

DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE PRESENTS



CARNIVORES2009

Carnivore Conservation in a Changing World

LIST OF SESSIONS TO BE PRESENTED AT CONFERENCE

African Carnivores – Will discuss carnivore research and management in Africa and Madagascar, and include talks on lions, leopards, hunting dogs and other carnivores.

Alaska Carnivore Management – Will delve into the ecological, legal and social ramifications of Alaska's wildlife management policies, which are based on maintaining high rates of ungulate harvest via reduction of predator populations.

Carnivores and Energy – Will examine the impacts of various types of energy development, including renewable and conventional, as well as on land and off shore, on predator species and their habitats.

Asia – Will include the latest research and conservation work on a number of species found in south and east Asia, including Asiatic lion, Indian wolf, Himalayan brown bear, Amur tiger and snow leopard.

Attitudes, Education and Policy – Will explore the role of education, values and attitudes in developing policies relating to a number of carnivores species, including wolves, bears, mountain lions and urban carnivores.

Bears: Ecology, Management and Conservation – Will contain talks on both black bears and grizzlies, and will cover an array of topics, including ecology, population connectivity, conflict management, risk perceptions and recovery policy.

Black-footed Ferrets – Will discuss recovery and reintroduction efforts for black-footed ferrets and role of prairie dog ecology in supporting ferret conservation.

Border Wall Issues – Will address the fragmentation impacts of the U.S.-Mexico border wall on multiple species in the southwestern U.S. and northwestern Mexico that include black bears, pygmy owls, wolves and felids.

Carnivore Conservation: Human Dimensions – Will bring together scientists engaged in research focused on understanding the human dimensions of carnivore management, and topics will range from describing attitudes toward specific carnivore management policies and their potential to create conflict, to better understanding trends in attitudes toward carnivores, to describing how emotions can impact wolf management.

Central & South America & Australia – Will explore the ecology and conservation of carnivores across a broad geographic area from southern Mexico and Central America to the Andes and Brazil, as well as Australia.

Climate Change – Will discuss the impacts of climate change on sensitive carnivore species like lynx and polar bears, the role of predators in ecosystems facing climate change and strategies for helping carnivores adapt to a changing climate.

Colorado & the Southern Rockies – Will examine landscape-level conservation and connectivity in the southern Rockies and Grand Canyon ecoregions, with an emphasis on recovery of Colorado's carnivores, especially wolves and lynx.

Connectivity in Practice – Will highlight several large scale and regional conservation initiatives, including National Park Services initiative for migratory species, the Western Governors Wildlife Corridor Initiative and the Spine of the Continent and Rewilding North America, and their role in the conservation of viable populations of large carnivores.

Conservation Challenges, Priorities and Opportunities in the U.S.-Mexico Border Region – Will build on the “Border Wall” session and, given the challenges described, explore how to further conserve multiple carnivore species like jaguar, ocelot, jaguarundi, wolf and bear.

Contrasting Views of Coexistence with Carnivores – Will explore various ideas of coexistence, which means different things to different people, and practical carnivore conservation, and speakers will present case studies of coexistence with wolves, bears and big cats from three continents.

Corridor Theory – Will provide an overview and detailed examples of science-based approaches to wildlife linkage design, including least-cost modeling, individual-based movement models, circuit theory, network flow and others.

Diet and Foraging Ecology – Will present results of diet and foraging ecology studies on badgers, coyotes, bottlenose dolphins and several felid species.

Diseases and Parasites of Carnivores – Will describe disease and parasite dynamics in prairie dogs, swift fox, fishers, bobcats, pumas and wild dogs, as infectious diseases and parasites are a matter of increasing concern for carnivore conservation, and in some particularly rare species, present a major hurdle to recovery.

Eastern Mesocarnivores – Will discuss abundance, distribution and ecology of fishers, river otters, and bobcats that have been reintroduced or are recovering in many areas of the East and Midwest after decades of absence, and their interactions with other mesocarnivores, like gray fox, that have remained extant in the region.

Ecological Role of Wolves: Implications for Ecosystem Management – Will touch on social, cultural, economic and ecological aspects of human-wolf relationships and highlight the implications for wolf and ecosystem conservation and management, and will be the first of a two-part session to explore contemporary research on human-wolf relationships in Western Canada and the U.S.

Ecology of Mesocarnivores – Will consider the ecological role of mesocarnivores, explore how sympatric mesocarnivores partition resources to permit coexistence, incorporate the competition that does exist between ecological similar species into landscape models, look at how predation and the surrounding ecological matrix influence the ecology of mesocarnivores and examine if fecal studies can provide a non-invasive method to assess reproduction in mesocarnivores.

Economics of Carnivore Conservation – Will examine the role of carnivore conservation to provide economic benefits for local economies, including ecotourism programs and the potential for utilizing ecosystem service markets and payments to advance the conservation of wildlife habitat on private lands.

European Carnivores – Will present an array of carnivores across Eurasia, ranging from lynx in Scandinavia to golden jackals in Israel and Kyrgyzstan.

Florida Panther – Will review the current status and next steps in the recovery of the Florida panther and highlight conservation challenges, including habitat fragmentation and road mortality, that still face this rare cat.

Foxes – Will discuss the evolution and phylogeography of red foxes, habitat models for the San Joaquin kit fox and conservation challenges for the Channel Islands fox.

Jaguars – Will examine jaguar conservation and recovery in the northern part of the species' range, as well as diet ecology and connectivity in the southern part of the range.

Delineating Wildlife Corridors With Landscape Genetics – Will explore powerful new genetics techniques that now provide empirical data, which can be used to generate a “landscape resistance” map to represent gene flow within a population across a landscape and show how individuals within a population are connected across a landscape.

Mesocarnivores 2 – Will build on Ecology of Mesocarnivores to explore the ecology, conservation and recovery of fisher, wolverine, lynx and river otters.

Mexican Wolf – Will bring together diverse viewpoints from representatives of state and federal agencies and conservation groups on the challenges facing the recovery of the Mexican wolf.

Mountain Lions: Attitudes & Management – Will examine attitudes towards, incidents relating to and human interactions with mountain lions, since human perceptions of mountain lions play an important role in the conservation and management of the big cats.

Mountain Lions: Spatial Ecology – Will discuss mountain lion movement and habitat use in relation to roads, human development and fire.

New Tools for Sea Otter Conservation Research – Will explore studies of diet and diving behavior to examine mechanisms of population and community regulation in sea otters.

Noninvasive Survey Methods for Carnivores – Will highlight a range of noninvasive survey methods like remote photography, snow tracking, hair collection methods, scat detection dogs and DNA approaches that are used to identify and track carnivores, as well as present case studies that will demonstrate how these methods are currently being employed.

Red Wolf – Will discuss the current status of red wolf recovery and the particular challenges involved with the red wolf, including hybridization with coyotes and persistence in a matrix of natural and agricultural habitat.

Scat Detection Dog Methods and Applications – Will utilize both individual talks and roundtable format to discuss detection rates, protocols and practical applications of this promising method of monitoring carnivores.

Urban Coyotes: Ecology, Management and Ethics – Will explore how urban coyote ecology studies, including key findings from urban coyote ecology studies in Cooke County, Illinois, and Santa Cruz, California, inform management policies and practices, as well as the challenging ethical questions regarding how we coexist with coyotes in humanized, increasingly fragmented landscapes.

Using Diet Studies to Assess Carnivore-Human Interactions – Will highlight the use of carbon and nitrogen isotopes, which yield increasingly important data for future conservation and management of species, to study the diet and condition of carnivores that are either directly subsidized by or compete with humans for food.

Wolf Ecology and Behavior – Will present the latest research on wolf behavior and ecology.

Wolf Recovery & Management – Will examine recovery and population status of wolves in the Northern Rocky Mountains of the U.S., present perspectives on delisting and examine gray wolf management around the country.

Wolves & Livestock – Will discuss the economic impact of livestock predation, explore spatial and temporal trends in livestock conflict and present the latest in nonlethal methods to reduce conflict between wolves and livestock.

The Role of Humans: Effects On and Of Wolves – Will touch on social, cultural, economic and ecological aspects of human-wolf relationships and highlight the implications for wolf and ecosystem conservation and management in this second portion of a two-part session to explore contemporary research on human-wolf relationships in Western Canada and the U.S.