



WILDLIFE TRACKS

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

March, 2019



Chapter Officers

President:

Jesse McCarty

Past President:

Pat Magee

President Elect:

Nathan Galloway

Treasurer:

Nate Seward

Secretary:

Mark Fletcher

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President's Column

As we have concluded our 2019 annual meeting and voted in a few new officers and board members I reflect upon this season in our chapter's history. Many faces have graced the leadership and membership of The Colorado Chapter of The Wildlife Society (CCTWS). We have a long history of serving the wildlife biologists in Colorado through a variety of ways, such as grants and awards to support or recognize hard work, and scholarships to assist the generation of biologists, and networking opportunities where the sages can pass down their wisdom to the next cohort of potential sages. When I look upon the members that make up the CCTWS, I see passionate people of diverse interests and back grounds that know how to have some fun! I am thankful for each of you that have devoted some of your precious time to serve something greater than yourself in roles of leadership in our chapter. I am taken to a quote by Jim Furnish in his book *Toward a Natural Forest*, "The fin-est tradition of American excellence calls for us to initiate change when condi-tions warrant and then to take bold action. The world waits for leaders to step out, without apology, to create a different future; create hope again, and again, and again." I am hopeful that our chapter will remain relevant to all of us as new leaders step out and make a difference.



I do wish to caution that some changes take time whereas others require a fierce action to seize the opportunity quickly. The 26th President of the United States described a few moments in his tenure where change was necessary at our 2019 annual meeting. The audience was in awe of his presentation. I was struck by his passionate leadership and facilitation of change. So, I come to you all with a desire to understand what makes CCTWS relevant to you? Who among you sees a need for change? Do you wish to get more involved? I am here for you, so lets connect. Drop me an email at jesse.mccarty@usda.gov

Annual Meeting Photos

Photos courtesy of Max Canestorp

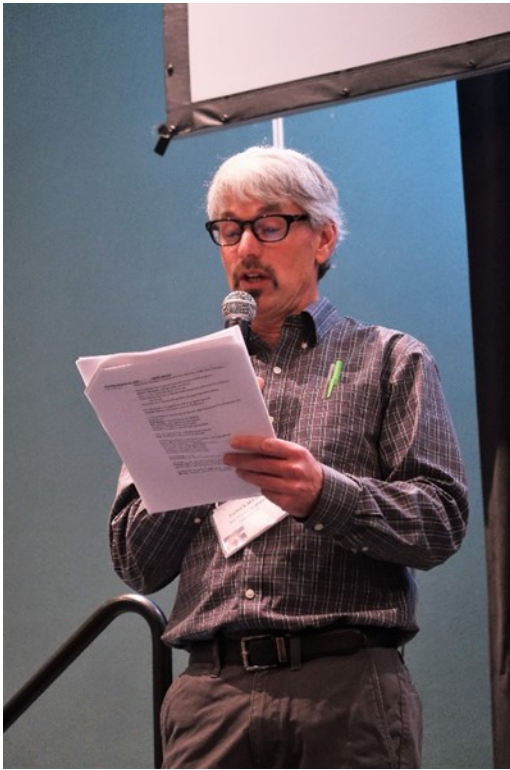


Participants listen intently during the Chico Basin Ranch field trip



A field trip to Chico Basin Ranch awaited participants for the Great Plains Symposium

Annual Meeting Photos



Patrick Magee, CCTWS President introduces the plenary speakers



Panelists Doug McKenzie-Mohr, Rick Knight, Stacy Lischka and Gavin Van Horn share their insight on how to connect well with others.

Annual Meeting Photos



Adele Reinking rises to the challenge to present in the IGNITE Session



Eric Newkirk accepts the inaugural award for Innovation or Significant Contribution presented by Michelle Cowardin. Eric developed the CPW Photo Warehouse database that is being used worldwide!

Annual Meeting Photos



Incoming CCTWS President Jesse McCarty greets the 26th President of the United States! Ol' TR was a captivating presenter!

Annual Meeting Stats

2019 CCTWS Annual Meeting Stats:

Posters: 12 (11 students)

Ignite Talks: 5

Contributed Papers: 10 (1 student)

Photo Contest: 54 entries

1st Place – Gus Forrest – Yellow-headed blackbird singing

2nd Place – Gus Forrest – Coyote stalking

3rd Place – Andrew DuBois – Hog-nosed snake (“I am Slain”)

Honorable Mention – Andrew DuBois – Leopard frog



CCTWS Treasurer's Report

2019 Annual Meeting – Pueblo, CO**Auction**

Income	\$ 3,259.27
Expenses	- \$ 937.17
Net Profit	\$ 2,322.10

Registration**Income**

Registration	\$ 29,724.84 (190 Registered)
Sponsors	\$ 2,486.55
Auction Profit	+ \$ 2,322.10
Gross Income	\$ 34,533.49

Expenses:

Facilities (Hilton)	\$ 27,075.35
Speaker Fees and Travel	\$ 6,552.30
Entertainment	\$ 2,097.00
Board Meals	\$ 623.00
Student Volunteer reimb.	\$ 795.00
Conference advertising	\$ 500.00
Office Supplies, etc.	\$ 240.60
Awards	\$ 1,117.17
Total Expenses	\$ 39,000.42

Total Net Expenditure **\$ -4,466.93**

Current Balances (3/25/2019)

Checking: \$15,736.29

Savings: \$20,007.96

Money Market (Candace Taylor/Jim Olterman Scholarship Fund): \$56,629.06

Submitted by:

Nate Seward, Treasurer

Colorado Chapter of The Wildlife Society

Small Grant Recipients

The Colorado Chapter of the Wildlife Society is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2019 Small Grant and Spring Travel Grant awards:

The recipient of the Research & Management Small Grant award is Rocky Spencer for his research project on the **Interspecific Transmission of *Protostrongylus Spp.* between Mountain Goats and Big Horn Sheep in Colorado**. Rocky is a student at Colorado State University-Pueblo and the President of the new Student Chapter of CCTWS – CSU Pueblo.

The recipient of the Education Small Grant award is Sam Liebl. Sam will be doing an education outreach project to landowners in the Gunnison area by producing a series of podcasts on various topics on cheatgrass. These topics will inform landowners on the impacts of cheatgrass on sage grouse, the landscape, and the impacts that cheatgrass can have on the economy and the culture of the people. Sam is a student at Western Colorado University. The recipients of the small grant program each received a \$1,000 award to put towards their projects.

The recipient of the Spring Travel Grant is Ashley Merkel. Ashley will use this award to assist her in attending The Wildlife Society 2019 Annual Conference in Reno, Nevada. This year's conference will be co-hosted with the American Fisheries Society. Ashley will use this opportunity to network with other wildlife professionals and students and continue to learn and gain experience in the wildlife profession. Ashley is a student at Western Colorado University. CCTWS awarded her \$500 to attend the conference.

Committees and Chairs

Committee	Chair	Chair Contact
Standing Committees		
Conservation and Land Use Review	Randy Ghormley	rghormley@fs.fed.us
Information and Education	Joel Humphries	jhumphries@blm.gov
Annual Meeting Program	CCTWS Board	
Finance and Fund Raising (Auction)	Vacant	
Audit	Vacant	
Legislative Review	Vacant	
Wildlife Management	Vacant	
Newsletter	Aran Johnson Greg Davidson	ajohnson@southernute-nsn.gov greg@finditdetectiondogs.com
Nomination/elections	Nathan Galloway	Nathan_galloway@nps.gov
Policy/Resolutions	Nathan Galloway	Nathan_galloway@nps.gov
Professional Awards	Michelle Cowardin	Michelle.cowardin@state.co.us
Student Awards	Nick Kaczor	nick_kaczor@fws.gov
Membership	Mindy Rice	rice1min@gmail.com
Ad Hoc Committees		
Certification	Rob Schorr	rschorr@lamar.colostate.edu
Historian	Dangoule Bockus	Dangoule_bockus@nps.gov
Photographer	Max Canestorp	Kmax1350@mesanetworks.net
Small Grants and Travel Grants	Vacant	
Web Page, Social Media (Marketing)	Aleshia Fremgen	Aleshia.fremgen@westernalum.org
Professional Development Programs	Vacant	
Student Affairs and Mentoring	Katie Gray	katieegray789@gmail.com
Representatives		
CSU Student Chapter	Kaley Egan Liaison: Andrew Don Carlos Advisor: Larissa Bailey	kaleyegan@gmail.com Andrew.don_carlos@colostate.edu Larissa.bailey@colostate.edu
Western Student Chapter	Erin Blair Liaison: Nathan Seward Advisor: Pat Magee!	erin.blair@western.edu Nathan.seward@state.co.us pmagee@western.edu
CSU Pueblo Chapter	Rocky Spencer Liaison: April Estep Advisor: Claire Ramos	Rlspencer2018@gmail.com April.estep@state.co.us claire.ramos@csupueblo.edu
CMPS President	Andrea Orabona	Andrea.orabona@wyo.gov
CMPS Representative to TWS	Bob Lanka	Bob.lanka@wyo.gov
CCTWS Representative to CMPS	Jesse McCarty	Jesse.mccarty@usda.gov

Are you interested in being more involved with the society?

We currently have openings for 6 committee chairs!

Please contact Jesse McCarty (jesse.mccarty@usda.gov or cell 425-315-2444) or any cur-

TWS Policy Letter



THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Leaders in Wildlife Science, Management and Conservation

DATE: 1 February 2019

TO: TWS Organization Unit leaders

FROM: Bob Lanka, John Moriarty and Caroline Murphy, TWS Policy Priorities ad hoc Committee

RE: TWS 2019-2021 Policy Priorities

TWS Conservation Affairs Committee Chairs, Chapter, Section and Working Group Leaders:

Thank you to all that provided input to The Wildlife Society's Policy Priorities ad hoc Committee. Your recommendations allowed us to develop a strong set of 2019-2021 federal policy priorities for Council. These recommendations echoed the diversity of interests and expertise in our profession, and we were excited to see this level of engagement on issues of such direct consequence to TWS members.

The final priorities approved by TWS Council on January 10 took into account your input, the legislative agenda of this U.S. Congress, and the existing strengths and opportunities of TWS policy staff. The reality of these considerations meant that Council was unable to adopt every priority suggested. These priorities will remain in effect until January 2021 or until otherwise amended by TWS Council.

The priorities listed below are not meant to be a rigid list of items that TWS staff will singularly attend to; rather, they will assist TWS staff and units who engage with TWS on these issues with prioritizing how time and resources are best allotted. TWS staff will remain committed to the Society's overarching [policy guidance](#) on behalf of the profession.

The Council-approved TWS policy priorities now in effect are:

1. Advance the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish & Wildlife Resources recommendations to fund state efforts to conserve the full array of fish and wildlife species.
2. Work to ensure the Endangered Species Act retains science as the foundation for decision making while advancing meaningful legislative and regulatory modifications that enhance its effectiveness in conserving at-risk native wildlife and ecosystems.
3. Work to pass streamlined regulatory mechanisms that will provide the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and state partners with the tools necessary to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species and wildlife disease.
4. Support robust annual appropriations for the U.S. Geological Survey's Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Units program as well as other U.S. conservation programs that promote federal, state, and private partnership in wildlife conservation and management.

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TWS Policy Letter

5. Support chapter and section efforts through continued enhancements to the Conservation Affairs Network and engagement of the Network and TWS working groups.

Our committee reviewed all recommendations to ensure each was fully considered. Our deliberations resulted in several items being placed on a TWS “Watch List,” which will further assist TWS and TWS staff in prioritizing resources. The Watch List, shown below, is not intended to be a secondary list of priorities, but rather a reminder for TWS staff and Council along with Sections, Chapters and Working Groups to keep an eye on these issues so the Society can react and engage as appropriate to further TWS’ policy positions. As noted by many of you, these are issues whose trajectories have a direct impact on the wildlife profession:

1. The development and revision of regulations impacting wildlife management on private lands resulting from the passage of the 2018 Farm Bill, along with the assurance of adequate funding for these programs.
 - The 2018 Farm Bill has been signed into law. Regulations will now need to be developed on how 2018 Farm Bill programs will be implemented. TWS will continue to monitor the implementation of these regulations and engage with partners who are well-versed in Farm Bill implementation when appropriate.
2. Work to meet and sustain appropriate wild horse and burro population levels on western rangelands through cooperative efforts with federal and state managers and the public.
 - TWS staff’s unique expertise and level of credibility on this issue with diverse partners in Congress will allow the Society to reengage with partners as legislative or administrative changes may occur.
3. Pursue the reinstatement of the previous definition of take under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.
 - Given the legal uncertainty regarding the Administration’s interpretation of “take” and the number of other national organizations engaged in this topic, TWS will monitor action from partners and the Courts in order to allow for engagement of the Society in this process when appropriate.
4. Work cooperatively with federal, state, and county managers and the public to promote the value of and access to public lands.
 - TWS actions regarding access and value-driven engagement surrounding U.S. federal public lands has largely been driven by TWS organization units to date. TWS has seen this as the appropriate path for engagement due to units more direct interactions and connections with the public lands on which they are commenting. If more active support of units and partners is deemed necessary as a result of an administrative or legislative shift, TWS will respond as necessary and able.

Additional input provided that was not adopted into the priorities list included:

1. Seek permanent reauthorization and dedicated funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund.
2. Support state-based efforts to find alternative wildlife conservation funding mechanisms for state agencies.

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TWS Policy Letter

3. Support robust, scientifically-sound Chronic Wasting Disease policy and regulation.
4. Work to increase recruitment, retention, and reactivation of outdoor users.

The Society understands that all four of these issues have a direct effect on the ability of wildlife professionals to perform their work. Extensive engagement by other partners (number 1, number 4) as well as chapters and sections being a more appropriate lead for these efforts (number 2, number 3) allow for TWS to remain plugged into any developments on these issues.

The Policy Priorities ad hoc Committee sincerely thanks sections, chapters, and working groups for their engagement in this process and for the extensive input provided. Alongside continued staff correspondence through TWS' website, routine Conservation Affairs Network correspondence, and the Conservation Affairs Network newsletter, we hope that each of your units will be provided with a clear picture of what we are aiming to achieve over the next two years.

TWS staff continues to be a resource any time your Section, Chapter or Working Group engages on an issue you believe has a direct impact on the wildlife profession. Please do not hesitate to contact Caroline Murphy from TWS staff (cmurphy@wildlife.org; 301-897-9770 x 308) with issues you would like to discuss.

Sincerely,

Bob Lanka, CWB®
Chair, Policy Priorities ad hoc Committee
TWS Council Representative, Central Mountains & Plains Section

John Moriarty, CWB®
Member, Policy Priorities ad hoc Committee
TWS Council Representative, North Central Section

Caroline Murphy, AWB®
Member, Policy Priorities ad hoc Committee
TWS Government Relations Program Coordinator

Meeting Minutes

CCTWS Meeting Minutes

To reduce the overall volume of the newsletter we will not be including minutes from our monthly board meetings. CCTWS members who would like to review board meeting minutes are encouraged to visit our website:

<http://wildlife.org/colorado/meetings/>

Land And Water Conservation Fund

The Land and Water Conservation Fund Update on Reauthorization Bill



The 1964, the Land and Water Conservation Fund was created by Congress for land, water and cultural resources protection. The fund also supports development of recreational opportunities on these lands. The bipartisan legislation created a fund from offshore oil and gas leasing to benefit conservation of natural resources. Since 1977, up to \$900 million annually is authorized to be spent on land, water and cultural resources protection and recreation. No taxpayer funds are used and the LWCF has spent dollars in every county in the U.S. In Colorado millions of dollars have been invested in national and state parks and other public lands. Nationwide, \$4 billion has been dedicated to natural resources protection.

In mid-February, the U.S. Senate passed (92-8) Senate Bill 47 to permanently reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The U.S. House of Representatives passed the bill by a vote of 363-62.

The bill includes about 100 other conservation and public lands bills including some that improve access to public lands for fishing and hunting and other outdoor recreation. The bill also reauthorizes funding for the USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife program and the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act. The act was signed into law by the President on March 1, 2019.

LWCF has invested more than \$268 million to protect Colorado's outdoor places, public access to trails, climbing spots, sportsmen access, and to build close to home parks. From national forests, to Colorado's breathtaking national parks and wildlife refuges, LWCF has protected places like Mesa Verde National Park, Canyons of the Ancients National Monument, Arapaho National Forest, Two Ponds National Wildlife Refuge, a nature education park in Denver's Montbello neighborhood, and Denver Urban Gardens.

According to our partners at Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, this is:

“A watershed moment for North American conservation in the 21st Century”

Student Chapter Update

Student Chapter Updates

We were so excited to welcome the Colorado State University Pueblo Student Chapter at the conference this January! We look forward to hearing about their future activities with their president, Rocky Spencer, and faculty advisor, Claire Ramos.

The Colorado State University Student Chapter has held many wonderful events for their students including trips to Grand County and South Dakota, radiotelemetry, camera trap, and tracking workshops, raptor monitoring, bighorn sheep counts, and educational outreach at local middle schools. At bi-weekly meetings, students heard from a variety of guest speakers including demonstrations from Find It Detection Dogs and the W.O.L.F. Sanctuary.

Students from the Western State Colorado University Student Chapter held several incredible events during their Fall 2018 semester including Boreal Owl surveys, a tracking workshop, sagebrush seeding event, trapping workshop and trivia nights. They also sent student members to the national TWS conference in Cleveland, Ohio.



Western students doing Boreal Owl surveys



CSU students participating in tracking workshop



Western students attending the 2019 CCTWS Conference



CSU work trip to South Dakota to help with Rebecca Much's research

Announcements

The poster features a background image of a city skyline with mountains in the distance. In the top left corner, there is a logo depicting a DNA double helix with a silhouette of a rhinoceros in the center. The text is arranged in a clear, hierarchical manner, with the society name at the top, followed by the meeting title and location, then the dates and a description of the meeting. A list of activities is provided at the bottom in two columns.

 SOCIETY FOR WILDLIFE FORENSIC SCIENCE

Wildlife Forensic Science Meeting
Marriott Westminster (Denver), Colorado 2019

One-Week Scientific Meeting, 10th -14th June, 2019
5th SWFS meeting on Wildlife Forensic Science

- Invited speakers
- Training workshops
- Expert discussions
- Presentations & Posters
- Networking
- Banquet & dance
- Butterfly Pavilion
- Stunning Rocky Mountains

Announcements



Announcements



**BIENNIAL
DEER & ELK**
WORKSHOP

13TH BIENNIAL DEER AND ELK WORKSHOP AGENDA

*Hotel Saint George
Marfa, TX*

May 28–31, 2019

Announcements

National Conference Announcement

37th ANNUAL NATIVE AMERICAN FISH AND WILDLIFE SOCIETY NATIONAL CONFERENCE

May 20-23, 2019
WILD HORSE PASS
Hotel & Casino
Phoenix, Arizona

Sponsored By:
SOUTHWEST REGION - NAFWS

Hosted By The:
GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY

