

Board Member 3 (term 2024-2026)

Glen Kalisz (WSDOT)

I'm the Habitat Connectivity Biologist for the Washington State Department of Transportation, where I work to increase the ability of animals to safely navigate the highway system and reduce the frequency of dangerous wildlife-vehicle collisions, typically with the aid of wildlife crossing structures. My day-to-day work involves a broad suite of duties, including but not limited to prioritizing locations along the state highway system for habitat connectivity investments, managing an array of ~200 wildlife cameras in priority areas across the state to document wildlife activity and justify investments, monitoring recently completed wildlife crossings for success, modeling wildlife corridors using GIS, managing carcass removal and wildlife-vehicle collision data, finding common sense ways to integrate habitat connectivity elements into other aspects of highway management, such as within the purview of fish barrier removal projects, mentoring Habitat Connectivity Interns, and securing funding for habitat connectivity projects and research. I love my job. Some might even say I'm obsessed with it, but one of my favorite aspects is working with students of all levels, from grade school to graduate degrees – hopefully creating connectivity champions for life. The mission of the Washington Chapter of The Wildlife Society, and the annual meeting, promote an educational framework that enables this type of training. I've enjoyed attending TWS annual meetings, which are without a doubt my favorite conferences to present at, and I'd truly value the opportunity to engage with TWS in an official capacity as a board member.

In my free time, I like to think about connectivity (obsessed...), manage personal wildlife cameras, engage in wildlife photography, hike, bike, herp, and play banjo and guitar. I grew up in Kentucky, hence the banjo, earning a B.A. in English with a writing focus from the University of Kentucky before returning to school where I earned a B.S. in Wildlife Management with a GIS certificate from Eastern Kentucky University. One of the best decisions of my life was returning to school for a wildlife degree, as that allowed me to ultimately compete for my dream job. I moved to Washington a couple days after I graduated and was hired into a temporary, 6-month Habitat Connectivity Intern position at WSDOT a few months later. I strung together several temporary positions before being hired as the Assistant Habitat Connectivity Biologist where I



served under my predecessor for two years before promoting to the Habitat Connectivity Biologist in 2019.

While I grew up in Kentucky, the Pacific Northwest feels like home. I've had a beard since I was a child, my wardrobe consists primarily of flannels, and I love wild places!