

Fall Newsletter

September 2022

Note from the Chair

Dear HTCWG Members,

I trust that your households continue to readjust to the changing work, travel, school, and home routines as society addresses the various elements of Covid. I have begun to travel again since the spring and while I don't really like to travel, it feels good to engage with people in person at conferences and working meetings.

Our Working Group has been active in recent months. Aside from our normal conference calls, we have worked on several subjects. Our Working Group provided input to the new TWS position statement on lead ammunition for hunting and fishing tackle (see article by John McDonald). We offered two webinars: one in January (Irreplaceable Conservation Funding- A Primer on the Wildlife Restoration Act) and one in September (Highlighting Bridge Builders: Examples of R3 Efforts to Connect New Audiences Outdoors). Thank you to members who developed and coordinated these events and agreed to be on panels. Particularly kudos to Geriann Albers and Samantha Pedder. We are sponsoring a workshop (Animal Trapping Techniques for Researchers and Managers) at the annual conference in Spokane. Thank you to Pat Jackson, Colleen Olfenbuttel, and Bryant White for their continued efforts to inform our profession about the science and techniques of capturing wildlife. Thank you again to Gabby Zaldumbide for postings to our Facebook page and continued thanks to Amanda Veals for her work in production of our newsletters!

If you have ideas that you would like us to consider for professional development work, information sharing, or certifications and training, please share your ideas with any officer. Remember to take someone outdoors the exposure may make that lifelong connection to nature.

Good luck in the woods and waters this fall!
Tom



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TWS Hunting, Trapping, and Conservation Working Group



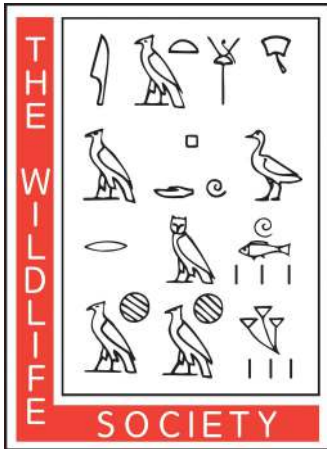
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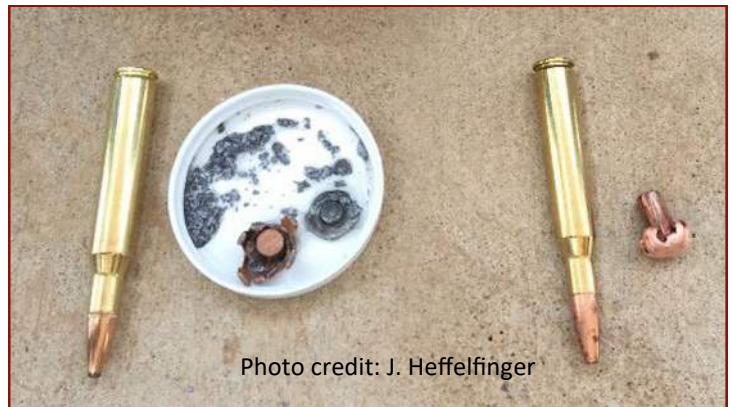
TWS Revised Statement on Lead

By: John McDonald



The Wildlife Society Council adopted a revised Position Statement on Lead in Hunting Ammunition and Fishing Tackle this past June. The revised statement followed on the work of a special committee formed by TWS President Gordon Batcheller to review the previous statement and make recommendations on revisions. This committee was composed of TWS members, many representing Working Groups (including several members from the HTC Working Group), with relevant expertise and experience on the lead issue. It also drew upon information presented in the Symposium that we sponsored at the 2021 TWS annual conference on the topic of lead ammunition.

Key updates to the position statement include language that population-level impacts to wildlife need not be the threshold to implementing measures to reduce the amount of lead deposited on the landscape via spent hunting ammunition and fishing tackle, as well as recognizing that voluntary, consumer-driven switching to non-lead hunting ammunition is the best current strategy for reducing lead deposition in the environment. The position statement also calls for increased education efforts to raise the issue of the effects of spent lead hunting ammunition on wildlife to a larger audience of hunters, increased manufacturing capacity of non-lead ammunition, and human dimensions research to understand the reasons why hunters may choose to switch or not switch to non-lead ammunition.



For more information visit: <https://wildlife.org/lead-in-hunting-ammunition-and-fishing-tackle/>

Membership Corner

Check out a member's story about Recruitment, Retention, and Reactivation in the article on the next page!

Do you have a hunting, trapping, or general field work story you want to share with fellow HTC members? Send them to Amanda Veals at amveals@gmail.com with subject line "HTC Membership Corner" to have your story featured in our next newsletter.

National R3 Symposium Provides Platform to Advance Participation and Diversity in Outdoor Recreation

By: Kyle Daley

If you work for a fish and wildlife agency or conservation NGO in the United States, you have likely heard the term “R3” thrown around like a hot potato for the past several years. If you’ve been around awhile, you may have heard this term, or at least its intent, raise and fall in popularity throughout your career. “R3” is short for recruitment, retention, and reactivation, and is a movement to increase participation in outdoor recreation, with hunting, shooting sports, fishing, and boating as the primary focus.

R3 is a process made up of individual actions to engage and support individuals in their understanding and, hopefully, eventual adoption of an outdoor recreation activity from interest to independent participant. “Recruitment” is common language in wildlife conservation, adding individuals to the population through births or immigration. In terms of R3, recruitment is adding new hunters, anglers, target shooters, and boaters that have not previously participated. “Retention” and “reactivation” are uncommon or unused terms by wildlife professionals, but the concepts exist. “Retention” is analogous to survival within the population, keeping people actively engaged in these activities. “Reactivation” means getting people to pick up their bows, shotguns, rods, or boat keys after a lapse in their participation, similar to a bachelor lion rejoining a pride and again participating in the population.

Identical to a goal to increase a population for Desert bighorn sheep, Blanding’s turtle, or American woodcock, increasing the population of people that participate in outdoor recreation is best served by employing and adaptive management cycle. Agencies, NGOs, or other stakeholders take actions based on expert knowledge, collect metrics and evaluate those actions, and using the knowledge gained through evaluation to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of future actions to meet the established goals. The National R3 Symposium provides a space for R3 experts and practitioners from fish and wildlife agencies, conservation NGOs, outdoor manufacturers and industry representatives, and local and private groups and organizations to learn how to improve their cumulative actions.

To this purpose, the Council to Advance Hunting and the Shooting Sports (“Council”)



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SPORTS**

hosted the second National R3 Symposium in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma from May 2–5, 2022. Over 250 R3 practitioners from across the country gathered to share experiences and update each other on their most recent research and survey results. Major topics included land and target range access for hunting and shooting sports, updates to regulations to remove barriers for new participants, effective

mentoring of participants, marketing advancements, and new technology to assist the effort.

National R3 Symposium Provides Platform to Advance Participation and Diversity in Outdoor Recreation

Recognizing European-Americans make up the majority of the racial demographics of hunting, shooting sports, fishing, and boating, and that previous efforts have ignored or, at best, underserved racial minorities, the R3 symposium provided a platform for the audience to learn and discuss how to better include and understand the desires of minorities in R3 planning and programs. This was highlighted by Dr. Novotny Lawrence, Associate Professor at Iowa State University, presenting on the stereotypes and misguided portrayal of African Americans and guns in the media. Dr. Lawrence was joined by Christopher Kilgour, Founder of Color in the Outdoors, Chris Allen, Founder of HoodNeck, and Philip Smith, President of National African American Gun Association for a panel discussion focused on breaking down preconceived perceptions of minorities participating in outdoor recreation and providing opportunities to improve relationships and service to racial minorities who have interest in or participate in outdoor recreation.



Dr. Novotny Lawrence Facilitates a panel with Christopher Kilgour, Founder of Color in the Outdoors, Chris Allen, Founder of HoodNeck, and Philip Smith, President of National African American Gun Association to discuss stereotypes and the misguided portrayal of African Americans and guns in media.

R3 is more than just a “hook and bullet” initiative, but it often viewed as such by members of the wildlife profession. As stated, the goal of R3 is to increase participation in outdoor recreation, but the outcomes, at the core, benefit all wildlife and people that enjoy any type of wildlife associated recreation. Increased participation in outdoor recreation will secure and bolster conservation funding through license sales and excise taxes collected from the Wildlife Restoration Act and Sport Fish Restoration Act. These funds provide for wild spaces and healthy ecosystems for all people and wildlife – whether carrying a shotgun, camera, or enjoying a breath of fresh air. Less tangible, but still measurable, benefits also exist, providing support for the broader, national economy and pro-conservation policies, laws, and politics. Investment in outdoor recreation through R3 will provide the wildlife profession with funding, conservation land, and customers for generations to come.

National R3 Symposium Provides Platform to Advance Participation and Diversity in Outdoor Recreation

During my time working in R3, I have heard “why is it the job of our agency to increase participation, we conserve wildlife?” This idea is good intentioned, but is limited by a lack of understanding of how conservation is funded in the United States, and a shortsightedness of our roles as wildlife biologists, managers, and administrators to serve the public by providing recreational opportunities, healthy ecosystems, and places where people can connect with nature. Wildlife conservation is more than the innate value of flora and fauna or the ideals of a healthy and complete ecosystem. It also serves our customers, whether they buy a hunting license or desire clean air and water.

While the R3 investment may not direct resources for rare or at-risk species, the challenge for wildlife professionals is to reduce the scarcity mindset around funding resources and view R3 as another technique to work towards the shared goals of wildlife conservation, human connection to nature, and an ecologically and societally healthy world.



Jared Romero, Dominic Lucero, Matthew Monjaras, and Ashely Smith discuss the importance for the next generation to see individuals like themselves participating in hunting and shooting sports and current engagement and mentorship opportunities being provided to underserved communities by the Colorado High-Country Educational Treks, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, and Minority Outdoor Alliance.

More information and resources on R3 and future symposia and events can be found at www.cahss.org

Information about the Author: Kyle Daly is Wildlife Biologist for the US Fish and Wildlife Service in Minnesota. His work is focused on conservation issues, funding, and recreational participation in the Midwest and nationally. Kyle represented the US Fish and Wildlife Service on the National R3 Implementation Work Group and coordinates R3 efforts in the Midwest region to strengthen state and federal R3 partnerships and align efforts. Kyle is a member of the Hunting and Trapping Work Group, served as President for the Minnesota Chapter from 2019 - 2021, and is a graduate of the Leadership Institute. He lives with his wife, hunting dogs, cat, and 32 chickens on a farm in central Minnesota.

Highlighting Bridge Builders Webinar: A Success

By: Geriann Albers

In continued efforts to provide professional development, the Hunting, Trapping, and Conservation Working Group recently hosted its second webinar through The Wildlife Society. “Highlighting Bridge Builders: Examples of R3 Efforts to Connect New Audiences Outdoors” was held on Wednesday, September 14.

After I welcomed everyone, Samantha Pedder of Pedder Solutions and HTCWG working group member, moderated the session. Samantha set up the context for the session and our focus of highlighting state agencies who were working to build bridges, open doors, and support people in nurturing communities around outdoor activities, especially hunting, shooting sports, and trapping.

Panelists included Jenna Malinowski from Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Pete Novotny from Ohio Division of Wildlife, and Nicole Meier from Vermont Department of Fish & Wildlife. Each panelist did a short introduction to a small slice of the work they were doing. Pete discussed Ohio’s work to make shooting ranges more welcoming and relevant to more people, Jenna highlighted the Women’s Trap Camp she coordinates in Wisconsin, and Nicole talked about the R3 efforts Vermont to build communities around hunting.

All the panelists were asked a few establishing questions to kick things off, such as a positive lesson that they had learned and the impact of these types of programs on their agency. The webinar had around 80 participants, and several great questions were submitted through the webinar Q&A. Panelists were able to answer over a dozen questions from attendees, from how they set about determining what a particular audience needed from them and what paths they used to make connections with people, to how they worked with barriers they may have encountered along the way.

The webinar wrapped up with the panelists looking to the future of where their programs might go and providing final words of wisdom or inspiration based upon what they learn. It was another successful and well-attended webinar for the working group. If you have ideas for future webinars, feel free to submit them to the board or bring them to the working group meeting in November.



If you missed the webinar, it will be posted in the coming weeks at: wildlife.org/webinars/

You also can check out our previous webinar held in January “Irreplaceable Conservation Funding- A

Primer on the Wildlife Restoration Act” at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUMHukWF5TnEkH9_-4hOk6Q

Animal Trapping Techniques for Researchers and Managers

HTC Sponsored Workshop at TWS 2022 in Spokane, WA

Sunday November 6th 8 am to 5 pm MST

Organizers: Pat Jackson and Bryant White

Summary: Animal capture techniques have existed since the dawn of humankind. Today a wide range of methods exist, but many professionals are greatly in need of “hands on” experience with the range of devices available. Many subtle aspects of good trap deployment can come only with experience. Due to the large learning curve involved, many times management or research objectives are not met. This carefully constructed workshop can give everyone from entry-level technicians and students to chief administrators and university professors the background they need to implement the battery of techniques needed to study and/or control birds, feral pigs, cats and other felids, canids, and other invasive large vertebrates or research animals requiring capture. To address this need our workshop will 1) demonstrate the full range of modern trapping equipment available including mist nets, snares, cable restraints, cage traps, foot holds, and body-gripping traps; 2) impart techniques to maximize the capturing potential of each tool and show how to use each most humanely; 3) demonstrate how to modify, set, and properly use each trap and device type; 4) provide consultation to each participant to suit their individual needs. By familiarizing the participants with the various trapping techniques available we hope to provide managers and researchers with valuable knowledge that will improve success by increasing catch numbers, saving time, and conducting more humane trapping efforts. Workshop participants will learn how to set, bait, and camouflage traps in an actual field setting near the training site.



Presenters:

Colleen Olfenbuttel: presenting on bear capture techniques including in-class instruction and outdoor trap demonstrations of culvert traps and Aldrich food snares.

Per-Arne Ahlen: presenting on control and eradication of invasive mammals, birds, and reptiles in Northern Europe with a focus on how to work effectively when leghold traps are banned.

Peter Iacono: presenting on trapping and removal methods of invasive reptiles in Florida, elaborating on what has and hasn't worked in the past.

Bryant White: detailed overview of Best Management Practices for Trapping in the United States.

2023–2024 Election Information

Below are nominees for officer positions for the 2023-2024 Hunting, Trapping, and Conservation Working Group. You can find detailed candidate bios on the next page.

Elections and Nominations Committee is chaired by Michael Cherry and includes x and x.

You can find more detailed description of what each officer position entails in our past newsletters: https://wildlife.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/HTC_Summer20-Newsletter.pdf

You can vote through the link we will be sending out via our listserv soon.

Chair-Elect Candidates

Jacob Dykes

John McDonald

Board Member Candidates

Chris Dwyer

Levi Heffelfinger

Bryant White

Candidate Biographies

Jacob Dykes



Jacob was born and raised in rural Mississippi where he could be found in the woods hunting or on the fish bank. Not much has changed but the scenery. Jacob is an avid outdoorsman who spends his free time hunting, fishing, trapping, and camping. From elk hunting out west to fishing for redfish along the Texas coast, Jacob's passion is the outdoors. This passion has not only taken him on some cool adventures, but it carved his career path.

Jacob is an assistant professor in the Rangeland, Wildlife and Fisheries department at Texas A&M University and an Extension Wildlife Specialist for Texas A&M AgriLife Extension. He leads applied wildlife research to improve the way we manage natural resources. He then makes sure the knowledge gained from that research is clear and put into the hands of landowners and

managers for implementation. Jacob has worked with everything from feral hogs and white-tailed deer to nilgai and cormorants. He has authored numerous peer-reviewed journal articles focused on wildlife management and conservation. He has written popular articles, filmed YouTube videos, recorded podcasts, and participated in radio broadcasts to educate people on wildlife conservation, hunting, and trapping.

Jacob received his B.S. and M.S. in Wildlife, Fisheries, and Aquaculture from Mississippi State University and his Ph.D. in Wildlife Sciences from the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute at Texas A&M University–Kingsville. He has received various awards including an “Outstanding Extension Communication Award” from the Mississippi State University Extension Service and a “Presenters Award” from the Southeast Deer Study group.

Candidate Biographies



John McDonald

John McDonald is a wildlife biologist and Professor in the Environmental Science Department at Westfield State University in western Massachusetts. John has 3 decades of experience working on wildlife research and management in northeastern forests, on species including black bears, ruffed grouse, deer, and moose. John previously worked for Mass Fish and Wildlife as the state deer biologist, as a researcher in the Coop Wildlife Research Lab at Southern Illinois University, and for the US Fish & Wildlife Service as a wildlife research specialist administering millions of dollars of grant funds from the Pittman-Robertson and State Wildlife Grant programs to state fish and wildlife agencies in the Northeast. He is a Past-President and Fellow of The Wildlife Society, served as Northeast Section Representative to Council, and was at various times President of

the NE Section and New England chapter. Currently he is a board member of this working group and associate editor for both JWM and WSB. He was one of the organizers of the working groups symposium on lead ammunition and wildlife at the 2021 TWS conference and is editing a set of papers from that symposium for the Bulletin. John recently realized this is his 40th year as a hunter, getting his start as a teenager in rural northeast PA. He now pursues squirrels until woodcock season starts and then tries to keep up with his cocker spaniel, Clementine, in the bird covers, until shifting gears again when the birds move south to hunt bear and deer.

Chris Dwyer

Chris Dwyer has been with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in the Northeast Region for the past 16 years where he is currently a wildlife biologist in the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program, and previously served as the regional migratory game bird biologist with the Migratory Bird Program. Prior to his time with the FWS, he served for 10 years as a wetland wildlife and furbearer biologist with the Ohio Division of Wildlife, 1 year as a research wildlife biologist with the Missouri Department of Conservation, 3 years as a research wildlife biologist with USDA APHIS Wildlife Services, Denver Wildlife Research Center and 2 years as a wildlife technician with USGS, Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center. Chris has a M.S. degree in Environmental and Forest Biology from the State University of New York (S.U.N.Y.) College of Environmental Science and Forestry, a B.S. in Wildlife Biology from the University of Montana, and A.A.S. in Fisheries and Wildlife Technology from S.U.N.Y. Cobleskill.

Chris is a volunteer trapper education instructor for the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife and a volunteer instructor for the Conservation Leaders for Tomorrow program. He enjoys hunting, trapping, fishing, hiking, wildlife photography, making furniture and spending as much time as possible in the woods, fields and on the water with family and friends.



Candidate Biographies



Levi Heffelfinger

Levi grew up hunting, fishing, and camping throughout the deserts and mountains of Arizona. He is an Assistant Professor of Research with the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute at Texas A&M University-Kingsville. He is remotely stationed in Lubbock, TX to serve wildlife research and management needs in the southern Great Plains. His work focuses on large mammals, particularly big game species. His research entails connecting landscape level metrics to population parameters to aid in species management. During his career, he has been awarded the Boone & Crockett fellow of the year, outstanding collegiate graduate student, and youth conservationist of the year by the Arizona Game and Fish Department in his early years. Levi has led and been involved in numerous peer-reviewed manuscripts and book chapters and currently advises or leads graduate students in their research involving current conservation concerns.

With an early influence in wildlife science in southern Arizona, he earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Arizona in Wildlife Conservation and Management. His M.S. degree from University of

Nevada, Reno involved evaluating the spatial ecology and modeling demographics of mule deer amid arid environmental constraints on the Mojave National Preserve in southern California. Levi then completed a Ph.D. at Texas A&M University-Kingsville and served as the Boone & Crockett Fellow in Ungulate Research. His doctoral research focused on modeling the influence of spatio-temporal fluctuations in forage (via agricultural development) on mule deer movement and population performance.

Bryant White

Bryant is an avid outdoor enthusiast and spends his free time (of which there is never enough!) hunting, trapping, trail running, mountain biking, hiking, camping and enjoying wild places with his family and friends. He loves to travel and is always looking for the next adventure.

As the Program Manager for Trapping Policy and Human Wildlife Conflicts for the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA), he helps lead the efforts of the Sustainable Use of Wildlife and Wildlife Resource Policy committees, and the Furbearer Conservation, Human Wildlife Conflict, and Feral Swine working groups. He leads efforts to develop Best Management Practices for Trapping in the United States and Best Practices for human-wildlife conflict resolution. He also engages with CITES, the IUCN, the International Wildlife Management Congress, the International Union of Game Biologists, and other domestic and international wildlife conservation groups. He also represents the United States as a member of the Joint Management Committee for the Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards. He has authored numerous peer reviewed scientific publications on furbearer management and human-wildlife conflict resolution. Bryant has also served as an instructor for the Conservation Leaders for Tomorrow program since 2010 and he is passionate about hunter and trapper education.



About Us

Webpage: <https://wildlife.org/htcwg/>

Officers 2022–2023

Chair: Tom Decker
(thomas_decker@fws.gov)

Chair-Elect: Geriann Albers
(galbers@dnr.in.gov)

Past Chair: Michael Cherry
(Michael.Cherry@tamuk.edu)

Secretary/Treasurer: Valorie Titus
(titusv@hockings.edu)

Board Member: Pat Jackson
(pjackson@ndow.org)

Board Member: John McDonald
(jemcdonald@westfield.ma.edu)

Membership: 257



TWS Hunting,
Trapping, and
Conservation
Working Group



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What are the Best Management Practices for Trapping in the United States?

In our upcoming workshop, Bryant White will be giving a presentation on this topic.

This presentation will provide an overview of the largest scientific study of traps and trapping techniques to evaluate humaneness, safety, selectivity, and efficacy ever conducted. Since 1997, this program has scientifically evaluated over 600 trapping devices for the capture of 23 species of furbearers. Information will be provided on how the BMP program is conducted, how traps are evaluated, and the presentation will provide some of the significant results. The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies in conjunction with the USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services National Wildlife Research Center, numerous state agencies, federal agencies, and many other conservation organizations have partnered in this program. We will also take a brief look at the many uses of trapping as a critical component of wildlife management and conservation.

Annual Working Group Meeting

Tuesday November 8th 12-1:30 pm PST

Guest Speaker: Charles “Swanny” Evans

As the Director of Research and Partnerships for the Council to Advance Hunting and the Shooting Sports, Charles ‘Swanny’ Evans is helping to advance national R3 efforts with a focus on serving industry, non-profit, and state partners. In previous roles, he has worked in eight states and overseas, focusing on everything from forest management plans to non-native ungulate eradication, and was the first state-level R3 Coordinator position developed under the direction of the National Hunting and Shooting Sports Action Plan. Swanny attended the Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources at the University of Georgia where he earned his B.S. and M.S. in Wildlife Sciences and Forest Resources. He is a Certified Wildlife Biologist®.

