

CMPS Newsletter

Excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education

Summer 2016, Vol. 60, No. 2

http://drupal.wildlife.org/CMP

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Message from the President

Each year at the Central Mountain and Plains Section annual meeting, CMPS membership gathers to share stories about recent accomplishments,

ries about recent accomplishments, challenges, and the many outdoor adventures we've had since last meeting. This year, we are luck to have the meeting in a beautiful location, with lots of outdoor opportunity: Steamboat Spring CO. Members have worked hard to put together a great meeting for us...I cannot wait until August! Register here.



On the news front, there are a couple of items to share. These relate on a larger scale, but are very relevant to our profession. First, Congressman Don Young (R-AK) and Congresswoman Debbie Dingell (D-MI) introduced the bipartisan Recovering America's Wildlife Act (H.R. 5650) calling for \$1.3 billion in existing revenue from the development of energy and mineral resources on federal lands and waters be dedicated to the Wildlife Conservation Restoration Program to conserve a full array of fish and wildlife. As many of you already know, AFWA and other partners on the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources have been working to secure additional funding for fish and wildlife conservation. Following the recommendations of the Panel released in March, a bill was introduced in the House of Representatives June 6 calling for \$1.3 billion in existing revenue to be dedicated to the Wildlife Conservation Restoration Program. This is a significant step towards implementing the Panel's recommendations.

I also wanted to share a recent speech from Director Ashe. For those of you who haven't heard it, here is the transcript. Some good food for thought. Read Here

Looking forward to reconnecting in Colorado next month! Karie Decker, CMPS President



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Section Business

Nominations to CMPS Board

CMPS is seeking candidates to fill 3 positions that will become vacant during the August CMPS meeting in Steamboat Springs, CO. Two At-Large and the Vice President positions will be filled. The two at-large positions are 2-year terms. During even numbered years, the Vice President is selected for a 2-year term.

The list of candidates follows this paragraph.

Please use this link to vote for CMPS leadership: **VOTE HERE**

Thank you to those who entered their names as candidates. Voting will end July 25th (14 days prior to the annual meeting).

Vice President Candidates

Jim Hays

Jim currently works for The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Kansas (since December of 2007) and worked for Kansas Fish and Game Commission/Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks for 30+ years prior; in a variety of positions (including Fish Culturist, Wildlife Biologist, Wildlife Ecologist, and Environmental Services Section Chief). Jim earned his B.S. Degree in Wildlife Biology, from Colorado State University, in 1976. Jim is a lifelong resident of Kansas and continues to work on private lands and TNC preserves, serves on the Kansas Technical Committee for NRCS in Kansas, serves on the Kansas Forestry Association board, serves on the KS Nongame Advisory Committee, maintains certification for prescribed burning, works with conservation easements in Kansas, assists with environmental policy issues at state and federal levels, coordinates with energy related industry to

minimize environmental impacts across the landscape, and enjoys working with conservation partners across the region. His job is highly diverse and offers the opportunity to work on a wide range of natural resource issues and challenges; from wind development to water issues and invasive species control to climate change questions. Jim has been involved with the Kansas Chapter since the early 1980's and CMPS since the early 1990's and has served as a board member and Vice-President for the Section, in years past.





At-Large Board Member Candidates

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Section Business

Shelly Deisch



I am a wildlife biologist of 17 years working for the Wildlife Division of South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks in Rapid City. I function as a habitat biologist and as our Department's liaison to federal agencies, primarily the U.S. Forest Service. I love my job which encompasses the forests and grasslands of western South Dakota and I am fortunate to work with a broad spectrum of patents and processes and spectrum of patents and processes are significant.

trum of natural resource specialists. My work-related adventures include such things as: research biological literature on forested bats and their habitat requirements, assist the State as an intervenor in a federal law suit, write supportive comments for a Forest Service NEPA project which could impact elk and bighorn sheep habitats, monitor cooperative interagency hardwood treat-

ments, assist energy companies to relocate osprey nests off powerlines, review livestock grazing plans as part of a Holistic Resource Management Team and (heavy sigh here) read a 300-page Environmental Impact Statement.

To be an effective federal lands liaison, I liken myself to a foreign language translator. I have to speak another language (feds love their acronyms) and comprehend the mission and culture of another agency. At the end of the day, I relate this knowledge back to my co-workers or SDGFP's publics in their language.

I received my Bachelor's and Master's degrees in wildlife and fisheries sciences from South Dakota State University with an emphasis in Range Management. Between these degrees I tracked grizzly bears in Montana, studied nesting Great Blue Herons and identified aquatic macroinvertebrates. My Master's research took me to the short-grass prairie and Badlands of western South Dakota to study the effects of various rodenticides on prairie dogs and other biota that live within this ecosystem. Since that time I worked on several wildlife studies on a historical SUNY research station in the Adirondacks where I unfortunately came to despise black flies and no-seeums, landed on Catalina Island to study an endemic Island Fox and taught Elderhostel courses on island biogeography, supervised habitat and vegetation studies in western South Dakota, and took a detour as a paralegal where I learned legal analysis skills, something that has served me well in my liaison duties.

I have been involved with The Wildlife Society in one form or fashion since my undergraduate days at SDSU, across several different states and regional sections and in 1991 was awarded TWS Certified Wildlife Biologist designation. I'm extremely active on the TWS SD Chapter's Public Lands Management Committee and help draft comment letters in response to proposed federal natural resource management projects. I am a member of the Parent Chapter's Rangeland Wildlife Working Group.

For several years I have had to step out of my volunteer role with various organizations and today, I look forward to becoming more active should I be chosen as one of your board members-at- large. The skills I offer reflect the varied and diverse life experiences to date: networking and a comprehensive approach to examine natural resources topics and issues.

My avocations include escapades with my husband (also a wildlife biologist) and our pets. He and I enjoy hunting, fishing, gardening and house renovating. My new challenge is to test how bendy I can become through yoga.



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Section Business

At-Large Board Member Candidates

Stephanie Ferrero



Thank you for this opportunity to be an At-Large Board Member candidate in the Central Mountains and Plains Section. Currently I volunteer as a co-editor for the Central Mountain and Plains (CMPS) newsletter. In this role, I enjoy meeting members across our section and learning more about each state and student chapter within CMPS. Professionally, I work for USFWS researching furbearer species at Flint Hills National Wildlife Refuge in Kansas. From 2012 -2015, I served as a Colorado Chapter of the Wildlife (CCTWS) Society At-Large Board Member while working as a wildlife biologist for Colorado Parks and Wildlife. My CCTWS responsibilities included historical liaison and travel grant chair - liaison. I had the honor of working with the Conserving Our

Wildlife Conservation Heritage (COWCH) program by documenting the history of TWS through the eyes of recognized leaders. To develop the skills I observed in COWCH leaders, I completed The Wildlife Society Leadership Institute (LI) in 2013. I have been helping recruit new LI applicants as well as strengthen alumni connections since then to pay it forward and give back.

My background includes diverse, solid training in natural resources. I obtained my Bachelors degree in Biology from Azusa Pacific University, California. Afterwards, I helped conduct wildlife research with Colorado State University. I also took independent field courses through Au Sable Institute of Environmental Studies in Washington State and Michigan. I earned my Masters degree in Wildlife Ecology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. I became certified as an Associate Wildlife Biologist® and now am a Certified Wildlife Biologist® through The Wildlife Society.

What motivates me is a profound appreciation and curiosity of wildlife. Born and raised in the mountains, I developed a love for the outdoors and wildlife because my family went hiking, biking, rafting, skiing, camping, fishing, and hunting. I love going on adventures in the woods and through the prairies with my husband, our baby daughter, and our 3 pup dogs.

We are fortunate to have such an energetic and dedicated Section of The Wildlife Society with a rich heritage of over 60 years. I want to see CMPS continue to grow toward reaching our mission and objectives. Our mission to represent and promote regional science across spatial scales requires everyone working together as a strong, vibrant network of active wildlife professionals who promote ethical wildlife-ecosystem management. It would be an honor to serve on the CMPS board as an at-large representative. I would really enjoy working as a team with other board members, encouraging unity among the chapters, collaborating with neighboring sections, and helping with administrative needs to support wildlife conservation in our Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society.



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Section Business

CMPS Award Nominations Closed June 15, 2016

Thanks to everyone for their 2016 CMPS Award Nominations! Each year, the Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society honors the accomplishments of worthy groups or individuals through two awards. The Professional Award is given to a professional individual or group and the Citizen's Conservation Achievement Award is given to an individual or group of citizens: both presented to recognize an outstanding contribution towards furthering the enhancement of wildlife endeavors within the Section. Nomination criteria for each award can be found at http://wildlife.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/Awards-Criteria.pdf

Nominations should be e-mailed to the CMPS Vice President, Jim Hays (jim hays@tnc.org) and must be received by June 15 each year to be considered.

CMPS WAYNE SANDFORT STUDENT TRAVEL GRANT APPLICATION

The Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society announces the availability of travel grants for students planning on attending the Society's 2016 Annual Conference in Raleigh, NC. Travel grants of up to \$500 each will be awarded to a limited number of student chapters of TWS to assist with expenses incurred attending the TWS Annual Conference. Students may apply through their college student chapter of TWS or individually to CMPS. Applications must be submitted electronically by **July 31, 2016** to Karie Decker (karie.decker@nebraska.gov). Complete application instructions available here: http://wildlife.org/cmp/student-travel-grant/

Preference will be given to:

- 1. Current undergraduate students,
- 2. Students who are currently or who have recently been involved in activities of TWS, CMPS, or a local TWS chapter.
- 3. Group applications of up to three individuals may be submitted through student chapters of TWS located within the CMPS geographic boundary.

To be eligible, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- 1. A member of the State or Student Chapter;
- 2. A member of the Central Mountains and Plains Section;
- 3. A member of The Wildlife Society;
- 4. A recent Baccalaureate graduate or enrolled at least half time in a program leading to a degree in wildlife biology or closely related field at a college or university within the geographic boundary of CMPS.



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Section Business

TWS COUNCIL REPORT

Bob Lanka, Central Mountains and Plains Section Representative

For the past several months The Wildlife Society Council has been engaged in difficult discussions on two issues. Issues many don't consider when thinking about how to design wildlife research or promote wildlife conservation. One revolved around the fundamental meaning of biological sex and what it means for a human being to be male or female. The other, in hindsight, is easier to grasp but just as complex in implementation. What type of organization should TWS accept financial support from?

I will discuss the second issue first. Several months ago one of the TWS members from the North Carolina committee planning our annual conference suggested that TWS contact Bayer Bee Care about being a conference sponsor. Yes, the Bayer aspirin Bayer. Seemed like a perfect fit. They opened a new facility in 2014 in Clayton, NC just down the road from Raleigh. They are focused on the health of bees and other pollinators (https://www.beecare.bayer.com/home). Their mission dovetails perfectly with the Pollinators in Decline theme of the March/April 2016 issue of The Wildlife Professional. What could be better or a more perfect fit?

But...

Bayer Bee Care is part of the Bayer Corporation. Among the many other parts of the larger Bayer Corporation is Bayer Crop Science (http://www.bayer.com/en/crop-science-division.aspx). Bayer Crop Science is one of the world's largest producers of neonicotinoid insecticides which have been implicated as a major contributor to pollinator declines worldwide. In 2015, the plenary session of the SD-TWS meeting was all about neonicotinoids and their impacts to pollinators and other wildlife. For me, who knew nothing of this class of insecticide, the conference was eye opening to say the least.

Bayer Bee Care was very interested in being a sponsor of the TWS Annual Conference (http://www.twsconference.org/). They were very up front in their discussions with TWS Staff that Bayer Bee Care was part of the larger Bayer Corporation and that Bayer Crop Science was a part of that. Council debated this donation extensively at the March Council Meeting and continued to do so via e-mail for several weeks after that. At the end of the day the decision was to accept Bayer Bee Care as a sponsor. Why? There were several reasons. Some of the most important included: 1) Bayer Bee Care is agreeing to sponsor TWS and our mission not the other way around. 2) Bayer Bee Care does not get to use the TWS logo as part of this agreement though we do get to use theirs. 3) TWS has a staff position whose sole function is to work with companies and encourage them to sponsor TWS and support our mission.



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Section Business

Continued...

For any potential sponsor, Staff has a process for vetting them prior to acceptance that includes review by the Executive Director. And 4) Bringing Bayer Bee Care on as a sponsor resulted in a relationship between them and TWS that our Society has used to improve their bee conservation efforts. For example, TWS encouraged Bayer Bee Care to use locally adapted native seeds in their pollinator seed mix packets rather than ornamental, mostly exotic, flowering plants as they had been.

The other issue is part of a much larger, often heated, debate within society on human sexuality. The size of our conference, both attendees and number of presentations/concurrent sessions forces TWS to arrange conference facilities and hotel accommodations 3-4 years in advance. In exchange for reserving facilities and hotels, TWS assumes a contractual obligation in the form of room, facility and other financial guarantees. So it was with our selection of Raleigh, NC. This site was selected several years ago and bound TWS financially. In March this year the North Carolina Legislature passed House Bill 2,

"An act to provide for single-sex multiple occupancy bathroom and changing facilities in schools and public agencies and to create statewide consistency in regulation of employment and public accommodations." (http://www.ncleg.net/Sessions/2015E2/Bills/House/PDF/H2v4.pdf)

Most have likely followed at least some of the news coverage and reactions to this legislation. Many are aware that several governors (at least 6) and mayors of some of our larger cities have banned all unnecessary taxpayer funded travel to North Carolina until this bill is modified or repealed. These bans have the potential to curtail, perhaps substantially, conference attendance hurting both our Society and members who may not be able to attend. Council and Staff heard from some members asking TWS, as part of our commitment to workforce diversity within the wildlife profession (http://wildlife.org/position-statements/), to officially and publically condemn the North Carolina legislation or to cancel or move our conference. Others expressed opposing views. Once again, Council discussed this issue and struggled to find the best path forward for The Wildlife Society. Several of us lost sleep as we tried to figure out how to balance the diverse, often opposing, views of our membership. In late April, after listening to and considering the advice of Council, President Potts sent a letter to all TWS members advising that TWS was not going to take a position on HB2, that we were not going to cancel or move our conference, that we were working with the convention center in Raleigh to provide a safe environment for all attendees and encouraging people, no matter their personal views on this issue, to attend what is shaping up to be a great conference.



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Section Business

Continued...

After much thought and listening to and considering the views of others on Council, I supported and advocated for the course of action TWS took on both these issues. As your elected representative to Council, I wanted you to know. I encourage you to share your views with me on these topics or any others you may have related to our professional organization, The Wildlife Society. Your thoughts and ideas are valued and important to me and help me better represent our section on Council. My contact information is shown elsewhere in this newsletter. My hope is that the next several issues Council gets to discuss will revolve around how best to serve and grow our membership and how to implement wildlife conservation on the ground through research, policy and management. Thanks for all you do.

TWS Conservation Affairs Network—a reminder to all about this effort

The <u>Conservation Affairs Network</u> engages and unifies the efforts of The Wildlife Society, its 200+ units, and nearly 10,000 members to advance wildlife conservation policy issues at the national, regional, and local levels.

Launched in 2014, the Network creates a venue for streamlined communication, collaboration, and cooperation on policy matters important to wildlife professionals. Wildlife professionals now have an effective method for bringing their valuable and crucial perspectives into the policy process, to the betterment of wildlife conservation.

You can check out the previous issues of the CAN Newsletter at www.wildlife.org/policy.



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Chapter Updates

North and South Dakota

Documentation of the Northern Long-Eared Myotis, *Myotis septentrionalis* on the Standing Rock Indian Reservation, Sioux County, North Dakota

Christopher J. Shank, Kurt Tooley, Michael P. Gutzmer and Jeffrey C. Kelly New Century Environmental LLC Columbus, Nebraska

Abstract

Since 2006, the northern long-eared myotis has declined by 98 percent in the U.S. Northeast, where white-nose syndrome first ap- peared. Because of the species' strong association with large blocks of older forests, forest fragmentation, logging and forest con-version (such as clearing trees for agriculture and development) are also major threats to the species. In 2013, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service determined that the northern long-eared bat meets the Endangered Species Act's definition of threatened. The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, located centrally in South and extending into North Dakota, was awarded a US Fish and Wildlife Trib- al Grant to assess all small mammals on the Reservation, including bats. Surveying for bat species on SRST included the use of Pettersson D500x passive terrestrial ultrasonic recorders, one of which was installed at a Moreau Prairie location in Sioux County, North Dakota, known as Unit 41. A site visit was conducted on Unit 41 on September 23rd 2015. The monitor had recorded a total of 37 trap nights. The results revealed 143 total bats recorded, from ten different species. Most significantly, the federally threat- ened northern long-eared bat (Myotis septentrionalis) was unequivocally documented. More sampling will be conducted to further investigate the diversity and abundance of bat species on Standing Rock Indian Reservation, and will contribute to the development of crucial conservation management programs on the Reservation.

Acknowledgments

All resources for this effort to have been supplied by the Standing Rock Game & Fish Department of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe of Ft. Yates, North Dakota. USFWS support is anticipated for Unit 41.



678 South Red Fox Lane

w Century Environmental LLC *Standing Rock Game & Fish, Director 9418 11th Avenue

Director Kelly and Tribal biologists Gutzmer & staff are seeking funds from World Wildlife Fund, BIA and other entities who are interested in understanding the presence, science and future management of the northern long-eared bat population on Standing Rock Indian Reservation. The Tribe graciously appreciates any support possible.

Jeff Kelly: 701-226-5048,

Michael Gutzmer: 402-562-9155.



Stewardship made Cost Effective

Adapted from the South Dakota Chapter Newsletter. For the complete article visit: http://wildlife.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/South-Dakota-Chapter-June-2016.pdf



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Chapter Updates

Utah

The Utah Chapter held our annual meeting in St. George during March 23-25. The meeting was attended by more than 150 members. The focus of the plenary session was "Wildlife Translocations: challenges, controversies, and successes". Speakers for the plenary session included Bill Bates (Wildlife Section Chief for the state of Utah), Mike Jimenez (USFWS Wolf Recovery Project Leader), and Gregor Schuurman (Ecologist for the National Park Service's Climate Change Response Program). Technical sessions and symposia included 30 oral presentations and 18 poster presentations. Due to the success of our auction and raffle, we were able to provide 4 students working on Utah wildlife significant monetary scholarships. Recipients of those scholarships were Kristin Ellis from Brigham Young University (BYU), Justin Small from Utah State University (USU), Jared Baxter from BYU, and Wayne Smith from USU.

The Award of Excellence was presented to Bill Bates, who has worked for the Utah Division of Wildlife for 34 years and is currently the Wildlife Section Chief. He started his career as an urban wildlife officer, and has served the state of Utah as a furbearer biologist, regional non-game manager, habitat manager, wildlife manager, mammals program coordinator, and regional supervisor. Congratulations and thank you to Bill who has been an advocate for wildlife in the western United States for his entire life.

Professional paper awards were given to Justin Shannon (1st place), Russ Norvell (2nd place), and Neil Paprocki (3rd place). Students from five state universities participated in the meeting. Student awards for best oral presentations went to Justin Bingham from BYU (1st place), Jacob Hall and Lucas Hall from BYU (not related, but tied for 2nd place), and Channing Howard from USU (4th place). Student awards for best poster went to Kelsey Richards from BYU (1st place), Bret Mossman from USU (2nd place), and Joshua Nix from BYU (3rd place).

Past-president Chris Wood finished his duties on the board. In addition, Brandon Behling finished as Even-year board member, Blair Stringham finished as Treasurer, and Jessica Van Woert finished as Secretary. Current President Kevin Labrum moved to the position of Past-president, President-elect Brock McMillan is now President, and we elected Riley Peck as President-elect. We also elected Masako Wright as Even-year board member, Terri Pope as Treasurer, and Tonya Keiffer as Secretary.



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Upcoming Events



CMPS 2016 Annual Meeting

"Seeing the wildlife through the trees: Challenges and conservation of forests and wildlife"

> Steamboat Springs, Colorado August 8-11, 2016

Highlights of this year's conference:

- Introduction to R and detection dog workshops
- Plenary speakers on the contemporary challenges to forestand wildlife management
- Contributed papers and posters, and a new session of Ignite Talks
- Four fun field trips exploring Steamboat's ecosystems and wildlife

WEBSITE AND REGISTRATION

You can register for the meeting at http://wildlife.org/colorado/CMPS-meeting/#registration
as well as get all the up to date meeting information including the preliminary schedule at a glance, information about plenary speakers, field trips, and workshops.

VENUE AND LODGING

The meeting will be held at the Sheraton Hotel in Steamboat Springs. Discounted rooms (\$99/night) are available **now until July 15th**. There is a \$10 per day resort fee (please note that on your reservation it may state \$25, but when you check out, it will be the \$10 fee). Please reserve hotel rooms at https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/events/start.action?id=1603149342&key=266EDB4

CALL FOR PAPERS, POSTERS & IGNITE TALKS

Abstracts for presentations, posters, and Ignite talks are due **July 6th, 2016**. Please email abstract submissions for presentations and posters to Mindy Rice (<u>mindy.rice@state.co.us</u>) by July 6th, 2016. Please go to http://wildlife.org/colorado/CMPS-meeting/#call for information about submitting under the call for papers tab!



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Upcoming Events

The Wildlife Society 23rd Annual Meeting

Raleigh, North Carolina October 15-19, 2016

WEBSITE AND REGISTRATION

TWS members save \$200 on a full-access registration, and \$100 on a one-day registration. All attendees save \$50 by registering no later than July 31, 2016, http://www.twsconference.org/register/.



Raleigh Convention Center: http://www.twsconference.org/raleigh-convention-center/

Hotels: http://www.twsconference.org/hotels/



Wyoming Chapter 2016 Annual Meeting

Cody, Wyoming November 15-17, 2016

WEBSITE AND REGISTRATION

Updates and more information will be available at http://wytwsconference.org/ as they become available.

VENUE AND LODGING

The meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn in Cody, Wyoming.

South Dakota Chapter 51st Annual Meeting

Oacoma, South Dakota February 27 – March 1, 2017

WEBSITE AND REGISTRATION

Information forthcoming at http://wildlife.org/south-dakota-chapter/south-dakota-chapter-annual-meeting/.

VENUE AND LODGING

Cedar Shore Resort in Oacoma, South Dakota

CONTACT

President-elect Josh Stafford (<u>joshua.stafford@sdstate.edu</u>) or President Nathan Baker (<u>nathan.baker@state.sd.us</u>) with ideas for topics or presentations



Central Mountains and Plains Section Directory

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Officer Position

Held by

STATE CHAPTERS

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President-elect Pat Magee

KANSAS

President Bill Jensen

President-Elect Brad Rueschhoff

<u>NEBRASKA</u>

President Laurel Badura

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Advisor Merav Ben-David