



# NATIVE AMERICAN PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

## Would You Like to Attend The Wildlife Society Annual Conference?

### The Wildlife Society Announces a Professional-Development Program for Native American Students Interested in the Wildlife Profession

As a scientific organization for professionals who manage and conserve wildlife and habitats, The Wildlife Society (TWS) is increasingly concerned about the lack of ethnic and cultural diversity within the profession. Diversity is essential if the profession is to grow and meet the nation's conservation challenges. To help address this concern, TWS is establishing a new professional-development program for Native American wildlife students.

The Native American community has enormous potential to enrich diversity within the wildlife profession. Tribal lands are important to a national strategy for fish and wildlife conservation, and Native American students are showing a growing interest in pursuing careers in wildlife. TWS has an active Native People's Wildlife Management Working Group composed of wildlife professionals and students, tribal and non-tribal, who recognize native people's cultural, spiritual, and biological connections to the land. TWS and the Working Group have been exploring ways to promote the early development of Native American wildlife professionals.

#### How the New Program Works

The Wildlife Society believes that one of the most-effective ways to support Native American wildlife students is to give them the opportunity to attend TWS's Annual Conference—the largest gathering of wildlife professionals on the North American continent. The Society is therefore raising funds to enable Native American students to attend the 16th Annual Conference, to be held in Monterey, California, September 20-24, 2009. Individuals selected for this program will receive grants of \$1,500 each to help cover registration fees, lodging, meals, and transportation.

Program participants also will receive a one-year membership in The Wildlife Society and become members of the Native People's Wildlife Management Working Group. As TWS members they will receive our



New Mexico State University student Jamie Joe holds a burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) captured as part of a summer-long research project.

### The Wildlife Society 16th Annual Conference



Join us for The Wildlife Society's 16th Annual Conference, held in Monterey, California, from September 20-24, 2009. There you can learn about cutting-edge research in wildlife biology, management, and conservation, as well as meet

colleagues and receive mentoring from wildlife professionals in a wide range of fields.

The conference offers over 450 paper and poster presentations, half-day and full-day workshops, related field trips and many networking opportunities. Student attendees can also participate in a career fair and attend a host of student activities including breakfasts and dinners, a student-professional mixer, and a quiz bowl.

quarterly member magazine *The Wildlife Professional*, our monthly electronic newsletter *The Wildlifer*, discounts on TWS peer-reviewed publications such as *The Journal of Wildlife Management*, and access to the TWS website, blog, job board, and other online resources.

**Eligibility:** Candidates must be members of a Native American, First Nations, or Indigenous Tribe, and currently enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate program in a relevant academic discipline such as wildlife biology or ecology. Applicants must display a record of academic excellence and a strong interest in pursuing a career in wildlife management or conservation. Qualified applicants will be evaluated by a panel consisting of the Chair of the Native People's Wildlife Management Working Group, two other working-group members, a TWS staff member, and representatives from other program partners including the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society.

**Applications:** Submissions must include name, address, tribal affiliation, name of college or university, current level of study (undergraduate, graduate, post-graduate), field of study, and a copy of most recent report card, showing courses and grades. Mention any relevant extracurricular activities, memberships in societies, honors, or awards. Also include an essay (500-750 words) explaining why you'd like to participate, how this program might benefit your career development, and how your personal experiences or skills can contribute to the wildlife profession. **Deadline:** Please email applications to [nsvoboda@cfr.msstate.edu](mailto:nsvoboda@cfr.msstate.edu) no later than August 7, 2009.

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**Application Deadline: August 7, 2009**