



CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR PAPERS

**2009 Annual Conference of the
Western Section of The Wildlife Society
January 21-24, 2009
Sheraton Grand Hotel
Sacramento, CA**

The 2009 conference will be held Wednesday, January 21 through Saturday, January 24. The following schedule is a summary of the conference, workshops, and field trips:

Wednesday, January 21

8:00 to 12:00	Orienteering Workshop
Noon:	Official conference opening
1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.:	Concurrent Sessions
5:00 to 8:00 p.m.:	Welcome mixer, social, and poster session
7:30 to 9:30 p.m.:	Chapter Meetings; 2009 TWS National Conference Arrangements Committee meeting

Thursday, January 22

8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.:	Concurrent Sessions
1:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.:	Plenary Session
5:00 to 6:00 p.m.:	Annual Business Meeting and Member's Forum
7:00 p.m.:	Annual Awards Banquet and Raffle

Friday, January 23

8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.:	Concurrent Sessions
12:00 to 1:30 p.m.:	Student Leadership Lunch and Career Fair
4:30 p.m.:	Western Section Executive Board meeting (all members are welcome)

Saturday, January 24

Field Trips:	To Be Announced
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Conference Theme and Plenary Session

The View from the Future: Wildlife Management Challenges and Opportunities of the Next 100 Years

How is the natural environment of California, Nevada, and Hawaii expected to change in the near future? Can we predict with any certainty how the effects of climate change and human population increase will affect wildlife stewardship in the Western Section's geographic area? What challenges and opportunities do young wildlife biologists face as they consider what the future will bring them?

The Conference Plenary session will bring together experts at forecasting environmental change to describe what the natural environment will look like over the next 100 years. Specifically, speakers will describe their predictions of how habitat conversion, water diversions, and climate change may affect wildlife and their habitat. Students and young professionals embarking on their careers will be asked to prospectively "reflect" on their future work and describe the questions, problems, and opportunities they think will drive wildlife management during their life.

The presentations and panel discussion will stimulate thinking and attempt to focus our collective efforts to identify and meet the most pressing wildlife management challenges of the near future. The plenary session will be held Thursday afternoon. Speakers to be announced.

Concurrent Sessions

This year's concurrent sessions are organized primarily around habitat types, with the addition of several sessions related to techniques used in wildlife research and management. Session titles may be added or changed at a later date. Check www.tws-west.org for an updated list of technical sessions and schedule.

- Coastal Resources (incl. Islands) Management
- Wildlife in Chaparral Habitats
- Wildlife in Herbaceous-dominated Habitats
- Wildlife in Coniferous Forest Ecosystems
- Wildlife in Broad-leafed Forests and Woodlands
- Wildlife in Riparian and Aquatic Habitats
- Wildlife in Alpine and Sub-alpine Habitats
- Wildlife in Desert Ecosystems
- Wildlife in Human-altered Ecosystems (including agricultural, urban, and urban-interface areas)
- Statistical Innovations in Wildlife Research
- Genetics Techniques in Wildlife Research and Management
- Electronic Technology and Field Studies

- Wildlife Diseases
- Hunting and Trapping and Wildlife Conservation and Management
- Posters (covering all topics)

Poster Session

A poster session will be held for the Annual Conference on the evening of Wednesday, January 21, during the welcome mixer and social. Posters will also be available for viewing at other times and locations throughout the week. Those entering a poster for consideration must submit an abstract by November 1, 2008, and clearly indicate that it is a poster presentation. **Posters should be no more than 4 feet high by 4 feet wide. Presenters must bring their own supplies (T-pins, push pins, etc.) to attach posters to the display boards.** Display boards will be provided.

Registration

On-line registration for the Western Section Annual Conference is expected to open approximately October 20, 2008. Visit www.tws-west.org to register.

Special Events

TWS Workshop: Orienteering with Map, Compass, and GPS

Long-time TWS-Western Section member and photographer of wolverines in California, Katie Moriarty, will provide classroom and outdoor instruction on the use of topographic maps, compass, and GPS units to navigate in areas where man-made landmarks are unavailable. The workshop will be held on the morning of Wednesday, January 21. Space is limited. For more information, contact Katie Moriarty (ktmoriarty22@yahoo.com).

California Native Plant Society Workshops

The 2009 Western Section Annual Conference is being held in conjunction with the California Native Plant Society's Conservation Conference with the theme "Strategies and Solutions." This is CNPS's first state-wide conference in many years and they have organized many interesting workshops that are open to non-CNPS members. Workshops are being held on January 20 and 21 immediately preceding the Western Section conference. Workshop information and registration are available at the CNPS website: <http://www.cnps.org/> then navigate to Conference workshops.

Student–Professional Lunch and Career Fair

The Section will host a student–professional lunch and career fair, free to students, at noon on Friday, January 23, 2009. Students will have the opportunity to discuss career

choices, the job market, and job qualifications with practicing professionals from the Western Section. Students should indicate their intent to attend the free lunch when they register for the conference.

To participate in the career fair, please contact the Career Fair coordinator Karen Swaim (kswaim@swaimbio.com). **Space is limited. Those not indicating their intent to attend on the registration form will be accommodated as space allows.**

Annual Raffle & Auction

A raffle and silent auction will be held during the conference banquet on Thursday, January 23. Tickets for the raffle will be available for purchase throughout the conference. Typical donations for the raffle include wine, wildlife artwork, books, travel and field gear. In addition, the Section is seeking, and will offer through the raffle and auction as available, hunting and fishing trips, adventure travel trips, whitewater rafting trips, and similar items. To donate items for the raffle, please contact raffle coordinators Sandra Hunt-von Arb at pnwb@suddenlink.net and Denise Walker-Brown at deniselwalker@hotmail.com.

Résumé Workshop

The Western Section is pleased to announce the return of our résumé workshop! Barbara Peters from the Career Center at Humboldt State University (along with a myriad of other advice-givers from the peanut gallery) will be present (tentatively scheduled for Thursday morning) to offer outstanding guidance on job searching to students and young professionals.

Field Trips

Several field trips are being planned in the Sacramento area for Saturday, January 24, immediately following the conference. Monitor the Western Section website for recommendations, updates, trip schedules, and additional trip information. Additional fees may apply.

Additional Information

Student Travel Grants

A limited number of student travel grants may be available. Contact the Awards and Grants Committee Chair (rburg@parks.ca.gov) for additional details.

Student Volunteers and Registration Reimbursement

Currently enrolled students may qualify for registration refunds in exchange for volunteering time and services at the conference. Typical jobs include assisting at the

registration desk as well as operating PowerPoint and related equipment during presentations. In some cases, students may be able to work in a session they already plan to attend. Additional information is available from the chair of the Student Affairs Committee ktmoriarty22@yahoo.com. Note: Students must pre-register AND pre-pay for the conference. Upon certified completion of a minimum of six hours' volunteer service, a request for reimbursement will be provided.

Professional Development

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

Publication In The Western Section Journal *Transactions*

Presenters of papers at the Western Section's Annual Conference are encouraged to submit their papers for publication in the "Transactions of the Western Section of The Wildlife Society." The Western Section has been continuously publishing these journals as its technical publication of record since 1966. Between 1966 and 2005, a total of 40 volumes and 655 papers have been published in the Transactions. Original papers in the field of wildlife ecology and management, habitat management, conservation biology, and related natural resource topics are published, and all papers of interest to Western Section members are considered for publication, especially those resulting from presentations at the Section's Annual Conference. The Transactions has an open submission policy so that manuscripts can be submitted to the Transactions Editor at any time. However, manuscripts must be submitted by the first day of May of a given year to ensure publication in the volume for that year. Manuscripts submitted after May 1 will be reviewed, but may not be published until the following year. There are **no page charges** for papers published by current members of the Western Section! Potential authors should review the guidelines for preparing and submitting manuscripts on the Section web site at www.tws-west.org or contact the Transactions Editor, John Harris (johnh@mills.edu).

Hotel Information and Accommodations

The 2009 Annual Conference will be held at the Sheraton Grand Sacramento Hotel, 1230 J Street, Sacramento, California. The Sheraton Grand is located a block from the State Capitol Complex in the heart of downtown Sacramento. **Please help keep conference registration rates low by staying in the official conference hotel.**

Phone: (916) 447-1700; Fax: (916) 447-1701

Web site address: <http://www.starwoodhotels.com/sheraton/> then navigate to Sheraton Grand Sacramento

Special per-night room rates for conference attendees:

Room	Single	Double	Triple	Quad
Standard Room	127.00	127.00	152.00	177.00
One-Bedroom Suite	227.00	227.00	252.00	277.00

RESERVATIONS: Reservations must be made by Friday, December 19, 2008, to receive the special rate. Guests can make their reservations in one of several ways.

- By calling **1-800-325-3535**.
- By registering on-line at <http://www.starwoodmeeting.com/StarGroupsWeb/res?id=0809296984&key=88C4F>.
- Guests must identify themselves as members of The Wildlife Society Western Section. All reservations must be guaranteed and accompanied by a first night room deposit or guaranteed with a major credit card.

Transportation

Sacramento is easily accessible from all directions in California. Interstate 80 and US Highway 50 run east/west; Interstate 5 and US Highway 99 run north/south. Sacramento International Airport (SMF) is served by virtually all major airlines with 150+ flights per day. Non-stop and direct flights from throughout the U.S. are available.

Dining

Situated in the heart of downtown Sacramento, you'll find the city's best restaurants within blocks of the hotel. The Sheraton Grand Sacramento includes three restaurants, with upscale California cuisine available at Morgan's Central Valley Bistro, fresh-baked pastries and espresso at Glides Market Café, or enjoy drinks and lounge amidst the numerous couches and overstuffed chairs at the Public Market Bar. Many other restaurants are located within a few blocks walking distance from the hotel.

Call for Papers

All papers associated with the general meeting will be presented Wednesday through Friday, January 21-23.

We are soliciting abstracts for posters and 20-minute oral presentations for the concurrent technical and poster sessions. Abstract content should be consistent with technical session topics listed below, and may consist of either final or interim original research results. The conference program and session chairs will evaluate submitted abstracts to determine final concurrent session topics. In general, presenters should expect to speak for no more than 17 minutes, allowing for an introduction and limited Q&A after each presentation.

Abstract Submissions on-line at www.tws-west.org

The deadline for submission of both Oral Presentation and Poster abstracts is November 1, 2008. Abstracts should not exceed 200 words, excluding title and author addresses, should be in Arial 12-point font, and must adhere to format and layout elements provided in the example below. Indicate the preferred session and whether the paper will be an oral presentation or a poster. Student presentations are eligible for cash awards. **Students should indicate their intent to compete for these awards.**

Please submit abstracts **electronically by filling out the interactive form on the Section website at www.tws-west.org (preferred)** or by sending the files via email to the Program Chair, Scott Osborn (ScottOsbornTWS@gmail.com).

Speakers are expected to register for the conference and cover their travel and lodging expenses. See the Western Section website for registration and other conference information. The following page provides an example of the abstract format.

ABSTRACT FORMAT EXAMPLE

Preferred Session: Wildlife in Riparian and Aquatic Habitats

Type of paper: Oral presentation

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

Paper Title: *Monitoring bats in a restored montane willow meadow*

Szewczak, Joseph M.; Humboldt State University, 1 Harpst St., Arcata, CA, 95521, USA, 707/826-4132, Fax: 707/826-3201, Email: joe@humboldt.edu

During the 1920s, the water table of the Knuthson meadow (Carman Valley, Sierra County, CA) was lowered to facilitate a railroad by diverting the original stream flow into a deeply incised channel. Over time, headward erosion in the diversion channel further lowered the water table across the meadow enabling xeric vegetation to replace much of the original willow-dominant riparian/wet meadow vegetation. Restoration work during 2001 plugged the incised diversion channel and returned the streamflow to its original channel with the intention to restore the meadow's hydrology, vegetation, bio-productivity and wildlife potential, for example to accommodate species of concern such as the endangered willow flycatcher. We monitored bat activity (64 person nights) and species composition (51 person nights) four years prior to the restoration, and three years post-restoration over riparian, willow, and sage-scrub zones of the meadow. In all three zones, activity, and abundance, as reflected by time to asymptote of species accumulation curves, increased significantly 2.4, 6.2, and 11-fold respectively over these zones. The unexpectedly rapid post-restoration increase in bat presence may reflect a transitional increase in insect abundance resulting from the disturbances caused by the restoration work rather than the eventual return to the original mature willow meadow condition.