



CMPS Newsletter

Excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education

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Inside this issue:

President's Message	1
Section Business	2
Upcoming Events	9
CMPS Directory	10



CMPS website:

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

Message from the President

Spring 2022 Volume 78

Greetings to all Central Mountains and Plains Section Members to an election newsletter and call for our annual voting for board members. We have a wonderful group of candidates for three critical CMPS positions: two Member-at-Large openings and one Vice President. I highly encourage you to review the position descriptions below and vote for the candidate you feel is best qualified to serve you and our regional conservation needs (<https://wildlife.org/cmp/>). CMPS includes: SD, ND, NE, KS, CO, WY and UT. Voting (at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CLFXNK2>) will end July 15. Position descriptions include:

ALL POSITIONS: Time commitments include at least five 2-hour virtual board meetings per year. Serving on special committees and helping with CMPS Annual Business Meeting (held in conjunction with one of the 7 state's annual conference) will take more commitment. Travel to one of the 7 states' conferences is elective but encouraged. Elected board members will start their term August 31, 2022 and will hold their position for 2 years following.

VICE-PRESIDENT. The Vice-President shall assume the duties of President during any absence or upon any inability of the President to serve and shall perform any duties assigned by the President. This office shall preside over the Awards Committee. In the event the Vice-President cannot serve in the President's absence, the Executive Board shall appoint a President, pro tempore.

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE. Members-At-large assist in general administration of Section business affairs as delegated by the President and serve on committees such as awards, membership/communications, and elections.

CMPS has ambitious and committed natural resource professionals that reflect the direction, mission, and ethics of The Wildlife Society. We look forward to welcoming new board members based on YOUR vote!

Yours in Conservation,

Shelly Deisch, President of
the Central Mountains and
Plains Section Of The Wildlife Society



Section Business

CMPS Executive Board Nominations

Nominee for Board Member At-Large, Daly Edmunds

Daly Edmunds lives in Colorado and is director of policy and outreach at Audubon Rockies, a regional office of National Audubon Society. In this position, she focuses on energy development on public lands, where she promotes the use of the best available science in the management of the sagebrush ecosystem. She works with state and federal agency staff, conservation organizations, and community leaders throughout Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, and other western states. Daly received her master's in zoology and physiology from the University of Wyoming, via the WY Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Unit, where she examined the movement patterns of pronghorn in relation to roads and fences. She also has extensive field experience with black bears and island foxes. Prior to joining National Audubon Society in 2009, she worked for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, National Wildlife Federation, and Wyoming Wildlife Federation. Daly served as a board member of the Wyoming Chapter of TWS for 8 years (2013-2020), where she helped WY-TWS colleagues organize conferences, create position statements, develop science-based comments in response to proposed wildlife management actions, and oversaw a fellowship program for undergraduates. Daly joined the CMPS board in Winter 2021, as openings needed to be filled with officers moving/changing positions.

Daly learned a lot from her time with the WY Chapter of TWS, both as a committee member and then as a board member, and is ready to contribute to CMPS. By working for an NGO, Daly feels that she offered a unique perspective to the WY Chapter and could bring this and her professional broad geographic outlook to CMPS. She would like to improve her understanding of the role that the section plays in the TWS framework, so she can work with the Board to advance CMPS' value in the region. Her day job requires that she work with a wide range of people, representing different geographies and sometimes different positions on a given issue, with the ultimate goal of moving the conservation needle. She sees a lot of similarities with TWS. Members are dispersed across a broad geography, are dealing with a variety of issues, and employed by a variety of entities. Daly believes her professional experience will help her to work effectively within CMPS - to elevate CMPS into a facilitator role of strengthening relationships and advancing conservation efforts being pursued by the seven state chapters.



Section Business

CMPS Executive Board Nominations, continued

Nominee for Board Member At-Large, Elisabeth Teige

Elisabeth Teige is currently an Early Career Ecology Researcher with the U.S. Geological Survey in Fort Collins, Colorado, summarizing and synthesizing science to inform management of western lands. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Biology with an Emphasis in Ecology & Evolutionary Biology and Geospatial Information Sciences Certificate from Minnesota State University Moorhead (MSUM) in 2017. She received her Master of Science in Biology from Kansas State University in 2021, with a thesis entitled “Translocation of the lesser prairie-chicken to the Sand Sagebrush Prairie Ecoregion”. She worked as a research associate for Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks prior to her current position. Elisabeth has been involved in numerous field studies including lesser prairie-chicken translocation and surveys, pronghorn surveys, urban squirrel ecology, small mammal response to prairie restoration, and painted turtle surveys. She has published a peer-reviewed journal article on longevity of fence tags for lesser prairie-chickens, with several more in review or preparation. Elisabeth has been a presenter or co-author on 17 professional presentations. She was awarded the 2021 Outstanding Unit Student award by the Kansas Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, 2016 Student Conservationist Award from the Minnesota Chapter of The Wildlife Society, Richard Pemble Scholarship for Outstanding Biology Student from MSUM in 2015, and numerous other academic and professional recognitions.

Elisabeth thinks that it is important to be actively involved in our professional society and strongly believes in the mission and role of The Wildlife Society. She has been a member since 2015, attending conferences (national and state) and participating in the MSUM Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society. She served as Vice-President of the MSUM Student Chapter, coordinating volunteer, learning, and fundraising events for the chapter. Her research activities have required essential organization and communication skills. She has engaged with state and federal agencies, nongovernment organizations, and private landowners to successfully complete several projects, emphasizing understanding perspectives from various stakeholders working to solve wildlife conservation issues. Elisabeth believes in diverse teams focusing on addressing specific issues, which requires communication and willingness to listen to others.

One of her goals is to become a leader in The Wildlife Society. Being part of the CMPS Board is an essential step to eventually becoming involved with The Wildlife Society at the national level. She is interested in learning from the diverse views and perspectives represented by the CMPS Board and officers of associated state chapters. Of primary interest would be learning additional approaches to solve conservation issues and influence policy decisions. In addition, she is interested in developing additional communication and inter-personal skills associated with serving in a leadership position.



Section Business

CMPS Executive Board Nominations, continued

The Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society is uniquely positioned to represent the broad views and perspectives of wildlife professionals across a broad region that includes numerous unique wildlife conservation and management issues. Communication and interaction with state chapters will allow CMPS and the section representative to transmit these issues to the national Council. Elisabeth would like to recruit and increase the involvement of students and early-career professions in CMPS to build a constituency for the future. She would strongly support CMPS being involved in student con-claves, promoting the Leadership Institute, promoting certification, and encouraging involvement in the Early Career Professionals Working Group. Finally, Elisabeth thinks that CMPS should be involved in the policy process, assisting state chapters in local and regional policy needs and decision making.

Nominee for Board Member At-Large, Rick Warhurst

Warhurst came to the North Dakota's Natural Resources Trust after retiring from a 31-year career at Ducks Unlimited (DU), where he served as a biologist at the Great Plains Regional Office in Bismarck. Through his work on the delivery of waterfowl habitat on public and private lands, he worked on projects in Nebraska, Kansas, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Minnesota, and Iowa. Prior to working for DU, he was employed by the Kansas Fish and Game Commission as the manager of the Marais des Cygnes Wildlife Management Area in Kansas and before that, as the assistant state waterfowl biologist for the Ohio Division of Wildlife.

Warhurst is originally from Kansas. His interest for waterfowl, especially ducks, came from his dad, who was an avid duck hunter. "He would go duck hunting on Saturday mornings during the fall and I would wait for him to return home so I could handle and play with the ducks that he brought home. When I became older, I started going hunting with him, and when I was old enough, I began duck hunting with him." This passion for waterfowl carried over into his college years, and he earned his bachelor's degree in wildlife management from Kansas State University and master's degree in zoology from Ohio State University.

Warhurst says he is enjoying his new position at the Trust. "I am looking forward to continuing to assist the Trust in addressing wetland projects, wetland issues, wetland management, and wetland education in North Dakota," he says. "The Trust attempts to coordinate and facilitate with numerous partners the management of natural resources in North Dakota, including wetlands, and to bring together entities that might be at odds with one another to find compromises that provide win-win solutions for everyone. I've been involved with wetlands and waterfowl my whole career, and I'm very fortunate that I will be able to stay involved with these in my role as the North American Wetlands Conservation Act Council's staff representative for the Central Flyway."



Section Business

CMPS Executive Board Nominations, continued

Nominee for Vice-President, Embere Hall

I am honored to be considered for Vice-President of the Central Mountains and Plains Section (CMPS). I stepped into the CMPS Vice-President position in 2021 to fill out the remainder of a vacated term, and am hopeful I can continue to serve the membership in this capacity. I joined TWS in 2005, and have been a member of the Wyoming Chapter for 15 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 several TWS conferences.

I am the Science, Research & Analysis Unit Supervisor for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and an Adjunct 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 CMPS.



PLEASE VOTE FOR YOUR NEXT CMPS REPRESENTATIVES BY JULY 15, 2022 AT

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CLFXNK2>



Section Business (continued)

Kevin Krtiz, USFWS Wildlife Biologist Memorial Page

Kevin J. Kritz (September 8, 1959 to January 13, 2022) passed away unexpectedly at his home in Denver earlier this year. Kevin worked in the field of wildlife biology for 44 years, including 33 as a federal wildlife biologist. He oversaw management issues related to sage-grouse, bald eagles, mountain quail, spotted owls, and eagle and raptor ecology.

I personally got to know Kevin during his time as a wildlife biologist with USFWS, where he was always approachable and incredibly nice. In addition to his 20 years with USFWS, he also worked for BLM (Coos Bay, variety of critters including northern spotted owls and bald eagles) and USFS (Redwood Sciences Lab, notably with northern spotted owls), thus his reach was far and the depth of his knowledge impressive.

Kevin was a true conservationist, who was dedicated to advancing our understanding and management of eagles, raptors, and migratory birds. In his short time here, he made the world a better place for those lucky enough to know him and for his efforts to realize a better place for many feathered creatures.

If you would like to share a tribute, or read more about Kevin, please visit the memorial page created by his family at <https://www.forevermissed.com/kevinjkritz/about>.

Kevin was also a supporter of the work being done by The Wildlife Society, and the role that this organization plays in advancing wildlife science & management. In fact, he was a member of "The 1000", donating \$1,000 to this initiative.

This is a heartbreaking blow to our community and he will be greatly missed.

- Daly Edmunds, CMPS Member At-Large



Kevin Kritz holding a Golden Eagle.

CSU-Pueblo Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society Approved

The Colorado State University Pueblo Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society was officially approved on January 10, 2022. The chapter met all annual benchmarks to become a student chapter, including submitting bylaws, electing officers, submitting required reports to TWS, and evidence that the student chapter would make substantial contributions to the wildlife profession. The Colorado Chapter President and CSU-Pueblo Student Chapter Liaison is Nate Bickford, and the Student Chapter President is Austin Barnes.

Section Business (continued)

Megan Vhay's Summary of the TWS Conference

[Megan Vhay was the 2021 recipient of the CMPS Wayne Sandfort Student Travel Grant to attend the TWS Conference. The following is her summary of her experiences.](#)

TWS 2021 was only my second ever national conference of The Wildlife Society— last year I was an observer, attending a few different sessions. But this time around, I participated in the Student Research in Progress poster session, which I am proud to say was my first time presenting a poster of my own research! I enjoyed looking at other folks' posters too; the search function made it easy to seek out particular topics or find posters even if I was unsure of the assigned category/group. I took advantage of the on-demand poster sessions and recorded content during each of the conference days. I also appreciated having the "Your TWS conference access" button in the email, rather than needing to sign in manually each time. While I did have some difficulty tracking down the Q&A access, the rest of the virtual lobby was user-friendly and fairly easy to navigate.

On Day One, I took part in the Bystander Intervention Workshop supported by the TWS Inclusion Diversity Equity Awareness Working Group. I particularly appreciated learning from both the organizers and participants about techniques for defusing conflict, and showing solidarity and support for others without escalating tension. While the workshop was only a starting point, it will be a helpful tool in preparation of my eventual return to the field, where I hope to create a safe and supportive environment for my own seasonal technicians and coworkers in the future.

The morning of Day Two was my assigned Q&A session. In addition to participating in a group discussion with other presenters, I received a few questions about my poster. I enjoyed the chance to answer questions about my work. I am sure it will be an even more rewarding experience talking with folks in person next year.

I didn't have anything in particular planned for Day Three, so I spent some time checking out other posters, contributed talks, and presentations. It was awesome getting to see the Lesser Prairie-Chicken research all in one place, and being a part of that community this year. As an inexperienced conference-goer, I also found the posters a good opportunity to take mental notes on different presentation styles, layouts, and infographics. I enjoy learning what "works" when communicating science, and no better way than to see examples of other presentations. I liked the opportunity to see preliminary findings on ongoing research outside my field, involving species or issues I'm interested in, but never worked with myself. I also attended the Student Development Working Group Meeting. I only recently learned that as a student and member of TWS, I'm automatically a member of the SDWG.

During Day Four, I popped in to the Spatial Ecology Working Group; once again just to sit in and get a sense of what the group is about. I work with ArcGIS Pro for my research and have done telemetry in the past, so I was mostly just curious to learn more about the group. I appreciated their suggestion of waiving working group fees for students to encourage participation, especially at a point when we're still getting a sense of which working groups we'd like to be involved with. In the afternoon I attended the "Careers with Federal Government Agencies" panel discussion with speakers from BLM, USFS, USFWS, and USGS. While some of the info was review (having fought my way through the USA Jobs underbrush

Section Business (continued)

Megan Vhay's TWS Conference Summary... (continued)

before) I learned about the Pathways program available to me when I graduate with my Master's, and learned what GS ranking I can expect by that stage in my career. I also heard some tips from the panelists regarding skills or coursework to address in my resume that will improve my chances of being considered. One of my future options is to work for a Federal agency, so I was grateful for a chance to hear a recap of that information.

On the final day of the Conference, I spent a little more time exploring poster presentations. Though I was unable to watch the Leopold Award address live, I was glad to learn that the recording was available online. It was a pleasure listening to John Organ looking back on his life as a wildlifer, and I was very proud to hear that one of his early sources of inspiration was a MassWildlife biologist (I grew up in Massachusetts and have worked as a tech for the agency). What particularly resonated with me was his observation (in agreement with Aldo Leopold) that the biggest threat to our ecosystems, and the success of our work as biologists, is public indifference. Part of our role as biologists will be to continue to fight apathy, and inspire with reasons to care about the outdoors and the future of wildlife and wild places. With so many distractions vying for our attention daily, and what

could be seen as increasing disconnect from nature, it's easy not to care, and what the public doesn't care about it won't protect. It was an excellent ending note to a week of being fully immersed in our own "bubble", to remember one of our biggest responsibilities going forward will be to engage with a changing public. I was moved by Organ's words and his expressions of gratitude and appreciation for the wildlife and wildlife biologists he's encountered throughout his life.

Being a part of something as big as an international meeting for the wildlife field was exciting, despite events being virtual. I eagerly look forward to TWS 2022, which will (fingers crossed) be my first in-person TWS Conference.



Upcoming Events

American Society of Mammalogists Meeting

Tucson, Arizona

June 17— 21, 2022

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

American Ornithological Society Meeting

San Juan, Puerto Rico

June 27—July 2, 2022

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

Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies 100th Anniversary

Summer Meeting

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

July 10 —July 15, 2022

VENUE AND LODGING: Omni Oklahoma City Hotel, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

MORE INFORMATION: https://wafwa.org/wafwa_conference/summer_2022/

Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists (JMIH)

Spokane, Washington

July 27— 31, 2022

MORE INFORMATION: <https://asih.org/meetings>

Western Agencies Sage & Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse Workshop

Logan, Utah

August 15 — 18, 2022

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

MORE INFORMATION: <https://wafwa.org/workshops/mountain-lion-workshop/>

The Wildlife Society's 29th Annual Conference

Spokane, Washington

November 6 — 10, 2022

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



Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Page 9

CENTRAL MOUNTAINS AND PLAINS SECTION DIRECTORY

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