



CMPS Newsletter

Excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education

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CMPS website:
<http://wildlife.org/cmp>

Section Business

CMPS Executive Board Elections Results

The new CMPS Executive Board has been elected. Thank you for your participation in the election process! Our new President-Elect is Shelly Deisch, a wildlife biologist for the Wildlife Division of South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (SDGFP) in Rapid City. Our new Board Members At-large are Julia Nawrocki and Andy Little. Please see the biographies in the Summer 2019 newsletter for more information about your new CMPS representation.

Alces—Albert W. Franzmann and Distinguished Colleagues Memorial Award

The Albert W. Franzmann and Distinguished Colleagues Memorial Award is a competitive annual award for graduate students working on the biology and management of moose within their circumpolar distribution or other ungulates or mammalian carnivores overlapping moose range. Deadline is March 15, 2020. For details, see the Alces website at <https://alcesjournal.org/index.php/alces/index/pages/view/awards>. Applicants, recipients of this award or not, are encouraged to apply for the Alces "Newcomer's Travel Award" that will assist their attendance at the Alces annual conference (see "Travel Awards" at the above website). The award is \$1500 CDN.



Section Business

In Memory of Larry Bidlake

Prepared by: TWS members Daniel J Chranowski CWB and Herbert D Goulden CWB

Lawrence John Bidlake (Larry), a TWS member since 1964, recently passed away on June 28, 2019 at the age of 78. Larry was born in Mayo, Yukon but grew up in Whitehorse where his father was the head of the Yukon Game Department. Like many local Canadian boys, he loved hockey and hunting the wilds of Yukon.

Larry attended the University of Alaska in Fairbanks (1958 – 1964), graduating with a BSc in Wildlife Management. During summer field employment with the USF&WS in 1963, Larry inventoried waterfowl on the Yukon River Flats in Central Alaska. One notable experience was surviving the attack of an aggressive Black Bear with a minor injury to a foot while escaping up a tree.

In June 1965, Larry joined the Manitoba Wildlife Branch, Department of Natural Resources as a wildlife biologist. After a stint in Winnipeg, Larry and his wife Patricia, moved to Brandon Manitoba in 1971, where he was a Regional Wildlife Manager until his retirement in 2001. Larry's passion for field work caused him to pass up some opportunities for advancement to senior administration positions. His duties included wildlife population monitoring and management, interagency liaison on wildlife issues, and being a vital member of a team to secure thousands of acres of wildlife habitat. He enjoyed the public interactions that came with the job.

Larry was a passionate hunter of waterfowl, upland birds, and big game. He always had one or two Labrador Retrievers to accompany him in the field. He enjoyed fishing in The Pas region with his friends, and he had an old train caboose parked in the Turtle Mountains that he and colleague, Herb Goulden, used as a hunting cabin and for quiet family getaways.

Larry Bidlake has been a part of The Wildlife Society throughout his career—as a Founding Member of the Manitoba Chapter, and as a member of the Central Mountains and Plains Section (CMPS), and the Canadian Section. He was a 'doer'; an active participant often assuming a leadership role in subunit activities. Larry was the president of the CMP Section of TWS from 1988 to 1990. He was awarded the Manitoba Chapter's "Conservationist Award" in 1989 for his many contributions to Manitoba wildlife conservation. In 1992, he was awarded the CMPS "Professional Achievement Award" for his steadfast support of the Section. One of his most cherished tributes was TWS's "Distinguished Service Award", presented at the 2013 Annual Conference in Madison Wisconsin.

After retirement, Larry followed his passion for conserving natural areas as a board member of the Brandon River Bank Committee, and the Citizens Environmental Advisory Committee for the City of Brandon. Larry also enjoyed mentoring youth hunters through the Delta Waterfowl Mentored Hunt Program

Larry is survived by his wife Patricia, children Jennifer (Jeff) Schroeder of Calgary AB, son Geoffrey (Sher) Bidlake of Cochrane AB, sister Diane King of Penticton BC, and 6 grandchildren.



Credit: Herb Goulden

During their 2013 road trip, Brian Gillespie (left) and Larry Bidlake visit the Parkland Wildlife Management Area, whose four units include wetlands, grasslands, and mature forests. The Ruska Rawa Unit, south of Riding Mountain National Park near Rossburn, provides habitat for elk, moose, black bears, grouse, and many waterbird species.

Section Business

Wayne Sandfort Student Travel Grant Recipients' Summaries

Maureen Kinlan

The Wildlife Society Annual Conference took place in Reno, Nevada this year from September 27th - October 4th. I had the opportunity to present my work in the form of a 20-minute oral presentation on the *Movement Patterns and Resource Selection of White-tailed Deer and Mule Deer During Rut in Western Kansas*. This presentation would not have been possible without the generous travel grant provided by the Central Mountain and Plains Section Wayne Sandfort Student Travel Grant. I met with several movement ecologists and other wildlife professionals that work with deer and large carnivores, an opportunity I may not have had without this additional funding.

My presentation focused on the movement patterns of the sympatric populations of Mule deer and White-tailed male deer in our two study sites, located in the western third of Kansas. Based on our high resolution GPS collar data, we discerned the rut period takes place about 2 weeks before the Kansas rifle season. There was a significant increase in movement from the middle of October to the second week of November in 2018. In both species at both study areas, there was a large spike in movement starting from November 8th-11th and lasting until November 17th-21st; this was determined to be the rut period. This rut period also closely aligned with our peak fawning period, once we subtracted the average gestation period for both species. Approximately 2 days after rut, movement rate plummeted during the entire 10-day rifle period, and as soon as rifle season ended the movement rate jumped back up, almost as high as the initial rut period before gradually returning to the average annual rate. This leads me to believe deer are able to perceive some form of a threat on the landscape during rifle season in western Kansas. Resource selection differed for each species and study site which led me to believe that resource availability may differ more than I originally anticipated at the home range scale for each species, and that species may partition resources despite their shared proximity within a limited elevation gradient.



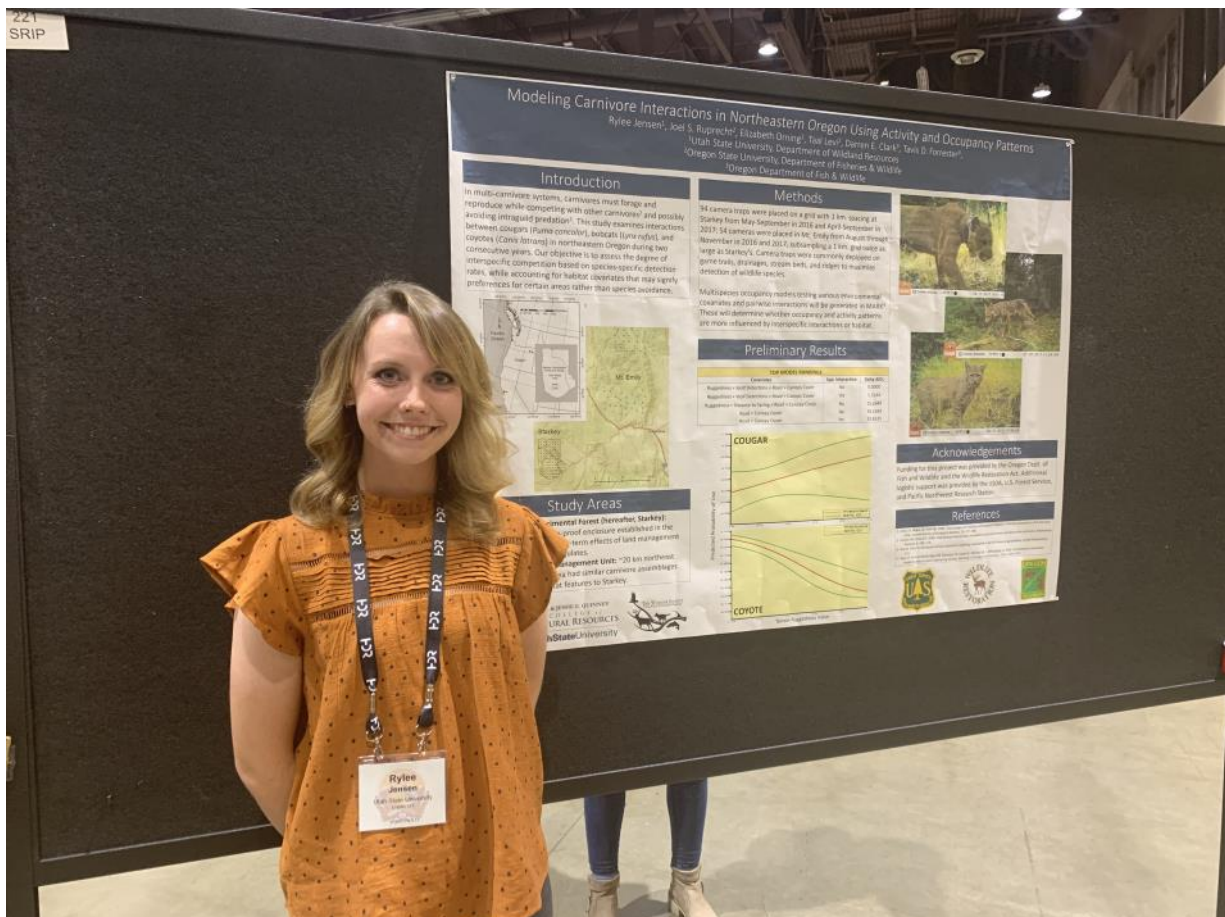
Section Business

Wayne Sandfort Student Travel Grant Recipients' Summaries

Rylee Jensen

I attended the 2019 Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society in Reno this year to present a poster about my research project titled "Monitoring Carnivore Interactions in Northeastern Oregon Using Activity and Occupancy Patterns". This is actually the second time I have presented about this project (the first being at TWS's Annual Conference in 2018), but now I had more definitive results to discuss. This project stemmed from an internship I did last summer with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and I got to meet up with all of my past coworkers from this internship here at the conference. My advisor and I discussed steps forward with writing up our paper about this project, and I got to hear about the other interesting papers my coworkers are working on as well.

In addition, I had some incredibly valuable networking opportunities. I'm not looking to go to graduate school right now, but I wanted to introduce myself to potential future advisors and express my interest in working for them. This was also helpful for finding upcoming work opportunities and collaborators for summer fieldwork. I even found a graduate student I had applied to work with and got to discuss her project with her. Overall, attending this conference was extremely valuable for me and I can't wait to see what comes out of my experience here!



Section Business

Wayne Sandfort Student Travel Grant Recipients' Summaries

Chelsea Berg

The Wildlife Society and American Fisheries Society joint Annual Conference was an exciting event for all student members that were able to attend. Four out of six students who attended from UND had the opportunity to present their research and share with other professionals their hard work and passion. In addition, our amazing Student Chapter advisor, Susan Felege, received the Student Chapter Advisor of the Year Award. Personally, my eyes were opened up to all the research that is going on around the country. It is amazing to see what others are doing in science to benefit population structures, ecosystems and human-wildlife interactions with different kinds of technology and techniques (such as using dogs to detect animal scat). Being able to meet graduate and Ph.D. students and visit with them about their stories was also encouraging and enlightening. It was wonderful to be able to discuss the opportunities that are out there for students who are interested in getting involved in resource and wildlife management. It was also a blessing to be able to have the ability to speak to professors, agencies, and organizations that were present at the event about their missions and goals almost directly after having conversations with students and other individuals.

While the conference upheld an atmosphere for personal growth and discovery, it was also a place to come together to discuss how to improve group functions in our local TWS chapters as well as other working groups, such as those who are motivated to work with climate change. At the conference, UND-TWS Chapter leaders had the opportunity to attend a luncheon where we met other student leaders to discuss the events and networking we are doing in our Student Chapters, as well as troubleshoot challenges that we are facing. Other student attendees also participated in working groups where they discussed future work in wildlife spatial ecology, as well as vegetation adaptations in relation to climate change. It was refreshing to discuss ideas with individuals that we normally wouldn't get to meet at our university or state TWS events. Overall, the conference hugely impacted our TWS Student Chapter and my personal career goals. I hope to take what I learned and share it with those that were unable to attend this awesome conference.



UND-TWS Student Chapter members standing with Chapter advisor, Susan Felege, after she accepts her award during the Student-Professional Networking Event.

Section Business

Wayne Sandfort Student Travel Grant Recipients' Summaries

Western Colorado University Student Chapter (Alex Fortney, Courtney King, and Erin Blair)

Thanks to the Central Mountains and Plains Section Student Travel Grant, members of the Western Colorado University Student Chapter had the opportunity to attend The Wildlife Society's Annual Conference in Reno, Nevada. After a long road-trip, we were excited to arrive at the conference on Sunday evening. That first night, we attended the opening reception and were already able to start meeting other students and professionals. Throughout the week, we were each able to attend numerous presentations related to our own research and interests. The keystone sessions were especially informative, and provided us inspiration as we work to pursue careers in wildlife biology. The large selection of presentations and talks provided so many opportunities to learn about a variety of topics. We were also able to network with professionals representing a variety of areas including the state and federal government, private sector, and academia. Social networking events at the conference helped to facilitate these connections, with some of our favorites being the Student-Professional Networking Event, the Out-in-the-Field luncheon, and the Women of Wildlife Reception. Secretary Alex Fortney was able to learn about the differing responsibilities of Game Wardens, a career she is considering, across the states. Member Courtney King was able to discuss opportunities for increased involvement with TWS, and to gain insights into her potential graduate research topic. President Erin Blair was even able to present her research at the conference's poster session. We were also all able to meet prospective students interested in Western Colorado University's programs, and to speak about the wide array of opportunities our Student Chapter has provided. Finally, we had lots of fun at the Annual Conference, bonding and spending time with other students, attending events like the Quiz Bowl, and exploring Reno. We would again like to thank the CMPS Executive Board for affording us the Wayne Sandfort Student Travel Grant and making our attendance at the TWS's Annual Conference possible.



TWS Business

TWS US Conservation Affairs Network

The Conservation Affairs Network (CAN) met at The Wildlife Society Annual Conference in Reno. Notes of that meeting, including several hot links to policy related materials, can be read below.

CAN is a real opportunity for your State Chapter to engage in policy-related topics locally or nationally. The policy portion of TWS's website (<https://wildlife.org/policy/>) has lots of helpful materials, from tips on how to craft a letter, to TWS policy statements, to letters other Chapters or Sections have written. Caroline Murphy (cmurphy@wildlife.org), TWS Government Relations Manager, is available to help you find the materials you need to engage in policy matters.

Bill Vodehnal, our CMPS Conservation Affairs Committee (CAC) Chair and a past CMPS President, has been working to improve communications between each State Chapter CAC lead and to energize the CAN across our Section. Please reach out to Bill at bill.vodehnal@nebraska.gov.

In this time, maybe more than any other, the opportunity TWS provides to those who may not be at liberty to speak out on policy issues as part of their every day employment and to engage in wildlife policy through our professional organization (TWS) is critical. Through TWS, the CAN, and your Chapter or Section, you can be a voice for the science on a given topic. To access CAN newsletters and find out more, visit <https://wildlife.org/policy/conservation-affairs-network/>.

Annual Meeting Minutes (Monday, September 30, 2019 8:00 am – 10:00 am)

Atlantis Hotel, Treasures A (Reno, NV)

Introductions

- Review TWS's role in policy and CAN objectives (full PowerPoint presentation is available).
- Remember to not just engage your Section and/or Chapter, but TWS Working Groups, too.
- One example of the CAN in action: TWS issued a new position statement on wildlife killing contests in March, which was a Position Statement that was driven, in part, by the CAN.

Discuss creation and implementation of 2019-2021 policy priorities

- TWS Policy Priorities for 2019-2021 were finalized earlier this year and TWS's Policy Priorities ad hoc committee sent a thank you letter detailing the final policy priorities to Conservation Affairs Committee leaders on February 1.
- The ad hoc committee solicited feedback from the CAN when developing the policy priorities.
- Four items were also placed on a TWS "Watch List", which are also detailed in the thank you letter: the Farm Bill, Wild Horse and Burro management, public lands remaining accessible, and the definition of take under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.
- Please take advantage of the policy toolkit on TWS's website.
- Please think about how TWS HQ solicits input from organization units and if there's another way you'd like to see this done.

TWS Policy Priorities and CAN engagement

- Recovering America's Wildlife Act – TWS strategies:
 - ⇒ Changes in the language of the proposed bill: change in funding of \$1.3 billion to \$1.4 billion, with the additional funding going towards tribal lands. Also, the funding mechanism for legislation changed from offshore gas and oil extraction royalties to the general treasury.

TWS Business

TWS US Conservation Affairs Network (continued)

- ⇒TWS has been actively engaging with offices in DC, along with other organizations. The goal is to have 175 cosponsors by the time this reaches a hearing (end of October).
- ⇒RAWA letter templates are available via Dropbox (the cosponsor request form and the cosponsor thank you form letter).
- Invasive species:
 - ⇒Looking at streamlined mechanisms to ensure that the USFWS has the ability to list species in a timely manner, as well as provide risk assessments in a timely manner and to provide funding for early detection and rapid response. Working to get reintroduction.
- Cooperative Research Unit funding in FY20 Appropriations:
 - ⇒House and Senate passed a stop-gap, so funding will continue through November 21.
- Endangered Species Act—regulation changes and pending legislation:
 - ⇒Final rules for listing and delisting were finalized in July 2019. The biggest threat to the ESA and its implementation is lack of funding. These rule changes do not impact any of the currently listed species.
 - ⇒Legislative action: Nothing will likely happen during this Congress because the Congress is so divided.
 - ⇒TWS action: Submitted comments last year on these rules, and we're monitoring their implementation.
 - ⇒Next steps: Hearing about other potential interagency regulations.

Section and Chapter updates

- Canadian Section & Chapters—Chris Smith (Erin McCance present on his behalf) in the Canadian Section CAC, the Past President of each Chapter becomes the CAC Chair. Chapter letters are reviewed by the Section and TWS HQ before they're sent.
 - ⇒Consistency of communication is key in the CAC's success: Chapter CAC's meet at least once a month, then meet with their Section at least once a month.
 - ⇒CAC e-news update is sent regularly to the membership.
 - ⇒Policy priorities: Pesticide legislation, reduction in funding for a lot of provincial and federal positions. Currently working on creating a framework or pathway on how to engage indigenous communities in Canada, and chronic wasting disease. There's also a lot of policy around caribou and water issues.
- Southeastern Section & Chapters—Lisa Lord/Nelson Lafon (Rachael Urbanek present on their behalf).
 - ⇒All 13 Chapters in Section are active within CAC. Try to have conference calls every few months.
 - ⇒Recent topics included predator killing contests, RAWA, waterfowl issues, water protection, and wild horses. Also monitoring potential delisting of Red-cockaded Woodpeckers.
 - ⇒North Carolina Chapter: Is a very active Chapter. Submitted a letter to the North Carolina Department of Transportation on May 29, 2018 on the proposed project to widen NC 191 to multiple lanes through part of Sandy Bottom Preserve in western NC. The Chapter also engaged in the Land and Water Conservation fund and the constitutional amendment on hunting and fishing, and sent RAWA thank you letters.

TWS Business

TWS US Conservation Affairs Network (continued)

- North Central Section & Chapters:
 - ⇒Minnesota Chapter: Issues surrounding State Wildlife Management Areas, a certain amount of timber harvest must occur in those areas. Twenty-eight wildlife managers wrote a memo directly to commissioner on September 29 because they felt that WMAs were being driven by these harvest requirements rather than wildlife habitat goals.
 - ⇒Illinois Chapter: Monitored 15-20 wildlife-related bills that were introduced and encouraged members to engage if they felt the need to, but Executive Board took no action. Chapter is engaged in RAWA, has written letters, and called offices.
- Central Mountains & Plains Section & Chapters—Bill Vodehnal:
 - ⇒Focus has been on RAWA, WOTUS: Several Chapters wrote letters. Other topics include state wildlife travel grants and the wild horse and burro issue (engaging with the Rangeland Wildlife Working Group on this specific issue).
 - ⇒CAC is still struggling with conference calls and communications. Suggestions: (1) Some Sections have a Chapter of the Year Award – include the position of a Conservation Affairs Committee Chair/Representative as a criteria requirement for this award. (2) Northwest Section uses a Slack channel.
- Southwest Section & Chapters:
 - ⇒New Mexico Chapter: New regulations in state due to new Governor, no killing contests on state lands. Restrictions on trapping, no trapping within a certain distance of homes or trails.
- Western Section & Chapters—Kelly Holland:
 - ⇒Comment letter on proposed changes to WOTUS sent by Section and Chapters.
 - ⇒Trying to get message out to members about RAWA.
 - ⇒2020 Western Section Annual Meeting theme will be very policy focused.
 - ⇒Helping members with how to engage on policy issues while avoiding conflicts of interest.
- Working Groups, such as the Wildlife Diseases Working Group, are always available to provide expertise on various wildlife health issues in your Chapter/Section region.

Other questions

- When should The Wildlife Society's Headquarters/staff be asked to proof letters that Sections and Chapters are planning to send? When writing policy statements or position statements that conflict with existing TWS position statements, TWS HQ needs to be consulted. Otherwise, staff is available to proof any other letters if the Section or Chapter needs feedback, and please send HQ final letters so they may be added to TWS's policy library.



Mark Gocke

TWS Business

Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA) and TWS CAN

As many of you are aware, a [letter](#) signed by over 1,100 natural resource scientists and managers was sent to the U.S. House of Representatives last week in support of the [Recovering America's Wildlife Act \(H.R. 3742\)](#). The letter included TWS members and other professionals from all 50 states, along with several tribes and territories.

The first iteration of the letter was distributed in preparation for an October 17 House Natural Resources Water, Oceans, and Wildlife [subcommittee hearing](#) on the bill. **We are still accepting [new sign-ons](#)**, and are continuing to use the letter to build support for the legislation with prospective cosponsors. We have already seen a flood of additional scientist sign-ons since last week, with just over 1,500 scientists in support as of today.

The next step in the legislative process is a full House Natural Resources committee markup of the bill, ideally before the end of the year. Please consider distributing the letter [sign-on form](#) to your unit membership so we can be even more effective in using the letter as a tool in gaining additional cosponsors before the markup. You can view the current list of cosponsors [here](#). If your unit has not yet done so, please also consider submitting a [cosponsor request](#) letter or [cosponsor thank you](#) letter to your region's House delegation. Please email me if you need assistance determining the appropriate point of contact in a House office.

For additional resources on the letter and the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (#RecoverWildlife), you can check out:

A [press release](#) from The Wildlife Society and the American Fisheries Society highlighting distribution of the letter.

A [TWS article](#) detailing distribution of the sign-on letter and the events of last week's subcommittee hearing.

An easy-to-use TWS [action alert system](#) that allows unit members to directly send a note in support of the legislation to their representative.

A [webinar](#) hosted over the summer by the American Fisheries Society and The Wildlife Society detailing updates made to the legislation in the 116th Congress, strategies for engaging with members of Congress, and mechanisms for building a coalition at the state level in support of the bill.

[TWS](#) and [Alliance for America's Fish and Wildlife](#) toolkit materials (fact sheets, unit letters, state resolutions, sample letters to the editor, etc.) that can be used as a resource when seeking new parties to engage on the legislation (<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/19oOPZlIjZtND4VO6aYxEyWQuc-E9g28T>).

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions regarding the letter, unit outreach, or the status of the legislation.

Thank you for your continued efforts to empower and enable your fellow wildlife professionals,

Caroline Murphy
Government Relations Manager
Caroline.Murphy@wildlife.org



Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

TWS Business

2019 TWS Policy Related Letters

Date	Topic	Policy Priority	Document type, link
1/29/2019	TWS: Letter relaying the impacts to wildlife professionals of the 35 day government shutdown	N/A	Letter
2/5/2019	TWS: Letter in support of CWD study bill	N/A	Letter
2/12/2019	TWS: Letter in support of PR Modernization Reintroduction	N/A	Letter
3/15/2019	TWS: FY20 TWS House Interior Appropriations Testimony	Support robust annual appropriations for the USGS Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Units program, as well as other U.S. conservation programs that promote federal, state, and private partnerships in wildlife conservation and management	Testimony
3/15/2019	USGS Coalition: FY20 Coalition Appropriations Testimony	Support robust annual appropriations for the USGS 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	Testimony
3/15/2019	Cooperative Alliance for Refuge Enhancement: FY20 Coalition Appropriations Testimony	Support robust annual appropriations for the USGS 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	Testimony
3/22/2019	Coalition: Letter requesting no cuts to Farm Bill mandatory conservation funding in the appropriations process	Support robust annual appropriations for the USGS 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	Letter
4/1/2019	TWS: Letter in support of the nomination of Dr. Vernon Bleich to the Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board	N/A	Letter
4/4/2019	TWS: FY20 Agriculture Appropriations Testimony	Support robust annual appropriations for the USGS 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	Testimony
4/9/2019	CARE/AWCP: Letter thanking Acting Secretary Bernhart for proposed increase in Refuge System funding	Support robust annual appropriations for the USGS 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	Letter

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TWS Business

2019 TWS Policy Related Letters (continued)

Date	Topic	Policy Priority	Document type, link
4/12/2019	TWS/AFS: Comments on New WOTUS rule	N/A	Comments
4/18/2019	USGS Coalition: Letter in response to USGS Conference Attendance Rules	N/A	Letter
4/25/2019	Coalition: Support for native plan prioritization in conservation practice standards	N/A	Comments
5/17/2019	Cooperative Alliance for Refuge Enhancement: Thank you letter to House Appropriators	Support robust annual appropriations for the USGS 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	Letter
5/23/2019	NECIS Coalition: Letter in support of the National Invasive Species Council	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	Letter
5/29/2019	TWS, AFS, NWF: Letter for the Record on the Wildlife Crisis	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	Testimony
6/21/2019	Letter to the House Natural Resources Committee requesting action on CWD bills	N/A	Letter
6/24/2019	Alliance for America's Fish and Wildlife: Letter requesting original cosponsorship onto Recovering America's Wildlife Act	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.	Letter
6/25/2019	Letter to state and provincial directors in support of the TWS/AFS Annual Conference	N/A	Letter
7/12/2019	TWS/AFS press release on Recovering America's Wildlife Act reintroduction	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.	Press re-lease

Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

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TWS Business

2019 TWS Policy Related Letters (continued)

Date	Topic	Policy Priority	Document type, link
7/17/2019	Letter in opposition to the "Conserving Ecosystems by Ceasing the Importation of Large Animal Trophies (CECIL) Act"	Work to ensure the Endangered Species Act retains science as the foundation for decision making while advancing meaningful and reasonable modifications that enhance its effectiveness in conserving at-risk native wildlife and ecosystems.	Letter
7/29/2019	Introductory TWS Letter to new Fish & Wildlife, Parks Assistant Secretary	N/A	Letter
8/30/2019	AWCP letter on legislative conservation priorities for Senate consideration	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.	

TWS Fellows Award

This award recognizes current TWS members who have distinguished themselves through exceptional service to the wildlife profession and have been members for at least 10 years. TWS Fellows serve as ambassadors of The Wildlife Society and are encouraged to engage in outreach and other activities that will benefit and promote both TWS and the wildlife profession. Fellows are appointed for life. TWS Fellows are appointed by a vote of the Council at the spring Council meeting held in conjunction with the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference.

To nominate an individual for consideration, please visit <https://wildlife.org/engage/awards/tws-fellows-award-nominations/> for more information on the nomination process. Nomination forms must be submitted by **February 1, 2020 at 11:59 PM EST**.

TWS Group Achievement Award

The Group Achievement Award recognizes an organization's outstanding wildlife achievement that is consistent with and/or assists in advancing the objectives of The Wildlife Society. The organization selected for the award can be private or governmental. The activity of past recipients has been primarily regional, national, or international in scope. Accomplishments, while they may be long-term, should be of significant importance within the last 3 years. TWS Group Achievement Awards are determined by a vote of the Council at the spring Council meeting held in conjunction with the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference.

Nominations, with no more than 3 letters of support attached, should describe the group, its objectives, number of members, and provide a concise statement of accomplishments within the past 3 years.

Submit these materials via email to awards@wildlife.org. The nomination and complete supporting documentation should be sent as a single PDF file by **February 1, 2020 at 11:59 PM EST**.

Nominations of unsuccessful candidates remain in the candidate pool for a maximum of 3 years, unless the individual is re-nominated.

TWS Business

Wildlife Restoration Award Nominations Needed

This is the second year for The Wildlife Society's Wildlife Restoration Awards. Two awards are given each year, one for Wildlife Management and a second for Wildlife Research and Surveys. **Nominations are due by May 1, 2020.** There are many worthy candidate projects in states represented by our Section, and it would be great to again have one or more recognized.

The 2019 award winners were:

Wildlife Research and Surveys: Alaska Department of Fish and Game for Factors Limiting Moose at High Densities in GMU 20A in Interior Alaska (1996-2019)

Wildlife Management: Kansas Parks, Wildlife, and Tourism for Lesser Prairie-Chicken Habitat Use, Survival, and Recruitment

From The Wildlife Society website:

The Wildlife Society's Wildlife Restoration Awards recognize outstanding projects supported by Wildlife Restoration funds (also known as Pittman-Robertson funds) and associated non-federal matching funds. Established in 2018, the annual awards highlight the importance and effectiveness of the United States' Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration program and recognize excellence in wildlife management and research.

The Wildlife Restoration program, also known as the Pittman-Robertson program after its primary Congressional sponsors, is funded by manufacturer excise taxes collected on pistols, handguns, revolvers, other firearms, ammunition, bows, quivers, broadheads, and points. These funds are apportioned to State fish and wildlife agencies for wildlife conservation and hunter education. This program was first created in 1937 and has provided over \$11 billion since its inception. TWS recognizes the critical importance of this program for state wildlife agencies, but also realizes that the program is subject to ongoing scrutiny from the users who pay the excise tax. This annual awards program identifies and showcases outstanding projects from across the continent to generate continued support for the Wildlife Restoration program.

AWARD NOMINATIONS PROCESS AND CRITERIA

Completed projects or current projects with defined completion dates are eligible. To nominate a project [click here](#) to learn about the criteria and the nomination process.

Nominations must be submitted by May 1, 2020 at 11:59 PM EST.

Eileen Dowd Stukel CWB®

Pierre, SD

eileen.dowdstukel@state.sd.us



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TWS Council Report

Bob Lanka, Central Mountains and Plains Section Representative (boblanka5839@gmail.com)

TWS Council met via conference call on May 17, 2019 and met again September 28-29 in association with the Joint AFS/TWS Annual Conference in Reno, Nevada. There is a lot going on.

FINANCE

During our May conference call, Council approved moving \$140,000 from the TWS Permanent Reserve Fund (Rainy Day Fund) to a new fund called the Council Action Fund. Even with this move, the Permanent Reserve Fund still has more than the target 6-months of the current fiscal year TWS budget in reserve. Council allocated some of the Council Action Fund as follows:

- \$5,000 to the 2nd national wildlife conference in Mexico. TWS sponsored the 1st national conference last year at the same level and that conference was a great success.
- \$2,500 to support Jay N. Darling Institute at Drake University.
- \$750 to support TWS International Wildlife Management Working Group sponsored symposium titled “**Grassroots Community Engagement: A Critical Tool for Global Wildlife Conservation**”, which was held at the International Congress for Conservation Biology (ICCB) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 21-25 July 2019. This marks the first time TWS was involved with the ICCB, and served as a mechanism to explore new avenues for international involvement and engagement by TWS.
- \$15,000 to Conservation Leaders for Tomorrow (CLfT) for FY20, contingent upon CLfT proceeding with a student workshop in 2020 with TWS selecting all student participants. TWS focused on sending Student Chapter leaders to this event in 2019.
- \$8,225 to support the WOW event at the 2019 Conference.

Here are the final budget numbers for FY19 (July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019). In addition to the net surplus of about \$171K, TWS again received an unmodified clean opinion on the FY19 Financial Statements, and our auditors found no significant deficiencies or material weakness in our financial operations. FY19 expense allocations were 47% personnel; 12% travel and meetings; 8% printing, publications, and journals (mostly TWP expenses); 14% professional fees (accountants, auditors, attorney, etc.); and 19% miscellaneous. Our top three revenue sources are publication royalties, annual conference, and membership dues, in that order.

FY19	Budget	Actual	Difference
Income	\$2,704,350	\$2,795,619	\$91,269
Expenses	\$2,704,350	\$2,624,923	\$79,427
Net Gain	--	--	\$170,696

MEMBERSHIP

Paid membership grew from 10,147 to 10,601 (+454 members, +4.5%). About 4,400 of our membership (42%) are students and new professionals, up from 34% five years ago. The total TWS member count, including Give Back members, is 11,330 versus 10,742 last year (+588, +5.4%). Since June 2017—out of 1,841 give back memberships, 16% became full members (36 new students, 146 regular members). The Give Back program was launched in December 2016. Give Back members receive full member benefits during their 6-month trial membership. As a member, all you need to do is provide TWS a name and email address for a potential give back member during your annual renewal. TWS will reach out to the potential member, giving them the opportunity to opt in or decline.

TWS's Associate Member program was launched in May, 2019. During the program's first two months, 425 Associate Members enrolled. Associate Members are those who are members of their Section or Chapter, but are not members of TWS.

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This program was advertised via Chapter and Section newsletters. Associate Members receive a monthly eWildlifer.

From time to time in my five years on Council, I have challenged each of you to help grow TWS membership by 10% in your state. The table below presents membership figures by state for each of the past five years. Between June 2015 and June 2019, TWS membership in our part of the world increased by 25.9% to 1,176 (10.6% of all TWS members)! That is truly amazing and I thank all those who became new members and all those who encouraged others while maintaining your membership. So, for my last time as Section Rep, I again challenge each of you to find one or two who might become new members of TWS. You will see from the table below the numbers by state to achieve the +10% goal are relatively modest. If you need some help remembering all the TWS member benefits check out our webpage at <https://wildlife.org/join/>. If you are looking for similar information specific to students see <https://wildlife.org/next-generation/student-benefits/>.

CMPS Membership Figures and +10% Challenge:

State	June 15	June 16	June 17	June 18	June 19	% Change June 15 – 19	CHALLENGE +10% by 6/30/20
CO	328	334	401	411	422	28.7	464 (+42)
KS	95	85	98	110	111	16.7	122 (+11)
NE	87	86	115	124	113	29.9	124 (+11)
ND	98	108	116	118	126	28.6	139 (+13)
SD	76	73	69	74	77	1.3	85 (+8)
UT	88	116	126	117	132	50.0	145 (+13)
WY	162	158	163	195	195	20.4	215 (+20)
Totals	934	960	1088	1149	1176	25.9	1294 (+118)

WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

The number of visits to TWS's website in FY19 was over 900,000! I can assure you that other professional societies marvel at the numbers engaged with our website. In FY19, our social media audience increased by nearly 5,000 to more than 118,000 followers. TWS launched our newest foray into the social media world with our Instagram account on April 12. Check out our social media efforts and join the fun and encourage your friends to join, too: <https://wildlife.org/network/social-media/>.

WILDLIFE POLICY/GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

TWS co-produced the "Horse Rich & Dirt Poor" video in collaboration with the Wild Sheep Foundation. This video has been viewed more than 170,000 times since its launch in March 2019. Check it out: <https://wildlife.org/horse-rich-dirt-poor/>.

Caroline Murphy, TWS Government Relations Manager, has begun publishing a piece in The Wildlife Professional (TWP) called "Policy Perspectives", with the goal of keeping members informed of policy issues and TWS's efforts to advance TWS policy priorities. Take a couple of minutes to catch up on policy news with each issue of TWP. Laura Bies continues to write 2-3 policy pieces each week for the eWildlifer. Have you, like me, ever found yourself wishing you could go back and review one of her articles? Well you can by clicking here <https://wildlife.org/category/laura-bies/>.

TWS VIRTUAL OFFICE

Over the past few years, TWS has more and more transformed to a virtual office environment. That is, an environment where staff may but are not required to work at our location in Bethesda, MD. It appears that many non-profits have moved to a virtual



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office environment or partially virtual with limited rented space. The Wildlife Management Institute has been operating 100% virtual since 2007.

With 10 staff members, full utilization of our office would equal 19,500 hours per year. Currently, staff is using the office about 4,902 hours per year or only 25% of full use. Further, 62% of that use is from only two staff members. TWS shares our building with other members of the Glascock Condominium Association. There are six units in the building and TWS owns two of them, one large space and another small space across the hall. TWS condo fees are about \$50K annually.

So the question is what should TWS do? Should we maintain ownership of both units even though current use is low? Should we increase TWS's equity by selling this asset and having all work from home? Should we maintain some of our space and sell the rest? Something else? I know TWS's Headquarters building has been around a long time and many of you reading this piece may have contributed your hard earned dollars towards its purchase. Many others have never been to TWS Headquarters and likely have no connection to it. So to all, please feel free to share your thoughts with me on this topic.

When Lilly Matheson, former TWS Member Services Coordinator, left TWS for another opportunity, many of her duties were given to other staff or contracted out. Contracted services include incoming calls to TWS headquarters and mail, among others. With this change, TWS has a new mailing address: 25 Century Blvd., Suite 505; Nashville, TN 37214 while it maintaining its former physical location and normal business hours.

AWARDS

Members from the Central Mountains and Plains Section received several awards at the 2019 TWS Annual Conference.

W. Alan Wentz, former CMPS President, was honored with TWS's highest award – the Aldo Leopold Memorial Award

David A. Haukos, Kansas State University – Caesar Kleberg Award for Excellence in Applied Wildlife Research

Terry A. Messmer, Utah State University – W.L. Mcatee and G.V. Burger Award for Outstanding Service as an Associate Editor

Susan N. Ellis-Felege, University of North Dakota – Student Chapter Advisor of the Year

Larkin A. Powell, University of Nebraska Lincoln – Excellence in Wildlife Education Award

Delwin E. Benson, Colorado State University – Conservation Education Award

John P. Carroll, University of Nebraska Lincoln – Fellow

Andrea C. Orabona, Wyoming Game and Fish Department – Fellow

Matthew J. Kauffman and Emilene Ostlind, University of Wyoming; Hall Sawyer, Western Ecosystems Technology, Inc.;

William J. Rudd, Wyoming Migration Initiative; and others – Wildlife Publications Award – Edited Book

Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism – Wildlife Restoration Award

Well done all!!

ODDS AND ENDS

The Executive Board of the Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society approved the Weber State University Student Chapter of TWS for official status following completion of all annual reporting requirements during its 3-year interim status period, effective June 18, 2019.

In July 2019, thanks to an incredible amount of work by TWS Staff, TWS was able to launch the *Section and Chapter Resource Guide* <https://wildlife.org/resource-guide/>. The guide was developed to help clarify some of the responsibilities one takes on when elected to a Section or Chapter leadership position, and it also provide an overview of TWS and your Section's or Chapter's role within the Society. If you are a Section or Chapter officer, or someone considering becoming an officer, lots of other information can be found here: <https://wildlife.org/network/tws-local/annual-reporting/>.

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On September 25, 2019, after a lot of coordination between TWS Staff and Wiley, we were able to launch a streamlined way to access TWS journals. Remember online access to all TWS journals, both current and legacy content, is a TWS member benefit. For more information on this exciting new development, see TWS's website: <https://wildlife.org/easier-access-to-tws-journals-launched/>.

Attendance for the 2019 AFS/TWS Joint Annual Conference was 4,338. Of that total 2,185 were from TWS, making the Reno conference the highest attended ever, surpassing the 2,094 from Portland in 1995. Attendance was 43% regular members, 41% students, 14% new professionals and 2% retired. Our meeting offered 28 workshops, 277 sessions with almost 3,100 talks, and 90 networking events. Simply put, our 2019 meeting was a resounding success and a great opportunity for all that were able to attend. Remember, our meeting in 2020 is scheduled for September 27 – October 1 in Louisville, KY.

On March 27, 2019, The Canadian Section of The Wildlife Society was incorporated and became a separate legal entity from The Wildlife Society and covering all of Canada. This move was necessary so that the Canadian Section could fully operate under the laws of Canada and receive all the benefits of a nonprofit in Canada. While the legal paperwork is different, members should see little to no difference.

The 8th Edition of The Wildlife Techniques Manual has a planned release date of July 2020. Drs. John Carrol and Larkin Powell have already begun work on the 9th Edition.

TWS has launched the Student Connections Initiative, creating valuable information and engagement opportunities with partner organizations who have a strong commitment to assisting future wildlife professionals. The Boone and Crockett Club became the first Student Connections partner. Thanks to their generous support, student membership dues are being reduced \$5 over the next 12 months. If you are a student and thinking about becoming a member of TWS, now is the time. THANKS Boone and Crockett Club!

The current issue of The Wildlife Society Bulletin (Volume 43 #3) has a special section entitled "*Private Lands Reviews*." This section has 9 articles providing a comprehensive overview of the history, success, funding, initiative, and future of wildlife conservation and management on private lands. I encourage you to login and check it out.

Here is a lesson on the proper use of the term "habitat" from Krausman, P. R., and M. L. Morrison. 2016. Another plea for standard terminology. The Journal of Wildlife Management, 80(7), 1143-1144.

Habitat – The resources and conditions present in an area that produce occupancy, which may include survival and reproduction by a given organism.

Habitat is organism-specific and is more than vegetation or vegetation structure. Thus, suitable habitat is redundant and unsuitable habitat is a misnomer; if it was unsuitable, it would not be habitat! Neither term should be used. Instead, reference unsuitable areas or unsuitable vegetation types.





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Upcoming Events

Colorado Chapter TWS Annual Meeting

Fort Collins, Colorado

February 5-7, 2020

VENUE AND LODGING: Fort Collins Hilton, Fort Collins, Colorado

MORE INFORMATION: <https://wildlife.org/colorado/meetings/annual-meeting/>

North Dakota Chapter TWS Annual Meeting and Wetland Workshop

Mandan, North Dakota

February 11-14, 2020

VENUE AND LODGING: Baymont Inn and Suites, Mandan, North Dakota

MORE INFORMATION: <https://ndctws.wordpress.com/2019/03/16/2020-workshop-and-annual-meeting-dates-announced/>

The Nebraska Chapter of TWS Annual Meeting

Kearney, Nebraska

February 25-26, 2020

VENUE AND LODGING: Kearney's Holiday Inn Hotel and Convention Center

MORE INFORMATION: <https://wildlife.org/nebraska/annual-meeting/>

TWS CMPS Student Conclave

Host: Utah State University

March 4-8, 2020

VENUE AND LODGING: TBD

MORE INFORMATION: <https://wildlife.org/next-generation/annual-conclaves/>

Utah Chapter TWS Annual Meeting

Moab, Utah

March 24-26, 2020

VENUE AND LODGING: Red Cliffs Lodge, Moab, Utah

MORE INFORMATION: <https://wildlife.org/utah/annual-meeting/>

WAFWA Mountain Lion Workshop

Hood River, Oregon

May 11-14, 2020

VENUE AND LODGING: Best Western Plus Hood River, Hood River, Oregon

MORE INFORMATION: https://www.wafwa.org/workshops/mountain_lion_workshop/

Upcoming Events

WAFWA 31st Sage & Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse Workshop

Bend, Oregon

June 22-25, 2020

VENUE AND LODGING: Tetherow Resort, Bend Oregon

MORE INFORMATION: https://www.wafwa.org/workshops/sage_and_columbian_sharp-tailed_grouse/

North American Ornithological Conference

San Juan, Puerto Rico

August 10-15, 2020

VENUE: Puerto Rico Convention Center, San Juan, Puerto Rico

MORE INFORMATION: <https://naocbirds.org/>

WAFWA Pronghorn Workshop

Deadwood, South Dakota

August 24-28, 2020

VENUE AND LODGING: Holiday Inn Resort Deadwood Mountain Grand, Deadwood, South Dakota

MORE INFORMATION: https://www.wafwa.org/workshops/29th_pronghorn_workshop/

Wildlife Disease Association and European Wildlife Disease Association Joint Conference

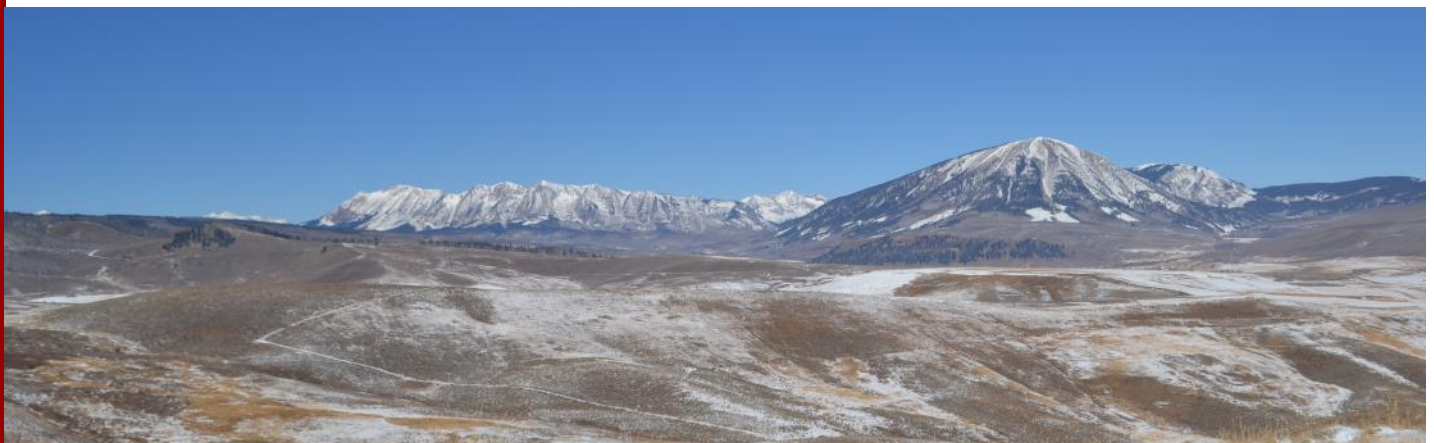
Cuenca, Spain

August 30-September 5, 2020

VENUE AND LODGING: TBD

MORE INFORMATION: [https://wildlifedisease.org/wda/CONFERENCES/](https://wildlifedisease.org/wda/CONFERENCES/UpcomingInternationalConference.aspx)

[UpcomingInternationalConference.aspx](https://wildlifedisease.org/wda/CONFERENCES/UpcomingInternationalConference.aspx)



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CENTRAL MOUNTAINS AND PLAINS SECTION DIRECTORY

Position	Held By				
STATE CHAPTERS					
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President	Jesse McCarty				
President-Elect	Nathan Galloway				
<u>KANSAS</u>					
President	Justin Hamilton				
President-Elect	J.R. Glenn				
<u>NEBRASKA</u>					
President	Matt Steffl				
President-Elect	Shaun Dunn				
<u>NORTH DAKOTA</u>					
President	Patsy Crooke				
President-Elect	Jesse Beckers				
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<u>UTAH</u>					
President	Stephanie Graham				
President-Elect	Daniel Olson				
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President	Embre Hall				
President-Elect	Eric Maichek				
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President-Elect	Madison MacPhail				
Advisor	Stewart Breck				
Advisor	Larissa Bailey				
<u>CSU-PUEBLO</u>					
President	Rocky Spencer				
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<u>WESTERN COLORADO UNIVERSITY</u>					
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Advisor	William Jensen				
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President	Rachel McNemee				
President-Elect	Blair Pfeifer				
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President	Michael Rohde				
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Advisor	Elyse Watson				
Advisor	Dr. Andrew Little				
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Advisor	Jason Boulanger				
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