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[EXTERNAL] Fwd: MTTWS 2023 Winter Newsletter

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From Brandi Skone <brandiskone@gmail.com>

Date Tue 10/29/2024 11:08 AM

To Skone, Brandi <BSkone@mt.gov>

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** MT TWS <secretary@mttws.org>

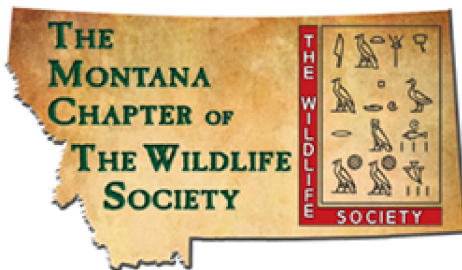
**Date:** December 11, 2023 at 6:05:51 AM MST

**To:** Brandi Skone <brandi.skone@gmail.com>

**Subject:** MTTWS 2023 Winter Newsletter

**Reply-To:** MT TWS <secretary@mttws.org>

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**The Montana Chapter  
of The Wildlife Society**

## Winter Newsletter: Register Now!! And More Details on the Conference

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Hi Folks!

We're getting closer to the conference and this newsletter is jam-packed full of details. First off, registration is open!! Our early bird deadline is January 5th. So stop what you're doing and register now! This year you can get a hoodie

with our logo and a sweet design on the back courtesy of John Kuntz if you register by the early bird deadline (January 5th!)

**January 5th is the deadline for everything this year.** You can now submit your abstracts, apply for small grants, and nominate that colleague you know deserves an award! Do it now!! Visit our [website \[mttws.org\]](http://mttws.org) for details on how to submit nominations or applications.

We've got a great line-up for plenary speakers this year and some exciting options for workshops. See below for more details. We'll be sending more reminders and additional details in the next few weeks, but please reach out to any of us on the board if you have any questions. We can't wait to see you in Butte!!

*~ Your MTTWS Board*

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## The 2024 MTTWS Annual Conference!

February 5-9, 2024

Copper King, Butte, America

**"Cultivating Respect for Nature Without Destroying  
What We Seek"**

The best way to cultivate respect for and conservation of nature is for humans to be exposed to it, spending time in the outdoors. As wildlife professionals we highly value the ethos of conservation and educating people about the importance of the natural world. The ever-increasing population in Montana, especially since Covid-19, has resulted in more people on the landscape, including more hunters, shed hunters, anglers, recreationists, national park visitors, and motorized vehicles. With all of this comes travel management issues, noxious weeds, human waste along trails and at campsites, littering, and conflicts among recreationists as well as between humans and wildlife. Areas that received little human use are now being shared worldwide on social media and other platforms, making these places easier to find access to.

Hunting shows and videos draw attention to certain areas and create interest in hunting the showcased species.

While we want people to respect nature and have a connection to it, the more people there are on the ground, the higher the potential for wildlife to be displaced and habitat degraded. It is a double-edged sword that we're all a part of and a topic that provokes strong and opposing perspectives. Some believe that more people should be in the outdoors, brought to primitive, largely unknown places, as a way to engage people in activities, politics, and education that will lead to more conservation. On the other hand, some believe that bringing groups to areas and sharing locations and site information spreads like wildfire, quickly inundating areas with the issues listed above and more, to the detriment of wildlife and habitat.

How do we as wildlife professionals manage this intersection of nature and human responsibility? It is my intent with this conference theme to bring together plenary speakers with different perspectives, policies, and objectives. It is a passionate topic, and the conversation is not meant to be controversial, but openly and respectfully discussed.

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## Reserve Your Hotel Room!

You can reserve your hotel room now with the Copper King in Butte! Use the [link \[mttws.org\]](http://link.mttws.org) to book directly or call the front desk at 406-533-6960 and mention the Montana Chapter of The Wildlife Society to receive the state rate (\$107/night plus tax).

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## Small Grants Award

Submit your applications for our small grants! **Deadline is January 5th.** Every year MT TWS awards up to \$1,000 for scientific research AND up to \$1,000 for education and public outreach. If you have a project that falls into one of these categories and aligns with the goals and core values of our Chapter, consider applying! Just do it!! Visit our website for more details on how to apply!

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# Seeking Award Nominations

It's time to nominate that person YOU'VE been thinking about. We know there's a lot of people out there that deserved to be recognized. This is your chance to recognize that work and those deserving individuals! See below for more details on each award or visit our [website \[mtws.org\]](http://mtws.org). **Deadline is January 5th!**

**The Distinguished Service Award:** This award is presented for cumulative, past, current, and/or continuing achievements in wildlife conservation. This is typically acknowledgment of accomplishments over a career.

**The Biologist of the Year Award:** This award is presented annually for significant achievements in wildlife conservation anytime during the five years immediately preceding the award presentation.

**The Bob Watts Communication Award:** This award is presented for significant communication in media such as professional publications, popular wildlife articles, books, movies, or videos that have a relatively wide audience.

**The Wildlife Conservation Award:** This award is given to an individual or non-governmental organization for past, present, or ongoing efforts that enhance wildlife conservation in Montana.

**The Rising Professional Award:** This award recognizes emerging professionals and rising leaders in the wildlife field who are drivers of professional progress in Montana. Eligible candidates will have worked in a part or full-time professional capacity (seasonal or year-round positions) for at least 3 years, and no more than 8 years. Employment need not be continuous. Current students are not eligible. Employment may include, but is not limited to: wildlife and habitat management or research, conservation policy or advocacy, environmental education or program development, consultation, etc.

To nominate, email a written recommendation for a specific award, along with compelling justification for the nomination and a discussion of the qualifications of the nominee. While there is no prescribed format, nominations often take the form of a formal letter or letters, and are often supported by several

agencies, organizations, or MT TWS members. Nominations will be reviewed by the Award Committee and selections will be made in January. Nominators will be notified of selections at that time and will be asked to assist with coordinating the attendance of the awardee. Send nominations to **Megan O'Reilly** at [moreilly@mt.gov](mailto:moreilly@mt.gov).

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## Seeking Nominations for President-Elect and Treasurer!

Your MTTWS board is soliciting nominations for **President-Elect AND Treasurer** this year. They are both 3-year terms full of excitement, surprises, and good-humored folks that want to help you put on the conference of your dreams... or whatever we have enough money to do. Please consider! And if interested, please e-mail Chad Bishop ([chad.bishop@mso.umt.edu](mailto:chad.bishop@mso.umt.edu)) to nominate yourself or someone else.

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## Memorial Fund in Honor of Lewis Young



We are still taking donations for the Lewis Young Memorial Fund. Contributions will support student engagement in the Chapter and provide annual travel awards for students.

Checks can be made to the Montana Chapter of the Wildlife Society (check memo: Lewis Young Memorial Fund) and sent to the MT TWS treasurer Heather Brower, PO Box 605, Scobey, MT 59263.

Thank you to all who have already contributed!!

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## Seeking Help with our Social Media Accounts

Do you enjoy popping on the IG, sending a tweet, snapping a chat, or good ol' Facebooking? Clearly we don't know how to even use that terminology, but I bet you do!! We need YOUR help in revamping our social media accounts! We're looking for folks to serve on a committee and crush our social media accounts, keeping our membership informed on local science, events, and news. Please reach out to Brandi Skone at [mttws.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:mttws.secretary@gmail.com) if interested.

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***Got something for our next newsletter? Send it to [mttws.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:mttws.secretary@gmail.com)!***

MTTWS website  
[[mttws.org](http://mttws.org)]

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Want to stay informed on the latest wildlife science, news, and events? Visit TWS [National's website \[mttws.org\]](http://National's website [mttws.org]) to sign up!

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TWS NEWS

**THE AUGUST ISSUE OF THE JOURNAL OF WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT**

Examining dynamic occupancy of gray wolves in Idaho after a decade of managed harvest

Read Now →

July 21, 2023



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