

## President's Message

Dear WY-TWS members,

It will be my great pleasure to welcome you to Jackson in April for our first in-person conference in over two years! Our theme this year is "Getting Back Together" and I think I speak for all of us when I say that we are so excited to do just that! It's hard to believe that this will be the first WY-TWS conference for many graduate students and early career professionals who have joined the wildlife field in Wyoming in the past few years. We are excited to bring you an impressive line-up of oral presentations and posters representing the excellent work happening around Wyoming, as well as workshops, panel discussions, networking events, and awards to very deserving colleagues. I would also like to recognize our over 35 sponsors who contributed funding to this event! If you haven't registered for the conference yet, I encourage you to consider joining us in Jackson in a few short weeks.

WY-TWS committees have also been hard at work this winter. With the help of the Legislative Affairs Committee and Science Committee, Rhiannon Jakopak prepared comments and traveled to Cheyenne on behalf of WY-TWS to testify on the sage-grouse farming bill (Wyoming Senate Bill 61). WY-TWS also submitted comment letters to our Wyoming Congressional representatives in support of Recovering America's Wildlife Act. We were also pleased to grant six graduate student scholarships (\$750 each) in November and continue our annual funding support for the Wyoming Student Chapter.

We have also had some significant changes to leadership in WY-TWS over the past few months. The board said goodbye to Eric Maichak after his second round on the board serving in the roles of President-Elect, President, and Past-President. Thank you, Eric, for all of your contributions to WY-TWS! The board welcomed Heather O'Brien as our newest board member at-large and also Anna Chalfoun in her new role as President-Elect. We also thank Jerod Merkle for a second term as board member at-large. I would also like to recognize two new committee chairs, Riley Bernard (Awards and Nominations Committee) and Renee Lile (Student Chapter Liaison). Thank you for dedicating your time to our chapter!

I hope you all have a healthy, productive, and enjoyable spring. I look forward to seeing you soon!

Sincerely,

Aly Courtemanch, WY-TWS President