

President's Plan of Work
Laurie A. Earley
September 2022 – August 2023

Preamble

The WDAFS president's plan of work should be consistent with the American Fisheries Society (AFS) and Western Division AFS (WDAFS) mission and vision (provided below).

AFS MISSION:

The mission of the American Fisheries Society is to improve the conservation and sustainability of fishery resources and aquatic ecosystems by advancing fisheries and aquatic science and promoting the development of fisheries professionals.

AFS VISION:

To address our mission, AFS needs to advance fisheries knowledge and strive to be the home society for all fisheries disciplines. In that pursuit, AFS seeks to be recognized as the pre-eminent organization providing fisheries information to decision makers in all arenas. While fulfilling our vision, we will recruit and develop new fisheries professionals by offering learning and training opportunities crucial to maintaining a well-trained profession, support programs and efforts to increase diversity and inclusion, and enhance the value of AFS professional certification.

WDAFS MISSION:

The mission of the Western Division of the American Fisheries Society is to: 1) improve the conservation and sustainability of unique fishery resources and aquatic ecosystems in western North America by advancing fisheries and aquatic science and promoting the development of fisheries professionals, and 2) serving as an effective bridge between the Society and Chapters within the Western Division, promoting communication among and support of the Chapters and membership, and being the American Fisheries Society's representative to the public in western North America.

WDAFS VISION:

The Western Division of the American Fisheries Society seeks to be recognized as the pre-eminent organization providing fisheries information to decision makers in all arenas of western North America. While fulfilling our vision, we will recruit and develop new fisheries professionals by offering learning and training opportunities crucial to maintaining a well-trained profession, support programs and efforts to increase diversity and inclusion, and enhance the value of American Fisheries Society professional certification.

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(bold indicates areas of emphasis)

1. Assist the Idaho Chapter of AFS in executing a successful WDAFS annual meeting in Boise, May 8-11, 2023
 - a. Participate in the planning committee as the General Meeting Co-chair and have other WDAFS officers co-chair important sub-committees to share the workload and support the Idaho Chapter in the planning process;
 - b. Build a program that continues to build off previous meetings and captures the diverse aspects of the fisheries field within the Division;
 - c. Enforce and communicate the AFS's Meeting Code of Conduct and find ways to continue to increase DEIJA awareness and create a space where everyone is welcome;
 - d. Ensure that the Idaho Chapter is able to integrate important parts of their annual meeting programs with the WDAFS meeting; and,
 - e. Encourage all WDAFS committees to participate in the annual meeting.
2. Continue to work on various aspects of previous President's Plan of Work to provide continuity and to continue working towards the Division's mission and objectives
 - a. Financial Sustainability: Through annual budgeting and working with the Division's Financial Sustainability Committee, ensure the Division will continue to provide opportunities to our members;
 - b. Unit Communication: Continue to be an effective bridge between the society and the Western Division chapters and align with April Croxton's plan of work to build a more robust network of internal communication;
 - c. **Division Leadership and Assistance: Find the best ways to support the Division Chapters**
 - i. **Conduct a survey to find out what the chapters would like to see the Division focus on and how the Division can help the Chapters.**
 - d. Division Communication: Continue to find ways to improve the communication to Division membership through newsletters, listserv messages, and social media;
 - e. Build on the DEIJA initiatives of the Division, Society, and the Equal Opportunities section:
 - i. Find ways to financially support DEIJA activities during annual meetings and proposals from the D&I committee;
 - f. Support professional growth through travel grants, small grants program, and scholarships; and,
 - g. Assist the newly formed Pacific Islands chapter with establishing officers and preparing for the 2024 Hawai'i meeting
 - i. **Provide Division support and leadership and begin working with chapter representatives to promote the meeting, while working**

to respect local communities' perspective on travel to the islands.

3. **Develop new WDAFS logo to align with the new Society logo**
 - a. **Based on information developed by the Society's communication committee work with artists to develop a new logo that well represents the Western Division;**
 - b. **Provide the opportunity for Division membership to vote and select the final logo, ideally with the logo being revealed at the annual meeting; and,**
 - c. **Finalize logo and update all associated Division materials and communications.**
4. **Support the Society with their effort in strategic positioning and incorporate similar ideas to WDAFS's planning for the future**
 - a. **Attend the Governing Board training on future casting and share this information with the ExCom**
5. **Build upon the Society's recent initiative to engage with indigenous colleges and a find way to integrate or differentiate the on-going effort to develop travel support to indigenous and tribal members**
 - a. **Develop an ad-hoc committee through the Division to work on events similar to what was started in Spokane. This team would need to closely work with the Annual Meeting Planning team to ensure that fundraising goals were aligned and not overlapping; and,**
 - b. **Ensure that there is a representative from the committee that has been developing the Indigenous/Tribal Member travel grant.**
6. **Evaluate committee charges and find ways to improve the communication to and with the committees**
 - a. **Investigate ways to reduce burnout within the committees, while finding opportunities for the communities to engage with WDAFS ExCom more frequently;**
 - b. **Find replacements for the listserv, webmaster, and the Riparian Challenge award chair positions, while also seeking a co-chair for the Diversity and Inclusion committee; and,**
 - c. **Ensure the Division has representatives for the Society committees and develop a way to help future officers to make these appointments.**
7. **Work with the Society to improve communications regarding major policy issues**
 - a. **Provide support on Society initiatives and work with the Division's Resource Policy and Environmental Concerns committee to ensure the Division's perspective is considered when developing statements; and,**
 - b. **Respond to the request for the Division to determine its position on the Snake River dam removal.**