

Hello Wyoming Wildlifers!

I'm Ruby Jenco and I'm the President of the student chapter of TWS at the University of Wyoming and this semester has been a good one, but a busy one at UW! Wildlifers on campus have been ready to get back to in-person meetings and activities, and the officers and I have been working hard to make that happen while still following COVID-19 guidelines to keep students and faculty safe. Towards the beginning of the semester, UW's student chapter of TWS had an introductory meeting to explain what TWS is all about for our new members, and to welcome back any returning members. We had about 40 students join us for that meeting and I'm happy to say we've been seeing much higher numbers of active members since returning to in-person meetings!

On September 16th we had the pleasure of hearing from Dr. Adi Barocas and his work on how protected areas in the southwestern Amazon contribute to the conservation of giant otters and freshwater biodiversity. Dr. Adi Barocas is a postdoctoral associate in recovery ecology at the San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance. Dr. Barocas earned a master's degree at Tel Aviv University, Israel, then pursued his doctoral degree at the University of Wyoming where he studied ecology of river otters in Alaska. He is presently stationed in Peru, where he spends a significant amount of time in the field. This giant otter study aims to assess new threats posed by human activities in the area to this distinctive apex predator.



On September 25th, our students trekked out to Rocky Mountain National Park to complete our bi-annual river otter Survey. Usually, students from our chapter help with this survey in both the fall and spring, but because of the pandemic, the survey was canceled all together this past spring and previous fall. But it was a great success this semester! Students helped gather data to aid in gauging the population of river otters within RMNP and the surrounding area.

As for the rest of the semester, we're always looking for guest speakers to come and share their work with us! We would love to hear from TWS members from the Wyoming chapter, so if you are interested in working with UW's student chapter in any shape or form, we are more than happy to hear from you! We can connect via Zoom or you can present your work at one of our in-person meetings! If you're interested, email me at rjenco@uwyo.edu. And if you're looking for ways to stay connected with UW's student chapter of TWS, follow us on instagram [@uwyo_wildlifesociety](https://www.instagram.com/uwyo_wildlifesociety).

Hope to hear from some of you soon and enjoy the Wyoming winter!

Ruby Jenco
University of Wyoming TWS Student Chapter President