

The Washington Wildlifer

Newsletter of the Washington Chapter of The Wildlife Society

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Message from the President

Danielle Munzing



The 2016 Annual Meeting in February marked a special occasion for the Washington Chapter of The Wildlife Society: **Happy 50th, Washington Chapter!** To celebrate the occasion we had a cake and a distinguished guest—Reade Brown. Meeting Reade and having a chance to talk to him was an important experience for me because it reminded me how TWS has been bringing together biologists since before I was born. Reade told me there were fewer than 20 people at some of their first meetings. This year, partnering with Idaho and SNVB, we had nearly 400! I encourage you to go to our website (<http://wildlife.org/washington-chapter/washington-chapter-news/> ...scroll all the way to the bottom of the page) and peruse the 25-year history of WATWS. The history was put together by Reade and others for our 1991 meeting. I find it hard to believe that was already 25 years ago! A few interesting things I learned while reading about the first meeting in 1966:

- Chapter dues were a dollar and meeting registration was 50 cents for members.
- The first meeting generated a lot of publicity, much of this attributed to having U.S. Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas as the banquet speaker.
- William O. Douglas called for a revolution in thinking in America, from one bound to destroy all of our lands and rivers, to one that would protect our natural resources.

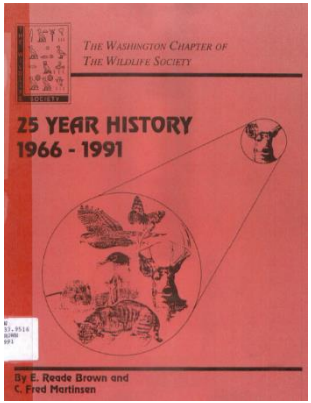
I imagine at that meeting biologists like ourselves were thinking about how they could change the thinking in America. Today I am contemplating, have we changed our thinking in America? In many ways we have, but one thing that has not changed is the dedication and passion of those working in natural resources that keeps the trajectory of change going whether through science, education, or policy. It is the ability to face challenges that brings us

together in the TWS forum where we can explore and devise solutions.

Let's take a moment to thank those original ten members that set out to initiate collaborative efforts and signed the Washington Chapter petition on April 5th 1966: Wendell Dodge and Dan Campbell of the USFWS; Bill Lawrence and Donald O. Swanson of Weyerhaeuser; Glen Crouch of the USFS; and Carl Crouse, Burton Lauckhart, Clar Pratt, Russ Hupe, and Reade Brown of the Washington Department of Game. Of course we cannot forget to thank Weyerhaeuser for saving the chapter from financial ruin—you will have to read the document to learn why.

Looking back through previous Chapter newsletters and the 25-year history, I see a common theme: partnerships and the role TWS plays in initiating partnerships and celebrating the success of those partnerships. The 2016 meeting in Coeur d'Alene Idaho is a perfect example of a successful collaboration, with the Idaho Chapter of The Wildlife Society, the Society of Northwestern Vertebrate Biology, and Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation. The focus of this year's meeting was on "Common Resources, Challenges, and Solutions," and what better way to delve into the subject than by starting off the plenary session with a diverse group of natural resource managers ranging from directors of state agencies to on-the-ground biologists making large-scale, multi-agency projects work through partnerships.

At the 2016 meeting I did a lot of thinking about what TWS means to me. After all, I have been a part of it for nearly 15 years. Its importance to me as a biologist has changed over time, from my first meeting in Wenatchee as a fledgling biologist looking up to all of those with experience, to today as one of a handful



of region biologists working for the Washington State Department of Natural Resources. Knowing what a valuable experience TWS gave me as a student, I was excited to see so many students at this year's meeting, taking part in presentations, manuscript preparation, the quiz bowl, the resume review booth, and Breakfast with a Wildlifer. The fresh enthusiasm the students bring to these meetings is vital: it inspires those of us in the middle of our careers, it encourages us to be mentors to those trying to navigate through the beginning of a career, and it gives us an opportunity to be leaders within the TWS community.

There is no better way to feel connected to the TWS community than to volunteer and there are so many ways to volunteer. I encourage you to contact us and ask how you can get involved. As president of the Washington chapter, one of my goals is to initiate the establishment of more student chapters. The Washington Student Chapters Liaison position is currently vacant. Let's get that filled and start new student chapters across Washington this year.

2016 Annual Meeting Recap

About 400 wildlife professionals and students joined us at the Joint Partners Conference of the Idaho and Washington Chapters of The Wildlife Society, The Society for Northwestern Vertebrate Biology, and Northwest Partners for Amphibian and Reptile Conservation. Here are some highlights from our joint meeting at the Coeur d'Alene Resort on the shores of lovely Lake Coeur d'Alene. Want to see some more stories? Come on over to our website and read Bill Vogel's entertaining and enlightening account. Following are some excerpts from Bill's observations. While you're there, check out the [meeting program and abstracts](#), too.

Symposia

NW PARC's symposium, **Conservation Across Borders**, explored a number of perspectives and case studies pertaining to trans-boundary conservation and restoration mechanisms. Topics included current threats and policies surrounding legal and illegal wildlife trade, the role herpetocultural societies can play in conservation, invasive herpetofauna, and the spread of endemic and exotic pathogens. The keynote speaker was Jamie Reaser, noted author and conservationist, who is currently serving as the executive director of the National Invasive Species Council.

The **Idaho Bird Partners for Conservation** symposium covered a variety of bird conservation issues, including short-eared owls, window strikes, uncapped pipes, the centennial of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, high-elevation birds, and workshops for federal agencies.

Here are a few more things I really enjoyed about this year's conference: Wayne's 'recipe for a successful meeting' during the plenary, the break snacks (I've never seen so many potato chips at one time!), assisting Ken Bevis with his lively role during the fundraiser, meeting and socializing with the Idaho Chapter, and being able to take home new insights from the speaker sessions that help me do my job better.

We tried a few new things this year, and I hope we continue to do these at future meetings. We hosted a quiz bowl (thank you, Sara Hansen!), a resume review booth, a manuscript preparation workshop, and Breakfast with a Wildlifer. All of these activities have something in common: they involve the students. If we hope to continue to change the way our society thinks about "the lands and rivers," I believe we must recognize the importance of nurturing the spirit of dedication and passion at the student level.

WATWS Workshops

Yellow-billed Cuckoo

Thanks to Teal Waterstrat and Emily Teachout for organizing this workshop, which was co-sponsored by SNVB and WATWS. The highlight was being able to tap into the expertise of Murrelet Halterman, who has had years of experience working with this bird in many parts of its range. The workshop covered the distribution, habitat use, and identification of this rare but widespread species. We learned about cuckoos' dependence on large insects and the prevalence of cicadas, grasshoppers, and large, hairy caterpillars in their diet. We also learned that habitat restoration efforts in parts of the Lower Colorado River have been very successful—so successful that it appears birds that otherwise would have travelled further north to breed are using those areas instead.



Photo © Joe Fisher,
via Birdnote.org

Wildlife Handling and Chemical Immobilization

TPRs! Temperature, Pulse, and Respiration – if you were in this workshop you would have heard those words many times. You would have learned how to guide an animal's condition and temperature rather than react to it. We talked often about respect and compassion for the animal and

how the animal is the most important part of our work. Careful planning can reduce your excitement and that of the animal, increasing the efficacy of the drugs used for immobilization. We learned what a tranquilizer and a sedative really are and how they work with anesthetics and antagonists.

On Thursday and Friday, February 25 and 26, WATWS hosted a 2-day workshop on Wildlife Handling and Chemical Immobilization, taught by Dr. Mark R. Johnson, DVM, founder of Global Wildlife Resources (GWR). It was a slightly condensed version of the 3-day courses he teaches across the country. GWR specializes in wildlife capture and handling and has provided training and field assistance for over 20 years. This 2-day course was authorized to provide 12 hours of credit for the TWS Certified Wildlife Biologist Renewal/Professional Development Certificate Program. This workshop can also be applied toward any state or federal certification program.

Workshop content included Five-step Preparation for Field Operations; Legal Responsibilities; Professionalism; Drug Delivery Systems; Immobilizing Drugs; Patient Monitoring; Marking; Sampling; Veterinary Emergencies; Euthanasia; and Human Safety.

The 2 days included lecture and discussion, interspersed with videos and hands-on labs each day. A needle and syringe lab taught basic techniques for handling immobilizing drugs, working with syringe poles, and performing IV injections. The needle and syringe lab builds good habits to maximize human safety, animal care, and successful chemical immobilization. We also had a practice station (simulated mammal leg and vein) where people could practice collecting blood samples.



Simulated large mammal leg and vein used to practice taking blood samples.

Photo: Bill Vogel

A dart-gun lab on the last afternoon provided opportunities for participants to practice a variety of drug-delivery systems.

We had about 25 students from tribal, state, and federal agencies, as well as universities and private timber companies. The students ranged from novices to biologists



Dart gun practice.

Photo: Bill Vogel

who have been capturing and handling animals with chemicals for years. Even the most experienced of these biologists said they learned a lot and were very happy with the class. One of them said, “Thank

you very much for the excellent workshop. I learned an amazing amount of good information that I will surely take to heart in my work.”

The 3-day course on Wildlife Handling and Chemical Immobilization for Wildlife Professionals is presented every spring and fall at Bitterroot College in Hamilton, Montana. Dr. Johnson and GWR are also offering classes in the near future in a variety of locations. Keep checking the website at <http://wildliferesources.com/training-courses/>.

Workshops Sponsored by Other Partners

Introduction to “R”—Jon Horne of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game led this workshop. R is an open-source (i.e., free) statistics and graphic software environment that has become the new standard for ecological data analysis. Participants learned the basics of the R language, useful packages for ecological research, and graphics options.

Terrestrial Mollusks—Tom Burke, Paul Hendricks, and Mike Lucid provided an introduction to the land snails and slugs of the Pacific Northwest. Topics covered included priority species for survey and monitoring, useful references, land mollusk life histories and habitat associations, where and when to conduct surveys, and suggestions for designing surveys.

Manuscript Preparation—Vaughn L. Paragamian conducted a half day workshop geared toward students but open to anyone interested in the ins and outs of publishing their research.

Ignite Session

Promoted under the slogan, “Enlighten us, but make it quick,” Ignite is a novel and exciting presentation format. An Ignite presentation is exactly 5 minutes and contains exactly 20 slides. The slides advance automatically after each slide is displayed for 15 seconds. Ignite is also about having fun, and showing that presentations don’t need to be about “death by PowerPoint.” The very first Ignite event took place at a tech community event in Seattle about 10 years ago. Since then, Ignite has become an international

phenomenon, with Ignite events in Helsinki, Tunisia, Paris, New York City and more than 350 other locations.

A remarkably large number of people turned out to listen to nineteen different presentations. Topics ranged from California condors to “Why I play with poo and so should you....” Limiting each presentation to 5 minutes and allowing 5 minutes for Q&A is a great way to fit in a lot of different topics we might otherwise not be able to hear about. And 5 minutes is just enough time to pique the interest of people who can catch you in the hallway later, continue discussions, and form partnerships. Ask Bill Vogel—that’s exactly what happened to him. Consider giving Ignite a try next year!

Quiz Bowl

This year’s meeting featured a quiz bowl, organized and run by Sara Hansen of WDFW. Two student teams competed, one from the University of Idaho and one from WSU (with the assistance of a ringer from CWU). After several lively rounds of questions that proved to be entertaining and educational for participants and spectators alike, WSU emerged as the champions—earning them the opportunity to go up against a team of wildlife professionals, known as the “old timers.” You’ll have to read Bill’s account of the epic battle that followed.

If you have never played before, you should consider coming to our next meeting. Rumor has it the Forest Service has issued a challenge to WDFW. Any other takers?

Student Lodging Incentive Was a Highlight

Bruce Thompson

During the February 2016 Joint Meeting, 18 students benefitted from a 3-night free lodging incentive provided by the Washington Chapter of TWS and the Society for Northwestern Vertebrate Biology. These students were selected from information provided on an application they submitted for consideration. These 12 women and 6 men represented 6 universities in Oregon, Montana, Washington, and British Columbia, coming from all academic levels from undergraduate to doctoral. This incentive for student participation in our Chapter’s annual meetings has become popular and is stimulating greater participation by students than otherwise possible. The Idaho Chapter provided reduced registration incentives for students from Idaho, further enhancing student participation at the meeting. The Washington Chapter intends to continue offering the student lodging incentive and has included funding for it in the approved annual budget.

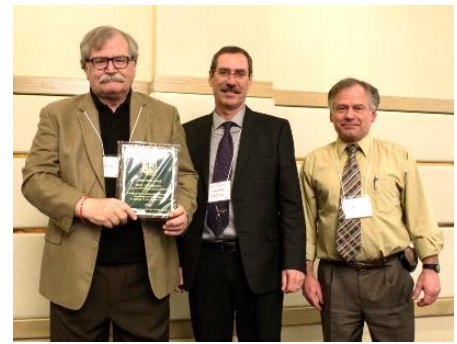
Awards and Recognition

Bill Vogel

We were delighted to present several awards to various individuals and organizations during the Wednesday evening banquet at our annual meeting in Coeur d’Alene.

Conservation Award: Bud Anderson, The Falcon Research Group

Bud Anderson has dedicated his life to expanding our knowledge of raptors in the natural world. For much of his 45-year career, Bud has worked with



peregrine falcons. He has worked in many corners of the world, including South America, Fiji, Japan, and the Canary Islands. More recently, The Falcon Research Group captured migrant peregrine falcons in the southernmost part of their known wintering habitats in Chile and outfitted several with GPS equipped satellite receiver transmitters. This effort, known as the Southern Cross Project, allowed anyone with an Internet connection to view the real-time migration of these falcons and witness the amazing journeys each individual took. Some of these birds have become renowned, such as “Island Girl,” who, as of the end of 2015, has been continuously tracked for 7 years, representing 14 distinct migrations totaling over 119,000 miles (and counting) from wintering areas in the south to breeding grounds in the far north.

With Bud at the helm, The Falcon Research Group has also monitored peregrine falcon populations along the Washington Coast, banded fall raptor migrants at various locales in Washington, and provided educational opportunities in hawk identification and conservation to scores of interested people.

As an expert in the behavior of raptors, Bud has been called upon to improve the safety of airline passengers at Sea-Tac Airport. As part of this effort, Bud captures and relocates raptors at risk and has developed an efficient means to reduce the incidence of ospreys nesting on communication towers near airports by creating a device known as the Osprey Nest Excluder (ONE).

Partnership Award:

Eyes in the Woods Program

(Accepted by Kyle Winton and Jack Smith)

Founded in 1995 with the intention of assisting WDFW and other agencies with conservation efforts on both public and private



lands, the Eyes in the Woods program has organized and operated biological check stations, conducted garbage cleanups, implemented grueling, labor-intensive habitat projects, assisted in wildlife studies, and installed and maintained remote cellular-based camera systems to protect wildlife and assist private landowners with public access issues. Eyes in the Woods volunteers have selflessly donated thousands of hours for the benefit of wildlife and to promote public access on private and public lands for all outdoor enthusiasts.

Recent accomplishments include installing a remote camera system at a hard-to-reach cooperative road closure site to help enforcement and reduce the amount of agency staff time devoted to monitoring the closure. Eyes in the Woods volunteers are also using a remote camera system to assist cranberry growers with chronic elk problems. These cameras provide timely notification when elk arrive, usually after dark, allowing for immediate hazing—an important nonlethal tool in reducing elk damage to crops. Volunteers also provide Crime Observation and Reporting Training (CORT), which is a required part of the State's Master Hunter program.

Eyes in the Woods partnered with the Olympic National Forest and WDFW on the Matheny Roosevelt Elk Habitat Enhancement project during 2014 and 2015, cutting and piling tons of pre-commercial thinning slash to improve big game forage habitat. These are truly dedicated people who love the forest and the wildlife and believe in participating in the management of the National Forest and doing what they can to benefit the wildlife. Their enthusiasm is limitless!

Foresight Award:

Jeff Kozma, Yakama Nation

One of Jeff's responsibilities as a Wildlife Biologist for the Yakama Nation is to review timber sales on Yakama Nation ceded lands. During these reviews, Jeff noticed that WDFW Regional Habitat Biologists consistently mentioned the habitat needs of the white-headed woodpecker, a species of concern in Washington one that

is dependent on the ponderosa pine ecosystem. Jeff got interested in acquiring more information on white-headed woodpeckers but he could only find one paper published in 2003 related to the habitat requirements of this species in the state. Seeing the need for more information on this little-known species, Jeff began studying the reproductive biology of the white-headed woodpecker and three other cavity-nesting birds in managed ponderosa pine forests in Yakima, Klickitat, and Kittitas Counties. During this time, Jeff was also influential in convincing Teresa Lorenz, a PhD student from the University of Idaho, to conduct a telemetry study to better understand white-headed woodpecker home ranges in managed forests. After 10 years of collecting data and 11 peer-reviewed published papers, Jeff's work has contributed substantially to our understanding of how the white-headed woodpecker uses managed ponderosa pine stands for breeding and its role as a keystone excavator in the eastern Cascades. Furthermore, he has made all the results from this work available on a website in order to share his findings and to report on the progress of current and upcoming projects. Gaining a better understanding of the habitat components needed to preserve and restore white-headed woodpecker habitat has enabled Jeff to continue working with the U.S. Forest Service, Washington State Department of Natural Resources, and WDFW land managers on timber harvests and restoration projects to more effectively manage for this species in Washington State.



Chapter Award:

Bill Vogel

[Editor's note: Bill wrote the other award announcements, but not this one. We were concerned that his modesty would get in the way of an accurate account of his contributions.]

Bill has been active with TWS since he was a student in Bozeman, Montana. He has been on the Executive Board of the Washington Chapter several times in the past 20 years and has been the Chapter President twice. He has been our workshop chairman and has played an active role in developing annual programs for many years. For instance, some of you may remember the Wind and Wildlife Workshop we sponsored in June 2011 in Portland. This 2-day workshop was free to participants and featured cutting-edge speakers from around the country, as well as a field trip on the third day—including free bus transportation and lunches! More than 250 people from 17 different states and the District of Columbia participated in the workshop. Bill worked closely with a number of partners on all sides of the issues to make this work. You

may also remember last year's forestry workshop or this year's wildlife handling workshop, or some of the others we have held during the last 10 years. As our awards committee chairman, he has shouldered the responsibility for expanding our awards program process and finding worthy recipients. In the last 3 years, our chapter has recognized 19 individuals or groups for special accomplishments—thanks in large part to Bill's tireless efforts. Bill has also helped out in numerous other ways,



Bill Vogel whooping it up at the banquet.

Photo by Danielle Munzing.

including working on the programs of the last several meetings and taking the lead on the early coordination over 2 years ago with Idaho TWS and others in the preparation for our joint partner meeting in February.

Who's Next?

If you want to nominate a person, group, or organization for one of these awards, IT'S EASY! Just send a short note to the Awards Committee Chairperson (william_o_vogel@yahoo.com). It is helpful if you provide the information below. If you want, you can further strengthen your nomination by additional statements of support or by having another member do the same or second your nomination. The Awards Committee will review all submittals and make recommendations to the full Board. If the nomination is successful we may ask for more information from you to help fully document the accomplishments and make award arrangements. More information about the award categories and the application process is available at our website. Just click on "About" and scroll down to "Awards." Or you can just click [here](#).

2017 Annual Meeting Planning

We are currently looking to build on the success of last year's joint meeting with the Washington Society of American Foresters, possibly incorporating a symposium with the Society for Ecological Restoration. We're looking into venues in Wenatchee, Yakima, and Ellensburg, for dates in the latter half of March. Explorations and conversations were continuing as this newsletter went to press. Stay tuned for more developments. Looking farther ahead, we are talking with our sister chapter in Oregon about a joint meeting in 2018. More to come!

Chapter Elections

Many thanks to all who participated in our recent elections, both by voting and (especially) by running for positions on the Executive Board. After tallying the results, we are pleased to announce that **Jesse McCarty** was elected to be our new President-elect and **Andrea Lyons** is our new Secretary. In addition, **Daniel Ravenel** and **Ken Bevis** are joining us as board members.

We recently learned that Jesse has accepted a position in Colorado, taking charge of the wildlife, fisheries, and botany programs for the Saguache Ranger District of the Rio Grande National Forest. Fortunately, **Katy Stuart**, who had also run as President-elect, agreed to take on the role after Jesse moves out of the state and is unable to perform his presidential duties. In accordance with the provisions of our chapter's bylaws, the Executive Board appointed Katy as the new President-elect.

At the same time, we learned that our Treasurer, Kathy Brodhead, is also moving to Colorado, where she will be wildlife biologist for the BLM's Gunnison Field Office. We hope the Colorado chapter of TWS realizes how lucky they are, to be getting both Jesse and Kathy! So now we are currently searching for new treasurer. If you know of anyone who enjoys working with numbers (particularly those preceded by dollar signs), please let us know!

Please join us in thanking and welcoming our new board members. Many, many thanks also to Bruce Thompson (outgoing Past President), Mike Hall (outgoing Secretary), and Jeff Kozma and Blake Murden for their dedicated service as board members.

Scholarship and Grant Awards

The Richard E. Fitzner Memorial Scholarship Fund was established to provide financial aid to wildlife-oriented biology students who will have junior or senior standing at a college or university in the State of Washington. Applications are due by December 15 each year. After reviewing applications from an impressive group of students, the WATWS scholarship committee recommended awarding a \$2,500 scholarship this year to **Juana Maria Rivera Ordenez**.

The 2016 research grant recipient is **Kyle Ebenhoch**. Kyle is a graduate student at Washington State University. He was awarded \$2,500 to support his research project on movement and survival of greater sage-grouse. We are looking forward to seeing the results of his research at a future Chapter annual meeting.

WATWS is pleased to present funding to two different conservation projects for 2016. We awarded the **Whatcom**

County Amphibian Monitoring Program a 2016 Conservation Project Grant for the amount of \$1000 for use in Citizen Science Egg Mass Survey Support. In addition, we awarded \$500 to the **Capitol Land Trust** to support their 2016 Outdoor Exploration Series. These are great projects, and we are delighted to be able to support them. Recipients are required to report to the Chapter via e-mail by December 31, 2016, on how they used the grant and how they acknowledged WATWS.

Regional Reports

What have our colleagues been up to lately? These reports help keep us 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 newsletter by contacting your regional representative. Contact information is on the back page of this newsletter.

Olympic

Collected by Betsy Howell, USFS

Pacific Marten Surveys, Olympic Peninsula

Motivated by two photographs of Pacific martens (*Martes caurina*) taken in Olympic National Park (ONP) and Olympic National Forest (ONF) in June 2015, researchers from ONP, ONF, USFS Pacific Northwest Research Station, WDFW, and U.S. Geological Survey have begun surveys to determine the presence and distribution of martens on the Olympic Peninsula. Before last summer, martens had not been documented in coastal Washington since 2008 despite extensive camera survey work aimed at monitoring recently reintroduced Pacific fisher (*Pekania pennanti*). Funding



Camera stations in coastal areas were often placed in dense areas of salal, with cameras placed very close to the bait tree. A measuring tape attached to the tree helps to provide size scale of the animals photographed.

Please join us in congratulating this year's award recipients! For more information on how to apply for scholarships and grants, visit our website: <http://wildlife.org/washington-chapter/grants-scholarships/>.



provided by the USFS' and Bureau of Land Management's Interagency Special Status and Sensitive Species Program, as well as the USFS Pacific Northwest Research Station and National Park Service, has allowed us to conduct a winter survey effort and also plan for summer surveys in distinct



Surveys during summer 2016 (July-September) will take place at or above treeline in ONP and ONF and will focus in areas where martens have been recorded, including in the upper Hoh and Hamma Hamma Rivers where the 2015 sightings occurred.

habitat types.

The winter coastal survey period began in November 2015 and finished in March 2016 and was focused on ONP in the coastal strip that extends from Makah Tribal lands on the northwest tip of the Peninsula south to the Quinault Indian Nation. A total of 83 remote cameras were baited with cat food and 'Gusto' scent lure and left in place until all were checked in February. Any stations that

documented a marten, and a sample of the stations that detected fisher, would then receive a track plate hair snare and additional bait and lure. Though no martens were detected at these stations, 43 cameras did detect fishers, some at locations where fisher had not been recorded during earlier surveys. Of these 43 sites, 7 had hair snares deployed for one week, and 2 of those picked up hair from fishers. These samples will be analyzed to determine whether they represent new recruits to the population or belong to founders that came from British Columbia during releases in 2008-2010.

Update on black bear and Roosevelt elk studies

Kristen Phillips, Wildlife Biologist, Quinault Indian Nation

In the summer of 2015, we launched a black bear population study on the Quinault Indian Reservation (QIR). We deployed 82 barbed wire hair-snares across the QIR and collected 600+ black bear hair samples over

bears with GPS collars. We collared one adult male in autumn, and hope to capture and collar 9 more bears this spring. We plan to collar an additional 10 bears each spring over the next two years. We will use the data to examine resource selection, seasonal movements, and denning chronology of black bears on and around the QIR.



Urijah Willis, Quinault wildlife student, assisting with bull elk capture.

Photo: Debbie Preston, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission



Moses Prairie saturated from the heavy rains, QIR.

Photo: Debbie Preston, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission

the 8-week sampling period. We will use a spatially explicit mark-recapture model to estimate bear abundance. We are currently awaiting genetic results from the lab. This past autumn we started setting culvert traps to capture and fit

This March we continued our cow elk study by fitting 8 additional cows with GPS collars. The cow location data are used primarily for management purposes (e.g., identifying elk conservation areas on the QIR and delineating restricted hunting areas), but will also contribute towards validating elk habitat models. We also captured and collared two bull elk in one of the culturally important “prairies” on the QIR. A restoration project aimed at reintroducing fire to the prairie is currently underway, but the prairie serves as a refuge for our bachelor bulls. The bull elk location data will help demonstrate the need to limit vehicular access and maintain buffers on the prairie.

Southwest

Collected by *Bill Ritchie, USFWS*

Western Pond Turtle Recovery: Work continues on the recovery of western pond turtles in the Columbia River Gorge area. In December, the Friends of the Columbia Gorge finalized purchase agreements with the Kapp Family for acquisition of 65 acres of western pond turtle habitat in Skamania County. WDFW will work with the Friends of the Columbia Gorge to develop a habitat management plan for the property—most importantly water management to ensure critical wetlands are maintained. The investigation into undefined shell disease (USD) is a priority for the Washington population of turtles; experts from across the country have joined the health team working group. Etiology of the disease is unknown and the minimum prevalence in sampled populations ranges from 29-49% in turtles older than five years. Also, the western pond turtle was recently designated as one of ten priority species by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) Saving Animals From Extinction (SAFE) program. This program seeks to convene scientists and stakeholders to identify the threats, develop action plans, raise new resources and engage the public. The AZA SAFE program recently made a video on WPT recovery:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iJLp1pHER_Y&feature=youtu.be

Columbia Coast Blueprint Website is Live! The North Pacific Landscape Conservation Cooperative (NPLCC) recently launched a brand new website for its multi-partner Landscape Conservation Design (LCD) project for the Lower Columbia River and outer coast of Oregon and Washington. Partners in the region are united in their concern about the lack of a large-scale landscape conservation blueprint within the region. This project will help meet those needs. The launch of the project in October 2015 began with brainstorming. Main topics covered were developing initial overall goals and phases, discussing potential geographic boundaries, reviewing



Kelp beds adjacent to the Oregon Islands National Wildlife Refuge, one refuge that may benefit from the project.

Photo: David B. Ledig/USFWS

other regional LCD examples, considering partnerships, and developing a communication plan. The project, titled **Columbia Coast Blueprint**, will seek to achieve a network of healthy, connected ecosystems and working landscapes capable of providing a full suite of ecosystem services that can absorb, respond, and adapt to climatic changes and other key stressors through the use of collaborative, science-based strategies.

The goal of the website is to bring awareness to the project, foster collaborative partnerships, and inform stakeholders about landscape-scale conservation taking place in the region. The Columbia Coast Blueprint initiative held its first Core Team meeting in January of 2016 and has continued to move forward, increasing in diverse numbers of project participants and beginning to develop a draft project plan. Visit the new website (<http://columbiacoastblueprint.org/>) to learn more and keep updated on the project.

Columbian White-tailed Deer Translocation: Since 2013, the USFWS has partnered with WDFW, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Cowlitz Indian Tribe, to translocate endangered Columbian white-tailed deer from the Julia Butler Hansen Refuge (JBH) and surrounding areas to Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). What began as an emergency translocation due to a severely failing dike quickly developed into a recovery action for the species.

Ridgefield NWR is located in an area where Columbian white-tailed deer had not been seen for more than 40 years. In 2013, 37 deer were moved to Ridgefield NWR from the JBH Mainland Unit and from nearby Puget Island. In 2014, the main levee on JBH was repaired with construction of a setback levee, but the decision was made to continue translocating deer from other sites as a recovery action. Over the next 2 years, 51 more deer were moved from Puget Island and from Westport, Oregon, across the Columbia.



Columbian white-tailed deer.

Photo: J. Heale/USFWS

The results we have seen from these moves have been fantastic! Not only has the Ridgefield population been established at a level greater than the minimal viable population, it has grown to over 120 animals. We have seen high fawning and twinning rates at this site, a great indicator of a healthy habitat. In addition, the donor sites have also seen population increases despite the removal of 88 deer. The population at JBH Mainland in 2012 was at 83 and has grown to nearly 120 deer. We are seeing similar increases at the other donor sites: the population on Puget Island grew from 171 in 2012 to 227 in 2015, and the population in Westport grew from 132 in 2012 to 154 in 2016.

Today we have 3 secure and viable subpopulations of the lower Columbia River distinct population segment of Columbian white-tailed deer, with more than 1,000 deer. With Ridgefield NWR on its way to becoming the fourth viable and secure subpopulation, we have made strides towards the recovery of this species that just 40 years ago had numbers that barely broke 400. We look forward to our continued collaborative efforts to help manage and recover the Columbian white-tailed deer.

Streaked Horned Lark Survey Protocols Available:

The streaked horned lark (*Eremophila alpestris strigata*) is listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act (USFWS 2013) and as endangered by the State of Washington, yet until now there was no standardized range-wide survey protocol or monitoring strategy. Assessing population distribution, abundance, and trends is critical for making informed management decisions and for understanding relationships between animal populations and environmental conditions. Such information is used to describe changes in the size of rare or declining populations, identify mechanisms for population changes, assess changes in ecological conditions, and evaluate the effectiveness of conservation



Streaked horned lark nestlings in a newly hatched nest at Leadbetter Point, Washington.

Photo: W. Ritchie/USFWS

actions (e.g., progress towards recovery). Known occupied breeding sites occur on the Puget Sound prairies, southern Washington coast, along the lower Columbia River, and in the Willamette Valley.

One of the protocols addresses site occupancy by assessing with high confidence a site's occupancy status by streaked horned larks during a given nesting season in suitable habitat. A second protocol can be used to assess regional changes in the breeding season abundance of adult streaked horned larks at sites consistently used by nesting streaked horned larks and where site access is possible and reliable. This excellent new document regarding lark survey protocols and strategies is available at: <http://cascadiaprairieoak.org/documents/streaked-horned-lark-occupancy-and-abundance-protocols>

Snowy Plover Monitoring: Adult western snowy plover (*Charadrius nivosus nivosus*) surveys and monitoring of breeding success documented a record year on the Washington coast. Biologists from WDFW, the Shoalwater Bay Tribe, and Willapa NWR coordinated efforts to track another very successful breeding season. The average number of breeding adults derived from repeated breeding window surveys was estimated to be 77 birds (Figure 1) and 64 birds from the single-survey rangewide census. We also counted a record high number of wintering snowy plovers in January 2016, totaling 69 birds. The increased number of adults resulted in 113 chicks hatched from 76 nests with a 60% (n=68) fledging success.

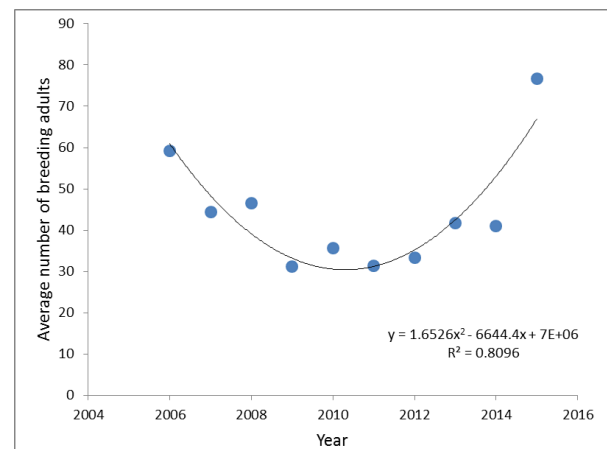


Figure 1. The average number of breeding adult snowy plovers from all Washington sites (2007-2015). Data were generated from repeated annual surveys.

The metric used to calculate fledging success, the number of chicks fledged and the number of breeding adult males, equaled 1.74 (Figure 2). Population viability analyses indicate that, on average, at least one young must fledge per adult male to have a stable population. The point estimate for the Washington population has been well above 1.0 for 3 of the past 5 years. Much of the recent success is likely a result of a predator management strategy that has been

implemented since 2013 at Leadbetter Point and since 2014 at Midway Beach. The only other current Washington breeding site is on Shoalwater Bay tribal lands, where predation pressure has been relatively low. Habitat restoration and favorable weather patterns have also contributed to the observed increases. Similar results were seen at many of the occupied sites on the Oregon coast last year. Emigration from Oregon has helped to bolster the Washington population.

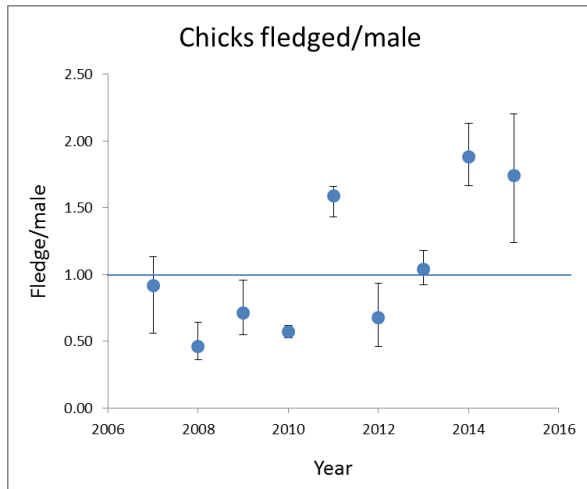


Figure 2. Number of Snowy Plover chicks fledged per adult male 2007-2015 for all Washington nesting sites combined.

Coastal Dune Habitat Restoration: Habitat restoration of the coastal dunes and beaches at Leadbetter Point was among 16 new projects on national wildlife refuges and adjoining lands nationwide to be selected for funding in 2016 under the Cooperative Recovery Initiative program. The project, “Increasing Populations of Western Snowy Plovers and Streaked Horned Larks at Willapa National Wildlife Refuge and Adjacent Coastal Beaches,” will remove invasive *Ammophila* beach grasses on a scale where dynamic ecological processes of disturbance (i.e., wind-blown sand) and recolonization by the native plant community will be able to sustain the ecosystem in a natural state that requires limited future maintenance. The project will restore lands managed by USFWS and Washington State Parks.

Among the primary limiting factors for both species are lack of suitable habitat, low reproductive success, and predation. Horned larks and snowy plovers use similar habitats for nesting at coastal beaches in Washington. Both require large areas of open sand with sparsely distributed native beach plants and low levels of human disturbance. Populations of both species have been declining as dune-stabilizing invasive beach grasses encroach on available habitat, thereby creating a new ecological regime of densely vegetated coastal dunes. As suitable nesting areas shrink in size, increasing numbers of nest predators can more easily

locate nests and chicks. The goal of the project is to measurably improve the number of breeding pairs of snowy plovers at Leadbetter Point and subsequent reproductive success of those pairs to achieve recovery criteria of Recovery Unit 1 (Oregon and Washington). The project will also measurably improve the number of horned lark breeding territories at Leadbetter Point to prevent local extirpation of the Washington coast population.



Some of the beach habitat restored for snowy plover nesting at Leadbetter Point, Washington.
Photo: W. Ritchie/USFWS

The Cooperative Recovery Initiative (CRI) was established to restore and recover species listed as threatened or endangered on national wildlife refuges and surrounding lands. CRI combines the resources of several programs in USFWS (Ecological Services, Partners for Fish and Wildlife, Fisheries and Aquatic Conservation, Migratory Birds, and Science Applications) as well as partnerships outside the Service to implement large-scale conservation efforts. All of the projects are monitored to evaluate their success.

Southeast

Collected by Jason Fidorra, WDFW

Estimating survival and length of territorial occupancy of white-headed woodpeckers in managed ponderosa pine forest. Jeff Kozma, Yakama Nation, and Teresa Lorenz, USFS/Pacific Northwest Research Station.

Along the eastern slope of the Cascades, white-headed woodpeckers inhabit low- to mid-elevation ponderosa pine and mixed-conifer forests year-round. Recent research in this area has expanded our knowledge of their nesting ecology, particularly in forests managed for timber production. However, no information currently exists regarding how long this species lives and/or how long individuals occupy the same territory within these managed forests.



Color banded White-headed woodpecker.

Photo: Kevin Lucas

To address this data gap, we started a long-term study in 2011 within the Wenas area of Yakima and Kittitas Counties. We capture white-headed woodpeckers and affix them with a unique combination of three colored-leg bands and one aluminum numbered leg band in order to identify individuals. We capture and band adults and juveniles at temporary water features in mid to late summer using mist-nets. At nest cavities, we use a hole-saw technique to capture nestlings, and use mist nets and hand-held hoop nets to capture adults for banding. To date we have banded 26 adults, 17 fledglings, and 20 nestlings on 13 different territories. Of the adults captured that we were able to age ($n = 24$), 54% were second-year birds (1 year old) and 21% were after third-year birds (at least 3 years old). The mean number of years individual adults occupied a breeding territory was 3.3 years ($n = 10$, range 1–7). The oldest male we have documented is at least 7 years old and the oldest female is 5 years old; these two are a mated pair that have occupied the same territory since 2011. A detailed analysis of adult survival will be conducted at the conclusion of the study as we learn more about the frequency of adult dispersal.

For more information, visit <https://tinyurl.com/gmg3ghj>.

Statewide survey to understand status and distribution of ferruginous hawks in Washington kicks off

The ferruginous hawk was listed as a state threatened species in 1983. Surveys since that time have suggested that the state's breeding population has declined. The species demonstrates nest high site fidelity and WDFW is conducting a statewide survey of all known historic nest sites this spring. A more rigorous survey protocol is being used compared to previous surveys. Detection probability will be modeled through repeat visits with the goal of more

accurately estimating ferruginous hawk occupancy and identifying new nest sites that may have been overlooked in the past.

This species, North America's largest hawk, nests on cliffs and isolated trees in the shrub-steppe of eastern Washington and other western states. Over half of the known Washington nest sites are located in Benton and Franklin Counties. Previous telemetry work by WDFW shows that migrants typically arrive in Washington in late February and fledge young in late June before heading east to spend the fall in Alberta/Montana and then south for the winter. Some Washington birds winter in central California while others winter on the east side of the Rockies in the Great Plains. Movements are likely tied to prey populations, which primarily include mammals such as ground squirrels. WDFW Biologists, partnering agencies, and over 40 volunteers have been trained in survey protocols and are assisting with the spring survey in hopes of sighting nesting pairs and assessing the state's breeding population of this regal raptor.



Vacant Ferruginous Hawk nest perched on rim rock with a view of Franklin County

Northeast

Collected by Annemarie Prince, WDFW

Non-invasive Spatially Explicit Capture-recapture of Canada Lynx to Estimate Density and Abundance in Northern Washington State. Arthur E. Scully and Daniel H. Thornton, Washington State University.

Camera trapping coupled with new statistical analysis have increased the efficacy of density and abundance estimation for many carnivores, and can be repeated at fairly low cost. However, the applicability of this method to carnivores with less obvious external markings, such as Canada lynx, remains poorly understood. We used double-sided camera stations to obtain images of lynx in the Loomis State Forest. We found high reliability of individual identification of lynx via camera images. In the summer of 2016 we will be redoubling our camera trapping effort. The data from

these studies will support spatially explicit mark-recapture or mark-resight analyses to obtain precise density estimates. Data from this work will inform the development of long-term monitoring strategies for this threatened species in Washington State.



Photos of Canada lynx captured on cameras deployed by WSU.

Washington Annual Wolf Report

Washington State's wolf population continued to grow last year and added at least four new packs, according to WDFW's annual survey. By the end of 2015, the state was home to at least 90 wolves, including 18 packs and 8 breeding pairs.

Washington State's wolf population continued to grow last year and added at least four new packs, according to WDFW's annual survey. By the end of 2015, the state was home to at least 90 wolves, including 18 packs and 8 breeding pairs.

Recently completed annual surveys indicate the minimum number of wolves in 2015 increased by 12 animals from the 2014 count. Since 2008, when WDFW documented just one pack and five wolves, the population has increased by an average of 36 percent per year.

WDFW conducted the research using aerial surveys, remote cameras, wolf tracks, and signals from 22 radio-collared wolves from 13 different packs. Twelve wolves were fitted with radio collars during the year, while one pup was marked and released without a collar due to its small size.

Of the seven wolf mortalities documented in 2015, three were legally harvested by hunters on the reservation of the Spokane Tribe of Indians, which authorized the harvest of up to six wolves per year by tribal members. The four other mortalities included one wolf-vehicle collision, one shot in self-defense by a property owner, one capture-related mortality, and one unknown.

Gray wolves, all but eliminated from western states in the last century, are protected under Washington law throughout the state and under federal law in the western two-thirds of the state.

Because a complete census is not feasible, survey results are expressed in terms of the minimum number of individuals, packs, and breeding pairs. The state Wolf Conservation and Management Plan defines a pack as two or more wolves traveling together in winter and a successful breeding pair as an adult male and female with at least two pups that survive to the end of the calendar year.

Under the state management plan, wolves can be removed from the state endangered species list once 15 successful breeding pairs are documented for three consecutive years among the three designated wolf-recovery regions.

WDFW's complete wolf survey for 2015 will be available by the end of March on the department's website: (http://wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/gray_wolf/).

Puget Sound

Collected by Steve Hall, Point Consulting

WDFW's Kim Chandler Manages Wildlife by Educating People

As Dr. Fred Gilbert taught me more than 30 years ago in my "introduction to wildlife management" class at WSU, wildlife managers need to know as much about managing people as they do about wildlife. And perhaps nowhere is that more true than in our densely populated Puget Sound region, where people regularly get into trouble with all types of wildlife, including raccoons, deer, elk, cougar, coyote and—a springtime favorite—black bear.

WDFW's Kim Chandler always seems to be front and center in the effort to educate people about how to avoid conflicts with wildlife. Kim recently appeared on KOMO News, where he summarized his spring bear wakeup call to King County area suburbanites.

Kim classifies bear reports in two categories: bear sightings and bear problems. So far this spring, the problems have outnumbered the sightings 13 to 10. In most of the problem cases, people reported bears getting into dog food, garbage cans, or bird feeders. New opportunities for problems are accompanying the burgeoning backyard



Bear at bird feeder. Photo © WDFW

farming movement: bears are increasingly finding (and learning how to exploit) new sources of food in suburbia, such as vegetable crops, berries, bee hives and chicken coops.

The problem is exacerbated by an unexpected cause: wildlife habitat protection and enhancement. Decades ago, King County established a greenbelt network with an emphasis on connecting large patches of habitat via wildlife movement corridors. While the concept of connectivity is usually thought of as a good thing when it comes to wildlife habitat, habitat connectivity within human-dominated landscapes comes with a cost. A corridor that facilitates movement between developed and undeveloped areas may also help a wild animal acquire the “problem animal” label.

Most conflicts can be prevented by doing the type of work Kim is doing with the public: educating people to remove potential food sources and to create barriers to that cannot be moved—for example, placing electric fencing around chicken coops, gardens, and beehives.

“If the bear comes to your house and there’s nothing there for him to eat, he’s going to move on,” Chandler said. “This is strictly a food-driven behavior.”

And while wildlife conflicts will always be with us here in Puget Sound country—where people and nature are often squeezed together—it’s great to know that wildlife professionals like Kim Chandler and many others are out there doing the work that needs to be done: managing wildlife by managing people.

Find out more at WDFW’s “Living with wildlife: black bears” web page: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/living/bears.html>.

Alert Marine Bird Researchers Document Increase in Harbor Porpoise Population

Good field biologists are like reporters: they write down everything. And they collect a lot of information they might not need for the task at hand, but that they know may be of value to someone else or to themselves later on.

Such is the case with WDFW marine bird expert Joe Evenson, who joined WDFW in 1994 to work on the Puget Sound Assessment and Monitoring Program (PSAMP).

As part of his work, Joe conducts aerial surveys all over the Puget Sound region every winter to monitor marine bird populations. But along with bird data, Joe and his fellow researchers began to start recording marine mammal sightings as well. After a while, Joe started noticing some very interesting trends.

So Joe contacted John Calambokidis and his Cascadia Research Collective to help interpret the data. Calambokidis had suspected that the harbor porpoise population was rebounding, but he had no data to go on. But when presented with WDFW’s data, his suspicions were confirmed—and exceeded.



Wildlife biologist Joe Evenson, who conducts annual marine bird surveys in Puget Sound, collected incidental information that ended up documenting a resurgence of Puget Sound’s harbor porpoise population.

According to the data, sightings have been increasing at an annual rate of 37 percent in recent years. That’s far more animals than could be produced by the local population, which has a maximum annual growth rate of 10 percent. So it appears that just like the local human population, the population of harbor porpoises in the Puget Sound region is increasing due to an influx of new residents from other places. (*Rumors of harbor porpoises wandering around Seattle’s South Lake Union neighborhood wearing Amazon ID badges have yet to be confirmed—ed.*)

Harbor porpoises were a common sight in Puget Sound until the 1940s, when the population began to decline rapidly. By the early 1970s, the species was essentially extirpated from Puget Sound south of Admiralty Inlet.

John Calambokidis told the *Kitsap Sun* that he is very excited about the increase in harbor porpoise in Puget Sound, as well as increases in harbor seals and humpback whales.

“When I started working in Puget Sound in the late 1970s, there were relatively few species left. So many had been eliminated. Now we’re seeing some returns, and that’s made Puget Sound a far more interesting and diverse place to study.”

Learn more at Cascadia Research (<http://www.cascadiaresearch.org/>) and the *Kitsap Sun* (<http://bit.ly/1UH1VpO>).

Modeling the risk of bear damage in managed forests

Long-time WATWS chapter member Georg Ziegeltrum of the Washington Forest Protection Association (WFPA) reports that WFPA has been working to develop better tools to manage bear damage on commercial forest lands in the Puget Sound region and beyond.



A forest worker surveys extensive bear damage believed to have been done in less than 24-hours

Bear damage typically occurs during spring, when bears emerge from hibernation hungry. The sapwood found just beneath the bark of young, rapidly growing trees provides high-energy food when other food is scarce. During such times, one bear may girdle (and thereby kill) 60-70 conifer trees a day.

According to research conducted by Georg and others, black bears often damage the healthiest conifers in intensively managed stands. In addition, silvicultural practices that promote tree vigor, such as thinning, fertilizing, and planting high-yield genetic progeny, also tend to promote bear damage.

It’s no surprise, then, that bear damage is a huge problem for forest managers. Unfortunately, according to Georg, many underlying problems complicate the overall problem of damage.

First of all, most efforts to reduce bear damage are reactionary rather than preventative. In addition, most of tools available to managers are based on research and technology that is 20 years old or older. And public pressure to ban trapping and depredation hunts is increasing, as is the interest to stop the spring supplemental black bear feeding program - the only available non-lethal damage control tool.

Perhaps one of the biggest underlying problems is that, while the extent of bear damage is well known, no one really knows the reasons why bears choose one stand of trees over another.

That’s where the work of WFPA and its research partners comes in. WFPA-sponsored researchers are working to identify the key factors so that they can build a model that will predict black bear damage. Georg and his fellow researchers hope the model will provide forest managers with a much better understanding of where and when bears will cause damage—so that they can begin to better anticipate and prevent bear damage before it occurs.

For more information, contact Georg at GZiegeltrum@wfpa.org or check out WFPA’s Animal Damage Control Program website at <http://www.wfpa.org/sustainable-forestry/renewable-resource/animal-damage/>.

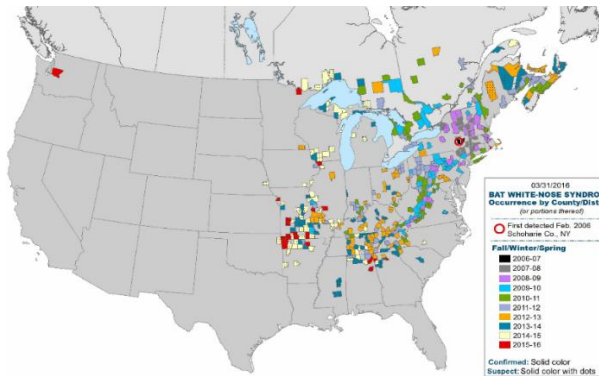
Bat with White-Nose Syndrome Confirmed in Washington State

The Puget Sound region now has the unfortunate distinction of becoming the first recorded occurrence of white-nose syndrome (WNS) disease in western North America.

The U.S. Geological Survey’s National Wildlife Health Center verified the disease in a little brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus*) found near North Bend. Hikers found the sick bat on March 11 and took it to Progressive Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) for care. The bat died two days later, and had visible symptoms of a skin infection common in bats with WNS.

To learn more about WNS and access the most updated decontamination protocols and cave access advisories, visit www.whitenosesyndrome.org.

And as any good wildlife biologist knows, never handle sick or dead wildlife. Just report it online at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/health/wns> or call the WDFW Wildlife Health Hotline at (800) 606-8768.



Map showing confirmed locations of WNS in the U.S.
Source: WDFW

WDFW Region 6 Wildlife Blotter!

Here is a quick sampling of activity reports from WDFW's Region 6:

Field Work

- Tested capture equipment for upcoming black brant monitoring study
- Continued to monitor swan mortalities in north Puget Sound region, with 343 mortalities recorded this year. Leading causes of death were lead poisoning (55%) and powerline collisions (22%)
- Searched for Oregon spotted frogs in Skagit County

Community Involvement

- Continued to plan wildlife viewing locations across King, Snohomish, Skagit, Island, San Juan, and Whatcom counties
- Participated in Whatcom County Council Wildlife Advisory Committee meeting
- Coordinated with the Wildlife Area Advisory Council for the Snoqualmie Wildlife Area plan
- Hosted a community field trip to discuss amphibian identification and conservation and how the public can help, including through citizen science

Habitat Enhancement

- Discussed opportunities to increase waterfowl forage in Whatcom and Skagit counties

Human-Wildlife Conflicts

- Continued ongoing management of North Cascades elk herd, including conducting aerial

surveys, damage management and trapping/research

- Explored locations for elk exclusion fencing in Whatcom and Skagit counties
- Distributed draft outreach document on waterfowl conflict mitigation in northwestern Washington

Consultations

- Met with Port of Seattle airport biologists to discuss management needs
- Contacted spring bear hunt permittees

Regulatory Work

- Revised Black Bear Depredation Permit regulations

Helping Animals

- Transported orphan bear cub to PAWS Wildlife Center

Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting

News of statewide import, contributed by Sara Hansen

The Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission (<http://wdfw.wa.gov/commission>), a citizen panel appointed by the governor to set policy for the WDFW, adopted several rule changes at a public meeting April 8-9 in Olympia. Here are some highlights from the meeting:

Deer and elk baiting: The commission agreed to set a 10-gallon limit on the amount of bait hunters can make available to attract deer and elk at any one time. The new rule, approved by a vote of 7-1, also prohibits establishing bait piles – usually apples, grain, or minerals – closer than 200 yards apart.

Brown pelican status: The commission voted to remove the large seabird from the state's list of threatened and endangered species at the recommendation of the department. The species rebounded throughout the Pacific coast after the pesticide DDT was banned in 1972, and was removed from the federal Endangered Species List in 2009. Up to 10,000 brown pelicans now pass through the state each year, although their population varies in conjunction with the cyclical abundance of forage fish.

Road-killed wildlife: Starting in July, people can legally salvage deer and elk killed by motor vehicles in all areas of the state except Clark, Cowlitz, and Wahkiakum counties, where only elk may be salvaged due to federal laws regarding endangered Columbian white-tailed deer. Those who salvage deer or elk will be required to obtain a permit from WDFW within 24 hours. For more information, see http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/game_salvaging/.

Northwest Section and National Reports and News

Harriet Allen

Updates from TWS Council

Things continue to be in high gear at TWS headquarters since the last Council meeting in October. The Spring Council meeting was held March 13-14, 2016, in conjunction with the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference in Pittsburgh. Each of the eight TWS Sections is represented on the Council and our own Bruce Thompson, from the Northwest Section, is serving as President-Elect of TWS. He will become President in October.

Some of the highlights from the Council meeting are below. You can read full monthly activity reports and other news and information on the TWS website at <http://wildlife.org/>.

Expanding Partnerships—TWS President Gary Potts' theme for the year is strengthening and expanding partnerships for common causes. Some of his initiatives include highlighting awards, mentoring, working with Sections and Chapters, new initiatives with other agencies, and other aspects of partnership. Council members and headquarters staff have prioritized personal engagement with chapters and sections, attending meetings, and presenting information about the Conservation Affairs Network, TWS benefits to members, financial updates, and information about new programs.

For more widespread visibility, TWS awards are now presented at the plenary sessions of the annual conference, rather than the banquet, and information about award recipients is included in the conference program guide. Processing of nominations and awards has become more efficient and he has also initiated recognition for long-standing chapters as part of a larger effort to engage and highlight TWS Sections and Chapters.

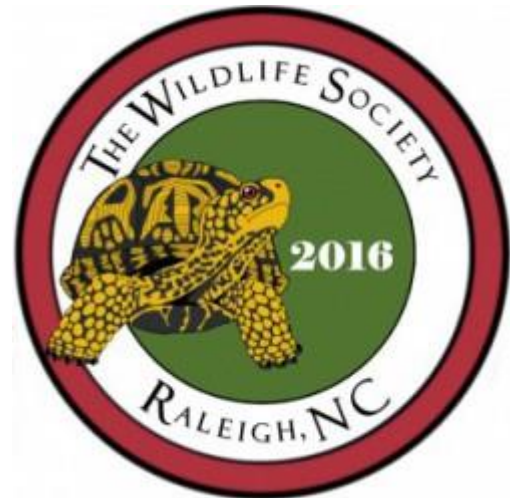
Barb Hill (OR), and **Steve Belinda** (MT) were awarded **TWS Fellows** at the Winnipeg Annual Conference in October 2015 and **Warren Aney** (OR) received the TWS Distinguished Service Award. Congratulations to all.

TWS, USFWS, American Fisheries Society (AFS) and the USGS Cooperative Research Units (CRU) signed a Memorandum of Understanding to support partnerships amongst them. The MOU will enable TWS to address USFWS and CRU needs through The Wildlife Professional, chapter and section meetings, and working groups, and will allow TWS to bring greater benefits to

members and expand its role as a leader in the wildlife conservation community.

President Potts has also approached the National Conservation Leadership Institute about offering leadership training more broadly among Sections.

Annual Conference—The 2016 TWS annual conference will be held in Raleigh, North Carolina, October 15-19. There is currently a lot of controversy about recent legislation that was passed in North Carolina denying rights to the LGBT community. The Mayor of Raleigh issued a statement that the legislative action is not reflective of Raleigh's point of view, which is to be inclusive and distinctly different from the statewide action. Some states, including Washington, have banned nonessential state-funded travel to North Carolina. Chief Operating Officer Ed Thompson will be monitoring member input on the issue and how North Carolina reacts if pressure continues to mount over the next few weeks leading up to the opening of pre-registration. TWS President Potts has written a letter of response to concerned TWS members, which I can provide on request. TWS has a Standing Position Statement regarding Workforce Diversity in the Wildlife Profession.



Sponsorships of Annual Meetings and Partnership Discussions—Chief Operating Officer Ed Thompson reported a new partner, Bayer Bee Care (BBC). Bayer is involved in lab and field work on bee health and has a North Carolina facility. They also have an initiative called Feed a Bee that includes distribution of wildflower seed packets and have offered to distribute them to chapters, sections and conclaves at no charge if they want them; members need to make sure that are no invasive species in the seed packets. The partnership will bring \$30k to TWS this year.

There was considerable discussion at the Council meeting and with follow-up e-mails from Council members on the

BBC partner arrangement because the Bayer affiliate, Bayer CropScience, is a manufacturer of neonicotinoid insecticides, which have been implicated in honeybee colony collapse. Questions arose as to whether TWS should be engaged in a partner/sponsor relationship with BBC; if the current process for vetting and approving partners/sponsors was working effectively; and whether the seed packs should be distributed to organization units. A Q&A on the discussion has been developed that is available upon request.

After much discussion, TWS President Gary Potts summarized that in all cases, it is necessary to identify the common ground between TWS and the organization that is consistent with our mission, on which to build a relationship. Selection of the partner did follow an extensive vetting process, consistent with previous partner selections. He emphasized that:

- These sponsoring and partnering engagements are demonstrations of support for TWS, not endorsements of any organization or affiliated organizations.
- We are careful to find that common ground we can share with a partnering organization, even if there are some differences on specific issues.
- The financial support they provide helps us improve member benefits, professional development and member experiences.
- These relationships provide a highly collaborative platform for dialogue and information sharing that could influence the organizations in ways that wouldn't be possible otherwise.

Finances—Detailed budget reports were given by Executive Director Ken Williams. Financial status is continuously tracked and reviewed monthly with the Finance Committee and twice yearly by the Council. The TWS fiscal year runs July to June, and at the time of the Council meeting TWS was 8 months into the FY 2015-16 budget. Williams reported that TWS operations were running well in the black; while the investment portfolio was down in February, but increasing in March due to recent market fluctuations. At the close of FY 2015-16, TWS is expected to continue its 4-year trend of exceeding financial goals.

TWS has four fund categories (General Operating, Endowment, Permanent Reserve, and Awards), each with separate functions and intents. Council approved reallocating funds from sale of a donated house and associated investment yield from the Endowment Fund to the Permanent Reserve Fund to correctly align intents of the funds.

Council approved a FY 2016-17 TWS Operating Budget, with contingencies for anticipated 2016 Conference registrations, possible costs of negotiating a contract amendment with Wiley, and funding for internships from appropriate investment income. The budget should help TWS' continuing recovery and building of the reserve fund.

Publications and Communications—Nancy Sasavage, Director of Publications and Communications, reported that staffing for her team is now complete. The addition of a science writer has enabled TWS to increase *The Wildlife Professional* to 6 issues per year and post more articles to the TWS website. Outreach for the *Journal* and *Bulletin* has been expanded on the TWS website and Wiley Publisher's social media networks. The current Editor in Chief of *Wildlife Monographs*, Eric Hellgren, will be stepping down in February 2017.

The 10th anniversary issue of *The Wildlife Professional* featured wildlife students and young professionals - all Student Chapters received 5 issues as a promotion for TWS membership. The May/June issue of *The Wildlife Professional* will feature special coverage of State Wildlife Action Plans from six states as well as more on why federal funding is crucial to implementing the conservation efforts in the plans.

Members are now receiving a combined weekly eWildlifer newsletter and TWS Talks. A change was also made to have Chuck Shively, TWS Development Manager, handle advertising internally rather than through an outside contract, which is saving TWS money and increasing advertising opportunities.

Guidelines were developed and published in *JWM* to help authors distinguish whether papers should be submitted to the *Journal* or the *Bulletin* for publication.

Council heard an overview of open access developments for publications and data. This trend is driven by tools that make it feasible; proliferation of open access journals (almost exponential growth since 2004 and now numbering almost 11,000); and expectations and requirements for open access by institutions that fund, publish, or disseminate research. New Department of Interior policy requires that all funded journal publications be made accessible to the public no later than 12 months after publication. TWS is exploring opportunities to begin offering members this benefit.

A new TWS Network Online Directory is being developed as a tool to help members match up interests, areas of focus, geographic location, etc.

Government Affairs and Partnerships (GAP)—Keith Norris, GAP Director, reported that the division is now

fully staffed, with Assistant Director and Associate positions filled by Cameron Kovach and Caroline Murphy; Certification and professional development have been moved to GAP.

Staff have been putting a lot of effort into the Conservation Affairs Network (CAN), and will be working through the Network to solicit Section and Chapter priorities to help focus attention on a few top priority issues during the coming year.

Government Affairs reported on conservation activities of Headquarters, Sections and Chapters, work on position statements, technical reviews, and development of an online Policy Library. TWS has been participating in the National Horse and Burro Rangeland Management Coalition and the North American Bird Conservation Initiative. Government Affairs also issued two recent Action Alerts to members which were well supported:

- An alert on wildlife funding resulted in more than 1200 letters to Congress; and
- An alert to support the USFWS Resource Protection Act (H.R. 4558) – a bill to give USFWS authority to collect compensation for intentional damages to resources within the National Wildlife Refuge System – resulted in 509 letters sent from 47 states to 229 House of Representative offices as of late March.

TWS also co-hosted a workshop at the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference on *Barriers and Bridges in Reconnecting Natural Resources Science and Management*. The workshop was attended by more than 120 wildlife and fisheries professionals, and discussions will continue throughout the next few years at TWS and AFS annual meetings and future North American conferences.

Council approved 4 recommended fee changes for AWB®-CWB® applications, renewals, and upgrades to fully cover the costs of the programs:

1. Removed a non-member price from the website and applications to highlight certification as a members-only program and reduce confusion.
2. Established a set AWB®-CWB® upgrade fee at \$75 to account for costs of processing an application and reduce confusion among upgrade applicants.
3. Established separate fees of \$25 each for CWB® Renewals and Professional Development Certificates to capture costs of administering each program and to highlight differences of the certificate program.

4. Removed the 25% rebate policy for denied applicants to reduce staff burden and cover the costs of the program.

Bylaws Changes for Next Ballot—Members will be asked to vote on proposed bylaws changes in the next ballot that will likely go out in early May, including;

1. Moving the TWS Code of Ethics from the bylaws to a stand-alone document.
2. Set Student Member dues at no more than 50% of Regular Member dues instead of the current requirement that they be set at 50%.
3. Set Regular Member dues at no more than 50% plus \$10.
4. Reinstate a Life Membership option.

Executive Director Position—The Council meeting closed with Ken Williams letting us know that by June 2017 he'll have been Executive Director for 4.5 years and that he will be retiring! As a result, in the coming months, work will begin on the process of hiring a new ED. The search will likely begin this summer. Ken has done a very skillful job for TWS as ED and it will be big shoes to fill.

Blue Ribbon Panel Recommendations—The Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources announced recommendations for funding conservation for all fish and wildlife species. The panel of business and conservation leaders recommended that Congress dedicate \$1.3 billion annual in existing revenue from energy development on federal lands to the Wildlife Conservation Restoration Program to fund state wildlife action plans. Gaining support for this proposal in Congress will be high on the priority list for TWS and other partners.

A final discussion at the Council meeting was about TWS membership recruitment. Members noted the importance of being part of something bigger that is making a difference. Some thoughts from ED Ken Williams: "People care about the ultimate conservation legacy they hope to leave through their involvement." And as President-elect Bruce Thompson noted, "People join because of what they are going to get, but they stay because of what they are going to give."

In summary, tons going on. Hope you will all consider becoming TWS members and Section members if you aren't already. Please be sure to keep checking the TWS website <http://wildlife.org/> for news and information.

*Best wishes for Spring and Summer,
Harriet Allen
Northwest Section Representative to TWS Council*

Thanks to Our Meeting Sponsors

The successful Joint Meeting in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, in February 2016 was aided substantially by 24 sponsors who contributed more than \$20,000 to defray expenses of hosting the more than 400 participants. WATWS joins our partners (Idaho Chapter-TWS, Society for Northwestern Vertebrate Biology, and Northwest Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation) in giving immense thanks to the diverse array of sponsors who saw value in what our forum accomplished for wildlife and natural resources in the Northwest. When you have occasion, please patronize or otherwise acknowledge the sponsors listed below for their contributions toward our professional forum.

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Several businesses further supported the Joint Meeting through contributions for use in auction and raffle events. Please join us in expressing gratitude to the following:

<i>Backyard Bird Shop in Vancouver</i>	<i>Bass Pro Shop</i>
<i>Harrod Outdoors</i>	<i>McClendon's Hardware</i>
<i>Nice Nests</i>	<i>Sportsman's Warehouse</i>
<i>Starbucks</i>	<i>The Mountain</i>
<i>Wild Birds Unlimited</i>	

The many individuals who supported the Joint Meeting through contributions for use in auction and raffle events are too numerous to list here but are also acknowledged for assisting our successful professional interaction and support of students.

Join the Chapter!

For more information the Chapter, including membership forms, please visit [our website](#). If you have questions regarding your membership status, please contact Andrea Lyons at 509-630-0673 or andreal Lyons3@gmail.com. She 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!



Sage-grouse lek surveys, Spring 2016.
Photo by Danielle Munzing

The Wildlife Society—Washington Chapter

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