



THE TRIBUTARY

A Newsletter of the

Western Division of the American Fisheries Society

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Western Division Annual Meeting in Jackson



2012 AFS
WESTERN DIVISION ANNUAL MEETING



“Ecosystem Management in a Twitter World”

March 26—29, 2010

Jackson, Wyoming

On behalf of the Colorado-Wyoming Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, we invite you to enjoy the beauty and grandeur of Jackson Hole, Wyoming during the 2012 Western Division Annual Meeting from March 26th to March 29th. Be prepared to learn about “Ecosystem management in a Twitter world,” where social scientists and natural resource managers will discuss the difficulties and approaches to conducting long-term, ecosystem level management in a society that expects instant results. Symposia topics, including energy development affects on fisheries, and burbot management across the west, will grab your attention, and contributed papers and posters covering a wide variety of topics will keep you up to date on all the latest research and technology. Continue your education with courses on stable isotope analysis, R programming language, aquatic plant identification and ecology, and leadership within AFS.

With snow still lingering in the Jackson area, you will have the opportunity to participate in the winter sports that have made Jackson famous, including downhill skiing, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing. Sleigh ride tours of the National Elk Refuge, snowmobiling through the Teton mountains and Yellowstone National Park, and dog-sledding to natural hot springs will all be available to meeting attendees.

The 2012 Western Division annual meeting will be held at Snow King Resort in the heart of Jackson, Wyoming. Registration for the meeting will open in mid-December, so mark your calendars! For more meeting information, including registration fees and hotel information, visit our website at: <http://www.cowyafs.org/>

The 2012 Western Division Annual Meeting in Jackson, Wyoming marks 50 years since the annual meeting of the parent society was held in Jackson. To honor this momentous occasion, meeting organizers are trying to compile meeting t-shirts, posters, and/or programs from the last 50 years of Western Division meetings. If you have any of these items, please contact Travis Neebling at: Travis.Neebling@wyo.gov, as we would like to get pictures or scans of them.

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Please note that the Western Division officers passed the torch to their successors at the annual meeting in Seattle. Lori Martin now serves as immediate past president. Please welcome Dave Ward as the new president of the Division.

From left to right: Lori Martin, Mary Buckman, Tina Swanson, Dave Ward, and Leanne Roulson.



President's Hook

Time, it seems, waits for no one, so once again the baton is passed, the guard is changed, the ball is handed off, and my first President's Hook is upon me. I would be remiss if I didn't start by first thanking my Western Division colleagues: Leanne Roulson, now leaving the ExCom after four years of outstanding service; Mary Buckman for agreeing to serve a second term as Secretary-Treasurer; Tina Swanson, who as President-Elect will serve on the AFS Governing Board and Management Committee; Past-President Lori Martin who has set a very high bar; and Vice-President Pam Sponholtz who has enthusiastically embraced her four-year commitment. Special thanks go to Mariah Mayfield, the Division's first official Student Liaison, and to Kelly Stockton, for working hard to make this a reality. Thank you all for making it fun to be a Western Division officer.

Whew! What a late summer and fall it has been! First was the amazing annual meeting of AFS in Seattle, for which I served as Program Co-chair. Overlapping with that was helping to prepare the bid for the Oregon Chapter to host the 2015 national meeting in Portland. Then, just when it was time to assume my duties as President in earnest, a change of employer sucked the time away. Nothing a three-week vacation in December won't fix up (until I have to catch up when I get back).

The ExCom and I have some big plans for setting priorities over the next year. The financial dust has not yet settled, but we are hoping that the success of the Seattle meeting helps to replenish our somewhat strained coffers. Although the recession affected our finances, previous planning has allowed us to survive just fine. We just haven't been able to set aside as much for good causes as we would have liked. Priorities for any windfall the Seattle meeting may provide are (1) re-invigorate the student travel fund (which was started with profits from the successful 2008 Division meeting in Portland, but is now spent), and (2) set aside funds so that we can finance some professional-level travel to the 2014 Western Division meeting in Mazatlan, Mexico. Helping students get to Division meetings is very important, and I hope that an infusion into this fund will keep it going until our next windfall. I also think it is very important to support our Mexico Chapter by making the 2014 meeting as successful as possible. This means getting folks from the U.S. to attend. Many employers can't fund international travel, so AFS needs to help out. In addition to setting aside Division funds for this, I have encouraged each chapter to make sending one or two members a priority.

Additional priorities for this year include (1) ensuring the success of our 2012 Division meeting hosted by the Colorado/Wyoming Chapter in Jackson, Wyoming March 26—29, (2) updating and streamlining the Division website, and (3) completing and distributing our Division's new Policies and Procedures manual. The meeting has the challenge of following so closely on the heels of the national meeting in Seattle, but late March in Jackson should be amazing. Please plan on attending if at all possible. The website is one of our primary vehicles for reaching our membership, so getting it back in shape is a must. The Policies and Procedures manual has been a labor of love and hate for Lori with a little help from me, and is being finished up by Tina and Pam. It will be a valuable tool for future officers.

That should be enough to work on for one year. Now if I can avoid dropping the baton or fumbling the ball, we are good to go.

— Dave Ward, President



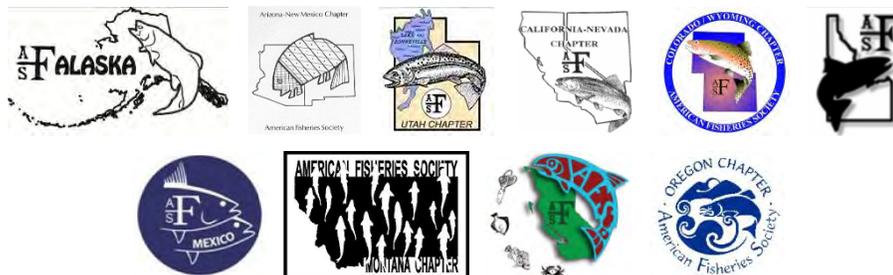
Past President's Hook

Well, another calendar year is almost on the books. In relation to the Western Division, the 2011—2012 books have already been cracked, and my opportunity as Western Division President has come and gone. I am thankful to have shared such a great year with many of you. Thanks to all of the Western Division Officers and members, Chapter Officers, Committee representatives, and others whose passion, dedication, and countless hours have made my Presidency such a rewarding experience!

We accomplished many tasks since we last talked, namely co-hosting the largest Annual Meeting in the history of the Society with the Washington-British Columbia, and revising our Bylaws with unanimous approval to include a new Student Representative on our Executive Committee. Additionally, nearly 30 students (undergraduate and graduate, alike) received travel assistance from the Western Division to attend our Annual Meeting in Seattle. Members of the Western Division also recognized their peers and graduate-level students through our respective awards and scholarship programs (check out the details and awardees on page 7). Further, the Western Division recently provided financial assistance to two Western Division members who successfully applied for their professional certification through the Society. Our Committees also were active, continuing to make progress with the Western Native Fishes Database, and working to upgrade our Western Division website. Clearly, 2010—2011 was a great year. Thanks for all of your contributions and efforts!

I am anxious to see what this next year will bring. Your new President, Dave Ward, as well as other members of the Western Division leadership (Tina Swanson, Pam Sponholtz, and Mary Buckman) have some exciting plans for us. This is a great time to become part of our team. I look forward to working with you as we continue our tradition as the best Division in the Society!

— Lori Martin, Past President



Upcoming Chapter Meetings

Chapter	Location	Dates
Alaska	Gridwood, Alaska	November 14—18
Arizona - New Mexico	Phoenix, Arizona	February 2—4
California - Nevada	San Diego, California	March 28—31
Colorado - Wyoming (Western Division Annual Meeting)	Jackson, Wyoming	March 26—29
Idaho	Coeur d'Alene, Idaho	March 7—10
Mexico	No meeting in 2012	
Montana	Helena, Montana	February 6—10
Oregon	Eugene, Oregon	February 28—March 2
Utah	Bullfrog, Utah	March 26—29
Washington-British Columbia	Victoria, British Columbia	May 15—18

Announcements

How You Can Help Grow the Grants Fund

The Grants Fund was established in 2001 to create a long term funding mechanism for the kinds of project grants that had been awarded by the Western Division for many years. While the fund has grown substantially since its inception, in this case more really is better; the larger the fund, the greater the amount that can be distributed to worthwhile projects.

While a number of ways to grow the Grants Fund have been, and are being explored, one of the simplest is for individual members to contribute. This is where our numbers become so powerful. We can add significant amounts to the fund if members simply contribute some small amount every year. Is \$5, \$10, or \$20 really too much, and simply impossible? I suspect that for most of us, the answer is no.

Soliciting members to help with the Grants Fund is a new path for the Western Division, and you'll be hearing more about it as ideas are developed. But in the meantime we have to start somewhere, and to that end, there will be a contribution line on the registration form for the Annual Meeting in Jackson for you to fill in. Also, if you'd like to find out more about the Grants and Investment Committee, visit our website at:

http://www.wdafs.org/committees/grants_investment/grants_investment.htm. And if you simply can't wait to make a contribution to the Grants Fund, contact Bill Bradshaw (307-672-7418; Bill.Bradshaw@wyo.gov), who can make arrangements to accept your offer. We truly hope you are willing to help.

Submitted by Bill Bradshaw, Grants Fund and Investment Committee

How's Your Investment Portfolio?

Hopefully you are able to answer positively. If so, and it's doing well at least in part because of your active participation with managing your assets, the Western Division can use your help. The Grants and Investment Committee is seeking one or more individuals with asset management experience to serve on the Investments sub-committee.

Members of the Investments sub-committee are responsible for reviewing the performance of the Division's investment assets, and making investment recommendations to the ExCom. Earnings from investments are in turn used to fund the Western Division Grants program that was established in 2001.

We know you are out there, so if this sounds like something you are interested in, or you'd like more information, please contact Bill Bradshaw at (307) 672-7418 or Bill.Bradshaw@wyo.gov.

American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists Annual Meeting

The American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists (ASIH) will be holding their 2012 Annual Meeting from August 8—14 in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. The 2013 Annual Meeting of the ASIH will be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, likely in early to mid July. The ASIH is dedicated to the scientific study of fishes, amphibians and reptiles. The primary emphases of the ASIH are to increase knowledge about these organisms, to disseminate that knowledge through publications, conferences, symposia, and other means, and to encourage and support young scientists who will make future advances in these fields. The programs of the ASIH are part of a global effort to interpret, understand, and conserve the Earth's natural diversity and to contribute to the wise use of natural resources for the long-term benefit of humankind.

Plenary Session Video Available from 2012 Annual Meeting

Science: Beacon of Reality, the plenary session address from Dr. Robert T. Lackey, is available online at: <http://vimeo.com/29339668>

Announcements

Looking for a Venue for Electrofishing Training Courses

The Northwest Environmental Training Center (NWETC), a Washington-based, non-profit organization dedicated to environmental education, is seeking U.S. venues for its 2012 electrofishing courses. Two 3-day courses are available: backpack electrofishing and boat electrofishing. Both courses consist of classroom work on the first and third days and field exercises on the second day. A 4-day course covering both backpack and boat systems, including two days of fieldwork, is also available.

To schedule a venue, NWETC seeks to (1) identify a local fisheries biologist willing to serve as field trip coordinator and (2) achieve an enrollment of at least 12 participants. (Those serving as coordinator earn a course tuition waiver.)

Individuals interested in scheduling a course in their locale should contact Ingrid Kimball, kimball@nwetc.org, at NWETC for further information. Technical questions about course content should be directed to Jim Reynolds, jbreyolds@alaska.edu.

Smith-Root Announces New Office in Australasia

Smith-Root, Inc., an employee-owned small business in Vancouver, Washington USA has just opened a new office in Australia. The new company (Smith-Root Australasia) will focus Smith-Root's 45-year history of electrofishing product excellence on the needs of customers in the Southern Hemisphere. Further details may be found at: <http://www.smith-root.com/news/company/smith-root-australasia/>

Quinault River Automated Salmon Counter is First of its Kind

BioSonics takes small step for Sockeye, giant leap for hydroacoustics.

Read more at:

<http://www.biosonicsinc.com/about-us-press-releases.asp>



Acoustic Tag and Hydroacoustic Winter Short Courses

Using Acoustic Tags to Track Fish - http://www.htisonar.com/at_short_course.htm

2—3 February, 2012 from 9 AM—5 PM in Seattle, Washington

This short course addresses all aspects of tracking fish movement with acoustic tags, including three-dimensional tracking with sub-meter resolution. The course includes hands-on-operation and a variety of applications are covered.

Using Hydroacoustics for Fisheries Assessment - http://www.htisonar.com/ha_short_course.htm

9—10 February, 2012 from 9 AM—5 PM in Seattle, Washington

The hydroacoustic short course covers mobile and fixed-location survey techniques, and subjects include basic hydroacoustic theory, deployment logistics, data collection and processing, as well as typical results. Split-beam, single-beam, and multi-beam frequency techniques are discussed in detail. For more information or to save a seat for either of these courses, email support@HTIsonar.com.

Western Division Awards 2011

The Western Division awarded what may be a record number of certificates to deserving members at our business breakfast at the Seattle AFS annual meeting. As awards chair, it was my pleasure to get to recognize each of these individuals and groups, but as many of the recipients stressed as they accepted their awards, each recipient represented several additional deserving contributors to the conservation of fish and fisheries throughout the West. For those of you who were unable to attend Seattle meeting, here is a quick rundown of the "Who's Who" for the Western Division awards for this year: (I have included the description of the awards and each recipient's chapter just for fun).

Award of Excellence: Mike Young (MT)	Given to an AFS member who has demonstrated outstanding achievement and exceptional competence in fisheries. Recipients have usually excelled in research or management programs at the regional, national, or international levels.
Special Recognition: Paige Ackerman (ID) Henry Boone (OR) Kelly Stockton (ID)	Given to an individual or to an entity (need not be an AFS member) making a significant contribution to the development and success of the Western Division.
Award of Merit: Philip A Loring (AK) Vaughn Paragamian (ID) Alicia Seesholtz (CA/NV)	Given to an AFS member who has made a regionally significant and worthy contribution to our division, profession, or fisheries resources.
Robert Borovika Conservation Achievement Award: Eileen Ryce (MT)	Given to an individual (AFS member or nonmember) who has significantly contributed to fishery conservation within the division.
Conservation Achievement Award: Cherry Creek, Montana Working Group Grunion Greeter's Project (CA/NV)	Given to an entity that has demonstrated a significant contribution to the conservation of the fisheries resources within the division.
Outstanding Chapter Award: Oregon Chapter	
Outstanding Student Subunit Award: Palouse Subunit (University of Idaho)	
Scholarships	
Eugene Maughan	Sam Bourret, University of Idaho (MS level) Neala Kendall, University of Washington (PhD level)
William Trachtenberg	Stephanie Archer

This list is significant not only for the number of people recognized, but also for the fact that every Western Division award and scholarship was given this year. In reviewing some of past year's records, I was taken aback to find that there were several years where some of the awards found no recipients. Given my experience on the executive committee and working with chapters throughout our division, I simply do not believe that there were not multiple individuals and groups deserving of recognition for their efforts. As you read through the list and the descriptions of the qualifications for the awards, make a note of any names of individuals or groups from your home chapters that come to mind as potential recipients for these awards. Our 2012 Western Division meeting will be here before you know it, and Lori Martin, your past president and the 2012 awards chair, will be looking for nominations. Even though Lori is an exceptionally busy individual, I know that she would enjoy hearing from you about all of the good works and outstanding projects happening in your chapters.

Western Division Awards 2011, continued

If you happen to be someone who thinks that you personally could never be deserving of an award, I have a secret for you. The biggest difference between the award recipients and the people clapping for them is the likelihood of the person getting from thinking about a good idea that they have or a cause that they already support to talking about that idea with others and taking that first step toward “doing” together. We already “do” way more than the laws of physics and time deem possible, but when we approach others and “do” together, it not only is more effective, it is much more fun.

—Leanne Rouson



Award of Excellence - Mike Young



Conservation Achievement Award - Eileen Ryce



Special Recognition Award - Kelly Stockton



Outstanding Chapter - Oregon Chapter



Eugene Maughan Scholarship - Neala Kendall and Sam Bourret



Outstanding Student Subunit - Palouse (University of Idaho)

Western Native Fishes Database Project Needs Your Input

Through the efforts of Jeremiah Osborne-Gowey at his former job at the Conservation Biology Institute (CBI) in Oregon, and in coordination with the Western Native Fishes Database Committee (WNFDC) of which Jeremiah is a member, 155 of the 298 western native fishes have been entered in the mapping interface at Data Basin (www.databasin.org). Data Basin, created and managed by CBI, is an online site where users can make maps from spatial data using live, online GIS mapping technology. There are currently over 5,500 datasets now housed on Data Basin and it is a great place to also house the spatial datasets contained in the WNF database. On Data Basin, additional datasets can be added/visualized to provide more a richer context and additional data against which to query. For example, to a user-created Data Basin map of a particular species of interest, one could add additional fish species, wildlife layers, vegetation data, land use data, socioeconomic information, etc. Given the funding available in the last effort, we were able to get 155 (of the original 298) western native fish species from the original database uploaded into Data Basin and we'd like to get the remaining species uploaded as well. The data in the database were last updated in 2007, compiled by our past president Leanne Roulson, who was at Garcia and Associates at the time. We are now at the point where we need **your** input. Are the data accurate? Are the data in need of updating? If you have any knowledge about the distribution of a particular native fish and its status, please help us review the data. If you find that everything is okay, let me know (ericwagner@utah.gov). If any of the data need updating, please send along the reference/s with the new information. All updates to the database must be based on published information, such as a report, journal article, book, etc, where the data source can be traced to.

To get into Data Basin, you will need to sign up at the site (it is free) and request to join the Western Native Fishes Database Working Group (see Figure 1, below, for instructions on how to join the group). Once approved, you'll be able to start navigating around the datasets (see the "bookmarks" section of Figure 1, below) and evaluating the data and generating your own maps. Thanks for your help!

— Eric Wagner

Figure 1. Instructions for accessing the Western Native Fishes Database Working Group.

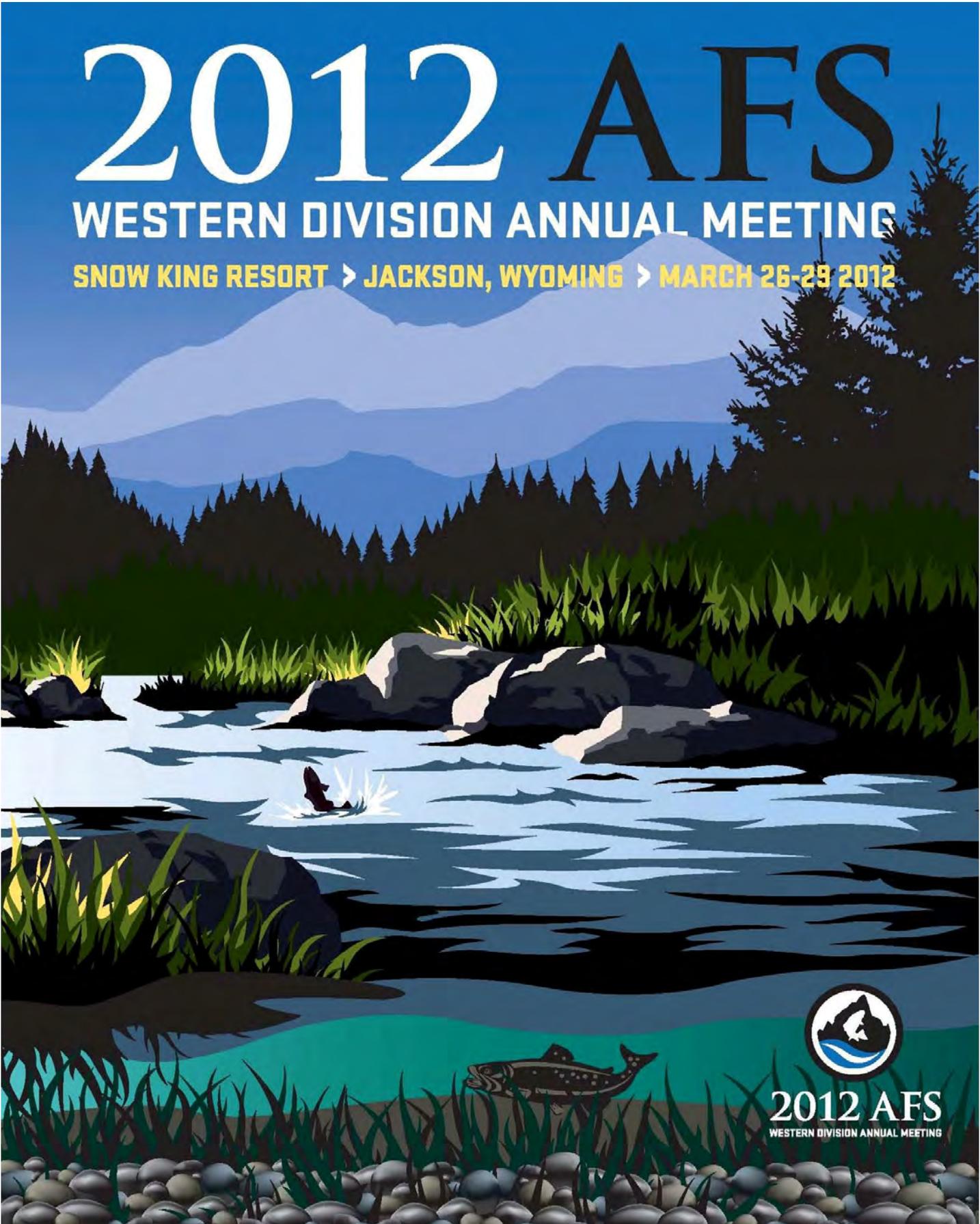
- <http://databasin.org/>
- Search: "Western Native Fishes"
- Click the result in "Groups"
- Click the "Join Group" button
- Login using your existing ESRI Global Account OR create one
- Navigate the datasets, maps, and more via the "Bookmarks"

The figure consists of three screenshots from the Data Basin website. The top screenshot shows the main navigation menu with 'Groups (1)' highlighted by a red circle and arrow pointing to the 'Western Native Fishes Database' group. The middle screenshot shows the group page with a red circle around the 'Join Group' button and a red arrow pointing to a 'Login required...' error message. The bottom screenshot shows the group's sidebar menu with 'Bookmarks' highlighted by a red circle and arrow pointing to the 'Group Bookmarks' section.

2012 AFS

WESTERN DIVISION ANNUAL MEETING

SNOW KING RESORT > JACKSON, WYOMING > MARCH 26-29 2012



2012 AFS
WESTERN DIVISION ANNUAL MEETING



About the Tributary

The Tributary is the newsletter of the Western Division of the American Fisheries Society published four times per year.

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About the American Fisheries Society

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.

<http://www.fisheries.org>

About the Western Division of the American Fisheries Society

Established as the first Division of the [American Fisheries Society](#) in 1948, the Western Division now includes [Chapters](#) from twelve western states, British Columbia, Yukon Territories, and Mexico. Our members represent a tremendous array of fisheries workers involved in all aspects of the fisheries profession. The collective diversity and expertise of Western Division members is the basis of an intimate and unparalleled familiarity with fisheries resources and issues within our geographic region. Division objectives are to provide a forum for exchanging technical and policy information, promote understanding by regional, Federal, and state policy-makers of the nature and extent of fishery matters of concern to the membership, facilitate timely exchange of information to chapters and the general membership, and provide a vehicle for the active participation of individual members in Society business and professional activities.

<http://www.wdafs.org>