

Nonprofit group honored by Wildlife Society

The Daily Inter Lake, March 18, 2004
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Northwest Connections, a nonprofit, community-based conservation and education organization in the Swan Valley has received the 2004 Wildlife Conservation Award from the Montana Chapter of the Wildlife Society.

“Northwest Connections makes an outstanding contribution to wildlife conservation in Western Montana,” says Chris Servheen of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The award is given to one individual or organization making a significant contribution to wildlife in the state.

It is presented at the annual meeting of the Wildlife Society, which this year was organized around the theme of restoration ecology.

Tom Parker, Northwest Connections’ Conservation Program Director, accepted the award Feb. 25 in Bozeman. “We are grateful that so many diverse people and agencies have been willing to support and work with us,” Parker said.

Julie Fuller, a former intern with Northwest Connections who now researches wolf-elk interactions in the Madison Valley, also received an award from the Wildlife Society.

Northwest Connections was founded in 1997 to integrate science and local knowledge into the conservation of rural landscapes.

Northwest Connections involves rural residents along with high school and university students in wildlife monitoring and habitat restoration projects.