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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hello and Happy New Year!

Our 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting is right around the corner, and this year is unique in several aspects. This year the Oregon Chapter is hosting the Western Division Annual Meeting this May 4-7<sup>th</sup> at the Columbia Riverfront Holiday Inn on Hayden Island, just outside Portland. Because of this, there will not be a separate annual meeting which we often hold in Bend, OR. The combined Western Division and ORAFS meeting is expected to be a big one with not only Oregon representation but the 9 other Chapters that make up the Western Division. This is going to be a great opportunity to present your work and network with other professionals across the West.

Our President-Elect, Kelcee Smith, along with her amazing planning team, have been hard at work putting together another great program. Abstract submission and registration sites will open up soon so keep watching for updates through our website ([www.orafs.org](http://www.orafs.org)), quarterly newsletter, or listserv. As always, there will be a full slate of networking opportunities, student-mentoring sessions, social events, the banquet and raffle, and of course, the cornhole tournament!

The Oregon Chapter is fortunate to have a financial sustainability committee that has managed our investment fund over the past decade in order to provide long-term growth. Over the years, the Chapter has been able to utilize the disbursement from that fund to benefit the members directly by providing high quality annual meetings that are well attended. Some of those membership services include assistance with registration and lodging for early-career professionals and assistance through reduced registration rates for professionals. The Chapter also supports student paper and poster award winners by providing travel funding to the annual Western Division meetings so they can represent Oregon in the Best of the West sessions. We also were able to increase our education

grants, which provide k-12 educators funding to help incorporate fisheries and aquatic ecology components into their curriculums..

One question we often get this time of year is, "*why should I become a member?*". The American Fisheries Society has benefits to all members whether seasoned professionals, early career biologists, or students just starting their career journey. Members get reduced rates at annual meetings and access to continuing education and online webinars on a variety of topics. The Society supports five peer-reviewed journals as well as books and monographs on topics ranging from fish culture to water quality. The Society maintains a job board for those looking for new and exciting career opportunities as well as the ability to network through various social media accounts. The professional certification program allows members at all levels to develop and demonstrate to employers and coworkers your commitment to the profession. And lastly, a strong professional society benefits us all by allowing us to have a say and to advocate for policy on our behalf at the state and national level.

So, one last reminder, if you haven't already renewed your annual AFS membership, please take a moment to do so. And don't forget to include your Oregon Chapter membership and any other Section at the society level if you would like to get more involved.

Hope to see you all in Portland this May!



Cory Sipher, President  
[President@orafs.org](mailto:President@orafs.org)

## EXTERNAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT

**External Director Report** – 2026 looks to be a busy year with the May joint meeting in Portland. Committees will have opportunities to meet with active and interested participants in Portland. We still have an urgent need to fill the Climate Change Adaption Committee lead(s). As the specific sessions are identified for the joint meeting and presenters are identified I will look to recruit potential leaders for that committee topic. Stay tuned for further details on the External Committee participation as planning proceeds over the next few months. Reach out to me at [externaldirector@orafs.org](mailto:externaldirector@orafs.org) for questions or ideas to help the external committees.

Thank-you!  
Amy Unthank External Director ORAFS



**Fish Culture Committee** – The committee awarded 4 students with \$250 to attend the Northwest Fish Culture Concepts meeting in December 2025, and ended up supporting 3 after one was unable to attend. No early career professionals applied. We will look to offer the same \$250 to two students and two early career professionals for the WDAFS/ORAFS in May.

From Committee Leads, Jen Krajcik [jenniferkrajcik@ctuir.org](mailto:jenniferkrajcik@ctuir.org) and Marla Chaney

**DEI Committee** - The DEI committee met on January 7 and started with a discussion on increasing participation in the recently launched diversity training webinars. The second major topic was planning for the upcoming AFS Western Division meeting in Portland.

The DEI training has been taken by 30 people, 10 of which are committee members. The committee discussed strategies to promote the training sessions, including additional email blasts, website visibility, and potential meeting raffle ticket incentives. One participant warned of malware warnings when he took the training, which may be a hurdle for some participants.

When accessing the trainings remember to enter "ORAFS" where the registration page asks for "Organization". There are three modules in the training; interdimensional knowledge, systemic knowledge, and global knowledge. The modules include interactive components and pre- and post-surveys to measure impact. See separate section on page 5 on accessing the course.

In preparation for the joint ORAFS-Western Division meeting the committee explored options for increasing DEI committee visibility and engagement, including potentially setting up an information table, making stickers to hand out, and a focus on casual engagement. The DEI committee has begun to participate with the Respectful Meetings Working Group to help enhance tribal representation at the joint ORAFS-WD meeting as well.

The meeting concluded with a discussion with Denny Lassuy on his generous \$10,000 donation to Oregon AFS (to split between the DEI and E/O Committees), and the need to better publicize the chapter's annual awards/ scholarships. There is an intent to further brainstorm ideas for use of AGL funds (travel awards, additional scholarships, other) and to coordinate with the Awards Committee to advertise the AGL DEI Scholarship more intensively and work on candidate recruitment.

The next meeting of the DEI committee will be in March 2026. From Committee leads - Dr. Guillermo Giannico [giannico@oregonstate.edu](mailto:giannico@oregonstate.edu) and Nilanjana Das

**Native Fish Committee** – Look for announcements soon to highlight the dates and details for the postponed 2025 Nongame Native Fish Workshop.

The intent is to travel to southeastern Oregon (near Fields, Oregon) to learn about Alvord Chub, Borax Lake Chub, and Lahontan Cutthroat Trout. The field workshop will provide presentations and discussions regarding these species and sample for them in the field.

From Committee Leads Brian Bangs [blbangs@gmail.com](mailto:blbangs@gmail.com) and Pete Baki

**Education and Outreach Committee** – A reminder on these valuable opportunities. Please share these grant opportunities with educators and other applicable contacts!

**Oregon Chapter of the American Fisheries Society Education Materials and Participation Grant Award Amount: Up to \$1,500**

**Grant Deadline: February 27th, 2026 11:59pm**

**Questions and Contact:** Marty Olson at [Martin.P.Olson@ODFW.Oregon.gov](mailto:Martin.P.Olson@ODFW.Oregon.gov)  
1-503-947-6232

The Oregon Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (ORAFS) is proud to announce the opportunity to apply for grant funds to purchase education materials and support participation in fisheries related education. These grants are intended for educators that teach fisheries or aquatic related sciences to grade levels k-12. Funds can be used for any education related materials or participation activities having to do with fisheries biology and aquatic related sciences. Funds can be used for durable gear (waders, nets, scientific instruments, dissecting scope/microscopes, etc.), educational signage, restoration supplies (seeds, plants, shovels), bus services for field trips, or other teaching needs.

Projects will be evaluated on how well they meet these education goals:

- Goal 1. Help youth acquire a basic awareness and understanding of the total ecosystem in which fishes live; the commercial, sport, and subsistence fisheries supported by that ecosystem; the issues involved in managing these fisheries; and the effects people can and do have on the resource.
- Goal 2. Help youth acquire positive attitudes and values toward fishes, fishing, fisheries, and the aquatic ecosystem in general, ensuring their protection, rehabilitation, and responsible management.
- Goal 3. Help youth acquire social and technical skills to make decisions and solve problems associated with the management of fisheries and the motivation to personally act on those problems. Provide youth

Continued on page 3

## EXTERNAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT CONT'D

with opportunities for personal action and evaluation of those actions. Example budget:

### To apply:

Please submit a description of your proposed educational project and how it will meet the above-mentioned goals, and a detailed budget of your requested grant funds and any match provided.

Please send applications to Marty Olson at [Martin.P.Olson@ODFW.Oregon.gov](mailto:Martin.P.Olson@ODFW.Oregon.gov) by the grant deadline.

Strong preference will be given to applicants that involve field experience (outside the classroom), have collaborative partners, incorporate Next Generation Science Standards into their project, include match funding or in-kind support, contribute towards the purchasing of gear or other durable goods, and have potential to benefit multiple students. While out of state applications will be considered, priority will be given to projects in Oregon.

A project completion letter detailing how Education Materials and Participation Grant Award funds were spent shall be sent to Marty Olson by December 31, 2026. For more information about the Oregon Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, please visit: <http://orafs.org/>

### Application Template

#### 2026 OR AFS Education Materials and Participation Grant

School/Group Name:

Mailing Address:

Educator Name:

Educator Phone:

Email Address:

Please provide a description of your project/program (field project, classroom program, field trip etc.).

Describe how your project/program will help youth acquire a basic awareness, understanding, or how it will increase positive attitudes and values toward fish species, fishing, fisheries, and the aquatic ecosystem.

Budget: Provide itemized budget for project expenses covered by ORAFS Educators Grant. Match funding or contributions are not required but it is encouraged. Match funding may include volunteer contributions.

Item	Price per item	Quantity	Total Cost	AFS Educators Grant Request
Water Re-sistant Nature Journals	\$ 3.48	300	\$1046.50	\$431.58
Sun Print Paper 5x7 (pack of 30)	\$9.06	100	\$90.60	\$90.60
Reusable Rain Jack-ets	\$4.00	60	\$240.00	\$240.00
Small Dip Nets	\$14.95	15	\$224.25	\$224.25
				\$986.43

From Education and Outreach Committee Lead – Marty Olsen  
[Martin.P.OLSON@odfw.oregon.gov](mailto:Martin.P.OLSON@odfw.oregon.gov)

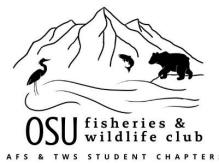


## OSU STUDENT SUBUNIT UPDATE

The FW Club is heading into winter term with a mix of socials and professional development as conference season ramps up. We're hosting biweekly events, starting with Jeopardy Night to ease into the term. Later in January and February, we're running a two-part "Teach Me How to Conference" series to help students feel more prepared heading into spring meetings, followed by a Scientific Illustration Workshop. We're wrapping up the term with a Bird Walk featuring the Bird Nerds.

Outside of meetings, we're also excited for an upcoming fly fishing trip later this month, giving members a chance to get outside, build skills, and connect with other students who love fish!

Adel Bordas  
OSU Subunit Representative  
[osustudentrep@orafs.org](mailto:osustudentrep@orafs.org)



The club's latest nature walk.

## MHCC STUDENT SUBUNIT UPDATE

Mt. Hood Community College (MHCC) students kicked off their Winter term January 6th. The Fisheries Club fall term included a volunteer day with the East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District, doing seasonal maintenance on four bioswales installed on campus as part of MHCC's Salmon Safe Certification. We pulled lots of invasive weeds, picked up trash, removed leaf litter, and evaluated the water flow to ensure that run-off is moving through the bioswales instead of into our storm drains. The club also hosted a guest speaker from the Oswego Lake Watershed council and learned about watersheds in the Portland area and what kinds of support and restoration work they do in their regions. Lastly, to finish out the term, several first and second year students attended the annual Northwest Fish Culture Concepts conference in Pendleton.

This term the club is hosting a trivia afternoon and setting up fly fishing educational events.

If you're looking for volunteers, ways to share projects, or want to connect more with the MHCC Fisheries Club, please reach out at [mhccstudentrep@orafs.org](mailto:mhccstudentrep@orafs.org)!



## Do you have something newsworthy to share?

**Hot Topics, Fishery Features, Upcoming Events...**

**Submissions from ORAFS members are welcome!**

Do you have an update on interesting work you would like to share with the membership? Are you interested in providing a Fishery Feature or a Hot Topic to tell the membership about your recent project? Do you have an upcoming event that you would like to advertise to the membership? If so, please submit your story or thoughts to Stacy Strickland at:

[stacy.a.strickland@odfw.oregon.gov](mailto:stacy.a.strickland@odfw.oregon.gov)



## Follow the chapter online!

Facebook – <https://www.facebook.com/ORChapterAFS>

X – <https://twitter.com/OregonAFS>

LinkedIn – <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/4833367/>

Instagram – [https://www.instagram.com/or\\_afs/?hl=en](https://www.instagram.com/or_afs/?hl=en)

# DEI WEBINAR ANNOUNCEMENT

**Attention ORAFS members – please take this opportunity to learn about how identity, power and bias shape fisheries management. See below for a description and instructions to participate in the three part webinar.**

Dear ORAFS Member:

As announced at our last Annual Meeting, our Chapter has been working with a social scientist in the development of an online training program on workforce development and inclusivity (a.k.a. DEI). We are pleased to give you access to a three-module course.

This self-paced course invites fisheries professionals, students, and community partners to explore how equity, inclusion, and relevance are essential to scientific integrity and long-term ecosystem health. Through storytelling, reflection, and real-world case studies, you'll uncover how identity, power, and bias shape fisheries research and engagement. Learn practical tools to create more inclusive science—from fieldwork to leadership—and discover how your values can help shape a more connected, equitable future in fisheries.

Please use the following link to access the course: <https://belongingat.com/currents-of-change-foundations-for-relevance-and-engagement/>

You will have to register for the course and once you do that wait 24 hrs to be granted access. Please, watch the 2-minute video clip on the landing page of the course to learn how to successfully navigate the registration process, which consists of a few steps.

We hope you enjoy the training modules and consider incorporating some of its lessons and tips in your daily work with colleagues, the general public and fisheries students from a diverse range of backgrounds and walks of life.



# WILD TROUT SYMPOSIUM



**First Call for Papers**  
October 13-16, 2026  
West Yellowstone, Montana, USA  
<https://wildtroutsymposium.com>

## **Wild Trout Symposium XIV** **Managing Wild Trout in a Changing Environment**

Originating in 1974, this symposium brings together a broad and diverse audience of governmental agencies, non-profit conservation groups, media representatives, educators, anglers and fishing guides, and business interests associated with trout fisheries to exchange technical information and viewpoints on wild trout management and related public policy. Held every 3-4 years, each symposium has offered a unique forum where participants have been exposed to the latest wild trout science, technology, and philosophies, equipping participants to better manage, preserve, and restore wild trout populations. Presentations can be in oral or poster format.

Deadline for abstract submission: April 3, 2026.

Abstract guidelines and online submission forms at <https://wildtroutsymposium.com>

Questions: WT-XIV Chairman, Jason Burckhardt, (307) 527-7125

# 2025 BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Each year during our annual Chapter meeting, the ORAFS conducts its business meeting which, hopefully, many of you were able to attend. This meeting is an opportunity to learn about the past year's Chapter business, hear how the executive committee is implementing our annual budget and operating plan, as well as receive updates from student subunits and committees.

We now need your assistance in reviewing and approving the minutes to that meeting. Please take a moment to review the 2025 ORAFS annual business meeting minutes and provide any feedback or comments to [president@orafs.org](mailto:president@orafs.org) by February 20th, after which, we will follow up with a call to approve the minutes. We would really appreciate the participation of our members on this matter so thank you in advance for your efforts.

These, along with prior meeting minutes, will be posted on our Chapter's website.

## Annual Business Meeting Minutes

### Oregon Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

#### February 27, 2025 | Bend, Oregon

President Michele Weaver called the 2025 Business Meeting of the Oregon Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (ORAFS) to order at 1:46 PM. Michele identified Christine Moffitt as the Parliamentarian. Michele wanted to recognize all of ExCom: the Executive Committee (ExCom), Cory Sipher (President-Elect), Gary Vonderohe (Past President), Kate Self (Vice President), Sarah Abbott (Secretary), Jorden Smith (Treasurer), Stephanie Messerle (Internal Director), Amy Unthank (External Director), Roberto Ponce Velez (OSU Student Subunit), Elizabeth Grassl (Mt Hood Subunit) on helping build a successful Annual Meeting. Thanks also to webmaster Ashley Sanders, the annual meeting planning committee, Matt Kaylor for the meeting program, the sponsors and the vendors. There are many people who contribute to Oregon AFS including the Oregon State University (OSU) Student Subunit and Mount Hood Community College (MHCC) Student Subunit. Also, Internal Committees: Awards – Brian Bangs, Scholarships – Helena Linnell, Financial Sustainability – Tony Siniscal & Troy Brandt, Resolution & Bylaws – Kate Self, ORAFS/ORTWS liaison – Derek Broman, Historian – Mike Gauvin, Newsletter Editor – Stacy Strickland.

At 1:50 PM, Michele gave the President's Report on the Strategic Plan Objectives 2020-2025 and Goals and provided a few examples of the accomplishments for each objective.

#### Develop programs that advance understanding of fishery science and responsible stewardship of fishery resources.

Hosted a high-quality annual meeting and two professional development workshops (native fish, fish culture). Sponsor and support other groups (Pacific Lamprey Information Exchange, AFS (Hawaii)

#### Advocate policies and laws that benefit the conservation and sustainability of Oregon fishery resources and their aquatic ecosystems.

Hired a legislative liaison ORAFS submitted statements for three bills to date (Salmon Credits, Rock Creek Hatchery, Living with Beavers) and are anticipating to be involved in more as the session

progresses.

#### Increase public awareness, understanding, and appreciation of fishery resources amongst chapter members and the general public.

Awarded \$20K in K-12 education programs grants through the Education and Outreach committee. Updated the website (reorganization, picture updates, and added content). Tried to provide activity in ORAFS social media platforms.

#### Promote development of fishery and aquatic science students.

Issued the full suite of scholarships, making an effort to reach out to all Oregon schools for participation. Provided support to the student subunits. Supported the best student paper winner to attend AFS in Hawaii.

#### Support and encourage development of professional members.

Provided early career professional registration waiver and lodging reimbursements. Additional registration waivers were provided to any in need (brought registration costs down to student rates). A full suite of professional awards were given out this year. Provided opportunity for AFS Professional Certification reimbursements.

#### Promote an inclusive fisheries professional environment to create and maintain diverse membership.

Published the Piscatorial Press quarterly. Filled the annual meeting planning team and ExCom from a broad range of individuals with a variety of professional disciplines in the fisheries profession. Worked with the DEI committee to develop actions and ensure

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# 2025 BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

## CONT'D

ORAFLS is an inclusive, equitable, and diverse chapter. Working with Ana Lu to assess the ORAFLS needs and develop a DEI training.

### Maintain Financial Responsibility and Investments.

Planned the annual meeting and budgeted adequately and responsibly to realize net gains.

The FSC committee met for a weekend retreat to discuss ORAFLS fiscal goals. Outcomes from that meeting include a slight adjustment to the FSPIP to meet current goals, a need was identified to develop a disbursement strategy (would like to get input from membership), and planning for future planned giving/legacy/endowment policy.

### Regularly assess Chapter and Executive Committee operational structure to optimize chapter productivity and efficiency.

Updated the Administrative Handbook, simplified and shortened the document by moving content to the website and providing links to content within the handbook.

### New business:

Member Shivonne Nesbit had a suggestion regarding the funding of DEI Awards, could ExCom use more of the investment funds for the scholarship winners? Member Selina Heppell noted that AFS ran a webinar for recently Employment Insecurity: Planning for the next steps. Click [here](#) for the link. It was suggested that the Chapter could host webinars on producing cover letters and resumes. Tim Copeland noted that Western Division, AFS is looking to partner with other organizations, and leadership is open to ideas. The organization is hoping to connect and amplify voices. Christine Moffitt suggested a think tank needs to be involved with members from each chapter and include groups not from AFS. Please contact the [president@orafs.org](mailto:president@orafs.org) for further ideas and new discussions.

At 2:07, Michele introduced Treasurer Jorden Smith to summarize the Financial Statement from Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-2025.

The FY24 annual operating budget had a cap of ~\$53,000. The Chapter spent ~\$21,000 on core operations in addition to the ~\$28,000 spent on 5 of the work plan goals. Our total Non-Investment Income was ~\$181,000.

The Bouck Memorial fund received \$4,600 in donations and gave out a \$2,000 scholarship, ending with a balance of ~\$45,000. The Albert J. Lassuy Memorial DEI Endowment fund received \$6,000 in donations and gave out \$4,000 in scholarships, ending with a balance of ~\$113,000. The Oregon Chapter investment account experienced a ~\$144,000 gain, ending with a balance of ~\$592,000. ExCom requested \$44,000 of those gains in disbursement, to fund some additional Chapter initiatives including...

- Early Career professional registration waiver and

lodging reimbursements

- Additional K-12 grants
- Independent and annual meeting DEI workshops
- Sent the best student paper winner to the AFS meeting

A more detailed summary can be found in the Annual Meeting Program.

At 2:10 PM, Michele introduced Tim Copeland, Incoming-President of the Western Division of the American Fisheries Society (WDAFS). Tim presented on WDAFS, their missions, and some of the benefits they can provide. The Western Division includes 11 western states, Alaska, Hawaii and the Pacific Islands, and British Columbia and the Yukon Territory in Canada; all Chapters are supported by Western Division. Western Division supports members through numerous scholarships including the Eugene Maughan Graduate Student Scholarship. The scholarship provides up to \$5,000 annually to masters or doctoral students in the general area of fisheries science with one to three awards to individual students. Tim also noted the 2025 Western Division AFS Small Project Grants is open for applications. Applications are due March 21, 2025 and must be submitted using the Google form at <https://forms.gle/BTQ4yPtZCfAmuFQ59>. The Western Division Annual meeting this year will be held in Westminster, Colorado on May 11-15, 2025. Save the date for the next WDAFS Chapter meeting in Portland, Oregon on May 4-7, 2026.

At 2:15 PM, Michele introduced Elizabeth Grassl, MHCC student subunit representative. MHCC students hosted a Fish-O-Ween, Kate was able to attend and Fishmas party was held in December and Michele Weaver was able to attend the Fish-O-Ween. In November, the subunit had a guest speaker from Washington County Fly Fishers and plans to host a fly-tying class later in the term. Other activities included their 2024 Annual Crabbing Trip, a bagel bash for Winter Term, helping judge the Cornhole Tournaments at ORAFLS, and having high school students tour the fisheries building.

Michele introduced Molly Shannon, OSU student subunit representative. The subunit leadership team meets weekly for discussion. Activities for the subunit included visiting a hatchery, learning how to fly fish, participating in Discovery Days, and Alsea Hatchery spawning events. They hosted Night at the Museum, a Halloween event. The subunit is working on a "Teach Me How to Conference" series to help students get the most out of their ORAFLS Annual Meeting attendance. A Fish Identification workshop will be hosted by the OSU student subunit in November. Future events include a beach cleanup and overnighter for the subunit.

At 2:25, Michele introduced Amy Unthank, the External Director for her report. Amy introduced Troy Brandt, chair of the Legislative Committee to share what

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# 2025 BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

## CONT'D

they have been tracking this year. Jack Dempsey is the legislative liaison and will zoom for the committee meeting occurring later in the day. Karen Hans will be stepping in as the new Legislative Committee Chair.

The Fish Culture Committee members are planning on going to the Bonneville Fish Hatchery and tour of the dam, they were also looking at the smolt passage center and also the lamprey passage. Brian Bangs is now the new Native Fish Committee Chair. There is discussion of which fish species for the year will be of interest. Rebecca Schwartz is now the new Freshwater Habitat Committee Chair. She is looking for more volunteers for the committee.

Karen Hans stated the Education and Outreach Committee will be hopefully funding lots of projects in the upcoming year. She noted that the Committee received 13 applications and \$20,000 was allocated and requests were funded. Marty Olsen will be taking over as lead for the EOC chair and Sara Hart will be assisting.

At 2:30, Michele yielded the spotlight to Past President Gary Vonderohe to announce the newly elected Oregon Chapter ExCom officers: President-Elect, Kelcee Smith (ODFW); Vice President, Kara Roof (ODFW); Secretary, Katie Woodside (ODFW); Treasurer, Jorden Smith (ODFW); Internal Director, Stephanie Messerle (BLM); and External Director, Amy Unthank (USDAFS retired). Michele thanked all the new officers for stepping up to steer the Chapter.

At 2:40, Michele presented the Past President Award to Gary Vonderohe and thanked him for his service in the Chapter. Michele noted this sage advice and guidance was always appreciated.

Business Meeting was adjourned at 2:38 PM



# American Fisheries Society Western Division Annual Meeting

Hosted by ORAFS & WDAFS



## The Power of Perspective

May 4-7th 2026, Portland OR

**Featuring 40+ Symposia:** Tribal Salmon Fisheries Science & Management, Technology Meets Ecology, Adaptive Management for Fish Passage, Habitat Modeling, ESA De-Listings, Genetics in Fisheries, Pacific Lamprey, Native Fishes, and more!

**Featuring 7+ Workshops:** Hands On Fish Printing, Mastering Your Professional Portfolio, Persuasive Communication for Fisheries Professionals, Acoustic Telemetry, and more!

Logo Designed by Elizabeth Wilson of Mt Hood Community College

# Ways to Help at the Annual Meeting

## Open Positions

**Swag Coordinator** – help decide what merch gets made for the meeting

**Welcome Social Coordinator** – bring your Oregon pride and make others feel welcome

Email Kelcee Smith ([presidentelected@orafs.org](mailto:presidentelected@orafs.org)) if you're interested

## Need ORAFS Representative:

**Aquatic Film Festival** – solicit photos/videos, help organize entries

Email Brittany Jenewein ([btjenewein@gmail.com](mailto:btjenewein@gmail.com))

**Spawning Run** – help advertise, map out the course, organize results, hand out swag

Email Kim Luke ([kaluke@ucdavis.edu](mailto:kaluke@ucdavis.edu))

**Poster Session** – help organize, set up, and tear down poster boards

Email Kim Luke ([kaluke@ucdavis.edu](mailto:kaluke@ucdavis.edu))

## Volunteering at the Meeting:

This will be a large meeting, and we'll need a lot of help to pull it off. Let us know what talents you have and how you want to help. We have a spot for you!

Email Wave Maretto ([morettow@oregonstate.edu](mailto:morettow@oregonstate.edu)), Julie Carter ([jcarter@azgfd.gov](mailto:jcarter@azgfd.gov)), or Olivia Boisen ([olivia.boisen@oregonstate.edu](mailto:olivia.boisen@oregonstate.edu))

## Become a Judge for Best Student Presentation/Poster:

Want to give back to ORAFS? Want to support students? We need volunteers to judge student presentations and posters at the meeting. It's quick and easy – all scoring is electronic. It's gratifying – knowing you helped support a fellow biologist. And you're guaranteed to learn something new. To volunteer, email Karah Roof

([vicepresident@orafs.org](mailto:vicepresident@orafs.org))

## Check the [ORAFS Website](http://orafs.org) Soon for More Information

Registration Cost and Deadlines

Abstract Submission

Full Descriptions of Featured Symposia

Descriptions & Cost of Workshops and Trainings

Hotel Accommodations

Schedule at a Glance

Trade Show and Vendor Participation

Plenary Speakers

Things to do in Portland

... and much more!

# REGISTRATION DETAILS

Check [orafs.org](http://orafs.org) for registration opening updates. If you register before the early registration deadline of March 30th, 2026, you will receive \$70 off the General Registration Fee (\$45 - \$50 off for students and \$95 for retirees).

Additionally, AFS members\* save \$110 off the general registration fees (\$50 off for students). Not a member of the American Fisheries Society? Please consider joining the oldest and largest professional society for fisheries scientists in the world online at <http://www.fisheries.org>; don't forget to add the Oregon Chapter to your membership!

The **Early** and General Registration Fees are:

- **\$500** (\$570) for AFS members\*,
- **\$600** (\$680) for non-members,
- **\$110** (\$155) for student AFS members\*,
- **\$155** (\$205) for student non-members,
- **\$275** (\$370) for retired professionals, and

\* **\$210** Live-Stream viewing of presentations only.

The General Registration fee includes access to all technical sessions and social events including the Poster Session and Trade Show Social, the ORAFS awards lunch, banquet dinner, raffle/auction, and more. The 5K Spawning Run/Carcass Crawl can be purchased for an additional \$35. Please note that all attendees, including oral and poster presenters, are required to register for the conference. Reduced cost registration waivers are available; see next page for more information.

Please check [orafs.org](http://orafs.org) to access the meeting website which includes a link to the online registration form. If, after checking the websites, you have any questions about registration, please contact Jorden Smith at [treasurer@orafs.org](mailto:treasurer@orafs.org).

## Registration Fee Assistance Waiver

With this waiver, the Chapter offers an opportunity for reduced registration (\$100) to the Annual Meeting and/or a related workshop. This waiver is intended to reduce the registration fee for those who require financial support to attend the Annual Meeting. Professionals, students, and community members may apply. Selection criteria will include financial need, dedication to the fisheries field (including AFS membership and service), reasons for attendance (e.g., presenting, networking), and available space at the meeting and/or workshop.

To apply, email the following materials to the ORAFS Treasurer ([treasurer@orafs.org](mailto:treasurer@orafs.org)):

- Resume and contact information;
- AFS membership number (if a member, but not required);
- Brief summary of your financial need;
- Brief summary of your reasons for attending the annual meeting; and
- If employed, a statement of lack of funding or financial support from your employer to attend the Annual Meeting or that your work is not fisheries-related.



## ORAFS STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS!

*To reward and promote the education and development of future fisheries professionals*

- ◆ **ORAFS Student Scholarships:** (Associate's, Bachelor's, Master's, and Doctoral, one each at \$2,000)
- ◆ **Carl Bond Scholarship** (graduate students, \$2,000)
- ◆ **Jerry Bouck Memorial Scholarship** (graduate students, \$2,000)

\*Applications for above due to Jen Bayer at ([scholarships@orafs.org](mailto:scholarships@orafs.org)) by 12/31/2025.

◆ **Albert G. Lassuy Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Scholarship (undergrad students, \$2000):** To promote the education and development of future fisheries professionals who are from marginalized communities or are commonly under-represented in the fisheries field.



\*Applications for above due to Amy Unthank ([externaldirector@orafs.org](mailto:externaldirector@orafs.org)) by 2/27/2026.

For more information on these scholarships as well as information on other exciting Scholarship and Award opportunities for students, please visit: <http://orafs.org/student-scholarships/>

Each award includes an award certificate and recognition at the 2025 Annual Meeting, in Fisheries, and in the Piscatorial Press!

How do I become a Student Member of AFS? Go to [www.fisheries.org](http://www.fisheries.org) and apply online. Be sure to check the Oregon Chapter box (\$40 total cost for combined annual and chapter membership).

## Registration and Lodging for ORAFS Chapter Early Career Professionals

We are proud to offer annual meeting registration and lodging reimbursements to up to 20 early career professionals! This reimbursement is intended to cover the cost of attendance for early career professionals that are not able to get registration and lodging covered through their employer. The reimbursement will cover both the registration fee and up to \$1,000 in lodging expenses.

To be considered an early career professional, you must have attended school within the last 5 years. Reimbursements will only be granted to Oregon Chapter AFS members. Those selected will be provided a code to register online and will need to provide their hotel booking confirmation for the lodging reimbursement at the meeting.

Reimbursements will be granted on a first-come, first-serve basis so get your application in **ASAP!**

To apply, email the following materials to the ORAFS Treasurer ([treasurer@orafs.org](mailto:treasurer@orafs.org)):

- Contact information;
- AFS membership number;
- Documentation most recent school enrollment;
- A statement of lack of funding or financial support from your employer to attend the Annual Meeting.



## SECOND CALL FOR OR AFS AWARD NOMINATIONS

### CELEBRATE A COLLEAGUE TODAY!

You know who these people are...the hardworking peer, the inspirational mentor, the energetic teacher, the partner from another agency, the private landowner who worked so hard to do that great habitat work, or the team who overcame great obstacles to accomplish something unique. Now is a great time to start putting your thoughts on paper so you will have plenty of time to refine your nomination before the due date of **February 27th, 2026**.

For all awards except Broken Oar, you should indicate how the nominee's efforts are above and beyond their regular job. All awards are discretionary - none are required to be given each year.

To submit a nomination, please submit a completed nomination form [online](#) or [via email](#) to Awards Chairs Brian Bangs at [blbangs@gmail.com](mailto:blbangs@gmail.com) or Dylan O'Keefe at [Dylan.J.OKEEFE@odfw.oregon.gov](mailto:Dylan.J.OKEEFE@odfw.oregon.gov).

Descriptions of the criteria of each award are listed below.

#### **Lifetime Achievement Award**

For those people who go above and beyond year after year. This highly prestigious award should go to an individual who has made a substantial lifetime contribution to fisheries. Substantial lifetime contributions to the American Fisheries Society and/or Oregon Chapter are also recommended. This individual should have actively participated in other conservation, professional, or social organizations that promote sound fisheries and resource management practices. They must be a member of the AFS Parent Society as well as the Oregon Chapter. This award will be presented to a maximum of one person per year.

#### **Fishery Worker of the Year**

This is one of the Chapter's highest individual awards for fisheries professionals. Nominees must be AFS members in good standing who are responsible for substantial single or sustained accomplishments above and beyond their regular job, often spanning many years. Nominations should indicate how efforts are related to the goals of guiding and influencing sound resource practices.

#### **Fishery Team of the Year**

This award recognizes outstanding teams that merit acknowledgement for excellent work beyond an Award of Merit. The stringent award criteria are similar to the Fishery Worker of the Year, but for team efforts. This award recognizes the collaborative efforts to understand and manage fisheries resources, and that these efforts frequently cross geographic, disciplinary, and socioeconomic boundaries. At least one nominee of the team must be an AFS member in good standing. The team or group must have been re-

sponsible for substantial single or sustained accomplishments. Each member of the team nominated must have produced a substantial portion of the work. Nominations should indicate how they are related to the goals of guiding or influencing sound resource practices. To demonstrate equivalent contributions, describe substantive contributions of each member of the team.

#### **Award of Merit**

This award recognizes individuals, groups, or organizations that have made special contributions, above and beyond normal job requirements, to fisheries science, or the American Fisheries Society over one or more years. Successful nominees display evidence of creativity, cooperation, and results. Nominees do not need to be AFS members.

#### **Bill Wingfield Memorial Award in Fish Culture**

Nominees should be **individuals or groups** that have contributed significantly to advancing fish culture (including fish health) in Oregon. AFS members or non-members may be nominated.

#### **Broken Oar Award**

Everyone's favorite award, and just for fun, the Broken Oar Award is presented for "outstanding display of field technique and coordination." No doubt you already have some nominees in mind from this year's field season! AFS members or non-members may be nominated.

**DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS IS February 27, 2026.**

# CAST YOUR VOTE FOR THE EXCOM 2026-2027 CANDIDATES!

## VOTE ELECTRONICALLY FEBRUARY, 2026



We are excited to have some fantastic candidates for your 2026-2027 Executive Committee (ExCom) officers this year! E-ballots will be emailed to Oregon Chapter members and the polls will be open at the end of February or early March. Elected officers will be announced during the 2026 Business Meeting at the WDAFS/ORAFS meeting in May. Your potential officers for 2026-2027 are:

**President-Elect:** Mike Hudson or Joe Lemanski  
**Internal Director:** Kelsey Anderson or Grant Waltz  
**External Director:** Sophia Kim or Kyle Bratcher  
**Vice President:** Dave Banks or Gary Rule  
**Secretary:** Katie Woodside (incumbent)  
**Treasurer:** Stephanie Fields or Sally Gee



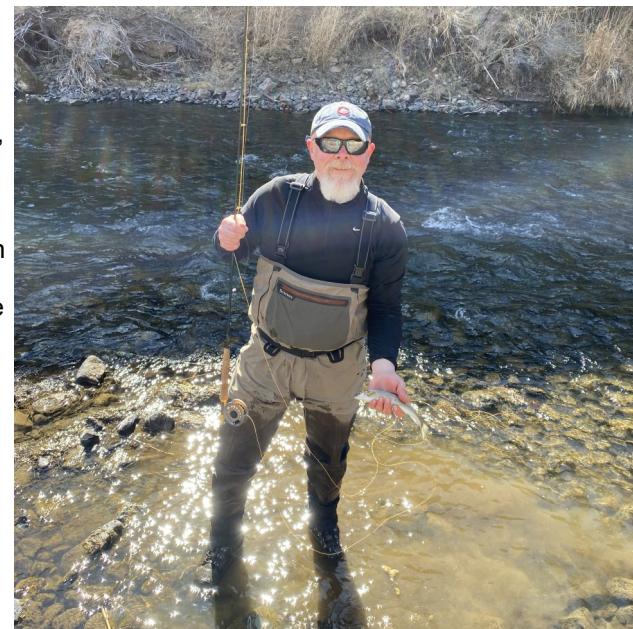
### President-Elect: Mike Hudson

I grew up fishing for bluegill off my grandparents' dock at Lake Mattoon in Illinois. Sometimes we had the luxury of worms, but usually all we needed was a can of corn from the recesses of the kitchen cupboard for an endless day of catching fish. I had no aspirations to work in fish and wildlife management at that age. I thought I was going to be an engineer... and then a chemist. When I walked in to Dave Philipp's fish genetics lab my sophomore year at the University of Illinois, I began the journey that has brought me to this point in my career.

That volunteer lab experience turned into a Master's degree out of that lab on conservation genetics of walleye populations in Minnesota and Wisconsin. My first job out of grad school, I found myself at Utah State University managing a lab doing conservation genetics work on cutthroat trout to inform management decisions. That work led to six years working with Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, including four as the Project Leader for the Moab Field Station, where I spent half of my year on the river. And, by 'on the river', I mean the whitewater canyons of the Green and Colorado rivers in southeastern Utah, and the calmer waters that wind through Canyonlands National Park, leading to the confluence of those two great rivers. I was truly living my dream as a fish biologist.

When my wife and I decided that we wanted to move to the Pacific Northwest to start a family and continue to pursue our careers, we found ourselves in Portland, OR. I have spent the last 21 years working for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service out of the Columbia River Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office. What started as a position as lead biologist on a project investigating coastal cutthroat trout life history in the lower Columbia River evolved to the development of a Native Trout Program working with coastal cutthroat trout, redband trout, and bull trout across SW Washington and the state of Oregon in coastal National Wildlife Refuges, urban environments, and headwater mountain

streams. A little over a dozen years ago, I started working with partners in the Willamette River to improve fish passage and habitat that has been impacted by the 13 Federal



dams in the basin, and continuing to work on bull trout recovery implementation across the Pacific Northwest. At the same time, I started working on climate change issues in my agency. That led to being a co-leader in the development of our agency's Climate Change Action Program. I have been working nationally across our regions to coordinate implementation of that work for the past five years, while leading our Regional Climate Action Team to do the same in the Pacific Northwest and across the Pacific Islands. Now as the lead for the Fish Passage and Habitat Group out of our office and the Regional Climate Change Coordinator for our region, I find myself fortunate to be part of multiple teams that are working on species' conservation and recovery, reconnecting and improving habitat for fish and wildlife, and

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# CAST YOUR VOTE FOR THE EXCOM 2024-2025 CANDIDATES!



considering a changing future in the work that we do across our agency and with our partners.

The American Fisheries Society has been a part of this incredible journey for over 35 years. I went to my first AFS meeting while still an undergrad at Illinois. Through graduate school, I attended and presented at annual meetings and was the Vice-President of the University of Illinois Student Sub-Chapter. When I moved to Utah, I became active in the Bonneville Chapter and served as a Committee Member on the Executive Committee for two years and chair of the Native Fishes Committee for four years. And, as a member of the Oregon Chapter, I was chair of the Student Paper/Poster Judging for several years. Through all this service, I have still received more from AFS than I have given. I have countless memories of presentations given, friendships formed, connections made, and good times had.

I have not been as active in AFS service in recent years. But I have been building my leadership chops in the work I do professionally and privately. I think a leader is only as good as those with whom they surround themselves. I strive to bring people to the teams I work on that are passionate about the work we are doing and that are often smarter than I am. I support a culture of being able to lean on one another and that many hands make light work. I know that strength lies in diversity, empathy and understanding. I try to take the cotton out of my ears and put it in my mouth as much as possible, so I may listen to those around me. I appreciate the opportunity to bring this leadership style and my experience to the Oregon Chapter, to extend these values to the membership at large and all that we do, and continue to support and grow one of the more outstanding Chapters in the American Fisheries Society organization as we work with partners, engage with communities, support our membership and welcome the next generation of fisheries professionals. I gratefully accept your nomination for President-elect and humbly ask you for your vote.

## President-Elect: Joe Lemanski

There have been a handful of moments throughout my career when I have truly felt that I had done something of value, that I had contributed in some small but meaningful way to our field and to the community around it. Being nominated for President-Elect of the Oregon Chapter of the American Fisheries Society is a humbling affirmation of those efforts, and accepting that nomination would undoubtedly stand as one of the greatest professional honors of my career. The Oregon Chapter has brought immense value to our field and to our lives, something we are reminded of each year through the formation of new collaborations, the emergence of change-bearing science, and the beginnings of what often become lifelong friendships. I know I would not be where I am today, nor would I have the privilege of calling so many exceptional colleagues my friends, without this Chapter. For that, I am deeply grateful, and I can think of no better way to give back than by serving as your President-Elect.

I have always considered myself a bit of a black sheep. I grew up in the suburbs of Detroit, Michigan, and I played golf for a small liberal arts college, which is not exactly the most traditional pathway into a career as a fish biologist. That said, I also spent a

large portion of my life along the beaches of the Great Lakes and in the rivers and streams that feed them. I was first introduced to salmon at an early age through family fishing trips on the Great Lakes, and I spent nearly every fall and spring fishing rivers for salmon and steelhead. Those experiences quietly but firmly set me on my path. At the time, I had little understanding of the vastly different management perspectives and deep cultural ties to salmon and steelhead here in the Pacific Northwest, but I was already as attached to them as anyone could be. It was around the moment I

was wrapping up several hundred hours of job shadowing a urologist, newly convinced this was NOT my future, when I learned that a fulfilling career in fish or marine biology was not only possible, but real. I changed my major the next day.



Following a pivotal summer as an NSF-REU

fellow at Texas A&M studying changes in benthic macroinvertebrate assemblages in the deep Gulf of Mexico, I began applying to graduate schools. After nearly a dozen applications, countless exchanges with potential advisors, and more patience than I knew I had, Dr. David Noakes offered me a position as his graduate student at Oregon State University in 2013. I could not have asked for a better mentor or advisor. David wasted no time introducing me to the American Fisheries Society and to the Oregon Chapter, and I attended my first ORAFS Annual Meeting that same year. It is difficult to overstate how influential participating in ORAFS meetings has been since then, both in shaping my career and in fostering collaborations and friendships that I deeply value to this day.

Since my time at OSU, I have had the opportunity to work in a wide range of places and roles. These include Bull Trout monitoring at Crater Lake National Park, Delta Smelt monitoring in California's Central Valley, habitat restoration monitoring in the John Day Basin with the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs, serving as a District Fish Biologist with ODFW in Union and Baker counties, and now working as a Salmonid Life Cycle Monitoring Project Leader for the Grande

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# CAST YOUR VOTE



Ronde Basin with ODFW's Eastern Section Salmon and Steelhead Research Program. Through all of that change, ORAFS has remained a constant and grounding presence in my professional life. Attending the Annual Meetings each year feels a bit like coming home, offering a chance to reconnect, reflect, and be re-energized by the people and ideas that make this community so special.

For that reason, in 2022 I felt it was time to give back more directly, and I ran for Internal Director of ORAFS. I spent two years serving on ExCom in that role, and the experience fundamentally changed how I viewed both the Annual Meetings and the Chapter as a whole. It gave me a deep appreciation for how much care, effort, and volunteerism go into making ORAFS what it is. It also reinforced how the Oregon Chapter serves as a bellwether for our field at the national and international level, consistently setting and resetting the standard for what a professional society chapter can be. That standard is not maintained by chance. It exists because of people who value camaraderie, opportunity, and service, and who are willing to step forward and ask, "How can I help?" Our Chapter is built on the shoulders of generations of persistent and thoughtful professionals who care deeply about their work and their colleagues, and who are in this field for the outcomes, not the income.

With that perspective, I am both honored and genuinely excited to accept the nomination for President-Elect, and to once again step forward and ask, "How can I help?"

## Internal Director: Kelsey Anderson

My name is Kelsey Anderson, and I am running for Internal Director for the Oregon Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (ORAFS). I am originally from Southern California and earned my B.S. degree from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo with a concentration in Marine Biology and Fisheries Science. I spent the start of my career moving throughout the states working with a wide range of wildlife species from turkeys to tortoises but eventually found my way back to fish. I started with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife in the summer of 2018 and have worked on various projects such as the Aquatic Inventories Project (AQI), Oregon Adult Salmonid Inventory and Sampling Project (OASIS), and Northern Pikeminnow Management Program (NPMP). I served as the Project Biologist and crew lead for NPMP where I supervised and coordinated up to seven seasonal and permanent employees in field and laboratory settings and maintained a fleet of five 18' electrofishing vessels. I planned sampling schedules based on location, weather, and past tagging numbers to complete the sampling plan to survey throughout 352 miles of the Columbia and Snake Rivers at night. Currently, I am the Private Forest Accord (PFA) Stream Biologist based out of Tillamook where I provide technical assistance to private, industrial, and state landowners to promote stream habitat protection and restoration for the aquatic species covered by the PFA. I collaborate with the other PFA biologists

to develop training and certification materials for required stream surveys. I have conducted multiple training courses throughout my region to a total of more than 100 surveyors, including Oregon Department of Forestry employees, timber industry foresters, private landowners, and consultant foresters. In addition, we were nominated and awarded the 2024 ODFW Pride Team Award. Through each position, I have obtained organizational skills and a strong attention to detail while maintaining an efficient and inclusive work environment and have established strong working relationships with inter- and intra-agency professionals. I have been able to attend a few ORAFS



meetings, where I have been exposed to numerous professional connections while learning about the wide range of research that takes place throughout the state. I approach professional challenges with a positive attitude and open mind, with a goal of protecting and preserving natural resources in a way that is efficient and reasonable for all involved. In my free time I enjoy hiking, backpacking, river snorkeling, surfing, and making ceramic lemon juicers. I am excited about the opportunity to serve on the Executive Committee and thank you for your consideration!

## Internal Director: Grant Waltz

Greetings, Oregon AFS members! I am honored with the opportunity to run for the Internal Director position within the Executive Committee. AFS, and specifically the Oregon Chapter, are invaluable resources to fisheries professionals at all levels from students to retired fish fanatics in the State of Oregon. The Executive Committee of the Oregon AFS chapter has set a high bar for the overall cohesion it facilitates for the chapter and the value provided to its members through a number of affiliated resources. One of the greatest assets of Oregon AFS, second only to the members, is the annual meeting which provides a rare opportunity for our diverse constituency to meet, exchange ideas, and strengthen or develop professional connections. The Internal Director is involved in numerous aspects of planning and coordinating the annual meeting and other chapter business with responsibilities that include assisting with the selection of and coordinating with the meeting site vendors before and during the meeting, involvement with awards and scholarships, and settling the annual

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# CAST YOUR VOTE FOR THE EXCOM 2024-2025 CANDIDATES!

meeting billing in cooperation with the Treasurer. The successful planning and implementation of the annual meeting and overall organization of the Chapter does not happen without an immense amount of work, coordination, and cooperation among a talented and dedicated group of individuals. I feel that I can provide the energy, cooperative attitude, and skills needed to meaningfully contribute as the Internal Director to meet the high bar set by previous Executive Committees in providing immense value through the Oregon AFS chapter to its members while contributing to the planning and implementation of a successful annual meeting. So who am I and why should you consider voting for me?



I have been involved with fisheries and natural resources since I was a little kid trying to catch bluegill with grass leaves and wondering why there were never enough tadpoles to

pursue in the shallows. Those early lessons in the realities of my skills as an angler and questions posed about the impact of human interactions with the natural systems on this planet (of course those were the deep thoughts going through my brain!!) set me on a path to pursue an education and career continuing to answer questions and develop solutions to issues centered around fish and fisheries. I am currently a project leader with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife focused on fisheries issues in the Columbia River Basin as well as working on projects associated with the hatchery system in the state. I came to ODFW from the central coast of California where I worked on applied projects about nearshore marine fisheries and ocean climate processes with Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. I've been fortunate to have held varied positions with numerous projects throughout my career including; electrofishing on rivers at night, SCUBA diving for science along the coast of California, leading fishing trips to collect information about nearshore fish communities (I know, ironic given my stated bluegill experience?!), or developing project plans and budgets to keep the information flowing. I have learned that diverse and cohesive teams are critical to successfully addressing the numerous challenges found while conducting fisheries work. Whether its

navigating inherent issues associated with field operations that can feel overwhelming in the moment or solving the plethora of administrative detours associated with project planning, effective solutions are best found through a well-functioning team. I believe my ability to meaningfully contribute as part of a team, through thoughtful participation and a deliberate focus on promoting team engagement represents one of the greatest contributions I can provide as the Internal Director with the Executive Committee of the Oregon Chapter of AFS. And if you still aren't convinced, I once had a Wolf eel attach itself to the toe of my Xtratuf boot and I survived to tell the tale. Thank you for your time and participating in the AFS voting process regardless of who you vote for. I look forward to seeing you at the upcoming 2026 meeting in Portland!

## External Director: Sophia Kim

Hi all,

My name is Sophia Kim and I am honored to submit my candidate statement for the Oregon Chapter of the American Fisheries Society External Director position. Currently, I am the North Zone Fisheries Biologist on the Umpqua National Forest out of Glide, Oregon.



I was raised in Georgia and received a B.S. in Biology from the University of Georgia. After graduating from college, I worked as a marine science field studies instructor near Charleston, South Carolina and then got my first position with the Forest Service in 2014 as a fisheries intern on the Umpqua National Forest in Oregon. I worked for several years as a fisheries technician on the Umpqua and Malheur National Forests, got my first fisheries biologist position on the Malheur National Forest Emigrant Creek Ranger District in Burns, Oregon where I worked for 3 years, and then took a lateral to my current position on the Umpqua National Forest where I've been since 2022. My favorite part of my job is implementing fish habitat restoration projects and encouraging the next generation of land stewards.

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# CAST YOUR VOTE



It was when I started with the Forest Service in Oregon that I really got into fisheries (I can get paid to snorkel? I can get paid to be out in the woods wading up and down streams?) and attended my first ORAFS conference. I remember feeling welcomed and inspired by people just as passionate about fisheries resources as I was. I felt included and encouraged to participate in events and meetings my introverted self would normally shy away from. As External Director, I want to pay it forward and be present to support, connect, and welcome others to this amazing chapter.

Thank you for your consideration for the External Director position!

## External Director: Kyle Bratcher

Hello Oregon Chapter Members,

My name is Kyle Bratcher, and I'm running for External Director of the Oregon Chapter. I am the Wallowa District Fish Biologist for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, where I work on a wide range of fisheries issues in northeast Oregon. I hold a bachelor's degree from Oregon State University in Fish and Wildlife Sciences and started working for the department the day after I tossed my graduation cap in the air nearly 19 years ago.



I grew up in Baker, Oregon, where hunting, fishing, and long days spent hiking and backpacking shaped my curiosity for the natural world. I generally consider myself as not just a fish biologist, but a naturalist as my interests span to birdwatching, looking for herps, and identifying plants and wildflowers. Outside of work, I spend my time on the water and in the mountains. I'm an avid fly angler and whitewater rafter (53 days on the water in 2025!), and I serve on the board of my local search and rescue organization, where I also act as the Swiftwater Rescue Team Lead.

Over the course of my career, I've had the opportunity to work with a variety of fish species across diverse systems in Oregon, from coastal rivers to desert basins of southeast Oregon until landing in the northeast corner of the state for the long term. In my time with ODFW I've worked with native non-game species including Pacific lamprey and Warner suckers, as well as game species including steelhead, redband trout, Lahontan cutthroat trout, and bull trout, which is my personal favorite.

Much of my current work is diverse and involves close collaboration with federal partners, tribes, and fisheries programs in Washington and Idaho on shared conservation and management challenges. I'm particularly interested in science communication and outreach, and in finding effective ways to share fisheries science and management work with a broad range of audiences. I also value native species conservation and have recently implemented a project aimed at removing brook trout to benefit native bull trout. I believe the diversity of my work gives me a unique perspective that will be a benefit in the External Director position.

I've been a member of AFS since my first annual meeting in 2009 and look forward to the opportunity to serve the chapter.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

## Vice President: Dave Banks

Hello, I'm Dave Banks and I'm the District Fish Biologist for Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's Malheur Watershed District in southeast Oregon. I have over 20 years of experience in fisheries

management and native species conservation and oversee recreation and conservation fisheries management, collaborative habitat conservation, and resource planning to sustain aquatic ecosystems in southeast Oregon.

My background includes roles with ODFW, the U.S. Geological Survey, Oregon State University and other state agencies, focusing on fish population assessments, endangered species research, and collaborative conservation. I'm committed Continued on pg. 20



# CAST YOUR VOTE



to science-based resource management that ensures the long-term health of fish populations and habitats through conversation and collaboration across issues divides. I enjoy fishing for many of the species I manage.

As a candidate for Vice President of ORAFS, I am an advocate for fostering an inclusive and collaborative fisheries science community especially during the challenging times for some of our membership. I believe diversity strengthens our profession, and will work to create spaces where students, Tribal representatives, and professionals feel valued and heard. Supporting students is a priority for me and I thoroughly enjoy engaging with them and encouraging them in their educational and professional pursuits with the field of fisheries. My goal is to understand challenges and barriers students face and find opportunities for ORAFS to support and reduce these obstacles to joining myself and others in a profession I love.

My two decades of experience working with people who hold varied views on fisheries management and species conservation have taught me the importance of collaboration and inclusivity. I have worked closely with students, mentoring future professionals and creating opportunities for their growth within our field. I believe that by fostering partnerships among agencies, Tribes, academic institutions, and stakeholders, we can achieve lasting conservation outcomes. I am ready to serve and committed to advancing ORAFS's mission.

Thank you for considering me for Vice President of the ORAFS chapter.

## Vice President: Gary Rule

My name is Gary Rule and I'm running for Vice President of the Oregon Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. After 24

years with NOAA Fisheries (West Coast Regional Office), I recently retired and am excited to reinvest that time and energy in our professional community.

Over the last three decades, my work has centered on fish and wildlife biology, habitat conservation, and science-based decision-making. At NOAA Fisheries I led ESA status reviews and critical habitat review teams, developed

and coordinated the scientific research permits program, and contributed biological analyses that supported recovery planning and impact assessments. Earlier in my career I worked in private consulting and the U.S. Forest Service, conducting field surveys and habitat/fish assessments across the Pacific Northwest. I also completed a Master of Environmental Management at Portland State University, where I led the Lower Columbia-Clatskanie Watershed Assessment.

If elected, I'll bring the same organization and follow-through I relied on in my NOAA career to the Vice President responsibilities. I'm prepared to chair the Resolutions and Bylaws Committee and help keep ORAFS governance straightforward and transparent. I also would aim to strengthen the student experience by attending at least one monthly student subunit meeting during the school year and making sure students feel connected to ORAFS members, mentors, and opportunities. Finally, I'll recruit and support chairs for the Student Paper and Poster Awards, Raffle and Auction, and Volunteers committees so the annual meeting runs smoothly and continues to fund the Chapter's work.

ORAFS has a long legacy of technical excellence and a culture that helps fisheries professionals connect across agencies, disciplines, and geographies. I would be honored to serve and help strengthen that legacy. Thank you for your consideration and your vote.

## Secretary: Katie Woodside

Thank you for the opportunity to run for Oregon Chapter AFS Secretary for a second term. I have been an AFS member for 20 years. I have

attended AFS meetings in several states and been a member of different divisions and chapters.

Throughout my career, I have conducted fisheries work in California, New York, Florida, New Mexico, and Oregon. I have a B.S. from the University of California at Davis and an M.S. from the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry. I served as ORAFS



Secretary for the 2025-2026 term. I also served as Poster Chair for the 2025 Oregon AFS meeting. It would be nice to continue to give back to AFS through service as

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# CAST YOUR VOTE



the Oregon AFS Chapter Secretary for the 2026-2027 term. I worked for ODFW as the Program Leader for the Coastal Chinook Research and Monitoring Program (CCRMP) from 2022 to 2026. I was also Program Leader for the Fish Life History Age Project. I began a job rotation as the CCRMP analyst in 2026. Thank you for your time and consideration.

## Treasurer: Stephanie Fields

Hello! I am Stephanie Fields and I'm excited to be considered for the ORAFS treasurer position. In my work life, I am the Assistant Project Leader for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's Marine Reserves Team. Specifically, I help lead the ecological monitoring of Oregon's five marine reserves. I have a bachelor's degree in marine biology from UC Santa Cruz and a master's degree in marine resource management from Oregon State University. I have researched a range of topics related to



Oregon's marine fisheries, including assessing the impacts dredged material disposal on Dungeness crab, using stereo video to assess populations of sea urchins and Black Rockfish, and now using a range of tools to monitor groundfish, invertebrates, and kelp in and near reserves. Through this research, I developed skills that will help me in the role of treasurer, such as attention to detail, data quality checks, and documentation.

I first attended ORAFS in 2019 and have appreciated the increase in marine themed sessions that allowed me an opportunity to present in 2023 and 2024. I have enjoyed both the science and social aspects of ORAFS conferences and would love the opportunity to give back and carry on the hard work of those before me.

In my free time on the central coast, I enjoy foraging for mushrooms, beach walks with my dog, and cooking delicious meals with local food and good friends.

Thank you for your consideration and I'd be honored to contribute to an award-winning chapter.

## Treasurer: Sally Gee

Thank you for the opportunity to run for Oregon Chapter AFS Treasurer. I have enjoyed attending and presenting at AFS meetings since 2007 and would like to increase my involvement and give back to the chapter.

I have been with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife for the past 20 years, with the past ten as the Microbiologist in the La Grande Fish Health Laboratory identifying fish pathogens. This has given me the ability to see fish both within an ecosystem and as an ecosystem of their own. I have been able to see the intersection of humans, fish, and conservation within both Oregon's hatchery system and the wild. Prior to this, I worked in the Northeast Region Fish Research and Monitoring group as an Assistant Project Leader on the Grande Ronde Captive Broodstock Project as their database manager. These positions both rely on extensive collaboration within ODFW and with comanagers. I have so enjoyed working with professionals from a variety of backgrounds and agencies and welcome the opportunity to get to know more of you. My time at ODFW has given me extensive experience with attention to detail, data tracking and

manipulation, sample tracking, and following policies and procedures which are skills that would be very useful in the treasurer position. I have come so far since earning my B.S. in Biology from Brandeis University and hope to continue gaining additional experience in this position.



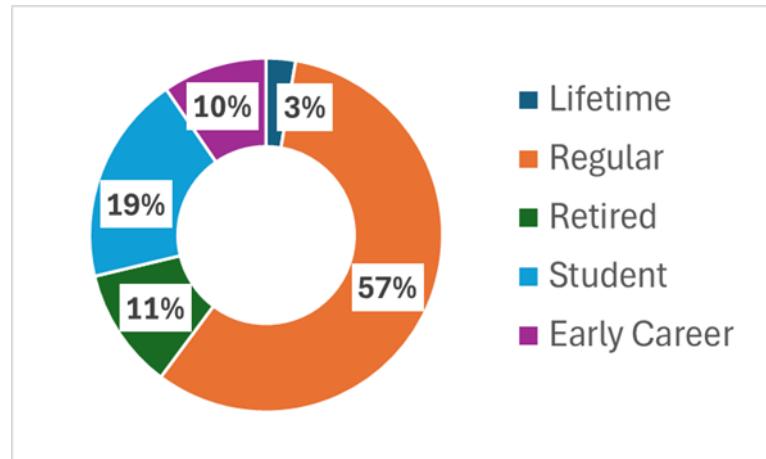
In my free time, I enjoy spending time with my husband and two children enjoying all that Northeast Oregon has to offer. In addition to my passion for fish, I am an avid gardener and cook!

# MEMBERSHIP UPDATE:

## DON'T FORGET TO RENEW FOR 2026!

Don't forget to ring in the New Year by renewing your membership! ORAFS is one of the few AFS chapters that requires AFS membership in order to be a chapter member. ORAFS is a membership leader in both the Western Division and AFS! Not only is membership important for our members' professional development, but your membership is also important for ORAFS sustainability. The Chapter receives a 3% rebate from AFS on Regular dues paying members. All members have benefits such as access to online journals, webinars, and reduced registration fees and bookstore prices. Please go to <https://fisheries.org/membership/> to find out more about different membership types.

As of December 2025, ORAFS membership included 333 members with a membership breakout included in the adjacent figure. ORAFS members hail from 16 states and provinces! If you have any questions about membership or ideas on how to reach more fisheries professionals, please contact [Katie Woodside](mailto:katie.woodside@orafs.org).



*Oregon Chapter of the American Fisheries Society membership breakout. As of December 2025, there were 333 members made up of 57% regular members, 19% students, 10% early career professionals, 11% retired, and 3% lifetime members.*



Katie Woodside, Secretary  
[secretary@orafs.org](mailto:secretary@orafs.org)

## ORAFS LIFE MEMBERSHIPS AVAILABLE!

Are you an AFS Life Member and interested in showing your life-long dedication to the Oregon Chapter? We have an Oregon Chapter Life Membership that allows you to do just that! The Oregon Chapter Life Membership costs \$125.00 or 12.5 times the Oregon Chapter annual membership rate. This relative cost difference mirrors the AFS Life Member cost. Show your dedication to the ORAFS legacy and invest in a membership that will pay off for a lifetime! Please contact Katie Woodside ([secretary@orafs.org](mailto:secretary@orafs.org)) for more information.

**2025-2026 OREGON CHAPTER AFS  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS  
(ORAFS EXCOM)**

**President:** Cory Sipher,  
president@orafs.org

**President-Elect:** Kelcee Smith,  
presidentelect@orafs.org

**Past President:** Michele Weaver,  
pastpresident@orafs.org

**Vice President:** Karah Roof, vicepresident@orafs.org

**Secretary:** Katie Woodside,  
secretary@orafs.org

**Treasurer:** Jorden Smith, treasurer@orafs.org

**External Director:** Amy Unthank,  
externaldirector@orafs.org

**Internal Director:** Gina Maag-Klobas,  
internaldirector@orafs.org

**OSU Student Rep:** Adel Bordas,  
osustudentrep@orafs.org

**MHCC Student Rep:** Bianca Wiens,  
mhcc.orafs.subunit@gmail.com

**EXTERNAL COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

**Climate Adaptation:** Vacant

**Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion:** Guillermo Giannico,  
giannico@oregonstate.edu and Nilanjana Das,  
dasni@oregonstate.edu

**Education and Outreach:** Marty Olson,  
martin.p.olson@odfw.oregon.gov

**Fish Culture:** Jen Krajcik,  
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Marla.Chaney@mhcc.edu

**Freshwater Habitat:** Rebecca Schwartz,  
rebeccahschwartz93@gmail.com

**Human Dimensions:** Jason Dunham,  
jdunham@usgs.gov and Hannah Gosnell,  
hannah.gosnell@oregonstate.edu

**Legislative Committee:** Karen Hans,  
karen.m.hans@odfw.oregon.gov

***Oregon Chapter of the American Fisheries Society Mission***

*Improve the conservation and sustainability of Oregon fishery resources and their aquatic ecosystems for long-term public benefit by advancing science, education, and public discourse concerning fisheries and aquatic science and by promoting the development of fisheries professionals.*

**Marine Habitat & Ecology:** Natalie Odonato,  
donatona@oregonstate.edu and  
Eric Anderson, Eric.s.anderson@odfw.oregon.gov

**Native Fish:** Brian Bangs, blbangs@gmail.com

**Natural Production:** Ian Tattam,  
ian.A.Tattam@odfw.oregon.gov

**Social Media:** Vacant

**INTERNAL COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

**Awards:** Brian Bangs, blbangs@gmail.com and Dylan O'Keefe, dylan.j.okeefe@odfw.oregon.gov

**Financial Sustainability:** Tony Siniscal,  
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**Scholarships:** Jen Bayer, scholarships@orafs.org

**Resolutions and Bylaws:** Karah Roof,  
vicepresident@orafs.org

**AFS / TWS Liaison:** Derek Broman,  
derek.j.broman@odfw.oregon.gov

**EXTERNAL SUPPORT PERSONNEL**

**Webmaster:** Ashley Sanders,  
webmaster@orafs.org

**INTERNAL SUPPORT PERSONNEL**

**Historian:** Mike Gauvin,  
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**Newsletter Editor:** Stacy Strickland,  
541-325-5343; stacy.a.strickland@odfw.oregon.gov

*Additional contact information for all officers, committee chairs, and support personnel are available at: <https://orafs.org> under "About".*

**Oregon Chapter of the American Fisheries Society**

[www.orafs.org](http://www.orafs.org)

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS & MEMBERSHIP INSTRUCTIONS:**

To join or change address, go to [www.fisheries.org](http://www.fisheries.org) and be sure to sign up for the Oregon Chapter. Also visit [www.orafs.org/membership](http://www.orafs.org/membership) to get other membership information.



