

RANGELAND WILDLIFE WORKING GROUP

Quarterly Newsletter

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The Rangeland Wildlife Working Group:

- *Promotes unified efforts in managing rangelands for both wildlife and multi-purpose sustainable uses.*
- *Provides a forum for members who may have dual interests in other related professional societies or in multi-purpose land management*
- *Builds support for symposia, special projects, information exchange, and networking of members who work toward a common goal.*

OFFICERS

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Megan Clayton, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor and Extension Range Specialist
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
Department of Ecosystem Science and Management

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Membership Chair:

Dwayne Elmore, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, Department of Natural Resource Ecology and Management

Notes From the Chair:

Howdy! I hope everyone is greening up wherever you are. Down south we are already experiencing some rough summer temperatures! I hope everyone has plans to attend the TWS Meeting this fall in Pittsburg, October 25-30th. Our Eastern Grasslands symposium has come together nicely (*Thank You* symposium committee) with some interesting speakers and ample opportunity to learn. Plus, we can look forward to meeting up as a working group one afternoon for a good discussion about rangeland issues and future activities.

We are still a few people short of our membership goal of 50! Please encourage just one person with a range interest to join.

Are you ready to get involved? We're looking for a few good people to serve on the next symposium committee (Canada 2015!) and a workshop committee to put together an interesting workshop for TWS members – either at the 2015 meeting or before. To volunteer for one of these National RWWG committees, simply email me at:
Megan.Clayton@ag.tamu.edu.

"Spring is nature's way of saying,
'Let's Party!'" – Robin Williams

How can you join the Rangeland Wildlife Working Group?

Membership in our working group comes with quarterly newsletters and opportunities to collaborate on range-related topics. We need 50 paid members to maintain our status. Join by logging in to The Wildlife Society portal and adding the Rangeland Wildlife Working Group; the cost is \$5.

Current TWS Members Can Join by:

1. Going to <http://wildlife.force.com/>
2. Enter your email address on file and password
3. Click on 'add memberships' on the bottom left
4. Scroll down to 'Working Group Dues' select Rangeland Wildlife Working Group
5. Check out by entering your payment information

*Or you may call the TWS Office at (301) 897-9770 and they will assist you.

Member Spotlight: Dr. Chuck Butterfield

Senior Environmental Scientist: Y2 Consultants Inc.



Greetings fellow rangeland wildlifers from the mountains of Wyoming! I was born on the ranch that is now the Ten Sleep Valley Preserve, just east of Ten Sleep, Wyoming. I received my BS from the University of Wyoming, MS from Texas A&M, and PhD from the University of Nebraska all in Rangeland Management/Science. The majority of my career has been spent in academia. At South Dakota State University I was in charge of the grazing research program at the Cottonwood Research Station, and then took over a USDA/APHIS project on rangeland grasshoppers.

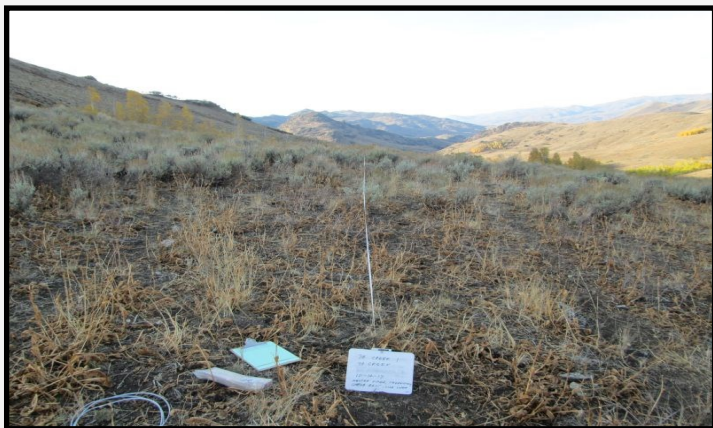
Following those five years, the opportunity to take a teaching/research position at the University of Nebraska came open and I found myself in the corn fields of eastern Nebraska for 11 years. There, I taught the plants class and occasionally the monitoring class, ran the Keim Herbarium, and worked with the Plant and URME teams along with the Range Club. The research I was involved with was prescribed fire, invasive species, reestablishment of the endangered blowout penstemon, successional patterns in the sandhills and reestablishment of threadleaf sedge.

Then, in 1999, the opportunity to move to a full-time teaching position at Chadron State College (CSC) opened up, so I followed my love of teaching there. At CSC I taught many of the vegetation/soils/fire related classes as well as worked with various campus clubs. While this was a 100% teaching position it was not too long before the opportunity to begin doing research on big horn sheep, bison and cavity nesting birds arose. This led to addressing the apparent need for a wildlife program at CSC. So with help from Nebraska Game & Parks and the U.S. Forest Service, CSC began a Rangeland Wildlife Habitat program. Eventually, along with a full teaching load and graduate students, the Applied Sciences Department Chair position fell into my lap. Then, out of the blue a year ago last February I got a phone call from a former student that was in the process of starting an engineering and natural resources consulting firm and they were looking for a PhD to lead the natural resources portion. This provided the opportunity for my wife and I to return to Wyoming and most importantly to the mountains we had been missing for 30+ years.

So after 14 years at CSC, I now work for Y2 Consultants out of Jackson, WY and live in Alpine, Wyoming. In my new career, I am involved in mainly conducting rangeland vegetation monitoring for large-scale producers in Wyoming, Utah, Arizona and Nevada.

This is done under an agreement with the BLM and USFS. From there I work with the producers to develop documents for permit renewals. I am also involved in writing various EA's and Standards and Guidelines for these same groups. Also I am involved in wetland monitoring, pipeline restorations, sage grouse habitat monitoring, post-fire monitoring, habitat improvement projects and conducting portions of the rangeland Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) program.

Having been born and raised hunting, fishing and camping in the mountains of Wyoming it is good to be back here and have the opportunity again. Our place sits just above some elk transitional range, so seeing elk out the back door is common. We have moose in the yard, which can provide some exercise if you are not paying attention. There is mountain goat winter range just five miles from the house. Pairs of sandhill cranes forage in the elk winter range in the summer and fall behind the house. And we have yet to see them but, we occasionally hear the wolves. It is good to be back in the mountains! This summer I hope to remember what to do with this 8 foot bamboo stick with a string on it and a little bug-like thing on the end of the string are for and to learn to lake kayak.



Member Spotlight: Mary Rowland

Research Wildlife Biologist; United States Forest Service



I work as a research wildlife biologist for the Pacific Northwest Research Station of the U.S. Forest Service in La Grande, Oregon; I've been located here for 20+ years, so it's a good fit. I received my undergraduate training in zoology at Duke University, but migrated West for a graduate degree in wildlife at Colorado State University. Our lab focuses on rangeland and wildlife research, and much of the work is closely tied to the nearby Starkey Experimental Forest and Range.

My research, and much of that at Starkey, has focused on ungulates – particularly deer, elk, and cattle - and how they affect ecosystem processes and structure, as well as how they are affected by human disturbance and management activities that typify public lands of the Interior Northwest. Our most recent project at Starkey will provide key insights into effects of ungulates on riparian restoration for salmonids. We are implementing a new deferred rotation grazing system for cattle along a salmonid-bearing stream, and have established a series of research exclosures to monitor effects of deer and elk vs. cattle and total ungulate exclusion on the fate of 40,000+ recently planted seedlings and cuttings along the stream. We will also investigate responses of other taxa to the restoration and treatment types, including native pollinators and small mammals.

This long-term research project will help guide management of fish-bearing streams in the Pacific Northwest, where large-scale restoration efforts have been undertaken at great expense for years, but often lacked detailed monitoring to determine the efficacy of that work.

Member Spotlight: Dr. Jeffrey Beck

Department of Ecosystem Science and Management; University of Wyoming



I am a Wildlife Habitat Restoration Ecologist in the Department of Ecosystem Science and Management at the University of Wyoming. Prior to my academic career I was employed by the Forest Service (seasonally) and state wildlife agencies, most notably as a habitat biologist for the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources in the mid-1990s. My current position includes teaching and advising undergraduate and graduate students, administering an applied ecological research program, and providing professional service. The types of research questions that my lab addresses typically are guided by ecological concepts that are used as a framework to evaluate conservation questions.

Two general lines of research that my lab is pursuing are: 1) understanding the direct and indirect impacts of anthropogenic disturbance on vertebrate species (greater sage-grouse and ungulates as model taxa) inhabiting sagebrush habitats, and 2) evaluating the efficacy of mitigation techniques and conservation practices intended to enhance habitat conditions or mitigate effects of anthropogenic development in rangeland habitats. Current rangeland-wildlife studies in my lab include understanding impacts of energy development or mining to wildlife (sage-grouse, elk, and pronghorn), efficacy of habitat treatments (sage-grouse and bighorn sheep), evaluation of conservation benefits of the Wyoming Governor's Sage Grouse Executive Order (sage-grouse and mule deer), migration ecology (sage-grouse), and impacts of hunter harvest on population dynamics (sage-grouse, mule deer, and pronghorn).



In addition, in the near future I hope to initiate a study on wild horse-rangeland issues. I am excited to be a member of the TWS Rangeland Wildlife Working Group and look forward to seeing its influence better inform rangeland-wildlife issues in coming years.

My webpage: <http://www.uwyo.edu/esm/faculty-and-staff/beck/index.html>

The Wildlife Society

Annual Meeting, October 25 - 30

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Notable Deadlines:

- ◆ Call for Student Research in Progress - June 20
- ◆ Call for Associated Receptions & Working Groups - June 30
- ◆ Application for Student Travel Grants - July 25
- ◆ **Early Registration Closes - August 31**
- ◆ Pre-Registration Closes - September 30

Mark Your Calendars! Our Working Group Meeting will be Monday, Oct. 27th in the afternoon and the RWWG's Symposium will be on Wed. Oct 29th in the afternoon and

This year's conference features two Plenary sessions:

October 26:

"Making Science Relevant in Today's Society"

October 28:

"Powerful Landscapes: Wildlife and Energy in North America"

Check out the TWS website for details!

FORGOTTEN GRASSLANDS OF THE EAST: MANAGING FOREST-GRASSLAND

The Rangeland Wildlife Working Group of The Wildlife Society is soliciting funds to cover costs associated with the travel of speakers invited to present at the 2014 Wildlife Society meeting in Pittsburgh, PA.

As you know, much of our nation's wildlife depend on rangelands for their persistence. Therefore, the Rangeland Wildlife Working group is working to bring the conservation and management of rangeland ecosystems to center stage at the 2014 Wildlife Society Meeting. Below you will find a list of speakers for this half-day symposium.

Proposed Speakers:

- 20 Min: *Dr. Reed Noss*, Author of 'Forgotten Grasslands of the South': Endangered grasslands of the eastern United States: biogeography, history, and conservation/restoration priorities
- 20 Min: *Dr. Ronald Masters*, Director of Research, Tall Timbers Research Station: Breeding Bird Response to Landscape Restoration of Woodland and Savanna Conditions From Closed Canopy Oak-Pine Forest
- 20 Min: *John Gruchy*, Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks: Managing Vegetation Composition and Structure in Eastern Grasslands
- 20 Min: *Dr. Sam Fuhlendorf*, Regents Professor, Oklahoma State University: Pyric Herbivory: the interaction of fire and grazing for conservation of grasslands
- 20 Min: *Dr. Karen Hickman*, Professor of Natural Resource Ecology and Management, Oklahoma State University: Invasive species in US grasslands: their ecology and management

BREAK

- 20 Min: *Dr. Patrick Keyser*, Associate Professor & Coordinator, Center for Native Grasslands Management, University of Tennessee: Grasslands and biofuels – striking a balance
- 20 Min: *Dr. Greg Hoch*, Prairie Habitat Ecologist, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources: Greater Prairie Chicken – their story
- 20 Min– *Dr. Howard Kilpatrick*, Research Scientist, University of Connecticut: The New England Cottontail
- 20 Min: *Dr. Lenny Brennan*, Endowed Research Scientist & Professor, Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute, Texas A&M University – Kingsville: Northern Bobwhite Habitat Structure: Only the Names of the Plants Will Change
- 20 Min: *Dr. Mark Woodrey*, Grand Bay NEER Research Coordinator, Mississippi State University: Wintering grassland birds

Thanks to those who have already provided sponsorships:

University of Wyoming—Department of Ecosystem Science and Management
Texas A&M University—Department of Ecosystem Science and Management

For more information or to make a donation, please contact Dr. Eric Grahmann:

Director of Gamebird Science, Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute,

Texas A&M University-Kingsville

eric.grahmann@tamuk.edu

Announcements & Points of Interest

Title: Ph.D. Assistantship

Agency: University of Tennessee, Department of Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries

Location: Knoxville, TN

Duration: January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2017

Position Description: Ph.D. research assistantship available for graduate student studying wildlife responses to and production for native grass grazing systems. The Center for Native Grasslands Management (<http://nativegrasses.utk.edu/>) at the University of Tennessee is implementing a field experiment that will be conducted in East Tennessee near Knoxville. Incumbent will conduct research within this experimental framework with a focus on determining optimum outcomes for wildlife, stand maintenance, and beef production.

Qualifications: Applicants must be motivated with a good attitude and a strong work ethic. Well-developed oral and written communication skills are desired and the ability to work cooperatively within a team setting is required. Students with a strong interest in agro-ecology and conservation within working grassland systems are preferred. Applicants should possess a M.S. in Range Ecology/Management, Wildlife, or related field and a valid driver's license. A minimum GPA of 3.0 and GRE scores (Q+V) of 302 are required.

Salary: \$17,500 plus tuition waiver and health insurance

Last date to apply: Until qualified applicant is found

Application Procedure: Interested applicants should send a cover letter explaining their interest along with a CV, and GRE scores to the e-mail address below. Information on formal application as a Ph.D. candidate can be found at the Department's web page (<http://fwf.ag.utk.edu>).

Contact: Patrick Keyser, Professor
Email: pkeyser@utk.edu (preferred)
Phone: 865-974-0644

Rangeland Articles

Olsen, A, and A. Fedynich. 2014. "Quail Parasites in South Texas: What's the Story?" Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute Texas A&M University-Kingsville May/June Quail E-News.
<http://hosted-p0.vresp.com/541410/0cd3235f85/ARCHIVE#>

Parry, S. F., and R. Skaggs. 2014. Uncertainty, Impermanence Syndrome, and Public Land Ranching. *Rangelands* 36(2) 20-24.

Priesmeyer, W., J., R. S. Matlack, and R. T. Kazmaier. 2014. Precipitation and Fire Impacts on Small Mammals in Shortgrass Prairie. *The Prairie Naturalist* 46(1).

To submit announcements or newsletter material, please contact
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