

## **Resolutions Committee**

**Committee Membership:** B. J. Bergstrom, S. Lamb, J. L. Malaney, S. G. Mech, S. R. Sheffield (Chair), J. A. Yunger

### **Mission:**

The Resolutions Committee of the American Society of Mammalogists (ASM) was established in 1956 to provide a mechanism for the Society to share relevant science and express views on pressing issues that involve mammals. The Resolutions Committee also writes the Host Resolution for the Annual Meeting of the ASM.

### **Functioning:**

Resolutions are the strongest official statement possible emanating from the ASM because they are voted upon by the membership and then signed by the ASM President. Resolutions consist of the resolution itself, a cover letter outlining the nature and purpose of the resolution, and a list of proposed recipients along with contact information for each recipient. Suggestions for potential resolutions can come from any ASM member, whether they are members of the Resolutions Committee or not. Resolution proposals are first reviewed internally by Committee members, then revised as needed in consultation with the proposer. Resolutions deemed appropriate and ready for further consideration are vetted with the President. Upon approval, resolutions will be circulated to the ASM membership for consideration. Resolutions represent objective assessments of facts as they pertain to issues of relevance to mammals and mammalogy, and that they adhere to the highest scientific and ethical standards. Consequently, resolutions frequently require multiple drafts, supporting literature and literature cited sections, and input from the Society; however, new standard operating procedures now in effect allow resolutions to be voted on electronically at any time of year. This completely changes the dynamics and utility of resolutions for the Society.

### **Information Items:**

(1) The Committee's Standard Operating Procedures were updated in Fall 2023 and approved by the BOD at its spring 2024 meeting. Traditionally, resolutions could only be considered by the membership once a year at the annual meeting. While we will continue the practice of reviewing annual resolutions at the annual meeting, to accelerate the process, we will now have electronic review and voting through the year. The committee will accept proposed resolutions for consideration at any time of the year. We will allot 1.5 months from the date a resolution is proposed for resolution development and review within the committee, and another 1.5 months for review of a resolution by the membership. We will then allot 1 month for editing of resolution based on feedback from the membership, followed by 1 month for (electronic) voting on the resolution by the membership.

(2) The proposed resolution entitled "Mammalian Predator Control in Alaska" from 2023 has continued to be further edited and updated throughout the past year by several outside experts on Alaskan predatory/prey dynamics as well as the committee itself. This review/editing process will continue until the resolution is deemed ready by the committee for consideration.

(3) This past year, work started on a resolution on the necessity for the United States finally to become a signatory of the Convention on Biological Diversity. This is significant because the US is one of only 4 member states of the UN who are not signatories of this very important global conservation effort. However, this work has been moved to the back burner following the November 2024 election results.

(4) The Committee received no other new resolution proposals over the past year.

**Action Items:** None

**Respectfully submitted,**  
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