

Display problems? [Open this email in your web browser.](#)



The Montana Chapter of The Wildlife Society

Things are coming together!

Your MTTWS board has been hard at work putting together a jam-packed (but Zoom-fatigue-resilient) virtual experience for our 2021 conference. We've got speakers lined up, workshops figured out, and our conference website somewhat updated (we're biologists, not web designers!). We're still figuring out some of the details--like how much the conference will cost, and how the interface is going to work--but for now, you can at least [check out the 2021 conference webpage](#) for a preview of what's to come!

CONFERENCE THEME:

PILLARS OF SUCCESS: The intersection between research, management and implementation

Montana is a vast landscape with various social, economic, cultural and conservation needs. To sustain our goals of sound wildlife management based on a foundation of science, it is clear that working cooperatively provides the greatest chance towards successful on-the-ground projects. How agency, academic, non-profit, landowner and tribal entities interact to find balanced solutions is integral in realizing our commitment to wildlife and the habitats where they exist. This theme will be obvious in the plenary

session and will be sprinkled throughout the three-day conference.

Knowing how, er, unlikely it is that you'll be logging on to the computer when you're home in the evenings to listen to a banquet speaker or network with other students/professionals, we're going to try to schedule everything during working hours with the exception of some evening "mixers". To give you an idea of what the conference will entail, here's a working draft of the conference schedule:

- Monday, February 22: Working group meetings
- Tuesday, February 23:
 - AM: Working group meetings
 - PM: Workshops
- Wednesday, February 24:
 - AM: Plenary session (live), poster preview
 - PM: Concurrent sessions (prerecorded) and live chatrooms later with speakers; "banquet" speaker and awards
 - Evening: Happy hour chat rooms/networking
- Thursday, February 25:
 - AM: Concurrent sessions and live chatrooms
 - PM: Concurrent sessions and live chatrooms

We're planning on giving away random prizes throughout the conference for people in attendance, so you'll definitely want to tune in!

FIRST CALL FOR CONFERENCE ABSTRACTS!

Oral and poster presentations are going to be a bit different this year. Similar to this past national virtual TWS conference, oral presentations will be pre-recorded, and poster presenters will submit a PDF of their poster and pre-record a short introductory

"blurb". Everybody will then have office hours where presenters will be live to answer questions and chat about their research.

For those of you go-getters out there, give us a day or two to work out the kinks on the abstract submission page. Like if you submit your abstract now it might end up in a black hole. But abstract submission should be open by the end of the week!

Like I said...biologists, not web designers. (And come on, how many of you EVER submit abstracts this early???)



Get to know your board nominees!

This year, we've got two board positions open: president-elect (as always) and treasurer. Each is for a 3-year term.

Now, I need to give you all a stern talkin-to. Last year, out of 300ish conference attendees, only like 50 of you voted. ONLY 50. We even went through the trouble of printing out paper ballots and PAINSTAKINGLY PUTTING THEM IN ALLLLLLL THOSE PACKETS. That's just sad, and now we're stuck with Andrew Jakes (just kidding, Andrew! We love you!).

So, with the conference being virtual this year, you're going to have a chance--nay,

perhaps even a REQUIREMENT--to vote on your next set of board members via computer. How easy is that? Answer: super easy. So, to help you with your decision, here is your first set of nominee biographies! (But note to all the nominees: please don't do campaign mailers, we're quite tired of those.)

TREASURER



Nominee #1: Jason Hanlon

*Northern Great Plains Land Steward
The Nature Conservancy*

Originally from Albuquerque, NM, after high school Jason Hanlon moved to



Nominee #2: Heather Brower

*Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist
Pheasants Forever*

Heather Brower has been a Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist with Pheasants Forever

Boston where he completed a 5-year electrical apprenticeship. He worked for 10 years as an electrician with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. Not completely satisfied with his first career choice, he moved around a bit before coming to Montana to Attend the University of Montana, earning a degree in wildlife biology. While attending UM, Jason worked seasonally for TNC at the Matador Ranch in eastern Montana, after which TNC brought him on as a full-time team member in 2017. Working for TNC, Jason has contributed to numerous research and monitoring projects, ranch operations, stewardship efforts, and is currently a certified drone pilot flying drones for TNC. Headquartered at the Matador, he enjoys being outdoors and taking in all that the grasslands offer.

in Scobey, MT since December 2017. Originally from Eastern Washington, she earned her B.S. in Natural Resource Science Emphasizing Wildlife Ecology and a minor in Forestry from Washington State University (2015). After graduation she worked as a wildlife technician for 3 years working with Greater Sage-Grouse in Roundup MT, white-tailed deer in South TX, and Eastern Wild Turkeys in Northern Missouri. Now she works out of the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) office to find ways to improve wildlife habitat while helping keep farmers and ranchers profitable and on the land. When not in the office, Heather enjoys bird hunting with her Brittany Spaniel and long-distance trail riding.

.....

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Photos and bios coming soon!

Nominee #1: Andrea Litt, Associate Professor, Dept. of Ecology, Montana State University

Nominee #2: Tammy Fletcher, Wildlife Lead, Region 1, US Forest Service

Wildlife Trivia (answer on bottom): Who was the first woman hired as a wildlife biologist for Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks?

- A. Liz Bradley
 - B. Gayle Joslin
 - C. Alda Leopold
 - D. Martha Williams
-

The Effects of Recreation on Rocky Mountain Wildlife

The Montana Chapter of the Wildlife Society and the Montana Natural Heritage Program are teaming up to update “The Effects of Recreation on Rocky Mountain Wildlife.” In 1999, the Montana Chapter of TWS produced a 301-page [report](#) to provide resource users, managers, and decision-makers with access to the best available scientific information about the effects of recreation on wildlife and to foster good stewardship of Montana's wildlife resources for current and future generations. A [companion website](#) was developed to allow ready online access to the bibliographies of literature used to develop this document.

The report is now 20 years out-of-date. A great deal of research has been conducted since that time on the topical areas covered in report and new forms of outdoor recreation such as pack rafts and drones are new topical areas for which research summaries are needed by natural resource managers. There is therefore a need to: (1) update the literature contained in the bibliography and companion website by having a data technician conduct literature searches and add articles to the bibliographic database; and (2) update the topical area summaries contained in the Effects of

Recreation on Rocky Mountain Wildlife report.

For more information and to donate to the project [Click Here!](#)



Above: A young mountain goat checks out a campsite in the Great Burn Proposed Wilderness.

Reminder: Awards and Small Grants!

I know, we're RELENTLESS, we JUST sent that info out in last week's newsletter! But seriously, we want you to nominate people and/or apply for small grants! Information can be found on our [Awards](#) webpage.





Large flocks of snow geese fly over Trapper Peak in the Bitterroot Valley on the opening weekend of rifle season, October 2020.

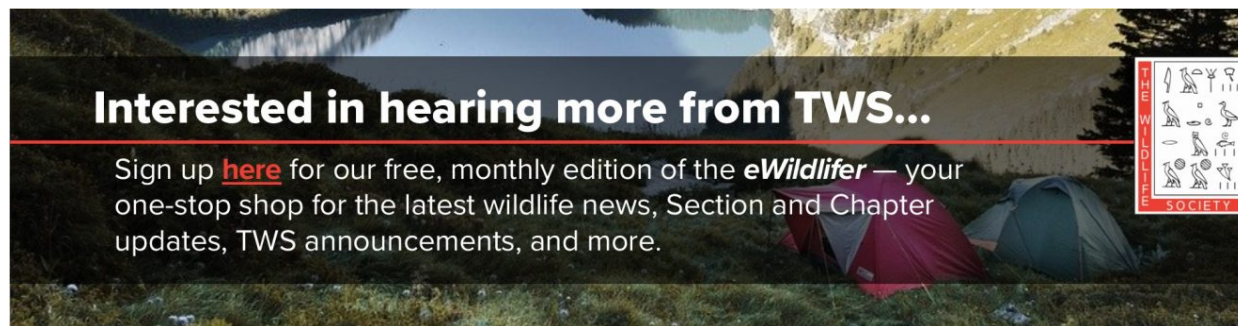
Other news from around the wildlife world

- National TWS announced its 2021 conference will again be virtual.
 - That's all I can think of, really. Sorry. :-)
-

Answer to trivia question: (B) Gayle Joslin. Following an exemplary 32-year career with FWP, during which she earned numerous awards and accolades, Gayle retired in 2007 and was inducted into the Montana Outdoor Hall of Fame just last week. she also coordinated the original Effects of Recreation on Rocky Mountain Wildlife referenced above! Thank you, Gayle, for paving the way for women wildlife biologists in Montana and beyond!

***Got something for our next
newsletter? Send it to
mttws.secretary@gmail.com!***

MTTWS website



Interested in hearing more from TWS...

Sign up [here](#) for our free, monthly edition of the **eWildlifer** — your one-stop shop for the latest wildlife news, Section and Chapter updates, TWS announcements, and more.

TWS SOCIETY

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Manage subscription](#)