

The Washington Wildlifer

Newsletter of the Washington Chapter of The Wildlife Society

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Happy Holidays!

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT
By Tony Fuchs

As I write I am just back from The Wildlife Society 22nd Annual conference in Winnipeg. With over 1500 participants (more than a third of them students!), 153 posters, 48 exhibitors, hundreds of photos, and more than 470 contributed papers, it was incredible, yet a challenge to take it all in. There were some definite conference highlights for me.

First off was the incredible number of very energetic students in attendance and contributing presentations and posters. Very promising for the future of our wildlife profession! The Student-Professional Networking Event, with a “wildlife bingo” game the students used to ask questions of the Professionals, was really fun and a great way to meet lots of people in a short period of time. We were glad to see that the

student travel grant funding our chapter provided was used by one of our students, Lynsey Hamilton, from The Evergreen State College. Lynsey presented a poster on Nocturnal Habitat Selection of Wintering Surf Scoters in the Salish Sea.

I took in a couple of the featured films from the Wildlife Film Showcase series offered during the meeting. The very sobering “Emptying the Skies” was a documentary of

the illegal poaching of millions of songbirds in mostly southern Europe (for traditional hors de 'oeuvres of roasted songbird) and the efforts of a group of “guerilla” conservationists combating the poachers and raising the issue to the local authorities. This is a significant impact to migrating flocks moving through Europe and into Africa. I also viewed the film “America’s Darling: The Story of Jay N. “Ding” Darling.” He was an amazing political cartoonist and artist (he designed the first Federal Duck Stamp and twice won the Pulitzer Prize for cartooning, in 1923 and again in 1942), headed the U.S. Biological Survey in 1935-36, and is also credited as one of the key people in the development of the National

Wildlife Refuge System. Along with the film the conference had a travelling Ding Darling Exhibition with many original examples of his cartoons and art. I encourage all of you to take some time to read up on this incredible early wildlife conservation leader.



Photo: Nat'l Park Service

Winnipeg is a pretty cool city. This was the first time I had been there so I took some time to wander around the city. From its beginnings as a crossroads for trade at “The Forks” of the Red and Assiniboine rivers for the Hudson’s Bay Company, Winnipeg has transformed into a thriving center for the arts, culture, and business. The “Night at the Museum” networking event was held at the Manitoba Museum, which is

home to a collection of more than 10,000 ethnological artifacts and an amazing variety of history and ecological displays. A highlight for many of us was the replica of the waterfront of 17th century England, where you could climb onto and explore a ship, the two-masted ketch “Noncsuch” that actually sailed into the Hudson Bay. And don’t fall into the snake pit!

Another first for me was going nose to nose with a Polar Bear during our field trip to the International Polar Bear Conservation Centre at the Manitoba Zoo (OK, there was about 6” of glass between us, but still...). There they had a water exhibit where you could see swimming polar bears up close. We toured the excellent bear handling and research facilities at the Centre and met with several of the conservation staff. Manitoba has a really great program for conservation of these bears and are working hard to preserve bear populations in the face of climate change and increasing loss of ice habitat.

Several excellent speakers in the “Why Do Wildlife Matter?” plenary session provided food for thought from the perspectives of why wildlife matter to wildlife professionals, indigenous people, and new professionals. Primary importance is the connection with nature that people need. I was very fortunate to listen to Richard Louv, the author of “Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children From Nature-Deficit Disorder,” speak about the urbanization of our American society and the disconnect our children have with nature, and the amazing work many people are doing to get our kids (and adults too) out into nature. It could be bird watching, hiking and camping, hunting, or catching frogs, but we can all help by taking kids out into the woods and making wildlife matter to them.

For more fun information on the Annual conference go to the blog on the TWS web site at <http://wildlife.org/live-from-winnipeg/>.



Photo: Danielle Munzing

Annual Meeting Notice

2016 Joint Partner Wildlife Conference: “Common Resources, Challenges & Solutions”

by *Danielle Munzing*

The 2016 joint meeting of the [Idaho](#) and Washington Chapters of TWS, the Society for Northwestern Vertebrate Biology and NW Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation will be held **February 22-26, 2016** in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho. The final call for papers has closed and the committee is currently in the process of putting together a program with an exciting schedule of talks, special sessions, and workshops. Subjects include, but are not limited to, sage grouse, amphibians, big game, carnivores, arid lands, and dry forests. For those of you planning to attend: **make your reservations at the Coeur d’Alene Resort (<http://www.cdaresort.com/>) before January 21st** to get the per diem rate. There is a Free Lodging Incentive available to students, see the next section and [page 4](#) of this newsletter or [WATWS website](#) for the application. Registration and the first meeting announcement will be available the first week of December. Stay tuned for the latest information on [WATWS website](#) and Facebook page.

It is not too late to volunteer! Please contact Danielle Munzing at Danielle.munzing@dnr.wa.gov to ask how you can help.



Searching for sage grouse leks. Photo: D. Munzing

Student Lodging

Student Lodging Incentive to Attend 2016 Joint Meeting

The Washington Chapter of The Wildlife Society, in conjunction with its partners for the 2016 Joint Meeting in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho, will provide some no-cost lodging for students who attend the Meeting. This is a financial incentive to help students participate in the joint technical sessions as well as applicable business meetings of the partner organizations.

Qualified applicants are any student enrolled in undergraduate or graduate programs related to natural resources with an association or affiliation with The Wildlife Society, Society for Northwestern Vertebrate Biology, or Northwest Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation. Those selected to receive free lodging will be requested to provide up to four hours of volunteer help with various aspects of the Joint Meeting, either in advance of or during the meeting.

The incentive will be three free nights of lodging (nights of 23-25 February 2016) in a shared quad room at the host hotel (Coeur d’Alene Resort). Separate rooms will be designated for male and female students. Students will be responsible for other meeting-related costs; this incentive only covers the lodging room costs and associated taxes.

To apply and be considered, please complete the application included in the [newsletter](#) or posted on the WA-TWS website at <http://wildlife.org/washington-chapter/>

Applications **must be submitted by 10 January 2016** (submission info is on the form).

Application for Student Lodging Support

(for natural resources students at educational institutions in North America)

2016 Joint Meeting of Partners

Idaho Chapter-The Wildlife Society, Washington Chapter-The Wildlife Society,
Society for Northwestern Vertebrate Biology,
Northwest Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho (22-26 February 2016)

Applicant Information:

Name: _____ Gender: _____

Address: _____

Telephone and E-mail: _____

Partner Organization Affiliation(s): _____

Educational Institution Name: _____

Major Program of Study: _____

Advisor Name: _____

Education Program Level: High School Undergraduate Masters Doctoral

Reason for Requesting Support (*check/complete all that apply*):

- Delivering Presentation/Poster
- Serving on other Partner Committee
- Financial Challenge (*explain briefly*)
- Serving on Committee for Meeting
- Part of TWS Leadership Institute
- Enhance/Supplement Field of Study

Other (*explain briefly*) _____

How might receiving this support help you leverage other financial assistance or professional opportunities? (*explain briefly*):

NOTES:

- Recipients will be granted free lodging at Coeur d'Alene Resort for the nights of 23, 24, and 25 February 2016. Recipients will be responsible for their own meeting registration, meals, and incidental expenses.
- Partners will provide 4 to 6 student rooms, with up to 4 persons (same gender) in each room.
- Any student receiving lodging support will be requested to provide up to 4 hours of volunteer help before and/or during the course of the meeting.
- Recipients are required to attend the meeting during at least 23-25 February 2016.

Submit completed application electronically [pdf preferred] to arrive **by 10 January 2016** to:

Bruce Thompson bcthompson248@gmail.com. If problems, call Bruce at 505-660-0533

Seeking Sponsors for 2016 Joint Meeting

The Partner Organizations (WA-TWS, ID-TWS, SNVB, NW-PARC) are seeking prospective sponsors to financially assist with providing more opportunities for student engagement and other conservation endeavors associated with the 2016 Joint Meeting in Coeur d'Alene, ID.

There are various Sponsor Levels that carry different benefits for sponsors depending on the type and amount of contribution toward Joint Meeting expenses. Those levels include:

- Platinum (\$2,400+)
- Gold (\$1,800 - \$2,399)
- Silver (\$1,200 - \$1,799)
- Bronze (\$500 - \$1,199)
- Supporting (\$100 - \$499)
- Raffle/Auction Item Donation (any item and value)

Supporting Sponsors may designate their sponsorship for Student Support or Keynote Speaker support. All sponsors are acknowledged in program materials as well as visually and verbally throughout the Joint Meeting.

Please help by identifying prospective sponsors that may be contacted with more detailed information and the necessary forms. The **deadline to arrange sponsorships is 10 January 2016**, so act soon.

Provide prospective Sponsor contact info (name, address, phone/email) to WA-TWS Past President Bruce Thompson (bcthompson248@gmail.com)

2015 Scholarship & Research Grant Info ~ Deadlines are coming quick!

Richard Fitzner Scholarship

The Richard E. Fitzner Memorial Scholarship Fund provides up to \$2,500 toward tuition for wildlife-oriented biology students during the fall of their junior or senior year. The fund honors the late Dick Fitzner, a wildlife biologist, educator, artist, hunter, fisherman, naturalist, and past president of the Washington Chapter of the Wildlife Society.

Applicants must be biology students entering their junior or senior year at a college or university in the state of Washington. Preference will be given to students with a demonstrated need for financial aid; a history of experiences, activities, and interests in the field of wildlife biology; college course work applicable to field biology; and superior grades.

An application form and instructions can be found under the heading "Scholarships" at the Washington Chapter web site: <http://wildlife.org/washington-chapter/grants-scholarships/>. College transcripts and two letters of reference from instructors or past employers must accompany the application form. Applications for Fall Semester 2016 must be received by **15 December 2015**.



Research Grant

The Washington Chapter of The Wildlife Society provides grant money for wildlife research projects in Washington State each year. 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.**

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 Bill Vogel, 360-753-4367, bill_vogel@fws.gov.

Report from the Northwest Section Representative to TWS Council

by Harriet Allen

There's been a lot going on at The Wildlife Society (TWS) this fall with the recent Annual Conference in Winnipeg, the TWS Council Meeting, government affairs and conservation activities, website additions,

publications and awards. Here are a few highlights and you can read full monthly activity reports and other news and information on the TWS website at <http://wildlife.org/>.

Washington Chapter TWS Website Migration – Please check out the new Washington Chapter Website (<http://wildlife.org/washington-chapter/>), which has migrated to and is now being hosted on the TWS website. It looks great and is highlighting the upcoming Chapter meeting in Coeur d'Alene in February.

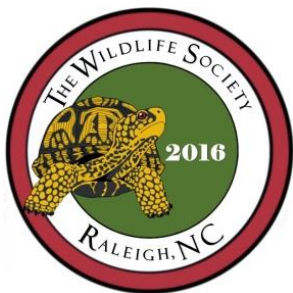
2015 Annual Conference – (<http://wildlife.org/manitoba-attendees-chime-in-on-2015-conference/>). The TWS Annual Conference was held Oct 17-21 in Winnipeg, Manitoba. It's been 10 years since it's been in Canada and it was a rousing success, with 1,564 attendees (+12 over Pittsburgh), and once again, 46% were students. Nine workshops had more than 270 participants and the six field trips sold out with more than 280 attendees. There were 29 sponsors and 31 contributors, including the **Washington Chapter**. Nearly 700 educational opportunities were presented through plenary, symposia, panel discussions, contributed papers and posters, and there were more than 30 networking receptions and events, and 23 working group meetings. There was a popular Ignite session, as well as a Women of Wildlife symposium and reception. A few of the **Washington Chapter** members I saw in attendance included Executive Board officers **President Tony Fuchs, Past President Bruce Thompson, and Board Member Blake Murden**. There were also Washington presenters at symposia and concurrent sessions.

The conference focused on a number of issues facing the wildlife profession as public attitudes toward wildlife conservation and management shift. There were two excellent plenaries: "Why Does Wildlife Matter", and "Balancing Conservation and Development in the Final Frontier – Canada's Boreal Forest", which featured the Manitoba Premier, as well as four leading experts on conservation and management of Canada's boreal forests.

A day-long symposium on *Wildlife Conservation's Dilemma: Fur, Feather, Fins, Steel, and People*

focused on the public's shifting attitudes on regulated take and capture of wildlife. Caroline Murphy, a policy intern at The Wildlife Society in the TWS Government Affairs & Partnership program, summarized the session at <http://wildlife.org/tws-symposium-looks-at-regulated-use-of-wildlife/>. She wrote that the takeaway message of the symposium was that “...*the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation and the broad ideas surrounding the regulated take of wildlife are important topics for the future of the profession, but that adapting the model to social and environmental changes will be needed to maintain its relevance going forward.*”

2016 Annual Conference - The 2016 Conference will be in Raleigh, North Carolina, October 15-19. Please consider submitting papers and posters, workshop, symposia, and panel discussion ideas, and attending!!



The TWS Annual Members Meeting was held during the conference. New **TWS President Gary Potts'** theme for the year is on strengthening and expanding partnerships to work together on common causes: “...*as the human population increases and we have more problems to deal with, our partnerships will be the key to our success.*”

Two new member benefits for 2016 were announced:

- The frequency of *The Wildlife Professional* magazine is being increased from four to six issues a year, effective January 2016
- A 5% tuition discount is being offered on courses taken through TWS's new Strategic Partner, American Public University, for college credit or professional development, effective immediately.

A new award, the **Jay N. "Ding" Darling Award for Wildlife Stewardship through Art** was also announced. Sam Koltinsky, representative of the “Ding” Darling estate, presented TWS with a “brush

of excellence” - one of Ding Darling's art brushes - to be housed at Headquarters and used to help recognize the award recipients. “Ding” Darling' achieved significant wildlife and habitat conservation through his artwork and associated conservation messages. He initiated the Federal Duck Stamp Program, was founder of the National Wildlife Federation, creator of the Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit Program, and laid the groundwork for today's National Wildlife Refuge system. TWS awarded him honorary membership in 1938, and he was the first recipient of the TWS Aldo Leopold Memorial Award in 1950 — TWS' highest honor for distinguished service to wildlife conservation.

The **2015 TWS Fellows** were awarded, including two from the Northwest Section, **Barb Hill** from Oregon and **Steve Belinda** from Montana. The TWS Distinguished Service Award recipients included **Warren Aney**, of the Oregon Chapter. Congratulations to all.

TWS Council Meeting – The Council meeting was held October 16-17, prior to the Annual Conference. Each of the TWS Sections is represented on the Council, and as you know, Bruce Thompson is serving as President-Elect of TWS. Next October he will take over as President. Detailed budget reports were given by Executive Director Ken Williams. The TWS fiscal year runs July to June. The Society remained in good financial health during the 2014-15 budget year, with revenues exceeding expenses; and we are on track at the beginning of the 2015-16 budget, with revenues exceeding expenditures and a “rainy day reserve” fund building.

Chief Operating Officer Ed Thompson gave a report on many new initiatives and benefits that were implemented for TWS members in the last year, including:

- Launch of the new TWS website that features at least three new TWS and/or wildlife news features daily.
- Launch of the weekly eWildlifer newsletter.
- Launch of TWS Talks, a weekly email that features two presentations from our most recent conference.

- Launch of the Wildlife Partners program (<http://wildlife.org/wildlifepartners/>), a free affiliation that provides professionals, students and supporters with a small slice of member benefits as part of the new member acquisition strategy. A total of 428 individuals have signed up over the past seven months, including 164 students, 154 professionals and 110 supporters.
- A significantly improved member experience at the Annual Conference.
- Elimination of benefits that weren't being used by members.
- Increased engagement with members through the Sections and Chapters through headquarters staff attendance at annual chapter and section meetings and more frequent e-communications.
- Increased support to the Sections and Chapters by hosting websites at wildlife.org.
- Increased social media presence through Facebook (34,400 followers), Twitter (32,400 followers), and LinkedIn (9,400 followers).

Government Affairs and Partnerships – Keith Norris has been selected as the new TWS Director of Government Affairs and Partnerships. He gave a report and updates on GAP activities, including staff changes, TWS conservation efforts, the Conservation Affairs Network, Certification, and the Student Leadership Institute. He noted the many TWS Policy Communications available on the website, including:

- An average of >13 wildlife policy issue articles per month at www.wildlife.org
- TWS fact sheets (www.wildlife.org/fact-sheets), including a new summer 2015 one on Feral Swine: Impacts of an Invasive Species
- Policy Briefs, including a new summer 2015 one on Canada's Species at Risk Act (www.wildlife.org/policy-briefs).
- Policy Priority Reference Lists, which are journal articles related to TWS' ten policy priorities that are drawn from TWS publications (Journal of Wildlife Management, Wildlife Monographs, Wildlife Society Bulletin, TWS' Technical Review

Series) (www.wildlife.org/policy-priority-reference-lists).

The Conservation Affairs Network – <http://wildlife.org/policy-2/conservation-affairs-network/> communicates, in part, through a bimonthly newsletter distributed to all Section and Chapter Conservation Affairs Committees. A policy toolkit is also available online (<http://wildlife.org/policy-2/policy-toolkit>) to assist Chapters and Sections engage in the policy arena.

The 10 new members of the Class of 2015 **TWS Leadership Institute** attended the conference and participated in numerous events and leadership training. This is great leadership training for early career professionals ~ consider applying for next year's class if you are at this stage in your career, or encouraging someone you know to apply.

Awards - In addition to our Washington Chapter and Northwest Section Awards, there are many TWS awards for which you can recognize your peers and others for contributions to wildlife conservation. It takes a bit of time, but it's a great thing to do! Check <http://wildlife.org/get-involved/awards/> in December for nominations for these awards for 2016:

- Aldo Leopold Memorial Award
- Caesar Kleberg Award For Excellence in Applied Wildlife Research
- Chapter and Student Chapter of the Year Awards
- Conservation Education Award
- Distinguished Service Awards
- Diversity Award
- Donald H. Rusch Memorial Game Bird Research Scholarship
- Excellence in Wildlife Education Award
- Group Achievement Award
- Honorary Membership
- Jay N. "Ding" Darling Award for Wildlife Stewardship through Art
- Jim McDonough Award
- Special Recognition Service Award
- Student Chapter Advisor of the Year
- TWS Fellows Award
- Wildlife Publication Awards

Best wishes for this fall and winter,
Harriet Allen
Northwest Section Representative to TWS Council

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, or William Ritchie (SW) at: william_ritchie@fws.gov.

The SE Region is currently vacant. If you are interested in representing that region please contact WATWS president Tony Fuchs.

OLYMPIC REGION – Betsy Howell, USFS

Pacific Marten Surveys on the Olympic Peninsula - by Betsy Howell, Olympic National Forest, Olympia

After almost seven years without any documentation of coastal Pacific martens (*Martes caurina*) on the Olympic Peninsula, the month of June presented evidence of two individuals, one in Olympic National Park (ONP) and one in Olympic National Forest (ONF). This was very good news as numerous camera survey efforts since 2008 to monitor the recently reintroduced fishers, as well as to try to determine the status of marten populations, have met with no success regarding the smaller of the two mustelids. The ONP marten was found in the upper headwaters of the Hoh River (photographed at a fisher camera station), while the ONF marten was captured on a

smart phone by a group of rock climbers who were taking a rest just below the summit of Mt. Cruiser (elevation of 6,000').



Marten on Mt. Cruiser. Photos by Shemuel Harding of the Mazama Mountaineers.



Marten (lower left) at camera station in the Hoh River; photo by Olympic National Park.

This all was very timely as ONF, in partnership with ONP, Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife, the PNW Research Lab in Olympia, and the U.S. Geological Survey, had just submitted a proposal to obtain funds from the Region 6 Sensitive Species Program to do more intensive marten surveys on the Peninsula. In July, this proposal was approved for

funding and, combined with other monies from the Lab, as well as in-kind contributions from all agencies, survey work will begin during winter 2015/2016. The plan is to first survey coastal habitats adjacent to the Pacific Ocean in Olympic National Park. Even though animals haven't been documented in Washington in recent years at such low elevations, Katie Moriarty's marten work in Oregon has documented animals living within one kilometer of the salt water in very similar habitats, indicating the coastal populations may have unique behaviors and habitat associations compared to those that occur in the Cascade Range. The second phase of the project will include surveying high elevation areas near treeline during summer 2016, in habitats similar to where the species was detected in June. The fact that the animals may be living in such distinct habitats could prove very interesting and understanding these differences will help guide management strategies to effectively conserve marten populations on the Peninsula.

Taylor's Checkerspot Butterfly Work, Cavity Nester Habitat Improvement, and Prairie Restoration on Olympic National Forest - by Karen Holtrop, Olympic National Forest, Quilcene

Olympic National Forest continues to work with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to restore habitat at Taylor's Checkerspot butterfly sites. In October and November 2015, WCC crews worked to remove encroaching vegetation to improve and expand habitat. The Forest recently received a recovery grant from the USFWS to help fund this

work. In the spring & summer the Forest conducted pre-treatment larval and adults surveys at the sites.

Additionally, the Forest recently awarded a contract to increase seed of Taylor's checkerspot host and nectar plants. The seed will be used for future habitat restoration. Seed was collected on the Forest this past summer. This was partially funded by R6 Challenge Cost Share monies.

In terms of habitat improvements for cavity nesters, the Forest awarded a wildlife tree contract to top and girdle trees to improve habitat for cavity nesters in the West Fork Humptulips watershed.

Finally, the Olympic National Forest, in partnership with the PNW Research Lab, the Center for Natural Lands Management, and Joint Base Lewis McChord, conducted a 22-acre prescribed burn on the Skokomish Prairie Restoration Project in late September 2015.



Jeff Neil, Engine Captain on ONF, at the burn. Photo: Kyle Noble, ONF.



Prairie Burn on Olympic National Forest, September 23, 2015. Photo: Kyle Noble, ONF.

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

Two prairie Habitat Conservations Plans go to public review

FWS biologists Lindsey Wright, Tim Romanski, Bridget Moran, Kevin Connally, Ken Berg and others have been working closely with private land owners in Thurston County to develop two habitat conservation plans (HCPs) for prairie-associated species listed under the Endangered Species Act. The HCPs are particularly interesting in that they address species located within a matrix of intensively developed parcels.

The Meier Group HCP covers a 6.5 acre property and addresses two threatened subspecies of the Mazama Pocket Gopher. The Kaufman Properties HCP covers thirteen properties comprising approximately 204 acres and addresses the same pocket gopher species as well as the endangered Taylor's checkerspot butterfly and the threatened streaked horned lark.

The HCPs – developed through a collaborative negotiation process involving many meetings and review drafts – generally allow development on less suitable habitat in return for long-term protection of higher quality patches of habitat.

The draft Kaufman HCPs was prepared by Krippner Consulting, LLC, of Seattle and the Meir Group HCP was prepared by Environ US Corporation. The public comment period for each draft plan is open until mid-December. <http://www.fws.gov/wafwo/>



Example of parcel plan from the Kaufman Properties HCP prepared by Krippner Consulting. The dark doughnut shape is a proposed habitat set-aside adjacent to a proposed stormwater treatment pond. Green areas are potentially suitable habitat to be developed.

Forensics report complete on wolf killed on I-90 last spring

Genetic tests have confirmed the animal found dead along I-90 near North Bend last April was indeed a western gray wolf and that the cause of death was vehicle collision. FWS's National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Lab in Ashland Oregon performed the analysis. The Lab also found the wolf had a "previous" gunshot wound in the back leg. According to the Snoqualmie Valley Record, the WDFW officially closed its legal investigation following issuance of the report. FWS News Release <http://1.usa.gov/1MKsDMI>

Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference



The Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference will take place in Vancouver BC on April 13-15, 2016. This is the region's largest gathering of researchers, consultants, government and tribal officials and conservationists interested in studying and restoring the transboundary Salish Sea Ecosystem. The conference is held every two years, alternating between Vancouver BC and Seattle.

The conference focuses on ecosystem- and marine-oriented topics, so terrestrial wildlife folks might feel a bit out of place. However, many planned sessions are definitely of interest to Puget Sound area wildlife biologists, including sessions on adaptive management, shoreline and estuary habitat restoration, biological monitoring and natural resource decision support tools.

Abstracts are being accepted until December 18, 2015. In addition to traditional format presentations, this year's conference includes "Salish Sea Snapshots," which are 5-minute oral presentations.

ONLINE: <http://www.wvu.edu/salishseaconference/>

Encyclopedia of Puget Sound Continues to Grow



Photo: James Bettaso, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

It's great to work in a region that has its own ecological encyclopedia! Thanks to UW and others, the Encyclopedia of Puget Sound provides an accessible, free and growing database of reliable scientific information about Puget Sound's wildlife and other resources.

The well-structured content includes species lists and profiles, feature articles, geospatial data, archival documents, blogs and portals to other resources. Most of this information can be easily accessed through a search engine or by browsing readily available category lists. Content is constantly being added, so this is a great place to start when looking for information about a particular wildlife species, habitat or issue in the Puget Sound region.

The site's organization includes editorial board members, topic editors, authors/contributors, editorial staff and registered commentators. TWS members should check this out and even consider contributing. The site looks like a great opportunity to capture and share that useful wildlife knowledge that I'm sure many TWS members have about wildlife species, habitats and management within the Puget Sound ecosystem. Website: <http://www.eopugetsound.org/>

To subscribe to email updates:

<http://www.eopugetsound.org/node/22009>

2015 State of the Sound Issued

Every year, the Puget Sound Partnership publishes the status of recovery according to "Vital Sign ecosystem indicators" related to native fish and wildlife populations, habitat protection and restoration, human wellbeing, and water quality and quantity. The "Species and Food Web" category includes birds, Pacific herring, orca and chinook. Population and abundance of terrestrial birds were recently added as an indicator, but indicator metrics and targets are still being developed (perhaps an opportunity for TWS involvement?).

While this year's report for marine birds identifies no major trends for pigeon guillemot and rhinoceros auklet over the past 14 years, marbled murrelets have been declining at 5.4% per year over the same period. Long-term trends of scoter populations will be released soon as part of a new data analysis and processing approach currently under development.

The complete report and related information is available at <http://www.psp.wa.gov/sos.php>



Photo: Puget Sound Partnership

UW offers Wildlife Illustration course

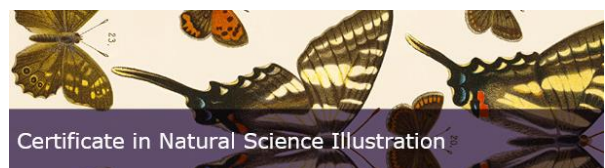


Photo: UW

If you've ever seriously considered learning how to illustrate your own reports, field notes, journals, letters or cards with beautiful drawings of wildlife, now is your chance. The UW is offering a science-based approach to drawing wildlife in natural settings.

The \$691 class will be held on the UW campus 6:30-9:30 p.m. on Mondays, January 4 through March 7, with two Saturday field trips.

<http://www.pce.uw.edu/courses/wildlife-illustration/uw-seattle-winter-2016/>

Drones Study – and Publicize – Southern Resident Killer Whales

With drones being increasingly used in wildlife and habitat studies, it was only a matter of time before we were presented with high-resolution aerial pictures of the wildlife rock stars of Puget Sound, the endangered Southern Resident killer whales. And because drones could easily disturb or injure the whales, it's good to know that the first drone footage has been captured as part of a carefully planned NOAA research project.

In addition to providing important management information, the drone photos provided a virtual show for people around the region and even nationally. Within hours of a NOAA press release in October reporting their results, pictures and videos of iconic killer whales were being reported by most regional news sources, including several front page stories.

Southern-resident populations dropped last December to 78 whales, a 30-year low; however, a recent baby boom has resulted in the population growing to 82. And based on the drone photographs, several other females appeared to be pregnant and all individuals appeared healthy.



Photo: NOAA Fisheries

Mount Baker Snoqualmie Forest Report

Forest Service wildlife biologist and TWS member Sonny Paz reports that he's been working with others to establish a prescribed burning program to maintain a permanent elk forage opening created five years ago. While elk forage habitat was plentiful during the high-volume logging years of the 80's and 90's, the young forests needed for forage are actually becoming so rare in the Puget Sound region as to be a limiting factor in elk populations. Sonny says that additional openings for deer and elk are being planned along the I-90 corridor.

WDFW Region IV Wildlife Blotter!

Here is a quick sampling of Region IV WDFW activity reports:

RESEARCH

- Confirmed Shaw Island Townsend's vole (*Microtus townsendii pugeti*) on Skagit County's Guemes Island
- Tested new methods to reduce lead shot availability to swans in Skagit County
- Continued surveying lowland pika habitat
- Met with hunters to collect DNA from bobcat, cougar and bear pelts
- Took samples from hunter-killed ducks to test for avian flu virus
- Conducted molting surveys of marine waterfowl

ONLINE: FWS <http://1.usa.gov/1NUhUiI>

MANAGEMENT

- Continued responding to elk damage complaints in Skagit and Snoqualmie valleys
- Winterized artificial loon nesting platforms at several area lakes
- Worked with Washington Waterfowl Association to repair a hunting blind
- Continued consultations for nest take authorizations and habitat plans for bald eagles, great blue herons and osprey
- Worked with USFWS on potential federal violations
- Cleaned up homeless encampments within wildlife habitat areas along the Snohomish River
- Set up a “job shadow” program with Seattle Pacific University to introduce students to the wildlife profession

WDFW Weekly Activity Reports webpage:

http://wdfw.wa.gov/about/wildlife_weekly/



WDFW worked with Canopy Conservation (known from the Animal Planet series Canopy Cat Rescue) to install two osprey nesting platforms and a perch tree at the Lake Terrell Unit to develop. Photo: WDFW

UW researchers study cougars in Puget Sound urban-to-wildland gradient

Research is underway to learn how landscape characteristics shape cougar foraging ecology along the urban-to-wildland gradient in the Puget Sound region. The research builds on a series of six previous studies conducted collaboratively by WDFW, UW and WSU with the intent to minimize human-wildlife conflict and better our understanding of cougar ecology.

The current study focuses on the role of small-scale landscape features in predicting cougar use in residential areas, particularly patch size and understory cover. Researchers are testing whether cougars select residential habitats with high levels of concealment (“selective stalk-and-ambush” hypothesis) and edge habitats.

Researchers plan to visit 500 kill sites and 2000 random sites (non-confirmed kill sites) to contrast understory characteristics throughout each cougar’s home range. Researchers hope to use data from the study to generate a model to predict where cougars may be hunting in residential areas.

The research is led by Aaron Wirsing, UW Associate Professor Wildlife science, who specializes in behavioral ecology and predator-prey interaction.

UW wildlife research website:

<http://bit.ly/1WCBAHe>

Seattle City Light enters 20th year of awarding wildlife research grants

Seattle City Light’s (SCL) Wildlife Research Program (WRP) is currently accepting applications for research grants associated with the Skagit River Hydroelectric Project. The WRP focuses on increasing understanding, management, and protection of wildlife resources in the North Cascades ecosystem, with an emphasis on the Skagit River Watershed. The program also encourages projects that provide hands-on training for students.

Since 1995, SCL has funded a wide range of research including studies of riparian communities, aquatic invertebrates, amphibians, shorebirds, land birds,

mountain goats, pika, lynx, wolverines, and grizzly bear. **Pre-proposals are due: January 8, 2016.**

ONLINE: <http://bit.ly/1Wx2O7m>



Photo: Seattle City Light

NORTHEAST REGION – Annemarie Prince, WDFW

Northeast WA Grizzly Bears - by Annemarie Prince, WDFW

Throughout the summer, Washington Fish and Wildlife, Kalispell Tribe of Indians, and Colville National Forest staff surveyed for grizzly bears in the WA portion of the Selkirk Recovery Area. Surveys were performed passively and using a hair-snagging

corral. A hair-snagging corral consists of barbed-wire stretched between three to five trees with a lure poured the center of the corral. The lure is a mixture of fish and cow's blood. A camera is also placed at the site for initial bear identification. Over the course of the summer, staff "captured" a sow with two cubs and a male collared grizzly bear at two different corrals. Hair was recovered from one of the corrals and will be transferred to the USFWS for DNA analysis. In addition to running the hair-corrals, USFWS ran traps for grizzly bears in Washington and Idaho; no grizzly bears were captured in WA



Grizzly bear sow with 2 cubs at hair corral. Photo: WDFW



Hair-corral setup. Photo: K. Soenke



Collared grizzly bear at hair corral. Photo: WDFW

Animal Resistant Containers – by Mike Borysewicz, Colville National Forest

All developed campgrounds on the Colville National Forest have animal resistant trash cans. We continue to install food storage lockers at heavily-used recreation sites across the Forest, particularly within or adjacent to the Selkirk Mountains Grizzly Bear Recovery Area. These lockers are intended to provide campers with a secure place to store food, beverages, and other wildlife attractants when their camp is unoccupied, or when they are sleeping at night. The devices have been well-received and used by the public.

In 2015, we purchased 32 food storage lockers with funding provided by:

- USDA Forest Service Region 6 (Regional cost-share funds),
- Kalispel Tribe of Indians,
- Pend Oreille County Public Utility District,
- Selkirk Conservation Alliance,
- Conservation Northwest,
- Defenders of Wildlife,
- Seattle City Light,

Scenic Canyons Recreational Services Inc. (CNF campground concessionaire) purchased three additional lockers.

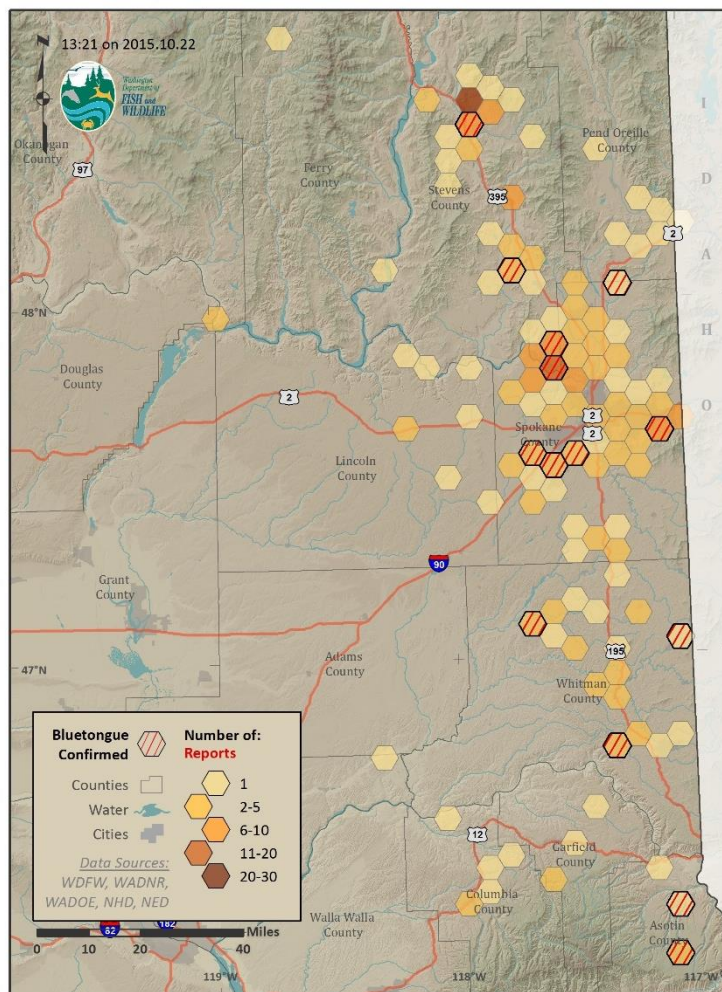
These metal, 30 cubic foot lockers are compliant with the American with Disabilities Act. This fall we are planning to install three lockers on poured cement pads in West Sullivan Campground and two in Sullivan Lake Group Campground located on the western edge of the recovery area. We will install the remaining lockers in the summer of 2016.

Bluetongue in WA Deer – by Dr. Kristin Mansfield & Annemarie Prince, WDFW Veterinarian & WDFW Wildlife Biologist

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife has confirmed an outbreak of bluetongue disease in white-tailed deer in the state's drought-stricken eastern region. Bluetongue is a common virus transmitted by biting gnats at water sources where deer congregate during dry conditions. Every year in late summer and early fall, some white-tailed deer are lost to

bluetongue and a similar virus known as EHD (epizootic hemorrhagic disease). It is hard to know precisely how many deer have been affected, but reports are more widespread and numerous than in the past, probably because of the severe drought across the region.

FIG. 1: SICK AND DEAD DEER REPORTS IN EASTERN WASHINGTON
AUG. 24 - OCT. 20 | TOTAL NUMBER OF REPORTS = 295



DISCLAIMER: Due to the dynamic nature of data and the need to rely on outside sources of information, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife cannot accept responsibility for errors or omissions in the data and information contained in and products produced from this application. There are no warranties which accompany the maps and information contained in or produced by this application.

Over the summer, WDFW received reports of suspected deaths from bluetongue in several portions of the Department's eastern region, which includes Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Garfield, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, Walla Walla and Whitman counties. Although the overwhelming majority of affected animals has been white-tails, WDFW has also documented one case each in mule deer from Spokane, Asotin, and Garfield counties; and in a

highorn ewe and ram from Lincoln and Kittitas counties, respectively.

Bluetongue often kills deer so quickly – within a day or two – that their bodies remain in good condition, while others may not die immediately but stop eating and become emaciated. The incubation period for these diseases is five to 10 days, so afflicted deer may be observed for a couple of weeks after the first hard frost of fall, which kills the disease-carrying gnats.

Symptoms in the early stages include lethargy, disorientation, lameness, or unresponsiveness to the presence of humans. Later signs may include excessive salivation or foaming at the mouth and a swollen tongue.

Domestic livestock, especially sheep, may become infected with the bluetongue virus after being bitten by gnats vectoring the disease. Bluetongue does not affect humans.

The benefits of prescribed fire – photo documentation, by Dale Swedberg – WDFW

The following photo-expose provides a side-by-side comparison of results from prescribed fire implemented in 2014 as compared to wildfires that burned this past summer.



Left side
Okanogan
Wildfire
Sept 2015



Right side
Rx Burned
Spring 2014

Left side
Rx Burned
Spring 2014



Right side
Okanogan
Wildfire
Sept 2015

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Keep up to date on what is happening with the Washington Chapter at our new website (<http://wildlife.org/washington-chapter/>) and don't forget to like us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/WA.TWS?fref=ts>).

Save the Date!

Raleigh, NC October 15-19, 2016

North Carolina will be hosting The Wildlife Society's 23rd Annual Conference at the [Raleigh Convention Center](#) next fall. We hope you will join us there for more than 500 educational sessions, 3 plenary sessions, over 40 networking opportunities, and much more!

Full registration and conference program details will be available May 15, 2016. For more information see the [Wildlife Society website](#).

Future TWS Conference Dates and Locations

- 2017: Albuquerque, NM, September 23-27

Opportunities for Students

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

- ❖ Get involved with Student Chapters at Washington State University, www.wildlifeclub.wsu.edu/, or the University of Washington, <http://students.washington.edu/uwtws/>
- ❖ Apply for a [grant](#) or [scholarship](#) to support your research.
- ❖ Attend the 2016 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-chapter/>. 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!

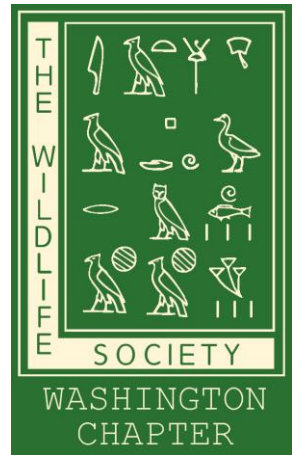


Photo: Danielle Munzing

The Wildlife Society

Washington Chapter

Annual Membership Form



New

Renewing

Address Change

Name _____

Affiliation _____

Mailing Address _____

City, State _____

Zip/Postal Code _____

E-mail Address _____

Work Phone _____ Other Phone _____

I am paying my annual dues as a

Regular Member (\$10.00)

Student Member (\$5.00)

(choose one)

Please make checks payable to Washington Chapter of The Wildlife Society.

Mail to: Kathy Brodhead
Three Rivers Ranger Station
255 W. 11th Ave.
Kettle Falls, WA 99114

Note: You can also pay chapter dues through the website of our parent organization. Just visit <http://www.wildlife.org/membership>, follow the directions you find there for joining TWS or renewing your membership, and select the option for paying local chapter dues.

The Wildlife Society
Washington Chapter

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