



Southwest Section Newsletter

Fall/Winter 2016 - Vol. 6 Issue #2

From the Board

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State News

International News

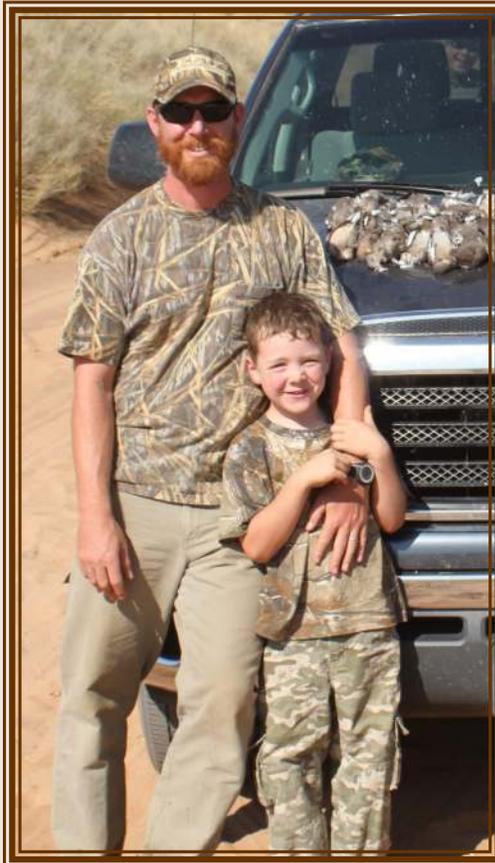
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President's Message

Don Collins - 2016 President Southwest Section of The Wildlife



It never ceases to amaze me this time of year I am always asking myself where the time has gone. Field season has either wrapped up or quickly snuck up on many of us and for some preparation for the 23rd TWS Annual Conference is fast approaching. You all will be well represented by many fine students, academics, and agency folks on several of the organizational committees and I would like to personally thank them for volunteering their time to represent their home chapters and this section at the meeting. Many presentations of the exceptional work being done in the Southwest will be on display so please take the time to attend and support our fellow southwest section and state chapter Biologists. I wish all attending the conference safe travels and enjoy the wonderful conference in Raleigh, NC.

Looking forward to 2017 state chapter meeting notices are already being sent out and the National meeting is coming back to the Southwest:

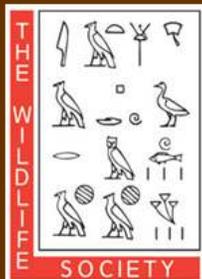
New Mexico / Arizona – February 9 – 11, 2017 Farmington, NM

Texas – February 16-18, 2017 San Antonio

The Wildlife Society Annual Conference – September 23-27, 2017 Albuquerque, NM

I know it seems early but before we all know it we will be scratching our heads asking where the time has gone and the meetings will have snuck up on us. I continue to be amazed by the hard work and dedication you all have to the field of wildlife conservation and thank you all for that dedication. Keep up the good work and I look forward to seeing you all at the upcoming chapter and Annual meetings.

Sincerely,
Dan Collins



Current Members

AZ NM TX Int Oth
78 71 104 1 25

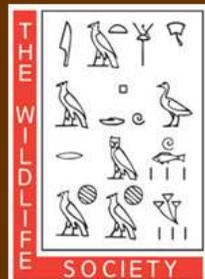
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Elections—Coming soon

Election News

We delayed our fall newsletter to provide information on candidates for SW Section positions. Because this information is not ready yet, look for this soon via our SW Section Listserv.

In this issue...

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Thanks to contributors to this fall's newsletter: **Laura Bies, Callie Hartson, Cheyenne Herzog, Scott P. Lerich, Nancy Sasavage, and John Sproul.**

Please contribute to our next newsletter with information on your work related to topics of interest to SW Section members. Deadline for articles is [April 3](#).

Southwest Section News



What's Happening with TWS

Fidel Hernandez; Southwest Section Rep to Council



Summer lingered into fall in southern Texas. However, with each passing day, there are glimpses of an approaching change of season. Mornings have become a bit cooler, and days are a bit shorter. The sun also seems to be losing a bit of its intensity. Autumn is upon us...

Like most organizations, activity at TWS slows down a bit during summer. However, there are always things happening somewhere within TWS. Below is a short update on TWS operations and

synopsis of some of the primary activities.

General Operations

Finance. The Wildlife Society operates on a July-June fiscal year, and the beginning month (July) of the new fiscal year indicated a strong start both in terms of operations and investments. Overall financial activities for July showed positive income that was primarily driven by conference receipts, strong investment gains, publications receipts, and relatively low expenses. Thus, TWS has started the year ahead of expectations in revenues, expenses, and investments that should provide some security against fluctuations as the fiscal year unfolds.

Membership. In our last newsletter, I reported that TWS membership was 8,989 members in April 2016. The current membership is 9,317 members as of August 2016. Thus, TWS membership continues to grow. One new feature of member services that TWS has been working on is the development of a TWS Network Online Directory. TWS has been engaged in having members update their profiles in order to provide the most effective possible directory. To date, over 2,560 members have updated their profiles, and TWS believes that a launch will be possible once this number has increased to 5,000 members. So, if you have not done so already, please remember to update your member profile if necessary. Another improvement of member services is that TWS has begun work on a new layout for the member portal that will feature a design and navigation that is similar to the TWS website in order to provide a more consistent member experience. The anticipated launch date for the redesigned member portal is November 1.

Membership Audit of Organizational-Unit Officers. As you may know, one requirement to hold office at the state, section, and national level is membership with the parent society. TWS recently conducted an audit of membership among organizational-unit officers. This audit found that 257 organization-unit officers (about 15% of the total) currently are not members of the parent society. Additionally, the holders of 159 current positions have not been reported to headquarters resulting in TWS being unaware as to the membership status of these individuals. TWS has reached out to

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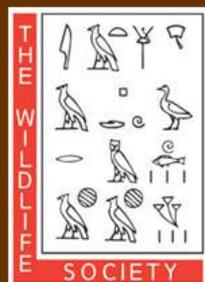
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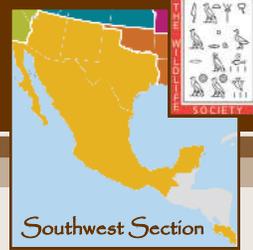
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What's Happening with TWS

Fidel Hernandez; Southwest Section Rep to Council

organization-unit officers in an attempt to update membership status of current organization-unit officers. If you currently hold office and have forgotten to renew your membership to the parent society, please do so to assist TWS in updating their membership.

TWS Council

Elections. In case you missed the results of the recent TWS election, here are the newly elected officers and representatives. New Council members include Darren Miller as TWS Vice-president, and John Moriarty as the North Central Section Representative. Cynthia Perrine and Harriet Allen were elected to continue their representation of the Western Section and Northwestern Section, respectively.

TWS Conservation Engagement. TWS CEO Ken Williams travels extensively throughout the year building relationships and collaborations with other conservation organizations to promote partnerships and advance the TWS mission. Below is a brief overview of some of the discussions occurring during summer.

- *Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA).* Dr. Williams was invited to join and co-chair an AFWA President's Task Force to work on a series of adaptive challenges to the long-term success of fish and wildlife conservation in North America. Some of the issues that will be addressed recruitment and retention of hunters, linking resource science and management, and evaluation and strengthening the relationships of state and federal agencies.
- *North American Ornithological Congress (NAOC).* Dr. Williams attended the NAOC in Washington DC. While there, he conferred with Umberto Berlanga, the Conservation Director for CONABIO in Mexico. Director Berlanga expressed interest in working with TWS to establish a TWS presence in Mexico and discussions will ensue on the next steps to make such presence a reality.
- *National Wildlife Federation (NWF).* Dr. Williams met with the Senior Scientist, Doug Inkley, and other staff at NWF to ensure a smooth transition and continuation of TWS interactions when Senior Scientist Inkley retires this autumn. Issues discussed included collaboration at the chapter and national level, the possibility of joint positioning on some conservation issues, and the prospect of partnering with them to sponsor TWS annual meetings.
- *Society of Range Management (SRM).* Dr. Williams and TWS Director Keith Norris met with the executive leadership of SRM in Washington DC. SRM is interested in pursuing a cooperative relationship with TWS, building on previous discussions at an executives meeting with TWS, SRM, American Fisheries Society, Society for Conservation Biology, and others. TWS proposed an agreement focusing on some common issues facing the 2 societies and follow up discussions will occur after the TWS Raleigh conference in October 2016.

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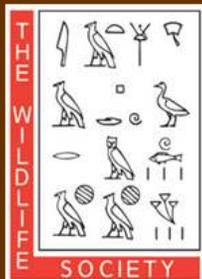
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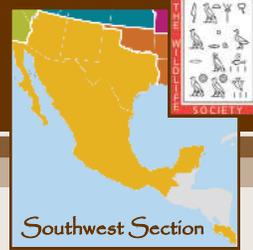
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What's Happening with TWS

Fidel Hernandez; Southwest Section Rep to Council

Position Announcement. As you may have heard by now, CEO Ken Williams will be retiring in July 2017. The Executive Committee has been involved in succession planning in anticipation of Dr. Williams' retirement next year. A position announcement was created and distributed through several mediums. The last date to apply was 28 October.

Publications

In the past, membership to TWS did not include access to TWS journals. Journal access involved a fee in addition to membership costs. However, in July 2016, TWS announced a policy change whereby membership to TWS included **free web access to all TWS journals** beginning in January 2017. Members have been notified through email and the e-Wildlifer. This policy change also has been announced to the public at large via the TWS website.

Upcoming Annual Conference

The 23rd Annual Conference was held in Raleigh, North Carolina during October 15 –19, 2016. This year's conference featured 4 Plenary/Keynote Sessions as follows:

- **Plenary 1:** Expanding Partnerships Vital to the Future of Wildlife
- **Plenary 2:** The Past, the Present and the Future of Invasive Species Control in North America: Achieving Success through Innovation
- **Plenary 3:** Is Sustainable Use of Wildlife Sustainable?
- **Keynote 1:** Public-Private Partnerships for Conservation

Attendance to annual conference has been increasing in recent years. Registration exceeded 1,800 attendees.

Until next time,

Fidel Hernández

Fidel Hernández

Southwest Section Representative to TWS



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Student Chapter News

Arizona State University

Arizona State University's Wildlife and Restoration Student Association (WRSA) has the mission to provide students with the opportunities to further explore and appreciate the various aspects of wildlife and restoration ecology. We accomplish this by facilitating volunteer opportunities with a wide variety of public and private agencies, as well as sharing information regarding other volunteer and employment opportunities via our



weekly newsletter to all of our members. Many students look to these experiences to help refine our education, gain experience, build resumes, and expand career goals. We get a better idea of what the working world beyond the classroom is like, and we get to make impressions on, and build connections with, our future peers.

The Joint Annual Meeting with The Wildlife Society and The American Fisheries Society is an exciting opportunity for students to connect with professionals and non-professionals on their past, present, and future projects. Students can attend talks on a myriad of topics and even present their own projects. Not only do we encourage all of our members to attend, but we will be applying for funding so that students have less out-of-pocket costs associated with this experience. Last year's WRSA team won the Quizbowl competition and our new team is looking forward to competing this year, hopefully with the same results!

In line with our overall goals, WRSA will be hosting a resume building and mock interview workshop with professionals from AZ Game & Fish Department, US Fish & Wildlife Service, US Forest Service, and other agencies, as well as ASU professors. Many of the professionals will speak on important topics including the best and worst practices when building resumes. Many students who participated in the workshop last year found it to be very beneficial, and this year's should be just as successful.

—Cheyenne Herzog
Arizona State University Student
College of Integrative Sciences and Arts
Major: Applied Biological Sciences

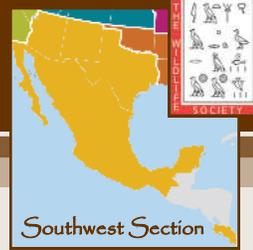
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Rio Bosque Wetlands Park

Just Add Water

In the vicinity of El Paso, Texas and in southern New Mexico, the valley of the Rio Grande is a highly modified landscape. The wetlands, riparian forests and other native habitats once found in the valley are today largely gone. Opportunities for restoring these habitats are limited, but they are now being pursued on a number of fronts. One of the most significant is the City of El Paso's Rio Bosque Wetlands Park.

Rio Bosque – a 372-acre parcel of publicly owned, undeveloped open space next to the Rio Grande – has long held great potential as a site for restoring native ecosystems. In the 1990s, a mitigation project associated with construction of a concrete-lined canal – the Rio Grande American Canal Extension – presented the opportunity to realize that potential. In its Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act report for the proposed canal, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recommended construction of a 30-acre wetland at Rio Bosque to mitigate project-related impacts on fish and wildlife resources.

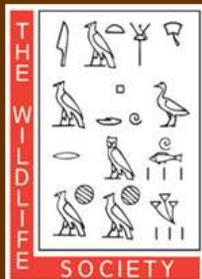
That stimulated thinking about a larger wetland project at the park. A group of agencies and organizations coalesced around this idea, and ultimately a plan emerged involving the entire park. Before the river was channelized in this area in the mid-1930s, an old bend of the Rio Grande wound through what is now the park. It would be re-built. Wetland cells would be created that could be flooded by diverting water from the re-built river channel. The water source would be an adjacent wastewater-treatment plant.

Ducks Unlimited developed engineering designs for the project. The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) agreed to manage the site. And in 1997, the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission did the earth work for the project. Much of the park was cleared, graded and re-shaped (Figure 1). Large

Figure 1.
Wetland Cell 2 at Rio Bosque Wetlands Park in early 1998 after it was flooded for the first time.



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Rio Bosque Wetlands Park

Just Add Water (continued)



Figure 2. Wetland Cell 2 on 21 July 2014, during the 12th summer in a row without water available to Rio Bosque's wetland cells.

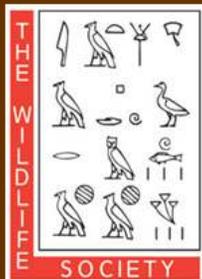
areas of saltcedar, then the dominant vegetation at the site, were removed.

In the years since, as the vegetation has recovered, UTEP has worked to restore native river-valley ecosystems. There has been much progress, especially in upland areas. But, for a long time, establishment of wetland and riparian habitats lagged. In most years, water was available to the park in late fall and early winter but not the rest of the year, when the treated wastewater all went to irrigated agriculture. Though Rio Bosque provided excellent wintering habitat for water birds, favorable conditions for establishing wetland and riparian vegetation were lacking.

Now, that is changing, thanks to a series of projects aimed at bringing water to Rio Bosque during the growing season. Most notably, El Paso Water (EPW), the City's water utility, built a pipeline from the wastewater-treatment plant to the park in 2014-15. Under a memorandum of understanding between EPW and the local irrigation district, 2,000 acre-feet of water can be delivered to the park via the pipeline between May and September each year.



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Rio Bosque Wetlands Park

Just Add Water (continued)

Rio Bosque has now completed 2 years with this water available. The results have been dramatic (Figures 2 and 3). Extensive areas of emergent wetland are developing. Moist-soil management is now possible over large areas. Development of riparian habitat along the old river bend and the edges of the wetland cells is accelerating. The next big transformation of the Rio Bosque landscape is now underway. To learn more about the restoration work at Rio Bosque, visit www.riobosque.org.

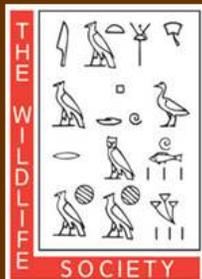


Figure 3. Wetland Cell 2 on 6 August 2016, during the 2nd summer with water available from the new pipeline.

—John Sproul, Manager, Rio Bosque Wetlands Park
Center for Environmental Resource Management
The University of Texas at El Paso
500 West University Ave.
El Paso, TX 79968-0684
E-mail: jsproul@utep.edu



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Jumpstarting Your Career

The Importance of Volunteering

It's no secret that careers in wildlife biology are hard to come by. The real challenge, however, is how to make yourself the absolute best candidate for those few positions that do emerge. Almost every professional within the field will tell you that volunteer work plays a fundamental role for the purpose of attaining a job. Not only does it shape your resume, volunteering also offers unique networking opportunities where one can impress potential employers. In the interest of its members, the Arizona Chapter of The Wildlife Society has recently prepared a running list of volunteer opportunities on the chapter's webpage to help aspiring biologists locate and participate in local wildlife-related activities. This list provides members and wildlife-biology students with a resource



for both upcoming and ongoing volunteer projects, state organization meetings, and, most importantly, ways to get involved with local wildlife. So far, the page

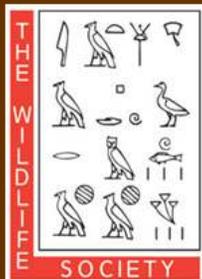


includes events from now through early next year for agencies and organizations such as the Sky Island Alliance, Arizona Game and Fish Department, BLM, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and more. In addition to this list, AZTWS has also begun posting biology-related job opportunities within Arizona. The hope is that the chapter website will become and continue to be a reliable and functional resource for chapter members. The website is being updated on a bi-weekly basis, so check it out at www.aztws.com!

—Callie Hartson, AZTWS Volunteer/Opportunity Coordinator



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A Tribal Model

A Tribal Model of Wildlife Stewardship

“The people belong to the land; the land does not belong to the people.”

—Chief Seattle, Suquamish Tribe

Serra Hoagland provides a message about tapping into traditional practices of Native Americans in the current issue of *The Wildlife Professional*. This information, she believes, can be used to better inform forest and wildlife management.

In her article, Dr. Hoagland talks about the beliefs and philosophy of some of the 567 distinct sovereign Native American Nations in the United States. She provides successful management examples from the Menominee (Wisconsin) and Mescalero Apache (New Mexico) tribes.

She also describes some of the collaborations and challenges that we face in wildlife management (for example, checkerboard land ownership) and how tribes, state and federal agencies are making progress in protecting wildlife.



Serra Hoagland, Laguna Pueblo, NM, received her PhD in Forestry in May 2016, the first Native American to do so at Northern Arizona University. She is only the 3rd Native American woman in the U.S. with a PhD in forestry.



A Tribal Model of Wildlife Stewardship

NATIVE AMERICANS TAP INTO TRADITIONAL PRACTICES TO MANAGE FORESTS

By Serra J. Hoagland

▲ The Pueblo of Laguna, located 45 miles west of Albuquerque, covers 530,000 acres. The reservation is home to roughly half of the 8,700 tribal members; the other half live off the reservation. Species such as mule deer, bears, Mexican spotted owls, southwestern willow flycatchers, as well as introduced species including Rocky Mountain elk, Himalayan tahr and Barbary sheep, are also found on the reservation.

Credit: Serra Hoagland

On a Native American reservation just outside Albuquerque, N.M., Laguna Pueblo tribal members gather for a traditional dance. It's after fall hunting season, and they're there to honor the spirit of a harvested mule deer or *D yene* — as referred to in the tribe's Keres dialect. The deer serves as the “divine” centerpiece of all ceremonial dances and villages on this roughly 500,000-acre reservation.

For these tribal members, there exists an interdependent relationship between people and deer. One does not exist without the other. In fact, as part of the ceremonial dance, the tribe offers a reciprocal gift to the spirit of the harvested deer in hopes it will return the following year.

Native Americans believe in equally respecting all species without compromising human interactions and sustenance

Tribes also consider all aspects of the environment; and managing natural resources on tribal lands by integrating cultural, economic and ecological values serves as a model to address pressing ecological challenges. As Pat Pierre, tribal elder of the Salish-Pend d'Oreille once stated, it all starts with open communication, respect, friendliness and education (Mason et al. 2012).

Tapping Into An Age-Old Wisdom
There are 567 distinct sovereign Native American Nations throughout the United States. The highest density of tribal lands by region is within the Southwest, making the 2017 plenary theme, “Wildlife Conservation: Crossroads of Cultures,” of the TWS Annual Conference that will be held in Albuquerque that much more significant. In

Deer Dance/For Your Return

If this will hasten your return then I will hold myself above you all night blowing softly down-feathered clouds

You can read all of Dr. Hoagland's article, “A Tribal Model of Wildlife Stewardship” in the November/December issue of *The Wildlife Professional*, available to all members of TWS.



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Southwest Section News



2016 Leadership Institute

Who Represented the Southwest this Year?



Last month, the Leadership Institute's Class of 2016 met in person during the Annual Conference in Raleigh, North Carolina.

The Leadership Institute (LI) is the Society's leadership training program for early career professionals. Each year, 10 to 15 members are selected to participate. From spring until the conference, members of the cohort engage in a variety of distance learning and hands-on projects, which include reading and interpreting leadership materials, presenting to peer groups, working collaboratively, leading discussions, and developing summary documents on professional leadership.

The experience culminates at the TWS Annual Conference where LI graduates participate in intensive mentoring activities and leadership workshops. This year's class had a busy week in Raleigh, including a panel discussion on leadership in the wildlife profession moderated by **Krysten Zummo**, AWB® (NM), a LI alumna from the Class of 2013. **Bill Block** (USFS, AZ), Erin Patrick, CWB® (USDA-APHIS), **Fidel Hernandez** (Texas A&M University), and **Misty Sumner** (Texas Parks and Wildlife) were on the panel and discussed their leadership experiences throughout their careers.

"This year's class was enthusiastic and motivated to participate in all levels of TWS. The Wildlife Society benefits from these [LI] alumni by their participation at the chapter, section, national, and working group levels," says Mindy Rice, an LI alumna and now chair of the Leadership Institute Committee, which helps to oversee the program. "Their ideas and participation with the Council at the national meeting provides a young professional's view of The Wildlife Society and brings another generation of leaders into the Society."

—Laura Bies



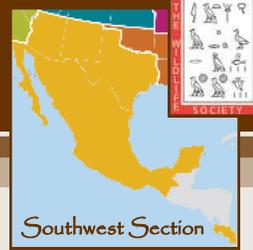
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2016 Leadership Institute

Who Represented the Southwest this Year? (continued)

"Meeting my fellow [LI] participants was one of the best parts of the conference. It was so great to interact with such a gifted and outspoken group of peers with as much passion for wildlife as I have," said **Julia Smith**, AWB® (AZ), one of this year's participants and the Mexican Wolf Project Field Supervisor for the Arizona Game and Fish Department. "Speaking with members of the TWS Council was also incredibly inspiring; they were so encouraging about our ability to step into leadership roles both inside and outside of TWS. They made an effort to approach us and engage."

LI is geared toward early-career professionals: those individuals who are two to three years out of school and currently working full- or part-time in a professional position in wildlife management or conservation. TWS accepts applications at the beginning of each year, with the deadline usually in the first week of March. Check the Leadership Institute webpage in January for more details and follow the Leadership Institute on Facebook to stay connected.

The members of the 2016 TWS Leadership Institute were:

- Adam Ahlers, AWB®, Kansas State University
- Krisha Faw, AWB®, F&W Forestry, Georgia
- Shelby Hiestand, AWB®, Michigan Department of Natural Resources
- Jennifer Kanine, AWB®, Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians, Michigan
- Brian Kiss, Wildlife and Fisheries Branch, Manitoba Sustainable Development
- Andrew Little, AWB®, University of Georgia
- Rebecca Mowry, Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks
- Anthony Roberts, AWB®, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Maryland
- Anthony Sipes, AWB®, Indiana Department of Natural Resources
- **Julia Smith, AWB®, Arizona Game and Fish Department**



—Laura Bies

Laura Bies is the Leadership Institute Coordinator for The Wildlife Society. She has a B.S. in Environmental Science and a law degree from George Washington University. Laura has been with The Wildlife Society since 2005.



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Notes from the Field

Recovery of the Gould's wild turkey in Arizona and New Mexico



Gould's wild turkey. Photo by NWTf volunteer Jeff Fell

While the wild turkey is a familiar wildlife species to many, few recognize the 5 subspecies of turkeys found in the United States. Many think of the Eastern wild turkey, the most widespread and common subspecies in the US. Those in Texas, north to Kansas, are familiar with the Rio Grande wild turkey, and if you spend time in the southern Rocky Mountains you have likely seen the Merriam's wild turkey. I also hear some people travel to Florida for some reason and if they do and are lucky they may see the Osceola wild turkey? But you have to work a bit harder to find a wild turkey

subspecies common in Mexico, and found in limited numbers in southwestern NM and southeastern AZ, the Gould's wild turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo mexicana*).

Gould's wild turkeys are arguably the most beautiful subspecies of wild turkey with many white tipped feathers unlike the feathers of their cousins found to the north and east. They still act and taste just like other wild turkey subspecies, they're just prettier and live in more rugged country. Unfortunately we know from past experience Rio Grande and Merriam's wild turkeys do not thrive in the landscapes where Gould's do. Found primarily in Mexico, this beautiful game bird seems to do very well in the Madrean Oak Woodlands and riparian areas found on the Coronado National Forest and surrounding private lands in the Southwestern US.

Habitat loss from mining, ranching and other settlement activities, coupled with unregulated harvest in the early 20th Century led to the loss of Gould's wild turkeys from AZ and nearly completely from NM. However, starting in the 1980s and continuing into the early 21st Century, Gould's wild turkeys have made a dramatic comeback in their range of the US thanks to the efforts of many agencies and organizations. Arizona Game and Fish Department, the US Forest Service, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, USDA Wildlife Services, the Department of



The Animas Mountains from the Peloncillo Mountains, and good Gould's wild turkey habitat. Photo by Scott. Lerich

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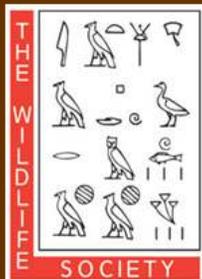
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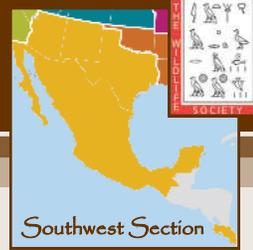
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Notes from the Field

Recovery of the Gould's wild turkey in AZ and NM (continued)

Defense, Mexican authorities and agencies, private landowners in the US and Mexico, and the National Wild Turkey Federation, among others, have played a role in the restoration of this iconic bird.

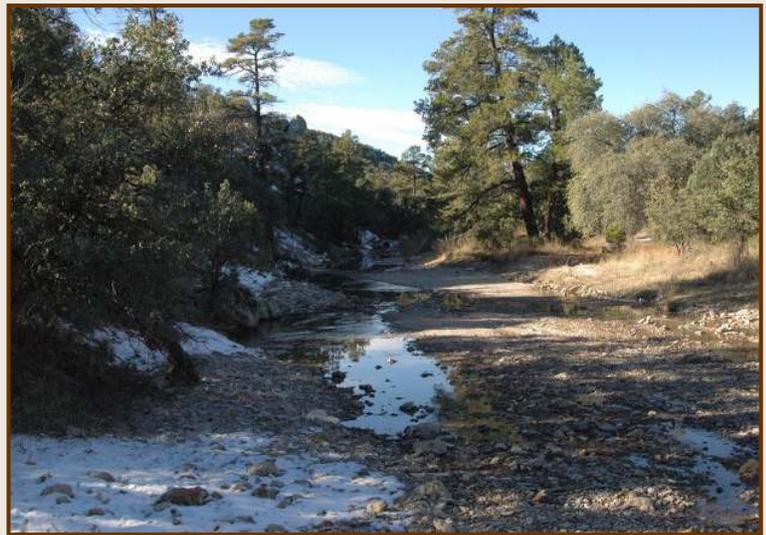


Photo by Scott Lerich

In the 1980s there were probably less than 100 Gould's wild turkeys in Arizona, and less than 40 in New Mexico. Through aggressive trap and transplant operations in Mexico and the US, today we estimate over 1,500 Gould's turkeys in Arizona with another 200 in New Mexico, where limited habitat is found. Today it is easy to hear and observe Gould's wild turkeys if you are in the right place (i.e., good quality habitat). Along with the increase in numbers has come an increase in hunting opportunities as well. In 2003, the very first Gould's turkey tag was offered in Arizona and it was the only tag offered. In

2017, Arizona will offer 70 spring hunting tags. In New Mexico there have been 2 tags offered annually since 2009.

What was likely a common sight and sound for the Apache, Gould's wild turkeys are once again roaming the canyons and woodlands of the Southwestern US.



Riparian area in the Peloncillo Mountains of New Mexico. Photo by Scott Lerich.

—Scott P. Lerich
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Notes from the Field

Pronghorns and Wild Turkeys?

An existing agreement between the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf) was put to good use last year when funding became available in Eastern New Mexico for a unique and important pronghorn project. But why would pronghorn interest the NWTf? Isn't the NWTf only interested in wild turkeys and trees? One might think so, but they would be mistaken. Here is the story of one of the most unique projects the NWTf has undertaken.



Fence modifications for pronghorn. Photo by Scott Lerich

The NWTf employs over 35 wildlife biologists across the USA and none of us went to school to learn about only wild turkeys. Like all good wildlife biologists we have wide ranging interests and knowledge. Throw into the mix an outstanding BLM wildlife Biologist in Roswell, Randy Howard, and you soon have a project exceeding 20 miles in breadth across the treeless prairie northwest of Roswell. Sheep ranching decades ago left hundreds, and likely thousands, of miles of net-wire fencing across the landscape. Our dry environment led to fence posts and wire which did not easily deteriorate. Cattle have replaced sheep on the range, yet today we are left with the aftermath of this past land use which prohibits pronghorn from crossing pasture or property boundaries, trapping this native species where they are.

Randy identified 80 locations to replace the net-wire fence with wildlife friendly barbed-wire fencing (with a smooth wire on bottom) and added the necessary funding into an existing agreement between the BLM and the NWTf. The result of this unique partnership was opening up over 169,000 acres of pasture for access and use by pronghorn. Following this project, and a transplant of pronghorn to the local area, a marked buck was photographed 20 miles from his initial release site! Without the fence modifications this never would have been possible. And not only are pronghorn using the new crossings, mule deer are also fond of using them. But still no wild turkeys have been spotted!

—Scott P. Lerich

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Notes from the Field

Partnerships play a key role in Forest Management

If you are traveling along I-40 between Grants and Gallup, NM the Zuni Mountains lay low to the south. What looks like a set of low hills is in reality the Zuni Mountains, an important landscape in west central New Mexico, reaching over 9,200 feet in elevation. Heavily logged in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the Zuni Mountains are also an important landscape to Native peoples of the region. Between the ancestral use and early day logging activities, the Zuni Mountains are basically one large archaeology site.

In 2010 the US Forest Service (USFS) and the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) entered into an agreement to collaborate on forest management in the Zuni Mountains, primarily with the intent to thin the dense stands of ponderosa pine and occasional Douglas fir found there. The Bluewater Stewardship Project was started as a 997 acre project and has since grown to over 8,000 acres. But what makes all of this happen when timber is again being harvested yet the vast majority of timber harvest infrastructure is no longer viable? Partnerships.

Today partnerships are key. No single agency or group can accomplish as much on their own as they can by working together, and federal Stewardship projects encourage partnerships. Besides the USFS and the NWTF, important partners on this project include the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, The Nature Conservancy, the Forest Guild, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Mount Taylor Mill, currently 2 logging companies, and numerous smaller, local NGO's who are interested in



Photo by Scott Lerich

the health of the Zuni Mountains landscape. Currently the Bluewater Stewardship Project supports approximately 45 full time jobs, providing over \$1 million annually into the local community's economy. These are big numbers in the small communities of Grants and Milan, NM, an economy which recently lost 500 mining and prison related jobs. While we often talk about the cost of habitat management we seldom remember the benefits of such projects to local communities. Whether management or restoration, our work can benefit local communities in many positive ways, including economically.



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Partnerships play a key role in Forest Management (continued)

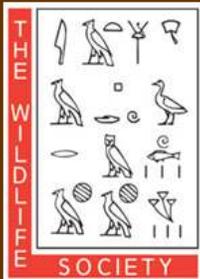
Gone are the days in the Southwest of loggers and sawmills approaching the USFS to bid on timber contracts. Today the model has been set on its head as the lumber market has crashed and is likely to not rebound anytime soon. Today land management agencies must pay for the same type of work that once provided income. In today's Southwestern forest, timber is no longer an asset, but a liability, and must be managed accordingly. In regards to forest management (think timber harvest) the product is no longer timber but healthy forests, healthy rangelands, healthy wildlife habitat and especially healthy watersheds. Mountain ranges in the Southwest are often covered in dense stands of timber which can support large scale wildfires, often catastrophic in scale and intensity. However, healthy forests, healthy watersheds, and healthy wildlife habitats are important but can no longer be financed by timber, but are important to prevent those large fires. And partnerships make it all happen.



Photo by Scott Lerich

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2016 Annual TWS Conference

Women Of Wildlife: Creating a Diverse Workforce Symposium

"The speakers were all incredibly informative covering a range of topics associated with diversity. I originally intended to stay for a talk or two and ended up staying the entire time."

—Joseph Colbert, Jekyll Island Authority, Georgia Sea Turtle Center

This year at the 23rd Annual Conference of TWS in Raleigh NC, Serra Hoagland (TWS Leadership Institute graduate, NM and AZ), Kerry Nicholson (TWS Leadership Institute graduate, AK), and Carol Chambers (AZ) organized what turned out to be a standing-room only crowd that heard why women and Native and African Americans as well as other groups remain underrepresented in the natural resources workforce and what can be done to increase diversity. In the crowded symposium, cultural, racial, sexual orientation and ethnic diversity was clearly evident, as well as men ranging in age from seasoned to early career professionals.



Kerry Nicholson, one of the organizers of this year's WOW symposium.

Eight presentations covered a wide range of workplace issues, including the influence of cultural heritage in the wildlife profession and workplace issues dividing the millennial and baby boomer generations. Two sessions allowed for audience discussion of topics covered during the presentations.



Serra Hoagland with a turkey harvested on her reservation, the Pueblo of Laguna, New Mexico.

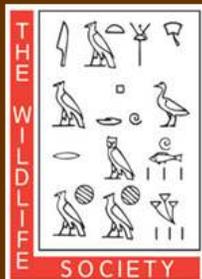
Serra Hoagland's talk provided a look at how Native Americans and Indigenous people view wildlife as an extension of their own family, a belief that is incorporated into cultural teachings and practices such as stories, songs and prayers.

"Understanding the unique perspectives of tribal communities may foster greater appreciation and broader recognition about the range of cultural and traditional values of wildlife species," said Serra Hoagland, a Native American, who was one of the symposium organizers and a biological scientist with the U.S. Forest Service.

"The presentations were extremely information and thought provoking," said Wini Kessler, TWS Past President and one of the original group of wildlifers who created WOW. "The audience was highly engaged and on the edge of their seats during the presentations."



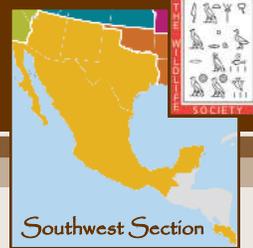
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2016 Annual TWS Conference

WOW: Creating a Diverse Workforce Symposium (continued)

During the symposium's wrap up, the discussion went straight to the divide between millennials and baby boomers in the workplace, Kessler says. "The cultural clash they are experiencing is creating a cultural divide," she said, adding that this issue seems to be more controversial than gender issues in the workplace.

The WOW reception following the talks provided a gathering place for individuals to interact and discuss the symposium topics. "Part of our goal was to create a network and build community to increase the representation of minorities and women within the wildlife profession," said Carol Chambers, a professor in the School of Forestry at Northern Arizona University and one of the symposium organizers.



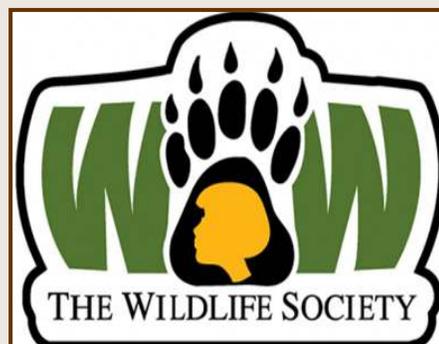
Chambers (second from left) helped organize this year's symposium with Hoagland and Nicholson.

A highlight of the gathering was the unveiling of a new WOW logo designed by Kerry Nicholson, a furbearer/carnivore biologist with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. New this year, attendees received a patch with the logo, which they can attach to a favorite piece of clothing to show their support of diversity in the workplace.

"We hope this year's symposium and reception will serve as a stepping stone to creating more involvement in WOW by TWS' Ethnic and Gender Diversity Working Group," said Chambers.

—Adapted from an article by Nancy Sasavage

Director of publications and communications for The Wildlife Society and the editor -in-chief of The Wildlife Professional



This year's WOW iron-on patch was designed by Kerry Nicholson using Raleigh conference colors.

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2017 Annual Conference

Mark Your Calendars Now for Albuquerque!

As of this writing, many southwestern wildlifera are returning home and reminiscing about the very successful Annual Conference that just took place in Raleigh, NC.

Despite concerns surrounding Hurricane Matthew and a host of other issues that threatened to depress attendance, the 23rd Annual Conference, held at the Convention Center in downtown Raleigh, entered the record books as the third best-attended Annual following two previous meetings in Portland, OR.

For those of us in the Southwest, that means there is a steep hill to climb in order to make the 2017 Annual Conference in Albuquerque equal to or better than the Raleigh conference, not just in attendance but in overall quality. Now is the time to mark your calendars to attend! As many remember, the first Annual Conference was held in Albuquerque and ended up wildly exceeding attendance expectations while helping shape what we now recognize as the Annual Conference experience.

Whether you are a student just getting to know the Society, or a weathered wildlife sage with stories from all 23 previous annual events, now is the time to start talking with fellow students, coworkers, supervisors, and spouses about traveling to Albuquerque next September!

The 2017 event looks to be the best yet, with a conference theme centered on the cultural crossroads of the Southwest, plans for hundreds of educational and networking opportunities, and exciting field trips to the first urban wildlife refuge in the Southwest and a spectacular nearby sky island.

Expect the call for proposals shortly after the New Year, with a call for abstracts to follow in the spring. It's not too early to think about a symposium or a workshop that highlights your research, management, or educational accomplishments. If you have any questions about the 2017 Annual Conference, including information on contributions, sponsorship, or exhibition opportunities, please feel free to contact Quentin Hays (quentin.hays@enmu.edu) or Virginia "Ginny" Seamster (virginia.seamster@state.nm.us). See you in Albuquerque!



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Social Media ~ Join Us!

Social Media. The Wildlife Society Southwest Section Chapters Hub has jumped in 'likes' from 593 to 623 since spring. Check us out at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Wildlife-Society-Southwest-Section-Chapters-Hub/205755042835210>.

The TWS Women of Wildlife (WOW) Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/pages/TWS-Women-of-Wildlife/234411723382592>) is now at 1535 likes, up from 1432 in spring.

Find the latest news from the TWS office at the TWS Facebook page with almost 60,000 likes (<https://www.facebook.com/thewildlifesociety/?ref=ts>).



SWS TWS AWARDS

Nominate a deserving Section member for one of these awards! Send your nomination to SW Section Board Members in time for February recognition.

Roger Bumstead Lifetime Achievement Award

Outstanding Service to The Wildlife Society throughout their career and continued involvement in conservation after 'retirement'.

Promote professional development and/or recruitment.

Show outstanding service.

Someone who embodies the spirit of the Southwest.

Outstanding Service Award

Outstanding Service to the Section above and beyond throughout their career.

All aspects affect the Southwest Section.

Promote professional development (not just their own but helping others).

Show outstanding service at a minimum at the section level (at chapter and national levels as well).

Must be a member in good standing.



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Past President: **Mark Wallace** mark.wallace@ttu.edu 806-834-6979

Secretary: **Heather Bateman** heather.l.bateman@asu.edu 480-727-1131

Treasurer: **Annaliese Scoggin** annaliesescoggin@hotmail.com 432-520-1570

Southwest Section Representative to TWS Council: Fidel Hernandez
fidel.hernandez@tamuk.edu 361-593-3926

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Audit: **Terry Blankenship** tblankenship@welderwildlife.org 361-364-2643

Conservation Review: **James Ramakka** jramakka@aol.com 505-334-6140

Diversity: **Joe Beach** joe.beach@tpwd.state.tx.us 512-538-4059

Electronic Communications: **Vacant**

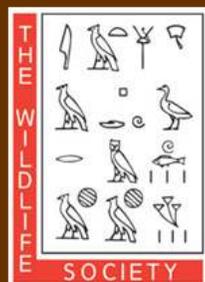
Finance Committee: **Vacant**

Geospatial Advisory Committee: **Leland Pierce** leland.pierce@state.nm.us 505-476-8094 & **Ginny Seamster** virginia.seamster@state.nm.us

Membership Committee: **Vacant**

Newsletter: **Misty Sumner** mmisssttyy@aol.com 432-283-2934 & **Carol Chambers** carol.chambers@nau.edu 928-523-0014

Women of Wildlife Committee: **Carol Chambers** carol.chambers@nau.edu 928-523-0014



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Join!



Membership Application

Membership Fee \$5.00

First Name	Middle Name	Last Name	Suffix
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Mailing Address

City	State	Zip Code	Country
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E-mail address

Work Phone

Member Type (Please circle one): Student Regular Retired

Please include this form with your payment and mail to: Annaliese Scoggin, Secretary/Treasurer, Southwest Section of TWS, Private Lands Biologist, Trans-Pecos Wildlife District, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, 4500 W. Illinois Ave. Ste 203, Midland, TX 79703

Membership benefits for the Southwest Section TWS

- SWS TWS Newsletter
- Scholarship opportunities
- Section-level meetings and conferences
- Strengthen your connections to national TWS
- Peer connections through Listserv and [Facebook](#)



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