



**SWTF Weekly Digest #31-2020
December 22, 2020**

Executive Directors Message of the week:

Good Morning everyone! And Happy Holidays!

We didn't quite have quorum at last weeks Commission meeting, but it was good to see those of you that were there. We will be having a short Emergency Board Meeting late January or Early February to complete some last-minute business. I will keep you posted for that. I will admit that it was quite a crazy week, so far, this one is a lot calmer, but it is only Monday! Probably the biggest news for Indian Country is that the Biden Administration is nominating Deb Haaland as the Secretary of the Interior. If (when) she is confirmed, she will be the first Native American Cabinet Secretary! It gives me a little bit of hope for the future, despite all the dark news floating around.

Unfortunately, COVID is still floating around too, and continuing to impact our lives. Unfortunately, the vaccine did not come soon enough for hundreds of thousands of Americans, including some close to us, but the first doses of vaccine are out, and again there is hope for the new year!

As time runs out on 2020, remember to finalize your BIA funding applications! In addition, the new Covid aid package, combined with the appropriations bill includes a number of Indian Water Rights issues in our region, as well as a National Park Expansion – check out Rep Grijalva's press release [here!](#)

As always, stay safe, stay healthy, and we'll talk to you next week 😊

Adam Ringia, Executive Director

News and Links:

1. [Fishing Alters Fish Behavior](#)
2. The USFWS has determined that listing of the Monarch Butterfly is warranted under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), but precluded by work on higher-priority listing actions. With this decision, the Monarch Butterfly becomes a candidate for listing under ESA, and its status will continue to be reviewed each year until it is no longer a candidate.
3. [New USFWS Critical Habitat Rules go into effect](#)
4. [Deb Haaland of Laguna to be nominated by the Biden Administration for Interior Sec.](#)
5. [AFS Article – Trends in commercial inland fisheries](#)
6. And if you are sick of fish and want to work with birds in Oklahoma, the USFWS may be looking for you! [GS-401-09 Term Fish & Wildlife Biologist position open from 12-21-20 through 1-](#)

[12-21](#). This position will be working on Department of Defense lands in Oklahoma focused on avian monitoring. The position will be physically co-located at the Oklahoma Fish & Wildlife Conservation Office near Tishomingo OK.

7. If you are looking to fill in your fisheries library or someone else's for the holidays– now might be the time! [The AFS is having a book sale.](#)

Grant Opportunities:

1. Request for Proposals (RFP) for Endangered Species, Invasive Species, Tribal Youth Initiative, and Hatchery Maintenance are being accepted at this time. These funds are available as competitive, non-recurring dollars. All applications (proposals) need to be submitted to the BIA - Regional Office that serves your area and are due to the regional office by close of business on **January 13, 2021**.
2. **STILL OPEN - USFS- SWTFC Youth Grant 2020:** We have funding from the USFS for tribal youth employment – if you are interested, please contact me adam.ringia@gmail.com for more information!

Webinars and Educational Opportunities:

1. [Introduction to eDNA: Applications, Advantages, and Implications](#), Thursday, January 14, 2021, 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm Eastern Time, [Register now!](#), **Presenter: Jay Cashubec, PrecisionBiomonitoring**
2. *The State of New Mexico is hiring a Fish Hatchery Assistant Manager (OSE#74992)* – Check out the New Mexico jobs website to find it (sorry, no link included)
3. The U.S. Forest Service (USFS), through partnership with The Wildlife Society, is offering research assistantships for Native American undergraduate (junior/senior level) or graduate students as part of the Native American Research Assistantship Program for Summer 2021. **Applications are being accepted now through Jan. 15, 2021.** <https://wildlife.org/apply-now-for-usfs-native-american-research-assistantship-2/>. Short-term assistantships with USFS are available for Native American students interested in wildlife and forest resources and excited to learn and work with an interdisciplinary team of researchers. Any questions can be directed to Jamila Blake at jblake@wildlife.org.
4. **ENHANCE YOUR CREDENTIALS** by gaining certification by AFS. Certification sets standards and guidelines for professional competence and is used by organizations worldwide to measure qualifications. For information on how you can apply- [click here](#).
5. **DOI Talent and DOI University.** I'm leaving these links up here just in case:
 - a. DOI Talent: https://www.doi.gov/doitalent/nondoil_learners
 - b. DOI University Classes: <https://doiu.doi.gov/reg.asp?id=>

Science! Or science-y...

1. [Data Gathering without crews – Monitoring Pollack Populations](#)
2. [What Social Distancing does to fish brains](#)

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