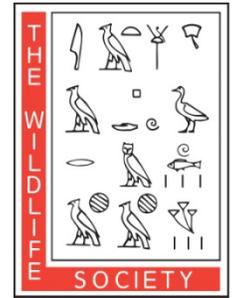


# NEVADA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY



Spring/Summer 2018

2018

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

### President

Brian Wakeling  
bwakeling@ndow.org

### President-Elect

Kevin Shoemaker  
kshoemaker@cabnr.unr.edu

### Past President

John Tull  
jctull@gmail.com

### Secretary and Treasurer

Derek Hall  
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### Rep. to the Western Section

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### Conservation Affairs Chair

Cody Schroeder  
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### Professional Develop. Chair

Mitch Gritts  
mgritts@ndow.org

### Newsletter Editor

Mandy Van Dellen  
amandawvandellen@gmail.com

## MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT BRIAN WAKELING

I was elected to serve as the President of the Nevada Chapter of The Wildlife Society during our annual meeting in February 2018. Yet many of you may not know me. Professionally, I currently serve as the Administrator of the Game Division for the Nevada Department of Wildlife, a position I have held since September 2014. Prior to that, I spent a 26-year career with the Arizona Game and Fish Department where I served as a research biologist for 12 years and in the administration of game management for 14, closing out my career there as the Chief of Game. I received a BS in wildlife management and a MS in environmental resources from Arizona State University. I am a Certified Wildlife Biologist and a Certified Public Manager. I have been married for 34 years to my wife Deanna, and we have two sons. Collectively, we spend as much time hunting each year as possible, and Deanna and I have participated in the Pony Express Re-Ride annually since we have moved to Nevada.



I find the speed with which the days pass to be quite amazing. The Nevada Chapter of The Wildlife Society installed a new slate of officers in February, and it is already July. Time flies when you're having fun, as the saying goes, but I believe busy people have a much different sense of time than do people with little to do. I wonder if hummingbirds sense time differently than do tortoises.

Another saying advises "Busy people get things done." The Executive Board is comprised of some very busy people, but let me quickly recap

some of what has been accomplished this year, and some of our plans for the year to come.

The Board has met in person and electronically to facilitate our planning efforts. We have regularly scheduled Board meetings that will continue about once monthly. To date, we have provided modest financial support to The Wildlife Society annual meeting in Cleveland and initiated an aggressive Conservation Affairs committee engagement. Conservation Affairs, under Cody Schroeder's leadership, has signed onto a letter of support for the Recovery of America's Wildlife Act. Another letter is being drafted in concern for the location of Crescent Peaks Wind Development. Cody participates in monthly meetings with the Western Section on conservation concerns.

In June, the Nevada Chapter hosted the Mule Deer Migration and Movement Corridors Workshop in Mesquite, NV which united science and policy leaders with the biologists that make management recommendations in Arizona, Utah, and Nevada. This is a workshop coordinated with the Mule Deer Working Group of the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. While not designed to generate revenue, the Nevada Chapter received a modest financial benefit.

The Board intends to offer three students or young professionals financial support to attend the annual meeting in Cleveland this year. Details of the dates for application can be found in this newsletter, along with a calendar of other events that include the annual Welcome Back Barbecue and the Nevada Chapter Symposium. We hope this calendar will help you to plan and engage with the chapter throughout the year.



On the afternoon of July 7, Deanna and I hosted what I hope will be the first in a series of Conservation Conversations. We enjoyed antelope burgers and sipped cold beverages while discussing topics we encounter in our profession that tend to not receive as much attention. We discussed the lack of diversity in our profession and the obstacles we face trying to diversify our workforce. It was a stimulating, challenging and engaging conversation without easy answers, but honest discussion is certainly a positive first step. We hope to continue this tradition with another Conservation Conversation this fall. Please join us – stand by for time and place!

I am pleased to see the energy with which the Board engages. Kevin Shoemaker, John Tull, Derek Hall, Kelley Stewart, Mandy Van Dellen, Cody Schroeder, and Mitch Gritts have already earned my respect and gratitude. They are busy people, and they are engaged. Next year's elections are just a few months away, and I would encourage you to offer your leadership should you have an interest in the Nevada Chapter. Decisions are made by those who show up.

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	<p><b>TREASURER'S REPORT</b>  <i>As of July 2018</i></p> <p><b>Chapter Membership: 70</b>  <b>Available Funds: \$5,700.00</b></p>	
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## COMMUNITY UPDATES

### **2018 NEVADA CHAPTER SCIENCE SYMPOSIUM RECAP**

Over two days in late February, 2018 scientists, managers and students gathered in Reno to participate in the Nevada Chapter’s Science Symposium. Ken Mayer of WAFWA delivered a keynote address highlighting the importance of interagency collaboration for successful wildlife conservation using his sage grouse conservation efforts as an example. Nine out of our twenty presenters were UNR undergraduate or graduate student researchers. Topics included monarch butterfly population declines, mule deer migration patterns and the consequences of 50 years of big horn sheep translocation on genetic structure. The symposium and associated social at Great Basin Brewery was well attended and resulted in a net profit of \$1,072.24.

Next year’s symposium will be held on January 29 & 30, 2019 . This earlier date will allow presenters to garner feedback from our community before the Western Section meeting on February 4-8, 2019 in Yosemite.

### **NEVADA CHAPTER MEET & GREET IN LAS VEGAS**

To support and bolster the community of wildlife professionals in southern Nevada, the Board sponsored a meet and greet in Las Vegas in the spring 2018. Four members attended the social where wildlifers discussed National Wildlife refuges in southern Nevada. Southern members hope to BBQ at Corn Creek on the Desert National Wildlife Range in October 2018.

**We are actively exploring ideas on how to engage our southern members and increase membership throughout Nevada. Please send any suggestions or ideas to the board members listed on the first page of this newsletter.**

### **WHAT WILDLIFERS ARE READING IN TWS JOURNALS: THE TOP 20 DOWNLOADED PAPERS IN 2017**

Nancy Sasavage, TWS Director of Publications and Communications

TWS’ three premier wildlife journals — The Journal of Wildlife Management, Wildlife Monographs and the Wildlife Society Bulletin — support our mission to achieve a positive impact on the sustainability of wildlife populations through the dissemination of science-based wildlife conservation and management.

With online access now included as a membership benefit, TWS members are increasingly engaging with the latest research findings in wildlife science.

In case you missed any of these, here's a list of the most downloaded papers in 2017.

1. Free-roaming cat interactions with wildlife admitted to a wildlife hospital
2. Polar bear attacks on humans: Implications of a changing climate
3. Determining kill rates of ungulate calves by brown bears using neck-mounted cameras
4. Effects of control on the dynamics of an adjacent protected wolf population in interior Alaska
5. Predicting eagle fatalities at wind facilities
6. How publishing in open access journals threatens science and what we can do about it
7. Clarifying historical range to aid recovery of the Mexican wolf
8. Bat mortality due to wind turbines in Canada
9. Online hunting forums identify achievement as prominent among multiple satisfactions
10. Inefficiency of evolutionarily relevant selection in ungulate trophy hunting
11. Investigating impacts of oil and gas development on greater sage-grouse
12. The role of domestic cats in the admission of injured wildlife at rehabilitation and rescue centers
13. Consumption of intentional food subsidies by a hunted carnivore
14. How open access is crucial to the future of science
15. Predators, predator removal, and sage-grouse: A review
16. Annual elk calf survival in a multiple carnivore system
17. Demography of an increasing caribou herd with restricted wolf control
18. Manipulations of black bear and coyote affect caribou calf survival
19. Winter diet and hunting success of Canada lynx in Colorado
20. Overpasses and underpasses: Effectiveness of crossing structures for migratory ungulates **(NV CHAPTER AUTHORS! WOOT WOOT!)**

Log into Your Membership to read these papers by going to the “Publications” tab.

We want to thank these authors for choosing to publish with TWS.

Next time you are ready to submit a paper, we hope you will choose a TWS journal as your publication outlet!

Here are few reasons why you should:

- Universal author guidelines
- Rapid, rigorous peer review
- Discounted page charges for members
- Open access option available

## **UPDATE FROM NV TWS CONSERVATION AFFAIRS**

### **Actions:**

5/24/2018: NV Chapter TWS signed letter (online) of supporting conservation groups for Recovering America's Wildlife Act. The list is maintained by the National Wildlife Federation <https://www.nwf.org/Our-Work/Wildlife-Conservation/Policy/Recovering-Americas-Wildlife-Act>

June 5-6, 2018: NV Chapter TWS is co-hosted an Ungulate Migration modelling workshop in cooperation with Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Wyoming Migration Initiative, and The Pew Charitable Trusts.

### **Conservation Issues:**

Crescent Peaks Wind development near Searchlight, NV – May have negative impacts to sensitive wildlife species including desert tortoise. Public comments due by June 13, 2018

<https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/planAndProjectSite.do?methodName=dispatchToPatternPage&currentPageId=122106>

Public lands transfer bills – Could have potential benefits and drawbacks with respect to wildlife and wildlife management activities, open space, and public access.

Washoe County Economic Development and Conservation Act (Lands Bill)

[https://www.washoecounty.us/csd/planning\\_and\\_development/conservation-act.php](https://www.washoecounty.us/csd/planning_and_development/conservation-act.php)

## **Student & Young Professional Travel Grant, Nevada Chapter of The Wildlife Society**

### **Application Guidelines**

The Nevada Chapter of The Wildlife Society will be awarding travel grants for students or early career professionals to attend The Wildlife Society's Annual Conference in Cleveland, OH, Oct 7-11. These funds are to encourage participation in the conference. Funds will be used for registration or partial reimbursement for transportation, lodging, registration, or meal expenses. Travel grants up to \$300 will be awarded to a limited number of students or early career professionals. Priority will be given to new applicants.

An individual is eligible if he or she is:

1. A member of TWS Nevada Chapter or the UNR Student Chapter TWS.
2. A current graduate or undergraduate student, or graduated within 1 year of the conference.
3. A student presenting a poster or oral presentation at the conference and the research was conducted within the state of Nevada.

Applicants should email the following to [nevada@tws-west.org](mailto:nevada@tws-west.org). The deadline for applications is **August 1, 2018**.

1. Completed application form, signed by student and advisor
2. Abstract of poster or presentation
3. Evidence that the abstract was accepted for presentation at the meeting

Travel grant award recipients will be notified of their award by **August 15, 2018**.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email and daytime phone: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

**School Information:**

College / University: \_\_\_\_\_

Degree Sought or Achieved: \_\_\_\_\_ Graduation date (or expected): \_\_\_\_\_

Advisor (name and affiliation): \_\_\_\_\_

**Employment Information (for Early Career Professionals)**

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Presentation Information:**

Presentation Type: Paper \_\_\_\_\_ Poster \_\_\_\_\_

Paper / Poster Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you the senior author? \_\_\_\_\_ Will you be presenting the poster/paper \_\_\_\_\_.

Please attach abstract that was submitted to TWS, including formatting and co-authors names and affiliations.

## RESEARCH, MONITORING, & MANAGEMENT

### TOIYABE MULE DEER

Cody Schroeder, Wildlife Staff Specialist – Game Division, Nevada Department of Wildlife

Looking out across the expansive slopes at the eastside of the Toiyabe Range, one gets the impression of prime winter habitat for mule deer. The surrounding peaks and high elevation meadows where deer spend their summers foraging and accumulating fat reserves are covered by snow that prevent mule deer from accessing during most winters. The toe slopes (pictured below) are connected to these high mountain systems by deep rocky canyons that mule deer use as transition range from summer to winter range and they provide corridors for migrating mule deer seeking refuge from harsh winter conditions. At first glance, these habitats appear to be premium country for a species adapted to browsing on shrubs in cold desert ecosystems. However, upon closer examination, a looming invader is slowly encroaching on these winter range habitats.



*Looking south from the helicopter capture base camp near South Twin River on east side of the Toiyabe Range in central Nevada. Pinyon and Juniper trees are encroaching on the sage-steppe foothills which provide forage for wintering mule deer. Photo Credit: Cody Schroeder*



*Mark Shelton helicopter pilot from Native Range Capture Services slings in two mule deer to base camp after they were captured on the nearby foothills near South Twin River on the Toiyabe Bench. Photo credit: Robert Moore*

from light, water, and nutrients, effectively out competing them for critical resources necessary for plant growth.

Pinyon-Juniper (P-J) has been a critical part of the ecosystem for many species of wildlife for the past several thousand years. These habitats provide critical foraging, nesting, and cover for a variety of wildlife species including mule deer that use P-J for thermal cover during hot summers months and cold snowy periods during winter. Although forest cover is largely beneficial to many species of wildlife, P-J encroachment has become a hotly debated issue for researchers and land managers alike. Since the early 1900's P-J has been expanding its distribution throughout the Great Basin, often in mid to lower elevation sites where abundant shrubs and grasses are typically found. The expansion of P-J and gradual closing of the forest canopy can rob understory plants such as sagebrush and bitterbrush

Mule deer require diets with high amounts of digestible energy and protein for maintenance of body fat reserves during the cold winter months. These are typically found in browse species such as sagebrush, bitterbrush, and other shrubs during winter. Recently, the Nevada Department of Wildlife partnered with researchers from the University of Nevada Reno to examine the role of P-J expansion on winter habitat use by mule deer. This project has two major aspects: the first part is a habitat treatment project coordinated and funded by the U.S. Forest

Service, specifically targeted for winter ranges used by mule deer at low elevation sites within the Toiyabe National Forest near Carvers, Nevada. The second aspect is a research project conducted by UNR Professor Dr. Kelley Stewart designed to investigate how mule deer use P-J habitats before and after habitat treatments are implemented. The research project will be led by graduate student, Jason Gundlach, who will be collecting data on mule deer habitat use, body condition, and survival of GPS collared mule deer.



*UNR graduate student Jason Gundlach (left) records data for mule deer capture. Dr. Kelley Stewart (lower middle) examines ultrasound for pregnancy testing while graduate student Nathan Jackson (lower middle), Jerrod Merrell (right), and Nikolai Kolupaev (lower right) assist in data collection. Photo credit: Robert Moore*

On April 10, 2018 NDOW biologists and veterinarians along with students and faculty from UNR began the first initial phase of this research project. The goal was to capture 20 adult female mule deer to obtain health information such as body fat levels, pregnancy status, blood screening, and to attach GPS radio collars. The research will provide insight into how land management practices such as P-J thinning affects mule deer nutrition and seasonal habitat use. As part of the collaborative research effort, the University of Nevada Reno obtained a 3 year grant from NDOW, to help fund the graduate student fieldwork and research. NDOW uses funds from the USFWS Wildlife Restoration Program (Pittman-Robertson Act) and revenue from the sale of hunting licenses and permits (tags) to help research and management programs for mule deer and other wildlife in Nevada.

The research conducted by NDOW and UNR will provide the first test of the response to habitat treatments designed specifically for mule deer winter range in Nevada. Previous research in Colorado and Utah have indicated that removing dense canopy cover of P-J can be beneficial to mule deer through increased body condition and improved recruitment rates (Bergman et al. 2014). Although some biologists have argued that cutting P-J to improve sage-grouse habitat also has benefits to mule deer, these effects have never been thoroughly tested in the cold and arid ecosystems of the Great Basin. Additionally, this research will specifically determine how mule deer use habitat treatments and whether the presumed forage benefits will increase survival of adult mule deer in these systems.



*NDOW biologist Joe Bennett (left) inserting a colored ear tag to identify mule deer in the field from helicopter. Right: UNR graduate student Jerrod Merrell takes chest girth measurements for body condition estimates. Photo credit: Robert Moore*



*Biologist's release a GPS collared mule deer following the helicopter capture and biological sampling. Pictured from top left: Joe Bennett (NDOW), Nikoli Kolupaeu (vet student), lower left Derek Hall (NV TWS Chapter Treasurer), lower right Chris Morris (NDOW). Photo credit: Robert Moore*

## UPCOMING EVENTS & MEETINGS

### **Welcome Back BBQ**

University of Nevada – Reno

September 5, 2018

### **Deadline: Student and Young Professional Travel Grants from NV TWS to Annual Conference in Cleveland**

See pages 6 & 7 of this newsletter for instructions and application.

August 1, 2018

### **Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society**

Cleveland, Ohio

October 7 – 11, 2018

### **NV TWS Science Symposium**

Reno, NV

January 29 – 30, 2019

### **Western Section Annual Meeting**

Tenaya Lodge at Yosemite, Fish Camp, CA

February 4 – 8, 2019

### **Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society**

Reno, Nevada

September 29 – October 3, 2019



*There will be opportunities to help with the national meeting in Reno in 2019. Get in touch with any board member to find out how!*

## COMMUNICATION

Visit our website: <http://wildlife.org/nevada-chapter/>

And “like” our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Nevada-Chapter-of-The-Wildlife-Society/795814143873233>

## WE WANT TO KNOW!

We are always seeking contributions to our biannual newsletter. The Fall 2018–Spring 2019 newsletter will be published sometime in late winter. Please send ideas for articles about local projects, events, volunteer opportunities and member accomplishments and milestones to the editor, Mandy Van Dellen: [amandawvandellen@gmail.com](mailto:amandawvandellen@gmail.com)

*If you'd like to become a member, please use the form below.*

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# NEVADA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

## Membership Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address\*: \_\_\_\_\_

*\* Chapter's communication is via email.*

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, and Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Dues: January 1, 2018 - December 31, 2018 = \$10.00

Please Check: \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal

Make check(s) payable to: “Nevada Chapter, TWS”

Return to: Derek Hall, Treasurer  
6816 Beach Nest Ave.  
Las Vegas, NV 89130

You may also join online at  
<http://wildlife.org/membership/join>