In this issue: Spokane Meeting Recap, WDAFS Awards, WDAFS Committee Updates, and more...

President: Laurie Earley  President-Elect: Eric Fetherman
Vice President: Julie Carter  Past-President: Dan Brauch  Sec.-Treasurer: Laura Burckhardt
Student Representative: Jack McLaren  Tributary Editor: Timothy D'Amico
Wow, what a MEETING! We are so appreciative of all the hard work that went into planning the 152nd AFS Meeting in Spokane. It was a wonderful opportunity to work with our co-hosts, the Washington-British Columbia Chapter to provide both AFS members and non-members the opportunity to come together and share information and science on all the great work being conducted in the West, nationally, and internationally! The meeting was filled with meaningful events that were each pulled off with great success and many enjoyed the interactions with our friends, colleagues, and fellow fish professionals and enthusiasts. Although COVID was not completely a thing of the past, we’re thankful that many of the attendees returned home safely and healthy.

It’s hard to know where to start with an event of this magnitude. We would be remiss if we didn’t acknowledge the significant contributions by so many to organize, host, and lead the Spokane planning effort. The planning team was led by AFS President Leanne Roulson, Western Division President Dan Brauch, and Washington-British Columbia President Alf Haukenes. Many others played significant and leading roles including AFS Executive Director Doug Austen, AFS Staff and numerous WD and WA-BC Chapter Members. We were impressed how well the planning team came together over the last year of planning and enjoyed working with this dynamic group.

When it comes to AFS staff, these meetings wouldn’t be a success without the assistance and leadership they all bring to the table. We thank Shawn Johnston and Steven Kambouris, for leading the way on coordination of venues and meetings; Lauren Maza for doing an excellent job organizing the Plenary Sessions and Continuing Education Courses along with many other duties; and, Beth Beard and Rachel Bruce for coordination of the meeting web site, messaging and other meeting coordination tasks (and Rachel’s work with the excellent signage). Fundraising was led by Katrina Dunn, Dan Cassidy, Kelly Kotche, and WA-BC Secretary-Treasurer Tamara Knudson, raising over $160,000 to support the meeting. We are beyond thankful for being able to work with such a talented
The meeting started off with several incredible Continuing Education courses. We were both able to attend a Cultural Competency and Relevancy course taught by Sammy Matsaw. This course was well attended and provided an opportunity to expand our knowledge about how we can better understand, value and find strengths in differing ideas and knowledge systems and introduced ideas for how we can mindfully bring those ideas and knowledge systems together. Although this could be difficult at times, this course was eye opening for many of the attendees and would recommend that people take the opportunity to attend similar courses in the future. We thank the many Continuing Education instructors for contributing to the meeting and providing opportunities for professional growth!

Other highlights of the meeting included four Plenary sessions, which were opened with a land acknowledgement and ‘Welcoming Remarks’ from Carol Evans, the Chairwoman of the Spokane Tribe of Indians. The plenary sessions covered talks on safe fieldwork strategies, diversity and building inclusivity in fisher-
ies, infrastructure funding and conservation, cultivating alliances and indigenous and research methodologies in fisheries, a tribal perspective on rivers and fish, a talk on how ancient fishes can help us to better understand and conserve aquatic ecosystems, and a talk on gathering perspectives on knowledge and right. Thanks to all of our plenary speakers for their contributions to our meeting and helping to provide us with "Perspectives from Above and Below the Water".

On Wednesday, many meeting participants were able to join the Spokane Tribe of Indians and their partners at People’s Park to participate in a fish release. This was an incredibly moving experience for attendees that were able to join. People's Park is located on the Spokane River near sƛ̓x̣e tkw (Spokane Falls). It was an honor for attendees to be part of this important event to return salmon to the Spokane River after over a century of being disconnected.

Other events included a great Center for Technology and Collaboration and Poster Session Networking Event on Monday night, with over 100 posters and 40 vendors. Tuesday evening focused on the students and Kat Dale planned a very well attended Student-Professional Networking event, which included yard games. The meeting closed with a Grand Networking event at The Pavilion at Riverfront Park. This event was a great opportunity to carry on conversations from the week and to catch-up with old friends before many traveled home on Thursday. This venue is the center of Riverfront Park and an icon of Spokane, along with the nearby Great Northern Clocktower. We’re so happy that we could gather under the pavilion and enjoy dinner and beverages while visiting with fisheries family in small groups.

Later in this issue of The Tributary, we will highlight many of the deserving Western Division award winners, but we want to take this opportunity to congrat-
ulate all the 2022 winners which were announced during our Business Meeting in Spokane. In addition, the Western Division was well represented at AFS Level awards presented in Spokane. These awards included AFS Fellows awards to Patrick Cooney and Leanne Roulson, the AFS 2022 Outstanding Chapter to the Oregon Chapter, the Mercer Patriarche Best Paper in the North American Journal of Fisheries Management to Kim Hyatt et al., the Robert L. Kendall Best Paper in the Transaction of the American Fisheries Society to Jon E Hess, the Best Student Oral Paper Presentation to Taylor Cubbage, the Emerging Leaders Award to Taylor Saucier, and the AFS Award of Excellence to Bob Hughes. We also congratulate Skinner Travel awards winners from the Western Division, Taylor Cubbage, Matea Djokic, and Susan Frawley.

Thanks to all who were able to join us in Spokane and to the many folks that donated to the meeting or silent auction, and, once again, to all of the staff and volunteers who assisted with the meeting in any way! We also want to thank all the folks that participated, whether it was organizing a symposium or presenting a paper or poster. We look back at the meeting with appreciation and great memories and look forward to the next time we can all get together. With Spokane in the rear mirror, we’re already planning for the next Western Division Annual Meeting which will be hosted by the Idaho Chapter in Boise, Idaho May 7-11, 2023. Hope you will be able to join us there!

In closing, we want to thank everyone who participated with Western Division and Chapter meetings, committees, or governance in this past year. We appreciate the significant contributions that Chapter Presidents, Division Officers, and Student Representative made to Western Division. We would like to thank the significant and superb service of those exiting the Western Division Executive Committee, especially Todd Pearsons who has finished out his four years of service as a Western Division officer and Kat Dale who has served as Student Representative for the Division during the last year. A hearty thanks to Todd and Kat! Lastly, Dan thanks you for the opportunity to serve as your President during the last year and looks forward to continuing work as Past President. As your new President, Laurie looks forward to supporting the Western Division membership in the next year.
WDAFS MISSION/VISION STATEMENTS

WDAFS MISSION: The mission of the Western Division of the American Fisheries Society is to: 1) improve the conservation and sustainability of unique fishery resources and aquatic ecosystems in western North America by advancing fisheries and aquatic science and promoting the development of fisheries professionals, and 2) serving as an effective bridge between the Society and Chapters within the Western Division, promoting communication among and support of the Chapters and membership, and being the American Fisheries Society’s representative to the public in western North America.

WDAFS VISION: The Western Division of the American Fisheries Society seeks to be recognized as the pre-eminent organization providing fisheries information to decision makers in all arenas of western North America. While fulfilling our vision, we will recruit and develop new fisheries professionals by offering learning and training opportunities crucial to maintaining a well-trained profession, support programs and efforts to increase diversity and inclusion, and enhance the value of American Fisheries Society professional certification.

WDAFS SLOGAN: Advancing fisheries and aquatic science and professionals in western North America.

WDAFS CHALLENGE: Ignorance of fisheries and aquatic ecosystems is our arch enemy. We will fight against ignorance by communicating science to other scientists, decision makers, influencers, and the Public, and we will advocate for conducting and using science to achieve sound management and policy decisions. We will expose suppression and misuse of science and enhance scientific credibility by attempting to maintain purity of the scientific enterprise. It is our hope that elevating science will help influencers and decision makers to achieve what is best for current and future generations.

WDAFS COMMITTEE UPDATES

Resource, Policy & Environmental Concerns Committee

Bob Hughes (WDAFS Resource, Policy, & Environmental Concerns Committee)

Helped organize, chair & present at two sessions during the 2022 AFS annual meeting in Spokane: 1) Building Effective Policy Approaches for Current Fisheries Issues; 2) Connectivity through Barrier Removal: Balancing Critical Ecosystem Processes with Complex Management Issues.

Drafted and revised letter for AFS to Congress regarding breaching of the four Lower Snake River dams.

Revised AFS comment to the USEPA supporting its proposed determination to prohibit disposal of dredge or fill material in connection with the Pebble Mine proposal.

Western Native Fishes Committee

Timothy D’Amico & Luke Schultz (WDAFS Western Native Fishes Committee)

The Western Native Fishes Committee proudly hosted another successful Native Fishes symposium at the 2022 Meeting. We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to all those involved, especially our presenters, both in-person and virtual. If you are interested in joining our committee, contact us at westernnativefishes@gmail.com
Diversity & Inclusion Committee

Laura Slater & Emily Chen (WDAFS Diversity & Inclusion Committee)

Co-chair Wanted: The Diversity and Inclusion Committee is looking for a new co-chair starting in August. Interested members should email co-chair Emily Chen (diversityinclusion@wdafs.org) for further information.

Join Our Committee: contact diversityinclusion@wdafs.org to be added to listserv

AFS/Western Division/WA-BC Annual Meeting, Spokane 2022 Highlights

The Diversity and Inclusion committee hosted and contributed to many events at the Annual Meeting held in Spokane this August. First timers social - the Western Division D&I committee hosted a social event for first time attendees. Attendees had a chance to meet other first time attendees, discuss what they were excited about, and ask questions about the meeting structure. Trade expo booth - the Western Division D&I committee hosted a booth in the expo hall with the EOS section, Society’s D&I committee, Fisheries Posters for Classrooms, and Women in Fisheries. Conference swag - the committee sponsored “Outdoor is for Everyone” buttons to give away during the meeting and identity stickers for people to add to their name badges. They were very popular! Other DEIJA activities at the meeting - members of the D&I committee also participated in The Alphabet (LGBTQIA2S+/BIPOC) Social, Improving DEIJA communication in fisheries symposium, Valuing fish perspectives through a DEIA lens to career pathways symposium, Safe spaces workshop, WOCshop, and the Cultural Competency continuing education course.
WDAFS AWARDS

2022 WDAFS Award of Excellence
Dr. Frank Rahil, University of Wyoming

Dr. Rahil, faculty at the University of Wyoming since the 1980's, is a preeminent fish ecologist who has advanced the fisheries profession through his contributions to fisheries science and his training of the next generation of fisheries professionals – two central tenets of the American Fisheries Society’s mission. Dr. Rahel’s contributions to fisheries science are too numerous to count. While his research has covered a broad array of topics, in whole it has informed applied fisheries management while also ensuring it fits into, and informs, the big picture of fish ecology and conservation. The nomination by eminent colleagues documented his many accomplishments including his work on climate change. Dr. Rahel served as President of the Colorado-Wyoming Chapter (1992-93), and he was elected as an American Fisheries Society Fellow in 2015. His students, present and past, have led the University of Wyoming Student Subunit, led the formation of a new subunit at Colorado Mesa University, served on the editorial board of AFS journals, and more. Dr. Rahel and his students regularly publish their research in Society books and journals, and Dr. Rahel is frequently a contributor to AFS books, developed by the Society’s Education Section, that are used in university fisheries courses across the country.

2022 WDAFS Award of Merit
Dan Dauwalter

Dan represents all the characteristics commended by this award based on his deep and varied contributions to the Division, AFS more broadly, our profession as a whole and the conservation of fisheries and their aquatic habitats. Dan recently finished the 4-year term of the Division’s Presidency cycle, navigating the responsibilities that effort entails with adeptness. After this tremendous responsibility, when most would shy away from re-upping on commitments Dan increased his role with AFS by becoming an Editor of NAJFM. In other commitments, he now also serves as the Chair of the Science and Data Committee for the Desert Fishes Habitat Partnership. One of the most important things to emphasize about Dan is how he builds community outreach and mentoring into every aspect of his work, not to mention his contribution to science.
2022 WDAFS Award of Special Recognition
Brian Missildine

Brian first served the Executive Committee for the WA/BC Chapter in the early 2010’s providing the link between the Division and the Washington/British Columbia region AFS membership. Shortly after wrapping up his time serving WA/BC, he was elected to a 4 year officer term of the Western Division. He was an early advocate of the Division’s Diversity and Inclusion committee, pursuing financial sustainability, and prioritized open communication between students and the society. A number of years later, these are all still considered relevant hot topics! Brian continues to serve in a variety of important ways within AFS and the WD. His dedication and passion are a great example to us all.

2022 WDAFS Robert Borovicka Conservation Achievement Award—Chip Corsi, IDFG

In over four decades of dedication to fisheries conservation, Chip has served as a fish culturist, research biologist, management biologist, regional fisheries manager, staff biologist, state fishery manager and now regional supervisor for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. During this career, Chip has accomplished a remarkable body of work, advancing conservation of native species and critical ecosystems, mentoring a cadre of fisheries conservation leaders and providing dedicated service to the public and our fish and wildlife trust resources. His professional hallmark has been his ability to build productive relationships, however controversial or challenging the subjects.
Hickey Bros Research receives this award because of their efforts in Lake Trout suppression in areas where Lake Trout are undesirable in the intermountain west. For example, in 2003, HBR began working with IDFG to conduct Lake Trout assessments and then began suppression in Lake Pend Oreille in 2006. Since that time, the Lake Trout population has been reduced by about 80%, kokanee have rebounded and been sustained at high-density, an otherwise inevitable Bull Trout decline was avoided, and the Rainbow Trout and Bull Trout trophy fishery has returned to its former world-class status. Lake Pend Oreille is the first successful attempt to suppress an introduced Lake Trout population in a large waterbody. Their commercial fishing expertise, remarkable ability to work effectively with agency staff, unrivaled work ethic, and passion for fisheries conservation allowed them to contribute to this program in a way that no other company could match.

The City of Missoula has engaged fisheries professionals in removing barriers to fish movement and restoring habitat on a large scale. As an example, they worked together with other fishery professionals to remove the deteriorating dam on Rattlesnake Creek, and fully reconnect Rattlesnake Creek to the Clark Fork River for the first time in more than 100 years. Their work is a shining example for other cities to follow in pursuing aquatic ecosystem restoration and conservation.
Eugen Maughan Scholarship

Bob Gresswell (WDAFS Scholarship Chair)

The Eugene Maughan Graduate Student Scholarships fund up to $5,000 annually to masters or doctoral students in the general area of fisheries science with one to three awards to individual students.

Selection Criteria include demonstration of:
Excellent scholarship as evidenced by grades in rigorous course work during the last 60 hours as an undergraduate and during graduate studies.
Potential for future contributions to the fisheries profession through management, research, or teaching.
Significant progress towards attaining a graduate degree in fisheries science with a defined thesis or dissertation project.

We congratulate the 2022 Eugene Maughan Scholarship Award Winners:

Michael Miller (MS, New Mexico State University)

George Valentine (MS, Colorado State University)

Jacey Van Wert (PhD, University of California—Santa Barbara)
2022 WDAFS Riparian Challenge Award Winners

Amy Sacry (WDAFS Riparian Challenge Awards Chair)

2022 RIPARIAN CHALLENGE AWARD: USFS

The winner of the 2022 Riparian Challenge Award for the Forest Service Category was the Tribasin Fish Passage and Watershed Restoration Project submitted by the Bridger-Teton National Forest, Greys River Ranger District. The project was a collaboration to protect, reconnect, and restore streams on Bridger-Teton National Forest lands associated with a commercial timber sale and its access routes. The project included culvert replacement, bioengineering and stream channel restoration, treatments to reduce erosion and sedimentation from roads, and regrading of 10 miles of forest roads. The project reconnected 21.3 miles of spawning habitat for genetically pure Snake River Finespotted cutthroat trout.

2022 RIPARIAN CHALLENGE AWARD: USFS

The winner of the 2022 Riparian Challenge Award in the Bureau of Land Management Category is the Floras Creek Riparian and Water Quality Enhancement Project submitted by the Coos Bay District BLM, Myrtlewood Field Office and Curry Watersheds Partnership in Oregon. This project took a long-term approach to improving water quality and quantity for both human consumption and the aquatic ecosystem of Floras Creek. The project included a wide range of treatments to reduce sediment loading from anthropogenic sources, reduce the risk of catastrophic wildlife; reduce bank erosion, and enhance riparian habitat.
2022 WDAFS Riparian Challenge Award Winners, cont.

2022 RIPARIAN CHALLENGE AWARD: USFS

The winner of the 2022 Riparian Challenge Award in the Other Category is the Finn Rock Reach Floodplain Restoration Project submitted by the McKenzie River Trust in Oregon. The project was completed with several partners including the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and McKenzie Watershed Council. There was a critical need to restore complex, low velocity habitat for fish and wildlife and depositional reaches that filter and improve water quality, particularly following the Holiday Farm Fire of 2020 that burned over 25% of the McKenzie River watershed. This project continues the partnership’s valley bottom restoration work in the watershed. More information on the project can be found at: https://mckenzieriver.org.

2022 RIPARIAN CHALLENGE AWARD: HONORABLE MENTION

In 2022 a Riparian Challenge award was also given to the Little Bear Stage 0 Restoration Project in Idaho. This project was a collaboration between the USDA-NRCS Field Office in Moscow and a private landowner enrolled in EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program), to restore a heavily channelized and incised stream to a historic Stage 0 condition that maximized floodplain connectivity and restored wetlands. The project is the first implementation of Stage 0 restoration in Idaho and the first Stage 0 implementation for NRCS in the nation. The NRCS EQIP program allowed the landowners to be the general contractors for the project using local businesses to complete the work.
WDAFS AWARDS, cont.

WDAFS Outstanding Large Chapter—Oregon AFS

Chapter Officers

Scott Heppell (OSU) President
Chris Hirsch (USFS) President-Elect
Peter Stevens (ODFW) Past President
Victoria Quinnnessen (OSU) Vice President
Andrea Carpenter (ODFW) Secretary
Addie Averett (ODFW) Treasurer
Ryan Branstetter (CRITTC) External Director
Peggy Cavanagh (ODFW) Internal Director

ORAFS 2022
WDAFS Outstanding Student Subunit—University of California—Santa Cruz/Monterey/Bay Area

Watershed Awareness Volunteer Event

FOR FISH & FLOWERS

Help restore native habitat in Arana Gulch by removing invasive plants!

California Conservation Corps
Watershed Stewards Program
In partnership with AmeriCorps

WHERE:
Arama Gulch Trail,
Agnes St. Entrance, Santa Cruz

WHEN:
Saturday & Sunday, June 18 & 19
8:30 am - 1:00 pm

WHAT TO BRING:
Closed-toed shoes, sun protection, water bottle, snack

Let’s stay healthy and safe! WSP will adhere to all COVID guidelines during this event.

The Watershed Steward Program (WSP) is dedicated to improving watershed health by actively engaging in restoration activities, education, and community education while removing the threat of invasive plant species.

A program of the California Conservation Corps, WSP is one of the most productive programs for direct involvement in the environmental field. WSP is administered by California Parks, the Office of the Conservator, and supported by AmeriCorps and the California’s Department of Agriculture and Parks.
Early Career Professional Committee
Travel Grant Awards

Qualifications:
Current WDAFS membership
Graduated academia since 2017

Ranking:
Participation at the meeting/ECP

Interest in future AFS service
Strong interest in fishery science

Awards
Three awards - Dylan Gomes, Cat Adams, Cortney Brown

2022 WDAFS Travel Grant Recipients

Intended to help WDAFS members attend the annual WDAFS meeting. 60 Applicants in 6 award categories
15 grants awarded ranging from $500-$2,000

Student $5,000, Early Career Professional $1500,
Emeritus $500, Professional $750, Indigenous/Tribal
$2,000 and International $750. (Total budgeted and awarded = $10,500)

All awardees were expected to volunteer for 4 hours during the meeting

STUDENT
Emily Chen
Matea Djokic
Carolyn Hamman

Kadie Heinle
John McLaren
Caroline Rosinski
Brandy Smith
Andrew Suchomel

ECP, Emeritus, Professional, International, Indigenous/Tribal
Catherine Adams
Cortney Brown
Dylan Gomes
Dr. Muhammad Naeem Khan
Joe Margraff
Jason Thomas
Tracy Wendt
**WDAFS SMALL PROJECT GRANTS**

**Fisheries Posters for Classrooms**

(Emily Chen, UC Berkeley)

The stories of historical figures such as Charles Darwin and John Muir have inspired generations of natural scientists. Although there are abundant stories of white naturalists, prominent stories that are of people of color are sparse. Telling and elevating the stories of naturalists from different backgrounds is needed to attract a broader demographic of people to the field. For children, having scientists and role models that look like them can be critical for envisioning themselves in the field and developing an enthusiasm for science. Our project tells the stories of prominent scientists of color, through posters, to middle schoolers and beyond.

With funding from the Western Division’s Small Projects Grant, we designed and printed two posters that teaches concepts in biology and environmental science through the life story and research of a person of color. This fall, we distributed these posters to middle schools in the San Francisco Bay Area and are working with UC Davis to distribute posters to Davis and Sacramento Area. Additionally, we showcased the posters at a trade expo booth at the AFS Annual Meeting in Spokane this August! We are interested in distributing these posters more broadly and those interested should email Emily Chen at emily-chen@berkeley.edu

Fisheries Posters for Classrooms at the AFS Annual Meeting, Spokane, WA, August 2022.

Fisheries Posters for Classrooms at the Joint Aquatic Sciences Meeting, Grand Rapids, MI, May 2022.

**2022 WDAFS Small Project Grant Recipients**

Emily Chen, University of California, Berkeley: *Fisheries Figures of Color* poster series

Margaret Harings, University of Alaska Fairbanks: Using environmental DNA to monitor spawning run abundance and ecological relationships among fishes in the Yukon River drainage

Ann Holmes, University of California, Davis: Application of environmental DNA metabarcoding for assessing efficacy of Marine Protected Areas in coastal California

Leigh Sanders, University of California, Davis: Double duty: Using fish DNA metabarcoding on waterfowl fecal samples to monitor the effects of wetland restoration on fish and listed waterfowl species

Gretchen Sausen, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: Educating the Next Generation, Salmonids in the Classroom

Alix Silver: Fishes of Lake Franklin D. Roosevelt book
Educating the Next Generation

Fisheries/Watershed Education in Northeast Oregon

Gretchen Sausen, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, La Grande Field Office, La Grande, OR
Kayla Morinaga, Grande Ronde Model Watershed, La Grande, OR
Carrie Caselton Lowe, RedTwig Education, La Grande, OR

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), La Grande Field Office, Grande Ronde Model Watershed (GRMW), and RedTwig Education, in collaboration with partners work hard, getting creative to provide education programs to local schools and communities in Northeast Oregon. In 2022, we applied for educational grant funding and received funding from the Western Division American Fisheries Society (WDAFS), the Oregon Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (ORAFS), and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Salmon Trout Enhancement Program (ODFW STEP) for our fisheries/watershed education and outreach programs. We received $1,000 from WDAFS, $890 from ORAFS, and $1,900 from ODFW STEP. Grant funds provide hands-on activities and materials for our 2022 and future fisheries/watershed educational programs (including; Salmonid in the classroom program, Woodlands and Watershed festival, and kids bull trout handout/activity sheet). These grant funds will help advance ORAFS and WDAFS goals of public appreciation of fish resources and early education for our future land stewards and future AFS members. In addition, these grant funds help keep these outreach programs functioning, rewarding, and fun. Annually, these programs reach five schools, and over 3,000 adults and children each year. In 2023, we are very excited that we will have seven schools participating! The USFWS education programs work in concert with other educational programs to promote Fisheries and Watershed Stewardship in rural NE Oregon. The USFWS, GRMW, and RedTwig Education are pooling resources, expertise, and funds to reinforce fisheries/watershed stewardship for grades 4-12 and college students. The GRMW is the main coordinating entity for stream, floodplain, and riparian habitat restoration in the Grande Ronde, and Imnaha river subbasins in NE Oregon. They have assisted in the implementation of over 400 stream and riparian restoration projects since 1992. Major funding entities do not typically pay for project level monitoring or education efforts. Restoration projects need monitoring and are a great laboratory for our youth. The Gray Family Foundation, Amazon Web Services, Wildhorse Foundation, and National Park Service—Crayfish Study provides funding for GRMW’s Grande Ronde Community Science Project. The Project, in partnership with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, engages youth in monitoring and restoring watershed health and integrates Indigenous ways of knowing with western science practices. Implementation for this Project began in 2022. Fifth grade to high school and college age students help monitor restoration streams in NE Oregon. Scarce resources require synergizing efforts in rural areas. We enlist the village of agency scientists to procure resources and partner with educators and our indigenous neighbors for ultimate success.
Meet Your WDAFS Officers

President: Laurie Earley  
*Hometown:* Colchester, VT  
*Education:* B.S., University of Rhode Island; M.S., Auburn University  
*Employer:* U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Essex Junction, VT  
*Interests:* Outdoor recreation of all kinds, traveling, gardening, cooking, reading, and exploring our surrounding with our 1 year old daughter.

President-Elect: Eric Fetherman  
*Hometown:* Lakewood, CO  
*Education:* B.S., Colorado State University; M.S., Colorado State University; Ph.D., Colorado State University  
*Employer:* Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Fort Collins, CO  
*Interests:* I enjoy hiking and backpacking with my wife, especially in Rocky Mountain National Park on any free weekend we can find, as well as hunting, fishing, birdwatching, and photography.

Vice President: Julie Carter  
*Hometown:* Phoenix, AZ  
*Education:* B.S. Biology Northern Arizona University; M.S. University of Alaska Fairbanks  
*Employer:* Arizona Game and Fish Department  
*Interests:* I love to fish for trout and I’m currently working to complete the Arizona Trout Challenge and the Western Native Trout Challenge. Spending time hiking in the mountains, trips to the beach, and seeing live music with my family are my happy places.

Past-President: Dan Brauch  
*Hometown:* Meeker, CO  
*Education:* B.S., Colorado State University  
*Employer:* Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Gunnison, CO  
*Interests:* Looking forward to travelling more and hopeful that Covid related travel concerns are soon part of our past! I enjoy hiking, hunting, fishing, and seeing the awesome scenery throughout much of the West with my family.

Secretary-Treasurer: Laura Burckhardt  
*Hometown:* Casper, WY  
*Education:* M.S, University of Arizona  
*Employer:* Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Cody Wyoming  
*Interests:* I enjoy exploring nature. Including hiking, kayaking, rafting, paddleboarding, backpacking, camping, skiing, fishing, hunting, harvesting and preserving my own food. I also enjoy helping kids learn to love and take care of our natural resources.

Student Representative: Jack McLaren  
*Hometown:* Denver, CO  
*Education:* B.S. University of Notre Dame. M.S. Indiana University.  
*Employer:* PhD. Candidate, Utah State University  
*Interests:* I love to float, fly-fish, camp, and hunt with my friends, family, and corgi. I also serve the community through the Utah State University Catholic Newman Center.