



News from the WEST, Inc.

Fall 2009



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TWS Honors WEST, Inc.

WEST, Inc. was honored by The Wildlife Society (TWS) with the 2009 Special Recognition Service Award. **Dale Strickland** and **Lyman McDonald** accepted the award which was presented to WEST, Inc. at The Wildlife Society's 16th Annual Conference in Monterey, California in September.



The Special Recognition Service Award honors "any person or group that has made an outstanding contribution to the wildlife profession; the general areas of wildlife conservation, management, or science; or a specific area of endeavor, species, community, ecosystem, region, etc."

WEST, Inc. was recognized for our "efforts to improve how wildlife conservation, management, and science are applied; as well as the excellence of the training that we provide our wildlife professionals." We are honored to have received this award and will continue this tradition of excellence in our work.

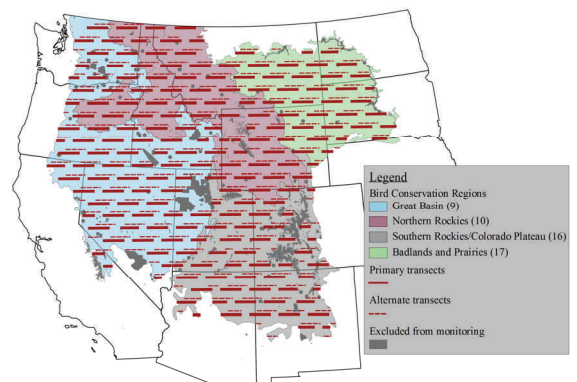
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Fifth Golden Eagle Survey Completed

WEST, Inc. successfully completed another golden eagle survey in the western U.S. Between August 15 and September 15, over 17,400 km of transects were surveyed from small, fixed-wing aircraft across four Bird Conservation Regions in twelve states. This is the fifth year the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has contracted WEST, Inc. to conduct the survey and estimate the total number of golden eagles living in the western U.S. It is anticipated that the final report will be available in the Spring of 2010. Final reports from past surveys can be found at:

http://www.west-inc.com/wildlife_surveys.php



WEST, Inc. Publications

Johnson, G. and R. Kepple. 2009. Butterflies of the Bird World. *Wyoming Wildlife* 73(6):20-27.

Johnson, G. and M. Holloran. 2009. Greater Sage-Grouse Telemetry Study to Assess Response to Wind Energy Development in Carbon County, Wyoming. Presented at the 28th Meeting of the Prairie Grouse Technical Council, October 2009, Portales, New Mexico.

Sawyer, H., M. J. Kauffman, and R. M. Nielson. 2009. Influence of well pad activity on the winter habitat selection patterns of mule deer. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 73:1052-1061.

R. M. Nielson, T. J. Evans, **M. Borurassa Stahl,** G. M. Durner, and D. C. Douglas. Simulation of an Aerial Line Transect Survey for Polar Bears in the Chukchi Sea A presentation at the 15th Working Meeting of the IUCN/SSC Polar Bear Specialist Group in Copenhagen, Denmark, June 29 – July 3, 2009.

Nielson, R. M., B. F. J. Manly, L. L. McDonald, H. Sawyer, and T. L. McDonald. 2009. Estimating habitat selection when GPS fix success is less than 100%. *Ecology* 90:2956-2962.

For additional listings of other WEST, Inc. Publications please visit:

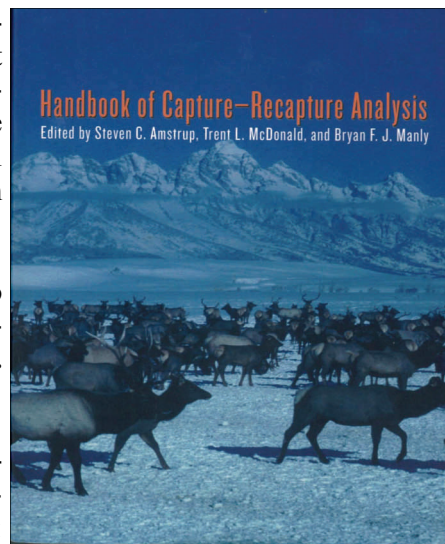
<http://www.west-inc.com/reports.php>

Dr. Trent McDonald to Present Capture-Recapture Workshop in South Africa

Dr. Trent McDonald will be presenting a three day workshop on capture-recapture, February 16th through February 18th, 2010 in Pretoria, South Africa at the University of Pretoria. This workshop, "Capture-Recapture In Practice" is designed to take individuals in the beginning stages of capture-recapture to being able to use these analyses in three days. This is a hands-on workshop where statistical method will be kept to a minimum, and methods are primarily justified through experience based problem solving, learning, and discovery.

The classes will be divided in to morning and afternoon sessions over the first two days. The morning sessions will consist mainly of lectures and the afternoon sessions will focus on hands-on exercises and consultations. On the third day **Dr. McDonald** will focus on application and individual project consultation.

Spaces are limited for this workshop and attendance must be confirmed by November 15th with payment being received by December 1st, 2009. For more information on this workshop, including a link for registration, please visit: <http://www.west-inc.com/workshops.php>.



As an environmentally friendly company, **WEST, Inc.** produces only an electronic version of its newsletter. For additional information on any story contained within this newsletter please contact **WEST, Inc.** at 307-634-1756 or email marketing@west-inc.com.

WEST, Inc. Welcomes New Staff Members

Steve Brandebura: Bat Biologist-Laramie Office

Steve joined our Laramie Office in August 2009. Steve came to WEST, Inc. after spending five years as a wildlife researcher at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro, Arkansas. He received his Bachelors degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Biology from Arkansas Tech University and will receive his Master of Science degree from Arkansas State University in 2009. Much of Steve's work for the past 9 years has involved bat research and conservation. This work includes cave biology research for the Missouri Department of Conservation, small mammal surveys for the Wyoming Diversity Database, and bat research/surveys for the U.S. Forest Service and Arkansas State University. He is a member of the American Society of Mammalogist and the Southeastern Bat Diversity Network. His duties with WEST, Inc. will include consultations and research on the impact of wind turbines and various other construction projects on bats.

Eric Hallingstad: Wildlife Biologist/Field Supervisor-Washington Office

Eric joined WEST, Inc. as a Wildlife Biologist/Field Supervisor in the Walla Walla office in August 2009. Eric began working as a Research Biologist for WEST, Inc. in 2008 shortly after receiving his Masters of Science degree in Raptor Biology from Boise State University. With WEST, Inc. Eric has conducted avian use, bat acoustic, raptor migration, raptor nest, sage grouse lek- and winter-use, breeding bird, radar, post-development mortality, and big game helicopter surveys for both proposed and existing wind power developments. Prior to graduate school, Eric spent seven years conducting field research throughout North and Central America. Eric has worked for the Sustainable Ecosystems Institute, National Park Service, University of Minnesota, and Northern Arizona University, among others. Eric's main interests involve studying and mitigating the potential conflicts resulting from human activities and wildlife needs.

Fawn Hornsby: Statistician-Laramie Office

Fawn joined WEST, Inc. in February of 2009 as a Statistician in our Laramie Office. Fawn graduated from North Carolina State University in Raleigh, North Carolina in 2008 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Statistics and Applied Mathematics with a minor in Biological Sciences. Fawn has done numerous independent studies for the North Carolina Department of Environmental and Natural Resources, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, North Carolina State University Department of Statistics. At WEST, Inc., Fawn has been immediately initiated into the real world of biometrics, data collection and statistical analysis. This work has included writing a program to help streamline wind power analysis, modeling western gray whale behavior, and participation in the 5th Golden Eagle Aerial Survey conducted for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Lisa Kentner: Data Entry-Cheyenne Office

Lisa joined the WEST, Inc. staff in September 2009 in Data Entry. Lisa is a 2006 graduate of Laramie County Community College; and is currently working on a degree at the University of Wyoming in Geography with an emphasis in Natural Resource Management and Geographic Information Systems. She has attained Geographic Information Systems Certificates for ESRI and GIS II. Her duties with WEST, Inc. include working with field data and ArcView GIS.

Chad LeBeau: Biologist/Field Supervisor-Cheyenne Office

Chad joined WEST, Inc. as a permanent employee in October 2009 after working as a temporary field technician with WEST, Inc. for the past two years. Chad is a 2008 graduate of the University of Wyoming with a Bachelor of Science degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Biology Management and Environment and Natural Resources. He also worked as a Research Aide for the Ruckelshaus Institute of Environment and Natural Resources in Laramie, Wyoming. At WEST, Inc., Chad has assisted with regulatory work for industry, conducted road and wildlife monitoring, assisted with a study on wintering mule deer, and is currently assisting with a study on sage grouse and their response to wind development. Chad will be assisting project managers in completing specific field and office duties associated with each project; tracking and help control the progress of projects; and being responsible for knowing project tasks and protocols and the overall completion schedules.

Green Driving Tips that Save Gas

Subtle changes in driving habits can make drastic changes in not only your emissions, but also in your wallet by saving you money at the gas pump. The following tips from *EcoDriving USA* will decrease your emissions and save you money!

- **Avoid Rapid Stops and Starts:** Gentle braking and accelerating can save more than \$1/gallon, because smart driving can improve fuel economy by up to 33%.
- **Keep Rolling in Traffic:** Slow-and-go is always better than stop-and-go; it can take 20% more fuel to accelerate from a dead stop than from 5 mph. (a.k.a. hyper-miling)
- **Ride the “Green Wave”:** A steady speed often can help drivers avoid red lights, therefore keeping the car moving more efficiently.
- **Use Air Conditioning at Higher Speeds:** When driving at slower speeds (under 40 mph) open windows are better. At higher speeds (40 mph+), open windows use more fuel than the air conditioner, so close the windows and turn on the air conditioner.
- **Maintain an Optimum Highway Speed for Good Mileage:** Every 5 miles over the 60 mph level is equivalent to paying 20 extra cents per gallon for gas.
- **Use Cruise Control:** This can provide a 7% average fuel savings.
- **Navigate to Reduce Emissions:** Planning driving trips, even Saturday shopping, can help reduce fuel use and CO2 emissions.
- **Avoid Idling:** Curbside idling uses fuel, but because the car is going nowhere, it translates into 0 mpg. An automobile may burn more than half a gallon of fuel for every hour spent idling.
- **Drive your Vehicle to Warm it Up:** Today's automobile does not need a warm-up period before driving it. Even on the coldest morning, running your engine for 30 seconds is all you need before your vehicle is ready to drive.



Conferences/Workshops Attended by WEST, Inc. Staff

- **Dale Strickland** (WEST, Inc. President/Senior Ecologist), **Lyman McDonald** (Senior Biometrician/Project Manager), **Ryan Nielson** (Statistician/Biometrician/Project Manager), **Chris Nations** (Statistician/Biometrician), and **Andrea Chatfield** (Wildlife Biologist) attended The Wildlife Society's 16th Annual Conference in Monterey, California. Presentations made at the conference by WEST, Inc. staff include:

Estimation of habitat selection by bighorn sheep when GPS fix success is < 100%, by **R. M. Nielson, H. Sawyer,** and M. Hicks.

Estimating habitat selection when GPS fix success is less than 100%, by **R. M. Nielson, B. F. J. Manly, L. L. McDonald, H. Sawyer,** and T. L. McDonald.

- **Trent McDonald** (Statistician/Biometrician/Senior Manager) attended the 18th Biennial Conference on the Biology of Marine Mammals, October 12th thru 16th, in Quebec City, Canada. This conference is hosted by the Society of Marine Mammalogy and focuses on education and advancement of the sciences of marine mammals.

**CORRECTION:* In our Summer 2009 Newsletter, the first photo featured in the Sampson Ridge Telemetry Project article should have been credited to Jason Herreman, who was also involved in the field work for this project. WEST, Inc. apologizes for this omission.



Branch News

Pacific Northwest-Walla Walla, Washington

WEST, Inc.'s Pacific Northwest office, based in Walla Walla, Washington, conducts work primarily across Oregon and Washington. The Walla Walla office now includes four permanent staff members and several full-time field technicians. The most recent addition to the staff is Wildlife Biologist **Eric Hallingstad** who had been working for WEST, Inc. in Idaho during the past year. Most of their current work is wind energy related, ranging from conducting site characterization studies all the way through post-construction carcass searches.

The range of our current projects extends along both sides of the Columbia Gorge, east to the Snake River and south to Nevada, as well as assorted projects along the Pacific Coast. This project area covers a broad range of ecosystems from the wet, heavily forested coast to the dry eastern front of the Cascades and from the arid sagebrush/shrub-steppe of the Columbia Plateau, continuing down into the basin and range desert landscape.

During 2009, the WEST, Inc. Pacific Northwest office experienced a strong year with the commencement of several large baseline studies. Included in this and other projects are avian use and bat acoustic surveys, sensitive species surveys, greater sage-grouse lek and brood surveys, and raptor nest surveys. WEST, Inc. has also recently begun a long term big game study involving GPS-collared elk at an operating wind facility in Oregon. As the Pacific Northwest office continues to grow, they look forward to meeting the challenges of an increasingly diversified project portfolio.



*Mt Adams from what is now the operational
Tuloumne Wind Project*



Tuloumne Wind Project, Klickitat County, Washington

WEST, Inc. Office Locations

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