



CMPS Newsletter

Excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education

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Inside this issue:

President's Message	1
CMPS Business	2
State and Student Chapter Updates	10
Upcoming Events	17
CMPS DRAFT Executive Board Meeting Minutes	18
CMPS Directory	21



CMPS website:

<https://wildlife.org/cmp/>

Message from the President

Summer 2020 Volume 73

Hello, All! I hope you and your family and friends are healthy and happy.

It is clear that all of us are working as hard as we can to navigate current COVID-19 constraints and be effective wildlife professionals. I have heard stories from many of you about how your routines have changed and how your field work has been affected. I have genuinely been inspired learning about some of the creative and out-of-the box solutions that you all have been implementing to continue being effective wildlife professionals. Some days it is hard not to get discouraged about all these sudden changes. Just remember that the work you do is important and critical to managing our natural resources. We will get back to a "new normal" soon. Until then, please remain positive, creative, and focused on conserving and managing our natural resources.

We are excited to host the very first virtual CMPS Annual Meeting this November! We chose to host our Annual Meeting using a virtual format this year to keep our membership (and their families and friends back at home) healthy. The decision to host our meeting virtually was a result of a lot of thoughtful discussion between the WY-TWS and CMPS Executive Boards. We have been meeting regularly to plan an engaging and fun experience and hope that it will be well attended. Although the details are still in the works, you should all hear about our final plans soon. We hope to make the meeting financially and logistically accessible to all CMPS members.

We have a lot of important business to take care of in the next few months. Please take a moment to cast your vote in our CMPS 2020 elections (see below for details and link). Also, please take a moment to nominate a deserving individual, group, or organization to be recognized with one of our annual CMPS awards (see details below).

Stay safe and healthy,

Adam



Section Business

Wayne Sandfort Student Travel Grant for 2020

The Central Mountains and Plains Section (CMPS) of The Wildlife Society (TWS) previously announced the availability of travel grants for students who plan to attend TWS' 2020 Annual Conference in Louisville, Kentucky. The Annual Conference has moved to a virtual platform partially given the future uncertainty regarding travel and travel restrictions both at the conference site and the local sites from which attendees would have traveled. Therefore the CMPS Executive Board is evaluating the availability of travel grant funds for 2020 for use for virtual conference registration only. For the most recent information on the 2020 Wayne Sandfort Student Travel Grant and an application packet, please visit <https://wildlife.org/cmp/student-travel-grant/>.



Coming up Soon! Nominations for CMPS Awards Due June 26th, 2020

Each of us knows people who are doing outstanding work for wildlife, whether they are wildlife professionals or citizen conservationists. To acknowledge and celebrate these achievements, you can nominate the deserving people for an honorary award from the Central Mountains and Plains Section (CMPS) of The Wildlife Society.

The Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society offers two prestigious awards once a year to honor the accomplishments of worthy groups or individuals. **The Professional Award** is given to a professional individual or group, and the **Citizen's Conservation Achievement Award** is given to an individual or group of citizens. Both awards recognize outstanding contributions towards the enhancement of wildlife endeavors within the Section. Award recipients receive a personalized wooden plaque at the CMPS Annual Meeting and are featured in the CMPS newsletter.

Nomination criteria for each award can be found on the CMPS website (<https://wildlife.org/cmp/awards/>). Nominations of unsuccessful candidates remain in the candidate pool for a maximum of three years, unless the individual is re-nominated. Nominations or questions about the awards should be e-mailed to the CMPS Vice-President, Stephanie Ferrero (sferrero.tws@gmail.com) and must be received by Friday June 26, 2020 to be considered.

Don't miss this special chance to thank the people you know who are making a difference for wildlife. Take just a little bit of time now to share what these heroes do and to inspire other people in conserving wildlife. Nominations can be made anytime between now and June 26th.

Section Business (continued)

CMPS Elections and Candidates

2020 elections for the CMPS Executive Board are here! This year, members are asked to vote for a Vice-President, and two Members At-large. Voting is open via Survey Monkey until July 31, using the link <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NXGFBQ8>. Did you know that you are automatically a member of CMPS if you have paid your State Chapter dues? Please participate in the CMPS elections this year!

Dustin Ranglack, Vice-President Candidate

I am an Associate Professor of Wildlife Management at the University of Nebraska at Kearney, a primarily undergraduate institution in central Nebraska. I grew up in the Salt Lake City, Utah area and graduated from Utah State University with a B.S. in Wildlife Science and a minor in Biology in 2008. After several years of working various technician jobs in the West, I returned to Utah State University to complete my Ph.D. in Ecology, where my research focused on bison ecology and bison-cattle interactions in the Henry Mountains of Southern Utah. I defended my dissertation in 2014 and won the Southwood Prize for the Best Paper by an Early Career Researcher in the Journal of Applied Ecology in 2015 for one of my dissertation chapters. I spent 1 year at Montana State University as a post-doc focusing on the spatial ecology of elk and elk habitat management in western and south-western Montana before moving to Nebraska as an Assistant Professor. My position is primarily teaching focused, with 3 classes per semester, but I have also mentored 4 MS-seeking students through their theses, with 3 current MS students. My research focuses are large mammal ecology, conservation, and management, with a focus on bison and other large ungulates.

My TWS service includes serving as the faculty mentor for the UNK Student Chapter, TWS Leadership Institute Class of 2019, and regular attendance at the State, Section, and Society level annual meetings. I look forward to putting my experience and excitement to work for the CMP Section as a candidate for CMPS Vice-President. TWS is my professional home and I look forward to paying it forward through service to the Section. I am also a TWS Certified Wildlife Biologist.

While I often joke that I gave up my hobbies in pursuit of science (partially true), I enjoy spending time with my wife and 20-month-old son. I am a huge Utah Jazz fan and try to go to games whenever I get a chance. I enjoy spending time outside, though I miss the public lands and mountains of the west. I also play golf when the occasion arises.



Section Business (continued)

Stephanie Ferraro, Vice-President Candidate

Thank you for considering re-electing me as Vice-President (after electing me as a Board Member At-large) of the Central Mountains and Plains Section (CMPS) of The Wildlife Society. The CMPS Vice-President leads the Awards Committee and assists the Section President. It has been an honor serving our Section in this role since 2018. We are fortunate to have such an energetic and dedicated Section of The Wildlife Society for over 60 years. I want to see CMPS continue to grow toward reaching our mission and objectives. Our mission to represent and promote regional science across spatial scales requires everyone working together as a strong, vibrant network of active wildlife professionals who promote ethical wildlife and ecosystem management and intentionally welcomes all people everywhere to join us on this mission.

For the past two years, I have had the privilege of serving on the Awards Committees with The Wildlife Society and continue gaining useful knowledge from these experiences. From 2016-2017 as an Member At-large on the Executive Board for CMPS, I worked with the Executive Board to strengthen CMPS, connect with members from across our Section, and encourage relationships between Chapters. From 2012-2015, I served as a Colorado Chapter of The Wildlife Society At-large Board Member while working as a wildlife biologist for Colorado Parks and Wildlife. In 2013, I completed The Wildlife Society Leadership Institute, which forever changed me through inspirational interaction with outstanding TWS leaders, staff, and classmates.

My background includes diverse training and work in natural resources. I obtained my Bachelors degree in Biology from Azusa Pacific University, California. Afterwards, I helped conduct wildlife research with Colorado State University. I also took independent field courses through Au Sable Institute of Environmental Studies in Washington State and Michigan. I earned my Masters degree in Wildlife Ecology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. I became certified as an Associate Wildlife Biologist® and now am a Certified Wildlife Biologist® through The Wildlife Society. Applying my professional training, I completed a research project for USFWS on furbearer species at Flint Hills National Wildlife Refuge in Kansas, and teach Environmental Science at Johnson County Community College.

What motivates me is a profound appreciation and curiosity of wildlife. Born and raised in the mountains, I developed a love for the outdoors and wildlife because my family went hiking, biking, rafting, skiing, camping, fishing, and hunting. I love going on adventures in the woods and through the prairies with my husband, our 2 daughters, and our 3 pup dogs. It would be a pleasure to serve on the CMPS Board as Vice-President for 2021-2022. I would really enjoy continuing on the team of CMPS Executive Board members, encouraging unity among the Chapters, collaborating with neighboring Sections, and helping promote inclusive CMPS membership to support wildlife conservation for our Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society.



Section Business (continued)

Embere Hall, Board Member At-large Candidate

I am honored to be considered for a CMPS Board Member At-large position. I joined TWS in 2005, and have been a member of the Wyoming Chapter for 14 years. During my membership, I served on the Chapter Board for 3 years, including as President. I have also had the opportunity to help charter a new TWS working group, work with membership to diversify the WY-TWS Board through the addition of two new positions, and to share research findings at 15 national or Chapter conferences.

I am a Wildlife Coordinator with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and an Adjunct Assistant Professor at the University of Wyoming. I am lucky to do my work in collaboration with talented resource professionals. Their passion, expertise, and commitment constantly remind me that our wildlife could not have a more dedicated cadre of folks working on its behalf.

TWS members, along with the Society as a whole, have provided invaluable support during my career. If elected, I look forward to giving back by contributing my time, commitment, and leadership capacity to the Central Mountains and Plains Section.



Tara Wertz, Board Member At-large Candidate

Tara Wertz is currently the refuge manager at Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge Complex in Walden Colorado. She has been a member of TWS since 1984 and previously served on the Board for the Oregon and Alaska State Chapters. Tara has a M.S. from South Dakota State University in Wildlife Science and a B.S. from Murray State University (KY) in biology. She has worked for the USFWS since 2001 in Alaska, Florida, and California. Prior to that, she was the regional habitat biologist for Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife for 11 years and spent 2 years as a research technician for Iowa DNR. Her professional interests are developing effective land management opportunities and practices to insure refuge lands are relevant and vital partners within the local communities. She also enjoys traveling to learn about the history and culture of the world, finding tasty craft beers, and training her 1 year old black lab, Mac.



Section Business (continued)

Bill Vodehnal, Board Member At-large Candidate

Education

South Dakota State University, Brookings, SD M.S. Degree, 1982

University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE B.S. Degree, 1978

Employment

I have been a district manager and private lands wildlife biologist for the Wildlife Division of the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission since 1982 and primarily responsible for 13 counties in the Sandhills region of north-central Nebraska. During the first 12 years of my career, I supervised wildlife species management and research activities in the district, which entailed organizing district surveys, compiling data, and analysis of data generated of various upland game, waterfowl, furbearers, turkeys, deer, and pronghorn. I was also given statewide responsibility for Greater Prairie-Chicken and Sharp-tailed Grouse inventory, management, and research activities.

Following reorganization within the division, I've spent the last 27 years administering wildlife habitat enhancement and improvement programs on private lands in the district and act as the liaison between our agency and other federal, state, and private organizations. Duties would embody implementing our private lands cost-share programs, delivering a walk-in access program, encouraging Farm Bill related programs to landowners and means to improve habitat for wildlife, and reviewing and providing comments on Environmental Impact Statements of federal lands to mention a few items.

I was Coordinator for *Grassland Conservation Plan for Prairie Grouse* 2005-2008. This is a North American grassland conservation plan with an ecosystem diversity approach designed to restore, enhance, and manage grasslands for Greater and Lesser Prairie-Chickens and Plains Sharp-tailed Grouse. This plan is endorsed by the Resident Game Bird Working Group of the Bird Conservation Committee of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and we ask the Association to adopted the plan during the March 2008 meeting. Currently, I am participating as a Nebraska representative to developing an implementation plan for Greater Prairie-Chickens and Sharp-tailed Grouse in the Great Plains (2017-present).

The Wildlife Society

TWS, Central Mountains and Plains Section (CMPS), and Nebraska Chapter member (since 1982), Executive Board-Nebraska Chapter (1998-2001)

President-Elect, Nebraska Chapter (1999)

President, Nebraska Chapter (1999-2000)

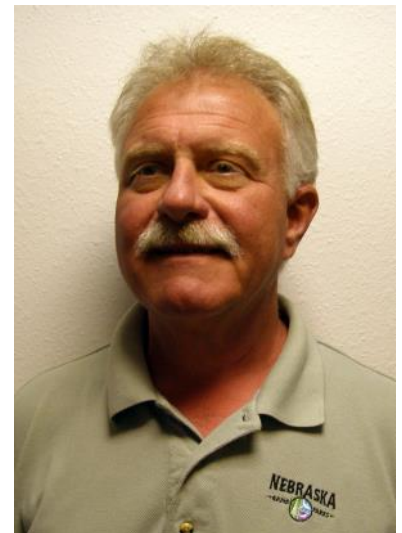
Executive Board, Nebraska Chapter (2006-2008)

Executive Board, CMPS (2009-2011)

President-Elect, President, and Past-President of CMPS (2011-2015)

Certified Wildlife Biologist (March 2000)

TWS Fellow (2012)



Section Business (continued)

Dani Neumann, Board Member At-large Candidate

Dani Neumann is a Colorado Parks and Wildlife Northwest Region Land Use Specialist. She began her career with Colorado Parks and Wildlife as an aquatic technician before working two years at Sylvan Lake State Park, where she focused on encouraging youth to responsibly enjoy natural resources while developing conservation mindsets. She promoted to the wildlife manager track in the spring of 2019. In her current position, she focuses on large-scale, long-term wildlife conservation planning. Her responsibilities include consulting on: development impacts on wildlife and fisheries, impacts of oil and gas development on wildlife and fisheries, recreational development on the West Slope of Colorado, and NEPA projects. She works with community roundtables to develop conservation strategies and assists with developing wildlife mitigation and management plans. Dani conducts fieldwork at every opportunity, joining agency staff throughout the region on a variety of projects. She spends a significant amount of her professional time focused on conservation social science. She enjoys free time with her husband at her small stable, runs a Backcountry Horsemen of America chapter, reads obsessively, hikes, and travels.



Section Business (continued)

Save the Date for the Annual Meeting

NOW HEAR THIS! SAVE THE DATE!

Each year, CMPS co-hosts a joint meeting with one of our seven State Chapters. For 2020, your Central Mountains and Plains Section will be holding our Annual Meeting with the Wyoming Chapter of The Wildlife Society.

WY-TWS and CMPS recently assessed a membership survey to see if participants wish to meet in-person or virtually due to the COVID-19 situation. The selected venue was virtual, and event details and exact dates will be announced soon. FOR NOW please save these *potential* dates:

November 17-19, 2020

Section Business (continued)

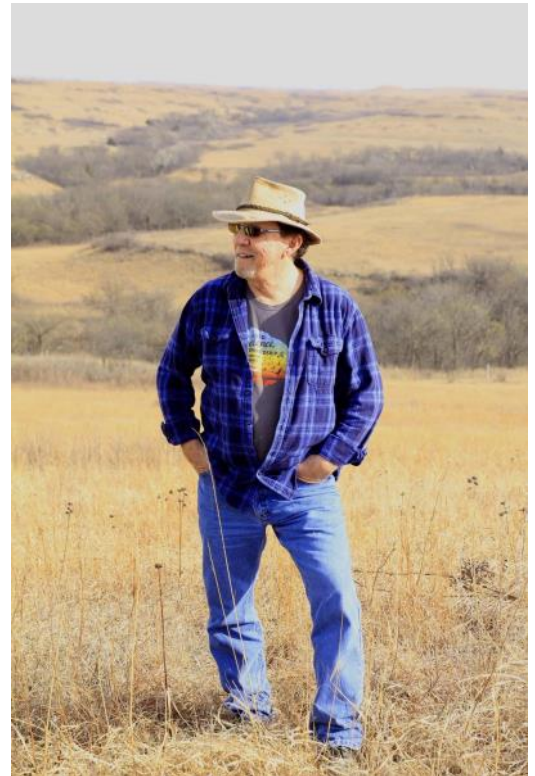
Jim Hays Receives The Wildlife Society Distinguished Service Award

The Wildlife Society Distinguished Service Award recognizes individuals who have worked throughout their careers on a variety of ways to further the mission of The Wildlife Society and can always be counted on to serve when needed. This year, Jim Hays has been honored with this prestigious award.

Jim has been a member of the Kansas Chapter, Central Mountains and Plains Section, and The Wildlife Society since 2000, and has served in CMPS leadership roles, including as an Board Member At-large and several terms as Vice-President. Jim has worked for 12 years for The Nature Conservancy as a Conservation Projects Coordinator, guiding development of renewable energy, protecting stream habitats, conserving large grassland landscapes, providing public outdoor recreation, constituent communications, and many other realms of natural resource management. Jim also worked for a little over 30 years at the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks including as a District Wildlife Biologist, Terrestrial Ecologist, Land Acquisition/DU Coordinator, and Section Chief for Environmental Services. Before that, Jim served as a Fish Hatchery Assistant and Fish Biologist Aide and Fish Hatchery Aide for Kansas Fish and Game Commission for more than 6 years.

Jim's resume alone shows his dedication to wildlife conservation, natural resources, and conservation, but the letters submitted to nominate Jim for the Distinguished Service Award highlight his dedication to conservation throughout his long career, and the intangible qualities that make him an excellent professional. Rob Manes (State Director, The Nature Conservancy in Kansas) stated that Jim's "enthusiasm and dedication have always uplifted colleagues to their own better levels" and that Jim "has also been an effective ambassador for our profession and its constituencies, reliably building partnerships and collaboration whenever possible." Ken Brunson of The Nature Conservancy stated, "While his professionalism represented the best example of employee integrity and abilities, Jim's easygoing and level-headed approach to sometimes confrontational environmental issues made him effective in arenas where others would have easily failed. Jim's sense of humor would always carry the day if anything tended towards conflict."

Congratulations on this well-deserved award, Jim!



State and Student Chapter Updates

Utah State University Hosts 2020 Student Conclave

Utah State University's (USU) Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society hosted the 2020 CMPS Conclave at Snow Canyon State Park from March 4th to 8th. The schools that were in attendance were USU, Colorado State University (CSU), Oklahoma State University (OSU), University of Central Oklahoma (UCO), and South Dakota State University (SDSU). Everyone drove very far to attend, which we were very grateful for and appreciative that people would be willing to travel so far to attend our event. For the event, each day had a general theme: March 5th was about fish and herps, March 6th was focused on birds, and March 7th was about mammals.

We had a huge group site at the Snow Canyon Campground where we all pitched tents, ate camp stove dinners/breakfast/lunches, and had many s'mores. All the universities arrived on the evening of the 4th. On March 5th, we partnered with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR) to do some fish sampling on the Virgin River using electrofishing and nets as demonstrated by DWR professionals. We also learned about the interesting relationship balance between the tamarisk and the Willow Flycatcher along the Virgin River by another DWR professional. Students got to practice the method of electrofishing, as well as the various types of survey nets professionals use to sample fish. The same day, we also traveled around southern Utah, specifically at the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve, looking for herps with a herpetology professor at Southern Utah University (SUU). Later that day, we also volunteered with the DNR at Snow Canyon State Park to help pull invasive plants at the State Park.

On March 6th, we went birding at Lytle Ranch Preserve with a DWR professional, and a USU-TWS faculty advisor, Dr. Frank Howe. We got to see a variety of birds, like the Golden Eagle, and we were able to learn more about the general ecology of southern Utah, which many out-of-state students were appreciative of. Next, we were shown how to set up mist nets along riparian areas by a DWR professional. This same day, both Oklahoma schools traveled by themselves to see some wild horse herds around southern UT and they were able to see two wild horses. CSU and USU went herping around southern UT and a pond on the campus of Dixie State University (DSU), and even decided to visit Sand Hollow State Park to jump in the lake there.

On March 7th, we had two DWR professionals come to our campsite to show us how to use GPS radio collars to track and monitor wildlife.



State and Student Chapter Updates (continued)

Utah State University Hosts 2020 Student Conclave (continued)

We were able to practice using the equipment on each other. One student ran around with the collar around his neck while we tracked him. We also went to a nearby wildlife refuge to actually track two mule deer in that area that were radio collared. We were unsuccessful in finding the two collared deer, but everyone loved the activity. SDSU left after this activity to head home but the rest of the universities traveled to Zion National Park to see the beautiful park and try some of the legendary hikes. Once everyone returned back to the campsite, USU hosted a friendly Quiz Bowl competition where we asked the attendees questions about information we had learned throughout the weekend from these various wildlife professionals in addition to some basic ecology questions. CSU ended up winning the Quiz Bowl!

On March 8th, all of the schools left and returned to their homes. The Utah State University TWS members that helped make this whole event happen (with about two years of very, very stressful planning) included Kenen Goodwin (President), Natalie D'Souza (Vice President), Dominique Davis (USU-TWS member and Mammal Working Group Co-lead), Nikki Basili (USU-TWS member and Mammal Working Group Co-lead), Cole Patton (Historian), Emily Bonebrake (Treasurer), Tanner Jasper (Public Relations), Jeffrey Chandler (USU-TWS Member), and Coleman Evans (USU-TWS Member). More so, we had a tremendous and generous amount of support from the USU Quinney College of Natural Resources from the Dean, professors, and students all willing to lend a hand and provide support to plan this event and make it happen.

Summary of the conclave provided by Natalie D'Souza, photos provided by Remi Pattyn.



Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Page 12

State and Student Chapter Updates (continued)

Western Colorado University Student Chapter—Annual Report

This past year, Western Colorado University Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society had a very busy year full of growth, memories, and a few challenges that we swiftly overcame. We hosted 20 weekly meetings over the course of the past academic year with 7 active members on average and some nights reaching 30 people in attendance. Our Student Chapter meets every Tuesday night, if possible. We used to host these meetings with our long-standing sister club, the Tri-Beta Biological Society; however, this club was less active in 2019-2020 so our Chapter took over some of the historical responsibilities of Tri-Beta, including their annual plant sale. We continued collaboration with other clubs on campus, such as the Gunnison Sock-eyes and the Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, and also made connections with new clubs like the Western Water Channel. The Student Chapter hosted various meetings, presentations, workshops, and events throughout the year.

The fall semester kicked off with a Pizza and Tie Dye Zero Waste Party to welcome new and returning members to campus. Western's Leadership, Engagement, and Development office was able to supply the club with zero waste kits to serve pizza and drinks.

The first presentation we had was on edible and medicinal plants in our valley by Carrie Calvin, a local certified herbalist who works with the Rooted Apothecary in Gunnison. Her presentation included how to ethically and sustainably harvest plants, and she provided a taste test of some teas and oils she had made.

Other presentations throughout the semester included "Career as a DWM" with Brandon Diamond from Gunnison's CPW, "Interpretive Rangering" by Professor Matt Ebbott, "What is RAWA" by Erin Blair, "What It's Like to Work for Non-Profits" by club alumnus Marcella Tarantino, a "USAJobs Workshop" with Russ Japuntich from Gunnison's BLM, and a "Falconry and Birds of Prey" presentation with Jeff Ewert and his Peregrine Falcon.

Other events included a night hike at the Dillon Pinnacles trail just outside of Gunnison, volunteering at the BLM public lands day, a pumpkin carving contest, having a float in Western's



State and Student Chapter Updates (continued)

Western Colorado University Student Chapter Annual Report (continued)

Homecoming parade ,and volunteering for Wildlife Bingo with mentees from the Gunnison Valley Mentors office. A big highlight was partnering with the Forest Service and High Country Conservation Advocates for a trail restoration day where we spent a day in Taylor Canyon building fences to shut down illegal user-created UTV trails. We also hosted a “Learn to Prep and Cook Your Own Game Dinner” night where Western wildlife student Bre Hawmann taught members how to cook venison stroganoff with game meat donated by another Western student.

The biggest event of the semester was our crawfish boil. This year, we opened the event up to all students and community members. We sent personal invitations to thank our partners at the CPW, BLM, USFS, and any other professional who spent time helping our club. The night was filled with live music, a photo booth, and crawfish etouffe with crawfish from our local Blue Mesa Reservoir.

During the fall semester, we also had the opportunity to send three undergraduate students and four graduate students to the The Wildlife Society Annual Conference in Reno, where the students presented in the poster sessions, attended workshops and officer luncheons, and more.

The spring semester kicked off with a meeting in the greenhouse to learn how to plant seeds, propagate plants, and help prepare for the annual plant sale. The following week, Alissa Bevan, a student in Western’s MS in Ecology program, talked to the club about jobs with Colorado Parks and Wildlife and her experiences in various positions.

Other presentation included “What Field Work in Alaska is Like” with Aaron Yappert, “Owls of Colorado” with John Rawinski and “Communications in Conservation” with Masters in Environmental Management student Sam Leibel, which included the premier of his cheatgrass documentary. At this point in the semester our university experienced “quarantine” to address the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the challenges, our club was still able to find a way to meet. We hosted two meetings via Zoom: “Wildlife and Recreation” with Matt Reed from High Country Conservation Advocates and an evening where Thornton Undergraduate Research Grant students got to practice their research presentations on “The effects of ungulate browsing on shrub vigor” and “A Corvid use plastic recycling machine”.



State and Student Chapter Updates (continued)

Western Colorado University Student Chapter Annual Report (continued)

Other events included a natural resource related club social before the Western Water Channel's screening of the PBS Water in the West Documentary showcasing the Gunnison River and a Snow Tracking Workshop hosted by Danny Zadra from CPW. Other events we had planned were a plant sale and volunteering on a Boreal Owl survey for Matt Vasquez at the Forest Service. However, due to COVID-19 these events had to be cancelled. During the quarantine we decided to host a virtual trivia contest on our Facebook and Instagram pages where eight people won day passes to the National Parks for answering the question correctly.

In February, 11 students attended the annual meeting of CO-TWS in Fort Collins. A few students gave poster presentations, ignite talks, and received awards. Conferences are always our favorite time of the year and this one was another one for the books!

Erin Blair was honored with the Allen Anderson Award for the Outstanding Wildlife Undergraduate Student in Colorado, and Alex Fortney received the prestigious Jim Olterman Scholarship.

The 2019-2020 officers included Erin Blair (President), Katie Bradfish (Vice-President), Alex Fortney (Secretary), Alyssa Rawinski (Historian), and Chloe Beaupre (Treasurer). Thank you to our active members: Alex Fortney Haley Barnard, Mark Kolwyek, Alyssa Rawinski, Chloe Beaupre, Amanda Kill, Annatea Saylor, Katie Bradfish, Erin Blair, Katy Kellog, Nicole Ogborn, Amy Haeseler, Courtney King, Caleb Lindehl, and Brandon Serkbetz.

We accepted virtual nominations for elections at the close of our 2020 semester and the new 2020-2021 officer team is as follows: Alyssa Rawinski and Kristin Ross as Co-Presidents, Chloe Beaupre as Vice-President, Courtney King as Secretary, Annatea Saylor as Treasurer, and Jessica Miller as Historian.



State and Student Chapter Updates (continued)

South Dakota Employee Spotlight—Casey Heimerl

I am a non-game wildlife biologist with the Wildlife Diversity Program out of Pierre. My work primarily focuses on the protection and management of rare, threatened, and endangered species in the state, along with the other more common species that are not pursued for hunting or fishing. Some of my job responsibilities include managing the SD Natural Heritage Database, which records and monitors rare species information; coordinating the state's falconry program; issuing permits; and conducting or coordinating a variety of research and monitoring projects. I am originally from Wisconsin, where I received my B.S. in Wildlife Ecology and Management at the University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point. I earned my Master's degree at South Dakota State, and shortly after was hired on to my current position with the department where I have now been for 8 years.

A majority of the research and monitoring projects that I have been focused on involve birds, particularly birds of prey. Back in the winter of 2014, I renewed an effort to capture and band Northern Saw-whet Owls and other small forest owls that winter in central South Dakota. Saw-whets are small, robin-sized owls that nest in the Black Hills and in the Custer National Forest in Harding County. During the fall they migrate throughout the state, and it was discovered that they will also winter in central South Dakota in wooded areas along the Missouri River. Currently, there are migratory Northern Saw-whet Owl banding stations located throughout the U.S., including the Black Hills, Custer National Forest, and eastern South Dakota. My project focuses on capturing and banding winter residents near Pierre to contribute valuable information to the banding network on the movement patterns and biology of this species. In November of 2018, we captured our first Northern Saw-whet Owl that was already banded at another station. This owl was originally banded in Saskatchewan, Canada in September of the same year. By continuing these banding efforts, I hope to also recapture owls from the other banding sites in South Dakota and to recapture owls that I banded in subsequent years, indicating that they are returning to these same sites to winter. In addition to Northern Saw-whet Owls, I have also been opportunistically trapping and banding other species of raptors that either migrate or winter in Central South Dakota.

In the spring of 2017, I helped start a project funded by State Wildlife Grants to identify suitable nesting cliff sites and conduct surveys for nesting



State and Student Chapter Updates (continued)

South Dakota Employee Spotlight—Casey Heimerl (continued)

Peregrine Falcons in the Black Hills. The Peregrine Falcon is currently listed as state endangered in South Dakota due to the decline of the species nationwide in the 1960s from the use of the now banned pesticide DDT that caused eggshell thinning and poor nest success. Historically, peregrines were only confirmed nesting at two separate locations in western South Dakota in 1925 and 1948-1960. Systematic surveys of wildlife were rare during this time period, so these nests likely represent only a portion of the total historic nesting pairs. National conservation efforts for peregrines successfully increased the number of nesting pairs in surrounding states, so it seemed likely that nesting peregrines would return to South Dakota. After three years of surveying effort, we have now identified four nest sites scattered throughout the Black Hills that have had various levels of nesting success. The information gathered from this work will be valuable to aid in the downlisting and delisting of the species in the state.

In addition to working with raptors, I also assist with two migratory songbird banding stations in central South Dakota. These banding sites operate every spring and fall and banding efforts have occurred since 1992. Since then, our Department has banded over 24,000 individual birds consisting of 126 species. We commonly recapture birds that we banded, sometimes during the same banding season, which indicates they are sticking around to set up nesting territories if they are local breeders, or that they are using the site to refuel before continuing on their migration. We also recapture local breeders in years following when they were first banded which shows that they are returning to the same sites every year to breed. Some of our birds have also been recaptured at other banding stations throughout the U.S. and Canada which helps provide information on their migratory routes.

Outside of work I enjoy hunting, training bird dogs, and riding my horses. I have recently begun mentoring adults that are interested in learning how to hunt, both in the field and through Harvest SD classes. From a young age, I knew that I wanted to be involved in the outdoors and natural resources and feel very fortunate to have found my position, working alongside standout biologists in the Department. As the saying goes, “Love what you do and you will never work a day in your life”.





Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Page 17

Upcoming Events

North American Ornithological Conference—VIRTUAL

August 10-15, 2020

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

WAFWA Pronghorn Workshop—POSTPONED

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/

The Wildlife Society Annual Conference—VIRTUAL

September 28-October 2, 2020

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

CMPS and Wyoming Chapter Joint Meeting—VIRTUAL

Lander, Wyoming

November 17-19, 2020

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

WAFWA 31st Sage & Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse Workshop—RESCHEDULED

Bend, Oregon

June 14-17, 2021

VENUE AND LODGING: TBD, Bend, Oregon

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

Wildlife Disease Association and European Wildlife Disease Association Joint Conference —RESCHEDULED

Cuenca, Spain

August/September 2021

MORE INFORMATION: <https://wildlidedisease.org/wda/CONFERENCES/UpcomingInternationalConference.aspx>





Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Page 18

DRAFT Executive Board Meeting Minutes—June 16, 2020

Tuesday, 16 June 2020, 3:30 pm (CDT), 2:30 pm (MDT)

Call meeting to order (3:39 PM)

Present: Adam Ahlers, Shelly Deisch, Bill Vodehnal, Julia Nawrocki, Kyle McLean, Aleshia Rummel, Ty Werdel, Tara Wertz, Andrew Little, Terry Messmer, Stephanie Ferrero, Andrea Orabona

Review minutes from annual meeting and 21 April 2020 Meeting

Minutes were sent out before the meeting.

Motion to accept minutes from April 2020 with Andrea Orabona making minor edits.

All in favor.

Treasurer's Report – Ty Werdel

Balance as of 6/16/2020: \$9,947.01.

Adam Ahlers call for a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report; no discussion, all in favor.

2020 awards and awards deadlines (including Student Travel Grant)

Professional and Citizens Achievement Awards:

June 26, 2020 deadline for awards nominations, but bylaws state that the nominations should be decided 45 days prior to the annual meeting.

Natural Resources Trust in North Dakota was going to put in a nomination form again this year, but haven't heard from them yet.

Does anyone have any ideas on who we can nominate?

Aleshia has an idea of someone for the Citizens award, Adam said any nominations would be great.

Stephanie said the June 26th deadline was due to having the meeting in August in previous years.

Terry may have some ideas for professional and Citizens awards in Utah.

Adam introduced Terry as the new Certification Review Board for TWS. Terry introduced himself to the group.

Stephanie is going to talk to ND Natural Resources Trust.

Awards should probably be to people who have made contributions on the regional level.

Adam suggested Larkin Powell at the University of Nebraska for the Professional Award, Andrew supported that idea for nomination.

Adam said our awards page needs to be updated (about 2 years behind on award winners).

Terry said he has lots of historical documents on CMPS; will transfer to Andrea, she will organize.

Student Travel Grant:

TWS is virtual, and we don't know what the registration fees will be.

Adam asked what we think we should do for travel grants?

Terry wants to know if we would need to change the bylaws to give a scholarship instead of a travel grant?

Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Page 19

DRAFT Executive Board Meeting Minutes—June 16, 2020 (continued)

Shelly said on page 2 of the bylaws it explains the travel grants, and it doesn't look like bylaws need to be changed. More information should be forthcoming from TWS.

TWS is likely going to be charging registration fees because it is a significant portion of their budget.

Aleshia said we should get something in the newsletter about our decision on the travel grant.

Andrew wants to know if we can roll over the funds to next year? This is possible, we just need to make a decision on what we want to do.

Maybe restrict the awards to separate schools so they can't all attend on 1 registration.

We could use this year's money to sponsor a workshop for next year.

Julia said maybe make a stricter application where only students presenting have a chance at the award.

Shelly will make a list of possible scenarios and send it out for everyone's input. Then we can discuss from there.

2020 Elections

Vice-President

2 Members At-large

After reaching out to many people, we have a good number running. Four on the ballot for Board Member At-large and 2 for Vice-President. Aleshia has all the biographies for the newsletter. Survey for voting will be going out to members on July 1st (Adam said it needs to be 30 days before the meeting). Ballot will go out with the summer newsletter. The TWS voting platform didn't work well, so we are going back to SurveyMonkey. Costs about \$38 to have 150 people vote. Adam has an issue with SurveyMonkey because they contribute to organizations that TWS doesn't align with, but they may be the best voting platform. Stephanie said TWS has a way to get CMPS members to access the voting through the member portals. Terry said many State Chapter members are not TWS members, so that would restrict access. Adam said last year did not work well. There seems to be a consensus that SurveyMonkey is the way we should go. Adam recommends SurveyMonkey, with a link in the summer newsletter. Anyone else have any other options for platforms? No. Andrea will send Andrew information on our SurveyMonkey account. One vote for Vice-President candidate and 2 votes for Members At-large. Adam couldn't find anything in the bylaws for how long the voting will last. From what everyone thinks, it's generally about 30 days. Adam thinks the voting needs to finish at least be 14 days prior to the Annual Business Meeting (Stephanie said the 14-day minimum is mandatory according to the bylaws and 30 days of voting opportunity is a convenience factor for members). Ballot should be active when the newsletter goes out. Adam says we should put it in the newsletter and let it run for 30 days from when the newsletter goes out. This was agreed upon by everyone. November 1st would be the absolute last date that voting could begin. Ballot will be active 6/17 and be open until 7/31.

Annual Conference Planning (what we know so far)

Wyoming Chapter of TWS Zoom meeting 6/17 to discuss the joint Annual Meeting. November 17-19 is the official date. Survey question, how much would you spend on a virtual meeting? Adam thought

Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Page 20

DRAFT Executive Board Meeting Minutes—June 16, 2020 (continued)

it looked like most people said around \$30. Most people who responded to the survey were from Wyoming. Do you plan to attend (only 24% said they would attend in-person, while 60% said they would attend virtual). The results of the survey can be looked at in the email. Bring up anything you see in the survey with members of the planning committee tomorrow night. Terry said the Governor of Wyoming may be more relaxed on social distancing. Shelly said this may depend on agencies and whether they allow their employees to travel. Adam said Kansas State will likely not allow anyone to travel to conferences this fall. Andrea said most people will either not be able to go or would not feel comfortable going to a conference in August. Tara said we should explain the budgetary concerns about not having in-person meetings, and that maybe people would pay a small set amount of money to help the organization, as well as having evening talks. Andrea said the cost of hosting a virtual meeting may offset anything gained from extra people paying a small amount. Terry said maybe having a hybrid type conference with live-streaming could possibly be a format, but hiring someone to livestream could cost up to \$5,000. We aren't really sure how any of this will work. Adam would be much more comfortable with a virtual CMPS Annual Meeting due to safety. Shelly wants to know how much CMPS contributed to the Annual Meeting in the past, and Adam said we usually provide a break and other small things (e.g., photo contest awards). There is not really a ballpark figure on how much this will cost or how much we will contribute. What are we comfortable with contributing to a virtual conference? Adam said <\$1,000. Shelly said we don't need anything set in stone, but it would be good to just have an idea. Adam will send out minutes from the conference Zoom call tomorrow night.

Ongoing communication issues with CMPS membership

Adam is concerned with communication with membership. We give out info to State and Student Chapter Presidents and expect them to distribute this information to their membership. Time-sensitive information is not being delivered in a streamlined manner. Adam said we should have a list-serve or website that gives out notifications to members so we know members are receiving important information. Does anyone have any other ideas? Shelly said TWS should probably do something that streamlines this, or at least provide the framework while we continue to run maintenance. Shelly wants to form a working group for communications, and get some guidance from TWS. TWS may have some platform to help facilitate this. Shelly recruited Andrew for the working group. Andrew said there're a lot of new ways to message people outside of email, especially with students. Shelly asking for another person to join the working group. Kyle said their messaging service costs about \$1,000 a year. Aleshia and Stephanie are joining the communication working group. Andrea said Wyoming gets things out to everybody quickly, most likely because of having a communications chair within the State Chapter. Stephanie said Colorado has a membership coordinator who keeps track of everyone and facilitates communication to the membership. Also, use our professional networks to get this information out- we could also have sign-up lists at State Chapter meetings. Terry said he only gets communication from North Dakota, but doesn't seem to be getting TWS emails.

No other business.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:13 PM (CDT).

Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

CENTRAL MOUNTAINS AND PLAINS SECTION DIRECTORY

Position	Held By				
STATE CHAPTERS					
<u>COLORADO</u>					
President	Nathan Galloway				
President-Elect	Nate Bickford				
<u>KANSAS</u>					
President	Justin Hamilton				
President-Elect	J.R. Glenn				
<u>NEBRASKA</u>					
President	Michelle McPherron				
President-Elect	Will Inselman				
<u>NORTH DAKOTA</u>					
President	Jesse Beckers				
President-Elect	Jessica Johnson				
<u>SOUTH DAKOTA</u>					
President	Casey Heimerl				
President-Elect	Julie DeJong				
<u>UTAH</u>					
President	Dave Cook				
President-Elect	Blair Stringham				
<u>WYOMING</u>					
President	Eric Maichek				
President-Elect	Tayler LaSharr				
STUDENT CHAPTERS					
<u>CO STATE UNIVERSITY</u>					
President	Remi Pattyn				
President-Elect	Grant Pegram				
TWS Liaison	Andrew Don Carlos				
Advisor	Larissa Bailey				
<u>CSU-PUEBLO</u>					
President	Cody Back				
President-Elect	Adam Liao				
Advisor	Claire Ramos				
<u>WESTERN COLORADO UNIVERSITY</u>					
President	Erin Blair				
President-Elect	Katie Bradfish				
Advisor	Patrick Magee				
<u>EMPORIA STATE UNIVERSITY, KS</u>					
President	Katie Schrag				
President-Elect	Bethany Robertson				
Advisor	William Jensen				
<u>KS STATE UNIVERSITY</u>					
President	Blair Pfeifer				
President-Elect	Robert Grosdidier				
Advisor	David Haukos				
<u>PITTSBURGH STATE UNIVERSITY, KS</u>					
Advisor	Andrew George				
TWS Liaison	William Jensen				
<u>CHADRON STATE COLLEGE, NE</u>					
President	Justin Gress				
President-Elect	Kristin Van Beek				
Advisor	Teresa Frink				
<u>UNIVERSITY OF NE - KEARNEY</u>					
President	Kelsey Menke				
Advisor	Dustin Ranglack				
<u>UNIVERSITY OF NE - LINCOLN</u>					
President	Carin Mellick				
President-Elect	Jack Carter				
Advisor	Dr. Andrew Little				
Co-Advisor	Elyse Watson				
<u>WAYNE STATE COLLEGE, NE</u>					
President	Jewel Kneifl				
President-Elect	Diana Danowski				
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<u>ND STATE UNIVERSITY</u>					
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<u>UNIVERSITY OF ND</u>					
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Advisor	Susan Ellis-Felege				
<u>VALLEY CITY STATE UNIVERSITY, ND</u>					
President	Dillon Praus				
President-Elect	Cole Thompson				
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<u>SD STATE UNIVERSITY</u>					
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President	Tabitha Hughes				
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Advisor	Merav Ben-David				
TWS Liaison	Sara Locker				

