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# Restoration in Action

Official Newsletter of the TWS Habitat Restoration Working Group

## Working Group News

### July Board Meeting Minutes

The Executive Board of the HRWG met on July 1<sup>st</sup> for their monthly meeting. During the meeting, they discussed the following:

- The first issue of the new quarterly newsletter and shouting out TWS’s newest working groups
- The HRWG will hold its annual election in time for the upcoming 2025 conference, the announcement for the positions up for election and call for nomination will be sent out soon.
- Interest in collaboration with the Student Development WG and the creation of a Student Liaison position on the HRWG’s board
- The HRWG’s comments on the BLM’s greater sage-grouse management plan. These comments are in review by TWS’s Position Statement Committee.
- Co-sponsoring a symposium on the Working Lands for Wildlife NRCS program at the 2024 Conference in Baltimore.
- Travel scholarships for the 2024 TWS Conference.
- Hosting a symposium at the 2025 Conference in Edmonton focused on the U.N. Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and landscape-level restoration efforts
- The potential for joint meetings of working groups to boost collaborative efforts
- Hosting a contest to design a new logo for the HRWG

The HRWG holds monthly board meetings on the first Monday of each month at 7:30 EST. Members will receive an email with the agenda and Zoom link the week before the meeting.

**HRWG Executive Board**

**Chair**

Angela Burrow  
Assistant Professor  
Michigan State University

**Chair Elect**

Amber Pippin  
Wildlife Rehabilitation  
Specialist

**Past Chair**

Robert Magill, CWB

**Secretary-Treasurer**

Derrick Lindsay, AWB  
Stewardship Coordinator  
Kentucky Natural Lands Trust

**Communications Chair**

Alexander Hoxie  
Graduate Research Assistant  
Tarleton State University

**Board Members At-Large**

Adam Mitchell, CWB  
Assistant Professor  
Tarleton State University

Drew White

Desert Tortoise Biologist  
Center for Environmental  
Management of Military  
Lands

Autumn Patterson  
Graduate Research Assistant  
Tarleton State University

**Not a member? Join today!**

You can join the HRWG through your TWS account, under the “Membership” tab by selecting “Add Organizational Unit”. There is a \$5 membership fee that allows the HRWG to continue its mission of advancing the field of wildlife habitat restoration.

**The U.N. Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and You**



The U.N. Decade on Restoration is a United Nations initiative geared at increasing global restoration efforts, developing restoration “best practices”, and climate resiliency. TWS has a wealth of experience in restoring habitats and the wildlife that inhabit them. The HRWG has been championing TWS to become a supporting partner on the initiative and Council recently approved joining the initiative as a supporting partner. Robert Magill and Ray Dueser have been working tirelessly to launch the TWS U.N. Decade on Ecosystem Restoration Working Group Coalition and recently completed the application process. Many of TWS’s working groups have joined the coalition. More information on how working groups can support the initiative will be shared soon. In addition, the HRWG hopes to host a symposium at the 2025 TWS Conference in Edmonton on the U.N. Decade and landscape-level restoration efforts.

## Policy Corner

TWS's strategic plan emphasizes that the wealth of expertise found in the many working groups can be used to inform TWS's policy actions. Working groups can fill this role by providing comments on TWS's various policy and position statements. Periodically, TWS will review and update its established policy statements in response to new research and changes in the wildlife field. In addition, TWS will issue directed comments on legislation, agency actions, and conservation issues. The TWS HRWG has a strong history of providing feedback on these statements.

Recently, the HRWG board and members provided comments on two important policy documents, the full text of the working group's comments can be found linked below.

- [Revisions to TWS's position statement on the North American Model of Conservation](#)
- [Comments on the Bureau of Land Management's greater sage-grouse action plan.](#)

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## Join us at TWS's 2024 Annual Conference in Baltimore!

The HRWG will be hosting our annual in-person business meeting at TWS's 31<sup>st</sup> annual conference in Baltimore this October. We'd love to see you there and hear your ideas and feedback on your working group!

The HRWG is also co-sponsoring a symposium on the USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service's Working Lands for Wildlife Program. We are working to provide continuing education credits to those who attend the symposium.



### Travel scholarship

The HRWG is accepting applications for up to four (4) \$500 travel scholarships to assist early career professionals, graduate students, and presenters to assist in travel costs to the 2024 annual conference.

More information can be found on the HRWG's [News page](#) or by contacting Drew White at [DrewAW84@gmail.com](mailto:DrewAW84@gmail.com)

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The HRWG would like to welcome the newest of TWS's working groups

**The Coastal and Marine Wildlife Working Group (CMWWG)**

We are excited to introduce the Coastal and Marine Wildlife Working Group. Their vision is to unite members interested in the conservation of marine mammals, sea turtles, sharks, sea/shorebirds, and other wildlife found along the coast or in marine environments. Their mission is to create an inclusive and dynamic community focused on interdisciplinary collaboration, knowledge sharing, professional development, and advocating for informed coastal and marine management practices. The founding executive board successfully received enough petition signatures and are currently seeking approval from the TWS Council (likely this June). For more information or to get involved, please contact Hannah Henry at [hahenry@unc.edu](mailto:hahenry@unc.edu)"



**Latin American and Caribbean Working Group (LACWG)**

The TWS Latin American & Caribbean Working Group is dedicated to fostering collaboration and addressing critical wildlife and conservation issues in the region. Our mission is to create a space where professionals, researchers, students, and enthusiasts can come

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together to share knowledge, ideas, and resources. We strive to enhance communication and accessibility for Latin American and Caribbean communities, both within the region and among the diaspora. By connecting students and professionals across the Americas, we aim to increase engagement and support for TWS members, facilitating greater involvement and impact in countries and territories throughout the region.



### **Disability, Neurodivergence, and Allyship Working Group (DNAWG)**

The Disabilities, Neurodivergence, and Allyship (DNA) Working Group (DNA-WG) was founded by members who came together to improve accessibility practices within the wildlife profession. An overarching goal is to provide wildlife-related professionals and employers with the tools to improve actionable accessibility practices and promote supportive professional environments for wildlife professionals with disabilities and neurodivergence. A cornerstone of DNA-WG is creating professional development opportunities (ie, [FAQ sheet](#)) for aspiring allies, fostering actionable accessibility-related allyship practices that shape a more welcoming wildlife profession. The DNA-WG welcomes the membership of every aspiring ally and lateral ally to be the change within the wildlife profession.

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## Member Spotlight Meet the Executive Board!

**Angela Burrow**, Chair



Angela is an assistant professor at Michigan State University in the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife. Her research focuses broadly on the interactions between natural dynamic processes (e.g., fire, flooding, succession), human-driven disturbance, and natural resource conservation & management (e.g., herpetofauna) within wetlands and the terrestrial environments in which they function. As a wildlife ecologist, she uses a multiple stressor lens to investigate the impact of environmental change and other stressors on wetlands and wetland associated wildlife. A critical part of her work is evaluating the effectiveness of restoration and management actions to support the resilience of herpetofauna and their wetland habitats.

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**Amber Pippin**, AWB, Chair-Elect

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Hi! My name is Amber Pippin! I am an Associate Wildlife Biologist®, certified through TWS since 2020. Since graduating from Texas State University in April 2020, I have been working for Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation, holding many titles. I have a passion for birds, bird surveying and banding in particular, but also have a deep passion for Habitat Restoration. My interests have led me to the HRWG, and I now hold the Chair-Elect position for the WG. I am excited to hold this position and hope to impact current habitat conservation and restoration efforts.



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**Robert Magill**, CWB, Past-Chair



Robert has over 30 years of experience working on wildlife conservation. His experience is wide ranging; he has worked for state agencies at the program manager level, with private companies as a senior biologist, and with nonprofit organizations serving as a biologist and supervisor. He also formed his own business, operating as a contracting biologist. Robert’s goals for the working group are to continue growing its visibility and an active presence in TWS. Simultaneously, Robert will continue pressing for the incorporation of the newest wildlife and restoration science such as the Resist-Accept-Direct framework. He seeks to elevate the role of science over politics and serve as an advocate for sound, science-based management choices. Additionally, Robert seeks to position the Habitat Restoration Working Group as the preeminent leader for all TWS working groups.

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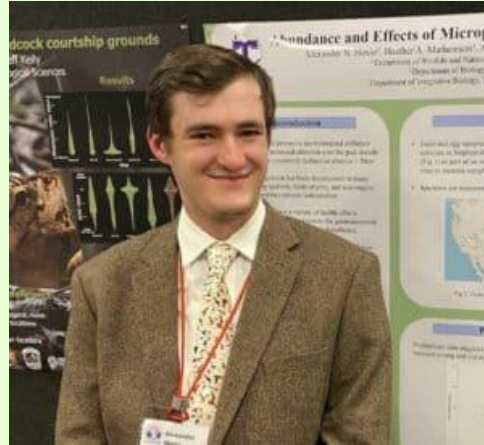
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**Alexander Hoxie**, Communications Chair



Alex received his B.S. in Environmental Science from the University of Texas at San Antonio with a concentration in conservation and restoration ecology in 2022. While there, he served as the president of the student TWS chapter for 2 years. Currently, he is a master's student at Tarleton State University in Stephenville, Texas, with his thesis research focusing on the abundance of microplastics in nestling house sparrows. After his master's, he plans on pursuing his PhD, continuing to research avian ecology, where he hopes to incorporate his passions for bird conservation and restoration. Alex believes that effective communication is central to the mission of the HRWG and TWS as a whole. He is looking forward to his role in engaging with the members of the HRWG and developing our community.

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**Derrick Lindsay**, AWB, Secretary-Treasurer



Derrick has been the Stewardship Coordinator with Kentucky Natural Lands Trust providing land management by protecting, connecting, and restoring wildlands in eastern Kentucky since 2016. Derrick holds a M.S. in Environmental Policy and Management (concentration in Fish and Wildlife Management) from American Public University and B.S. in Biology from Lincoln Memorial University. Derrick has been an active member of The Wildlife Society and the Kentucky chapter since 2016 and is an Associate Wildlife Biologist®.

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**Adam Mitchell**, CWB, Member-at-Large



Adam Mitchell, PhD, CWB®, is an Assistant Professor of Entomology at Tarleton State University, where his research lab explores how anthropogenic changes in the environment influence ecosystem structure and function, using plants and invertebrates as model taxa. Adam’s past experience has focused on restoring native plant, arthropod, and bird communities following plant invasion in the Mid-Atlantic region, as well as providing guidance on promoting wildlife-friendly habitat for private landowners in urban settings. As a member of the working group, Adam seeks to assist in promoting the role of TWS in driving ecological restoration policy and management through contemporary research and scientifically sound practice. Furthermore, he is interested in fostering collaborations with landowners, non-profits, and other professional societies to encourage greater synergy in conservation efforts.

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**Drew White-Jacobson**, Member-at-Large



Drew White-Jacobson is a Desert Tortoise Biologist with the Center for Environmental Management of Military Lands - Las Vegas under Colorado State University. As a child of the Intermountain West Drew's love of the outdoors manifested into a career with professional experience that has taken her across the US as well as to Costa Rica, Canada, and Africa. Drew earned a B.S. in Conservation and Restoration Ecology at Utah State University, and M.S. at Tarleton State University. Her career has focused on sensitive species conservation and preservation from an ecological management perspective. Drew has been an active member of her national and local TWS chapters for many years and has proudly served as chair of the Scholarship and Awards Committee, and a Board member at large since 2022.

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**Autumn Patterson**, Member-at-Large



Autumn received her B.S. in Wildlife Ecology and Management from Auburn University in 2018. Currently, she is a master's student at Tarleton State University in Stephenville, Texas, whose research investigates spatiotemporal activity of African ungulates and their associated predators. After her master's, she wishes to pursue her PhD with a focus on endangered species conservation, traditional ecological knowledge, and habitat restoration efforts. Previously, Autumn has contributed to habitat restoration efforts throughout the Pacific Northwest and southeastern United States, providing technical assistance to private landowners for wildlife-friendly enhancements. Additionally, she has assisted with projects in Hawaii and Africa. As a member of the working group, Autumn is interested in networking with students and wildlife professionals across TWS, to spread the importance of habitat restoration and bolster collaborative opportunities.

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## Submit an Article

We want to share your stories of environmental restoration! If you have a story of the struggles and successes of restoration work or research, please contact Alexander Hoxie at [alexander.hoxie@go.tarleton.edu](mailto:alexander.hoxie@go.tarleton.edu). Articles are recommended to be 500-700 words in length and contain 1-3 images.

## Contact Us

Email: [twshabitatwg@gmail.com](mailto:twshabitatwg@gmail.com)

Instagram: @tws\_hrwg

Facebook: Habitat Restoration and Conservation Working Group