



WILDLIFE TRACKS

*The bimonthly Newsletter of the
Colorado Chapter of The Wildlife Society*

Vol. 42, Issue 4: July/August 2013



Chapter Officers

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Ryan Monello

Past President:

Mindy Rice

President-Elect:

Treasurer:

Colleen Cunningham

Secretary:

Christina Santana

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President's Column



Ryan Monello , President

I'm writing this column from afar, as I've been working in Washington D.C. this summer. It's been great because the issues have covered all the big stuff, from wolves to bison; but the calls from home to coordinate field activities in Colorado and other western states have been a welcome reminder of things to come.

During our most recent board meeting, I found another excuse to turn my focus back to Colorado. It was suggested that the newsletter could highlight recent work from or by those in Colorado, particularly when state chapter members have been involved. The thinking is that it would help keep us and others up-to-date on some of the latest findings and skills within Colorado. As a trial, I did a fast and completely haphazard search of recent work in Colorado and came across the following publications and conclusions:

- * Snider et al. (2013) found that western long-eared myotis display a high preference for rock crevices in unburned habitat during summer in Mesa Verde National Park, where more than 70% of the area has burned over the last 15-20 years;
- * Davis et al. (2013) successfully tested GPS collars with proximity-logging devices in captive bighorn sheep, providing a big step forward if you're interested in contact rates for disease or social network purposes;
- * Poessel et al. (2013) compiled over 4,000 reports of coyotes in Denver and found the most likely time and place to observe or have a conflict with coyotes was during winter, in open space or suburban developments, and in the southern part of the metropolitan area;
- * Rice et al. (2013) used a large data set collected by Colorado Parks and Wildlife over 12 years and almost 50,000 square kilometers (20,000 square miles) to make seasonal distribution and habitat maps of greater sage-grouse that will be critical for ongoing oil and gas development decisions.

I'm sure there are many other great ones that I missed, so please send us published or unpublished examples of work that you did or simply found interesting and related to Colorado, and we will periodically highlight them in the newsletter. The more the better, and feel free to send a summary along as well.

Thanks and have a great rest of the summer.

Ryan

References

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- Rice, M.B., A.D. Apa, M.L. Phillips, J.H. Gammonley, B.B. Petch, and K. Eichhoff. 2013. Analysis of regional species distribution models based on radio-telemetry datasets from multiple small-scale studies. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 77:821-831.
- Snider, E.A., P.M. Cryan, and K.R. Wilson. 2013. Roost selection by western long-eared myotis (*Myotis evotis*) in burned and unburned pinon-juniper woodlands of southwestern Colorado. *Journal of Mammalogy* 94:640-649.

Colorado Chapter Board Meeting Minutes

Teleconference, July 10, 2013

Teleconference

In attendance: Ryan Monello, Mindy Rice, Stacy Lischka, Chris Mettenbrink, Brad Milley, Brett Walker, Stephanie Steinhoff, Evan Phillips

Note: red text indicates further work pending, green text indicates board decisions

Meeting Called to Order by Ryan Monello at 11:02 AM

Secretary's Report (Ryan):

Tax issue is ongoing. No update from accountant. We will need to pay the fine by mid-August. If the accountant does not resolve the issue in the next couple weeks, we will have to pay (Chris).

Website - we are still planning to get merchandise online.

Minutes had been previously reviewed and approved by the Board.

Treasurer's Report (Colleen):

Account balances:

\$4,950.89 in checking account, after 2 summer travel grants awarded

\$41,540.03 in saving account

Old Business (Ryan):

Next conference call

September meeting is scheduled to be **Wed., Aug. 28th from 9-12, by phone**

Travel grants

- Summer Travel grants awarded (**will be included in newsletter**)
- Winter/Spring travel grants
 - Applications Due: October 1st, Recipients Notified: November 1st
 - Will decide at a later date how many travel grants to award for the winter spring depending on member interest and available funding (at least one, maybe two).

Funding guidelines for requests by members, board members

- Follow up on requests for funding outside of normal grant process (e.g., Highway 9 request and previous year request for support to attend an environmental summer camp)
- Need to keep everything going through the grant process (Mindy)
- Should be consistent for everyone (Ryan)
- **Stacy, Brad, and Evan agreed; no one objected**
- In the future, standard operation procedure will be to stay with our annual grant award cycle

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Colorado Chapter Board Meeting Minutes

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New business (Ryan)

Newsletter

- Greg Davidson working with Jon on this one and will then take over.
- Deadline: **July 19th**
- **Meet the board – at large members (Stephanie Steinhoff, Chris Mettenbrink, Brad Milley, Evan Phillips) submit a photograph and paragraph about current position to let members get to know us**
- Will include usual pieces (Pres column, at large, Mindy's update, meeting announcements) and current announcements (travel grant, our annual meeting dates), and a nice land use update
- Retiree article – could be included if we recruit a retiree
- Other items?
 - Recently published articles from CCTWS members
 - ♦ Couldn't post article without permission from Journal (Mindy)
 - ♦ Another approach could be published articles on topics related to Colorado (Ryan)
 - ♦ There still could be some links if it is CCTWS members even if the location is different (Stacy)
 - ♦ **Ryan will alert members about this opportunity through the presidents column in the next newsletter**

Position replacements/nominations for 2014

- **Notify Ryan whether or not you will be staying on board**
- Announce elections November/December
- Announce new board members at next annual meetings

Request to help with registration for June 2014 Northern Wild Sheep and Goat Council meeting

- They are asking us to help them set up paypal for registration because they do not have the resources (Ryan)
- The paypal should be relatively easy, but coordinating registration would be time consuming (Chris)
- June timeframe – should be less busy that time of year. This work may fall predominately on treasurer's shoulders (Ryan)
- Estimated number of attendees = 125 people
- Should be decided by the person who will be handling the volume of work
- Could be good to help out another group and get our name out there, could get some reimbursement (Ryan)
- Need some reimbursement (Colleen)
- They are willing to pay us for each transaction (Mindy)
- Specific dates and location: June 2-5 in Fort Collins
- Need to have cut off date for conference registration (Chris)

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Colorado Chapter Board Meeting Minutes

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- May want to have a cutoff date for refunds to help with processing (Ryan)
 - There should be enough time between CCTWS winter meeting and wild sheep and goat meeting for paypal account to be clear (Ryan)
 - Ryan, Brett, Mindy, Brad, Colleen supported
 - Willing to help with account registration: Mindy, Ryan
 - We may have to take down membership paypal during that time because most CCTWS registration occurs during annual meeting
 - No objections from the board
 - Need to decide what CCTWS would like for reimbursement (\$5/registration?) Could buy some gift certificates for volunteers helping and would still give approximately \$400-\$500 to account
 - Should have a game plan for how to use the \$400-500 (Mindy, Stacy)
 - The winter meeting will be more expensive this year because it is on the eastern slope
- Designation for funds could be 1) CCTWS winter meeting, and if registration covers the costs then 2) small grant or travel grant (Ryan)

Annual meeting

- **Location options and prices** (Brad)
 - Fort Collins was selected during previous discussions
 - Two current potential venues:
 - ◆ Hilton by CPW/CSU/federal center
 - ◆ Marriot by Horsetooth & old mall
 - ◆ Both should be able to accommodate us
 - ◆ Price list – both hotels are close; there may be price lowering
 - Get everything in writing if a hotel says they will comp something (Mindy)
 - The hotels will charge for everything, so we should try to get as much compensated as possible
 - Brad will continue to keep Ryan, Mindy, and Nathan updated
- **Dates** (from Wed. until noon on Friday); February has worked well
 - Schedule
 - ◆ Workshops - Wednesday
 - ◆ Plenary - Thursday
 - ◆ Technical Session - Friday, end at noon

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Colorado Chapter Board Meeting Minutes

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- Early February is better according to member input from previous years (Mindy)
- **Wed Feb 5th – Friday Feb 7th: present board consensus as good dates**
 - ◆ Brad is meeting with one of the hotels next week; Ryan will wait to announce meeting dates in newsletter until we confirm with the hotels
 - ◆ Board members are requested to be at the conference Tues Feb 4th in the evening or Wed Feb 5th first thing to help set up
 - ◆ Wed workshop – 2 rooms, coffee & tea, sack lunch, welcome social
 - ◆ Thurs - coffee, break snacks, business lunch & banquet
- **Workshops**
 - Aim for the highest quality workshops that will attract the most attendees
 - \$2,000 budgeted for workshops (Ryan)
 - Ideas:
 - ◆ Wildlife anesthesia (Ryan).
 - Students have expressed interest in chemical immobilization (Stacy)
 - Always good to get additional training and/or person chemical immobilization of wildlife
 - ◆ Social science (Brad)
 - Tara Teel and Mike Manfredo (CSU) – the role of social sciences in conservation (Ryan)
 - No travel involved for speakers, may be \$1000-2000 range
 - **Stacy can find out what the price range may be**
 - Both Brad and Stacy have connections with the presenters and said they are high quality
 - ◆ Structured decision making (Ryan)
 - Had an adaptive management workshop a couple years ago (Mindy)
 - ◆ Introduction to open source GIS (Ryan)
 - Found one done by the Smithsonian
 - ◆ Landscape genetics
 - University of Idaho and University of Wyoming
 - Mindy supports
 - Sara Oyler - McCance with USGS?

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Colorado Chapter Board Meeting Minutes

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- ♦ Monitoring wildlife populations newfound use of technology
 - TWS national meeting workshop
- ♦ Applied survival analysis (Brett)
 - Bayesian or basics?
 - American statistical society offers workshops
 - Has not been done recently for CCTWS workshop (Mindy)
 - Gary White & MARK?
- Figure out workshop costs & availability of presenter and send to Ryan by **Friday August 16th**
 - ♦ Anesthesia, landscape genetics, monitoring, GIS – Ryan
 - ♦ Survival analysis – Brett
 - ♦ Social science - Stacy
 - ♦ Let Ryan know if you have additional workshop ideas
 - ♦ 6-8 hour long workshops (including breaks, lunch)
- **Focus/theme of meeting**
 - Member suggestions (Ryan)
 - ♦ Social science and management
 - Recruitment and retention theme was done last time in Fort Collins (Mindy)
 - ♦ Noise impacts on wildlife
 - Very focused and may be difficult to do an entire plenary on that subject. Last year there were several talks related to this issue (Mindy)
 - Human/Wildlife Interactions - Effects of development on wildlife (Ryan)
 - ♦ Subtopics:
 - Includes noise and activity effects on wildlife (Stacy)
 - Need to be careful not to overlap with ecological disturbances from last year (Mindy)
 - Could include deer & energy research (Ryan)
 - Effects of pollution on amphibians (Ryan)
 - Human / Wildlife Coexistence (Brad)
 - Economist could talk about the benefits of wildlife
 - ♦ Other CCTWS conferences have included conflict topics (Mindy) *Continued >>>*

Colorado Chapter Board Meeting Minutes

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- Wildlife/Field Techniques (Colleen)
- Breaking through Budget Bottlenecks (Stephanie)
 - ◆ How do we find plenary speakers who would be willing to talk about finances? (Stacy)
- Do we need to have a conference theme or focus? (Brett)
- Conference theme – not necessary that we stick closely with a specific topic the entire time (Ryan)
- Conference planning team –can flush out ideas and present to the board through email (Ryan)
 - Last year: Raquel, Mindy, Ryan, and Ruth
 - Ryan will send out email recruiting specific members
 - Can use logistics to help us decide conference theme and topics

Round table

Mindy – pass

Stacy – CSU meetings starting at the end of August

Ryan is going to try to meet with Western student chapter in September

Wants to meet with CSU in October or November

CSU student banquet was going to be Friday October 4th, potential issue with national TWS meeting
(Stacy will check/confirm)

Brett – website update

He is going to verify links

Are we alright with Brett changing minor parts of the website?

Moving items from Who We Are to another section (e.g., merchandise, etc)

He will check with the board before making major changes

If there are news updates that need to be made on the website, let him know

Potential updates (e.g., summer travel grant recipients)

Security updates still need to be done, but that will be done at the national level

Brett will post winter/spring travel grant announcements - July 31st

Brad-pass

Evan-pass

Stephanie-pass

Colleen-pass

Adjourn: 12:56pm - Mindy motioned, Brad seconded

Meet the Board!

Chris Mettenbrink, At large member

I am originally from the south central part of Nebraska and moved to Colorado in 2001. I am a District Wildlife Manager for Colorado Parks and Wildlife and am assigned to manage a district in southern Weld County. My work involves surveying and monitoring wildlife populations, wetland and grassland habitat improvement projects, promoting habitat improvement on private lands, provide wildlife expertise on mitigation issues with oil and gas companies and other development projects, and hunting and angling education. Another large part of my job is that I am also a Wildlife Officer and I am responsible for enforcing Colorado wildlife laws and managing conflicts between wildlife and people. During my personal time, I enjoy hunting, fishing, biking, and camping with my family.



Brad Milley, At Large Member

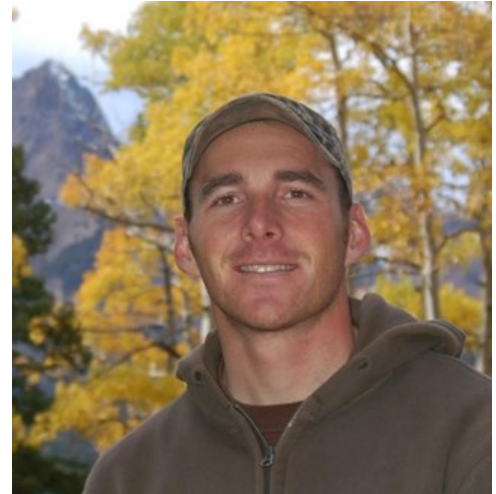
I'd like to thank the CCTWS membership for allowing me to be an at-large board member. I am excited for the opportunity to represent the wildlife profession. I am a social scientist with the U.S. Geological Survey Policy Analysis and Science Assistance Branch in Fort Collins. One of my current projects is the creation of a human dimensions training course for the Bureau of Land Management. This course will facilitate the understanding and use of social assessments in BLM resource management and planning actions. If you're a Department of the Interior employee, you're likely familiar with DOI-Learn: this course will exist in that system. Whenever possible, I try to focus my social science work on wildlife-related issues. In the past, I have conducted research in the Denver metro area on prairie dog and coyote conflict, and I am currently working with other USGS researchers to create an elk and elk hunter study. Outside of work, I am an avid hunter and angler and enjoy exploring Northern Colorado with my wife and our lab, Willow. I look forward to continuing to serve the CCTWS!



Meet the Board!

Evan Phillips, Representative at Large

I am excited to be one of the new At Large Representatives for CCTWS. I am a Wildlife Biologist for Colorado Parks and Wildlife in Montrose, CO. My current work involves a variety of species in western Colorado including Gunnison sage-grouse, bats, raptors, river otters, bears, and mountain lions. I am a Colorado native but spent time in South Dakota where I worked on elk population estimation in the Black Hills for a M. S. degree. In my free time I enjoy being outdoors hiking, canoeing, hunting, fishing, gardening, as well as cooking and traveling. I am glad to have the opportunity to give back to the Colorado Chapter of TWS and become more involved as a representative.

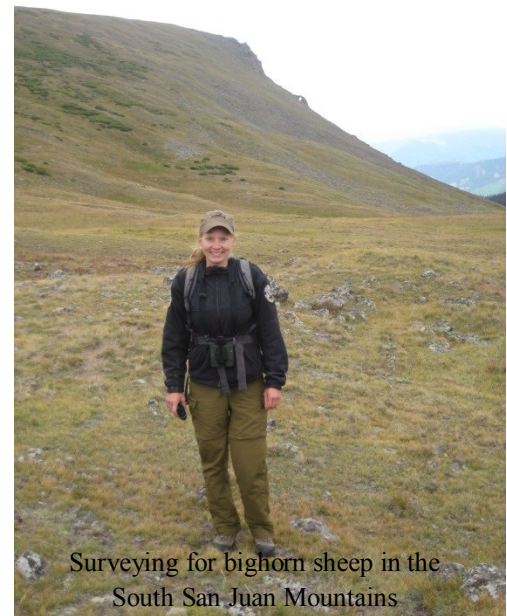


Stephanie (Steinhoff) Ferrero, At-large Member

It's an honor to serve on the Colorado Chapter of the Wildlife Society Board in 2013. This is my second year as an at large member. My responsibilities include historian liaison, travel grant chair - liaison, and student volunteer assistant. It has been an honor to help with the Conserving Our Wildlife Conservation Heritage program by documenting the history of TWS through the eyes of recognized leaders. I also enjoy recruiting retired TWS members to share their stories in our bimonthly CCTWS newsletter.

I continue to work as a terrestrial biologist for Colorado Parks and Wildlife in the San Luis Valley, near the New Mexico border. I have the privilege of helping manage a variety of wildlife species and habitats. Throughout the year, I get to inventory wildlife populations, analyze their trends, and interact with the public to inform management decisions.

Born and raised in the mountains, I developed a love for the outdoors and wildlife because my family went hiking, biking, rafting, skiing, camping, fishing, and hunting. There's nothing better than exploring a new trail, or watching the activities of wild animals when they do not realize you are there, or finding wildlife sign and trying to piece together the story. I love going on these adventures with my husband and our 3 pup dogs (2 German shorthairs and 1 black lab – blue heeler mix).



Surveying for bighorn sheep in the South San Juan Mountains

Where are they now?

News and Updates from Retired Members—Bob Towry

I appreciate the invitation from CCTWS to update friends and colleagues and introduce myself to those who have joined Colorado's wildlife management ranks since my retirement from the Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW). During my career with CDOW, I served as SW Regional Manager, State Wildlife Manager for Habitat and State Wildlife Manager for Species Conservation and Habitat among other roles.

Retirement was not a break with Colorado's wildlife management. I created a consulting company and offered contract services on topics ranging from the CDOW's RFP applications to property inventory and federal assistance matters to the CDOW. This period also provided the indirect impetus for the events that have occupied my time for the last 4 years. While the push was literally being hit by a tree, the outcome was a decision to actively pursue a PhD which had been on my mental back burner for many years. In the end, on May 17, 2013, I was conferred a PhD in Forestry (Forest Policy emphasis) from CSU. For those who are interested, my dissertation is titled "Exploring a State Wildlife Agency's Account of Contracted Wildlife Management and Factors Influencing Contract Use".



My dissertation focuses on "collaborative" type contracts (used to obtain outcomes, like a research project, professional service or inventory) and factors influencing decisions to use collaborative contracts. You might ask, why a forestry degree? At the time, the Department of Forest and Rangeland Stewardship had staff with natural resource policy backgrounds within the Warner School of Natural Resources. Perhaps more importantly, Dr. Tony Cheng supported my research interest and was willing to accept a really "non-traditional student" as a PhD candidate. I appreciate the support of Dr. Cheng, CCTWS members and others who offered encouragement as well as the participation of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources, Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department.

Currently I am working on getting caught up with important family and home tasks I delayed while concentrating on finishing my dissertation! I have also begun work on articles I plan to submit for publication. Longer term, I want to further develop my ideas on potential courses or training opportunities focused on wildlife policy development and implementation needs for collaborative management projects.

This update request included the option to offer observations on current wildlife management challenges for the membership's consideration. I am mindful of the old saying that experience equates to recognizing your mistakes the second time you make them but offer the following for consideration. Wildlife managers increasingly face technically complex wildlife management issues in a dynamic decision environment influenced by environmental change, increased public participation, and lower political stability. While knotty species or localized management issues are frequently addressed through learning-based management approaches, similar attention is less often directed at the larger-scale management environment. I suggest that increasing the number and diversity of the actively engaged partners in wildlife management actions and fostering collaborative management implementation skills within the wildlife manager ranks are important responses to the large-scale system's uncertainties.

Upcoming Meeting

TWS Central Mountain Plains Section (CMPS) Annual Meeting
Cedar City, UT August 13-15, 2013
Register Now!



The 2013 CMPS summer meeting will be held in Cedar City, UT – Festival City USA! We'll hold our meeting August 13th-15th. We can't wait to see you there! More information and registration forms can be found at: <http://wildlife.org/CMP/>

Upcoming Meeting



Colorado TWS members and your organizations can influence and participate in the



8th International Congress for Wildlife and Livelihoods on Private and Communal Lands: Livestock, Tourism, and Spirit to be held September 7-12, 2014, YMCA of the Rockies, Estes Park Colorado.

Help us to focus on actions, celebrations, and improvements for management of animals, land, and people on private and communal lands that represent 2/3rds of Colorado and the US. Join us in spirit and in participation to present the most thoughtful and effective outcomes of record.

Previous Congresses were held in Africa 3 times, Canada twice, France, and the first in New Mexico. Our Congress emphasizes practical knowledge, skills and attitudes with action outcomes to assist private and communal sectors internationally, in North America, and in Colorado before, during and after the event. Sessions and workshops are planned with invited speakers of quality and substance, related papers from around the world, and field trips to Blue Valley Ranch and Rocky Mountain National Park.

Over 40 topics are being considered including titles such as:

- * Collaborations across landscapes, borders, and jurisdictions
- * Integrating agriculture and livestock into nature conservation
- * Conservation legislation and policy to encourage wildlife management, nature conservation, endangered species protection, tourism, and other human and landscape needs
- * Energy uses, development, and mitigations that promote wildlife and livelihoods
- * Organizing, administering, and using Land Trusts or other payments for environmental services
- * Urban and X-Urban communal land planning, development, and mitigations
- * Ethics of hunting and management under different systems
- * Role of NGOs to promote, and to evaluate conservation interests locally and internationally
- * The role of universities and professionals to educate and nurture future leaders and managers about working with private and communal sectors
- * Protecting against diseases and conflicts between humans and wildlife
- * Forming and managing local, state/provincial, national, and international Wildlife Associations
- * Helping persons to want wildlife and nature as part of their spirit and livelihoods

Actions are our desired outcomes not mere studies of problems. Words to consider as we plan include: critical thinking, solutions, guidelines, Best Management Practices, innovations, results, applications, models, tools, impacts, future progress, management recommendations, provocative debates, mitigations, examples, outcomes, successes, case studies, actions, etc.

Colorado Chapter members can help to mold the Congress by being on the planning committee, organizing sessions, delivering papers, serving as onsite hosts, bringing your nature conservation organizations' work on the topics to the venue, and attending along with your colleagues. Your organizations can sponsor events, speakers, and overall Congress quality. Tell us what you want and need out of the Congress! Help us to deliver!

A web site is in preparation and registration can begin before September 2013, but until then, learn about the venue, topics, cooperators, and issues that are updated in LandHelp, www.LandHelp.info under the Congress Section.

Colorado Chapter of the Wildlife Society Land Use Committee Update for Newsletter (August 2013)

By Martin Moses, Private Lands Wildlife Biologist, NRCS, Durango, CO martin.moses@co.usda.gov.

Bedrock BioBlitz: Monitoring Riparian Restoration for Adaptive Management

Vicki Phelps, owner of a 160-acre ranch along the Dolores River in the heart of the Paradox Valley in western Colorado is also passionate about environmental education and scientific research. This was the perfect situation for the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory and NRCS to work with Phelps to conduct a “BioBlitz”, novel approach to restoration monitoring. Phelps has managed the ranch and 3,330 feet of riparian for nearly 20 years and has always considered it a wildlife refuge. However, unmanaged free-range livestock access, tamarisk and Russian knapweed invasion, and regulated flows from McPhee Dam have degraded wildlife habitat value.



Field ornithologist Coen Dexter prepares to lead a group of middle school students on a walking survey for birds.

A BioBlitz brings a team of scientists, students, teachers and volunteers to survey as many species as possible in a given area during a short period of time. Experts from a variety of ecological disciplines, along with teachers and students from the local community were assembled to conduct a baseline inventory. BioBlitzes were conducted on May 5-8 2012, to document spring migration, early wildlife activity and vegetation condition in the early growing season and on Sept. 27-30, 2012 to capture fall wildlife activity and vegetation change through summer.

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Colorado Chapter of the Wildlife Society Land Use Committee Update for Newsletter (August 2013)

By Martin Moses, Private Lands Wildlife Biologist, NRCS, Durango, CO martin.moses@co.usda.gov.

Monitoring methods and number of species detected include:

- ✦ Avian point counts (46 species),
- ✦ Trapping grids for small mammals (3 species),
- ✦ Pit fall traps for arthropods (21 species) and herptofauna (2 species),
- ✦ Track plates for meso-carnivores (3 species),
- ✦ Trail cameras for game animals (2 species),
- ✦ Acoustic recorders and mist nets for bats (9 species), and
- ✦ Vegetation inventory (46 species from 7 habitat types)



Students from Fort Lewis College and Naturita Middle School check pit fall traps with the author.

Results will be shared through the Wildlife and Habitat Restoration Working Group of The Wildlife Society and the Colorado Plateau Conservation Registry (<http://www.conservationregistry.org/projects/197644>). Restoration treatments are being planned and follow-up BioBlitzes will be conducted.

By Martin Moses, Private Lands Wildlife Biologist, NRCS, Durango, CO martin.moses@co.usda.gov.



Fort Lewis College wildlife management students, along with Colorado Parks and Wildlife conservation biologist Chris Kloster, examine a Canyon Bat caught in a mist net near the Dolores River by the light of headlamps.

Conservation Review/Legislative Update

By Randy Ghormley, Wildlife Program Manager, Rio Grande National Forest

Anyone who lives just about anywhere in Colorado these days has no doubt witnessed the smoky skies that have been prevalent since around early summer in many portions of the state. Names like Black Forest, Royal Gorge, Big Meadows, Lime Gulch, and East Peak have been front and center in the media as large wildfires once again influence the Colorado landscape. Some of these are human-caused fires while others are due to natural ignitions from lightning, which is a whole subject unto itself when discussing fire ecology, historical disturbance regimes and appropriate influences on wildlife habitat.

In the San Luis Valley area of central/southwest Colorado, the West Fork Fire Complex has been a focus of the media for about a month or so until finally subdued by the onset of the summer monsoon season. A good chunk of this lightning-caused fire occurred in high-elevation spruce-fir forest associated with long fire-return intervals of about every 200-300 years or more. In this forest type, some research suggests that spruce beetles might play the ecological role of wildfire for perhaps centuries until drought and other climatic factors allow that spark to ignite and eventually become a stand-replacement wildfire. Apparently this condition was ripe during early June, as the complex burned approximately 110,000 acres, much of which burned hot and occurred in designated wilderness and backcountry with few human inholdings. These forests support wildlife species such as Canada lynx, boreal toads, boreal owls, bighorn sheep, elk and mule deer, whitetail ptarmigan, cutthroat trout, and numerous other species of concern or special interest to our Chapter.

As evidenced by several of the recent wildfires in Colorado, there is no doubt that they can be devastating to human values, life, and property. Such fires are indeed “catastrophic” and warrant continued efforts regarding fire prevention, fuels treatments, defensible space, and human coexistence in the urban/forest interface. Wildfires that have severe impacts of human values make it difficult to speak about fire in a positive manner. However, fire as a disturbance agent on our landscapes and as a key component of the ecological processes associated with habitat maintenance should warrant attention and additional discussion points from wildlife and other natural resource professionals. Furthermore, while wildfires such as the West Fork Complex that burn in wilderness and other remote spruce-fir dominated areas of our state certainly have consequences for people and many wildlife species, one could debate whether they should not be grouped with the “catastrophic” language often portrayed in the media and political response circles. One could also argue that they may be overdue, and should not be grouped into the same fuels-related discussions as other lower elevation fire-adapted forest types even when a large component of bark beetle mortality exists in the overstory. One might even bring climate-change related influences into the policy discussion regarding forest habitat management and resiliency. Yet these points may be left out in policy discussions regarding wildfire.

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Conservation Review/Legislative Update

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All wildfire stimulates an emotional response in people, whether they are small “good fires” burning for a few days in the wilderness or the truly catastrophic fires that devastate communities. This emotional response of people also facilitates a response from our policy-makers, as it should when human life, property, and values are involved. Such discussions have been recently introduced by some members of our Colorado congressional delegation, with policy debates now occurring in the U.S. Congress. Some of the discussion blames a failed policy in response to active forest management as a primary factor for our wildfires yet is silent on the differences between disturbance regimes associated with Colorado’s various forest cover types or the key role that climate and weather contribute to our state’s wildfires. Other points in the debate suggest bark beetle influences as a primary factor for the wildfires but again are silent on other ecological aspects of the outbreak, or the science regarding how such outbreaks might influence fire starts, behavior, or severity. And discussions about climate change and the role that it may play in our current wildfire scenario may be completely absent in the context of wildfire-related policy.

Many people, including wildlife professionals, don’t think much about wildfire until it occurs close to home and/or has serious impacts on human life, property, or values. Perhaps this is because, until recently, fires did not occur as frequently in Colorado as in many other portions of the western United States. It may be that we don’t see another West Fork Complex for decades to come. Or perhaps we are on the cusp of that ecological timeframe when conditions and climate, including potential climate-change related factors, will remind us why those vegetative patterns of aspen are so prevalent on our landscape.

All wildlife professionals should be aware of the on-going policy discussions occurring in the aftermath of Colorado’s recent wildfires, and what the policy-makers suggest that we should do about them. These debates can be followed by visiting the websites of many of our state congressional delegation. These policy discussions have significant implications for the wildlife species and habitat of interest to our Chapter, and the application of science-based management to maintain them well into the future. TWS members and other resource professionals are reminded to stay engaged in these debates and to communicate with their representatives about keeping science-based facts in the forefront, so that appropriate management actions and recovery responses occur in the right disturbance regime for right reasons.

Travel Grant Recipients

The CCTWS 2013 summer/fall travel grant recipients have been selected.

Jonathan Reitz will be attending 2013 Quail Masters Course put on by the Texas Wildlife Association, and Texas A&M. The course offers comprehensive training on quail habitat and population management. He completed two of the four sessions already. Without CCTWS funding he would have to cover the entire cost of this training himself. He sought and received additional support from Pheasants Forever and Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory. He plans to use what he learns to benefit habitat and conservation work for the upland game birds found in southeast Colorado.

Christy Wyckoff will be attending the Annual Wildlife Disease Association (WDA) Conference in Knoxville, Tennessee. She will give a presentation on her research entitled “Bioassay detection of chronic wasting disease prions in soil,” which was accepted for the Terry Amundsen Student Oral Presentation competition. She also plans to participate in a student workshop entitled “Introduction to population wildlife disease modeling.” Christy will be a representative of the CSU Student Chapter of the WDA at the conference and will have the opportunity to network for future job opportunities.

Congratulations to Jonathan and Christy! We look forward to hearing what you learn through these professional development activities.

Educational Opportunities

Colorado Riparian Team - Proper Functioning Condition Training

August 20-21, Carbondale

Please contact Jay Thompson at (303) 239-3724 or jmthomps@blm.gov

Sustaining Colorado Watersheds Conference

October 8-10, 2013

Westin Riverfront Resort, Avon

www.coloradowater.org/conferences

River Management Symposium

April 15-17 2014, Denver

www.river-management.org

Announcements

2013 TWS Central Mountains and Plains Section officer elections are open – please vote!

Please see their newsletter for more information on candidates: <http://wildlife.org/CMP/node/18>

To vote go to: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/WSQ7K25>

Voting will close via Survey Monkey on August 9th. Paper ballots will also be available at the CMPS meeting. Officially, voting closes at the end of Old Business.

TWS and Finances

Many of you may be aware of concerns about The Wildlife Society and its financial status. The state chapters have not been involved in these issues and this does not affect finances of the Colorado Chapter of TWS. For more information please read a recent update by the President of TWS:

<http://news.wildlife.org/the-wildlifer/the-wildlifer-2013-july/presidents-podium-7/>

SAVE THE DATE

**The CSU
Wildlife Society**

**Join us for our annual fundraiser.
There will be dinner, networking,
a silent auction and raffles.
Please save the date and look for
our invitations to come.**

**Friday, October 25th at 4:00 pm
CB&Potts- Campus West**

For Ticket Information, email Meredith Kittelson at aniearth@rams.colostate.edu

COLORADO WILDLIFE SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____

Address _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Work Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

E-Mail _____

Today 's Date: _____

Affiliation: _____

Interested in Committee Work? _____ Yes _____ No

Are You a TWS Certified Biologist? _____ Yes _____ No

Areas of Expertise/Interest: _____

Dues: 1 Year: \$15 2 Years: \$27 3 Years: \$35 Student/Retirees: \$10

MC/Visa: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____

Print this Form and Mail to: Colleen Cunningham, 1550 Utica St., Denver, CO 80204

DIRECTORY OF BOARD AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Officers

President: Ryan Monello	Ryan_Monello@nps.gov
Past President: Mindy Rice	mindy.rice@state.co.us
President-Elect:	
Treasurer: Colleen Cunningham	ccunningham@louisberger.com
Secretary: Christina Santana	christina.santana@co.usda.gov

Email

Executive Board □ Regional

NE Rep.: Stacy Lischka	stacy.lischka@state.co.us
NW Rep.: Brett Walker	brett.walker@state.co.us
SE Rep.: Nathan Schmitz	nathan.schmitz@co.usda.gov
SW Rep.: Cary Aloia	Cary_Aloia@msn.com

Executive Board □ At Large

Chris Mettenbrink	chris.mettenbrink@state.co.us
Brad Milley	bmilley@usgs.gov
Evan Phillips	evan.phillips@state.co.us
Stephanie Steinhoff	stephanie.steinhoff@state.co.us

Wildlife Society Affiliates:

CSU Student Representative:

Colin Wait	cwait@rams.colostate.edu
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WSC Student Chapter President

Heather Miller	heather.miller@western.edu
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CMPS: Bill Vodehnal

bill.vodehnal@nebraska.gov
--

The Wildlife Society: Gary White

gwhite@cnr.colostate.edu
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Committees

Chairs

Email

Audit:

Awards: Eric Bergman	eric.bergman@state.co.us
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Certification: Rob Schorr	rschorr@lamar.colostate.edu
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Conserv. Rev.: Randy Ghormley	rghormley@fs.fed.us
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Educ. & Info.: Cary Aloia	Cary_Aloia@msn.com
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Finance/Auction: Nathan Schmitz	nathan.schmitz@co.usda.gov
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Historian: Danguole Bockus	danguole_bockus@nps.gov
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Land Use: Kelli Stone	2birds_1stone@live.com
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Leg. Review: Dave Chadwick	wick47@gmail.com
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Membership: Mindy Rice	mindy.rice@state.co.us
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Newsletter: Greg Davidson	
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Nominations & Elections:

Ryan Monello	Ryan_Monello@nps.gov
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Policy/Res. Ryan Monello	Ryan_Monello@nps.gov
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Scholarships: Teresa Childers	theresa_childers@nps.gov
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Small Grants: Chris Mettenbrink	Chris.Mettenbrink@state.co.us
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Student Chapter: Colin Wait &	cwait@rams.colostate.edu
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Stacy Lischka (CSU)	stacy.lischka@state.co.us
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Trever Francke &	trevor.francke@western.edu
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Christina Santana (Western)	christina.santana@co.usda.gov
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Travel Grant: Stephanie Steinhoff	Stephanie.Steinhoff@state.co.us
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Website: Brett Walker &	brett.walker@state.co.us
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Gary White	Gary.White@colostate.edu
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Winter Meeting/Workshops

Ryan Monello &	Ryan_Monello@nps.gov
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Brad Milley	bmilley@usgs.gov
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