



Western Section of The Wildlife Society
2020 ANNUAL MEETING
 Redding, California

CALL FOR PAPERS

67th Annual Meeting

Navigating the Intersections of Science and Policy

February 2-7, 2020

The Western Section of The Wildlife Society
 Red Lion Inn & Holiday Inn -- Redding, California

Tentative schedule

Sunday, February 2

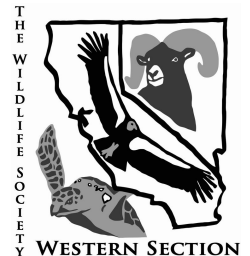
1:00pm to 5:00pm
 7:00pm to 9:00pm

Western Section Executive Leadership Training
 Registration Packet Production

Monday, February 3

8:00am to 5:00pm
 8:30am to 5:30pm
 8:30am to 5:30pm

Wilderness First Aid with Foster Calm*
 Western Section Executive Board Meeting
 R Bootcamp*



Tuesday, February 4

8:00am to 5:00pm
 8:00am to 8:00pm
 8:30am to 12:30pm
 9:00am to 11:00am
 11:00am to 10:00pm
 11:00am to 12:00pm

Wilderness First Aid with Foster Calm* (concludes)
 Registration Open
 Wildlife Biologist Construction Awareness Training (WildC.A.T.)*
 Marketplace/Exhibit Hall Setup
 Marketplace/Exhibit Hall Open
 How *Not* to Give a Scientific Presentation Workshop

1:00pm

1:00pm to 6:00pm
 1:00pm to 2:00pm
 3:00pm to 5:00pm
 6:00pm to 10:00pm

Official Meeting Opening
 Concurrent Session **New Time!**
 Elevator Speech Training for Student
 Wildlife Careers Panel (Formerly Wildlife Career Symposium for Students) **New Time!**
 Welcome Reception, Photo Display

Wednesday, February 5

7:30am to 9:00am
 7:30am to 8:00pm
 8:00am to 10:00am
 8:00am to 7:00pm
10:00am to 12:00pm
 12:00pm to 1:30pm
 12:00pm to 1:30pm
 12:00pm to 1:30pm
 1:30pm to 5:00pm
 1:30pm to 2:30pm
 2:00pm to 4:00pm
 3:00pm to 5:00pm
 4:00pm to 7:00pm
 5:30pm to 6:30pm
 6:00pm to 7:00pm
 7:00pm to 10:00pm

Breakfast Roundtable Discussion*
 Registration Open
 Publishing Papers and Peer Review Workshop (free for conference registrants)
 Marketplace/Exhibit Hall Open
Keynote Address & Dialogue
 Lunch break
 Chapter Officers Meeting
 Retirees Meeting
 Scientific Concurrent Sessions
 Job Interview Panel
 Poster Setup Hours
 Resume Workshop: A Beginner's Guide: The Basics of a Resume, C.V., and Interview Skills
 Poster Viewing and Judging
 HSU Reunion
 No-Host Cocktail Reception
 Annual Members Banquet, Awards Ceremony, and Bucket Raffle*

Thursday, February 6

7:00am to 8:00am	Breakfast Social*
7:30am to 8:00pm	Registration Open
7:30am to 8:30am	Western Wildlife Planning Meeting
8:00am to 9:00pm	Marketplace/Exhibit Hall Open
8:00am to 9:00pm	Poster Viewing and Judging
8:00am to 12:10pm	Scientific Concurrent Sessions
10:00am to 12:00pm	Resumé Workshop: Advanced Resume, C.V., and Interview Skills
12:00pm to 1:30pm	Lunch break
1:30pm to 3:30pm	Job Interview Skills Workshop
1:30pm to 3:30pm	Plenary Session: <i>Navigating the Intersections of Science and Policy</i>
4:00pm to 6:00pm	Annual Business Meeting and Members Forum
6:30pm	Silent Auction Ends
6:30pm to 8:30pm	Poster Reception
8:30pm to 10:00pm	Chapter Meetings <small>Back to evenings, by popular demand!</small>

Friday, February 7

7:00am to 8:00am	Breakfast Social*
7:30am to 4:30pm	Registration Open
8:00am to 12:00pm	Scientific Concurrent Sessions
8:00am to 3:00pm	Marketplace/Exhibit Hall Open
1:00pm to 2:00pm	Taking your elevator speech on the road: What to do after a conference
1:00pm to 4:00pm	Scientific Concurrent Sessions <small>New Time!</small>
2:00pm to 3:00pm	Meeting Planning Committee Wrap-Up

* Requires extra fee

Plenary Session Theme:

Navigating the Intersections of Science and Policy

During my two years serving as your Conservation Affairs Committee Chair, I have been witness to the spectrum where we, as wildlife professionals, position ourselves along the continuum of policy engagement. Some of us stand firmly in the place of pure objectivity and believe that scientists have no business dabbling in policy since it appears to cloud objectivity, while some of us are eager to march in the streets and shout “Facts are facts!” Many of us may find ourselves somewhere in between: wanting to do more but either feel bound by perceived conflicts of interests, or at a loss of where to begin and doubting whether an individual could even make a difference. Through my wildlife career, I have journeyed through this entire spectrum – from a young biologist who only wanted to focus on studying wildlife, to a fired-up activist who read and reread *The Monkey Wrench Gang*, and now to a scientist who understands that everything I do in my career is, in some shape or form, related to policy.

Environmental progress is not something to be assumed or taken for granted. The text of an environmental law can be rewritten when our eyes are tuned into a set of binoculars focused on a nesting bird. Environmental protections for habitats can be removed while we are synthesizing our field observations. Scientific facts can be deemed suspect and touted as fake while we are busily writing our dissertations or grant applications or biological assessments. Wherever we may find



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ourselves along the policy spectrum, it seems that our scientific community has stumbled upon a collective renaissance of realizing the importance of responding to policies that influence environmental protection, funding, priorities, and focus.

As scientists, we are taught to be objective. But objectivity does not equate to standing on the sidelines. There is a difference between activism, advocacy, objective opinion, and advice. As wildlife professionals, our objective opinion and evidence-based advice have a very important place within the realm of environmental policy. It is absolutely critical that we, as wildlife professionals, become more confident in participating in, informing, influencing, creating, shaping, and responding to policy, and learn how to successfully navigate the intersection of policies that affect the wildlife and habitats that we hold dear. And to achieve that requires that we understand the various areas where environmental policy is crafted, negotiated, implemented, interpreted, and studied.

I think of our community of wildlife professionals as an ecosystem. We may occupy different niches, wear different hats, or sometimes speak a different professional language. Maybe we work for a consulting firm or a regulatory agency; or we lead an NGO or are involved land management; maybe we conduct research for a university or for our own business; or we apply our wildlife skills to environmental law or advising legislative representatives. Yet, similar to an ecosystem, we may not always be aware of the ways that we, as a community, are connected, until one of the strings of the web gets pulled on and we notice the tug in our own sphere. So, when we are called to respond to environmental policies that are shifting the landscape in which we work or affecting the species or habitats which we study, how can you more effectively engage and participate – from wherever you may reside in the policy spectrum – and feel confident and effective?

Our plenary panelists aim to illuminate the pathways that you, as a wildlife professional and a member of The Wildlife Society, can pursue to influence environmental policy and perhaps shape public interest into an outcome that benefits the wildlife and habitats that are the focus of your career.

Behind the Logo:



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Our meeting logo is created through the artistic talents of **Maria Pascoal**, a Senior Designer and Communications Professional with GEI Consultants. I have admired Maria's creative designs for years – inside and outside of work. Maria graciously accepted my invitation to create this year's logo, and took the blueprint of my vision and ran with it. This logo – with a prominent backdrop of a State or National Capitol building where wildlife approach upon the steps – suggests the interface of science and policy, where the fate of many of our earth's beloved wildlife and their habitats are determined through the development and implementation of policies that shapes environmental priorities, direction, and funding.

Call for Papers and Posters:

We are soliciting abstracts for posters and 20-minute oral presentations for the concurrent technical and poster sessions. Abstract content should be related to technical session topics listed below, but additional topics may be entertained if sufficient presentations are submitted. The conference program and session chairs will evaluate submitted abstracts to determine final concurrent session topics.

All papers associated with the general meeting will be presented **Tuesday afternoon through Friday afternoon**, February 4 to February 7, 2020. In general, presenters should expect to speak for no more than 17 minutes, allowing for an introduction and limited Q&A after each presentation.

Concurrent Technical Session topics may include, but are not limited to:

- Ecology and Conservation of Amphibians and Reptiles
- Ecology and Conservation of Birds
- Ecology and Conservation of Mammals
- Ecology and Conservation of Invertebrates
- Impacts to Lands and Wildlife from Recreation
- Wildlife and Climate Change
- Conservation Planning and Environmental Offsets
- Public Policy and Wildlife Management
- Wildlife Conservation and Habitat Management in Lassen / Shasta Landscapes
- Multi-Benefit Projects
- Wildlife and Forest Management and Policy
- Wildlife Techniques and Technologies
- Human Dimensions in Wildlife Conservation and Management
- Endangered Species: Planning for Recovery
- Wildlife Diseases and Pathology
- Inputs and Methods for Conservation Planning & Ways to Measure Success
- Wildlife Professionals: Agency Coordination & Collaboration
- Wildlife Professionals: Consultant Case Studies
- Wildlife and Renewable Energy
- Wildlife, Pollution, and Ecotoxicology
- Wildlife Responses to Fire and Post-Fire Restoration
- Other

Note: Session titles may be added or changed at a later date based on papers received. If a group has the desire and sufficient participants to create a unique session please contact the program chair (Kelly Holland, presidentelect@twc-west.org).

Check <http://twc-west.org> for an updated list of technical sessions and schedule.

A poster session will be held on Thursday, February 6, 2020. The Thursday poster session will be an evening reception from 6:30-8:30pm with hors d'oeuvres and a no-host bar. Presenters are asked to be available at their poster during the poster session to discuss their work with interested viewers. Posters should be set up on Wednesday between 2-4pm. They will be available for viewing Wednesday afternoon through the Thursday evening poster reception. Posters should be no more than 44" tall by 44" wide. Display boards will be provided. Posters should be removed on Thursday evening by 9pm.

Abstract Submission Process:

The **deadline** for submission of both Oral Presentation and Poster abstracts is **Friday, October 25, 2019**.

Please submit abstracts electronically by filling out the interactive form on the Section website at:
http://wildlifeprofessional.org/western/ac2020_abstract_submit.php

Abstracts should not exceed 200 words and must adhere to format and layout elements provided in the example below. Indicate whether the paper will be an oral presentation or a poster, and if an oral presentation, indicate your preferred session.

Oral and Poster Presenters are expected to pay the conference registration fee and cover their own travel and lodging expenses. See the Western Section website for registration and other conference information (coming soon).

We will review the submitted abstracts and will notify the submitters of their status by December 6, 2019. Thank you, in advance, for your time and effort in the submission process.

ABSTRACT EXAMPLE:

Preferred Session: Ecology and Management of Shorebirds

Type of paper: Oral presentation

If a student, indicate if you intend to participate in the Student Judging.

Paper Title: **Status and Habitat Use of Long-Billed Curlews in the Central Valley in Fall**

W. David Shuford, PRBO Conservation Science, 3820 Cypress Drive #11, Petaluma, CA 94954, dshuford@prbo.org, (415) 868-0371x310; Co-authors: Gary W. Page; Gary M. Langham; and Catherine Hickey

Abstract: The long-billed curlew (*Numenius americanus*) – a large shorebird of conservation concern at the continental level – is a migrant and winter resident in California's Central Valley, where it concentrates primarily in agricultural lands. Despite recent estimates of the size of the curlew's North American breeding population, little is known about its abundance and habitat needs at migratory stopovers and wintering areas. To help fill these gaps, we coordinated three broad-scale surveys of curlews in the central and southern portions of the Central Valley in fall and winter in 2007-2008 and a more comprehensive survey of the entire Central Valley in August 2009. On the latter survey, we recorded 20,775 curlews in 197 flocks. In all years in autumn, the vast majority of curlews were found in irrigated croplands, primarily alfalfa and irrigated pastures, during this otherwise arid season. More frequent surveys at the local level in Solano County and more recent radio-telemetry studies indicate that some curlews shift their distribution from fall to winter. More work on fine-scale habitat preferences and movements in the Central Valley is needed to aid in the conservation of this at-risk shorebird.

Competition for Student Awards at the TWS Western Section Annual Meeting:

The Western Section of The Wildlife Society is pleased to offer six cash awards for students who speak in an oral session or present a poster at our annual meeting. "Student" is defined as any individual, any age, who is currently enrolled or has received a degree within six months of the meeting date from any high school, accredited college, or university (not limited to those within the Western Section). From high school to post-doc, we welcome your participation!

The value of the cash awards varies slightly, based upon the number of students in the competition. In general, the more students who compete, the more cash we award! Please be sure to indicate when you submit your abstract whether you intend to compete in the student judging competition. It is your responsibility to express your intent to participate. By participating in the competition, you will receive positive remarks and constructive criticism from the judges (typically at least three), telling you what they liked and how you can improve your next presentation.

OTHER INFORMATION:

CALL FOR SESSION CHAIRS: We are seeking individuals who are interested in volunteering to serve as the chairperson for the technical sessions. The session chair will help select abstracts to accept and coordinate with presenters. They will moderate the technical session at the conference. If you are interested, please contact President-Elect and Meeting Chairperson: Kelly Holland, presidentelect@twswest.org

PRE-CONFERENCE SYMPOSIA AND WORKSHOPS: We have several pre-conference workshops and symposia in development and will announce the final schedule by the end of the summer. Topics in development include: Advocacy Training for Wildlife Professionals, Science and Policy Training, and more. If you have suggestions for topics you'd like to see in the future, please email pdcc@twswest.org.

SPONSORSHIPS: We welcome organizations, agencies, consulting firms, chapters, nonprofits and individuals to sponsor our meeting! Sponsors qualify for exhibit space, public demos, discounted or free event registrations, acknowledgment in the program and more. We also encourage groups to host sponsored events within the meeting (or pre-meeting) events. Opportunities start at \$1,000.

PHOTO SHOW: We will display our annual Wildlife Slideshow at the Tuesday Welcome Reception. The content is up to you! Please send your photos of wildlife, coworkers, TWS workshops, study animals, unexpected situations, beautiful locations, etc. to us to help celebrate wildlife and the wildlife profession! Please send photos in .jpg format to velarrucea@gmail.com. Each person submitting photos for the slideshow will be entered in a raffle for a \$200 REI Gift Card.

VOLUNTEERS: Our meeting is organized by an incredible team of volunteers, and we'd love to have you join our team. Make new friends and help TWS-WS at the same time! We are looking for committee members for our Annual Meeting Planning Committee, plus we are also looking for Session Chairs for our Concurrent Sessions. The planning committee will start up at the end of the summer. Please contact candace.renger@gmail.com for more information. Also, a limited number of student volunteers may work up to 8 hours for a full or partial reimbursement of their student registration fees. More information on student volunteer sign-ups coming soon! We will work with student volunteers to set up a volunteer schedule that allows them to participate in the top events they are interested in attending during the meeting so that volunteers have an incredible conference experience. Please contact ryan.baumbusch@oregonstate.edu for more information on the student volunteer program.

AWARD NOMINATIONS: The Western Section recognizes outstanding individuals and organizations that have exceeded normal contributions toward the Western Section's goals. If you know of a nominee deserving of any of the below awards please contact Award and Grants Committee Chair richard.burg@wildlife.ca.gov by 12/7/2019.

1) Raymond F. Dasmann Award for the Professional of the Year The "Dasmann Award" is presented by the Western Section to Professionals who have made an outstanding contribution to wildlife resources management and understanding in California, Nevada, Hawaii or Guam.

2) Conservationist of the Year Award The "Conservationist of the Year Award" is presented by the Western Section to a person or group, engaged in wildlife conservation either as a profession or as an avocation, who has made an outstanding contribution to wildlife conservation in California, Nevada, Hawaii or Guam.

3) Barrett A. Garrison Outstanding Mentor Award The "Barrett A. Garrison Outstanding Mentor Award" is bestowed to a professional within California, Nevada, Hawaii, and Guam who has contributed to our profession by assisting the continued development of students and/or young professionals.

STUDENTS: Our meeting offers students and early career professionals numerous career development and mentoring opportunities beginning with the Tuesday night Welcome Reception where we'll play a student-professional mixer game to encourage new conversations and networking. We'll repeat our successful student workshops such as "How NOT to Give a Scientific Presentation", Peer Review & Publishing Workshop, Resume Workshops, resume critiques, summer job recruiters, Job Interview Workshop, and a Wildlife Career Symposium geared towards undergraduate students who want to know more about the different job opportunities in the wildlife field. Students and early career professionals are encouraged to apply for [travel scholarships](#) and grants (more information coming soon). These workshops and events are all included in the meeting registration fee.

GRANTS: The Western Section encourages member participation by financially assisting professional meetings, conferences, symposia, and other continuing education activities for members, students and early career professionals. For more information: <http://tw-west.org/grants.php> and <http://tw-west.org/tenayalodge2019/annual-meeting/travel-grants/>

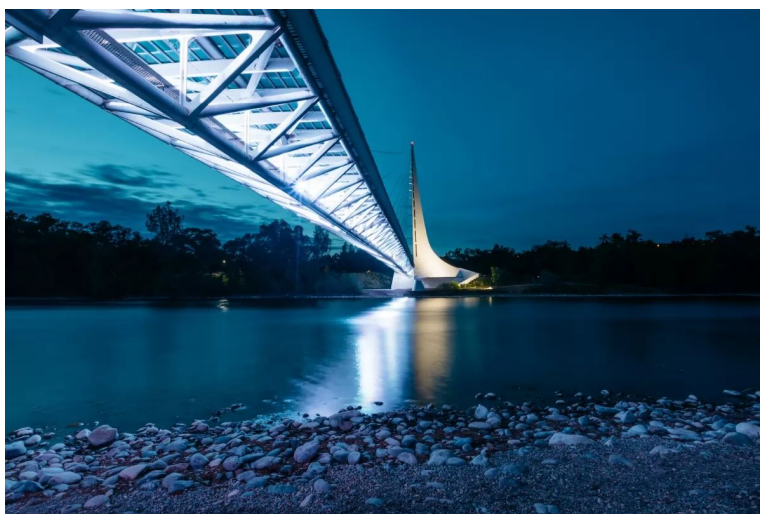
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Members will be eligible to earn credit hours for Professional Development Certificates and for TWS Certification renewal (note: meetings such as this do not normally qualify for an initial TWS certification application, but pre- and post-conference symposia and workshops can!). Additional information will be provided in the final conference program.

WORKING GROUPS: The Western Section is pleased to help facilitate the meeting of working groups during the Annual Meeting, as has been done in the past. To ensure space is available and to help minimize scheduling conflicts, if you are interested in holding a working group meeting, please contact Candace Renger by December 1, 2019 at candace.renger@gmail.com

MEETING REGISTRATION: On-line registration for the Western Section Annual Meeting is expected to open approximately October 1, 2019. <http://tw-west.org/>

VENUE INFORMATION AND HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS: The 2020 Annual Meeting will be held in Redding, CA at two adjacent hotels on Hilltop Drive - The Holiday Inn and the Red Lion Inn. Redding is 3 hours north of San Francisco and 2 hours north of Sacramento in the heart of northern California on Interstate 5 which runs right through town.

Redding is centrally located in the beautiful Shasta-Cascade region at the top of the Sacramento Valley in far northern California. Surrounded on three sides by millions of acres of federal and state lands, Redding is a short drive to some of California's most beautiful natural attractions, including the Whiskeytown National Recreation Area, Lassen Volcanic National Park, McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park, spectacular Mt. Shasta, and the pristine Trinity Alps. The region boasts miles of backcountry roads and scenic highways and byways, including one of only two All American Roads in California, the Volcanic Legacy Scenic Byway. Redding is home to the Sundial Bridge--the world's only glass-decked pedestrian bridge that is a working sundial--and world-class Turtle Bay Exploration Park. (Source <https://www.visitredding.com/community-profile>)



We have pre-purchased a limited block of non-smoking hotel rooms at a low nightly rate of \$90 for TWS-WS members at both the Holiday Inn and the Red Lion Inn hotels. The Red Lion is pet friendly so bring your dog! Our room block rate is available until January 19, 2020 or until the rooms in our block are sold out, whichever comes first.

Online Reservations for rooms in our room block - Coming soon!

TRANSPORTATION: Road trip! Interstate 5 and several other highways pass through or very near Redding. If you're more into wings than wheels, fly into the Redding Municipal Airport through San Francisco or Los Angeles, or land in Sacramento (SMF) and catch a shuttle. Of course, if you're very rugged, the Pacific Crest passes very near Redding, so you could always walk or ski here. (Source: <https://www.visitredding.com/faqs>)

[Link to driving directions to Redding, CA](#)



Questions about the 2020 Annual Meeting?

- **Kelly Holland**, Conference Chair and TWS-WS President-Elect - presidentelect@tw-west.org
- **Janine Payne Schneir**, Professional Development Committee Chair - pdcc@tw-west.org
- **Candace Renger**, Meeting Planner - candace.renger@gmail.com or (510) 684-8590
- **The Western Section of The Wildlife Society** - www.tw-west.org PO Box 6756. Albany, CA 94706