



42nd Annual Native American Fish & Wildlife Society National Conference

May 12 – 15, 2025

Wind River Hotel and Casino, Riverton, WY

Sponsor: Great Plains Region, Tribal Host: Northern Arapahoe and Eastern Shoshone

THEME: “Restoring the Land, Reclaiming the Future”

National Conference Agenda

Sunday, May 11, 2025

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. NAFWS Board of Directors Meeting
Location: Cotton Wood *Coordinator:* Mike LaVoie, Vice-President – NAFWS

Monday, May 12, 2025

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Exhibitors and Vendors Set-Up
Location: Hotel Lobby – Wind River Casino
Coordinators: Shailyn Wiechman, Wildlife Connectivity Coordinator – NAFWS
Andy Edwards, Grants Field Liaison – NAFWS

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Registration
Location: Hotel Lobby – Wind River Casino
Coordinators: Heidi McCann, Membership Engagement & Board Affairs Coordinator – NAFWS
Jennifer Bills, Financial Advisor – Management Partners

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Meeting: NAFWS Research/Publication Committee
Location: Blue Sky 1
Coordinator: Hannah Golden, Fish & Wildlife Biologist – NAFWS

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Meeting: Federal & State Relations Committee
Location: Blue Sky 2
Coordinator: Julie Thorstenson Ph.D., Executive Director – NAFWS

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Workshop: Wildlife Health and Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Workshop
Location: Spring Mountain (Morning); Off-Site (Afternoon)
Coordinators: Shailyn Wiechman, Wildlife Connectivity Coordinator – NAFWS

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Workshop: Diversifying Funding and Increasing Financial Resilience in Tribal F&W Programs
Location: Cottonwood
Coordinator: Megan Hawkins, Director of Operations – NAFWS

11:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Location: Off-Site	Workshop: Invasive Species Management Workshop Coordinator: Mitzi Reed, Invasive Species Coordinator – NAFWS Instructions: Meet at Wind River Hotel Lobby at 11:30 a.m., Please ensure you have lunch.
12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Location: Off-site	National CLEO Competition Shoot Coordinators: Robert Romero, CLEO & Hunter Education Consultant - NAFWS
1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Location: Cottonwood	Workshop: Adaptive Leadership Workshop Coordinators: Gina Jackson-Krusinski, Program Manager for Communications and Learning Development - Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies Mark Ohm, Regional Supervisor - South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Ashley Mueller, Education and Advancement Director – NAFWS
1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Location: Spring Mountain	Workshop: Tribal Mapping Coordinator: Emily Hagler, Tribal Mapping Analyst – NAFWS
5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Location: Spring Mountain	Meeting: NAFWS Great Plains Region Business Meeting Coordinators: Shaun Grassel, Ph.D. and Michael Thompson, GP Regional Directors – NAFWS *Refreshments Will Be Served
7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. Location: Holiday Inn	Professional Mixer (networking opportunity) Holiday Day Inn Riverton, 900 E Sunset Dr, Riverton, WY 82501 *Refreshments Will Be Served

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Location: Hotel Lobby – Wind River Casino	Registration Coordinators: Heidi McCann, Membership Engagement & Board Affairs Coordinator Jennifer Bills, Financial Advisor – Management Partners
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Exhibitors and Vendors Set-Up Coordinators: Shailyn Wiechman, Wildlife Connectivity Coordinator – NAFWS Andy Edwards, Grants Field Liaison – NAFWS

General Session

9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. Location: Blue Sky	Opening Ceremony Master of Ceremonies – Shaun Grassel, PhD – NAFWS Great Plains Region Director Posting of the Colors – Conservation Law Enforcement Officers Invocation – Sam Dresser, Northern Arapahoe <i>Welcoming Remarks:</i> NAFWS Executive Director – Julie Thorstenson, Ph.D. NAFWS Vice-President, Southeast Region Director – Mike LaVoie NAFWS Great Plains Region Director – Michael Thompson Host Representative, Director of Wind River Fish & Game – Arthur Lawson
9:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Location: Blue Sky	Conference Overview
10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Location: Blue Sky	Keynote Address: Leslie Shakespeare, Senior Leader Supporting Tribal Nations in the Rocky Mountain Region - BIA
10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Location: Blue Sky	Presentation: Wind River – Fisheries and Wildlife Management Overview <i>Presenter:</i> Arthur Lawson, Director – Wind River Fish & Game
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Location: Blue Sky	LUNCH (Provided)
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Location: Blue Sky	Presentation: NAFWS National Office Update <i>Presenter:</i> Julie Thorstenson Ph.D., Executive Director – NAFWS
2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Location: Blue Sky	Panel Discussion: Intertribal Organizations <i>Panelists:</i> InterTribal Timber Council (ITC)– Jim Durglo, Fire Technical Specialist National Congress of American Indians’ (NCAI) – Cynthia Harris, Director Indian Nations Conservation Alliance (INCA) – Delane Atcitty, Executive Director InterTribal Buffalo Council (ITBC) – Jason Baldes, Vice President <i>Moderator:</i> Shaun Grassel, PhD, CEO Buffalo Nations Grasslands Alliance/NAFWS Great Plains Regional Director
3:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.	BREAK

3:15 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Location: Blue Sky

Panel Discussion: Co-Management and Co-Stewardship Success Stories

Panelists: Chairman Ryman LeBeau, Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe

Fawn Wagner, Wildlife Refuge Manager/Ecologist Dungeness/Protection Island

Marcel Bozas, Director Fish & Wildlife Department, Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida

Moderator: Julie Thorstenson, Ph.D., Executive Director – NAFWS

4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Location: Blue Sky

Presentation: Federal Partner Updates

USDA APHIS – Denise Salvetti M.P.A., Program Analyst, Office of National Tribal Liaison

BIA – Diane Mann Klager, Natural Resource Officer

BLM – Casey Burns, Threatened and Endangered Species Ecologist

USFWS – invited

USGS - invited

Moderator: Michael Thompson, GP Region Director – NAFWS

ADJOURN 5:00 p.m.

6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Location: Off-Site

Traditional Feast

Fort Washakie Powwow Grounds, 36 A Gaw Bombe Ln, Fort Washakie, WY 82514

****Limited Transportation Provided, Encourage Carpooling****

Wednesday, May 14, 2025

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Registration

Coordinators: Heidi McCann, Membership Engagement & Board Affairs Coordinator —NAFWS

Jennifer Bills, Financial Advisor – Management Partners

Concurrent Sessions I

Topic	Fisheries Management	Wildlife Health	Sovereignty	Methods
<i>Moderator:</i>	<i>Hope Roberts – AK Regional Director</i>	<i>Benjamin Simpson – NE Regional Director</i>	<i>Matt Gamble – SE Regional Director</i>	<i>Terry Metoxen – GL Regional Director</i>

Location:	Blue Sky Room 1	Blue Sky Room 2	Cotton Wood	Spring Mountain
9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	<p>Lake Whitefish (<i>Coregonus clupeaformis</i>) decline and possible senescence in Little Traverse Bay, Lake Michigan</p> <p><i>Kae Skubik, Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians</i></p>	<p>Using non-invasive methods to detect small mammals: track plates, environmental DNA, and cameras</p> <p><i>Carol Chambers, Professor, Northern Arizona University</i></p>	<p>Implications of environmental data collection on Tribal lands for Native Nations, Tribal Sovereignty and Indigenous Land Management in the Upper Missouri River Basin</p> <p><i>Paige Johnson, Native Resilience Data Fellow, Montana Climate Office</i></p>	<p>Evaluating the efficacy of aversive conditioning of mountain lions with hounds</p> <p><i>Bart George, Wildlife Program Manager, Kalispel Tribe</i></p>
9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	<p>Native Fish Keepers</p> <p><i>Cindy Bras-Benson, Fisheries Specialist, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes</i></p>	<p>American black bear density and genetic diversity in Penobscot Nation, Maine, USA</p> <p><i>Jeff Stetz, Director of Science Center for Wildlife Studies</i></p>	<p>Landscapes of Land Return: Examining trends in land re-acquisitions by Indigenous communities in the United States</p> <p><i>McKalee Steen, Ph.D. Candidate, UC – Berkeley</i></p>	<p>Black Bear Research on the Navajo Nation</p> <p><i>Deandra Jones, Ph.D. Student, University of Arizona</i></p>
10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	<p>Haich ik'tat'uu: Restoring and Reconnecting on the Siuslaw River Estuary on the Oregon Coast</p> <p><i>Jesse Beers, Cultural Stewardship Manager, Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians</i></p>	<p>Chronic Wasting Disease Outbreak In the Wind River Basin: Historical Perspectives, Impacts, And Contributing Factors</p> <p><i>Tucker Russell, Graduate Research Assistant, University of Wyoming</i></p>	<p>Conservation Easements and Bison Restoration: Exploring Opportunities, Challenges, and Alternatives</p> <p><i>Alyson White Eagle, Fellow Native American Rights Fund</i></p>	<p>Assessing Moose Distribution and Impacts of Winter Tick Using Remote Camera Surveys</p> <p><i>Nina Kappel, Graduate Student, University of Maine</i></p>
BREAK 10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.				
Topic	Fisheries Management	Wildlife Management	Sovereignty	Methods

<i>Moderator</i>	<i>Ted Lamebull – P Regional Director</i>	<i>Kai-T Blue-Sky – SW Regional Director</i>	<i>Shaun Grassel, PhD – GP Regional Director</i>	<i>Jason Mitchell - NE Regional Director</i>
<i>Location</i>	Blue Sky Room 1	Blue Sky Room 2	Cotton Wood	Spring Mountain
11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Preliminary results of a flow manipulation study to reduce hybridization of spring and fall Chinook in the Chehalis River basin Tara Livingood-Schott, Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation	Female elk select habitat differently before, during, and after calving Daniel Bird, Graduate Student, University of Montana	The McGirt Ruling Jay Harvey, Game Warden Supervisor, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma	Nature's Hidden Logbook: How eDNA can Inform Tribal Conservation and Land Management Decisions Julie Stanford, CEO, eDNA Explorer
11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	From Barriers to Solutions: Tribal Capacity Building for Fish Passage Restoration Madelynne Dey, Chickaloon Village Traditional Council	Methods and Analysis of Endangered Bats on Cherokee Lands Jessica Nagel, Lead Wildlife Biologist, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians	Tribal Access to the Land and Water Conservation Fund Michael Spears, LWCF Tribal Access Author	Braiding Indigenous Knowledge and Western Science in the Yellowstone Bison Species Status Assessment Ehakela Cummings, InterTribal Buffalo Council
12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Location: Blue Sky	NAFWS NATIONAL BUSINESS MEETING <i>Coordinators: Mike LaVoie, NAFWS Vice-President and Julie Thorstenson, PhD, NAFWS Executive Director</i> **LUNCH PROVIDED** —SEE MEETING AGENDA—			
2:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Location: Holiday Inn	CLEO Training <i>Coordinators: Robert Romero, CLEO and Hunter Education Consultant</i> Holiday Day Inn Riverton, 900 E Sunset Dr, Riverton, WY 82501			

Concurrent Sessions II

Topic	Education & Outreach	Wildlife Management	Habitat Conservation	Methods
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<i>Moderator</i>	<i>Ashley Mueller, NAFWS Education Coordinator</i>	<i>Michael Thompson, GP Regional Director</i>	<i>Orville Huntington, AK Regional Director</i>	<i>Jason Mitchell, NE Regional Director</i>
Location	Blue Sky Room 1	Blue Sky Room 2	Cotton Wood	Spring Mountain
2:00 p.m.– 2:30 p.m.	Descriptive Languages Can Guide Knowledge Revitalization to Reconnect Cherokees to their Aboriginal Landscape <i>Caleb Hickman, Supervisory Fish & Wildlife Biologist, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians</i>	Tribal Collaboration and the Olympic Cougar Project in Support of Habitat Connectivity Planning <i>Kim Sager-Fradkin, Wildlife Program Manager, Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe</i>	Conservation Through Fire <i>Sheldon Fletcher, C.W.A 319 & GIS Coordinator, Lower Brule Sioux Tribe</i>	Streamflow revival: A framework for monitoring and assessing the ecohydrological impacts of ongoing stream naturalization and land use conversion <i>Cory Ott, Ph.D. Student, University of Wyoming</i>
2:30 p.m.– 3:00 p.m.	The National Summer Youth Practicum: Highlights, Lessons Learned and Moving Forward <i>Ashley Mueller, Education and Advancement Director, Native American Fish and Wildlife Society</i>	Toxicology Analysis in Moose Populations of the Ahtna Region (Alaska): Assessing Cadmium and Copper Impacts on Wildlife Health and Food Security <i>Kelsey Stanbro, Ecologist, Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission</i>	Bringing Back the Grass - Cultural, Ecological, and Environmental Benefits of Native Rivercane and Grasslands Restoration <i>Marvin Bouknight, Wildlife & Habitat Program Manager, Catawba Nation</i>	Distributional Ecology of Medium and Large Mammals of the Baboquivari Mountain Range <i>Kathryn Beard, Ecologist, Tohono O'odham Nation</i>
BREAK 3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.				
Topic	Education & Outreach	Wildlife Management	Invasive Species	Plants
<i>Moderator</i>	<i>Emily Hagler, NAFWS Mapping Analyst</i>	<i>Shailyn Wiechman, NAFWS Wildlife Connectivity Coordinator</i>	<i>Mitzi Reed, NAFWS Invasive Species Coordinator</i>	<i>Hannah Golden, NAFWS Fish & Wildlife Biologist</i>
Location	Blue Sky Room 1	Blue Sky Room 2	Cotton Wood	Spring Mountain
3:30 p.m.– 4:00 p.m.	White Earth Natural Resources Youth Program	Review of Wildlife Zoonoses and Game Meat Safety for Wildlife Biologists	Pechanga's Goldspotted Oak Borer Efforts with the Community	Ghvtlh-k'vsh shu'-srnelh-'i~ (Kelp Guardians) of California's North Coast

	<i>Zoe Keezer, Environmental Coordinator, White Earth Jason Clark, Parks & Recreation Manager Ashley Zurn, Conservation Officer, White Earth</i>	<i>Scott J. Chiavacci, Ph.D., Ecologist, U.S. Geological Survey</i>	<i>David Newman, Environmental Program Manager, Pechanga Tribal Government</i>	<i>Rosa Laucci, Marine Division Manager & Marine Biologist, Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation</i>
4:00 p.m.– 4:30 p.m.	Expanding Cherokee Youth Engagement in Fishing and Conservation <i>Mike LaVoie, EBCI Natural Resources Christopher Davis, Teacher, Cherokee Central Schools</i>	Navajo Bighorn Recovery Program Update <i>Jessica Fort, Wildlife Biologist, Navajo Nation</i>	Tribal Pesticide Programs and Impacts to Tribal Resources <i>Jasmine Courville, Pesticide Program Manager, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes</i>	Understanding climate impacts on cone production and the need for comprehensive pinyon jay population monitoring in the Dinetah (Navajo Nation) <i>Arantxa Curley, Post-Baccalaureate Student, Northern Arizona University</i>
4:30 p.m.– 5:00 p.m.	Seven Generations of Student Stewards <i>Brandon Edwards, Natural Resources Technician, Forest County Potawatomi Land and Natural Resources</i>	Thirty Years of Wolves and Sovereignty: The Nez Perce Tribe's Legacy and Future in Wolf Management <i>Rosie Sanchez, Wildlife Carnivore Fellow, Nez Perce Tribe</i>	Ecological Concerns Of Feral Equidae <i>Tolani Francisco, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, Native Healing LLC</i>	Restoring the Land with Native Knowledge: Plant Restoration and the Asqinaq Cultural Ranger Program <i>Angutekaraq Estelle Thomson, President, Native Village of Paimiut & Creator, Asqinaq Cultural Ranger Program</i>
ADJOURN 5:00 p.m.				
6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	Tribal Student and Professional Mixer and Poster Session <i>Coordinator:</i> Ashley Mueller, Education Coordinator – NAFWS Holiday Day Inn Riverton, 900 E Sunset Dr, Riverton, WY 82501			

Location:
Holiday Inn

*Refreshments will be served

Thursday, May 15, 2025

6:45 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

Location:

Starting Line –

5K Buffalo Stampede Fun Run & Walk

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

Instructions:

Pre-registrants receive race packet near the registration desk. On-site registration at conference registration desk.

Safety Briefing at 6:50 a.m. | Race Starts at 7:00 a.m.

9:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Natural Resources Tours:

Coordinators: Wilma Wagon, Wind River Fish & Game

Instructions: TBA Meet in Lobby at 9:20 a.m., Depart by 9:30 a.m.

Tours: *See our website for full descriptions*

Wind River Canyon/ Boysen Peak- Fisheries, Tribal Outfitter, Scenic Views

Diversion Dam/ Bull Lake- Water Management, Invasive Species, and Fly Fishing

Red Rocks/ Dinwoody/ Washakie Reservoir- Ungulate Habitat, History, Petroglyphs

Crow Creek- **4wd required**, Migration Pathways, GPS Collar Retrieval, Geology, Sand Dune Visit

6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Location: Blue Sky

BANQUET

Master of Ceremony: Mike LaVoie, NAFWS Vice-President, SE Regional Director – NAFWS

Retire the Colors

Invocation – Ivan Posey, Eastern Shoshone

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

National Tribal Student Poster Session Awards

Emerging Professional of the Year Award

Biologist of the Year Award

Chief Sealath Award

CLEO of the Year

National Conservation Officer Shoot Team Awards

Great Plains Regional Award Announcements: Shaul Grassel, GP Regional Director - NAFWS

Silent Auction –

Benjamin Simpson – NE Regional Director
Michael Thompson – GP Regional Director

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