Draft Agenda

Colorado Chapter of the Wildlife Society Annual Meeting Feb 7th-9th, 2024

Pueblo Convention Center - Pueblo, Colorado

Wednesday, February 7, 2024

Workshop Section 7 and 10 : Darren LeBlanc USFWS (half day)

Description : Come learn about the Endangered Species Act, important sections of the Act, how they contribute to species conservation, and how those sections may affect wildlife managers/conservations/etc. The presentation will probably not exceed 2 hours, with time for questions afterward.

Avian point count workshop: TC Walker, Jen Timmer, and Matthew McLaren, Bird

Conservancy of the Rockies (morning)

IDEA workshop: Pat Magee

Wednesday, February 7, 2024 Internal Meetings

Wednesday, February 7, 2024 Symposium: Sensitive Species Management

Organizers: Kathy Griffin

2:00-5:00 Presentations on Colorado Parks and Wildlife's management of Species of Greatest Conservation Need

Wednesday, February 7, 2024 Opening Networking reception

6:00-9:00 Location: Pueblo Convention Center, cash bar, heavy appetizers

Thursday, February 8, 2024 Student Networking Breakfast

7:00-9:00 Including Ignite-style presentations about different career/agency paths
Presentations included from: USFS, BLM, USFWS, non-profit,
consulting, academic, etc.

Students who are interested in attending should contact their local student chapter president. **Professionals: if you are interested in helping with this event or mentoring future wildlife biologists please contact Katie Gray.** Contact info can be found on CCTWS website.

Thursday, February 8, 2024 Wildlife Photo Contest

Organizer: Marcella Tarantino

Bring up to three of your best photos to display at the conference – please drop off your photos at the registration desk by the end of the first break on Thursday morning to be voted on through the end of the first break on Friday morning. Photos will be judged by popular vote in the following categories: 1. Amphibians, Reptiles, and Fish; 2. Birds; 3. Invertebrates; 4. Mammals; 5. Game Camera; 6. Human Dimensions; 7. Landscapes and Still Life (including flora); and 8.

Creative/Comedic. Prizes will be awarded in each category. See CCTWS website for details: https://wildlife.org/colorado/meetings/annual-meeting/#PHOTO%20CONTEST

Thursday, February 8, 2024 Plenary Session: Sensitive Species Conservation

Case Studies

Organizers: Robin Russell and Nathan Jones

9:00 am Welcome and introductions – *Nathan Jones, President CCTWS*

9:10-9:45 Sara-Oyler McCance

9:45-9:05 The Endangered Species Act at 50: Learning from the past to improve our future - **Jennifer Wilkening** (USFWS) and Brenna Forester (USFWS)

9:05 - 9:25 Helping Frogs So They Don't Croak: A case study of headstarting and translocation of northern leopard frog tadpoles - a Colorado Tier-1 Species of Greatest Conservation Need - **Sarah Heerhartz** (Boulder County Parks and Open Space), **Joseph Ehrenberger** (Matrix Design Group), Will Keeley (City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks), Mac Kobza (Boulder County Parks and Open Space), Mikki McComb-Kobza (Ocean First Institute), Aran Meyer (City of Fort Collins Natural Areas Program), Ryan Prioreschi (City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks), Jayme Sneider (Innovation Center - St. Vrain Valley School District), and Boyd F. Wright III (Colorado Parks and Wildlife)

9:25-9:45 BREAK

9:45-10:05 Restoration of wet meadows to enhance Gunnison sage-grouse habitat and drought resilience in arid rangelands: lessons learned from the Gunnison Basin - **Nathan W. Seward** (Colorado Parks and Wildlife), R. J. Rondeau (Colorado Natural Heritage Program), G. Austin (Bureau of Land Management), R.S. Miller (BLM), S. Parker (U.S. Forest Service), A. Breibart (BLM), S. Conner (Bio-Logic), E. Neely (The Nature Conservancy), M.G. Vasquez (USFS), and W. D. Zeedyk (Zeedyk Ecological Consulting, LLC)

10:05-10:25 Special Status Species Management in Colorado – **Carol Dawson** (Bureau of Land Management)

10:25-10:45 Defend and growth the core for birds: How a biome-wide sagebrush conservation strategy benefits imperiled rangelands birds – **Alexander V. Kumar** (USFWS), Jason D. Tack (USFWS), Kevin E. Doherty (USFWS), Joseph T. Smith (University of Montana), and Geoffrey Bedrosian (USFWS)

10:45 - 11:05 Evaluating conservation efforts on private lands for bird population dynamics in the Northern Great Plains - **Quresh Latif** (Bird Conservancy of the Rockies), Chris White (Bird Conservancy of the Rockies), **Jennifer timmer** (Bird

Conservancy of the Rockies), and Seth Gallagher (National Fish and Wildlife Foundation)

11:05 - 11:25 Cows, not plows: Using cropland conversion risk to scale-up averted loss of core sagebrush rangelands - **Geoffrey Bedrosian** (USFWS), **Kevin E. Doherty** (USFWS), **Brian H. Martin** (The Nature Conservancy), David M. Theobald (Conservation Planning Technologies and Colorado State University), Jeffrey S. Evans (The Nature Conservancy), John Patrick Donnelly (Intermountain West Joint Venture), Joseph T. Smith (University of Montana), Scott Morford (University of Montana), Alexander V. Kumar (USFWS), John Guinotte (USFWS), Matthew M. Heller (USFWS), and David E. Naugle (University of Montana)

11:25-11:30 President's closing remarks

11:30-1:30 Business meeting and lunch for all members

Student chapter presentations (CSU, CSU-Pueblo, WCU) - Katie Gray help Treasurer's report CMPS report IDEA Committee Updates on Jim Olterman endowment

Thursday, February 8, 2024 Wolf Ecology and Reintroduction

Organizers: Robin Russell, and Nathan Jones

- 1:30-1:35 Welcome and introductions *Nathan Jones, President CCTWS*
- 1:35-1:55 Planning for Gray Wolf Restoration in Colorado **Eric Odell** (Colorado Parks and Wildlife)
- 1:55-2:15 Bureaucracy for biologists: the 10(j) and wolf restoration and management in Colorado **Scott Becker** (USFWS)
- 2:15-2:35 Recovery of Mexican wolves in the Southwest United States: the importance of management removal, illegal killing, and other demographic factors for population growth **Stewart W. Breck** (USDA-Wildlife Services National Wildlife Research Center), Amy Davis (USDA-Wildlife Services NWRC), John K. Oakleaf (USFWS), David L. Bergman (USDA-Wildlife Services), Jim deVos (Arizona Game and Fish Department), J. Paul Greer (AZ G&FD), Kim Pepin (USDA-Wildlife Services NWRC)
- 2:35-2:50 Social-ecological scientific insights into Colorado wolf restoration **Kevin R. Crooks** (Center for Human-Carnivore Coexistence, CSU)

2:50 - 3:10 BREAK

3:10-3:30 Reducing Risk on the Range: Non-Lethal Practices and Cost Sharing Opportunities for Managing Carnivore-Livestock Conflicts - **Rae Nickerson** (Utah State University), **Matthew Collins** (Western Landowners Alliance), Matthew Hyde (Colorado State University), Stewart Breck (USDA Wildlife Services NWRC), Julie Young (USU), Gary Burnette (Montana State University Extension), Jared Beaver (Unknown), Kyran Kunkle (University of Montana)

3:30-3:50 Place-Based Collaboratives for Minimizing Human-Carnivore Conflict: Collective Factors Driving Success Throughout the American West - **Matthew Collins** (Western Landowners Alliance)

3:50-4:10 Characterizing the Stakeholder Conflict about Wolf Reintroduction in Colorado - **Mireille Gonzalez** (Center for Human Carnivore Coexistence, CSU)

Thursday, February 8, 2024 IGNITE Session

Organizers: Marcella Tarantino

4:10-5:00 Introduction to the IGNITE session

Breeding Bird Monitoring: Collaboration & Application – *Jennifer Timmer* (Bird Conservancy of the Rockies) and *Matthew McLaren* (Bird Conservancy of the Rockies)

The changing climate may create more challenges for songbird during migration - **Claire Varian Ramos** (Colorado State University - Pueblo)

Cheatgrass and Gunnison Sage-Grouse – **Petar Simic** (Gunnison County)

Questions for Ignite Presenters

Thursday, February 8, 2024 Poster Session, Reception

Organizers: Marcella Tarantino

5:30-6:30 Reception and Poster Session

*Denotes student presenter (double asterisk = undergraduate student, single asterisk = graduate student)

Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society (Colorado State University) TBD

Green Pathways: Drawing Connectivity Between Forest Habitats for Bottom-Up Endangered Species Management – *Daniel Rice*** (Colorado State University), Jake Ivan (Colorado Parks and Wildlife), and Sara Bombaci (Colorado State University)

Phagocytic Function of Leukocytes Across Seasons and Temperatures in the Mojave Desert Tortoise – *Holly Nelson** (*Colorado State University - Pueblo*), William Fikan (CSU-Pueblo), Rylee Conklin (CSU-Pueblo), and Franziska Sandmeier (CSU-Pueblo)

Planting a native pollinator garden and its effect on Apidae diversity – *Jake Powers*** (Colorado State University - Pueblo, Creating Connected College Research Communities (CUATRO), MAPS) and Claire Ramos (CSU-Pueblo, CUATRO, MAPS)

The effects of temperature and seasons on microbial growth of nasal bacteria in Mojave Desert tortoises – *Jenna Morales** (CSU – Pueblo), Joseph Harker (CSU – Pueblo), Daniela Ramirez (CSU-Pueblo) and Franziska Sandmeier (CSU-Pueblo)

Do hatch-year White-Crowned Sparrows or after-hatch-year White-Crowned Sparrows have better body condition during fall migration? – *Lacey Sprouse*** (Colorado State University - Pueblo and MAPS) and **Julian Golz**** (CSU-Pueblo, Creating Connected College Research Communities (CUATRO), MAPS), and Claire Ramos (CSU – Pueblo, CUATRO, MAPS)

Temperature dependence and seasonality of antimicrobial capacity of leukocytes in the Mojave Desert tortoise – **Mariah Painter*** (Colorado State University - Pueblo, National Science Foundation), Lexi Anderson (CSU-Pueblo, NSF, Creating Connected College Research Communities (CUATRO)), and Franziska Sandmeier (CSU-Pueblo and NSF)

The Rate of Pollution is Too Darn High!: Investigating the Role of Oxidative Stress on Migratory Birds in Southern Colorado – *Megan Miller** (*Colorado State University - Pueblo*), and Claire Ramos (CSU-Pueblo)

Bullfrogs (*Lithobates [Rana] catesbeianus*) in Southeast Colorado: Are they Invasive or Native? – *Michelle Luna*** (*Colorado State University - Pueblo and Creating Connected College Research Communities (CUATRO)*) and Daryl Trumbo (CSU-Pueblo and CUATRO)

The effects of urbanization on stress levels in *Aspidoscelis neotesselata* – *Paige Stephens*** (CSU-Pueblo), Holly Humphries (CSU-Pueblo), Brianna Fong (CSU-Pueblo), Jenna Morales* (CSU-Pueblo), Danni Moran (CSU-Pueblo), and Franziska Sandmeier (CSU – Pueblo)

Woody Habitat Availability and Distribution in Colorado Forests – *Savannah Lehnert* (*Colorado Forest Restoration Institute*)

Keynote speaker: Jeff Davis, Director of Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Friday, February 9, 2024 Contributed Papers Session: Avian Ecology (Student)

Breakfast/Snacks 7:00-8:00

Organizers: Marcella Tarantino, Robin Russell, and Nathan Jones

*Denotes student presenter (double asterisk = undergraduate student, single asterisk = graduate student)

8:00-8:10 Contributed papers, welcome and introduction

8:10-8:30 Occupancy and abundance of burrowing owls nesting in eastern Colorado – *Sarah Albright** (*Colorado State University Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit*), William Kendall (CSU Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit and USGS), and Reesa Conrey (Colorado Parks and Wildlife)

8:30-8:50 Impacts of Land Management and Colony Site Selection of Pinyon Jays in Colorado – *Emily Macklin** (South Dakota State University), Amanda E. Cheeseman (South Dakota State University), David McNitt (Bureau of Land Management), Amy Seglund (Colorado Parks and Wildlife), and Scott Somershoe (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)

8:50-9:10 Analyzing Northern Goshawk Nesting Habitat Selection in Colorado – *Derek Schleicher** (Colorado State University - Pueblo), Lacey Sprouse (CSU-Pueblo), David McNitt (Bureau of Land Management), and Nate Bickford (Oregon Institute of Technology)

9:10-9:30 Bald Eagle Home Range Size in an Urban to Rural Gradient – **Miranda Middleton*** (Colorado Parks and Wildlife and Colorado State University), Reesa Conrey (Colorado Parks and Wildlife), Liba Pejchar (Colorado State University), Jim Gammonley (Colorado Parks and Wildlife), and Bruce Snyder (Bird Conservancy of the Rockies)

9:30-9:50 Using abundance and presence to understand the habitat needs of Eastern Black rails (*Laterallus jamaicensis jamaicensis*) – *Nora Hargett** (*Illinois Natural History Survey, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Stephen A. Forbes Biological Station*), *TJ Benson* (*Illinois Natural History Survey, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*), *Lizza Rossi* (*Colorado Parks and Wildlife*), and *Auriel Fournier* (*Stephen A. Forbes Biological Station*)

9:50-10:10 Sapsucker wells as a keystone food resource: new methods for detecting secondary users – *Rick Clawges** (*University of Idaho*), *Lee Vierling* (*UI*), *Jan Eitel* (*UI*), *Leona Svancara* (*UI and USGS*), *and Kerri Vierling* (*UI*)

10:10-10:30 BREAK – refreshments provided

Friday, February 9, 2024 Contributed Papers Session: Wildlife Ecology

Organizers: Marcella Tarantino, Robin Russell, and Nathan Jones

*Denotes student presenter (double asterisk = undergraduate student, single asterisk = graduate student)

10:30-10:50 Bears, watch your step. Influence of garbage-securing experiment on fine scale individual bear movements in a developed area – *Cassandre Venumiere-Lefebvre** (Colorado State University and Center for Human-Carnivore Coexistence), Stewart Breck (National Wildlife Research Center, USDA), Heather Johnson (Alaska Science Center, USGS), Mat Alldredge (Colorado Parks and Wildlife), and Kevin Crooks (CSU and Center for Human-Carnivore Coexistence)

10:50-11:10 Survival Trade-offs of Migratory and Resident Behavior in Mule Deer – Anneke Hart* (Colorado Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit), William Kendall (USGS and Colorado Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit), and Mat Alldredge (Colorado Parks and Wildlife)

11:10-11:30 How high temperatures influence selection for snow in cold-adapted species – *Forest P. Hayes* (*Colorado State University*), *Larissa L. Bailey* (*CSU*), *Kenneth R. Wilson* (*CSU*), *Daniel McGrath* (*CSU*), and *Joel Berger* (*CSU and Wildlife Conservation Society*)

11:30-11:50 Ornate box turtle ecology in Pueblo, CO.: efficacy of remote tracking, home range approximations, and habitat use - **Franziska Sandmeier** (CSU-Pueblo), E. Norton (CSU-Pueblo), M. Sena (CSU-Pueblo), J. Moreno (CSU-Pueblo), J. Morales (CSU-Pueblo), M. Gomez (CSU-Pueblo), N. Bickford (Oregon Institute of Technology), and Claire Ramos (CSU-Pueblo)

11:50-12:00 Student poster and paper awards, photo contest awards

12:00 Conference concludes

12:30 CCTWS Board Meeting

Thanks to all our sponsors!