



# The Alaskan Wildlifer

Newsletter of the Alaska Chapter of the Wildlife Society

Winter Issue - February 2018



## Message from President Scott Brainerd

The New Year is well under way. It will be an important year for the chapter, with elections being held this spring, and the annual meeting, which will be held jointly with the Northwest Section at the end of March. Our elections will be held in March as well. Officers up for election include the President-elect, the Regional Representatives, and the Secretary-Treasurer. Each post serves two-year terms. The President-elect commits to six years, including the following two years as President and then two more years as Past-President. Regional representatives represent the Southeast Region, the Northern-Interior Region, and the South-central-Western Region. A member may hold the same elective position for no more than two consecutive terms. According to our bylaws, all voting officers must be members of the Chapter. As with any other organization, we are only as strong as our members and we rely on so many of you for the service you provide to the Chapter. I strongly encourage members to consider running for one of the positions on the board. Serving on the board can be challenging, but it is also interesting, fun, and rewarding! If you have any interest in serving the chapter in this regard, please contact me at [scott.brainerd@alaska.gov](mailto:scott.brainerd@alaska.gov) (telephone 907-459-7261) to get an idea of what we

do and our perspective on the Chapter. If you are interested in becoming a board member, or have someone you wish to nominate, please provide names and a short biography to our email address, [twسالaska@gmail.com](mailto:twسالaska@gmail.com), by 1 March 2018.

Another highlight is our joint meeting with the Northwest Section of TWS in Anchorage during 26-30 March. It's shaping up to be a great meeting! We have 2 FREE workshops being offered during the meeting and a number of exciting social activities planned. We have received a number of high quality abstracts covering a variety of species and topics; however, to allow members additional time to consider presenting, we have decided to **extend the abstract submission deadline until midnight Monday, February 26**. If you haven't already, please consider submitting an abstract and participating in this year's meeting. For more information or to submit an abstract please visit our meeting website at: <http://twسالaskameeting.com/>.

The focus of the Northwest Section meeting will be on the TWS [Conservation Affairs Network](#) (CAN). Topics will include sheep disease, lead in ammunition and fishing tackle, and public land transfer. The NW Section is comprised of

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## President's Message - continued

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five chapters: Alaska, Montana, Idaho, Oregon and Washington. At present, our chapter is the only one without a CAN committee. We are looking for volunteers to chair and participate in our own Conservation Affairs Committee. At present, our engagement in important wildlife conservation matters is pretty much ad hoc. If you are interested in being involved in CAN, please contact me.

Speaking of conservation issues, the Chapter recently worked with TWS Headquarters staff to provide comments to the Department of the Interior regarding the Bureau of Land Management's review of the Integrated Activity Plan for the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR-A). These [comments](#) emphasize balancing wildlife conservation needs with that of energy development, including protections within designated special areas of the NPR-A.

This past year we've undertaken several interviews for the TWS Celebrating Our Wildlife Conservation Heritage (COWCH) oral history project. I would like to form a COWCH committee to formalize this process in the Chapter. For more information, see the article regarding our COWCH program below.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the upcoming meeting at the end of March!

### COWCH Efforts

This fall, I was involved in organizing and conducting interviews and related activities as part of our chapter COWCH program. With the help of retired ADF&G biologist Cathie Harms and UAF Student Chapter President Elise Stacy, we interviewed pioneering marine mammal biologists Lloyd Lowry and Kathy Frost, ADF&G biologist and regional supervisor David James, and retired UAF professor Sam Harbo (see pg. 14). In addition, we recorded a talk given by retiring USF&WS biologist and refuge manager Mike Spindler that recounted his

42 year career in Alaska. Other recordings include a 1976 lecture to the UAF student chapter by Bob Stephenson on wolf research and management, as well as a memorial tribute to Bob in October 2017 here in Fairbanks. A presentation by pioneering bear conservationist Carrie Hunt was also recorded, detailing her work on development of pepper spray and using Karelian Bear Dogs as a tool for bear conservation in Alaska and elsewhere around the world. At the moment, time and resources are limited, but I hope to get these posted on our chapter [COWCH website](#) and [YouTube](#) channel as time allows.

Recently, we discovered that a 2013 interview was lost by both the interviewer and TWS Headquarters due to unfortunate data archiving failures. This episode emphasizes the need for a robust archival system to ensure that future recordings will not be lost. The Chapter has a letter of agreement with the University of Alaska Oral History Program to archive the original recordings of these interviews and talks. Newer recordings are in 4K format, which take up a lot of digital storage capacity. The Chapter recently bought four 4TB hard disks to ensure that these recordings will endure. Two of these hard disks will be donated to UAF for exclusive archival of our material.

I think it's really important that future generations of biologists understand the contributions and experiences of those that went before us. We are lucky that many of the older guard are still living here in Alaska, and that many are willing to be interviewed. We have partnered with UAF to conduct some interviews publicly, to allow students, faculty and others to learn and interact with these pioneers. I think it has been a real eye opener for some. This is, perhaps, the only opportunity we will have to document some of the amazing people that have done so much on behalf of our Alaskan wildlife resources.

If anyone would like to help out, or if you have someone you would like to nominate for a COWCH interview, please fill out this [form](#).



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## Regional News

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### Northern

Kerry Nicholson, Northern Representative

#### Personnel Changes

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) has a relatively new hire, Jon Barton, who arrived in McGrath from Region I. He started last May as the assistant Area Biologist, and is fitting in quickly with McGrath and all of his new duties. He arrived with a fresh pilot's license and we are excited to have him start training as a new ADF&G pilot as well. He has jumped right in with lots of moose surveys, and working with the public.

On January 3, 2018, Mike Spindler retired from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), after 40 years experience with the agency, ranging from biologist, to airplane pilot, to refuge manager. A farewell address to the Fairbanks inter-agency community was recorded by the Alaska Chapter of the Wildlife Society as part of their oral history program, "Celebrating our Wildlife Conservation Heritage." You can access it on their YouTube Channel: [https://youtu.be/\\_U10VLnbwIQ](https://youtu.be/_U10VLnbwIQ) Mike and his wife Pam will be remaining in Fairbanks, and will stay actively engaged in both conservation and aviation.

#### Graduate Student Transitions

Wildlife graduate student, Taylor Stinchcomb, completed her MS at UAF during Fall 2017. Her thesis was titled: Social-ecological soundscapes: examining aircraft-harvester conflict in Arctic Alaska. Taylor did a nice job of applying an innovative technique to generate new data and advance the conversation on a decades-old issue related to interactions among aircraft, wildlife, and Arctic communities.

#### New Literature

Brinkman, TJ. 2017. Hunter acceptance of antlerless moose harvest in Alaska: Importance of agency trust, proximity of hunter residence to hunting area, and hunting experience. *Human Dimensions of Wildlife*, DOI: 10.1080/10871209.2017.1399486



TWS-Alaska Chapter Regions: Northern, Southcentral, and Southeast.

Brown C, Kielland K, Euskirchen SE, Ruess RW, Kellie K, Brinkman TJ. 2017. Fire-mediated Patterns of Habitat Use by Male Moose in Boreal Alaska. *Canadian Journal of Zoology*, DOI: 10.1139/cjz-2017-0069

Johnson I, Brinkman TJ, Lake B, Brown, C. 2017. Winter Hunting Behavior and Habitat Selection of Wolves in a Low-density Prey System. *Wildlife Biology*, <https://doi.org/10.2981/wlb.00290>

#### Yukon ho!

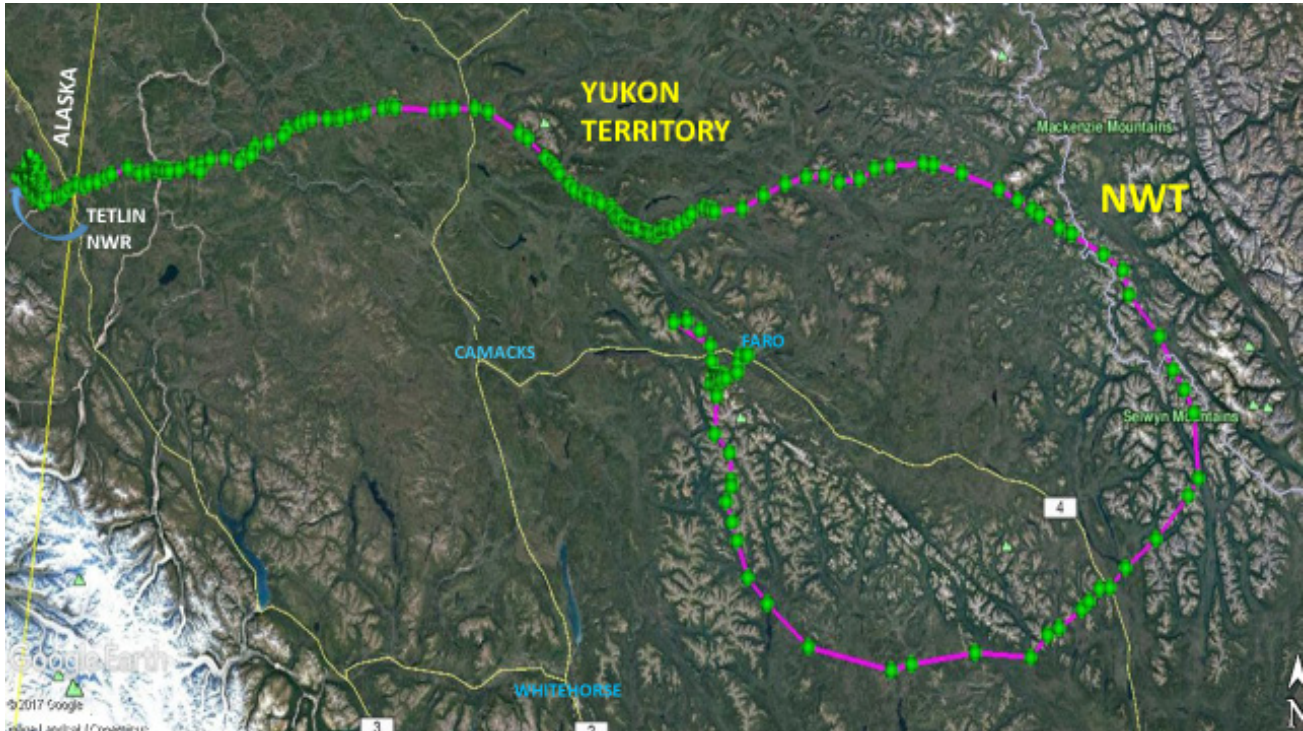
As the wave of snowshoe hare population abundance is spreading across interior Alaska, lynx are similarly on the move, and in a collaborative project among University of Alaska-Fairbanks, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the National Park Service, we have been privy to some of these movements. In early winter of 2016 two dispersing male lynx collared by biologists from the Kluane Research Station showed up in Alaska, more than 350 km from their origin. Though the collars of both lynx quit functioning before they entered Alaska, these lynx probably went through Skolai Pass in the Wrangell Mountains. One got hung up in a snare near Glenallen, but the other was locked up in a chicken coop by a farmer (and trapper!) in Kenny Lake. Biologists from Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) replaced the collar on this lynx and set him free down along the Tiekkel River.

Here we report on an extraordinary dispersal event of a male lynx who left his home in the SE portion of the





## Regional News - Continued



GPS dispersal track of lynx M248 (Hobo) in the summer and early winter 2017 across the Yukon. The increased distances between locations for some of the data points in the southernmost portion of his travels were due to missed fixes.

Tetlin NWR and travelled east as far as the Northwest Territories, Canada. The lynx (M248, now named “Hobo”) was collared by USFWS biologists from the Tetlin NWR in early March 2017 and occupied a home range of approximately 100 km<sup>2</sup> over the following three months. On 10 June he swam the Chisana River and 4 days later crossed into Yukon Territory (YT). Over the next two months he walked (mostly) straight east across YT and clear into the North West Territories (NWT). For some reason, he lingered near the YT-NWT for 4 days and then made a single-day 20 km push into NWT in mid-August. Over the next month and half he made a nearly perfect circle to the south back into YT and appears to have settled down less than 20 km SW of Faro, YT (Figure 1). Since Hobo left Tetlin back in June he has travelled more than 2,000 km (the equivalent of a walk from Anchorage to Utqiagvik and back).

During his travels Hobo averaged slightly more than 10 km/day, including 4 occasions when he moved in excess of 30 km/day. Shortly after he took off into the

sunrise we changed the fix schedule of his collar from 4h to 24h so our travel estimates are quite conservative. Except for an early increased pace in his eagerness to see new country, Hobo’s travel rates were not much greater than the typical home range movements we have observed for resident lynx across our six study areas, which include Bonanza Creek Long Term Ecological Research site near Fairbanks, Gates of the Arctic National Park, as well as the Tetlin, Yukon Flats, Kanuti, and Koyukuk/Nowitna NWRs.

We don’t know what motivated this extensive walk-about, though we cannot rule out that this chap, though collared near the Tetlin NWR in Alaska, might originally have been a Canadian expat. Whereas we have observed other incidents of felid wanderlust since we started to extensively deploy GPS collars on lynx in 2014, e.g., a 30-day 200 km fall sojourn by a female in Yukon Flats, and various 1-day 30 km excursions of males during the breeding season – the travels of Hobo represent the longest GPS-recorded dispersal track of a lynx in Yukon-Alaska. This winter we are again collaring lynx across our study areas, and over the next



## Regional News - Continued

few years we suspect that travelling lynx will accelerate their peripatetic behavior. Pretty neat, eh?

This update was provided by Knut Kielland, IAB,UAF, and Nate Berg, Tetlin NWR.

### Southcentral

John Trent, Southcentral Representative

#### Personnel Changes

Dr. Heather Johnson, recently joined the staff of the USGS Alaska Science Center in Anchorage as a large mammal ecologist, and has taken over ongoing studies of summer resource selection of caribou on the North Slope. Heather completed a PhD at University of Montana in 2010 where she examined factors limiting recovery of endangered Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep and evaluated conservation strategies to reach recovery goals. Following her graduate work, she completed a post-doc to assess factors affecting elk survival across 7 states in the western US. In late 2010, she accepted a research position with Colorado Parks and Wildlife stationed in Durango and conducted studies on black bear demography, effects of landscape change on mule deer, human dimensions and wildlife management decision making, and methods to reduce ungulate impacts on agricultural resources. Heather can be reached at 907-786-7155 or [heatherjohnson@usgs.gov](mailto:heatherjohnson@usgs.gov), and for more on Heather's background, visit <https://alaska.usgs.gov/staff/staffbio.php?employeeid=777>.

#### New Literature

Miller, S.D., J.W. Schoen, and C.C. Schwartz. 2017. Trends in brown bear reduction efforts in Alaska, 1980-2017. *Ursus* 28(2):1-15.

### Southeast

Kevin White, Southeast Representative

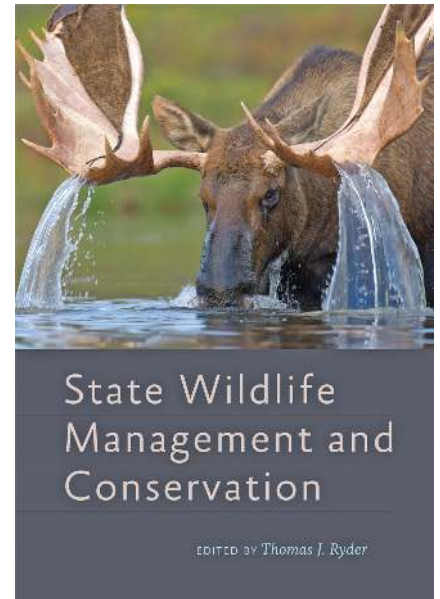
See the next issue of the Alaska Wildlifer for news from the Southeast region.

**New book  
from TWS and  
Johns Hopkins  
University  
Press!**

**State Wildlife  
Management  
and  
Conservation**

Edited by  
Thomas J.  
Ryder

By Nancy  
Sasavage



TWS Director of Publications and Communications

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

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

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

Order your copy now.

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





## **ALASKA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY**

### **2018 ANNUAL MEETING**

**Anchorage, Alaska  
March 26<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>, 2018**



### **WILDLIFE ECOLOGY, MANAGEMENT, AND CONSERVATION IN A CHANGING ENVIRONMENT**

**Deadline for abstract submission extended to February 26th at midnight!**

The Alaska Chapter of The Wildlife Society is organizing a joint meeting with the Northwest Section (NWS) to be held in Anchorage in March 2018. The conference includes a workshop on *Modern Tools for Spatial Modeling and Animal Movement Analysis* hosted by Dr. Mark Hebblewhite and his research team. A *Program R Overview Workshop* designed for students will be hosted by USGS staff. Special sessions include topics on game camera use and the status of northern bats. Working group meetings will be held during lunch breaks or evenings including the Small Mammal Working Group and the Northern Bat Working Group.

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

**There will also be a Quiz Bowl night with the Alaska Student Chapter!**

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

If you would like to volunteer during the meeting please let us know. Please contact Nathan Svoboda ([nathan.svoboda@alaska.gov](mailto:nathan.svoboda@alaska.gov)) or Scott Brainerd ([scott.brainerd@alaska.gov](mailto:scott.brainerd@alaska.gov)) for volunteer information and/or to submit suggestions for special sessions. Thank you and hope to see you at the meeting!





**The Wildlife Society – Western Section** is excited to announce that *The Wildlife Confessional* anthology, a collection of short stories by dyed-in-the-wool wildlife biologists that endeavors to show the humor and poignancy in our day-to-day adventures that sometimes define and enlighten the profession or that, sometimes, we'd rather forget, is now live.

<https://www.inkshares.com/books/the-wildlife-confessional-an-anthology-of-stories>

The anthology is a collection of fifteen stories by thirteen biologists, including Western Section members Brian Cypher, Ivan Parr, Matthew Bettelheim, and the late Thomas A. Roberts. It also includes contributions by published authors Marcy Cottrell Houle (*Wings for my Flight, One City's Wilderness, The Prairie Keepers*) and J. Drew Lanham (*The Home Place: Memoirs of a Colored Man's Love Affair with Nature*), and a memoir of the late Dr. Charles Jonkel, co-founder of the Great Bear Foundation.

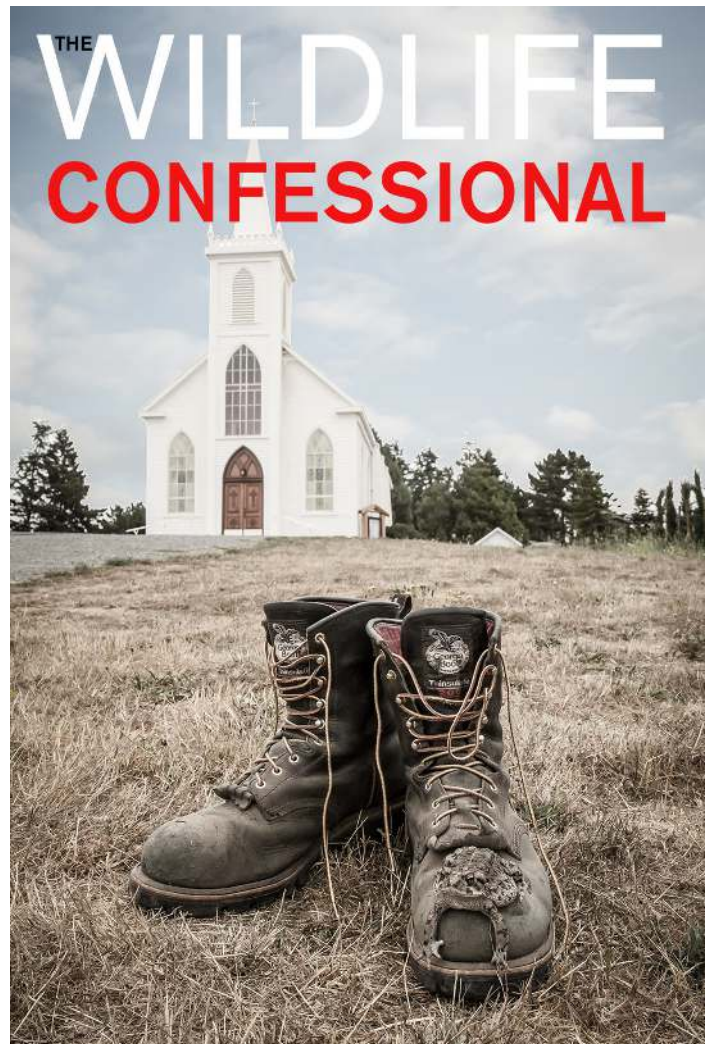
The authors whose stories have been collected here represent men and women from all walks of wildlife biology – State and Federal biologists, consultants, students, professors, interns – and take place across North and Central America, from the Gulf of Alaska to San Ignacio, Belize, from the tropics of the Hawaiian Islands to the deserts of Arizona, and in the desert springs, coastal bluffs, national parks, stock ponds, pick-up trucks, traplines, doctor's offices, roof tops, outhouses, and bombing ranges scattered everywhere in between.

At a cover price of \$20 paperback / \$10 ebook, our intermediate goal is to sell 250 copies by February 28th, so we are counting on members to help spread the word.

This anthology is a labor of love. One of the primary reasons the authors and editors behind *The Wildlife Confessional* have undertaken this project is to educate and attract students to enter the field of wildlife biology and to apply money raised through book sales to support student involvement in The Wildlife Society by funding scholarships, grants, and training opportunities. Your support will help us realize those goals.

You can also follow the project on Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/The-Wildlife-Confessional-1070767069681846/>



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# Make TWS Journals Your Publishing Choice in 2018

By Nancy Sasavage

TWS Director of Publications and Communications and Editor-in-Chief of *The Wildlife Professional*

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A lot of factors go into choosing where to publish your wildlife research findings. TWS wants to make our journals your first choice in 2018. Here's what we are doing to encourage members to publish in one of the Society's three scholarly journals: *The Journal of Wildlife Management*, *Wildlife Society Bulletin* and *Wildlife Monographs*.

## Reduced page charges for members

As a TWS member, you are eligible for **40 percent off** the standard page charges. In 2018, we have also eliminated all color page charges. The following page charges and publication fees apply to all manuscripts, except Letters to the Editor, Invited Papers, and Book Reviews, that go into production after Jan. 1, 2018.

### *Journal of Wildlife Management*

If any author is a member of The Wildlife Society:

- \$90 per published page for the first 8 pages
- \$150 for every page thereafter

If none of the authors are a member of The Wildlife Society:

- \$150 per page

Authors also may choose to publish the manuscript under TWS' and Wiley's open-access option; the fee for publication will be \$3,000 in lieu of page charges.

### *Wildlife Society Bulletin*

If any author is a member of The Wildlife Society:

- \$50 per published page for the first 10 pages
- \$80 for every page thereafter

If none of the authors is a member of The Wildlife Society:

- \$80 per page for the first 10 pages
- \$130 for every page thereafter

Authors may choose to publish the manuscript under TWS' and Wiley's open-access option; the fee for publication is \$3,000 in lieu of page charges.

### *Wildlife Monographs*

Beginning Jan. 1, The Wildlife Society **reduced the publication fees for *Wildlife Monographs* from \$10,000 to \$7,500 and eliminated color page**

**charges** to encourage authors to publish their work in this highly regarded journal. The journal's 2016 Impact Factor was 5.75 and it ranked number one of 162 publications in the zoology category and 12 of 153 in ecology.

And for the first time, we have created **an open-access option for *Wildlife Monographs***, which allows anyone to read the published paper in the Wiley Online Library. The publication fee for this option is \$10,000.

## Streamlined guidelines for authors

We know author guidelines are no fun to read, so that's why the journal editors and editorial staff have revised the guidelines and put all information you need for quick-reference at the very beginning of the guidelines.

## High visibility

Your published work can be seen by 10,000 of your peers because all TWS members have online access to TWS journals. Plus Wiley offers tips for how to get more publicity for your published work. Check out this [free promotional toolkit](#). TWS also works with Wiley to promote newly published papers to world-wide media outlets.

And did you know that over 4,200 institutions subscribe to the *Journal of Wildlife Management*/*Wildlife Monographs* and more than 1,500 to the *Wildlife Society Bulletin*? This means that virtually the entire wildlife community can access your published work.

## Supporting TWS' Strategic Plan

There's one more important reason to publish in TWS journals that members may not think of often. One of TWS' strategic themes is being a recognized and trusted organization for expertise on science-based wildlife management and conservation. When you publish with your Society, you are lending your support to our strategic plan.

With your help, we can grow the impact of TWS journals on achieving a positive impact on the sustainability of wildlife populations for future generations.







## Read the most talked about papers from The Wildlife Society publications

**Altmetrics** are metrics and qualitative data that are complementary to traditional, citation-based metrics. They can include (but are not limited to) discussions on research blogs, mainstream media coverage, and mentions on social networks such as Twitter. The **Altmetric Attention Score** for a research output indicates the amount of attention it has received.

### Most Talked About Research



**Polar bear attacks on humans: Implications of a changing climate**  
*Wildlife Society Bulletin*



**The true cost of partial fencing: Evaluating strategies to reduce reptile road mortality**  
*Wildlife Society Bulletin*



**How publishing in open access journals threatens science and what we can do about it**  
*Journal of Wildlife Management*



**Investigating impacts of oil and gas development on greater sage-grouse**  
*Journal of Wildlife Management*



**Free-roaming cat interactions with wildlife admitted to a wildlife hospital**  
*Journal of Wildlife Management*



**Demography of an increasing caribou herd with restricted wolf control**  
*Journal of Wildlife Management*



**Evaluating population expansion of black bears using spatial capture-recapture**  
*Journal of Wildlife Management*



**Online hunting forums identify achievement as prominent among multiple satisfactions**  
*Wildlife Society Bulletin*



**Population-level effects of lead fishing tackle on common loons**  
*Journal of Wildlife Management*



**Persistence of greater sage-grouse in agricultural landscapes**  
*Journal of Wildlife Management*

\*Altmetric score based on current standings as of November 9th 2017

# Can I keep this skull I found? Picking up whale bones, antlers, and animal parts

By Riley Woodford

A dead grey whale washed up on a beach near Juneau a few years ago. Over the course of several months, those willing to brave the stench salvaged the bones. When I checked it out, I asked one person who was taking some vertebrae if it was legal. He said he assumed it was okay, "Because grey whales aren't endangered."

Alaskans are fond of animal parts. Hunters keep skulls, hikers find and keep shed antlers, beachcombers keep bones, and it seems like everyone keeps a few bird feathers. What is legal to keep, and what's not? The path to the answer might be complicated, but generally the answer is simple: Yes, you can keep this or no, you can't.

Animals in Alaska, and Alaska waters, are managed by different state and federal agencies, and each agency has rules about picking up and keeping parts of the animals they manage. In this context, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) manages terrestrial wildlife, including upland game birds such as grouse and ptarmigan. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) manages, or co-manages with ADF&G, most other birds and three marine mammals: Pacific walrus, polar bear, and sea otter. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) manages other marine mammals, including seals, sea lions, porpoise, toothed whales and baleen whales. Land ownership, or status, is an issue as well, and there are places where animal parts must remain where they lie.

## Antlers, skulls and bones

Brynn Parr is a permit biologist with the Division of Wildlife Conservation at ADF&G. She said if



Anne Sutton investigates a beached grey whale on Douglas Island. Photo by Riley Woodford

a person is walking through the woods and finds a naturally shed antler, they can keep it. The same is true for skulls and bones. "As far as deer, elk, moose and caribou antlers go, you can pick them up and take them home," she said. "It's okay to take a deer skull. If someone found a Dall sheep skull, I'd recommend they bring it in and get a complementary seal, to document that it was found and it's not a poaching situation. All sheep have to be sealed if they will be taken out of state. There is no sealing requirement in Alaska for deer, so no need to seal a deer skull." The "seal," generally a metal tag, is attached to the skull.

Land ownership - where you find it - is important, too. It's illegal to take anything out of a national park. So a moose antler shed on the Gustavus forelands is legal to take home, but if it falls off a mile away in Glacier Bay National Park, it has to stay there. Some animals, like Steller sea lions and sea otters, are endangered or threatened in parts of Alaska, and not others. It's legal to take home a sea otter skull from a Southeast Alaska beach, but not a Kodiak Island beach.

So what about keeping those grey whale vertebrae? Legal. There's a caveat: the parts must be registered



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## Salvaged parts- Continued

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with NMFS. Bob Marvelle is the supervisory enforcement officer with NMFS in Juneau. He outlined a scenario in Southeast Alaska: “You’re a non-Alaska Native and you’re walking the beach, or within a quarter-mile of the beach, and you find a dead sea lion. You can collect hard parts,” he said. “Hard parts only – nature has to take its course, if there is soft tissue on it you have to leave it – you can’t cut anything off.”

Contact NMFS within 30 days to register the part. You can bring it in, or an enforcement officer can drop by your house. “It’s often easier for us, and them, if we go to them,” Marvelle said. “We try to work with folks. We get basic information about the object, what it is, where it was found. We work hand in hand with the biologists, and this information helps them track things like dead whales or dead sea lions on the beach.” Marvelle said it’s sometimes tricky to identify an object. “It’s a tooth, but what’s it from? I’ll get pictures and do a positive ID. Is it from an endangered species or not?”

The item gets a registration number on it. “I just registered some parts today – once it’s registered it can’t be transferred without authorization,” he said. “If a family is beachcombing and finds some bones on the beach – do it up front. Don’t have mom register everything in her name if the kids are going to take some of the bones somewhere else.”

The USFWS, which manages walrus, sea otters, and polar bears, also registers parts that people find and can legally keep. Could you keep a polar bear skull, or a walrus tusk if you found such a thing on a beach? Yes. Mac Whisler is a USFWS resident agent in charge, based in Fairbanks. “It would be legal to find and keep a polar bear skull, if it was found within a quarter mile of the beach on land, and it was registered,” he said. “You can’t keep polar bear claws, though.” He said the USFWS does not use the term “hard parts” for that reason. They state that bones, teeth and ivory may be collected. He said the object

has to be on land, within a quarter-mile of the ocean. “People do occasionally find a dead walrus floating on the ocean, and if they’re not Native and it’s not part of subsistence hunt, they can’t take it,” he said. “It has to wash up on the beach. Once beached, a non-Native could take the ivory.” You must bring the object into a USFWS law enforcement office within 30 days and register it. The offices in Alaska are in Nome, Fairbanks and Anchorage, and contact information is at the end of the article.

### Ethnicity

Alaska Native people can collect virtually all parts from any marine mammal for subsistence purposes. Specific parts from walrus, polar bears and sea otters must be registered with the USFWS. Someone who collects an item would contact a tagger. “There is a network of taggers that work for the USFWS throughout the state,” Whisler said. “They’re usually local residents. They tag the animal and give them a certificate. For a walrus tusk, the hides and skulls of polar bears and sea otter, they get a locking tag.”

Marvelle, with NMFS, said baleen is in a class by itself. “Non-native people cannot collect baleen, Alaska



Alexandra Juliussen shows a moose skull she discovered on a gravel bar on the Kuskokwim River. Photo by Gabe Juliuseen





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## Salvaged parts - Continued

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Natives can.” Raw baleen can then be crafted and sold.

“The term we use is significantly altered,” Marvelle said. “An Alaska Native taking and polishing the baleen, smoothing it, it is significantly altered – you can’t make it raw again. An Alaska Native can collect an endangered species animal part like baleen and make a baleen basket. Or a sea otter, and craft it into a doll, boots, scarves; it can’t be just displayed as a hide.”

### Mounts and crafted items

Regulations protecting marine mammals and endangered species were enacted in the early 1970s. Prior to that, non-Natives and even non-residents legally harvested polar bears and made rugs, taxidermy mounts, and a variety of things that would be illegal today. What happens when you inherit something like that?

“It’s considered pre-act,” Marvelle said. “I get calls about pre-act items that are out there, ‘My grandparents had this item – what can I do with it?’ There are places that have stuff that’s been up on the walls for 60 or 70 years.” Marvelle documents that the object pre-dates the protection acts. “One guy’s dad died and he had a fully mounted harbor seal,” he said. “He had his dad’s hunting license, hunting permit, and even the plane tickets. He had pictures – this was from 1961 or ‘62. It made it easy to prove it was pre-act. So I had to verify it, and it was legal for him to have this.” State and federal agencies can also issue educational, scientific, and other kinds of permits that enable people and institutions like museums to possess animal parts.

### Common problems

A common issue Marvelle sees is non-Native people doing things that would be legal for Native people. “There are a lot of say, humpback whale bones that have been crafted, or baleen scrimshawed by non-Natives, and then sold as a Native handicraft,” he said. “I have sperm whale teeth in evidence now from illegal sales.”



A river otter skull. Photo by Riley Woodford

He said a couple years back an outfitter supply company got in trouble for mass producing a bow hunting accessory using seal hides. “They were taking seal hides and cutting them up, making mechanically mass-produced items and selling them,” Marvelle said. “They were not Native, and even if they were, something can’t be mass-produced mechanically. It has to be a handicraft.” The issue of selling animal parts is complicated, with restrictions, exceptions, and qualifications, and that’s best addressed in a case by case basis.

### Feathers

It’s not legal to possess songbird feathers, so I can’t keep that beautiful cobalt-blue Steller jay feather I found. Considering that 150 years ago, snowy egrets and trumpeter swans were nearly hunted to extinction for their feathers, it understandable that efforts were made to protect birds. At least 50 North American bird species were targeted for the millinery trade – feathers and wings used to adorn hats. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act, passed in 1918, applies to a wide range of birds, migratory or not. Hawks, eagles and owls were not included in the original act but are protected today by subsequent laws. It also protects eggs and nests.



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## Salvaged parts - Continued

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A pair of wood ducks. Hunters may keep the feathers of birds they legally hunt, and it is legal to possess feathers of domestic and pet birds (on the “clean list”). It’s not legal to keep the feathers of raptors, owls, or songbirds without a permit.

“In general, you can’t possess or sell bird feathers,” Whisler said. “With some exceptions – you’re a hunter and you have lawfully harvested a bird during hunting season, a hunter can keep those feathers. Upland game birds are not federally regulated, so ptarmigan, grouse are okay – you can pick up all the grouse feathers you want.”

That’s true of birds like pheasants, quail and chukars, in states that have them. It’s legal to have feathers from domestic birds like chickens or peacocks, and birds that are legal to keep as pets, like canaries, pigeons and parakeets. A link to the “clean list” for legal pets in Alaska is at the end. The feathers from lawfully hunted waterfowl are legal to own, use, possess, or transport, Whisler said. “You can’t sell them. Importing and exporting is tricky. There are some exceptions – feathers from lawfully hunted waterfowl like ducks and geese can be sold for fly tying.” Importing and exporting questions should be answered by the wildlife inspection office in Anchorage at 907-271-6198.

The Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program recently issued a flyer called “Collecting dead marine mammal parts while beachcombing.” It details the three things you need to know regarding marine

mammals: your ethnicity; the land ownership (and your responsibility to know any removal restrictions; and the population status, under the Endangered Species Act, of the marine mammal you find. Once those details are clear, it’s pretty easy. You can download the [free PDF](#) and learn more from Sea Grant.

NOAA marine mammal parts [FAQ](#)

How to [report](#) a dead or distressed marine mammal

Here is a [list](#) of birds and other animals that may be kept as pets or livestock in Alaska

For questions about migratory birds, raptors, songbirds, walrus, polar bear, and sea otter contact USFWS Law Enforcement:

Nome: 907-443-2479

Fairbanks: 907-456-2335

Anchorage: 907-271-2828

Juneau: 907-586-7545

USFWS parts registration: 800-362-5148

For questions about seals, sea lions, whales and porpoises, and to register parts contact NMFS Law Enforcement

Juneau: 907-586-7225

Anchorage: 907-271-1823

Kodiak: 907-486-3298

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/ole/>

<https://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/pr>

Below are links to the FWS-specific federal regulations for migratory bird hunting and marine mammals, providing more precise language. For marine mammals, see [50 CFR 18.26](#) for beach-found parts. For migratory bird hunting, see [50 CFR 20.91](#) and [20.92](#) for use of feathers)

Riley Woodford is the editor of Alaska Fish and Wildlife News. He began collecting skulls and bones as a biology major in the early 1980s when he prepared study skins and museums specimens for his college. He has tiny shrew skulls gleaned from owl pellets and (registered) whale vertebra



## Celebrating our Wildlife Conservation Heritage - An Interview with Dr. Sam Harbo Jr.

The Alaska Chapter of The Wildlife Society recently held a seminar interview with Dr. Samuel J. Harbo. This interview was part of The Wildlife Society's Celebrating Our Wildlife Conservation Heritage (COWCH) series, which chronicles the careers and experience of individuals that have had a significant impact on the wildlife profession. Sam Harbo grew up on a small farm in Minnesota. Hunting, fishing and trapping were a way of life in his family. After high school, he went to the University of Nebraska on a US Navy scholarship in 1947. He served in the Navy after graduation, and then enrolled in the Master's degree program at the University of California Berkeley, but transferred to the Wildlife Management program at UAF in 1956.

An avid trapper, he conducted his graduate research on mink in interior and southeast Alaska. After graduation from UAF, Harbo worked for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Cold Bay. At statehood, he became the first area game biologist in Nome for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. He left ADF&G to earn a Ph.D. in Statistics from North Carolina State University. He accepted a faculty position in the Wildlife Management Department at the University of Alaska in 1964 and retired in 1985. During that time he served as department chair for ten years, and was instrumental in establishing the UAF Statistics Department. He also served as chairman of the Board of Game for ten years (1975-1985) during a tempestuous period when subsistence and wolf control were hot button issues. During his tenure at the university, he mentored and supervised many undergraduate and graduate students in the wildlife



Dr. Harbo is interviewed by Cathie Harms at the UAF Murie Center on January 25, 2018.  
Photo by Scott Brainerd.

and statistics programs. He was also instrumental in improving survey techniques for many species, including moose, through collaboration with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Throughout his professional career, Harbo remained an avid hunter. His reflective nature caused Sam to question his own values and motives. He eventually concluded that he was a dedicated "meat" hunter, which he attributes to his practical upbringing on the farm.

This was an opportunity to hear about Dr. Harbo's experiences during his career here in Alaska, which spanned the transition from territory to statehood, the rapid growth in the human population due to the oil boom, the dramatic changes in landownership associated with the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act and the 'subsistence battle', the impacts of the Marine Mammal Act, and the 'wolf wars' of the 1970's and 1980's. Dr. Harbo shared with us his perspectives on the changes he has observed during his lifetime as they relate to wildlife conservation and management in Alaska. The interview was conducted by Cathie Harms, retired ADF&G biologist.





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## Northwest Section Representative News

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**H**i All, the TWS Fall Council meeting was held in September in conjunction with the 24rd Annual Conference in Albuquerque, NM, and it's clear there's alot going on at TWS!

**Transitions** – Ed Thompson took over as TWS CEO and Executive Director in July 2017, following Ken Williams' retirement. John McDonald is now President of TWS and already working on issues and plans for 2018. Darren Miller is President-elect, Gary White is Vice President, and Bruce Thompson is Immediate Past-President. Phillip Stephenson is the new Student Liaison to Council.

**Fall 2017 TWS Council Meeting** - Outgoing President Bruce Thompson noted a number of accomplishments for TWS in 2017: membership has increased to about 10,000; TWS members now receive free online access to all TWS journals as a basic benefit; the increase in The Wildlife Professional from 4 to 6 issues/year was successfully implemented; all TWS journals experienced increases in impact factors; 5 years of Council minutes are now available to members on the TWS website; a move to reinvigorate the Heritage Committee is underway; the more than 900 educational events offered at the 2017 conference show the value of education and networking at this annual event; new guidelines for professional behavior at the annual conference were adopted and applied to the Albuquerque conference; TWS' efforts to engage more widely have paid off and we now have about 30 formal partnerships (e.g. Ducks Unlimited, National Wild Turkey Federation, American Fisheries Society, Association of Fish and wildlife Agencies and National Wildlife Federation); and TWS has a social media audience of about 110,000.

**Finances** - Ed Thompson noted that following the huge loss experienced by TWS with the passing of Financial Manager Jane Jorgensen, there was a challenging transition. As well as the deep personal loss to TWS, it left a gap in TWS' financial accounting functions. Several improvements have been made to TWS' financial systems, with TWS now having one CPA firm doing its books, and another CPA doing the audit. He reported a positive net revenue for the year.

Council approved two expenditures of funds that had been held in contingency:

- 1) a Canadian initiative to grow TWS presence in Canada - Council approved a one-time contribution of \$12,000 from TWS, which will be supplemented with \$40,000 from the Canadian Section of TWS, to hire a term Executive Coordinator Position to focus on marketing TWS among Canadian agencies, policy work, cooperative research, and other efforts to strengthen TWS membership and activities in Canada.
- 2) \$6,000 for recovery of cutbacks in partner support (primarily cuts in the Government Affairs Program's budget, affecting its ability to sponsor regional interagency meetings). The funds will be directed toward strategic sponsorship of regional meetings of natural resource agencies.

**Mentoring** - The Early Career Professional Working Group brought proposals to Council regarding mentorship and certification, with the aim to recognize the important role of mentorship. Council approved adding a mentorship sub-category to the Certified Wildlife Biologist renewal application to allow up to 20 hours of mentorship activity for professional development requirements. Council also approved adding a mentorship sub-category to Category 1 of the professional development certificate application to allow up to 30 hours of mentorship, including language translation activities.

**Publications** - Council approved Dr. David Haukos for a second 2-year term as Editor-in-Chief of the Wildlife Society Bulletin; and also changed appointments of Editors-in-Chief to a 3-year term with the option to extend to a second 3-year term.

**Government Affairs** - TWS Government Affairs staff has communicated to the U.S. President and Congress on issues important to wildlife. Government Affairs Director Keith Norris continues to chair the Wild Horse & Burro Coalition, and Congressional staffers and members seem responsive to the broad representation in the coalition. Staff is also exploring ways to advance TWS' work on the Farm Bill reauthorization. TWS staff have been chairing



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## NW Section News - Continued

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a coalition on invasive species, exploring Lacey Act authorities that offer potential to reduce spread. Staff have been working with sections and chapters through the Conservation Affairs Network to assisting in their development of position statements consistent with TWS. The TWS Policy Library, with policy briefs and fact sheets are all updated and online on the TWS website: <http://wildlife.org/engage/policy/policyresources/>.

**Certification** - Council approved a motion for the Certification Review Board (CRB) to accept online education as providing basic coursework requirements in TWS certification applications. The CRB can use its regular process to identify those cases where there are issues of substance. based on the principle that if the university accepts courses toward degree requirements, then TWS should as well.

**TWS International Involvement:** The ad hoc Committee on the Future of TWS International Involvement has been examining and discussing ideas for ways for TWS to engage in international involvement and what TWS hopes to achieve through international involvements. This includes analysis of whether TWS should continue the periodic hosting of International Wildlife Management Congresses. They are currently looking at other possibilities that TWS could pursue that align with objectives for international involvement. Plans for a Congress in Chile in 2019 have been suspended due to changed circumstances in Chile. Council approved TWS applying for membership in the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in the next Fiscal Year, which was one of the recommendations of the Committee for TWS international involvement.

**2017 Annual Conference** - The Albuquerque conference was a great success with over 1,800 attendees; and again nearly half were students. This follows a trend seen in the 2016 and 2015 conferences. The 10 members of the 2017 Leadership Institute attended the conference and gave presentations to Council on whether current professional development opportunities provided by TWS meet the needs of today's wildlife professionals; and if not, ideas on what

more is needed. Each year, the Leadership Institute provides leadership training to a group of 10 promising TWS members. There are intensive activities and mentoring relationships that prepare participants for leadership positions, both in their workplace and in TWS. It's geared towards early-career professionals (2-3 years out of school), currently working full-time in a wildlife professional position, who have demonstrated evidence of their leadership potential. Consider applying if you fit the criteria - it's a great program!

**2017 TWS Awards** - A number of TWS Awards were presented at the conference, including the Aldo Leopold Award to Dr. Wini Kessler, the second woman to receive the award in its' 67-year history; Lucille Stickel received the award in 1974. There was a lot of celebrating of that at the Albuquerque meeting, at the Women of Wildlife reception and several other venues. Lisette Waits, University of Idaho, became a TWS Fellow at the meeting. **Please consider nominating your colleagues for national TWS awards in 2018 - especially TWS Fellows and Distinguished Service Awards.** Would be great to have Alaska Chapter members nominated.

Information on the awards can be found at <http://wildlife.org/engage/awards/>. Deadlines for nominations for the Group Achievement Award and TWS Fellows are **February 1**, and nominations for Wildlife Publications Awards are due by **March 1**. All other TWS award nominations are due by **May 1**.

**Upcoming Conferences** - The 2018 TWS 25th anniversary conference will be in Cleveland, with the opening reception at the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame! The Burning River Boat Tour, where the 20th century environmental movement began, is one of the fieldtrip offerings. In 2019, TWS will hold its joint conference in Reno with the American Fisheries Society (AFS). The two societies are working to retain their separate conference identity, while opening up sessions and events to advance cross-pollination.

**TWS Strategic Plan** - We have made, and are making, major strides in each of the 5 major themes in the



## NW Section News - Continued

TWS strategic plan that include focusing on wildlife science, recognition and influence in the conservation community on wildlife issues, service to our members, integration of the Society's organizational units, and sound business management.

If you're not already a TWS member, there are lots of good reasons and great benefits to becoming a member of The Wildlife Society:

- Online access to all TWS journals, at no additional cost;
- 6 issues/year of The Wildlife Professional;
- Online Member directory to facilitate networking;
- The **eWildlifer** e-newsletter, sent weekly to your inbox, providing you with links to the latest news from TWS headquarters, policy issues that impact wildlife and wild places, updates on activities and conferences from our TWS Local Network of sections and chapters across North America and wildlife news;
- More than 100 TWS Talks from our most recent Annual Conference on a wide variety of wildlife topics. Members receive links to two presentations per week in the **eWildlifer**;
- 25% discounts on Wiley scientific books and 30% discounts on Johns Hopkins books;
- Increasing the impact of your voice on important wildlife policy issues by joining other TWS members in organized efforts to contact policymakers through our Action Alerts and Conservation Affairs Network.
- Access to 27 members-only Working Groups (small additional annual fee) on a wide range of topics

Also remember when you're renewing your membership, you can nominate someone for the **Give Back Program** - this entitles them to a 6-month free membership in TWS. Great opportunity to share the benefits of TWS membership with your colleagues!  
<http://wildlife.org/giveback/>

Mariah Simmons, Unit Services Coordinator for TWS, will also be joining us for the meeting this Spring. It will be a great opportunity to meet and connect with Alaska Chapter and Northwest Section members and

to learn about the area and issues of importance to the Chapter/NWS.

Wishing all great holidays & looking forward to seeing you in Anchorage for the joint Alaska Chapter/Northwest Section in 2018.

Best regards,  
Harriet Allen  
Northwest Section Representative to TWS Council

### CALL FOR AWARDS!

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

#### Arthur S. Einarsen Award

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

#### Wildlife Administrator Award

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

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





## T-shirt Design Contest Results!

The T-shirt design contest has come to an exciting conclusion! We want to thank all of the creative designers for supporting this endeavor to create a t-shirt that represents Alaskan wildlife and our organization. This design will go on the back of a t-shirt and the front will have our chapter logo on the breast pocket. We will keep you posted as to when the t-shirts will be ready for you to order and wear or share!! We will also have them at our Annual Meeting in March.

The winner was Dan Thompson who created the lovely design below.



## CALL FOR OFFICER NOMINATIONS!

Alaska Chapter Officer elections will be held in March!

Officers up for election include:

- **President-Elect** - 6 year term including 2 years as President-Elect, the following two years as President, and two more years as Past-President
- **Regional Representatives** - 2 year terms
  - Southeast Region
  - Southcentral/Southwest Region
  - Northern/Interior Region
- **Secretary-Treasurer** - 2 year term

We encourage Chapter Members to consider running for one of these positions, or to nominate a colleague!

Please send officer nominations with a short biography to [twسالaska@gmail.com](mailto:twسالaska@gmail.com), by **1 March, 2018**.

For more information on officer positions or the nomination process, contact Scott Brainerd at [scott.brainerd@alaska.gov](mailto:scott.brainerd@alaska.gov) (907-459-7261).

## Find us on Facebook!

You can "like" us on Facebook! On our [Facebook page](#), we are posting information on scientific publications relevant to Alaska's wildlife, announcements of upcoming meetings, and job openings. If you have ideas on how we can most effectively use our Facebook page, contact the Executive Board through the Chapter email: [twسالaska@gmail.com](mailto:twسالaska@gmail.com)



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# Protesters from Florida schooled in Native Ways at Board of Game Meeting

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By Sam Cotten

**D**ried salmon savored by rural Alaska Natives as part of a subsistence way of life won't be found among the Spanish tapas, Brazilian steaks or Southern barbecue served in the restaurants of Jacksonville, Florida. Indeed, the differences between Jacksonville (pop. 821,700) and, say, the Yukon River village of Grayling (pop. 213) couldn't be more profound.

Situated at opposite ends of a continent and defined by unique histories, cultures and customs, Jacksonville and Grayling (or for that matter Huslia, Nulato, Allakaket or any other of a sparse constellation of rural Athabascan communities) might just as well exist on separate planets.

So who could have predicted those planets would align at, of all places, the Alaska Board of Game's mid-November statewide meeting in Anchorage? Certainly no one left the gathering more changed and enlightened than members of Jacksonville-based animal rights group OneProtest.

And few attended the meeting with more at stake than a group of Native students from Alaska's far reaches, there to tackle cultural barriers and preserve a traditional way of life.

Of particular concern were Proposals 14 and 15, which aimed to halt customary and traditional bear harvest practices existing in a handful of remote Interior game management units. Proposal 14 sought to prohibit the taking of bears in dens, while Proposal 15, crafted and submitted by OneProtest, would have removed exceptions for the taking of cub bears and sows with cubs.

Misled by social media campaigns and poorly researched news reports that accompanied last April's repeal of federal wildlife regulations on Alaska's national refuges, OneProtest supported a ban on both bear harvest practices, calling them "clearly not socially sustainable." Activists gathered more than 23,000 signatures backing the bans. Committed to their cause and certain in their opinions, two OneProtest representatives flew in from Florida to advocate their position to the board in person.

Meanwhile, the University of Alaska Fairbanks Tribal Management Program had teamed with the Tanana Chiefs Conference to address concerns that cultural and procedural barriers excluded rural Alaska Natives from the board's rulemaking process. Observing that many rural Natives seemed to feel disenfranchised, unsure of how the Board of Game worked, or that they as individuals could make differences in rulemaking outcomes, the UAF Tribal Management Program and TCC organized a class called "Introduction to the Board of Game," to take place during the statewide meeting.

More than 20 students enrolled in the weeklong, one-credit class. And as the board meeting ramped up, they learned about local advisory committees and received training on crafting proposals. They listened as Division of Subsistence Director Hazel Nelson, herself originally from the small Alaska Peninsula village of Egegik, stepped in to provide tips on how to prepare and provide effective public testimony. During meeting breaks, students mingled and met with board members, Alaska Department of Fish and Game staff, and other attendees.

Listening intently, reading through proposal documents and absorbing oral testimony, the students learned. Threatened by change from the opposing values of large, signature-gathering, Outside groups, their traditional subsistence ways of life – their culture – depended upon this knowledge.

All seemed to go smoothly until early in the week, when, during a break in public testimony, the rural Native students encountered the OneProtest activists in the Lakefront Anchorage Hotel lobby. And that's when it happened.

The two groups began talking. Why, the students asked, would people travel all the way from Florida to oppose customary and traditional activities practiced for generations in a few specific areas of Interior Alaska? Why, indeed.

Bears, the students explained, have always provided fresh meat in winter when other game can be difficult to obtain. And Native hunters are obligated by



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## Alaska Native Students and OneProtest - Continued

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tradition to take all occupants of a den; to not do so is to disrespect the animals that reveal themselves for harvest.

As the two groups engaged, lightbulbs seemed to switch on. The OneProtest group welcomed what the students had to say, and many misperceptions were cleared up on the spot. In fact, after those discussions and listening to more public comments made to the board, the OneProtest members began reconsidering their stance.

After the break, the students prepared to testify before the board and assembled public. The number of people in the room rivaled the total populations of some smaller villages. Nonetheless, the students overcame their apprehensions and shared fresh, heartfelt testimony to a board eager to hear new voices.

“Eliminating a longstanding customary and traditional harvesting practice is wrong,” said Arnold Demoski of Nulato. “Taking away a food source is wrong. This traditional knowledge has been passed on for generations and generations. ... Our ancestors have had a very strong connection with animals and we still do to this day. We do not disrespect any animals of any kind.”

Ivan Demientieff, of Grayling, echoed Demoski’s concerns: “I am opposing this proposal because this may affect my traditional values.”

One by one, students approached the board to testify, their words embraced by the room in a focused silence. When they finished and the matter returned to the board, Vice Chairman Nate Turner seemed moved. He praised not only the students for speaking, but OneProtest for listening.

“(OneProtest has) a strong position that they take on wildlife issues in America and they were sure that they’d caught something really bad and they invested a lot of time and resources into correcting it,” Turner said.

“But they did the right thing in educating themselves, and the noble thing in sharing those results with us and also saying they were going to go back home and educate other people about what’s really happening here in Alaska.”

Turner and other board members who spoke afterward added that local knowledge is especially powerful and important for the board process to work. Participation is the key to a good public process.

The proposals to ban existing traditional bear-hunting practices and remove exceptions failed in a unanimous board vote. OneProtest made public that they stood corrected, and have offered a video apology that ends with: “To the Alaskan Native peoples, Pitsaqenrita. We apologize for any offense our initial misunderstanding caused.”

Alaska’s Native students should be proud. With the help of the UAF Tribal Management Program and the Tanana Chiefs Conference, they made this peaceful consensus possible. They earned college credit for their efforts, but more importantly, they’ve earned lasting respect from the Alaska Board of Game – and from an Outside group representing different cultural values who may have received the greatest education of all.

Sam Cotten is commissioner of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game

### Is it time to renew your membership?

New memberships and renewals are available on-line at The Wildlife Society ([www.wildlife.org/alaska/](http://www.wildlife.org/alaska/)). Click on membership to obtain membership forms.







# THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

*Leaders in Wildlife Science, Management and Conservation*

## APPLY NOW FOR 2018 LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

The Wildlife Society (TWS) is currently accepting applications for its Leadership Institute. The Institute's goal is to develop leadership skills among early-career wildlife professionals. The Institute will recruit promising early-career professionals for a series of intensive activities and mentoring relationships. The focus will be on exposing the participants to the inner workings of organization management, using TWS as example, and increasing the number of capable, active leaders in the wildlife and natural resource management profession.

From May until October, participants will engage in a series of activities to develop and expand their leadership skills. Institute members will attend TWS' Annual Conference in Cleveland, Ohio, October 2018 and participate in various activities, including mentoring and leadership workshop sessions. The Institute is free, and participants receive complimentary registration and a travel grant to attend the conference.

Participation in the Institute is geared toward early-career professionals who are 2 to 3 years out of school (either undergraduate or graduate school), currently working full-time in a wildlife professional position, and have demonstrated evidence of their leadership potential. Also eligible are more recent graduates who have shown strong evidence of their leadership potential and those who are working while concurrently pursuing a graduate degree. All applicants must be members in good standing of TWS and a chapter or section of TWS. The selection committee will be seeking to create a diverse group with participants of varying gender, ethnic, and regional diversity. Selection will be based upon:

- An excellent academic record
- Demonstrated leadership capability or potential
- Demonstrated level of excellence in current position
- Commitment to and involvement in TWS

Preference will be given to individuals who are certified as Associate Wildlife Biologists® or Certified Wildlife Biologists®, or who have submitted such an application to TWS.

**Applicants must submit** (in one PDF, excluding recommendation letters):

- Completed Leadership Institute application form
- Cover letter with evidence of leadership capacity or potential, such as previous leadership in TWS organization units or in other organizations
- Résumé including a list of publications, awards, etc.
- Academic transcript(s)
- An essay (1000 word limit), which succinctly summarizes 1) your concept of leadership, 2) your aspiration for your engagement within TWS and the wildlife profession in 5 to 10 years, and 3) why you are an ideal candidate for the Leadership Institute
- Have two letters of recommendation sent from supervisors, academic advisors, professors, or others with whom you have worked and who are familiar with your previous and potential leadership, history and commitment to TWS, and commitment to wildlife management and conservation
  - Letters should be sent directly to [leadership@wildlife.org](mailto:leadership@wildlife.org) with subject line "Leadership Institute Recommendation for [applicant last name]"

**Application deadline is March 18, 2018. Email all materials to:** [leadership@wildlife.org](mailto:leadership@wildlife.org). Visit [wildlife.org/leadership-institute](http://wildlife.org/leadership-institute) for more information.



## In Memoriam - Jerry Dan McGowan

Jerry Dan McGowan of Victor, MT passed at Marcus Daly Hospice in Hamilton on Thursday October 27, 2016. He was born in Kansas City, Missouri in 1941 to Dan and Louise Yocum McGowan. As a kid, Jerry enjoyed baseball and spent many fun-filled summer days with family in the Mountain Grove area of Missouri, where he often could be found spelunking and looking for bats.



After high school, Jerry earned a Bachelor of Science degree at Central Missouri State University, Warrensburg in 1963 and a Master of Arts degree in Zoology at University of Missouri, Columbia in 1966. During these years he taught General Zoology and worked on reestablishing ruffed grouse populations in Missouri.

Jerry joined the VISTA program which took him to Alaska and in 1967 he was hired as a biologist with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Fairbanks and worked mainly on upland game bird and raptor projects. With his skills he found himself involved in many other Fish and Game projects including helping to develop and become manager of the Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge in Fairbanks.

Jerry retired in 1987 and took up woodworking and horseback riding. He and his dog Butch had many successful duck hunts together over the years. In 1993 he and long-time partner Laura McManus (and 2 horses and 2 cats) moved to the Bitter Root Valley of western Montana where they built a home on 20 beautiful acres west of Victor with views of the Bitter Root and Sapphire Mountains.

He was a member of the Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen for 23 years. Good old country music was a big part of his life and he was proficient with the guitar, piano, fiddle, and mandolin. Maintaining the property, riding the valley trails, gardening, and music helped fill his life along with "happy hours" enjoyed with many good friends.

Jerry is survived by his partner Laura, brother Larry and partner Bev of Idaho, and other relatives in Missouri and Arizona. He was preceded in death by his parents. At his request no local services are planned. A memorial gathering will be held in Mountain Grove, MO at a later date and his ashes will be buried in the family plot there. Local memorial contributions may be sent to the Bitter Root Humane Association, 262 Fairgrounds Road, Hamilton, MT 59840 or to a favorite animal charity.

### Where's the List of Member Publications?

For the past several years, we've compiled a list of recent scientific publications by Alaska Chapter members for inclusion in the newsletter. But there's now a better product available. Thanks to Nathan Jones at HDR, the Alaska Wildlife Research Listserve (AWRL) will send you a monthly list of recent scientific publications on Alaska's wildlife. It's a great way to keep up on recent publications that are of special interest to Alaskans. Please subscribe to AWRL by contacting [nathan.jones@hdrinc.com](mailto:nathan.jones@hdrinc.com). Also, if you or your colleagues publish a paper on Alaskan wildlife, please send a copy to Nathan for inclusion in AWRL!





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## TWS Alaska Chapter Leadership

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### Your 2016-2018 Executive Board

**President:** Scott Brainerd, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, 1300 College Road, Fairbanks, AK 99701, [scott.brainerd@alaska.gov](mailto:scott.brainerd@alaska.gov), phone (907) 459-7261, fax (907) 687-4527

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