



CMPS Newsletter

Excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education

CMPS Officers

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Andrea Orabona

Vice-President:

Jim Hays

President-Elect:

Adam Ahlers

Secretary/Treasurer:

Laurel Badura

TWS Council Representative:

Bob Lanka

Members At-large:

Adam Behney

Shelly Deisch

Stephanie Ferrero

Krysten Zummo-Strong

Newsletter Editor:

Aleshia Fremgen

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CMPS website:
<http://wildlife.org/cmp>

Message from the President

Spring 2018, Vol. 62, No. 1

One of my goals as President of the Central Mountain and Plains Section is to attend an annual meeting of each of the 7 CMPS states at least once during my tenure. Living in Wyoming means it's easy to attend the WYTWS meetings – I haven't missed a single one since joining the Chapter some 4 decades ago. To ensure I can get to the other 6 states in a 4-year span (1 year as President-Elect, 2 years as President, and 1 year as Past-President), I set up a schedule and am very excited to be on that journey.

In March 2016, I traveled to Saint George, UT to attend the UT Chapter annual meeting. It was the first meeting I attended in my new role as President-Elect, and I only knew one person there. Regardless, Chapter members were welcoming and friendly, especially after I introduced myself as a Section representative.

My next trip was to Lincoln, NE in early February 2017 for the NETWS annual meeting, held in conjunction with the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference. Having never been to the Midwestern, I was surprised with the ease of attending such a large conference and the "something for everyone" opportunities provided. It was great to participate in the NE Chapter's business luncheon and meet members of the Executive Board and Chapter in person.

On to Oacoma, SD in late February 2017 for the joint annual meeting of the CMPS and SD Chapter. We'd had plenty of time to work together remotely to organize the meeting, so when I put faces to the names of the very engaged SDTWS planning committee, it felt as if we'd already met. The joint meeting was a positive and enjoyable experience.

Early February of 2018 took me to Mandan, ND for the NDTWS annual meeting. I was impressed with the high attendance at this meeting, right up to the last presentation,



President's Message (continued)

the quantity of awards given, and the hugely successful fundraiser (see photos in this newsletter). It was rewarding to visit with a few folks I knew from other parts of my biologist job, meet others with whom I have mutual friends, make new acquaintances, and feel so appreciated by the ND Chapter Executive Board and members for attending their meeting.

Back to NE in late February 2018 for the CMPS/NETWS annual meeting in Kearney, NE. Connecting with members of the NETWS Executive Board and planning committee the previous year paved the way for smooth collaboration on our joint meeting between the Section, Chapter, and Great Plains Fire Exchange. This was another well attended meeting, with stand-alone and concurrent sessions, a fire symposium, and a very entertaining banquet and fundraiser (see photos in this newsletter). We also enjoyed the company and insights of Mariah Simmons, Unit Services Coordinator at The Wildlife Society.

My next trip will be to the WY Chapter annual meeting this fall, then to CO and KS in late winter of 2019, and the 2019 CMPS annual meeting hosted by the ND Chapter. I hope to visit with many of you during these wonderful events!

A few common threads I've found when attending the diverse state meetings that comprise our Section can be summed up in a few words – passion, professionalism, and dedication. If you haven't been to a State Chapter or Section meeting in a while, I certainly encourage you to do so for these reasons:

- Learn something new or reinforce something already known
- Meet new folks in the profession and reconnect with old friends and colleagues
- Capitalize on an opportunity to influence the next generation of wildlife professionals by sharing your experiences and expertise with students
- Find strength and solace knowing we have a cadre of natural resources experts working toward a common goal from many different angles
- Support the Chapter or Section by participating in the fundraisers, and have some fun in the process
- Be reminded first-hand that there continues to be good in this world
- Reinforce your convictions that what you do every day benefits wildlife and wild places

Our shared natural resources across the central mountains and plains habitats are cared for and cared about thanks to the commitment and stewardship of all of you who have chosen to enter this profession and make a positive difference throughout your careers. For that, I sincerely thank you!

~Andrea Orabona, CMPS President

TWS Awards Program Call for Nominations

There's less than one month left to submit nominations for the remaining 2018 TWS Awards!

The deadline is Tuesday, May 1, at 11:59 p.m. EDT. Our Awards Program annually honors professional excellence, recognizes outstanding achievement, and highlights contributions to wildlife science and management.

We encourage members to recognize the contributions of their peers by participating in the nomination process.

Visit wildlife.org/awards to see the complete list of TWS Awards and find out how you can nominate deserving peers and colleagues. For questions, please contact lmatheson@wildlife.org.



Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

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Section Business

CMPS Positions Available

Seeking Nominations for Officers to CMPS Board

CMPS is seeking candidates to fill the Vice-President position, two Member At-large positions, and the Secretary/Treasurer position. All positions are 2-year terms. See below for Executive Board duty descriptions. We desire to have the list of candidates in the 2018 summer newsletter (due June 15, 2018). A Board committee has been formed and will be calling for potential candidates, but if you desire to be considered, please email Shelly Deisch (shelly.deisch@state.sd.us) or Adam Behney (adam.behney@state.co.us). Please strongly consider serving at the Section level for TWS.

VICE-PRESIDENT. The Vice-President shall assume the duties of President during any absence or upon any inability of the President to serve, and shall perform any duties assigned by the President. This office shall preside over the Awards Committee. In the event the Vice-President cannot serve in the President's absence, the Executive Board shall appoint a President, pro tempore.

MEMBERS AT-LARGE. Members At-large shall assist in the general administration of Section business affairs.

SECRETARY/TREASURER. The Secretary/Treasurer will be appointed by the President for a 2-year term starting at the adjournment of the Annual Business Meeting or by August 31st, whichever occurs last during the appointment year.

Excerpts from *The Wildlife Professional* Editorial Advisory Board Relevant to Appointments from the Sections

Appointment process: TWS Working Groups and Sections will choose representatives of their respective organizational units according to the schedule maintained by the EAB Chair.

TWS Section Representative: Term is 3 years, with the option to extend for an additional 3-year term if reappointed by their Section.

EAB Members: Provide representation of the broad spectrum of wildlife conservation and management disciplines in the TWS membership.

The responsibilities of EAB members are to:

- Suggest themes, topics, or issues for *The Wildlife Professional* (TWP) cover stories
- Apprise the EAB of trends in their areas of expertise that are relevant to TWS members and TWP
- Act as honest and impartial brokers of sound information and professional contacts
- Provide members feedback on published TWP issues
- Provide the EIC with a list of expertise areas for the purposes of reviewing contributed articles
- Review submitted articles as requested by the EIC and by the requested deadline
- Suggest article topics and solicit authors in collaboration with the EIC and EAB Chair
- Provide suggestions for news items for the State of Wildlife section of TWP
- Suggest recently published papers for the Science in Short section of TWP
- Provide the names of knowledgeable contacts for articles written by TWP staff
- Provide suggestions on the content of articles written by TWP staff, including relevant journal papers or ideas for sidebar
- Participate in 6 bimonthly EAB conference calls and any special meetings

Address questions to: Gordon Batcheller, Chair, EAB; gordon.batcheller@gmail.com



Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

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Section Business

CMPS Student Travel Grant Description

WAYNE SANDFORT STUDENT TRAVEL GRANT APPLICATION

CENTRAL MOUNTAINS AND PLAINS SECTION OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

The Central Mountains and Plains Section (CMPS) of The Wildlife Society (TWS) announces the availability of travel grants for students who plan to attend TWS's Annual Conference. Travel grants of up to \$500 each will be awarded to a limited number of Student Chapters of TWS to assist with expenses incurred while attending the Annual Conference. Students may apply through their college or university Student Chapter of TWS or individually to CMPS.

Preference will be given to the following (but all applications will be considered):

Current undergraduate students.

Students who are currently or who have recently been involved in activities of TWS, CMPS, or a local TWS Chapter.

Group applications of three or more individuals.

Students who have pursued additional sources of funding.

To be eligible, applicants must meet the following criteria:

Be a member of the State or Student Chapter.

Be a member of the Central Mountains and Plains Section.

Be a member of The Wildlife Society.

Be a recent Baccalaureate graduate or enrolled at least half time in a program leading to a degree in wildlife biology or a closely related field at a college or university within the geographic boundary of CMPS.

Each individual applicant and individuals applying as part of a group must submit the following electronically:

A completed, typed application form (signed by the student and faculty advisor; electronic signatures are acceptable, or a complete email string from the student to the faculty advisor is acceptable).

A typed, one-paragraph narrative describing the student's involvement in Society activities (Student Chapter, State Chapter, Section, or TWS).

A typed, one-paragraph narrative explaining why you should receive a CMPS Student Travel Grant.

Typed applications and all requested material must be submitted electronically by **September 1, 2018** to CMPS President, Andrea Orabona Andrea.Orabona@wyo.gov. Incomplete applications, applications not typed, and applications not submitted electronically will be disqualified.

Download the application at <http://wildlife.org/cmp/student-travel-grant/>.

Successful recipients will be notified as soon as possible after the application deadline.

Payment will be made as reimbursement when the CMPS Treasurer receives a receipt confirming payment of registration fees for the TWS conference (forwarding a copy of your email registration confirmation from TWS will meet this requirement).



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Section Business

CMPS Student Travel Grant Application

TWS CENTRAL MOUNTAINS AND PLAINS SECTION WAYNE SANDFORT STUDENT TRAVEL GRANT APPLICATION
(Only complete applications that are typed and submitted electronically will be accepted)

First Name

Middle Initial

Last Name

Street Address, P.O. Box, Apartment Number

Daytime Phone Number

City, State, Zip Code

E-mail Address

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Are you a member of your college or university Student Chapter of TWS? ____ Yes ____ No

Are you a member of the State Chapter? ____ Yes ____ No

Are you a member of the Central Mountains and Plains Section? ____ Yes ____ No

Are you a member of The Wildlife Society? ____ Yes ____ No

Name of the Student Chapter: ____

Are you a student currently enrolled at least half time in a program leading to a degree in wildlife biology or a closely related field at a college or university within the CMPS? ____ Yes ____ No

Are you a recent graduate in wildlife biology or closely related field at a college or university within the CMPS?

____ Yes ____ No

Do you currently or have you recently held an office or chaired a committee in your Student Chapter? ____ Yes ____ No

List all Student Chapter offices held and/or committees chaired, and dates:

Are you currently or have you recently been involved in other Student Chapter, Section, or TWS activities? ____ Yes ____ No

List these activities and dates:

Are you an undergraduate student? ____ Yes ____ No

Are you a graduate student? ____ Yes ____ No

College/University

Degree Sought

Expected Graduation Date

Is your application part of a group application submitted through your Student Chapter? ____ Yes ____ No

If yes, please list the names of the others applying with you.



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Section Business

CMPS Student Travel Grant Application (continued)

Although a paper or poster presentation is not required to receive a Student Travel Grant, if you are a presenter, please complete the following:

Paper/Poster Title

Are you the senior author? ____Yes ____No Will you be making the presentation? ____Yes ____No

ESTIMATED TRAVEL EXPENSES

Total projected travel expenses \$____

(Please attach details—estimated transportation, lodging, meals, registration)

Total funds available from other sources (Please attach details) \$_____

Outstanding travel needs requested from CMPS (\$500 maximum) \$_____

VERIFICATION

The undersigned represent that the information supplied above and on attached documents is true. Furthermore, the undersigned represent that the applicant meets the eligibility requirements as stated herein and that the financial need as stated is accurate.

Student's Signature

Advisor's Signature

Advisor's Name and School Address (Please Print)

Advisor's Daytime Phone Number

Advisor's Email Address

One-paragraph narrative describing your involvement in Society activities (Student Chapter, State Chapter, Section, or TWS).

One-paragraph narrative explaining why you should receive a CMPS Student Travel Grant.

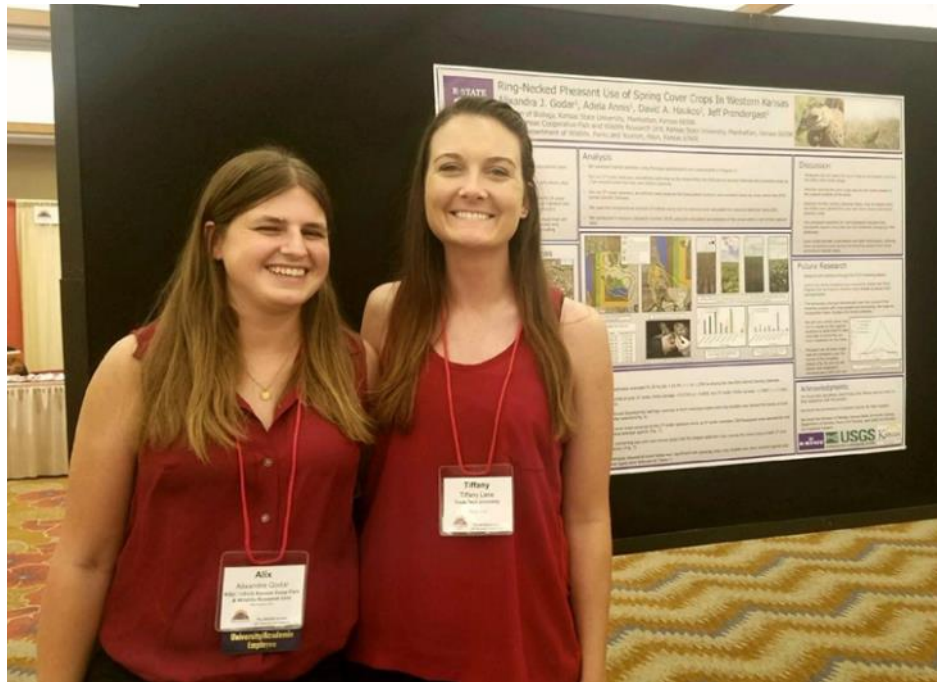
Note: each successful individual or group applicant should plan to provide a summary (preferably with photographs) of their experience at The Wildlife Society Annual Conference for inclusion in the CMPS newsletter and on the CMPS Facebook page.

Section Business

Previous CMPS Student Travel Grant Recipients

Alixandra Godar

The 2017 TWS Conference in Albuquerque was amazing! I hoped to network with managers interested in cover crops and gain new perspectives on my research. I thoroughly enjoyed catching up with a lot of my mentors from throughout my career in wildlife, from my undergraduate advisor to older graduate students to my Master's thesis advisor. When not attending talks, I was eating delicious food with a new group of people for every meal, swapping stories about field work, and discussing current projects. One meal was a bit of a challenge when I forgot green chili in New Mexico packs a lot more heat than green chili anywhere else. My mouth burned for hours, but I have no regrets. The day I presented my poster, my voice went hoarse from speaking with everyone stopping at the poster. We spoke not only about my poster's topic of Ring-necked Pheasants and cover crops, but on everything from working with landowners, to balancing wildlife and human demands on the landscape, to creating informative eye-catching posters. It was amazing how many people had hunted pheasants in western Kansas near my study area and wanted to discuss my research. I left Albuquerque with business cards from my new connections and with new ideas. I am looking forward to future conferences and the opportunity to compare my findings with other research on cover crops.



Bryce Davis

It was a very informative and wonderful experience to be able to attend the 2017 TWS Annual Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico. As the former President of the Colorado State University Chapter of The Wildlife Society, I had the privilege to be invited to speak on a panel that deals with generational gaps in the workforce and give my insight on how the millennial generation is seen in the wildlife workforce. I also had a lot of great opportunities to learn about the fantastic work and research going on around North America and the world with TWS members. Overall I had a great opportunity to network with professionals from all over the country and make many new connections that I can use to further my career in the wildlife profession.

Section Business

Previous CMPS Student Travel Grant Recipients (continued)

Steffanie Brewer

My name is Steffanie Brewer and I am a sophomore at the University of North Dakota in the Fisheries and Wildlife program. This conference was the first TWS Annual Conference that I have ever been to and it was the most amazing experience! I have never seen so many wildlife students and professionals in one place before and the interactions with everyone is something I will never forget. I absolutely loved going to all the discussions, listening to everybody's research, and seeing the awards that were given. I was able to interact with professionals I never thought I'd get the opportunity to actually speak with face to face, and talk with students from other universities to discuss what their experiences have been like and to get any advice they were able to give. I was also lucky enough to get to experience some of the field trips such as Valle de Oro Urban Wildlife Refuge and the Acoma Pueblo Sky City (see photo). Learning about the wildlife and the culture that surrounded us was so enriching. This is an experience I will take with me both in my life and throughout my career.



Caroline Skidmore

During the 2017 Annual The Wildlife Society Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico, I had the privilege to give an oral presentation over my undergraduate research project titled "The ecology of the monarch butterfly relative to density, host plant occurrence, and habitat use in the Flint Hills". Being my second TWS conference attendance and third oral presentation in my early career as a wildlife conservationist, I was able to gain insightful reflection on my research through the questions I received following my talk. While at times the experience was nerve-wracking, it was also rewarding through the attention I was able to draw to an imperiled butterfly and its hostplant that occur within my home state. Along with my talk, the conference enabled me to interact with other young leaders in conservation during the Student Leadership Lunch. Through this, I acquired valuable information concerning how to enhance my leadership skills as president of a TWS Student Chapter as well as reach further into my community to educate others on wildlife management and conservation. Conference attendance has largely contributed to my growth as a student pursuing a career in wildlife. Specifically, the annual TWS conference in Albuquerque provided me with a new network of professionals. This expanded network lead to an unending list of beneficial experiences, including volunteer opportunities and insight into various career positions that a wildlife biologist may hold. It is clear that The Wildlife Society and the Central Mountains and Plains Section places great value on the student population, of which I am thankful for. I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to present at such a large conference as an undergraduate and I look forward to utilizing the skills I have gained from this experience as I begin my graduate degree at Texas Tech University this spring.

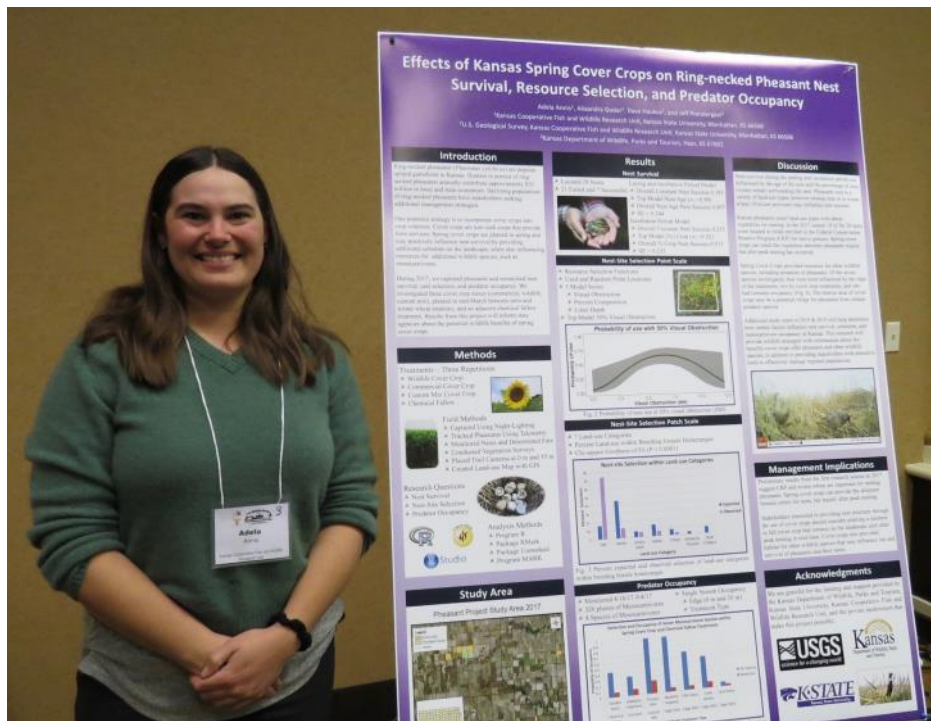
Section Business

Previous CMPS Student Travel Grant Recipients (continued)

John Palarski

I would like to thank the CMPS Executive Board for selecting me as a recipient of a 2017 Wayne Sandfort Student Travel Grant. Because of this grant, I was able to attend the 2017 TWS Annual Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico this past September. As a senior majoring in Fisheries and Wildlife Biology at the University of North Dakota, graduation is quickly approaching. I aspire to attend graduate school, and this conference allowed me to network with professionals in my area of study and interest. During the conference, I presented a poster entitled “Predation and Parental Care at Waterfowl Nests in North Dakota”. Throughout the poster session, I was approached by many people that were interested in my research. I was also able to make connections with professors and biologists from across the country that work with waterfowl. Meeting people with similar interests lead to scintillating conversations that I would not have otherwise been able to have. I am very thankful to have been able to have the experience and opportunity to attend this conference. Without this grant, it would have been extremely difficult, if not impossible, for me to attend. As a young professional looking to break in to the field, this grant went a long way in furthering my career.

Adela Annis



Did you know this about CMPS?

The Central Mountains and Plains Section started with 24 members in 1954 in Fort Collins at the Colorado A&M College (now Colorado State University). As of 12/31/2017, there are 1,475 Section members.

Section Business

Summary of the 2018 Central Mountains and Plains Section Annual Meeting Held in Conjunction with the Nebraska Chapter of The Wildlife Society and the Great Plains Fire Science Exchange

By Jenny Prenosil (NETWS President 2017-2018) and Andrea Orabona (CMPS President)



Jenny Prenosil, NETWS



Andrea Orabona, CMPS

Every year, one of the seven states in the geographic region of the Central Mountains and Plains Section (CMPS) of The Wildlife Society (TWS) hosts the Section's Annual Meeting. This year, the Nebraska Chapter of TWS cordially hosted a joint Annual Meeting between the Section, State Chapter, and Great Plains Fire Science Exchange, held February 28-March 2 in Kearney, NE. We had 125 attendees from all three entities combined.



CMPS/NETWS fundraiser

Section Business

2018 Meeting Summary (continued)

The meeting was kicked off by an interesting presentation from Michael Forsberg and Mary Harner titled “Platte Basin Time-lapse: Perceiving a Watershed in Motion”. They are using time-lapse photography to document and teach about this great natural resource. A total of 20 scientific papers were presented at the meeting, ranging from fire, bison, and bighorn sheep, to pheasants, small mammals, and butterflies. Complementing the papers were 13 student posters. Winners of the poster contest were: 1st place—Alixandra Godar (“Cover Crops: Altering an Altered Landscape to Benefit Wildlife?”); 2nd place—Max Larreur “Assessing Non-Invasive Survey Techniques for Semi-Aquatic Mammals in Lentic Wetlands”; and 3rd place—Adela Annis “Effects of Kansas Spring Cover Crops on Ring-necked Pheasant Nest Survival, Resource Selection, and Predators”. Coincidentally, Alixandra and Adela were also two of the recipients of the 2017 CMPS Wayne Sandfort Student Travel Grant, which assisted them with expenses while attending TWS’s Annual Conference in Albuquerque, NM. Students from Wayne State, Kearney, and Chadron gave us updates on activities they participated in this past year through their Student Chapters. They showcased some neat experiences and service projects. Mariah Simmons, Unit Services Coordinator, offered State Chapter and Section opportunities and services that are available from TWS. The Nature Conservancy hosted a prescribed fire workshop following the meeting. CMPS held an Annual Business Meeting luncheon, and NETWS held an



Stephanie Ferrero, CMPS Member At-large, moderated a session



Three Student Chapters in the Section gave updates on their activities



Bob Lanka, Section Representative to TWS Council, gave a Council update

Section Business

2018 Meeting Summary (continued)

Annual Members Meeting. It was inspiring to have several CMPS Presidents from years past attending the multi-day event, including Ken Higgins (1991-1993), Bob Wood (1995-1997), Bob Lanka (2009-2011), and Bill Vodehnal (2013-2015), as well as long-time member Len McDaniel. Although some are now retired, these dedicated individuals continue to have an interest in and influence on the field of natural resources conservation.

We also had many fun activities, including a field trip to the Rowe Sanctuary, photo contest, Quiz Bowl, and fundraising auction. Early risers were treated to an amazing sight of hundreds of Sandhill Cranes at the sanctuary. Ben Wheeler and Luke Meduna swept the photo contest, which showcased a lot of great work. They graciously donated their photos for our fundraising auction. We had a rousing Quiz Bowl with 10 teams, which was won by team “Lucky Charms”, with team members Diana Danowski, Shaun Dunn, and Chris Helzer. Jerry Steinhaur, a most entertaining auctioneer, helped NETWS and CMPS raise about \$3,500 from donated items. As former “renters” of the CMPS ice crampon, Bob Lanka (CMPS Representative to TWS Council) and Shelly Deisch (CMPS Member At-large) presented the “Mystery of the Ice Crampon” story. CMPS President-Elect Adam Ahlers was the high bidder. Thanks to all who generously donated and purchased the huge variety of items; proceeds are split evenly between CMPS and NETWS. Heather Johnson was presented with the Gabig Award for outstanding research on waterfowl in Nebraska. Ed Kroger (KS) and Pat Ryan (NE) were selected as recipients of the CMPS Citizen Conservation Achievement Award.

Special thanks to all of our generous sponsors—
 Ian Nicolson Audubon Center at Rowe Sanctuary,
 Cellular Tracking Technologies, Rocky Mountain Elk



Ken Higgins, CMPS President from 1991-1993, gave two presentations during the joint meeting



Thanks to the NETWS Planning Committee for a successful joint meeting (pictured from left to right are Matt Steffl, Jenny Prenosil, Laurel Badura, and Mel Nenneman)



CMPS Vice-President Jim Hays presented the Citizen's Conservation Achievement Award to recipient Pat Ryan (left)

Section Business

2018 Meeting Summary (continued)

Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, Pheasants Forever, South Dakota Wildlife Division, Great Plains Fire Science Exchange, Nebraska Chapter of the Wildlife Society, and the Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society.

We hope to see many of you at the 2019 CMPS Annual Meeting, hosted by the North Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society!



TWS's Mariah Simmons (4th from the right) with the CMPS Executive Board (left to right: Adam Ahlers, Stephanie Ferrero, Shelly Deisch, Laurel Badura, Andrea Orabona, Jim Hays, and Bob Lanka)



CMPS Executive Board at the Annual Business Meeting (from left: Jim Hays, Shelly Deisch, Stephanie Ferrero, Andrea Orabona, Laurel Badura, Adam Ahlers, and Bob Lanka; not pictured: Adam Behney, Krysten Zummo-Strong, and Aleshia Fremgen)

Section Business

2018 Meeting Summary (continued)



Jerry Steinhaur (with the microphone) was a very entertaining auctioneer, and helped raise about \$3,500 in funds for NETWS and CMPS



CMPS Executive Board members Bob Lanka and Shelly Deisch present the "Mystery of the Ice Crampon" story before the auction bidding began



Adam Ahlers, CMPS President-Elect, is the new ice crampon "renter"

TWS Business

TWS News—New Book

New from TWS and Johns Hopkins University Press

State Wildlife Management and Conservation, Edited by Thomas J. Ryder

By Nancy Sasavage, TWS Director of Publications and Communications

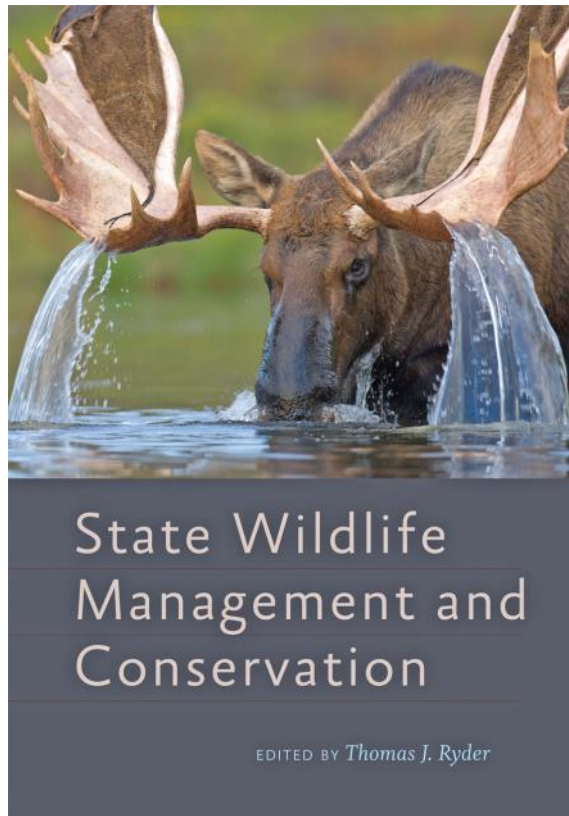
Are you thinking about a career with a state wildlife agency or already a seasoned professional working for one? Either way, this newest book in TWS' Wildlife Conservation and Management series, "State Wildlife Management and Conservation", is a must-have.

TWS Past President Tom Ryder, now retired after a long career with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, brings together wildlife leaders from practical, policy, and academic backgrounds to tell the story of state wildlife agencies, chronicling their efforts to restore and protect our nation's natural resources.

With more than 40 contributors, the book provides a comprehensive, nationwide account of state management efforts. It will aid professors training the next generation of wildlife professionals, students hoping to enter the profession, and anyone working with wildlife to develop a more sophisticated understanding of what it means to be a state wildlife biologist.

[Order your copy now.](#)

TWS members receive a 30 percent discount off the cover price of \$75.





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TWS Business

TWS News — TWS Heritage Committee

This message is to identify some upcoming opportunities for TWS Heritage Committee members and to request responses from any interested Committee members.

First, thanks to all of the Heritage Committee members who attended the gathering with TWS Retired Wildlife Professionals during the 24th TWS Annual Conference in September 2017. That was a very useful acquaintance-building session and venue for identifying additional possible ways that both groups can further help TWS.

We are still developing and exploring some of the prospective options that will be available for the Committee and Retirees to help within TWS. But, it will be important to get a start on some options while others develop. Thus, the opportunities listed below are available now to identify ways to start early in 2018. **Please send an email to Chairman Bruce Thompson (bcthompson248@gmail.com) to express your interest.** If you want to learn more about these options before making a commitment, don't hesitate to message Bruce with your questions or call him ([505-660-0533](tel:505-660-0533) mobile).

Opportunities to explore soon:

Mentor a Student Chapter – TWS has 138 Student Chapters distributed broadly in North America. Each Chapter typically has 1 Faculty Advisor and there is substantial variability in the background and time that each advisor can devote to the Chapter. Further, advisors sometimes may be unavailable for extended periods (e.g., sabbatical leave) during which Student Chapter members can benefit from another knowledgeable wildlife professional as a sounding board and advisor. Heritage Committee members can provide this important supplemental service to such Chapters. [Delta State University](#) (Cleveland, MS), [Missouri State University](#) (Springfield, MO), and [Montana State University](#) (Bozeman, MT) Student Chapters are especially in need of mentor assistance now. Consider being a multi-year mentor to a Student Chapter located near you ([contact Chairman Bruce Thompson for the Student Chapter list; then inform Bruce of your Chapter or Chapters of interest](#)).

Mentor a TWS Leadership Institute (LI) participant – Each year, TWS selects 10 early career professionals to participate in the Leadership Institute. Participants engage in a variety of assignments during summer and early fall, culminating with attendance at the Annual Conference where they network and learn. Part of their experience is to have a mentor among TWS Council members and others who provide professional insight and advice. Each LI participant can benefit from further contact with others who are deeply aware of TWS and the wildlife profession. Indicate your interest and your contact information will be communicated to involved TWS staff who will provide more details.

Assist Chapters/Sections with Conservation Affairs Network (CAN) actions – Many State Chapters and Sections are involved in TWS Conservation Affairs Network (<http://wildlife.org/policy-2/conservation-affairs-network/>), and others are in the process of fully engaging. All can use assistance from seasoned professionals to further develop their specific networks and procedures within TWS's overview. Indicate your interest in a specific State Chapter and/or Section and your contact information will be communicated to involved TWS staff for coordination.

Mentor an Early Career Professional TWS wildlifer – TWS's electronic directory offers an opportunity to connect TWS members who want to explore mentoring interactions, whether as a mentor or mentee. Heritage Committee members comprise a wealth of experience, insight, knowledge, expertise, and awareness that can be a monumental value to early career professionals and others in our membership. If interested, simply login to the Member Portal (<https://wildlife.secure.force.com/customlogin>) and ensure your Profile indicates you are willing to be a Mentor.

Compose material for *The Wildlife Professional* – With 6 issues per year going to all TWS members, *The Wildlife Professional* represents a regular, broad-based forum for communicating insight about professional wildlife management and conservation topics. Consider being a contributor, especially on topics that are scheduled well in advance. If interested, contact Nancy Sasavage with TWS (Nancy.Sasavage@wildlife.org) to explore your ideas and to determine if your expertise fits with topics scheduled for near future issues, issues still in development, or topics being strategized by the Editor and Editorial Advisory Board.

Thanks for considering this request and working toward a TWS Heritage Committee that is routinely strengthening our organization and our colleagues. ~Bruce Thompson (TWS Immediate Past-President; Chair, TWS Heritage Committee, 2017-2018)

Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

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TWS Business

TWS News—The Wildlife Confessional

The Wildlife Society – Western Section is excited to announce that *The Wildlife Confessional* anthology, a collection of short stories by dyed-in-the-wool wildlife biologists, is now live! *The Wildlife Confessional* endeavors to show the humor and poignancy in our day-to-day adventures that sometimes define and enlighten the profession or that, sometimes, we'd rather forget.

<https://www.inkshares.com/books/the-wildlife-confessional-an-anthology-of-stories>

The anthology is a collection of 15 stories by 13 biologists, including Western Section members Brian Cypher, Ivan Parr, Matthew Bettelheim, and the late Thomas A. Roberts. It also includes contributions by published authors Marcy Cottrell Houle (*Wings for my Flight*, *One City's Wilderness*, *The Prairie Keepers*) and J. Drew Lanham (*The Home Place: Memoirs of a Colored Man's Love Affair with Nature*), and a memoir of the late Dr. Charles Jonkel, co-founder of the Great Bear Foundation.

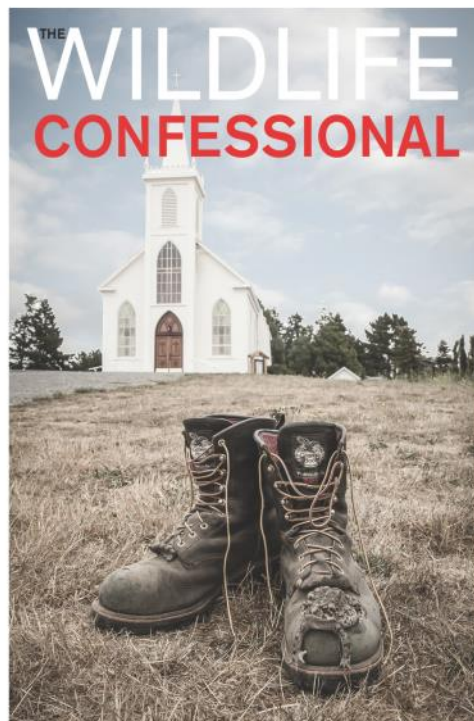
The authors, whose stories have been collected here, represent men and women from all walks of wildlife biology – State and Federal biologists, consultants, professors, students, and interns. The stories take place across North and Central America, from the Gulf of Alaska to San Ignacio, Belize, from the tropics of the Hawaiian Islands to the deserts of Arizona, and in the desert springs, coastal bluffs, national parks, stock ponds, pick-up trucks, traplines, doctor's offices, roof tops, outhouses, and bombing ranges scattered everywhere in between.

At a cover price of \$20 paperback / \$10 ebook, our intermediate goal is to sell 250 copies by February 28th, so we are counting on members to help spread the word.

This anthology is a labor of love. One of the primary reasons the authors and editors behind *The Wildlife Confessional* have undertaken this project is to educate and attract students to enter the field of wildlife biology and to apply money raised through book sales to support student involvement in The Wildlife Society by funding scholarships, grants, and training opportunities. Your support will help us realize those goals.

You can also follow the project on Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/The-Wildlife-Confessional-1070767069681846/>



• Charles Jonkel

• Brian Cypher

• Katie Quint

• Brianna Williams

• Joseph Drake

• Jeff Keay

FEATURING STORIES BY

• Ivan Parr

• Thomas A. Roberts

• Eric Lund

• Matthew Bettelheim

• Darren Sleep

• Marcy Cottrell Houle

• J. Drew Lanham

How to Purchase

The *Wildlife Confessional* will be published through Inkshares, a crowd sourcing publishing house in Oakland, CA. To purchase a copy for yourself, friends, and family, visit this link:

<https://www.inkshares.com/books/the-wildlife-confessional-an-anthology-of-stories>

You can also "Like" and follow our progress at:

<https://www.facebook.com/The-Wildlife-Confessional-1070767069681846/>

where we'll be sharing snippets of each story.

TWS Business

TWS News—TWS Journals

Make TWS Journals Your Publishing Choice in 2018

By Nancy Sasavage

*TWS Director of Publications and Communications and
Editor-in-Chief of The Wildlife Professional*

A lot of factors go into choosing where to publish your wildlife research findings. TWS wants to make our journals your first choice in 2018. Here's what we are doing to encourage members to publish in one of the Society's three scholarly journals: *The Journal of Wildlife Management*, *Wildlife Society Bulletin*, and *Wildlife Monographs*.

Reduced page charges for members

As a TWS member, you are eligible for **40 percent off** the standard page charges. In 2018, we have also eliminated all color page charges. The following page charges and publication fees apply to all manuscripts, except Letters to the Editor, Invited Papers, and Book Reviews, that go into production after January 1, 2018.

The Journal of Wildlife Management

If any author is a member of The Wildlife Society:

\$90 per published page for the first 8 pages

\$150 for every page thereafter

If none of the authors are a member of TWS:

\$150 per page

Authors also may choose to publish the manuscript under TWS' and Wiley's open-access option; the fee for publication is \$3,000 in lieu of page charges.

Wildlife Society Bulletin

If any author is a member of The Wildlife Society:

\$50 per published page for the first 10 pages

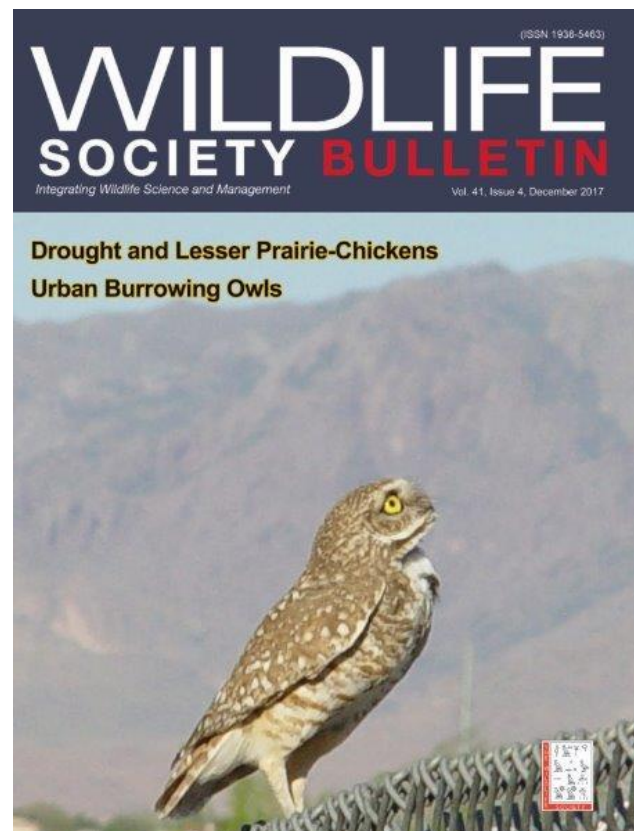
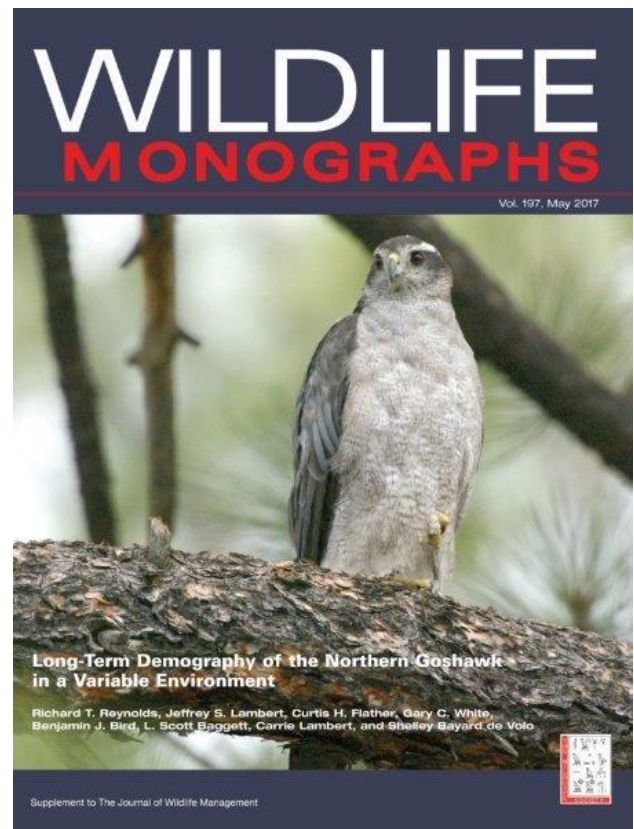
\$80 for every page thereafter

If none of the authors are a member of TWS:

\$80 per page for the first 10 pages

\$130 for every page thereafter

Authors may choose to publish the manuscript under TWS' and Wiley's open-access option; the fee for publication is \$3,000 in lieu of page charges.



TWS Business

TWS News—TWS Journals (continued)

Wildlife Monographs

Beginning January 1, The Wildlife Society **reduced the publication fees for *Wildlife Monographs* from \$10,000 to \$7,500 and eliminated color page charges** to encourage authors to publish their work in this highly regarded journal. The journal's 2016 Impact Factor was 5.75, and it ranked number one of 162 publications in the zoology category and 12 of 153 in ecology.

And for the first time, we have created an **open-access option for *Wildlife Monographs***, which allows anyone to read the published paper in the Wiley Online Library. The publication fee for this option is \$10,000.

Streamlined guidelines for authors

We know author guidelines are no fun to read, so that's why the journal editors and editorial staff have [revised the guidelines](#) and put all the information you need for quick-reference at the very beginning of the guidelines.

High visibility

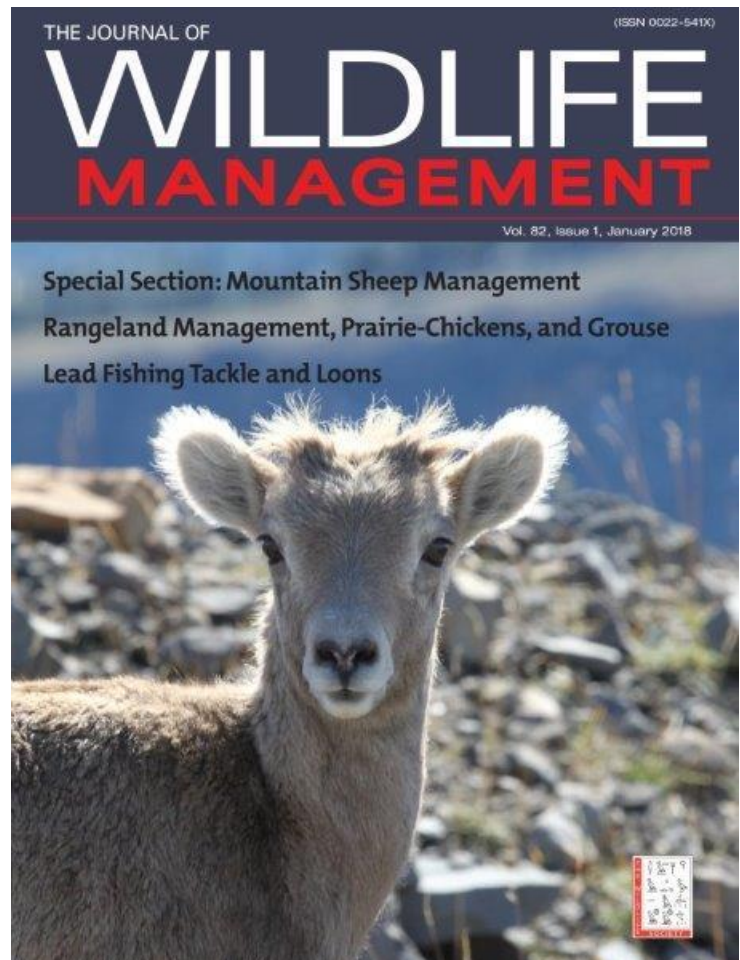
Your published work can be seen by 10,000 of your peers because all TWS members have online access to TWS journals. Plus, Wiley offers tips for how to get more publicity for your published work. Check out this [free promotional toolkit](#). TWS also works with Wiley to promote newly published papers to world-wide media outlets.

And did you know that over 4,200 institutions subscribe to *The Journal of Wildlife Management*/ *Wildlife Monographs* and more than 1,500 to the *Wildlife Society Bulletin*? This means that virtually the entire wildlife community can access your published work.

Supporting TWS' Strategic Plan

There's one more important reason to publish in TWS journals that members may not think of often. One of TWS' strategic themes is being a recognized and trusted organization for expertise on science-based wildlife management and conservation. When you publish with your Society, you are lending your support to our strategic plan.

With your help, we can grow the impact of TWS journals on achieving a positive impact on the sustainability of wildlife populations for future generations.





Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Page 20

TWS Council Update

Bob Lanka, CMPS Representative

Please contact Bob with questions, concerns, or comments, at bob.lanka@wyo.gov or 307-777-4580

TWS Council met March 25-26 in Norfolk, Virginia in association with the 83rd North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference.

TWS Budget and Finances

Our FY17 (7/1/16-6/30/17) audit report came back very strong with total assets of about \$2.9 million and total liabilities of about \$1.4 million. Most of the liability, ~90%, was for deferred revenue which basically means money owed to TWS but not yet paid. Think of your membership dues here. You pay your dues all at once but obtain services over a 12-month period. So TWS only counts 1/12 of your dues each month as income, deferring the rest to when services are provided. This deferred income shows up as a “liability” until it is taken. Clear as mud, right? Glad I am a biologist and not an accountant!!! Bottom line, our audit report was very good.

For FY18, our budget goal is to finish \$94,000 to the good. Looks like we will achieve that goal and maybe a bit more. Any budget surplus will be directed to the Permanent Reserve Fund in order to move TWS closer to having at least 6 months operating expenses in our “Rainy Day” Fund. Given the FY18 budget, the goal for this fund is just shy of \$1,346,000. As of mid February 2018, we were about 89% of the way there. The target for this fund changes as budgets change and performance of this fund is dependent on what goes on in the stock market, but we are making good progress toward our “Rainy Day” fund goal. By the way, this goal was not chosen at random. It is generally accepted business practice to have a 6-month reserve.

As I have mentioned before, the big three for Society income listed in order are: 1) publication royalties, 2) annual conference, and 3) membership dues. These three make up about 90% of our annual income. I have been asked questions about why does TWS try to make money at the annual conference and with publication royalties when there are already member dues. If you will let me use an analogy I will try to explain. Think of TWS as a college athletic department. Most of those departments make their money on football and basketball ticket sales and the booster donations related to those programs. These universities fund the rest of their athletic activities using money from these funding sources. If football only paid for football it is very likely that many of the other sports would have to be cut. TWS is the same way; we have to make money on some of our initiatives in order to fund other initiatives that do not generate income. TWS policy activities, publishing and distributing *The Wildlife Professional*, making all TWS journals available to members for the basic membership rate, and boosting our “rainy day” fund to its goal are four prime example of services provided using funding from initiatives that generate revenue. I know it is hard sometimes to wrap your head around paying member dues, paying conference registration, and paying page charges to publish in one of our journals, but those costs are what allow our Society to engage in the important work of conservation at a higher level that we would otherwise be able to do.

TWS Council Update (continued)

TWS Strategic Plan Revision

The following link (<http://wildlife.org/operations-and-finance/>) will take you to the section of the TWS website where you will find information on the TWS Code (ethics, conflict of interest, whistleblower, open door communication) and the 2015-2019 TWS Strategic Plan. Our current strategic plan focuses on five key strategic themes. Those themes are:

- The Wildlife Society achieves a positive impact on the sustainability of wildlife populations.
- The Wildlife Society is a recognized and trusted organization for expertise on science-based wildlife management and conservation.
- The Wildlife Society supports, encourages, and enables its members to conserve and manage wildlife through the application of science.
- The Wildlife Society supports and encourages networking among Student Chapters, State/Provincial Chapters, Sections, working groups, Council, and headquarters to leverage synergies and communications that advance science-based wildlife conservation.
- The Wildlife Society is professionally managed and financially robust.

Given that our strategic plan will expire next year Council is considering whether it needs modifications or not. I ask that you take a moment to review the plan and provide me any thoughts you might have for changes or modifications by June 30, 2018.

TWS Membership

At the end of January, paid membership was at 9,700 with 900 more in the Give Back program. We hope to be over 10,000 paid members by the end of FY18. Member demographics have been very consistent over the past four years, with 94% of our membership being white and 69% male and 31% female. As of December 2017, there were 1,155 TWS members from CMPS, up 18.7% from the 2014-2016 average of 973. **Nice job everyone!** Hopefully we can keep our Section's membership momentum going. With that in mind, I once again challenge each state to increase the number of TWS members from your state by 10%. I realize +10% is a big number for some states, but no point in having a challenge that isn't challenging! Given the importance of increasing membership to our future and the reach of our professional society, won't you help achieve this goal by asking a friend or coworker to join? See the TWS website at: <http://wildlife.org/tws-membership-benefits/> for more information about the benefits of membership. Table 1 shows the membership breakdown by the states within our section and the 10% challenge. I look forward to being able to present results this time next year.



Photographs by Mark Gocke

Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

TWS Council Update (continued)

Table 1. December membership figures CMPS states and 10% membership challenge.

STATE	2014-2016 3-Year Avg.	December 2017	% Change vs. 3-Year Avg.	CMPS + 10%	% of all TWS Membership
CO	349	423	21.2	465	4.11
KS	87	108	24.1	119	1.05
NE	91	119	30.8	131	1.16
ND	108	115	6.5	126	1.12
SD	77	69	(10.3)	76	0.67
UT	99	130	31.3	143	1.26
WY	162	191	17.9	210	1.86
TOTALS	973	1155	18.7	1270	11.23

Upcoming Meetings

I hope to see you all in Cleveland, OH at the 25th Anniversary of TWS Annual Conference October 7-11 (<http://wildlife.org/2018-conference/>). The 2019 Annual Conference will be a joint meeting with the American Fisheries Society held September 29-October 3 in Reno, NV. Did you know there are travel grants available to attend the annual conference? Click here to learn more. <http://wildlife.org/network/conferences-network/>

Closing Thoughts

My last day with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department will be May 16. It is hard to wrap my head around the fact that in about 30 working days I will retire from a 35+ year career. My how time flies. Seems like our son Aaron should be about 9 or 10 now, not 28 like he turned last month. Doesn't seem possible Sheila and I have been married almost 34 years either, but we will hit that milestone together in June. Aaron is studying to get a degree in Fire Science and eventually a job as a fire fighter. He volunteers at least one 24-hour shift a week at the local fire department in between going to school and working half time. Last year he was recognized for being part of two lifesaving events, events where if those working for the fire department hadn't shown up, two people would not be alive today. I can't tell you how special it is to have him talk to us about what it means to serve others, to be part of something bigger than yourself.

After 35 years working for wildlife and people, I know what he means. Our profession and the bedrock principles it was built upon—the Public Trust Doctrine, Access to Wildlife is Allocated by Law, Wildlife Policy is Based in Science, and all the others—calls each of us to serve a cause bigger than self and narrow special interest. It calls on us to speak for that which has no human voice and to do all we can to ensure that future generations have at least something of what we have today, wildlife and wild lands. Upon application for membership in The Wildlife Society, each member is basically asked to pay member dues and uphold TWS's Code of Ethics. There is a link to that document earlier in this column. In a nutshell the TWS Code of Ethics calls on each member to: "Subscribe to the highest standards of integrity and conduct and will proactively promote and address ethical behavior." Who would expect anything less from a public servant entrusted with understanding and managing a public resource as economically and spiritually valuable as wildlife? Not me and I bet not you either. Thanks for all you do.

Chapter Updates

Colorado State University

The Colorado State University Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society, with its annual change of officers after a November election, set a list of objectives and goals for the following year. This list included recruiting new members and retaining past members; organization of information and outreach; advertising more and utilizing social media; giving side projects more attention in the main club; fundraising; and communicating well, among officers, to the club members and with professionals.

Working towards these goals, there was a major emphasis on including the Raptor Monitoring and Camera Trap Projects into the Student Chapter. Previously, these programs were run independently and did not gain much funding or attention from members. The Raptor Monitoring Program travels to Boyd Lake in Loveland to observe and record any behavior of birds of prey, data which are used by Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW). The Camera Project has set up several cameras in Pineridge Natural Area in Fort Collins, which allows members to learn how to use and set-up camera traps, and analyze the resulting data. This program also works with Fort Collins elementary and middle schools, where the Student Chapter members work to educate the children about ecology and trail cameras. In the past few months, weekly events for these educational programs have reached record high attendances.



Within the last year, the club has had many renowned faculty, researchers, graduate students, and wildlife biologists utilize our Chapter's biweekly meetings to present their research and educate members about the field. Additionally, the club traveled to McGregor Ranch, near Rocky Mountain National Park, in September of 2017, and worked for 2 days to repair a riparian habitat by removing spans of invasive flora.

CSU Student Chapter of TWS members at McGregor Ranch for a service project to restore habitat

Chapter Updates

Colorado State University

In February of 2018, the Chapter was fortunate to send 6 of the officers to the Colorado Chapter of The Wildlife Society's Annual Meeting in Grand Junction; this provided club members an invaluable opportunity to connect with professionals and other students, as well as learn about what is happening in the field of wildlife biology.

In the upcoming months, the club is looking forward to hearing from even more biologists, partnering with Colorado Parks and Wildlife and The Wildlife Disease Association to attend a clinic on wildlife immobilization techniques, working with Area 9 biologists for a service



Club officers at the CCTWS Annual Meeting in Grand Junction, CO; pictured are Tadao Kishimoto, Katie Gray, Julia Valdivia, Kaley Egan, Charlee Manguso, James Kelleher, and CCTWS board member Andrew Don Carlos

project and techniques workshop, and as many other outdoor events as possible. Next year, we are working to regain club traditions, such as a hunting and trapping workshop put on by CPW, and a bighorn sheep survey project. The club's priority is to provide members with hands-on opportunities and experiences that will help them better understand the field of wildlife biology, and maintain and improve the Chapter's relationship with professionals and organizations in the area.

Chapter Updates

Nebraska

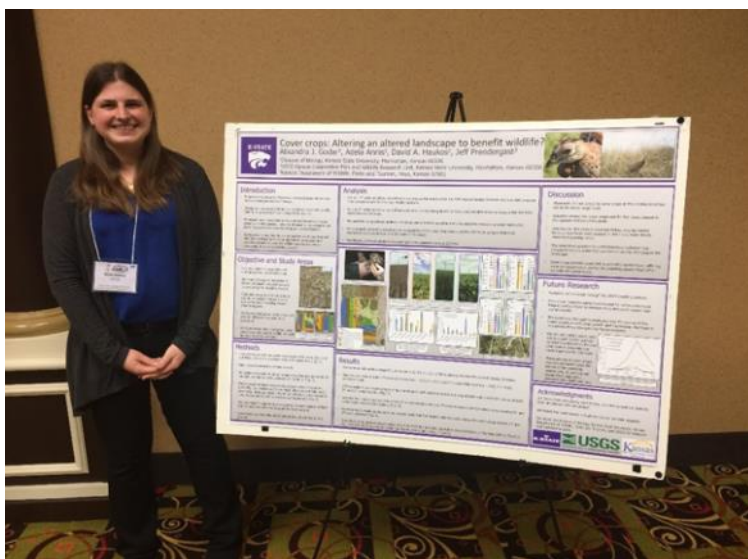
Our annual meeting was held February 28—March 2 in Kearney. We hosted the Central Mountains and Plains Section Annual Meeting, and had 125 people attend from our Chapter, Section, and the Great Plains Fire Science Exchange. Details of our successful and interesting joint meeting are presented on pages 10-14 of this newsletter. Below are more photographs from our joint meeting. Again, we extend special thanks to all our sponsors—Ian Nicolson Audubon Center at Rowe Sanctuary, Cellular Tracking Technologies, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, Pheasants Forever, South Dakota Wildlife Division, Great Plains Fire Science Exchange, Nebraska Chapter of The Wildlife Society, and The Wildlife Society Central Mountains and Plains Section.



Michael Forsberg and Mary Harner use time-lapse photography to showcase the North Platte River watershed



Mariah Simmons gave a presentation from her perspective as TWS's Unit Services Coordinator



Alixandra Godar (KS), 1st place winner of the poster session for "Cover crops: Altering an altered landscape to benefit wildlife?"



Ben Wheeler and Luke Meduna won the photo contest, and donated their photos to the fundraiser

Chapter Updates

North Dakota

Special thanks to NDTWS's Collin Riley, who provided the awards photographs from the ND State Chapter's Annual Meeting.



Alicia Andes (University of North Dakota) accepted the Best Oral Paper Presentation Award from Dr. Jason Boulanger



Andrew Barnas accepted the Outstanding Graduate Student Award for University of North Dakota from NDTWS President Rick Warhurst



Brandon Kaiser (North Dakota State University) accepted the Best Graduate Poster Presentation Award from Dr. Jason Boulanger



Dalton Scheuring accepted the Valley City State University Undergraduate Student Scholarship Award from NDTWS President Rick Warhurst

Chapter Updates

North Dakota (continued)



Dr. Johann Walker presented the Ducks Unlimited Wetlands Award to Dr. Doug Johnson



John Palarksi accepted the University of North Dakota Undergraduate Student Scholarship Award from NDTWS President Rick Warhurst



Kade Thompson (University of Jamestown) accepted the very first Bill Bicknell Legacy Scholarship Award from NDTWS President Rick Warhurst



Kevin Cortes accepted the North Dakota State University Outstanding Graduate Student Award from NDTWS President Rick Warhurst



Kristine Askerooth accepted the North Dakota Award from NDTWS President Rick Warhurst



Marshall Johnson accepted the 2018 NDTWS Habitat Award from NDTWS President Rick Warhurst

Chapter Updates

North Dakota (continued)



NDTWS fundraising fun



NDTWS fundraising dinner



NDTWS President Rick Warhurst presented the Chuck V. Pulver Case of the Year Award to recipients Mike Sedlacek, Greg Hastings, Jeff Sieger, Corey Erck, and Jared Bluem



NDTWS President Rick Warhurst presented the Best Undergraduate Poster Presentation to 3-way tie winners from UND Abby Keller, Allicyn Nelson, and Collin Riley and Mason Lombard



Morgan Thomas accepted the University of Jamestown Undergraduate Student Scholarship Award from NDTWS President Rick Warhurst



Olivia Griffith accepted the University of Mary Undergraduate Student Scholarship Award from NDTWS President Rick Warhurst

Chapter Updates

North Dakota (continued)



Rick Nelson accepted the NDTWS Past-President Award from Rick Warhurst, the new NDTWS President



Shelby Lewis accepted the North Dakota State University Undergraduate Student Scholarship from NDTWS President Rick Warhurst



Spencer Dorsey accepted the Dakota College-Bottineau Undergraduate Student Scholarship Award from NDTWS President Rick Warhurst



Putting aiming skills to the test at the NDTWS clay pigeon toss fundraiser

Chapter Updates

Utah State University

It's been an amazing year for Utah State's Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society!

The year began with a trip to the Goshute Mountains in Nevada to spend time with the researchers at Hawk-Watch International. Students were able to assist biologists in the capture, measurements, and banding of raptors on their southern migration, including Sharp-shinned and Red-tailed Hawks!

Our focus this year has been on research. Maggie Hallerud (President) has continued her study of cougar presence using camera traps, Daniel Johnson (Vice President) is working on a professor's project investigating carnivore impact on aspen suckers in Yellowstone National Park, Rylee Jensen (Secretary) is studying behavioral preferences within an Orca population in Washington State, Kenen Goodwin (Historian) has been investigating methods for non-lethal aging of endangered June Suckers, and Eric Ethington (Public Relations) is studying mesocarnivore habitat-use in mountain drainages under snow conditions. Hallerud and Ethington's research have provided some great opportunities for our undergraduate members to get in the field for hands-on experience. Our students have also been able to present their findings, including at the Utah Chapter TWS Annual Conference, where Hallerud won 3rd place for best student talk.

We've also been working closely with our state wildlife agency this year, participating in deer-check stations, bighorn sheep captures, radio-collaring mule deer, retrieval of mortality collars, and the annual bison roundup on Antelope Island! We also took a trip to the Logan Cave with state biologist Adam Brewerton where he showed us how to use acoustic equipment to monitor bat populations and identify calls. Additionally, several



USU students participate in the annual roundup of bison on Antelope Island

students were asked by the state to place bait stations and camera traps around the Bear River mountain range to monitor for possible wolverines coming into the state during the winter months.

Our last month of the semester will be as busy as ever! Kenen Goodwin will be leading a group of students to southern Utah to track and capture a variety of reptiles and amphibians in the Mojave Desert and Colorado Plateau under the direction of a local herpetologist. Rylee Jensen will take a group to the Intermountain

Chapter Updates

Utah State University

Bird Observatory, Peregrine Fund, and the Snake River Birds of Prey Conservation Area in Idaho to learn about the conservation of raptors. We also have our annual Yellowstone National Park trip coming up, where students will spend a weekend with researchers learning about the ecology of the park and native wildlife. We'll also have a chance to spend some time with Dr. Jim Halfpenny who will give us a field lecture on tracking and species identification.



Kenen Goodwin (Historian) takes a moment to investigate a garter snake that was seeking a little bit more sun before entering its hibernaculum



USU students get a field lecture on beaver ecology and stream morphology from Dr. Joe Wheaton

Chapter Updates

University of Wyoming

Who we are-

The Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society at the University of Wyoming is an organization dedicated to providing students the chance to explore paths in the wildlife management career field and beyond. In addition to our bi-monthly meetings, typical events range from skill-building workshops, to volunteer research opportunities, to meetings with professionals in the field.

A year in review-

The 2017-2018 school-year has been an eventful one. In addition to our bi-monthly meetings we engaged in numerous other activities.

For our bi-monthly meetings we usually invite external speakers. These include biologists, wildlife managers, and game wardens from a variety of agencies (Wyoming Game and Fish Department, US Forest Service, West Inc.). We also have faculty, postdocs, and graduate students from the University of Wyoming present their research. We also held a resume and job application workshop. Numerous graduate students from the Department of Zoology and Physiology worked with our members in teams to select the “best applicant” for various jobs. While the applicants were fictitious, their resumes and cover letters were based on real applications. By assessing the credentials of these applicants to various job ads, our members learned how to construct their applications. This activity was followed by review of student resumes by the graduate students. We highly appreciate their help! A frequent visitor to our bi-monthly meetings this semester is Nagini, a 10-year-old, 6-foot boa who was adopted by the Ben-David lab this past winter. Nagini adds some excitement to our otherwise regular meetings.

Last fall, several of our members attended TWS’s Annual Conference in Albuquerque, NM. There, they had the unique chance to learn about current research from around the country and also present some of their own. Our former Student Chapter President, Brittany Wagler, also presented her research at the annual Wyoming State Chapter conference in Jackson.

For our annual fundraiser, Beast Feast, we teamed up with UW’s American Fisheries Society (AFS) student subunit for the 2nd year, and



Our advisor, Dr. Ben-David, holding Nagini the the boa, during one of our meetings



Two members under the sign indicating the section of Hwy. 287 adopted by our Chapter

Chapter Updates

University of Wyoming (continued)

managed to double our previous year's attendance. Over 200 members of the community joined us this year! The event included games, live music, raffle, and silent and live auctions. We raised \$1,200+ to support our activities. Thanks to the support from local businesses and those who attended, Beast Feast was a huge success!

Again, we picked up trash along the 2-mile stretch of Highway 287 south of Laramie. This is part of our service to the community and has been one of the longest activities of our Chapter (it started in 1999).

We also had a successful turnout for our bi-annual River Otter survey on the Colorado River in Rocky Mountain National Park. This was our 17th year conducting this survey.

This year we also teamed up with the AFS subunit to clean up the fish raceways at the Red Buttes Environmental Laboratory, which belongs to the Department of Zoology and Physiology. Although we were only able to clean one of the six ponds at the site, it was hard work and a lot of fun!



Several of our members collecting data on a river otter latrine site in Rocky Mountain National Park



Cleaning the fish raceways at the Red Buttes Environmental Laboratory

Chapter Updates

University of Wyoming (continued)

As we do every year since 2006, we participated in chipmunk trapping in spring and fall. This is an excellent opportunity to get experience handling small mammals. We also participated in deer captures, another fantastic opportunity for our members. Other opportunities included helping graduate students with spotted skunk, raccoon, sagebrush songbirds, Wyoming gophers, and other cool projects.

We just returned from our TWS Spring Break trip. We travelled to Olympic National Park and the San Juan Islands in Washington. As one could expect, the trip was a blast. Those that tagged along got an awesome opportunity to see unique ecosystems and the challenges facing them firsthand. The highlights were a visit to Apes Cave in Mount St. Helens, observing 2 different pods of Orcas, watching sea lions, and walking through the Hoh Rainforest. This trip also was historic in that it was the inaugural attempt at the new model of “Nomadic” Conclave. This year, we were joined by the University of Idaho’s TWS Student Chapter, and also met on the way with members of the Utah State Student Chapter. We plan on extending the trip to include more schools in future years.

A look ahead-

As we close out our spring semester, we’ve got several more events to look forward to. In addition to a few more meetings, we will clean Highway 287 again (on April 29th) and conduct another river otter survey (on May 5th). Those of us that will stay in Laramie for the summer will help with chipmunk trapping at the end of May, and help Merav host Native American high school students from the Wind River Reservation for the Summer Institute.



Holding down a buck during deer captures in Baggs, Wyoming



In the Granite Mountains of Wyoming, helping with a spotted skunk project



A group photo on Orcas Island, Washington

Follow us on Facebook, or check out our new Instagram page to keep up on all the awesome stuff we do! Facebook: UW Student Chapter of TWS. **Instagram:** @uwyo_wildlifesociety.

Upcoming Events

Western Black Bear Workshop

Grand Junction, Colorado

May 21-24, 2018

WEBSITE AND REGISTRATION

Information forthcoming at http://www.wafwa.org/workshops/western_black_bear_workshop/.

VENUE AND LODGING

Information forthcoming.

31st Annual Greater Sage-Grouse and Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse Workshop

Billings, Montana

June 18-21, 2018

WEBSITE AND REGISTRATION

Information forthcoming at http://www.wafwa.org/workshops/sage_and_columbian_sharp-tailed_grouse/.

VENUE AND LODGING

The Northern Hotel, Billings, Montana.

2018 Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Conference

Eugene, Oregon

June 12-17, 2018

WEBSITE AND REGISTRATION

Information forthcoming at http://www.wafwa.org/events/annual_conference/.

VENUE AND LODGING

The Hilton, Eugene, Oregon.

2018 TWS Annual Conference

Cleveland, Ohio

October 7-11, 2018

Information forthcoming at <http://twconference.org/>.

2018 Wyoming TWS and Wyoming Landscape Conservation Initiative Meeting

Laramie, Wyoming

November 6-8, 2018

Executive Board Meeting Minutes (January 9, 2018)

Call meeting to order – Andrea Orabona

Andrea called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m. MST.

In attendance: Andrea Orabona, Shelly Deisch, Jim Hays, Stephanie Ferrero, Laurel Badura, Adam Ahlers, Adam Behney, Krysten Zummo-Strong, Bob Lanka. Aleshia Fremgen is in the field so couldn't attend. Switch order of agenda because Bob wants to talk about certain items first and has to leave the call early.

2018 CMPS/NETWS Annual Meeting update – Andrea Orabona, Adam Ahlers, and Laurel Badura

Andrea, Adam, and Laurel (possible) will participate in a planning committee conference call with NETWS this Thursday to decide on the abstracts to accept for the plenary, general, and symposium sessions; determine the date and time of our Annual Business Meeting (asking for a luncheon so members will attend and provide a quorum if we are to vote on any items); and clarify date and time of Board meeting(s). If CMPS doesn't need a Board meeting, we should attend the NETWS Board meeting so we can meet NE folks in person and offer assistance during the meeting. Annual Meeting details aren't on the CMPS website yet; Mariah Simmons is on vacation so will update when she returns. CMPS Executive Board members who will attend: Andrea (will help arrangements committee), Laurel, Jim is planning but unsure, Shelly (will help arrangements committee), Stephanie (will help arrangements committee), Adam A., Bob. Adam B. is a no. Not sure if Aleshia will attend. This will give us a quorum of CMPS Executive Board members.

Awards update – Jim Hays

Deadline for awards passed with no nominations. Feel we had enough time as per our bylaws to send out another call with a new deadline of January 19. Andrea sent out another call for nominations to State and Student Chapter contacts; stated that an individual who won a State or Student Chapter-level award could be submitted for a Section-level award. If we do get nominees, we might need to find a different company to make the awards, as Laurel hasn't heard back from the NE company we've used in the past. All the information for criteria is in the attachment sent; can also find it on our website and in the last newsletter. Andrea will check with an award company in Lander, WY; Shelly offered to check companies in Rapid City, SD; Jim will look around, too. Will check pricing, turn-around time, delivery dates, etc. The plaque wording is in our bylaws. Past awards have been engraved wood, about 8" x 10". We'll all touch base on awards in a couple of weeks.

Treasurer's report and financial statement for TWS – Laurel Badura

We received \$195 from TWS for a total of \$12,966.23; expenses = \$958.56 reimbursement to Andrea for TWS conference in Albuquerque; balance as of today = \$12,007.67. Laurel had to leave at 2:21 p.m.

Newsletter deadlines – Andrea Orabona for Aleshia Fremgen

Andrea suggested we modify the deadlines for content to be sent to Aleshia. The Board discussed the ideal deadlines to best accommodate the timing of events. Deadlines are now: Spring—April 1, Summer—June 15, and Fall/Winter—November 1.

Facebook page update – Andrea Orabona for Aleshia Fremgen

Aleshia asked Board members to send her any updates or information for our Facebook page (e.g., recent publications relevant to the group, reminders for CMPS meetings and deadlines, other groups that members might be interested in joining). We should strive to provide updates and have more of a presence in that social media realm. 2018 had been declared the Year of the Bird; multiple partners including National Geographic, Audubon, BirdLife International, etc.; all agreed to share this information via our Facebook page. Andrea will send photos from TWS's Annual Conference in Albuquerque.

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Executive Board Meeting Minutes (January 9, 2018), continued

Strategic Plan update – Adam Ahlers

Section 2 of the Strategic Plan may need work. Adam listed multiple resource issues, and doesn't think we have position statements on all these issues at the Section level; Andrea checked our website and agreed. Do we need to create new statements or reword the Strategic Plan, as the specific topics covered are broad in scope? Bob and Stephanie stated that if TWS has a position statement on a topic, then Sections can't have a separate position statement; Sections support TWS's position statements. Adam A. stated that we may need to reword our Strategic Plan. Andrea asked Adam A. to put his suggestions in track changes and send to the Executive Board for review prior to our Annual Business Meeting in NE. This means we do need a Board meeting in NE before we propose any Strategic Plan changes to members at the Annual Business Meeting. Bob offered a historic perspective on the Strategic Plan—it was developed some time ago with a goal to keep it simple and straight forward; this way each Board can interpret it in their own way, we can be flexible, and we have the ability to focus on any sudden big issues that may arise; it's beneficial to have general language about using science and reaching out to our members; the Strategic Plan includes a Section Involvement Matrix to direct us on a topic or issue (developed from the WYTWS Resolutions and Positions Statement Committee matrix).

Membership Committee update – Stephanie Ferrero and Krysten Zummo-Strong

Stephanie and Krysten brainstormed during a conference call and came up with these suggestions:

We think one of the best ways to help membership is reaching out to the Student and State Chapter leadership. We can send an email or letter to each of the Chapter Presidents asking them about the status of Chapter membership and what their membership needs are. Krysten will draft a letter for Andrea to send to State and Student Chapters. Mariah Simmons with TWS can also help.

Another way to improve CMPS membership is to highlight the benefits of being in the Section to current and prospective members. We would like to find more opportunities to provide members with resources to help their professional development. Krysten suggested offering a free training webinar to members.

Access to regional scientific journals not already available to TWS members would be beneficial as well. This may take some work to get approval and funding, but it is another option.

When the TWS Network Online Directory is better established, that will provide the chance for CMPS members to interact more, strengthening connections within the Section.

These are just some initial ideas to support CMPS Membership. The Executive Board should continue to think of other ways to grow the CMPS membership, and pass those on to Stephanie and Krysten.

After being involved in CMPS for several years, Andrea feels our exposure to State and Student Chapter members and their awareness of the Section keeps improving. We need to keep this going.

Discuss Student Travel Grant inconsistencies and deadline date – all

Discuss the term "recent":

One of Andrea's comments that we discussed was how recent is "recent" as stated in the grant in several places, and do we want to be more specific. From Bob's and Jim's historic perspectives, they stated that we didn't want to penalize an applicant who was an officer in the past but whose term ended before the application deadline. Stephanie asked if we're only concerned with leadership students, and do they have to have an active role? Bob stated that, historically, we were looking at people who were officers but there were times when several students applied as a Chapter, even if not all were in a leadership role; and for individuals, we wanted to assist students who are or had been an officer. Jim suggested that we don't need to worry about "recent" since applicants have to describe their activity level under the background information section, so these will be available during

Executive Board Meeting Minutes (January 9, 2018), continued

review. Krysten asked a question regarding when applicants graduated. From Bob's historic perspective, this was written to state we only give preference, not that we required it; this allows the current Board to decide what it means to that Board. Jim agreed with Bob that this provides flexibility and allows more students to be interested, although he's open to editing. Andrea will leave the language as is in item #2. If a Board member wants to change that wording, let's be open to that opportunity. If needed, we can discuss this more during another Board meeting. All agreed with these suggestions.

Discuss group vs. individual applicants:

Bob: "Group applications of three or more individuals." Why limit it to three individuals? Leave off rest of the paragraph because it's redundant with the introduction.

Adam: Why the preference?

Bob: Back in the day, we gave preference to a Chapter of say 6-7 kids vs. just an individual. That doesn't mean this Board can't consider an individual applicant. It would be up to the Board based on applications received.

Jim: The goal was to get as many kids as possible to TWS's Annual Conference. As we try to divvy up the funds, we can work through this.

Shelly: Maybe say that being in a group is not required.

Bob: Have that qualifying statement at the very beginning. "Preference will be given to, but it is not required...."

Andrea: It would be good to have a broad representation, too. She'll send this out prior to us voting.

Discuss additional funding:

Andrea: The application states that preference will be given to those with additional funding, but this isn't included on our website.

Krysten: What is the reason they would have other funding?

Andrea: Even our \$500 grant won't pay for this conference due to the overall expense. Maybe this question isn't even needed.

Bob's historical perspective: Back in the day, several Student Chapters did their own fundraising and this \$500 was to put them over the hump. We wanted to target those kids that did their own fundraising, or if they weren't applying with a group. We wanted to spread out the grant funds.

Krysten: Back in her college days, there were people who would not have qualified.

Andrea: Reword the application to state that additional funds are not a requirement, but we ask students to list if they've pursued additional sources of funding.

Jim: Add the wording "...all other applicants will be considered". All agreed.

Discuss to be eligible for STG funds, must be members of State or Student Chapter, CMPS, and TWS:

Andrea: would like clarification of the current wording.

Krysten: Are we requiring them to be members of all these levels?

Bob's historical perspective: Students get a registration discount for being a member of TWS, and it only costs \$1 to join the Section. This is a way to expose kids to TWS. If we give a grant, yes, they have to be a member of TWS if they are an officer.

Executive Board Meeting Minutes (January 9, 2018), continued

So we do require that if we award a student a \$500 grant, they have to be a member of CMPS and TWS, at least the year they attend the Annual Conference.

Adam A.: What if they are only members of their Student Chapter but not their State Chapter?

Andrea: They are automatically a member of CMPS if they're a State Chapter member; is it the same for Student Chapter members?

Bob: No, it's not the same.

Andrea: So we will leave the wording as is, which requires membership at the State or Student Chapter level, Section level, and TWS level. All agreed.

Jim: Each Executive Board can change things, but it's good to have this institutional knowledge.

Other grant discussions:

Grant application deadline—conference is in October, so all agreed that the 2018 deadline of September 1 is fine. Number of applicants—we had 6 last year, and about 10-12 the year before. When we let applicants know the outcome—as soon as possible so students can plan. All agreed with Andrea's suggestions to make the language and capitalization consistent, clean up the wording in the application, and add the sections asking that students provide a summary and photographs of their Annual Conference experience for our newsletter and Facebook page. Andrea will make the changes.

Discuss potential nominees for 2018 Executive Board changes – all

Andrea: Hard to get people engaged to run. Our Board changes are 8 months away (Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer, and 2 Member At-large positions), so each of us should come up with at least 1 nominee and let the others know who these are.

Shelly: Do we include this information in our newsletters and on our Facebook page?

Jim: Yes, and we ask State and Student Chapters, too.

Adam A.: Ask someone from the Leadership Institute and Certified and Associate Wildlife Biologists lists.

Discuss the ask from Chuck Shively with TWS – all

Chuck sent an email requesting our assistance with student travel grants or other funding for the Annual Conference. As the conference draws near, we'll check with Laurel to see how flush we are.

Adjourn – all

No other business, so meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m. MST.

Minutes respectfully submitted

by Shelly Deisch and Andrea Orabona

Photograph by Andrea Orabona





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Annual Business Meeting Minutes (March 1, 2018)

Call CMPS Business Meeting to order (Andrea Orabona)

Executive Board member introductions (all)

CMPS review (Andrea Orabona)

Emphasized that CMPS is the liaison between State and Student Chapters and TWS, and we're here to serve our members.

Read and vote to accept 2017 Annual Business Meeting Minutes (Laurel Badura, Andrea Orabona)

Treasurer's report (Laurel Badura)

Bylaws final update (Andrea Orabona)

Changes made, approved by TWS, voted on and accepted by members; Mariah Simmons placed on CMPS website.

CMPS Strategic Plan discussion (Adam Ahlers)

Section Representative to TWS Council report (Bob Lanka)

Wayne Sandfort Student Travel Grant update (Andrea Orabona)

Communications update (Andrea Orabona for Aleshia Fremgen)

Newsletter due dates (April 1, June 15, November 1).

Spring Newsletter content discussion.

Facebook update and call for information.

State and Student Chapter officer information (Andrea Orabona)

Updated officer information due to CMPS President by April 1st.

Professional Award and Citizen's Conservation Achievement Award (Jim Hays)

Distinguished Service Award (Andrea Orabona for Gary White)

CMPS hasn't nominated a candidate for the DSA for the last 2-3 years; each Section can nominate 1 member/year; award is for long-term distinguished service to TWS and for "always being there"; send nominations to Jim Hays; see CMPS website for more.

Conservation Affairs Network and Rangeland Working Group (Bill Vodehnal)

Editorial Advisory Board Member from CMPS (Andrea Orabona)

Lindsey Messinger has filled role for several years but has moved out of CMPS region; will serve role until position filled, has several months left in her term. Gordon Batcheller is the EAB Chair, knows the situation, can help navigate questions about EAB Member role and recruitment process. Is a 3-year term with option to extend to a second 3-year term if reappointed by CMPS.

CMPS Executive Board candidates (Andrea Orabona)

Terms start in August; Vice-President (replacing Jim Hays) = 2 years, 2 Members At-large (replacing Shelly Deisch and Stephanie Ferrero) = 2 years each, Secretary/Treasurer (replacing Laurel Badura) = appointed; position descriptions in bylaws and on the CMPS website.

Update CMPS banner (all)

Our old banner still includes Canadian provinces; do members want to spend CMPS funds for new banner?; if so, do we want a new logo (suggested by a member last year)? Len McDaniel made a motion to spend funds to update the banner; Bill Vodehnal seconded; motion passed. Andrea will pursue this.

Annual Business Meeting Minutes (March 1, 2018), continued

2019 CMPS Annual Meeting (Andrea Orabona)

North Dakota is the State Chapter host. Andrea went to the 2018 NDTWS Annual Meeting and started the meeting process with Board members.

CMPS Annual Meeting timing discussion (all)

Trial basis of how State Chapters can host was made at 2016 Annual Meeting in Steamboat Springs; some members thought it was costly to have 2 meetings/year, and it can be difficult to get members to attend both. Three scenarios: 1) CMPS meeting held in August separate from the host state's meeting, 2) State Chapter moves its meeting to August for joint meeting, 3) CMPS meeting moved to be held jointly with the host's meeting; decision is currently made by host state; is this working?

2020 and 2021 CMPS Annual Meeting host switch (Andrea Orabona and Bob Lanka)

Currently 2020 = UT, 2021 = WY; ask State Chapters to switch so Bob Lanka's last year as Section Representative to TWS Council is in his home state of WY.

Other business (all)

Adjourn

Photographs by
Pete Arnold



Photographs by
Mark Gocke

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CENTRAL MOUNTAINS AND PLAINS SECTION DIRECTORY

Position	Held By				
STATE CHAPTERS					
<u>COLORADO</u>					
President	Pat Magee				
President-Elect	Krysten Zummo-Strong				
<u>KANSAS</u>					
President	Brad Rueschhoff				
President-Elect	Justin Hamilton				
<u>NEBRASKA</u>					
President	Matt Steffl				
Past-President	Jennifer Prenosil				
<u>NORTH DAKOTA</u>					
President	Rick Warhurst				
Past-President	Rick Nelson				
<u>SOUTH DAKOTA</u>					
President	Alex Solem				
President-Elect	Eric Magedanz				
<u>UTAH</u>					
President	Stephanie Graham				
President-Elect	Daniel Olson				
<u>WYOMING</u>					
President	Ben Wise				
President-Elect	Embere Hall				
STUDENT CHAPTERS					
<u>CO STATE UNIVERSITY</u>					
President	Charlee Manguso				
President-Elect	James Kelleher				
Advisor	Stewart Breck				
Advisor	Larissa Bailey				
<u>WESTERN STATE COLORADO UNIVERSITY</u>					
President	Marcel Such				
President-Elect	Erin Blair				
Advisor	Patrick Magee				
<u>EMPORIA STATE UNIVERSITY, KS</u>					
President	Curtis Defore				
President-Elect	Chase Beyer				
Advisor	William Jensen				
<u>KS STATE UNIVERSITY</u>					
President	Caroline Skidmore				
President-Elect	Rachel McNemee				
Advisor	David Haukos				
<u>CHADRON STATE COLLEGE, NE</u>					
President	Will McClintic				
President-Elect	Kaleb Puncochar				
Advisor	Teresa Frink				
<u>UNIVERSITY OF NE - KEARNEY</u>					
President	Carson Schultz				
President-Elect	Breana Dobesh				
Advisor	Dustin Ranglack				
<u>UNIVERSITY OF NE - LINCOLN</u>					
President	Samantha Lange				
President-Elect	Ashley Anderson				
Advisor	Dennis Ferraro				
Advisor	Elyse Watson				
<u>WAYNE STATE COLLEGE, NE</u>					
President	Kylie Comba				
President-Elect	Austyn Houser				
Advisor	Mark Hammer				
<u>ND STATE UNIVERSITY</u>					
President	Andrew Fugelberg				
President-Elect	Shelby Lewis				
Advisor	Erin Gillam				
<u>UNIVERSITY OF ND</u>					
President	Steffanie Brewer				
President-Elect	Alyssa Espinoza				
Advisor	Jason Boulanger				
Advisor	Susan Ellis-Felege				
<u>VALLEY CITY STATE UNIVERSITY, ND</u>					
President	Dalton Scheuring				
President-Elect	Nicholas Kramer				
Advisor	Bob Anderson				
<u>SD STATE UNIVERSITY</u>					
President	DJ Reker				
President-Elect	Desirae Hertling				
Advisor	Kent Jensen				
<u>BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY, UT</u>					
President	Sydney Lamb				
President-Elect	Ben Hoose				
Advisor	Tom Smith				
Advisor	Steve Petersen				
<u>UNIVERSITY OF UTAH</u>					
President	Colter Dye				
Advisor	Amy Sibul				
<u>UT STATE UNIVERSITY</u>					
President	Margaret Hallerud				
President-Elect	Daniel Johnson				
Advisor	Dave Dahlgren				
Advisor	Frank Howe				
<u>WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY, UT</u>					
President	Jennifer O'Leary				
President-Elect	Rachel Budge				
Advisor	John Cavitt				
<u>UNIVERSITY OF WY</u>					
President	Trevor Thorvaldson				
President-Elect	Colton Hoffer				
Advisor	Merav Ben-David				