



# The Northwest Section of The Wildlife Society

Empowering Wildlife Professionals to Sustain Wildlife  
Through Science-Based Conservation

## Winter 2017-2018 Newsletter

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year, wildlife colleagues!

The past year has been a year of growth for the Northwest Section (NWS). We have added chapter representatives to the Executive Board, which I view as essential for guiding the Section on a path that enhances its relevance to member chapters. The dues increase has also given us more money in our coffers, which will allow the NWS to finance our activities, including the crucial effort to develop a strategic plan. I view the formulation of a strategic plan as the number one priority of the Section in the near term. With it will be a vision, also reflected in revised bylaws, which will chart a path forward for the NWS. Until recently, we were looking to raise money from outside sponsors for this effort, but with a balance of ~\$15K at the end of the year, I feel that this money needs to be put to use for building capacity and charting our way forward. We will continue to examine ways to enhance our coffers through sponsors and other means, but I think we need to use the money we have to build capacity. We will be discussing a strategy for how to best utilize these funds at our next Executive Board meeting. If you have any ideas you would like to share with me, please feel free to contact me at [scott.brainerd@rocketmail.com](mailto:scott.brainerd@rocketmail.com).

This year the joint meeting will be held in Anchorage with the Alaska Chapter. As President of both the Alaska Chapter and the Northwest Section, I am very much looking forward to this. Kim Jochum, our Section Vice President, has been working hard to coordinate with the Alaska Chapter on organizing this meeting. The focus of the joint session will be on the Conservation Affairs Networks (CAN). Rebecca Much, our interim CAN representative, is helping Kim to organize the Section portion of the meeting, which will have CAN as its main theme. In these challenging times, it is more important than ever that TWS Sections and Chapters work together on pressing wildlife issues. The CAN is a main vehicle for coordination across TWS units and I see it playing an increasingly important role as we move forward. Thus, I am looking forward to our joint meeting with this theme as the main topic; the Alaska Chapter does not have a Conservation Affairs Committee (CAC) at the moment, but I hope this meeting will inspire someone to step up and take on this important work in Alaska and join with the other chapter CACs in the NWS CAN.



*Northwest Section President Scott Brainerd*

Officer Elections are coming up this spring. We are looking for candidates that are willing to run for President-Elect. This is a three-year commitment, starting in May, when I become Past President and Kris Boyd takes over the reigns as President. Please start thinking about someone to nominate. Feel free to nominate yourself if you are so inclined!

Please also note the deadline for the awards nominations of 23 February. See the item in our newsletter for more information on the Einarsen and Wildlife Administrator awards.

I wish you all a happy and productive 2018, and I look forward to our joint meeting in Anchorage this spring.

## **NORTHWEST SECTION NEWS**

### Annual Report

The NWS currently has 348 members! Thanks to the dues increase voted on by the members, the Section is no longer operating at a loss. With operations and revenue balancing, we look forward to being able to provide more services to our membership.

### Current NWS Officers

Kristina Boyd (MT)	President-Elect	<a href="mailto:boyd.kristina@yahoo.com">boyd.kristina@yahoo.com</a>
Scott Brainerd (AK)	President	<a href="mailto:scott.brainerd@rocketmail.com">scott.brainerd@rocketmail.com</a>
Kurt Alt (MT)	Past-President	<a href="mailto:altwildlife@yahoo.com">altwildlife@yahoo.com</a>
Kim Jochum (AK)	Vice-President	<a href="mailto:kim.jochum@colostate.edu">kim.jochum@colostate.edu</a>
Michelle Kemner (ID)	Secretary/Treasurer	<a href="mailto:michelle.common@idfg.idaho.gov">michelle.common@idfg.idaho.gov</a>
Harriet Allen (WA)	Section Rep. to Council	<a href="mailto:hallen2009@comcast.net">hallen2009@comcast.net</a>
Julie Cunningham (MT)	Newsletter Editor	<a href="mailto:juliecunningham@mt.gov">juliecunningham@mt.gov</a>
Rebecca Much (WA)	CAN/CAC Representative	<a href="mailto:rebecca.much@gmail.com">rebecca.much@gmail.com</a>

### State Chapter Representatives to the NWS Board

Kelvin Johnson (MT)	<a href="mailto:kelvinj@mt.gov">kelvinj@mt.gov</a>
Nathan Svoboda (AK)	<a href="mailto:nathan.svoboda@alaska.gov">nathan.svoboda@alaska.gov</a>
Katy Stuart (WA)	<a href="mailto:katyshipe@gmail.com">katyshipe@gmail.com</a>
David Shepherdson (OR)	<a href="mailto:ortws.pres@gmail.com">ortws.pres@gmail.com</a>
Ross Winton (ID)	<a href="mailto:ross.winston@idfg.idaho.gov">ross.winston@idfg.idaho.gov</a>

## NORTHWEST SECTION 2018 CONFERENCE

The NWA and the Alaska Chapter of The Wildlife Society will hold the 2018 Joint Meeting, themed “**Wildlife Ecology, Management, and Conservation in a Changing Environment**”. The conference encompasses a workshop on Modern Tools for Spatial Modeling and Animal Movement Analysis hosted by Dr. Mark Hebblewhite and his research team. A Program R Overview Workshop designed for students will be hosted by USGS staff. Special sessions include topics on game camera use and the status of northern bats. Working group meetings will be held during lunch breaks or evenings including the small mammal working group and the northern bat working group.



The NWS is specifically organizing a half-day session dedicated to the Conservation Affairs Network, a crucial new component of the wildlife profession. Speakers from TWS headquarters and various states will describe crucial conservation topics, their relevance and how to make professionals’ voices heard through the conservation affairs network of the TWS ([wildlife.org/policy-2/conservation-affairs-network](http://wildlife.org/policy-2/conservation-affairs-network)). Additionally, NWS officers will present the NWS’s history and provide a future outlook including our Sections’ strategic planning process.

Further, the NWS is involved in developing a Quiz Bowl night with the Alaska Student Chapter and the AK Chapter and we will be supporting student travel to the conference.

The conference and workshops will be held March 26<sup>th</sup> through 30<sup>th</sup> at the Alaska Pacific University in Anchorage, Alaska, and the NW Section half-day session and business meeting will be held on Thursday March 29<sup>th</sup> from 8am to 12pm.

Abstracts and student travel applications are due February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

More details and updates as the program further develops can be found at: [twسالaskameeting.com](http://twسالaskameeting.com).

We look forward to seeing many folks from our NWS states! If you have any questions, feel free to contact Kim Jochum at [kim.jochum@colostate.edu](mailto:kim.jochum@colostate.edu).

Pending chapter concurrence, and if we stay with the current rotation, here is the projected timeline for NWS attendance to Chapter meetings: Idaho in 2019, Washington in 2020, Oregon in 2021, and Montana in 2022.

## CALL FOR AWARDS

Who do you look up to? Please take the time to honor a valued colleague. The NWS of The Wildlife Society is collecting nominations for our 2018 achievement awards.

### Arthur S. Einarsen Award

This is a lifetime career achievement award that honors wildlife professionals who have left a positive career legacy across the northwestern United States. Nominees must work or reside within the NWS and *must* be Wildlife Society members at the Chapter, Section, or Parent level.

### Wildlife Administrator Award

This award recognizes recent excellence through the practice of enabling others, facilitating positive management actions, developing new programs, cooperative efforts, policy, law, or direction that benefit wildlife resources. Administrators may work in areas of wildlife program development, budgeting, planning, and personnel management, and should have accomplished relevant actions that are clearly and directly responsible for improved wildlife conservation within the past 2 years. Nominees must reside and work within the NWS but *need not* be Wildlife Society members at any level.

**Nominations accepted until Friday February 23rd, 2018.** For more information on the nomination process, please contact NWS President-Elect Kristina Boyd at [boyd.kristina@yahoo.com](mailto:boyd.kristina@yahoo.com) or (406) 890-4353

## CONSERVATION AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

### Meet the Chair

Rebecca Much is a graduate student at Colorado State University where she is studying coyote predation on black-footed ferrets. Although currently residing in Colorado, Rebecca calls north-central Washington home, and is excited to engage with the NW Section as the interim Conservation Affairs Committee chair.

### Current Projects

The [Conservation Affairs Network](#) (CAN) was established by The Wildlife Society (TWS) in 2014 as a way for TWS members to contribute expertise and professional opinion to important wildlife conservation policy issues. CAN comprises national, sectional, and state level Conservation Affairs Committees (CACs) that work



NWS CAN Chair Rebecca Much

to identify and address wildlife related policy issues. The NWS is pleased to announce the establishment of the NWS CAC to both support the efforts of CACs within our section's State chapters (AK, ID, MT, OR, WA) and provide a space in which regional level policy issues can be collaborated upon for communication to TWS National. The first NWS CAC call was conducted in October 2017 and we are eager to build the committee in the coming year to engage members across our section. We have identified three policy priorities for 2018:

1) Development of a Federal-State Land Transfer Position Statement:

The issue of public land transfer from federal to state agencies is common within section states and relevant to the NWS region given its disproportionate composition of public land. [Idaho recently released a position statement](#) on this issue and Montana is currently preparing a similar statement. We wish to pen a NWS position statement to both speak as a unified voice on the issue and elevate topic to TWS National.

2) Lead Reduction Program:

The use of [lead ammunition and fishing weights](#) is a nationally recognized wildlife conservation issue. Inspired by the successful efforts of the Arizona Game and Fish Department and The Peregrine Fund, the Idaho CAC is leading efforts to develop an educational program to reduce the use of lead ammunition and fishing weights. The NWS CAC is supporting these efforts and we are actively seeking interested agencies, organizations, and individuals to collaborate on the development of this program. For those interested, please contact [rmagill@wswildlife.com](mailto:rmagill@wswildlife.com).

3) Disease transfer from domestic livestock to wild sheep:

Wild sheep range throughout all NWS states and the issue of [disease transfer from domestic to wild sheep](#) is listed as one of TWS National's 6 priorities for the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress. Pneumonia is the most important disease impacting wild sheep populations and pneumonia-related die-offs are frequently associated with the presence of domestic sheep and goats. Managing spatial and temporal separation of domestic and wild sheep is the most effective way to mitigate disease transfer; however, such proactive prevention has been difficult to implement given a lack of widespread stakeholder acceptance surrounding the issue. The NWS CAC aims to assist with this issue.

These topics will be discussed at the [joint Alaska/NWS meeting](#) in Anchorage, AK on March 29th and we are seeking the involvement of additional NWS members to engage in CAC either at the Section or Chapter level. We will be scheduling our next NWS CAC call in early January and encourage the participation of all interested parties. For more information, please contact [rebecca.much@colostate.edu](mailto:rebecca.much@colostate.edu).

## STATE CHAPTER MEETING UPDATES

The NWS meeting will be held jointly with the Alaska Chapter conference this year. Please note that the Oregon and Washington State Chapter TWS meetings will be held jointly in Portland, Oregon.

STATE	DATE (2018)	PLACE	WEBSITE AND THEME
AK	3/26-3/30	Anchorage, AK	<a href="http://twsalaskameeting.com">http://twsalaskameeting.com</a> Theme: "Wildlife Ecology, Management, and Conservation in a Changing Environment"
ID	3/6-3/8	Idaho Falls, ID	<a href="http://ictws.org/meeting.php">http://ictws.org/meeting.php</a> Theme: "The Future of the Wildlife Profession"
OR	2/13-2/16	Portland, OR	<a href="https://ortws.wordpress.com/category/events/annual-meetings/">https://ortws.wordpress.com/category/events/annual-meetings/</a> Theme: "Regional Strategies for Addressing Global Challenges for Wildlife and Habitat Conservation"
MT	2/19-2/23	Butte, MT	<a href="http://wildlife.org/montana-chapter/montana-chapter-annual-meeting/">http://wildlife.org/montana-chapter/montana-chapter-annual-meeting/</a> Theme: "Telling our Story – Lessons Learned"
WA	2/13-2/16	Portland, OR	<a href="http://wildlife.org/washington-chapter/washington-chapter-annual-meeting/">http://wildlife.org/washington-chapter/washington-chapter-annual-meeting/</a> Theme: "Regional Strategies for Addressing Global Challenges for Wildlife and Habitat Conservation"

## NEWS FROM NATIONAL

### 2018 Annual Meeting

The 25<sup>th</sup> annual conference will be held in Cleveland, Ohio October 7-11, 2018. For more information see: <http://wildlife.org/2018-conference/>

### TWS: Did you know?

[The Wildlife Society](#) endorses professional development and career advancement at various stages through its professional certification programs. The Certified Wildlife Biologist® and Associate Wildlife Biologist® designations validate a professional's completion of rigorous academic standards, educational background and demonstrated expertise in the art and science of applying the principles of ecology to the conservation and management of wildlife. Learn more about The Wildlife Society's professional certification programs at [wildlife.org/certification-programs](http://wildlife.org/certification-programs).

### New Book

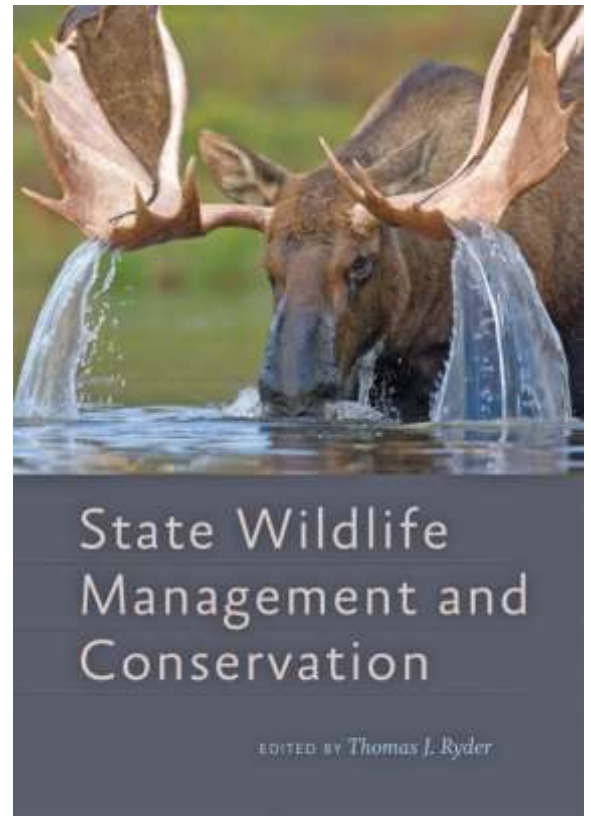
Are you thinking about a career with a state wildlife agency or are you already a seasoned professional working for one? Either way, this newest book in TWS' Wildlife Conservation and Management series, "State Wildlife Management and Conservation," is a must have.

TWS Past President Tom Ryder, now retired after a long career with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, brings together wildlife leaders from practical, policy, and academic backgrounds to tell the story of state wildlife agencies, chronicling their efforts to restore and protect our nation's natural resources.

With more than 40 contributors, the book provides a comprehensive, nationwide account of state management efforts. It will aid professors training the next generation of wildlife professionals, students hoping to enter the profession, and anyone working with wildlife to develop a more sophisticated understanding of what it means to be a state wildlife biologist.

[Order your copy now.](#)

TWS members receive a 30 percent discount off the cover price of \$75.

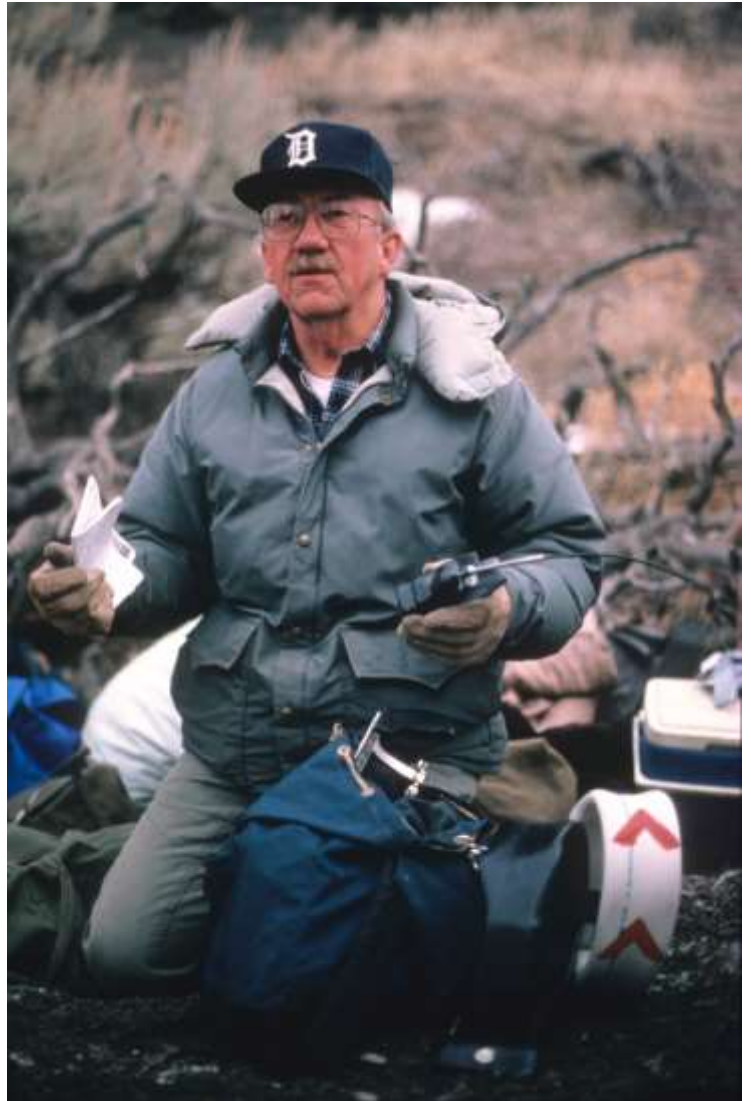




### **IN MEMORIAL: DR. RICHARD MACKIE**

Richard (Dick) Mackie, Ph.D. passed away unexpectedly January 6, 2018. His last day was a good one ending with his attendance the day before at the Friday afternoon “seminar” at a local pub. He often attended this meeting with his Biology colleagues to discuss deer, habitat, and all things wildlife related.

Dr. Mackie had a long history of noteworthy service to all levels of The Wildlife Society. He was a Certified Wildlife Biologist™, Fellow, and President of The Wildlife Society (1990-1992). He served as NWS Representative to Council (1980-1986) and received the Einarsen Award, the NWS’s highest honor, in 1994. He was a charter member of the Montana Chapter of The Wildlife Society (founded in 1962 and officially recognized in 1964), and its president in 1973. He received its Distinguished Service Award in 1987 and the Bob Watts Wildlife Communications Award in 1999. In 1989 Dick received the first O. C. Walmo award for excellence in mule deer research and management from the Western States and Provinces Deer Workshop sponsored by the Western Association of State Game and Fish Commissioners.



Dick was born in a log cabin in Foster City, MI on July 6, 1933 to Arvid and Ruth Mackie. All of his grandparents emigrated from Finland and he enjoyed researching his genealogy. He was big brother to 4 siblings -- Roger (Sharon) Mackie, sister Jan (Bud) Upsahl, brother James Mackie, and sister Linda Mackie. Following graduation from high school and briefly working a factory job, Dick enlisted in the army. After his 2-year service, he attended Michigan State and received his B.S. in 1958.

On June 22, 1957 Dick married Barbara Ann Rye, in Kingsford, MI. Within a year they moved across the country to Pullman, WA for Dick to pursue his Master’s Degree in Wildlife Biology at

Washington State University. While in Pullman, their first child (Bryan) was born in 1958. After receiving his M.S., The family moved to Lewistown, MT for a deer research position. In 1961, their second child (Alan, "AJ") was born. In 1963 Dick and Barb and the boys moved to Bozeman for Dick to work on his doctorate degree in Wildlife Management at Montana State University and he completed it in 1965. Their next move (with Barb pregnant again) was to a position at University of Minnesota. His first daughter, Leann was born in March 1967. After 4 years in Minnesota teaching and researching deer and moose, Dick accepted a Montana State University position as researcher/collaborator with MT Fish and Game in 1970 and brought his family back to Bozeman. This was approximately their 13th move in 10 years. Barb was pregnant again, and their fourth child Lorelyn, was born in Bozeman while Dick was in the Missouri Breaks for a meeting.

As a professor at MSU researching deer through his retirement in 1994, Dr. Mackie was internationally considered "one of the best" in deer research and his many graduate students can attest to his tough standards for their research projects. His family will never forget the phrase "let's see what this doe's been eating" upon seeing a dead deer and cutting it open. He was an avid supporter of proper management of lands to benefit both wildlife and landowners. Following retirement, he and Dr. Bob Eng worked as consultants around the state of Montana. His legacy of research and studies continues today through the many graduate students he taught and worked with over the years and in the many papers and in numerous professional publications

In Dick's memory, please read a book and give a hug to someone special.

