



The Washington Wildlifer

Newsletter of the Washington Chapter of

The Wildlife Society

Autumn 2019

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Lisa Dowling



Greetings, Washington Wildlifers! I hope you are getting out and enjoying the lovely fall colors across the state. As the seasons change, many of us find ourselves shifting our focus from the field to the office and taking time to reflect on all our great work over the past year. As always, we have much to share in this newsletter, from reporting on our Chapter operations, to progress for planning our 2020 meeting, Regional updates, and opportunities for members to engage with fellow Wildlifers in the upcoming year.

As we ruminate on all the great talks and research shared at the National conference in Reno, we consider how we can bring that information back and apply it here in Washington State. Building landscape resiliency in the face of a changing climate was a common theme throughout the multiple working groups at this year's national meeting. That topic is also a uniting focus among our partner organizations here in Washington State. Be sure to save the date for this year's Joint Annual Meeting, which will have a theme of **Responding to Change: Building Resilient Habitat, Populations, and Policies for Wildlife in the Northwest**. Our President Elect, Sara Hansen, has provided more exciting details about the meeting below. Get those presentation and poster abstracts ready, so you can share your work and engage local natural resource professionals from around the state.

Thank you to all the WA-TWS members who have volunteered to fill in vacancies on committees! The work of our Chapter is greatly dependent upon your efforts, and we are so grateful for all you do. There are still plenty of opportunities to get involved with WA-TWS, so if you are interested in getting more involved with our Chapter, please reach out. We'll help you find a way to increase your impact for wildlife in Washington State. There are many ways you can contribute to or engage with the Chapter, so you can gauge what will work best for you. Sharing your photos is a great way to tell your story to fellow Wildlifers. Send us photos of wildlife, plants, habitat, landscapes, and more via email (watws.president@gmail.com) and watch for them to be incorporated in future newsletters, social media, membership emails, or the 2020 Meeting Program. Consider running for a Board position (see Matt's piece

below) and step into a leadership position—and be sure to vote for fellow Wildlifers in our next elections at the 2020 Meeting. Finally, if you know of someone who has really made an impact on our field, please consider

nominating them for an award (See Bill's piece below) so we can recognize all the hard work that our members are doing to benefit wildlife in our state and throughout the Pacific Northwest.

I hope you all have a lovely winter, and I look forward to seeing you next spring in Spokane!

2020 JOINT MEETING

Sara Hansen

By now, you have probably seen the first Call for Papers, and you're eagerly assembling your abstracts for presentations and posters, suggestions for workshops, proposals for mini-symposia or panel discussions, and ideas for other facets of the program. We look forward to seeing you there—even if all you can bring is your smiling face!

Responding to change: Building resilient habitat, populations, and policies for wildlife in the Northwest

Joint Annual Meeting of WA-TWS, the Society for Northwestern Vertebrate Biology (SNVB) and Northwest Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (NW PARC).

April 28 to May 1, 2020

DoubleTree Hotel, Spokane City Center

Students are strongly encouraged to share posters or oral presentations.

(Red typeface is our way of saying, "We really mean it!")

On the next page are some highlights from the Call for Papers. Keep checking in at our [website](#) for updates.

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION DEADLINE is January 31, 2020, via e-mail to wildlifeabstracts2020@gmail.com

General Schedule:

Tuesday, April 28 – Workshops

Wednesday, April 29 – Registration opens, plenary session, contributed talks. Evening social and poster session.

Thursday, April 30 – Contributed talks, IGNITE, invited sessions. Evening banquet, awards, raffle, and auction.

Friday, May 1 – Student Mentoring Breakfast

Confirmed workshops, so far

- Herp Survey Techniques
- Graphic Design for Conservation Professionals
- Natural History Illustration
- Conservation Communication

Attention, artists, doodlers, and daydreamers! Pick up your pens, paintbrushes, or pencils and share your artistic talents at the meeting. We are currently accepting original artwork to grace the cover of our 2020 program.

- Submissions should be of a size that can be reproduced on a portrait-oriented 8.5 × 11-inch sheet of paper
- Please submit your artwork before January 31, 2020, to teal.waterstrat@gmail.com

If you have questions, or if you are interested in volunteering, contact any of the Steering Committee Chairs:

Jessica Brown (bright.jessica.h@gmail.com), SNVB
Sara Hansen (watws.presidentelect@gmail.com), WA-TWS
Katy Weil (Katy.Weil@oregonmetro.gov), NW PARC

STUDENT & EARLY CAREER PROFESSIONAL INCENTIVES FOR THE 2020 JOINT MEETING

Bruce Thompson

The Washington Chapter of The Wildlife Society, the Society for Northwestern Vertebrate Biology, and Northwest Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation are collaborating to provide some free student lodging and Early Career Professional registration waivers for use during the 2020 Joint Meeting.

Undergraduate and graduate students in biological and natural resources programs (wildlife, forestry, conservation biology, zoology, environmental communication, etc.) who are interested in attending the Joint Meeting are encouraged to apply. The incentive is free lodging for 3 nights (April 28, 29, and 30, 2020) at DoubleTree Hotel, the host facility for

the Joint Meeting. Students who receive this incentive will be expected to volunteer 4 hours of time before or during the Meeting to help with the program. Up to 20 students may be selected for free lodging.

Early Career Professionals are those wildlife and natural resource professionals who are in a professional position less than 5 years following completion of their most recent academic degree related to their profession. This incentive will be a waiver of the applicable registration fee for the Joint Meeting. Up to 15 early career professionals will be selected for waived registration.

These incentives are part of efforts by the partner organizations to promote student and early career professional participation in the Joint Meeting by making cost of meeting attendance more affordable.

To be considered, **complete and submit the Application Form** on the next page **by March 16, 2020**. This form is also available at our website:

<http://wildlife.org/washington-chapter/annual-meeting/>.

SEEKING MEETING SPONSORS

Katy Stuart

We are seeking sponsors to help us provide opportunities for student engagement and conservation endeavors associated with the 2020 joint meeting in Spokane. Sponsors can participate at the following levels:

- Platinum (\$2,400+)
- Gold (\$1,800 - \$2,399)
- Silver (\$1,200 - \$1,799)
- Bronze (\$500 - \$1,199)
- Supporting (\$100 - \$499)
- Raffle/Auction Item Donation

Each level entitles the sponsor to different benefits depending on the type and amount of the contribution. Supporting sponsors may choose whether their pledge should (a) help a student attend the meeting or (b) go toward the travel expenses of a plenary speaker. All sponsors are acknowledged in program materials as well as visually and verbally throughout the joint meeting. Please help by identifying prospective sponsors that may be contacted with more detailed information and the necessary forms. The deadline to arrange sponsorships is April 1, 2020, so act soon.

Please send contact info (name, address, phone/email) to Bruce Thompson (bcthompson248@gmail.com).

Application for Student Lodging Incentive/Early Career Professional Support

(for natural resources students at educational institutions in North America)

(for Early Career Professionals (ECPs) in a professional position less than 5 years since their most recent academic degree)

2020 Joint Meeting of Partners

Washington Chapter-The Wildlife Society, Society for Northwestern Vertebrate Biology,
Northwest Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation

DoubleTree by Hilton, Spokane, WA

April 28 – May 1, 2020

Applicant Information:

Name: _____ Gender: _____

Address: _____

Telephone and E-mail: _____

Educational Institution or Employer Name: _____

Academic Major **OR** Professional Position: _____

Advisor/Supervisor Name: _____

Education/Employee Level: Undergraduate Masters Doctoral ECP

Reason for Requesting Support (check/complete all that apply):

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Delivering Presentation/Poster | <input type="checkbox"/> Serving on Committee for Meeting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Serving on Partner Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Leverages Employer Support |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Financial Challenge (explain briefly) | <input type="checkbox"/> Enhance/Supplement Field of Study/Work |

Other (explain briefly) _____

How might receiving this support help you leverage other financial assistance or professional opportunities?

NOTES:

- Student recipients will be granted free lodging at DoubleTree for the nights of April 28, 29, and 30, 2020. Recipients will be responsible for their own meeting registration, meals, and incidental expenses. Student rooms will have up to 4 persons (same gender) in each room.
- Early Career Professional recipients will be provided a Registration Fee Waiver
- Any student or ECP receiving support will be required to provide up to 4 hours of volunteer help before and/or during the course of the meeting (arranged through Volunteer Coordinator).
- All Recipients are required to attend the meeting during at least April 29 and 30.

Submit completed application (electronically preferred [e.g., pdf]) to arrive **by March 16, 2020**, to Bruce Thompson, bcthompson248@gmail.com. Or mail hard copies to 10025 91st Ave NE, Arlington, WA 98223.

If you encounter problems with submission, call Bruce at 505-660-0533

IT'S SCHOLARSHIP TIME!

Katy Stuart

Applications for student scholarships are open! The Richard E. Fitzner Memorial Scholarship Fund provides up to \$2,500 toward tuition for wildlife-oriented biology students during the fall of their junior or senior year. The fund honors the late Dick Fitzner, a wildlife biologist, educator, artist, hunter, fisherman, naturalist, and past president of the Washington Chapter of the Wildlife Society. Applicants must be biology students entering their junior or senior year in the fall of 2020 at a college or university in the state of Washington. Preference will be given to students with a demonstrated need for financial aid; a history of experiences, activities, and interests in the field of wildlife biology; college course work applicable to field biology; and superior grades.

An application form and instructions can be found under the heading "Scholarships" at the Washington Chapter web site: <http://wildlife.org/washington-chapter/grants-scholarships/>. College transcripts and two letters of reference from instructors or past employers must accompany the application form. Applications for Fall Semester 2020 must be received by February 1, 2020.

Please address questions and applications to Katy Stuart (watws.pastpresident@gmail.com)

GRANTS

Tony Fuchs

News flash! The Northwest Ecological Research Institute is offering a \$1,000 grant for research into Neglected Corners and Niches of Ecology. See page 16.

Research Grants

WA-TWS provides **grant money for wildlife research projects** in Washington State each year. Funding requests cannot exceed \$2,500. Student proposals are encouraged. The Grant Committee reviews proposals and the Board makes final funding decisions.

Proposals should be 2-3 pages in length (not including *curricula vitae*) and include the following information: Introduction, Methods, Timetable, Budget, Anticipated Work Products, and a *curriculum vitae* for each proposer.

Proposals will be rated based on the following criteria:

- Importance of the question
- Adequacy of proposed methods to meet project objectives
- Likely success of achieving objectives given question, design, funding, and time period

- Species management priority (e.g. threatened, endangered and sensitive species, important game species, etc.)
- Publication potential
- Researchers' experience
- Relative importance of the TWS monetary contribution to achieving research goals.

Grant recipients will be expected to present results of their project at a future annual meeting of the Chapter and/or provide a write-up for this newsletter. Recipients are also expected to be (or become) members of the Washington Chapter at the time the funds are received. Membership information is available at <https://wildlife.org/washington-chapter/membership/>.

To Apply: Send your proposal (pdf or MS Word document) to Tony Fuchs (tony.fuchs@pse.com) by December 31, 2019. The grant recipient will be announced at the 2020 joint meeting.

Conservation Funding

WA-TWS will provide up to \$2,500 for a qualifying conservation project in Washington that advances the interests of the Chapter. The next round of funding will be for work to be completed by end of calendar year 2020.

Conditions to qualify:

- Project will be conducted primarily in Washington (may include portions of neighboring states).
- Project can be new or part of a conservation effort already underway.
- Work funded must be completed by end of calendar year 2020.
- Submission must be by a WA-TWS member or clearly indicate involvement of a WA-TWS member.
- A single project effort for the available amount is preferred, but Chapter will consider funding multiple conservation efforts at lesser amounts totaling the amount available.
- Funded activity can be on-the-ground actions or communication and outreach activities.

The project description should include the following:

- Project title
- Objective(s)
- Location and spatial extent of the project
- Description of how work will benefit wildlife populations and/or habitat conservation
- Species and/or habitats to be benefited
- Identity of any project partners

- Brief statement of how WA-TWS participation and funding will be acknowledged as part of project outreach or other awareness building
- Digital images may be included to illustrate project
- Contact name, address, phone, and e-mail for person submitting.

To Apply: Send a project description (.pdf or MS Word document, no more than 3 pages) to Tony Fuchs (tony.fuchs@pse.com) by December 15, 2019. Funding approval will be communicated by January 2020. If you have any questions, please contact Tony via e-mail or call him at 425-831-4323.

ELECTIONS

Matt Wilson

If you would like to play a larger role in WA-TWS, build leadership experience, and help promote the good science being done by our members, please consider running for one of the positions up for election this year!

- **Vice President**
- **Secretary**
- **Board Member (2 positions)**

VICE PRESIDENT – The Vice President serves 4 years overall. The first year will essentially be shadowing the President-elect to learn about building the annual meeting and looking for opportunities for the following year. The VP is also in charge of updating the website. After the first year, the VP will become President-elect for 1 year, then President the following year, and then Past President for 1 year.

Time commitment is generally minimal (~1-2 hours per month) during the summer and picks up in fall as annual conference organization begins (~1-4 hours per month). Greatest demand is in winter directly preceding the conference. The workload during this period used to be shared by 2 people, but now it is split among 4 people (VP, Pres-elect, Pres, and Past Pres).

SECRETARY – The Secretary serves 2 years and is responsible for the files and records of the Chapter, including assisting the Treasurer with maintenance of the membership rolls. Duties also include recording all meeting minutes, chapter correspondence (sending out newsletters, job announcements, and other notices and info to members), and issuing meeting minutes.

Time commitment is generally low (~1 hour per month) during most of the year, but quarterly updates of the membership rolls can take a little more time

(~2 hours per month). Greatest demand is during the period directly preceding and following the conference, as more correspondence is occurring (~2-4 hours per month).

BOARD MEMBER – Each Board Member serves a 2-year term and assists with committees and other activities as need or interest allows. Two positions need to be filled this year.

Time commitment is often minimal but depends on how involved an individual wants to be. Opportunities for involvement typically increase during the months leading up to the annual conference.

NORTHWEST SECTION REPRESENTATIVE NEWS

Grant Hilderbrand

Hi All,

I first wanted to introduce myself as your new Northwest Section Representative to Council. Most of my TWS involvement has been with the Alaska Chapter over the past couple of decades, although Pullman was my home throughout graduate school. I had a chance to recreate throughout much of Washington State during my 7 years there, so I am partial to your part of the world.

I am following Harriet Allen who served two 3-year terms as your representative. I cannot say thank you enough to Harriet. She has been so good to me and my colleagues in Alaska throughout her two terms on council and has already helped me tremendously as I transition into this new role. Thank you so much, Harriet!!!

Several other changes on Council included John McDonald completing his term as Past President with Darren Miller, Gary White, Carol Chambers, and Gordon Batcheller assuming the duties of Immediate Past President, President, President-Elect, and Vice President, respectively. In addition, Kelley Stewart succeeded Cynthia Perrine as the Western Section Representative and Pat Lederle succeeded John Moriarty as the North Central Section Representative.

A significant portion of the council meeting is dedicated to the business of managing the Society and reviewing reports from the CEO, Ed Thompson, and the rest of the TWS staff. Big picture: TWS is financially sound and membership continues to grow. Over the past year, paid and [Give Back](#) members totaled 11,330, up 588 from last year (5.4%). The Council was also briefed on the TWS FY21 budget and 2020 operational plans that will be reviewed, revised, and approved at the Spring 2020 council meeting. Of note, all council meetings are open to members and provide a single venue

to talk to individual council members and address the entire Council.

The Council also received briefings from the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society, National Association of University Fisheries and Wildlife Programs, and the Association of Fish and Wildlife. In addition, this meeting was held jointly with the American Fisheries Society. These are all important conservation partners and identifying areas of continued or expanded communication and coordination can be highly valuable.

Several recurring themes emerged during both the council meeting, informal discussions, and the conference as a whole. One theme was the impressive number and quality of students, young professionals, and future leaders (e.g., Leadership Institute graduates) in attendance at the conference. These are hugely important groups to support and empower as we chart the path forward. A second theme was the importance of embracing all the diversity present in our membership to ensure that, as a profession, we welcome and support all those who can contribute to the mission of TWS. A third theme was a desire to see TWS more fully engage in [policy issues](#), and this is something I expect both Council and staff will be prioritizing going forward.

Among the highlights of the Annual Conference are the awards that allow us to recognize and honor our peers. I wanted to specifically mention W. Alan Wentz, who won the Aldo Leopold Memorial Award, David Haukos, who won the Caesar Kleberg Award, and the following new TWS Fellows: Andrea Orobona, Art Rogers, Carol Bocetti, Colleen Oftenbittel, Courtney Conway, John Carroll, John Loegering, Kelley Steward, Ken McKenzie, Jr., and Lisa Muller. This is only a partial list of the individuals who were honored by TWS this year. Congratulations to all the winners!!! Also, please note that the deadline for nominations for 2020 TWS Fellows and the Group Achievement Award are due February 1, 2020, so consider nominating some deserving individuals and teams. <https://wildlife.org/engage/awards/>

I am excited to re-connect with those of you I have met previously and to meet many of you whom I don't yet know. Council members view themselves as resources for members, so please don't hesitate to reach out, introduce yourself, and let me know your ideas or concerns. I look forward for our road ahead.

Best regards and have a great fall!

Grant Hilderbrand

Northwest Section Representative to Council

AWARD NOMINATIONS

Bill Vogel

Lots of great people are doing lots of great work, and their efforts deserve to be recognized. Do you know someone who makes a substantial contribution to conservation, does more than they need to, uses foresight and anticipation to address problems early, shows their dedication, makes valuable contributions, creates effective partnerships, or any number of other valuable contributions to our field? Well, tell us about them!

We are always on the lookout for people and organizations whose achievements merit recognition for any of the following WA-TWS chapter awards:

- Conservation
- Stewardship
- Partnership
- Outreach
- Foresight
- Support to the Chapter
- Special Achievement
- Leadership in Conservation

Check out the descriptions of the award categories at <http://wildlife.org/washington-chapter/awards/>, think about the people you know, and tell us about your nominees. All it takes is a brief message to Bill Vogel, our awards committee chairperson. If you have **ANY** questions or want to discuss ideas, please call Bill at 360-753-4367 or write him an e-mail (william_o_vogel@yahoo.com).

REGIONAL REPORTS

What have our colleagues been up to lately? These reports help keep us informed of the various wildlife and habitat management, habitat restoration, and research projects occurring throughout Washington. Your work is important! If you do not see it represented here, please consider contributing to the next newsletter by contacting your regional representative. Contact information is on the back page of this newsletter.

Northeast Region – Annemarie Prince, WDFW

The Stories Behind the Bird Drawings

Heather A. Wallis Murphy

Scientists who are also artists tuck away unusual and intriguing stories relating to our bird sightings. Putting pen to paper, showing feathers and flight, is a rewarding task. It has been an honor to be the artist-wildlife biologist providing the new bird drawings introduced in the

November 2018 *Wild Phlox* newsletter of the North Central Washington Audubon Society. Our local chapter selected five representative bird species of the east slopes of the Cascades. This ranges from alpine to forests; from lakes to rivers; and east into shrub-steppe. I went to work studying these five birds by reviewing my past field journal entries. Since I draw from life, I then went birding! I was able to capture fresh drawings for the Audubon chapter. All illustrations are adult male birds in breeding plumage, within their habitat. The final part of this project was to “ground-truth” the drawings by comparing them against *The Birds of North America* research and resources.

Peregrine Falcon

I first drew this Peregrine Falcon on July 14, 2008 at Mountain Home Ridge, southeast of Leavenworth. I was conducting wildlife habitat surveys for the Trust for Public Lands and Chelan-Douglas Land Trust I watched three falcons fly in from the west as they hunted small birds and fed. They perched on 14-year-old burned snags from the 1994 forest fire. The peregrines snatched Violet-green Swallows out of the air, reducing my swallow count for that survey period. Using blind contour pencil drawings and quick ink sketches, I drew these falcons into my field journal. Eventually the Chelan-Douglas Land Trust acquired this land, which is now a wonderful outdoor classroom for the public. Another time, when our family was at Tall Timber Ranch, north of Lake Wenatchee, a Peregrine Falcon flew over the field. My brother-in-law took an excellent photograph, which I used to see further details of this species. In May 2018, using my spotting scope, I spied a Peregrine Falcon eyrie in Scotland. I was able to draw the falcon’s head and malar stripe more cleanly. This drawing for the Audubon Society is a compilation of all these observations and sketches. The background mountain habitat is Snow Creek Wall in the Icicle Valley.



Barrow’s Goldeneye

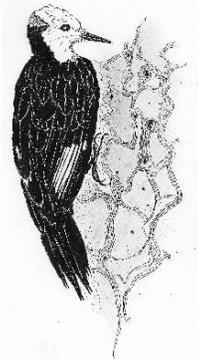
I have studied and painted Barrow’s Goldeneyes many times while birding in Stehekin at the head of Lake Chelan. I started this drawing in May 2018 on the White River during our Upper Basin Birders’ monthly survey. A pair of Goldeneyes were showing courtship display in an oxbow pond off an elbow of the river. The waters were high and ambient temperatures were warm. The Barrow’s Goldeneyes spent up to 70 seconds underwater,



feeding on macroinvertebrates. Viewing through my spotting scope, I sketched the male Barrow’s Goldeneyes into my pocket-sized Birders’ Journal. I then took a photograph with my new *Canon Powershot SX60 HS*, which does a fine job capturing details of birds on the wing. Drawing through the scope, I was able to see the yellow-orange of the legs and feet, which is a great field mark. I finished this drawing in my studio using journal sketches, paintings and photos. My field journal notes read: “May 3, 2018, 4:20-4:35 pm, 74F degrees, high water at White River Oxbow pond. Displaying BAGO pair. Other species: MALLARD pair, AMRO 2, RUHU, SOS, YRWA 2, WISN.”

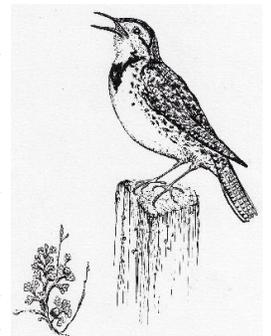
White-headed Woodpecker

A White-headed Woodpecker nests in our neighborhood habitat of open Ponderosa Pine forests. I am often sketching these beautiful birds. The bark study on this drawing is from my home tree. This white-headed drawing is a conglomeration of sketches and paintings from Sleeping Lady Mountain Resort and my home in the Icicle Valley. The field notes for this drawing are: “May 19, 2018 on Bird Fest Saturday at 4:30-5:00 pm. Walking between Sleeping Lady and Snowy Owl Theater. Saw WHWO male in large ponderosa pine, then it flew to a large snag. Also, TUVU, VGSW (6), AMCR (2) and SAPH.”



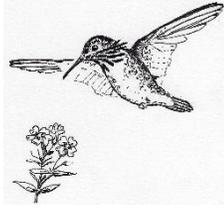
Western Meadowlark

Western Meadowlarks are wonderfully melodious, commonly seen or heard singing in the shrub-steppe habitats during spring. This drawing began as a “binocular drawing.” I was in the Methow Valley on May 26, 2012, and sketched this Meadowlark male. I sat on the ground, perched my binos on my left knee and my sketchbook on my right knee, and did several quick sketches and one colored drawing. My field journal notes read: “Western Meadowlark singing male; Binocular drawing; three WEME in old orchard and fences. 17 species of birds. Habitat of Big Sagebrush and Bitterbrush, Arrowleaf Balsamroot and Lupine. Rendezvous Road, Winthrop. Slight breeze, 75 degrees, 10:30 am to 1:00 pm on 5/26/12.” I finished this drawing in my studio using bird observation sketches and photographs of meadowlarks seen on a recent birding trip at Moses Coulee Preserve on April 4, 2018.



Calliope Hummingbird

Each spring we are reminded of the flying jewels that return to wildflowers, shrubs and home feeders – the hummingbirds. During the breeding season, the Calliope Hummingbird is reliably seen within the east slopes of the Cascades and the neighboring foothills. According to our home records, kept since 1987, the Calliope arrives from their overwintering range in Mexico around April 20 each year. They begin to depart for fall migration in early August. I drew this male Calliope Hummingbird without optical assistance, watching and sketching while various hummingbirds fed at our feeders and surrounding wildflowers on May 5, 2018. They would come and go so quickly that my pages of drawings had many starts and stops. I would begin one angle, and the bird would move away, then return. I kept jumping from drawing to drawing, like the birds as they fed. Finally, I was able to complete such important things as the gorget, the beak length, the wings to tail length. This Calliope Hummingbird was inked in on Global Big Birding Day 2018, a 30-species day.



Showy Phlox and Long-leaf Phlox



Showy Phlox
Phlox speciosa

The final drawings for the Audubon Society are of two different wild Phlox species. Botanist-Ecologist Susan Ballinger loaned me her pressed herbarium specimens of these Phlox. She had collected each plant in the spring of 2012 on the Jacobson Preserve in the Wenatchee Foothills. I completed pen and ink drawings of these blushing native flowers in May 2018. Both species are found east of the Cascades. Native, wild Phlox are the snow-like springtime pastels sprinkled across hillsides from alpine to desert. This genus makes an apt title choice for our local Audubon chapter's newsletter, *Wild Phlox*.



Long-leaf Phlox
Phlox longifolia

Chronic Wasting Disease Update

Melia Devivo, Kristin Mansfield, and Sara Hansen, WDFW

WDFW is in the process of developing a Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Management Plan that will guide the Department's response to the fatal disease should it be detected in the state. CWD affects cervids (e.g., deer, elk, moose, and caribou) and is caused by mutated prion proteins that are transmitted directly through feces, saliva, urine, and other bodily fluids, and indirectly through contact with contaminated environments.

To date, CWD has been detected in wild or captive cervids in 25 states, 3 Canadian provinces, Norway, and South Korea. WDFW began targeted testing in 1995 and conducted intensive, federally funded surveillance from 2001 through 2011. WDFW has since focused on testing for animals showing clinical signs consistent with CWD (e.g., emaciation, ataxia, drooling, and rough hair coat). Of the thousands of samples collected and tested in Washington since 1995, none have been positive for the disease.

Development of a CWD Management Plan for Washington State is well underway and the plan is expected to be complete in 2020. The closest positive detection of CWD to Washington's borders is currently Libby, Montana. CWD has not been detected in Idaho, Oregon, or British Columbia at this time.

Currently, there is no cure for CWD, and there are no methods available to eliminate the disease from landscapes once they are contaminated with CWD prions. The best defense is to prevent anthropogenic introduction of CWD to Washington State in the first place. To that end, WDFW established regulations to minimize the risk of introducing the disease in 1993 through elimination of captive cervid breeding and importation of live deer, elk, and other native cervid species. Regulations are also in place that restrict transport of hunter-harvested cervid carcasses from CWD-positive states and provinces and are updated as new detections are confirmed. For more information, visit <https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/diseases/chronic-wasting>

Colville National Forest Grizzly Bear Update

Mike Borysenicz, USFS

The northeast corner of the Colville National Forest overlaps a portion of the Selkirk Mountains Grizzly Bear Recovery Zone. In 2019 we completed the following projects related to grizzly bear recovery objectives:

- Installed 20 food storage lockers in developed campgrounds and well-used dispersed campsites within or adjacent to the recovery zone
- Updated our Forest's 30-year-old special order for proper food storage
- Monitored about 70 gates in the recovery zone and initiated any needed repairs
- Completed more than 25 visitor contact patrols within the recovery zone, focusing on the summer holiday weekends and the opening and closing weekends of the big game hunting seasons

- Monitored 12 hair snag corrals and 15 rub posts for grizzly bear presence. We documented an adult grizzly bear with a remote camera at one corral. This is part of an ecosystem-wide population assessment and demographic research effort led by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- Secured a \$25,000 regional cost-share grant for the research mentioned above
- Received a \$1,900 grant from the Information & Education Subcommittee of the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee to purchase signage, including a new sign we developed for trail users
- Completed presentations on grizzly bear ID, ecology, and safety to a fifth-grade class, campground hosts and managers, campers, volunteers, and Forest employees.



Grizzly bear detected at hair corral in the Selkirks



Ken installing a food locker

Olympic Region—Karen Holtrop, USFS

(Big thanks to Karen for covering during Betsy Howell's absence!)

Olympic Mountain Goat Project Update

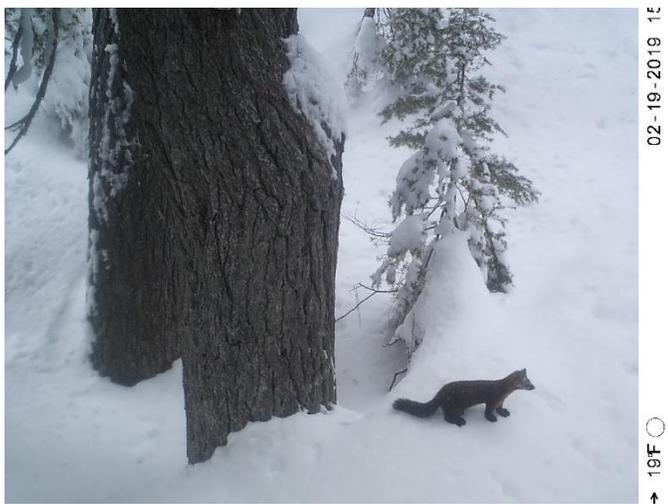
The Olympic National Park, WDFW, and Olympic National Forest continued to implement the Mountain Goat Translocation project in the summer of 2019. Efforts resulted in 211 mountain goats removed from the Olympic Mountains, of which 177 were moved to the northern Cascade Mountains. Of the 34 animals that did not get moved, 10 were kids that went to zoos, 12 succumbed to capture mortality, 8 were deemed uncatchable due to behavior and terrain, 3 were euthanized because illness or very poor condition rendered them unsuitable for transport, and 1 died during transport. Thirty-one goats were captured from National Forest System lands; the rest (more than 90 percent) were in the National Park. As analyzed in the EIS, some lethal removal began this year, in remote areas of the Park. Altogether, 275 total goats were translocated in 2018 and 2019. One more translocation operation period is planned for summer 2020.



Biologists loading crates containing mountain goats onto a truck to translocate them from the Olympic peninsula to the North Cascades, August 2019.

Pacific Marten Surveys

Pacific Marten surveys on the Olympic Peninsula continued in the 2019 field season. This project is a partnership between Olympic NP, Olympic NF, USGS, the USFS Pacific Northwest Research Lab, Woodland Park Zoo, and the National Council for Air and Stream Improvement. Martens were detected at all four sites sampled in the Park (upper Hoh, High Divide, Dodger Point, and Anderson Pass). All were at high elevation, and most detections were over the winter. Also, a fisher was detected at one of the sites in the Park and at a site on National Forest land.



Marten at a camera station in the Elwha watershed. The camera stations were put out in August 2018 and retrieved in August 2019.

Taylor's Checkerspot Habitat Restoration

The Olympic National Forest received funding from USFWS to accomplish Taylor's checkerspot habitat restoration in 2019 through 2021. A crew from the Washington Conservation Corps cleared slash and spread seed of native host and nectar plants this fall.



The Washington Conservation Corps crew, holding bags of genetically local native plant seed for butterfly habitat enhancement, ready to go to work on the Olympic National Forest, October 2019.

Other 2019 Projects on the Olympic National Forest

- Accomplished elk habitat improvement with the help of volunteers from Eyes in the Woods (via WDFW grant funding) and a Washington Conservation Corps crew (funded by the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation).
- Conducted terrestrial mollusk surveys in proposed commercial thinning areas. Awarded a contract to conduct mollusk surveys on 2,300 acres.
- Completed surveys for sensitive bog beetles, butterflies, and bumblebees, in partnership with WDFW and Western Washington University. A WWU student intern helped do the surveys. Highlights included detecting Beller's ground beetles (*Agonum belleri*) for the second year; a population of mariposa copper (*Lycaena mariposa*), and the second recent western bumblebee (*Bombus occidentalis*) site on the Forest.



Audrey Mechtenberg, Olympic NF-WWU student intern, with a western bumblebee, August 22, 2019. She and Karen Holthrop found a new location for this species.

PUGET SOUND REGION – Steve Hall, Point Environmental Consulting Network

PSE Enhancing Elk Forage for the North Cascades Elk Herd

Tony Fuchs, PSE

As part of their license agreement with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for the Baker River Hydropower Project, Puget Sound Energy (PSE) is purchasing land for wildlife habitat management. Several properties have been purchased (around 800 acres so far) and are being managed for elk forage, wetland habitat for amphibians, and forest and legacy wood habitat for a variety of species, particularly neotropical migratory songbirds. PSE has been working with federal, state and tribal biologists, as well as NGOs such as the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, to develop elk forage enhancement projects, including this project at Burpee Hill and others at PSE's Alder Creek property.



Mowing elk forage meadow at PSE's Burpee Hill wildlife property. Photo: PSE

In addition, PSE is creating openings in heavily forested areas and creating a mosaic of foraging areas, such as open-canopy forest and "mowable meadows." PSE has treated more than 100 acres so far, including 14 created meadow areas that were seeded with a grass forage mix and are being fertilized and mowed annually. More are being developed this year.

Additional wildlife enhancement work at the Baker River project includes installation and monitoring of osprey nesting structures, creation of snags and logs for wildlife, noxious weed control, rare plant protection, and riparian habitat protection and enhancement.

For more information about our wildlife program at the Baker River project contact Tony Fuchs at tony.fuchs@pse.com or 425-831-43233.



Elk enjoying forage meadow. Photo: PSE

White Nose Syndrome (WNS) Update

Our Puget Sound region remains on the front lines of WNS. Since first being documented in New York in 2006, WNS has spread rapidly throughout Eastern US, killing millions of bats. In 2016, the detection of an infected bat near North Bend was the first confirmed case of the disease on the West Coast. WNS has been confirmed in Washington State every year since.

The outbreak has generated a surge in interest in bats throughout our region, and many wildlife biologists and graduate students were out and about this summer conducting bat inventories, disease testing, and other studies. This year, 6 additional WNS cases we confirmed in King County. Perhaps more notably, the first cases in Pierce and Kittitas Counties were confirmed. Most of the infected bats have been little brown bats or Yuma myotis (difficult to distinguish visually). One was a western long-eared myotis, the first confirmed infection for that species in North America.



Little brown bat with skin infection on wing.
Progressive Animal Welfare Society (PAWS)

For the latest information about WNS in Washington, see <https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/diseases/bat-white-nose#>.

Bats Northwest, a private non-profit organization, has been working with WDFW and is a leader in bat education. Check out their website for more information <http://www.batsnorthwest.org/> (includes a lot of good bat links!)

Puget Sound Region Has a Wolf Pack!



The Diobsud Pack male. Photo: WDFW

The Puget Sound region now has its first official wolf pack in nearly a century! Documented in April, our lone male wolf (attentive readers may recall seeing a photo of him in our Spring 2018 newsletter) has been joined by a female, and the two have been officially recognized as the Diobsud Creek Pack. Their territory is located east of Baker Lake and includes the Upper Skagit River. The next chapter should prove interesting, as this pair turns into a pack hunting across a relatively heavily populated area with lots of elk and farm animals.

Here's a link to a good summary story about the new pack:

<https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/a-wolf-pack-moves-into-western-washington-for-the-first-time-in-decades/>

More Humpbacks, More Risks

This summer had the highest numbers of humpback whales ever reported in the Salish Sea. But it also had the first reported collision between a Washington State ferry and a humpback whale. The collision occurred right at the Seattle Waterfront—which is a remarkable wildlife incident for such a densely populated area. Passengers told the *Seattle Times* that they “watched in horror” as they observed a bleeding and obviously injured whale after the collision. The whale is believed to have sunk and died.

With more whales entering the busy Puget Sound waterway, and with ever-increasing vessel traffic, additional collisions

are probably inevitable. Whale detection and avoidance is becoming a major area of research in the Salish Sea. New technologies, such as [vessel-based thermal imaging detectors](#), are sure to be implemented on Puget Sound waters over the coming years. The Port of Vancouver, BC, is currently [studying voluntary ship slowdowns](#) in an attempt to reduce underwater noise exposure to Southern Resident killer whales. Reduced vessel speed is also known to be effective in reducing collision risks. However, with our multi-billion-dollar marine highway system and diverse and powerful economic interests involved, we'll probably see efforts focus on tech and research for now. But interests in vessel speed limits may gain steam if more collisions occur.



Photo showing a humpback whale about to be struck by a Washington State Ferry on May 28th. Photo Matthew McDonald / Special to The Seattle Times

Story on humpbacks

<https://crosscut.com/2019/08/salish-seas-humpback-comeback-good-sign-concerns-remain>

Mountain Goats!

Now that you've read [Karen's update from the Olympic Peninsula](#), here's the view from Puget Sound:

The second year of Olympic Mountain Goat Relocation Project is complete. Since the operation began, 275 mountain goats have been relocated from the Olympics to the Puget Sound region. More than 41 volunteers and staff from WDFW, USFS, ONP, and local tribes participated in this year's effort. WDFW expects one more capture event next summer. The remaining goats on the Olympic Peninsula will be lethally removed. The Olympic population was estimated to be approximately 750 just prior to the relocation phase of the project. The relocated

individuals are being used to reestablish populations in the westslope Cascades.



Preparing a goat for transport. Photo: WDFW

In other goat news, WDFW staff relocated a young mountain goat (from our local Cascades population) that had taken up residency in a suburban area in North Bend. The goat took refuge in stairways – the closest thing it could find to habitat. WDFW staff captured and released him near where Olympic goats had been recently translocated.



A dispersing male found some human cliff habitat near North Bend. Photo: WDFW

Puget Sound Restoration Continues

Ecosystem-level restoration continues throughout Puget Sound, as multiple entities work to restore what was once some of the most productive wildlife habitat in our region. Restoration of the Puget Sound has been considered one of the largest ecosystem restoration projects in North America, similar in scope and scale to the restoration of the Everglades. The [Puget Sound Nearshore Project's Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program \(ESRP\) list for 2019](#) includes 49 projects with more than \$28 million requested

in funding and more than \$600 million in total project costs. That's a LOT of restoration!

One of the most recently completed restoration projects is the Leque Island dike removal in Skagit County. That project removed the dike that had kept the gap between Stanwood and Camano Island above ground for the past 135 years. The breach will allow water to inundate approximately 250 acres, creating highly productive tidal marsh habitat in the Stillaguamish River watershed where 85 percent of historic tidal marsh has been lost. The breach also returns Camano Island to its status as a true island once again!



Leque Island Restoration Project (Photo: Puget Sound Innovation Stories)

More about the Leque Island Project

[Article at the Stanwood-Camano News website](#)

[Story from Puget Sound Innovation Stories blog](#)

Southern Residents Remain in the Spotlight

Southern Resident killer whales remain the star of Puget Sound area wildlife news. This summer's reporting included an unusual absence of the endangered population from its summer range in the San Juan Islands. Then, early this fall, recent deaths were documented that brought the population down to only 73, which is only two higher than the lowest recorded number that occurred in 1976. Most scientists studying the population believe the decline is directly linked to declining salmon populations. This, in turn, has generated an ongoing debate of epic proportions, with many environmental groups actively calling for removal of dams on Snake and Columbia rivers to increase salmon populations. The economic considerations rival (and perhaps surpass) those seen with the northern spotted owl. In August 2019, the Governor's office hired a consultant team to engage stakeholders in further analysis of the economic, social, and environmental impacts of retaining, breaching or removing the lower Snake River dams.

Recent info on Southern Residents

<https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/environment/three-southern-resident-orcas-missing-presumed-dead/>

Governor’s Orca Whale Recovery Website

<https://www.governor.wa.gov/issues/issues/energy-environment/southern-resident-orca-recovery>

WDFW Biologists Works to Restore Taylor’s Checkerspot Population



WDFW Biologist Mary Linders
Photo: Daniel Warn/Nisqually Valley News

WDFW Biologist Mary Linders and others are continuing Taylor’s Checkerspot butterfly restoration in the South Sound prairies area. In the last decade, WDFW has tripled the amount of Taylor’s checkerspot butterflies in this area. This year, nearly 10,000 larvae and 300 adults were released in prairie habitat on Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM). Biologist Linders is working with USFWS and JBLM to process new contracts that will fund the Taylor’s Checkerspot Captive Rearing and Translocation Project through the 2019-2020 field season.

Ms. Linders is also working with The Evergreen State College and the Washington State Department of Corrections to involve inmates in the butterfly breeding program. The program includes two purpose-built greenhouses, managed by a director (an Evergreen graduate

student) in coordination with the Oregon Zoo and WDFW. The coordinator teaches and supports five to six incarcerated technicians. Mission Creek Corrections Center hosts the program and prison leadership and staff give invaluable support and provide day to day program supervision.

This is a great story of transformation, restoration, and resilience for both butterflies and people!



Photo: Daniel Warn/Nisqually Valley News

Sustainability in Prisons Project

<http://sustainabilityinprisons.org/spp-programs-in-wa/conservation/taylor-checkerspot-butterfly-program-2/>

Checkerspot project in the News:

http://www.yelmonline.com/news/article_7685d276-71e5-11e9-8d36-d711beceb133.html

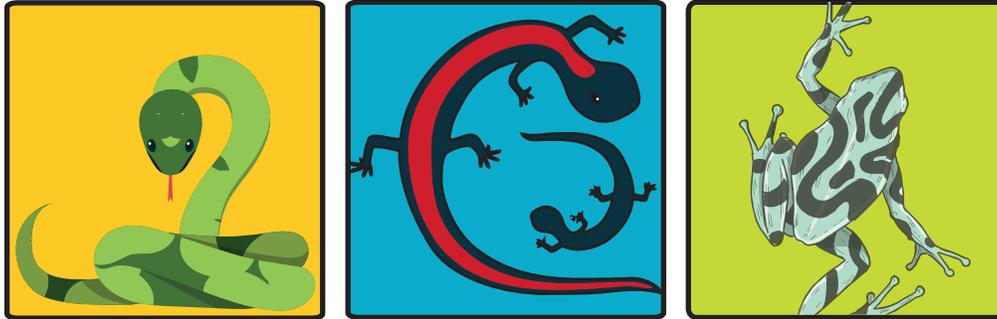
	<p>POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT</p>	<p>Application Period Ends: January 3, 2020</p>	
	<p>The Wildlife Society is accepting applications and nominations for the Wildlife Society Bulletin’s next Editor-in-Chief. <i>Click here to learn more!</i></p>	<p>4 ISSUES YEAR</p> <p>60k FULL-TEXT DOWNLOADS IN 2018</p>	



PARC Increasing Participation Award

Travel Award for Northwest PARC

Meeting is April 28th-May 1st, 2020 at the DoubleTree in Spokane, Washington



The Award: Up to \$500 available to support qualified applicants to attend a regional meeting about amphibian and reptile conservation. This includes mentorship and at-meeting support.

Eligibility: Anyone interested in amphibians and reptiles of the Northwest AND who identifies as a member of a traditionally underrepresented group in conservation. At this time, we can only accept applications for United States citizens.

Application: Due December 6, 2019. Fill out the application at <https://tinyurl.com/PIPA2020>

For questions please contact Neha Savant: diversity@parcplace.org

This opportunity is provided by the PARC Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Team. Twitter: @herpetALLogy



**The Northwest Ecological Research Institute's (NERI's) 2020 McGowan Grant Application
For Neglected Corners and Niches of Ecology**

NERI (<http://www.nweri.org/>) is offering a \$1,000 grant to an individual or team in honor and memory of Brenda McGowan, a NERI supporter and co-founder of the Hubert Prescott Bluebird Recovery Project in 1987 (www.prescottbluebird.com).

Purpose: To enable an individual or team to conduct research in support of NERI's mission statement:

The purpose of NERI is to further knowledge of Pacific Northwest natural history through research, training, and dissemination of information.

The target recipient is looking into out-of-the-main-stream research, into the neglected corners and niches of ecology.

Application Requirements: 1 page maximum (excluding references) stating the following:

1. Project Name and Keyword(s) (maximum of 5)
2. Applicant's Name and contact information (including mailing address)
3. Affiliation and position
4. Summary of Project Purpose / Methods / Scientific Rationale (references to existing literature are encouraged – not included in 1 page maximum)
5. Budgeted days or hours for project by personnel and any expenses for reimbursement – in other words, how long will the project take and how much is the project estimated to cost? (see budget example below)

Project Information	Budgeted Hours	Labor Costs	Expenses
McGowan Grant Request			
Overall Project Cost			
Total			

6. Project reference contact information (name, position/relationship, phone number, email). The reference should be someone who knows about the project or would be helping to advise or discuss the results of the project.

Ranking Criteria:

- Is this an underserved, niche research project?
- Will the project answer an important question that will result in new knowledge?
- Will this information be of use to other researchers, biologists, educators, natural resource agencies, and/or the conservation community?
- Is NERI the best (or only) funding group for this project? Are other sources of funding being sought?

Application Deadlines:

Announcement: November, 2019; Submittal by December 21, 2019; Award by February 2, 2020.

Grant Requirement:

Upon receipt of award, grantee agrees to sign NERI's Grant Recipient Agreement, and

Grantee agrees to either:

- Provide a brief report [length unspecified] to NERI;
- Present the work and results at a NERI meeting; or
- Submit a paper for presentation at a scientific meeting or publication in a scientific or environmental newsletter or journal.

Deadline: January 31, 2021; extension available upon request.

Submit application (in .PDF or .DOC form) and any questions to: info@nweri.org and cmw.NERI@gmail.com. Previous applicants are encouraged to re-apply.

NERI is a 501(c)3 organization and NERI volunteer members (associates and officers) are available to assist with grant writing and other support.

The Wildlife Society—Washington Chapter

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Vacant
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Now is the time to start thinking of stories and photos to share for the Spring 2020 newsletter. Contact your Regional Rep!

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