

North Dakota Chapter The Wildlife Society

2024 Annual Meeting & Workshops

Baymont Inn & Suites, Mandan

February 6-9, 2024



Heroes, Villains, and Victims

The Human Dimension of Wildlife Management

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Thank you to the agencies and organizations that allow their employees to serve their profession: University of North Dakota, North Dakota State University, USDA Wildlife Services, North Dakota Game and Fish Department, Audubon Dakota, USGS Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center, Pheasants Forever, The Nature Conservancy, Ducks Unlimited, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Important Information and Links:

Website

Check out the website for the latest news, events, working group updates and other resources!

<https://ndctws.org/>

Health and Safety Recommendations

The Chapter is committed to ensuring the health and safety of all our conference attendees. The current COVID 19, related variants and other respiratory viruses (Flu, RSV) spread easily through airborne transmission. In addition, the current variants are more infectious than the original virus and can result in reinfections for those who might have been previously infected. Even if you are vaccinated you are still at risk of infection, although probably with reduced risk of severe illness. Some of our members are more vulnerable than others because of age (over 60) or from other health conditions.

As part of our commitment to creating the safest possible environment for our conference, we strongly recommend that all attendees do the following:

- If you are feeling ill, take a rapid COVID test prior to attending a meeting to ensure that you are not carrying the disease.
- Wear a mask in the indoor settings if you are at high risk for severe illness.
- Wash your hands frequently.



2024 NDCTWS Annual Meeting & Workshops

Heroes, Villains, and Victims

February 6-9, 2024

Baymont Inn & Suites Mandan, ND

Tuesday, February 6, 2024

11:00 – 12:00 **Registration** – Main Lobby

1:00-5:00 **Grass Planning Workshop** – Pier 7

2:00-4:00 **Download & Explore NEON Data Workshop** – Cutty Sark
Data and Software assistance is available 12:30-2:00

6:00-9:00 **Meet and Greet**
A casual get together at the lounge for anyone in town for the conference.

Wednesday, February 7, 2024

9:00-12:00 **Executive Board Meeting** – Boardroom

10:00-5:00 **Registration** – Main Lobby

12:00-1:00 **Lunch Break** – On your own

1:00 –1:15 **Welcome & Opening Remarks** – Pier 7
Dr. Robert Newman, NDCTWS President

Heroes, Villains, and Victims

The Human Dimension of Wildlife Management – Pier 7

Moderator: Elisha Mueller

1:15-1:35 **Human/Wildlife Conflicts – Who are Heroes, Villains, and Victims?** Phil Mastrangelo (USDA Wildlife Services, Retired, Mandan, ND)

1:35-1:55 **Navigating conservation efforts through politics.** Jeb Williams, Director - North Dakota Game and Fish Department

1:55-2:15 **Human Interactions with a FWS Special Agent.** Special Agent Kevin Downs, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Bismarck, ND

2:15-2:45 **Hunters in a squeeze: perceptions on increased archery hunting in the Badlands.** Chad Parent* (NDGFD), William Haase (NDGFD), Bruce Stillings (NDGFD)

2:45-3:05 **Merging Traffic and Wildlife through Wildlife Crossings.** Bruce Kreft (NDGDF)

3:05-3:25 **Raptor Translocation in North and South Dakota.** Nicholas Suzda*(USDA-WS Minot AFB), Joshua A. Kuechle (USDA- WS Grand Forks AFB), Tara L. Darby (USDA-WS Ellsworth AFB), and Lynda R. LaFond (5th Bomb Wing CES, USAF, Minot AFB)

3:25-3:40 **Refreshment Break**

3:40-4:00 **Eddy County YouTube Case.** James Myhre (NDGFD)

4:00-4:20 **Working with Landowners to Alleviate Deer Depredation.** Bill Haase (NDGFD)

4:20-4:40 **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Program.** Benjamin Soiseth (USACOE)

4:40-5:00 **Overcoming the Fear of Fire.** Kelli Kuska*(PF), Cara Greger (NDWF)

Housekeeping & Adjourn – Robert Newman, President

5:00-6:00 **UND Alumni Social – Executive 1**
Alumni and friends are invited to join for an evening social. Enjoy complimentary drinks and appetizers and connect with your alma mater.

6:00-10:00 **Fundraising Social, Buffet, & Auction – Pier 7 & The Fleet**

Thursday, February 8, 2024

- 8:00-8:10 **Opening Remarks – Pier 7 – Robert Newman, President**
- 8:10-9:45 **Business Meeting – Old Business (Morning Snack Provided)**
- 9:45-10:00 **2024 Board Candidate Introductions**
- 10:00-10:10 **Refreshment Break & Voting**
- 10:10-11:45 **Passing of the Gavel and Welcome New Board Members**
- 11:45-12:00 **Business Meeting – New Business**
- 12:00-1:20 **Student Professional Luncheon – The Fleet**
Hosted by: Student Liaisons
Sponsored by: MDU
- *Students and professionals will connect with one another over a buffet lunch and group trivia game with the winners receiving goodie bags.*
 - *Current student liaisons will describe position and job duties, then call for 2024-2025 student liaison nominees from the floor.*

Student Session

Student Session – Pier 7

Moderator: Lynda Lafond

- 1:30-1:50 **Cascading Effects of Rangeland Management for Avian Conservation.** Justin Clarke*(NDSU), Torre Hovick (NDSU), Kevin Sedivec (Central Grasslands Research Extension Center), Benjamin Geaumont (Hettinger Research Extension Center), Jason Harmon (NDSU).
- 1:50-2:10 **Evaluation of USDA Wildlife Services Management Efforts at the Grand Forks Wastewater Treatment Plant on Bird Strikes at Grand Forks International Airport.** Dorothy Daulton*(UND), Susan Ellis-Felege (UND), Brian Darby (UND), Javier Lenzi (UND), Morgan Drabik-Hamshare (USDA, APHIS, WS, NWRC), John Paulson (USDA, APHIS, WS)
- 2:10-2:30 **The Rotational Grazing MOO-vement – The Impacts of High Intensity, Short Duration Cattle Grazing on Grassland Nesting Birds in North Dakota.** Taylor Linder*(UND), Marissa Ahlering (TNC), Kaylan Kemick (DU), Susan Felege (UND).
- 2:30-2:50 **Breeding Ecology of Ring-Necked Pheasants in a Dynamic Agroecosystem.** Jacob Yetter*(NDSU), Benjamin Geaumont (Hettinger Research Extension Center), Torre Hovick (NDSU).
- 2:50-3:00 **Refreshment Break**

Poster Session & Judging – Pier 7 and Lobby

3:00-3:50 Posters information can be found on page XX of this agenda.

3:50-4:00 **Housekeeping & Adjourn** - Phil Mastrangelo, President

4:00-6:00 **Professional Women's Social** – The Fleet

6:00-9:00 **Chapter Awards Social and Banquet** – Pier 7

Friday, February 9, 2024

8:00-8:10 **Opening Remarks – Pier 7**

Phil Mastrangelo, NDCTWS President

General Session

General Session – Pier 7

Moderator: Torre Hovick

8:10-9:10 **Panel Discussion – Wetlands**

Moderator: Rick Warhurst

- Dave Azure, USFWS
- John Devney, Delta Waterfowl
- Curt Bradbury, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Randy Renner, Ducks Unlimited
- Jennifer Kross, Ducks Unlimited

9:10-9:30 **Refreshment Break**

9:30-10:30 **Panel Discussion – Early Career Outlooks**

Moderators: Sarah Daman and Amalie Victoria Joergensen

Join us for discussions from early career professionals and hiring officials around building your resume, finding, and obtaining a career in natural resources.

- Taylor Linder, PhD Candidate, UND
- Melissa Schmitt, Assistant Professor, UND
- John Paulson, Previous State Director, USDA/APHIS/ WS
- William Haase, Assistant Chief – Wildlife, NDGFD

10:30-11:00 **International Diplomacy Through Scientific Exchange of Wind-Energy Effects and Mitigation – Embassy Science Fellowship with the U.S. Embassy in Kazakhstan.**

Jill Shaffer*(USGS NPWRC), Todd E. Katzner (USGS FRESC), Elisha Mueller (NDGFD).

Our Beautiful Grasslands

Our Beautiful Grasslands – Pier 7

Moderator: Levi Jacobson

- 11:00-11:20 **Expiration of Conservation Reserve Program Contracts: Do Post-CRP Habitats Maintain some Environmental Benefits for Grassland Birds.** Larry Igl*(USGS NPWRC), Deborah A. Buhl (USGS NPWRC), Max Post van der Burg (USGS NPWRC), and Douglas H. Johnson (USGS NPWRC UofM St. Paul).
- 11:20-11:40 **Wildflower Mineral Status and Nutritional Value: Creating Diverse Rangelands Benefits Livestock and Pollinators.** Kevin Sedivec*(NDSU Central Grasslands Research Extension Center), Sarah Hamilton Buxton (Xerces, NRCS), Rae Powers (Xerces), Jennifer Hopwood (Xerces), and Esben Kjaer (NDSU).
- 11:40-12:00 **Restoring our Roots: An Update on Prairie Reconstruction.** Cami Dixon*(USFWS), Jack Norland (NDSU Retired), Paula Comeau (ND State College of Science), and Kristine Askerooth (USFWS).
- 12:00 **Closing Remarks – Phil Mastrangelo, President**

Workshop I: Grass Planning Workshop

February 6, 2024

1:00pm – 5:00pm – Pier 7

Purpose of Workshop

This facilitated workshop is designed to identify and discuss challenges and barriers facing land managers when restoring grasslands. The workshop will focus on planning and objectives of restorations as well as future management of restored grasslands. The outcome of the workshop will be to identify actionable items to address the challenges.

Introduction and Opening Remarks – NDCTWS President-elect, Phil Mastrangelo

Planning Considerations for grassland restorations – Moderator, Kevin Kading, ND Game and Fish Department, Private Lands Section Leader

- o Facilitated Exercise – What challenges or barriers do you face implementing grass restorations or enhancements?
- o Make Grass Make Cents. Whitney Huesers, USDA-NRCS, Bottineau, ND
- o Measuring Success: Evaluating Native Seedings. Cami Dixon, USFWS
- o Considerations for Seeding Grass on Private Land. Dan Duchscherer, United States Fish and Wildlife Service

Management Considerations for grassland restorations – Moderator, Curt Francis, ND Game and Fish, Private Lands East Region Supervisor

- o Facilitated Exercise – What challenges do you face implementing management?
- o Overcoming our Fear of Fire. Kelli Kuska, Pheasants Forever
- o Challenges of Audubon's Working Lands Programs: Restoration Projects. Charlene (Charli) Kohler Prodzinski, Audubon Great Plains
- o NDGF Grassland Management Strategies: Public & Private Lands. Andrew Ahrens, ND Game and Fish Department

Final discussion/Wrap Up from exercises.

- o Facilitated Exercise – Outcome: Build consensus while identifying actionable items to address barriers.

Workshop II: NEON DATA

February 6, 2024 – Cutty Sark Room

Data Download and Software Assistance 12:30pm – 2:00pm

Workshop: 2:00pm – 4:00pm

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Student Posters

1. **Prospective: Utilization of Photogrammetry in Estimation of Percentage Canopy Cover**– Jacob Reich* (University of Jamestown) and Cherish Bauer-Reich (University of Jamestown)
2. **Sustaining Greater Sage Grouse Populations: Effects of Prescribed Burns in Areas of High Cheatgrass Density** – Antonio Ruiz* (University of Jamestown) and Kathleen Schnaars-Uvino (University of Jamestown)
3. **Duck Response to a Novel Adaptive Visual Deterrent: Applications to Aviation Safety and Conservation** – Brody Salander* (UND), Nicholas Rush* (UND), Morgan Pfeiffer (USDA APHIS-Wildlife Services), Bradley Blackwell (USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services), John Paulson (USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services), Levin Brandt (UND), Javier Lenzi (UND) and Susan Ellis-Felege (UND)
4. **Meningeal Worm in North Dakota Cervids** – Mason Ryckman* (NDGFD), Quynn Steichen (NDSU), Brett Webb (NDSU), Berit Banguoura (University of Wyoming) and Charlie Bahnson (NDGFD)
5. **Monitoring Daily and Seasonal Rhythms of Roosting Blackbirds Using Acoustic Recording Systems and Comparing Signal Intensity with In-Field Blackbird Counts** – Michelle Stagl* (NDSU), Jessica Duttonhefner (NDSU) and Page Klug (USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services)
6. **Reproductive Viability of Greater Sage-grouse x Sharp-tailed Grouse Hybrids** – Cami Wight* (NDGFD), Jesse Kolar (NDGFD), Heidi Pecoraro (NDSU) and Charlie Bahnson (NDGFD)
7. **Have Behavioral Changes in Urban Populations of Wild Turkeys Made Them Unsuitable Candidates for Translocation?** – Rosendo Sosa Chavez* (University of Jamestown) and Kathleen Schnaars Uvino (University of Jamestown)
8. **Thatchy Business: The Role of Thatch in Inhibiting Native Plant Germination** – Esben Kjaer* (NDSU), Torre Hovick (NDSU), Shawn DeKeyser (NDSU), Samiran Banerjee (NDSU) and Kevin Sedivec (NDSU Extension)
9. **Quantifying Diversity Effects in Conservation Reserve Program Grasslands Using Diversity-Interaction Models**– Jacob Knappek* (UND), Laura Byrne (Trinity College Dublin), Samia Hamati (UND), Brian Darby (UND), Caroline Brophy (Trinity College Dublin) and Kathryn Yurkonis (UND)
10. **Nematode Associated with Grassland Restoration** – Ellayna LaFond* (UND), Samia Hamati (UND), Kathryn Yurkonis (UND) and Brian Darby (UND)
11. **For Herds and Birds: Understanding Rancher Motivations in Rotational Grazing Systems** – Taylor Linder* (UND), Kaylan Kemink (Ducks Unlimited), Marissa Ahlering (TNC), Susan Ellis-Felege (UND) and Christopher Felege (UND)
12. **Population Genetics of Deer in the Northern Great Plains, USA** – Sarah Daman* (UND), Ethan Baker (UND), William Jensen (NDGFD), Charlie Bahnson (NDGFD), Susan Ellis-Felege (UND) and Brian Darby (UND)
13. **Impacts of Invasive Cool-Season Grasses on Herbage Production and Plant Community Composition on Rangelands in Mixed Grass Prairie** – Lexi Edwards* (NDSU), Kevin Sedivec (NDSU Extension), Ryan Limb (Former NDSU) and Esben Kjaer (NDSU)
14. **Phytodesalination: Remediation of Salt Affected Soil Using Halophytes** – Eric Evans*(University of Jamestown) and Kathleen Schnaars Uvino (University of Jamestown)
15. **Harmful Algal Bloom Results in Waterfowl and Shorebird Mortality Event in Grand Forks, North Dakota** – Nicholas Rush* (UND), Dorothy Daulton (USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services), Veronica Batalia (City of Grand Forks), Colin Borgen (City of Grand Forks), Levin Brandt (UND), Brody Salander (UND), Charlie Bahnson (NDGFD) and Susan Ellis-Felege (UND)
16. **Best Bird for Buck? Evaluating the Influence of a Grassland Restoration Program on Bird Diversity in North Dakota** – Ashlyn Herron* (UND), Kevin Kading (NDGFD), Greg Link (NDGFD), Sandra Johnson (NDGFD), Susan Ellis-Felege (UND) and Andy Boyce (Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute)

17. **Effects of Extended Drone Hazing on Blackbird and Raptor Behavior in North Dakota Sunflower Fields** – Jessica Kading* (NDSU), Timothy Greives (NDSU) and Page Klug (USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services)
18. **Influence of Row Crops and Rangelands on Amphibian Communities in Wetlands of the Prairie Pothole Region** – Bailey Coffelt* (NDSU), Kevin Sedivec (NDSU Extension), Torre Hovick (NDSU), Travis Seaborn (NDSU) and John Hendrickson (USDA-ARS)
19. **Genetic Epidemiology of Northern Great Plains Deer** – Ethan Baker* (UND), Sarah Daman (UND), Susan Ellis-Felege (UND), William Jensen (NDGFD), Charlie Bahnson (NDGFD) and Brian Darby (UND)
20. **Effects of Uncrewed Aircraft Systems (UAS) Size and Speed of Approach on Territorial Red-winged Blackbirds** – Taylor Aliferis* (NDSU) and Page Klug (USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services)
21. **Revegetation** – Myranda Bender* (University of Jamestown), Bonnie Thompson* (University of Jamestown), Robert Rockwell (AMNH) and Kathleen Schnaars Uvino (University of Jamestown)
22. **Exploring Novel Genetic Resources: Evaluating Effectiveness of Culling to Manage CWD in Endemic Areas** – Alec Christensen* (NDSU), Michelle Carstensen (MNDNR), Emily Latch (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee) and Travis Seaborn (NDSU)
23. **Small Mammal Occurrence as an Attractant that Increases Risk of Raptors Colliding with Aircraft at the Grand Forks Air Force Base in North Dakota** – Levin Brandt* (UND), Jacob Knutsen (UND), Hunter Beckert (UND), Javier Lenzi (UND) and Susan Ellis-Felege (UND)
24. **Impact of Habitat on Reproductive Success in Walleye (*Sander vitreus*)** – Jarek Berger (University of Jamestown) and Kathleen Schnaars Uvino (University of Jamestown)
25. **Surrounding Landscape Composition Effects on Wild Bee Communities Across North Dakota** – Brandon Narum* (UND), Haochi Zheng (UND), C.K. Pei (UND), Jeffery VanLooy (UND) and Torre Hovick (NDSU)
26. **Know thy Enemy: Using Drones to Evaluate Composition and Size of Blackbird Flocks Foraging in Commercial Sunflower** – Jessica Duttonhefner* (NDSU), Abdelrahman Elsaid (University of North Carolina), Timothy Greives (NDSU) and Page Klug (USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services)
27. **The Potential Interactions of Honey Bees and Native Bees in Cattle Grazed Rangelands** - Bethany Robertson* (NDSU), Jason Harmon (NDSU), Torre Hovick (NDSU), Kevin Sedivec (NDSU) and Benjamin Geaumont (NDSU Extension)
28. **Influences of a High Stocking Rate During Different Growing Season Periods on Plant Community Composition of Smooth Brome (*Bromus inermis*) Dominated Rangeland** – Zachary Johnson* (NDSU), Shawn DeKeyser (NDSU), Kevin Sedivec (NDSU), Cami Dixon (USFWS), and Breanna Kobiela (NDSU).

Professional Posters

29. **Seasonal and Breeding Phenologies of 38 Grassland Bird Species in the Midcontinent of North America and North Dakota** – Garrett MacDonald* (USGS Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center), Michael Anteau (USGS Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center), Kristen Ellis (USGS Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center), Lawrence Igl (USGS Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center), Neil Niemuth (USFWS-HAPET) and Josh Vest (USFWS-PPJV)
30. **Forecasting eco-evolutionary responses (FEER) to changing environments in subspecies of Sharp-tailed Grouse** – Travis Seaborn* (NDSU), Morgan Calahan (BSU), and Stephanie J. Galla (BSU)



North Dakota Chapter

THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

P.O. Box 1442 • Bismarck, ND 58502

NDCTWS 2024 Annual Business Meeting Agenda

February 8, 2024 – 8:00 AM-12:00 PM

2024 Annual Business Meeting Agenda

8:10 am - Business Meeting Called to Order

8:15 am - New Member Approval (if necessary)

8:20 am - Old Business

- I. Approval of 2023 Business Meeting Minutes
- II. Review 2023 Budget and Finances (Alex Rischette)
- III. Approval of 2024 Budget
- IV. Membership Dues
- V. CMPS News – CMPS Liaison (Rick Warhurst)
- VI. TWS News – Council Representative for CMPS (Andrea Orabona)

9:00 am – Standing Committee Reports – Written (all) or Oral (if necessary)

- I. Nominations and Elections – Rachel Bush
 - a. We DO NOT have a President-Elect Candidate
- II. Program – Rachel Bush
- III. Membership – Bethany Robertson
- IV. Legislative Committee – Bob Newman
 - Paying for a lobbyist – (Phil Mastrangelo)
- V. Education and Information Outreach –
- VI. Resolutions and Public Statements – Bob Newman
- VII. Audit – Chad Parent

– Other Committee Reports -These committee reports will be provided to the membership in written form.

- I. Professional Women in Natural Resources – Rachel or Cami
- II. Finance Committee – Mike Goos
- III. Fundraising Report – Alegra Powers/Andy Dinges ?
- IV. ND Natural Resources Trust – Randy Renner
- V. Student Liaison Report – Sarah Daman & Amalie Joergensen
- VI. Arrangements – Rachel Bush
- VII. Communications – Hanna Edens
- VIII. Law Enforcement – Jackie Lundstrom
- IX. ND Action Group – Rick Warhurst
- X. Awards (Updates or Changes, if necessary) – Phil Mastrangelo

XI. Bylaws (if necessary) – Phil Mastrangelo

9:45 am - Preparation for 2024 Elections

- I. Introduction of Executive Board Candidates**
- II. Call for Nominations from the Floor**
- III. Introduction of President-Elect Candidates**
- IV. Call for Nominations from the Floor**

10:00 am - Break/ Vote

10:10 am - Working Group Updates

priorities include:

- a) Creating a space for wildlife professionals to connect
- b) Being a voice for wildlife and wild places in North Dakota.

Each group is overseen by Board members to help provide direction and maintain activity and serve as the liaison between the group and the Board. We realize every member may not be moved to join one of these workgroups, what we want to do is provide space and direction for members that do wish to be engaged in meaningful work.

- I. Member Engagement - Jesse**
- II. Applied Sciences – Clint/other**
- III. Student Engagement - Page**
- IV. Wildlife Conservation in Action – Sarah/other**

11:10 am – New Business

- I. Passing of the Gavel to Phil Mastrangelo**
- II. Election Results**
- III. Proposed Bylaw Change (if any)**
- IV. Call for New Business from the Floor**

12:00 pm - Adjourn

Meet your NDCTWS President-Elect nominees.

"What really matters from the point of view of social capital and civic engagement is not merely nominal membership, but active and involved membership." ~ Robert D. Putnam

Meet your NDCTWS Executive Board nominees.

Torre Hovick

Torre currently serves as an association professor of rangeland wildlife ecology at North Dakota State University. He received his BS at the University of Northern Iowa in biology, MS at Iowa State in wildlife ecology, and PhD at Oklahoma State University in wildlife ecology. Torre joined NDSU in 2014 and during his time there his research program has primarily focused on managing wildlife populations in working rangelands. Both his MS and PhD research focused on the influence of restored disturbance regimes (interacting fire and grazing) on native grassland bird communities. Torre's interests are focused on maximizing production and conservation in working landscapes and promoting ecosystem services to all North Dakotans. He believes The Wildlife Society is a great avenue to improve our future natural resource leaders and to help promote the importance of wildlife to the state of North Dakota. When not doing research, Torre enjoys taking photos of wildlife and spending time outdoors with his two daughters. As both a researcher and recreationalist in the state of North Dakota, it is my goal to increase and improve outreach and education opportunities about our natural resources with the goal of improving conservation of biodiversity and the ecosystem services it provides to North Dakotans.



Lynda LaFond

Lynda is the new Natural and Cultural Resources Manager at Minot Air Force Base. This position blends Lynda's passion for wildlife and desire to serve with the armed forces. Lynda began her professional life serving in the United States Air Force for nearly 10 years, which includes tours in Turkey and Iraq and duty stations in Okinawa, New Mexico, Nevada, and Arizona. After separation, Lynda went on to pursue a career in Wildlife Management on military lands. She received her BS in Wildlife Biology and MS in Biology at Bemidji State University and a PhD in Biology at the University of North Dakota. Her MS research focused on small mammal habitat use on Grand Force Air Force Base and her PhD research focused on small mammal community ecology in salt-affected grasslands. Lynda joined the team at Minot Air Force Base in 2023 where she and her team have worked to increase outdoor recreation opportunities for military members and their families, reduce human/wildlife conflict and increase biodiversity on military lands while supporting the military mission. Lynda has been an active member of The Wildlife Society in Minnesota and North Dakota since 2012. She celebrates that the Wildlife Society is a highly adaptive organization that diligently works to promote interagency collaborations addressing the many facets of wildlife stewardship while engaging the next generation of wildlife professionals. When not doing research or managing base wildlife, Lynda enjoys gardening, hunting with her blue heeler Koda, bird watching, and any other activity that keeps her outside. 'My goal as a wildlife professional is to promote native species biodiversity, create outdoor opportunities with mentorship to engage military members in North Dakota's natural resources, and advocate for more tribal engagement in wildlife law and policy planning.



Levi Jacobson

I'm Levi Jacobson, I work for the North Dakota Game and Fish Department as the Wildlife Resource Management Supervisor in the south-central part of the state. I have been with the Department for over 15 years and have occupied many different roles ranging from seasonal to supervisor. Currently I oversee 9 counties and the management of about 33k acres of Wildlife Management Areas that the Department owns or leases. I grew up on a farm and ranch by Warwick, North Dakota and received my BS from the University of North Dakota. I currently reside in Bismarck with my wife and three daughters. When I am not working, I am typically out enjoying North Dakota's natural resources whether it is fishing with the family, chasing mule deer with a bow and arrow, or following my dog looking for pheasants.



Statement of Intent:

After being a NDTWS member and attending the annual meetings for the past 15 years, I would like to increase my involvement with the chapter. I feel that the chapter needs member involvement to continue to be a strong organization. Being an avid outdoorsman, I am extremely passionate about North Dakota's wildlife and the habitats they occupy. As a board member I will work to keep student involvement a priority, they are essential for future conservation in this state. I would also encourage the chapter to maintain its voice for wildlife and natural resources in areas where others may not have a voice.

Elisha Mueller

Current Position: Conservation Biologist, NDGFD

TWS Chapter Roles & Activities: Member since 2017, Secretary 2019-2022, member of the Conservation in Action workgroup

Statement to Membership: I am sure many of you remember me from my time as secretary on the Board, so I will keep this short and to the point! I think there is great value in the North Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society, but that value can only be realized when we all step up and volunteer our time to keep this machine running. The Chapter serves an extremely important role in this state, it is a voice for wildlife and the wild places they depend on. In a state where the loudest voices



don't often align with our own, it is vital that our voice is not lost. So, though I feel as if I just stepped down from the board not long ago, I was happy to add my name into the running when asked. However, there are many wonderful members and volunteers in this Chapter, so I would be remiss if I did not encourage you to first consider other nominees over me. As a recent member of the board, I am happy to stand aside while others have a turn until I am needed again. I would not want to take the opportunity away from someone, as I was already given the opportunity to serve the board not long ago.