

News from the



Summer 2011

Join WEST on Our Social Media Sites

WEST has launched our social media campaign in an effort to continue our branding initiatives. We have several new sites where we would love for you to join us. You can click on any of the links below to go directly to our social sites.



[Facebook](#)

WEST shares our news, events, upcoming workshops, staff kudos, and other announcements through our Facebook page. We also share interesting photos and videos here.



[Twitter](#)

We share many office events, items of interest, and company news via our twitter page. Everything WEST, all in under 140 characters!



[LinkedIn](#)

LinkedIn is the place where you can connect with WEST employees, view our services, and get a glimpse of our qualifications.



[Flickr & YouTube](#)

We often share photos and videos, many taken by our own talented staff on our Flickr and YouTube sites. Check in often to see what's new.



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California's Central Valley Fisheries Work

WEST has broad experience in the statistical design, analysis, and reporting of fishery and fishery-related projects. Recently, WEST has been involved in several fisheries-related projects in California's Central Valley. Much of this work involves our statistics and biometrics staff members including **Bryan Manly**, **Trent McDonald**, and **Ryan Nielson**; with assistance from **Jim Griswold** and **Chris Nations**.

Bryan Manly has been, and continues to, work for the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California developing estimation and water use models for the threatened Delta Smelt. The main issue involves water-pumping in the Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta that can upset the local fish populations, including steelhead and salmon.

Ryan Nielson is working with Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission and the California Department of Fish and Game to revamp the way salmon return (escapement) is estimated in the Central Valley of California. Ryan, with assistance from Trent McDonald and Jim Griswold, is proposing changes to the way that salmon carcass surveys are conducted in the field and in the office. These changes include tagging carcasses with unique ID numbers and analyzing the resulting data using mark-recapture methods that were originally developed by Dr. Manly and his graduate student in the 1980's. Simulation results indicate that these revised estimates of escapement will be more accurate and less variable than current estimates. Ryan and Jim recently presented these new survey methods to Central Valley biologists during 1-day workshops in April and June in Sacramento, California.



In this photo: Ryan Nielson & USFWS biologists discussing Chinook salmon escapement monitoring for Battle Creek at Coleman National Fish Hatchery.

Trent McDonald is working with U.S. Fish and Wildlife officials and researchers from the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission to revamp the way that downstream juvenile salmon passage estimates are made. This data for juvenile passage estimates is collected from a network of rotary screw traps in the Sacramento River System. The work involves constructing a database to house past and future data, as well as new statistical analysis routines connected to the database. Currently, historical data from 7 rotary screw traps is being included in the study. Once built, it is envisioned that data from the majority of screw traps on the Sacramento Rivers System will be included.

WEST Office Locations

Corporate Headquarters

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804 North College Street
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47403

Rhett Good

Pacific Northwest Region

Walla Walla Branch Office
38 East Main Street
Suite 210
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99362

Tamara Enz

Midwest-West Region

Bismarck Branch Office
4007 State Street
Suite 109
Bismarck, North Dakota
58503

Clayton Derby

Conferences / Training / Workshops We've Attended



Donald Solick, Andy Krause, Wally Erickson, Jeff Gruver, Michelle Sonnenberg and Christina Roderick attended the Western Bat Working Group Biennial Conference and Wind Energy Workshop April 3-8 in Las Vegas, NV. These back-to-back events featured 5 days of contributed scientific papers, posters, invited speakers, a workshop, and special activities focusing on bat conservation.

In this photo: Christina Roderick presenting her poster on Quantifying Drift for the Anabat Real-time Clock to Chris Corben, developer of the Anabat bat detector while at the WBWG Conference.

Dave Young, Terry Enk, Wally Erickson and Andrew Hedrick attended the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) WINDPOWER 2011 Conference in Anaheim California, May 22-25. While in attendance, **Wally Erickson** offered a presentation discussing **Draft Eagle Guidance, Basis and Interpretation**.

Fawn Hornsby, Andy Merrill, Hall Sawyer, Lindsay McManus, and Saif Nomani attended **Bryan Manly's** workshop on Computer Intensive Methods in Biology in Laramie, WY, March 14 thru 18. This course provided attendees with an introduction to computer-intensive approaches to statistical analysis, with emphasis on applications in biology and environmental science.

Wally Erickson attended the Pacific Northwest Wind and Wildlife Conference in Portland, Oregon, June 7-8 and gave presentations on **Cumulative Impacts to Avian Resources and Other Wildlife Impacts**

WEST Senior Biometrician Living with Lions

Lyman McDonald, Senior Biometrician, again visited Living with Lions, Kenya, in June, 2011. Living with Lions is a conservation research group in Kenya under the direction of Dr. Laurence Frank, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley, USA (see <http://livingwithlions.org/>).

Lyman will interact with biologists providing consultation on study design and statistical analysis for the Laikipia Predator Project, Lion Guardians Project, Kilimanjaro Lion Conservation Project and the Mara Predator Project. In addition to discussing data analysis, Lyman reports that he has been able to participate in some interesting field activities.

These photographs show Lyman with Sikiria and two of the Maasia Lion Guardians as well as Stephanie Dolrenry re-collaring Sikiria (which means the "Donkey", because of his taste for donkeys). Visit <http://www.abycats.com/kplionmap/index.html> to track Sikiria's wanderings in southern Kenya and northern Tanzania.



Kudos to WEST Staff

The Federal Highway Administration chose to honor WEST with its **Exemplary EcoSystem Initiative Award** for our work with the Wyoming Department of Transportation's Nugget Canyon Deer Fence and Underpasses. The award was accepted by Chad LeBeau, who was one of the key project team members.

Ryan Nielson received recognition as an **Accredited Professional Statistician™** by the American Statistical Association (ASA). This is a new accreditation program through the ASA. Currently, there are approximately 80 accredited members.

Recent Publications

Sawyer, H. and M. Kauffman. 2011. Stopover ecology of migratory ungulate. *Journal of Animal Ecology* DOI: 10.1111/j.1365-2656.2011.01845.

Johnson, G.D. and S.E. Stephens. 2011. Wind Power and Bio Fuels: A Green Dilemma for Wildlife Conservation. Pages 131-155 In: *Energy Development and Wildlife Conservation in Western North America*. D. E. Naugle, Ed., Island Press, Washington, D.C.

Riley, T., E. Bayne, M. Boyce, B. Dale, **G. Johnson**, D. Naugle, S. Stevens, and S. Torbit. 2011. Effects of Oil, Natural Gas and Renewable Energy Developments on Wildlife – A Technical Review. *The Wildlife Society Technical Review 2011-XX*. The Wildlife Society, Bethesda, Maryland, USA. In Press.

Johnson, G., W. Erickson, D. Solick, C. Nations, J. Ritzert, M. Sonnenberg, and K. Bay. 2011. Relationships between bat fatality and weather, marine radar, Anabat, and night vision data at a wind energy facility in Illinois. Pages 21–25 in *Proceedings of the Wind Wildlife Research Meeting VIII*, Lakewood, CO, October 19–21, 2010. S.S. Schwartz, ed. RESOLVE, Inc., Washington, D.C. 189 pp.

Johnson, G., C. LeBeau and M. Holloran. 2011. Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Use and Population Demographics at the Simpson Ridge Wind Resource Area, Carbon County, Wyoming. Pages 38–41 in *Proceedings of the Wind Wildlife Research Meeting VIII*. Lakewood, CO, October 19–21, 2010. S. S. Schwartz, ed. RESOLVE, Inc., Washington, D.C. 189 pp.

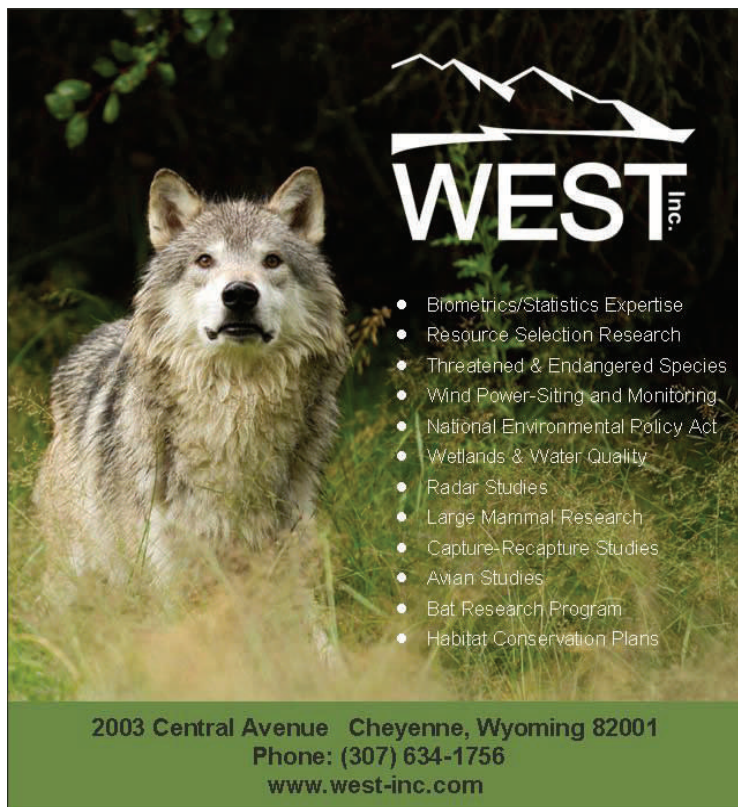
Blakesly, J. A., Seamans, M. E., Conner, M. M., Franklin, A. B., White, G. C., Gutierrez, R. J., Hines, J. E., Nichols, J. D., Munton, T. E., Shaw, D. W., Keane, J. J., Steger, G. N., and **McDonald, T. L.** (2010) "Population dynamics of spotted owls in the Sierra Nevada, California", *Wildlife Monographs*, v174, p. 1-36.

WEST Adds Management Positions

As a part of the executive reorganization of WEST, we would like to congratulate **Wally Erickson** in his new position as Chief Operating Officer (COO), and **Sue Shea-Kuno** as Chief Financial Officer (CFO).

As COO, Wally will assist our CEO, Dale Strickland in running the corporation through management of the day-to-day operations. The COO will also assist the CEO with planning, direction, major client relations, and leadership of the corporation. Sharing day-to-day operations will allow both Dale and Wally to continue to spend a significant amount of time on projects.

In her new position as CFO, Sue will oversee all accounting, human resources and purchasing functions. She will be responsible for providing financial analysis information to the Board and assist in corporate financial planning.



- Biometrics/Statistics Expertise
- Resource Selection Research
- Threatened & Endangered Species
- Wind Power-Siting and Monitoring
- National Environmental Policy Act
- Wetlands & Water Quality
- Radar Studies
- Large Mammal Research
- Capture-Recapture Studies
- Avian Studies
- Bat Research Program
- Habitat Conservation Plans

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Sr. Biometrician, Lyman McDonald's Travels to Russia

Lyman and Margie McDonald visited Saratov State Agrarian University, Saratov, Russia, May 12 - 24 2011. Lyman delivered a series of seminars on the topic "Current trends in theory and methods for sampling and estimation and their application in conducting agricultural research" to Ph.D. students at Saratov State Agrarian University and students from other Russian Agricultural Universities. The seminars were organized by Dr. Galina Kamichova who visited the University of Wyoming in 2007.

Dr. Nickolay Markov, Urals Branch of the Russian Academy of Science, translated the seminars for Lyman. Nickolay visited WEST and traveled with the survey team during WEST's Golden Eagle Survey for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2009.

Recent Staff Presentations/Workshops

Beck, J.L., **C.W. LeBeau**, A.J. Gregory, **G.D. Johnson**, and M.J. Holloran. 2011. Greater sage-grouse and wind energy development. Presented at the Symposium on Research on Prairie Grouse in North America. C.E. Braun, J.W. Connelly, L. Flake, and K.C. Jensen, organizers. 2011 joint annual meeting of the Association of Field Ornithologists, Cooper Ornithological Society, and the Wilson Ornithological Society. March 2011, Kearney, NE.

Rollins, K.E., D.K., Meyerholz, **G.D. Johnson**, A.P. Capparella, and S.S. Loew. 2011. Cause of Bat Mortality at Wind Farms: Barotrauma vs. Collision. Presented at the Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology annual conference, January 2011, Salt Lake City, UT.

Rollins, K.E., D.K. Meyerholz, **G.D. Johnson**, A.P. Capparella, and S.S. Loew. 2011. A forensic pathology approach to diagnosing bat mortality at wind farms. Presented at the 2nd Joint Meeting Northeastern Bat Working Group, Midwest Bat Working Group, Southeastern Bat Diversity Network, and 21st Colloquium on the Conservation of Mammals in the Eastern United States, February 2011, Louisville, KY.

R. M. Nielson. 2011. Elk Habitat Modeling Methods and Interpretations of Model Predictions, Presented at the workshop on Elk Habitat Selection in Western Oregon and Washington: Final Models and Management Applications. April 2011. Portland, OR.

L.L. McDonald. 2011. Line Transect (Distance) Surveys and Estimation of Abundance and Density of Moose (*Alces alces*) in Alaska, USA. Presented via WEST webinar. March 2011.

B.F. Manly. 2011. Ecological and Environmental Sampling. Presented via online course at www.statistics.com. February-March 2011.

B.F. Manly. 2011 Computer-Intensive Statistical Methods in Biology. Presented via WEST workshop. March 2011. Laramie, WY.

Upcoming Workshops/Seminars

Ryan Nielson is co-presenting a week long RSF workshop "Modeling Resource Selection by Animals: Design and Application" at CCT CONICET Mendoza, Mendoza, Argentina; November 7th-12th. In addition to covering current RSF techniques, the workshop will cover topics on study design and using R to demonstrate techniques with example data. For more information, please go to <http://www.west-inc.com/events.html>

Lyman McDonald and Dr. Timothy Robinson of the University of Wyoming will be presenting, "Environmental Sampling and Monitoring using R" December 12-16, 2011 in Denver or Fort Collins, Colorado. This course is being presented for the USFWS National Conservation Training Center. This course will develop the participant's skills needed to monitor species trends and distributions, and assess changes due to management actions or impacts in the environment. For more information, please go to <http://www.west-inc.com/events.html>

Meet our Newest Staff Members

Brian Heath-Project Manager/Wildlife Biologist-Cheyenne Office

Brian Heath joined WEST's Cheyenne, Wyoming team as a Project Manager in 2011. He received a B.S. in Wildlife Biology from Colorado State University in 1987 and a M.S. in Zoology and Physiology from the University of Wyoming in 1994. Prior to joining WEST, Brian was a Principal Scientist with ARCADIS U.S., Inc. stationed in Cheyenne, Wyoming. His career path also included employment with the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality and Wyoming Game & Fish Department's.

Brian's primary focus at WEST will include providing environmental permitting support for upstream oil and gas projects. He has over 10 years experience in providing support to clients during exploration, development and production of fluid minerals across the west. Brian's also has direct project experience with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permitting, geophysical seismic project environmental resource surveys, abandoned mine reclamation environmental assessments, storm water permitting and compliance, wind energy pre- and post-avian resource surveys. He also performs compliance audits and due diligence reviews for oil and gas companies point source and storm water discharges.

Lauren Wilson-Accounting Specialist/Invoices-Cheyenne Office

Lauren Wilson joined WEST in June of 2011 as an Accounting Specialist focusing on invoicing in the Cheyenne office. She graduated from the University of Kentucky with a B.A. in Business Administration with a concentration in business management in May 2009. For the last seven years, Lauren worked for Mason & Hanger, the oldest, continuous architecture and engineering firm in the country as an administrative assistant. Lauren moved to Cheyenne from Lexington, KY to explore this side of the country. She loves drag racing, UK basketball, travelling, reading, and learning new things. She hopes to master skiing while she is here.

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Resource Selection Website

Have you visited the WEST Resource Selection website recently? The site located at www.resourceselectionbyanimals.com was designed to be a free source of information for anyone interested in studying resource selection and habitat use by animals. The site features an extensive list of books, access to free computer software, announcements on workshops and seminars, as well as a broad searchable bibliography section.

Visit WEST at the 18th Annual TWS Annual Conference



Stop by and see us at Booth # 114 at The Wildlife Society Annual Meeting October 5-10 in Waikoloa, Hawaii. We would love to see you there!

<http://wildlifesociety.org/>

Meet Our Newest Staff Members (Continued)

Jason Hignite-Ecologist/NEPA Specialist-Indiana Office

Jason Hignite joined WEST as an Ecologist/NEPA specialist, in July and will be based in the Bloomington, Indiana Office. Jason's primary duties will be to bring in ecological and NEPA related work. Jason has a varied background, including serving on the USS Saratoga and at NAS Glenview as a Flight Operations Specialist and Environmental Compliance Supervisor, to serving as an ecologist and project manager with various consulting forms in the Midwest. With his experience, he has worked on projects in almost every state east of the Mississippi River, and a few west, as well as Nigeria and Costa Rica.

Jason received a master's in natural resources and environmental management from Ball State University. Jason has over 15 years of experience working for consulting firms in Indiana. Jason has a significant amount of wetland experience, and has utilized his soil expertise in the past to assist clients and the COE for conducting wetland investigations as part of enforcement actions, after areas have been disturbed.

In Jason's spare time, he enjoys camping, canoeing, movies, and playing guitar. He has a daughter (Raychel), and is engaged. His fiancé, Nikki, also has two kids, Gabe and Taylor. Jason is also an independent filmmaker and independent film critic and feature writer for HorrorHound Magazine.

Ken Levenstein-Project Manager-California

Ken Levenstein joined WEST in July as a Project Manager in California. Coming from a research background, Ken has studied avian ecology all over the United States and overseas as well. Following the completion of his Master's research, a mist-netting study in the Central American jungles of Belize, Ken worked on projects detailing the reproductive ecology of Bicknell's thrush on the mountaintops of New England; the southwestern willow flycatcher along the Lower Colorado River from the Grand Canyon to the Mexican border; and a number of species in the hardwood forests of southern Indiana and the Channel Islands off the coast of Southern California.

Ken's Ph.D. research was on cooperative breeding in birds in general and the reproductive ecology of his model species for the research, the Galápagos hawk, a species endemic to the Galápagos archipelago, 600 miles off the coast of Ecuador. For this research Ken and his Ecuadorean assistants spent four entire summers camped in tents on an entirely uninhabited island to which they had to bring all of the food and water they would need for 3 months at a time! While completing his dissertation, Ken took some time off to work two seasons (first as field crew leader and then as field supervisor) for the Cornell Lab of Ornithology in their effort to document the presence of Ivory-billed Woodpeckers in the bayous of eastern Arkansas. Following the completion of his Ph.D., Ken was hired as a University of Washington postdoctoral research associate to direct the field research on two critically endangered birds native to the island of Rota in the Northern Mariana Islands (a U.S. Commonwealth), the Mariana Crow and the Rota bridled white-eye. Ken comes to us from BHE Environmental, Inc. in Cincinnati where he worked primarily with energy companies wishing to set up wind farms in the Midwest.

Joseph Rodriguez-Accounting Specialist/Contracts-Cheyenne Office

Joe Rodriguez joined WEST in February 2011 as an accounting specialist/contracts in our Cheyenne Office. Joe handles all of our contracts and subcontracts for WEST. His position includes insuring that contract language meets the needs of WEST and our clients. He sets up all of our projects and makes sure that PO's are in place. He also looks at other documents as needed for the company.

Joe received his J.D. from the University of Wyoming, College of Law in 1992. He has over 15 years legal experience in various areas including contracts, business law, corporations, risk analysis/management, employment law, collections and litigation. Joe also has a BA in Business Administration from Western State College, Gunnison, Colorado.

Leigha Radomicki-Office Assistant-Cheyenne Office

Leigha Radomicki started with WEST, Inc. in May 2011 as an office assistant in the Cheyenne office. Leigha responsibilities include answering and routing phone calls, correspondence distribution, document preparation, general office tasks, and providing assistance to the administrative staff. Her strong commitment to the Cheyenne community is reflected in her broad range of activities. She is the current President of the Cheyenne Young Professionals, volunteer on the Public Relations Committee for Cheyenne Frontier Days, YMCA, Cheyenne Boys & Girls Club and several other fund-raising events.

Leigha lives in Cheyenne, WY with her husband John. In her spare time she plays roller derby for the Cheyenne Capidolls and coaches the Cheyenne Fronterrors Junior Derby team. She also enjoys live music, and being outdoors with her husband, and three dogs.

For additional information on any story contained within this edition of News from the WEST, please send an e-mail to marketing@west-inc.com. In our continuing effort to be an environmentally conscious firm, we **only** distribute an electronic version of our newsletter.