



# CALL FOR PAPERS

2022 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE WESTERN SECTION OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

**February 7-11, 2022**

**IN-PERSON & VIRTUAL**

*at the Peppermill Resort Reno*

**Due to uncertainties about Covid-19 next February, we are shifting to a HYBRID format for our 2022 Annual Meeting.** This means you can choose to participate either in-person in Reno, or virtually. We'll charge the same registration rate for either option so you can register early for the meeting and decide in January how you'd like to participate. No matter what -- you'll get to network with Western Wildlifers, learn from each other about emerging wildlife science, grow your career with our workshops and advice channels, and engage together in the most fun way ever!

**Regarding Covid 19** We will follow all safety protocols as required by the State of California, the State of Nevada, and the CDC. The guidance currently requires that everyone must wear a mask at all times while indoors. The guidance may change and we will communicate any changes as they happen. **The Western Section will also require that all who attend the meeting in-person be fully vaccinated, and we will require proof of vaccination.**

**A Note About Registration Fees** It's tricky planning a meeting during a pandemic, so we hope you'll bear with us and support the Western Section during these tough times. Gathering together to share scientific knowledge and network with other wildlifers is more important than ever after the past few years of quarantine. It's very important to the Western Section that we host our Annual Meeting in an inclusive way so that ANYONE in the Section who wants to participate is able to attend our meeting. Costs for hosting an in-person meeting (venue/food) are pretty similar to costs for hosting a virtual meeting (tech gear/tech staff) so we're charging one flat registration fee and you can wait until a few weeks before the meeting to decide how you'll participate. Online registration will open in early October. We hope you'll support the Western Section by registering for the meeting!

## Plenary Session: Thursday, February 10, 2022. 2:00pm to 3:45pm

**Symbiosis.** The relationship between two or more different organisms. Ideally, both individuals benefit from the relationship, but that is not always the case. You may remember this scientific concept from your introductory biology classes, but in reality our lives are made up of an immeasurable number of symbiotic relationships that are constantly changing. There are the obvious ones, your relationships with your friends, family and coworkers. And there are those that you may not think about as often, like your relationship with your neighbors, your legislators, stakeholders in your study system, other wildlife biologists across the globe, or just on the other side of the state. Then there are our non-human relationships, those with our pets, with the animals in our study system, with viruses, with our homes and offices, our cars, our energy systems, our smartphones, and all kinds of other objects and technology. All actions we take have impacts on the world around us and show just how helpful our relationships can be. For this year's Annual Meeting I would like us all to spend some time considering our own **Symbioses**, and how we can **Rethink Relationships to Optimize Ecological Conservation**.



## Plenary Session Speakers:



### **Tiana Williams-Claussen, Director, Yurok Wildlife Department**

Tiana is a member of the Yurok Nation, from the village of Wehl-kwew', and Director of the Yurok Tribe Wildlife Department. She received her Bachelor's degree in Biochemical Sciences from Harvard University and was instrumental in the creation of the Yurok Tribe Wildlife Program and the development of many of its conservation initiatives, including the effort to reintroduce California condors to Yurok Ancestral Territory. Tiana relies on her native upbringing and formal education to bridge the beliefs, knowledge, and practices of the Yurok with those rooted in Western-science, and to work toward a cohesive, well-informed perspective on holistic ecosystem management.

### **Luka Zavas, Outreach Associate, American Bird Conservancy**

Luka graduated from University of Hawai'i Mānoa with both her BS and MEM from the Department of Natural Resource and Environmental Management within the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources. A local of 'Āhuimanu, Kāhala'u, O'ahu, her love for 'āina (land which nourishes) has been the root for her journey from the dry-land forests of Waimea Valley to the coastal wetlands of Keawāwa, Maunaloa. Her Master's capstone explored the importance of stories, between people and place, for fostering a reciprocal relationship that will encourage communities to create space for cohabitation. Luka has worked as a conservation land specialist and 'āina educator, finding her passion in helping communities connect and create their own stories with place. She now works with Birds, Not Mosquitoes, a multi-agency partnership, working to save the native honeycreepers of Hawai'i from extinction by using a naturally-occurring bacteria as a "mosquito birth control" to suppress mosquito populations and the spread of avian malaria.



### **Marcus Blum, Post-Doctoral Researcher, University of Nevada, Reno**

Dr. Marcus Blum is a large mammal ecologist and postdoctoral researcher in the Department of Wildland Resources at the Utah State University. He received his B.S. at Texas A&M University – Kingsville and his M.S. and PhD at the University of Nevada, Reno. His research focuses on resource selection, movement, population dynamics, and behavior of large mammals. Marcus is also interested in using new technology, such as unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) to enhance our understanding of ecological relationships and population dynamics of species. He uses this research to inform management decisions and harvest dynamics in large mammals. Marcus' current research is focused on using resource selection and movement data to predict the spread of chronic wasting disease in mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) populations throughout the state of Utah. Previously, he investigated the effects of reproduction on selection and movement behaviors in desert bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis nelsoni*) populations. He used a combination of traditional and UAV based remote sensing data to increase our understanding of tradeoffs in habitat and diet selection. He also used UAVs to delineate bighorn sheep habitat through very high-resolution point clouds and provide new ways of investigating the viewshed ecology of large mammals.



## Capstone Session: Friday, February 11, 2022. 11:30am to 1:00pm

**New for 2022 - Friday Capstone Session** This exciting event will bring us all back together for one final networking opportunity at the closing of the Annual Meeting. We have an incredible trio of speakers from the **Schell Lab at UC Berkeley**: PI **Dr. Chris Schell**, post-doctoral researcher **Dr. Christine Wilkinson**, and PhD student **Tyus Williams**. These wildlife biologists not only do incredibly exciting research on urban carnivores, but are also experts in science communication and community outreach. During this capstone event, these presenters will illustrate how science communication is a part of their wildlife research, not separate from it. Through a series of presentations and interactive activities they will give those in attendance a framework for processing thoughts about science communication, tactics for engaging with stakeholders, and practice communicating and networking with new people.

### Capstone Session Speakers:

**Dr. Chris Schell**, Professor, Department of Environmental Science, Policy, and Management, UC Berkeley

Dr. Chris Schell is an urban ecologist whose research integrates evolutionary theory with ecological application to disentangle the processes accentuating human-carnivore conflict. Specifically, Chris' interests lie in understanding the endocrine mechanisms that underpin carnivore behavior, as well as explicitly examining the anthropogenic drivers (i.e. human densities, roadways, pollution, interactions) that select for bold, habituated, and less fearful individuals in metropolitan areas. His research is uniquely tied to the community; urban ecology is inherently a synergy of anthropogenic forces and natural processes. Hence, he often works closely with underrepresented communities, wildlife managers, cultural institutions, and philanthropic organizations to help foster mutually enriching relationships among people and wildlife.



**Dr. Christine Wilkinson**, Post-Doctoral Researcher, Schell Lab, UC Berkeley

Dr. Christine Wilkinson is a conservation biologist and a postdoctoral scholar in the Department of Environmental Sciences, Policy, and Management at the University of California, Berkeley. Her research interests include human-wildlife conflict, carnivore movement ecology, multidisciplinary mapping, and using participatory methods for more effective and inclusive conservation outcomes. Christine has spent the last decade working in conservation biology and natural resource management around the USA and in Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda. She has also served in various capacities as an informal educator, piloting and implementing dynamic programs for teenagers and young adults at the California Academy of Sciences and around East Africa. During her experiences as an educator, she has developed a passion for conducting applied participatory research and for empowering community-created solutions to our world's conservation challenges.





For her current research, Christine is taking an interdisciplinary approach to study the social and ecological drivers of urban carnivore movement and conflict in the Bay Area, California. She is also using remote sensing and GIS analyses in conjunction with participatory mapping to understand landscape permeability for carnivores, the dynamics of livestock predation instances and perceived human-hyena conflict risk, and the intersection between human and carnivore resource needs in and around Lake Nakuru National Park, Kenya. Christine is a National Geographic Explorer, and uses every opportunity to share her science through media and informal education. In her spare time, she teaches and plays taiko in San Francisco. Through these opportunities and experiences, Christine is keen to elevate and integrate a variety of perspectives for resilient and socially just environmental outcomes.

### **Tyus Williams, Doctoral Student, Schell Lab, UC Berkeley**

As a Ph.D. student studying carnivore ecology at the University of California, Berkeley, Tyus is intrigued by how large mammalian carnivores not only interact with their environment during disturbance but engage and compete with similar taxa around them (e.g., intraguild competition). Tyus plans research using a non-invasive techniques such as camera trapping in conjunction with spatial analytical tools (e.g., ArcGIS) to draw inferences on movement patterns, occupancy, and landscape interactions. He will use these inferences to understand trophic cascades and intraguild conflict which can be influenced by resource/space availability, dietary overlap, and global changes. Tyus is also a highly enthusiastic science communicator utilizing social media platforms to share knowledge and include others in the conversations around scientific discussions. He hosts #SciQFriday on Twitter, a weekly event where he invites fellow scientists to discuss their work and highlight diversity in the field.



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## **Keynote Session: Wednesday, February 9, 2022. 10:00am to 11:30am**

### **Keynote Session Speaker: Heather Reich, Bear Biologist, Nevada Department of Wildlife**



Heather Reich graduated in 1998 from the University of Montana, Missoula with her BS in Wildlife Biology. Her main focus in her career has been management and resolution of human-bear conflict. She spent a decade working with Tim Manley and grizzly bear conflict management. In 2015 she was hired on by the Nevada Department of Wildlife where she works side-by-side with Carl Lackey and their team of Karelian Bear Dogs to try and help the bear and people of Nevada live together while working towards her master's degree at the University of Nevada, Reno.

Heather will be speaking about managing a population of black bears reestablishing themselves into historic ranges in Nevada while trying to balance various stakeholder interests, non-lethal management and bears in urban environments.

# Tentative Schedule

All events are included in the meeting registration fee except those marked \*Extra Fee

All events will be livestreamed and available online for registered attendees unless listed otherwise

## Monday, February 7

8:30am to 5:30pm	Wilderness First Aid (In-Person Only), Day 1 of 2, *Extra Fee
9:00am to 5:00pm	Western Section Executive Board Meeting (Open to all Members)
1:00pm to 5:00pm	Wildlife Crossings, Connectivity & Migration Symposium, Day 1 of 2, *Extra Fee
2:00pm to 5:00pm	Registration Packet Production

## Tuesday, February 8

8:00am to 12:00pm	Wildlife Crossings, Connectivity & Migration Symposium, Day 2 of 2, *Extra Fee
8:30am to 4:30pm	Wilderness First Aid, Day 2 of 2, *Extra Fee
9:00am to 8:00pm	Registration & Help Desk
9:00am to 12:00pm	Exhibit Hall Setup
12:00pm to 10:00pm	Exhibit Hall Open
1:00pm to 5:00pm	Wildlife Biologist Construction Awareness Training-WildC.A.T., *Extra Fee
1:00pm to 4:00pm	Major Environmental Regulations: Practical Knowledge for Biologists, *Extra Fee
4:00pm to 6:00pm	Student Quiz Bowl, Preliminary Rounds (In-Person Competitors Only)
4:00pm to 10:00pm	No-Host Drink Station - Mingle and Munch
4:00pm to 5:00pm	Retirees Meeting
<b>6:00pm</b>	<b>Official Meeting Opening</b>
6:00pm to 8:00pm	Welcome Reception with Taco Bar, Wildlife Photo Slideshow & Student-Professional Mixer
8:00pm to 9:00pm	Student Quiz Bowl Finals
9:00pm to 10:00pm	Wildlife Trivia

## Wednesday, February 9

7:00am to 8:00pm	Registration & Help Desk
7:30am to 9:30am	World Cafe Roundtable, Symbiosis Discussion (Virtual Only)
8:00am to 9:00pm	Exhibit Hall Open
8:30am to 5:00pm	Speaker Practice Room
<b>10:00am to 11:30am</b>	<b>Keynote Address &amp; Dialogue -- Heather Reich, NDOW Bear Biologist</b>
11:30am to 1:00pm	Lunch break
11:30am to 1:00pm	Chapter Officers Meeting
<b>1:00pm to 5:30pm</b>	<b>Scientific Concurrent Sessions with Interactive Q&amp;A</b>
3:00pm to 3:15pm	Afternoon Break
1:00pm to 3:00pm	Poster Setup Hours
3:00pm to 9:00pm	Poster Viewing and Judging
4:00pm to 9:00pm	No-Host Drink Station - Mingle and Munch
5:00pm to 6:00pm	Humboldt Wildlife Alumni Meeting/Mixer
6:00pm to 8:00pm	Poster Reception & Wildlife T-shirt Contest <small>New day</small>
8:00pm to 10:00pm	Chapter Meetings <small>New day</small>

## Thursday, February 10

7:00am to 7:00pm	Registration & Help Desk
7:00am to 7:00pm	Exhibit Hall Open
7:00am to 7:00pm	Poster Viewing and Judging
<b>8:00am to 12:30pm</b>	<b>Scientific Concurrent Sessions with Interactive Q&amp;A</b>

8:00am to 5:00pm	Speaker Practice Room
10:00am to 10:30am	Morning Break
12:30pm to 2:00pm	Lunch break
12:30pm to 2:00pm	Roundtable Wildlife Discussion
12:30pm to 2:00pm	Lunch Room Options --; Wildlife Film; Social Room and More!
<b>2:00pm to 3:45pm</b>	<b>Plenary Session -- Symbiosis:</b> <b>Rethinking relationships for ecological conservation</b> <i>Tiana Williams-Claussen</i> , Yurok Tribe Wildlife Biologist; <b>Luka Zavas</b> , Outreach Associate, American Bird Conservancy; <b>Marcus Blum</b> , Post-Doctoral Researcher, University of Nevada, Reno; <i>All actions we take have impacts on the world around us and show just how helpful our relationships can be.</i>
3:45pm to 4:00pm	Afternoon Break
4:00pm to 6:00pm	Members Town Hall and Western Section Awards Ceremony
3:45pm to 10:00pm	No-Host Drink Station - Mingle and Munch
7:00pm to 10:00pm	Annual Members Dinner and Bucket Raffle (In-Person Only) <sup>New day</sup> *Extra Fee

### Friday, February 11

7:00am to 8:00am	Wildlife Conference Conversations
7:00am to 1:00pm	Exhibit Hall Open
7:00am to 1:00pm	Registration & Help Desk
<b>8:00am to 10:45am</b>	<b>Scientific Concurrent Sessions with Interactive Q&amp;A</b>
10:45am to 11:00am	Morning Break
<b>11:00am to 12:30pm</b>	<b>Capstone Session</b> <sup>NEW</sup> -- <b>Schell Lab at UC Berkeley</b> <i>PI Dr. Chris Schell</i> , post-doctoral researcher <b>Dr. Christine Wilkinson</b> , and PhD student <b>Tyus Williams</b> . <i>These wildlife biologists not only do incredibly exciting research on urban carnivores, but are also experts in science communication and community outreach.</i>
1:00pm to 2:00pm	Meeting Planning Committee Wrap-Up Lunch (In-Person)

# Call for Papers and Posters

**Abstracts Due:** Friday, October 29, 2021

**Please submit abstracts electronically:** [https://user.tws-west.org/abstracts/ac2022\\_abstract\\_submit.php](https://user.tws-west.org/abstracts/ac2022_abstract_submit.php)

We are soliciting abstracts for **posters** and **15-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 committee and session chairs will evaluate submitted abstracts to determine final concurrent session topics.

**Presenters in oral and poster contributed sessions will be able to choose either the in-person or the virtual option.** All presenters will be able to change their presentation mode until January 2022 (subject to availability for the in-person posters which depends on available space). If you present a poster or oral presentation, you must pay the appropriate meeting registration fee.



**Oral Presentations** - Oral presenters may choose to participate either in-person or virtually. All presenters will be asked to upload a pre-recorded video of their presentation two weeks before the meeting for online viewing ahead of the meeting. Presenters attending in-person will give their talk live at the meeting, and for those participating virtually, we will play your pre-recorded video live in Reno during your session. All papers associated with the oral concurrent sessions will be presented from **Wednesday afternoon through Friday morning, February 9 to February 11, 2022**. There will be an interactive Q&A discussion at the end of each session and all presenters must participate either in-person or virtually. The concurrent sessions and discussions will be streamed live through our meeting app so all registered attendees can participate in the interactive sessions.

**Poster Presentations** - Poster presenters may choose to participate either in-person or virtually. All Poster presenters must upload a .pdf image of their poster to the meeting app two weeks before the meeting for online viewing. An optional 3-minute video summary of your poster may also be uploaded. All poster presenters will use the meeting app's Q&A feature to respond to online questions about their poster. For poster presenters participating in-person in Reno, a poster session and reception will be held **Wednesday evening, February 9, 2022**. In-person poster presenters must be available at their poster at this time to discuss their work with interested viewers. In-person poster presenters will set up their posters at the Peppermill Resort on Wednesday (2/9/22) between 1-3pm. Display boards will be provided. Posters should be no more than 44" tall by 44" wide. Posters will be available for viewing Wednesday afternoon through Thursday evening. Posters must be removed on Friday (2/11/22) by 1pm. Note, physical display boards are limited so in-person presenters must reserve their space when they submit their abstract. To inquire about changing your participation mode, you may email [projectmanager@twc-west.org](mailto:projectmanager@twc-west.org).

### Concurrent Technical Session Topics in Development:

- Conference Theme Session - Mutualism (literal or figurative)
- Conference Theme Session - Commensalism (literal or figurative)
- Conference Theme Session - Parasitism (literal or figurative)
- Conservation Planning and Environmental Offsets
- Ecology and Conservation of Amphibians and Reptiles
- Ecology and Conservation of Birds
- Ecology and Conservation of Mammals
- Ecology and Conservation of Invertebrates
- Endangered Species: Planning for Recovery
- Justice, Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion
- Human Dimensions in Wildlife Conservation and Management
- Science Communication
- Impacts to Lands and Wildlife from Recreation
- Inputs and Methods for Conservation Planning & Ways to Measure Success
- Multi-Benefit Projects
- Pacific Islands
- Public Policy and Wildlife Management
- Waterfowl
- Wildlife and Climate Change
- Wildlife and Forest Management and Policy
- Wildlife Conservation and Habitat Management in Nevada
- Wildlife Diseases and Pathology
- Wildlife, Pollution, and Ecotoxicology
- Wildlife and Renewable Energy

- Wildlife Professionals: Agency Coordination & Collaboration
- Wildlife Professionals: Consultant Case Studies
- Wildlife Responses to Fire and Post-Fire Restoration
- Wildlife Techniques and Technologies
- 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 (Dr. Katie Smith, [presidentelect@twc-west.org](mailto:presidentelect@twc-west.org)).

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

## Abstract Submission Process:

The **deadline** for submission of both Oral Presentation and Poster abstracts is 11:59pm PDT on **Friday, October 29, 2021**.

**Please submit abstracts electronically by filling out the interactive form on the Section website at:**

[https://user.twc-west.org/abstracts/ac2022\\_abstract\\_submit.php](https://user.twc-west.org/abstracts/ac2022_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 in September, 2021).

**We will review the submitted abstracts and will notify the submitters of their status by December 6, 2021.** 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](mailto: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. In 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, coordinate with presenters, and help find additional papers as needed to fill gaps in the sessions.. They will moderate the technical session in person at the conference and lead a Q&A session. Session Chairs will be assigned to sessions in November after the Call for Papers has closed. If you are interested, please contact President-Elect and Meeting Chair: Dr. Katie Smith, [presidentelect@twswest.org](mailto:presidentelect@twswest.org)

**PRE-CONFERENCE SYMPOSIA AND WORKSHOPS:** We have several pre-conference symposia and workshops in development. Topics include: (1) Wildlife Crossings, Connectivity & Migration (2) Major Environmental Regulations: Practical Knowledge for Biologists (3) Wilderness First Aid (4) WildCAT Construction Monitoring Training, (5) R Workshop (tbd) and more. If you have suggestions for topics you'd like to see in the future, please email [pdcc@twswest.org](mailto: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 [evelarrucea@gmail.com](mailto:evelarrucea@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.

Also, a limited number of student volunteers may work in person in Reno 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 [projectmanager@twswest.org](mailto:projectmanager@twswest.org) for more information about volunteering.

**VIRTUAL AUCTION & RAFFLE:** All 2022 raffle ticket sales and online virtual auction purchases will be donated to support Western Section students and early career professionals. The raffle will be a Bucket raffle which will be held briefly at the end of the Thursday evening banquet. Place tickets in the buckets for the prizes you hope to win. This banquet raffle is a lot of fun, and there will be some amazing prizes, including some new super surprises! Raffle items will be displayed in the Exhibit Hall throughout the entire meeting. Please contact Raffle and Silent Auction Chair Susanne Marczak if you have any questions or would like to donate an item to the raffle and/or auction. [communications@twswest.org](mailto:communications@twswest.org)

**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](mailto:richard.burg@wildlife.ca.gov) by 11/1/21.



**1) Diversity Award** This award is new for 2022. The “Diversity Award” recognizes an individual or organization for outstanding efforts in fostering inclusivity (including gender expression and identity, education, age, physical and mental ability, sexual orientation, race, family status, languages, and ethnicities, socioeconomic status, veteran status, political and religious perspectives, and other human differences) in wildlife conservation.

**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.

**4) 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.

**STUDENTS/EARLY CAREER PROFESSIONALS:** 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 will offer a large assortment of both live and pre-recorded Career workshops and information panel discussions as part of the conference so students can learn all about getting started in a wildlife career.. 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://tws-west.org/grants.php>.

**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-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, 2021 at [projectmanager@tws-west.org](mailto:projectmanager@tws-west.org).

**MEETING REGISTRATION:** On-line registration for the Western Section Annual Meeting is expected to open by October 1, 2021. <http://tws-west.org/>

**VENUE INFORMATION AND HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS:** The 2022 Annual Meeting will be held in Reno, NV at the Peppermill Resort. The meeting will be held in the spacious and **smoke-free** Tuscany Ballroom.

***Welcome to Reno Tahoe, where the country's largest alpine lake meets the Biggest Little City in the World. Reno is home to top attractions like the Nevada Museum of Art, The National Automobile Museum, the largest outdoor climbing wall, and a ½-mile, snowmelt-driven kayak park right in the heart of downtown. Your thirst will be quenched and your taste buds satisfied with the region's budding brewpub and culinary scene.***

Local TWS-WS members will lead field trips, daily walks and hikes throughout the meeting which will highlight the flora and fauna of the area! Local wildlife highlights include the nearby Virginia Lake, Sparks Marina, Oxbow Park, Swan Lake, Chickadee Ridge and the nearby Carson Valley.

We have pre-purchased a limited block of non-smoking hotel rooms at a low nightly rate of \$83/\$103 for TWS-WS members at the Peppermill Resort. Our room block rate is available until January 15, 2022 or until the rooms in our block are sold out, whichever comes first. Free shuttle service is provided daily to/from the Reno-Tahoe International airport. The resort fee is waived for our attendees and

rooms include complimentary wireless internet, Keurig coffee makers, and in-room refrigerators. The health club, pool and business center are also included as well as free parking and EV charging stations.

**TRANSPORTATION:** Road trip! Interstate 80 and Highway 395 pass through Reno. If you're more into wings than wheels, fly into the Reno-Tahoe International Airport and catch a free Peppermill Resort shuttle. We will set up online bulletin boards for ride shares and we're also looking into chartering a bus and/or Amtrak train so TWS-WS members can travel together to Reno! More information is coming soon.

Questions about the 2022 Annual Meeting?

- **Dr. Katie Smith**, Conference Chair and TWS-WS President-Elect - [presidentelect@twswest.org](mailto:presidentelect@twswest.org)
- **Janine Payne Schneir**, Professional Development Committee Chair - [pdcc@twswest.org](mailto:pdcc@twswest.org)
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