



- The -
WILDLIFE SOCIETY
Wyoming Chapter

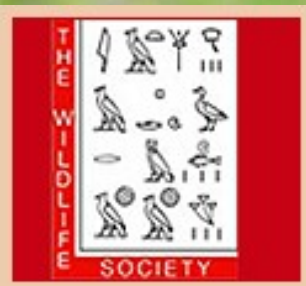


2013 Autumn Edition Newsletter

What's inside...

- GET ENGAGED: PRESIDENT MONG'S MESSAGE
- BULLETS FROM THE BOARD
- ARE YOU READY FOR ROCK SPRINGS?!
- 2013 OFFICER ELECTIONS & AWARDS: THE RACE IS ON!
- FOOD FOR THOUGHT: SCIENCE COMMITTEE UPDATE
- KNOWING YOUR CMPS
- YEAR TWO: THE 2013 FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM
- STUDENT CHAPTER: FIELD TIME IS THE RIGHT TIME
- UNCOVERING WYOMING'S SHORTGRASS SONGBIRDS
- HIDDEN GEMS AND MORE HERPTILES OF WYOMING
- STORY BEHIND THE PHOTO: TIME WELL SPENT
- ...& MUCH MORE

Volume 40, Number 3



The Wildlife Society – Wyoming Chapter

2013 Officers and Committee Chairs



Tony Mong, President
PO Box 516
Baggs, WY 82321
307-380-8283
Tony.Mong@wyo.gov



Bryan Bedrosian, Past-President
P.O. Box 87
Kelly, WY 83011
307-734-0581
bryan@beringiasouth.org



Martin Grenier, President-Elect
260 Buena Vista Dr.
Lander, WY 82520
307-332-7723x230
martin.grenier@wyo.gov



**Therese Hartman, Treasurer,
Audit Committee**
P.O. Box 850
Pinedale, WY 82941
307-367-5364
Therese.Hartman@wyo.gov



Nichole Cudworth, Secretary
260 Buena Vista Dr.
Lander, WY 82520
307-332-7723x230
Nichole.Cudworth@wyo.gov



**Dan Thompson, Board Member
At-Large, Science Committee**
260 Buena Vista
Lander, WY 82520
307-332-7723x259
Daniel.Thompson@wyo.gov



Tim Vosburgh, Board Member At-Large
BLM, Lander Field Office
1335 Main Street
Lander, WY 82520
307-332-8446
tvosburgh@blm.gov



**Eric Maichak, Communications
Committee, Newsletter Editor**
P.O. Box 850
Pinedale, WY 82941
307-231-1334
Eric.Maichak@wyo.gov



**Andrea Orabona, COWCH
Committee**
260 Buena Vista
Lander, WY 82520
307-332-2688
Andrea.Orabona@wyo.gov

**Nominations &
Awards Committee - VACANT**

Legislative Affairs Committee - VACANT



**Ian Abernathy,
Student Chapter Liaison**
University of Wyoming, Dept 3381
1000 E. University Ave
Laramie, WY 82071
307-766-3035
fisher@uwyo.edu

Daly Edmunds, Fellowship Program
55 N. 7th St
Laramie, WY 82702
307-745-4848
dedmunds@audubon.org

Cover Photo: A Smooth Greensnake (*Opheodrys vernalis*; SGCN species) captured in the Black Hills. C. Snoberger

Background, pp2: Upturned roots provide a cryptic backdrop. E. Maichak

A FEW WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT...

Making WYTWS Relevant

How relevant is the Wyoming Chapter of the Wildlife Society within the state of Wyoming (WYTWS)? How relevant is the WYTWS to you? Relevancy is one of the most important attributes to any organization in my opinion. If a group or organization is not making a positive impact on the membership or within the pertinent arenas that the organization is involved with than why waste time and energy on the group? That is the thought process many of us go through either cognitively or subliminally, is this worth my time and/or effort. When it comes to The Wildlife Society I am not naïve in what usually occurs within the organization. I have been involved with the society for over ten years from the student chapter to the national level and I see a reoccurring pattern at all levels, a few people doing a lot of work to try and benefit the masses. I understand the problem, time, time and time. We all have so little of it and with our choice of profession the demand on our time within working hours (and usually outside “working” hours) seems to always be increasing. Our profession is built on passion for the resource and we all give our hearts and souls to our jobs. What is left after we go home? In all actuality, not much. The real question here is essentially why does The Wildlife Society exist (especially on the state level) and why should we as professional wildlife biologists be a part of and get involved with the organization when we already give so much to our jobs?

In the fall 2012 issue of the Wildlife Professional Jack Ward Thomas, Past TWS President and former Chief of the U.S. Forest Service, made the statement in an article about his career and involvement in TWS; “a group of wildlifers—wanting a closer identification with our profession than merely being employed—formed the Texas Chapter of TWS”. This captures what I believe is a quintessential concept to grasp about the state level of TWS. I believe that because of our drive to do “good work” through our jobs we can end up in a situation where we are like a horse with blinders, we have one path we are on and our focus on that can cause us to miss the rest of the world. Our state chapter affords us the opportunity to remove the blinders and “see” other parts of the wildlife world. Interactions with other professionals outside of our own jobs expands our view of the “big picture” of wildlife management and conservation and in many cases makes us get out of our comfort zone of what we know and what we think to be true. Of course these interactions occur within our job as we collaborate across the table at meetings and over email however; in those interactions we carry a stigma of “I am a state biologist and you are a federal biologist”. The state level of TWS allows you to drop those labels and just be “wildlife biologist”, simply put it allows us to take a break from the pressures of collaboration and really allow us “to sharpen our tools and make them cut the right way” (Aldo Leopold, 1913, *The River of the Mother of God and Other Essays*).

Wyoming is facing a myriad of major issues facing wildlife and wildlife management, from predator management to threatened species to energy production. I believe in the next ten years we will see more and more challenges to management decisions, the North American Model and possibly as a whole the profession of wildlife biology. The original intent of the society was the “(1) Establishment of professional solidarity and maintenance of the highest possible professional standards; (2) development of all types of wildlife management along sound biological lines; (3) publications to effect these ends; and (4) protection of the interests of its members” (Bennitt et al., *JWM*, 1:1 page 1). Now more than ever these intentions should be upheld by all members and every professional wildlife biologist should find comfort in the fact that this professional society exists to carry out those intentions.

...PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Jack Ward Thomas in the same publication listed above stated in relation to a team of biologists tasked with devising a plan for a “cluster of likely threatened species: spotted owls, marbled murrelets, and salmon” that: “Almost all of the biologists on the team were associated with TWS, which gave us the credibility to face the onslaught that was about to follow. “ The current climate of court challenges to many wildlife management decisions and the devaluing of the wildlife profession through the new generation of what I will call “blog biologists” are testing the very fabric of our society. “Blog biologists” are those that pontificate through the internet on popular hunting blogs their opinions of how game should be managed based on their personal experiences, unsubstantiated “data”, hearsay and most importantly no relevant, rigorous training in wildlife biology and management. The strength of TWS, especially our state chapter, is one of the most effective ways to combat the attacks we are seeing in relation to sound management of our wildlife populations based on scientific information.

The key to a strong chapter is not only the old adage “strength in numbers” but I would say that it is “strength in engagement”. A chapter that is only a group of professionals that are not engaged with the chapter or are not continually pushing the chapter forward is a chapter that will have very little relevance within the membership or outside of the chapter. Right now, we as a chapter have the opportunity to increase the relevancy of TWS within our ranks and more importantly within Wyoming. What does being relevant mean? I think it is the idea that when any wildlife management issue comes to light, WYTWS and its membership is looked to for guidance, consultation and to be the definitive voice on the science behind the management. Basically, when WYTWS speaks, people listen. This can only be accomplished through the engagement of the membership in the chapter through involvement in committees, leadership and bringing pertinent issues to light within the chapter.

I am calling on you to help and make WYTWS a relevant and respected voice within the state of Wyoming. It is only through you taking the step to be more involved with this chapter can we expect to achieve more than being a group of folks that get together once a year. So my challenge to this chapter and the membership is to see all of our committees flush with members, folks lined up to take on leadership positions and a steady stream of emails to me or other board members outlining new ideas, pertinent issues, suggestions or encouragement in regards to building the strength of the society here in Wyoming. This charge is not a new one but one I think we have to seriously reconsider and ponder if we feel that the battle for our wildlife and wild places is surging and drifting towards defeat. For as Olaus Murie stated in 1954 (JWM) “As members of our profession, we have a responsibility to contribute to the highest thinking in this field.” That can only come from your engagement in your society.

Below is a list of the committees and contact information for the chairs of the committees. Becoming active within these committees is a step towards making WYTWS more relevant within the state; please consider joining one of these committees and look for opportunities to become more engaged in WYTWS.

Nominations and Awards – OPEN, CHAIRPERSON NEEDED This committee shall also solicit nominations for “Professional of the Year Award”, “Citizen of the Year Award”, and the “President’s Special Achievement Award” given by the Wyoming Chapter; conduct the balloting; and obtain the plaques for these awards. It shall assemble a panel of judges to critique the student paper presentations at the Annual Meeting, and present the “Best Student Paper” award. The committee shall prepare and distribute news releases to state and local media describing the awards and the recipients. Contact: Tony Mong, tony.mong@wyo.gov

...PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Communications – This committee shall seek and employ methods of informing the public of basic concepts of wildlife management and of Chapter and Society activities and interests. This committee shall also publish three Wyoming Chapter newsletters each year consisting of a Winter Issue, a Summer Issue and a Fall Issue (October/November). This committee shall contribute articles, and contact individuals, both within and outside of the Chapter, to submit articles of interest for Chapter newsletters. The newsletter editor shall compile the information into newsletter form, and distribute to the membership in a secure electronic format when possible. Contact: Eric Maichak, eric.maichak@wyo.gov

Legislative Affairs – **OPEN, CHAIRPERSON NEEDED** This committee shall review legislative proposals, administrative regulations, and other subjects or issues affecting wildlife or wildlife habitat within the organizational area of the Chapter and make recommendations to the Executive Board for any action that should be taken by the Wyoming Chapter. The Chairperson may ask any Chapter member to assist with reviews. Contact: Tony Mong, tony.mong@wyo.gov

Audit – This committee shall consist of a chairperson and at least one additional member(s). It shall review the financial records and support documents of the Treasurer at least annually. The committee also shall review these records and documents prior to any change in the office of the Treasurer. Contact: Therese Hartman, therese.hartman@wyo.gov

Celebrating Our Wildlife Conservation History – It is imperative that the thoughts, recollections, and impressions of individuals who played key roles in the evolution of the wildlife profession be captured and preserved before they are lost forever. In 1999, The Wildlife Society Council adopted the COWCH Project to accomplish this goal through the use of video and/or audio taped interviews of these living historians. In 2010, WYTWS created this committee to seek out and interview professionals within Wyoming that have helped shape wildlife management in this state. Contact: Andrea Orabona, andrea.orabona@wyo.gov

Science Committee – This committee may review, evaluate and make recommendations to the Executive Board on the use of science in wildlife management as it pertains to actions, plans or other activities proposed within Wyoming that are brought forth from any Chapter member in good standing. This committee shall also receive proposed resolutions and position statements from any Chapter member in good standing at any time and shall prepare, submit and recommend action on such items to the Executive Board in accordance with Article VII, Section 5. Membership of this committee shall be limited to highly qualified wildlife professionals, as determined by the Chairperson. Contact: Dan Thompson, daniel.thompson@wyo.gov

T. Mong, WY TWS President





WY TWS BOARD MEETING: AUTUMN HI-LITES



Nichole Cudworth, WGFD Non-Game Biologist & WY TWS Secretary.

The Board met in Green River in September. Below is a list of some of the important topics discussed and decisions made. Remember, Board meetings are open to the membership, so please attend and make your voice heard. For complete meeting minutes, please contact Nichole Cudworth at nichole.cudworth@wyo.gov.

- The Fiscal Committee provided a first draft of the Fiscal Procedures Manual. This will help maintain continuity between Board elections by outlining the duties of the Treasurer and providing important forms and documents.
- Therese provided an update on the budget, and the Board voted to approve contingency funds for the Fellowship Program and a \$250 donation to the Women of Wildlife session at this year's national TWS meeting in Milwaukee.
- Andrea Orabona provided an update on the COWCH program and budget. She's still looking for volunteers to conduct interviews! Please contact Andrea if you are interested in getting involved.
- 70 members voted on the Chapter's bylaw revisions. The revisions passed with 93% support by voting members.
- The Board discussed the results of the online poll of the membership on benefits provided by the Chapter and career training opportunities. Stay tuned for more information from Tony on this at the annual meeting in October...
- The Board discussed the upcoming Chapter meetings in Rock Springs in 2013 and Sheridan in 2014. The 2014 meeting will be in conjunction with the annual CMPS meeting and the Chapter's 40th anniversary. Stay tuned for more details.
- Daly Edmunds has stepped down from the student liaison position and will be replaced by Ian Abernethy. Thanks for all your commitment and hard work, Daly!
- The Board had a number of discussions on committee updates and outstanding issues. Please contact Nichole if you would like more information on these discussions:
 - Tony is looking into the usefulness of insurance for the Chapter and specifics on protections that would be provided.
 - Bryan and Tony provided an update on the new website. The new site is much more user-friendly and will be maintained by the Communications Committee. Contact Bryan or Jason Carlisle if you have suggestions or additions.
 - Tony presented the final report that stemmed from the Sage-Grouse Winter-Range Ad Hoc Committee at the Sage-Grouse Implementation Team meeting in September. The report was developed by Hayden-Wing Associates and follows recommendations outlined by the Committee.
 - Nichole provided an update on the Scholarship Ad Hoc Committee. The Committee will provide recommendations at the Board meeting in October.
 - Tony and Martin have been contacting WGFD commissioners for license donations for this upcoming year. The Board discussed the best way to auction these licenses in the future.
 - Bryan will be representing the Chapter at this year's national TWS meeting.

N. Cudworth, WY TWS Secretary

“Conserve the future” in Rock Springs!

The 2013 Annual WY TWS Conference will held in Rock Springs at the Holiday Inn, October 29-31. Hotel reservations can be made by calling 307-382-9200. Registration costs are \$60 for the conference and banquet, and only \$35 for the banquet. And don't forget to bring your costume!



Schedule of Events

Tuesday October 29:

10:00 am – 1:00 pm – **Registration**

1:00 pm – 1:30 pm – **Welcome to the conference** (Martin Grenier)

1:30 pm – 5:00 pm – **Paper presentations**

6:30 pm – 8:00 pm – **Poster session/photo voting/social**

(hors d'oeuvres provided with conference registration)

8:00 pm – 10:00 pm – **Professional/student quiz bowl**

(teams of 2 1 student, 1 professional)

Wednesday October 30:

8:15 am – 11:45 am – **Student Paper Presentations**

11:45 am – 1:00 pm – **Mentoring Lunch** (must be part of the “mentoring program”)

1:30 – 5:00 pm – **Plenary Session – New Advancements in Management of Wildlife Diseases** (invited speakers)

Oral Sylvatic Plague Vaccine for Prairie Dogs - Dr. T. Rocke, USGS

Management of CWD in deer – Dr. D. Edmunds, University of Wyoming

Pneumonia in Big Horn Sheep – H. Edwards, WGFD

White-Nose Syndrome in Bats – B. Hines, KDWR

Brucellosis and Elk – B. Scurlock, WGFD

Other speakers are pending

6:30 pm – 9:00 pm – **Halloween Costume Banquet**

(Costume contests, awards, raffle/auction)

9:00 pm – 12:00 am – **Live music!**

Thursday October 31:

9:00 am – 12:00 pm – **Professional Development Session**

How to use Migratory Bird Data in Environmental Commenting

WY TWS 2013 Conference (Rock Springs): Professional Oral & Poster Presentations

ORAL PRESENTATIONS (N = 14)

Jeffrey L. Beck^{1*}, Chad S. Boyd², John A. Tanaka¹

LIVESTOCK GRAZING AND SAGE-GROUSE HABITAT: IMPACTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Daniel D. Bjornlie¹, Frank T. van Manen², Michael R. Ebinger³, Mark A. Haroldson², Daniel J. Thompson¹, Cecily M. Costello³

EXTRINSIC AND INTRINSIC INFLUENCES ON HOME-RANGE SIZE OF AN OPPORTUNISTIC OMNIVORE: CLIMATE-INDUCED RESOURCE DECLINE OR DENSITY DEPENDENCE?

Matthew M. Hayes¹, Kevin L. Monteith¹, Hall Sawyer², Matthew J. Kauffman³

EVALUATING PATTERNS OF MIGRATION ACROSS WYOMING'S UNGULATES

Mandy Kauffman^{1*}, Kari Boroff², Dannele Peck², Brandon Scurlock³, Walt Cook⁴, Jim Logan⁵, Tim Robinson⁶ and Brant Schumaker⁷

COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS FOR REDUCING BOVINE BRUCELLOSIS SEROPREVALENCE IN SOUTHERN GREATER YELLOWSTONE AREA ELK

Douglas A. Keinath^{1,2,3*}, Mark D. Andersen¹, and Hannah R. Griscom¹

HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE WYOMING POCKET GOPHER (THOMOMYS CLUSIUS)

Nicole Korfanta¹, Ingrid C. Burke^{1,2}, Meagan Mobley²

FERTILIZING WESTERN RANGELANDS: MITIGATION FIX OR FOLLY?

Kevin L. Monteith¹, Ryan A. Long², Vernon C. Bleich^{2,3}, James R. Heffelfinger⁴, Paul R. Krausman⁵, and R. Terry Bowyer²

EFFECTS OF HARVEST, CULTURE, AND CLIMATE ON TRENDS IN SIZE OF HORN-LIKE STRUCTURES IN TROPHY UNGULATES

Olson, Lucretia¹, John Squires¹, Robert Oakleaf², Zach Wallace³ and Patricia L. Kennedy³

ABUNDANCE AND SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION OF COMMON SCIURIDS AND LAGOMORPHS IN SAGEBRUSH-STEPPE COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT WYOMING

Andrea Orabona^{1*}, David Hanni², Nick Van Lanen², Robert Skorkowsky³

INTEGRATED MONITORING IN BIRD CONSERVATION REGIONS

Corinna Riginos¹, Kevin Krasnow¹, Embere Hall^{1,2}, Morgan Graham¹, Siva Sundaresan³, Tim McDowell⁴, Bob Hammond⁴, Doug Brimeyer⁵ and Gary Fralick⁵

MULE DEER MOVEMENT AND HABITAT USE IN RELATION TO ROADWAYS

Rudd, Bill

AN UNGULATE MIGRATION DATABASE AND ONLINE VIEWER; A tool for Understanding and Conserving Wyoming's Ungulate Migrations

Squires, John R.¹, Robert Oakleaf², Lucretia E. Olson¹, Zach Wallace³, and Patricia L. Kennedy³

EFFECTS OF ENERGY DEVELOPMENT, TOPOGRAPHY, AND VEGETATION ON NEST SITE SELECTION OF FERRUGINOUS HAWKS IN WYOMING

Daniel D. Bjornlie,¹ Daniel J. Thompson¹, Mark A. Haroldson, Charles C. Schwartz, Kerry A. Gunther, Steven L. Cain, Daniel B. Tyers, Kevin L. Frey, Bryan C. Aber,

METHODS TO ESTIMATE DISTRIBUTION AND RANGE EXTENT OF GRIZZLY BEARS IN THE GREATER YELLOWSTONE ECOSYSTEM

Nicholas J. Van Lanen¹, David J. Hanni¹, Christopher M. White¹, Michael Getzy¹, Andrea Orabona²

INTRODUCTION TO ROCKY MOUNTAIN BIRD OBSERVATORY'S AVIAN DATA CENTER AND NODE TO THE AVIAN KNOWLEDGE NETWORK: ACCESSING INTEGRATED AVIAN POPULATION INFORMATION FOR THE STATE OF WYOMING

POSTER PRESENTATIONS (N = 2)

Abernethy, Ian¹, Doug Keinath¹, Mark Andersen¹

VALIDATION OF SUMMER DISTRIBUTION MODELS OF BATS IN SOUTHERN WYOMING

Wendy Estes-Zumpf¹, Zachary Walker², and Douglas Keinath¹

DEFINING AMPHIBIAN DISTRIBUTIONS ON THE BRIDGER-TETON NATIONAL FOREST:
TEAMWORK AIDS MANAGEMENT OF UNDER-STUDIED SPECIES

WY TWS 2013 Conference (Rock Springs): Student Oral & Poster Presentations **ORAL PRESENTATIONS (n=12)**

Clay B. Buchanan and Jeffrey L. Beck

RESPONSE OF ELK TO NATURAL GAS DEVELOPMENT IN THE POWDER RIVER BASIN, WYOMING

Jason D. Carlisle, Anna D. Chalfoun, and Doug A. Keinath

ARE SAGE-GROUSE CONSERVATION AREAS SITED ADVANTAGEOUSLY FOR NON-GAME WILDLIFE
SPECIES OF CONCERN? USING GEOSPATIAL DATA TO ASSESS THE UMBRELLA SPECIES CONCEPT

Justin G. Clapp, Jeffrey L. Beck, and Kenneth G. Gerow

POST-RELEASE ACCLIMATION OF TRANSLOCATED LOW-ELEVATION, NON-MIGRATORY
BIGHORN SHEEP

Embere Hall, Annie Loosen, Anna Chalfoun, and Kerry Murphy

SNOW COVER, FORAGE AVAILABILITY AND HEAT STRESS. PIKA HABITAT USE IN A CHANGING
ENVIRONMENT

Matthew G. Hethcoat and Anna D. Chalfoun

NEST PREDATION AND NATURAL GAS DEVELOPMENT; WHAT'S IN THE PIPE FOR SAGEBRUSH
OBLIGATE SONGBIRDS?

Brett R. Jesmer, Jacob R. Goheen, Matthew J. Kauffman, and Kevin L. Monteith

LINKING HABITAT AND NUTRITION WITH POPULATION PERFORMANCE IN MOOSE

Anika Mahoney and Anna D. Chalfoun

INVESTIGATING THE INFLUENCE OF WIND ENERGY DEVELOPMENT ON NEST SUCCESS FOR TWO
SPECIES OF GRASSLAND BIRDS

Brendan Oates, Jacob Goheen, Matthew Kauffman, Gary Fralick, Scott Smith, and Kevin Monteith

COMPARATIVE DEMOGRAPHY OF TWO MOOSE POPULATIONS WITH CONTRASTING PREDATOR
DENSITIES

Katie L. Taylor, Jeffrey L. Beck, and Snehalata Huzurbazar

WINTER SURVIVAL RISK FOR PRONGHORN EXPOSED TO WIND ENERGY DEVELOPMENT IN
SOUTH-CENTRAL, WYOMING

Zach P. Wallace, Patricia L. Kennedy, John R. Squires, Robert Oakleaf, Katie M. Dugger, and Lucretia E.
Olson

TERRITORY OCCUPANCY OF FERRUGINOUS HAWKS RELATIVE TO ENERGY DEVELOPMENT, PREY,
VEGETATION, AND NEST SECURITY

Teal Wyckoff, Matthew Kauffman, Shannon Albeke, and Hall Sawyer

EVALUATING THE INFLUENCE DEVELOPMENT ON MULE DEER MIGRATIONS

Victoria H. Zero and Melanie A. Murphy

UNCOVERING HABITAT REQUIREMENTS FOR AN AMPHIBIAN COMMUNITY USING
ENVIRONMENTAL DNA

POSTER PRESENTATIONS (n=9)

Joseph Ceradini and Anna Chalfoun

A COMPARISON OF DEMOGRAPHIC AND HABITAT SELECTION PATTERNS FOR SMALL MAMMALS IN NATIVE AND NON-NATIVE GRASSLAND HABITATS.

Melia DeVivo, David Edmunds, Bryan Richards, Terry Kreeger, Brant Schumaker, and Todd Cornish

MICROEVOLUTION OF A MULE DEER (*ODOCOILEUS HEMIONUS*) POPULATION AFFECTED BY HIGH PREVALENCE OF CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE IN SOUTHEAST WYOMING

Samantha P.H. Dwinell, Kevin L. Monteith, Hall Sawyer, Jill E. Randall, Alyson B. Courtemanch, Gary L. Fralick, Scott G. Smith, and Matthew J. Kauffman

QUANTIFYING THE EFFECTS OF INDIRECT HABITAT LOSS ON BEHAVIOR, NUTRITION, AND FITNESS OF MULE DEER

R. Scott Gamo, Jeffrey L. Beck, and Brian A. Brokling

AN EVALUATION OF WYOMING'S SAGE-GROUSE EXECUTIVE ORDER: CONSERVATION STRATEGIES FOR GREATER SAGE GROUSE AND CO-OCCURRING UNGULATES

Anička Kratina-Hathaway, Anna D. Chalfoun, and Melanie Murphy

POPULATION CONNECTIVITY, DISPERSAL AND HABITAT SELECTION OF COLUMBIA SPOTTED FROGS IN THE BIGHORNS

Aaron C. Pratt and Jeffrey L. Beck

FITNESS CONSEQUENCES FROM DIFFERENT MIGRATION BEHAVIOR IN GREATER SAGE-GROUSE

Christopher S. Scholtz, Jason D. Carlisle, and Anna D. Chalfoun

WHY A ROOF? EXPLORING FACULTATIVE NEST ROOF BUILDING IN A SAGEBRUSH-ENDEMIC SONGBIRD

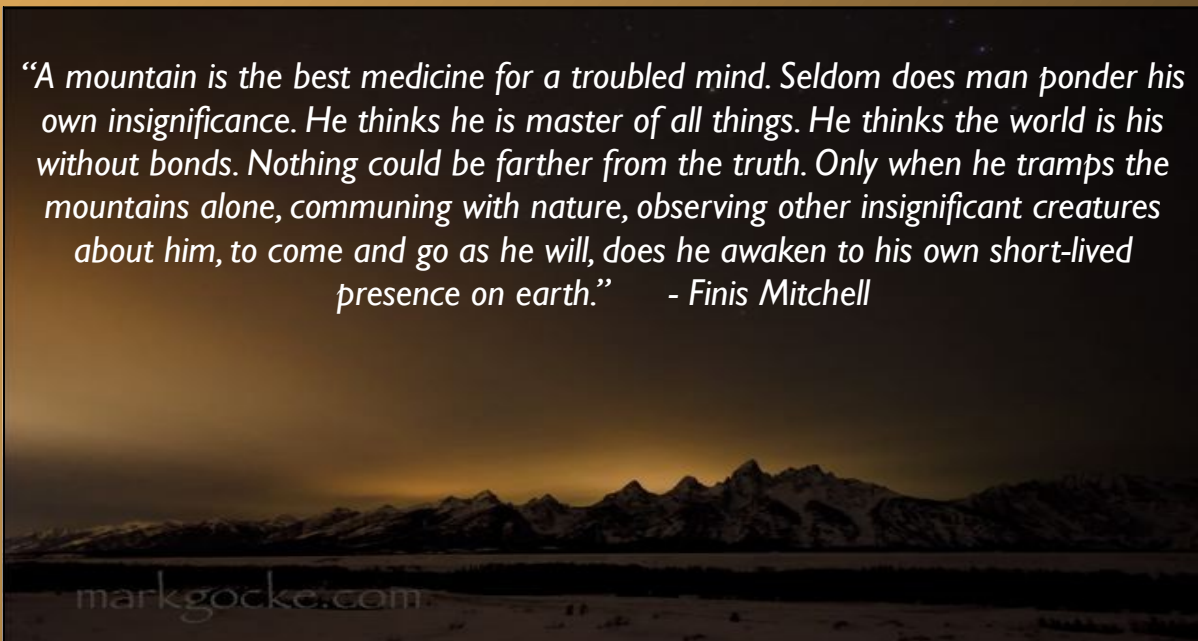
Kurt T. Smith, Aaron C. Pratt, Jeffrey L. Beck, Dylan L. Bergman, and Peter D. Stahl

APPLICATION OF STABLE ISOTOPES TO RECONSTRUCT GREATER SAGE-GROUSE CHICK DIETARY HISTORY: DIETARY SELECTION AND RELATIVE BODY CONDITION

Amy Lynn Williams, Brant Schumaker, and John Henningsen

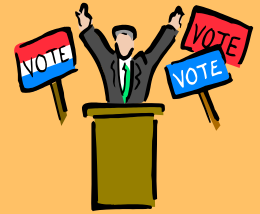
UNDERSTANDING HOW TABANIDS INFLUENCE THE PREVALENCE OF *ELAEOPHORA SCHNEIDERI* IN MOOSE POPULATIONS AROUND WYOMING, USA

"A mountain is the best medicine for a troubled mind. Seldom does man ponder his own insignificance. He thinks he is master of all things. He thinks the world is his without bonds. Nothing could be farther from the truth. Only when he tramps the mountains alone, communing with nature, observing other insignificant creatures about him, to come and go as he will, does he awaken to his own short-lived presence on earth." - Finis Mitchell





WY TWS Committee Elections: Candidates, Visions, and Goals for the Future of WY TWS



It's almost election time for WY TWS! Positions currently open for election include President-Elect, Secretary and Board Member At-Large. Please take a few moments to read these candidates' biographical sketches and go to the link <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TZJLLKZ> and cast your vote. Ballots will then be tallied on October 29th in time for announcement at our annual conference in Rock Springs Good Luck!

President-Elect, Eric Maichak

Greetings fellow WY-TWS members! For those of you who don't know me, my name is Eric Maichak and I currently serve as the Communications Committee Chair and Newsletter Editor for WY-TWS, and I hereby announce my candidacy for President-Elect of WY-TWS. I initiated my membership with TWS in 2000 after joining the Oklahoma State University (OSU) Student Chapter and Parent Chapter in 2000. During three years of membership at OSU I assisted several chapter endeavors, particularly our hosting of the Southeast Regional Conclave in 2001 by developing quiz bowl questions and supervising the successful coordination, implementation, and judging of the field competition. After coming to Wyoming to work as the Big Piney Brucellosis-Feedground-Habitat Biologist for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department in 2004 I became involved in WY-TWS as an associate editor of the chapter Newsletter, serving in that capacity until taking over as Newsletter Editor in autumn 2009. As Newsletter Editor, and with assistance of several innovative associate editors, volunteers, as well as Board and other Committee Chairs, we have expanded the color, creativity, and breadth of statewide coverage of our chapter's primary publication. In 2011 following a merger of the Communications and Newsletter Committees, I accepted the position of Communications Committee Chair. Most recently with assistance of several committed Communications Committee staff members, we have taken responsibility for chapter surveys and voting polls, developed a "Best Newsletter Article" award, and are currently revamping the chapter's website.



My primary professional passion is using science and research to adapt, innovate, and help illuminate a path for managers to gain mutual benefits. Occasionally I use these tools to also cut through or shield myself and others from opinionated dogma or attack. My initial interest in running for WY-TWS President is to utilize the 2014 annual conference as a platform to merge 1) our chapter Board, Committee Chairs, and the motivated and engaged members of our chapter, 2) consumptive and non-consumptive wildlife and land agency professionals, administrators, and educators, and 3) several influential Wyoming political figureheads to facilitate a greater understanding of past, current, and ultimate future selection of one or more alternative funding sources for wildlife management and research in Wyoming. Across the nation and within our own state, the North American model of wildlife conservation wilts as license sales and interest in hunting, fishing, and land ethic continue to diminish. Furthermore, many entities that fund research have reduced or eliminated funds available during the current economic recession. As a result, many state, federal, as well as non-government agencies are experiencing attrition, sequestration, inability to conduct research, and fear of job loss that hampers motivation and productivity. For those of us left standing during these unfavorable economic times, the time has come to collaborate and decide where is most appropriate to draw these monies from to prevent further losses, and possibly beyond this, how best to reconnect the general public with the land. With the 2015 Legislative Session being a non-budget session, the time will not be better to meet and gain trust, develop ideas, and garner consensus among myriad stakeholders on one or more novel alternative funding mechanisms that will benefit all interested parties, and most especially, the wildlife and land resources that allow us to be professionals in Wyoming.

...WY TWS Candidates

Secretary, Daly Edmunds

Daly Edmunds received her B.S. in Wildlife Management from Virginia Tech in 2000. Prior to coming to Wyoming in 2002, she worked on a variety of field projects across the country, including with black bears, grey wolves, island foxes, ruffed grouse, and small mammals. She completed her M.S. through the COOP program at the University of Wyoming in 2005, examining the response of pronghorn to roads and fences in southwestern Wyoming. In Wyoming, she's worked for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and the National Wildlife Federation/Wyoming Wildlife Federation. Daly has been with Audubon Rockies since 2009, where she works to protect and improve critical avian habitats and ecosystem through integration of science into sound policy decisions, most often energy-related

Board Member At-Large, Two Candidates

Kevin L. Monteith

By way of this letter, please consider my interest in representing and serving the community of wildlife professionals by running for the position of Board Member at Large for the Wyoming Chapter of The Wildlife Society. Nearly all of my professional and personal interests revolve around our wildlife resources, and I wish to extend my service to the wildlife community and contribute to the important role The Wildlife Society plays in bringing together wildlife professionals, disseminating science, and advocating for appropriate wildlife policy and law for the betterment of



our natural resources. I have been actively conducting research on large mammals since 1999 when I began my undergraduate education at South Dakota State University (SDSU). Since then, my research interests have taken him from the agriculturally dominated plains of eastern South Dakota to the rugged mountains of the Sierra Nevada to the diverse natural resources of Wyoming. During that time, I obtained a MS in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences at SDSU where my research focused on the growth, development, and nutritional ecology of white-tailed deer. I then obtained a PhD in Biological Sciences at Idaho State University while conducting research on the population ecology of mule deer in the Sierra Nevada. I then was blessed with the opportunity to relocate to Laramie, Wyoming to work as a Postdoctoral Research Scientist in the Wyoming Coop Unit at the University of Wyoming, and more recently chose to remain in this great state by transitioning into a new position as Assistant Research Professor. During my time in Wyoming I have been involved with research projects for many of our Wyoming ungulates, and teach Ecology for undergraduates at the University during spring semesters. Much of my current work in Wyoming is centered on establishing a protocol for habitat-based, sustainable management of ungulate populations, while investigating the effects of predation, climate change, and novel disturbance through the lens of nutrition. When I am not conducting research or teaching, I enjoy hunting game birds with my Chesapeake Bay Retriever, pursuing big game with archery and firearm equipment, fishing, hiking, and taxidermy. Thank you for considering me for the position of Board Member at Large for the Wyoming Chapter of The Wildlife Society; I look forward to the opportunity to serve the community of wildlife professionals in this capacity.

...WY TWS Candidates

Derek Lemon

My name is Derek Lemon and I would like to serve as the next Wyoming Wildlife Society's Board Member at-large. Currently I am the Lander Region's Habitat and Access Crew Leader for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. I am responsible for the management of wildlife habitats in Wyoming. I am fortunate in that my work centers around designing and implementing habitat projects to benefit wildlife, in particular winter range for bighorn sheep, elk, deer, moose, and pronghorn; as well as wetland reclamation for migratory waterfowl, shore birds, and all species associated with wetlands. I received my Bachelor's of Science degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Science from Oregon State University with a minor in Range Ecology and Management. I was involved in the student chapter of TWS while in college and have been a part of the Wyoming Chapter of The Wildlife Society for five years. I enjoy the comradery and real world applicability that TWS has to offer and have served on the WYTWS Science Committee since its inception with the Chapter. In my free time I enjoy being outdoors with friends and family hiking, hunting and fishing. I am hard working and passionate about wildlife and wildlife habitat, and look forward to working with, and serving, wildlife and wildlife professionals as the next Wyoming Wildlife Society Board Member At-Large.

The Wyoming Chapter of The Wildlife Society strives to:

- ♦ *Provide an organization of wildlife management professionals from which statements affecting wildlife can be made exclusive of agency limitations.*
- ♦ *Provide for the exchange of ideas and information between wildlife workers without agency consideration.*
- ♦ *To strengthen The Wildlife Society, its objectives and goals.*
- ♦ *To promote and provide for intradisciplinary communication and training to keep abreast of modern needs and technological developments.*
- ♦ *To promote awareness of and continued improvement in wildlife management.*

WYTWS 2013 Awards Nominees

Professional of the Year, Two Nominees

Steve Tessmann

Address: WGFD, 5400 Bishop Blvd., Cheyenne, WY 82006

Present Position: Wyoming Game and Fish Department Biologist Supervisor/Staff Biologist

Academic Background:

Bowling Green State University. B.S. Biology and Mathematics. 1975

South Dakota State University. M.S. Wildlife Science. 1979

Professional Background:

Steve began his professional career in 1979 as an Environmental Specialist for the Water Resources Research Institute (SDSU) and Water and Natural Resources Department of the State of South Dakota. In 1981 he moved to Wyoming as a Mine Permit Application Specialist and Environmental Biologist for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. In this position Steve was called upon to serve as a:

- wildlife consultant during mine regulatory reform including what was at the time the infamous “shrub standard”,
- develop compliance standards for DEQ/LQD regulations,
- Revise guidelines for baseline wildlife studies, monitoring and reclamation including retention of highwalls and impoundments as wildlife habitat and other highly technical duties too numerous to mention here.

In 1994 Steve accepted the Staff Biologist Position in Cheyenne, the position Steve holds to this day. Some of his accomplishments while in this position include:

- helped the Commission revise its Mitigation Policy,
- was an active member of the Pacific Flyway Technical Committee,
- was the lead author and editor of the “Recommendations for Development of Oil and Gas Resources Within Crucial and Important Wildlife Habitats”, a report so thorough it is used by neighboring states as well as Wyoming,
- was an active member of the Department committee of the “Wildlife Protection Recommendations for Wind Energy Development,
- reviews all WGFD hunting regulations annually,
- edited all chapters of the Handbook of Biological Techniques and is beginning the process again,
- has written the WGFD CITES bobcat report for the Office of Scientific Authority each year and greatly improved format and content,
- frequently called upon to provide Department policy reviews of federal programs and regulations such as National Wildlife Refuge Policies, National Trapping Regulations on Refuges, and to interpret many aspects of NEPA,
- served as the Department technical/biological representative to the USF&WS for their Tracking and Reporting Actions for Conservation of Species (TRACS) program and Standards and Measures Committee,
- In addition to these accomplishments Steve almost single-handedly produced a petition to change the status of gray wolf in the Northern Rocky Mountains.

...WY TWS 2013 Awards Nominees

...Steve Tessmann

Recently Steve has been actively involved in the Intermountain West Joint Ventures State Steering Committee where he serves as state chair and the Wyoming Bird Habitat Conservation Partnership where he serves as chair. What started as a goose hunter frustrated with the impacts of drought and drying of ponds at his favorite hunting spot (Steve) has blossomed into a statewide network of 39 professionals and 15 organizations working on wetland issues. To date, this group with Steve's leadership has developed the Wyoming Wetlands Conservation Strategy (2010). Nine regional step-down basin plans under the umbrella of the state plan will include many project and strategy recommendations. Through the efforts of the Partnership two EPA level 2 wetland condition assessment grants have been obtained (Upper Green River and Laramie Plains/Goshen). Through Steve's efforts four additional wetlands complexes are being recognized as bird areas of continental significance in draft updates to the four North American bird conservation plans. In the past, only the Greater Yellowstone Area was acknowledged as continentally significant. The additional areas include Lower North Platte/Goshen Hole, Laramie Basin, Bear River, and Upper Green River Basin. Most of the things Steve has spent a career working on are not the things we all got in the business for. However, these things are important work and Wyoming has been fortunate to have someone with Steve's skill set ready and willing to tackle these issues on behalf of all of us and the wildlife we treasure. To quote Jay Lawson, former Chief of the Wildlife Division;

"Steve has worked throughout his career on a variety of topics and issues that have had a significant or enduring effect on Wyoming's fish and wildlife resources, and a number of his efforts have had a bearing on wildlife management regionally or nationally in the areas of mitigation, environmental protection, wildlife conservation, policy, and legislation."

Steve Tessmann is a most deserving nominee for the Wyoming State Chapter of The Wildlife Society 2013 Professional Award.

Submitted By: Bob Lanka

Address: WGFD, 5400 Bishop Blvd., Cheyenne, WY 82006

Phone: Work – 307-777-4580, Cell – 307-760-5839

Gary Fralick

PO Box 1022

Thayne, WY 83127

Office: 307-883-2998

Cell: 307-730-2802

gary.fralick@wyo.gov

Present position: Wildlife Biologist, Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD)

Academic background: BSc Wildlife Biology (1984), University of Montana, Missoula, MT

Professional background:

Fralick is an eastern transplant from Lebanon, Pennsylvania, from where he ventured out to first serve in the US Air Force for four years, including a tour of duty in Turkey, followed by obtaining a BSc degree in Wildlife

...WY TWS 2013 Awards Nominees

...Gary Fralick

Biology from the University of Montana in 1984. Fralick then began his professional career in a series of biologist positions for the US Forest Service, Montana Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, Bureau of Land Management, and the WGFD. After a short stint as Staff Biologist in the Cheyenne Headquarters he began serving the role as District Wildlife Biologist for the WGFD in Buffalo in 1990 where he remained until he finally landed in his current position with the WGFD as the South Jackson wildlife biologist in 1993. Since then, Fralick has served an instrumental role in the research and management of wildlife species and their habitats in his District. In particular, he is highly valued and recognized throughout the Intermountain West for his management of the Wyoming Range mule deer herd. Despite the controversy underlying the management of this population, Fralick has done a superb job in balancing an enormous variety of stakeholder interests in this highly treasured deer herd. In particular, he is highly valued and recognized throughout the Intermountain West for his management of the Wyoming Range mule deer herd. Despite the controversy underlying the management of this population, Fralick has done a superb job in balancing an enormous variety of stakeholder interests in this highly treasured deer herd.

Although there are countless examples of the professionalism and passion for the wildlife resource displayed by Fralick, we wish to portray a few that stand out in our minds. First, throughout his career, Fralick has strived to collect data necessary for sound management of game species, especially big game, and has wholeheartedly persevered to involve and educate the general public. The deer-check station he operates nearly the entire season in Alpine, WY (which by the way takes precedence over his own hunting) has set the standard for all others, and Fralick is known by name by most hunters that have set foot in the Wyoming and Salt Ranges. His efforts to collect critical data on harvest statistics have resulted in an impressive dataset that form the basis of his excellent rapport and open communication with hunters, outfitters, landowners, and other stakeholders. This level of communication was essential in the development of the Wyoming Range Mule Deer Initiative—a herd-unit specific management plan that followed from the statewide Wyoming Mule Deer Initiative. Fralick himself served an integral role in the development of this management plan, and paved the way to initiate the largest research project ever conducted on mule deer in Wyoming. Fralick recognized the need for empirical data to make the appropriate decisions regarding the management of the Wyoming Range deer herd, and through a productive collaboration with the Wyoming Coop Unit, spearheaded the effort and fundraising to initiate the Wyoming Range deer project in March 2013.

Further, Fralick has served an instrumental role in the Sublette moose project, which began to address questions associated with habitat use of moose in Sublette county and in particular, the Plains Exploration Project Area which was pending to be leased for natural gas extraction. In large part because of Fralick's contributions and boundless enthusiasm, the Sublette moose project has become critical to understanding factors currently influencing moose in Sublette County. The vast majority of this project has relied on sustained involvement of key landowners as the bulk of the moose winter on private land. To no credit other than his own, Fralick obtained more than just permission from multiple landowners in Sublette County, but also garnered their interest and support for the project. That effort was made clear when Fralick sought and gained recognition for the 7 key landowners through a joint award of the 2013 WGFD Jackson-Pinedale Regions Landowner of the Year. Such actions demonstrate the value Fralick places on maintaining agency-stakeholder relationships that lead to the betterment of our natural resources, and also his admirable desire to ensure others are given credit where it is due.

...WY TWS 2013 Awards Nominees

...Gary Fralick

Despite what some may consider a winding down of a career after 30 years, Fralick is currently at the peak of his game and I think he would tell you he's at the height of his career rather than at the end. Between conducting sheep surveys in snowshoes on Mount Darby, traveling on horseback to conduct forb production surveys in the South Fork of Sheep Creek, measuring browse production and utilization for mule deer on the Big Piney winter range, conducting sage-grouse lek surveys amidst sagebrush communities on the foothills of the Wyoming Range, interviewing and educating hunters as they depart the Grey's River with their recent harvest, field-processing moose and mule deer during helicopter capture efforts, having onsite visits with a local landowner to discuss moose research, or making the epic and sometimes life-threatening journeys into the backcountry that he is often known for, you will be hard-pressed to ever find a day that Fralick isn't enjoying, serving, promoting, or improving our natural resources in one form or another.

It is with great honor and pleasure that we collectively nominate Mr. Gary Fralick for the Wyoming TWS Professional of the Year for contributions and a continued commitment to the natural resources of Wyoming. Importantly, this is Fralick's 20th year as the South Jackson wildlife biologist, and we hope that you will recognize him in celebrating and commemorating this major accomplishment. Fralick's passion to better understand and conserve our natural resources is exemplified by every aspect of the man, especially his dedication to his position wherein he performs at a level well above that expected based on his normal job duties. He is at once the professional that every student of wildlife biology should aspire to become, the biologist that every wildlife administrator would hope to employ, and the person that every wildlife enthusiast would want to know as friend and colleague.

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin L. Monteith,
Assistant Research Professor
Wyoming Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit

Jacob R. Goheen
Assistant Professor
University of Wyoming

Scott Smith
Regional Wildlife Coordinator
Wyoming Game and Fish Department

Matthew J. Kauffman
Unit Leader
Wyoming Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit



Back to Basics: Thoughts from the Science Committee

It seems a lot of my time nowadays is relegated to trying to explain or refute a particular peer-reviewed paper or concept. The scientific community has done an amazing job of getting results out to the people, which is noble and almost righteous; but unfortunately with a flavor of the month viewpoint on many things in society, this can erroneously lead to a process of selective citationship in order to make a point (some would even say “prove a point” which goes further against the tenets of the scientific method). Whenever the machine appears to be broken I find it helpful to go back to the basics in order to calm my mind and bring my soul back to whatever

it was that directed so many of us down this path of a career with wildlife ecology. It’s funny that something so real and fact-based is so driven by the media, societal strife, and politics when in all reality, *science is science*. And in the end that’s a beautiful statement to comprehend through all the smoke and mirrors.

Keep the faith... Striving to dissuade the blasphemization of Science
D.Thompson, Science Committee Chair

Pop Quiz on the Central Mountains and Plains Section! Do You Know the CMPS?



CMPS Board Member At-Large, and WGFD Non-Game Bird Biologist Andrea Orabona.

- 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 2010?
- 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 and the Strategic Plan? Does CMPS use a “Section Involvement Decision Matrix”?
- 6) What are the objectives of the CMPS?
- 7) How many CMPS Annual Meetings have taken place? Are Proceedings available?
- 8) How many Position Statements has CMPS submitted and on what subjects?
- 9) What newsletters are available electronically on the CMPS web site?
- 10) Does CMPS have a travel grant program for students?
- 11) How many individuals or entities from Wyoming have received an award from CMPS over the years?
- 12) What are the two ways you can join CMPS?
- 13) Who is your current CMPS Executive Board of Directors?

(Answers on the following pages...)

...Answers to the CMPS Section Quiz

- 1) The Central Mountains and Plains Section (CMPS) of The Wildlife Society was initiated on 2 February 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 full synopsis of CMPS’s history can be found under the Who We Are link on the CMPS web site.
- 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.
- 3) CMPS started with 39 members in 1955. As of August 2010 (the last reported date), there were 1,987 members. Membership details are on the CMPS web site under Financial Statements and Membership in the History section under the Who We Are link.
- 4) CMPS Bylaws were first organized on 22 April 1955. Amendments occurred in 1980, 1986, 1987, 1990, 2006, 2008, 2009, and 2013. The current Bylaws have a date of 14 August 2013. The CMPS Bylaws are on the web site under the Who We Are link.
- 5) CMPS has a 5-item Mission Statement and a 5-item Strategic Plan, including a “Section Involvement Decision Matrix” to guide its involvement in policy issues. These can be viewed in the Mission/Strategic Plan section under the Who We Are link.
- 6) 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, and C) To support the objectives of The Wildlife Society and its Code of Ethics. More information can be found on the CMPS web site under the Who We Are link.
- 7) Starting in 1956, there have been 58 CMPS Annual Meetings. Proceedings for 49 of those meetings are available electronically on the web site under the Proceedings link.
- 8) 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; and 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 that section of the web site under the Who We Are link.
- 9) CMPS newsletters from April 1981 through Summer 2013 are available electronically on the web site under the Newsletters link.

...Answers to the CMPS Section Quiz

- 10) CMPS offers the Wayne W. Sandfort 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, was one of the organizers of the Section, and he was interested in students. To read more, visit the Student Travel Grant link on the CMPS web site.
- 11) Since 1960 when the first CMPS award was presented, 14 individuals or entities from Wyoming have received either a CMPS Professional Award, Citizen's Conservation Achievement Award, or Special Award for Professional Ability and Dedication: 1973 Professional – Floyd Blunt, Citizen's – Bob Milek; 1981 Special – Dave Lockman; 1986 Citizen's – Oliver Scott; 1987 Citizen's – Foundation for North American Wild Sheep; 1990 Citizen's – Norma Hunt; 1994 Citizen's – Don Johnson; 1998 Citizen's – Gretchen Hurley; 2000 Professional – Kevin Hurley; 2002 Professional – Beth Williams and Ron Lockwood; 2008 Citizen's – Miles Land and Livestock Company; 2012 Professional – Tom Ryder, 2012 Citizen's – Thunder Basin Grasslands Prairie Ecosystem Association. All award recipients can be found on the CMPS web site under the Who We Are link.
- 12) There are two ways to join CMPS: 1) include the Section in your annual parent TWS membership renewal, or 2) join the Wyoming Chapter of TWS (or another of the CMPS State Chapters), where \$1 of your Chapter dues goes to CMPS to make you a member and entitle you to receive the CMPS newsletter three times per year. Membership details are under the Who We Are link on the web site.
- 13) Your current CMPS Executive Board of Directors includes: President – Bill Vodehnal (NE); President Elect – Karie Decker (NE); Vice-President – Mike Conover (UT); Secretary/Treasurer – Laurel Badura (NE); Newsletter Editor – Amanda Hicks (NE); Board Members At-Large – Emily Munter (NE), Andrea Orabona (WY), Randy Larsen (UT), and Max Post van der Berg (ND); and Section Representative to TWS Council – Gary White (CO). Past Board members can be found on the CMPS web site in the Officers and Executive Board section under the Who We Are link. Current Board members are housed under the Officers link. Remember, we are here to serve *you* and the *wildlife resource* that fuels our passion!

For more details on these and other Central Mountains and Plains Section topics, visit the informative and up-to-date CMPS web site at <http://wildlife.org/cmps/>.

A. Orabona, CMPS Board Member At-Large





Patrick Rodgers, 2013 WY TWS Fellowship Recipient and UW Undergraduate Student with an immobilized grizzly bear.

A Summer of Learning Adventures: The 2013 WY TWS Fellowship Program

Summer 2013 provided another rewarding experience for an outstanding wildlife undergraduate! Patrick Rodgers spent May 14 through August 6 traveling across the Cowboy State, immersed in a wide range of wildlife-related issues and learning about the different influencing factors involved in decision-making. As just a sampling, Patrick:

- participated in the Governor's Sage-Grouse Implementation Team,
- netted fish in the Little Snake River to determine movement of invasive northern pike,
- worked at the Wildlife State Veterinary Lab examining pneumonia in bighorn sheep,
- tracked marked mule deer in the Laramie Peak area to determine mortality and survival rates,
- trapped grizzly bears in the Absaroka mountain range,
- received training in wilderness first aid and CPR
- trapped and processed great gray owls,
- took part in amphibian surveys,
- participated in education/outreach on song bird monitoring and tree ecology,
- learned about conservation easements,
- monitored bald eagle and osprey nests,
- assessed reclamation of gas well pads in the Pinedale Anticline, and
- evaluated areas for possible aspen regeneration projects.

We asked Patrick to share with us his perspectives from the summer:

"The experiences I have had through the fellowship have been very helpful in my development and growth as an aspiring wildlife professional. I have learned more from each experience than I expected at the beginning of the summer. The opportunity to participate in a plethora of wildlife field research activities has made me confident not only in my abilities to do field work but to participate in all aspects of wildlife research and management."

And he's come a long way from the young man we interviewed in the spring ...

"The most pressing wildlife issues in the state are those that involve direct and indirect impacts of energy development on wildlife, habitat loss, and interactions between wildlife and people. More specifically: oil and natural gas as well as wind development affecting habitat and movement of many wildlife species; loss of habitat due to human development and encroachment, overgrazing, and human infrastructure; effects on big game populations through wildlife diseases; and finally, grizzly bear and wolf predation on wildlife and livestock as a public concern."

Now we all feel a little battle-hardened from time to time. We've all been in the trenches, whether up to our elbows in malfunctioning trapping gear and bad weather or trying to engage and influence doubtful decision-makers. And yet we all keep going forward because we love the resources. We think we know



Patrick conducting radio-telemetry around Laramie Peak.

...2013 WY TWS Fellowship

what the important issues are when it comes to Wyoming's wildlife resources ... but what would a fresh, upbeat young man think of it all? Well he kindly told us, and we sat back proudly:



Patrick with a healthy brown trout on the Little Snake River.

“One of the most prominent and broad issues would be that of dealing with public demand and political agendas. ... All residents of Wyoming, whether directly or indirectly, affect or are affected by wildlife in some way, and everyone has an opinion on wildlife issues. The challenge for wildlife professionals is to work respectfully and patiently with the public to educate them about wildlife issues, and to work around numerous agendas in order to create the most effective and appropriate management plans for wildlife and habitat. To sway people's opinions toward thought processes that are aligned with professional research and data is no easy task, but it is necessary if wildlife managers want to implement successful management plans.”

And he had more to say:

“Another challenge that wildlife managers face is identifying the causes of population losses and addressing those problems effectively. One of the most convoluted factors of population loss is the loss of habitat. Habitat loss is not the only contributor, however. Predation, disease, and hunting all contribute significantly to wildlife mortality rates. Which of these factors has the largest impact on population size? Is it an intraspecific or interspecific factor? How does each factor affect particular species? Is a specific wildlife disease zoonotic and/or treatable? Are people the cause or target of the problem? These are only a few of the questions that wildlife managers must face when monitoring and researching wildlife populations.”

Thank you to all the mentors and organizers, including Teton Science School! Without your time and energy, we could not have made this program work.

I will leave the last words to Patrick, “Despite this and the numerous other challenges that wildlife professionals face, there are an equal number of passionate, intelligent, and hard-working wildlife professionals in this state to face these challenges head on, creating a world where both wildlife and people come first.”



Our hats go off to all of our members, who work hard every day for Wyoming's wildlife! If the next generation is anything like Patrick, our profession's future is in good hands.

*D. Edmunds, Fellowship Co-Chair
P. Rodgers, 2013 WY TWS Fellow*



Patrick and Steve Kilpatrick enjoying a horseback ride in western Wyoming.

UW-TWS STUDENT CHAPTER UPDATE



Ian Abernathy, new WY TWS Student Chapter Liaison.

With the start of another fall semester here in Laramie, the University of Wyoming Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society (UW-TWS) has a full slate of community service and skill building activities lined up. Once again, members will be cleaning up their section of Highway 287 south of Laramie on September 21st. The autumn river otter survey was originally scheduled for September 13-15 but was postponed due to severe flooding in Colorado. Time and weather permitting, this long-term survey will be conducted sometime later this fall. The student chapter has also been assisting Merav with another long-term research effort in the Pole Mountain area just west of Laramie. This effort involves live-trapping least chipmunks in forested and sagebrush habitats.



A UW student marks a river otter location.

For the second year, UW-TWS will be assisting Wyoming Game and Fish Department biologist Tony Mong with two research projects. First, members will be handing out GPS units to elk hunters to assess hunter effort and success in beetle-killed forests in the Sierra Madre Range in southern Wyoming. Also, members will be helping Mong affix VHF collars and track mule deer in December. One lucky UW-TWS undergraduate member will have the internship of a lifetime early this winter. The selected UW-TWS member will travel to Churchill, Manitoba to participate in a collaborative citizen science project focused on assessing body condition of polar bears in the area. This is part a long-term monitoring effort and is a collaborative effort among Polar Bears International, the University of Wyoming, and Purdue University. The successful internee will spend long days cruising the tundra on Tundra Buggy tours collecting biological data from polar bears and interacting with tourists.

In addition to all of these field activities, UW-TWS plans to send several members to this year's upcoming Wyoming State Chapter of The Wildlife Society Annual Meeting in Rock Springs. As you can see, UW-TWS members will be busy gaining invaluable hands on experience using a wide variety of wildlife research techniques on a wide variety of wildlife taxa. In order to keep this great program going, please leave some room in your calendars to come to Laramie in early November for our annual Beast Feast pot luck. This is the primary fundraiser for the UW-TWS. You will have a chance to sample many fantastic game dishes, participate in raffles to win great prizes, play games, and have a grand old time!

I. Abernathy, Student Chapter Liaison



UW-Student Chapter preparing to survey for river otters on the Snake River.



Charlotte Snoberger, WGFD Herpetologist, with a Smooth Greensnake (SGCN) from the Black Hills.

WGFD Special Project Update: Reptiles and Amphibians of Northern Wyoming

Though they do not usually receive as much attention as other wildlife species, reptiles and amphibians form an integral part of Wyoming's ecosystem. Wyoming supports 29 species of reptiles and 12 species of amphibians, ranging from the more common Bullsnake to the rare Great Basin Skink. Both reptiles and amphibians have declined worldwide over the last few decades and can serve as valuable indicator species. Chytrid fungus has led to large-scale die-offs of amphibians across the world and has been documented across most of Wyoming. Habitat fragmentation and environmental stressors increasingly affect the reptiles and amphibians of Wyoming. Despite these threats, little baseline information exists on the historic and

current distributions of reptiles and amphibians across the state. This past summer, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) began a project to survey the reptiles and amphibians of northern Wyoming, to learn more about their distributions, abundances, and habitats. Surveys focus on Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) and habitat priority areas, as defined by WGFD. This project is funded by a State Wildlife Grant through the federal government and will continue through the summer of 2014. Similar projects have been conducted in southwest and southeast Wyoming over the past four years and have greatly increased our knowledge of reptiles and amphibians within these areas.

From May to September 2013, WGFD herpetologists surveyed within four 'target' areas of northern Wyoming: the Shoshone National Forest, the west Bighorn Mountains, the Cheyenne River drainage, and northeast Wyoming (including the Black Hills and surrounding areas). Surveys also were conducted outside of these areas for the Plains Spadefoot, a species of special management concern. Information on species, age, sex, length, and weight was recorded along with basic habitat data including habitat type, dominant plant species, water temperature, pH, grazing intensity, fish presence, and substrate type. Adult amphibians were tested for chytrid fungus; the results of these test samples will be available by next year. SGCN freshwater crustaceans (including fairy shrimp, tadpole shrimp, and clam shrimp) also were opportunistically collected for later identification. These often live in habitats with or near amphibians and may serve as an important food source for species such as the Plains Spadefoot. Very little is known about freshwater shrimp and each specimen can add greatly to our knowledge of their distributions in the state.



Tadpole Shrimp (*Triops* sp.) from the Cheyenne River drainage.

...Northern WY Reptiles & Amphibians

Seven species of amphibians and 12 species of reptiles were recorded in northern Wyoming this summer, including Plains Spadefoots, Boreal Toads, Greater Short-horned Lizards, Western Painted Turtles, and Smooth Greensnakes. Many new locations were recorded for these species in areas where they have not been documented previously. Several herpetofaunal species in Wyoming are known by only a few dots on the map, so all of this information adds substantially to our understanding of reptiles and amphibians in the state. Updating and refining the range maps of species and their baseline populations aids in more specific and accurate management of these species. Once more detailed distributions exist for herpetofaunal species, monitoring can begin and information can be collected on the status of these species. Reptile and amphibian surveys will continue within the aforementioned target areas of northern Wyoming in 2014 and reports will be available through WGFD that summarize species distribution, habitats, and management recommendations.



David Brady, WGFD herpetology technician, holding a recently captured Barred Tiger Salamander (*Ambystoma mavortium*).



A Greater Short-horned Lizard (*Phrynosoma hernandesi*; SGCN species) captured in the Sand Creek drainage of northeastern Wyoming.

If you are interested in learning more about how to identify the reptiles and amphibians of Wyoming, please contact WGFD herpetologists Charlotte Snoberger (Charlotte.Snoberger@wyo.gov) or Zack Walker (Zack.Walker@wyo.gov). Observation booklets are available for recording sightings of any reptile and amphibian species in Wyoming and observations are encouraged and needed for both common and rare species statewide.

C. Snoberger, WGFD Herpetologist

New Project Focuses on Wyoming's Grassland Birds

Wyoming grasslands are home to 35 species of birds. Currently 12 species of nongame grassland birds in Wyoming are listed as Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN). These include Bobolink, Burrowing Owl, Chestnut-collared Longspur, Dickcissel, Ferruginous Hawk, Grasshopper Sparrow, Lark Bunting, Long-billed Curlew, McCown's Longspur, Mountain Plover, Short

-eared Owl, and Upland Sandpiper. Across their range, grassland birds have declined more dramatically, more consistently, and over a more geographically widespread area than any other group of birds in North America. Their habitat is threatened due to cultivation, fragmentation, industrialization, the spread of invasive plants, urban sprawl, and the loss of natural disturbances such as fire.

...Wyoming's Grassland Birds

Personnel from many agencies and organizations are currently involved in monitoring grassland birds: Audubon Rockies, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, U.S. Forest Service, Wyoming Natural Diversity Database, and Wyoming Game and Fish Department. In addition, volunteers in Wyoming have also been very instrumental in our efforts to monitor these species. Despite our actions, the Burrowing Owl, Long-billed Curlew, Mountain Plover, and Upland Sandpiper are not monitored adequately using existing methods; instead, they require species-specific protocols to determine distribution, estimate occupancy, and evaluate population trend. Thanks to funding provided by the Wyoming Governor's Endangered Species Account, WGFD Nongame Program personnel developed permanent road-based survey routes in 2013 for the Mountain Plover and the Upland Sandpiper across their range in the State. We will develop permanent survey routes for the Burrowing Owl and Long-billed Curlew in 2014 with the remainder of the funding. Once all routes have been established, we plan to tap into regional personnel to assist us in conducting annual surveys for these grassland SGCN.

The rangewide Mountain Plover population is estimated at 24,000-3,192,200 birds, depending on the source of the estimate. In Wyoming, the current minimum population estimate is 3,393 individuals. Mountain Plovers can be difficult to detect using the standard Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) protocol. Plovers are often missed on BBS routes because they have a very soft call that may not be heard by observers, they do not vocalize repeatedly to advertise territories or attract mates like songbirds do, and they may remain hidden unless an observer forces a reaction by stepping out of a vehicle. Mountain Plovers are unaffected by vehicle



traffic, but are intolerant of people traveling on-foot and may conceal their presence without being detected. Preliminary surveys and habitat assessments resulted in permanent survey routes located in breeding concentration areas around the Big Horn Basin, Great Divide Basin, Mexican Flats, Shirley Basin, and Laramie Plains. This past summer, we established additional routes near Wamsutter, Moneta, Lysite, Arminto, Medicine Bow, and Thunder Basin National Grasslands.

Upland Sandpipers declined sharply in the early 19th century due to unsustainable sport and market hunting. Once Upland Sandpipers became protected, they rebounded and have become more common in midwestern grasslands. Upland Sandpipers are considered uncommon and on the edge of their breeding range in Wyoming. The BBS trend analyses suggest that the Upland Sandpiper breeding population in Wyoming has increased from 2002-



2011. However, Upland Sandpipers have very large breeding territories, estimated between 50-200 acres. This can distort or mislead population estimates based on BBS results. Therefore, we need to establish a more extensive long-term population monitoring program for the Upland Sandpiper. In order to develop a more comprehensive

plan, we established permanent survey routes within their breeding range in eastern Wyoming near Hulett, Newcastle, Gillette, Glendo, Lusk, Moorcroft, Sheridan, and Torrington. The long-term data we collect from these routes will be more representative of Upland Sandpiper distribution and occupancy throughout their breeding range in Wyoming, and will enable us to determine population trend over time.

J. Coyle and A. Orabona, WGFD Nongame Program



Story Behind the Photo: Quality Canyon Time

I don't think I have ever regretted carving out a little time for the outdoors, no matter how brief. On this morning my wife Lisa and I only had a couple hours before we had to be somewhere. It would've been easy to just blow the time on the computer, checking email, vegging out in front of the TV or whatever. Instead, we

decided to sneak in a quick drive through the Snake River Canyon. Do you think she enjoyed her 10 minutes hanging out here on the bank of the river? I'd wager it was the best 10 minutes of her day. Just do it.

M Gocke, WGFD I&E Specialist

ANNOUNCEMENT Raptors of the Northwest Symposium February 5-7, 2014; Pasco, WA

The **Raptors of the Northwest Symposium** (RNWS) will be part of a Joint Meeting with several other meetings and symposia, including the annual meeting of the TWS Washington Chapter and the 4th International Burrowing Owl Symposium. The specific dates for the Raptor Symposium are February 5-7, 2014; other meetings/symposia will overlap and/or extend past these dates. The venue will be the Red Lion, in Pasco, WA, which is 1/4 mile from the Pasco Airport. The geographic areas to be focused on during the raptor symposium are the NW U.S. states, including Alaska, and the Western Canadian Provinces. Both diurnal and nocturnal raptors will be addressed. The theme is “**Linking Raptor Research to Critical Conservation and Management Needs.**” We want there to be widespread and diverse geographical and organizational involvement and support from as many agency, academic, NGO, and other land management stakeholder groups as possible; so if you have suggested contacts, we would welcome them.

For more information on the Joint Meeting, or to submit an abstract (for all meetings), please see <http://wildlife.org/washington/sites/wildlife.org.washington/files/images/2014%20Joint%20Meeting%20Call%20for%20Papers.pdf>. Please specify that you are interested in the RNWS.

Jeffrey L. Lincer, Raptor Symposium Organizer
SoCal Chapter Rep. to TWS WS
JeffLincer@gmail.com; (619) 668-0032

WY TWS Membership Form

Change of Address

New Member

Membership Renewal

NAME _____

AFFILIATION _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

WORK PHONE _____ HOME PHONE _____

☐ **ADDRESS CHANGE** **Dues are \$10.00 per year or \$25.00 for 3 years.**

☐ **E-MAIL ADDRESS CHANGE** Make checks payable to: **Wyoming Chapter-TWS**

☐ **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL** ☐ **NEW MEMBER**

I wish to receive the newsletter via E-MAIL ☐ or at the physical address listed above ☐

**If you would like to receive your newsletter other than via e-mail or the web page,
please let Therese know.**

**Don't forget! Existing WY TWS members can log in and pay dues
on-line! Check out the WY TWS website at
<http://joomla.wildlife.org/Wyoming/>**

**If you are not an existing WY TWS member and pay dues on-line,
Please also complete and send this form to Therese Hartman**

Therese Hartman P.O. Box 850 Pinedale, WY 82941

Email: Therese.Hartman@wyo.gov

Fax: 307-367-4403

Please support your WY-TWS Chapter by paying your membership dues!

WY-TWS Awards Nomination Form



To all TWS members,

It is not too early to start thinking about deserving nominees for our WY-TWS awards. Please take a few minutes and give some thought about those who are working hard for wildlife and should be recognized for their efforts. These awards are given out each year at the annual meeting to recognize the outstanding efforts by individuals in the state to conserve and manage wildlife and wildlife habitat.

To submit a nomination, please fill out the biographical information listed on the form below and write up a short summary of the nominee's accomplishments in the wildlife conservation/management arena. Nominations can be mailed or e-mailed to the following:

TWS Awards Committee Chair

Currently Vacant!

Please send nominations to:

Tony Mong

PO Box 516, Baggs, WY 82321

Tony.Mong@wyo.gov

Wyoming Chapter – The Wildlife Society Award Nomination Form

Nominee:

Award (circle one): Professional Citizen

Address:

Present Position:

Academic Background:

Professional Background:

Submitted By:

Address:

Phone:

Note from the Editor....

As summer draws to a close, salmon-colored sunsets darken a bit earlier each evening and unanticipated monsoonal rains moisten the typically parched lands and all its residents of our grand state. Regardless, vegetation senesces and the annual cycle of feasting by many herbivorous wildlife races to its zenith as geese graze cut hay meadows, deer devour tall forbs along foothills and mountain slopes, and pika scattered among alpine scree-fields hastily mound haypiles skyward in preparation for winter. Although these critters are ever present of dwindling edible resources, saplings and shrubs dismembered by hormonally-charged male ungulates remind us that many animals are adept at balancing the compromise between sustaining bodily reserves for both battle and overwinter survival.

At a time when most animals are gorging on the bounty of the land and basking in the warm autumn sun, many of us in the wildlife business are experiencing economic famine under a looming black cloud of almost infinite uncertainty. With terms like government sequestration, fiscal cliff, and budget shortfall dominating popular media, a lucrative future for current and budding personnel in wildlife management and research seems a distant afterthought at best. Yet like all organisms challenged with adversity, necessity is the mother of invention, and adaptation is the ultimate cure for what ails us. And with a bit of help from perseverance and luck, we too may be able to balance our dilemma between imminent battle over management actions and catabolism of budgetary resources.

So as you ponder your next professional move, or maybe even question the moves made for you by administrators, remember that WY-TWS is here for you. Our annual conference is guaranteed to provide a feast of knowledge, ideas, innovation, and even some fun to tide you over through winter's doldrums. See you in Rock Springs...and don't forget your costume!

E. Maichak

More formally and specifically, we accept appropriate articles and information related to wildlife management and conservation activities in Wyoming from our board, members, governmental agencies, and non-profit organizations. Articles, photos, and other submissions can be sent to:

Eric Maichak
Eric.Maichak@wyo.gov

Jason Carlisle
Jason.Carlisle@gmail.com

Lorraine Keith
lkeith@blm.gov

Bryan Bedrosian
bryan@beringiasouth.org


Newsletter deadlines for 2013:

February 15 (Winter Edition)

May 15 (Spring/Summer Edition)

September 15 (Autumn Edition)

We're on the Web!
joomla.wildlife.org/Wyoming/



Soar above the competition!

Being a TWS Certified Wildlife Biologist (CWB®) means you have:

- Increased job potential
- Increased credibility
- Recognized training & expertise
- An unsurpassed network of expert colleagues

APPLY TODAY!

See program and application at:
wildlife.org/certification
or contact
shannon@wildlife.org