

# TWS NPWMWG

Biannual Newsletter



## Our Mission

The Native Peoples Wildlife Management Working Group promotes improved relationships between state/provincial/federal wildlife managers and tribal wildlife managers through improved communications. The Working Group provides a forum for tribal and agency wildlife professionals to discuss wildlife management on reservations and aboriginal lands and to share viewpoints on proposed policies affecting wildlife management in Indian Country. The Working Group works to enhance wildlife management on and off reservations through joint activities.

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# Letter from the Chair

Molly O'Grady, Chair, Native Peoples Wildlife Management Working Group

Happy Spring Everyone!

Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter and for your membership in our working group. Since December of 2021, we have welcomed a new team of officers and board members. We now have four Native Student Professional Development (NSPD) Alumni on our officers/board team, demonstrating the importance of such a program in retaining young, native professionals and providing a platform for their voices to be heard and incorporated. Additionally, we have had a change in roles and responsibilities of some of our Officer (Past Chair) and Volunteer positions (Newsletter Editor). Due to these changes, our newsletter was put on hold, so we have compiled information that was to go out in last year's newsletter with this Spring newsletter. It is also with excitement that we announce two new members to have joined our team; Alex Luschnath as our Past Chair (serving from Apr 2023-Dec 2023) and Nathaniel Wehr serving as Newsletter Editor (volunteer)!

Our newly elected team met over 5 times this past year and generated a list of interests and goals to accomplish for the working group. Based on these goals and interests, we have created Ad Hoc committees under particular topics: Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK), NSPD & Mentoring, Communications, TWS Conference Planning and Local Permission, 2023 TWS Conference Symposium for NPWMWG, Publications Rep/Position Statement Reviews. The Ad Hoc Committees will allow us to keep our ideas streamlined, and offer focused lines of communication for both our officers/board and the membership as a whole. To see what else we have been up to, please check out our report to Council [here](#).

In addition to our board member meetings, we held two All-Member meetings last year (one in August and one in-person at the Spokane Conference). Our hope is that these meetings will offer non-board members opportunities to get involved and to provide insight, perspective, and more for the growth of our working group. **This year, we will hold our first All-Member meeting via Zoom on JUNE 20th (TUES) at 2pm CST. Save the Date!**

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Our working group was also essential in assisting President Gordon Batcheller in planning the 2023 Annual TWS Meeting Plenary in Spokane, Washington. The plenary focused on "Celebrating Tribal Wildlife Management: Opportunities, Challenges and Defining A New Path" and included an opening by Carol Evans, Chairwoman of the Spokane Tribe of Indians, an address by Deb Haaland (Secretary of the Interior), Dr. Michel, Executive Director of the Upper Columbia United Tribes sharing their accomplishments conserving fish and wildlife in the Pacific Northwest, and Lydia Parker - a Mohawk tribal member and Executive Director of Hunters of Color - to share perspective and her work to promote and encourage traditional lifestyles among indigenous people. A BIG Gratitude goes out to Avery Tilley, a current Board Member and NSPD alumni, for collaborating between our working group and President Batcheller to ensure that proper protocol and gifts were provided for the speakers of this year's plenary.

Please see below for some exciting news about funding for our Native Student Professional Development Program!

We look forward to continuing working with our membership base and keeping you informed as much as we can. Please look to your emails for updates on Editing our Charter, the Native American Research Assistantship Program, the Native Student Professional Development Program, getting involved on our working group committees, and more! If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to the Working Group Officers and Board and we will do our best to assist you. Have a great Spring and a warm Summer!

Sincerely,  
Molly O'Grady  
NPWMWG Chair





# Update from the Native Student Professional Development Program

Ty Werdel, Native Student Professional Development Program Director

The Native Student Professional Development Program hosted 10 students at the 2022 TWS Annual Conference in Spokane!

**Nicole Benally**

**Daniel Bird**

**Remington Bracher**

**Aaron Cajero Jr.**

**Brissa Christophersen**

**Dominick Harris**

**Mateen Hessami**

**Brandon Kittson**

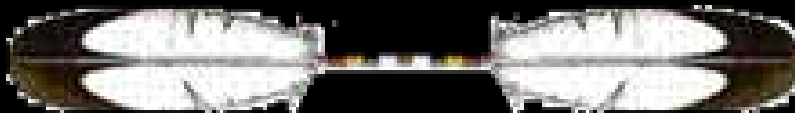
**Sabrina Sanchez**

**Avery Tilley**

(NPWMWG Board Member-at-Large)

**Congrats to Remington Bracher and Dominick Harris!**  
They are set to become the new co-Program Coordinators of the Native Student Professional Development Program moving forward.

**Paige Schmidt (NPWMWG Secretary / Treasurer) secured \$40,000 in U.S. Forest Service funds to support the Native Student Professional Development Program!**  
TWS will be attempting to raise additional funds.



# Conferences



NATIVE AMERICAN FISH & WILDLIFE SOCIETY

## 2023 Annual National Conference

APR 24 - 27, 2023

ANCHORAGE, AK

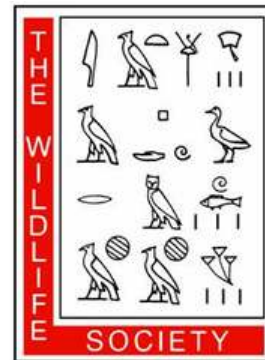
Hosted by Chugach Regional Resources Commission

Register at: [www.nafws.org/product/2023-annual-national-conference/](http://www.nafws.org/product/2023-annual-national-conference/)

The 40th Annual National Conference of the Native American Fish & Wildlife Society will be held in Anchorage, Alaska from Apr. 24-27. Online registration will be available until Apr. 17th with in-person registration possible thereafter. Discounts are available for tribal members and students! Click [here](#) for more information!



Abstracts are now being accepted for The Wildlife Society's 30th Annual Conference being held in Louisville, Kentucky Nov. 5-9. Abstracts are due by May 7th. Registration is also now open for sponsors and exhibitors. Click [here](#) for more details!



Thanks to everyone who joined us in Spokane!! It was great seeing you all back in person for the 2022 conference!





# Reintroducing the American Marten

Angela Kujawa, *Wildlife Biologist, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians*

The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians (LRBOI), located within the 1836 Ceded Territory in Michigan, have traditionally relied on the land and nature to persist. The Anishinaabe people and the natural world live in harmony and are connected. Typically, Anishinaabe communities are organized based on relationships found in the natural environment and form family groups called clans. Members were, and still are, associated with clan animals such as deer, sturgeon, or marten, which are species native to the Great Lakes region. Clan members that are associated with American marten (*Martes americana*) are part of the Waabizheshi Dodem (Marten Clan). Marten are both ecologically and culturally significant to the LRBOI community as ecological indicators of healthy ecosystems and clan animals. Restoration and stewardship of native species is a high priority for LRBOI, as is the Native culture, harmony, and connectedness to the natural world.

Marten were extirpated from Michigan in the early 20th century due to overharvest and habitat loss. During the mid-20th century marten were reintroduced to Michigan across the Upper Peninsula (UP) and in two locations of the Lower Peninsula (LP). While marten seem to be thriving in the UP, the LP population appears less successful, but their full distribution outside of the reintroduction sites is relatively unknown. That is why LRBOI has partnered with Grand Valley State University (GVSU) with funding provided by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative to determine the current occupancy, distribution, and detection rate of marten in the northern LP of Michigan. This work was performed within the 1836 Ceded Territory, where marten are a species of special concern to LRBOI. Knowledge on where marten occur in the LP is critical for managing for a long-term sustainable population.

In 2019, LRBOI began a three-year survey for marten in areas predicted to have a high probability of use by a resource selection function created for Michigan's northern LP. Each survey site consisted of a...



Story continues on next page...



set of two remotely triggered cameras, each facing a tree painted with a reference scale to the north and south. The northern scale tree was lured with salmon oil to improve detection. Each set was left for four weeks and then moved to a new location between May-September. A total of 488 sites were sampled and 914,872 images were collected. Images were identified by two reviewers and discrepancies were resolved by a third reviewer.

Occupancy modeling is useful in predicting where marten exist and also provides an estimate of detection probability. We created single-season site occupancy models with each week during the four-week camera deployment designated as a separate sampling period. Preliminary results from occupancy modeling estimate a 22% probability of marten being detected when present and indicate marten were present at 8% of the surveyed locations. These numbers may seem low but are realistic due to the low founding population (86 individuals) and distance between the two reintroduction sites (over 150km apart) in the LP.

To obtain detection of marten in known occupancy locations, we fitted marten with GPS collars with a VHF component. We estimated 95% fixed kernel density home-ranges for collared marten and randomly selected one location within each home-range. At each selected location, we deployed a camera set using the aforementioned methods and visited these sites every four weeks to reapply lure and exchange SD cards. At known occupancy sites marten were detected within four weeks approximately 75% of the time. We have not yet split these data into week-long sampling periods to match the occupancy model detection rates, but we expect detection rate to be higher in a known occupancy area. Cameras were set within established home-ranges and GPS collars with a VHF component allowed for telemetry and downloaded locations to confirm marten were still alive and within their estimated home-range during the survey period.

This work will provide knowledge on where marten are currently distributed across the 1836 Ceded Territory in the LP and improve our understanding of how successful the reintroduction efforts were. This information is crucial to effectively managing for a long-term population of this ecologically and culturally significant species in Michigan.



## New Research

### Advancing Wildlife Policy of Eastern Timber Wolves and Lake Sturgeon through Traditional Ecological Knowledge

Hannah L. Schley, Ilene F. West, and  
Christopher K. Williams



Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) is becoming more prominent in wildlife management decisions and policy making. The cooperation of TEK and Western science paradigms have been beneficial for conserving our natural resources and wildlife populations. However, there are still concerns with accepting TEK as part of wildlife management, policy, and regulations. With increasing challenges to wildlife conservation, it is vital to implement Indigenous TEK to form more robust and holistic approaches to wildlife management. Here, we present two case studies in the upper Midwest region of the United States involving the Ojibwe tribe that show the importance of TEK collaboration and how that knowledge can be used for the betterment of ecologically sensitive species—lake sturgeon and eastern timber wolves.

Full publication [here](#)

### Genuine Tribal and Indigenous Representation in the United States

Jeffrey J. Brooks

Natural resource management agencies in the United States have a legal responsibility to represent Indigenous Peoples and federally recognized Tribes in environmental stewardship. This comment article is a call to action that argues for genuine representation of Tribes and other Indigenous Peoples through adherence to existing, formal consultation policies and coproduction of knowledge. Agencies must recognize and respect the differences between public involvement and government-to-government consultation with federally-recognized Tribes. Sovereign tribal nations are not the public and have a unique relationship with federal agencies based in the federal trust responsibility. Coproduction of knowledge is an emerging enterprise that has potential for meaningfully engaging and genuinely and equitably representing Indigenous Peoples and Tribes and should be codeveloped and implemented as policy. Agencies should build capacity to properly represent tribal nations in decisions. Agency employees and Indigenous Peoples must spend more time together to increase cultural awareness and build meaningful relationships to facilitate genuine consultation and coproduction of knowledge.



Full publication [here](#)





## In the News



The following tasks have been identified as necessary to meet the project's goals:

### Observation

Expand geochemistry and temperature monitoring to assess climate and stream variation

### Climate Modeling

Develop future climate scenarios with various climate models to assess changes in Arctic hydrology

### Model Rivers and Fish

Use future climate models and simulated river temperatures to assess potential impacts on Arctic fish species

### Co-Produced Storylines

Improve understanding of river ice and fish habitat vulnerabilities through collaboration with Indigenous Alaskan and First Nation communities, researchers and resource managers

Full article [here](#)

### Arctic Rivers Project:

Connecting Indigenous knowledge and Western science to strengthen collective understanding of the changing Arctic

#### Overview and Objectives

The Arctic Rivers Project will weave together Indigenous knowledges and methods from western science such as monitoring and the modeling of climate, rivers (flows, temperature, ice), and fish to improve understanding of how Arctic rivers, ice transportation corridors, fish, and communities might be impacted by and adapt to climate change.

The project began in 2020 and will run until the end of 2024. The project is funded by the National Science Foundation's Navigating the New Arctic Program.



# Upcoming Opportunities

## Trail Blazer Grant

The *Early Career Professional* (<https://wildlife.org/ecpwg/>) and *Student Development Working Groups* (<https://wildlife.org/sdwg/>) of TWS are accepting applications for the Trail Blazer Grant through May 31. This grant opportunity is intended to support students and early career professionals from underrepresented communities to offset the cost of field gear. Grants will be awarded for \$250 and \$100. Five pairs of binoculars will also be available courtesy of *Vortex Optics*.

To learn more and apply click [here](#)

## Climate Adaptation Science Centers Indigenous Knowledge Webinars

*The U.S. Geological Survey National Climate Adaptation Science Center*

(<https://www.usgs.gov/programs/climate-adaptation-science-centers/national-casc-0>)

is hosting a webinar series on how to integrate Indigenous Knowledges (IK) into U.S. federal ecological research and resource management programs. Running bi-weekly from April 6 to June 1 at 3:00 p.m. ET, this series centers Indigenous perspectives to explore considerations inherent in working within different knowledge systems and provides best practices for collaborating with Tribes and Indigenous communities.

Learn more and register [here](#)

## Women of Color Collective in Sustainability

WOC/CS, pronounced /woke•sīs/, is a collective created to support women of color who want to connect, collaborate, identify mentorships, job opportunities and seek resources within sustainability. WOC/CS strives to be a resource for opportunities across the sustainability ecosystem for women of color to build their careers, create professional success and support their well-being.

Learn more [here](#)



# Financial Aid Open-use Guide for Minority Students



**Our team at OnlineMBA.com is committed to facilitating students on their educational journey. We've put together an open-use guide that outlines some MBA minority scholarships, as well as other funding opportunities. Check it out below!**

According to the Graduate Management Admissions Council, colleges and universities actively recruit women and people of color for MBA programs. Despite these efforts, minority students remain vastly underrepresented in MBA programs throughout the country.

Many financial aid options exist to help learners pay for tuition, fees, and other educational expenses. These opportunities include MBA minority scholarships, grants, and fellowships.

The cost of education may deter some minority students from entering an MBA program. Fortunately, there are many financial aid options to help students pay for tuition, fees, and other educational expenses. These opportunities include MBA minority scholarships, grants, and fellowships. Some colleges and universities even provide fully funded programs for eligible candidates.

A wealth of MBA minority scholarships help both ethnic and non-ethnic minorities. Students from certain backgrounds may qualify for ethnicity-based scholarships. Though fewer in number, some MBA minority scholarships provide funding for undocumented students, including refugees, immigrants, and students with Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status. These scholarships do not require U.S. citizenship.

Check out the resources, scholarships, financial aid opportunities, test prep, application guides, and SO MUCH MORE by clicking [here](#)





## Working Group Officers

### Your New NPWMWG Past Chair

Alexandria "Alex" Luschnath

Thanks very much to Alex Luschnath for stepping up to be the new Past-Chair of the working group until new elections can be held this December!

And thanks to all our working group members, many of whom offered to take on this interim position!

### Your New NPWMWG Newsletter Editor

Nathaniel "Nate" Wehr

Nate Wehr is a current Ph.D. candidate in the Dept. of Fisheries and Wildlife at Michigan State University. His research examining predator-prey interactions of gray wolves, moose, and white-tailed deer is being conducted in collaboration with the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa on their reservation in Northeastern Minnesota and Isle Royale National Park. Prior to beginning his Ph.D., Nate completed his M.S. at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa studying feral pigs and his B.A. at Oberlin College studying great blue herons and great egrets. In his professional and personal life, Nate is passionate about hunting and game management and hopes to pursue a career in academia where he can teach the next generation of land managers and produce research that supports scientifically sound management decisions.



### Working Group Officers

Chair: Molly O'Grady

mollyogradaigh@gmail.com

Chair-Elect: Celina Gray

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Past-Chair: Alexandria Luschnath

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NSPD Director: Ty Werdel

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Janene Lichtenberg

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Robert "Bob" Newman

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Avery Tilley

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## Final Thoughts

### National CASC Newsletter



Climate Adaptation Insights is a bi-monthly newsletter covering news, events, and opportunities from across the CASC Network.

Sign up to receive the newsletter [here](#) or view archived newsletters [here](#)

There are so, so many opportunities for indigenous communities throughout the U.S. and territories in these newsletters! Check for your regional newsletter [here](#)

### Interested in joining our working group?

If you're interested in joining the NPWMWG, please visit the TWS login website [here](#) and select the "Add Organization Unit Membership" under the "Membership" tab. To be eligible for membership in a working group, interested individuals must be a current member of The Wildlife Society. It is not required to be affiliated with a Tribe to participate. The NPWMWG waives membership fees for students! If you have any questions concerning working group dues or how to join, contact the membership coordinator at (301) 897-9770 or by email at [membership@wildlife.org](mailto:membership@wildlife.org)

For more information on the Native Peoples Wildlife Management Working Group, check out our TWS [webpage!](#)

We will also be hosting the next All-Member working group meeting June 20th at 2pm EST via Zoom. Keep an eye out for our email with the link!

### Submission Requests for Newsletters

#### Calling all Working Group members!!

We want to know what is going on where you are! As a national (and now international!) working group, it is difficult to keep up on all the fantastic things members in other parts of the globe are accomplishing. Keep our working group members informed on issues and announcements pertinent to wildlife management and conservation in Indian Country!

Please feel free to submit any of the following for inclusion in the newsletter:

- Job and internship openings
- Scholarship opportunities
- Research and management on indigenous lands
- Policy regarding wildlife management as it pertains to tribes
- TWS Conference photos or stories
- Any other conference details
- Current news pertaining to indigenous rights/resources
- Any other announcements/information you'd like share with your tribal wildlife management colleagues

Please submit requests to Newsletter Editor, Nate Wehr, at: [nathanielwehr@gmail.com](mailto:nathanielwehr@gmail.com)

