



2017

ANNUAL REPORT

NATIVE AMERICAN FISH AND
WILDLIFE SOCIETY



A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

First I would like to thank our Native American Fish & Wildlife Society family for the opportunity to serve you as your Executive Director. It has been my honor and privilege. Since May of last year 2017, there has been many changes as well as challenges in our organization. These changes have consumed a great deal of my time and have prevented me from attending some of the usual activities, regional conferences and trainings. However, by holding steady and working through these challenges I feel we have become more aware of the Society's Mission.

I'd like to mention just a few of the changes that took place over the last year:

Our Deputy Director, Ron Rodgers and his assistant Diana Prosser both retired at the same time. This was presented to us in a very short time frame and without the opportunity to have someone hired and trained before either of them left. However, thank goodness the handling of our finances as well as reporting and accounting was able to be done with little interruption. Although the budget cuts we were presented with were substantial, we found it was financially beneficial for us to hire an accounting firm. The accounting firm we hired was/is "Management Partners, Inc." located in Denver, CO. We found they had experience working with Native American non-profit organizations like ours. Also, they were able to put into order for us those issues that we saw needed our immediate attention. Since then, I have worked with them and spent many hours helping to put together and gather necessary materials needed for the financial accountability of our organization.



I would like to say a special thank you to those Executive Board Members who stepped up to help out during our transitional period. Also, thank you to the folks at the B.I.A. who were patient and understanding while we were figuring out the process step by step. I apologize if anything at all was missed through this process and I strive to make sure we get better and better each year. Unfortunately we were not given a road map with times, deadlines or anything else to follow. We took care of each situation as it presented itself to us as quickly as we possibly could. We learned a great deal so our future is looking better and better.

With the help of our staff, Karen and Sasha, together we are taking care of other things that are needing our attention. All in all, we are looking ahead with a new sense of security and unity.

In light of any issues that may have occurred during this transitional period, we experienced a successful and awesome National Conference in Rapid City, S.D. last May, we have had four Regional Conferences and two Conservation Law Enforcement Trainings all of which were outstanding. We also had one of our best Youth Practicums in the Southeast Region at Choctaw, Mississippi. The future of the Native American Fish & Wildlife Society looks pretty bright.

As I look ahead, I can see, that although change can be difficult and can present many challenges, good and bad, it is an opportunity for us to grow stronger as Native people, individually and as a whole. If we work together, our Staff, Board, membership and our Federal partners we will overcome whatever challenges that could come our way.

I pray for each of you who have traveled to the 2018 National Conference and also for your loved ones who are at home. As we protect the natural resources entrusted us with, I pray we will also protect and serve one another with respect and dignity alike.

Lem Lemch,

D. Fred Matt
Executive Director of the Native American Fish & Wildlife Society



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings:

It seems like we were just at the National NAFWS held in Rapid City and hosted by the Great Plains Region. With spring here, I am glad to see the grass green up and trees bud and flowers blossom. I sincerely hope everyone had a great winter and of course many of you, I'm sure were able to get your field projects accomplished.

The Society and many of its members are involved in a wide variety of activities this coming summer and past fall that included: youth practicums, trainings, conferences and other important events. I hope many of you were able to attend some of these functions and were involved. If you did not, the good news is, we usually have something going on all year long and if you need more information, stay tuned to a new revamped Society's web site at www.nafws.org for further information.



Looking at the year 2017, it's been a very long year and I want to thank all of you for the time you have put into working to try and make the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society (NAFWS) successful. Successful...this has so many meanings. This has been a trying transitional period for the NAFWS. I truly believe that there is a light at the end of the tunnel. Everything has been going against us this year. We have lost staff to retirement, our budget has been reduced, we have lost members to death, we have been operating three offices, we have been trying to put together a national conference, and we have been trying to get new Board of Directors from Alaska and the Northeast Region. All have met with resistance but we are pushing through. The NAFWS has a purpose and that is to empower effective fish and wildlife, protection, preservation and conservation on tribal lands. The NAFWS has Promise. We will conduct specialized training, networking amongst tribes and the federal government, and protect our cultural awareness and tribal sensitivity. The NAFWS has been asked by our membership to re-tool, become more efficient and become more accountable to our membership and stakeholders. In all that has been going on in the outside world, we are still here. Each of us has a purpose and combined we can move this Society forward and do good things in native lands.

I would like to like to update the NAFWS on upcoming activities. 2017 was a tough year for the Society, but we have a plan to make 2018 better. We, as a BOD, have stated that we will follow through and stress positive gains for the Society as we complete our "Scope of Work."

These are small summaries of activities.

2018 NAFWS MEETS WITH BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS (BIA)

To start off the year in January, the NAFWS had a very good productive meeting with the BIA. I consider this an eye-opener, Mrs. Diane Mann-Klager, Natural Resource Officer, BIA was very brutal but honest in review of the Society's past "Scope of Works." Let's be honest, the NAFWS has not been performing well over the last few years. In this meeting the regional directors in attendance were able to sit down and go over the "Scope of Works," talk about the problems, what is needed to remedy. The problem has been with a huge changeover in staff, the NAFWS BOD had become stagnant and may have lost direction. When you lose staff that has meant so much for the Society for such a long time, you do not realize that lose so much knowledge, experience and their family presence. This is a great opportunity to re-invest in the Strategic Management Plan.

NAFWS STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT PLAN

We have started to set our path to develop a new strategic management plan that has had input by the Board of Directors (BOD), Staff, and the membership. The strategic management plan should help guide us in the right direction. With the spirit of working hard and overcoming the challenges we face, we resolve them and create even better outcomes. This is why we are still an organization that remains strong and thriving today. Thanks to all of you who work hard to make this possible.

When you know who you are;
when your mission is clear and you burn with inner fire of unbreakable will;
no one can touch your heart;
no deluge can dampen your purpose,
you know that you are alive.

Chief Seattle 1780-1866





The NAFWS is grateful for the assistance provided by the OSIYO Group mainly Leigh A. McGee, who has been leading this whole process. The strategic management plan has teeth that in the near future will allow us as an organization to move forward with distinct purpose. The purpose has been always there just that we have not used it. I see a promising future for the NAFWS when the strategic management plan is fully developed.

2018 NATIONAL NAFWS CONFERENCE

The Northeast Regional - NAFWS is pleased to host the 2018 NAFWS National Conference, which will be co-hosted by the Narragansett Indian Tribe during the week of May 8-10, 2018.

This year's conference will include Conservation Enforcement/Training, Environmental Protection/Training, Wildlife Management, Fisheries Management, Wildlife Diseases, and Climate Change. Other activities will include a Northeast Regional Meeting, business luncheon, traditional feast, and an awards banquet with an auction and silent auction, as well as a raffle.

2018 NAFWS SUMMER YOUTH PRACTICUM

I want to thank Sasha Hoskie, Education Coordinator NAFWS for keeping this important youth program moving forward. Native American youth are our future. If we want their leadership in the future, we need to get them interested in natural resources. As a natural resources organization, the NAFWS has successfully connected hundreds of Native American high school students with its program held in the mountains of Colorado since 1991. Utilizing the natural setting of the outdoors, the students learn and take part in classes taught by Native American role model/professionals and tribal elders. Many of these teachers are also members of the NAFWS.

This year's National Summer Youth Practicum will be held this summer in Squaxin Island. Because of their strong cultural connection with the water, they are also known as the People of the Water. The modern tribe is named after the Squawksin of Case Inlet—meaning "in between" or "piece of land to cross over to another bay" in the Lushootseed language; the name was changed to Squaxin Island. Squaxin Island have been a large supporter of the Society.

REGIONAL NAFWS SUMMER YOUTH PRACTICUMS ARE SCHEDULED

Knowing the positive impacts on Native Students in natural resources, regional summer youth practicums have been scheduled for 2018. We will have possibly four summer youth practicums this year. That will be an incredible amount of students that our teachers will be teaching about the great outdoors! Great Lakes Region, Southeast Region, Southwest Region of the NAFWS have scheduled Summer Youth Practicum's.

The Summer Youth Practicum is open to incoming 10th grade to 12th grade Native American high school students who are interested in the preservation, protection, and enhancement of tribal natural resources. Students had to be in good physical condition as physical activities are a part of the Practicum.

2018 NAFWS BUDGET:

The Society has received budget cuts over the past year and at this point in time has to realize it may be a few years to re-establish funding levels to previous year levels. The Society will keep plugging along. The Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to sound management and prudent use of tribal fish and wildlife resources. The organization serves at a network among tribes throughout the country, including Alaska and provides training and technical assistance to tribes in natural resource enhancement, planning, research and management. I feel we may have to visit Washington DC and find out what is needed for our Society to move forward. The Society is an organization to assume the leadership role to maintain the technical proficiency of tribal fish, wildlife and other natural resource programs and service we provide.

I do believe that we should focus our efforts on creating a hard copy document that highlights specialized trainings in our regions with pictures, scholarships provided, education highlights, and efforts we need to take up if we want to help tribes such as mining, funding, disease issues and others.

MANAGEMENT PARTNERS, INC (MPI):

A big thank you goes out to MPI. D. Fred Matt, Executive Director has been working on finding a financial replacement firm to manage the Society's monies. The NAFWS entered into an agreement with Management Partners, Inc. Pursuant to this Agreement, MPI shall manage the Society's finances, provide administrative services as needed; and provide other administrative services as requested by the NAFWS Executive Director. A welcome goes out to MPI (Jennifer and Jill) that they have been very helpful to the Society.





THE NAFWS IS WORKING ON A NEW NAFWS WEBSITE:

A big thank you is given to Karen Lynch, Technical Editor, NAFWS and D. Fred Matt, Executive Director, NAFWS had put out a Request for Proposals and have found a person to revamp the NAFWS Website. The Society needs a well-informed website for their membership. The Society is creating a whole new NAFWS Website which may be ready in a few weeks. Please stay tuned...

UPDATE NAFWS POLICIES AND PROCEDURES:

A thank you goes out to the NAFWS BOD and Staff. All the policies and procedures have been going through updating. The NAFWS Policies and Procedures have been in place since the formation of our Society. These policies needed to be updated to reflect the changing times and to move us into the future.

H.R. ACT 5650 CALLED "Recovering America's Wildlife Act of 2017"

The Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources, comprised of national business and conservation leaders, was convened to evaluate and recommend a more sustainable funding approach to avert a fish and wildlife conservation crisis. The Blue Ribbon Panel has announced their recommendations and is taking action to increase investment in fish and wildlife conservation. Tribes are working to get a spot at this table. Tribal fish and wildlife programs can benefit with the potential more funding available.

ONR REVITALIZATION: Our Natural Resources

There has been some talk that ONR may be starting again. I feel this is a great concept one that we can follow. Native American tribes are in a unique situation. With an ever advancing tribal natural resources agenda, they encounter issues along the way. Some of these include the following:

- Pressures for Development of Land (for recreational use)
- Treaty Rights threatened
- Tribes' ability to manage reduced
- Jurisdictions overlap
- Tribes losing land base

To address some of these pressing issues, a group of Intertribal natural resource organizations have pulled together may propose and prioritize issues and recommendations and how to address them.

CONSERVATION OFFICER (CO) TRAININGS SCHEDULED:

The Society has been making great strides in putting into the forefront Conservation Officer Training per Region. This upcoming year we will conduct Conservation Officer Trainings in The Southwest, Great Plains, Great Lakes and Southeast. I think there may also be CO Training at the National. We are pushing forward in taking care of our Conservation Officers in providing much needed training. One of the Society's goals is to train our own Conservation Officers to be trainers.

NEW NAFWS BOD'S:

The NAFWS is made up of seven regions. The NAFWS BOD is made up of 2 regional directors per region. A total of 14 complete the NAFWS BOD. I am proud to state that at the 2018 National NAFWS Conference in held at the Crowne Plaza Providence - Warwick Hotel and Resort, Warwick, Rhode Island, we should have all BOD members present. To find out your regions regional directors, please go to our national website.

"This we know
The Earth does not belong to man
Man belongs to the Earth
All things are connected"
Chief Seattle 1854

IN CLOSING:

Treat the Earth Well It was not given to you by your parents; it was loaned to you by your children. We do not inherit the Earth from our Ancestors; we borrow it from our Children.
- Native American traditional





In closing, it's been a pleasure serving you and my goal is to keep everyone informed of what's going on at the national office. I would like to wish everyone a happy and safe spring season. Take care and keep our armed forces and leaders in your prayers.

Thanks you for reading

Donald J. Reiter, President
Native American Fish and Wildlife Society

OUR MISSION AND PURPOSE

The mission of the Native American Fish & Wildlife Society is to assist Native American and Alaska Native tribes with the conservation, protection, and enhancement of their fish, wildlife, habitat, and cultural resources. As a 501 (c) (3) public charitable, non-profit Colorado Corporation, all contributions are tax-deductible in accordance with Internal Revenue Service regulations.

The NAFWS, as a membership organization includes professionals and technical personnel that are engaged in tribal natural resources management. The organization also includes Tribal membership, affiliate organizations, families and students. Anyone interested in becoming a member may contact the Society headquarters in Thornton, Colorado at (303) 466-1725, or visit: www.nafws.org

Goals

The purposes of the NAFWS are charitable, educational, scientific and cultural, as well as the following:

- To assist in the facilitation and coordination of inter-tribal communication in regards to fish and wildlife matters, including treaty rights issues, court cases related to fish and wildlife, hunting, or fishing regulations.
- To protect, preserve and conserve the wise use and management of tribal fish, wildlife, and recreational resources.
- To educate Native Americans involved in fish and wildlife management, policy, decision-makers, community members and others similarly dedicated to tribal natural resource management of the best natural resource management practices.
- To provide administrative support, expertise and advice to tribal governments, relating to tribal fish, wildlife enhancement activities.
- To improve the general welfare of tribal people through educational, charitable, as well as fish and wildlife enhancement activities.
- To provide professional publications and pro-motional activities for disseminating pertinent information regarding Native American fish and wildlife resources to Society members, Indian and non-Indian organizations, public officials, and the general public.

NAFWS
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CONFERENCES

Bringing tribes together

NATIONAL CONFERENCES

Our yearly conferences continue to create ongoing information exchange and partnerships which have sustained through the years. Each year's conference agendas reflect the diversity and needed information that is shared and by the tribes and other organizations in the diverse field of natural resources. Topics at the conferences include most important to tribes. tribal projects and issues

2017 National Conference - Rapid City, South Dakota

The 35th Annual National Conference was held in Rapid City and was hosted by the Great Plains Montana, Wyoming, Fish and Wildlife Commission and the NAFWS Great Plains Region sponsored the event. It was attended by at least 100 tribal, state, and various government agencies.



NAFWS Regional Conferences

The NAFWS is made up of seven regions throughout the U.S. and NAFWS regional conferences are held in each of the seven regions at different times of the year. These conferences are opportunities for members in each region to share tribal natural resources information, programs, and successful methods of management. The NAFWS board representatives take charge at these meetings to plan and conduct regional business if needed. At the yearly regional Business Meetings, the NAFWS regional representatives are elected to the NAFWS Board of Directors. The regional shoot competition also take place and a shoot team is established to compete in the national shoot competition which is held in conjunction with the NAFWS national conference.

- 2017 Great Lakes Regional Conference was hosted by the Shakopee Mdewekanton Sioux Community in Pryor Lake, MN. This was the 30th annual Great Lakes Regional Conference. It was held on September 11-15, 2017 at the Mystic Lake Casino and Hotel. There were at least 80 people in attendance.

- Great Plains Regional Conference was held in conjunction with the 2017 NAFWS National Conference in Rapid City, SD in May 2017. The GP Region hosted the 2017 NAFWS National Conference and the Region held a meeting and elections before the national conference kicked off. It was attended by at least 30-40.

- 31st Southwest Region Conference was hosted by the Mescalero Apache 7-10, 2017. It was attended by 125 participants representing tribes in the Southwest region as well as government and non-government agencies, and other non-profit organizations. The theme for the conference: "Establishing Partnerships to Strengthen Our Efforts to Protect and Manage Our Natural Resources".



Tribe in August region as well as government and non-



REGIONAL CONFERENCES

- Pacific Region held a conference on October 24-26, 2017 in Lewiston, ID. It was hosted by the Nez Perce Tribe at the Clearwater River Casino and Resort. The conference was attended by at least 75 participants. The conference theme was: "Kímti cukwenéewit ke yox híiwes titooqanáawit wapáyat'as" which means "New knowledge which is helpful to tradition".
- The Southeast Region held a regional meeting on October 11, 2017 in conjunction with the USET (United South & Eastern Tribes) conference in Cherokee, NC. There were at least 15 people representing five tribes that attended the meeting.
- The Northeast Region did not have a regional meeting in 2017. They are planning to host the 2018 NAFWS National Conference which will be held in Providence, Rhode Island in May 2018.
- The Alaskan Region did not have a 2017 Regional Conference; however, they planned to have small regional meeting in 2018 in February in conjunction with the Alaska Forum on the Environment in Anchorage, AK.



RECOGNITIONS

Recognizing Exceptional Work

The NAFWS recognizes members who are doing excellent work in their tribal communities as tribal natural resources managers, tribal biologists, and tribal conservation law enforcement officers each year. This is carried through at the national level and regions also recognize their regional members who are doing good work.

Those who are recognized, are nominated by members of the NAFWS and who are familiar with their accomplishments. Selections are processed through the NAFWS Board of Directors and selections are announced at the NAFWS national conference each year and if the selected individuals can make it to the national conference, they may receive their awards there. The three awards given each year are the Chief Sealth Award, Biologist of the Year, and Conservation Law Officer of the Year.

The recipient of the Chief Sealth Award is a tribal natural resource manager and has made “significant and positive impact” upon tribal natural resources. The Biologist of the Year and Conservation Law Officer of the Year are awarded for work that exemplifies “dedication and hard work”.

CHIEF SEALTH AWARD - In 2017, Joseph Y. Oatman was awarded the Chief Sealth Award by his colleagues with the Nez Perce Tribal Fisheries Department (NPTFD). He was nominated for the several areas in which he oversees the NPTFD and as a representative among several national and regional fisheries management forums, advisory committees and management councils.

BIOLOGISTS OF THE YEAR - Two biologists representing the Nez Perce Tribal Fisheries Department were nominated for their work. The two biologists are: Tuiaana Moliga and Michael Bisbee Jr., were nominated by the NP Tribal Fisheries Department. Both biologists were interns at one time with the NP Fisheries Department and were nominated for their work on the Tribe’s Clearwater Coho Restoration Project.



EDUCATION

Providing Opportunities for Native American Students and Conservation Law Officers

2017 National NAFWS Summer Youth Practicum

Twenty-five (25) high school students representing 18 tribes throughout the U.S. took part in the NAFWS 2017 summer youth practicum that was held in Choctaw, Mississippi. It was hosted by the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians in July 24-28, 2017. A successful partnership was formed between the United South and Eastern Tribes (USET) which helped to increase the attendance of tribal youth to participate from the southeastern tribes.

Students had the opportunity to experience the work of tribal wildlife management and several tribal natural resource managers served as instructors. Class instruction included: wildlife management (Penobscot Nation); Herb Hike and History of Cave Mound discussion at the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians; Lake Management and Dam Safety; Southeast Endangered Species, Bat Netting, and Conservation Law Enforcement.

Other partners that assisted with the practicum that served as tribal instructors were from the following tribes: Penobscot Nation; and, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. Students were given an overview throughout the three-day program of tribal natural resource management and conservation and provided opportunities to participate in hands-on activities.



2017 NAFWS Southwest Region Practicum

Southwest Regional representatives decided not to have a 2017 Southwest Region Natural Resources Youth Practicum and as a committee, the Regional representatives have been pre-planning and advertising for the 2018 Southwest Region Natural Resources Youth Practicum to be held in northern New Mexico.

TRAINING

Training for tribal conservation law enforcement officers (TCLEOs) is a yearly event either nationally. Training is also held at the NAFWS regions during regional conferences. The NAFWS recognizes that TCLEOs are an instrumental part in protecting tribal natural resources and their training and education is invaluable on a yearly basis. Since the NAFWS is the only organization that assists TCLEOs with required training or the 40-HR. training, and it is priority that they receive the needed training. Through the years, the NAFWS has collaborated with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to host the training.

Through the years, it has been beneficial that tribal trainers are now doing some of the training in various areas. This ensures the need for officers to become trained and increases the level of expertise so that more officers can become trainers. Training in 2017 for TCLEOs were held at the following events:



- 2017 NAFWS National Conference, Rapid City, SD - At least 38 tribal conservation law officers attended. The training was





a three-day training and some of the classes were taught by tribal conservation law enforcement officers.

- 2017 NAFWS Great Lakes Regional Conference - In September 2017, at least 37 Great Lakes Conservation Law Enforcement Officers attended a two-day trap-per training taught by a GLIFWC Conservation Officer.

- 2017 NAFWS Southwest Region Conference - In August 2017, this training took place at Mescalero, NM. There were 23 tribal conservation officers that participated in the training.

- 2017 NAFWS Pacific Region Conference - A class on the Archaeology for Law Enforcement was held during the Pacific Region Conference in Lewiston, ID.



PARTNERSHIPS

Building Relationships

ALABAMA FIRE COLLEGE - Native American tribes have requested training in First Responder Hazardous Materials since the 1990s and in 2017, the NAFWS has continued to partner with the AFC to provide needed training. The NAFWS assists through collaborating and sharing of information about the training through the NAFWS website and newsletters. Included in the training for tribes are: Awareness and Operations Levels, Disaster Responder Awareness, Clandestine Methamphetamine Laboratory Recognition, Incident Command System, and Radiological and Nuclear Awareness courses. In 2017, a training took place at the 2017 NAFWS Pacific Region Conference in Lewiston, ID.

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS - As a long time partner, the BIA funded an application in 2017 under the Tribal Youth Initiative Program. This made it possible to host the 2017 NAFWS Summer Youth Practicum in Choctaw, MS in July 2017.

USDA FOREST SERVICE – Five tribes received funding through the NAFWS in the summer months of 2017 from the U.S. Forest Service. The five tribes identified five student interns who worked to gain experience in the areas of wildlife and fisheries management, climate change, or traditional ecological knowledge. Each tribe was able to hire a summer intern and was awarded \$5,600. The five tribes were: Pueblo of Tesuque, Hualapai Tribe, Mescalero Apache Tribe, Pueblo of Cochiti, and the Organized Village of Kasaan-Alaska.

- Following each of the internships, students attended one of the NAFWS regional conferences or a similar type of conference or workshop that was held during their internship. They could also spend timeworking on a USFS project, issue, or work in cooperation with a USFS staff person. This demonstrate how the USFS and the NAFWS work as a team to assist youth as they work toward a career in natural resources.
- Navajo Nation Youth Hunt – USFS assisted with funding the Navajo Nation Youth Hunt held in September 2017.
- NAFWS Summer Youth Practicum – USFS assisted to fund supplies for the 2017 NAFWS Summer Youth Practicum.





SOUTHERN ROCKIES LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION COOPERATIVE – The Southwest Region partnered with the Southern Rockies Landscape Conservation Cooperative to host a Southwest Tribal Forum on Climate Change during the 2017 NAFWS Southwest Region Conference in Mescalero, NM. There were at least 23 participants that attended the session. The SRLCC’s purpose is to do outreach with tribes that are included in the SRLCC. This was the second year that the SRLCC and the NAFWS coordinated to provide the forum.

Travel Scholarships - The Southwest Region provided travel scholarships to members in the Southwest Region who expressed an interest to attend the Southwest Tribal Forum on Climate Change held on August 7, 2017 in conjunction with the NAFWS Southwest Region Conference in Mescalero, NM.

USFWS – The USFWS conducted a workshop on Gray Wolf Management that was provided by a USFWS Endangered Species Biologist/DOI Tribal Liaison during the 2017 NAFWS Southwest Region Conference in Mescalero, NM. There were at least 23 participants at this workshop. Working with the USFWS continues in areas when needed or requested such as in assisting with Tribal Conservation Law Officers Training that was held in May during the 2017 NAFWS National Conference.



REGIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

The NAFWS Regions may award students in their regions who are seeking undergraduate or graduate college degrees in the field of natural resources, science, and environment careers. In 2017, two college students were awarded scholarships, one in the Southwest and one in Southeast Region.

The Southwest Region scholarship was awarded to Shelby Williams, Walker River Tribe who is a third year student studying at Haskell Indian Nations University and seeking a degree in Environmental Science.

The Southeast Region scholarship was awarded to Andrew Sanders, Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma who is a fourth year Ph.D. student studying Applied Ecology at North Carolina State University.

The NAFWS congratulates these students for attaining higher education and working toward careers in the natural resources. The NAFWS scholarships are announced on the NAFWS website in the summer months.





PUBLIC INFORMATION

The NAFWS website (www.nafws.org) is an important resource to distribute critical information on fish and wildlife management news and information including tribal management efforts by tribal fish and wildlife programs. The website is part of our efforts to inform and provide not only news of interest regarding tribal fish and wildlife but also events, opportunities, scholarships, media releases, climate change topics, and traditional ecological knowledge.

The NAFWS will be updating the website in 2018 as we mobilize with the technological changes. We appreciate all those who contribute news and information that we share on the website. Several sources have contributed information such as news, events and opportunities, such as government agencies, tribal fish and wildlife commissions, Native American non-profits, and regions of the NAFWS and we are thankful.

The NAFWS continues to publish its newsletter, *From the Eagle's Nest* in which two were produced in 2017, and two online newsletters were also produced and disseminated. In previous efforts by the former NAFWS staff who retired in January of 2017, the archived newsletters were transferred to a new membership website that was unfinished. This task was then left to be carried on and to be fixed and the archived newsletters is presently being worked on and will be on the new NAFWS website soon. The NAFWS newsletters provide information to inform, educate, and make information available that tribes may find important especially if it relates to tribal natural resources management and supports our mission.

The newsletters reach those who register at the NAFWS conferences and those who subscribe to be members through the website and those who attend regional conferences.

The social media platform (Facebook) is used to announce NAFWS conferences, events, jobs, available opportunities and for sharing photos of NAFWS events. This has become an important way to advertise the organization's news, events, opportunities, as well as sharing. Utilizing the YouTube video platform to show case slideshows of events or projects is also being used and the link is included with the event when mentioned in the NAFWS newsletter.

RESOLUTIONS

The NAFWS Board of Directors pass resolutions on decisions that will move the organization forward in areas they consider important. The resolutions that were passed in 2017 include the following:

- Support of Native Youth in the Southwest Region - This Resolution was passed during the 2017 NAFWS Southwest Region Conference held on August 7-10, 2017 in Mescalero, NM.
- Funding for Non-Bird Wildlife Repository Operated by the Arizona Game and Fish Department- This Resolution was passed at the 2017 NAFWS Southwest Region Conference held on August 7-10, 2017 in Mescalero, NM.
- 2018 Tribal Climate RESILIENCE FUNDING – This Resolution was passed at the 2017 Southwest Regional Conference. It allows the Southwest Region to apply for BIA Climate Resilience Funding grants for Travel Support should it become available.
- 1854 Treaty Authority Resolution Support for the BIA (Bureau of Indian Affairs) Tribal Youth Initiative Funding – This Resolution was passed on 12/09/2017 at the NAFWS Board meeting and allows the 1854 Treaty Authority to conduct a Summer Youth camp within the 1854 Ceded Territory with BIA Youth Initiative Funding.
- 2018 NAFWS Supports Summer Youth Practicum in Grant Request of \$48,000.00 – This Resolution was passed in December 2017 at the NAFWS Board meeting and supports the NAFWS Summer Youth Practicum in a grant request to the BIA for \$48,000.



BOARD AND STAFF

- Donald J. Reiter, Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, Wildlife Biologist, Menominee Conservation Department. He was elected as President by the Board of Directors during the 2016-2017 NAFWS National Conferences.
- William Bailey, Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, Conservation Law Enforcement Captain.
- Marissa Spang, Great Plains Region, works with the Northern Cheyenne Tribe, Natural Resources Department as a Natural Resources Administrator.
- Jeff Kelly, Director, Standing Rock Game, Fish and Wildlife.
- David Wolf, Fisheries Technician, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. He served as President of the Board in 2014-2015.
- Ted Lamebull, Conservation Law Officer with the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission.
- Mike LaVoie, Southeast Region, a biologist, works as the Natural Resources Program Manager with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. He was elected vice-president of the Board in 2016
- Elveda Martinez, Southwest Region, works with the Walker River Paiute Tribe as Water Resources Coordinator. She served as Vice President in 2014-2015, and was elected as Secretary-Treasurer to the Board of Directors in 2016 and in 2017.
- Darren Talayumptewa, Southwest Region, works with the Hopi Tribe Wildlife & Ecosystems Management.
- Mitzi Reed, Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, Department of Natural Resources.
- Charles Prince, Algaaciq Native Village, Alaska. Works as an environmental coordinator, EPA/GAP Department.
- Bob Aloysius, Native Village of Kalskag, is a Native Elder from his community a long-time supporter, instructor with the NAFWS Summer Youth Practicum.

STAFF

D. Fred Matt, Executive Director, Montana

Karen Lynch, Technical Editor, Colorado

Sasha Hoskie, Education Coordinator, Colorado

(Management Partners - Accounting) - Contractual





Financial Report

Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) - \$140,760.00 - First Installment for Society administration.
*Requested \$420,000.00

BIA Conservation Law Enforcement Officer (CLEO) Funding - \$60,000.00

*3 Regional 40-hour trainings.

*Other trainings – national and regional conferences.

BIA CLEO Carry-Over Funds - \$83,140.00

USDA Animal & Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS) - \$5,000.00

*National Conference Costs

US Forest Service - \$22,000.00 – New Agreement signed with the Society on April 24, 2018 for 5 years.

*Three (3) youth practicums - \$12,000.00

*Southwest Youth Practicum - \$5,000.00

*Navajo Nation Youth Hunt - \$5,000.00

BIA Youth Initiative Funding for the National Youth Practicum – Funded/Waiting on amount.

BIA Climate Change Travel Funds for the Southwest Region

*Carry-over from 2017 - \$9,042.00 (From \$20,000.00)

BIA Wolf Workshop Travel Funds for the Southwest Region

*Carry-over from 2017 - \$1,274.58 (From \$7,000.00)

Management Partner's Incorporated – Financial management firm has been contracted by the Society for 2018.

2016 Audit – Being completed; 2017 will be done soon after.

Respectfully,

/S/

Elveda Martinez, Secretary/Treasurer



FINANCIAL

Native American Fish and Wildlife Society
Statement of Financial Position
As of December 31, 2017

	<u>Total</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Cash and Investments	\$ 1,051,076.87
Grants and Contracts Receivable	\$ 156,075.57
Total Other Current Assets	\$ 2,635.47
Total Current Assets	<u>\$ 1,209,787.91</u>
Fixed Assets	
1510 Equipment & Computers	124,757.66
1515 Accum Depr - Equipment & Computers	-71,613.95
1530 Furniture & Fixtures	9,602.25
1535 Accum Depr - Furniture & Fixtures	-8,134.00
Total Fixed Assets	<u>\$ 54,611.96</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 1,264,399.87</u>
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	\$ 15,626.97
Credit Cards	\$ 0.00
Other Current Liabilities	\$ 29,346.55
Total Current Liabilities	<u>\$ 44,973.52</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>\$ 44,973.52</u>
Equity	
Beginning Net Assets	1,140,653.54
Net Revenue	78,772.81
Total Equity	<u>\$ 1,219,426.35</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	<u>\$ 1,264,399.87</u>

