

# AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MAMMALOGISTS CONSERVATION OF LAND MAMMALS COMMITTEE

## ANNUAL REPORT (2001-2002)

The Conservation of Land Mammals Committee was first established by the ASM in 1927, and is one of the oldest and consistently most active committees in the Society. The Committee functions to fulfill the ASM's responsibilities to promote the conservation and welfare of natural populations of land mammals. Service on the Committee provides ASM members interested in conservation with opportunities to work towards supporting mammalian conservation in a variety of ways. Currently, the committee is subdivided into eight subcommittees, including two action subcommittees (Position Letters, Resolutions), five information subcommittees (Conservation Education, Coordination with other Societies/Committees, International Conservation Issues, Special Projects, and Mammalian Conservation News, and the Aldo Leopold Conservation Award subcommittee. The subcommittee reports are as follows:

### \*\*\* ACTION SUBCOMMITTEES \*\*\*

#### **POSITION LETTERS** (Alex Krevitz, Chair)

The position letters subcommittee pursued the development of seven new position letters this year, including letters dealing with conservation of the Canada lynx in the northern Rocky Mountains, protection of mammalian predators (canids) from experimental use of M-44 cyanide in the western US, protection of the endangered Iberian lynx in Portugal, conservation and management of the gray wolf in Montana, recovery of the black-footed ferret and prairie dog conservation in Colorado, acknowledgement of the recent conservation accomplishments of Senator John Kerry, and the misuse of science in the Interior Department. In addition, we continued work on the feral and free-ranging domestic cats letter that has been in the works for about two years.

The 1<sup>st</sup> letter (dated 2 December 2001) was sent to the Northern Region Headquarters of the US Forest Service in Missoula, MT in response to their proposal to protect and restore the Canada lynx (*Lynx canadensis*) to the northern Rocky Mountains. The proposal would affect land management plans in 18 National Forests and 4 Bureau of Land Management units, which make up at least 70% of the lynx habitat in the northern Rockies. The Committee strongly supported the proposal, but recommended that certain provisions of the proposal be strengthened, specifically the need for critical habitat designation (with the cooperation of the USFWS), establishing quantitative objectives for lynx populations and habitats, monitoring programs for lynx, its prey, and its habitat, protocols for public use and management practices which are compatible with the persistence of lynx and their habitat, further research on the biology and ecology of lynx in the lower 48 contiguous states, periodic review of management plans and their implementation by an independent panel of natural resource specialists, and a schedule for meeting all of the goals of the proposal.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> letter (dated 15 January 2002) was sent to the Office of Pesticide Programs, US Environmental Protection Agency, regarding a request by Wildlife Services (USDA/APHIS) for

a permit for experimental use of M-44 cyanide to control mammalian predators. According to Wildlife Services, the deadly M-44 cyanide capsules and spring-loaded ejectors would be used in ID and UT where there was some concern that western and Gunnison's sage-grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*, *C. minimus*) were suffering from high predation rates by gray fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*), red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), coyotes (*Canis latrans*), and feral dogs (*Canis familiaris*). The Committee felt that there was no compelling need to include the use of such a hazardous chemical as sodium cyanide in such a large-scale field experiment, that M-44 cyanide is a grossly outdated method of predator control, and that its use would result in many needless canid and non-target mammalian mortalities, and thus strongly opposed the project and requested that the EPA deny the permit.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> letter (dated 15 February 2002) was sent to the Prime Minister of Portugal Antonio Guterres as well as the President of Portugal and the Secretary General of the European Union, and was written in response to an immediate problem regarding protection of the endangered Iberian lynx in Portugal. The Iberian lynx (*Lynx pardinus*) is the world's rarest felid and among the most endangered carnivores. In Portugal, one of its disjunct habitats is located in Alentejo, where the recent construction of a large dam threatens approximately 45 lynx (a large portion of the total population). If filled at the height specified in the plans, it would completely flood the Mediterranean scrub habitat of the lynx in this region. This scrub vegetation is used by the European rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*), the main food source of the lynx. From the information we had, it was apparent that the dam construction had been completed, and that filling of the dam would begin by March 2002. In our letter, the Committee suggested that, in order to avoid this potential devastating habitat destruction and negative impacts on the lynx, the dam be filled to a level 12 m lower than originally planned. This would largely avoid the flooding of this important lynx habitat that would result from the dam being filled to full capacity.

The 4<sup>th</sup> letter (dated 26 April 2002) was sent to the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (MDFWP) dealing with gray wolf (*Canis lupus*) conservation and management in Montana. In the spring of 2002, the MDFWP released a draft gray wolf management plan to conserve the gray wolf in Montana using an adaptive management model. The Committee felt that it was a good plan, but that it needed to further address and highlight the issues of long-term population viability, habitat connectivity and quality, and use of a fully integrated management system for addressing wolf-livestock conflicts. We also suggested that the level of population management (i.e., non-lethal vs. lethal control) be based more extensively on population viability, and we encouraged the MDFWP to increase efforts to promote and implement alternative control measures (i.e., non-lethal) that maintain resident wolf packs while minimizing livestock depredations.

The 5<sup>th</sup> letter (also dated 26 April 2002) was sent to the Colorado Wildlife Commission dealing with black-footed ferret (*Mustela nigripes*) recovery and prairie dog protection in Colorado. In November 2001, black-footed ferrets were reintroduced into western Colorado. However, the Committee was concerned with the complete lack of protection afforded the prairie dog species in the reintroduction area and the ramifications that this situation may have on the reintroduction effort. Black-footed ferrets are dietary specialists, relying on prairie dogs for most of their diet, and also rely extensively on their burrows for denning and shelter. The main food and habitat source at the reintroduction site, the white-tailed prairie dog (*Cynomys leucurus*), is not only thought to be in serious jeopardy, and but this is the only black-footed ferret reintroduction site in the US that lacks prairie dog shooting closures. Therefore, the

Committee supported a complete shooting ban of both white-tailed and Gunnison's (*C. gunnisoni*) prairie dogs on public lands (both federal and state) and in black-footed ferret management areas in western Colorado as well as a seasonal closure of shooting prairie dogs from 1 February through 1 August on private lands.

The 6<sup>th</sup> letter (dated 26 May 2002) was sent to Senator John Kerry (D-Mass) as a thank you for his outstanding work in protecting and conserving our environment. In particular, his recent efforts on behalf of protection of the Arctic NWR and the conservation of the world's whales are noteworthy. During debate on the Senate floor in April 2002, Sen. Kerry addressed the US Senate on why oil/gas development should not be allowed in the Arctic NWR and specifically made mention of the fact that professional scientific societies (such as the ASM and TWS) were very much opposed to oil/gas development in the Arctic NWR based on scientific studies that have clearly shown major impacts to the environment and its inhabitants would occur from oil/gas development. In addition, in May 2002, Sen. Kerry wrote a "Sense of the Senate" resolution (S. Res. 267) dealing with policy of the US at the 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) recently held in Shimonoseki, Japan. In this resolution, the Senate made it clear that they were firmly opposed to commercial whaling, illegal trade in whale meat, allowing Iceland to join the convention with a reservation that exempts it from the commercial whaling moratorium, the downlisting of any whale population, and the lethal taking of whales for scientific purposes unless authorized by the IWC Scientific Committee, and that they were in support of efforts to ensure that all activities conducted under reservations to the Commission's moratorium or in sanctuaries are ceased and creation of permanent protection of whale populations through establishment of whale sanctuaries in which commercial whaling is prohibited. The resolution concluded with a call for the US to make full use of all appropriate diplomatic mechanisms, relevant international laws and agreements and other appropriate mechanisms to implement the goals set forth in the resolution. With these two actions, Sen. Kerry had successfully addressed 2 of the 4 conservation-related resolutions passed at last year's meeting in Missoula, MT, and therefore, the Committee felt that a thank you letter to Sen. Kerry to communicate our appreciation for his good work in the Senate was appropriate.

The 7<sup>th</sup> and final letter was a joint sign-on letter with The Wildlife Society to the Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton that dealt with the misuse of science at the Interior Department. This letter was signed by ASM President Tom Kunz and TWS President Diana Hallett and submitted to the Secretary of the Interior in June 2002. This letter, in the works since April 2002, was a direct response to the Bush Administration's handling of the USGS-BRD report entitled "Arctic Refuge Coastal Plain Terrestrial Wildlife Research Summaries", where a report that contained 12 years of data that was >1 year in preparation and independently reviewed by outside experts was ordered to be re-evaluated within 10 days using a hypothetical drilling scenario that was provided by the Bush Administration after the study was published. It was clear that science was being ignored and/or misrepresented and that agency scientists were being pressured to support a political agenda in this case, and the Committee felt that this needed to be addressed immediately. Although the recipients may choose to ignore this letter, it is important to be on the record as to opposing such practices and it also lets them know that, when it comes to science and policy, someone is watching.

The feral and free-ranging domestic cat letter was originally written to address a concern about the impacts of feral and free-ranging cats on small mammal populations, specifically as it concerns insular and other vulnerable mammalian species such as the six endangered subspecies of the beach mouse, *Peromyscus polionotus*, occurring along the coasts of Alabama and Florida.

Currently, there is a nationwide program known as TTVAR (Trap, Treat, Vaccinate, Alter, Release) that takes in orphaned or otherwise feral cats with the sole purpose of releasing them back into the wild in “healthy” condition. Threats that cats pose to small mammals are compounded by the current policies of this program, where cats are fed, vaccinated, spayed/neutered, and released back into wild areas where the now healthier cats exert an increased negative impact on small mammals, birds, and a number of other smaller animals. Although the policies of this program are well-intended, the release of these cats into the wild is taking a serious toll on small mammal and bird populations, particularly in the case of the beach mouse (a listed subspecies in AL and FL), and the letter requests that the focus of this program be amended to arrange adoptions instead of release into the wild again. Our Committee continued to revise this letter, adding a significant number of citations to it, over the past year and have it completed. We have been in contact with The Wildlife Society, the Ornithological Council, and the Society of the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles on this issue, and all of these organizations have indicated an interest in a joint effort on this issue. This letter, as well as the recipient list and joint efforts with other scientific societies, will be discussed at our Committee business meeting in Lake Charles, LA.

In the upcoming year, this subcommittee intends on following up on letters in which no response or other news has ever been received. For example, the US Fish and Wildlife Service will be contacted because they have not made any decision on their gray wolf delisting/downlisting proposal from Nov 2000 and we provided detailed input on this issue to them at that time. Future issues potentially meriting position letters such as large carnivorous mammal conservation and recovery, great ape conservation, the fate of the Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA) or other nongame funding measures in Congress, proposed listings/delistings of mammalian species by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and other related issues will continue to be monitored by this subcommittee. Recommendations for position paper issues are always welcome from any ASM member.

## **RESOLUTIONS (Charles Long, Chair)**

In stark contrast to last year, the resolutions subcommittee did not receive any suggestions from either inside or outside the Committee for resolutions this year. There was, however, much work to do regarding the three resolutions that were approved at last year’s meeting in Missoula, MT. These resolutions dealt with recovery of the grizzly bear in the lower 48 contiguous states, protection of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from oil/gas development, and conservation of orang-utans in Indonesia and Malaysia.

Regarding the grizzly bear resolution, in August 2001 it was used as a basis for a major, joint public relations effort by a number of scientific societies and, along with an extensive cover letter, was also submitted to the US Fish and Wildlife Service (dated 6 August 2001) as an official response to their 60-day comment period for the Notice of Intent regarding the Re-evaluation of the Record of Decision for the Final Environmental Impact Statement and Selection of Alternative for Grizzly Bear Recovery in the Bitterroot Ecosystem. This notice of intent was published in the Federal Register on 22 June 2001. The resolution itself stemmed from a 25 April 2001 announcement by Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton that she and the administration were unwilling to comply with the Selway-Bitterroot Grizzly Recovery Plan. Much time and energy, including an environmental impact statement, over a period of >7 years

were spent on this unique recovery plan for grizzlies in this 6000 mi<sup>2</sup> wilderness region of Idaho and Montana, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service endorsed it in Nov 2000. There was extensive public input into the process, and the final plan was endorsed by virtually all interested parties. The resistance to this plan is coming from the Governor of Idaho (Dirk Kempthorne) and some individuals that live in some of the small towns that border the wilderness area, and Kempthorne filed a lawsuit against the federal government in Jan 2001 to stop this grizzly recovery effort. The dilemma that stems from this Notice of Intent is that the Department of the Interior is mandated by the Endangered Species Act to recover threatened and endangered species, and by failing to comply with this recovery plan, the Secretary is failing to do her job. During the 60-day comment period, about 30,000 comments were received by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and >98% of them were opposed to the Secretary's plan to abandon grizzly bear recovery in the Bitterroot Ecosystem (including >98% of those submitted from the state of Idaho). As of June 2002, the Endangered Species program at the US Fish and Wildlife Service has not moved on this issue. Of particular note is the fact that the reintroduction of grizzlies into the Selway-Bitterroot was scheduled to begin in 2002. See Coordination section below for details of the joint public relations efforts on this issue.

Regarding the oil/gas development in the Arctic NWR issue, a cover letter (dated 8 April 2002) and copy of our resolution was sent to all 100 members of the US Senate. We had followed this issue very closely all year and felt that the battle over this issue would be resolved in the US Senate and that timing was of the utmost importance on this, so this letter was not sent out until the week before debate was initiated on this issue on the Senate floor (April 2002). The debate went on for about a week, and one of the speakers on the floor, Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass), made specific reference to our letter and resolution on this issue (as well as to a similar effort by The Wildlife Society). The Senate rejected an energy bill amendment that would have opened the Arctic NWR to oil/gas exploration and development on 18 April 2002. Although this was a highly desirable outcome, there is little doubt that this issue will resurface in the near future.

The resolution on the conservation of orang-utans stems from the dire situation in Indonesia and Malaysia, where rapid destruction of lowland forest habitat due to illegal logging has resulted in a dramatically sharp decline in orang populations (50% decline in the past 10 years alone). In July 2001, the Committee contacted Dr. Chris Dickman, President of the Australian Mammal Society regarding this issue and possible joint efforts in addressing the orang-utan conservation problem in Indonesia and Malaysia. A copy of the resolution was sent as an attachment to the email, but even after reminders were sent, no response was ever received from him. Also in July 2001, the Committee contacted the Orangutan Foundation International (OFI) in Los Angeles, CA, and provided them with a copy of our resolution. They were very supportive of our efforts and indicated a willingness to assist us in compiling Indonesian and Malaysian recipient information. Follow-up with them was done, but they remained interested but unresponsive through spring 2002. We also contacted Dr. Birute Galdikas, a renowned orang expert who works with them in Indonesia, but were unsuccessful in getting a response from her after numerous emails. During the year, we continued to compile a recipient list but had a difficult time finding either mailing addresses or email addresses for Indonesian or Malaysian recipients. We just recently got a list of appropriate Indonesian and Malaysian recipients and their contact information from an acquaintance of a Committee member that had been working with orangs in Indonesia. We are still working to get the resolution out to these recipients.

Regarding past resolutions, updated information on mammalian predator control and USDA - Wildlife Services, conservation of grassland ecosystems/prairie dogs, bison/brucellosis in Yellowstone NP, and Canadian Endangered Species Protection Act issues will be made available under the Mammalian Conservation News section of the CLM webpage on the ASM website.

### **\*\*\* INFORMATION SUBCOMMITTEES \*\*\***

#### **CONSERVATION EDUCATION**

The focuses of the subcommittee this year were the completion of a new educational brochure dealing with large mammalian carnivores and the Grassland Education module.

A new educational brochure dealing with large mammalian carnivores, entitled "Why large carnivorous land mammals are important", was initiated in early 2001. The Committee feels that large mammalian carnivores in particular are being greatly impacted by humans and that we should do a better job of educating the public on this important issue. Topics covered in the brochure include identifying the large carnivorous land mammals of North America, brief (1 pp.) accounts of each species (including body size, distribution, range size, conservation status, habitat needs, significant life history traits), problems faced, ecological role and importance, economic value, consequences of large mammalian carnivore-human conflicts and removal of large mammalian carnivores from nature, coexistence of large mammalian carnivores and humans, and where to obtain further information on large mammalian carnivores and their conservation. This large job was divided into parts and committee members worked on their individual assignments throughout the year. A draft manuscript was completed in May 2001, but unfortunately was not ready in time to coincide with our Committee's Symposium on the conservation of large mammalian carnivores at last year's meeting in Missoula, MT. The manuscript has required further work and was reviewed by several CLM Committee members over the past year. Currently, we are soliciting reviews of this manuscript and ask that anyone interested in reviewing this manuscript contact Steve Sheffield and he will email you a copy of it to look at. Our goal is to finalize the manuscript and get the brochure printed before the end of the year. This brochure will also be available on the ASM website.

Although the Grassland Education module was completed several years ago, we have spent the last few years attempting to make it readily available to teachers and other educators. The decision was made two years ago to change the format of the entire module to electronic format and place it on a CD. Since 1999, Steve Sheffield has been working with Defenders of Wildlife on placing the program on CD, designing the CD and CD jacket, and arranging production of CDs. We are still working on replacing many of the one-time use items that were part of the program with items that do not have such restrictions and putting some of the materials (e.g., activities) in electronic format. At this point, it is not possible to predict when the CD will finally be finished. Much interest has been shown in this education program from many parts of the country, and Steve Sheffield has had numerous requests for copies of this program over the past few years. We are anticipating that the module will be distributed through the ASM Secretary-Treasurer's office and we are planning on making it available through the ASM website as well.

Finally, as a reminder to everyone, copies of our brochure "Why species become threatened or endangered: a mammalogist's perspective", published in January 1997, are available from the

ASM Secretary-Treasurer (H. Duane Smith). This brochure is also available on the CLM Committee webpage of the ASM website.

## **COORDINATION**

The aim of this subcommittee is three-fold: (1) to communicate the Committee's mission and activities to the public through the ASM website, (2) to communicate and coordinate with other professional scientific societies and interested NGOs that share our interests in conservation issues, with the intention of keeping them informed as to our conservation-related activities and possibly interacting with them on conservation matters, and (3) to communicate and coordinate with other ASM Committees and the ASM Board in an effort to better accomplish our goals. Our major goals again this year were to: (1) place CLM committee information on the ASM website, (2) communicate and interact with as many other scientific societies that share conservation interests as possible, and (3) work closely with other ASM Committees and the ASM Board to accomplish our Committee goals.

In the fall of 2001, Steve Sheffield submitted current information on the CLM committee, including roster of members with contact information, committee/subcommittee missions and assignments, and copies of the 2000-2001 annual committee report and our brochure "Why species become threatened and endangered: a mammalogist's perspective" to Sue McLaren for inclusion on the ASM website. We invite visitors to the CLM Committee webpage to contact the committee regarding any mammalian conservation-related issues (whether to request or to provide information).

This Committee has had contact with several scientific societies dealing with conservation issues over the past year, including The Wildlife Society, Australian Mammal Society, Society for Conservation Biology, Raptor Research Foundation, Southwestern Association of Naturalists, Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles and the Ornithological Council (a group of 10 Ornithological Societies). Our major coordination with other scientific societies project over the past year was the public relations effort dealing with grizzly bear recovery in the Bitterroot Ecosystem. The joint public relations effort in August 2001 led to a press release (dated 16 August 2001) entitled "Scientists call on Interior Secretary Norton to Reinstate Grizzly Bear Recovery Program", and was endorsed by the ASM, The Wildlife Society, the International Association for Bear Research and Management, the IUCN Bear Specialists Group, the Idaho and Montana Chapters of The Wildlife Society, the Society for Conservation Biology, and the Wildlife Management Institute. This was a very smooth process, everyone worked well together on this, and the Committee is particularly grateful to Dr. Sterling Miller (National Wildlife Federation and International Association for Bear Research and management) for being the driving force behind this effort and to Tom Franklin (Policy Director, The Wildlife Society) and Dr. Reed Noss (now former President, Society for Conservation Biology) for their strong support and assistance in making this joint press release happen. Another joint project this year was a joint sign-on letter with The Wildlife Society to the Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton that dealt with the misuse of science at the Interior Department. This letter was signed by ASM President Tom Kunz and TWS President Diana Hallett and submitted to the Secretary of the Interior in June 2002. The Committee is grateful to Tom Franklin again for his assistance in making this sign-on letter happen. See Position Letters section above for more details on this.

The Committee has had much interaction with a couple of environmentally-related NGOs over the past year, including Defenders of Wildlife and National Wildlife Federation (NWF).

We have been in frequent communication with both organizations regarding mammalian conservation issues of mutual interest. Defenders has been very interested in education, oil/gas development in the Arctic NWR, control of mammalian predators, and large carnivore conservation issues, and have requested information, feedback, or copies of ASM actions (position letters, resolutions) this past year. We worked closely with NWF on the joint press release on grizzly bears, which could serve as a model for how so many organizations can work together within a relatively short time frame to achieve something good.

Over the past year, this Committee has interacted with a number of ASM Committees, including Informatics, International Relations, Legislation and Regulations, Marine Mammals, Membership, Program, Public Education, Public Relations, and Resolutions Committees. We are represented on the new Public Relations Committee, and we will be making a stronger effort to promote important mammalian conservation issues, conservation-related activities at the annual meeting, and our Committee's activities in the press. During the past year, we have designated Committee members as official liaisons with the International Relations and Membership Committees, thereby creating closer cooperation with these committees. We have also continued to work close with the ASM President on sending resolutions and position letters.

## **INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION ISSUES (Janet Rachlow, Chair)**

The role of this subcommittee is to monitor mammalian conservation issues on the international scene and to recommend possible action(s) to be taken. Over the past year, this subcommittee has been active in monitoring international mammalian conservation issues. In addition, the subcommittee has compiled a list of websites involved with international conservation issues (now available on the CLM Committee homepage).

Of particular interest to the subcommittee this past year is the Great Apes Conservation Act of 2000. The U.S. Congress enacted the Great Ape Conservation Act of 2000 (GACA) in November 2000 in response to the serious decline of ape populations in Africa and Asia, which has been so severe that the long-term viability of these populations is in serious jeopardy. Included for protection in this Act are gorillas (*Gorilla gorilla*), chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*), bonobos (*Pan paniscus*), orang-utans (*Pongo pygmaeus*), and gibbons (*Hylobates* spp.). The Act has two purposes: (1) to sustain viable populations of apes in the wild, and (2) to assist in the conservation and protection of apes by supporting the conservation programs of countries in which ape populations are located. To accomplish these purposes, GACA creates the Great Ape Conservation Fund (GACF) to support and provide financial resources to conservation programs of countries within the range of apes and to projects of persons and organizations with expertise applicable to the conservation of apes. The GACF provides up to \$5 million annually, through FY04, to conservation programs in countries where great apes are indigenous. These funds support projects promoting great ape conservation through:

- in situ research and monitoring of populations and their habitats
- assistance in the development, implementation and improvement of management plans for ape ranges
- enforcement and implementation of CITES and domestic laws relating to wildlife management and protection
- development and operation of sanctuaries for apes rescued from the illegal trade in live



animals

- programs for the rehabilitation of apes and for their release into the wild
- conflict resolution initiatives
- community outreach and education

In FY01, \$748,000 was budgeted for the GACF grants program, with about \$680,000 actually available, and all of this was spent on great ape conservation projects in Africa and Asia. For FY02, \$1 million was budgeted for the GACF grants program, with about \$920,000 actually available, and as of June 2002, about 2/3 of that was spent. A number of great ape conservation programs have already been implemented in both Africa and Asia, and the funds have been going toward a wide diversity of projects covering all species of great apes. With the funding authorized under the GACA, those and other programs should have a marked impact on the long-term survival of the world's remaining great apes. Of note is the fact that Congress also has been funding US AID for some great ape work, with about \$1.5 million available for mountain gorillas in Africa and \$1.5 million available for orang-utans in Asia in FY02.

## **SPECIAL PROJECTS**

The Special Projects subcommittee has had as its focus a project involving the survey of mammal population monitoring programs in US and Canada for several years now. This project was initiated in 1997, and the results were presented as a poster at the annual ASM meeting in Durham, NH in June 2000. The final task of the subcommittee with regard to this project is to publish the results, and a manuscript of the results from this project currently is still in preparation. Our goal was to have this paper out for publication by the end of 2001, but that has been revised to 2002 due to everyone's busy schedules.

Regarding new projects, the subcommittee has begun discussion on initiating a new project to work on a methodology to derive scores for conservation prioritization for all mammalian species in North America (similar to what is already in place for birds).

## **MAMMALIAN CONSERVATION NEWS (Robert Manson, Chair)**

The role of this subcommittee is to actively monitor conservation news that impacts mammalian species and report on its findings in the CLM Committee annual report for the benefit of the ASM membership. In 1999, this subcommittee compiled a working list of conservation news sources in order to assist us in this endeavor. These sources include printed materials (e.g., journals, magazines, newsletters, etc.) as well as the internet (e.g., web pages, listservers, etc.). This year, we continued our efforts to build on previously collected sources of information on mammalian conservation. Several news sources were eliminated as being out-of-date or unreliable, while a number of others were added in efforts to keep the membership informed of conservation-related issues involving mammals in a timely fashion. The internet has rapidly become one of the most effective research tools in this endeavor, and many new websites were added to our list. Our master list of sources is available from our subcommittee to any interested ASM members. News items were compiled during the past year, and the plan was to have these available on the CLM Committee's webpage on the ASM website. However, to this point, we have not posted these to the ASM website due to continued problems with the website

and its host (AIBS). We will be working with the Informatics Committee to try to get these news items posted in the near future. We are choosing to post them to the CLM Committee webpage instead of including them all in the annual report for several reasons, including saving on paper (a much more manageable annual report size), and the ability for us to stay current by posting news items to the webpage as we find them. We encourage any and all ASM members to share mammalian conservation news items with us that they think may be of interest to the ASM membership at large.

### **\*\*\* AWARD SUBCOMMITTEE \*\*\***

#### **ALDO LEOPOLD CONSERVATION AWARD (Kathleen LoGiudice, Chair)**

This subcommittee was formed following the 1999 annual meeting in Seattle, WA to explore the possibility of establishing an ASM Conservation Award. We announced the idea of this award at the 2000 meeting in Durham, NH. Since that time, the Committee has brainstormed on the many logistics and funding of this award. This past year, the subcommittee was tasked with laying out details on each aspect of the award, identifying potential funding sources for the awards, and writing up a complete description of the award for the ASM Board to consider at this year's meeting in Lake Charles, LA. Early on in the process, we decided that the award should be named in honor of former ASM member Aldo Leopold, not only because of his significant and lasting influence in wildlife conservation and management, but particularly due to the fact that Aldo Leopold had great interest in mammals, he was an active member of the ASM and a member of the CLM Committee (4 years) in the 1930's, and in this time worked to defend wolves in WI and the Great Lakes states and grizzlies in NM. Leopold is well known for his famous "land ethic" philosophy, and is considered to be the "father" of wildlife ecology and management. In addition, his son A. Starker Leopold served as Chair of the CLM Committee in the 1950's, and students of both Leopolds had a profound impact on the field of mammalogy. The awards, which we propose should be named the Aldo Leopold Awards in Mammalian Conservation, would be granted annually to two individuals deemed to have contributed significantly to the conservation of mammals anywhere in the world. We envision the Leopold Awards as consisting of two parts – the Aldo Leopold Award for Outstanding Achievements in Mammalian Conservation, will recognize the conservation achievements of an individual who is established in his/her career. The recipient would not be required to be a member of the Society, although Society membership would be given added weight in the selection process. The second award, the Aldo Leopold Student Conservation Award, will acknowledge the contributions of a student (graduate or undergraduate) in the area of mammalian conservation. We propose to solicit nominations for these awards in the Journal of Mammalogy, Conservation Biology, the ASM website, and other appropriate outlets, that the awards be presented either at the Plenary Session or at the Banquet of the Annual Meeting, and that \$850.00 be allotted by the ASM Board in the coming year for this new award. The details of the selection criteria, actual awards to be presented, application process, and other considerations are described in detail in a memo to the ASM Board proposing creation of these awards that is attached to this annual report.

We feel that the creation of the Leopold Awards is an important step for the Society to take for several reasons. First, it sends an important message to the scientific, and specifically the conservation, community, as well as to society in general, that the American Society of

Mammalogists strongly supports the conservation of mammals and their habitats and that we are fully aware of our responsibility to insure that mammals are studied in a way that is consistent with sound conservation principles. Second, it reiterates that the ASM is a group that has the vision and leadership to assume a broad role of not only studying mammals, but also ensuring the continuing preservation and protection of mammals and their habitats. Third, we sincerely hope and expect that the publicity and honor accompanying the awards will assist the recipients in their conservation goals and the conservation of mammals and their habitats in general.

### **\*\*\* MISCELLANEOUS \*\*\***

#### **Large Carnivore Symposium**

The CLM Committee organized a Symposium that took place during the ASM annual meeting in Missoula, MT in June 2001. The Symposium, entitled "Ecology and Conservation of Carnivores in Human-Influenced Landscapes", was chaired by Steve Sheffield and Kerry Foresman. The Committee felt that the Missoula, MT location provided an excellent opportunity to explore this issue, as many of the leading large mammalian carnivore biologists are stationed in the immediate area and human-carnivore interactions are a major issue in this part of the country. There was an excellent turnout for the Symposium, and it was very well received by those in attendance. In addition, for the first time in ASM history, an invitation was placed to the general public to attend, and about 20-30 people from the Missoula, MT area attended the Symposium. The Committee is grateful to Bill Zielinski, Jeff Copeland, Howard Quigley, Diane Boyd, and Chris Servheen for their interesting presentations and for participating in the Symposium. The idea of using the presentations to serve as the basis for papers in a Special Feature in the Journal of Mammalogy was enthusiastically supported by all of the speakers at the meeting in Missoula, MT and by email in July 2001; however, even after a personal invitation from the JM Special Features Editor Chip Leslie in fall 2001, the enthusiasm had waned considerably and the idea then appeared to have little support from the speakers and, thus, probably will not happen.

### **\*\*\* EPILOGUE \*\*\***

The Conservation of Land Mammals Committee hopes that the ASM membership and other interested parties enjoy reading this report. ASM members that wish to serve on the Conservation of Land Mammals Committee should communicate their interest to both the ASM President and the Chair of the Committee. All ASM members are encouraged to become actively involved in the Committee's activities and business by notifying the Committee of pertinent and timely conservation issues. Undoubtedly, there are members out there whom are either working on conservation-related studies or who are otherwise familiar with certain conservation issues that our Committee is not aware of. Well, we want to hear from you!!! CLM Committee members are ready and very willing to assist other ASM members in the preparation of resolutions or position letters representing the Society's official position on specific conservation issues. ASM members directly involved in mammalian conservation matters or having ideas for possible resolutions or position letters on conservation issues should contact the Committee (see CLM Committee website for contact info). As mentioned above, we are beginning to maintain updated mammalian conservation news information on our CLM

Committee webpage as we receive it, so please remember to check the CLM webpage for these news items. It is important for members to keep informed and as up-to-date as possible on conservation issues that impact mammalian species.

Finally, as always, I would like to sincerely thank all of the CLM Committee members for their valuable assistance during the course of the past year. Special thanks goes to all of my Subcommittee Chairs for handling the extra responsibility and workload so well and responding to my many pleas for assistance usually needed in a hurry. Finally, I thank Tom Lee and Justina Ray, who rotated off the committee in the summer of 2001, for their years of enthusiastic and valuable service to the committee. I would also like to thank Dan Rosenblatt who also rotated off the committee in the summer of 2001 for his service to the committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven R. Sheffield, Ph.D., Chair,  
Conservation of Land Mammals Committee

### **2001-2002 Members**

Brad Bergstrom	Charles Long
Brad Blood	Robert Manson
Erin Boydston	Stephanie MacDonald
Terry Doonan	Rex McAliley
Kerry Foresman	Anita Morzillo
Tom Gehring	Dave Rabon
Jacob Goheen	Janet Rachlow
Reg Hoyt	Lynda Randa
Linda Ilse	Lillie Rendt
Roland Kays	Penny Reynolds
Mike Kreuzer	Margaret Schadler
Alex Krevitz	Sacha Vignieri
Kathleen LoGiudice	Julie Young
	Steve Sheffield, Chair