

The Washington Wildlifer

Newsletter of the Washington Chapter of The Wildlife Society



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Katy Stuart



Happy Spring, Wildlifers! I struggled with what to write for my first President's Message because as many of you are gearing up for spring and summer field seasons, I am managing a different type of "wildlife" on a daily basis (two energetic kids, 4 and 6 years

old!). I have always appreciated how welcoming the Washington Chapter of The Wildlife Society is to everyone in the wildlife field: from students, to full-time professionals, to retirees, and everything in between (e.g., stay-at-home wildlife moms). We are a diverse group of nearly 500 members, and every one of you is an important part of our community. 2018 is special in that, for the first time in the history of the Chapter, all officers (Past-President, President, President-Elect, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer) are women! This year, a main focus for WATWS is to increase connection among wildlifers in our state through additional opportunities to meet in person outside of joint annual meetings (stay tuned for more details soon!), and a smaller annual meeting in 2019 catered specifically to the interests of Washington members (see Lisa's piece below).

We are seeking to expand the number of members that help our Chapter operate and plan for events by filling vacancies in committees, both regular committees and those specific to meeting planning. Check out the "Call for Committees" below to see how you can get involved! There are so many great opportunities to network and build leadership and technical skills, plus we are a fun group to work with! Even participating on a small scale, such as voting during elections or nominating a colleague for an award, can make a big difference. When you share your ideas and expertise, the Chapter becomes more relevant and better equipped to support you.

We are also exploring additional ways our Chapter can support wildlife research, management, and education in Washington State through new grants and greater involvement in policy and outreach. Student involvement continues to be a key focus. We have two new co-student liaisons with the Washington State University Student Chapter who are already helping us brainstorm ways the

Spring 2018

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Washington Chapter can work more closely with and support student chapters, and several other universities in the state have shown interest in creating new student chapters.

Finally, for those of you who attended the 2018 Joint Annual Meeting in Portland and were jealous of the swag that the other organizations were selling, rest assured that we are working on creating some awesome WATWS

gear so that you can represent your Chapter with pride in 2019 and maybe help recruit some additional members to our great organization.

JOINT ANNUAL MEETING ROUNDUP

Katy Stuart



A record-breaking 738 wildlife professionals and students attended the 2018 Joint Annual Meeting of the Washington and Oregon Chapters of The Wildlife Society, Society for Northwestern Vertebrate Biology (SNVB), and Northwest Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (NWPARC). February 13th to 16th represented four days of learning, networking, and fun at the Red Lion Hotel on the River – Jantzen Beach in lovely Portland, Oregon.

On February 13th, NWPARC hosted an all-day field training course on standard and novel amphibian inventory and monitoring techniques including species identification, handling, photography, funnel trapping, eDNA, radio telemetry, camera traps, and drones.

Thomas Lovejoy formally opened the meeting on February 14th with a plenary talk focused on conserving biodiversity in the “year of the bird” as 2018 marks the 100th anniversary of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Lovejoy is recognized as one of the world’s foremost conservation biologists for his work on the interface of science and environmental policy. He coined the term “biological diversity,” originated the concept of debt-for-nature swaps, and has worked on the interaction between climate change and biodiversity for more than 30 years. His keynote address captivated a full audience, inspiring every person to make meaningful change to slow climate change and preserve biodiversity. A video of his talk will be posted on the ORTWS and WATWS websites soon.

Afternoon sessions on Wednesday featured talks from invited speakers on forest management and habitat, renewable energy, finding broader relevancy and greater funding for fish and wildlife conservation, and marine mammals, along with contributed papers on amphibians.



Special events Wednesday evening included a student resume and interview session, a poster session featuring 65(!) posters and a social mixer featuring a DJ and photo booth with costume props from A Beat Above Entertainment. Students were given a BINGO card at Registration to encourage them to interact with wildlife mentors at the social. Three teams from Oregon State University competed in the Quiz Bowl. An all-female group of seniors, the Badass Badgers, won.

Washington students: We will be looking for greater participation from you in the 2019 Quiz Bowl!

Thursday sessions started bright and early at 8:10am and ran all day until 5:00pm. Sessions featured invited speakers on White Nose Syndrome, as well as contributed papers on forest carnivores, mammals, invasive species, wildlife connectivity, non-game birds, and changing environment. NWPARC hosted a special symposium on reptiles.

Thursday afternoon featured IGNITE talks on invertebrates, human influences, avian biology, and mammal ecology. As in past years, these short (5-minute) project updates and notes from the field were well received and generated a lot of great questions from the audience. Check out the abstracts [at our Chapter website](#) to learn more about all of the great talks that were given at the 2018 Joint Annual Meeting.

Thursday evening featured a banquet with delicious food, award presentations for each organization, auctions, and raffles. WATWS member Jonathon Gallie’s talk, “**Fire, Fragmentation, and the Farmbill: Unique Developments and Challenges in the Recovery of Columbia Basin Pygmy Rabbits,**” was voted Best Presentation. See below for details on this year’s WATWS award winners. Ken Bevis and Bill Richardson kept the large crowd entertained with dramatic raffle drawings and a live auction featuring a private flight tour, a day of falconry, and a weekend getaway to a luxury resort in Oregon. The winners of the photo contest were also announced at the banquet. The competition was fierce this year: more than 70 photos were submitted in categories ranging from herptiles to landscapes... to “Everything Else.”

On Friday morning almost 100 students and professionals connected for mentoring through Breakfast with a Wildlifer. This event was well received by both the students and mentors.

Field trips on Friday included a behind-the-scene tours of the Oregon Zoo’s species recovery programs with Deputy Conservation Manager David Shepherdson, as well as a visit to a regional wetland for amphibian egg mass monitoring of four pond-breeding amphibian species with Katy Weil.

There were also four concurrent workshops. **Data Wrangling** with Seth Harju, Biometrician from Heron Ecological, LLC, explained the overall art of statistics and focused on the basics of wildlife and ecological data analysis, including distributions and inherent analytical challenges, how the data and research questions drive the analysis, how different types of statistical analyses are related to each other, and common mistakes made in statistical analysis. The **Communication & Conflict Resolution Skills** double workshop focused on building communication and conflict resolution skills. Part A: Confident and Clear Science Communication by Science Talk (a professional science communication organization), led by Steven Sobieszczyk, an earth scientist at USGS, and Allison Coffin, an assistant professor of Neuroscience at Washington State University, helped participants prepare to engage with different audiences including other researchers,

policymakers, journalists, and the lay public, with a special focus on interacting with the public on controversial issues. Part B: Building Skills for Difficult and Controversial Community Situations, led by Nicole Strong and Lauren Grand, both assistant professors of Practice at the Oregon State University Extension, presented case studies, tips and techniques, resources, and opportunities for participants to use active listening, facilitation, and meeting management skills to work on their own real-life situations. The **White Nose Syndrome/*Pd* Surveillance Best Practices** workshop was led by Julia Burco, ODFW Wildlife Veterinarian, and Anne Ballmann, USGS Veterinarian, and focused on hands-on training in field techniques for *Pseudogymnoascus destructans* surveillance, sample collection from bats and the environment, long-wave UV screening methods, and decontamination procedures for equipment and clothing. The **Native Bee** workshop included



presentations about the life history and habitat requirements, distribution, adaptations, and morphological characteristics of the major bee families and genera of the Pacific Northwest, threats to pollinator habitat, basic bee sampling methods and considerations for monitoring, and habitat restoration and management for native bees. All field trips and workshops had full registration with total attendance of nearly 200.

Many thanks to the Joint Meeting Steering Committee for putting together this very successful annual meeting. Katy Stuart with WATWS, John Goodell with ORTWS, Betsy Howell with NWPARC, and Teal Waterstrat with SNVB were Co-Chairs. John Goodell managed many of the details, including the venue, catering, plenary speaker, and A/V equipment, while Katy Stuart led the bi-monthly calls and helped keep the large planning group on track. Teal Waterstrat created the meeting announcements and calls for papers. Summer Peterman with ORTWS worked hard on the budget and finances for the meeting with the help of Sarah Kindschuh (WATWS), Betsy Howell (NWPARC), and Patrick Burke (SNVB). Andrea Karolangan designed and managed the registration system. Danielle Munzing

(WATWS) took the lead on designing the technical program and managing abstract submissions with the help of Wendy Wente (ORTWS), Jeff Kozma (WATWS), Katy Weil (NWPARC), and Michelle Dragoo (SNVB). Jenniffer Bakke of ORTWS designed the beautiful program. Tony Fuchs (WATWS) led the sponsorship drive with the help of Julia Burco, John Goodell, and Josh Chapman of ORTWS, and Katy Weil with NWPARC. Dominic Bachman and Annemarie Prince of WATWS and Paul Di Salvo of ORTWS helped design and lead the student activities at the meeting. Bruce Thompson (WATWS) and Lindsey Webb (WA/ORTWS) managed lodging and registration incentives for students and early career professionals, respectively. Josh Chapman, Julia Burco, and Daphne Swope of ORTWS, Bill Vogel of WATWS, and Char Corkran, Elke Wind, and Laura Guderyahn of NWPARC planned the workshops, and David Sheperdson (ORTWS) and Katy Weil (NWPARC) planned the field trips. Many others helped make the 2018 meeting a success, and we thank you all!!

2019 ANNUAL MEETING PLANNING

Lisa Dowling

Planning for the 2019 Annual Meeting is well underway. We are excited to announce that we will be partnering with the Society for Northwestern Vertebrate Biology. We are exploring venue options in the Puget Sound region, with a likely location near the Tacoma/Gig Harbor area. We look forward to developing a theme that will generate interest among members from both organizations and allow for a wide variety of topics for sessions and workshops. Stay tuned for more details to come!

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Bill Vogel

Once again this year, we were delighted to present several awards to various individuals and organizations during the Thursday evening banquet at our annual meeting.

William H. Lawrence Special Achievement Award

Kent Woodruff, WDFW (retired), was recognized for outstanding efforts in effective restoration of natural habitats and processes through the reintroduction of beavers. Kent was previously recognized in 2011 for his work on the Chelan Ridge HawkWatch.



Leadership in Conservation Award

Chris Loggers, Colville National Forest (retired), was recognized for sustained outstanding efforts in understanding the conservation needs of species, land stewardship, and communications with the public and aspiring biologists.



In addition, John Fleckenstein, WDNR Natural Heritage Program (retired), was recognized jointly by WATWS and SNVB for sustained outstanding efforts in understanding the distribution, status, and conservation needs of little-known and sensitive species.

Stewardship Award

PacifiCorp was recognized for excellent land management and collaboration for the benefit of wildlife (Kendel Emmerson and Summer Peterman are shown here, accepting the award on PacifiCorp's behalf).



Foresight Award

Frithiof Teal Waterstrat, USFWS, was recognized for outstanding efforts in fostering cooperative efforts to understand and conserve freshwater mussels.



Conservation Award

Rachel Maggi, NRCS, was recognized for outstanding efforts in landscape-scale habitat restoration and enhancement.

Many thanks to Jim Harper for sharing these photos of the award recipients!

Lots of great people are doing lots of great work, and their efforts deserve to be recognized. Do you know someone who makes a substantial contribution to conservation, does more than they need to, uses foresight and anticipation to address problems early, shows their dedication, makes valuable contributions, creates effective partnerships, or any number of other valuable contributions to our field? Well,

tell us about them! Please call me at 360-753-4367 or e-mail me at william_o_vogel@yahoo.com.

THANK YOU, MEETING SPONSORS

Tony Fuchs

Special thanks go out to those people and organizations that sponsored this year's joint annual meeting. These sponsorships helped assure the delivery of a quality program for the broad array of natural resource professionals in attendance.

Platinum Sponsors: Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Weyerhaeuser, and U.S. Forest Service Region 6

Gold Sponsor: Port Blakely Tree Farms, LP

Silver Sponsors: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Wildlife Foundation, and the Oregon Sustainable Forestry Initiative

Bronze Sponsors: NW Ecological Research Institute, Parametrix, Oregon Zoo, Northwest Avian Resources, Hancock Forest Management, Mason, Bruce & Girard, Inc., and the Washington Sustainable Forestry Initiative

Supporting Sponsors: Puget Sound Energy, Portland Metro, and Richard Leeds

Your support helped make this meeting a success. Thank you!

GET TO KNOW YOUR BOARD

Sure, we all read the candidates' statements when we were casting our votes, but what do we *really* know about the people who represent our interests as WATWS members? Incoming President Katy Stuart came up with a few getting-to-know-you questions for the members of our executive board. Here are the questions, followed by each board member's responses.

1. What do you do at your current job, and what is your job title?
2. What is your favorite wildlife species and why?
3. Why are you excited to be a WATWS Representative?
4. What is one interesting (non-wildlife related) thing about you?

Annemarie Prince, Board Member

1. I am the District 1 Wildlife Biologist for WDFW. My job duties are varied, but in general, I am responsible for managing wildlife in Ferry, Stevens, and Pend Oreille Counties. As the District Wildlife Biologist, I conduct surveys and develop management recommendations for

game and non-game species including deer, elk, moose, bighorn sheep, golden eagles, common loons, and grizzly bears.

2. This is a hard one and my favorite species tends to change almost every year. Currently, I have two favorites, bighorn sheep and golden eagle. I love the landscape in which these two species live. I think they are both beautiful animals that pack a mean punch for their size.

3. I love interacting with other members of WATWS and getting to know more about the organization. It's pretty cool to be involved in setting the priorities for the future of the organization. The WATWS board and officers are such an amazing group of people that are motivated, creative, and invested in the future of the wildlife profession.

4. I'm a climber and last summer, my boyfriend and I climbed the Grand Teton.

Danielle Munzing, Past President

1. Southeast Region Habitat Biologist for Washington Department of Natural Resources.

2. What I love about wildlife is there is always something new to learn and love about every species. Who could pick one!

3. I enjoy the networking piece of being a WATWS representative.

4. I speak Swedish.



Photo: Danielle Munzing

Dominic Bachman, Board Member and Student Quiz Bowl Chair

1. I am the state-level wildlife biologist for the Natural Resource Conservation Service. I work with NRCS policies to help private landowners create, protect and enhance wildlife habitat on private lands...pretty much a cubicle-bound wildlife habitat here, if you ask me.

2. THAT is a tough question and the answer changes.....Once upon a time it was Pacific brant now it is most likely the Hungarian partridge.

3. Because I love weekly mind-numbing conference calls and I really wanted a way to add one more to my list . ☺
(In case the emoticon didn't convey the point: WATWS Board conference calls are neither weekly nor mind-numbing. —ed.)

4. I am a non-religious minister who has done a bunch of weddings for outdoorsy type people! Since I gave you such a sassy answer for #3 I will give you two. I am a dog breeder who breeds really furry and fun German wirehair pointers!

Katy Stuart, President

1. Stay-at-home mom/Group Fitness Instructor. I inspire children and gym members to lead healthy, active lifestyles.

2. The western gray squirrel: I spent 4 years studying it in the North Cascades for my doctoral research at the University of Washington.

3. I'm glad I can stay involved in the wildlife field and love working with this fun group!

4. I am a mountaineer and have summited 3 peaks in Peru (one over 20,000 feet), and many mountains in the Cascades including Mount Rainier, Mount Adams, and Mount Baker. I hope to climb the top 100 peaks in Washington.

Kevin White, Board Member

1. I am a contract wildlife biologist at the Army's Yakima Training Center. I provide guidance to 7 other staff and coordinate the successful implementation of the wildlife and land management programs. My main focus is population monitoring and research of sage-grouse. I have been the lead biologist on a 6-year research project where we are assessing sage-grouse population vital rates and spatial distribution to identify core-use areas on a seasonal and annual basis. Outside of working with sage-grouse, I focus on raptor monitoring to assess nest occupancy, survival, and productivity of numerous species nesting within this shrub-steppe ecosystem. Additionally, I conduct annual burrowing owl surveys, captures, and banding. From this effort I make assessments of off-road military vehicle threats (i.e. driving over a burrow) to burrowing owl burrows and provide spatial protections to those burrows if warranted. I manage all wildlife survey data and spatial records for the wildlife program. Furthermore, I conduct extensive GIS analysis of vegetation data leading to habitat evaluations and suitability models for several wildlife species which I use to better guide our survey efforts. I use these models and wildlife observation data to assess project-based or military training impacts to wildlife. I write technical reports from all of the wildlife survey efforts and provide recommendations to improve wildlife management on the installation.

2. My favorite wildlife species is the cougar. I spent 8 years working with this charismatic carnivore and grew to respect and appreciate this animal. I went to cougar kill sites to investigate prey species killed. This led me to high mountain peaks to document mountain goat kill sites to the valley floor next to the golf course in Suncadia to document elk kills. How an 80-pound female cougar can take down a mature elk is beyond me. Their sheer muscle mass is mind-blowing; did anyone see the [197-pound cougar](#) that WDFW radio-collared in NE Washington recently, need I say more?

Cougars are secretive, elusive animals that are highly adaptable to fragmented landscapes, especially in the wildland-urban interface. They can live in close proximity to humans, but yet, they can somehow still go undetected.

3. I'm excited for the opportunity to collaborate with other wildlife professionals to promote and enhance wildlife conservation in Washington and be a voice for wildlife. I believe that more people are becoming disconnected from the outdoors and have a lack of understanding and appreciation for our natural environments. Being a WATWS representative will be a way I can work with others to provide necessary educational information on issues affecting wildlife and natural resources, promote opportunities for people of all ages to get engaged in our natural world, and hopefully generate more interest for others to pursue a career working with our natural resources. What I'm excited the most about is knowing that WATWS is a good funding source for grants and scholarships so we can directly give back to support wildlife projects and education advancement.

4. I recently took up creative dancing which consists of dancing with my 3-year-old daughter at home while blaring Disney songs. Although I'm not as good as her with creating new dance moves, I feel like my creativity is getting better and she has adopted some of my new moves.

Lisa Dowling, President-Elect

1. I am a Private Lands Biologist working with Pheasants Forever, Inc., and NRCS to use the Sage-Grouse Initiative Farm Bill Program as a catalyst for wildlife conservation.

2. This changes by the day as I am always finding new ways of appreciating different species, but lately I have been enthralled with pronghorn because they are taxonomically fascinating and have been reintroduced to our area, which makes it fun to find them in the field!

3. The potential to magnify our wildlife conservation efforts is amplified when we have more opportunities to network and collaborate with other wildlife professionals local to our region. WATWS provides these opportunities and I am

excited to assist with these efforts and meet, work with, and learn from a group of dedicated wildlife professionals working in Washington State.

4. Pretty Boy Floyd, who was a notorious bank robber from the Depression era that led to the creation of the FBI, is my third cousin.

Sara Hansen, Vice President

1. WDFW Statewide Deer Specialist. I coordinate statewide monitoring and research efforts that support sustainable management of Washington's black-tailed, white-tailed, and mule deer populations.

2. Gray foxes are my favorite, because they don't need to outrun their predators to get away; they outfox them by climbing a tree.

3. I enjoy providing opportunities for our membership to communicate their work to other wildlifers.

4. Each spring I turn the bare courtyard in my apartment building into a container-garden with flowers and 12 different kind of vegetables.

Sarah Kindschuh, Treasurer

1. I've worked for WDFW as the game data biologist for almost three years. In this position I manage game species harvest, survey, and monitoring data from across the state and help develop systems that allow managers and biologists to more easily compile, access, and utilize those data.

2. Today let's say my favorite is *Bombus mixtus* because right now I'm excited about spring gardening.

3. I'm eager to contribute to an organization whose mission is to inspire, empower, and enable wildlife professionals to carry out the important and challenging work they do.

4. I have chickens in my kitchen – keeping a few fluffy chicks warm until they're ready to move outside.

Teresa Lorenz, Secretary

1. Research Wildlife Biologist, USFS, PNW Research Station. I do research on wildlife, currently focusing on marbled murrelet and cavity-nesting birds. My day-to-day activities include obtaining grants, overseeing the field work, analyzing data, presenting at conferences, and writing peer-reviewed publications.

2. I don't have a favorite, although I have worked closely with woodpeckers and Clark's nutcrackers in the past, and I like them.

3. It is great to be a part of something bigger than yourself and give something back to WATWS. I've been a member of WATWS since I started as an MS student and WATWS has supported my work in lots of small ways.

4. I like hiking and running. At the moment I'm crazy about raising backyard chickens. They are so much fun!

SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS

Tony Fuchs and John Grettenberger

Once again, thanks to a successful annual meeting and judicious financial management, WATWS is able to fund wildlife-related education, as well as research and conservation projects. We received many excellent applications for the latest round of scholarships, research grants, and conservation grants. After careful review and consideration, we identified several successful applications.

Scholarship

The recipient of the Richard Fitzner Memorial Scholarship for the 2018-2019 academic year is Ashley Harper. She will be a senior at Washington State University, where she is majoring in Wildlife Ecology and minoring in Forestry and Geospatial analysis. She is the secretary for the WSU student chapter of The Wildlife Society, and she is interested in wildlife nutrition.

Research Grants

This year we had four applications for research grants, ranging from work with rattlesnake den use and dispersal to supporting research of montane carnivores. After review and approval by our grants committee and Board, we are awarding the research grant funds to **Katie Stanchak** for her project, "Systematics and Distribution of *S. merriami* in Washington." *Sorex merriami* is a candidate for state listing as Endangered, Threatened, or Sensitive in Washington state. A confirmed classification and detailed knowledge of its distribution in the state could help wildlife officials determine its protection status, making this study and its results a high priority. The results of her research will be presented at a future WATWS chapter annual meeting.

Conservation Grant

We received two applications for conservation grants this year. After review and deliberation, we decided that both worthy applicants deserved to share this year's award. **Chris Loggers'** goshawk monitoring project will receive \$1,300 to purchase two VHF receivers. The receivers will help with monitoring goshawk use of habitats, which will lead to better forest restoration and management decisions. The remaining \$200 of the conservation grant allocation will go to the **Whatcom County Amphibian Monitoring Program Citizen Science Egg Mass Survey Program** to

help with educational materials, including production of full-color, laminated identification guides of adult frogs and salamanders and egg masses. This is the third year in a row that we have provided funding to this excellent citizen science program!

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/>.

NORTHWEST SECTION REPRESENTATIVE NEWS

Harriet Allen

Hi All,

Spring Council Meeting—The TWS Spring Council meeting was held March 25-26, 2018 in Norfolk, Virginia, in conjunction with the North American Wildlife & Natural Resources Conference. The Wildlife Society Council consists of the Executive Committee and representatives of the 8 TWS Sections. The Executive Committee is composed of President John McDonald, President-Elect Darren Miller, Vice President Gary White, and Immediate Past President Bruce Thompson. Phillip Stephenson is the Student Liaison to Council.

Membership—The Wildlife Society CEO Ed Thompson reported at the meeting that TWS had 9,791 members—10,403, with the Give Back Program. The Give Back Program is an opportunity for members to give a free 6-month membership in TWS to someone when you're renewing your membership. It's a great opportunity to share the benefits of TWS membership with your colleagues! <http://wildlife.org/giveback/>. In a new initiative, TWS is proceeding with a pilot rollout of an Affiliates monthly e-Wildlifer to connect with people who are members of chapters and sections but are not currently TWS members. Most unit (chapter/section) bylaws have an "Associate Member" category for members of the unit that are not members of TWS.

Finances & Operations Plans—CEO Thompson reported a positive net revenue to date, and we are very close to meeting our goal for the "rainy day fund." The goal is to have enough funds set aside to cover 6 months of operating costs, should the need should ever arise. Several improvements have been made to TWS' financial systems, with TWS now having one CPA firm doing its books and another CPA doing the audit; these changes have streamlined and digitized the budget reports and monitoring. In its most important piece of business at the

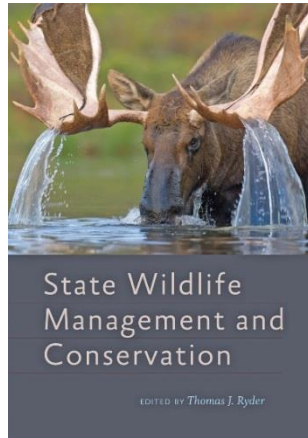


Spring meeting, Council approved the TWS FY19 budget (July 2018 - June 2019) and TWS Operations Plans for 2019.

Strategic Plan—The TWS Strategic Plan Review Ad Hoc Committee has begun work on the next 5-year Strategic Plan (2019-2023), building upon the current 2015-19 Strategic Plan, which can be found at the TWS website.

Bylaws Changes—Some bylaws changes were approved by Council to move forward for a membership vote. These changes will address consistencies with Washington DC codes for non-profit organizations such as TWS.

Publications—The newest book in TWS' Wildlife Conservation and Management series—*State Wildlife Management and Conservation*—has been published. The product of more than 40 contributors' efforts, the book provides a comprehensive, nationwide account of state management efforts and what is entailed in being a state wildlife biologist. It should prove useful for academics, students, and those currently working with wildlife. TWS members receive a 30 percent discount off the cover price of \$75.



Government Relations—TWS Wildlife Policy and Programs Director Keith Norris has been working with Government Relations staff to communicate with policy makers on wildlife issues important to TWS. One of the most important current issues is getting support for the **Recovering America's Wildlife Act (H.R. 4647)**. The Act would dedicate \$1.3 billion annually for state fish and wildlife agencies, so they could put their state action plans to work. The funds would be allocated from existing revenues from energy and mineral leasing on federal lands and waters and leverage additional funds by requiring a 25-percent match. TWS participated in the CEO fly-in to Washington D.C. in mid-March, when leaders from corporations, state wildlife agencies, and NGOs spoke with congressional delegations to garner support for the bill. TWS chapters and sections across the country have signed letters, organized support or partnerships, and encouraged members of Congress to support the legislation.

To help with these efforts, a new report titled [Reversing America's Wildlife Crisis](#), has just been released by the National Wildlife Federation, American Fisheries Society, and The Wildlife Society. It's available at wildlife.org. The report highlights the diversity of wildlife species in the

United States, the threats causing their declines, and how the **Recovering America's Wildlife Act** would address the declines by funding the State Wildlife Action Plans.

Other TWS policy priorities include the Farm Bill reauthorization, Lacey Act authorities re: invasive species, and working with sections and chapters through the Conservation Affairs Network. You can find updated policy briefs and fact sheets in the TWS Policy Library at <http://wildlife.org/engage/policy/policyresources/>.

Position Statement—Council approved the position statement on *Incorporating Wildlife Needs in Land Management Plans*, which will be sent to members for a 60-day review. This position statement combines a number of previous habitat position statements into one. Once the Position Statement has final approval, issue statements may be developed that incorporate specifics from the previous position statements.

Certification - A committee of Council, the Certification Liaison Ad Hoc Committee, which I chair, worked with TWS staff to revise and update a *Policies and Procedures Manual for the Wildlife Biologist Certification Program*. The revised Manual, which included some changes and additions to the program, was approved by Council. One Certification Review Board (CRB) from 5 members to 8, which will allow for a member from each Section and may potentially help to spread the workload of reviewing applications. The Board will remain fully functional with 5 members in the event that a vacancy occurs and a Section does not have a representative. The expansion will be phased in during 2018-2020. Each CRB member serves 3 years, and remains eligible for a second 3-year term if nominated by their Section. Barb Hill is currently the NW Section member on the CRB, and was approved at the Spring Council meeting to serve a second 3-year term.

The Certification Liaison Ad Hoc Committee will also be working during this year with TWS staff to review the current CWB renewal requirements to recommend further clarity and/or changes to program requirements, as appropriate, to ensure alignment with the program's goals. Several good points were raised by members that merit review of the criteria. We anticipate having a report and any recommendations to present to Council at the Fall meeting.

TWS International Involvement: The Ad Hoc Committee on the Future of TWS International Involvement has been examining and discussing ideas for ways for TWS to engage in international involvement and what TWS hopes to achieve through international involvements. Plans for a 2019 Congress in Chile were suspended due to changed circumstances in Chile. At the

Spring Meeting, Council voted to indefinitely suspend periodic hosting of International Wildlife Management Congresses. The Ad Hoc Committee will be working with the TWS International Working Group to look ways that TWS can achieve objectives for international involvement. Council previously approved TWS applying for membership in the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as one of the ways we can have international involvement, and this will occur in the next fiscal year.

Upcoming Annual Conferences - The **2018 TWS 25th Anniversary** conference will be in Cleveland, with the opening reception at the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame! The Burning River Boat Tour, where the 20th century environmental movement began, is one of the fieldtrip offerings. In 2019, TWS will hold a joint conference with the American Fisheries Society in Reno. It will be a great opportunity for cross-pollination and learning about common resource issues the members of each Society are addressing.

2018 TWS Awards - Nominations for **2018 TWS Awards** are due by **Tuesday, May 1**. Please consider nominating your peers for these awards - it's a great way to recognize their contributions! See wildlife.org/awards for the list of TWS Awards and find out how you can nominate deserving peers and colleagues. It would be great to have Washington Chapter members nominated.

If you're not already a TWS member, there are lots of good reasons and great benefits to becoming a member of The Wildlife Society:

- Online access to all TWS journals, at no additional cost
- 6 issues/year of *The Wildlife Professional*;
- Online Member directory to facilitate networking;
- The eWildlifer e-newsletter, sent weekly to your inbox, providing you with links to the latest news from TWS headquarters, policy issues that impact wildlife and wild places, updates on activities and conferences from our TWS Local Network of sections and chapters across North America and wildlife news;
- More than 100 TWS Talks from our most recent Annual Conference on a wide variety of wildlife topics. Members receive links to two presentations per week in the eWildlifer;
- 25% discounts on Wiley scientific books and 30% discounts on Johns Hopkins books;
- Increasing the impact of your voice on important wildlife policy issues by joining other TWS members

in organized efforts to contact policymakers through our Action Alerts and Conservation Affairs Network.

- Access to 25 members-only Working Groups (small additional annual fee) on a wide range of topics

From the 2015-19 TWS Strategic Plan:

“The privilege of possessing the earth entails the responsibility of passing it on, the better for our use, not only to immediate posterity, but to the unknown future, the nature of which is not given to us.”

Some Fundamentals of Conservation in the Southwest (1923)
Aldo Leopold, President, The Wildlife Society, 1939-40

Best Regards & Happy Spring,

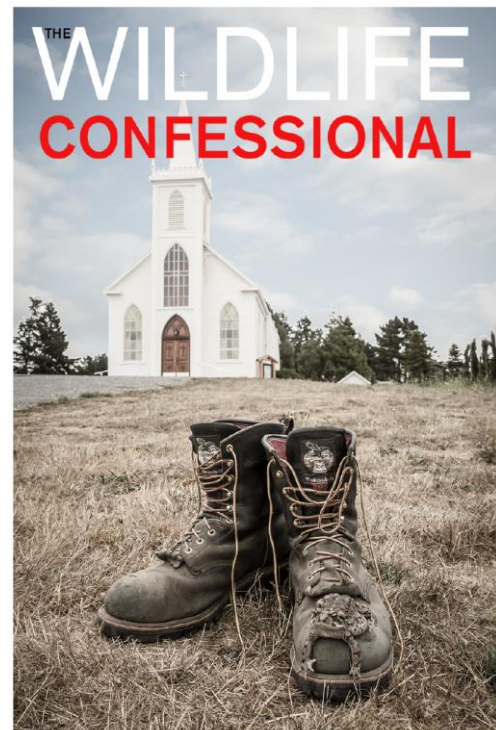
Harriet Allen

Northwest Section Representative to TWS Council

NEWS OF NOTE FROM NATIONAL

The Wildlife Confessional Is Now Available

The Western Section of TWS is excited to announce the availability of *The Wildlife Confessional*, a collection of short stories by dyed-in-the-wool wildlife biologists. Comprising fifteen stories by thirteen biologists, the anthology endeavors to show the humor and poignancy in our day-to-day adventures that sometimes define and enlighten the profession or that, sometimes, we'd rather forget.



You can also follow the project on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/The-Wildlife-Confessional-1070767069681846/>

Read the Most Talked About Papers from JWM and WSB

TWS members! Are you taking advantage of your free access to TWS journals?

As a member of The Wildlife Society, you can now easily read the full text of every paper—including the most talked-about papers—from the *Journal of Wildlife Management* and the *Wildlife Society Bulletin*. This new benefit has been extremely popular since it was launched in January 2017, and it’s leading to increased visibility for papers published in TWS Journals.

The list of papers below includes those with the highest Altmetric scores (as of October 2017), which translates to how much attention the paper is getting. The scores are composed of metrics and qualitative data that are complementary to traditional, citation-based metrics. They can include mainstream media coverage, discussions on research blogs and mentions on social networks such as Twitter. Many journals today use the Altmetric scoring system because it indicates the amount of attention a paper has received. Authors also find the scores useful to follow engagement in their publications.

[Polar bear attacks on humans: implications of a changing climate](#)

[The true cost of partial fencing: evaluating strategies to reduce reptile road mortality](#)

[How publishing in open-access journals threatens science and what we can do about it](#)

[Investigating impacts of oil and gas development on greater sage-grouse](#)

[Free-roaming cat interactions with wildlife admitted to a wildlife hospital](#)

[Demography of an increasing caribou herd with restricted wolf control](#)

[Evaluating population expansion of black bears using spatial capture-recapture](#)

[Online hunting forums identify achievement as prominent among multiple satisfactions](#)

[Population-level effects of lead fishing tackle on common loons](#)

[Persistence of great sage-grouse in agricultural landscapes](#)

To read TWS journals [log into the TWS member portal](#). Choose the “Publications” tab at the top of the page to go to the Wiley Online Library, where the journals are archived.

CALL FOR COMMITTEES: WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Katy Stuart

Volunteering with WATWS is a great way to network with a fun group of professionals working throughout the state, build leadership and technical skills for your resume, and give back to an organization that supports the wildlife you love.

The table on this and the following page shows the many vacancies on standing committees and joint meeting planning committees. We need YOUR help to fill them in 2018! Want to know more? E-mail katydstuart@gmail.com.

Committee	Duties
Audit Need: Chair + at least 2 Committee Members	Review the financial records and support documents of the Treasurer at least once every 2 years. The committee also shall review these records and documents prior to any change in the office of the Treasurer.
Conservation Review Need: Chair + at least 2 Committee Members	Review legislative proposals, administrative regulations, environmental assessments and impact statements, and other subjects or issues affecting wildlife or wildlife habitat within the organizational area of the Chapter and make recommendations to the Executive Board for any action that should be taken by the Chapter. The Chair may ask any Chapter member to assist with reviews.
Education and Information Need: Chair + at least 2 Committee Members	Seek and employ methods of informing the public of basic wildlife management concepts and of Chapter and Society activities and interests, including advertising the Annual Meeting and other Chapter events.

Committee	Duties
Grant Need: 1 Committee Member	Responsible for soliciting applicants and reviewing applications for the award of grant funds. The Grant Committee will submit their recommendations for consideration by the Executive Board, who will make the final decisions. Application forms will be made available to all Chapter members at least 2 months before the application deadline.
Membership Need: 2 Committee Members	Encourage the maximum number of qualified persons residing or working within the Chapter's organizational area to become members of the Society, the Northwest Section, and the Chapter.
Nominating and Elections Need: Chair + at least 2 Committee Members	Prepare a slate of 2 candidates for each of the open elective positions from the Chapter voting membership. All nominees must be Voting Members. Prior approval shall be obtained from said candidates. Nomination slate available to be submitted to the membership at least 30 days before balloting begins.
Resolutions and Public Statements Need: Chair + at least 2 Committee Members	Receive proposed resolutions and public statements from 2 or more members at any time, and shall prepare, submit and recommend action on such items to the Executive Board
Workshop Need: Chair	Responsible for soliciting ideas, coordinating with other organizations, and developing proposals for training and workshop events. Committee shall provide the Board with recommendations for such events, and if approved, will plan and implement such approved projects with the assistance and oversight of the Board. The purposes of such training and workshop events will vary, but may include activities to generate funds for grants, scholarships, and other uses by the Board. Such events are also intended to improve the knowledge, skills, and abilities of the chapter members and other wildlife biologists, students, and professionals in wildlife-related issues.
Joint Meeting Planning Committees	
Program Need: Chair + at least 2 Committee Members	Arrange programs of all regular and annual meetings and provide the President and President-elect with a proposed agenda for the Annual Meeting at least 2 months prior to the meeting date.
Sponsorship Need: Chair + at least 2 Committee Members	Responsible for organizing the solicitation of sponsorship to help fund the Joint Annual Meeting. Includes tracking and obtaining pledges as well as sponsorship logos for the program and sending Thank You notes to all sponsors.
Auction/Raffle Need: At least 1 Committee Member	Plan and execute the auction and raffle at Annual Meeting Banquets by soliciting donations for auction and raffle items from local businesses and Chapter members, setting up the auction and raffle displays at the banquet, and selling raffle tickets. The committee may decide to include a silent or live auction, and/or a raffle based on the number of donated items available and attendance of the Annual Meeting Banquet.
Student Activities Need: 1 more Committee Member, ideally	Plan student activities for Annual Meeting which may include a Student Quiz Bowl, Mentoring Session, Resume Review, Student Breakfast with a Wildlifer or other. In addition to coordinating events, committee members also maintain contacts with local schools to help recruit students to attend the Joint Annual Meeting.
Registration Need: Chair + at least 1 Committee Member	Set up and administer registration for the Annual Meeting. Depending on the capacities of partner organizations this may include set up and administration of the registration system (we have used 123signup.com in the past), determining levels of registration including early/late, member/non-member/student, separate events: banquet, field trip, workshops etc. and working closely with the Budget Committee to determine appropriate registration fees, creating name badges and appropriate tickets for events, and/or staffing the registration desk at the Annual Meeting.

REGIONAL REPORTS

We've got some cool stories and photos to share. Before we get to those, though, please read and heed the following public service announcement from Steve Hall, our rep for the Puget Sound Region. His plea applies to all of us, regardless of where we live and work.

Call for Stories!

As a professional society, one of the primary goals of our chapter is to share and learn from each other's stories and experiences as professional wildlife biologists. And the regional reports in our chapter's newsletter are one of the very few and most important platforms by which we Washington State wildlifers can learn about each other's work and the associated important developments, challenges, trends, and successes in our shared profession.

However, our regional reporters need your help! We are all busy, but most of us would also like to contribute to and participate in our professional organization in some way. Submitting stories to your regional reporter is one of the easiest ways you could contribute – and be recognized for your great work.

So PLEASE take a moment now to consider the work you are conducting and contributing a brief story about it – and remember to take pictures of you and your colleagues in professional wildlifer action!

Our next newsletter will be in the fall, so please add "WRITE TWS STORY" to your calendar for August. Better yet, just write a story and send it in now for later use. Your fellow wildlife professionals thank you!

And here's a suggestion from your faithful newsletter editor: think of this newsletter like a social media outlet. How much time does it take to share a photo via Instagram or post something at Facebook or churn out a Tweet? What we're asking isn't substantially different from that; we just don't have instant gratification working for us. Is that such a bad thing? Hey, why not join the Slow News movement?

NORTHEAST REGION – Annemarie Prince, WDFW

WDFW/UW Predator-Prey Project Updates

UNGULATES: Melia DeVivo, WDFW

The Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and the University of Washington (UW) began a five-year research project during the winter of 2016-17 designed to investigate the effects of recolonizing wolf populations on

sympatric carnivore and ungulate species. The Predator-Prey Project (PPP) relies on capturing and collaring both ungulates and carnivores for the study. After two winter capture seasons, WDFW and UW successfully deployed collars on mule deer, cougars, and wolves in Okanogan County, and white-tailed deer, elk, cougars, and wolves in Stevens and Pend Oreille Counties. Various capture methods were used depending on terrain and species, and included aerial net-gunning and darting, Clover trapping, box traps, and ground darting. Captures, data collection, and analyses are slated through 2021.



WDFW staff process a white-tailed deer captured using a Clover trap (Left to right: District Biologist Annemarie Prince; Access Manager Dan Dziekan; Ungulate Research Scientist Melia DeVivo).

Photo: Sara Bassing



WDFW Veterinarian, Kristin Mansfield and District Biologist, Annemarie Prince collar and deploy a vaginal implant transmitter (VIT) during aerial captures of elk for the project.

Photo: Melia DeVivo

CARNIVORES: Lauren Satterfield

The Washington Predator Prey Project (PPP) has partnered with the Predator Ecology Lab under Aaron Wirsing at the University of Washington to study competitive relationships between wolves and cougars. This project aims to understand whether and how a) the recolonization of wolves in Washington State is impacting cougar resource

selection, and b) the co-occurrence of wolves (*Canis lupus*) and cougars (*Puma concolor*) impacts risk landscapes for ungulate prey. These investigations are considered alongside anthropogenic land use to further characterize how human presence influences movement and resource use for both predators. WDFW and UW currently have GPS collars on 23 cougars and 5 wolves (across 4 packs) in Okanogan, Stevens, and Pend Oreille counties. Feeding sites of wolves and cougar revealed varied diet including mule deer and white-tailed deer, with a smaller number of moose, elk, porcupine, raccoon, and beaver. Data will be used to model differences in wolf and cougar resource selection along a gradient of wolf density, and to map resulting ungulate landscape risk zones across the study sites in relation to habitat and anthropogenic characteristics.



Graduate student Lauren Satterfield (right) and technician Caitlin Kubar (left) affix a GPS collar and ear tags to a female cougar. Photo: Matt Young

Washington Ground Squirrel Success Stories

Lisa Wilson, Heidi Newsome, and Sheri Whitfield—
USFWS

Rich Finger, Sean Dougherty, and Ella Rowan
(author)—WDFW

Washington Ground Squirrels (*Uroditellus washingtoni*) are a state candidate for listing, and government agencies have been trying for over a decade to boost old - or start new - colonies. We are happy to say we have had some success! Being prey for just about everything from raptors to coyotes and badgers to rattlesnakes, it's not easy to get over the predation hurdle for new or diminishing colonies. Many biologists suspect the drastic decline in squirrel populations is contributing to the declines in raptor species such as golden eagles and ferruginous hawks as well. WDFW and the USFWS have joined forces to establish a few new colonies.

WDFW experimented with using 6' and 20' diameter temporary soft-release enclosures combined with Verminator (tunnel-boring machine)-created tunnels and various cover structures to reintroduce squirrels to formerly occupied areas of Grant County. While some attempts appeared to have failed, we are happy to report squirrels have been seen in the area of one site this spring, so some apparently did survive and thrive. Further experiments are needed to determine how to improve success with small enclosures; although, recent experimentation with a much larger enclosure has proven successful thus far.



Old-style small enclosures



Squirrel escape attempt

Squirrels were likely residents on the USFWS Columbia National Wildlife Refuge prior to habitat alterations following human encroachment over the past 100 years, and staff are making attempts to regain them as natural ecosystem components. The USFWS created two 2.5-acre temporary enclosures on the Refuge to house translocated squirrels in early 2016 and 2018 using recommendations earned through former WDFW efforts. The enclosures were built by using a ditch-witch to create a 6" deep groove boundary in which we set 4' tall 0.5"-mesh wire fencing wired to 6' steel posts pounded to a stable depth on the outside of the fence. The top 8" of the entire length of fence was fortified with camo-painted aluminum flashing held on with either 1" siding undersill (preferred) or zip-ties after

holes were punched in the flashing. If the zip-tie method is used, the entire length of the top of the fence must be further sealed using 3” aluminum tape to adhere the flashing to the fence. This is necessary to keep squirrels from escaping over the top when they climb the fence. We also installed 6 artificial burrows (normally used for burrowing owls) within the enclosure to help squirrels find shelter until they could dig their own burrows. When habitat conditions allow a Verminator pulled by a tractor to dig a few tunnels within the enclosure, it may provide an added bonus of cover from raptors.



Large enclosure construction



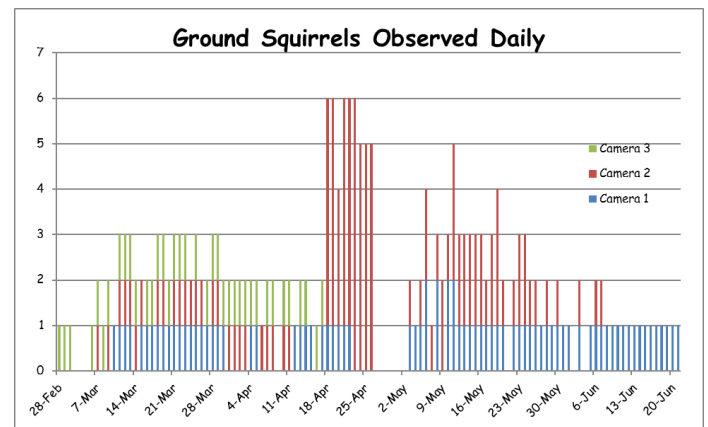
Verminator and finished tunnel

The large enclosure built in 2016 received 33 translocated squirrels in May, and their progress was monitored and enhanced by the Refuge for the past 2 years. Refuge staff provided carrots and seed during the first month post-introduction and installed a few game cameras to monitor behaviors. Within a few weeks of being in their new home, squirrels were able to dig tunnels breaching the enclosure fence and some took up residency outside the enclosure. Many squirrels remained residents inside the enclosure which offers protection from ground-predators, and evidence of new kits was seen on the cameras one-year post-

introduction. Containing squirrels in an enhanced soft-release enclosure is showing preliminary signs of encouraging fidelity to a newly established site, which could be useful when attempting to bolster known colonies. Thus far, advice would include using the various methods we have utilized, as well as placing enclosures distant from aerial predator raptor-perching and nesting sites such as trees, cliffs, buttes, power poles, and other similar structures. It is also critical to ensure optimal forage conditions within the enclosure, with supplemental feeding used during the initiation phase.



Squirrel carrying nesting material near artificial burrow entrance



Squirrel temporal activity pattern documented through use of cameras inside an enclosure

The USFWS will receive squirrels in a second enclosure at a new site on the Refuge this May. They are also determining when to remove the fencing from the 2016 enclosure and allow nature to take its course. It is unknown at what point colony numbers will exceed the “critical abundance” needed to overcome predation pressure; it may be necessary to keep the enclosure in place for 3 to 5 years.

Happenings on the Colville National Forest

Mike Borysewicz, USFS

First of all, WELCOME Kelsey Retich to the Colville National Forest. Kelsey is the West Zone Wildlife Biologist. This is the position Chris Loggers previously held.

The Sullivan Lake Ranger District has the following activities planned for 2018.

Outhouse vent covers: We will attempt to complete installation of these metal vent caps on CXT toilets on the western half of the Forest (east half completed in 2017).



Installing vent caps

North Ruby Prescribed Burn: 300 acres of open, dry-site forest will be burned in the spring or fall (weather permitting) to improve browse production on big game winter range. Cooperator; RMEF.

Grizzly bear demography study support: We will install 2 hair snag corrals per month for 6 months, for a total of 12 separate sites. We will monitor at least 10 permanent rub posts. All hair samples and photographic evidence of grizzly bears will be turned in to Wayne Kasworm, grizzly bear researcher with USFWS. Cooperators with this project include USFWS, WDFW, Kalispel Tribe, Kootenai Tribe, and USFS.



Grizzly bears captured at a hair corral in 2017

Food storage lockers: We will install about 20 food lockers in campgrounds and dispersed campsites within and adjacent to the Selkirk Mountains Grizzly Bear Recovery Area. Cooperators who provided funding for this project include the Washington State Department of Transportation, Defenders of Wildlife, Pend Oreille County PUD, Seattle City Light, Scenic Canyons Recreational Services. We presently have about 100 lockers in place.

We will assist Dan Omdal, DNR State Pathologist, with **monitoring the 300 whitebark pine seedlings** we planted in October 2017 on the top of Hall Mountain (within the Noisy Creek Fire perimeter). This will be survival monitoring and mapping of the planted blocks of trees.

Rachel Maggi Wins 2017 Conservation Award

Dominic Bachman

Rachel has shown a passionate 23 years of dedication to western Washington landscape scale habitat restoration and enhancement working for the Natural Resource Conservation Service. Her ability to bring the right partners into the fold and make everyone feel like they are part of the solution has made her a leader. Rachel is an incredible team member, team builder and mentor. She is a well-respected member of the conservation community as a biologist. She has worked very hard to gain the trust and respect of the tribes, WDFW, USFWS and many other partners. Rachel has shown a dedication to western Washington habitats, NRCS and private lands like no one else over the last 20 years. She really created her own Niche in the NRCS and Western Washington and increased her sphere of influence to the whole state of Washington to work at the landscape level. Because of Rachel's hard work and partnerships billions of dollars have been successfully spent on conservation projects on a multitude of habitats.

Rachel grew up in western Oregon and received a degree in both Wildlife science and in fisheries biology from Oregon state. Rachel started her professional career as a student trainee biologist with the NRCS in WA in 1994. She was quickly converted to a permanent biologist in the Puyallup, WA field office in July 1995. It wasn't long, and her can-do attitude got her promoted to the Brush Prairie Field office as a Team Biologist. A position they created just for her in 1999. Soon after she was promoted to West Area Biologist in 2002 a position also created just for her and finally in 2015 She was promoted to Regional biologist on the state staff a position again created just for her she is that awesome! Rachel has stuck with the NRCS through thick and thin budget times and really created her own niche nearly every step of the way she did such an incredible job they created a new position and when she exceeded that role they did it

again this is unheard-of in federal service and she has moved to a higher level than many of her former mentors and bosses because of her outside-the-box thinking.

You can see a photo of Rachel and her award in the [Awards and Recognition](#) section of this newsletter.

PUGET SOUND REGION – Steve Hall, Point Environmental Consulting Network

Governor Inslee Issues Executive Order to Conserve Southern Resident Killer Whales

Nothing short of a sasquatch could outshine the public appeal of the Puget Sound Region's Southern Resident killer whale population. And while the population continues to decline, the species is at least getting a lot of scientific, public and political attention, including an executive order issued by Gov. Jay Inslee in March. Through the EO, the governor directed several state agencies to undertake a suite of conservation assignments to reduce impacts and improve conditions for southern resident whales:

- Identify priority areas and watersheds for salmon restoration that would benefit orcas
- Increase enforcement, outreach and education for vessels restrictions near whales
- Increase enforcement and review regulations for Chinook fisheries
- Reduce sound generated by state ferries in the San Juan's
- Reduced use of fish food in hatcheries that may contain PCBs
- Require that Chinook recovery grants consider benefits to Southern Residents
- Prioritize storm water quality improvement projects that benefit Southern Residents



Gov. Inslee signing an Executive Order at the Daybreak Star Cultural Center in Seattle to aid in the recovery of endangered southern resident orcas. Photo: Office of the Governor

These efforts come on top of the recent Washington Legislature funding package for that included \$837,000 to boost hatchery production of chinook salmon, \$548,000 for increased enforcement of laws that protect orcas and their prey, and \$115,000 for the development of a long-term orca recovery plan.

ONLINE

<https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/environment/critically-endangered-orcas-have-governors-tribes-attention/>

https://www.governor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/executor/18-02_1.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

State Legislature Funds West-Side Wolf Studies and Planning



This photo taken by a Skagit County resident in May 2017 documented one of the few confirmed gray wolf sightings in Western Washington. WDFW and USFWS trapped and fitted the young male wolf with a GPS collar. Tracking results indicate the lone wolf has established a territory/home range. Photo: USFWS

As has been reported in previous Puget Sound regional reports, perhaps the most significant wildlife story unfolding in the Puget Sound region is the impending return of the wolf to our populated region. The state legislature recently appropriated \$350,000 to study wolves in Western Washington.

While much of the research funding would go to studies conducted outside the Puget Sound region (primarily in South Cascades), funded studies will include a region-wide prey base evaluation that will most certainly involve looking at potential conflict areas in the Puget Sound region. Locations at high risk include the many farms that are scattered along most of the Puget Sound's major drainages, including the Skagit. These areas, and their domestic animals, are likely to be on the front line of wolf/human interaction in Western Washington. And on the other hand,

wolf predation may serve as a check to the longstanding human/wildlife conflicts associated with the North Cascades elk herd.

As is always the case of with wolf recovery, stay tuned!

ONLINE:

<http://www.capitalpress.com/Washington/20180312/washington-to-study-moving-wolves-from-east-to-west>

https://www.goskagit.com/news/survey-takes-stock-of-north-cascades-elk-herd/article_9f3af120-0441-5bdb-924f-935747f9586c.html

Selected Puget Sound Region Related Abstracts from the 2018 Joint Annual Meeting

For those Puget Sound region TWS members that may have missed this year's annual meeting, here are summaries of selected presentations that may be of interest to Puget Sound region TWS members. A complete list of the abstracts is available here: <http://wildlife.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/2018-Joint-Meeting-Abstracts.pdf>

White Nose Syndrome (WNS). In March 2016, our Puget Sound region became the first documented location of WNS in North America west of the Mississippi. That finding has resulted in a surge of bat research across the region. It's no surprise, then, that this year's conference included several papers about bats and WNS. Most authors reported methods and results of surveys efforts underway to monitor the possible spread of WNS in our region. Work included both baseline inventories of roost and acoustical sampling, as well as "swabbing studies" to directly test bats for presence of the WNS fungus. Researchers reported their work from North Cascades and Mount Rainier national parks and several locations in Oregon. Papers included new field techniques, including testing guano samples for the WNS fungus rather than swabbing live bats. Swabbing bats may be more exciting (if you're into that sort of thing!), but is also a lot more work for the surveyors and can be harmful to the bats.

We can be thankful that even with a major surge in bat research and testing for WNS, no new mortality cases have been found in our region. However, a bat swabbed in May 2017 at Mount Rainier National Park was found to have the WNS fungus. Research is still going on, and this story is expected to continue to be a top wildlife story of our region. <https://wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/health/wns/>

Gray Whales in Puget Sound. John Calambokidis of Cascadia Research reported on a study that used "suction-cup attached multi-sensor video tags" to study gray whales

in Puget Sound. The study found that a small but growing population of whales has pioneered new feeding areas, feeding strategies, and prey items within Puget Sound, where they feed seasonally almost exclusively on ghost shrimp in shallow waters during high tide. According to Calambokidis, gray whales appear to have discovered this area during two difficult periods for the Gray Whale population when the east Pacific population was in decline and generally wandering widely, apparently in search of alternative prey. This niche and range shifting to Puget Sound and increase seasonal abundance of gray whales is part of a remarkable resurgence of marine mammal populations within the Salish Sea (with the notable exception of the southern resident orcas).



Deployment of suction-cup attached video tag on a gray whale.
Photo: Cascadia Research

ONLINE

<http://www.cascadiaresearch.org/projects/north-puget-sound-gray-whale-photo-id-and-feeding-study>

Cultural Competence for Wildlife Management. Tara Chestnut of Mount Rainier National Park (with other authors) described improved approaches to engaging Tribal and First Nations to inform wildlife management decisions. Using the reintroduction of fisher to the Washington Cascades as a case study, the team found that using a model of "cultural competence" that extends beyond routine procedures and consultations can facilitate more effective collaborations between Native people and local, state and federal land managers. Wildlife managers willing to make an extra effort to better collaborate with Tribes can expect increased trust, new insights and perspectives, and productive partnerships.

Citizen Science for Urban Coyotes. Keith Vander Brooke of Portland State University reported on the Portland Urban Coyote Project (PUCP), a city-wide citizen

science initiative that studies residents' interactions with Coyotes. The researchers found that while the citizen science collection method can provide a wealth of information as well as educational benefits, the data collected has some serious limitations, including severe sampling bias and inaccuracies. However, researchers found that citizen-provided data was sufficient to show that Coyotes shift behaviors to avoid people, including being active mostly at night. Preliminary camera trap data appeared to be a promising complement to compensate for weaknesses in citizen sighting data, including density estimates.

ONLINE: <https://www.portlandcoyote.com/>

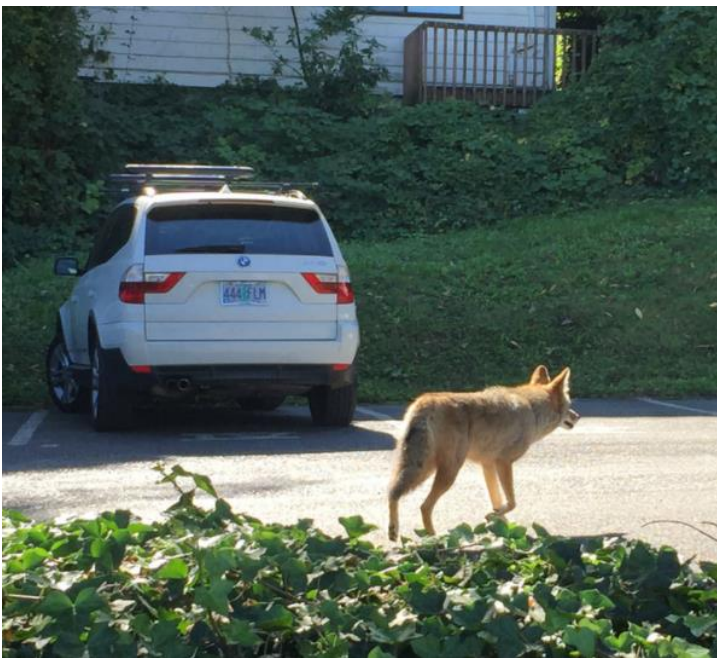


Photo: Portland Urban Coyote Project

OLYMPIC REGION – Betsy Howell, USFS

Olympic National Forest Update

Betsy Howell and Karen Holthrop, USFS

This spring and summer will be busy on the Forest, with invertebrate and carnivore surveys, as well as habitat enhancement for big game. In May, two SCA (Student Conservation Association) interns will arrive to assist with a number of projects though they'll mostly concentrate on spring Taylor's checkerspot butterfly surveys, monitoring seed plots created for nectar and host plants for checkerspot habitat, and summer bumblebee surveys. We received a second year of funding from Forest Service/BLM regional sensitive species funds to continue looking for western

bumblebee, which will support this work. Last season, we found one new record on Mt. Townsend for the western bumblebee, and this year we hope to find more.

The spring will also find us returning to the remote cameras and lure dispensers we installed in summer 2017 to detect Pacific martens. These stations have been out all winter and we are excited to see if they have had any success. This winter, the Olympic Mountains have received more snowfall than in the last few years, but we are still hopeful of getting to some of the sites in early May. Additionally, we plan to install 15 more camera/dispenser stations this summer and will also be employing scent-detection dog teams from the University of Washington Conservation Canines program to look for marten scat. All of this work is also being funded by regional sensitive species money, for which we are most appreciative. There will be more to report about martens on the Olympic Peninsula in the fall newsletter.



Camera, lure dispenser, and bone approximately 12' up to allow for the winter snows. Photo: Betsy Howell

BE A MEMBER!

For more information about the Chapter, including membership forms, please visit our [website](#). If you have questions regarding your membership status, our Chapter Secretary, Teresa Lorenz, will be happy to help you out (509-672-2157; WATWS.Secretary@gmail.com).

If you're a member at the National level, you can also check your chapter membership status by logging in at <https://wildlife.secure.force.com/customlogin>.

Remember: chapter membership dues are only \$10 per year (\$5 if you are a student). It's an inexpensive way to stay connected and support wildlife.

The Wildlife Society—Washington Chapter

BOARD

President

Katy Stuart
206-953-2716

katydstuart@gmail.com

President-Elect

Lisa Dowling, Pheasants Forever
928-607-8407

ldowling@pheasantsforever.org

Vice President

Sara Hansen, WDFW
509-892-1001

Sara.Hansen@dfw.wa.gov

Past President

Danielle Munzing, WA DNR
509-925-0953

Danielle.Munzing@dnr.wa.gov

Secretary

Teresa Lorenz, USFS
509-672-2157

WATWS.Secretary@gmail.com

Treasurer

Sarah Kindschuh, WDFW
360-902-2377

Sarah.Kindschuh@dfw.wa.gov

Representative to NW Section

Lisa Dowling, Pheasants Forever
928-607-8407

ldowling@pheasantsforever.org

Board Position #1

Kevin White

kwcougs@gmail.com

Board Position #2

Annemarie Prince, WDFW
(509) 684-2362 x20

Annemarie.Prince@dfw.wa.gov

Board Position #3

Clint Robins, UW

clint.robins4@gmail.com

Board Position #4

Dominic Bachman, USDA-NRCS
509-323-2972

Dominic.Bachman@wa.usda.gov

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Audit

Vacant

Awards

Bill Vogel
360-753-4367

william_o_vogel@yahoo.com

Conservation Review

Vacant

Education and Information

Vacant

Grants

Bill Vogel and Tony Fuchs
william_o_vogel@yahoo.com
tony.fuchs@pse.com

Membership

Alicia Higgs
425-505-3200

ahiggs@hntb.com

Nominations and Elections

Vacant

Resolutions and Public Statements

Vacant

Scholarship

John Grettenberger
360-923-1424

grettenbergerj@gmail.com

Workshops

Vacant

Annual Meeting Program

Vacant

COMMUNICATIONS AND COORDINATION CREW

Northwest Section Representative to

TWS Council

Harriet Allen
360-866-8754

hallen2009@comcast.net

Newsletter Editor

Mike Hall, Parametrix
206-394-3673

mhall@parametrix.com

Student Chapter Liaisons

Julia Dahlquist, WSU
360-631-4999

julia.dahlquist@wsu.edu

Mara Huang, WSU
503-896-4140

mara.huang@wsu.edu

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Olympic Peninsula – Betsy Howell

Olympic National Forest
360-956-2292

blhowell@fs.fed.us

Southwest – William Ritchie

USFWS Willapa NWR
360-484-3482

william_ritchie@fws.gov

Puget Sound/Northwest – Steve Hall

Point Consulting
206-441-1882

shall@pointconsulting.us

Northeast – Annemarie Prince WDFW

(509) 684-2362 x20

Annemarie.Prince@dfw.wa.gov

Southeast – Jason Fidorra WDFW

509-545-2201

Jason.Fidorra@dfw.wa.gov