slopes between 35 and 85 degrees were selected for the model because bighorns use precipitous topography to evade predators and reduce predation of their neonates. The sheep’s perception of escape terrain depends on both ruggedness and slope. They prefer open areas with low-growing vegetation and high visibility, because it allows them to detect potential predators. Both vegetation and cover type were considered in this model. Suitable elevation, aspect and distance from water sources can vary depending on the season because bighorns have different requirements based on the period of the year. Many studies have found that 97% of observations of desert bighorn sheep are within 3 km of perennial sources of water during summer season and within 1 km during lambing season.

Another project I accomplished during my internship in Zion NP was the creation of a model to predict presence of waterholes in the park. Waterholes can be divided into potholes, which are found in flat areas along drainage courses, and tinajas which are natural depressions eroded into the bedrock by stream action or weathering processes. Waterholes represent important sources of water for numerous organisms in arid areas and their importance for bighorn sheep is well documented. The presence of these sources of water can be influenced by several variables such as solar radiation, slope, geology, shade. All these variables were considered in my model. Once the

Desert bighorn sheep were extirpated from Zion and vicinity in the mid-1950’s. The bighorn population today are descendants of individuals reintroduced in 1973.
Italian Ecologist in US (continued from Page 4)

model was created, it was fun to explore the Park while checking the accuracy of the model.

Since working on the waterhole and bighorn suitable habitat models was very motivating and challenging, I decided to extend the bighorn sheep suitable habitat model to all of southwest Utah. I created a map that displayed both the suitable habitat for bighorns derived from the model and locations of documented presence.

In addition to GIS work, I monitored the behavior and locations of breeding peregrine falcons (*Falco peregrinus*), and tracked Mojave Desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizi*) movements, activity, interactions and habitat selection with radio telemetry.

The Wildlife Management program at Zion produces an annual Desert Tortoise Birthday Party event in the gateway community to increase awareness and provide stewardship tools to the tortoise’s “neighbors”. I created original images for a tote bag and for an activity book for children that used fun games to explain the importance of preserving this beautiful species.

Ready-to-color tote bag with Beatrice’s original wildlife art.

Canyon tree frogs inhabit the tinajas included in Beatrice’s predictive model.

Chair’s Message (continued from Page 1)

version at the 2014 Council meeting in Pittsburgh. I hope you have had a chance to take a look at the draft plan, especially with regard to your international interests and perspective on the direction for TWS over the coming 5 years. The IWMWG Officers submitted a recommendation to the Council for their consideration in the final draft, to retain language that expresses the importance of international collaboration and exchange for the organization. It may be possible that the IWMWG can play a role in making TWS International more visible in terms of networking and website presence.

An important function of TWS working groups, including ours, is to help students with travel funds to attend the annual meetings. For the 22nd Annual Conference for TWS in Winnipeg, Canada, we would like to sponsor one or several students – presenting papers or poster sessions – who would otherwise be unable to attend. To offer these travel awards, the WG can draw on funds it collects from annual membership dues. One way to increase the amount we can award is to increase the membership dues from the current $5 to $10. We have noted that other working groups have made similar small increases in dues to encourage greater student participation. In accordance with our working group charter, we would need a majority vote from our members to raise the dues.

Another important activity of TWS working groups is to organize symposia or workshops at annual meetings. We have at least one proposal for a symposium for the 2015 TWS Annual Conference and have invited members from other working groups to attend our Pittsburgh meeting. The proposed symposium would address current issues regarding energy and wildlife management. We would solicit experts from the U.S., Canada, Latin American, Europe, Asia, and possibly Africa to discuss energy development in their regions and efforts underway to monitor and reduce impacts on wildlife populations. Please think about potential speakers for this session and whether you would like to be part of the planning committee.

Thank you for your interest and membership in the IWMWG and we look forward to seeing you in Pittsburgh!

- Robin
Draft Agenda for IWMWG meeting at TWS annual meeting

International Wildlife Management Working Group
The Wildlife Society
Annual Meeting

October 28, 2014
12:30 to 2:30 pm
David L. Lawrence Convention Center
Room 307
Pittsburgh, PA

Draft Agenda

Welcome and Introductions
Agenda Adjustment/Final
Review and approval of minutes from 2013 annual meeting in Milwaukee, WI
Treasurer's Report - from Aletris Neils
Report on 8th International Congress for Wildlife and Livelihoods on Private and Communal Lands – from Del Benson
Report on planning for 5th International Wildlife Management Congress - from Rick Baard
Role for IWMWG in increasing TWS International visibility
Proposed symposium for Winnipeg/coordination with other TWS working groups
Subgroups for IWMWG
Facebook team
Winnipeg symposium team
TWS International Student Groups team
Discussion of ballot for IWMWG
Increased dues
Nomination of board
Additional topics/ Round robin discussion
The Mammal Society of Japan, host of the 5th IWMC

By Koichi Kaji

The Mammal Society of Japan (MSJ) was established in 1987 by combining the Mammalogical Society of Japan and the Research Group of Mammalogists. The origin of MSJ actually goes back much farther, to a small mammalogist group organized in 1923. Thus, the 90th anniversary of the founding of MSJ was celebrated on January 25, 2013.

The mission of MSJ is to promote the global advance of mammal sciences and to encourage social interaction among its members. MSJ is currently composed of around 1100 members involving not only professional mammalogists but students and amateurs as well.

MSJ hosts annual meetings and publishes two journals. The flagship publication is "Mammal Study," a quarterly publication of articles written in English covering all aspects of mammalogy. The society also publishes "Honyurui Kagaku" (Mammalian Science), written in Japanese and published twice a year. This journal consists of research articles and related reports on study techniques, species collection data, and species distribution information.

Annual meetings consist of academic sessions (symposia, oral presentations, and poster sessions), workshops, and a business meeting. The 2014 meeting was held at Kyoto University with more than 500 attendees. MSJ provides honorable recognition of distinguished members through the "MSJ Award" and to younger members showing potential in research activities through the "Young Mammalogist Award." Memorial lectures by awardees are featured in the annual meeting.

Members of MSJ have a strong interest in human interactions with mammal populations. The expert committee of mammal management deals with conservation and management of terrestrial and marine mammals including invasive species. Current major issues of concern include overabundance problems with sika deer and wild boar. The committee provides management recommendations to national and local government agencies.

MSJ has compiled and published a red list of Japanese mammals. The committee of international exchange sends representatives from MSJ to the International Federation of Mammalogists (IFM) and interacts with Asian mammalogists within the Asian Network.

MSJ posts information about their activities on its official webpage: http://www.mammalogy.jp/english/index_e.html

International Focus (continued from page 1)

Now when you shop on Amazon, click on http://amzn.to/13hWq4C and The Wildlife Society will earn a commission for everything you buy on Amazon at no extra charge to you. This is a great way to help your Society.
Livestock, Tourism and Spirit

The success of the 8th International Congress for Wildlife and Livelihoods on Private and Communal Lands

On September 7-12, 2014, over 100 speakers and an international mix of landowners, agencies, institutions, non-governmental organizations, tribal and communal leaders, businesses and local groups gathered in Estes Park, Colorado. Del Benson, the 8th Congress Chair and Professor from Colorado State University in Fort Collins, posted concluding observations from the Congress, noting that you can follow outcomes and progress through published abstracts and upcoming videos at the addresses posted below.

The following observations are listed as the Top Ten Review topics from Congress:

1. Systems for wildlife management on private lands differ within countries (compare Texas to Colorado) and between countries (extensively managed wide open spaces of the Americas with free ranging wildlife; more intensive landowner and user-dominated cooperatives in human-populated Europe; inside fences of South Africa encouraging wildlife, tourism and nature conservation while not negatively affecting neighbors with other needs and interests; and unfortunate places with active human livelihoods and minimal wildlife management).
2. Biologists talk about landowners at their meetings and landowners talk about biologists at their meetings: both need to talk more with each other! Applied research that relates to private land needs was suggested as an important basis for interaction.
3. There is a tendency to stay in one’s narrow comfort zones of topic, communications and space thus restricting dialog and learning.
4. The most positively talked about keynote address suggested using stories to explain science by adding emotions to information toward peoples’ interests and needs.
5. Including “Spirit” in the Congress title was perhaps the most appropriate word showing that positive spirits make differences and the lack of spirit creates problems.
6. Good deeds should not be punished! Agencies, organizations, and business can help landowners and positive actions should not be hindered.
7. If it pays, it stays; meaning that landowners need value, whether personal, cultural or economic, for wildlife to be encouraged.
8. Public ownership of wildlife found on privately owned and operated lands creates mixed signals about authority and responsibility, how to manage benefits and barriers with the resources, and the role of positive incentives for effective conservation outcomes.
9. When wildlife must rely on landscapes that are dominated by private lands then landowners become the de facto manager with good or bad outcomes for society and the environment.
10. Landowners care. Landowners need to be functional partners in nature conservation.

Concluding business decisions of the Congress were to find a permanent home for the International Wildlife Ranching Symposium (IWRS) in South Africa, hold the 9th IWRS in southern Africa in 2016, and hold the 10th event in South America in conjunction with the 6th TWS International Congress.

Membership in the TWS IWMWG includes a subscription to the Passport (the working group’s newsletter) and opportunities to collaborate on international wildlife management-related topics. You can join or renew your membership by logging in to The Wildlife Society portal and adding the IWMWG to your annual membership.

Current TWS Members can join by:
2. Enter your email address on file and password
3. Click on ‘add memberships’ on the bottom left
5. Check out by entering your payment information

Important upcoming events and opportunities:

21st TWS Annual Conference, Pittsburg, PA, October 25-30, 2014
This year’s special events include Zumba with Win (immediate past President of TWS) and a closing night river cruise, as well as traditional favorites like the Quiz Bowl, members meeting, and awards dinner. Our working group will meet October 28, 12:30—2:30 PM, in the David L. Lawrence Convention Center, Room 307. This annual meeting is our best opportunity to get together in-person and share ideas for the group’s agenda for the year. See you there!

The Congress is presented in partnership with the Mammal Society of Japan (MSJ) and The Wildlife Society (TWS). This is the first time that this prestigious Congress will be held in Asia. The main theme of the Congress will be International Models of Wildlife Management: Beyond Cultural Differences. We all have cultural differences; however, we all share similar problems of wildlife. The 5th International Wildlife Management Congress (IWMC) is an amazing opportunity for sharing global knowledge and experiences. Let’s share and discuss our wildlife science and try to establish international models in Sapporo, Japan.

Call for papers (oral and poster presentations): November 17—January 20.

Call for symposia: final session agenda and a complete presenter list due January 23.

Watch the international conference link at the TWS website at http://iwmc2015.org/ for announcements about this Congress.

International independent study experience for students:

African Safari Study
For students interested in working internationally, an independent study experience is often a good way to get started. One of our TWS working group members, Walt Anderson, Professor of Environmental Studies at Prescott College, offers a safari experience in Serengeti National Park of East Africa. Students may investigate individual topics as well as participate in discussion on ecology and wildlife management. Examples of topics for independent study include:
Response of wildlife populations to major perturbations (e.g., rinderpest pandemic; changes in rainfall amounts and timing; poaching and bushmeat exploitation)
Behavioral ecology, reproduction survival, competitive interactions among wildlife species of the Serengeti
Effects of human encroachment on wildlife habitats
Change in wildlife/human conflicts over time
Students propose and organize their studies before leaving for Africa and may stay for varying lengths in Arusha, Tanzania or elsewhere. Help is provided in arranging inexpensive opportunities to volunteer and continue learning.
For more details on this experience or to contact Dr. Anderson go to: http://www.geolobo.com/?page_id=522

Peace Corps While In School
In an article in the last Passport (“International Wildlife Management: The Peace Corps Option”) Jim Ramakka briefly mentioned that some universities have programs that incorporate Peace Corps Service into MS degree programs. Since then he has found an official Peace Corps web page which does an excellent job of describing the program. The site includes a video in which Peace Corps MS students discuss their experiences: http://www.peacecorps.gov/volunteer/graduate/mastersint/. The same video is posted on YouTube along with a number personal videos which capture much about the overall Peace Corps experience.
Vision

The IWMWG will increase collaboration among wildlife professionals around the world.

Mission

The IWMWG will provide a forum for information exchange through expanded use of communication technologies.

Goals

1. To promote meetings and electronic communication among professionals worldwide working in wildlife management and habitat conservation.

2. To sponsor symposia and workshops and to host forums at The Wildlife Society’s Annual Conference and other affiliated meetings.

3. To assist TWS staff in preparing technical reviews, position statements and other materials related to international wildlife management issues.

4. To encourage wildlife professionals worldwide to become members and participate in TWS activities and events.

Working Group Officers:

Chair: Robin White (rpwhite@usgs.gov)

Chair-elect: Theresa Fiorino (theresa.fiorino@gmail.com)

Secretary/Treasurer: Aletris Neils (amneils@email.arizona.edu)

Past Chair: Martha Desmond (mdesmond@nmsu.edu)