

THE ANGLER

NEWSLETTER OF THE COLORADO/WYOMING CHAPTER OF
THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

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EDITED BY KENDALL BAKICH & BEN FELT

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2024 CO/WY AFS Annual Meeting Feb 27 - Feb 29

"Connections"

Laramie, Wyoming

Registration is open!

The Vent

Steve Gale - CO/WY AFS President



Colorado/Wyoming AFS connections from the 2020 Laramie Meeting

For the past 23 years, I have been an active participant in the American Fisheries Society, a journey that began with my introduction to the Montana AFS Chapter in 2001. From 2000 to 2003, I worked as a seasonal fisheries technician for the National Park Service at Yellowstone. My second field season in 2001 I was lucky enough to be offered a position over the winter. That winter I lived in Gardiner MT (in a refurbished chicken coop) and commuted everyday up the hill to Mammoth Hot Springs to age trout otoliths and scales. While living in a refurbished chicken coop house had its issues, this winter job gave me the opportunity to attend that year's Montana AFS Chapter meeting. Amidst the backdrop of engaging presentations and camaraderie with fisheries professionals with stellar reputations in Montana and throughout the Western US, I witnessed the other side of AFS chapter meetings – post-banquet cannonballs into the hotel pool, by these same well-respected fisheries professionals. It was then that I thought, "I think I like AFS!" It is this blend of professionalism, thoughtful science, passion, and an appreciation of good times, that has kept me an active AFS member ever since.

Over the last two decades, my involvement has extended beyond mere membership. I played an important role in launching the Montana State University Student Subunit while in graduate school, have chaired numerous Chapter committees in both the Montana and CO/WY chapters, have assisted in organizing at least five chapter meetings, and currently serving as President of the CO/WY AFS Chapter. In reflection, not once have I considered my time invested into AFS-related activities as wasted. The connections forged during these 23 years have not only contributed significantly to my professional development but have also resulted in enduring friendships.

WANT TO HELP OUR CHAPTER OUT?! DONATE TODAY!

ANYTHING HELPS! DONATE TO THE CO/WY AFS CHAPTER HERE:
[HTTPS://CHECKOUT.SQUARE.SITE/BUY/AVP6LHVVTM5ECPAX5QHJVGHW](https://checkout.square.site/buy/avp6lhvvtm5ecpax5qhjvghw)

The Vent (continued)

Steve Gale - CO/WY AFS President



Colorado/Wyoming AFS connections from the 2020 Laramie Meeting

This year's meeting theme, "Connections," is not fish-related; rather, it underscores the importance of connecting with one another. Connectivity is at an all-time high in the world and within our profession, maintaining and establishing connections is paramount for professional growth and longevity. From personal experience, I have witnessed how one connection can lead to another, often paving the way for new opportunities, collaborations, and more. I recall my first encounter with the power of connections at age 19 when, through my brother's friend who was a fish biologist in Arizona and attended the University of Nebraska, which I did as well. It was through him, that I connected with a surface water biologist at the Nebraska DEQ, which ultimately led to me landing my first fisheries job. This experience solidified my passion for fish work and set the course for my career in the fisheries profession.

While being a Chapter spanning two states poses its challenges, it offers a unique annual opportunity at our Chapter meeting to gain insights from different perspectives. Whether it is learning various sampling methodologies or fostering creative thinking to address fishery issues in both states, these diverse viewpoints enrich our research activities and contribute to the overall growth of our fisheries community.

To foster connections within our Chapter, we each have to make an effort; therefore, I am asking each one of you to prepare for this year's meeting by:

- 1) Thinking about how you first became connected to the Colorado/Wyoming AFS Chapter?
- 2) Once at the meeting, engage! Ask questions or share your story with someone.
- 3) Follow-up with someone after the meeting. For example, request more information about their presentation or poster, or send a LinkedIn connection request.

WANT TO HELP OUR CHAPTER OUT?! DONATE TODAY!

ANYTHING HELPS! DONATE TO THE CO/WY AFS CHAPTER HERE:
[HTTPS://CHECKOUT.SQUARE.SITE/BUY/AVP6LHVVTM5ECPAX5QHJVGHW](https://checkout.square.site/buy/avp6lhvvtm5ecpax5qhjvghw)

SECRETARY / TREASURER NOMINEE



Tawni Riepe

Growing up exploring creeks, lakes, and swamps led me to a career in aquatic research and exploring the great outdoors. I earned my Bachelor's in Biology from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh in 2013, followed by a Ph.D. from Colorado State University in 2022, where I studied bacterial kidney disease transmission and detection in salmonids. Eager to combine my knowledge of disease and effects on aquatic systems, Colorado Parks and Wildlife Supported me in a postdoctoral position investigating complex interactions between toxicants, temperature, and disease in aquatic organisms. Soon after, I assumed my current role with Colorado Parks and Wildlife as an aquatic research scientist, while also serving as affiliate faculty as Colorado State University on honors and graduate student committees.

AFS Involvement

AFS membership can profoundly expand our professional relationships by serving new members while strengthening our existing community. Through my multiple committee roles at the national, division, and chapter levels, I understand the need for ongoing recruitment and serving each other. I began AFS leadership during my Ph.D., serving as the student liaison for CO/WY student chapter subunits and as the Western Division early career professional chair. I have come to understand that students and young professionals represent the future of AFS. While mentoring them, we must both learn from their perspectives and help them grasp their potential roles in fisheries science. Serving as a mentor not only fosters their career success, but also provides opportunities for greater involvement in professional organizations like AFS, allowing them to establish a strong sense of professional identity. In the last six years I have also worn many other hats; approving chapter budgets, teaching career building workshops and continuing education classes at division meetings, planning our chapters annual meeting, and judging the Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program at the national level. Through it all, I have come to realize our chapter is vital to AFS at the division and national level and I believe our success stems from strong mentoring and collaboration among one another. I am proud to be a part of that.

With experience in academia, government, and the private sector, I will bring valuable perspective to our chapter. If elected, I commit to strengthening our membership, recruitment, finances, mentorship, and diversity. I am excited and honored by the opportunity to serve the CO/WY AFS chapter. I look forward to collaborating with the executive board, committees, and members to uphold our credibility as fisheries professionals and members of the CO/WY AFS chapter.

Aquaculture Committee Spotlight

**By Cody Tyler (Colorado Parks and Wildlife Fish Culturist) and
Greg Lehr (Wyoming Game and Fish Department Fish Culturist)**



Kokanee salmon populations are suffering in the western U.S. This includes populations in Colorado and Wyoming. Several traditional wild Kokanee egg takes throughout the western U.S. have been seeing a decline in the number of fish and eggs. There may be several factors involved in this decline (e.g., drought conditions and warmer water temperatures). Fortunately, the Culture Sections within Colorado Parks and Wildlife and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department have been working hard to address this issue.

The Wyoming Game and Fish started the development of a captive Kokanee brood stock in 2017, with the first spawn in the fall of 2019 at the Tillett Rearing Station. Increased demand from fish biologists and the public for Kokanee stocking and the desire to secure a stable source of disease free eggs were the driving forces behind this decision. In Wyoming, three stations work together utilizing varying water temperatures to perform tasks and hit key size targets to ensure the success of the captive Kokanee brood program.

After Kokanee brood recruitment eggs are spawned, they are shipped to the Dubois Fish Hatchery where they are incubated on chilled water for approximately 3 months. The development of the Kokanee eggs is slowed down on the chilled water and then shipped to the Daniel Fish Hatchery as eyed eggs in mid-January. Kokanee salmon's growth and development are slowed further at the Daniel Fish Hatchery with water temperatures of 47°F in the hatchery and 44°F in the production building. Kokanee are raised until mid-April of the following year when they are transferred to the Tillett Rearing Station at age 1.5 and 35 fish/lb.

Aquaculture Committee Spotlight (continued)

By Cody Tyler (Colorado Parks and Wildlife Fish Culturist) and
Greg Lehr (Wyoming Game and Fish Department Fish Culturist)



In order for the Tillett Rearing Station to spawn Kokanee at 3 years old, percent body weight is used to determine feed amount, and Kokanee have size target milestones that the Tillett Rearing Station strives to achieve. Age 1.5 to 2 year old Kokanee are fed at approximately 2% daily percent body weight 6 days a week. The goal for this age class to achieve their target size of 4.5 fish/lb on November 1. Age 2 to 3 year old Kokanee are fed at approximately 0.88% daily percent body weight 5 days a week. The goal for this age class is to achieve their target size of 1.0 fish/lb on November 1. Nine months prior to the spawn, and during the weeks leading up to the spawn, Kokanee egg development is assessed utilizing a gonadosomatic index to confirm timing and ensure Kokanee are on track to spawn as 3 year olds in November. This refined process has led to numerous years of successful Kokanee spawning operations in Wyoming. This important Kokanee brood stock will help sustain Kokanee populations at important reservoirs such as Flaming Gorge.

The program requires the hatchery to maintain three brood classes to sustain the annual captive brood spawn. This year's captive brood spawn produced the largest number of Kokanee eggs in Colorado's Kokanee egg take program. A primary goal of the captive Kokanee program is to sustain the wild spawn operation out of the Blue Mesa Reservoir. This Kokanee population only produced 1.4 million eggs in 2023. The annual return of Kokanee from Blue Mesa is not consistent. In recent years, it has declined to lower than average desirable numbers that cannot sustain the wild population. With the many challenges the wild brood populations are facing within the state of Colorado, the Colorado Parks and Wildlife captive Kokanee brood program could provide a very important insurance policy for Colorado's important recreational Kokanee fisheries.

A big thanks to all the fish culturists working on Kokanee within their facilities throughout the western U.S. Tens of thousands of Kokanee anglers will benefit from the hard work of fish culturists tackling this issue through thoughtful science and dedication.

2024 CO/WY ANNUAL MEETING DETAILS

GENERAL INFORMATION

Location

Hilton Garden Inn - Laramie, WY (2229 Grand Ave.)

Annual Meeting Details

https://whova.com/portal/webapp/cafs_202402/

Check this often as we are updating it often as the program comes together.

Meeting Registration

https://whova.com/portal/registration/cafs_202402/

Registration Details

- Register as a Professional AFS Member (\$250), Early Career AFS Member (\$100), or a Student AFS member (\$30). Non-AFS members are welcome to register, but higher registration fees apply.
- Students will need to pay their meeting registration fee, but can have it covered by volunteering. Students wishing to volunteer a minimum of 4 hours at the meeting will have their meeting registration refunded after the meeting. Student volunteer sign-up sheet can be found at:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1sLTqkgxKsYYIMPguz-soyoQWllm50DKXxlcrA7TYRdc/edit?usp=sharing>

- **Registration waivers** are available for professional or ECP Chapter members whose situation is currently a barrier to participation at this year's CO/WY AFS Chapter meeting. Please contact Steve Gale at cowy.afs.pres@gmail.com for more information or to request a waiver.

Submit Abstracts Here

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1Dxpe9vEtHJuMPP3gwLKGneeUg7GfL8QPSvtNRlaMI/viewform?edit_requested=true

MEETING DEADLINES

JANUARY 26

Award Nominations
Abstracts

FEBRUARY 5

Early Registration
Hotel Reservations*
CO/WY Travel Grant Applications
Photo Contests

*Tax exempt: call hotel at 307-745-5500 and ask for CO WY Fisheries Block

*Non tax-exempt: Use hotel booking link on Chapter's website
(units.fisheries.org/cowyafs/home/annual-meeting/)

2024 CO/WY Meeting Agenda at a Glance

Tuesday, February 27

9:30 AM-4:30 PM: Continuing Education - eDNA

5:00-6:00 PM: Women in Science Welcome Social

6:00-10:00 PM: Welcome Social

Wednesday, February 28

8:00-11:30 AM: Plenary Session: Power of Storytelling

1:00-5:00 PM: Contributed Presentations and "Picture a Scientist" Movie

6:00-10:00 PM: Student Social

Thursday, March 2, 2022

8:00-11:45 AM: Contributed Presentations Session

12:00-1:15 PM: Business Lunch

1:30-3:30 PM: Contributed Presentations and Bob Wiley Cookie Social

4:00-6:00 PM: Poster Session and Connection Social

6:00-10:00 PM: Banquet, raffle, and award presentation



2024 CO/WY AFS Photo Contest

Please consider submitting your high-quality fish, people, and landscape photos for the 2024 CO/WY AFS Chapter Photo Contest. Visual media is a great way to tell your story and connect with others. A special sub-committee will vote on the top three photographs and a prize awarded for the best artistic depiction of...I guess we will have to wait and see! **The deadline for submissions is February 5.** Please email your high-resolution digital photographs (limit three submissions per person) for the Photo Contest to John Woodling at woodling@colorado.edu.

Meeting links and info is also available on the CO/WY AFS website:

<https://units.fisheries.org/cowyafs/>

LAST CALL FOR PAPERS



SEEKING ORAL AND POSTER PRESENTATIONS!

This year's theme is "Connections". One of the best ways to stay connected as chapter members is to give an oral presentation or present a poster at the 2024 CO/WY AFS Annual Meeting February 27 – February 29. Please consider sharing the great work that you have been doing or have been a part of over the last few years. The meeting will be in-person with the option for pre-recorded talks. All papers are welcome, including formal scientific studies and general informational talks. We make every effort to include every presentation in the program. You will be notified of your presentation time and date two weeks prior to the meeting. Abstracts can be submitted by visiting the Colorado-Wyoming AFS website (cowyafs.org) and following the link or [CLICK HERE](#) to submit your abstract. Please submit your abstract by **January 26**. If you need a couple extra days to get your abstract together just email Annika Walters (annika.walters@uwyo.edu) and we will save you a spot. For additional information or questions, you may contact members of the Program Committee: John Walrath (john.walrath@wyo.gov), Stephen Siddons (stephen.siddons@wyo.gov) or Tom Fresques (t1fresqu@blm.gov).

CHECK THIS OUT!

Tips and Tricks for Creating Effective Presentations

<https://fishculture.fisheries.org/professional-development/tips-%20on-giving-%20presentations/>



CONTINUING EDUCATION

CONTINUING EDUCATION IS INCLUDED IN YOUR MEETING REGISTRATION.

REGISTER FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING HERE:

[HTTPS://WHOVA.COM/PORTAL/REGISTRATION/CAFS_202402/](https://whoa.com/portal/registration/cafs_202402/)

Applications of eDNA in Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences

by Melanie Murphy, Lusha Tronstad, Boyd Wright, and Ryan Fitzpatrick

Tuesday, February 27th

9:30 AM - 4:30 PM

University of Wyoming Conference Center, Laramie, WY



Course Description - Participants in this continuing education course will learn about an array of topics related to environmental DNA (eDNA) and their use in fisheries and aquatic sciences. The morning session will focus on principles and applications of eDNA sampling and analysis while the afternoon session will consist of a series of case studies. Each case study will present a timely and relevant example of how eDNA informed management of aquatic species in Colorado or Wyoming.

Session 1: Environmental DNA (eDNA) applications in fishery and aquatic sciences: current trends and future directions

Instructor: Melanie A. Murphy, University of Wyoming

Session 2: Case studies of eDNA in Aquatic Sciences

1. Practical methods to collect eDNA samples and interpret results: experience from tailgates, canoes and backpacking

Instructor: Lusha Tronstad, University of Wyoming

2. A manager's perspective: case studies utilizing eDNA for better informed native fish management

Instructor: Boyd Wright, Colorado Parks and Wildlife

3. Environmental DNA metabarcoding for Great Plains fishes: a comparison to conventional sampling methods.

Instructor: Ryan Fitzpatrick, Colorado Parks and Wildlife

HELP MAKE THE CO/WY AFS MEETING A SUCCESS!

Judges Needed

Please consider signing up to judge talks and posters at this year's conference! Last year, we were only able to give out three awards because we did not receive enough volunteer judges to provide feedback in all categories. Due to the shortage, the priority was to ensure students received feedback on their talks. Providing feedback to our members is valuable for the professional growth of the Chapter, and giving out awards for best presentations is a highlight of the recipients' careers. We are happy to accommodate special requests such as needing/wanting to attend specific presentations. We will also be sending out a survey asking members for feedback on the judging process, so look for that soon! Please reach out to the judging committee (Tyler Swarr and Carrie Tucker) if you would like to volunteer or if you have any questions or special requests:

Tyler.Swarr@state.co.us

Carrie.Tucker@state.co.us

Awards Nominations

Time is running out! Get your nominations in before the **January 26th** deadline. The Colorado/ Wyoming Chapter has four awards for recognizing our fisheries professionals. The Awards Committee needs your help identifying qualified candidates to receive awards at the 2024 Annual Meeting. This is an opportunity for you to become involved and see that your professional peers receive their deserved recognition from the American Fisheries Society.

1. **Award of Excellence:** Recognizes an individual who has made significant contributions in the fishery-aquatic resource field.
2. **Max Award of Merit:** In honor of Max Rollefson (WGFD), this award recognizes a short-term professional accomplishment in management, administration, research, or culture.
3. **Outstanding Mentor Award:** This award recognizes a fisheries professional who has demonstrated substantial devotion in assisting or mentoring prospective and/or current fisheries students and professionals.
4. **Leaky Boot Award:** Recognizes the most outrageous the behavior of any fisheries student or professional in the year prior to the CO/WY Annual Meeting.

The deadline to nominate is January 26. For more information on how to nominate your peers, please contact Travis Neebling at (307) 233-6410 or travis.neebbling@wyo.gov.



PRIZES NEEDED FOR THE RAFFLE!

The Raffle Committee is working hard to round up some great items for the 2024 meeting in Laramie, WY. Please consider donating something to the cause this year. In addition, if you have a great skill set to share, please consider donating some of your time! Fishing trips, hunting trips, wilderness expeditions, float trips, etc. would all be appealing to those of us that love spending time outdoors, not to mention, hanging out with your colleagues! Don't hesitate to reach out to our committee with questions, offers, or ideas. We look forward to raising some money for the chapter and our great aquatic resources in 2024!

Have something for the Raffle?

- Contacts -

Nick Scribner

nick.scribner@wyo.gov

Russell Japuntich

rjapunti@blm.gov

Clay Kampf

clayton.kampf@usda.gov

PLENARY SESSION: “THE POWER OF STORYTELLING”

By Dale Caveny (National Conservation Leadership Institute coach and instructor)

Best selling author Brene Brown has said that, “Stories are data with a soul.” Leaders use storytelling to connect with people on an emotional level and to influence attitudes, behaviors, and values. Storytelling is effective for leading change, making recommendations, managing diversity and inclusion, providing coaching, teaching important lessons, setting a vision, defining culture and values, and more. This plenary session will cover the process for crafting and delivering effective stories to achieve specific goals.

Specific Plenary Objectives:

- Exam and identify the sacred myth(s) that define our organizational culture.
 - Explain the value of storytelling.
 - How to develop a “Call to Action”.
 - Identify the elements for turning a good story into a great story.
-

Speaker Biography: Dale Caveny grew up near Kings Mountain, North Carolina. His childhood days were filled with ramblings in the fields and woods near his home. There he developed a love of the natural world and experienced it through hunting, fishing, and camping. This love and appreciation of the outdoors led him to a career as a wildlife enforcement officer with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC). He spent 26 years as a field officer and supervisor in western North Carolina before becoming the chief of the division in 2010. He served four years in that role and was assigned to NCWRC headquarters in Raleigh. He retired in 2014.

Dale is a fellow, coach and instructor with the National Conservation Leadership Institute (NCLI) and has been involved with the National Association of Conservation Law Enforcement Chief’s (NACLEC) leadership academy since its inception in 2014. He is certified as a Case in Point facilitator through the Kansas Leadership Center and is a part of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies’ national facility. He is a trustee with the Blue Ridge Conservancy and is committed to conserving land for public access. He enjoys writing, hiking, fishing, kayaking and squirrel hunting with his Feist dog. He has special interests in Appalachian culture, storytelling, and leadership development.

Dale lives near the Blue Ridge Parkway in northwest North Carolina in the shadow of Bullhead Mountain. He has a blended family of three children and eight grandchildren.



2024 CO/WY AFS MEETING SOCIALS

Women in Fisheries Social

February 27 from 5 PM to 6 PM at the Gateway Center (same location as the welcome social).

The DEI committee is excited to host the first-ever “Women in Fisheries” social at this year’s conference! This social is open to any female or person identifying as female to attend, network, socialize, and discuss anything and everything fisheries! We hope to make this an annual event and look forward to seeing everyone there. This event will occur from 5-6 PM before the “Welcome Social” and after the continuing education course on Tuesday, February 27th at the Gateway Center (same location as the welcome social).



General Welcome Social

February 27 from 6 PM to 10 PM at Legacy Hall in the Marian H. Rochelle Gateway Center (222 South Street, across from the Conference Center and Hilton Garden Inn)

Come enjoy reconnecting over pizza and beer/wine!



Student Subunit hosted Social

February 28 from 6:30 PM to 10 PM at the University of Wyoming Indoor Practice Facility.

The 87,000 square-foot facility is situated adjacent to War Memorial Stadium at the Rochelle Athletics Center, an approximate 0.2 mile walk from the hotel and conference center. The facility houses a full-size 100-yard by 50-yard football field with new turf. There will be food, beer/wine, cornhole tournament, and other fun activities in this unique space. Among the largest such facilities in the Rocky Mountain region, the IPF provides Wyoming student-athletes an indoor training environment on par with any NCAA Division I program in the country.



CALL FOR
CORNHOLE
BOARDS

If you have a set of cornhole boards you can bring to the social event, please contact UW Student Subunit President Sam Johnson at sjohn208@uwyo.edu. For folks that can bring boards from Colorado, we will have a lockable place to store the boards, before and after the social.

JAM
BOARD

Before getting together at the meeting Let's Connect! Use the following link ([COWY AFS Jam Board](#)) to access a JamBoard to learn a little more about each other. Follow the instructions and use a digital post-it note to include your answers. There are four pages you can scroll through using the page turner at the top of the page.

Bob Wiley Cookie Social

February 29 from 1:30 PM to 3:30 PM

Bob Wiley received a BS from Humboldt State College and an MS degree from the University of Wyoming in 1969. Bob's career began with seasonal employment in Oregon as a fisheries biologist. While pursuing undergraduate studies he worked summers for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) in the Pinedale Region. He was actively involved with fisheries management in Wyoming throughout his career. He worked for the WGFD, enjoying every day for nearly 42 years. During that time, he was a passionate advocate for habitat protection and enhancement, instrumental in the development of trout stocking strategies, and many other fisheries management practices. Bob was very active in professional fishery organizations from the state level to the American Fisheries Society. He was an active member of the AFS for 58 years and welcomed the opportunity to serve and meet other professionals. He always had a desire to learn and stretch himself. Early in his career, he completed the requirements to be a Certified Fisheries Scientist by AFS and continued to seek opportunities to keep up to date on the certification. He served as President of the Fish Management Section, President of the Colorado/Wyoming Chapter, and President of the Western Division. He received the AFS Distinguished Service Award, Golden Membership Award, and Distinguished Alumnus, Humboldt State University. He was elected into the AFS National Fisheries Hall of Excellence in 2001. In addition to his distinguished career, he also loved cookies. Many cookie crumbs found in keyboards throughout the offices he worked in, were attributable to Bob's love of cookies. Please join us in celebrating one of our most accomplished Colorado/Wyoming AFS Chapter members with a cookie! Cookies will be purchased, partly with a donation from the Western Division of AFS in honor of Bob, and by the Chapter.



SHOWING OF "PICTURE A SCIENTIST"

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION COMMITTEE

The DEI committee is hosting a showing of "Picture a Scientist" on the afternoon of Wednesday, February 28th, followed by a group discussion. PICTURE A SCIENTIST chronicles the groundswell of researchers who are writing a new chapter for women scientists. Biologist Nancy Hopkins, chemist Raychelle Burks, and geologist Jane Willenbring lead viewers on a journey deep into their own experiences in the sciences, ranging from brutal harassment to years of subtle slights. Along the way, from cramped laboratories to spectacular field stations, we encounter scientific luminaries - including social scientists, neuroscientists, and psychologists - who provide new perspectives on how to make science itself more diverse, equitable, and open to all. Media have dubbed the film "Quietly devastating." (Boston Globe), "Sweeping in scope yet intimately compelling." (Science), and "It might be a while before we instinctively picture a scientist as a woman. Still, this attractive, solidly-made documentary helps lead the way." (Variety). If you would like to view a trailer of the movie beforehand, please visit

<https://www.pictureascientist.com/media>.





2024 CO/WY AFS Travel Grants



The CO/WY AFS Chapter will award three travel grants for 2024. One student, one professional, and one member of the CO/WY Chapter will be selected for a travel grant of up to \$2,000 to attend the combined Parent Society AFS and Western Division Annual Meeting September 15-19, 2024 in Honolulu, HI. Covered costs include transportation, food, lodging, and meeting registration. Chapter members will be selected on a competitive basis.

To apply, an applicant must:

- 1) Be a current CO/WY AFS member in good standing (i.e., up-to-date Parent Society membership).
- 2) Submit a one to two page cover letter detailing: 1) why you want to attend the AFS meeting in Hawaii, 2) AFS involvement, including but not limited to committee service and presenting experience at AFS meetings, 3) fisheries background, and 4) why it would be appropriate for you to present at the Hawaii meeting, what your subject matter would be, and how it meets the goals of the CO/WY Chapter.

All applications should be sent to CO/WY AFS Past-President, Ashley Ficke at cowy.afs.pastpres@gmail.com by **February 5, 2024**. The recipients will be selected in February by the CO/WY AFS Chapter Executive Committee and announced at the 2024 CO/WY AFS Chapter Business Meeting in Laramie.



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AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

September 15 - 19, 2024 | Honolulu

Conserving Fishes and Fishing Traditions Through Knowledge Co-Production



American Fisheries Society





**Connect, Advance and Save with AFS Membership —
Renew for 2024 Today!**

2023-2024 CO/WY AFS OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBER LIST

CHAPTER OFFICERS

President	Steve Gale	cowy.afs.pres@gmail.com
Vice President	Estevan Vigil	cowy.afs.vp@gmail.com
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Past-President	Ashley Ficke	cowy.afs.pastpres@gmail.com
UW Subunit President	Sam Johnson	sjohn208@uwyo.edu
CSU Subunit President	Riley Dils	riley.dils@colostate.edu
CMU Subunit President	Makenzie Neil	mrneil@mavs.coloradomesa.edu
Western Colorado University Subunit President	Andrew Martinez	andrew.martinez@western.edu

STANDING COMMITTEES

Arrangements	Bobby Compton	bobby.compton@wyo.gov
	Chance Kirkeeng	chance.kirkeeng1@wyo.gov
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	Brian Hodge	brian.hodge@tu.org
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Membership	Wes Gordon (co-chair)	wes.gordon@wyo.gov
	Tom Fresques (co-chair)	t1fresqu@blm.gov
Newsletter	Kendall Bakich	kendall.bakich@state.co.us
	Ben Felt	benjamin.felt@state.co.us
Nominating	Ashley Ficke	aficke@geiconsultants.com
Programing	Annika Walters	annika.walters@uwyo.edu
	John Woodling	woodling@colorado.edu
	John Walrath	john.walrath@wyo.gov
	Stephen Siddons	stephen.siddons@wyo.gov
	Tom Fresques	t1fresqu@blm.gov

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Aquaculture	Greg Lehr	greg.lehr@wyo.gov
	Cody Tyler	cody.tyler@state.co.us
Audio-Visual	Alex Townsend	alex.townsend@state.co.us
Awards	Travis Neebling	travis.neebing@wyo.gov
Diversity and Inclusion	Mark Smith	Mark.smith2@wyo.gov
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	Ashleigh Pilkerton	apilkert@uwyo.edu
	Anna Lavoie	anna.lavoie@colostate.edu
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Bylaws of the Colorado-Wyoming Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

~~SECTION~~**ARTICLE I. Name and Objectives.**

JUSTIFICATION: Changing "Section" to "Article" throughout Bylaws makes the CO/WY Bylaws consistent to other chapters.

- A. Pursuant to the Constitution of the American Fisheries Society (hereinafter referred to as the Society) there has been established within the Society a Colorado-Wyoming Chapter (hereinafter referred to as the Chapter).
- B. The objectives of the Chapter shall be those set forth in the Constitution of the Society, and shall in particular:
 - 1. Provide a forum through the annual meeting and newsletter for the exchange of technical and policy information common to and of interest to the Chapter membership.
 - 2. Provide an opportunity through the annual meeting to promote understanding by regional, federal, and state policy-makers of the nature and extent of fishery matters of concern to the Chapter membership.
 - 3. Assist in the exchange of information in a timely manner to Chapter membership through the publication of a Chapter newsletter, web site or other media as determined by the Executive Committee.
 - 4. Provide a forum to address fisheries resource advocacy and policy issues important to the Chapter.

~~SECTION~~**ARTICLE II. Membership.**

- A. The Voting Membership of the Chapter shall be composed of Active Society Members in good standing residing in the states of Colorado and Wyoming.
- B. Active Society Members residing in other states can elect to be Voting Members of the Chapter by notifying the Chair of the Chapter Membership Committee.
- C. Non-voting Student Affiliate Members of the Chapter include those members of the Student Subunits from Colorado Mesa University (CMU), Colorado State University (CSU), the University of Wyoming (UW), and Western Colorado University (WCU) who are not Active Society Members.
- D. In accordance with the Constitution of the Society, only Active Society Members may hold office, serve as committee chairs, or vote on Chapter business.

~~SECTION~~**ARTICLE III. Chapter Officers.**

- A. The Chapter Executive Committee is comprised of the elected officers of the Chapter (including the President, Vice-President, Past-President, and Secretary-Treasurer) and the Student Subunit Representative.
- B. All officers must be Active Society Members in good standing of the Chapter.
- C. Officers shall be elected annually by mail or **electronic email** ballot prior to the Chapter's annual meeting and shall be announced at the annual meeting, usually held in the spring of each year.

JUSTIFICATION: Exchanging "email" with "electronic" allows the CO/WY Chapter to conduct other forms of electronic voting, other than just email.

- D. The term of all officers shall be August 1 until July 31 of the year following election or until a successor is elected. The Chapter President, Chapter Vice-President, Past-President, and Chapter Secretary-Treasurer shall serve for a period of one year in each office, and shall be ineligible for re-election for a period of one year after the expiration of their term as Past-President. Current Executive Committee Officers shall advance to the next higher office (excluding the Student Subunit Representative) at the first Executive Committee meeting of the new fiscal year (scheduled annually on or about August 1) and the newly elected Chapter Secretary-Treasurer will be installed at this time.

- E. The incoming Chapter Secretary-Treasurer shall reside in the state holding the next annual meeting.
- F. If an elected officer cannot complete the term of office, the Executive Committee shall develop a procedure for replacing that officer.
- G. An officer may be removed from office for negligence, lack of performance, or other reasons substantially detrimental to the Chapter upon three-fourths vote by the remainder of the Executive Committee, in which case the Executive Committee shall appoint a replacement to serve the remainder of the unexpired term.

SECTIONARTICLE IV. Duties of Chapter Officers.

A. The President shall:

1. Preside at all meetings;
2. Serve as Chair of the Executive Committee;
3. Appoint special committee chairs;
4. Coordinate the activities of all Chapter committees and serve as liaison between such committees and the Executive Committee. Ensure that Chapter positions are deliberated according to the Chapter Rule 1;
5. Conduct official correspondence for the Chapter and present reports of Chapter activities at the annual meeting;
6. Present items in excess of \$500 in the current fiscal year budget and those anticipated for the next fiscal year at the annual meeting for a vote of the membership;
7. Work cooperatively with the Chapter's Secretary-Treasurer to prepare and submit an annual report to the Western Division President by August 1;
8. Serve as general chair for the annual meeting. In that capacity the President must ensure that a meeting is scheduled and conducted. Providing primary oversight for all aspects of the meeting through delegation and coordination with the appropriate committees;
9. Ensure that all activities of the Chapter are in accordance with Chapter Bylaws, Rules and Procedures and Society Constitution, Rules and Procedures; and,
10. Ensure the long-term financial viability of the

Chapter. B. The Vice-President shall:

1. Assume the duties of the President, if the President is absent or unable to act;
2. Advance to the office of President on August 1;
3. Appoint standing committee chairs within 60 days after the Chapter's annual meeting;
4. Chair the Environmental Policy Committee (EPC) and ensure products concerning advocacy and policy follow a review and action pathway through the EPC committee and Executive Committee in accordance with Chapter Rule 1;
5. Serve as a member of the Budget Review Committee;
6. Prepare and post on the Chapter website for review by membership a detailed budget by June 1 for the next fiscal year, to be reviewed and adopted by the Budget Review Committee by August 1 and published in the July/August- issue of the Chapter newsletter;
7. Attend the Western Division Meeting at Chapter expense; and,
8. Prepare Chapter taxes from previous fiscal year with the assistance of Secretary- Treasurer.

C. The Secretary-Treasurer shall:

1. Keep the official records of the Chapter, collect and be custodian of any fees or assessments authorized by these Bylaws or funds allotted to the Chapter by the Society;
2. Disburse funds only as authorized by either the membership or Executive Committee;
3. Submit, at the annual meeting of the Chapter, the year-end report for the previous fiscal year and a comparison of approved versus actual income and expenditures for the current fiscal year;
4. Update and distribute current copies of the Colorado-Wyoming Chapter Bylaws to the Western Division President, the Society's Executive Director and each member of the Executive Committee as needed. Maintain a current version of the Bylaws on the chapter website;

5. Work cooperatively with the Chapter's President to prepare and submit an annual report to the Western Division President by August 1;
6. Submit minutes of the annual Chapter business meeting ~~to the Executive Director~~ and to the Secretary-Treasurer of the Division within 30 days after the annual Chapter meeting is held;

JUSTIFICATION: Advice from Society Constitutional Coordinator is that there is no longer a need to submit to the Executive Director.

7. Advance to the office of Vice-President on August 1;
8. Be responsible for overseeing election of the new Secretary-Treasurer; and,
9. Prepare taxes from previous fiscal year with assistance of Vice-

President. D. The immediate Past-President shall:

1. Serve as the chair of the Chapter's Nominating Committee;
2. Serve as the chair of the Budget Review Committee;
3. Serve on the Environmental Policy Committee; and,
4. Administer student scholarships at the University of Wyoming (UW), Colorado State University (CSU), Colorado Mesa University (CMU), and Western Colorado University (WCU) according to Chapter Procedures.

E. The Student Subunit Representative to the Executive Committee shall:

1. Be filled annually on a rotating basis from the CMU, CSU, UW, and WCU Subunit Presidents;
 - a. If a Subunit President elects not to serve as Student Subunit Representative to the Executive Committee during that Subunit's turn in the rotation, a replacement will be chosen from the other three Subunit Presidents by a majority vote of the remaining four Executive Committee members.
 - b. In the event of a tie, the President's vote is the deciding vote.
2. Represent the interest of the Subunits to the Chapter Executive Committee and act as liaison between the Executive Committee and Subunits;
3. Work cooperatively with the Chapter's Executive Committee to assist in Chapter function and Subunit participation; and,
4. Not advance in the Executive Committee, but instead be replaced yearly by a new Student Subunit Representative.

SECTIONARTICLE V. The Chapter Executive Committee.

- A. The Chapter Executive Committee shall consist of elected officers from the Colorado- Wyoming Chapter and one Student Subunit Representative.
- B. The Executive Committee is authorized to act for the Chapter between meetings and transact necessary business.
- C. A quorum is required for transaction of official business at an Executive Committee meeting. A quorum for an Executive Committee meeting shall consist of three of the five members. Executive Committee members can appoint a proxy.
- D. Each of the five members of the Executive Committee shall have one vote on Executive Committee decisions. In the event of a tie, the President's vote shall be the deciding vote.
- E. Executive Committee meetings are called by the President and are held at least three times per year (typically in August, December and February-March).
- F. Special Activities may be authorized by the Chapter Executive Committee. Such specialized functions may include symposia and activities outside the Colorado-Wyoming area. In such circumstances, steps will be taken to ensure adequate controls are established at the Chapter level for arrangements, finances, etc.

SECTIONARTICLE VI. Meetings, Quorum and Voting.

- A. The Chapter shall hold at least one meeting annually. This meeting is open to the entire membership, at a time and place designated by the Executive Committee. Annual meetings will normally be alternated between the states.
- B. When mutually agreeable, the Chapter may meet jointly with other organizations or with other units of the Society.
- C. A quorum is required for transaction of official business at the annual meeting. A quorum shall be at least 1/5 of the Chapter Voting Membership for the previous calendar year. ~~In the event that a quorum as described above is not reached, official business may be conducted by unanimous vote of at least 20 Voting Members present, and in good standing.~~

JUSTIFICATION: The Society Constitutional Coordinator says this language is not allowable under Robert's Rules.

- D. Decisions at a meeting of the Chapter shall be made by a majority of those voting except in the case of Amendments to the Bylaws ([SectionARTICLE IX A](#)) and Suspension of Rules ([SectionARTICLE IX B](#)). Decisions at a meeting of the Chapter shall be in accordance with Chapter Bylaws, Rules and Procedures and Society Constitution, Rules and Procedures.
- F. Business and voting may be conducted via mail or electronic media if approved by the Executive Committee.
- G. Decisions related to Chapter advocacy shall be determined by following Chapter Rule 1.
- H. Unless otherwise specified in these Bylaws or the Society Constitution, meetings are conducted according to the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order.

SECTIONARTICLE VII. Finances.

- A. The Chapter's fiscal year shall start August 1 and end July 31 of the following year.
- B. A current accounting of all funds shall be kept by the Chapter Secretary-Treasurer.
- C. The Chapter Executive Committee can approve funding requests up to \$500 without a vote of the membership. All requests larger than \$500 must be submitted on a Funding Request Application Form. The Executive Committee will review Funding Request Application Forms at each Executive Committee meeting and may award up to \$2,000 of request each fiscal be considered, but must be approved by a majority of Voting Members choosing to vote at the annual business meeting.
- D. The CMU, CSU, UW, and WCU Subunits of the Chapter shall each be awarded at least \$200 annually from the Chapter for student activities and travel to Chapter meetings.
- E. The Chapter will fund travel expenses and meeting registration costs for the Vice President to attend the Western Division annual meeting and represent the Chapter on the Division Executive Committee. If the Vice President is unable to attend, the Executive Committee may select another Executive Committee member or any Past-President to serve as a proxy.
- F. The Chapter will fund travel expenses and meeting registration costs for the Student Subunit Presidents that are not paid by the Universities so they may attend the Chapter annual meeting and represent the Subunits on the Chapter Executive Committee. If a President is unable to attend they may select another Student Subunit officer to serve as a proxy.
- G. The Executive Committee can distribute copies of the Chapter newsletter to non-members.
- H. The Executive Committee may assess each registrant attending meetings of the Chapter a registration fee.
- I. It is the discretion of the Executive Committee to waive registration fees for annual meeting participants. Some reasons may include student volunteers, guest speakers, special guests, political pandering, among others.
- J. The Chapter will pay for Executive Committee lunches during scheduled business meetings. This item will be included in the annual budget.

SECTIONARTICLE VIII. Chapter Committees.

- A. Chapter committees assist the President and the Executive Committee in conducting the affairs of the Chapter. Chapter committees shall be composed of Chapter members in good standing **with the Chapter and Society.**
JUSTIFICATION: adding "with the Chapter and Society" makes this consistent with the rest of our Bylaws
- B. The chairpersons for the standing committees shall be appointed as described in [SectionARTICLE IV. Duties of Chapter Officers.](#)
- C. The standing committees will be organized by the chairpersons with assistance from the Executive Committee by the beginning of the fiscal year.
- D. The chair of each standing committee shall provide a written report to Chapter Executive Committee at the annual Executive Committee meeting held prior to the annual business meeting. In the event an annual meeting is canceled, committee reports shall be published in the newsletter.

- E. The term of duty for members of a standing committee shall extend from their appointment to 60 days after the following annual meeting, unless otherwise specified.
- F. Chapter committees shall work in close coordination with comparable committees of both the Western Division and Society.
- G. The Chapter has established the following standing committees:
1. An **Arrangements Committee** shall be responsible for making all arrangements for the annual meeting, exclusive of program, to include lodging, meals, pre-registration, and registration, publicity and any other necessary facilities or equipment.
 2. A **Budget Review Committee** shall be responsible for reviewing, revising and adopting, by majority vote of the committee, a budget for the next fiscal year by August 1. The committee shall consist of 5 members, including the Chapter's immediate Past President as chair, the Vice President and 3 appointed members. No more than 3 of the committee members shall be from the same state. The three appointed members will be appointed by the Chapter Vice President. The Vice President will strive to appoint members that have past experience with the fiscal activities of the Chapter.
 3. The Chapter's **Archivist** shall be responsible for organizing, maintaining, and storing Chapter records.
 4. A **Continuing Education Committee** shall be responsible for developing the annual continuing education program to include invited speakers, their travel, lodging, and meals.
 5. An **Environmental Policy Committee** shall be responsible for researching issues referred to the committee by the Executive Committee. The Committee shall develop appropriate Chapter policy and advocacy for the issue and report to the Executive Committee for decisions on advocacy and policy actions. The Committee shall consist of the Chapter Vice President as chair plus at least two members (at least one from each state, of which one will be the Past-President).
 6. A **Membership Committee** shall maintain Chapter membership, take appropriate measures to attract new members and maintain accurate account of chapter membership.
 7. A **Newsletter Committee** shall prepare a minimum of three issues of the Chapter newsletter on a yearly basis (January- February, July-August, October-November). The newsletter will provide a mechanism to update Chapter members on Chapter activities and advocacy and policy issues. The funding for publication and printing will be covered by the Chapter and included in the annual budget. The Chapter webmaster shall be a member of the newsletter committee and is responsible for maintenance of the Chapter website.
 8. A **Nominating Committee** shall recommend a slate of candidates for the office of Secretary-Treasurer for the Chapter. The Committee shall consist of the immediate Past- President as chair plus at least two members.
 9. A **Program Committee** shall organize the meeting content for the annual meeting for the Chapter.
 10. A **Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee** shall work to create a welcoming atmosphere for all who want to participate in the Chapter and its proceedings.
- JUSTIFICATION: Creation of a standing DEI Committee clarifies our Chapters commitment to creating an inclusive environment.**
- H. Special Committees may be created by the Chapter Executive Committee for a specific purpose and are to be dissolved when no longer needed.

SECTIONARTICLE IX. Bylaws, Rules and Procedures.

- A. The Bylaws are the defining document for the Chapter and take precedence over all other rules and procedures of the Chapter. The Bylaws cannot be suspended, unless otherwise specified in the Bylaws, and cannot be changed without prior notice to members.
1. The Bylaws may be amended by a 2/3 majority of Voting Members choosing to vote, provided that the proposed amendment(s) are circulated to the membership at least 30 days prior to voting.
 2. In accordance with the Society Constitution, an adopted amendment shall be reviewed by the Society's Constitutional Consultant for conformity with the Constitution, Rules and Procedures of the Society prior to the Chapter vote. The Constitutional Consultant presents the adopted amendment to the Society Governing Board/Management Committee for approval.

3. Amendments take effect when the Chapter receives written notice of their approval by the Governing Board/Management Committee from the Executive Director.

JUSTIFICATION: Exchanging “Governing Board” for “Management Committee” makes the language consistent with Society language.

- B. Rules are the next highest level of documentation of Chapter operations. They are generally established to facilitate the conduct of Chapter business, and to describe duties and responsibilities of officers and committees. They may be suspended or amended as follows.
 1. The Rules may be suspended during an Executive Committee meeting until the next annual or special Chapter meeting by a 2/3 majority of the Executive Committee.
 2. The Rules may be suspended for the duration of a meeting by a 2/3 majority of Voting Members voting at an annual or special Chapter meeting.
 3. The Rules may be amended by a simple majority of Voting Members voting at an annual or special Chapter meeting.
- C. Procedures are the lowest level of documentation of Chapter operations. They are generally established to provide continuity in the conduct of Chapter business. The Procedures may be suspended or amended by a simple majority vote of the Executive Committee.

Rules of the Colorado-Wyoming Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

Rule 1. Advocacy.

The Chapter may put forth policy statements, position statements, legislative briefing statements, resolutions (hereafter collectively referred to as Chapter positions) considered important by the membership in accordance with this rule and in conformance with Society published guidelines on advocacy. Chapter positions shall represent the best scientific knowledge and support views of the Chapter. Such positions are recommended to the membership from the Executive and Environmental Policy Committees. The process for identifying, drafting and passing Chapter positions is as follows:

- A. Issue Identification.
 1. Any Chapter member may present a concern or issue to the Environmental Policy Committee for consideration as a Chapter position.
 2. The Environmental Policy Committee will evaluate each issue to determine if
 - a) Chapter action may influence outcome,
 - b) involvement will not decrease Chapter credibility, and
 - c) credible technical information is available both for and against the issue.
 3. A majority vote of the Environmental Policy Committee will affirm the issue meets criteria set forth in Rule 1.A.2.
- B. Developing a Chapter Position.
 1. Issues identified by Rule 1.A. shall be developed into a written proposed Chapter position and presented to the Executive Committee.
 2. The Executive Committee reviews the proposed Chapter position and may a) return the proposal to the Environmental Policy Committee for modification or b) vote to approve or reject forwarding the proposal to the Voting Membership for approval.
- C. Adopting a Chapter Position.
 1. Upon Executive Committee approval, the proposed Chapter position and all available information for and against the issue shall be made available to the Voting Membership.
 2. A vote for adoption of the position shall be finalized no less than 14 days after the Voting Membership receives the proposal.
 3. A vote of the membership shall be overseen by the Chapter vice-president. Voting Members may vote to a) approve the proposed Chapter position, b) reject the proposed Chapter position, or c) return the proposed Chapter position to Environmental Concerns Committee for modification.
 4. The proposed Chapter position must be approved by 2/3 of Voting Members choosing to vote to be adopted.
- D. Publishing Adopted Chapter Positions.
 1. Adopted Chapter positions shall be signed by one or more members of the Executive Committee.
 2. Adopted Chapter positions shall be published in the Chapter newsletter and website.

4. The Environmental Policy Committee shall forward adopted positions to pertinent parties.
5. The Executive Committee may present adopted positions to other Chapters, Western Division or Society for consideration.

Rule 2. Order of Business at the Annual Business Meeting

A. Order of Business. The agenda of the regular business meeting shall include the following:

1. Call to order by the Chapter President;
2. Roll call of the members and determination of a quorum;
3. Appointment of a parliamentarian (normally the Secretary Treasurer);
4. Introduction of guests;
5. President's address on the state of the Chapter;
6. Reports of the Secretary-Treasurer;
7. Budget presentation by Vice-President;
8. President's highlights of committee chair reports;
9. Unfinished business;
10. Announce incoming Secretary-Treasurer;
11. New business;
12. Adjournment.