



2026 CALL FOR ABSTRACTS, POSTERS AND PRESENTATIONS

2026 Joint Conference - *Overcoming Challenges in a Changing Scientific Climate*

[Oregon Chapter of The Wildlife Society](#), [Society for Northwestern Vertebrate Biology](#) and [Northwest Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation](#)

February 23-25 || Seaside, Oregon

Seaside Conference Center - <https://ortws.org/events/annual-conference/>

We invite abstracts for oral presentations and posters, special session proposals, and ideas for other facets of the program. All topics in wildlife, vertebrate biology, habitat management, conservation, and application of research findings to conservation and management practices are welcome.

Additional topics that are especially applicable to this year's theme include:

- Collaboration and partnerships
- Innovative funding
- Science communication

*****Abstract Deadline: Close of business December 5, 2025 *****

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Monday 23 February – Registration Opens, Plenary and Invited Speakers, Contributed Sessions, Poster Session, Student/Professional Mixer, and more!

Tuesday 24 February – Contributed Sessions, Banquet, Awards, Raffle, and Silent Auction.

Wednesday 25 February - Field Trips (tentatively)*, Workshops*, Special Events, and Adjourn

**Separate registration is required*

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Abstracts for oral presentations and posters must be submitted electronically **by close of business December 5, 2025** at the following [link](#).

Please limit abstracts to 250 words.

We strongly encourage all students to present! Feedback on your abstracts will occur by January 5, 2026.

We currently have 8 special sessions: Marine Mammal Stranding Network, Tribal Wildlife, Human-wildlife Interactions, Turtles, Carnivores, Species of the Dunes, Sagebrush, and Pollinators.

If you are taking part in one of these invited special sessions **you must still submit an abstract**, just select the session you are taking part in from the drop-down menu. If you have not been formally invited to take part in a special session but it is appropriate for a special session, please list the session name as the first of your three keywords. If not selected for the session, your abstract will still be considered for a contributed breakout session.



ABSTRACT GUIDELINES

Abstracts must be formatted to facilitate publication in the Fall issue of the journal [Northwestern Naturalist](#) following the meeting (*Northwestern Naturalist* is the flagship publication for the **Society for Northwestern Vertebrate Biology**). The journal is available online via BioOne but is not yet Open Access.

For questions regarding *Northwestern Naturalist* please contact Robert Hoffman at rhoff.nwnae@gmail.com

Specifications

- Prepare abstracts using a Times New Roman 12-point font in MS Word following the format below. Improperly formatted abstracts will be returned for revision.
- Type everything left justified.
- Type the title in ALL CAPITALS followed by a period (do not embolden the title).

Continue same line with names of all authors and their addresses. Type author names in upper and lower case and then convert to **SMALL CAPITALS** with proper keystroke (under Font on Format pull-down window--do NOT make small capitals by changing font size). Name sequence should be first, middle initial (if used), and last with no periods after any initials. Add the affiliation and address, including zip code (and email address if desired), for each author directly after each author's name. **ITALICIZE** affiliations, addresses, and e-mail addresses. Use 2-letter state or province abbreviations. Separate each name with their address and the e-mail address of the corresponding author with a semicolon. If all authors have the same address and follow each other in the sequence of authors then the address only needs to be provided once after the author's names; however, if the authors with the same address do not follow each other in the sequence of authors then the address needs to be provided after each author's name. Here are some sequences as examples: Example 1: authors 1-5 share the same address; sequence = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 (address); Example 2: authors 1, 2, 5 share the same address but authors 3, 4 do not; sequence = 1, 2 (address), 3 (address), 4 (address), 5 (address); Example 3: authors 1, 3, 5 share the same address but authors 2, 4 do not; sequence = 1 (address), 2 (address), 3 (address), 4 (address), 5 (address).

Skip a line and type the abstract in 1 paragraph in **NORMAL CASE** with a 0.5-inch indent of the first line. The word count for the body of the abstract should not exceed 250 words. **All species' common names should be capitalized.**



EXAMPLE

NEW ENVIRONMENTAL DNA (EDNA) PROTOCOLS AND MONITORING FOR TWO SECRETIVE TERRESTRIAL SALAMANDERS. SKY BUTTON*, *Washington State University Vancouver, 14204 NE Salmon Creek Ave, Vancouver, WA 98686; sky.button@wsu.edu*; CAREN GOLDBERG, *Washington State University Pullman, 100 Dairy Rd, Pullman, WA 99163; caren.goldberg@wsu.edu*; JONAH PIOVIA-SCOTT, *Washington State University Vancouver; jonah.piovia-scott@wsu.edu*.

Coeur d'Alene Salamanders (*Plethodon idahoensis*) and Van Dyke's Salamanders (*Plethodon vandykei*) are 2 specialist species occurring along moist seep and stream margins in the Pacific Northwest, both with poorly understood conservation needs owing to their secretive life histories. To improve monitoring capabilities for these species, we developed and tested an eDNA assay for each. For each species, we collected 2–3 eDNA samples on each of 3–5 visits made to 6 occupied sites in 2021. For *P. idahoensis*, aquatic eDNA-based detection reached 83% in May and October, was more efficient than daytime visual encounter surveys, and had similar efficacy to night-time visual encounter surveys for detecting this species. For *P. vandykei*, eDNA yielded higher detection rates (67%) than day- or night-time visual surveys (33%) at seeps and first-order streams ($n = 3$) during and 1 month after peak snowmelt but failed to detect this species later in the year and at larger streams. In 2022, we expanded our research on *P. vandykei*, resurveying 40 historically occupied localities across the species' range using a combination of eDNA and light-touch surveys...

Note for software associated with oral presentations:

Visual support for oral presentations will only be allowed in PowerPoint format for PCs (Apple-based format will not be acceptable). PowerPoint presentations should be MS-Office 2013 or later version to ensure greatest compatibility with anticipated projection equipment and computer support. As always, give credit where credit is due by naming the image owner. If an image is copyrighted, then get permission from the image owner before using it.

RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT UPDATES (IGNITE PRESENTATIONS)

Want to present at the joint conference but you don't yet have all your results, or you have a new management consideration or project for your peers? Consider a shortened, 7.5-minute update that provides brief background, brief methods, and preliminary results. The goal for these talks is to allow your peers to know what you've been working on and allow for discussion. Make sure the presentation type is "IGNITE."

POSTER PRESENTATION GUIDELINES:

Each poster should be contained within a 3-foot-high x 4-foot-wide area. Please contact poster session lead Katie Moriarty at katiemoriarty@ortws.org if you have additional questions about display boards and/or the size of your poster.

Be sure to submit an abstract for your poster by **close of business December 5, 2025** at the following [link](#).



BEST STUDENT PRESENTATION AWARDS

All student presenters are **automatically entered** into the following competitions unless they opt out during abstract submission or do not qualify:

- Best Undergraduate Student **Poster Award**
- Best Graduate Student **Poster Award**
- Les Eberhardt Student **Presentation Award** (best student oral presentation)

To be considered for the Les Eberhardt Student **Presentation Award** individuals must:

- Present research that was **developed and completed while they were a student** – Proposed research will not be considered
- Be **currently pursuing a degree** in wildlife biology or a related field (e.g., ecology, natural resources, fisheries biology, entomology, forestry, soil science, etc.) – **OR** – have **graduated within the past year** and be presenting research conducted as a student

2026 Les Eberhardt Award Details

- The winner of this award will receive funding from ORTWS to **attend and present at the next National TWS Conference** (pending abstract acceptance)
- The recipient's name will be added to the Les Eberhardt Award Plaque and kept in Nash Hall at Oregon State University

Judging Process

- All student presentations will be evaluated by **2–3 judges**
- **Oral presenters** will not know who the judges are but may request feedback afterward
- **Poster presenters** will be approached during the session by judges who will identify themselves as judges and ask for a **brief (2-minute or less) explanation** of the poster

Note: All student poster presenters are considered for awards unless you opt out in the abstract submission process.

For judging criteria and more details, visit the ORTWS [Awards](#) page.

CALL FOR ADDITIONAL SPECIAL SESSIONS

We encourage submission of full special sessions (in addition to those listed above which are currently moderated panel discussions) devoted to a single topic or theme. Special sessions at the 2026 Joint Conference should encompass a 2-hour time slot, which can be formatted in a variety of different presentation styles; ORTWS encourages unique and different presentation styles, including, but not limited to:



- **Moderated Panel Discussion** - Six or more individual speaker presentations around a similar topic, developed with a moderator introducing and concluding the various speakers. Question and answer at the conclusion are encouraged to be built into the session time.
- **Collaborative Discussion** - Attendees are encouraged to participate in the discussion, led by a moderator and possible speakers, and may be in the form of roundtable topics.
- **Point-Counterpoint Panel** - Moderated discussion focused on various sides of a topic, which may or may not include presentations.
- **Conversation Starter** - Moderator is prepared to facilitate an open discussion along a particular topic. They begin with a five- minute intro of the topic or sides of the topic, then open to the audience for interactive discussion.

To submit an inquiry for a special session, please contact abstract committee chair Vanessa Schroeder at vanessaschroeder@ortws.org.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!

We are looking for volunteers to serve as session chairs and/or student judges. Please reach out to Vanessa Schroeder at vanessaschroeder@ortws.org or indicate your interest when you submit an abstract or register for the conference.

For additional questions on the joint conference, or if you are interested in volunteering contact Vice President & Joint Conference Chair Jeremy Thompson at jeremy@ortws.org. THANK YOU!