

The Wildlife Society

BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY WORKING GROUP

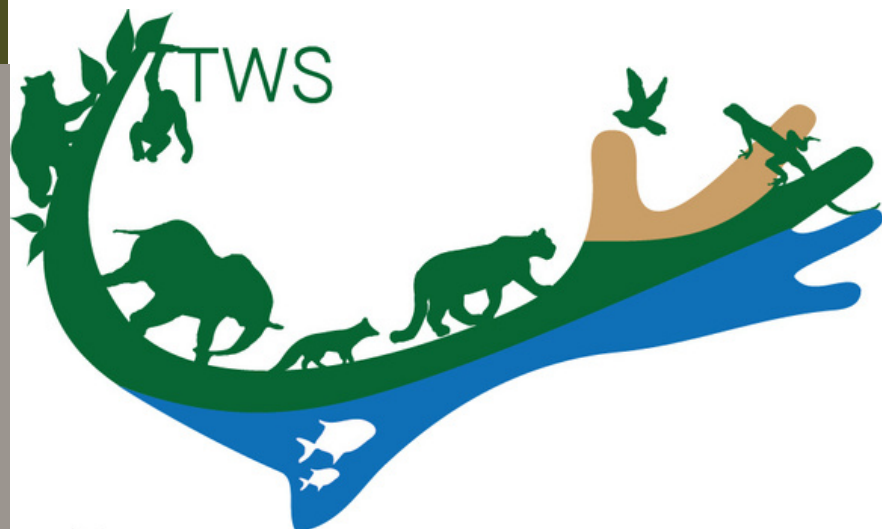
March Newsletter 2023

The Mission of the Biological Diversity Working Group is to improve conservation of biological diversity as an integral part of ecosystem management and sustainable development and use of natural resources. This is accomplished by facilitating study and transfer of information within and outside of The Wildlife Society relative to maintenance and enhancement of the variety and variability of native living organisms, and the ecological complexes in which they occur. Of necessity, the Working Group's scope encompasses genetic, species, community, and ecosystem/landscape scales.

2022 Year in Review

The BDWG had a successful year, thanks to all our members! We would like to share some of those accomplishments with you:

- Reviewed and Provided Input to TWS Rangeland Livestock Grazing Position Statement
- Reviewed and Provided Input to TWS Lead in Ammunition and Fishing Tackle Position Statement
- Actively developing DEI Article for submission to Wildlife Professional
- Organized two Webinars conducted by Dr. Joseph Drake and Dr. Rebecca (Becky) Flitcroft
- 2022 TWS Conference - Sponsored two Symposia, a Field Trip/Workshop, and a Workshop.



Biological Diversity Working Group

Officers:

Chair - Angie Larsen-Gray

Past Chair - Annika Keeley

Chair-elect - Greg Smith

Secretary - Mary Hiney

Treasurer - Joe Drake

Board Members - Mark Nelson & Eric Stitt

Connect with us!

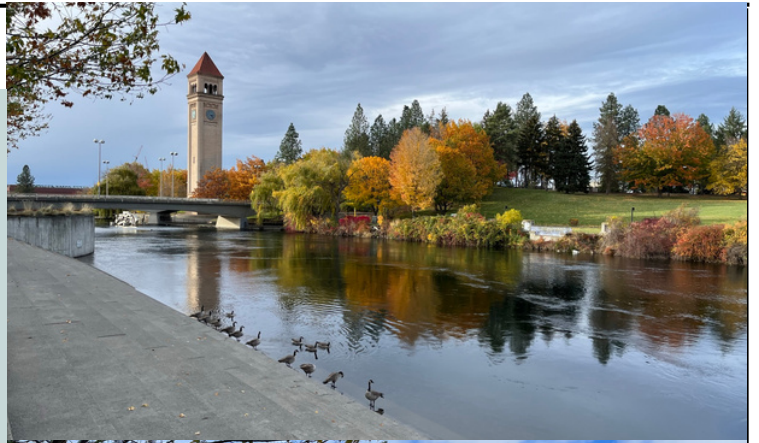
<https://www.facebook.com/BiodiversityWG/>

https://twitter.com/TWS_BDWG

<https://wildlife.org/bdwg/>

TWS Conference

All photos are courtesy of Angie Larsen-Gray. The weather changed quickly in Spokane, WA as you can see it looked like fall (top right) one day and winter (bottom right) the next day. Bottom left is Forestry for Wildlifers Workshop.



BDWG Newest Member



My name is Aaron Cranford. I earned a B.A. in Psychology with a minor in Biological Science in 2010 and a M.S. in Environmental Studies in 2013. Both degrees are from Ohio University in my hometown of Athens, Ohio. I am currently working through my transition out of the Marine Corps after eight years of service. I will be starting a four-month internship in April 2023 with the Fish and Wildlife Service out of the Savannah Coastal Refuge Complex. I am planning on earning a M.S. in Wildlife Science from Oregon State starting in Sep 2023. In my leisure time I enjoy mountain biking, hiking, photography, kayaking, darts, and exploring my local urban areas on foot and on bike.

Photo courtesy of Aaron Cranford.



In this photo the bee on my hand is *Osmia lignaria*, the blue orchard mason bee. It is an economically important super-pollinator (one blue orchard bee will pollinate as much as 120 honeybees in her lifetime), and pollinates orchard crops such as apple and cherry.

This particular bee is one I reared in the laboratory and I'm releasing it.



Commentary and photo provided by Dr. Christine Cairns Fortuin, Mississippi State University.

STANDING ROCK TRIBE, USFWS AND NEW CENTURY RELEASE ENDANGERED FERRETS ON RESERVATION

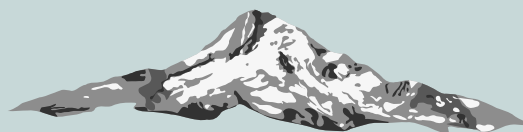


USFWS collaborated with the Department of the Tribal Game & Fish Department, to release ferrets on the South Dakota portion of the reservation, south of McIntosch SD, where expansive prairie dog towns meet suitable living requirements for black-footed ferret, the most endangered mammal in the United States.

The black-footed ferret is a small to medium-sized carnivore. Female black-footed ferrets range in weight from 645–850 grams. Their fur is yellowish-buff with pale under parts. Their forehead, muzzle, and throat are white, and their feet are black. A black mask is observed around the eyes, which is well defined in young black-footed ferrets. It is the only ferret species native to the Americas, and there are no recognized subspecies.

At present, known ferret populations exist only at reintroduction sites where introduced populations remain small, fragmented, and intensively managed with only a few of these introduced populations producing wild-born adults. As a result of the bottleneck of the captive breeding program, black-footed ferrets have lost 90% of their genetic diversity.

The long term goal for the Tribe is to maintain control for black-tailed prairie dogs in an area primarily used for cattle grazing, and the Service's goals are to eventually save the ferret from extinction, expanding the ferret's range into this part of South Dakota.



Michael P. Gutzmer, PhD is principal and owner of New Century Environmental LLC and provides environmental consulting services in the Great Plains. NCE works with water, wetlands, habitat development threatened and endangered species and pollution problems. Dr. Gutzmer has been the tribal biologist for Standing Rock for 10 years.

Erik Beever



Top left: Near Smith Lake, E. Humboldt Range, northeast Nevada (East Humboldt Wilderness Area), American pika (*Ochotona princeps*).

Middle left: Interesting geological layers, E. Humboldt Range, northeast Nevada (East Humboldt Wilderness Area).

Bottom left: Mountain goats, which were introduced into the E. Humboldt Range, northeast Nevada (East Humboldt Wilderness Area, above Boulder Lake).

Top and bottom right: Looking down Thomas Canyon, from the Ruby Mountains Wilderness Area into the Lamoille Canyon National Scenic Byway. **Erik has researched wildlife in the Canyon and other areas across the western**

USA since 1994.

Request Member Input



- Are you interested in getting more involved in our ongoing action items? Please contact us at twsbdwg@gmail.com regarding any topic below, or if there is a new topic you would like to bring to our attention.
- DEI Article - This article addresses the scientific racism that has historically occurred within the wildlife profession. We aim to submit this to the Wildlife Professional upon completion.
- Genetically Modified Wildlife - Would like to provide expert advice regarding genetically modified wildlife? We have teamed up with the Molecular Ecology Working Group to assist TWS in this topic.



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media!

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BDWG MERCH



The BDWG has an online shop **dedicated to raising funds for the student travel grants.** We have a baseball shirt, t-shirt, colorblock hoodie, drawstring bag, sticker, and baseball cap for sale.



TWS BDWG logo - Organic Baseball Cap
\$20.99

To get your swag, please
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