

## **CONFERENCE INFORMATION**

57th Joint Annual Meeting of the Arizona/New Mexico Chapters of the Wildlife Society and the Arizona/New Mexico Chapters of the American Fisheries Society

The 57th Joint Annual Meeting will be held at the: Little America Hotel, Flagstaff, AZ

Thursday – Saturday, February 1-3, 2024

## **FIRST CALL FOR PAPERS**

We are now accepting abstracts, **FIRST CALL** to be submitted by December 22, 2023.

The Program Committee for the 2024 JAM invites abstracts for contributed oral presentations and posters. The program will include a plenary session, contributed papers, and a poster session on a wide range of fisheries and wildlife-related topics. Presentations may include completed projects and works in progress.

We strongly encourage students to attend and are particularly interested in student presentations. The AZ/NM Chapter of the American Fisheries Society will present a “Best Student Paper” and “Best Student Poster” award for graduate and undergraduate students presenting papers/posters in the fisheries field. The AZ and NM Chapters of The Wildlife Society will present a “Best Student Paper” and “Best Student Poster” award for graduate and undergraduate students presenting papers/posters in the wildlife field. Fisheries and wildlife students currently attending a college/university or graduated within 12 months preceding JAM and who are first author on the research given are eligible for the fisheries “Best Student Paper” and “Best Student Poster” awards and the wildlife “Best Student Poster” award, respectively. See the last page of this announcement for information on applying for the best student oral presentation competition in wildlife.

**\*\*NOTE:** The format for applications for the student oral presentation competition in wildlife is different from those for wildlife poster abstracts, wildlife presentation abstracts not submitted for consideration for the “Best Student Paper” competition, and all fisheries abstracts. **\*\***

## **INSTRUCTIONS FOR ORAL PRESENTATION AND POSTER ABSTRACTS (EXCEPT FOR STUDENT ORAL PRESENTATION COMPETITION IN WILDLIFE)**

Speakers will be given 20 minutes for their presentation (15-minute presentation and 5 minutes for questions). A laptop PC and digital projector will be provided for Power Point presentations. Please inquire about other audiovisual aids if necessary.

### **Oral presentation and poster abstract format:**

List all authors using first and last names, their affiliation, addresses, and e-mail addresses. When choosing the title, be brief but descriptive and avoid using acronyms or scientific names in the

title unless the common name is not widely known. Please indicate if the lead author is a student or professional at the end of the abstract (see example below). Abstracts are restricted to 250 words and should summarize the importance, methods, and findings of the research being described. Please follow the format from the example below so that program chairs can focus on processing abstracts rather than making edits. Abstracts with grammatical errors or incorrect formatting will be returned to the authors for correction prior to acceptance.

#### Poster Size and Display:

Please limit your poster size to 32"x 44". Orientation can be either portrait or landscape; each presenter will have a 4x4 foot space for their poster, which will provide a place to hang the poster and other information such as handouts or business cards. Presenters are required to assemble and disassemble their own poster and to provide tacks or push pins to hang their poster. Poster presenters should attend the Poster Session at the meeting to answer questions. Breaks and socials will be organized around the Posters to encourage discussion between attendees and poster presenters.

All presenters will receive an e-mail confirmation of their abstract submission and acceptance or placement on a waiting list within two weeks of abstract submission. Notification of the time and place of presentation or poster will be sent in late January, after the conference schedule is complete. Please email your abstracts to the appropriate Program Chair below by December 22, 2023:

**Send fisheries oral and poster presentations to Zach Beard:** [zbeard@azgfd.gov](mailto:zbeard@azgfd.gov)

**Send wildlife oral and poster presentations (excluding the student oral presentation competition) to:** [wildlifeJAMabstract@gmail.com](mailto:wildlifeJAMabstract@gmail.com)

#### ABSTRACT EXAMPLE

##### Authors:

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James W. Cain III, U.S. Geological Survey New Mexico Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, New Mexico State University, Department of Fish Wildlife and Conservation Ecology, 2980 South Espina, Knox Hall 132, Las Cruces, New Mexico 88033; [jwcain@nmsu.edu](mailto:jwcain@nmsu.edu).

Stewart G. Liley, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, 1 Wildlife Way, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87507; [Stewart.Liley@state.nm.us](mailto:Stewart.Liley@state.nm.us)

##### Title:

Post-parturition habitat selection by elk calves and adult female elk in New Mexico

Abstract:

Neonatal survival and juvenile recruitment are crucial to maintaining elk (*Cervus elaphus*) populations, and neonate survival is known to be influenced by many factors, including bed site selection. While neonates select the bed site, they must do so within the larger calf-rearing area selected by the mother. Our objectives were to characterize bedsite selection by calves and calf rearing area selection by adult females at two spatial scales in areas with different predator assemblages. We captured 107 elk calves and fitted them with ear tag transmitters in the Valle Vidal and Gila National Forest. We found that concealing cover structure and distance to that cover were important in bed site selection of young calves (i.e., <2 weeks of age). Older calves (i.e., 3-10 weeks of age) still selected areas in relation to distance to cover but also preferred areas with higher visibility. When we expanded to the larger spatial scale of calf-rearing habitat selection by the adult female, concealing cover (e.g., rocks, shrubs, logs) and other variables important to the hiding calves were still in the most supported models, but selection was also influenced by forage availability and indices of forage quality. Studies that seek to obtain insight into microhabitat selection of neonates should consider selection by both the neonate and adult female and changes in selection as neonates age.

\*\*Student

**WILDLIFE STUDENT ORAL PRESENTATION COMPETITION  
ARIZONA AND NEW MEXICO CHAPTERS OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY  
JOINT ANNUAL MEETING 2024**

To enter the wildlife student oral presentation competition, students must submit a written summary of their research by Friday, December 22, 2023 5:00 pm MST. To be competitive, these should be final or near final results of the student's research. The panel of judges will evaluate the written summary of the student's research based on the merits of the research to determine the top 3 students from each state. These 6 finalists will compete during a special symposium of the meeting on Friday, February 2, 2024. Each student's presentation will be 15 minutes plus 5 minutes for questions. All 6 finalists selected for the competition will receive a certificate and the top 2 students (one for AZ and one for NM) will receive a certificate and cash award at the awards banquet on February 2, 2024. Student who submit applications for the wildlife student oral presentation competition and are not selected for the competition will automatically have their research summaries sent to the TWS abstract selection committee responsible for choosing presentations for general sessions during the meeting. Experience presenting research at professional meetings is an important part of a student's professional development. Consequently, we strongly encourage all students who are involved with research to submit an abstract for a poster or oral presentation, even if they do not submit it to be considered for this competition. Posters will be evaluated and will compete for a separate best poster award. Poster abstracts should follow the format described above and be submitted to the contact for wildlife oral and poster presentation abstracts (see contact above).

Benefits:

- 1) Judging will be consistent.

- 2) The stature of the best wildlife student presentation award will be elevated.
- 3) Symposium attendees will be able to see all of the “best papers”.
- 4) All six finalists will gain better recognition.

How to Apply:

1) Eligibility: All students working towards undergraduate or graduate degrees, or professionals who have graduated within the 12 months preceding the JAM (i.e., after February 2024). The student must be first author on the research. The student must be a member of either the Arizona or New Mexico Chapter of The Wildlife Society. Group undergraduate or graduate class projects cannot be considered original research attributable to a single author and are therefore not allowable for this competition.

2) Prepare your application in a word processor using a standard font no smaller than 11pt, single spacing, and at least 1 inch margins. Save the completed application as an unsecured pdf with the file name “TWS Student Competition Application\_[Last Name]”.

3) Application is not to exceed TWO single-spaced pages including tables, figures, and literature citations. Include the following information: a. Student name, institutional address, email address b. Advisor’s name; list of coauthors in order of recognition c. Summary of research including title, a brief introduction, methods, results, conclusions, and significance or management implications.

4) Attach the pdf of your application in an email addressed to Andrew Jones at [ajones@azgfd.gov](mailto:ajones@azgfd.gov) with a subject line “TWS Student Competition Application\_[Last Name]”.

5) The deadline for application is December 22, 2023 5:00 pm MST