

The Washington Wildlifer

Newsletter of the Washington Chapter of The Wildlife Society

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Tony Fuchs

Please join me in welcoming the new president of the Washington Chapter of the Wildlife Society – Tony Fuchs!

Greetings Wildlifers,

I'll have to say I had a really good time at our Washington Chapter's joint annual meeting together with the Society of American Foresters and the Northwest Chapter TWS. As an "applied science" guy I really enjoy learning about all of the research going on in our field. Since I work for a utility (PSE) I tend to do lots of permitting, design and implementation of "projects" (and writing lots of reports) but rarely any original research. So, when I attend a TWS meeting I'm usually pretty amazed at all of the presentations, and the wide variety of research on so many species and habitats. This year was no different. Keep it up, researchers!

I also found much of what was presented at the meeting to be relevant to my current work. Many utilities are managing forest habitat as some part of a hydropower license or other mitigation program, just as PSE is for our Baker River hydropower FERC license. When I learned that our Chapter was meeting jointly with the Society of American Foresters in 2015 I thought, "wow, great timing", since part of my duties at PSE as a biologist is to acquire and manage habitat for elk forage, wetlands, forest birds and riparian habitats. The ability to spend several days with a group of foresters and biologists together is a great opportunity that is really one of the great things about being a member of a professional organization like The Wildlife Society. And, maybe some of that knowledge will rub off onto me!

Did you go to talks about early seral habitats? Elk forage some called it. Lots of presentations on forest planning, thinning,

edge effect, wildlife corridors, fencing, adaptive management, T&E habitat management, and the latest technology to help with the design of these programs. The best part was talking with all of the people doing great work in these areas. Amazing how many foresters seem to really be biologists, or in my case maybe I'm a biologist that is really a forester? I find myself cutting down trees and planning for cutting down trees, all intended for habitat improvements for elk and other wildlife. Maybe foresters and biologists are pretty much the same. At the end of the day we all want about the same things: to do good meaningful work that makes things better, and come home to friends and family that think you do good things.

As President –elect for a year and now President of our Chapter I've had the great opportunity of meeting and working with many of you, and I know that I have lots more folks to meet. That's really what our organization is all about, creating personal contacts and sharing all the great information and experiences you have with each other. A great way to do that is to just get involved, whether by joining a committee, volunteering to help plan a meeting, giving a presentation or participating in a workshop. Also, make sure you are a member of the NW Section and of the National TWS, so that you can be part of all that the TWS has to offer (including what you can offer to the TWS!).

Keep up the great work, and have a great summer!



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Annual Meeting Recap

2015 Joint Meeting Synopsis

by *Tony Fuchs & Bill Vogel*

I hope you had the chance to attend the 2015 Joint Annual Meeting held between the Washington Chapter and the NW section TWS, and the Washington State Society of American Foresters, Southwest Washington Chapter. The meeting was held at the Great Wolf Lodge in Grand Mound, which has very nice meeting facilities, great staff, and a really fun setting. With the theme of “Forestry and Wildlife Management – Working Together Toward Common Goals,” the best aspect of the meeting for me was the opportunity to meet with the members of both TWS and SAF who have such dedication for the forest and wildlife habitat.

The joint meeting was well attended, with 247 folks registered for the three-day meeting, including 41 students.

Participants were split almost 50/50 between the TWS and SAF. An amazing \$23,000+ in financial support was donated by a wide array of sponsors that assisted greatly to the success of the meeting.

The week started off with a pre-meeting workshop: Forestry & Silviculture for Biologists in the Northwest. The workshop, led by Bill Vogel, Marty Acker and Sean Sweeney (USFWS), Chris Dowling (USFS), and Blake Murden (PBTF), was designed to provide biologists with a basic understanding of forestry terms and concepts, stand characteristics and prescriptions, and forestry tools. The 38 participants found the information to be very useful and can now

probably talk with a forester and understand the discussion! Proceeds from the workshop were donated to the Steve Stinson memorial scholarship fund.

Tuesday morning was the official start of the meeting, as the Northwest Section of TWS sponsored an opening reception and business meeting while the WA SAF held their Executive Committee meeting. The afternoon program included sessions dedicated to Complicating Factors for Forest T&E Species, Forest Management Implications of Carnivore Conservation, and a session on the latest Field Technology. The evening session started with a well-attended Student Mentoring session, followed by the Welcome Reception and Mixer that included vendor displays and a poster session. Our Luncheon Speaker became

our Reception Speaker, as Dr. Kristen Manfield’s flight arrangement had a hiccup. Her presentation “Treponeme-associated Bacterial Hoof Disease in Elk from Southwest Washington” was very informative and timely, since many foresters and biologists in the room are encountering elk



that have this affliction.

The Thursday morning Plenary Session began with a blessing from Harry Pickernell, Chehalis Tribal biologist. Then, the plenary speakers addressed our meeting theme from their experience and knowledge in managing wildlife and forestry issues and where they intersect. Bridget Moran, Division Manager for the USFWS, began with a presentation on the Consultation and Conservation Planning program, forest issues in WA and implementation of the

Endangered Species Act. She was followed by Kyle Blum, Deputy Director of State Uplands for the WA DNR, who gave an update on “18 years of HCP: DNR’s approach to sustainable forest management.” Jeff Davis, head of WDFW’s Habitat Program, gave us some really interesting perspectives on how “It takes a village: partnership, innovation and trust gets things done,” followed by Rachael Jamison, Manager of Sustainable Forestry, the Weyerhaeuser Company, and her presentation on “Habitat Conservation: Opportunities through SFI Forest Certification.” Our last speaker, James Schroeder, the Director of Conservation for The Nature Conservancy, spoke about TNC’s partnerships with other groups to help protect and restore forests and habitats in Washington State.

Our luncheon speaker was Bill Richardson, the Oregon and Washington Lands Program Manager for the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. His talk, “Disturbance-Regrowth Together” was a rousing presentation of what is going well and some ongoing challenges, specifically for management of early seral habitats which was complementary to the plenary session and got lots of folks talking. Afternoon programs on Thursday included concurrent sessions on Forest Research in Washington, and the Importance of Early Seral Habitat in Managed Forests. There was also a really interesting workshop lead by Teodora Minkova on “Adaptive Management of Forest Landscapes: Does it Work?”

The evening Awards Banquet and Auction highlighted fabulous food, socializing, awarding special achievements, and some laughs. We were even joined by the newly appointed WDFW Director Dr. Jim Unsworth and his wife Michelle.

Entertainment was provided by Ken Bevis, who asked us all “What’s a Biologist or Forester good for?” He was actually funny, really. Also, who knew he could sing? We did know that he is a capable auctioneer, and he finished the night by calling our live auction.

Friday morning began with the WA SAF breakfast/membership meeting and TWS

breakfast/business meeting. Options for the remainder of the meeting were concurrent sessions on Ungulates, Wildlife Habitat Relationships, and Predator and Prey, or hopping on one of the tour vans and attending the SAF field trip to view Small Landowner forest lands and discuss some problems and advantages of that program.

The day before the annual meeting, we held an all-day workshop entitled “Forestry and Silviculture for Wildlife Biologists in the Pacific Northwest”. The workshop was well attended with almost 40 people in the audience. The feedback we received was very positive and most respondents agreed that they wanted to spend more time in the woods and less in the classroom.



Much of the success of this workshop was due to the teaching team which included: Marty Acker (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Forest Ecologist); Chris Dowling (Olympic National Forest - Silviculturist); Blake Murden (Port Blakely Tree Farms – Wildlife Biologist); and Sean Sweeney (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Forestry and Fisheries). We were also pleased that some experienced foresters attended our workshop and provided us with input and feedback as well. They also indicated that they too enjoyed the workshop. The workshop covered basic terms, definitions, and principles of tree growth, competition, stand development, forest measurement, and management options and constraints that should assist biologists when working with forestry and silviculture issues.

(Workshop and Conference Photos courtesy of Lisa Egtvedt)



A Note of Gratitude...

Special thanks goes out to all the folks who worked for many months to put on this very successful annual meeting. Peter Heide with the SAF and Tony Fuchs were Co-chairs for the meeting steering committee and really “steered the ship” during our organizational efforts. Kurt Jenkins and Connie Harrington provided great support from the NW Chapter. Craig Hansen and John Ehrenreich prepared the budget and took care of our meeting finances. Registration was managed expertly by Jim Hotvedt and Mike Hall. Bill Vogel, along with steering committee members Maria Erdmann, Blake Murden, Jeff Kozma, and Bruce Thompson, put together a fabulous program. Wendy Arjo ran a great Student Mentoring session, and Tiffany Reed and others organized the Auction. The pre-meeting workshop headed by Bill Vogel was top notch. And once again, thanks to Mike Passmore for design and production of our program brochure. Many others helped with the meeting, and we want to thank all of you.

Thank you Sponsors!! We couldn't do it without you!!

The 2015 Joint Meeting of Washington Chapter of TWS and the Washington State Society of American Foresters was a resounding success, due in part to financial support from 31 sponsoring agencies, businesses, and individuals. Contributions in cash and items for auction/raffle from those sponsors provided more than \$23,000 that defrayed costs of conducting the meeting and providing an array of student opportunities. Our partnership with WSSAF and active contact efforts by many members made this astounding diversity of support possible. When you have a chance, please further recognize the sponsors below with a kind word, professional and business engagement, or other expressions of support.

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AWARDS

By Bill Vogel

During the 2015 Banquet, we recognized a number of people and organizations for work that has gone above and beyond. To fully describe the extent of their performance and devotion would take up too much space in this newsletter but we wanted to be sure to recognize the following in each of our eight award categories:

Leadership in Conservation Award - Bruce Livingston. For career-long leadership in conservation and scientific integrity in land management in Washington State.



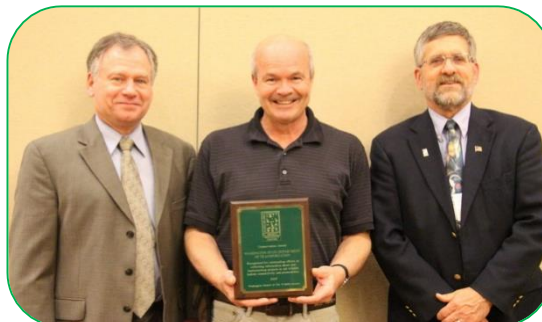
Special Achievement Award - Dan Varland, Coastal Raptors. For career devotion to collaborative conservation of raptors through research, monitoring, and public involvement.



Foresight Award - Jeff Lewis, WDFW. For outstanding efforts in Pacific fisher conservation in western Washington.



Conservation Award - Washington State Department of Transportation. For outstanding efforts in collecting information about and implementing projects to aid wildlife habitat connectivity and permeability.



Stewardship Award - Yacolt Burn Sportsmen's Club. For outstanding stewardship, collaboration with landowners and sportsmen, and continuing leadership in education about the outdoors and our hunting heritage.



Partnership Award - Ken Bevis, WADNR. For partnerships, innovation, enthusiasm, and collaborative conservation of valuable fish and wildlife habitat.



Outreach Award - Port Blakely Tree Farms, LP.
For educating school children and others about the importance of natural habitats to wildlife.



Chapter Award - Michael Passmore. For outstanding contributions to the planning and implementation of the 2014 annual meeting.



Nominating someone for an award is easy. Send a general description of why you think they should be nominated to Bill_Vogel@fws.gov and Bill will assist you with completing a nomination form and selecting the most-appropriate category.

(Photos courtesy of Lisa Egtvedt)

2016 ANNUAL MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

By Danielle Munzing

Planning for the next Washington Chapter of the TWS annual meeting is already underway. The 2016 meeting will be held jointly with the Idaho Chapter of The Wildlife Society and The Society for Northwestern Vertebrate Biology. The Northwest Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation will also be there as a cooperating partner. The meeting will be held at the Coeur d'Alene Resort on the shore of Lake Coeur d'Alene **February 22-26, 2016**. A call for abstracts and program content will be coming soon and distributed via email and posted on our respective websites. Please consider participating in

this incredible opportunity to meet folks and learn from your colleagues working across the Pacific Northwest in a variety of diverse ecosystems. Whether you are interested in presenting research, helping put together the program, or soliciting sponsorships, we welcome your contribution. Speaking of sponsorships, the Washington Chapter is looking for a member to take the lead on securing sponsorships for the 2016 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. Please help your Chapter have a successful 2016 Annual Meeting by taking the lead with the Sponsorship Committee to identify and secure sponsors. Please contact me via phone, (509) 925-0953, or email Danielle.munzing@dnr.wa.gov if you would like to volunteer. Looking forward to seeing you in 2016!

RECENT CHAPTER BUSINESS

Chapter Election Outcomes – Leadership Transition

Election Outcomes for the Chapter Executive Board during 2015-2016 were announced by Secretary Mike Hall at the Annual Chapter Business Meeting on 17 April 2015 during the Joint Meeting. New arrivals on the Board include:

Danielle Munzing – President-Elect

Kathy Brodhead – Treasurer

Sara Hansen – Board Member

Ron Tressler – Board Member

With these elections, those transitioning off the Board included Bill Vogel (Past President), Craig Hansen (Treasurer), and Wendy Arjo and Tyler Hicks (Board Members). Other transitions include Tony Fuchs moving to President and Bruce Thompson moving to Past President. See the complete Board Listing at the end of this Newsletter.

We sincerely thank all of those who left the Board after many years of service to the Chapter. Bill Vogel has stepped up many times over many years to provide Executive Board service, as has Wendy Arjo in several Board positions. Craig Hansen served three 2-year terms as Treasurer and provided tremendous

financial accounting services during Joint Meetings in 2014 and 2015.

We also thank Ken Bevis, Kelly Cordell, George Hart, and Daniel Ravenel who stood in nomination for various Board positions. We hope they will be nominees again in the near future. Others of you are encouraged to consider being nominated for Board positions as the new slate will be composed in fall 2015 for the 2016-2017 business year.

Special thanks go to Betsy Howell who chaired the Nominating and Elections Committee. Her work with Committee Members Penny Becker and Mike Passmore produced a phenomenal slate of nominees for Chapter Member consideration during the vote.

2015 Scholarship & Research Grant Recipients

Richard Fitzner Scholarship

We are pleased to recognize **Alexandria Albert** as the recipient of the Richard Fitzner Scholarship for the **2015-2016** academic year. Alexandria is an undergraduate at Washington State University.



Alexandria receiving her award from Bruce Thompson.
Photo: Lisa Egtvedt

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 2015-2016 academic year, the Board of Trustees of the scholarship reviewed a number of applications. John Grettenberger, who chairs the Scholarship Committee, coordinated the review.

The application form for the 2016-2017 academic year may be found at our website, which also provides guidance to applicants.

Research Grant Winner

The 2015 research grant recipient is **Amy Ulappa**. Amy is a graduate student also at Washington State University. (Good year for the Cougs!) She was awarded \$2,240 for her work on the diet of black-tailed deer.

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 John Lehmkuhl (509-669-7373; jlehmkuhl@nwi.net) or, Bill Gaines (509-860-4974; bgaines@genext.net).

Report from the Northwest Section Representative to TWS Council

by *Harriet Allen*

Here's a brief summary of the activities going on at National this spring with government affairs conservation issues, getting ready for the Winnipeg Annual Conference in October 2015, the new Partner Program, and publications. And, as you know, our own Bruce Thompson has been elected Vice President of TWS. The TWS Council met in March in Omaha, NB in conjunction with the North American Natural Resources Conference. 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/>.

The Wildlife Partner

Initiative - This is a new initiative by TWS to introduce people to TWS and to eventually increase membership. If you aren't a member of the parent organization of The Wildlife Society, but are a wildlife professional, student or supporter, you can become a TWS Wildlife Partner at no cost. Partners receive a small slice of the benefits currently provided to members of the parent organization, including:

- *Two Wildlife Partners e-newsletters per month*
- *Action Alerts from the TWS Government Affairs team*

- *Links to two recorded presentations per month from our most recent Annual Conference*

Signing up is easy at

<http://wildlife.org/wildlifepartners/> and only requires your name and email address and an indication of whether you are a wildlife professional, wildlife program student, or a wildlife supporter.

TWS is offering this affiliation because we know that there are hundreds of thousands of people who are passionate about wildlife science, management and conservation who can benefit from the information sharing and engagement that this program will provide. And together, our collective voice and actions will have an even greater impact. The more that people know about the important work of The Wildlife Society and the professionals, students and supporters who are active members of the parent organization, the more they'll want to become involved with TWS in a variety of efforts that are relevant and valuable and important to the future of wildlife conservation.



Spring storm in Washington. Photo: Danielle Munzing

If you're already a member of the parent organization of The Wildlife Society, please let people in your personal and professional network know about how to become affiliated with TWS through this free offer. The current number of participants is 177 individuals, including 75 professionals, 67 students and 35 supporters.

2015 Annual Conference - For the first time in 10 years, the TWS Annual Conference will be in Canada, Oct 17-21 in Winnipeg, Manitoba. TWS has received more than 400 abstracts for contributed papers and posters, exceeding the number of submissions received for Pittsburgh by 19%. They are planning to expand concurrent sessions from eight to at least nine this year, and if enough of the submissions are approved for oral presentations, it will expand to 10 concurrent sessions. The program of educational presentations, major networking events to expand your professional contacts, unique field trips and more will make it a great conference. Registration is now open at:

<http://www.twsconference.org/registration-information/>

Government Affairs – TWS staff researched, wrote, and produced 12 news articles on the website related to wildlife policy and staff activities:

- Chapter Develops Bioenergy Position Statement
- Policy Intern Opportunities with TWS
- NC Section Responds to Wisconsin Proposals
- Northern Long-Eared Bat Listed As Threatened Species
- TWS Signs On for Bristol Bay Management
- Clean Waters Ruling One Step Closer to Finalization
- Chapter Takes Position on Land for Maine's Future Program
- TWS Attends Horse and Burro Advisory Board Meeting
- TWS Weighs in on Invasives Case
- Letter to Congress Tackles Conference Participation
- Farm Bill Field Guide for Fish and Wildlife Conservation
- Voluntary Conservation Efforts Lead to Species Successes

TWS, along with 125 other organizations, signed onto a letter to science and appropriations committees in both the House and the Senate expressing concern for how current federal conference and travel policies weaken scientific and innovative processes.

Conservation Affairs Network. TWS Government Affairs Assistant Director Keith Norris gave presentations and updates on the Conservation Affairs Network to the Northwest Section and the Washington Chapter during the April joint meeting. He focused on the Conservation Affairs Network, the

role of TWS in policy issues, and the Wildlife Partner Initiative.

Government Affairs staff collected background information and staff contacts for new Members of Congress, and prepared and delivered information packages about TWS and the conservation of wildlife for new Senators.

The 10 new members of the Class of 2015 TWS Leadership Institute have been selected.

Publications – The summer issue of *The Wildlife Professional* is currently online at the TWS website and will be delivered to members the first week of June. It features greater sage-grouse conservation, and includes articles on feral swine eradication, the new TWS issue statement on disease transmission between bighorn and domestic sheep and a special section with three articles on fostering career paths in the wildlife profession for women. Ducks Unlimited CEO Dale Hall's editorial on "The Changing Role of the Wildlife Biologist" is featured as the Leadership Letter.

TWS staff are now working on articles for the fall issue, which will highlight Canadian wildlife, including a historical look at wildlife management in Manitoba and all of Canada, polar bear conservation efforts, and articles on moose and caribou management. Preparations are also underway now to transition *The Wildlife Professional* to six yearly issues instead of four.

TWS has also created a new site, the TWS store (<http://wildlife.org/books/>) to give members easy access to 30% savings on TWS books published by Johns Hopkins University Press. Two new TWS books are now available: *Wildlife Habitat Conservation* and *Roads and Ecological Infrastructure*.

Northwest Section Representatives on National TWS Boards – Barb Hill, Northwest Section Past President, has generously stepped up to serve on two boards: TWS Editorial Advisory Board, which serves a two year term and helps TWS identify relevant trends to cover in *The Wildlife Professional*; recommends journal papers to summarize in *Science in Short*; recommends authors and reviewers; and provides feedback on proposed articles and authors. She also has been nominated and selected to serve as the Northwest Section Representative on the TWS Certification Review Board. Thanks Barb!

Hope you all are looking forward to a great summer!

DID YOU KNOW???

Highs and Lows of Bird Flu – by Ella Rowan,
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Avian influenza, aka “Bird Flu”, is caused by viruses that occur in many bird species; although, we usually focus on the viruses found in waterfowl because waterfowl can act as reservoirs and carry the viruses long distances during migration. There are many different “subtypes” of avian influenza viruses, with each having different forms of proteins on their surface. Most of these have been found in waterfowl and rarely cause morbidity or mortality. The terms high- and low-pathogenicity refer to the affect the viruses have on domestic poultry, not humans or wild birds. High pathogenicity indicates the virus causes symptoms and is often lethal for poultry.

In December 2014, a poultry producer in British Columbia Canada discovered their birds were falling ill due to a Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Virus (HPAIV) subtype H5N2. Since January 2015, 16 states in the United States have reported HPAIV (primarily H5N2, few H5N8) in their commercial poultry farms leading to the depopulation of over 40 million birds. It is not clear how these commercial farm birds are acquiring the viruses, considering they typically have no contact with wild birds and the producers utilize biosecurity measures. Five small “backyard” poultry producers in Washington have found HPAIV on their farms, requiring depopulations and quarantines. Within Washington, a few raptors have been symptomatic with HPAIV, including two red-tailed hawks (H5N2), one cooper's hawk (H5N2),

one peregrine falcon (H5N8), and four captive gyrfalcons (H5N8). Other states found additional raptors with HPAIV, including a bald eagle (H5N8), a snowy owl (H5N2), a Cooper's hawk (H5N2), and a captive great-horned owl (H5N2). All but the captive birds appeared to have died from other causes based upon outward appearances (e.g., trauma), and only full necropsies and diagnostic tests revealed their infection with HPAI. Asymptomatic waterfowl have been found to harbor HPAIV in the United States since December 2014, including: H5N2 (northern pintail, mallard, Canada goose, lesser snow goose, wood duck, northern shoveler, green-winged teal, ring-necked duck), H5N8 (American wigeon, mallard, gadwall, northern pintail, green-winged teal, Canada goose), and H5N1 (green-winged teal, American wigeon). Final results are still pending for two Canada geese and a lesser snow goose which may have been symptomatic prior to death. At this time, HPAIV have been found within waterfowl populations across the Pacific, Central, and Mississippi Flyways; although, prevalence rates are unknown.

The public often inquires about human and pet safety related to avian influenza viruses, however insufficient research has been performed to give definitive answers for every subtype. Humans, horses, pigs, and dogs have their own influenza viruses which are naturally occurring in their species and can spill over into other species. The HPAI H5N1 subtype found in North America is different from the HPAI H5N1 subtype previously found in Asia which caused human fatalities. Properly cooking poultry and eggs will kill the virus. As the old adage states, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. We can't stop the migrating birds from introducing avian influenza viruses, although we can institute stricter biosecurity measures within our commercial operations.



Photo: Danielle Munzing

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*

Wildlife research on the Quinault Indian Reservation: cougars, elk, and black bears - by Kristen Phillips, Quinault Indian Nation, Taholah

Despite the lack of snow, biologists with the Quinault Division of Natural Resources (QDNR) captured and collared two more toms this winter for their investigation of prey selection and predation rates of cougars on the Quinault Indian Reservation (QIR). This spring they also fitted 10 more cow elk with GPS collars (total collared elk = 19 cows) for their study examining elk survival and habitat use in relation to timber management activities on the QIR.

Estimating black bear numbers and assessing the impact of management activities on bear populations is a top priority for the Quinault Indian Nation. This summer, QDNR biologists will conduct an 8-week non-invasive capture-recapture study in an effort to estimate bear density on the reservation. The following spring, bears will be captured and fitted

with GPS collars in order to examine potential effects of management policies on bear resource use, productivity, and home range size.



Dr. Kadie Anderson (right) and Quinault intern Tanya Eison processing and collaring a cow elk. Photo: Quinault Indian Nation



Chris Madsen (Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission) fitting a cow elk with a GPS collar. Photo: Quinault Indian Nation



Daniel Ravenel and Kristen Phillips (QDNR biologists) marking and collaring a male cougar. Photo: Quinault Indian Nation



Taylor's checkerspot chrysalid. Photo by Sarah Kelting.



Karen Holtrop at TWS annual meeting with poster of checkerspot work. Photo by Betsy Howell

Taylor's checkerspot butterfly work on Olympic National Forest - by Karen Holtrop, Olympic National Forest, Quilcene

Surveys for Taylor's checkerspot butterflies on Olympic National Forest began in April and the first adults were recorded on April 22. Even prior to this, volunteer Sarah Kelting, who is back for a second year of butterfly work, observed a chrysalid pupa on March 31 and was able to get a picture of this rarely seen stage in the life of the butterflies. At one site, the animals had completed flying before June 1st! They are 2 – 4 weeks early this year. In general, numbers have been positive for the species, including at one site where ONF did habitat enhancement and where the numbers had been lower last year. This spring,

however, the butterflies had increased. This survey and habitat work was showcased in a poster at the annual meeting this year at Great Wolf Lodge.

Roosevelt elk habitat enhancement work on Olympic National Forest - by Betsy Howell, Olympic National Forest, Olympia

This year, Olympic National Forest continues its partnership with Eyes in the Woods, a non-profit organization dedicated to assisting various agencies in improving and protecting wildlife habitat. Several volunteers were certified in January to run chainsaws on the national forest and in May, we completed our

first weekend work party. This work consists of piling slash in recently pre-commercially thinned units and creating habitat structures, as well as travel corridors. The work is hard, but the rewards quickly apparent as the ground is opened up again for forage production and movement by animals. The project will continue during the summer with Eyes in the Woods and also with the Washington Conservation Corps.



Volunteers working in the pre-commercially thinned stand, May 30, 2015. Photo: Betsy Howell



Eyes in the Woods volunteers, May 30, 2015. Photo: Betsy Howell



Red elderberry in a recently cleared area, May 31, 2015. Photo: Betsy Howell

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

First Wolf Reported in Puget Sound Country

The first wolf in more than 70 years has been confirmed in Puget Sound country! Unfortunately, it was a roadkill. The female wolf was found dead on April 27th along I-90 between North Bend and Snoqualmie Pass.

However, thanks to a Facebook post, we may have more peaceful picture by which to remember this historic return. Just the week before, Snoqualmie Cattle Company posted a trail camera picture to their Facebook page that matched the general description of the dead wolf, though no one has confirmed if it was the same individual.



04-23-2015 08:11:05

Source: LivingSnoqualmie.com

Regarding the return of wolves to the populated west-side of the Cascades, Dave Ware, WDFW wolf policy lead, recently told the Seattle Stranger that "as a biologist it's pretty exciting to have a large carnivore coming back....As the manager, though, it's going to be very challenging."

With our large human population, wolves moving into Puget Sound country should prove to be an ongoing story in the upcoming months and years. Stay tuned!

ONLINE: Trail Cam Grabs Photo of Suspected Black Wolf in Indian Hill area of Snoqualmie

<http://tinyurl.com/o54fhxt>

Seattle Times: Wolf killed by vehicle on I-90

<http://tinyurl.com/pdfarw4>

NOAA completes another orca winter tracking season

NOAA Fisheries biologists have completed another winter of tracking the Puget Sound region's largest (and perhaps most endangered) endangered species. NOAA biologists tagged and tracked two whales this winter and found the orcas ranging from Northern California to the central west coast of Vancouver Island.

The tracking data indicates that the whales mainly stayed along the continental shelf near the coast. The whales frequented the waters off the mouth of the Columbia River, leaving but then returning several times over the course of the last few months. The whales are known to prefer Chinook salmon and may have been pursuing fish on their way to the Columbia.

On December 31, scientists observed a new calf (J50) off the north side of San Juan Island, followed by another calf (J51) on February 15.

NOAA ONLINE:

http://www.nwfsc.noaa.gov/news/features/whale_tracking_wraps_up/index.cfm



Puget Sound Energy wildlife management program - by Tony Fuchs, Puget Sound Energy and chapter president



Volunteer seed crew. Photo: Tony Fuchs

This spring, Puget Sound Energy employees and members of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation spread 1,200 pounds of grass seed at a 25-acre wildlife enhancement project in Skagit County. The project, which took place at PSE's Burpee Hill property, included creating a large forage area through a timber harvest. The logging company prepared the soil for seeding, and the volunteers seeded the area with an elk forage seed mix.

PSE is purchasing land for wildlife habitat as part of their Baker River Hydropower Project license. PSE has acquired several properties and are managing them for elk foraging habitat, wetland breeding habitat for native amphibian species, forest habitat for neotropical migrant birds, legacy wood (snags and logs), and riparian dependent species. PSE has been working together with the RMEF and Federal, State and tribal biologists to develop elk forage enhancement projects, including this project at Burpee Hill and others at PSE's Alder Creek property.

For more information about PSE's wildlife properties at our Baker River project contact Tony Fuchs at tony.fuchs@pse.com or 425-462-3553.

Derelict fishing gear removal continues

As part of a long-term, Puget Sound-wide effort, divers recently pulled 1,339 nets and 653 crab pots from marine waters in Whatcom County. Abandoned nets and crab pots trap many types of marine life, including porpoise, seal, cormorants, loons, grebes, rockfish, lingcod, salmon and – of course -- crabs. Lots of crabs!



Ken Woodside, a diver from Sekiu, Wash., stands next to a derelict fishing net pulled from 50 to 55 feet of water in Whatcom County. Photo: Northwest Straits Foundation

The program began in 2002 in response to the thousands of abandoned traps and nets that had accumulated over decades in Puget Sound. The program gained much needed momentum in 2013 when the Washington State Legislature provided \$3.5 million to WDFW to work in partnership with the Northwest Straits Foundation to complete the work.

The group has removed 5,400 derelict fishing nets and 3,700 crab pots from Puget Sound since 2002. The Northwest Straits Foundation supports projects and programs in San Juan, Island, Jefferson, Clallam, Whatcom, Skagit, and Snohomish Counties.

ONLINE: <http://tinyurl.com/pn2vy66>

NW Pollinator plantings grow in Puget Sound region.

Some of the Puget Sound area's smallest wildlife – bees and other native pollinators – are starting to get attention, with two major habitat improvement projects underway and more likely to be started over the next several years.

Seattle City Light is currently working with several groups to improve pollinator habitat along its Creston-Duwamish transmission line, which runs from South Seattle to Tukwila. Groups supporting this effort include The Common Acre, Earth Corps, Veterans Conservation Corps, the City of Tukwila, Forterra and the Friends of Duwamish Hill. Work completed so far includes baseline vegetation/pollinator surveys; removal of non-native or invasive plants; and planting native vegetation that supports native bees and butterflies.

The project includes ongoing monitoring to learn and improve right-of-way management techniques that both control tree and invasive weeds and support invertebrate wildlife habitat.

The other project is at the Port of Seattle's Sea-Tac Airport, where the Port is working with Common Acre, Washington State University, Urban Bee Company, 4culture, and others – along with financial support from kickstarter donations – to replace extensive areas of bare ground, weeds or grass with productive habitat for native bees, butterflies and



A researcher from The Common Acre collects a bee from the Creston-Duwamish transmission right of way.

other invertebrates. The first 20 acres of those plantings were completed this spring.

Project organizers are tracking progress and lessons learned in the hopes that the project could become a model for airports everywhere.

ONLINE: <http://seattleglobalist.com/2015/04/29/bee-die-off-seatac-airport-flight-path-common-acre/36468>

<http://powerlines.seattle.gov/2015/05/07/creating-buzz-along-city-lights-creston-duwamish-transmission-line/#sthash.x6dMGU2E.dpuf>

Northwest Pollinator Initiative

<http://nwpollinators.org/>

Local Elk Management Group Succeeds in Difficult Mission

The Snoqualmie Valley Elk Management Group faces a daunting challenge: increasing elk numbers in areas populated by people, while at the same time decreasing elk conflicts with people.

As highlighted in a recent Snoqualmie Valley Record piece, the group is responsible for a wide range of projects aimed at improving habitat and reducing

conflicts with humans. Such projects include fencing along Interstate 90 between exits 27 and 31, which has been credited for resulting in fewer elk being hit by cars. Group members also include State-certified master hunters to remove problem elk on private property.

The group also conducts trapping and tracking research, landowner education, and habitat improvement projects to help maintain a healthy elk population with minimal conflict with humans.

ONLINE:

<http://www.valleyrecord.com/news/302813081.html>

City of Everett Submits Safe Harbor Agreement

The City of Everett has applied for state and federal permits to cover the next 50 years of forest management on its 3,729-acre Lake Chaplain Tract in Snohomish County.

The permits include a federal “Enhancement of Survival Permit” under a Safe Harbor Agreement (SHA), as allowed under Section 10 the Endangered Species Act and a state permit for a Cooperative Habitat Enhancement Agreement (CHEA), as allowed



A collared elk and some friends run through a construction site in North Bend. Photo: Sandy Horvath via Snoqualmie Valley Record

under Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 222-16-105 of the Washington Forest Practices Rules.

The permits and associated forest plan outlines numerous measures the city will take to protect marbled murrelets and northern spotted owls.

Under the provisions of permits, Everett will be able to conduct future forest management activities under without additional state or federal restrictions to protect murrelets and spotted owls.

The plan and federal agreements can be found online at: http://www.fws.gov/wafwo/everett_sha.html

Summary of WDFW Region IV Activities

- The **East-West Black Bear Project** continues with six bears trapped and collared over two weeks in May and more than 40 barbed-wire “hair corrals.” Results will be used to generate a population estimate.
- **Loons** have been confirmed at three area lakes – but locations are being kept secret due to the sensitive nature of the nests.
- **Osprey** looking for nesting sites have been eyeing construction equipment on SR520.

WSDOT biologists are discussing ways of deterring birds, including siting new artificial nest structures, though eagle territories make it challenging to site nests without disrupting the neighborhood.

- WDFW and Western Washington University are planning two projects to study **mountain goats** in the Cascades. WWU’s Dr. David Walling and others recently published a paper on landscape-level habitat http://cedar.wwu.edu/esci_facpubs/37/
- **WWU Wildlife Techniques Field Course:** WDFW’s Ruth Milner and others ran a small mammal trapping session for students from Western Washington University at Lake Terrell Wildlife Area.

ONLINE:

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



A male black bear fitted with a GPS collar during the first session of the East-West black bear project. Photo: WDFW

**NORTHEAST REGION – Annemarie Prince,
WDFW**

**Columbia Basin pygmy rabbit recovery update –
by Stephanie DeMay, University of Idaho**

After releasing 830 adult and juvenile pygmy rabbits into the wild in 2014, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife biologists and University of Idaho undergraduates enrolled in Wif 404: Endangered Species Population Monitoring took to the sagebrush from mid-January to early March to survey for active burrows and fecal pellets from rabbits surviving on and around the release area. Genetic analysis of fecal pellets was performed at the University of Idaho, and identified 91 individuals, an increase from the ~45 detected during each of the previous two years' surveys. Of those 91 individuals, three were born in the wild during 2014 from parents released in 2013, and one adult rabbit was detected surviving from 2013's releases. While we would like to have seen more reproduction in the wild and adult survival, we know that we are limited in the amount of area we can survey with the available manpower, and there are undoubtedly pygmy rabbits surviving beyond the



boundaries of our surveyed area. All releases up to early May 2015 have been at a single area, and we are transitioning this year to releasing rabbits at a new area to establish a second population. We look forward to next year's surveys to determine if reproduction and survival increase at the first release area after we take away the disturbance of continually releasing animals in the same places.

The 2015 breeding and release season is in full swing and will continue throughout the summer and likely into fall. **We depend heavily on enthusiastic volunteers of all ages during this busy time!** If you, your family, or any students you work with, are interested in volunteering with this endangered species reintroduction, please contact the project coordinator JoAnn Wisniewski at (509) 754-4624 ext. 243 or wisnijw@dfw.wa.gov.

University of Idaho undergraduates (Emily Dymock, Colby Bland, and Anna Miera) help capture and process juvenile pygmy rabbits in field breeding enclosures, and release them into the wild. All photos by Steph DeMay.

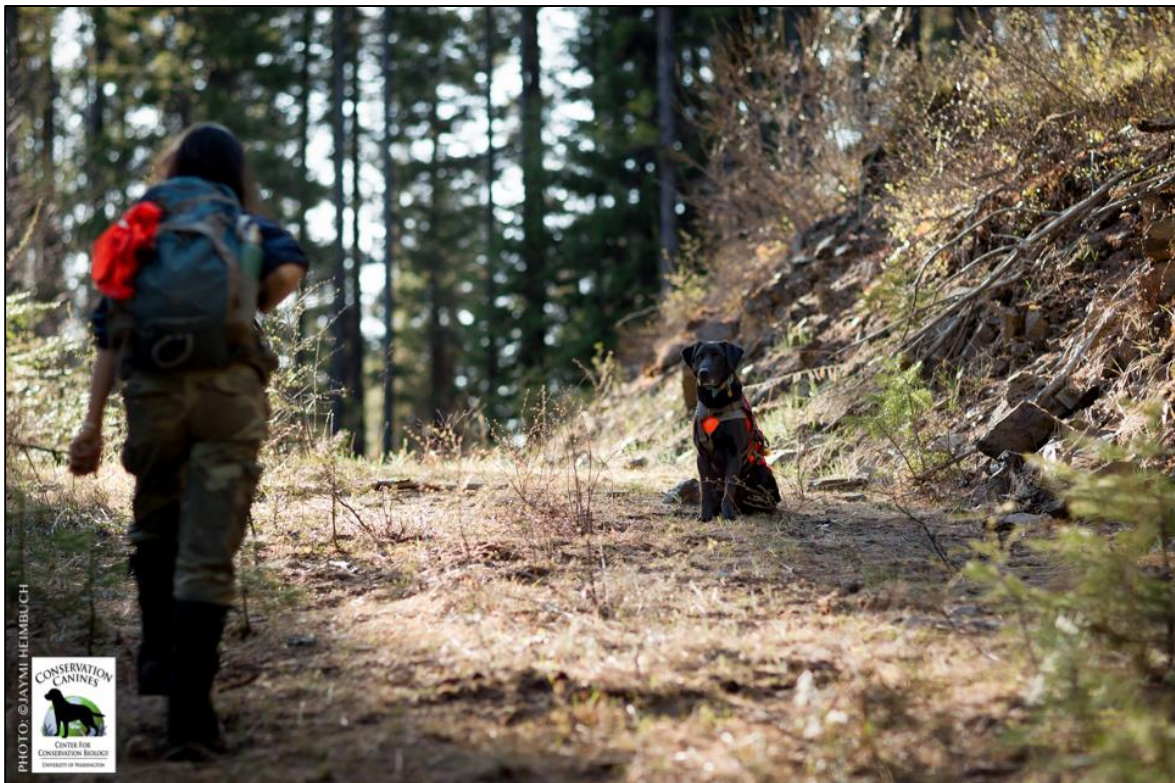
**University of Washington
Wolf Study Update – by
Julianne Ubigau, UW
Center for Conservation
Biology**

The University of Washington's Center for Conservation Biology and their Conservation Canines have completed a very successful first season of carnivore research in and around the Colville and Kanisku National Forests of northeastern Washington (NEWA). The NEWA Wolf Study aims to better understand the impacts of gray wolf (*Canis lupus*) recovery on predator-prey dynamics by sampling wolf, coyote, cougar, bobcat, lynx, bear, elk and deer scats over a 5000 km² study area that varies from relatively high to low wolf densities.

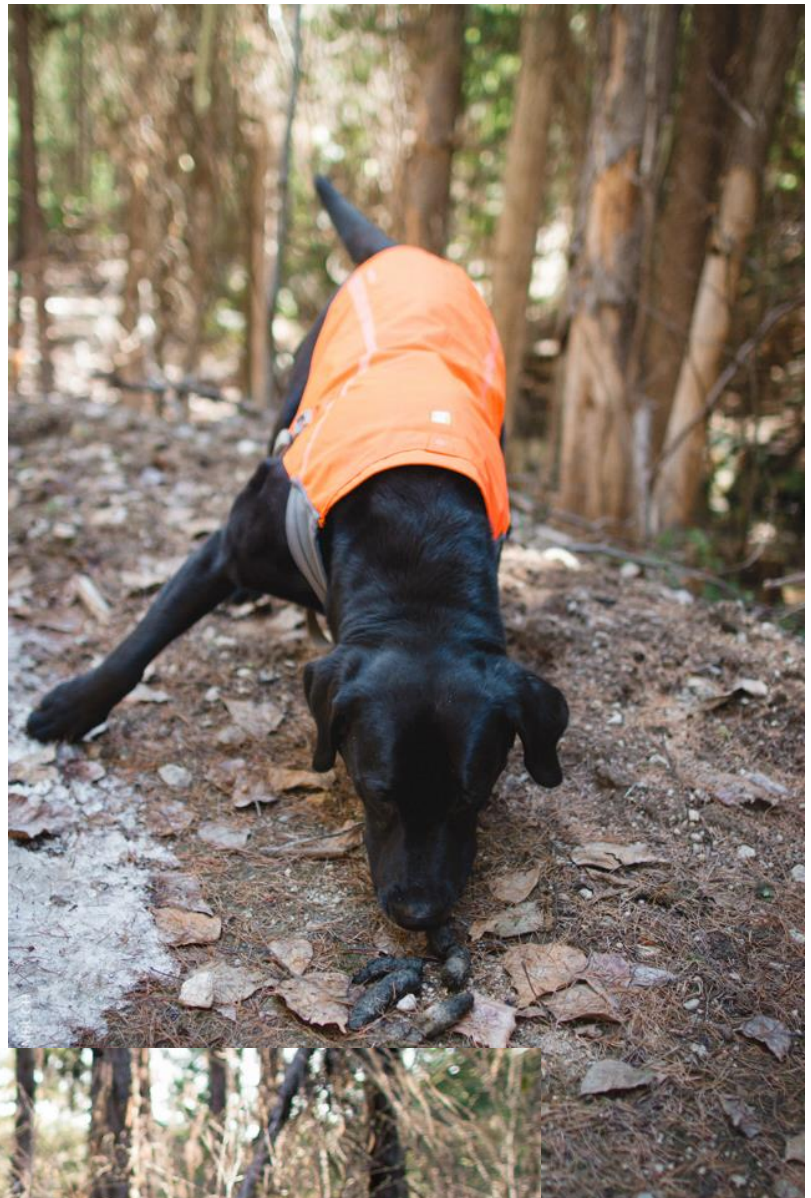
Our Conservation Canine (CK9) teams collected nearly 3,000 scats from the eight target species during our first four week field season. We are now analyzing the scats for species identity, diet and pregnancy rates. The Center for Conservation



Biology, hopes to better understand how this apex predator is impacting the wildlife community as well as human wildlife interactions in northeastern Washington by examining how functional densities, distributions and diets of medium to large carnivores and their prey vary with wolf densities and human land use patterns.



The NEWA Wolf Study is a long-term, multi-season project that will also include an educational outreach component beginning in fall of 2015. The CK9 detection teams will visit community and area schools throughout northeastern Washington to educate residents about the science of ecology, genetics, physiology and conservation as it pertains to their community. We rely on the public appeal of our dogs to engage the interests of youth and their families on these topics. The early success of the project is due in part to the collaborative support from many local agencies including the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, the US Forest Service the Department of Natural Resources, Hancock Timber Company, and Stimson Timber Company. We look forward to working with other scientists, wildlife managers and the communities of northeastern WA to help assure the successful reintegration of wolves back into this ecosystem.



WDFW sage grouse work featured in National Geographic

National Geographic recently (May 19) released a story and video featuring Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) work with Oregon and other partners and volunteers to reintroduce state threatened Greater sage-grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) to WDFW's Swanson Lakes Wildlife Area in Lincoln County.

See the story (which features WDFW grouse researcher Mike Schroeder, Swanson Lakes Wildlife Area manager Juli Anderson, and Eastern Region central district wildlife biologist Mike Atamian, and is also linked from WDFW's Swanson Lakes Wildlife Area webpages) at

<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/2015/05/150519-sage-grouse-endangered-species-west-washington-environment/>.

Happenings at the Colville National Forest –by Chris Loggers & Mike Borysewicz, Colville National Forest

This year the Colville National Forest (CNF) will be installing up to 15 animal-resistant, food storage lockers at developed campgrounds in the Sullivan

Lake basin. These 30 cubic foot, metal lockers will provide campers with a convenient place to store food, beverages, and other wildlife attractants when they are away from their camp, and when sleeping. Campgrounds receiving the lockers are located on the western edge of the Selkirk Mountains Grizzly Bear Recovery Area. The devices should reduce the risk of human-bear conflicts at these high-use recreation sites. Cooperators with this project will include; Kalispel Tribe of Indians, Selkirk Conservation Alliance, Conservation Northwest, Defenders of Wildlife, Seattle City Light, and Scenic Canyons (campground concessionaire). An Eagle Scout candidate with the Boy Scouts of America may oversee the installation of lockers in one of the campgrounds.

The CNF is continuing projects described in the winter newsletter: sampling moths, monitoring goshawks, surveying for skippers and starting a citizen science project to find and report western bumble bees. The CNF is also spreading the word about wild pollinators in general. We partnered with the Upper Columbia chapter of Slow Food USA to support a website about local pollinators (<https://slowfooduppercolumbia.wordpress.com/projects/pollinators/>).



Photo: Colville National Forest

Loons are nesting on several area lakes (including a pair that's using a nesting platform for the first time since it was installed in 2008) and Biodiversity Research Institute, Ginger Gumm and Dan Poleschook, Colville Confederated Tribes, WDFW, and the CNF will attempt to capture and band loons in July. We will also attempt to retrieve geolocators on three loons that were tagged in 2013 to determine where loons winter in NE Washington.

We are also working to cap outhouse vent pipes to prevent a variety of critters (and rocks tossed by curious kids (and adults?)) from making a splash. Kathy Brodhead, who joined the CNF as a wildlife biologist in October and is the new TWS WA treasurer (whoo hoo!), is developing a programmatic EA for managing whitebark pine on the CNF.

The Influence of Fuel Reduction Treatments on the Nutritional Ecology of Mule and White-tailed Deer in Northeastern Washington – by Lisa Shipley, Washington State University

Washington State University (Lisa Shipley, School of the Environment, shipley@wsu.edu) is working with the Colville National Forest (CNF) and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to determine the influence of fuel reduction treatments (thinning and prescribed burning) on the quantity and nutritional quality of forage for mule and white-tailed deer in northeastern Washington, expressly in the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program area. To do this, the team has selected ponderosa pine/Douglas fir forest stands that range in time since thinning (i.e., unthinned, 0 – 20 years), thinning intensity (i.e., canopy cover from 20 – 100%), and environmental characteristics (e.g., elevation, site index). In each stand, the team will measure stand characteristics, sample plant biomass, and determine the nutritional quality of dominant understory plants. From these measures, they will model nutritional carrying capacity for deer. In addition, they put tractable hand-raised deer in temporary pens in each stand for about two days each, during which they will measure their diet composition and daily digestible energy intake by counting their bites and collecting simulated diets. Daily digestible energy intake is

directly related to fawning rates and body condition, thus digestible energy intake and nutritional carrying capacity provide relevant measures of the value of thinning treatments to deer and other herbivores. Finally, the team will compare dietary choices, food intake, and behavior between mule and white-tailed deer, which are sympatric within Colville National Forest. Although a number of studies have compared diets and habitats among these species of deer, none have compared them under identical field conditions.

Publications from the Region

Woodrow L. Myers, William J. Foreyt, Patricia A. Talcott, James F. Evermann, and Wan-Ying Chang (2015) Serologic, trace element, and fecal parasite survey of free-ranging, female mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) in eastern Washington, USA. *Journal of Wildlife Diseases*: January 2015, Vol. 51, No. 1, pp. 125-136

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please welcome **Kristen Phillips**, our new Nominating and Elections Committee head, and **Suzie Rizor**, our new social media maven! Thank you both very much for stepping into these important roles. For those of you wondering how you might help out...the Membership Committee lead is currently vacant. If you are interested or know of someone who you think would be, please contact Tony Fuchs at 425-462-3553 or tony.fuchs@pse.com.



**22nd Annual Conference
of**

The Wildlife Society

**Winnipeg, Manitoba | October
17-21, 2015**

The Wildlife Society's Annual Conference is one of the largest gatherings of wildlife professionals and supporters in North America. For more than 20 years, TWS has hosted this

unique and informative event that provides more than 50 networking opportunities through working groups, meetings and receptions as well as more than 400 educational opportunities that encourage discussion and collaboration.

At our conference, wildlife professionals make new connections with colleagues in wildlife science, research, management, business and education. Students meet professionals who can provide insights on careers, job opportunities, current research and best practices, and potential mentors.

The 22nd Annual Conference is being held in Winnipeg, Manitoba on October 17-21, 2015. Don't miss out on this unusual opportunity as this year's event marks the first time in a decade that the conference has been held in Canada!

[The Wildlife Society](#) invites proposals for workshops, symposia, panel discussions, and special poster sessions related to all aspects of wildlife ecology, management and conservation.

For more information see the [Wildlife Society website](#).

Vth International Wildlife Congress is NEXT MONTH!



More information is available at <http://www.iwmc2015.org>.

TWS Conference Dates and Locations

- 2015: International Wildlife Management Congress, Sapporo, Japan, July 26-30.
- 2015: Winnipeg, Manitoba October 17–22
- 2016: Raleigh, NC October 15–19
- 2017: Albuquerque, NM, September 23-27

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.
- 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.

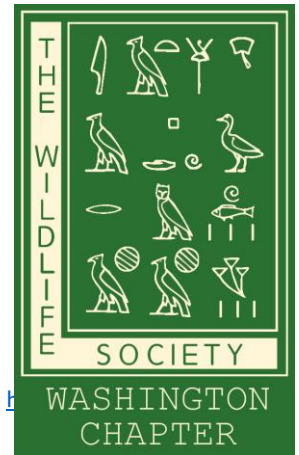
Join the Washington Chapter of the Wildlife Society!

For more information the Chapter, including membership forms, please visit our website: <http://drupal.wildlife.org/>. 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

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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