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Over the years, our associate editors (AEs) have been specifically invited to work on the NPJ team. Their efforts, which are voluntary, provide an irreplaceable service to both the journal and the authors. Their primary job is to manage the review process from beginning to end—paper by paper. Plus, they often provide useful and creative suggestions for improving manuscript quality. Right now we have an outstanding group of associate editors. In a world where peers are recalcitrant to take on review assignments, the NPJ AEs manage to chase down the two necessary individuals to review each respective paper. Often, it entails making dozens of contacts. They don't let frustration daunt them. Along with a few new appointees, this group has stayed loyal and effective for many years.

I tell you this not only to thank them but also to say that currently I am dealing with some serious health issues. I suspect this will take me out of full participation in journal activities for as long as six months. Knowing this was coming, I leaned on some of these AEs to complete some of my tasks. I also recently asked AEs to do tasks that are outside their described duties. They accepted these new roles and are fulfilling them with superior professionalism.

It's worth repeating: I can't thank these people enough, but I will try: *THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!* If you personally know any of these AEs, you might take a moment to thank them yourself. The names of the current team are listed on this page, near the top of the left column.

We have created a unique journal with a broad range of subject matter, of genre both scientific and practical. As a result, we have a large but unorthodox readership—an audience left unserved by most other conservation and restoration journals. So, let's continue to make our journal of value. Please continue to send in your articles.



Dr Stephen L Love
Editor-in-Chief

On the cover: Curlycup gumweed (*Grindelia squarrosa* (Pursh) Dunal [Asteraceae]) in the foreground of a basin big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata* ssp. *tridentata* Nutt. [Asteraceae]) community at Curlew National Grassland in southeast Idaho. Photo by Derek Tilley

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