



# 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Native American Fish & Wildlife Society National Conference

May 13 – 16, 2024

Treasure Island Resort and Casino, Welch, MN

Sponsor: Great Lakes Region, Tribal Host: Prairie Island Indian Community

THEME: “Sovereignty to Sustainability – Echoing our Elders and Nurturing our Next Seven Generations”

## National Conference Agenda

### Sunday, May 12, 2024

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Location: Tahiti

**NAFWS Board of Directors Meeting**

*Coordinator:* Donald Reiter, President – NAFWS

### Monday, May 13, 2024

8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Location: Red Wing Sportsman’s Club,  
966 Hall Strom Drive, Red Wing, MN  
55066

**National CLEO Competition Shoot**

*Coordinators:* Kevin Willis, Chief Conservation Officer – Little Transverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians  
Kevin Modlin, Conservation Officer – Pokagon Band of Potawatomi

\*Carpooling Available

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Location: Foyer

**Exhibitors/Vendors Set-Up**

*Coordinator:* Andy Edwards, ATBC Field Liaison – NAFWS

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Location: Foyer

**Registration**

*Coordinators:* Heidi McCann, Office Manager & Membership Coordinator—NAFWS  
Jennifer Bills, Financial Advisor – Management Partners

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Location: Tahiti Room

**Meeting: NAFWS Research/Publication Committee**

*Coordinator:* Hannah Golden, Fish & Wildlife Biologist – NAFWS

-SEE ATTACHED AGENDA-

10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Location: Wolf/Eagle

**Workshop: Wildlife Health/Personal Protective Equipment**

*Coordinators:* Tolani Francisco, DVM, Wildlife Disease Coordinator – NAFWS

Shailyn Wiechman, Wildlife Connectivity Coordinator – NAFWS

—SEE WORKSHOP AGENDA—

**10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

Location: Bear/Buffalo

**Meeting:** Federal & State Relations Committee

*Coordinator:* Julie Thorstenson Ph.D., Executive Director – NAFWS  
-SEE ATTACHED AGENDA-

**1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

Location: Bear/Buffalo

**Workshop:** NASA Earth Observations for Habitat Monitoring

*Coordinators:* Laurel James Ph.D.(c), Director of Programs – NAFWS  
Emily Hagler, Fish & Wildlife Biologist – NAFWS  
—SEE WORKSHOP AGENDA—

**1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

Location: Capri

**Workshop:** Invasive Species Management Planning

*Coordinator:* Mitzi Reed, Invasive Species Coordinator – NAFWS  
—SEE WORKSHOP AGENDA—

**1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

Location: Tahiti

**Workshop:** Project Management for ATBC

*Presenter:* John Hendrix, Facilitator, First Nations Development Institute  
*Coordinator:* Megan Hawkins, Grants Coordinator – NAFWS  
—SEE WORKSHOP AGENDA—

**5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**

Location: Bear/Buffalo

**Meeting:** NAFWS Great Lakes Region Business Meeting

*Coordinators:* Donald Reiter and Terry Metoxen, GL Regional Directors – NAFWS  
\*Hot Hors D'Oeuvres Will Be Served  
—SEE MEETING AGENDA—

**7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.**

Location: Island Xtreme Bowling

**Professional Mixer** (*networking opportunity*)

\*Hot Hors D'Oeuvres Will Be Served

## Tuesday, May 14, 2024

**8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

Location: Foyer

**Registration**

*Coordinators:* Heidi McCann, Office Manager & Membership Coordinator – NAFWS  
Jennifer Bills, Financial Advisor – Management Partners

**8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

Location: Foyer

**Exhibitors/Vendors**

*Coordinator:* Andy Edwards, ATBC Field Liaison – NAFWS

## General Session

<b>9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.</b> Location: Island Event Center	<b>Opening Ceremony</b> Master of Ceremonies – Donald Reiter, President & Great Lakes Regional Director - NAFWS Posting of the Colors – Conservation Law Enforcement Officers Invocation – Johnny Johnson, Prairie Island Indian Community Elder  <i>Welcoming Remarks:</i> NAFWS Executive Director – Julie Thorstenson, Ph.D. NAFWS President, Great Lakes Region Director – Donald Reiter NAFWS Great Lakes Region Director – Terry Metoxen Prairie Island Indian Community Representative – Johnny Johnson, Prairie Island Indian Community Elder
<b>9:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.</b> Location: Island Event Center	<b>Conference Overview</b> <i>Presenter:</i> Gabriel Miller, Environmental Program Manager - Prairie Island Indian Community
<b>10:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.</b> Location: Island Event Center	<b>Keynote Address:</b> <i>Presenter:</i> Linda Black Elk, Ethnobotanist <i>Moderator:</i> Donald Reiter, President & Great Lakes Regional Director – NAFWS
<b>10:45 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.</b> Location: Island Event Center	<b>Presentation:</b> Prairie Island Indian Community – Fisheries and Wildlife Management Overview <i>Presenter:</i> Gabriel Miller, Environmental Program Manager - Prairie Island Indian Community
<b>11:30 p.m. – 12:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Presentation:</b> Experience of Prairie Island Community Members Restoring/Harvesting Wild Rice on the Mississippi River
<b>12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.</b>	<b>LUNCH ON YOUR OWN</b>
<b>1:30 p.m. – 2:20 p.m.</b> Location: Island Event Center	<b>Presentation:</b> NAFWS National Conference Update <i>Presenter:</i> Julie Thorstenson Ph.D., Executive Director – NAFWS
<b>2:20 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.</b> Location: Island Event Center	<b>Presentation:</b> Welcome Remarks <i>Presenter:</i> Minnesota Lieutenant Governor - Peggy Flanagan
<b>2:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.</b> Location: Island Event Center	<b>Presentation:</b> Framing Tribal Conservation Science: Research on Recovering America’s Wildlife Act (RAWA) and medica relations for Indigenous Scientists <i>Presenter:</i> Ryan Comfort, Ph.D. – Assistant Professor, Indiana University – The Media School
<b>3:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.</b>	<b>BREAK – Sponsored by Center of Large Landscape Conservation</b>

**3:15 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

Location: Island Event Center

**Presentation:** Funding Opportunities for Tribal Fish and Wildlife

**Presenters:** Arielle Mion, Program Manager, Coastal Resilience – National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
Rachel Dawson, Program Director, National Programs – National Fish and Wildlife Foundation,  
Kelly Dennis, Partnership Strategist, Office of Strategic Partnerships, Department of the Interior

**Moderator:** Megan Hawkins, Grants Coordinator – NAFWS

**4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

Location: Island Event Center

**Presentation:** Federal Partner Updates

**Presenters:** BIA – Johnna Blackhair, Deputy Bureau Director of Trust Services  
USFWS – Gary Frazer, Deputy Director – Operations  
USDA-FS Office of Tribal Relations – TBD  
USGS – Jennifer Lacey, Regional Director of Region 3: Great Lakes Missouri Basin  
BLM – Brian St George, BLM Deputy Assistant Director for Resources and Planning

**Moderator:** Terry Metoxen, GL Region Director – NAFWS

**ADJOURN 5:00 p.m.**

**5:00 pm – 6:00 pm**

Location: Bear/Buffalo

**Meeting:** CLEO Committee – ALL NAFWS CLEO's Invited

**Coordinator:** Mitzi Reed, Invasive Species Coordinator – NAFWS

**6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

Location: Island Event Center

**Traditional Feast**

**Host:** Prairie Island Indian Community

## Wednesday, May 15, 2024

**8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

Location: Foyer

**Registration**

**Coordinators:** Heidi McCann, Office Manager & Membership Coordinator – NAFWS  
Jennifer Bills, Financial Advisor – Management Partners

**8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

Location: Foyer

**Exhibitors/Vendors**

**Coordinators:** Andy Edwards, ATBC Field Liaison – NAFWS

## Concurrent Sessions I

Topic	Fisheries Management	Climate	Wildlife Management	Federal Partnerships	CLEO Training
<i>Moderator:</i>	<i>Donald Reiter, GL Regional Director</i>	<i>T. Jason Mitchell, NE Regional Director</i>	<i>Shailyn Wiechman, Wildlife Connectivity Coordinator</i>	<i>Matt Gamble, SE Regional Director</i>	<i>Terry Metoxen, GL Regional Director</i>
Location:	Bear/Buffalo	Capri	Wolf/Eagle	Tahiti	Event Center
<b>9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.</b>	Habitat Assessments and Modeling to Support Artic Grayling Reintroduction  <i>Zachary Locklear, Graduate Research Assistant</i>  University of Wisconsin-Green Bay	Indigenous partnerships to support name (lake sturgeon) fisheries climate adaptation  <i>Holly Embke, Research Fish Biologist</i>  USGS Midwest Climate Adaptation Science Center	Monitoring moose and other culturally important wildlife on Penobscot Indian Nation Lands using remote cameras  <i>Benjamin Simpson, Wildlife Resource Manager</i>  Penobscot Department of Natural Resources	Collecting and Integrating Indigenous Knowledges into the Yellowstone Bison Species Status Assessment  <i>Jim Boyd, Fish and Wildlife Biologist</i>  U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	<b>Training: Human Trafficking Awareness &amp; Identification</b>  <i>Stephanie Greaf, s7 Consulting</i>
<b>9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.</b>	Elevating Tribal Voices to Restoring Watershed Functions and Conserve the Clear Lake Hitch  <i>Daniella Santana Cazares, Environmental Director</i>  Habematolel Pomo of Upper Lake	Ganawenindiwig: Working with plant relatives to heal and protect Gichigami shorelines  <i>Rob Croll, Policy Analyst/Climate Change Program Coordinator</i>  Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission	Collaborative aerial surveys for monitoring Mooz in the 1854 Ceded Territory  <i>Morgan Swingen, Wildlife Biologist</i>  1854 Treaty Authority	Metabarcoding Aquatic Invasive Species: Early Detection and Monitoring in the Great Lakes Basin  <i>Rachel Brown, Deputy Project Leader, Whitney Genetics Laboratory</i>	Human Trafficking Awareness & Identification Cont'd

<b>10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.</b>	Restoration of Buffalo Slough Island in the Mississippi River for Native Mussel Protection	BIA’s Tribal Climate Resilience Program	Population dynamics of black bears ( <i>Ursus americanus</i> ) on the Red Cliff Reservation and Apostle Islands	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service The Collaborative Great Lakes Manoomin (Wild Rice) Project	Human Trafficking Awareness & Identification Cont’d
	<i>Gabriel Miller, Environmental Program Manager</i> Prairie Island Indian Community – Land and Environment Department	<i>Zachary Jorgenson, Regional Climate Resilience Coordinator</i> Bureau of Indian Affairs	<i>Monica Cooper, PhD Student</i> University of Wisconsin, Madison	<i>Lara O’Brien, Geospatial Analyst</i> NOAA	

**BREAK 10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**

**Concurrent Sessions I (cont.)**

Topic	Fisheries Management	Biodiversity	Wildlife Management	Threatened and Endangered Species	CLEO Training
Location	Bear/Buffalo	Capri	Wolf/Eagle	Tahiti	Event Center
Moderator	<i>Hope Roberts, AK Regional Director</i>	<i>Michael Thompson, GP Regional Director</i>	<i>Benjamin Simpson, NE Regional Director</i>	<i>Matt Gamble, SE Regional Director</i>	<i>Terry Metoxen, GL Regional Director</i>
<b>11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.</b>	Blackfeet Nation Westslope Cutthroat Trout Status Assessment Project <i>Jeremiah North Piegan, Fish Biologist &amp; Fisheries Program Manager</i> Blackfeet Fish and Wildlife Department	A Survey of Wildlife on Ho-Chunk Nation Lands Using Trail Cameras <i>James Swenson, Wildlife Biologist</i> Ho-Chunk DNR	Tribal Big Horn Sheep Management on the Flathead Indian Reservation <i>Shannon Clairmont, Supervisory Biologist</i> CSKT Wildlife Management/Bison Range	Homes on the Range – Potential landscapes for conservation across the Central grasslands of North America: Integrating keystone species, land use, and climate change <i>Lindsey Sterling Krank, Program Director, Prairie Dog Conflict Resolution</i>	Human Trafficking Awareness & Identification Cont’d

				Humane Society of the United States- Wildlife	
<b>11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.</b>	A chemical prioritization process for chemicals of emerging concern in subsistence fish and freshwater ecosystems with recommendations on improving policy to address emerging contaminants in subsistence foods  <i>Seth Moore, Ph.D., Fisheries Biologist</i>  Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	Exploring Riparian Species Diversity in Northern Colorado with Traditional Ecological Knowledge  <i>Lizzy Osterhoudt, Student</i> Colorado State University	The Mysterious Death of Wolf M2022-33 (Kristoff)  <i>Dave Price, Wildlife Biologist</i> Red Lake DNR - Wildlife	Chahta Halambisha: Supplementing Bat Habitat in the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Using Bat Houses  <i>Jordan Grotts, Wildlife Biologist</i> Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma	Human Trafficking Awareness & Identification  Cont'd

<b>12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.</b> Location: Island Event Center	<b>NAFWS NATIONAL BUSINESS MEETING</b> <i>Coordinators: Donald Reiter, NAFWS President and Julie Thorstenson, PhD, NAFWS Executive Director</i> <b>**LUNCH PROVIDED**</b> —SEE MEETING AGENDA—				
---	---	--	--	--	--

<b>Concurrent Sessions II</b>					
Topic	Invasive Species	Tradition Ecological Knowledge	Wildlife Management	Education/Outreach	CLEO Training
Location Moderator	Bear/Buffalo <i>Mitzi Reed, Invasive Species Coordinator</i>	Capri <i>Katie Schultz, AtBC Field Liaison</i>	Wolf/Eagle <i>Laurel James, Ph.D.(c), Director of Programs</i>	Tahiti <i>Kaitlyn Demoski,, Asst. AK Tribal Climate Liaison</i>	Event Center <i>Terry Metoxen, GL Regional Director</i>
<b>2:00 p.m.– 2:30 p.m.</b>	Invasive Signal Crayfish of Kodiak Island, Alaska	<i>Anwebimagada “Letting it rest” Anishinaabe</i>	<i>Mycoplasma ovipnuemoniae</i> (M. ovi in the Bandlands)	2023 SYP Student Wildlife Management Plan	Active Shooter Simulation Training

	<i>Daniel Smith, Tribal Biologist</i> Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak	<i>Perspectives of Natural Resource Management</i>  <i>Michael Waasegiizhig-Price, Traditional Ecological Knowledge Specialist</i>  <i>Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission</i>	<i>Michael Thompson, Wildlife Biologist</i>  Oglala Sioux Parks and Recreation Authority	<i>Contest Winners: Eshpaa Salvedra, Xan Francis, Maya Craven &amp; Cody Tsinnijinnie</i>	<i>Coordinator: Lt. Scott Hanley,</i>  Pokagon Band of Tribal Police Department
<b>2:30 p.m.– 3:00 p.m.</b>	Robinson Rancheria Invasive Species Management and the capacity to be successful  <i>Luis Santana, Water Manager</i>  Robinson Rancheria Pomo Indians of California	Promoting the rights of the Chugach Region Tribes while helping meet their subsistence, cultural, and economic needs through sustainable resource management  <i>Dustin Carl, Tribal Wildlife Biologist</i>  Chugach Regional Resources Commission	Monitoring Bat Populations on Penobscot Nation Tribal Lands Through Acoustic Surveys  <i>Benjamin Simpson, Wildlife Resource Manager</i>  Penobscot Nation Department of Natural Resources	Education and Outreach on White Earth Reservation “Bridging a gap for youth, elders, vulnerable populations” <i>Jason Clark, Environmental Coordinator 2</i> <i>Zoe Keezer, Environmental Coordinator</i> <i>Ashley Zurn, Conservation Officer</i>  White Earth Natural Resources Division	Active Shooter Simulation Training Cont'd

**BREAK 3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

**Concurrent Sessions II (cont.)**

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Invasive Species</b>	<b>Tradition Ecological Knowledge</b>	<b>Wildlife Health – Chronic Wasting Disease</b>	<b>Federal Funding &amp; Tribes</b>	<b>CLEO Training</b>
--------------	-------------------------	---------------------------------------	--	-------------------------------------	----------------------



Location	Bear/Buffalo	Capri	Wolf/Eagle	Tahiti	Event Center
<i>Moderator</i>	<i>Darren Talayumptewa, SW Regional Director</i>	<i>Ted Lamebull, Jr., PA Regional Director</i>	<i>Donna Nez, PA Regional Director</i>	<i>Megan Hawkins, Grants Coordinator</i>	<i>Terry Metoxen, GL Regional Director</i>
<b>3:30 p.m.– 4:00 p.m.</b>	Installation of Pre-Planted Pallets via Helicopter to Restore Inaccessible Reed Canarygrass-dominated Wetlands  <i>Todd Gray, Environmental Protection Ecologist</i>  The Tulalip Tribes	Elevating Indigenous Knowledge at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: Successes and Cautions  <i>Paige Schmidt, Indigenous Knowledge and Co-Stewardship Coordinator</i>  U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	MNPRO: A Multidisciplinary Think-Tank to Meet the Challenges of Chronic Wasting Disease  <i>Tiffany Wolf, Assistant Professor</i>  University of Minnesota	America the Beautiful Challenge (ATBC) Grants Panel Discussion  <i>Andy Edwards and Katie Schultz, ATBC Field Liaisons - NAFWS</i>	Active Shooter Simulation Training Cont'd
<b>4:00 p.m.– 4:30 p.m.</b>	White Earth Tribal Pesticide Program and Projects  <i>Renee Keezer, Pesticide Coordinator</i>  White Earth Natural Resources Pesticide Program	Pa’Ashi-The Return of Tulare Lake  <i>Hank Brenard, EPA Director</i>  Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi Yokut Tribe	Community-Based Participatory Approaches to Develop Chronic Wasting Disease Outreach and Management with Tribal Communities  <i>Roger Faust, Ph.D.(c)</i>  University of Minnesota		Active Shooter Simulation Training Cont'd
<b>4:30 p.m.– 5:00 p.m.</b>	Estimating Horse and Burro Population Sizes on Tribal Lands  <i>Jacob Hennig, Assistant Extension Specialist</i>	The Importance of Recovering the Cultural, Environmental, and Ecologically Significant Rivercane	Evaluating the Midwest Tribal CWD Surveillance Network  <i>Colin Yoder, Assistant Professor</i>	Tribal Engagement in Sagebrush Steppe Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Funding Implementation	Active Shooter Simulation Training Cont'd

University of Arizona	Marvin Bouknight, Wildlife Biologist	University of Minnesota	Stephanie Hebert, Wildlife Biologist
	Catawba Indian Nation		U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

**ADJOURN 5:00 p.m.**

**5:00 p.m. –  
7:00 p.m.**

Location:  
Paradise  
Cove

**Tribal Student and Professional Mixer and Poster Session**

**Coordinator:** Ashley Mueller, Education Coordinator – NAFWS

**Instructions for Poster Presenters:** Set-up Posters between 3:00 p.m. – 4:45 p.m. on Wed. May 14th

\*Hors D’Oeuvres will be served

**Thursday, May 16, 2024**

**6:45 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.**

Location:  
Starting Line – North Casino Parking  
Lot, on buffalo slough trail

**5K Keya Stampede**

**Coordinators:** Thomas Hafen, Invasive Species Technician - NAFWS & Katie Schultz, AtBC Field Liaison – NAFWS

**Instructions:**

*Pre-registrants receive race packet at the registration desk. On-site registration at conference registration desk. Meet at Starting Line at 6:45 a.m. | Safety Briefing at 6:50 a.m. | Race Starts at 7:00 a.m.*

**9:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

Transportation Provided

**Natural Resources Tours:**

**Coordinators:** Gabriel Miller, Environmental Program Manager - Prairie Island Indian Community

**Instructions:**

*Meet at Hotel Lobby Entrance at 9:15 a.m. | Shuttles Depart at 9:30 a.m.*

**9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

Location: Bear/Buffalo

**CLEO Training: “Active Shooter” Simulation Training**

**Coordinator:** Lt. Scott Hanley, Pokagon Band of Tribal Police Department

**6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.**

Location: Island Event Center

**BANQUET**

**Master of Ceremony:** Donald Reiter, President/GL Regional Director - NAFWS

*Retire the Colors*

**Invocation:**

**Award Announcements:** Darren Talayumptewa, SW Regional Director - NAFWS

National Tribal Student Poster Session Awards – Ashley Mueller, NAFWS Education Coordinator - NAFWS

Regional Awards – Terry Metoxen, GL Regional Director - NAFWS

Emerging Professional of the Year Award

Biologist of the Year Award

Chief Sealth Award

National Conservation Officer Shoot Team Awards

*Live and silent auction* – Benjamin Simpson, NE Regional Director & Ted Lamebull, PA Regional Director - NAFWS

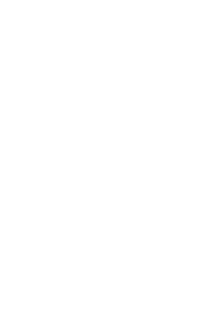
## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS:

### Platinum Sponsors

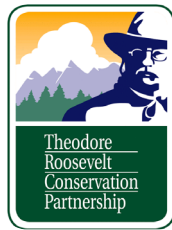


Gold Sponsors





## Silver Sponsors



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**  
St. Paul District



**Natural Resources Conservation Service**  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

## Bronze Sponsors

