



CMPS Newsletter

Excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education

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

CMPS President's Message

Spring 2023, Vol. 67, No. 1

Happy Spring CMPS Members!

Such an invigorating time of year as new life and growth unfold all around us. Whether it's readily apparent or gradual in nature, this season is one of growth. In the same way, **The Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society is seeking to continue to grow through collaboration.**

March of 2023 CMPS had a combined annual conference with The Colorado Chapter of The Wildlife Society and The Utah Chapter of The Wildlife Society in Grand Junction, Colorado. It was an overwhelming success with well over 300 people from multiple states attending. The synergy that came from joining forces in conference planning and expenses was a huge contributor to the homerun event. Conference attendees had the benefits of greater diversity of presentation topics and networking opportunities. Find out more about the combined annual conference and check out photos from the event in the coming pages.

CMPS truly enjoys partnering with the 7 State Chapters of TWS within the region. State Chapters are the heart and soul of TWS. **CMPS wants to support State Chapter efforts as much as possible, to serve as a communications bridge with neighboring State Chapters, and to amplify the State Chapters' voices for science.** One such example is how we recently were able to join the North Dakota State Chapter in speaking up against a proposed baiting bill. Read more about it in this issue of the newsletter.

We really encourage CMPS members to get to know your fellow wildlife students and professionals from neighboring states. **The Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society provides outstanding opportunities to meet other wildlifera through combined annual State Chapter and Section meetings, through the online Networking Directory found on the TWS Portal, and through volunteering as an officer.** CMPS is looking for members to serve on the Board for the 2023-2025 two-year term. Stepping up to be on the CMPS Board opens the



Mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*) nest with first clutch of the year.

Section Business

CMPS President's Message Continued

door for you to meet other dedicated professionals from the region and expand your reach. It stimulates new ideas and professional growth. If you want to experience the spring-like thrill that comes from helping your professional society, please see the call for candidate nominations (page 5) to find out more.

Thank you for your continued dedication to wildlife and wildlands in CMPS! Hope you get to fully enjoy the outdoors this spring! Happy Trails (Frozen or Greenified)!

- Stephanie Ferrero
 President, CMPS of TWS



CMPS President Stephanie Ferrero speaking at the Annual Business Meeting, March 9, 2023, Grand Junction, CO.

CMPS, CO, and UT TWS Joint Annual Meeting March 8—10, 2023

The joint meeting between the Colorado Chapter, Utah Chapter, and Central Mountains and Plains Section was hosted in Grand Junction from March 8—10, 2023. The CMPS banner was proudly displayed in the conference center lobby, huge thanks to CMPS Representative to TWS Council Andrea Orabona.

On March 8 there were a variety of workshops available to participants, including workshops: Avian Field Biologist, Safety in the Field, Mapping Wildlife Movement in QGIS, TWS Certification*, Federal Employment*, Women in Wildlife Celebration and Panel Discussion, and Wildlife Acoustics. There was also an evening opening reception.



TWS CEO Ed Arnett delivers the keynote address during the banquet. Photo: Kathy Griffin.

On March 9, there was a student-professional networking breakfast that CMPS co-sponsored; a symposium on cross-border wildlife management issues; business meetings for Utah, Colorado, and CMPS; a special message from TWS President-Elect Bob Lanka; presentations, posters, and IGNITE presentations; and a plenary speaker (Anna Miller on the social-ecological system of outdoor recreation). March 9 concluded with a reception with a banquet, auction, and awards, and a keynote address by Ed Arnett, the CEO of The Wildlife Society since November 2021.

*CMPS sponsored event

Section Business

CMPS, CO, and UT TWS Joint Annual Meeting March 8—10, 2023



Conference attendees voted on their favorite photos entered into the photo contest. Photo: Kathy Griffin.



Presentations occurred in the Grand Junction Convention Center and were well attended. Photo: Kathy Griffin.

Section Business

CMPS, CO, and UT TWS Joint Annual Meeting March 8—10, 2023

On Friday March 10, the conference wrapped up with a plenary address from Ashley Mueller on the Native American ways of knowing about natural resources, and the work of the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society. There were also more presentations, and the presentation of additional awards. The conference was well attended.

Crampon Award

Every Annual Meeting, CMPS auctions an ice crampon as a fundraiser for CMPS. Clait Braun found the ice crampon in 1966 but was unable to recover it, and later rediscovered it years later. The winner



of the crampon is purported to become more distinguished,

handsome, and intelligent. Mindy Rice from Colorado was this year's auctioneer. This year was likely the first time a student won the auction. Thank you to Dustin Maloney, who is from Hawk Watch and a PhD Student at Utah State University! Pictures were provided by Bob Lanka (far left: Mindy Rice auctioneering, near left: crampon winner Dustin Maloney and CMPS President Stephanie Ferrero).



Native American Fish and Wildlife Society Education Coordinator Ashley Mueller gives her plenary presentation Photo: Kathy Griffin.

David Haukos Selected for TWS Certification Review Board



David Haukos was selected for a second 3-year term representing CMPS on the TWS Certification Review Board. The TWS Certification Review Board is comprised of at least 5 members who are chosen to provide equitable representation of TWS Sections and professional disciplines. The Board reviews Associate and Certified Wildlife Biologist applications to determine if applicants meet education, experience, and ethical requirements. Haukos is a professor at Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kansas and the unit leader of the Kansas Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit.

Section Business

Call for Nominations

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS TO CMPS BOARD

NEEDED:

- 2 Board Members-At-Large
- President-Elect



NOMINATIONS DUE DATE: June 1, 2023

FOR MORE INFO: <https://wildlife.org/cmp/>

CONTACT: elections@cmps-tws.org



CMPS is seeking candidates to fill the President-elect position and two Member At-large positions (see below for position descriptions). All positions are 2-year terms. Nominations are due by June 1, 2023. If you are interested in running for a position, please contact Carl Bowden (elections@cmps-tws.org). Please strongly consider serving at the Section level for TWS.

PRESIDENT-ELECT. The President-Elect shall assist the President in administration of Section affairs and shall perform any duties assigned by the President. The President-Elect shall chair the Mission and Strategic Plan Review Committee.

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

More information on the responsibilities of CMPS Board positions and committees can be found in the CMPS bylaws: https://wildlife.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/CMPS-Bylaws-2017-5-2_updated-punctuation.pdf

Section Business

CMPS Resolutions Sees Baiting Bill Proposal Fail

A bill in North Dakota's 68th Legislative Session received a lot of attention because of the broad negative impacts to the state's wildlife resources and concerns over private landowner rights. House Bill No. 1151, introduced in the first week of January 2023, focused on baiting big game and the use of supplemental feed attractants for hunting. The bill specifically would prohibit the North Dakota Game and Fish (NDGF) from issuing rules or adopting policies that prohibited baiting practices on private property, effectively removing the ability of NDGF to meaningfully manage deer and deer hunting with the best-available science. Among growing concerns in the state are Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) and Bovine Tuberculosis (bTB), diseases that are capable of being transmitted rapidly as deer and elk feed in high density and in close proximity to one another. Bait piles unnaturally concentrate deer for greater time periods, which can allow for increased disease transmission. The NDGF developed a Chronic Wasting Disease and Surveillance Plan 2023-2027, which would have been undermined with passage of this bill.

Working in close connection with the North Dakota Chapter of TWS, CMPS submitted a strong letter to the State Senate, opposing this bill. Recent science was elevated, as were serious challenges faced by other states grappling with disease transmission associated with bait stations, as well as the risk to cattle (notably with bTB). Given the broad negative implications of this bill, the Director of the NDGF and the Agriculture Commission at the ND Department of Agriculture were cc'd.

The ND Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee voted 6-0 to move HB 1151 on to the full ND Senate. In the first week of April, the ND Senate defeated HB 1151 by a 26 to 21 vote, effectively defeating the bill. The ND Legislature meets every other year, so will not be in session again until 2025. The ND Game and Fish Department can now manage the ND deer herd and issue a no baiting regulation to try to control CWD and other ungulate diseases.

Thank you to Rick, Bob, and Daly for your efforts and for the support of the CMPS Executive Board in helping defeat this proposed legislation!



North Dakota (ND) Chapter of TWS Liaison with CMPS, Rick Warhurst (left); ND Chapter of TWS President, Bob Newman (center); CMPS Board Member At-Large and Resolutions & Statements Committee Chair, Daly Edmunds (right). Photos: North Dakota Natural Resources Trust, University of North Dakota, and Audubon.

Section Business

Wayne Sandfort Student Travel Grants Recipient Summaries

Derek Schleicher

The Wildlife Society Conference in Spokane was my first conference in terms of wildlife and it was a great experience that helped improve my knowledge, exposed me to new ideas, and introduced me to new individuals in my field. Even just being around like-minded researchers motivated me when I returned to Colorado to learn more and even improve my own thesis research project.

One of the most beneficial parts of the conference was the 15 minute mid-day talks and presentations by students and biologists. Getting a vast variety and diversity of topics at a rapid rate helped subject me to numerous types of ideas, methods, and project outcomes. I really focused on the methods section of every talk since this was where I am in my own project. Seeing how others went about their own projects helped me improve my project design and installed new ideas for my next field season. Talks that were not even related to my subject were also very interesting to observe just to see what other types of wildlife projects are going on and what other conservation concerns exist in other ecosystems.

Another great part of the conference was the networking events, especially the ones during the poster events where researchers would put up their projects in a simple and easy to read format. This was great for engaging in conversation and bouncing ideas off one another. Even sharing field stories about the data collection process was also entertaining and helped me understand that others are going through the hard work of a masters project as well. I met numerous people that had great advice on my project and even provided contact information to engage in talks later about my goshawk topic.

The workshop I attended was the 'RAD' workshop which was based on a new framework idea for land managers. The framework was based on taking in different perspectives when faced with management decisions. During this workshop we worked with a small group to solve hypothetical scenarios. I found this exercise to be very informative and also enlightening being shunned by numerous individuals from various backgrounds giving their advice on the topic. This exercise showed how a diverse background of knowledge can really help any management decisions. This was also a great exercise for real life group engagement in the workplace and problem solving for real life issues.

The conference also had some amazing keynote speakers. The first one was with an emphasis on traditional knowledge with various Native American speakers to talk about the history of wildlife conservation and where the future stands now. The second speaker was the old Senate member from Montana who accepted the Aldo Leopold award. Being an ex-wildlife manager, turned politician, he had such a unique perspective on wildlife conservation. His main message was to keep working hard and keep giving voices to the voiceless endangered species across our country.

To conclude this conference summary on my time at the conference I would like to state that the time in Spokane really made a difference and has shaped my outlook on not only my masters project, but my career. I can't wait to experience the one next year when I actually present my project, which has been influenced and shaped by the one this year.

Section Business

Wayne Sandfort Student Travel Grants Recipient Summaries (continued)

Erik Rathmann

Thank you, Stephanie Ferrero and the CMPS Board for accepting my application for the Wayne Sandfort Student Travel Grant and allowing me this amazing opportunity! This is the first time in my student experience I got to travel across state borders to participate in this type of event. While I was there, I really focused on learning what it's like being a student in wildlife biology, what I could do with my degree, and where it could take me.

On the first morning while I was at the conference, we all gathered in the grand ballroom with a special presentation about tribal wildlife management and its historical relevance. This presentation included speeches and films made by some amazing people.

On this day, I decided to attend what I thought was the most important presentation, which was about how to find careers with federal agencies. I learned that not only is the field of wildlife biology heavily government based, but it can also be a very competitive field. My current responsibility for moving on in this field is not only to just graduate college but collect as much experience as I can through internships, seasonal jobs, and volunteer work!

Tuesday was the day of my student chapter leader's lunch where I joined my SC advisor Pat! Magee and president Annate'a Saylor and met many other amazing SC leaders from across the country. That night, my SC advisor Pat! Magee received the Student Chapter Advisor of the Year Award, so my group and I all got a chance to show up and support our favorite professor in Wildlife Ecology and Management! Before leaving the conference, one of our fellow WCU alumni gave her own presentation on mapping migrations and the distribution of ungulate species using GPS collars, which our group showed up to support as well.

The trade center was the main event for me, as I got to see and look at so many possibilities, as well as get to talk face to face with people that have lots of experience. Not only that, but these people offered magazines and pamphlets with information I could sort through in my own time. After making lots of discoveries at this trade show, I became interested in a career path as a wildlife technician. I began thinking up some long-term goals that I haven't been able to do before, and perhaps not as fast if I hadn't been an accompaniment for this trip!

Overall, I was very pleased to have been a part of this event. Not only have I made new friends and great memories, but I can also cross off a new part of the country I haven't seen!



TWS Business

PopEquus

Contributed by Terry Messmer

I am writing to share with you a phenomenal opportunity that facilitated psychological safety and crucial conversations about the sustainable management of free-roaming equids at the 2023 Free-roaming Equid Summit held last fall in St. George, Utah. The Summit brought together stakeholders from across the spectrum of human emotions, values, and perceptions about wild horse and burros and their management. Summit participants engaged BLM and USFS line managers one-on-one in open and frank discussions about what constitutes sustainable management.

Thanks to the monumental efforts of USGS and BLM, we were able to pilot a new and innovative tool – PopEquus – which allowed all to, if you will “game” wild horse and burro management. The tool allows the user to model how a wild horse or burro populations may respond to a series of management options over time, and more importantly, the costs. The tool enabled participants to set aside their anxieties and emotions for a brief period to focus on what achieving the goal of healthy herds on healthy rangelands might look like. It was a game-changer for all!

The great news is USGS and BLM have released PopEquus for public access. To facilitate public use and understanding of PopEquus,, The Free-roaming Equids Network has partnered with USGS and BLM to offer a free webinars. The next will be held April 25, 2023.

To learn more about the tool, and how to register for the webinar, please see the information provided below. To access the PopEquus user interface, go to the USGS website: <https://rconnect.usgs.gov/popequus/>

The Free Roaming Equids and Ecosystem Sustainability network will host a free public webinar on April 5, 2023, to demonstrate PopEquus and answer questions about the model. The webinar will feature scientists from the USGS and BLM who helped develop the tool. To learn more about the webinar or to register to attend, visit FREES Webinars | USU.

The Free Roaming Equids and Ecosystem Sustainability Network (FREES) is a group of diverse organizations working for a common goal of “healthy herds of free-roaming equids (wild horse and burros) on healthy rangelands.” FREES seeks to enhance communication.



TWS Business

Recovering America's Wildlife Act is Reintroduced in the U.S. Senate

Reprinted from TWS (article from April 3, 2023 by Brandy Wible)

Senators Martin Heinrich (D–NM) and Thom Tillis (R–NC) reintroduced the bipartisan [Recovering America's Wildlife Act](#) late last week in the U.S. Senate.

The bill would provide nearly \$1.4 billion in dedicated funding annually for states and Tribes to conserve more than 12,000 at-risk species in the U.S.

The legislation, long endorsed by The Wildlife Society, would support deployment of [State Wildlife Action Plans](#), which provide a roadmap for conservation actions aimed at addressing at-risk species population declines. Further, the legislation would provide Tribal nations with a first-of-its-kind funding stream to keep common species common and address threats against species currently at-risk.

"I'm proud of the momentum and widespread bipartisan support we built with Senator Blunt last Congress, and I look forward to doing the same with Senator Tillis as we work to move this bill across the finish line," said Senator Heinrich upon reintroduction. "Without enough resources, state and Tribal wildlife agencies have been forced to pick and choose which species are worth saving. Instead of doing the proactive work that is necessary to maintain healthy wildlife populations on the front end, they have been forced into using reactive measures to rescue species after they are listed as threatened or endangered."

The newly reintroduced version of Recovering America's Wildlife Act is similar to the bill passed out of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee [last year](#). Discussions are ongoing to determine an appropriate funding mechanism for the legislation and will be considered as the bill moves through the Senate.

"The Wildlife Society and our members thank Senators Heinrich and Tillis for their diligence in supporting America's wildlife professionals and the species they protect," said Caroline Murphy, government relations manager at The Wildlife Society. "We look forward to working with congressional offices to advance language that would provide a clear path forward to ensure financial certainty for states and Tribes."

In the coming weeks, check out TWS' [take action page](#) for updates and opportunities to engage in efforts to pass the Recovering America's Wildlife Act. We will also be updating TWS membership through the [Conservation Affairs Network](#) on opportunities for engagement with this legislation.

Note: you can also visit the Alliance for America's Fish and Wildlife action center for RAWA to contact your senators here: <https://www.votervoice.net/FISHWILDLIFE/Campaigns/95377/Respond>





Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

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Section Business

TWS Council Update

Spring is such an uplifting time of year, as our migratory birds return to their breeding grounds in our CMPS states, bringing joyous sights and sounds. March also brought the Spring TWS Council meeting, right before the North American, in St. Louis, Missouri. It was great that Council was able to meet in person and continue making advancements. See highlights below.

TWS President Don Yasuda – Visions for TWS in 2023

Encourage Chapters and Sections to provide excellent member services locally, and recognize those efforts. Work to ensure that all members have access to professional development and networking by at least one level of TWS.

Model shared leadership that creates an empowering environment amongst TWS Council, Committees, and Working Groups. Improve collaboration between Chapters and Sections and TWS.

Successfully adopt a visionary strategic plan that outlines where TWS would like to be in the longer-term (20 years) and actionable priorities that TWS will pursue in the next 5 years.

TWS Chief Executive Officer Ed Arnett – Visions for TWS in 2023

Strengthen our partnerships with state and federal agencies and NGOs and leverage our collective power on policy and conservation.

Build a network of communicators, with a goal to expand our science influence to the public through various communications leaders and their platforms.

Continue to implement our DEI vision and integrate it into our next strategic plan.

Strengthen our financial portfolio and stability, to increase services to our professionals.

Strengthen and expand our government relations and policy work in DC, and ensure TWS is the “go to” partner on the science and policy interface.

Our current strategic plan will expire in 2023, so we’re embarking on a new plan. In April, you’ll receive a member survey; please fill this out so you can help set the path of our future as a professional society.

Membership

TWS membership is still growing, but at a slower rate. Current membership is 11,093.

TWS Update – Winter 2023

New website launched February 1st – report changes to Keith Norris knorris@wildlife.org.

Launched a new weekly outreach effort – “*This Week at TWS*”.

The eWildlifer has been revised and refreshed.

The Wildlife Society Bulletin is now full open access.

Submit articles to *The Wildlife Professional* anytime; contact Keith Norris.

TWS Council recognized the importance of incorporation of Sections and Chapters in order to reduce legal liabilities, to better protect Section and Chapter leaders, and to comply with best business practices for non-profit organizations of our size and complexity.

TWS Committees

As a member of TWS Council, I’m automatically part of 2 awards committees, Fellows and Group Achievement Awards.



Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

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Section Business

TWS Council Update

Fellows Award – This award recognizes current TWS members of at least 10 years who have distinguished themselves through exceptional service to the wildlife profession. Fellows are appointed for life, serve as ambassadors of TWS, and are encouraged to engage in outreach and other activities that will benefit and promote both TWS and the wildlife profession.

Group Achievement Award – Recognizes an organization's outstanding wildlife achievement that's consistent with and helps advance TWS' objectives.

Award recipients were finalized at the spring TWS Council meeting, and the awards will be presented at our Annual Conference in Louisville, KY.

I'm also part of the Strategic Plan Committee that will work with TWS staff and the TCC Group to update our current plan. Please take the survey when it comes out – this is a great opportunity for TWS members to engage in this process.

Bylaws – this is an ongoing effort to ensure our bylaws stay relevant.

TWS Certification Liaison – Council maintains a liaison with the Certification Review Board regarding matters of interest and prospective action.

Diversity – This is Council's effort to work with the IDEA Working Group to promote DEI within TWS.

TWS Awards – Council works TWS staff to disseminate awards criteria and deadlines to TWS members.

Annual Conferences

The 2022 Annual Conference in Spokane, WA was a great success with over 2,000 attendees – the third largest attendance since 1994.

2023 in-person conference is the 30th annual on November 5-9 in Louisville, KY.

Check the website often as planning is underway: <https://twconference.org/>.

TWS Publications

Our publications are very important to TWS, as they generate 20% or so of our annual revenue.

We want to encourage members to publish in The Wildlife Society Bulletin, which includes articles on contemporary wildlife management and conservation, education, administration, law enforcement, and review articles on the philosophy and history of wildlife management and conservation.

We hope to rebuild our submission pipeline and numbers after the switch to open access.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)

Please review the DEI Vision document on wildlife.org, which was approved by TWS Council. Some additional important DEI links include: web article <https://wildlife.org/tws-approves-diversity-equity-and-inclusion-vision-document/>, DEI page <https://wildlife.org/dei/>, DEI Vision <https://wildlife.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/20210602-DEI-Vision-FINAL-1.pdf>.

Remember, I am your voting district representative on Council for Central Mountains and Plains, so please feel free to contact me with any thoughts, comments, questions, or concerns acorabona@gmail.com.

Many thanks for the important work you do for TWS and our natural resources!

– Andrea Orabona, Central Mountains and Plains Section Representative on The Wildlife Society Council



Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

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Upcoming Events

Native American Fish and Wildlife Society 2023 Annual National Conference

Anchorage, Alaska

April 24 — 27, 2023

MORE INFORMATION: <https://www.nafws.org/product/2023-annual-national-conference/>

Western Agencies Wildlife-Human Attack Response Training Workshop

Sunriver, Oregon

April 24 — 28, 2023

VENUE AND LODGING: Sunriver Resort, Sunriver, OR

MORE INFORMATION: <https://wafwa.org/workshops/human-wildlife-conflicts/>

Western Agencies Deer and Elk Workshop

Flagstaff, Arizona

May 15 — 18, 2023

VENUE AND LODGING: High Country Convention Center, Flagstaff, Arizona

MORE INFORMATION: <https://wafwa.org/workshops/deer-elk-workshop/>

Western Agencies 14th Western Black Bear Workshop

Jackson, Wyoming

May 23 — 25, 2023

VENUE AND LODGING: Snow King Resort, Jackson, WY

MORE INFORMATION: <https://wafwa.org/workshops/western-black-bear-workshop/>

Western Field Ornithologists 46th Annual Conference

Copper Mountain, Colorado

July 19 — 23, 2023

MORE INFORMATION: <https://westernfieldornithologists.org/conference/>

American Ornithological Society Annual Meeting

London, Ontario

August 7—12, 2023

MORE INFORMATION: <https://americanornithology.org/meetings/annual-meeting/>

The 30th Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society

Louisville, Kentucky

November 5 —9, 2023

MORE INFORMATION: <https://wildlife.org/network/conferences-network/>



Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

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CENTRAL MOUNTAINS AND PLAINS SECTION DIRECTORY

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President-Elect Robin Russell

KANSAS

President Adam Ahlers
President-Elect Drew Ricketts

NEBRASKA

President Erin Considine
President-Elect

NORTH DAKOTA

President Robert Newman
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SOUTH DAKOTA

President Daniel Kim
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President Barbara Sugarman
President-Elect Jason Kaitchuck

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Advisor Larissa Bailey

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Advisor Nate Bickford

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