

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*

Greetings Native Peoples' Wildlife Management Working Group Members,

Thank you once again for taking the time to read our newsletter and for your continued (or possibly new) membership in our working group. As our current Executive Committee term comes to a close, I want to personally thank the officers and board members for all of the hard work that they have volunteered over the past two years. Each time that we write a report to the Council to highlight the accomplishments of this working group, I am always in awe of how much we have achieved. This has been an amazing team to be a part of.

One of the most influential moments serving as your Chair was last year's Annual Meeting. Having such a strong focus on "Celebrating Tribal Wildlife Management" served as a profound message to The Wildlife Society membership. I am also extremely proud of the Executive Committee in having such a big hand in making sure that proper protocol was in place, for acquiring and providing proper gifts, and for ensuring that Council had the guidance that they needed. I truly look forward to seeing what other amazing goals this working group can accomplish in the future!

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With that being said, many of you know that we are currently seeking nominations for our working group's Executive Board. The positions of Chair (6 year term), Secretary/Treasurer (2 year term), and 5 board member positions (2 year terms) are all available. We highly encourage our membership to consider applying as it is a great way to have your voice heard, develop yourself professionally, and motivate and influence others. This working group cannot function without a Committee, so please consider nominating yourself or someone else that you feel would fit well in one of these roles. If your fear is that you do not have enough "experience", fear not, we are here to work together and assist each other in building that. Please reach out if you have any questions about this! Nominations are due by Nov. 15th, 2023.

Lastly, I want to give a VERY BIG SHOUT OUT to our Secretary/Treasurer, Paige Schmidt. Paige has served our Working Group in various positions for over 10 years, and has been extremely influential in developing its structure, securing funding, developing our Native Student Professional Development Program, serving as a mentor to so many of us, and so, so much more! I hope I can speak for others when I say that Paige is one of the most passionate professionals and people when it comes to providing a safe and nurturing place for Native people and students to gain knowledge and professional experience. This will be the first time in a long time that Paige will not be serving on the Executive Committee, and we just want her to know how much we have truly appreciated all of her hard work and dedication to this Working Group over so many years. We'll miss you, Paige <3, and thank you for all that you have done and continue to do!

And this is where I sign off :). It has truly been an honor serving as your Chair and one of the most rewarding, humbling experiences of my career. I will see you all at our Annual Meeting this year, **Nov 7 (Tues), 2023, Wilkinson (1st Floor, East Tower, Galt House) from 11:30am - 1:00pm EST**. Many of us will be attending virtually (including myself), so please bring your laptops and headphones if you are attending in person. Talk to you all soon!

Virtually on Zoom:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89904078892?pwd=4xLh7b1v2PBbMWHb6PhhDbPaNikcbW.1>

Meeting ID: 899 0407 8892

Passcode: **350303**

Sincerely,
Molly O'Grady
NPWMWG Chair



Elections!

CALL FOR NOMINEES

NATIVE PEOPLES WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP OFFICERS

Open Positions

- Chair-Elect (6 year term)
- Secretary/Treasurer
- 5 Board Members At-Large

The Native Peoples' Wildlife Management Working Group is currently accepting nominations for Elected Official positions. Being a working group official is a great way to hone leadership skills, be part of a result-oriented team, network with your colleagues, and build your professional presence, and all that comes with making a difference!

You may nominate yourself or nominate another person you feel would be qualified for the given position.

Term of Office - The officers and board members serve for a term of 2 years, are inducted at the Annual Meeting, assume office immediately following the annual meeting, and unless re-elected, terminate their duties at the conclusion of the second following Annual Meeting, or at such time as their successors are elected and installed.

Nominees must be a current members of both TWS and the NPWMWG and in good standing (i.e., your dues are current).

Submit your nominations **including a brief biography** or any election related questions to Alexandria Luschnath, *Past Chair*, at luschnaa@oregonstate.edu by November 15, 2023



Update from the Native Student Professional Development Program

Dominick Harris, *Co-Director, Native Student Professional Development Program*

The Annual Wildlife Society Conference is coming up fast and that means another cohort for the Native Student Professional Development Program!

This year Ty Werdel has stepped away from the coordinator role to focus on his new position at Texas A&M (Congrats Ty!). Remington Bracher and Dominick Harris have taken over the role (both previous NSPD recipients). This year we had a record number of applicants (32) and 15 students were accepted, which is the largest cohort ever! This is possible because of funds that Paige Schmidt helped secure, \$50,000 from the USFWS! With proper funding we hope to continue to have cohorts of this size and eventually we want to make this a year long program for the students that will include professional mentors to gain more knowledge and experience. Additionally, we would love to eventually have the means to send the students to the Annual Conference for the Native Fish and Wildlife Society, if you are interested in funding the program or know of any funding opportunities, please contact us today!

Excited to see all the students and mentors at the conference! If you are there, come and meet the students at the Annual Working Group Meeting!



Conference and Members Meeting



The Wildlife Society's 30th Annual Conference

We hope to see you all in Louisville, Kentucky Nov. 5-9, 2024!

Check out these talks and more highlighting Native peoples

Benjamin Padilla - "Bridging Traditional and scientific knowledge to understand the role of parasites in caribou health and population trends"

Kerey Barnowe-Meyer - "Restoring native ecosystems on Native lands: Lessons from 35 years in Nez Perce Country"

Ella Hartshorn - "A Critical Assessment of Conservation Outcomes in Indigenous Peoples' Lands and Protected Areas"

Birds of a Feather Networking Event

Join the Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) Community at the Birds of a Feather Networking Event on Sunday Nov. 5 from 5-7pm in Coe (East Tower, 3rd floor)

Native Peoples' Wildlife Management Working Group Members Meeting

Join us in Louisville for an in-person meeting of the Native Peoples Wildlife Management Working Group. Meet executive board members and learn about the projects and opportunities our working group has to offer.

11:30am-1:00pm EST

Wilkinson (1st Floor, East Tower)

If you won't be at the conference, you can join us via Zoom at

[This Link!](#)

Meeting ID: 899 0407 8892 Passcode: **350303**



Endangered Species Act-listed Small Mammals: Management on Standing Rock Indian Reservation

Michael Gutzmer & Kurt Tooley, *New Century Environmental LLC*
Jeff Kelly & Larry Brown Jr, *Standing Rock Game and Fish Department*

The Standing Rock Sioux Indian reservation is located in North and South Dakota, under the direction of Jeff Kelly, Director of the tribal Game & Fish Department (pictured below). Standing Rock tribal biologists have written two Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) grants that were successfully funded and work now continues on the reservation for field data collection on two sensitive and listed species: the black-footed ferret (*Mustela nigripes*) and the northern long-eared bat (*Myotis serripentronialis*).

For some time now, Standing Rock Sioux Reservation has been fielding proposals for the development of utility-scale wind energy facilities. These proposals are being developed and the department is interested in their possible effects on wildlife, including possible impacts to Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed species like northern long-eared bats (listed as Threatened 4(d)) and black-footed ferrets (listed as Endangered), both of which have been documented in areas being considered for wind energy development. Standing Rock proposes to survey for both bats and ferrets in order to properly manage their conservation in the face of potential developments and assist tribal members and land owners with resultant habitat concerns.

The goal of the proposed effort is to collect field data sufficient to enable the responsible and effective conservation management of endangered and threatened bats and black-footed ferrets on Standing Rock in the face of both expected and unexpected developments. Although this will be a multi-stage process extending past the duration of this grant, this grant will fund a crucial first step: the development of data sufficient to permit beneficial developments to go forward with minimal risk to threatened and endangered species. Biologists have collected data since spring 2021 and will continue with data collection through the year in 2024 (assuming expenses are covered).



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Director Jeff Kelly, Standing Rock Game & Fish, receives black-footed ferret picture in 2021 from Drew Becker, USFWS, Bismarck, North Dakota.



The bat data developed should be sufficient to locate and define high use, high value bat habitat and thereby steer development into areas of minimal rather than maximal risk. Such data may also permit the implementation of more general conservation management actions, including prevention of the decay of bat habitat in some cases, and the enhancement of bat habitat in others, as opportunity permits. We have already documented several rare and unique bat species on the reservation. Seven different bat species were recorded using the Song Meter SM4BAT FS Bioacoustics Recorder. Of the 7 species documented, 1 is federally threatened, the northern long-eared bat, and 3 are Level 1 species of concern in North Dakota. The Level 1 species include the northern long-eared bat, little brown bat (*M. lucifugus*), and big brown bat (*Eptesicus fuscus*).

The USFWS collaborated with the department, to release ferrets in acceptable habitats on the South Dakota portion of the reservation, south of McIntosh, South Dakota, where expansive prairie dog towns meet the suitable living requirements for black footed ferret, the most endangered mammal in the United States. Re-introductions included 28 ferrets in October 2021 and another 28 ferrets in May 2022. An additional 24 ferrets were re-introduced near Little Eagle, South Dakota in September of 2023. Data developed from black-footed ferret surveys will assist permit developments to go forward with minimal risk to ferrets that may be present. Given that some ferrets are very likely to be found, data developed will hopefully jumpstart efforts for ferret conservation management that have been dormant since ferrets were decisively documented on Standing Rock by tribal biologist Michael Gutzmer in 2012. The BIA effort is to establish baseline ferret presence in the state of North Dakota and other areas outside of the re-introduction areas.



Seth Gutzmer, tribal biologist for Standing Rock, stands next to the carriers of ferrets before their release into the wild on Standing Rock Reservation in October 2021.



Maximizing Catch and Release Survival Rates

Karla Upadhyay, *Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, Oregon State University*

Reducing fish mortality in recreational fishing is something I have always been passionate about. My mother would take us fishing as kids and taught us how to safely unhook fish and spend less time handling them. It's a learned skill and takes practice, and though I was never into fishing, seeing youth and older people struggle through the years with unhooking inspired me to develop something to help ease handling.

Catch-and-release fishing enhances native fish populations by allowing more fish to survive and reproduce in ecosystems. This practice encourages angler enjoyment of fishing and successful catching of native fish, which helps ensure the recreational opportunity's longevity for future generations. A study of new quick release hooks could contribute to this stability by ensuring the long-term viability of fish populations and recreational fisheries via methods to lower catch-and-release fish mortality. The results of such a study might also influence recreational fishing policy. The ultimate goal is to help with both the fish's wellbeing and the fisherperson's own safety when removing the hook. The target audience of such a product would be family fisherpersons - particularly non-fishermen, kids, and women - to enable more people to fish. Catch-and-release is a learned technique, and this hook is designed to decrease mortality and lessen handling time via simplify unhooking for improved fishing enjoyment.



Studies suggest leaving the hook in a fish is better as fish have their own methods of removal. However, severe physiological stress and shock can result from returning fish to the water in this state. Fish also often swallow the hooks, and inexperienced anglers may fight it out by ripping out the fish's throat, lips, or guts. This necessitates another form of management.

For my capstone project at Oregon State University, this is the research subject I chose. Our program's goal is to introduce students to the synthesis of scientific information on an approved subject. I received a lot of push back on my proposed topic because there is little information and few studies on hook designs, catch & release, and the effects of handling time on fish.

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My goal is to overcome these critiques by gaining insight into and understanding the sensitivities of specific fish species that may be caught in different environments, such as lakes versus rivers, and the types of ocean fish being angled. Catch-and-release fishing is meant to promote conservation, but it can result in unintended fish mortality. The number of people worldwide enjoying recreational fishing impacts not only the survival of released fish but also the populations of those species. My capstone research reviews existing scientific literature on catch-and-release fishing methods and fish mortality to develop strategies to minimize harm and increase survival rates for released fish. Thus far, I have found some research presenting current recreational marine fishing methods in the United States, where catch-and-release fishing is common; this work evaluates current management practices to identify areas for improvement while briefly touching base with my hook design.

If you are interested in helping out with my project, please reach out at upadhyaykarla@gmail.com. I'm excited about the potential opportunities this project poses and I look forward to getting feedback from you all. In particular, would be grateful for suggestions on how I could go about funding and help making the prototype.



New Research

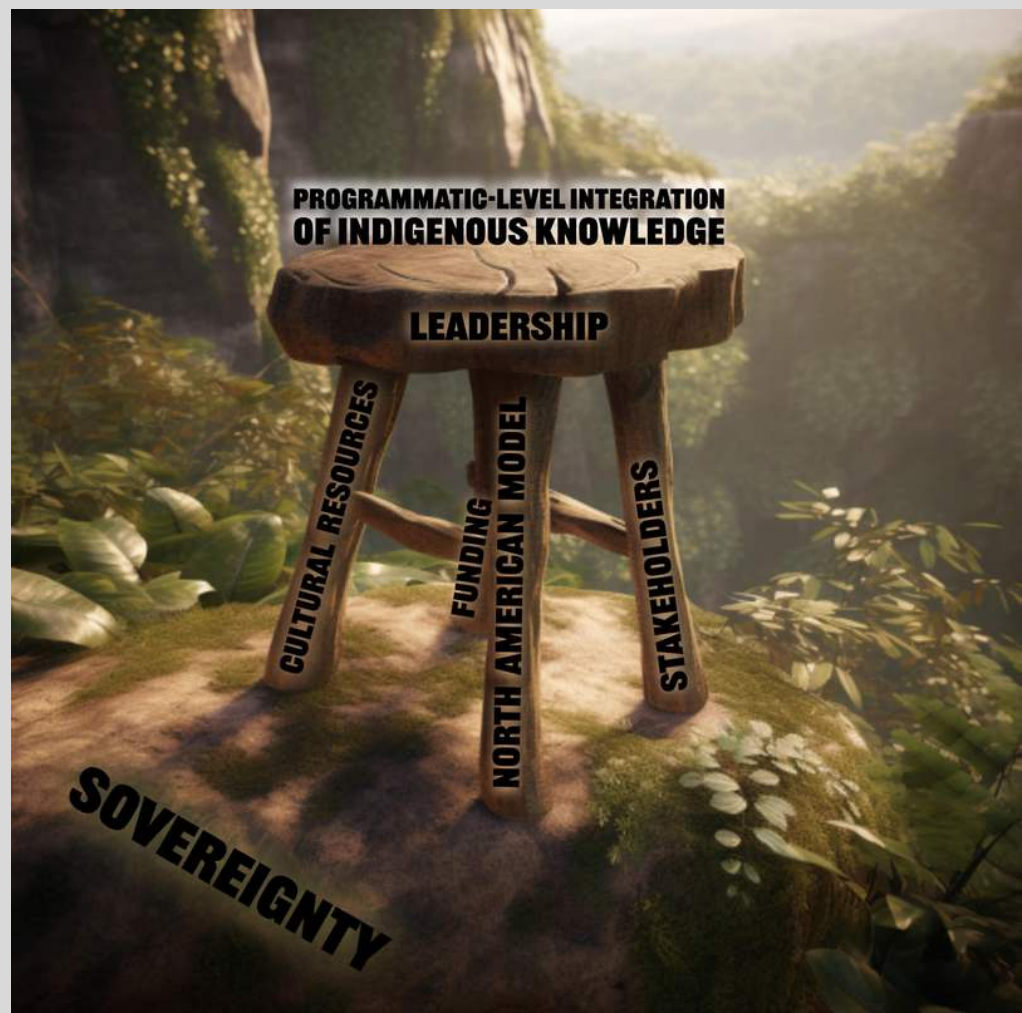
Actualizing Indigenous Knowledge in Tribal Wildlife Management: Basic Preconditions

Tony Ciocco, U.S. Geological Survey, North Central Climate Adaptation Science Center

Stefan Tangen, Great Plains Tribal Water Alliance

Chad Smith, University of New Mexico

Indigenous Knowledge (IK) is increasingly involved in the contemporary management of natural resources. Tribal wildlife management programs in the United States may be uniquely positioned to effectively and ethically integrate their IK. While a narrow focus on the body of IK and a particular management activity may suffice for project-level integration efforts, herein we consider how IK integration at the programmatic level may be best supported. We propose a holistic conceptual framework of preconditions including sovereignty, the North American Model management, funding, cultural resources, stakeholder support, and programmatic leadership. We assess the current status and common challenges with each precondition and illustrate their potential roles for a more lasting and pervasive integration of IK into tribal wildlife management programs.



Full publication [here](#)



News & Opportunities

Native American Student Heads to United Nations Forum

Tanikwah Lang is a member of the Klamath Tribe in southern Oregon, a Native American Research Assistant with the U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Geological Survey, and a senior undergraduate student at the Oregon Institute of Technology. She recently attended the Biannual United Nations Global Indigenous Youth Forum in Rome, Italy.

Great work Tanikwah and congrats on your many accomplishments!

Read the full story [here](#)

Reviewers Needed for Journal of Wildlife Management Native Peoples Special Issue

Michel Kohl, *University of Georgia*, Michel.Kohl@uga.edu, and Jonathan Gilbert, *Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission*, jgilbert@glifwc.org, are serving as guest editors for a special issue of the *Journal of Wildlife Management* focusing on Native Peoples. They're seeking volunteers to peer review manuscripts being submitted to the special issue. If you're interested, please reach out to them as soon as possible. The peer reviewing process will begin November 1, 2023.

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](#)



The Native Peoples Wildlife Management Working Group

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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

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



[Follow us on Facebook!](#)

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 or 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