

THE ALBERTA WILDLIFER

VOLUME 25 ISSUE 1

FEBRUARY 1, 2014

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

CSTWS Annual Meeting, 2015	2
Sage Grouse in Trouble	3
ACTWS Conference update.	5
CSTWS News	7
Beaver Hills Bioblitz	8
Conservation committee	9
What do you think?	11
Call for Student Award Nominations	12
Photo Contest	13
New Publications	14
Goodbye and Good Luck	14
Mystery Photo	15
Wildlife in the Wind	17
Upcoming Events	18

ACTWS President's Report

Dee Patriquin

February already! Hard to believe that spring, and our AGM are just around the corner. The Executive has been busy planning the Annual Conference in Jasper and preparing the Strategic Plan for our AGM (both coming together very well). We are also in the process of planning the second annual Beaver Hills Bioblitz in 2015. This year's inaugural event exceeded our hopes for its capacity to bring wildlife professionals and the public together to celebrate our natural world.

This year's conference has attracted some great speakers to round out our program. We have 30 talks plus poster abstract submissions, and have confirmed Kevin van Tighem as a special speaker to introduce our AGM, discussing the role of advocacy within professional practice. This issue has been an ongoing discussion within the executive and we hope to broaden the dialogue to our full membership—how to

address the various conservation issues within the boundaries of our professional practice requirements. We hope Kevin van Tighem's presentation will lead to a lively discussion of the work our Conservation Committee has been pursuing over this past year, including efforts to provide members with the information and avenues to pursue their own initiatives, if they chose. We are also fortunate to have attracted the interest of a local Jasper resident and journalist, who has offered a media communication workshop during the conference.

The weekend is shaping up to be dynamic and filled with varied activities, including the student conclave, a communication workshop and of course a full program of papers discussing on-going research and management activities within the province.

Finally, a word about the recent Bioblitz event held just east of Edmonton at the Strathcona Wilderness Centre. The event was inspired by the loss of Kristina Nordstrom and the brave

recovery of Simon Slater following a helicopter accident during a caribou survey last May. You will see in this newsletter an update on the weekend. I can also tell you of the incredible behind-the-scenes support for this event, from Chapter biologists, our partner organizations (Strathcona Wilderness Centre, Nature Alberta and Beaver Hills Initiative),



volunteers and community sponsors, as well as Shevenell Webb, an organizer extraordinaire, who had this event in hand from start to finish. Students from the Augustana Campus of the University of Alberta and Brian Eaton helped us add a last-minute Winter Tracking survey to the event, with first year students providing winter survey data from the Miquelon Lake Provincial Park area. Wildlife biologists

Continued on page 2....

“We hope Kevin van Tighem’s presentation will lead to a lively discussion of the work our Conservation Committee has been pursuing over this past year, including efforts to provide members with the information and avenues to pursue their own initiatives, if they chose. “

President’s Message *continued...*

from the greater Edmonton area helped throughout the event and are already volunteering for next year. We will be meeting again soon with our partners to discuss next year’s event. The most rewarding outcome of the event was the response from Simon Slater and the Kristina Nordstrom’s family. The event was intended to celebrate the efforts of wildlife biologists across the province to manage our provincial resources. The response of the public, volunteers and, most importantly, Kristina’s family and Simon were incredible and speak to the strength and generosity of our community within ACTWS. It was a truly proud moment for our Chapter, and one that our report cannot adequately convey. – Please join us next year to share the excitement! Or you can ask about it in Jasper in March! Looking forward to seeing you there!



CSTWS Annual Meeting—2015

There was a presentation at the CSTWS annual meeting from the organizing committee of **TWS 22nd Annual Conference which will be held in** Winnipeg from October 17-21, 2015. Sounds like things are well on their way. Mark your calendars now!

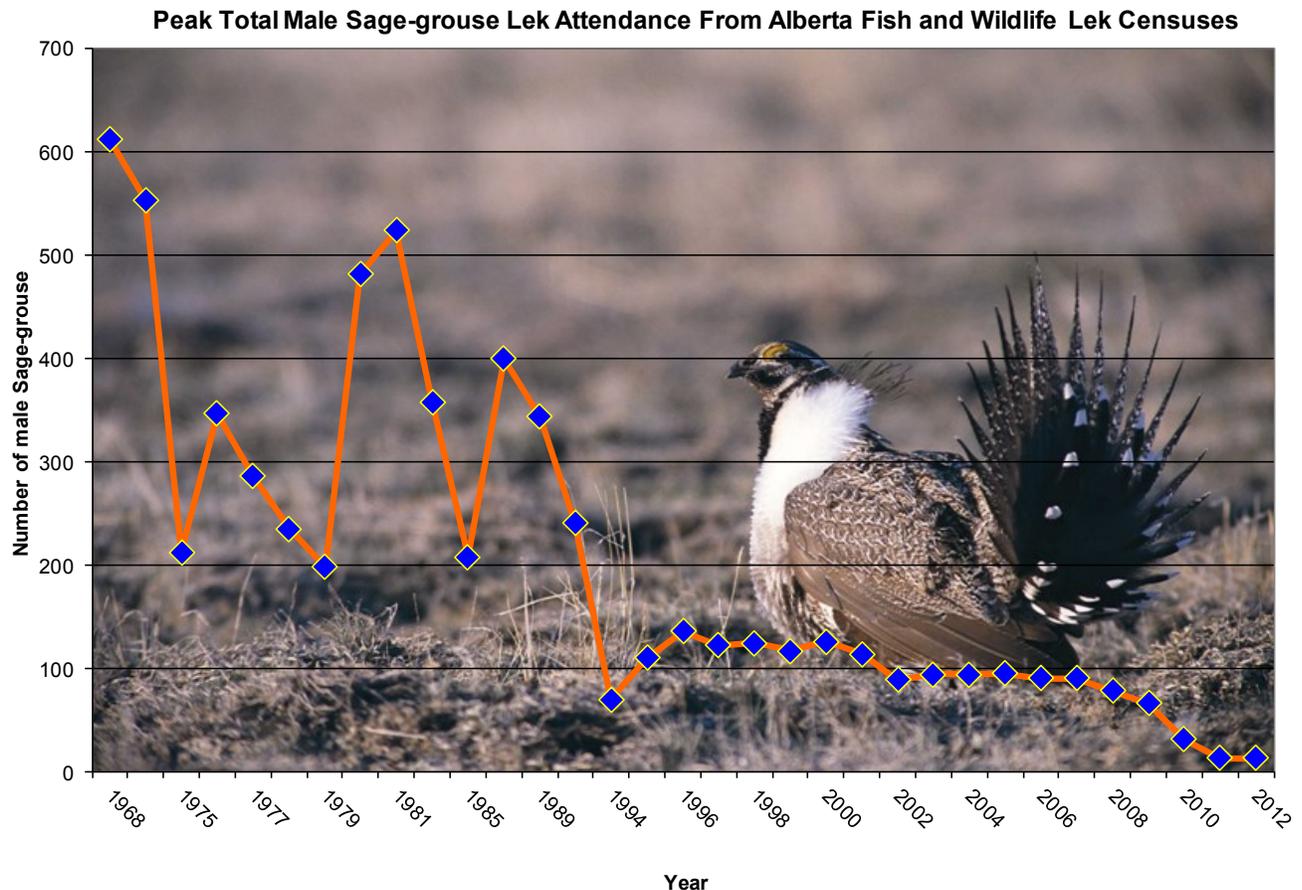
Art Rodgers, TWS Canadian Section Representative, who gave a brief presentation at the start of the plenary session, stressed the need for Canadian representation on TWS committees and working groups. If you are interesting in pursuing this see TWS website for more information or contact Art directly.

<http://joomla.wildlife.org/documents/2012.committees.pdf>

<http://wildlife.org/subunits/working-groups>

Alberta's Sage-Grouse in Trouble...

Todd Whiklo



Greater sage-grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus urophasianus*) have experienced an estimated 98% population decline from historical levels. This decline was as a result of habitat loss and degradation, disturbance and loss of connectivity to adjacent populations. New threats to sage-grouse populations also include increased predator pressure and emerging zoonotic diseases, such as West Nile Virus. Lek counts from 2013 have estimated the Alberta population at 40 – 50 birds (Figure 1). At this depressed level, stochastic events and predator pressure can have catastrophic effects on the population's ability to remain viable. The *Alberta Greater Sage-grouse Recovery Plan 2013 – 2018* was developed to prioritize and implement measures in order to stabilize and reverse the population decline. On 18 February 2014, Environment Canada will enact an Emergency Protective Order under section 80 of the *Species at Risk Act*. This order will introduce further land use restrictions in relation to sage-grouse, including prohibitions on some types of development, chronic and acute noise sources and commercial traffic.

Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development (AESRD) has undertaken multiple projects to further recovery efforts. In 2011-2012, 41 sage-grouse were translocated from Northern Montana to Alberta, to reinforce dwindling numbers. These birds were affixed with solar powered, GPS transmitters. The resulting data indicated that reproductive success rates were quite low and mortality, due to predators, was significant. With the findings from the translocations in

mind, AESRD has advanced efforts to increase functional sage-grouse habitat; by engaging industry to assist in reclamation decisions and activities, by assisting non-governmental stakeholders in land acquisition and restoration activities and by facilitating the removal of anthropogenic structures from the landscape that provide subsidies to predators.

Currently, AESRD has commitments from industry to reclaim 52 inactive well sites within the next two years, many of which are in close proximity to sage-grouse leks and critical habitat. AESRD has partnered with other organizations, such as the Alberta Conservation Association and MultiSAR, and with private landowners to assist in removing abandoned buildings, unused corrals, and non-native trees and hedgerows that are present in important sage-grouse habitat. Monitoring of these anthropogenic structures has provided evidence of increased predator use within their immediate vicinity prior to removal. Therefore, their removal, and the removal of subsequent structures planned for the future, are an integral part of a comprehensive predator management plan.

Ongoing monitoring of the remaining translocated birds has offered some positive outcomes. These birds appear to have successfully integrated into the local population, having flocked up with resident birds in the late fall and moved into traditional wintering areas. Some successful breeding has occurred, which has helped to keep a few birds on the landscape in southeastern Alberta. These provide backing for future translocations and an assurance that non-resident birds can become acclimatized to new surroundings and behave similarly to resident Alberta birds. With continued efforts to monitor and protect these remaining birds, the likelihood of them successfully breeding in the spring of 2014 will be much higher.

In January 2014, AESRD committed to participate in the captive rearing project being developed by the Calgary Zoo. This is the first attempt to captively rear greater sage-grouse and release them back into the wild. Although this project is in its infancy, it may provide reinforcement to population numbers in the future. However, it is still clear that the most important tool to stop sage-grouse from disappearing from the Alberta landscape is effective habitat management and restoration.

Meet the oldest known bat in North America!

And he's living in Alberta! Read about monitoring bats in Alberta and the North American bat monitoring program next issue in *The Alberta Wildlifer*.

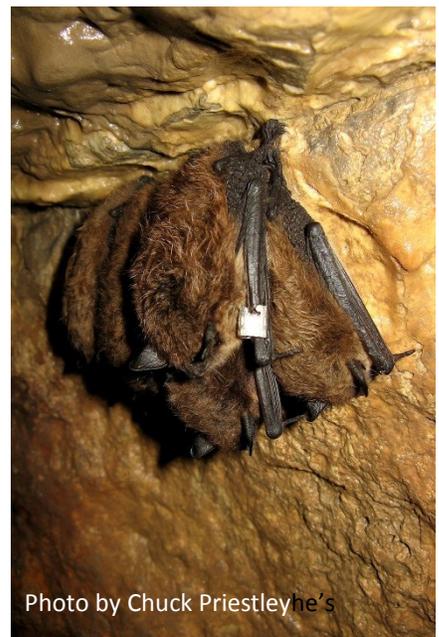


Photo by Chuck Priestley

ACTWS 2014 Conference Update Kashif Sheikh

Protected Areas Inside and Out

March 7th-9th, 2014 Sawridge Inn, Jasper, Alberta, Canada

”Focus of the conference is to brainstorm a variety of concepts and experiences in Protected Areas Management...”

ACTWS 2014 Conference Background: The 2014 ACTWS annual conference will be held in the majestic rocky mountains of Jasper National Park. Professionals and students from across the province and country will participate in it. Focus of the conference is to brainstorm a variety of concepts and experiences in the Protected Areas Management; such as Protected areas and landscape management for biodiversity conservation, Trans-boundary protected areas, International lessons learned in the protected areas management effectiveness, Mountain protected areas, Economics of protected areas, and Biodiversity conservation outside the realm of protected areas. This conference is a great opportunity for young professionals and students to gain exposure and meet a diversity of leading professionals. Earlybird registration for this conference will be open from November 1st 2013. For further info on the conference and or setting up a display booth, please contact Kashif Sheikh at kashif.sheikh@swg.ca; for conference registration, please check the ACTWS website.

ACTWS Communication Workshop: On Friday, the 7th March, an ACTWS led communication workshop will be held lead by Lorne Fitch P.Biol. Participants will get a great sense of art and science of making presentations, memorable and enjoyable. Workshop begins at 9 AM and closes at 4 PM. It is tailored for people in natural resource management occupations who interact with the public, with the agricultural community, with industry, with conservation groups and with other resource professionals and is designed for individuals already engaged in extension, awareness or education activities, those who need to communicate more effectively. Workshop is interactive and builds on the collective experience of the audience and the instructor. Costs for participation are \$100 for students and \$150 for professionals which include lunch. Maximum 20 individuals can participate. ACTWS will sponsor couple of student’s registration for this workshop. For registration, please check ACTWS website.

Student Conclave: This is going to be a great energetic student activity throughout the Friday. Please contact Laura Fraser (lefraser@ualberta.ca) at the UofA Augustana campus for more info or participation. **Student Mixer** will happen in the evening of the Friday and a slide show on Parks and Protected Areas will be hosted. Students will have a huge opportunity to mingle with a variety of folks and get a taste of a real professional’s life to help in their career planning.

Distinguished Plenary Session: On Saturday 8th March, the conference will host plenary session of eminent speakers with vast protected areas and biodiversity science knowledge from Alberta, Canada and internationally. The foremost speakers are chosen for their superb contributions to the topic of protected areas and their lifetime experiences in exploring and leading challenging initiatives around the globe. Potential speakers include;

Joyce Gould, Alberta Parks

Tory Stevens, BC Parks;

Chris Shank, from his diverse involvements at AESRD, WCS, IUCN and UN

Fiona Schmiegelow, University of Alberta

Lee Foote, Devonian Botanic Gardens and University of Alberta

Jesse Whittington, Parks Canada

Matthew Wheatley, Alberta Parks

ACTWS 2014 Conference Update *continued...*

On 8th and 9th March; there will be tons of opportunity to benefit from **open paper technical sessions** focusing on a variety of innovative topics in science, biodiversity management and conservation of protected areas.

ALCES Online Alberta Workshop: Brad Stelfox will be offering a half day workshop on Sunday the 9th March afternoon on the topic of ALCES Online Alberta. ALCES Online Alberta assists biologists in the natural resource sectors to quickly understand spatial and temporal changes in key indicators related to regional landuse trajectories. Alternative growth rates and best management practice options allow users to quickly assess merits of mitigation strategies. This workshop is free to attend and a maximum of 25 individuals can join. To get more info and registration, please contact Brad Stelfox at bstelfox@alces.ca

AGM of the ACTWS will be held at the end of open paper sessions on 9th March.

Accommodation and Registration:

A special discounted room rate of \$127/ night is arranged with Sawridge Inn and Conference Centre, Jasper, AB Phone: 780-852-5111. Please mention the conference code (ACC07Z) when booking. Abstract submission information will be available on-line by Nov 1, 2013 through ACTWS website. **Registration Fees** are;

Conference Registration (incl. 1 banquet ticket)

Regular Registration - Deadline 22 February 2014

Regular Member	\$165
Student Member	\$50
Regular Non-Member	\$190
Student Non-Member	\$55

On-Site Registration - includes 1 banquet ticket if available

Regular Member	\$175
Student Member	\$55
Regular Non-Member	\$200
Student Non-Member	\$60
Extra Banquet Tickets (if available)	\$50

Communication Workshops (incl. materials and coffee breaks)

Professional	\$150
Student	\$100

Come, have fun at this great conference and get an exclusive opportunity to mingle with leading wildlife, biodiversity, protected area professionals, managers and researchers in our province and in Canada.

Please reserve your dates for next March... ...See you in Jasper.....

Canadian Section News



Art Rodgers

Canadian Section
Representative

Ontario Ministry
of Natural Resources

(art.rodgers@ontario.ca)

One of the great benefits of being Canadian Section Representative is that I have the opportunity to attend Annual General Meetings of our Canadian Chapters where I learn about the world-class wildlife research that is going on across the country and meet many of our wildlife professionals both new and old. Such was the case in mid-November when I was invited to the 2nd Annual General Meeting and Symposium of the Saskatchewan Chapter of TWS. I was truly impressed with the breadth and quality of the research presentations that included everything from snakes to birds to (my personal favorite) moose. I congratulate the many student presenters for their fine work and excellent presentations – the future of wildlife research in Saskatchewan is bright! In addition to the papers presented, there was a workshop on home range tools for ArcGIS, a (very cold) field trip to radio-track moose, a poster session, the business meeting and a sumptuous winter BBQ, not to mention the follow-up evening at a downtown Saskatoon brew house. As Canadian Section Representative I am very proud of the progress and growth of the Saskatchewan Chapter. Starting from a student base at the University of Saskatchewan, the Chapter has attracted members from both the federal and provincial governments, and it was especially great to see a strong contingent from the University of Regina at their AGM. In just 3 years they have grown to a dynamic, interactive group of wildlife professionals in their home province. Those involved in building the Chapter should also be very proud of their accomplishment. They have set a leading example for new and aspiring TWS Chapters across Canada. Congratulations!

Over the last couple of months the TWS Government Affairs Department has held

several conference calls with Section Representatives and Section and Chapter Executive Boards to discuss the development of a TWS Conservation Affairs Network. A draft document describing the Network was presented at the fall meeting of TWS Council then circulated to Section and Chapter Officers for review. The intent of the document is to provide voluntary guidance to subunits interested in the strategic organization of Conservation Affairs Committees (CACs) and to clarify various roles and responsibilities at each organizational level (Parent Society, Section, Chapters). The desired outcome is to maximize communication and support among subunits and the parent Society while increasing the effectiveness of TWS on conservation affairs related activities. Section Representatives will be making presentations at their respective AGMs early in the New Year. I hope there will be an opportunity for me to do that at our upcoming AGM in March.

Now is the time to start making plans to attend our Canadian Section AGM, sponsored by the Laval Student Chapter, in Quebec City, 28-30 March 2014 – don't wait! The meeting will be preceded by a Student Conclave and feature a plenary session titled "Challenges of the Past and Future: The History of Wildlife Management in Canada". Other highlights will be the Open Paper Sessions, Third Annual CSTWS Quiz Bowl and a special trip to the Cabane à Sucre (Sugar Shack). More information is available at <http://wildlife.org/canada/meetings>. The early registration deadline is February 7, and you can register online at <http://flash.lakeheadu.ca/~arodgers/cstws/agm/>, so do it now! Don't miss this opportunity to visit one of Canada's most beautiful cities in winter!!

Continued...

Over the next couple of months, several TWS Awards Committees will be making their annual selections. As I have said numerous times, I'm sure we can find Canadian nominees for the Fellows Program, TWS Wildlife Publication Awards, Chapter and Student Chapter of the Year Awards, Student Chapter Advisor of the Year Award, Excellence in Wildlife Education Award and the Group Achievement Award. Nominations for these awards may be submitted to TWS by individual members, Sections, Chapters or Working Groups. And don't forget the newest TWS Distinguished Service Award that will be selected by the Canadian Section. If you would like to suggest a nominee for these or other TWS awards, or you would like assistance in preparing a nomination, please contact the Chair of the Canadian Section Awards Committee Mike Gillingham (michael@unbc.ca). Many of the Awards have a **February 15, 2014** deadline but some are not due until **March 15, 2014**, so don't hesitate to get working on your nominations and let's make sure our Canadian colleagues get the recognition they deserve! See the list and nomination details at <http://www.wildlife.org/who-we-are/awards>.

Hope to see you in Quebec City! Until then, I will get on with doing the best I can to represent our Canadian interests on the various TWS sub-committees that I have been asked to serve on. If you have any concerns or ideas about how TWS can better serve your needs, please let me know – my "Inbox" is always open.

Beaver Hills Bioblitz

We had a great day with about 20 biologist volunteers and 13+ student volunteers – we actually had more students than were on the official list, so I'm not sure of the final tally. We don't have an accurate count of public attendance, but the early estimate was between 500-600 people in the park and talks attendance ranged from 15-50. Central locations like the wall tent had high circulation all day (having a live owl on site helped I think!). The Winter Tracking training session went well in the morning, and despite the lousy snow conditions, they were also able to do the field training component. This was with Community Service Learning (CSL) students from Augustana and they thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to be part of the tracking project as well as the Bioblitz. Our partners were great to work with and we came into the event very prepared. We've had really positive feedback from volunteer bios and students, the staff at the Strathcona Wilderness Centre and the public - we succeeded in building a community around an appreciation for nature, an important goal for the event.

Dee Patriquin



More photos from the Bioblitz on page 17

Conservation Committee Update

Members of the Conservation Committee include: Ken Crutchfield, Mark Boyce, Larry Roy, Matthew Pyper, Lorne Fitch, Kristie Derkson, Blair Rippin and Tammy McMillan. **Additional members are welcome!**

Committee attention has been focused on the following subjects.

TWS Conservation Affairs Network Proposal – a presentation will be made at the March ACTWS AGM concerning TWS efforts to establish effective working linkages of TWS, Section and Chapter Conservation the Conservation Affairs committees. A copy of the proposal is available on the ACTWS website (<http://wildlife.org/alberta/>). Provided there is support of the membership amendments to ACTWS Bylaws will be prepared for membership ratification.

Notification regarding Consultation on Amending the List of Species under the Species At Risk Act for terrestrial species - (http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca/document/default_e.cfm?documentID=2564)– Consultation deadlines of March 23 and October 23 have been set for inputs concerning normal and extended consultations, respectively. Doug Collister, ACTWS Committee member on the Alberta Endangered Species Coordinating Committee will be compiling member input (doug.collister@accipiterecological.com). Jim Allen as Committee Chair for the Canadian Section will consolidate Chapter inputs and prepare a statement on behalf of the Canadian Section. Doug’s deadline for including member input is February 14th. Otherwise members are encouraged to make submissions directly as per SARA website instructions.

Notification regarding the proposed “Recovery Strategy for the Woodland Caribou, Southern Mountain population (*Rangifer tarandus caribou*) in Canada” – http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca/document/default_e.cfm?documentID=1309 Members are encouraged to review and submit comments by the March 18th deadline.

Sage Grouse – members are encouraged to review three recent announcements. The first concerned the issuance of an Emergency Order by the federal Minister of the Environment (<http://gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p2/2013/2013-12-04/html/sup-eng.php>). The second concerned the proposed Amended Recovery Strategy for the Greater Sage-Grouse in Canada http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca/document/default_e.cfm?documentID=1458

It has been posted on the Species at Risk Public Registry with a 60-day public comment period ending February 17. The third notice concerned an Alberta announcement of a captive breeding program (<http://>

“....the intent is to show the communities we live and work in that as professionals we adhere to the notion that good wildlife science is integral to better decision making and sharing that knowledge is important to us as wildlife scientists.”

Continued.....

aesrd.wordpress.com/2014/01/24/new-captive-breeding-program-will-mean-a-lot-more-grouse-for-alberta/)

Northern Gateway Pipeline – release of the panel report has elicited mixed reaction from the membership (<http://gatewaypanel.review-examen.gc.ca/clf-nsi/dcmnt/rcmndtnsrprt/rcmndtnsrprt-eng.html>). A recent article by Mark Boyce and David Schindler in the *Alberta Outdoorsmen* identified a number of issues with the pipeline. Consequently ACTWS will be reviewing the panel conditions with a critical eye directed at the completeness of the wildlife science being addressed should the government decide the project proceed. Interested members are encouraged to forward comments to Dee Patriquin (donelda2@xplornet.com) and Ken Crutchfield (kvcrutch@telus.net).

Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention – a recent update of what Alberta is attempting to address is covered in the following update available on the ACTWS website ().

Government of Canada – devolution of PFRA pasture lands to provinces – UPDATE II – subsequent to the August 2013 newsletter, there is a particularly active group, **Public Pastures – Public Interest**, pressing the federal and provincial governments on safeguarding native grasslands during the conversion. A useful website to see what is happening with Saskatchewan PFRA land conversion is <http://pfrapastureposts.wordpress.com/>. With regard to Alberta native grassland conversion, there is an ongoing conversion of native grasslands ownership from the province's purview to municipal interests. These municipal interests in turn typically sell the lands to advance economic development within the municipality.

South Saskatchewan Draft Land Use Plan (<https://landuse.alberta.ca/REGIONALPLANS/SOUTHSASKATCHEWANREGION/Pages/default.aspx>).

The deadline for submissions has been extended to February 28th. Members are encouraged to review the plan and complete the workbook.

As always the membership is encouraged to come forward and become involved, Either serving to act as a Chapter representative on any number of consultative committees existing throughout the province and/or becoming involved in the develop of Chapter position statements. Bottom line....the intent is to show the communities we live and work in that as professionals we adhere to the notion that good wildlife science is integral to better decision making and sharing that knowledge is important to us as wildlife scientists.





By
Lisa Wilkinson

Does Alberta
need to
introduce
mandatory
testing or is
increased
education
sufficient?

What Do You Think?

This is a new addition to the newsletter, where we discuss a topic and ask for your input. Comments can be sent to the editor or posted on Facebook.

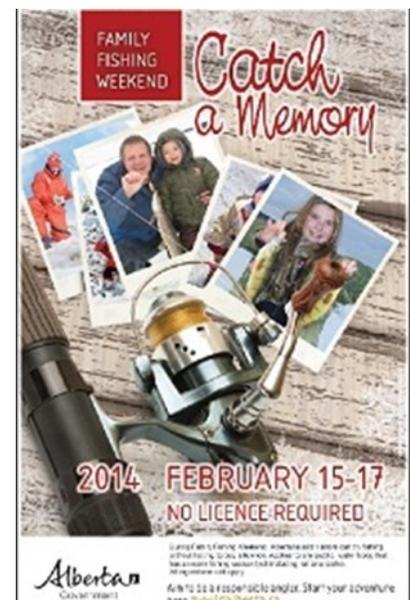
For this issue, the topic is how to improve angler knowledge about fish identification.

In Alberta, there are approximately 375 anglers per lake. Having clear regulations is essential, and in order for these regulations to succeed, anglers need to be able to correctly distinguish between different species of fish; misidentification can have serious consequences, especially for species at risk. ESRD has created a Fisheries Education Group to address this need.

Comprised of biologists, education specialists and a communications specialist, the Fisheries Education Group addressed seven priorities in 2013: defining the vision, branding, key messaging and communication, developing a means to conduct social research and evaluation of angler attitudes and values, creating tools and products to enable fish species identification and resourcing the Family Fishing Weekend on February 15 – 17. For information and products, contact the ESRD Information office at 310-ESRD.

This is a good first step, but is it enough? Some biologists and anglers have suggested a mandatory fish ID test for anyone wanting to catch and keep fish. For example, there could be two types of fishing licenses, one for catch and keep (requiring the ID test), and one for catch and release (not requiring the test).

What do you think? Does Alberta need to introduce mandatory testing or is increased education sufficient?





Send applications electronically to Tammy MacMillan at:

tmacmillan@teraenv.com

OR mailed to:

PO Box 636

Hanna, Alberta

TOJ 1P0

Attn: Scholarship Committee

Applications must be received by March 1, 2014.

For further information, contact Tammy MacMillan, Student Awards Committee Chair at tmacmillan@teraenv.com or visit the Alberta Chapter of the Wildlife Society Website at <http://www.albertadirectory.net/actws>.

2014 Alberta Chapter of The Wildlife Society Student Awards

The Alberta Chapter of the Wildlife Society (ACTWS) annually presents academic student awards to promote interest and reward excellence in the field of wildlife conservation. Applicants must have a demonstrated interest in wildlife management. Student submissions for each award category are reviewed by ACTWS member committees. Successful candidates will be notified at the Joint Meeting of the Canadian Section and ACTWS in Jasper on March 7-9, 2014.

Robert (Bob) K. Goddard Memorial Scholarship

Amount- \$1,500

Eligibility

This award is open to students that are presently enrolled in a technical program in the Province of Alberta, focusing on wildlife biology or management, and will be enrolled fulltime in September 2014 (participating on a co-op work term is also eligible). Program examples include, but are not limited to: Renewable Resource Option (NAIT), Fish and Wildlife Major (Lakeland), Renewable Resource Management Diploma or Fish and Wildlife Technology Certificate (LCC). Please note that programs in conservation enforcement are not eligible for this award.

Ian Ross Memorial Scholarship

Amount- \$1,500

Eligibility

This award is open to students planning a career in wildlife management and preparing to enter the final year of a 4-year Alberta university program in Biological Sciences, Forest Science, Animal Sciences, Zoology, or related field of study, in September 2014. The award funds will be disbursed upon confirmation of registration for the next year of full-time enrollment.

William Wishart Post-Graduate Scholarship

Amount- \$1,500

Eligibility

This award is open to students planning a career in wildlife management and accepted into a full-time post-graduate degree program at an Alberta university in Biological Sciences, Forest Science, Animal Sciences, Zoology, or related field of study (must be enrolled full time in September 2014).

Submission Requirements

Transcript of marks for technical or undergraduate and graduate courses.

Outline of proposed thesis work for the William Wishart Post--Graduate Scholarship.

Summary of involvement with the Alberta Chapter of The Wildlife Society.

Summary of volunteer or work experience in the wildlife field.

Letter of reference from a faculty member or other professional biologist.



Judging:

1. Photos will be judged within categories by a panel of judges at the conference. The photographs will be judged on originality, composition and technical quality.
2. During the conference, we will ask participant to vote on a fourth category: People's Choice from any of the three other categories).
3. People's Choice will be decided by votes from people attending the conference.
4. Prizes will be awarded on the last day of the conference during the Student Presentation Awards. You must be present or have a designate present to collect your prize.
5. Any photographs remaining after the awarding of prizes is the responsibility of the owner.



The Wildlife Society



Excellence in Wildlife Stewardship Through Science and Education

THE ALBERTA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY Jasper, Alberta ~ 7-9 March 2014

GUIDELINES FOR PHOTO CONTEST

Share with us those exceptional photographs where you caught incredible wildlife poses, beautiful Canadian landscapes, or just photogenic moments in nature. Submit your photograph to the **Photo Contest** at the 2014 Meeting of the Alberta Chapter of The Wildlife Society in Jasper, Alberta. There are 3 categories for submission: **Wildlife Poses, Protected Areas Landscapes, Relationships with Nature in Alberta**. Prizes are awarded for the top photo and winners announced at the meeting finale on Sunday, 9 March.

Photo Submissions

1. All photos must be submitted at the registration table by Saturday 8 March at **9 am**.
2. Include your name, address, email, contact information with the photo submission.
3. Indicate the category in which you wish the photo to be entered.
4. Once submitted, the photos will be numbered and mounted for viewing and judging.

Photo Specifications

1. Photo entries are limited to one photo entry per person per category: **Wildlife Poses, Protected Areas Landscapes, Relationships with Nature in Alberta**.
2. Entries must be submitted in print format and follow the size requirements: 4" x 6" or 6" x 9".
3. Photographs must be taken in Canada.
4. A 1-sentence caption describing the elements captured in the photo is to accompany the print.
5. Any identifiable persons in the submitted photo(s) must give consent to their inclusion, and must not be identifiable by name in the photo (e.g. last name on their clothing).
6. No digital enhancement of the photographs are permitted except for cropping and sharpening for print.





New Publications

Hervieux, D., M. Hebblewhite, N. J. DeCesare, M. Russell, K. Smith, S. Robertson and S. Boutin. 2013. Widespread declines in woodland caribou (*Rangifer tarandus caribou*) continue in Alberta.

Can. J. Zool. **91**: 872–882 (2013) dx.doi.org/10.1139/cjz-2013-0123

Cafaro P. and R. Primack. 2014. Species extinction is a great moral wrong, editorial. *Biological Conservation* 170 (2014) 1–2.

Important Bird Area Alberta Guide 2014 by Nature Alberta available by download: <http://naturealberta.ca/important-bird-area-alberta-guide-2014-now-available-for-download/>

Boyce, Mark S. and David W. Schindler. 2013. Why anglers must oppose the Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipeline.

Alberta Outdoorsman, January 2014.

Saying Goodbye and Best of Luck

For those who haven't learned yet, we are losing Shevenell and Nate Webb. They are going back home to Maine at the end of February. For the ACTWS, Shevenell will be sorely missed. Without her drive, the Display Committee would be still stalled and her management of the Awards Committee has been well appreciated. Shevenell was also an organizer for the very successful first Beaver Hills Bioblitz. I suspect it will be difficult to replace her. However, with a second child on the way, or perhaps arrived by the time you're reading this, being close to family will be a good thing. Best of luck Shevenell and Nate, keep in touch and remember the good times in Alberta.



Jan Ficht and Shevenell Webb

The Wildlife Society Annual Conference Sessions are Now Available Online

The Wildlife Society announces that sessions from The Wildlife Society Annual Conference, which took place in Milwaukee, are now available through [TWS Live Learning Center](#).

Sessions are recorded using the latest screen capture technology to include not only the speaker's audio, but also the presentation slides, images, videos and anything else that appeared on the speaker's screen.

Session recordings through [TWS Live Learning Center](#) can be viewed online as well as on your iPad or other mobile device for on-the-go learning.

If you missed a particular session or if you were unable to attend an entire conference, [TWS Live Learning Center](#) is the resource you need to stay current and informed about the latest wildlife research.

Recordings through the TWS Live Learning Center are complimentary for all wildlife professionals and students.

Browse our library of available sessions from TWS Annual Conferences from 2010 through 2013 online at TWS.sclivelearningcenter.com.



What animal can you see in this photo? Answer on last page.



ACTWS Committees

In addition to the Conservation Committee Report, the newsletter features reports from other committees to keep you up to date on your chapter's activities. Here is a list of committees and the people who lead them. Please contact them if you have questions or would like to be involved.

- | | | |
|----------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Student Reps | Katrina Jansen & Angela Rideout | amrideou@ualberta.ca |
| • Awards | Shevenell Webb | shevenellm@yahoo.com |
| • Conservation | Ken Crutchfield | kvcrutch@telus.net |
| • Membership | Robin Gutsell | Robin.gutsell@gov.ab.ca |
| • Scholarships | Tammy MacMillan | tmacmillan@teraenv.com |
| • Outreach | Lisa Wilkinson | Lisa.wilkinson@gov.ab.ca |
| • Website | Layla Neufeld | lneufeld@gmail.com |
| • Newsletter | Lisa Wilkinson | Lisa.wilkinson@gov.ab.ca |

Have you got an interesting trail camera photo? Send them in to share with our membership.



Wildlife in the Wind Speaker Series 2013-14

Come join natural science professionals, students and the public to learn more about fish and wildlife research, conservation issues and the ecology of southern Alberta. The Alberta Chapter of the Wildlife Society (ACTWS) is again sponsoring the popular “Wildlife in the Wind” Speaker Series to bring to you the interesting, fascinating and important topics in natural history. You will meet and hear from key individuals in the biological community. A series of one-hour talks will be held in Lethbridge during the fall and winter period (see below for details). The “Wildlife in the Wind” Speaker Series is open to all to attend and there is no cost. You will not be disappointed!

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	Topic / Title	PRESENTER
Mar 4 2013	12:00 – 1:00	Lethbridge Public Library – Community Room	Hummingbirds: Small Brains and Big Memories	Andy Hurly
Apr 1 2013	12:00 – 1:00	Lethbridge Public Library – Community Room	Biodiversity Myths	Lorne Fitch





Alberta Chapter of the Wildlife Society

The Alberta Chapter of the Wildlife Society
P.O. Box 4990
Edmonton, AB T6E 5G8

President

Dee Patriquin—donelda2@xplornet.com

Newsletter Editors

Lisa Wilkinson—lisa.wilkinson@gov.ab.ca

Dave Hobson—dave.hobson@gov.ab.ca



Don't forget we are also
on Facebook



Upcoming Events

48th North American Moose Conference and Workshop

Girdwood, Alaska, Apr 28—May 1, 2014, 2014

<http://alcesconference.org/>

15th North American Caribou Workshop

Whitehorse, Yukon. May 12—16, 2014

<http://www.2014nacw.ca/>

11th Mountain Lion Workshop

Cedar City, Utah. May 12—15, 2014

<http://www.wildfelid.org/conference.php>

*"They clap in gail the man or woman who steals the goose from off the common;
But let the bigger knave go loose who steals the common from the goose."*

Anonymous

Mystery photo:

The tail of a cougar disappearing
Behind the spruce tree.

Footnotes from the Editor



The ACTWS is wading into the Northern Gateway Pipeline issue. Mark Boyce sent some information that I would like to share:

"... dilbit (diluted bitumen) combines with colloidal material in the water and sinks to the bottom. Most of the rivers that the salmon use for spawn-

ing or must traverse in getting to their spawning grounds have heavy sediment loads at least during parts of the year meaning that dilbit will coat the sands and gravels that are used for spawning.(we) already know what happens in freshwater containing sediment based on the disastrous Enbridge spill on the Kalamazoo River in Michigan. And the

proposed pipeline has 780 stream crossings en route to Kitimat."

Now that is something to think about.

Lisa Wilkinson