



WYOMING CHAPTER – THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Leaders in Wildlife Science, Management and Conservation

Call for Abstracts

The Wyoming Chapter of The Wildlife Society 2024 Conference
April 9 – 11 at the Holiday Inn at the Buffalo Bill Village Resort in Cody, WY

Deadline for submission: February 15, 2024

The Wyoming Chapter of the Wildlife Society and the Wyoming Landscape Conservation Initiative will jointly hold the annual conference at the Holiday Inn in Cody, WY, with the theme of **“Cultivating diverse relationships.”**

Oral or poster presentations on any pertinent wildlife or habitat-related topic will be considered. In addition to all presentations aligning with the conference theme, we are again interested in submissions related to Conservation Stories. Specifically, presentations in this category need not be research-oriented, but will tell stories about wildlife conservation challenges and how folks tackled them through management solutions, collaboration, outreach and communication, planning, etc. These presentations will be featured in a special session at the conference.

POSTER PRESENTATIONS can be up to 4 feet wide by 3 feet tall. The poster session will be held on the evening of April 9. *Individuals developing a research project or presenting preliminary data are strongly encouraged to present a poster rather than a talk.*

ORAL PRESENTATIONS will fall under two categories: 15 minutes (traditional) including Q & A, or 5-minute (lightning talk) followed by a panel Q & A.

STUDENT PRESENTATION AWARDS: Students at all stages (undergraduate, MS, PhD) will be eligible for evaluation for presentation awards (traditional-length talks and posters, but NOT lightning talks) at the conference. Feedback from judges will be provided to students at the end of the conference.

TRAVEL FUNDS: There are funds available for travel awards to help offset conference costs for students and professionals who are WYTWS members and are presenting a talk or poster. The link to the travel scholarship application can be found here: <http://wildlifewyoming.org/travel-grant-applications>

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMITTING AN ABSTRACT:

Please submit your abstract electronically via the link on the WY-TWS webpage by February 15:

<https://www.wildlifewyoming.org/abstract-submission>

Submission decisions will be made and sent via email by the WY-TWS Board by February 24, 2024, at which time presenters should register for the conference ASAP, if they have not already. Early bird registration closes March 4.

The following information will be required:

Name of presenting author (first, last)

Is the presenting author a student? (Yes or No)

If the presenter is a student, the degree being pursued (Undergraduate, MS, or PhD)

Email address for presenting author

Preferred presentation format (select one: Oral, traditional (15 mins); Oral, Lightning (5 mins); Poster)

Title of presentation: (IN ALL CAPS)

Names of all co-authors

Affiliations of all authors

Body of abstract: **(200 words maximum; please see guidance, below).**

Guidance for abstract composition:

Abstracts should concisely convey the what, why, where, when, and how of the work to be presented.

- Start with the broader context of the work, the key gap(s) in knowledge that the work addresses, and the importance (2-3 sentences).
- Explicitly articulate the focal questions/objectives, and any relevant hypotheses and predictions.
- General approach/methods (2-3 sentences); include just enough information to provide readers a sense for where, when, and how the work was conducted.
- Results: This is the core of the abstract. Summarize the main findings as they relate to the focal questions/objectives. Do not include summary statistics.
- Conclusions: End the abstract with a strong summary of the knowledge gained as a result of the work, and the relevant implications (2-3 sentences).
- *Note: Abstract submissions (e.g., poster) for work under development or in progress need not provide specific methodologies, results, or conclusions.*
- *The composition of submissions for the special Wildlife Conservation Stories session may be more unique.*

Example Abstract with correct formatting:**Title**

NOT ALL WHO WANDER ARE LOST: NAVIGATION AND MEMORY IN MULE DEER

Authors

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Abstract (max 200 words)

Animals move throughout their world to persist in environments where resources are heterogeneous in time and space. Seasonal migration, one of the most dramatic and widely observed forms of movement, can take animals across hundreds of kilometers of landscapes that they may see only twice a year. Consequently, migratory animals must possess the cognitive ability to manage massive amounts of spatial information to complete their journeys, yet how quickly animals develop such knowledge and their capacity to retain it remains a mystery. We observed a movement of a young mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) that demonstrates an extraordinary capacity of navigation and memory that has been heretofore unrecognized and unexplored in migratory ungulates. Weeks after arriving on her summer range, this animal left her summer range and traveled 75 km across rugged, novel topography by herself, only to turn around and follow almost exactly the same route back to her summer range. This unguided movement through unfamiliar country suggests that mule deer—and ungulates more broadly—perhaps possess unappreciated cognitive spatial abilities that warrant future exploration.