

Montana Chapter of The Wildlife Society



*We need your help!
Please submit articles,
stories, and pictures for
our 2013 Newsletters!
Any announcements,
meetings, jobs, interesting
facts or stories would be
appreciated!*

*Spring 2013 Deadline
31 March, 2013*

**Link to On-line
Voting:**
[http://joomla.wildlife.
org/election_montan
a_2013/](http://joomla.wildlife.org/election_montana_2013/)

**Link to 2013
Conference
Website:**
[http://joomla.wildlife.
org/Montana//index.
php?option=com_con
tent&task=view&id=2
04&Itemid=353](http://joomla.wildlife.org/Montana//index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=204&Itemid=353)

Message from the President

Hello Montana TWS,

In this issue of the MT TWS newsletter, there are two important issues that you, the membership, need to express your voice on. Over the past year, due to some hard work of our colleagues, there is a new position statement on Exurban Housing Development and Wildlife to review and vote on its adoption (*full position statement is below*). In addition, another important matter concerning the Intermountain Journal of Sciences (IJS) and a financial request to upgrade IJS to be an on-line, searchable journal is in need of your consideration (*summary, full proposal, and white paper below*). Please take your time and review these important matters and cast your vote. The link to on-line voting is live and voting will remain open until noon on 28 February, 2013. The results of these ballots will be announced at the annual conference banquet.

I would also like to bring to your attention to another important matter that requires membership attention, and that is the need for



the membership to step up and represent your professional society! It has been very difficult getting the individuals to accept a nomination to represent the Montana Chapter. I can say it has been truly humbling and rewarding to represent such an amazing group. Please consider taking the next step in membership and volunteer to run for office! You will not regret the time you spent.

Finally, the annual conference is rapidly approaching. Below is the conference outline. Chris has pulled together an amazing event! I look forward to seeing you there.

Shawn Cleveland
-President-MT TWS
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51st Annual Conference of the Montana Chapter of The Wildlife Society!



Wildlife and Change: The Influence of Climate, Politics, and Social Dynamics on Wildlife Conservation & Management

Whitefish, Montana February 25-March 1, 2013

The 2013 Annual Conference will take place at the Grouse Mountain Lodge in Whitefish, MT during the week of February 25th through March 1st. We have the entire lodge (143 rooms) reserved for conference attendees (groups@glacierparkinc.com or jschaeffer-marcus@glacierparkinc.com). Additional rooms are reserved at the Rocky Mountain Lodge (<http://www.rockymtnlodge.com>), also in Whitefish, for overflow if necessary. Both locations are offering rooms for \$87.00 per night. Block room reservations will be available until January 25th. The block room code is **Wildlife Society**. For reservations please call 406-892-6722. For those folks considering traveling from the eastern part of the state by train, Grouse Mountain Lodge offers a free pickup/drop off at the Amtrak Train Station in Whitefish. More information about Whitefish can be found at <http://whitefishchamber.org/>.

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2013 Conference Chair
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Position Statement of the Montana Chapter of The Wildlife Society on Exurban Housing Development and Wildlife

The Wildlife Society – The Wildlife Society is an international organization of wildlife professionals established in 1937. Its principal objectives are: 1) develop and promote sound stewardship of wildlife resources and the environment upon which wildlife and humans depend using the best available science; 2) actively participate in programs designed to diminish human-induced environmental degradation; 3) increase awareness and appreciation of wildlife values; and 4) seek the highest standards in all activities of the wildlife profession. The Montana Chapter of The Wildlife Society currently has 490 members active in research, management, education, and administration in the scientific management of Montana's wildlife and its habitat.

Wildlife in Montana – Montana is richly blessed in scenic splendor, abundant wildlife, and extensive undeveloped landscapes. Recognized across the nation and around the globe, Montana's wildlife is something we all treasure, enjoy, use, share, and zealously protect. Montanans have always been among the first to care for wildlife and the habitat on which it depends. Local sportsmen's clubs began organizing to restore wildlife and protect habitat in 1878; the first state game warden was hired in 1901; we protected grizzly bears in 1923, before anyone else; we began establishing game preserves nearly 100 years ago and acquiring state-owned game ranges, some of the first in the nation, nearly 75 years ago. We made sure we would have a clean and healthful environment by saying so in our State Constitution. Each generation in turn has done its part. We now enjoy the fruits of the often difficult and controversial labors of our visionary forebearers. In turn, the care of this precious resource now rests with us, to use, protect, enhance, and pass on to our children and their children.

In addition to its high inherent and aesthetic value, wildlife is vitally important to Montana's economy. Hunting, fishing and wildlife watching contributed about one billion dollars to Montana's economy in 2006¹, putting it on a par with non-fuel minerals in 2007², forest products in 2004³, and the sale of livestock in 2009⁴.

Wildlife and Exurban Housing Development – Within the last few decades a significant new threat to wildlife and wildlife habitat has emerged: exurban development – building houses and subdivisions in rural areas away from towns and out in the country where homes, roads, people, cars and pets affect wildlife far beyond their immediate locale and can fragment and greatly reduce functional wildlife habitat. Wildlife biologists across Montana have long recognized that exurban housing development is the primary threat to wildlife in western Montana⁵.

The rate that rural landscapes are being developed is staggering. Over forty million acres in the lower 48 states – one third of all the land ever developed there – has been developed in just the last 25 years⁶. During the same time western Montana saw three-quarters of a million acres of open space developed and another 325,000 acres converted from low density rural to exurban density housing⁷. Between 1970 and 2005 the year-round population of western Montana grew about 50 percent, yet the amount of developed land increased by almost 200 percent⁸.

In view of the foregoing **It is the Position of The Montana Chapter of The Wildlife Society** that:

WHEREAS: Exurban housing development is recognized as a serious threat to wildlife; and

WHEREAS: Exurban housing development can fragment large blocks of important intact undeveloped habitat; and

WHEREAS: The effect of exurban housing development may go miles beyond its immediate footprint on the landscape; and

WHEREAS: Scattered exurban development provides habitat and pathways for the expansion and proliferation of exotic non-desirable species like starlings, house sparrows, collared doves, etc., that can compete against and displace desirable native species; and

WHEREAS: Exurban housing development often puts humans in conflict with wildlife. People then see wildlife as “problem animals” rather than a valued natural resource. This reduces people’s support for wildlife, habitat conservation and wildlife management programs; and

WHEREAS: Exurban development can make it difficult or impossible to manage certain wildlife populations, mainly because hunting with firearms and trapping as management tools are usually not options; and

WHEREAS: Exurban housing development often changes the natural habitat use and movements and connectivity for wildlife; and

WHEREAS: The cumulative effects of exurban development are seldom addressed in evaluating the effects of development on wildlife and wildlife habitat. This is not only true where there are additions to existing development, but more importantly, when new developments are proposed in undeveloped areas their effects are greater and they lead to future development; and

WHEREAS: Wildlife in the United States has always been and is now legally held in the public trust by government guided by the tenants of the Public Trust Doctrine. Federal, state, county and local governments are thereby the custodians of wildlife and are obligated to act responsibly for the benefit of present and future generations of all citizens.

THEREFORE: the Montana Chapter of the Wildlife Society supports and encourages:

Long-range science based comprehensive land use planning on an ecologically significant scale that recognizes wildlife and wildlife habitat as important resources to be conserved and enhanced, that identifies and protects important wildlife areas, and that also identifies areas more suitable for housing development.

Adherence to Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks’ Recommendations for Subdivision Development in Montana.

The provision of technical assistance to local planning jurisdictions, working groups, and others engaged in the discussion of how local communities can avoid impacts and/or minimize impacts of development on important wildlife species and habitats.

The additional collection and use of science- and ecology-based wildlife information and expert opinion to better identify and mitigate impacts to wildlife and to prepare land use plans, update and implement land use regulations, and design better exurban developments.

The evaluation of cumulative effects during the review of proposed exurban housing developments. The additive or cumulative impacts of both current and future exurban development must be considered in future planning and development reviews and research. If cumulative effects are not considered then the true effects are not evaluated.

Adopted by The Montana Chapter of The Wildlife Society Executive Board DATE

Approved by vote of The Montana Chapter of The Wildlife Society membership DATE

Signature

President

Date

Montana Chapter of the Wildlife Society

¹ USFWS. 2008. 2006 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation

² USGS. 2010. 2007 Minerals Yearbook, The Mineral Industry of Montana.

³ USDA Forest Service. 2008. Montana’s forest products industry and timber harvest, 2004.

⁴ USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service. 2011. Montana’s Rank in the Nation’s Agriculture Highlights.

⁵ Vore, J. 2012. Big Game Winter Range Recommendations for Subdivision Development in Montana: Justifications and Rationale. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Professional Paper, January 9, 2012.

⁶ USDA. 2009. Summary Report: 2007 National Resources Inventory.

⁷ Sonoran Institute 2009. Western Montana: Growing Into the 21st Century.

⁸ Sonoran Institute. 2009. Planning for People & Wildlife: A Workbook for Montana’s Citizens and Local Officials.

Summary-Intermountain Journal of Sciences (IJS) Financial Support Request to the Montana Chapter of The Wildlife Society

In February of 2012, a proposal was presented by Terry Lonner (Managing Editor of IJS and Co-owner/Media Producer of Media Works) to the Montana Chapter of The Wildlife Society (MTTWS) during the business meeting at the annual conference, and to the other current sponsoring organizations of IJS (Montana Academy of Sciences and the Montana Chapter of the American Fisheries Society) to make IJS available on-line, as it currently is only available via hardcopy. IJS is an interdisciplinary journal in which abstracts from the sponsoring organizations meeting are published, as well as other peer reviewed articles. After lengthy discussion, the MTTWS board felt it was necessary to bring the proposal to a vote of membership as there is a significant financial obligation associated with MTTWS' continued involvement and sponsorship of IJS. Below is a summary of the status of getting IJS on-line and an explanation of the financial support requested from MTTWS for a one-time \$2,500 dollar contribution, \$250 annual maintenance fee, and the average abstract publication cost of \$1,300 (2007-2012).

To date, the Montana Academy of Sciences and Montana Tech's Biology Department – U of M have each pledged \$2,500.00 for getting IJS online. Montana State University's (MSU) Library in Bozeman has committed to be the main archiving and processing facility to get IJS online with "ScholarWorks". IJS is currently working with the MSU Library to get Vol. 17 online as an example of digitally refreshing IJS. This includes all abstracts and manuscripts published in IJS. All back issues are planned to be online by the end of 2013.

It is requested that The Montana Chapters of Wildlife and Fisheries Societies should match the Montana Academy of Sciences one-time contribution of \$2,500. There will also be an annual maintenance fee of \$250 for MSU's library services. This fee would be paid by each sponsoring organization through a memorandum of understanding already written and waiting to be signed if there is agreement to continue supporting IJS and making it available online. In addition, the average conference abstract publication costs for MTTWS is ~\$1,300 (5 year average from 2007-2012).

MSU's library Digital Access Web Services are using IJS as their flagship project to present to the University's top administrators in March.

Once IJS is digitally formatted to go online - it will improve the sponsoring organizations educational and outreach efforts by becoming more available to interested professionals, researchers and students worldwide.

**Please Note: The full version of the Intermountain Journal of Sciences upgrade proposal is available at the voting link. (Voting Link: http://joomla.wildlife.org/election_montana_2013/)*

Intermountain Journal of Sciences
Status Report as of December 31, 2011

The Intermountain Journal of Sciences (IJS) offers a regional peer-reviewed outlet for scientists, educators, and students to submit original research, management applications, or viewpoints concerning the sciences. We welcome original manuscripts dealing with biological, environmental engineering, mathematical, molecular-cellular, pharmaceutical, physical, humanities and social sciences.

The intent of the co-sponsors¹ and editorial board is that *IJS* attain status of a quarterly journal subject to numbers of acceptable manuscripts received and available funding. Editorial policy also holds that contributing authors be assured of publication within 12 months of acceptance of their manuscript by the editor-in-chief.

The organizational staff is voluntary and consists of an editorial board, an editor-in-chief, a managing editor, associate editors, a business manager and a panel of referees. The editorial board is responsible for establishing policy and the chair of the editorial board serves as liaison to the sponsoring organizations. The editor-in-chief is responsible for determining acceptability and level of revision of manuscripts based on referees' comments and recommendation of an associate editor. The managing editor serves as liaison for layout, printing, a subscription database and distribution of printed issues. Associate editors and referees are selected on the basis of their field and specific area of knowledge and expertise. General information, editorial policy, staffing, and content of printed issues appears on our website at <http://www.intermountainjournal.org/>.

Subscriptions, page charges assessed to authors, grants from public agencies and nongovernmental organizations, and sale of back issues provide funding to cover publication costs. Income from these sources averaged \$10,394/year for the calendar years 2001-2010 (Vols. 7-16). Publication costs over the same period averaged \$10,310/year

Seventeen volumes of *IJS* have been printed since 1995 that have included 143 published articles from among 171 manuscripts submitted through the end of 2011 (Table 1). An additional 26 articles were published in three special thematic issues in which individual manuscripts were solicited. A subject index inclusive of every published article appears in print in one issue every 5 years and most recently in the first issue in 2010 (Vol. 16, No. 1-3).

Abstracts from annual meetings of the co-sponsoring organizations appear in the last issue of each printed volume if submitted by the sponsoring organization(s) for any given year. One of the main intentions to start *IJS* in 1995 was to print the abstracts of presentations made at the annual meetings of the co-sponsoring organizations so a permanent record of their annual meeting proceedings would be available to individual subscribers and libraries in a professional and consistent printed format.

Although *IJS* has not yet attained the status of a quarterly journal, it continues to draw interest from the intermountain region and elsewhere. Faculty and students from colleges and universities have provided much of this interest both within and outside the Intermountain region. Of 356 contributing authors for the 169 articles published through the calendar year 2011 (Vol. 17), 130 (37%) of these were students during the period that research was conducted and resulted in these published articles.

¹ Co-sponsors/publishers include the Montana Academy of Sciences and Montana Chapters of the American Fisheries Society and the Wildlife society; all provided monetary support to initiate the journal and provide oversight through representation on the editorial board.

General and student subscriptions vary year to year with as many as 30 libraries subscribing over the years. There are currently 14 life subscriptions and 13 library subscriptions with the majority of library subscriptions coming from colleges and universities in the Intermountain Region (see list below). We also have two overseas subscriptions and send complimentary copies to abstracting services both in the US and UK.

Table 1. Publication summary for the Intermountain Journal of Sciences since it began receiving manuscripts in 1994.

| Year | No. manuscripts received ^a | No. manuscripts published | No. of theme issues (manuscripts) ^b | Total number of issues printed |
|------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| 1994 | 4 | -- | -- | -- |
| 1995 | 7 | 6 | -- | 1 |
| 1996 | 18 | 8 | -- | 2 |
| 1997 | 15 | 18 | -- | 3 |
| 1998 | 9 | 9 | -- | 2 |
| 1999 | 7 | 5 | -- | 1 |
| 2000 | 13 | 14 | 1 (14) | 4 |
| 2001 | 9 | 11 | -- | 3 |
| 2002 | 9 | 6 | 2 (13) | 4 |
| 2003 | 11 | 11 | -- | 3 |
| 2004 | 6 | 3 | -- | 1 |
| 2005 | 12 | 8 | -- | 2 |
| 2006 | 14 | 8 | -- | 2 |
| 2007 | 9 | 11 | -- | 3 |
| 2008 | 9 | 7 | -- | 2 |
| 2009 | 7 | 6 | -- | 2 |
| 2010 | 5 | 7 | -- | 2 |
| 2011 | 7 | 4 | -- | 1 |

^a Includes only those manuscripts that go through routine peer review, but does not include papers in the three theme issues.

^b Theme issues were devoted to the Henry's Fork (14 ms.), sagebrush/sage grouse (7 ms.) and native inland fisheries (6 ms.). These were not counted among manuscripts submitted for publication.

Some of the more prominent libraries that subscribe to IJS:

Adams Library, MSU – Billings

Boise State University Library

University of Great Falls Library

Carroll College Library – Helena

Montana Tech Library, U of M – Butte

Knight Library, University of Oregon – Eugene

Bureau of Land Management Library – Denver

Renne Library, MSU – Bozeman

Mansfield Library, U of M – Missoula

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Research Library – Bozeman

Montana Historical Society Library – Helena

Idaho State University Library – Pocatello

University of California Library – Berkeley

Glacier National Park Library – West Glacier