

THE ARIZONA WILDLIFER

2018 Issue I

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Winter Edition

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EXECUTIVE BOARD

President: Kay Nicholson
(480) 967-1343 knicholson@logansimpson.com

President Elect: Tiffany Sprague
(623) 670-0750 tasprague@gmail.com

Treasurer: Andrew Jones
(602) 617-1234 ajones@azgfd.gov

Recording Secretary: Valerie Horncastle
(928) 606-4393 vhorncastle@gmail.com

Corresponding Secretary: Jessica Moreno
(520) 440-2885 jamoreno3083@gmail.com

Board Member: Holly Hicks
(480) 603-8603 hhicks@azgfd.gov

Board Member: Audrey Owens
(623) 236-7515 aowens@azgfd.gov

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The President's Message

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and was able to take some time off work to enjoy time with family and friends.



Looking back on 2017, it has been an interesting year, beginning with the 2017 Joint Annual Meeting (JAM) in Farmington, New Mexico. It was great to see so many of you there! This year's board members were installed at the annual business meeting held on Thursday at the JAM, and it has been my pleasure to serve on the board with this outstanding group of individuals, including Tiffany Sprague, Andrew Jones, Jessica Moreno, Holly Hicks, and Audrey Owens. I am also happy to announce that Valerie Horncastle was recently voted in as the Recording Secretary to fill a mid-year vacancy.

Tiffany Sprague has done an excellent job with the newsletter. We are now looking to bring on a new Newsletter Editor, however, as Tiffany transitions over to Chapter President. We are also looking for a new webmaster; thank you to Dean Pokrajac for doing a great job as the previous webmaster! If you're interested in one of these positions, let me or anyone on the board know.

This past year, as we have done each year since 2011, we held another Techniques Workshop in April. It was yet again a successful event, and I highly recommend you put it on your calendar if you are a student or young professional. The date has been set for this year's techniques workshop; it will be held on Saturday, April 14. Be sure to save the date!

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Presidents Message cont...

(Continued from page 1)

Something else we have been working on is a new online membership system through MemberPlanet. This system is going to help us track our member lists (e.g., current versus inactive members) better than we have been able to do in the past. We found that this is important for sending out communications when there is a certain subset of our contacts that needs to be reached. For instance, during the annual election of officers, we need to provide ballots to active members so they can vote. It will also allow members to access their contact information in case changes are needed. Jessica Moreno was instrumental in researching the options available and then getting this system set up for us...thank you, Jessica!

Speaking of elections, if you are a current chapter member, you should have received an email with a ballot and information about the candidates running for each open officer position. Ballots are due by January 19, 2018. Our president-elect, Tiffany Sprague, is collecting the ballots. Please email your completed ballot to her at tasprague@gmail.com. Don't forget to vote!

Also, over this past year, we have been working on starting the Borderlands Institute for the Study and Conservation of Understudied Animals. We are still considering the options on what role the Arizona Chapter of TWS will play in this endeavor. Look for more information on this to be presented at the 2018 JAM.

We are in the final stages of 2018 JAM planning, with only one more planning meeting coming up on January 16. Thank you so much to all of you who have been assisting with this effort! We absolutely could not put on the meeting without all of you. There are so many involved in this, but I would personally like to thank the committee chairs who have been doing a phenomenal job. These amazing individuals include Heather Bateman, Tony

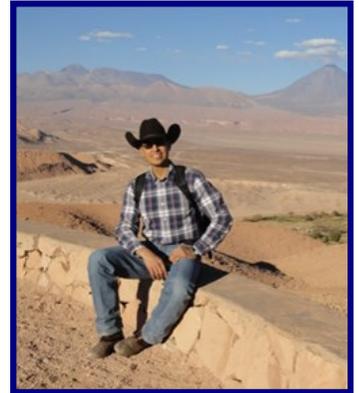
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Regional News:

Highlights from SW Section Representative to TWS Council

By Fidel Hernandez

I awoke early on December 8 to a white, wintery surprise. Although the meteorologists had suggested a wintery mix of rain, sleet, and possibly snow for Thursday night, I went to bed with expectations of only a messy, wintery slush. What a pleasant surprise was awaiting me at dawn when I stepped outside to a snowy, wintery South Texas!



For many of you who live in places of the Southwest where snow is common, it may not be much of a notable happening. But for those of us living in places where snow is a rare occurrence, it is a wonderful treat that we are fortunate to enjoy whenever it happens to come our way. The snow accumulation was variable, ranging from a few inches in town to 8–10 inches out on the rangeland. It was wonderful to see children excitedly playing in the snow, building snowmen, making snow angels, as well as to see adults reverting back to their youthful selves playing with their children. It was a perfect way to bring our semester to a close. It is from this joyful and grateful mindset that I write this last Southwest Section report for 2017 (beginning of 2018).



Snow on South Texas rangelands. Photo by Fidel Hernández.

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Presidents Message cont...

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Bush, Scott Carleton, Chris Carrillo, Carol Chambers, Melanie Culver, Bill Dunn, Ryan Follmuth, Jon Hanna, Callie Hartson, Holly Hicks, Andrew Jones, Chrissy Kondrat-Smith, Melissa Merrick, Jessica Moreno, Audrey Owens, Scott Sprague, and Jill Wick.

If you are planning on attending the 2018 JAM and would like to present a paper or poster, keep in mind that abstracts are due by January 7. This year's plenary theme is Advocating for Conservation. For more information about registration, making hotel reservations, conference agenda, etc., be sure to check out the JAM webpage on our chapter's website (<http://www.aztws.org/JAM>). I would like to encourage everyone to attend the JAM. It is a great place for professionals to network with colleagues and stay up-to-date on the latest research being conducted in Arizona and New Mexico, as well as for students to make connections with potential mentors and future employers.

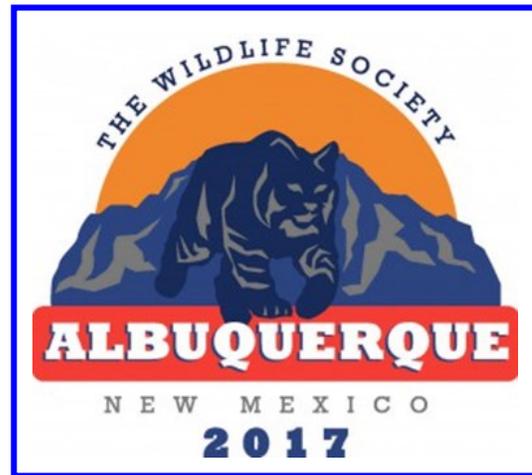
This coming year marks the 50th anniversary of the Arizona Chapter of The Wildlife Society. To celebrate this milestone, we hired a wildlife artist to create a special logo. T-shirts with this special logo will be available for folks to purchase at the JAM. The design will be posted on the chapter website, so keep an eye out for that.

I hope you enjoy the articles in this issue of the newsletter. If you have an interesting article or exciting project to write about, please consider submitting those to our Newsletter Editor (aztwseditor@gmail.com). Suggestions for improvement on any aspect of the Arizona Chapter of The Wildlife Society, or ideas for engaging our members, are always welcome; feel free to send me your comments at knicholson@logansimpson.com.

Kay Nicholson
AZTWS Chapter President

Regional News cont...

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TWS ANNUAL CONFERENCE: ALBUQUERQUE

The Southwest Section and the state chapters of TWS are known for their high level of TWS engagement and welcoming hospitality. Both the chapters and section showed up true to form for the 24th Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The conference was a huge success and a nice feather in our hats. The final attendance for the conference was **1,846 attendees**, placing the Albuquerque conference in the top five of all time. Much of the success was due to the behind-the-scenes hard work of *many* of our members such as **Susan Rupp** (Program Committee Chair), **Ginny Seamster** (Fundraising Committee Chair), **Quentin Hays** (Arrangements Committee Chair), **Bill Vogel** (Workshop and Panels Sub-Committee Chair), **Carol Chambers** (Symposium Sub-committee Chair), and many, many other members who dedicated countless hours assisting TWS in planning and organizing the conference. It was a five-day event that was jam packed with activities, meetings, workshops, and field trips. The conference featured four plenary/keynote sessions, 950 educational opportunities, 40 networking opportunities, two major networking events, and three field trips. President Bruce Thompson's theme of *Wildlife Conservation – Crossroads of Cultures* high-

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Regional News cont...

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lighted the cultural factors that are important in effective conservation and included many engaging presentations.

Regarding awards, the Southwest Section shined at the annual conference (as always), bringing home quite a few of the national awards:

- **Aldo Leopold Award:** Wini Kessler (Certified Wildlife Biologist, British Columbia)
- **Caesar Kleberg Award for Excellence in Applied Wildlife Research:** Charlie DeYoung (Texas A&M University-Kingsville)
- **Diversity Award:** Serra Hoagland (US Forest Service)
- **TWS Fellow:** Warren Conway (Texas Tech University)



Wini Kessler is the recipient of the 2017 Aldo Leopold Award. Photo courtesy of The Wildlife Society.

Although Wini Kessler currently resides in British Columbia and presently is not in the Southwest Section, she was in our section while earning a Ph.D. from Texas A&M University. For this reason – and the fact that she is the second woman to win the Aldo Leopold Award – it is worth highlighting her prestigious honor. Wini is a certified wildlife biologist from British Columbia and a TWS Fellow and Past President. Wini Kessler and Lucille Stickel (who was the first female recipient in 1974) are the only two women to receive the award in its 67-year history. Wini began studying zoology as an undergraduate at the University of California–Berkeley, where she met Starker Leopold (son of Aldo Leopold), who advised her to pursue a wildlife career. She obtained her B.S. and M.S. degrees from the University of California at Berkeley and a Ph.D. from Texas A&M University. Wini has held many positions in both academia and government agencies. Wini is retired but remains actively engaged with TWS and numerous other conservation organiza-

tions such as Ducks Unlimited Canada, Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation, Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council, and Boone and Crockett Club. A hearty congratulation to Wini and all Southwest Section awardees!

TWS ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

Finance. As a member of TWS, it is gratifying to see that the financial health of our professional society continues to be vibrant and growing. This is a positive turn-around that has been happening since 2013 and has involved many people from past and current TWS staff, Executive Committees, and Council. The Wildlife Society closed its 2016–2017 fiscal year “in the black” with a surplus. Revenue for the fiscal year was \$2.72 million and expenses were \$2.67 million, resulting in a net revenue of \$60,357. In addition, investments grew from \$2.1 million to \$2.3 million, representing an increase of \$250,819 (about 12%) from last year.

TWS GENERAL OPERATIONS

Membership. TWS continues to not only maintain the ground it has gained on membership but also slowly increase it. The Wildlife Society closed the 2016–2017 fiscal year with 9,710 members, repre-

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Regional News cont...

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senting a 6.4% increase compared to last year. This membership count did not include 1,120 nominees of the Give Back program, which, if included, boosted the overall count to 10,249 (+12.3% compared to last year). One interesting aspect of TWS membership is the member demographics. Here are a few interesting findings concerning member demographics as of August 2017:

- **Employer:** The largest percentage of TWS members are employed by universities (27%), followed by state/provincial (19%) and federal (17%) agencies.
- **Ethnicity:** Caucasian represents the largest ethnic group (94%). Hispanics comprised 1.7%, Asian 1.3%, Native Americans 0.9%, and African Americans 0.3%.
- **Gender:** The Wildlife Society has been making progress in closing the gender gap. However, females still comprise only 39% of the membership.
- **Section:** The largest percentage of TWS members belong to the Southeast Section (21%), followed by the North Central (15%) and Northeast (13%) Sections. (In case you're curious, 10% of TWS members are from the Southwest Section.)



Females comprise 39% of TWS membership. Photo courtesy of The Wildlife Society.

Publications. TWS completed an author survey of *Wildlife Monographs*, *The Journal of Wildlife Management*, and *Wildlife Society Bulletin* during Fall 2017. This was an effort to improve the publication process in these journals while enhancing their effectiveness. The survey questionnaire was emailed to 10,748 individuals, and 926 individuals responded. About 90% of all respondents were TWS members. Detailed results from the author survey were presented at the council meeting during the TWS annual conference in Albuquerque. Here are just a few of the findings:

Decision of where to publish: When authors chose to publish in non-TWS journals, the primary reason for their journal selection was based on how well the target journal fit their work (92% said this was somewhat to very important), whereas approximately 47% of respondents indicated journal impact factor and publication costs were somewhat to very important in their decision process to publish elsewhere.

Author experience: When asked about their most recent experience with TWS journals, 63% suggested that appearance and layout of the published paper were very good to excellent, 53% suggested the author guidelines were very good to excellent, and 50% ranked copy editing as very good to excellent. Time from submission-to-decision and time from decision-to-publication received the lowest marks with 24% and 41% ranking these as poor to fair.

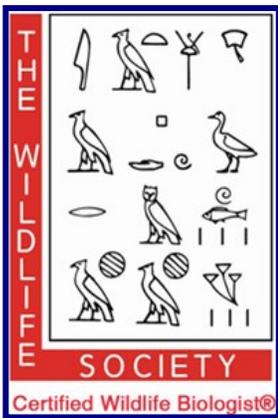
TWS journal comparison to competitors: When asked to compare TWS journals to other journals, TWS journals compared favorably. The items suggesting most room for improvement were time from submission-to-decision (40% ranked TWS journals as inferior or grossly inferior relative to other journals), publication costs (35% ranked TWS journals as inferior or grossly inferior), quality of peer review (26% ranked TWS journals as inferior or grossly inferior), and author guidelines (25% ranked TWS journals as inferior or grossly inferior). Interestingly, author guidelines also were ranked by approximately 24% as being superior to vastly superior to other journals.

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Regional News cont...

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Government Affairs. In case you were not aware, TWS has a Policy Library that is available for use by sections and chapters. The TWS Policy Library is a searchable database of TWS policy documents that members can access in order to learn more about TWS policy engagement. The TWS Government Affairs program is looking to provide members with additional opportunities to gain insights regarding how other organizational units deal with local issues that are often seen across many different chapters and sections. During the coming months, the TWS Government Affairs program will begin adding organizational-unit policy documents to the library. If your respective chapter has produced policy documents such as letters to elected officials, testimonies, position statements, etc. and you wish to make these documents a part of the TWS Policy Library, please contact Mariah Simmons at msimmons@wildlife.org.



Certification. Certification of wildlife biologists is one of the many services TWS provides to its members. A primary goal of TWS is to support the continuing education, training, and ethical practice of wildlife professionals throughout their careers via wildlife certification. If you are interested in becoming an Associate or Certified Wildlife Biologist® but need some guidance, James Hall (jhall@plateauwildlife.com) will be hosting a certification workshop during the annual conference of the Texas Chapter of TWS (see meeting details below). The certification workshop offers first-hand advice and assistance with the application process. The workshop will take place on February 9 from 8:00 – 10:00 am. There is no cost for the workshop. If you will be attending, be sure to bring a copy of your application. For more information, visit <http://tctws.org/annual-meeting-2/registration>.

UPCOMING ANNUAL CONFERENCES

The annual conferences of the state chapters of TWS will be occurring during February 2018. Be sure to register early and reserve your hotel in time to guarantee your spot. Below are a few details and website links where you can find additional information:

TWS Joint Annual Conference of Arizona and New Mexico Chapters (February 1–3): The Arizona and New Mexico Chapters of TWS will host their joint annual meeting in Flagstaff, Arizona. The plenary for the conference will be *Advocating for Conservation*. For more information, please visit <http://www.aztws.org/JAM>.

Texas Chapter of TWS Annual Conference (February 9–11): The Texas Chapter of TWS will host its annual conference in Dallas. The theme of the plenary is *The relevance of conservation to a diverse society: How to make it a reality*. For more information, please visit <http://tctws.org/annual-meeting-2/annual-meeting>.

Well, that is all for now. Hoping you had a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Until next time,

Fidel Hernández

Fidel Hernández
Southwest Section Representative of TWS

AZTWS Continuing Education Grant

Applications may be submitted at any time and will be reviewed quarterly by the Committee in January, April, July, and October. Applicants will be notified of the Committee's decision within 30 days of the Committee's review. The Continuing Education Committee evaluates applications based on your explanation of how the activity will enhance your career development, your financial need, your efforts to obtain supplemental funding, and your involvement in Chapter activities.

Total available grant amounts are limited to \$2,000 per year with the maximum individual grant capped at \$1,000. Grants are limited to Chapter members.

Grant application forms are available on the Chapter webpages at <https://aztws.com/resources/continuinged> or may be obtained from the Chair of the Continuing Education Committee, Stan Cunningham (Stanley.Cunningham@asu.edu).

WE NEED YOUR HELP

We need articles, stories, and pictures for upcoming newsletters.

The Arizona Wildlifer Deadlines

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
Spring 2018	Mar 16, 2018
Summer 2018	Jun 15, 2018

Email submissions to aztwseditor@gmail.com.

Wanted: Newsletter Editor

Looking for a fun way to deepen your involvement and to learn more about our chapter and partners? Become our Newsletter Editor!

The Editor is responsible for soliciting materials for our quarterly newsletter, coordinating with authors and photographers, editing submissions, and completing layout of each issue. This is an excellent way to learn more about projects in which our chapter and others are involved and to reach out to our members and the public about TWS!

For more information, please contact Tiffany Sprague at (623) 670-0750 or aztwseditor@gmail.com.

Welcome, Valerie!



We are pleased to announce that Valerie Horncastle has been elected as our new Recording Secretary. Valerie has been working as a wildlife ecologist and spatial analyst for 14 years with a focus in wildlife and habitat relationships specifically in regards to wildlife responses to forest treatments, wildfires, invasive species, habitat connectivity, and grazing and other management plans.

She started her career with the Arizona Game and Fish Department, where she conducted research on migration routes of bald eagles, low level military flights on pronghorn, and forest restoration effects. In 2010, she took a Research Associate position at Northern Arizona University, focusing on wildfire, forest restoration, and more. In January 2017, she accepted the position of District Wildlife Biologist for the Springerville Ranger District of Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest.

OTE

Voting is now open for 2018 AZTWS board positions. Open positions include President Elect, Corresponding Secretary, and Board Member At-Large.

Please vote! Helping decide the leadership of our chapter is one of your privileges and responsibilities as a chapter member. We value your input in this important decision.

If you are an AZTWS chapter member, you should have received a ballot in your email in mid-December (or later if you recently joined). If you are a member but did not receive a ballot, please contact Nominations Chair Tiffany Sprague (tasprague@gmail.com). If you are not currently a member but would like to vote, become a member today! Annual AZTWS chapter membership dues are only \$6! You can join online at <https://aztws.com/membership>.

Send completed ballots to Nominations Chair Tiffany Sprague (tasprague@gmail.com). **Deadline to submit ballots is January 19.** Winners will be announced and will take office at the AZTWS Business Meeting on February 1.

Standing Invitations!

Call for Award Nominees

Submit your valued co-workers and partners for one of our Chapter Awards (see categories and criteria by visiting <http://aztws.com> and clicking on “Awards”). Let’s recognize our finest! Submit your nominations to our President Elect, Tiffany Sprague (tasprague@gmail.com).



Call for Chapter Officer and Board Member Nominees

Please consider becoming active with the Chapter as an officer or board member. You can learn about positions and responsibilities by visiting <http://aztws.com> and clicking on “About,” then “Executive Board Positions.” Nominations are due in November of each year, with elections occurring in January. Contact Tiffany Sprague (tasprague@gmail.com) to register your interest. We’d love to have you on our board!



Our Neck of The Woods...

Understanding Mountain Lion and Bighorn Sheep Relationships

By Andrew Jones, Wildlife Specialist, Arizona Game and Fish Department

Mountain lions (*Puma concolor*) and bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis*) are native species with a long-shared history in the Southwest and most of western North America. Their predator-prey relationship dates back thousands of years and, although deer (*Odocoileus* spp.) are typically recognized as the primary prey of mountain lions, bighorn sheep are also known to be a key prey item. Indeed, lion predation on bighorn sheep has been identified as a leading cause of mortality in some sheep populations, and multiple studies suggest that lions may drive small populations to extinction. However, much of this predator-prey relationship remains poorly understood. For example, why are some bighorn sheep populations threatened by lion predation when they have evolved with an array of potential predators, including mountain lions, and other populations are able to sustain lion predation? Another lingering question related to mountain lions and bighorn sheep centers on what kind of management actions may reduce a bighorn sheep's risk of predation. Can we, for instance, reduce the risk of lion predation to bighorn sheep through actions such as prescribed fire or alteration of water management? Increased knowledge about the factors that put a bighorn sheep at risk, and how bighorn sheep select habitat to reduce this risk, may have important relevance to management decisions related to fire, recreation, and predators, as well as translocation strategies. To address these questions and provide management information, the Research Branch of the Arizona Game and Fish Department is currently conducting a four-year study at two sites in Arizona. The objectives of this study are to examine bighorn sheep habitat selection, evaluate the relative influence of different factors (such as topography or vegetation type) to risk of bighorn sheep mortality, and to describe mountain lion prey composition.

The project began in November 2013, coinciding with bighorn sheep capture and translocation efforts at two sites in Arizona. The first site was the Santa Catalina Mountains, outside of Tucson. The Santa Catalina Mountains traditionally supported a robust population of sheep. However, by the mid-1990s, this population was extirpated, possibly as the result of numerous and inter-linked factors, including



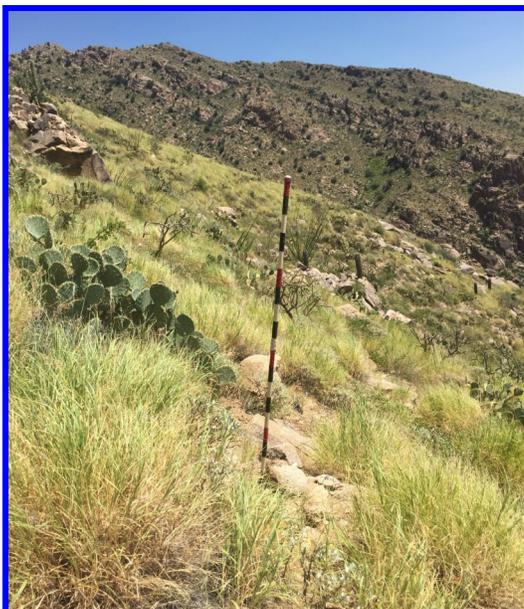
Bighorn sheep (top) and mountain lions (bottom) occupy similar areas. Photos by Andrew Jones.

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Bighorn Sheep cont...

(Continued from page 9)

urbanization, human recreation, disease outbreaks, predators, and wildfire suppression. Between 2013 and 2016, the Arizona Game and Fish Department translocated a total of 110 sheep to the Santa Catalina Mountains in an effort to restore this historical herd. The second site was the Arrastra Mountain Wilderness area in west-central Arizona. This area has traditionally supported a low-density population of bighorn sheep and was augmented by three bighorn sheep translocations in 2011, 2013, and 2014.



Researchers use a robel pole to record visibility. Photo by Andrew Jones.

Bighorn sheep are highly visual animals, and their predator-avoidance strategy relies on their keen eyesight to visually detect predators from a distance. Additionally, bighorn sheep are well adapted to rugged, rocky, and precipitous terrain, which provides refuge from predators. Accordingly, we measured a number of environmental factors related to bighorn sheep predator avoidance strategies in order to evaluate sheep habitat selection and factors that may influence the risk of mortality for bighorn sheep. This includes remote-sensed factors such as ruggedness and slope, which are derived from satellite imagery. However, the real work involved measuring horizontal visibility across the study sites. Horizontal visibility is a general index of the viewshed from a given location. To generate this index, we visited locations that were used by bighorn sheep (as recorded via GPS radio-collars), as well as locations that were randomly chosen from within individual bighorn sheep home ranges. At each of these locations, we placed a robel pole and recorded how many sections of the pole were visible from a distance of 20m at each cardinal direction. In total, we measured 3,302 total points across the two study sites – which was no easy feat in bighorn sheep habitat! Addi-

tionally, we telemetry-tracked and recorded group size and composition data for each radio-collared bighorn sheep, at least once per month, gathering a total of more than 500 bighorn sheep group observations.

Addressing the third objective of the study – measuring mountain lion prey composition – was one of the most challenging and rewarding aspects of this research project. Between 2014 and 2015 we captured and radio-collared four mountain lions at the Arrastra Mountain Wilderness study site (mountain lion trapping was not conducted in the Santa Catalina Mountains). Mountain lion radio-collars were programmed to take a GPS location once every five hours and to transmit this information once per day. This allowed us to retrieve location data on collared mountain lions in nearly real-time. When an individual stayed in one location for longer than 24 hours, we hiked on the location (after the lion had left) to search for tracks, scat, and prey remains. In total, we investigated a total of 232 possible predation



Waiting for an anesthetized radio-collared mountain lion to wake up. Photo by Andrew Jones.

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Bighorn Sheep cont...

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A mountain lion consuming a bighorn sheep. Photo courtesy of Andrew Jones.

events and positively identified prey remains at 152 locations. Prey items at these locations included mule deer, javelina, domestic cattle, burros, bighorn sheep, and coyotes. Interestingly, we found one beaver near Alamo Lake, of which only the head and tail remained. In total, two of the four mountain lions whose home ranges overlapped the sheep reintroduction area preyed on bighorn sheep, and on average bighorn sheep composed 5% of identified prey items. Among individual lions, bighorn sheep composed 0–14% of prey items found at kill sites. Generally, burros are not considered common prey items for mountain lions. However, three of the four collared mountain lions fed on burros and, averaged across these three lions, 32% of prey items identified at kill sites were burros. By individual lion, burros composed 4–74% of prey items found at kill sites.

Fieldwork for this research project wrapped up in the fall of 2017, and we are now analyzing data and preparing manuscripts. Ultimately, we hope that the objectives we are addressing in the study will help to further understand bighorn sheep habitat selection as it relates to predator avoidance strategies, as well as a greater understanding of which factors influence mortality for bighorn sheep. Predatory-prey relationships are often complex and multi-faceted. However, we hope that sound science, such as this project, will help to inform and support management of these two iconic species.



Photos by Andrew Jones.

Student Voice

2017 TWS Conference Summaries

Arizona State University Wildlife and Restoration Student Association

By Katie Hansford

Students studying natural resource ecology are always looking for ways to put what they have learned into practice, be it volunteering, workshops, conferences, etc. For the students of Arizona State University's Polytechnic campus, the opportunity afforded to us by attending The Wildlife Society national meeting in a neighboring state was too good of an opportunity to pass up. This meeting allowed for students to attend a wide array of talks, network with professionals, and participate in the student Quiz Bowl. This opportunity allowed for our small band to wrap our heads around the different avenues of working with wildlife that were available. At first, this experience can be extremely overwhelming, due in large part to the sheer amount of events and talks occurring concurrently. I knew this to be true for the students at ASU; however, once we all found a routine and took a moment to familiarize ourselves with the schedule, things seemed to fall into place nicely. There was never a dull moment at the conference from attending talks back to back to finding a place to review knowledge for Quiz Bowl. You could always find a way to keep yourself busy and get the full experience.



From left to right: Katie Hansford, Aaron Prince, Lindsey Meder, Michael Mullins, Dr. Heather Bateman. Photo courtesy of Katie Hansford.

For the ASU students the way to get the full experience at this conference was to attend as many talks as we could and network whenever the opportunity presented itself. A few of us decided to take this opportunity further and compete in the national Quiz Bowl. With guidance from Stan Cunningham, I was able to put together the best team possible for this venture. Aaron Prince, Lindsey Meder, Michael Mullins, and myself rose to the occasion, pouring hours and weeks into studying for this event, becom-

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Student Voice cont...

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ing “experts” in our given passions. As we took the stage for the first round, our team was in a state of nervous excitement. Following a tough round with Tarleton from Texas, we won. We were in shock, being told we would be advancing to the next round. Departing from Mesa, I vividly remember Stan telling us that these schools, with mega-programs, spent entire semesters preparing for this event. And here we were, four students from an impressive yet small program advancing into further rounds of the competition. Following a grueling 10 hours of competition, we were told we would be advancing to the final four. This was something we had not prepared for, as we were all thoroughly convinced we would not make it this far. At the conclusion of another four hours of grueling competition, riddled with factoids of uncommon knowledge, we had emerged with a fourth place final finish.

The Wildlife Society national meeting was perhaps one of the best opportunities to spur the group of us who attended into getting excited about careers in wildlife. To take from Stan, our attendance, as well as our performance in the Quiz Bowl, helped to put our small program on the map.

University of Arizona Student Chapter

By Brandon Mayer

The University of Arizona



American Fisheries and
Wildlife Society

At this recent 2017 The Wildlife Society national conference, the University of Arizona student chapter competed in its first national Quiz Bowl competition in the last two years. Our intentions stemmed for an entertaining experience competing at a regional meeting, and we quickly set into action to prepare ourselves for the big leagues. Four months before the national meeting, we had a member drop out and, without a replacement, gave up on our goal. Through a bit of luck, a new candidate surfaced a week before the competition was scheduled. We thought, “Heck, why not” and recklessly signed back up. We had studied before and assumed we could hold our own when the time came. What we didn’t expect was the caliber of opposition we faced. Despite our haphazard attempts to study before our rounds, we were crushed. Quite the opposite experience from that of our regional competition. Oddly enough this was inspirational. Witnessing the skill of recall and depth of knowledge our opposing students shared instilled a craving to return as the victors or at least to stand our ground in this trivial battleground.

Spotlight Your Research: Create a Blog

By Sandy Slovikosky, Wildlife Conservation & Management student, University of Arizona



“Networking is everything.” Such is the advice that every student majoring in natural resources has already heard numerous times by the end of their freshman year in college. As a current sophomore at the University of Arizona studying Wildlife Conservation and Management, I can only say the reminder comes up over and over again throughout one’s undergraduate career. Indeed, its importance cannot be overstated. While several of the most popular methods to networking include attending conferences, emailing references, and asking for suggestions from professors and fellow students, building one’s own website is another effective strategy.

I still remember when my father first advised me back in high school to think about creating my own blog corresponding to all my research and class experience thus far. Despite his frequent reminders, it was only this past summer, after I had completed my freshman year in college, that I truly took that to heart. The general process involves choosing a website host, creating a domain name, picking a pre-made template to edit, and then adding posts, pages, and photos. Additionally, getting a “little” extra help from a computer scientist never hurts to further customize the look to one’s tastes (huge thanks to my brother). My website is hosted by Wordpress, a platform I’d recommend to any starting blogger due to its user-friendliness; numerous how-to articles and videos can be found on the web, too. As for my format, the majority of the content is located under three tabs called “Research,” “Experience,” and “Tips and Hints.” Moreover, each of these contains its own individual subheadings corresponding to every new experience that I write about.

Whenever I conduct research in the future, whether privately, with an organization, or as part of an internship, I intend to post detailed descriptions together with photos of my work under the Research tab. The Experience section, on the other hand, contains information regarding volunteer work I’ve participated in and major class assignments I’ve completed that are related to my topic of study. Finally, I blog about my own thoughts on building a career in natural resources and advice I’ve given to others based on what I’ve learned so far with regard to carrying out effective research. This all can be found under the Tips and Hints tab. Ultimately, I intend to update my website after every school semester and summer to regularly add new projects as they accumulate. The link is located on my resume as well: <http://www.sanimal.net>. All in all, it is my hope that potential employers will in this way be able to gain a more detailed perspective of my interests and research experience thus far.

Read the Most Talked About Papers from JWM and WSB

By Nancy Sasavage, TWS Director of Publications and Communications

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 *Journal of Wildlife Management* and *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, 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 – but are not limited to – 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.

Most Talked About Research



Polar bear attacks on humans: Implications of a changing climate
Wildlife Society Bulletin



The true cost of partial fencing: Evaluating strategies to reduce reptile road mortality
Wildlife Society Bulletin



How publishing in open access journals threatens science and what we can do about it
Journal of Wildlife Management



Investigating impacts of oil and gas development on greater sage-grouse
Journal of Wildlife Management



Free-roaming cat interactions with wildlife admitted to a wildlife hospital
Journal of Wildlife Management



Demography of an increasing caribou herd with restricted wolf control
Journal of Wildlife Management



Evaluating population expansion of black bears using spatial capture-recapture
Journal of Wildlife Management



Online hunting forums identify achievement as prominent among multiple satisfactions
Wildlife Society Bulletin



Population-level effects of lead fishing tackle on common loons
Journal of Wildlife Management



Persistence of greater sage-grouse in agricultural landscapes
Journal of Wildlife Management

*Altmetric score based on current standings as of November 9th 2017

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To read TWS journals, you must first [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.

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Did you know?

[The Wildlife Society](#) endorses professional development and career advancement at various stages through its professional certification programs. The Certified Wildlife Biologist® and Associate Wildlife Biologist® designations validate a professional’s completion of rigorous academic standards, educational background, and demonstrated expertise in the art and science of applying the principles of ecology to the conservation and management of wildlife. Learn more about The Wildlife Society’s professional certification programs at <http://wildlife.org/certification-programs>.

Did you know?

The new TWS Network Online Directory has revolutionized networking opportunities for all members of the Society. The directory is an incredible tool featuring a robust search engine that helps members connect with each other based on location, area of focus, employer type, and other relevant factors. Its versatility can help you make valuable connections for collaboration, explore job opportunities, find mentors, and more! [Click here](#) to learn more about this great TWS asset or visit <http://wildlife.org> to see the complete list of membership benefits.

Did you know?

The Wildlife Society’s diverse membership represents professionals from all across the wildlife science, management, and conservation community and from every organization type, including federal, state agency, private and corporate industry, nonprofit, academia, and more! The Society provides a common platform for cross-organizational employees to network, communicate, share ideas, and collaborate on policy and conservation issues. To learn more about who we are, visit <http://wildlife.org/about>.

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Did you know?

Between conference discounts, free magazines and journals, tuition savings through American Public University, and book discounts, TWS members can save hundreds of dollars each year, all for a price of just \$81! [Click here](#) to see a complete list of TWS membership benefits or [join today](#).

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Members of The Wildlife Society receive an e-newsletter, the *eWildlifer*, each week. The newsletter contains additional wildlife science, management, conservation, and policy news, fun and educational information such as Quiz Bowl questions, two TWS Talks per week from our archive of Annual Conference presentation recordings, and important TWS news and notes in the announcements section!

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There are 27 Working Groups active within The Wildlife Society, encompassing nearly all facets of the complex wildlife profession. Working groups are forums where TWS members with common professional interests can network, exchange information, and promote science-based decision-making and management of wildlife and its habitats. [Click here](#) to see a complete list of TWS Working Groups and find out how you can join at <http://wildlife.org/join>.

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Members of [The Wildlife Society](#) enjoy six issues of our award-winning magazine, *The Wildlife Professional*, each year. Featuring news and analysis on wildlife science, conservation, management, policy, and education, it's a favorite membership benefit. TWS staff and contributing authors profile outstanding wildlife professionals, cover contemporary issues, summarize relevant scientific papers, highlight new field techniques, and more in this bimonthly publication.



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