

Legislation and Regulation Committee

Committee Members: R.T. Bowyer, V. Brack, Jr., R. W. Kays, T. J. McIntyre, D. Odell, T. J. O'Shea, E. A. Rickart, R. Rodriguez, S. R. Sheffield, D. W. Sparks (Chair) W. T. Stanley, E. W. Valdez.

Mission:

The Legislation and Regulations Committee was formed in 1976 to monitor and provide input into the state and federal regulation and legislation process on such issues as endangered species, trapping and harvesting regulations, and the use of animals for experimental purposes. The Committee also interacts with the legislative monitoring groups of AIBS.

Information Items:

(1) The U.S. House of Representatives continues to pursue an agenda that aims to remove the teeth from several major pieces of environmental legislation including the Endangered Species Act (ESA), National Environmental Policy Act, and the Clean Air Act. These bills amount to little other than rabble rousing—the real concern are riders attached to other, more palatable, bills.

(2) The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service continues to work its way through a series of listing petitions produced and then litigated by the Center for Biodiversity Studies. Included amongst these species was the first bat species to be listed primarily as a result of White-Nose Syndrome (WNS). The northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) remains common across much of the Midwest, but is experiencing catastrophic declines due to WNS. The species is now listed as Threatened under ESA, and the species is also listed as endangered in Canada under The Species at Risk Act. Mammalogists should be aware this increase in protection may complicate research efforts that include the capture and handling of wild bats as well as the possession and shipment of tissues and specimens, which are now regulated under (Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)).

Action Items: None.

Respectfully submitted,

Dale W. Sparks, Chair

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