

2018 ANNUAL REPORT



NATIVE AMERICAN FISH AND WILDLIFE SOCIETY

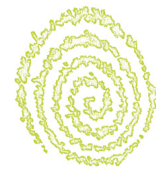


OUR MISSION

The mission of the Native American Fish & Wildlife Society is to assist Native American and Alaska Native tribes with the conservation, protection, and enhancement of their fish, wildlife, habitat, and cultural resources. As a 501 (c) (3) public charitable, non-profit Colorado Corporation, all contributions are tax-deductible in accordance with Internal Revenue Service regulations.

Native American Fish & Wildlife Society, 8515 Pearl St., Ste. 203, Thornton, CO 80229

www.nafws.org



OUR PURPOSE

The purposes of the NAFWS are charitable, educational, scientific and cultural as well as the following:

- To assist in the facilitation and coordination of inter-tribal communication in regards to fish and wildlife matters, including treaty rights issues, court cases related to fish and wildlife, hunting, or fishing regulations;
 - To protect, preserve and conserve the wise use and management of tribal fish, wildlife, and recreational resources;
- To educate Native Americans involved in fish and wildlife management, policy, decision-makers, community members and others similarly dedicated to tribal natural resource management of the best natural resource management practices;
- To provide administrative support, expertise and advice to tribal governments, relating to tribal fish, wildlife enhancement activities;
- To improve the general welfare of tribal people through educational, charitable, as well as fish and wildlife enhancement activities, and;
- To provide professional publications and pro-motional activities for disseminating pertinent information regarding Native American fish and wildlife resources to Society members, Indian and non-Indian organizations, public officials, and the general public.

Credits: Cover photo, Andrew Stickleman
Graphics: Pat D.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The NAFWS board of directors and staff came together in 2017 to establish a strategic plan. One of the first things to do was to establish an organizational identity and a purpose which was acknowledged that: We exist to empower effective fish and wildlife protection, preservation, and conservation on tribal lands.

With the strategic plan developed in late 2017, it needed to be implemented. In the process of developing the plan, there were four areas identified that the NAFWS could follow and would provide a direction with priorities.

The Strategic Plan for the organization included these four strategic priorities which address the main areas to focus: Organization, Financial Management, Member Value, and Training.

Within each strategic priority are 2-3 year goals. For the Organizational priority: it is to Improve Operations and Organizational Structure for staff development, board development, and membership engagement database.

In the Financial Management area: will be to Control Financial Situation and Increase Funding for a sustainable funding stream and an endowment.

For the Member Value: it is to Ensure Member Value to increase understanding of memberships, members to share knowledge, goals, and resources for best practices, and establish a process and structure for regional and national working groups to increase collaborative priorities.

In the area of Training: will be to Enhance Training and Education Opportunities so to identify needs and share resources, establish partnerships for training opportunities, and utilize multiple avenues of communication.

TRAINING AND SUPPORT

for Tribal Conservation Law Enforcement Officers



Making strides in 2018 with the training and certification of tribal conservation law enforcement officers remains a key area for the future. The NAFWS partners with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to plan, assist with coordinating and supporting the training events where the officers are being trained.

40 hour training - 93 Tribal officers were trained in 2018 representing 37 Tribes

This task has been at the forefront of the NAFWS for many years and since the NAFWS Strategic Plan that was developed in 2016-2017, one of the priorities is to enhance training in the area of conservation law enforcement training.

Two Regions
Southwest and Great Lakes held CLEO trainings at their regional events

Two 40-hr. trainings were held in Montana and New Mexico.

Our partners,
the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and
the Bureau of Indian Affairs make it possible to
train tribal officers.

The training is provided by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Law Enforcement personnel that meet the needs in the areas of firearms qualifications, conservation law, feather identification, wildlife forensics, wildlife human attack responder training, low-light shooting, post critical incident management, CPR, defensive tactics, evidence and scene basics, entomology, DNA and scene investigation, feral horse management, and use of deer decoys.



MAKING A DIFFERENCE



RECOGNITIONS

Awarding those in Indian country who are making a difference in their field of work, particularly in natural resources management, biological work, and protection of natural resources has been at the center of assisting tribes to promote excellence and recognition for outstanding work. The NAFWS Regions also present awards at their regional conferences such as the Great Lakes Region.

CHIEF SEALTH AWARD

The Chief Sealth award is the NAFWS's tribute to tribal natural resource managers who have dedicated years toward improving tribal natural resources at their tribe. They have made a significant and positive impact upon tribal natural resources.

Since 1997, twenty-five tribal natural resource managers have been awarded the Chief Sealth Award.

BIOLOGIST OF THE YEAR AWARD

This award is presented to a tribal biologist whose work exemplifies dedication and hard work. Their work as a biologist may include traditional/indigenous ecological and cultural knowledge and experience and they have made an impact in preserving and/or protecting important fish or wildlife species or habitats.

Since 1999, fourteen tribal biologists have been awarded the Biologist of the Year Award.

CONSERVATION LAW OFFICER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Tribal conservation law enforcement officers play a crucial role in protecting, preserving tribal natural resources. Their work and dedication is paramount to species habitat conservation and protection. Tribal officers are awarded for exemplary work.

Since 1995, twenty conservation law enforcement officers have been awarded.

FUTURE TRIBAL MANAGERS

SUMMER YOUTH PRACTICUMS



Providing youth educational summer camps for Native American high school students is one of the NAFWS's key projects since the early 1990's when the organization was in its early development. The students are recruited to gain their interest in the field of natural resources.

2018 SOUTHWEST REGION SUMMER YOUTH PRACTICUM

The NAFWS Southwest Region held a natural resources summer youth practicum in June 2018 at the Rio Mora National Wildlife Refuge in Watrous, NM.

The Region coordinated this practicum with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife staff and interns at the wildlife refuge who assisted with giving presentations, teaching classes, and provided hikes and learning experiences for the students.

Students were introduced to a wide array of natural resource expertise through the curriculum and several of the Native American instructors and natural resource managers.

NAFWS NATIONAL SUMMER YOUTH PRACTICUM

The National NAFWS Summer Youth Practicum was not held in 2018. It was postponed to the summer of 2019.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Four college students were awarded scholarships in 2018. The students that were awarded scholarships are pursuing undergraduate and graduate degrees in the field of natural resources, science, or the environment.

In 2018, the Southwest (2) students were awarded, Southeast (1) student, and the Great Lakes (1) student.

The Southwest Region Youth Practicum hosted 14 high school students from New Mexico, Arizona, and Nevada.

ANNUAL NATIONAL GATHERING

36TH Annual NAFWS National Conference



The annual national conference creates an ongoing information exchange, networking, and continued partnerships that have sustained through the years. Each year's conference agenda reflect the diversity and needed information that is shared by the tribes and other organizations in the diverse field of natural resources. Topics at the conferences include tribal projects and issues most important to tribes.

The 2018 National Conference was sponsored by the NAFWS Northeast Region and hosted by the Narragansett Tribe in Warwick, Rhode Island.

The opening keynote was presented by a former NAFWS Environmental Awareness Summer Youth Practicum participant in 2001-2003 in Colorado and who serves on the Narragansett Indian Tribal Council.

A guest keynote was given by USFWS Northeast Region Director and the National Wildlife Federation addressed the membership about the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA) encouraging tribes to write letters to their congressional representatives so that the bill will have tribal language included in it.

The conference included a traditional feast hosted by the Narragansett Indian Tribe, national conservation officers shoot competition, law enforcement training, a field trip to a national wildlife refuge, awards ceremony, and banquet/auction.

The 2018
National Conference was attended
by 83 participants.

The conference
agenda included 22 concurrent sessions
in fisheries and wildlife management,
youth panels and climate change.

Partner organizations
and tribes that gave presentations were the
U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service,
USDA-APHIS, National Wildlife Federation,
and six tribes from the Northeast.

REGIONAL GATHERINGS

Conferences at the Regions



NAFWS regional conferences are held by each of the seven regions of the NAFWS. Regional conferences are opportunities for tribes and others within each region to share natural resources information, programs, and successful methods of management.

NAFWS Regional Conferences

2018 Great Lakes Regional Conference was hosted by the Pokagan Band of Potawatomi, New Buffalo, MI. This was the 31st annual Great Lakes Regional Conference. It was held September 23-26, 2018 at the Four Winds New Buffalo Hotel and Casino. There were at least 70 people in attendance.

Great Plains Regional Conference was held August 21-24, 2018 in Hankinson, ND and was hosted by the Sisseton Wapeton-Oyate Tribe.

32nd Southwest Region Conference was held at Ignacio, CO and hosted by the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, August 13-16, 2018. It was attended by 110 participants representing tribes in the Southwest region as well as government and non-government agencies, and other non-profit organizations. The theme for the conference was, *Strengthening Our Values by Reconnecting to the Land*.

The *2018 Pacific Region conference* was held October 23-25, 2018 at the Wildhorse Resort

Casino and was hosted by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation in Pendleton, OR. It was attended by 15 participants.

The *Alaska Region* had a regional meeting November 28, 2018 in Anchorage, AK during the annual BIA Providers Conference. The meeting was attended by six participants and the group elected a new board representative and an alternate.

The *Northeast Region* held an election and meeting during the 2018 NAFWS national conference in Warwick, RI in May 2018.

Regional
conferences were attended by at least
250 participants

PARTNERSHIPS & RESOLUTIONS

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

USDA FOREST SERVICE

The USDA Forest Service allocated funds for the NAFWS National Summer Youth Practicum.

USDA-APHIS OFFICE OF NATIONAL TRIBAL LIAISON

The USDA-APHIS has for years provided assistance to the NAFWS for national conference support.

WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBAL YOUTH MEXICAN WOLF PROGRAM

The wolf program at White Mountain Apache Tribe was supported with \$1,274 by the Southwest Region to assist with recovery and management of endangered Mexican gray wolves to their homelands. Youth interns were also supported in the recovery efforts.

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

The BIA, an NAFWS partner has funded the organization since it was established. Numerous funding opportunities have been funded by the BIA. In 2018, a BIA Resilience Program grant was awarded to the Southwest Region to fund Southwest members to attend the 2019 National Conference and the Adaptation Planning Session for all tribes.

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

NAFWS members have participated in the Native American Policy Implementation Plan through meetings and the update sessions on the Plan have been held during the NAFWS' 2018 national conference and Southwest Region Conference.

The NAFWS and the USFWS worked cooperatively to host a Native American tribal conservation law enforcement officers training in July 2018 in New Mexico.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION

The Southwest Region initiated a working group to determine how to enhance and improve the quality of habitat on Federal Lands under the management jurisdiction of the DOI. The NAFWS utilized its connections to the tribes to address questions that could be responded to during the 2019 NAFWS National Conference in light of the Legislation that is going to be introduced in Congress for the Wildlife Corridor Bill.

ALABAMA FIRE COLLEGE

Tribes are particularly the focus for training by the Alabama Fire College, Workplace Safety Training in the area of HazMat Awareness or those who are the first on scene of an emergency chemical release. The NAFWS disseminates information through its website, newsletters, and brochures at national and regional conferences.

SOUTHWEST NATIVE AMERICAN WORKSHOP ON BATS

A workshop on bats was held in the Southwest Region in June 2018 and was supported by the NAFWS Southwest Region.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED IN 2018

In 2018, the NAFWS Southwest Region passed two resolutions during the Regional conference in August 2018 held at the Southern Ute Indian Reservation. The first resolution is titled, 2019 BIA Tribal Youth Initiative Funding and supports the funding request for the Southwest Region Youth Practicum for 2019 in the amount of \$25,000.

The second resolution passed during the Southwest Region Conference is titled, 2019 BIA Trust Services - Tribal Resilience Program that requests \$15,000 under the BIA Trust Services to support travel for tribes to participate in Climate Change Adaptation Planning.

RESOLUTION FOR AMERICAN EXPRESS BUSINESS CREDIT CARD

This Resolution for American Express Business Card was passed at the NAFWS board meeting on 5/6/2018 which requests that all NAFWS officers (President, Vice-President, and Secretary/Treasurer) be added to the American Express Credit Card in May of each year, beginning in 2018.

SUPPORT FOR DEDICATED FEDERAL FUNDING TO RECOVER WILDLIFE

This Resolution to Support for Dedicated Federal Funding to Recover Wildlife was passed on 05/08/2018 at the NAFWS Business Meeting during the NAFWS National Conference. The resolution supports the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA) for recovery of fish and wildlife species and preventing them from becoming endangered by dedicating \$1.3 billion annually using existing revenue from the development of energy and mineral resources on federal lands and waters.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

Sharing of Information



PUBLIC INFORMATION

The NAFWS website (www.nafws.org) shares information with the general public and its members through sharing news, events, and opportunities of value to tribes. The website is part of our efforts as a non-profit Native American organization to inform and provide updates, current initiatives being worked on such as Resolutions and news releases.

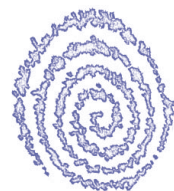
The NAFWS updated the website in 2018 with a changed front page and simplified content links. Further changes are consistently being made. We appreciate all those who contribute news and information such as the tribes, government agencies, tribal fish and wildlife commissions, Native American non-profits, and regions of the NAFWS, we are thankful.

The NAFWS continues to publish its newsletter, *From the Eagle's Nest* in which are disseminated through email. The NAFWS newsletters provide information to inform, educate, and make information available for tribes and that they may find important especially if it relates to tribal natural resources management.

The newsletters reach those who register at the NAFWS conferences and those who subscribe

to be members through the website and those who attend regional conferences.

The social media platform (Facebook) is used to announce NAFWS conferences, events, jobs, available opportunities and for sharing photos and videos of NAFWS events. This has become an important way to advertise for the organization. There is also a YouTube video platform to show case slideshows of events or projects.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF



Donald J. Reiter, Great Lakes Region, Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, Wildlife Biologist, Menominee Conservation Department. He was elected as President by the Board of Directors beginning in 2016-2018.

Terry Metoxen, Great Lakes Region, Oneida Tribe, Senior Warden, Oneida Nation Conservation Department.

Elveda Martinez, Southwest Region, works with the Walker River Paiute Tribe as Water Resources Coordinator. She served as Vice President in 2014-2015, and was elected as Secretary-Treasurer to the Board of Directors in 2016 and in 2017.

Darren Talayumptewa, Southwest Region, Program Manager, Hopi Tribe, Wildlife & Ecosystems Management Program.

Mike LaVoie, Southeast Region, a biologist, works as the Natural Resources Program Manager with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. He was elected vice-president of the Board in 2016-2018.

Mitzi Reed, Southeast Region, was elected secretary-treasurer of the Board in 2018 and works as a biologist with the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, Department of Natural Resources.

David Wolf, Pacific Region, Fisheries Technician, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. He served as President of the Board in 2014-2015 and resigned from the Board in October 2018.

Ted Lamebull, Pacific Region, Conservation Law Officer with the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission.

Charles Prince, Alaska Region, is from the Algaaciq Native Village, Alaska. Works as an environmental coordinator, EPA/GAP Department.

Orville Huntington, Alaska Region, Wildlife & Parks Director, Tanana Chiefs Conference, Huslia, AK.

Jeff Kelly, Director, Great Plains Region, Director, Standing Rock Game, Fish and Wildlife.

Charles Wilkinson, Great Plains Region, Game Warden, Three Affiliated Tribes Fish & Wildlife Division.

NAFWS STAFF

D. Fred Matt, Executive Director, Montana (resigned in June 2018)

Karen Lynch, Technical Editor, Colorado

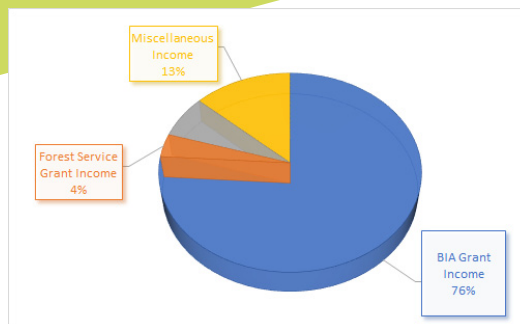
Sasha Hoskie, Education Coordinator, Colorado

Management Partners- Contractual - Accounting, Colorado

FINANCIAL

Native American Fish and Wildlife Society Statement of Activity January - December 2018 Unaudited

	Total
Revenue	
BIA Grant Income	448,144.48
Forest Service Grant Income	22,000.00
Conference Income	40,855.03
Miscellaneous Income	78,432.01
Total Revenue	\$ 589,431.52



Native American Fish and Wildlife Society Statement of Activity January - December 2018 Unaudited

	Total
Expenditures	
Program	499,727.32
Admin	68,526.64
Total Expenditures	\$ 568,253.96

