



**Come join us in Penticton, BC
for the spring 2009 meeting of the Partners
in Flight Western Working Group (WWG)!**



Meeting Logistics

When?

Wednesday, April 15th to Friday April 17th, 9ish to 5-ish, with birding trips interspersed.

Thursday evening, April 16th – group dinner with entertainment.

Saturday, April 18th – optional field trip (full day) - pending interest (birding and winery tours). Contact Tanya if you plan to attend.

Where?

In beautiful [Penticton](#), British Columbia, near Canada's only true [desert](#), amongst sagebrush, ponderosa pines, lakes, [wineries](#), orchards, [microbreweries](#), the land of peaches and beaches! The meeting will be held at the [Ramada Inn & Suites](#) in Penticton, BC, Canada. A block of rooms has been reserved for the nights of April 15-19 at the discounted group rate of Cdn\$85CDN/night plus tax (based on double occupancy). To make your reservations, please call the hotel's reservations line at 1-800-665-4966; be sure to mention the "Partners in Flight" meeting name to get the discounted rate. *The discounted group rate is guaranteed for reservations made before March 10.* You may still get that rate after March 10th, but rooms will be opened up for general booking, so it will be first come first serve in this tourism capital. The hotel offers free wireless internet access throughout the hotel and all guest rooms. The Kettle Valley Station Pub and Restaurant at the hotel is open for breakfast from 6:30-10:30am.

What?

We are finalizing the agenda and appreciate your input. The [draft agenda is now available](#). Day 1 (April 15th) will showcase western Canadian bird conservation and science projects (e.g. conservation planning, BC bird atlas, grasslands recovery, beetle outbreaks and birds, migration and windfarms, alpine and grassland connectivity, etc.). Days 2 and 3 (April 16th and 17th) will continue to focus on implementation of the WWG 5-Yr Action Plan and build on progress made in Olympia and Sierra Vista. Breakout sessions include: (1) coordinated monitoring of Flammulated Owls across western North America; (2) Decision Support Tools and development of Natural Resources Conservation Service outreach products; (3) western Joint Ventures' science team support for delivery of bird conservation (focus on private lands); (4) species / habitat modelling – HABS database evaluation and review of Southwest ReGAP models; and (5) Forum on population parameters in planning and conservation assessments.

How Much?

The registration fee is pro-rated this year: \$70USD (approximately \$85CDN) for federal, state and provincial employees, \$50USD for all others (including NGO's and students). This will cover three days of continental breakfasts (to help facilitate morning birding trips) and coffee/snack breaks, and will contribute to three days of meeting rooms. If you are not attending the full meeting, the cost per day is \$25USD (~ \$30CDN). You can pay in cash, or if you prefer, please make cheques payable to Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory. We will inform on Canadian pricing and exchange rates closer to the date.

How to Get Here?

Kelowna (YLW) airport will likely be your best option for arrival to Canada from the USA. Horizon (www.alaskaair.com), Westjet (www.westjet.com) and Air Canada (www.aircanada.com) all fly to Kelowna from destinations in the USA. Alternatively, you can fly directly into Penticton (YYF) from Calgary (YYC) or Vancouver (YVR) with Air Canada. Penticton is a 1hr 15min drive south of the Kelowna airport. [Ambrosia Tours](#) operates a shuttle service (based on bookings) between the Kelowna airport and Penticton. The cost per person is \$50CDN one way. Cost for the trip for a dedicated 10-seat van is \$195CDN, so if we coordinated based on our arrival times, the cost per person would be about \$20CDN one way. Cars can be also rented at the Kelowna airport.

For more information, please contact Rex Sallabanks at (208) 287-2754 or rsallabanks@idfg.idaho.gov or Tanya Luszczyk at (250) 490-8286 or Tanya.Luszczyk@gov.bc.ca