



The Washington Wildlifer

Newsletter of the Washington Chapter of The Wildlife Society

FALL 2014

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT *By Bruce Thompson*

Wildfires of landscape proportion, prospects of increased petroleum and coal trains, natural resources transported across seas, global change evidenced in ever widening ways. These are but a few of the many challenges that we face in professional and personal lives. I hope your summer has offered you some opportunity to renew and refresh toward the everyday efforts you devote to conserving our natural resources and informing those who use them.

The Washington Chapter of The Wildlife Society can be a useful resource for you in meeting your challenges. We are becoming better poised through expanded communication and dedicated business practices to keep you informed, connected, and coordinated on a variety of fronts. See many other parts of this newsletter for news, notes, and **opportunities** that will benefit your professional pursuits.

During this time of year, efforts begin to expand toward planning and preparation for the next annual meeting. President-Elect Tony Fuchs, other members of the Executive Board, and various committee members are deep into that work for our April 2015 joint meeting with the Southwest Washington Chapter of the Washington State Society of American Foresters. That should be an informative and exciting

opportunity for professional enrichment. See elsewhere in this newsletter and stay tuned to Chapter social media for details.

Extra effort has been devoted to organizing standing committees of the Chapter this business year. There are some specific responsibilities being outlined that should pay organizational and resource dividends. This is an area that is ripe with **opportunities** for volunteers to step up to help the Chapter.

We also have **opportunities** opening for service on the Executive Board for those who are willing to step forward as nominees or to help find willing nominees. And, there are other ways to assist with keeping our financial standing strong as we head toward meeting costs of the annual meeting. See various parts of the Newsletter for more background about these **opportunities**.

As you can see, this message is focused on stressing the value of members taking the initiative to be a working part of our organization. That is what keeps us vital and leads to recognition like the Chapter of the Year Award from TWS. I will punctuate this interest with a quote from Thomas Edison: *“Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work.”* Please consider trying on the overalls for the Chapter and demonstrate your leadership skills. Thanks for considering.



Photo: A. Lyons

2015 Meeting Announcement

– by Tony Fuchs

It's not too early to start planning to attend the 2015 Washington Chapter of TWS annual meeting. We plan to hold it jointly with the Southwest Washington Chapter of the Washington State Society of American Foresters. The Northwest Section TWS will also be there as our cooperating partners. The meeting will be held at the Great Wolf Lodge, near Grand Mound, from April 15-17, 2015, and there will very likely be a "Forestry 101" workshop on April 14th. The joint meeting theme is "Forestry and Wildlife Management – working together toward common goals." Foresters play a major role in managing Washington's 22 million acres of forest-land, so it will be great to meet together with these forestry professionals. We are also planning joint workshops, a plenary session with interesting speakers, the Thursday night awards banquet/auction, and much more. A call for abstracts and program content, along with registration information, will be coming soon and posted on our respective websites. Please put this meeting on your 2015 calendar, and think about what you might want to present, and perhaps about volunteering to help. This should be a very exciting meeting where we can learn from each other's experiences!

Seeking Sponsors for the 2015 Joint Annual Meeting!

We need your help securing sponsorships for our 2015 annual meeting. Our annual meetings would not be possible without donations from sponsors. In the past, sponsors have included outdoor products suppliers, environmental consultants, forest products companies, and natural resources agencies. There are others and we encourage the list to grow as regional benefits of the forum are recognized.

Contributions by each sponsor go toward paying direct costs of conducting the meeting and workshops, including room and space charges for the venue, technical and plenary program costs, participant interaction forums, poster displays, guest speakers, equipment rentals, capacity-building workshops, and more. In addition to donated dollars, items provided by sponsors are used in our silent auction to further support student opportunities at the meeting.

Please help your Chapter have a successful 2015 Annual Meeting by assisting the Sponsorship Committee to identify and secure meeting sponsors.

Please contact Tony Fuchs, Sponsorship Committee Chairperson, at tony.fuchs@PSE.com or by phone at 425-462-3553, if you, your employer, or others in your network would like to become a sponsor or if you would like additional information.

Seeking Lead Person for Sponsorship Coordination

Additionally, the Washington Chapter of TWS is seeking a person who is willing to be the Lead Coordinator to seek, track, and acknowledge Sponsors and Sponsorships for the 2015 Annual Meeting. Obtaining financial sponsorships for the meeting is a critical financial aspect to ensure we can provide substantial professional and participant opportunities at the meeting without spending in deficit. Past meetings have been a success because of sponsorships that have totaled as much as \$18,000 annually toward costs of conducting the meeting and other items for use as raffle/auction items.

Much of the infrastructure is already in place for pursuing sponsorships. Please contact Tony Fuchs tony.fuchs@pse.com or Bruce Thompson bcthompson248@gmail.com to learn more about leading this effort.

AWARDS Solicitation

– by Bill Vogel

AWARDS FOR THE FUTURE

Our work in 2013 was just a beginning in demonstrating how much accomplishment there is to recognize. But it can't be done without diligent effort from Chapter members who take the time to prepare a nomination on behalf of worthy individuals. So start early and submit nominations in coming months rather than waiting until very late and perhaps not submitting at all.

How to Nominate a Person or Organization:

Check our [website](#) for a description of all of our awards. Send us a short note and have another member do the same, or have them second your nomination. If you want, you can further strengthen the nomination by additional statements of support. If the nomination is successful, we may ask for more information and will coordinate with the persons making the nominations. If you have any questions, contact Bill Vogel.

RECENT CHAPTER BUSINESS

Nominations to Fill Executive Board Positions

The recently formed Nominating and Elections Committee is beginning to identify nominees for four positions on the Chapter Executive Board that will be open beginning April 2015. Those positions are President-Elect, Treasurer, and Board Member (two positions). The Committee is charged with identifying two willing nominees for each of the four open positions. Please consider making yourself available to serve your Chapter in this way.

Board service is a very rewarding way to interact with colleagues and to contribute to valuable wildlife conservation and education pursuits in Washington. If you want to learn more about this service, the nomination and election process, or other implications of being a nominee, please contact Committee Chair Betsy Howell (blhowell@fs.fed.us, 360-956-2292). Don't hesitate to self-identify or alert the Committee about others you think should be contacted about considering a nomination. Make the contact soon as the Committee needs to complete its work by January to meet the election schedule prior to the Joint meeting in April 2015.

COMMITTEE MOBILIZATION

Renewed efforts are underway to mobilize the full array of Chapter Standing Committees. Chapter Bylaws provide for 10 Standing Committees to oversee formulation and execution of Chapter actions on a variety of topics. During summer 2014, Chairs/Co-Chairs were designated for these committees and a list of specific responsibilities and timelines have been prepared for each. All of these actions are intended to achieve Chapter interests in conservation, administration, organization, vitality, and fiscal responsibility focusing on the time frame from summer 2014 to the next Annual Meeting in April 2015. See page 23 for the contact points for each Committee. Please consider identifying yourself to any Committee Chair/Co-Chair for which you are willing to be a member and provide some of your help.

For example, wondering why your wildlife management project is at best misunderstood or at worst torpedoed? As Abraham Lincoln said, "Public sentiment is everything. With it, nothing can fail;

against it, nothing can succeed." Developing public support for your project starts with informing and educating people who are potentially affected by your project.

If you're interested in helping inform and educate the public about wildlife management, consider joining our Chapter's Education and Information Committee. We're working to develop messages about wildlife conservation and management using both conventional news and social media. Contact committee chair Madonna Luers, WDFW Public Information Officer, at Madonna.luers@dfw.wa.gov.



Photo: NPS

Research Grants

The Washington Chapter of The Wildlife Society provides grant money for wildlife research projects in Washington State. Funding requests cannot exceed \$2,500. Student proposals are encouraged. The Grant Committee reviews proposals and the Board makes final funding decisions. **The deadline for submission of proposals is December 15 each year.** (Note that this is a change from the March deadline of previous years.)

Proposals should be 2-3 pages in length (not including Curricula Vitae) and include the following information: Introduction, Methods, Timetable, Budget, Products to be Produced, and a Curriculum Vitae for each proposer.

Proposals will be rated based on the following criteria:

- The importance of the question.
- Adequacy of proposed methods to meet project objectives.
- Likely success of achieving objectives given question, design, funding, and time period.

- Species management priority (e.g. threatened, endangered and sensitive species, important game species, etc.).
- Publication potential.
- Researchers' experience.
- Relative importance of the TWS monetary contribution to achieving research goals.

Grant recipients will be expected to present results of their project at a future Annual Meeting of the Chapter and/or provide a write-up for the Chapter newsletter. Recipients are also expected to be (or become) members of the Washington Chapter at the time the funds are received. Membership information is available at <http://wildlife.org/Washington/membership>.

If you have questions please contact John Lehmkuhl (509-669-7373; jlehmkuhl@nwi.net) or, Bill Gaines (509-860-4974; bgaines@genext.net).

2014 Richard Fitzner Scholarship Recipient

Dick Fitzner was a biologist, educator, artist, naturalist, hunter and fisherman. He also served as President of the Washington Chapter of The Wildlife Society. Dick always offered enthusiasm, inspiration and encouragement to the many wildlife biologists that knew him. Through an annual memorial scholarship fund, established in Dick Fitzner's honor, the Washington Chapter of The Wildlife Society hopes to help encourage and inspire future wildlife biologists.

Each year a wildlife-oriented biology student, who is a junior or senior at a Washington State college or university, applies for the tuition scholarship, which may be up to \$2,500. Applicants provide college transcripts and two letters of reference from instructors or past employers.

For the 2014-2015 academic year, the Board of Trustees of the scholarship reviewed a number of applications. John Grettenberger, who chairs the Scholarship Committee, coordinated the review. Our applicants generally provided outstanding letters of reference, had good experience in wildlife management or science, and demonstrated high academic achievement.

We are pleased to recognize **Kimberly Cook** as the recipient of the Richard Fitzner Scholarship for the **2014-2015** academic year. Kimberly is a senior at Eastern Washington University, where she is studying wildlife biology. She conducted research this summer on the effects of fire and pocket

burrowing on annual grass invasion in a Mima mound prairie. She has also assisted in vegetation surveys on the Elwha River and herpetological surveys at Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge. She plans on pursuing a PhD in biology. Congratulations to Kimberly!

Changes to Scholarship Application Deadlines

The Chapter's Executive Board has made a decision to move the application deadline for the Richard Fitzner Scholarship from May 31 to **December 15, 2014** for the 2015-16 academic year. The Board made the decision with the objective of being able to announce the scholarship recipient at the annual Chapter meeting. The application form may be found at our website, which also provides guidance to applicants.

Treasurer's Report

– by *Craig Hansen*

Chapter's Financial Accounts Report (through 06-30-14)

Account Name	Balance (\$)	
	Dec. 31, 2013	June 30, 2014
Janus Fund -Scholarship	19,839.95	20,980.76
Janus Fund -General	8,435.35	8,929.27
WA Federal -Checking	25,793.31	21,882.06*
WA Federal -Money Market	3,111.78	3,114.10
WA Federal-CD	7,709.78	7,726.96
Total Asset Balance	64,890.17	62,633.15

*Decrease primarily due to final reconciliation payment of \$2,582.73 to clear the Burrowing Owl Symposium share of the 2013 Meeting proceeds, and the \$2,500.00 Research Grant Award to Jocelyn Akins.

As noted in the Spring Newsletter, we initiated planning for our financial audit in 2014 and established our audit committee. Elizabeth Roderick (ret. WDFW) volunteered to chair the audit committee and was joined by John Grettenberger (ret. USFWS) and Lisa Egtvedt (WDNR). Thank you to Elizabeth, John and Lisa for stepping-up!

Secretary's Report

– by *Mike Hall*

Have you noticed a sudden drop in the number of e-mail messages you are receiving from the Washington Chapter of TWS? If so, please let me

know right away. I recently learned that several folks at DNR haven't been receiving messages from us ever since we started using a new e-mail management system (MailChimp) back in March. Now I'm concerned that Chapter members at other agencies or organizations may also have been cut off. If you're one of those, I need to hear from you so I can understand the extent of the issue and start working on solutions.

In related news, we are always interested in hearing your thoughts about communication between the Board and Chapter members, and among members. What would you like to hear from us? What do you want to tell us? What are the best ways for us to convey information to you? We don't want to work in a vacuum! And remember: What's the best way to keep up with what's going on with the Board? **Join the Board!** See Bruce's message on page 1 and the announcement on page 3 for more details.

Report from the Northwest Section Representative to TWS Council

– by Harriet Allen

There's been a lot of activity at National this summer getting ready for the Pittsburgh Annual Conference in October, the international meeting in Sapporo, Japan in 2015, many government affairs policy issues, getting the Conservation Action Network up and running, new members of the Leadership Institute, publications and staffing changes. And our own Bruce Thompson has been elected Vice President of TWS. Here are a few highlights and you can read full monthly activity reports on the TWS website.

Pittsburgh Annual Conference, October 25-30, 2014 - The Wildlife Society Annual Conference Website is Live! Registration for the conference is open and 785 people have already registered. Student registrations are nearly 40% of the registrations, which is good in regards to our mission to help the next generation of wildlife professionals.

Final schedules, venues, and arrangements are being made for sessions, receptions, and other activities. The conference is being designed with the idea of producing as positive an experience for attendees, exhibitors, sponsors and others as possible.

TWS Section Presidents, Chapter Presidents, and Working Group Chairs are invited to reserve a spot for the TWS Subunit Leadership and Conservation Affairs Training at the TWS Annual Conference. The

training will be held from **8:00am – 5:00pm on Saturday, October 25, 2014** and will host presentations and discussions aimed at enhancing awareness of TWS programs, resources, responsibilities and opportunities pertinent to the subunits. This is a **free training** open to all TWS subunit officers and their designees – **RSVP to keith.norris@wildlife.org by October 3, 2014.**

Conservation Affairs Network. A Policy Toolkit was completed and sent to the Section Conservation Affairs Committee Chairs and TWS Council for distribution to other Conservation Affairs committee members. Policy Interns have attended four Congressional hearings on issues related to the SAFE Act, Duck Stamp price increase, Lacey Act revisions, refuge expansion prevention, and the HUNT (Hunt Unrestricted on National Treasures) Act. The Government Affairs Team updated all current Fact Sheets: Gray Wolf Populations in the U.S., Habitat Fragmentation, Lead and Wildlife, Feral Cats: Impacts of an Invasive Species, Feral Horse & Burros, Rattlesnake Roundups. Previously updated Fact Sheets include Captive Cervid Breeding. All updated Fact Sheets will be available on the new TWS website.

Fifth International Wildlife Management

Congress. TWS is well along in preparations for the congress on July 26-30, 2015 in Sapporo Japan. TWS worked closely with the Mammal Society of Japan to produce the Congress website, which is now live and a delegation of the Congress organizers from Japan will attend the TWS Annual Conference in Pittsburgh.

The Wildlife Society Announced the ten new 2014 Leadership Institute Participants and three of them are from the Northwest Section: **Sara Hansen**, Wildlife Biologist, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife; **Dawn Davis**, Sage-Grouse Conservation Coordinator, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife; and **Sonja Smith**, Area Wildlife Biologist, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks. Congratulations to all! Established in 2006, the Leadership Institute provides a select group of promising TWS members in the early stages of their career with basic leadership training consisting of intensive activities and mentoring relationships that will prepare them to move into leadership positions, both in their workplace and in TWS. Given that nearly 70 percent of the current leaders in the wildlife profession are projected to retire in the next decade, the Leadership Institute helps TWS prepare its

members to meet the pressing need for well-prepared professionals for the future.

Wildlife Conservation Society. ED Williams met John Calvelli, WCS Executive Vice President for Public Affairs in Washington DC, to discuss possible collaborations between WCS and TWS. They shared information about structures and issues for their societies, and explored opportunities to cooperate on issues common to both. Both ED Williams and Mr. Calvelli left the meeting with a commitment to follow up on the further development of ideas for interactions between the societies.

Wiley Contract for TWS publishing. TWS completed a new contract with Wiley Publishing, to begin in 2015. Negotiations on the agreement involved several months of outside and internal review, resulting in a solid, mutually beneficial partnership for TWS's journal publishing.

Volunteer Opportunity We need someone from the Northwest Section to represent us on the TWS Editorial Advisory Board. Please let me know at hallen2009@comcast.net if you would like to volunteer for this board. TWS would like to have one member from each section, and would like to have it in time for the TWS annual meeting in October. Board volunteers serve a two-year term and the time commitment is relatively light: four (quarterly) one-hour meetings to review magazine lineups and discuss possible future articles, authors, and reviewers. Three of these meetings are conference calls and the fourth is a two-hour meeting at the annual conference (if people are able to attend). TWS relies on the Advisory Board to help identify relevant trends that we should cover in the magazine; to recommend journal papers to summarize in Science in Short; to recommend authors and reviewers; and to provide feedback on proposed articles and authors. This would be a great opportunity for a volunteer who has an interest in the magazine and getting current information out to the TWS membership.

The Wildlife Society News Site (news.wildlife.org). Over the last month there have been more than 10,000 visitors [on The Wildlife Society news site](#). TWS reported on several critical wildlife issues such as the [potential environmental impact of undersea fiber optic cables](#), [actual numbers of illegal elephant kills in Africa](#), and updates on House and Senate appropriation bills for [the Department of the Interior](#), [the Environmental Protection Agency](#), and the [U.S. Department of Agriculture](#).

A new feature - "Research Roundup" - was also introduced on the site, which will regularly highlight new scientific studies from the field. As part of [our inaugural issue](#)—and on the heels of shark week—it included a look at new research on the behavior and communication patterns of bioluminescent sharks and reported on the most extensive genetic study to date of whale sharks, the world's largest sharks. TWS continues to promote articles on the growing Facebook page, which currently has 19,805 likes, and the Twitter feed, which picked up an additional 500 followers in the last month, bringing the total up to 23,500 followers. There were also a little over 10,000 visitors on the TWS news site in August—a roughly 25 percent increase since July.

Government Affairs staff have researched, written, and published numerous Wildlife Policy News articles on the news site and TWS is also sending weekly **Multibriefs mailing** that offer a roundup of the latest wildlife news and research. It has four main sections: U.S. News, News from Canada, Health and Disease News, and International News, and starting August 1, it will showcase Canadian news in its own section titled "News from Canada. All Multibriefs roundups are also posted on the news site. TWS is also providing Education Brief—a monthly member mailing that features sessions presented at the 20th TWS Annual Conference.

Finances and Membership. Executive Director Williams reported that net income is running ahead of expectations and net assets for TWS are continuing to increase. Work has begun on the TWS audit that will cover the previous 18-month period leading up to and including June. The Society's investment yields in the second quarter continued a pattern of growth that was seen in the first quarter. All good news for the health of TWS finances. We finished August with an increase of 79 members to 9,251.

TWS and Amazon.com - don't forget. Now when you shop on Amazon, you can help support TWS by clicking on <http://wildlife.org/amazon>. TWS will earn a commission for everything you buy at Amazon at no extra charge to you. This is a great way to help support your Society.

Best wishes for a great fall and inviting everyone who can to attend the annual meeting in Pittsburgh in October!

REGIONAL REPORTS



The regional reports help to keep members informed of the various wildlife and habitat management, habitat restoration, and research projects occurring throughout Washington. If you do not see your important work represented here please consider contributing to the next issue by contacting Betsy Howell (OLY) at: bhowell@fs.fed.us, Steve Hall (NW) at: shall@pointconsulting.us, Annemarie Prince (NE) at: Annemarie.Prince@dfw.wa.gov, Sara Gregory (SE) at: Sara.Gregory@dfw.wa.gov; or William Ritchie (SW) at: william_ritchie@fws.gov.

OLYMPIC REGION – *Betsy Howell, USFS*

Elk Forage Work on Olympic National Forest - by Betsy Howell, ONF

Since 2011, Olympic National Forest (ONF) has worked in partnership with Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) to improve forage conditions for Roosevelt elk in the Matheny Creek watershed. Matheny Creek is a tributary to the Queets River in the western Olympic Mountains and is known for its large elk population, with a sizeable herd (300+) residing in the area. Conservation concerns for elk on the Olympic Peninsula have focused on quality and quantity of forage and with the decline of regeneration harvest on Federal lands, this concern has only become magnified. In responding to the forage issue, as well as other concerns such as disturbance, several restoration projects have already taken place, or are in progress, in the Matheny Creek area, including commercial thinning and road decommissioning. Additionally, year-round closures exist on some segments of road systems.



Elk cow and calves along old road near thinned stand, July 18, 2014. Photo: Olympic National Forest

A grant from RMEF in the fall of 2011 allowed ONF to pre-commercially thin eight stands totalling 241 acres. Because these stands were at the upper age limit for pre-commercial thinning, this work left a large amount of slash on the ground. Consequently, in 2012 ONF employed crews from the Washington Conservation Corps and Environmental Systems, a private company, to build habitat piles from slash in the thinned areas. This work opened the stands back up to allow movement by elk and other wildlife. Pile creation also created cover for a number of mammal, bird, and reptile species and provided more open ground for forage species to become established. In 2014, volunteers from Eyes in the Woods and the Backcountry Horsemen of Washington have also contributed to the effort, spending four weekends so far piling slash and creating pathways through the abundant slash. In August, the Northwest Youth



Bull elk from last summer in one of the openings, August 21, 2013. Photo: Olympic National Forest

Corps will spend one week doing more slash piling and will also girdle some trees to create snags and future openings. During the coming year, ONF and its partners will continue to work in these areas and will also focus on creating larger openings for forage production.

ONF greatly appreciates the enthusiasm and effort put forth by all these organizations and individuals, and it is clear that the wildlife feel the same. Remote cameras at various locations in the project area have consistently documented a wide variety of species, including elk, deer, cougar, black bear, coyote, bobcat, snowshoe hare, and grouse, using the thinned stands.

Olympic Peninsula Fisher Reintroduction

Project: An Update - by Betsy Howell, ONF

This year, 2014, marks the 7th year of the Olympic Peninsula Fisher Reintroduction Project. This effort has involved a diverse array of organizations, including the three lead agencies, Olympic National Park, U.S. Geological Survey, and WDFW, as well as Olympic National Forest, Tribal entities, Conservation Northwest, USFWS, and many others. Beginning in 2008, after many years of planning, 90 animals were transported from British Columbia and released into Olympic National Park. The fishers immediately spread out across the Peninsula, moving



Black bear family in Olympic National Park, July 3, 2014. Photo: Olympic National Forest

swampier country near the Pacific Coast. During the first phase of the work, the fishers were monitored via radio telemetry. During the breeding season, surveyors searched for dens. The project was evaluated by assessing movements, survival, reproduction, and home range establishment. By the time the first phase had finished in December 2011, seven dens had been located and a massive amount of data collected on where the animals were settling and how well they were surviving.



Fisher in Olympic National Forest, June 6, 2014. Photo: Olympic National Forest

The radio collars were only designed to last 1-3 years and all had run out of power or fallen off by the time the first phase ended. Therefore, the second phase of the project, of which we are currently in year 2, is focusing on non-invasive monitoring techniques and will evaluate the short-term success of the reintroduction effort. Again, many agencies and individuals are involved, including now Jefferson Land Trust (JLT) out of Jefferson County on the northeast part of the Peninsula. In December 2013, a young female fisher was found dead by a citizen in Port Ludlow, only a few hundred yards from the saltwater just north of the Hood Canal Bridge. This fisher was in very poor condition but had not been hit by a car.

through and occupying all ownerships, as well as many different kinds of habitats, including high-elevation, snow-laden slopes all the way down to the

While tragic, this also was the first evidence that fishers had moved out onto the Quimper Peninsula and surroundings. Knowing this, it is of great benefit to the fisher project to have the JLT now participating

in the survey effort. JLT volunteers have completed one survey area (no fishers documented) in Tarboo Creek just north of Quilcene, and are planning to do a second area in August and September. Between JLT lands and other conservation areas and properties in conservation easements or trusts, the Land Trust has access to a variety of places on the Quimper Peninsula where fishers may now be residing. The noninvasive work involves setting out remote cameras and hair snare boxes in each survey polygon. The box is designed to snag fur from the fisher without harming it, and this hair can then be used in DNA analysis. The founder animals all had DNA profiles constructed, using blood and hair samples, and so now it is possible to match hair obtained from their descendants to those released individuals from five to seven years ago. In 2013, nine of 52 survey areas documented 10 different fishers, including four founders and five new recruits (one animal could not be positively identified). So far this year, three of 15 survey areas have turned up at least four different fishers (determined from photographs only; genetic results still pending).

In addition to the survey data, there is also incidental information being collected on fishers. This includes photographs taken with remote cameras that are set out for other survey work, anecdotal sighting information from the public, and animals that have been killed along roadways.

Skokomish Indian Nation Update - by Bethany Tropp

The Skokomish Tribe is continuing to work on tracking and kill site searches of the young male cougar collared last winter. We have conducted 63 searches, finding kills at 32 of them. So far, all kills have been deer. This may be due to being unable to find remains of smaller prey in difficult terrain. The collar has a fix success of 79%, providing 1,114 locations to date. We will be resuming cougar captures this winter.

Skokomish is planning an elk capture for this fall. We have seven herds marked in the Satsop and Skokomish game management units, but we have lost a number of collars to mortality or collar malfunction and are aiming to replace those and to get collars into previously unmarked herds in these units. Those collars will primarily be used for population estimates and home range analysis.



Shane Miller cutting into the femur of a deer to check body condition. Photo by Bethany Tropp.



Blacktail deer carcass. Photo by Bethany Tropp.

This summer the Skokomish Tribe is assisting with Olympic National Park’s fisher project. We have complete surveys in 1 hex (survey polygon) with no fisher detections. The second hex is in progress and a third will be completed this season. So far we have detections of bear, bobcat, opossum, coyote, deer, and turkey vulture.

Taylor’s Checkerspot Surveys and Snag Habitat Enhancement, Olympic National Forest - by Karen Holtrops, ONF

Olympic National Forest conducted Taylor’s checkerspot butterfly adult and larvae surveys in the spring and summer of 2014, as part of the Forest’s annual population monitoring. This year a Student Conservation Association intern assisted with the monitoring effort. The Forest continues to work with WDFW to implement butterfly habitat restoration. Removal of encroaching vegetation for the 2nd consecutive year at three sites is planned for the fall of 2014 with the help of a Washington Conservation Corps crew.

In June 2014 the Olympic National Forest awarded a contract to create 150 wildlife trees by topping and girdling trees in thinned stands to improve habitat suitability for cavity-using wildlife. In addition, as part of a technical vocational skills program, local tech school students created eight snags and built and installed seven squirrel boxes. Monitoring past snag treatments is in progress, and preliminary results show a high percentage of treated trees being used by woodpeckers.



Taylor's Checkerspot. Photo: Olympic National Forest.

NORTHEAST REGION – Annemarie Prince, WDFW

Pygmy Rabbit Reintroduction Update - by Steph DeMay, University of Idaho and WDFW

Since April of this year, over 650 pygmy rabbits have been released into the wild in the Columbia Basin, over 640 of which were kits born this summer. This vastly exceeds the 272 released in 2013, and 104 released in 2012. These rabbits were produced in large breeding enclosures in the field in semi-wild conditions. We are thrilled with their breeding success, especially compared to the low numbers they were able to produce during the last decade in a fully captive breeding program that has since been phased out. We will follow up on the reintroduced population during the winter with surveys on fresh snow to locate active burrows on the release site and collect fecal pellets for genetic analysis. A huge thank-you to our hard-working volunteer force, and we'd love to

have you out to help this winter for surveys or next summer for releases!



Photo: Betsy DeMay



Superstar volunteer! Photo: Steph DeMay

Wolf/Livestock Interaction Research - by Jeff Browne, WSU Graduate Student

The Large Carnivore Lab at Washington State University is conducting research on wolf/livestock interactions across the State of Washington. A total of 255 calves and 60 sheep were radio ear-tagged earlier in the year in areas where collared wolf packs overlap grazing lands. GPS collars were also fitted to 31 adult cows. Cattle herd movements, mortality rates and diet quality will be assessed in relation to wolf locations. Researchers are also investigating wolf GPS points to determine prey kill rates during the grazing season. Six wolf packs are currently being studied with seven cattle herds and one sheep herd. No study animals have died of any cause thus far. This is the first year of a four-year study.

White-nose Syndrome of Bats - by Ella Rowan, WDFW Wildlife Biologist, Spokane Valley, WA

White-nose Syndrome (WNS) is a disease affecting bats in eastern North America, and is caused by a newly described fungus *Pseudogymnoascus destructans*. The fungus invades bat skin during hibernation, leading to morbidity and mortality. Over six million bats are estimated to have died from WNS since 2006, although the research community is still trying to gain an understanding of the effects of this disease on bat populations. The fungus and disease continue to spread north, south, and west annually; although, the fungus could theoretically be transported to new distant locations overnight on humans and their gear if they have been in infected caves, mines, or other bat roosts. WDFW received federal funding to address WNS-related issues in Washington over the past three years. We used funding to purchase bat survey equipment, attend meetings, participate in working groups, perform education events, develop surveillance plans and protocols, and perform surveys. Performing surveillance for WNS in Washington will be difficult, since the fungus and disease are most evident during late-winter when bats are hibernating, and we do not know where the majority of our bat species hibernate. Most of our

known hibernacula consist of Townsend's big-eared bats with colonies of less than 25 individuals. Aside from seeing fungus on hibernating bats and dead bats in hibernacula, signs a colony may be infected include changes in roosting locations within their hibernaculum, increased activity levels outside the hibernaculum during late winter, and ultimately decreases in populations. WDFW carried out two projects to gain more information about hibernating bats and species activity during winter months.

WDFW performed long-term acoustic surveys for bats between February and May of 2013 and 2014 on the Little Pend Oreille, Turnbull, and Columbia National Wildlife Refuges, to collect baseline data on winter/early-spring bat activity and species presence in different habitat types. We found seven species active on the Columbia NWR, and six species active on both the Turnbull and Little Pend Oreille NWRs. Bats used water, edge, and open habitat during winter and early-spring months, with more calls typically heard at water sites. Bats were not heard when temperatures were below -2.2°C (28°F), although



Hibernating Townsend's big-eared bat, covered in condensation and frost, found during hibernaculum survey. Photo: Ron Zuber



Three hibernating big brown bats. Photo: Ella Rowan

during late winters 2013 and 2014 through utilizing trained contractors, and through development of a Memorandum of Agreement with the National Speleological Society Cascade Grotto. Crews surveyed five sites (four caves and one bridge) known as hibernacula in Washington, and collected data on microclimates, roosting behavior, roosting locations, and signs of disease or mortality. They took pictures when possible for biologist identification and submitted a formal report. The USFWS decontamination protocol was required for use between all sites, gear restrictions applied, and crew size was limited to reduce bat disturbance. Bats were found in all sites surveyed, with less than five found in caves and less than 14 found using a bridge.

most calls were observed when dusk temperatures exceeded 3.9 °C (39° F). Temperature may influence winter bat activity levels, although more data is necessary to evaluate this variable. Humidity, barometric pressure, wind speed, and lunar phase did not appear to influence activity. 67% of calls took place within the first three hours after dusk, with 30% of activity taking place during the 20:00 hour. We identified three habitat types used by bats during winter months; are beginning to formulate a timeline of normal arousal dates, frequencies, and cessation of hibernation seasons; are beginning to identify climate and lunar variables that may influence winter bat activity; and are documenting foraging activity.

WDFW performed hibernacula surveys for bats



NSS Cascade Grotto crew headed in for a hibernaculum survey. Photo: Ron Zuber.



Volunteer Laurie Ness working with acoustic detector. Photo: Ella Rowan

Townsend’s big-eared bat was the primary species seen in caves, although one small-eared myotis and three unidentified bats were also present. The bridge contained Townsend’s big-eared bats, big browns, and two unidentified bats. Microclimate data was collected and demonstrated variation between and within caves. With the assistance of the USFS, WDFW also installed long-term microclimate data loggers in four additional cave hibernacula, three of which are critical Townsend’s big-eared bat hibernacula. Again, temperature and relative humidity values varied between and within sites, with occasional spikes or drops that were unexpected.

Data from these projects will prove useful to

managers for population monitoring purposes, if a dedicated effort is made to expand surveys statewide and continue data collection over the course of many years. A final report will be completed by the end of August. Please contact Ella Rowan for a copy.

SOUTHEAST REGION – Sara Gregory, WDFW

Marmots on McNary: Experimental Relocation of a Yellow-bellied Marmot (*Marmota flaviventris*) Population to the McNary National Wildlife Refuge – by Kevin Goldie and Allison Hall-Mullen

The yellow-bellied marmot (*Marmota flaviventris*) is one of the largest ground dwelling squirrels in the Pacific Northwest. Ground squirrels are important components of ecological systems due to their life histories. Ground squirrels loosen, move, mix, and aerate soils, bring nutrients from deep soil layers to the surface, increase the rate of water infiltration into the soil, reduce soil compaction, and increase soil fertility. Additionally, these animals serve as a prey base for predator food chains (e.g. raptors, badgers, coyotes, weasels, and snakes). Finally, the burrows and digs created by these animals, and by badgers and coyotes who prey upon these animals, are highly important for creating sites for other non-burrowing animals to use, including burrowing owls, rabbits, snakes and insects.

USFWS attempted to reestablish yellow-bellied marmots on the Hanford Reach National Monument in 2009. These efforts are believed to have been ultimately unsuccessful. The previous project implemented a “cold release” method where the marmots were released into unsecured woodpiles with no protective barriers against predators and no means of preventing immediate dispersal. In reviewing these relocation efforts, it is believed that the “cold release” method was insufficient to promote colony establishment.

To address the dispersal and predation issues, biologists and technicians at McNary NWR in Burbank, WA have carried out a modified “soft release” marmot relocation trial on the refuge to improve relocation methods for the future. Rock piles were assembled with strategically located cover cavities, a variety of fence designs were built around

the rock piles (we experimented with the efficiency of several different fencing styles) enclosing up to ½ acre, and supplemental food and water is being supplied to relocated marmots until they enter aestivation and/or hibernation. Fences will be removed after the marmots enter hibernation or after they dig themselves out of the enclosures.

A private landowner in Pasco who has marmots on their property approached USFWS. The owner is planning to develop their land and does not wish to eradicate the colony in the process. To this end, they



Photo: Jordene Lucas.

offered access to their land and permission to trap the marmots from their property for this experimental relocation project.

A total of eight yellow-bellied marmots were captured and released into the enclosures on the refuge. Trapping commenced 19 June and ran until 23 July. The Havahart® traps were pre-baited for a few weeks prior to actual trapping efforts using a combination of apples, peanut butter, oats, lettuce, cilantro and alfalfa. Staff and volunteers are continuing to monitor the relocated marmots on the refuge. The project will be considered a success if marmots establish and are still present during spring of 2015. Additional relocations to the refuge will also take place in spring/summer of 2015.



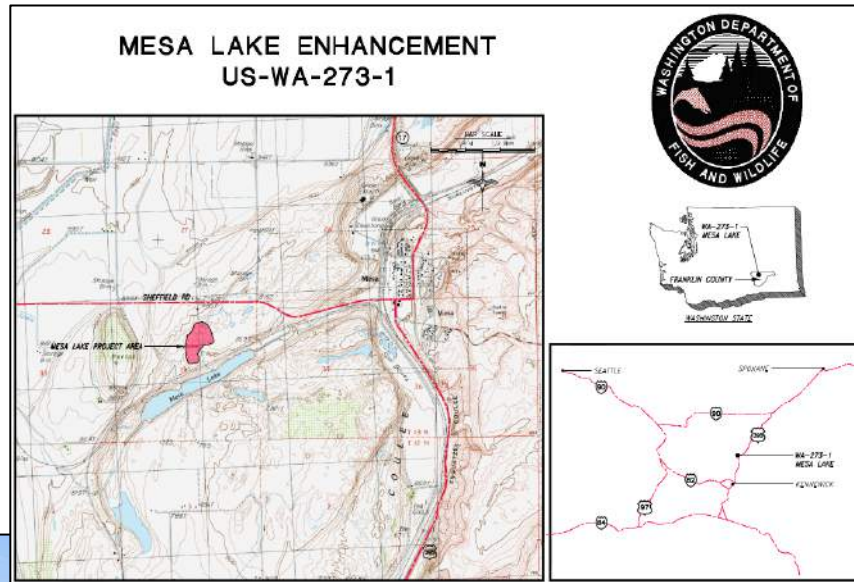
Photo: Jordene Lucas

WDFW Enhances Wetland Habitat in Franklin County - by Greg Bjornstrom

Wetland enhancement projects have been in full swing at the Mesa Lake unit of WDFW’s Sunnyside/Snake River Wildlife Area. Previous landowners constructed two existing ponds, but both water containment dikes failed prior to WDFW purchasing the property. This project involved re-contouring existing dikes, repairing breaks in those dikes, and installing formal stop log water control structures in each dike. The area was extremely wet and water was diverted through eastern wetlands for several months before construction activities could begin.

All incoming drain water was diverted into pond wetlands to the east to dry out the project areas. An existing beaver dam was removed incrementally, to allow the existing pond to empty slowly. Beaver activity was managed in this area until the project was completed. Collaborative efforts with Ducks Unlimited (DU) engineers and WDFW staff produced an engineered design for a functioning and manageable wetland. New control structures were added based on DU engineer suggestion. A native upland seed mix is slated to be drilled into the disturbed areas. There is also a plan to construct two ADA-compliant accessible birding blinds adjacent to the reclaimed impoundment.

The observed benefits of this project are an increase in the open water/emergent vegetation ratio, expansion of the amount of open water for wildlife use, and improved birding and hunting opportunities.



New dike at the West Pigeon Pond - Mesa Lake/Sunnyside Snake River Wildlife Area. Photo: G.Bjornstrom



New water control structure at the West Pigeon Pond - Mesa Lake/Sunnyside Snake River Wildlife Area. Photo: G. Bjornstrom

Burrowing Owls in the Columbia Basin – by Heidi Newsome and Sara Gregory

Burrowing owls (*Athene cunicularia*) are found in arid landscapes throughout the west. They prefer short grasslands and are often found in association with badgers and other ground dwelling mammals. Because burrowing owls do not dig their own burrows, they depend on these mammals to provide nesting sites. The burrowing owl is a federal species of concern and a state candidate species in Washington.

A banded owlet is returned to its artificial burrow near Pasco. Photo: WDFW



USFWS and WDFW partnered with the Global Owl Project for a capture and banding effort around Pasco, WA and the federally managed Hanford Reach National Monument (HRNM). These two field sites are part of a range wide study that includes 19 study areas in eight states and two Canadian provinces across western North America. Overall, 138 owls were handled. Of these, 15 (seven males and eight females) were recaptures. The remaining captures included 20 adult males, 31 adult females, and 72 owlets. In Pasco, captures occurred at 21 sites, all of which were artificial

burrows. The 55 owlets captured in Pasco were banded at 12 sites (although there were a few others at these sites that evaded capture). On the HRNM and a nearby Department of Energy (DOE) site there was a total of 17 nest attempts in artificial burrows (14 initial attempts and three re-nesting attempts). A total of 17 owlets were captured from 14 artificial burrow sites on the federal land locations. The goal of these banding efforts is to contribute regional information from Washington to a long term, range wide dataset. Additionally, these banding data will increase understanding of the demography and life history of burrowing owls overall.

At the HRNM and DOE sites, surveys and trapping occurred at all known burrows with no young owlets detected at any of the natural burrow sites. All of the natural burrow sites seemed abandoned in the middle of nesting season. Owl use of natural burrow sites was low in terms of both occupancy and nest success. Last year, the USFWS observed owls at 10 natural burrow sites with two of those containing successful nests (based on observations of owlets). This year, only four natural burrows were occupied but no owlets were documented or observed. This raises some concern for the persistence of this species in the area, as the birds seem to be dependent upon artificial habitat that requires annual maintenance by wildlife managers. WDFW will conduct intensive surveys for owls around SE Washington in the coming year to further evaluate owl use of natural and artificial burrows. Information regarding the species use of natural versus artificial habitat could be important for the conservation of burrowing owls in Washington.

In other burrowing owl news, the female owl that was marked with a solar powered GPS platform transmitter terminal (PTT) in June of 2013 has

returned to the Pasco area and has fledged three owlets at an artificial burrow less than 1/2 mile from her capture location.





The migration route of a burrowing owl wearing a PTT transmitter. Courtesy of The Global Owl Project

NORTHWEST (PUGET SOUND) REGION - Steve Hall, Point Environmental Consulting, Inc.

List of Puget Sound Area Threatened Species Grows by One



Photo: USFWS

On August 28, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced its decision to list the Oregon spotted frog (*Rana pretiosa*) as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. The species will be

protected throughout its range, which extends from southwestern British Columbia through the Puget/Willamette Valley trough, and in the Cascades Range from south-central Washington to the Klamath Basin in Oregon. Critical habitat is expected to be

proposed later this fall. The highly aquatic species is threatened primarily by habitat loss, as well as by predation by non-native bullfrog.

ONLINE: <http://tinyurl.com/oxcl7xa>

Good news, bad news for Puget Sound orcas

Puget Sound orcas – arguably the region’s most popular wildlife species – are making headlines again, with the good news being that sightings of the mammal-eating “transients” – also called Biggs orcas – are higher than ever. Much of the research and reporting on transients is being conducted by the whale watching industry, which has organized its efforts through the cross-border Pacific Whale Watch Association. The association recently reported at least 110 individual transients were identified this season. However, increased sightings does not necessarily equate to increased populations. As their name suggests, transients move around a lot – both seasonally and in much longer, multi-year cycles.



Photo: NMFS

As for the bad news, the endangered, fish-eating Southern Resident population continues to decline, with reported numbers near 30-year lows. The Seattle Times recently reported two deaths this year and no new calves since 2012. But just this month, a new calf was reported, bringing a ray of hope for one of the most endangered populations of marine mammals in the world.

ONLINE: Seattle PI: Transient orca sightings hit all-time high in Puget Sound, Strait of Juan de Fuca, <http://tinyurl.com/kmuxn47>, Seattle Times: Orca population in Puget Sound falling, <http://tinyurl.com/ly9s744>

UW Students Present Forest Stewardship Plan to King County

Students at the University of Washington's School of Environment and Forest Sciences (SEFS) got some practical, hands-on experience as part of a new course entitled Applied Forest Ecology & Management. For last spring's session, 15 students, led by Research Associate Derek Churchill and Associate Professor Greg Ettl—worked collaboratively with King County to develop a forest stewardship plan for the 645-acre Black Diamond Natural Area in South King County.



SEFS grad student Sean Jeronimo measuring tree heights in the project area. Photo: SEFS

The parcel is representative of a long-term program King County has undertaken to acquire blocks of private industrial forest lands located near rapidly growing residential areas. Most of these blocks were clear-cut decades ago, but were rarely thinned or otherwise managed, resulting in dense stands with little undergrowth and little value to wildlife. In addition, unmanaged recreational use of these areas has grown, resulting in potential conflicts between user groups (e.g. horseback riders, hikers, mountain bikers) as well as impacts of unmanaged uses on fish and wildlife habitat.

The complex management situation presented the students with many new experiences, including identifying management goals and objectives, conducting intensive forest-stand inventories, and participating in public meetings. The students gained practical knowledge not only by experience, but also by Professor Emeritus Peter Schiess and several SEFS alumni, including Paul Wagner, Paul Fisher and Jeff Connick.

The collaborative planning project was so successful that planning is already underway for a similar class to be conducted in spring 2015.

ONLINE: <http://tinyurl.com/p7drnxb>

Partnership to Develop an Outdoor Learning Center in Kitsap County

The Mountaineers Foundation and Mountaineers of the Pacific Northwest are developing an outdoor learning center in Kitsap County. The learning center will engage the community to foster better understanding of environmental conservation as well as responsible enjoyment and use of natural areas. Preliminary scoping work has been completed and site-specific planning will be starting soon.

ONLINE: <http://mountaineersfoundation.org/news/>

Puget Sound urban goose populations under control

Canada geese populations in the Puget Sound region present one of the most complex and controversial wildlife management challenges in the state. First introduced from eggs salvaged during the flooding of Columbia River reservoirs, the population soon became a liability, most notably due to a combination of their fondness for grazing on parks and golf courses and their highly productive digestive tracks.

After decades of control efforts, it appears that now the region's resident goose population is under control. And while non-lethal efforts, such as hazing, birth control and public education (e.g., don't feed geese) have proven effective, lethal control is still an important management tool. The Wildlife Services Program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture reports that it euthanizes approximately 1,000 geese in the area each year.

ONLINE: <http://tinyurl.com/ndgvphd>



Photo: WDFW

Declining marine birds

The Seattle Times published an interesting story regarding the widespread decline in marine birds throughout the Puget Sound region as well as coast areas. Those interviewed seem to point to ecosystem-level changes that are rippling through the food chain, from plankton, to forage fish, to marine birds and mammals. Rather than repeat the details, here's a link to the story.

http://seattletimes.com/html/localnews/2024155783_birddeclines.xml.html

Mount Rainier's wildlife ecologist retires (Tacoma News Tribune)



Mason Reid. Photo: Tacoma News Tribune

Mount Rainier's wildlife ecologist, Mason Reid, has retired after 25 years with the National Park Service, including the last six at Mount Rainier. During his career, Reid has studied Dall sheep, big horn sheep, moose, elk, mountain goat, Steller sea lion, caribou, grizzly and black bear, gray wolf, raptors, and a wide range of marine, upland and water birds. While at Mount Rainier, he worked on managing human-wildlife interactions through the "Keep Wildlife Wild" program. The effort is meant to educate park visitors about how their feeding of animals such as bear, Cascade fox, various small mammals and birds such as Stellar and gray jays can have a negative impact.

He recently served as the Park Service's lead, working with the state Department of Fish and Wildlife on the future reintroduction of the Pacific fisher to Mount Rainier and North Cascades national parks.

Happenings from WDFW Region 4

The WDFW publishes weekly activity reports that cover all six regions of the state (http://wdfw.wa.gov/about/wildlife_weekly/). Below is a sampling from recent reports from Region 4, which covers the Puget Sound area

Urban Interface Cougar Study: Biologists Anderson and Smith assisted Carnivore Research Scientist Dr. Kertson in tagging cougar kittens for follow-up identification and tracking needs in this project. The kittens were located, sexed, tagged and returned to the den unharmed.



WDFW Biologist Mike Smith with Cougar Kitten. Photo: WDFW

Highway 20 Elk Crossing Project: Biologist DeBruyn worked on setting up a camera to monitor elk crossing highway 20 at a high collision area. He also reviewed images from a camera set up a short distance from the crossing and worked with the Dept. of Transportation to set up proximity transmitters along the highway to increase the amount of data received from a GPS collars.

Ungulate Damage: Deer and elk damage reports continue to come in from residents throughout the region, from Whidbey Island to Enumclaw. Damage occurred to crops, ornamentals, fences and gates. Damage Prevention Cooperative Agreements were signed by several landowners with the intent of decreasing future damage.

Mt Goat Aerial Survey: Assistant District Biologist Cyra completed analysis of this summer's Mountain Goat aerial surveys conducted from Mt Baker to US 2, with a goal of determining population status,

appropriate hunting seasons and amounts, and potential relocation areas.

Lowland Pika: Assistant District Biologist Cyra is assembling, analyzing, and presenting data from a two-year survey for Pika's in the lower Stillaguamish Valley.

Whidbey Island Deer Study: Biologist Milner met with the U of Montana graduate student who is studying deer and deer hunting on Whidbey Island. Milner provided harvest reports, hunter contact information, and other materials that will help the project progress. Milner also reviewed a hunter questionnaire that will be sent out to learn more about hunting activities on the island.

Wildlife Management Consultation/Permitting Requests:

WDFW assisted local municipalities with consultation plans and permits for great blue heron and osprey nests.

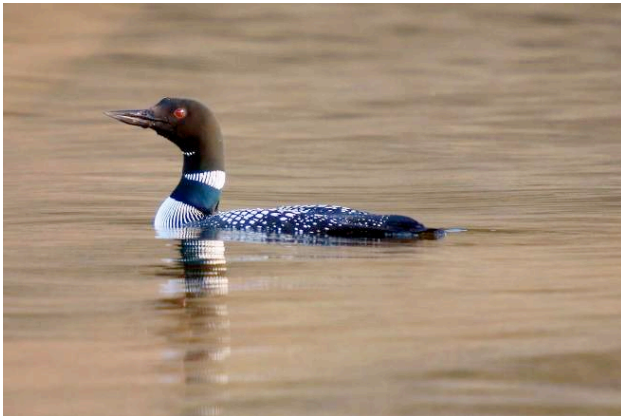


Photo: WDFW

Common Loon Breeding: Western Washington's very rare loon breeding populations seem to be having a successful nesting season, with at least three chicks reaching near adult size.

Western Toads on Whidbey Island: Biologist Milner contacted a reporter on Whidbey Island to publish an article asking for sightings of western toads, especially eggs, tadpoles or migrating toadlets so we can look for breeding sites on the island. The article received very positive responses, with several individuals contacting Milner with leads to check out. Individual sightings have been passed on to WSDM.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vth INTERNATIONAL WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT CONGRESS
 Sapporo, Japan
 July 26-30, 2015

Hosted by
 The Mammal Society of Japan &
 The Wildlife Society

Website: <http://www.iwmc2015.org>

Vth International Wildlife Congress

TWS is a key co-organizer of the Vth International Wildlife Management Congress, which will be held in Sapporo, Japan during July 26-30, 2015. Incoming TWS President Rich Baydack has invited participation and ideas on program content, symposia topics, contributed paper speakers, poster presentations, and other program ideas from TWS members. Consider whether this forum may be something for you to work toward in 2015. More information is available at <http://www.iwmc2015.org>

Main Theme: International Models of Wildlife Management: Beyond Cultural Differences

We all have cultural differences; however, we all share similar problems of wildlife. The 5th International Wildlife Management Congress (IWMC) is an amazing opportunity for sharing global knowledge and experiences. Let's share and discuss our wildlife science and try to establish international models in Sapporo, Japan.

Chapter of the Year Award!

For those of you that have not already become aware, the Washington Chapter received fabulous news in June 2014 when the Executive Board was alerted that this Chapter was selected to receive the 2014 TWS Chapter of the Year Award. The selection was based on review of chapter nominations submitted nationally. The nomination for the Washington Chapter focused heavily on significant strides in developing partnerships, encouraging student participation, enhancing social media use, and overall efforts to promote professional development among Chapter members. TWS will formally bestow the Award during the Awards Ceremony at the Annual Conference in October 2014 in Pittsburgh, PA. Members of the Executive Board will be there to receive the Award on behalf of all Chapter members. See the WA Chapter website for more information about background on Chapter activities that were recognized.

One of Our Own Will Lead National TWS

Results of the 2014 TWS national election were reported in July. WA Chapter President Bruce Thompson was elected TWS Vice President and will be installed in that position during the Annual Conference in Pittsburgh, PA in October 2014. That will begin a 4-year period of service for Bruce on TWS Council to include Vice President, President-Elect, President (2016-2017), and Immediate Past President. With Harriet Allen as Northwest Section Representative on Council, that now places two WA Chapter and Northwest Section members on Council. Don't miss this opportunity to alert Bruce and Harriet about how TWS can consider addressing your views regarding TWS operations and services to members.

Congratulations Bruce!

Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail Advisory Council

The USFS is currently soliciting nominees for the Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail Advisory Council, including a seat to represent wildlife organizations. Please share this opportunity with Wildlife Society, Washington Chapter members and partners.

The 1,200-mile Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail (also called the PNT) is a non-motorized recreation trail from the Continental Divide to the Pacific Ocean through Montana, Idaho, and

Washington. The Advisory Council will meet twice annually for approximately three years to provide recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture on matters related to the long-term management of the PNT, taking into account the diversity of public values and interests along the trail corridor.

Additional information about the Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail, the Advisory Council, and how to apply is available at <http://tinyurl.com/pntadvisorycouncil> and by contacting Matt McGrath, Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail Program Manager, at 425-783-6199 or mtmcgrath@fs.fed.us. To update the information in the press release, applications are preferred by September 30th but will be accepted through October 15th.

We would welcome the Wildlife Society's involvement. Thank you.

Links:

[Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail Advisory Council](#)
[How to Apply](#)
[Overview of Council Member Responsibilities](#)
[Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail History & Background](#)
[Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail Homepage](#)



Audubon Prepares to Unveil Groundbreaking Climate Change Model

Audubon scientists have developed a powerful new climate model that predicts the future ranges of North American birds under the three possible future climate scenarios. Using 100 years of Christmas Bird Count data collected by Audubon Society members and volunteers, Audubon scientists have accurately

modeled the relationship between climate information and bird observations, and projected that into the future under a range of emissions scenarios. The result is a dazzlingly specific picture of future bird ranges in an uncertain climate future. The model contains 100,000 data layers and three terabytes of data, and covers more than 500 North American bird species. The model will show which birds will be at high risk of extinction if emissions continue to increase, creating an invaluable new way for Audubon to discuss and address climate change. It also shows areas of habitat that will likely be stable under all future emissions scenarios, enabling Audubon to identify “stronghold” habitats that birds will need to survive in the future, creating a critical new basis for Audubon’s work to help birds adapt to climate change. The model results are currently being summarized for review in prestigious peer-reviewed scientific journals. The model could be released as soon as October, but the exact timing will be contingent on Audubon’s model and analysis receiving scientific validation from credible sources. Audubon chapters can expect to receive information in advance of the rollout providing an overview of the modeling effort and specific examples of birds in your state that are threatened by climate change. Over the coming months, Audubon’s national staff will be launching a nationwide One Audubon grassroots campaign based on the model’s findings to create a new conversation about climate change in America, and help bring about policy changes that reduce emissions to safer levels and protect critical stronghold habitats. Stay tuned!

<http://policy.audubon.org/climate-change-campaign>

TWS Conference Dates and Locations

- 2014: Pittsburgh, PA October 25-30
In conjunction with the Pittsburgh Annual meeting, TWS is proposing a one-day meeting of one or two representatives from each chapter and section to discuss challenges faced by subunits: building membership, finding volunteers, meeting organization, fundraising, sponsorship, activities, advocacy, etc. The purpose of the meeting will be to share ideas and activities on what has and hasn’t worked. Headquarters staff is currently gauging section and chapter interest in attending this meeting.
- 2015: International Wildlife Management Congress, Sapporo, Japan, July 26-30.
- 2015: Winnipeg, Manitoba October 17–22

- 2016: Raleigh, NC October 15–20
- 2017: Tampa, FL

During the Council Meeting in October 2013, Albuquerque was voted on as the site of the 2017 Annual Conference. After that, the American Fisheries Society (AFS) approached Executive Director Williams about having the 2017 conference take place in Tampa in collaboration with the AFS. Council discussed the opportunity of partnering with AFS and supported the concept of exploring a joint meeting with the AFS in Tampa in 2017 and having the 2018 meeting in Albuquerque.

Opportunities for Students

The Washington Chapter of the Wildlife Society offers several opportunities for students:

- Become involved in the Student Chapters at the University of Washington (<http://students.washington.edu/uwtws/>) or Washington State University (<http://www.wildlifeclub.wsu.edu/>)
- Apply for a [grant](#) or [scholarship](#) to support your research. Links to supporting information can be found on the left side of our main webpage.
- Attend the 2015 Annual Meeting.

THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY ONLINE MENTORING PROGRAM

TWS’ Online Mentoring program is a great way to build professional relationships that will help advance a student’s or young professional’s career, while gaining knowledge from wildlife professionals. Already a professional? We are always looking for mentors to volunteer. It is easy to sign up, just go online to our [Online Mentoring Program](#) with your TWS Member ID number and register.

Join the Washington Chapter of the Wildlife Society!

For more information the Chapter, including membership forms, please visit our website: <http://wildlife.org/Washington/>. If you have questions regarding your membership status, please contact Mike Hall at 206-394-3673 or mhall@parametrix.com. He will be happy to help you out. And if you are ready to renew your membership you can use the form on the next page or on our website. Folks who are members at the National level can also check by logging in as members at <http://store.wildlife.org>. Remember chapter membership dues are only \$10 (\$5 if you are a student). It’s an inexpensive way to stay connected and support wildlife!

The Wildlife Society

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