



40th Annual Native American Fish & Wildlife Society National Conference

April 24 – 27, 2023

Hilton – Anchorage

Sponsor: Alaska Region, NAFWS Host: Chugach Regional Resources Commission

THEME: “Celebrating 40 Years of Success: The Past Holds the Power. The Future Holds the Promise”

National Conference Agenda

Sunday, April 23, 2023

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Location: Prince William Board
Room

NAFWS Board of Directors Meeting

Coordinator: Elveda Martinez, President – NAFWS
—SEE ATTACHED AGENDA—

Monday, April 24, 2023

8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Location: Birchwood Recreation &
Shooting Park
20269 Birchwood Spur Rd.
Chugiak, AK 99567

National CLEO Competition Shoot

Coordinator: Robert Romero, Deputy Executive Director — NAFWS

*Transportation Available

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Location: Mezzanine

Exhibitors/Vendors Set-Up

Coordinators: Sean Cross, Fish & Wildlife Biologist - NAFWS

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Location: Mezzanine

Registration

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

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Location: King Salmon/Iliamna

Meeting: NAFWS Research/Publication Committee

Coordinator: Ashley Mueller MS, Education Coordinator – NAFWS
—SEE ATTACHED AGENDA—

1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Location: King Salmon/Iliamna

Workshop: Tribal Climate Resilience Workshop

Coordinators: Heather Bartlett, Fish & Wildlife Biologist – NAFWS
Tess Hostetter, Assistant Tribal Climate Resilience - NAFWS
—SEE WORKSHOP AGENDA—

1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Location: Aspen/Spruce
Workshop: Biologist Training – Wildlife Disease
Coordinator: Tolani Francisco, DVM, MPH – Native Healings, LLC; NAFWS Wildlife Disease Consultant
—SEE WORKSHOP AGENDA—

1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Location: Birch/Willow
Workshop: Project Management Fundamentals for Natural Resource Professionals
Presenter: John Hendrix, MBA
Coordinator: Mary Adelzadeh, First Nations Development Institute
—SEE WORKSHOP AGENDA—

1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Location: Dillingham/Katmai
Workshop: Hazmat Awareness
Coordinator: Roy Stover, Alabama Fire College
—SEE WORKSHOP AGENDA—

6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Location: Dillingham/Katmai
Meeting: NAFWS Alaska Region Business Meeting
Coordinators: Orville Huntington, AK Regional Director — NAFWS
Hope Roberts, AK Regional Director — NAFWS
*Hot Hors D' Oeuvres Will Be Served
—SEE MEETING AGENDA—

Conservation Law Enforcement Officer (CLEO) Training Session

6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Location: Aspen/Spruce
Conservation Canine Teams have Benefits Beyond Natural Resources
Presenter: Peter Coppolillo, Executive Director – Working Dogs for Conservation
Moderator: Terry Metoxen, GL Regional Director – NAFWS

Tuesday, April 25, 2023

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Location: Mezzanine

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

8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
Location: Aleutian/Alaska

Student Meet & Greet (Invite Only)
Coordinator: Ashley Mueller MS, Education Coordinator – NAFWS

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Location: Mezzanine

Exhibitors/Vendors
Coordinators: Sean Cross, Fish & Wildlife Biologist - NAFWS

General Session

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
Location: Aleutian/Alaska

Opening Ceremony
Master of Ceremonies – Orville Huntington, AK Regional Director – NAFWS
Posting of the Colors – Conservation Law Enforcement Officers
Invocation – Orville Huntington, AK Regional Director- NAFWS
Drum Group – Greg Nothstine

Welcoming Remarks:
NAFWS Executive Director – Julie Thorstenson, Ph.D.
NAFWS Vice President, SE Region Director– Mike LaVoie
NAFWS AK Region Director – Hope Roberts
Chugach Regional Resources Commission Representative – Willow Hetrick, Executive Director
Welcoming Address- U.S. Representative Mary Sattler Peltola, AK **(Virtual)**

10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
Location: Aleutian/Alaska

Keynote Address:
Speaker: Orville Lind, Native Liaison in the Office of Subsistence Management - USFWS
Moderator: Orville Huntington, AK Region Director – NAFWS

10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.
Location: Aleutian/ Alaska

Conference Overview
Speaker: Willow Hetrick, Executive Director- Chugach Regional Resources Commission
Moderator: Orville Huntington, AK Regional Director- NAFWS

10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Break Sponsored by the Northern Latitudes Partnerships

<p>11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Location: Aleutian/Alaska</p>	<p>Presentation: Chugach Regional Resources Commission- Fisheries and Wildlife Management Overview <i>Speaker:</i> Willow Hetrick, Executive Director- Chugach Regional Resources Commission</p>
<p>12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Location: Aleutian/Alaska</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">LUNCH ON YOUR OWN</p> <p>Panel Discussion: Funding Opportunities for Tribal Fish and Wildlife Programs <i>Panelists:</i> “Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska – Development of Avian Flu Prioritization for Multisector Engagement” Mandy Salminen, Environmental Program Director - Qawalangin Tribe “Community-Based Environmental Monitoring in Bristol Bay” - ATBC Grant Mary Hostetter, Tribal Steward and Bill Kane, Stewardship Director, Igiugig Village Council “Tulalip Reservation Planned Coastal Retreat Strategy Development” – NCRF Grant Phil North, Conservation Scientist, Tulalip Tribe Natural Resources <i>Moderator:</i> Julie Thorstenson, Ph.D., Executive Director – NAFWS</p>
<p>2:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Location: Aleutian/Alaska</p>	<p>Panel Discussion: Legislative updates for Tribal Fish and Wildlife Programs – <i>Panelists:</i> Gloria Tom, Director - Navajo Nation Department of Fish and Wildlife Don Reiter, Wildlife Biologist - Menominee Nation Mike LaVoie, Natural Resources Director - Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians <i>Moderator:</i> Julie Thorstenson Ph.D., Executive Director – NAFWS</p>
<p>3:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. 3:15 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Location: Aleutian/Alaska</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Break Sponsored by Center for Large Landscape Conservation</p> <p>Panel Discussion: Our Voice. Our Ways of Life. Our Wellness Tanana Chiefs Conference <i>Panelists:</i> Ben Stevens, Tribal Resources Stewardship Program Charlie Wright, Secretary- Executive Council Alex Hanna, Chair- Emerging Leaders Tommy Kriska, Tribal Advocate Carrie Stevens, Tribal Governance Faculty, University of Alaska Fairbanks <i>Moderator:</i> Hope Roberts, AK Region Director – NAFWS</p>
<p>4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Location: Aleutian/Alaska</p>	<p>Presentation: Federal Partner Updates <i>Presenter:</i> BIA – David Wooten, Chief, Branch of Fisheries, Wildlife, and Recreation USFWS – Wendi Weber, Deputy Director of Operations USDA – Brian Logan, National Wildlife Program Leader - USFS USGS – Suzanna Soileau, Ecosystems Mission Area Outreach Coordinator and Tribal Advisor BLM – Linda Cardenas – Senior Wildlife Biologist and Partner Liaison Frank Quamen – Division Chief BLM Division of Wildlife Conservation, Aquatics, and Environmental Protections, BLM Headquarters <i>Moderator:</i> Hope Roberts, AK Region Director – NAFWS</p>

Adjourn 5:00 p.m.

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. **Traditional Feast**
 Location: Alaska Native Heritage Center (Transportation Provided)
 8800 Heritage Center Drive
 Anchorage, AK 99504
Host: Chugach Regional Resources Commission
Entertainment: Ida’ina K’eljeshna (Friendship Dancers), Led by Mr. Steven Holley

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. **Registration**
 Location: Mezzanine
Coordinators: Heidi McCann, Office Manager & Membership Coordinator – NAFWS
 Jennifer Bills, Financial Advisor – Management Partners

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. **Exhibitors/Vendors**
 Location: Mezzanine
Coordinators: Sean Cross, Fish & Wildlife Biologist - NAFWS

Conservation Law Enforcement Officer (CLEO) Training Sessions – SEE AGENDA

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. **Training:** CLEO Training – Legal updates; Review Federal Wildlife Statutes; Case Presentation
 Location: Aleutian/Alaska
Presenter: Steven Skrocki, Assistant U.S. Attorney
 Kurt Rees, Special Agent – USFWS/OLE
 Zach Oper, Resident Agent in Charge - USFWS/OLE
Moderators: Jeff Kelly & Charles Wilkinson, GP Regional Directors

Concurrent Sessions I

Topic	Fisheries Management	Biodiversity	Wildlife Management	Outreach
Moderator	Donna Nez, PA Regional Director- NAFWS	Don Reiter, GL Regional Director – NAFWS	Darren Talayumptewa, SW Regional Director – NAFWS	Ben Simpson, NE Regional Director– NAFWS
Location	Aspen/ Spruce Room	Dillingham/Katmai	King Salmon/Illiamna	Birch/Willow

9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	Spatial and Temporal Variability of Mercury in Upper and Lower Red Lake Walleye <i>Tyler Orgon, Biologist</i>	All-Taxa Biodiversity Inventory in Nanih Waiya Wetlands <i>Jess Lewis, Environmental Scientist Supervisor</i>	Estimating abundance and density of bears in Alaska Game Management Unit 13 <i>Sterling Spilinek, Research Coordinator/Wildlife Biologist</i>	The Tribal Intertidal Digital Ecological Survey (TIDES) project 3D models of California coast <i>Rosa Laucci, Marine Program Manager/Marine Biologist</i>
	Red Lake DNR Water Resources	Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians	Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission	Tolowa Dee-ni’Nation
9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Sockeye Salmon Reintroduction in the Yakima Basin: Monitoring a Population Undergoing Naturalization <i>Andrew Matala</i>	Manoomin (Wild Rice) Stewardship in the 1854 Ceded Territory <i>Darren Vogt, Resource Management Division Director</i>	Navajo Nation Big Game Management & Research Program <i>Jessica Fort</i>	Our Stories Show Us Connectedness “Stakeholder Perspectives of Culturally Important Species of the Blackfoot” <i>Celina Gray, Graduate Student</i>
	Yakama Nation Fisheries	1854 Treaty Authority	Navajo Nation Department of Fish and Wildlife	University of Montana
10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	An Overview of the Navajo Nation Fisheries Program <i>Glenn Selby, Fish Biologist</i>	Native Bees: Multi-scale Monitoring to Conserve Traditional Resources <i>Casey T. Burns, Wildlife Program Lead</i>	Moose Abundance and Calf Recruitment on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation and Glacier National Park <i>Landon Magee, Student/Wildlife Technician</i>	New Contributed Volume on Tribal Wildlife Stewardship <i>Serra Hoagland Ph.D., Tribal Relations Specialist</i>
	Navajo Nation Department of Fish and Wildlife	Bureau of Land Management - Alaska	Blackfeet Fish and Wildlife	USDA Forest Service R&D

10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Break

Concurrent Sessions I (cont.)

Topic	Fisheries Management	Biodiversity	Wildlife Management	Education & TEK
<i>Moderator</i>	<i>Hope Roberts, AK Regional Director – NAFWS</i>	<i>Laurel James, Director of Programs – NAFWS</i>	<i>Orville Huntington, AK Regional Director – NAFWS</i>	<i>Ashley Mueller, Education Coordinator – NAFWS</i>
Location	Aspen/Spruce room	Dillingham/Katmai	King Salmon/Illiamna	Birch/Willow
11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	<p>The Importance of Interagency Partnerships in Rural Fish Passage Projects</p> <p><i>Laurie Stuart, Executive Director and Jillian Jablonski, Habitat Programs Director Tyonek Tribal Conservation District</i></p>	<p>UG Botanical Inventory; Flora of the Navajo Nation’s Wolf Springs Ranch, CO</p> <p><i>Adriano Tsinigine, Fish & Wildlife Biologist</i></p> <p>U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service</p>	<p>Evaluating the use of thermal infrared drones and camera traps for determining population sizes of Sitka black-tailed deer on Afognak Island, AK</p> <p><i>Shannon Finnegan, Wildlife Biologist</i></p> <p>Koniag Native Corporation</p>	<p>2022 SYP Student Wildlife Management Plan</p> <p><i>Contest Winners: Kate Heister, Jovanii Baldwin, Danika Asgeirsson and Dylane Carlisle</i></p> <p>NAFWS Sumer Youth Practicum Contest</p>
11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	<p>Restoration of Eklutna River</p> <p><i>Carrie Brohpil</i></p> <p>Native Village of Eklutna</p>	<p>Habitat Restoration at the Tar Creek Superfund Site</p> <p><i>Summer King, Environmental Scientist</i></p> <p>Quapaw Nation</p>	<p>How many black bears and what are they eating?</p> <p><i>Benjamin Simpson, Wildlife Resource Manager</i></p> <p>Penobscot Nation Department of Natural Resources</p>	<p>Summer Youth Practicum Opportunities – National and Alaska Region</p> <p><i>Ashley Mueller, Education Coordinator and Kaitlyn Demoski, Asst. Tribal Climate Resilience Liaison</i></p> <p>NAFWS</p>

12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
 Location:
 Aleutian/Alaska Room

NAFWS NATIONAL BUSINESS MEETING

Coordinator: Mike LaVoie, Vice President, SE Regional Director – NAFWS

****LUNCH PROVIDED****

—SEE MEETING AGENDA—

Concurrent Sessions II

Topic	Invasive Species	Co-management/Authority	Habitat Connectivity	Climate
<i>Moderator</i>	<i>Mitzi Reed, Invasive Species Coordinator – NAFWS</i>	<i>Darren Talayumptewa, SW Regional Director- NAFWS</i>	<i>Shailyn Wiechman, Wildlife Connectivity Coordinator – NAFWS</i>	<i>Heather Bartlett, Fish & Wildlife Biologist – NAFWS</i>
Location	Aspen/Spruce Room	Dillingham/Katmai	King Salmon/Iliamna	Birch/Willow Combination
2:00 p.m.– 2:30 p.m.	Makah Management Strategies for Invasive European Green Crab <i>Cole Svec, Green Crab Technician II</i>	The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Wildlife Department: The Beginning <i>Matt Gamble, Senior Manager of Wildlife Conservation</i>	Highway 160 Wildlife Crossings – First Year Successes and Challenges <i>Aran Johnson, Wildlife Division Head</i>	TEK for Climate Adaptation and Workforce Development <i>Ali Meders-Knight, Executive Director</i>
	Makah Tribe	The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma	Southern Ute Indian Tribe	California Open Lands

2:30 p.m.– 3:00 p.m.	The National Early Detection Rapid Response Information System: Learning from Past Efforts to Inform the Future of EDRR Management <i>Aimee Agnew, Biologist/Program Coordinator</i> US Geological Survey	Tribal representation in Local Government for Fish and Wildlife work in the Mat-su <i>Kendra Zamzow, Environmental Program Manager</i> Chickaloon Village Traditional Council	Fish Passage Restoration Training for Alaska Tribes <i>Jessica Winnestaffer, Environmental Stewardship Director</i> Chickaloon Native Village	Adapting to Climate Change on the Navajo Nation <i>Jamie Begay, Wildlife Technician</i> Navajo Nation Fish & Wildlife Climate Change Program
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3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Break

Concurrent Sessions II (cont.)

Topic	Threatened & Endangered Species	Co-management/Authority	Wildlife Health	Education/Outreach
<i>Moderator</i>	<i>Donna Nez, PA Regional Director – NAFWS</i>	<i>Mike LaVoie, SE Regional Director – NAFWS</i>	<i>Don Reiter, GL Regional Director – NAFWS</i>	<i>Jerilyn Kelly, Tribal Climate Resilience Liaison – NAFWS</i>
Location	Aspen/Spruce Room	Dillingham/Katmai	King Salmon/Iliamna	Birch/Willow Combination
3:30 p.m.– 4:00 p.m.	Bull Trout Restoration and Monitoring Project <i>Russ Byington, Fisheries Biologist</i> Yakama Nation	Co-stewardship Initiatives and Models Abroad <i>Crystal Miller, PhD Student</i> University of Arizona	Is a new way better? Sampling winter tick densities on Tribal Land in Maine <i>Benjamin Simpson, Wildlife Resource Manager</i> Penobscot Nation Department of Natural Resources	Feedback: The Ups and Downs of Writing a Climate Scoping Report and Tribal Youth Curriculum <i>Kendra Zamzow, Env.l Program Manager</i> Chickaloon Village Traditional Council

4:00 p.m.– 4:30 p.m.	Hatchery Production Methods for the Endangered Kootenai River White Sturgeon Conservation Aquaculture Program	Chugach Imaq <i>Willow Hetrick, Executive Director</i>	Zoonotic Disease Concerns for Tribal Hunters and Harvesters	The Indigenous Sentinels Network and Community- Based Monitoring for Fisheries Management <i>Hannah-Marie Garcia, ISN Coordinator</i>
	<i>Nate Jensen, Aquaculture Program Supervisor</i>		*4:00- 5:00 p.m.	
	Kootenai Tribe of Idaho	Chugach Regional Resources Commission		<i>Tolani Francisco, DVM, MPH</i>
4:30 p.m.– 5:00 p.m.	Population and Habitat Monitoring on Spotted Owls within Tribal Lands	From Sovereignty to Seabeds: Native-led Marine Resource Protection	Native Healing, LLC	Research and Strategies for Communicating Native Natural Resource Science <i>Ryan Comfort, Ph.D. – Assistant Professor</i> Indiana University
	<i>Xavier Lovato, Graduate Research Student</i>	<i>Simon Friday, Shellfish Garden Supervisor</i>		
	University of Montana	Organized Village of Kake		
5:00 p.m.	Adjourn			
5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Location: Top of the World – Hilton Anchorage	Tribal Student and Professional Mixer and Poster Session Poster Presentations and Student Recognition Moderator: Ashley Mueller, Education Coordinator – NAFWS *Hors d' oeuvres will be served			

Thursday, April 27, 2023

6:00 a.m. – 7:30 a.m.

Location: Tony Knowles Coastal Trail

5K Salmon Fun Run/Walk

Coordinator: Ashley Mueller, NAFWS Education Coordinator & Rosie Sanchez, NAFWS Public Information Officer

Instructions:

Meet at 6:00 a.m. at Tony Knowles Coastal Trailhead at 2nd and H. Street

Safety Briefing at 6:05 a.m.

Race Starts at 6:10 a.m.

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Location: Varies, Meet in lobby

Leave hotel at 8 am

*Limited Transportation available

Natural Resources Tours: Highlighting Alaska Tribal Natural Resources

Coordinators: Willow Hetrick, CRRC and Kaitlyn Demoski, NAFWS

- Chugach Regional Resources Commission – Seward, AK (lunch provided) – Limited 30 (**leaves at 7:30 a.m.*)

- Native Village of Eklutna and Palmer (lunch on own) – Limited 30

- Palmer Hay Flats – Knik Tribe (lunch provided) – Limited 30

- Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center Wood Bison- Ken Chase – Anvik- works with USFWS – Limited 30

- Anchorage self-guided tour options

6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Location: Aleutian/Alaska

BANQUET

Master of Ceremony: Hope Roberts, AK Regional Director – NAFWS

Banquet Keynote: Arthur “Butch” Blazer, NAFWS Founding Member

Retire the Colors

Invocation: Tribal Elder

Award Announcements:

National Tribal Student Poster Session Awards

Regional Awards

Emerging Professional of the Year Award

Conservation Officer of the Year Award

Biologist of the Year Award

Chief Sealth Award

National Conservation Officer Shoot Team Awards

Live and silent auction – Ted Lamebull, PA Regional Director

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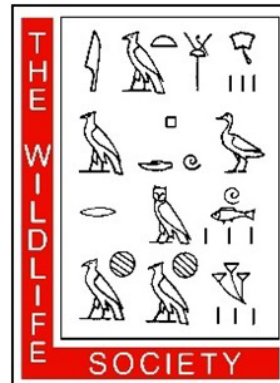
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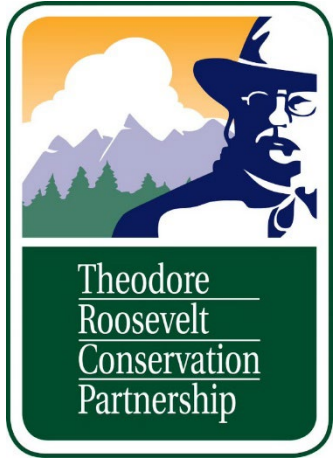
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