

# **THE MONTANA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY**

## **59th Annual Conference**

### **“Pillars of Success: The Intersection Between Research, Management and Implementation”**

**February 23–25, 2021**

**(MTTWS Goes Virtual Due to Covid19)**

*Although this is the 59th Annual MT TWS Conference, it is our first (and hopefully, only) virtual conference. As I sit at my home office and reflect on this past year, the 58th Annual Conference seems like 29 years ago! So much has changed and yet in some respects, time is standing still. As all of us have navigated the past year, I can't help but to think about the dedication and determination of so many, including wildlife professionals. The fact that folks are flexible and open to this new approach and that we can still provide almost all the same pieces of past conferences makes me proud in our profession's commitment (and IT savviness). It has been an honor and privilege to serve as your president-elect over the past year and work with the Executive Board to put together our annual conference. This is the one time of year where many of us get to be together and celebrate another year's worth of research, knowledge gained while managing habitat and wildlife in the field, work on restoration and stewardship projects, and discuss any trials and tribulations that we have overcome while conserving Montana's resources. I hope that this virtual conference provides you with the platform needed to expand on your knowledge and that you walk away from here with some additional tools or ideas on how to improve on wildlife conservation in your respective location in Montana and beyond. Pillars of success: The intersection between research, management and implementation. The theme this year realizes that Montana is a vast landscape with various social, economic, cultural and conservation needs. To sustain our goals of sound wildlife management based on a foundation of science, it is clear that working cooperatively provides the greatest chance towards successful on-the-ground projects. How agency, academic, non-profit, landowner and tribal entities interact to find balanced solutions is integral in realizing our commitment to wildlife and the habitats where they exist. This is exceedingly true within the matrix of private, public and tribal land ownerships. To advance our ultimate goal to conserve and manage for robust wildlife populations and sustain well-functioning habitats, we must strive to engage with multiple stakeholders at various spatial scales and find the common links that bind us.*

**President-Elect: Andrew Jakes (National Wildlife Federation)**