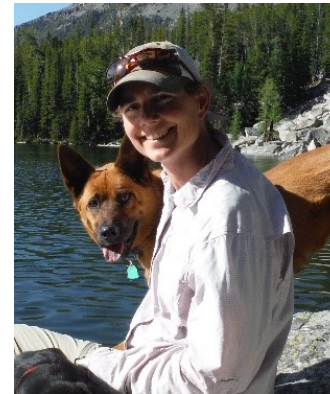


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The Montana Chapter of The Wildlife Society

**Greetings
from your
MTTWS President -
and some goats**



.....

Happy summer and greetings from the Great Burn!

The Great Burn is a special corner of Montana up along the Idaho border west of Missoula where I found myself on the 4th of July contemplating this past year's conference theme. This area has become increasingly popular with recreationists, and it also happens to be home to a small population of native mountain goats that have become increasingly habituated to hikers and campers, raiding camps and invading hikers' personal space seeking that precious resource: salt. For the safety of people and goats, I have been working with the Forest Service and Great Burn Study Group on

ideas to increase education/awareness, but I thought I should experience goat invasion first hand.

I hiked in with my husband and dogs and camped at what I'd heard were the most egregious camps. Indeed, I found myself woken to the pounding of hooves as goats flooded our personal space. After much persistence and shirt waving we were able to set up and maintain some boundaries. Part of my own education/awareness came in realizing that taking your pee break far from camp doesn't really help reduce the salt attractant when your dogs take on the personal mission of peeing on every leaf on shrub around your camp thinking they are helping defend your space. Lessons learned. Options: train dog where to urinate (um...), leave dog at home (what?!). Luckily most of the time the goats acted like goats, and I spent hours watching their daily routine as they worked around the lake, foraged, and battled with each other for their own personal space.



Ten years ago, I stayed in this same camp and had it to myself, but now you're lucky to find an open campsite on weekdays. This is an increasingly common story but one we will continue to confront as both recreationists and wildlife managers. Maybe the goats are benefiting from our presence (human shield?) more than they are being harmed by it – for now – but more often than not, when push comes to shove, wildlife lose. But the

bottom line is we have to continually think of ways we can balance recreation pressures with the needs of wildlife. And it can be very hard to change our own behavior...

In July, we (your Executive Board) got together in Helena and discussed the upcoming year. Although our 2019 conference is in the rear view, we are not done talking about recreation. Your Recreation Committee, headed by Bruce Maxell, is moving forward and working with the Outdoor Office of Recreation on a plan to update and refresh aspects of the *Effects of Recreation on Rocky Mountain Wildlife* document in an effort to bring the best science forward and accessible to managers dealing with wildlife/recreation conflict. Meanwhile, we've started planning for our 2020 conference, we're continuing to work on and improve our website, and we're working on increasing opportunities for students to attend our yearly conference. Feel free to give us feedback and ideas.

Thanks to all of you that braved the snowy roads to be at our conference this year. I hope you're having a great summer and can't wait to see you in Butte in 2020!

-Liz Bradley, President

Wildlife Trivia (answer on bottom): Mountain goats are endemic to North America.

Which of the following species are they most closely related to?

A. Pronghorn antelope B. Domestic goat C. Bighorn sheep D. European chamois



2019 TWS/AFS Conference-RENO

Registration is still open for the national Wildlife Society conference in Reno, Nevada, held jointly this year with the American Fisheries Society from September 29 - October 3.

Visit [the conference website](#) for conference information and to register!

Education Committee Update

2019 MFPE Conference

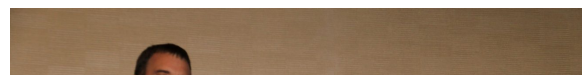
Information was sent out earlier this spring to all chapter members to solicit individuals who were interested in applying to present at the upcoming conference in Belgrade on October 17/18, 2019. We had one member step up and apply, Megan O'Reilly (once again!), which was accepted – thanks Megan! Megan plans to discuss bat biology and demonstrate how to get kids excited about bat conservation. Her presentation will include hands on demonstrations and interaction with a variety of equipment and techniques. As this is a MTTWS Chapter request, Megan will be not only representing our state chapter professional organization, but also her own work affiliation (MT FWP). Our presence at this conference is an effective and efficient means of providing important, accurate and up to date wildlife information to educators of Montana's youth. Perhaps something other members can consider for next year's MFPE conference

tentatively set for October 15 & 16, 2020 in Great Falls. Further information on this conference can be obtained at <https://www.mfpe.org/edconference/>
-Brent Lonner, Education Committee Chair



Gossip Girls... A quintet of mule deer does poses for a portrait on a cloudy day in the northern Bitterroot Valley. Got a cool photo? Send it to mttws.secretary@gmail.com!

2019 Conference



Wrap-Up

We want to extend a huge **THANKS** to all volunteers that answered our call for assistance to moderate sessions, judge student talks and posters, work at the registration desk, and moderate the student professional mixer. Also, a big thanks to those that put together and ran workshops. We couldn't do it without you!

The 2019 conference in Helena was a huge success. We had a fairly severe winter event in Montana that week and though some folks were understandably unable to make the trip, many still braved the tough roads to attend. We filled up the hotel and the banquet hall and it turned out to be a really great time to be indoors listening to talks. We explored the wildlife/outdoor recreation interface with an outstanding plenary session and banquet speaker. Many thanks to our sponsors (listed in our conference program) that helped make the conference possible. This year we were thrilled to receive a surprise donation and annual commitment from

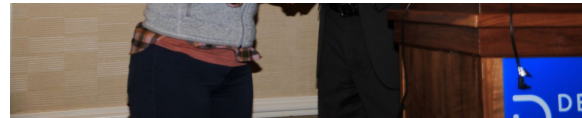


Northwestern Energy for \$1,000 annually to put toward student travel grants. This will help continue our efforts to get more students to our conference each year. We couldn't be happier to be able to expand this opportunity.

A huge **THANK YOU** to our outgoing officers: Vanna Boccadori (Past President) and Dan Bachen (Secretary). They both gave countless hours toward betterment of the Montana Chapter. Vanna spearheaded efforts to expand student travel grants to include other colleges across the state to attend our annual conference. Both Vanna and Dan were instrumental in getting our new website up and functioning and Dan's multitude of technical skills will be missed.

Every year we offer numerous awards to deserving professionals and students in our field. A summary of past winners are listed on our [website](#) (did we mention we have a new website?!): Please be thinking about nominations for this coming year and send your nominations to Brendan Moynahan:

brendan.moynahan@necan.org



Here are our 2019 Award winners!



Top to Bottom:

Jennifer Feltner, Student Poster (Grad)

Shannon Byrne, Student Poster (High school; represented by Kate Stone)



Top to Bottom:

Celina Gray, Oral Presentation
(Undergrad)

Ethan Lula, Oral Presentation (Grad)

Jacob Melhuish (with Andrea Litt),
Wynn Freeman Scholarship (MSU)

Megan Robbins (with Chad Bishop),
Wynn Freeman Scholarship (UM)

Kelly Proffitt (with Neil Anderson),
Biologist of the Year

Winston Greely (with Tom Dickson),
Bob Watts Communication Award

**Northern Rocky Mountain Grotto and
the Bigfork High School Cave Club**,
Wildlife Conservation Award

Randy Matchett, Distinguished Service
Award

****the guy in the plaid is Kelvin Johnson**

WE NEED YOUR HELP! Board member and award nominations

It was recently brought to our attention that, according to our bylaws, we need at least 2 candidates to run for each open office. This year, the only opening is for **President-Elect**, for a three-year term.

Finding candidates has been difficult in recent years. Serving as president of MTTWS can be a big commitment and is certainly challenging, but we've yet to hear of anyone who regretted their decision to run--you get to put together the highly-anticipated annual conference and choose the theme and guest speakers, network with some truly great professionals in our field, and lead a state full of passionate wildlife biologists toward building and thriving in this dynamic career. We realize the board has been dominated by Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks staff in recent years, and we'd love for this to change! Please consider running for this office, and let Liz Bradley (mttws.president@gmail.com) know if you're ready to take the plunge.

We're also looking for award nominations! Check out the list of awards ([Click Here!](#)) and start thinking about excellent professionals deserving of some recognition!



Check It Out: Intermountain Journal of Sciences (IJS)

Montana TWS is a co-sponsor of IJS. Every year, abstracts from our annual conference are published in the previous year's issue, which is [available at this link](#). For more information about IJS, [Click Here!](#)

UM Chapter kicks off International Wildlife Film Festival

The UM Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society had a fun and busy end to the Spring semester. For the first time, we partnered with the International Wildlife Film Festival (IWFF) to put on the 42nd WildFest and WildWalk--kicking off a week of wildlife films.



To get the community, specifically youth, more involved with the film festival and wildlife conservation efforts in Montana, we also collaborated with the IWFF to run the Artists and Scientists in Schools program. UM TWS members teamed up with IWFF artists to visit dozens of elementary school classes from Victor to Arlee. The TWS students taught lessons about a local wildlife species and conservation effort, and then assisted the artist in leading students in creating an artistic representation of that animal using mostly household items. The kids could then see their completed projects displayed throughout the Wildlife Film Festival and WildWalk Parade. For the UM TWS members, this experience proved to be a fun way to refine their teaching and public speaking skills.

Following the Artists and Scientists program, WildFest took place on April 13th and was several months in the making. In planning the event with the IWFF, we set out to

feature exhibitors which represent the diversity of conservation organizations working on the ground in Montana and beyond. From government agencies, to sportsman's groups, university labs, and wildlife education organizations, we were so grateful to have over 25 exhibitors at Caras park with fun activities and information for kids and their families. The mayor of Missoula even came by! Of course, it was fantastic to have the Montana Chapter of TWS as an exhibitor, featuring a wide array of skulls, pelts, antlers, and information about Montana's wildlife and how it is being managed and conserved!

With hundreds of kids and their families coming through, it was really inspiring to see how passionate everyone was about wildlife conservation and education. We received lots of feedback about WildFest and the Artists and Scientists in Schools program, and we are looking forward to making these events even better next year!

Thanks for all your support,

Jonathan Karlen

President

UM-TWS

umwildlifesociety@gmail.com



Northwest Section Update

The Northwest section has a new representative to counsel, Grant Hilderbrand. A heartfelt thanks to Grant and Shawn Cleveland for their commitment to running for this position. We are currently holding elections for President Elect and Vice President. Our candidates are Dr. Jimmy Taylor and Dr. Serra Hoagland, respectively. If you are in Northwest section member, I encourage you to [vote online](#) by Sept 9.

-Kris Boyd, TWS Northwest Section President

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

Mark your calendars for the 2020 MTTWS Annual Conference!

***"Private lands conservation: Where it
has gone and where it is going"***

February 3-7, 2020

Copper King Hotel, Butte, MT

*We promise not to set off the fire alarm
at 7am...*

Meet your new board members!

Brett Dorak (President-Elect) and
Rebecca Mowry (Secretary) are new to
the board and excited to start working for
you! Get to know them, and the current
board members, by reading their bios on
the website ([Click here!](#)).

Answer to trivia question: There seems to be some confusion and uncertainty regarding evolutionary history of the mountain goat, but the best information I could find suggests that the correct answer is D, European chamois (2 species). However, there appears to be some data suggesting the muskox might actually be its closest living relative! I'm a little confused, honestly. If you have better information, I want to know so I can never make such a horrible mistake again!

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