



2019 Raptor Symposium Presenters and Panelist Biographical Sketches

Tyler Abbot— Tyler Abbot was born in Utah but raised in Colorado since age 5 growing up hunting, fishing, and working on a number of farms in northern Colorado. He worked for the Colorado Division of Wildlife from 1986 through 1989 while attending undergraduate school in Wildlife Biology at Colorado State University where he received his bachelor's in wildlife in 1989. He received a master's degree in Fisheries Science from the University of Maryland in 1994. Tyler started working for FWS in the Colorado Field Office 1991. In 2001 he moved to the FWS Wyoming Field Office in Cheyenne where he worked until 2007. From 2007 to 2011 he worked for BLM in the WY State office and in Washington D.C. as an Endangered Species and the Fisheries Program Manager. In 2011, he returned to the FWS WY Field Office as the Deputy Field Supervisor, and in 2016 became the Field Supervisor.

Mark Andersen — Mark Andersen is the Information Systems and Services Coordinator for the Wyoming Natural Diversity Database (WYNDD). He is responsible for developing strategies and processes to improve WYNDD's central database, web applications, and other technical resources. He holds a master's degree in Geography from the University of Wyoming and has an educational and professional background in ecology, GIS, web and database development, quantitative methods, and project management.

Gary Beauvais— Gary Beauvais earned a bachelor's degree in Biology from Colorado College in 1990, and a PhD. in Zoology from the University in Wyoming in 1997. He became the Lead Zoologist at the Wyoming Natural Diversity Database (WYNDD) in 1998 and transitioned to Director in 2000. WYNDD is now staffed by 15 biologists and database specialists and serves as the premier source of observation data and associated information products for plants and animals of management and conservation concern in Wyoming. Although a wildlife biologist by training, Gary's work at WYNDD has allowed him to almost sound as if he has some knowledge of invertebrate zoology, botany, and vegetation ecology as well. Gary was an active participant in the Wyoming Raptor Symposia in 2015 and 2017 and looks forward to continuing in this and all future Symposia.

Bryan Bedrosian—Bryan Bedrosian is currently the research director for Teton Raptor Center; a research, educational, and rehabilitation non-profit in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Bryan has been studying birds in the Greater Yellowstone Region and the Great Plains for the past 15 years with a focus on raptors, corvids, and sage-grouse. His projects range from migration and spatial ecology, genetics studies, environmental contaminants, and bioacoustics. He has been involved in movement studies from the



beginning of GPS tracking birds, including designing the current method for GPS tracking sage-grouse. Bryan continues to innovate when not in the field and has designed and made available research tools like remote net launchers for capturing eagles and ravens, an automated wildlife recording device, and even helped design GPS transmitters for his studies. Bryan believes the key to long-term wildlife conservation is collaboration, coordination, constructive dialog, and providing opportunities for young biologists.

Dru Bower – Dru grew up on a family farm/ranch in Worland, Wyoming and graduated from the University of Wyoming in 1990 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Communication. Shortly after that, she went on to Washington D.C. and became the assistant chief-of-staff for Senator Malcolm Wallop (R-Wyo). From 1994 to 2005, Dru focused her career on opportunities that promoted access, multiple uses and economic growth on public lands. She represented People for the USA (formerly People for the West) and served the multiple use organization as the Mountain States field director and national director of development. From there Dru went to work for a gilsonite mining company in northeastern Utah (Lexco, Inc.), where she managed daily operations and oversaw production for all domestic and export markets. Dru then became the vice president of the Petroleum Association of Wyoming. She established DRU Consulting, LLC in 2005, and provides guidance on a number of natural resource topics, including preparing comments on NEPA documents, rules, regulations and policies; as well as strategic counsel for National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLMPA) land use planning issues on federal, state and fee lands. She also provides public affairs and lobbying services, grassroots advocacy strategies.

Bob Budd – Bob Budd is the Executive Director of the Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust, a state program that enhances wildlife habitat and natural resources in Wyoming.

Prior to helping launch the WWNRT, Budd was the manager of Red Canyon Ranch and Director of Land Management for The Nature Conservancy in Wyoming. Before his tenure with TNC, Bob spent 15 years with the Wyoming Stock Growers Association, then as Executive Director.

Bob Budd has a Master of Science degree in Range Management, and Bachelor of Science degrees in Agricultural Business and Animal Science, all from the University of Wyoming.

He is a past-president of the International Society for Range Management, past president of the Wyoming Section of the Wildlife Society, Greater Cheyenne Chamber of Commerce, and past chairman of Cheyenne Frontier Days Public Relations committee. He is currently president of the CFD Buckle Club.

Budd has facilitated the development of management plans for the Big Sandy River and Bighorn Sheep in Wyoming, and Sage-grouse in Wyoming, Utah, and Nevada. He is Chairman of the Wyoming Sage-grouse Implementation Team and co-chair of the Western Governors Sage-grouse Task Force.

His writings have appeared in a variety of forms, most recently “Otters Dance” in *Home Land*, and three chapters in *Ranching West of the Hundredth Meridian*. He and his wife, Lynn, live in Cheyenne, Wyoming and have three grown children - Joe, Jake, and Maggie.



Tim Byer – Tim is a Wyoming native, born and raised in Casper. He holds a Bachelor’s degree in Wildlife Management from the University of Wyoming. As the Wildlife Program manager for the Douglas Ranger District and Thunder Basin National Grassland, he is responsible for a variety of wildlife resources including raptor management on the National Grasslands. In addition, he is tasked with wildlife resource input to most proposed activities on the Douglas Ranger District and Thunder Basin National Grassland. This includes mining, grazing, oil and gas development, and recreational activities. Tim has served as the U.S. Forest Service representative on several international committees, including teams that developed North American Conservation Action Plans for the Black-tailed Prairie Dog, the Burrowing Owl, and the Ferruginous Hawk. He has also represented the Forest Service as part of the international Wings Across the Americas – Prairie Wings team to Mexico. In addition, he has been a member of the Wyoming Important Bird Area Technical Review Group, the Wyoming Partners-In-Flight Conservation Planning Team, and several Greater Sage Grouse Working Groups. With over 30 years of working for the U.S. Forest Service Tim has served as a Wildlife Technician, Biologist, Acting Forest Biologist, and as an Acting District Ranger.

Anna Chalfoun—Anna Chalfoun is the Assistant Unit Leader for Wildlife at the Wyoming Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, and an Associate Professor at UW in the Department of Zoology and Physiology and the Program in Ecology. In her capacity at the coop unit, she and her graduate students work closely with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and federal agencies to address key informational gaps for sensitive, non-game species in Wyoming. She is a Fellow of the American Ornithological Society and a recipient of a ‘PECASE’ award (The Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers).

Ross Crandall—Ross Crandall grew up in Wisconsin, moving to Wyoming in 2007 to work with Craighead Beringia South. He has been involved in a variety of research projects focused on a range of species from songbirds to large carnivores. The past few years of his career he has developed and led research projects focused primarily on raptors in Wyoming and Montana. When not working, he can be found hunting, fishing, hiking and spending time with his family.

Wally Erickson— Wallace P. Erickson has been a statistician with WEST since 1991. He currently serves as a Senior Biometrician/Scientist. He has an M.S in statistics from the University of Wyoming, and a B.S. in Mathematics and Statistics from Winona State University. He has also served as the COO and CEO of WEST over a five-year period. Wally has over 28 years of consulting experience related to the design and analysis of environmental and wildlife studies. His work at WEST has involved applying proper experimental design and appropriate statistical analysis methods for natural resource studies. He has worked with numerous governmental, industry and environmental organizations to help solve wildlife and other natural resource conflicts and issues. He has been a project manager and/or lead statistician



for over 300 studies/projects, including baseline wildlife and risk assessment studies, environmental permitting, and/or operational monitoring/research at over 150 renewable energy projects in 35 states. He is an author/co-author on over 50 professional journal articles, book chapters or peer-reviewed proceedings papers, and is a co-author of the 2nd edition of the book “Resource Selection by Animals.” He has presented over 50 papers/posters at national/regional meetings. He has four daughters.

Christi Haswell—A native of Wyoming, Christi grew up in Sheridan, graduated from the University of Wyoming in American Studies and the School of Environment and Natural Resources, and more recently completed the Ruckelshaus Institute’s Collaboration Program in Natural Resources. She previously sat on the Wyoming BLM Resource Advisory Council and currently represents Judicial District 4 on the Wyoming Wildlife & Natural Resource Trust Board. For the past seven years, before winning a seat on the Sheridan County Commission, Christi served as Director for SWCA’s Sheridan office, where she oversaw a 30-member team of scientists and support staff. She has more than 17 years of state and federal regulatory and permitting experience in Wyoming, Montana, and North Dakota.

Chris Keefe—Chris is currently a wildlife biologist with the Wyoming State Office of the Bureau of Land Management. He is the Threatened and Endangered Species Program Lead with duties that extend to other special status species, such as raptors, migratory birds, bats, and amphibians. Chris is a Wyoming native, born and raised near Cheyenne, attending Northwest College in Powell, Wyoming before graduating from the University of Wyoming with a degree in Wildlife Biology and Fisheries Management. Chris spent five years in the consulting realm here in Laramie before following his wife's career opportunities to Utah, where Chris was able to get a job with the BLM in the Utah State Office working in oil and gas leasing. In 2008, Chris returned to Wyoming to work with BLM at the Wyoming State Office in Cheyenne and has been there for the past 11 years operating in various roles from T&E Species Lead to Greater Sage-Grouse Coordinator, to Fisheries and Aquatics Program Lead.

Steve Kozlowski—Steve has worked as a biologist with the USDA Forest Service since 1989. Most of this work has been at the Forest Service District level where responsibilities lie with reviewing project proposals of all types, conducting field surveys for the presence of uncommon wildlife species and habitats, and providing recommendations on how to balance consumptive uses with wildlife protections. His experience includes assignments in a variety of locations including the Forests of Washington State, Southern Colorado, New Mexico, and Wyoming. A resident in Laramie since 2000, Steve has served as the local Forest Service District Biologist, the Forest/grassland-wide Sage-grouse Coordinator, and most recently oversees the Medicine Bow, Routt, and Thunderbasin’s wildlife, botany, and fisheries programs.

Steve is currently the program lead for the Wildlife, Botany, and Fisheries Program for the Medicine Bow and Routt National Forests, and Thunder Basin National Grassland.



Ryan Lance—Ryan M. Lance is President of Pathfinder Ranches, LLC, which owns and operates the Sweetwater River Conservancy Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Conservation Bank - the first conservation bank approved by the US Fish and Wildlife Service to offset impacts to the Greater sage-grouse in the United States. The SRC Sage-Grouse Bank is also the largest single bank in the nation. SRC also owns and operates the Dumbell Ranch Mitigation Bank, the first and only wetland, stream and riparian bank approved by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Wyoming. The setting for SRC's banking operations is 638,000 acres of working ranchlands in central Wyoming.

Ryan worked as state planning coordinator, deputy chief of staff, policy advisor and Endangered Species Act policy coordinator in the administration of Governor Dave Freudenthal. In these capacities, he directed policy development and implementation related to natural resource matters with Wyoming state agencies, including the Department of Environmental Quality, Game and Fish Department, Department of Agriculture, State Engineer's Office and Water Development Office. Ryan also served as the Governor's policy liaison to federal agencies, including the U.S. Department of the Interior (Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service and Fish and Wildlife Service) and U.S. Department of Agriculture (Forest Service, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, and Farm Services).

Ryan served as the director of the Wyoming Office of State Lands and Investments for Wyoming Governor Matthew H. Mead. Ryan also served as acting chairman of the Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission. As director, he was responsible for surface, and mineral leasing, mineral royalty compliance, easement siting, field inspection, timber management and appraisal operations related to state trust lands in Wyoming.

Andrea Orabona—Andrea received her Bachelor of Science degree in Wildlife Biology from Colorado State University and her Master of Science degree in Wildlife Biology from the University of Wyoming. Andrea has worked for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department since 1989 and has been the state's Nongame Bird Biologist for 27 years. She is responsible for managing over 300 species of birds across the state of Wyoming, including nearly 80 Species of Greatest Conservation Need. In her past time, she enjoys music, dancing, traveling, reading, and outdoor activities (e.g., horseback riding, hiking, camping, wildlife watching, skiing, fishing, biking, canoeing, and kayaking).

Bill Ostheimer— Bill Ostheimer was raised in Flagstaff, AZ. He received his BA in Biology, from Colorado University at CU Boulder and his master's in biology from Montana State University. Bill has served twenty years in the federal government, with the last 15 in the BLM Buffalo Field Office. Currently, he is the Supervisory Natural Resource Specialist in Resources with 11 staff in Recreation, Hydrology, Range, and Wildlife. Bill has two kids ages 14 and 11. Hits right, throws right, not a threat to steal bases.



Charles R. Preston, Ph.D.— Charles R. Preston is the Willis McDonald, IV Senior Curator Emeritus at the Draper Natural History Museum at the Buffalo Bill Center of the West, having retired at the end of 2018. He studies the influence of climate and human activities on biodiversity and is widely recognized as a leading authority on wildlife and human-wildlife relationships in Greater Yellowstone. Since 2009 he has directed a long-term monitoring/research program on Golden Eagle nesting ecology in the Bighorn Basin. Dr. Preston was formerly Chairman of Zoology at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science and a tenured Associate Professor of Biology at the University of Arkansas, Little Rock. He holds or has held adjunct appointments in the Haub School for Environment and Natural Resources, University of Wyoming; Biology and Environmental Science, University of Colorado (Boulder and Denver); Environmental Policy and Management, Denver University, and Biological Sciences, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. He has authored, co-authored, or edited seven books and more than a hundred scientific articles and popular essays covering various topics.

Steve Slater – Steve Slater, Ph.D., joined HawkWatch International (HWI) in June 2006 as the organization’s Conservation Scientist and has since become the Conservation Science Director. Much of Steve’s recent work has focused on Golden Eagles, including monitoring, transmitter deployment and tracking, and risk assessments. Steve has also served as a principal investigator in research on the impacts of invasive cheatgrass, fire, and prey declines on West Desert (Utah) Golden Eagles, Ferruginous Hawks, and Burrowing Owls. He has overseen research on the potential risks of proposed wind developments to local, migratory, and wintering Golden Eagles, the potential impacts of oil and gas development on nesting raptors in Utah and Wyoming, and the ability of perch-deterrent devices to exclude raptor power line perch use in Southwestern Wyoming. Steve has also been involved in HawkWatch's long-term nesting and migration surveys. His work also focuses on identifying current and emerging threats to raptors, information needs, potential future research projects, and translating raptor science into conservation action. Currently, Steve serves on Utah’s Bureau of Land Management Resource Advisory Council and as the facilitator for the Utah Eagle Working Group. Before joining HawkWatch, he spent six years in Wyoming, where he obtained his master’s and doctoral degrees in Zoology and Physiology from the University of Wyoming. His master’s thesis was on greater sage-grouse use of prescribed and wild burns and was completed in 2003. Steve obtained his Ph.D. in 2006 and wrote his dissertation on issues of scale and bird community responses to riparian cottonwood declines, Russian-olive invasion, and landscape alteration.

Trish Sweanor— Trish Sweanor has served as wildlife Biologist at the Wyoming Field Office of the US Fish and Wildlife Service since 2002. She primarily works with wind energy developers in Wyoming to help minimize impacts to migratory birds and listed species. She holds degrees in wildlife and ecology from Colorado State University, the University of Colorado, and the Swedish University in Uppsala. Previously, she worked for the USGS, Parks Canada, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, the Swedish Wildlife Research Center, and wildlife consulting companies.



Bill Vetter—Bill Vetter is the owner and principal wildlife biologist of Precision Wildlife Resources in Gillette, Wyoming. He earned an MS degree in Wildlife Biology with an emphasis on Conservation Biology from Indiana State University and a BA degree in Biology and Secondary Education from Cornell College. He has been working with raptors for the last 25 years, authoring publications on raptor migration patterns along minor lead lines, foraging behaviors and determinants of survival in wintering raptors, spatial predator-prey relationships between *Accipiters* and songbird species, and avian behavioral responses in advance of weather events. Over the last 15 years, he has worked extensively throughout Wyoming, and other Rockies and Great Plains states designing wildlife monitoring and research programs, completing impact analyses and biological permitting, and developing conservation and mitigation plans for a variety of species, with a particular focus on raptors.

Laurel Vicklund – Laurel Vicklund is a Sr. Environmental Scientist for Peabody Energy in the Powder River Basin of Wyoming. She has worked on reclaiming mined lands, permitting, and regulatory affairs. She is currently the Vice Chair for the Thunder Basin Grasslands Prairie Ecosystem Association, member of the Northeast WY Sage-grouse Working Group, and Member of the Wyoming Natural Diversity Database Advisory Committee. Laurel has assisted with various reclamation studies and co-authored journal articles and conference proceedings. She received her BS in soils from Colorado State University.

Ester Wagner— Esther Wagner joined the Petroleum Association in 2012 and currently serves as Vice-President for Public Lands. Esther is the principal advisor and policy analyst on land and wildlife issues. Esther has worked in the oil and gas industry for over thirteen years, previously at Devon Energy Corporation as a public affairs specialist. Esther has served on several industry boards, and committees in Wyoming, Montana and New Mexico and currently has the pleasure of serving on the board of the Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust. Esther has lived in Casper most of her life and graduated from Natrona County High School. She received her Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Wyoming. She enjoys spending time outdoors hiking, running, cross country skiing and camping. She and her husband, Brian, have two children, Jessica and Remington.

Zach Wallace – Zach Wallace is a wildlife biologist whose work focuses on human impacts to wildlife and their habitats, with an emphasis on raptor ecology. He has studied wildlife across the western U.S., including extensive work on Golden Eagles in the intermountain west and desert southwest. He received his M.Sc. in Wildlife Science from Oregon State University, where his research focused on the nesting ecology of Ferruginous Hawks and Golden Eagles in Wyoming. After completing his graduate degree, he worked with Eagle Environmental, Inc. as a consultant to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, industry, and Native American Tribes on effects of human activities such as wind energy development and religious harvest on Golden Eagles. He continues this work at the University



of Wyoming as a biometrician for the Wyoming Natural Diversity Database, where his research also includes field studies and analyses of vertebrate species of concern, from amphibians to songbirds to bats.

Kyle Wendtland – Kyle J. Wendtland is currently the Administrator of the Land Quality Division of the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality. Mr. Wendtland has served in several environmental management capacities including reclamation and regulatory permitting in Wyoming and Montana.

Mr. Wendtland holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Range Management with a focus on disturbed land reclamation and a Master of Science degree in Range Management from the University of Wyoming. His career accomplishments range from recognition in environmental stewardship to developing advanced reclamation practices in establishing shrub communities and mitigating cheatgrass in disturbed land reclamation. Mr. Wendtland has authored three publications: “The Fire History of Scotts Bluff National Monument, 1990;” “Regulatory directives and reclamation strategies, 1992;” and Fire History Effects of Seasonal Prescribed Burning on Northern Mixed Prairie, Scotts Bluff National Monument 1993.” Mr. Wendtland’s professional career has spanned 29 years in the mine and reclamation industry.