

Conservation Committee

Committee Members: A. Ali, J. B. Arbogast, C. Aylward, P. Barboza, E. Beever, A. Chavez, J. Cook, M. Dyck, J. Frey, A. Giordano, J. González-Maya, D. Green, M. Hawkins, J. Heffelfinger, D. Kaufman, J. Koprowski, A. Krevitz, T. Lacher, H. Lutz, J. Malaney, M. Matocq (Chair), L. Randa, M. Rentz, S. Sheffield, W. Smith, M. Snider, S. Stephens, N. Upham, E. Wilson

Mission:

The Conservation Committee was established by the American Society of Mammalogists in 1927. First known as the Conservation of Land Mammals Committee, the committee's name was changed to the Conservation Committee in 2002 to reflect its focus on all mammals, terrestrial and marine. The Conservation Committee promotes research, education, and science-based solutions to conservation and management of native mammals in North America and globally.

Information Items:

(1) Activities of the ASM CC from June 2023 to May 2024 included:

(a) We met as a committee at the annual meeting in June 2023 and reviewed progress and opportunities concerning the four standing subcommittees listed below.

(b) Four standing subcommittees coordinate the current areas of activity for the committee: 1) the Letters and Resolutions Committee, 2) the Social Media Committee, 3) the Conservation Education Committee, and 4) a subcommittee to develop a set of best practices with regards to mammalian conservation in State Wildlife Action Plans (SWAP). These plans direct all State level funding for biodiversity conservation, so the committee adopted this new task in 2022 to collaborate with state management agency personnel to ensure that mammalian conservation is maximized in these plans. Michael Rentz serves as Chair the Education Committee. Joe Cook and Andreas Chavez Chair the Letters and Resolution Committee.

(c) The SWAP subcommittee is still in need of a chairperson but, collectively, we made progress in discussions with various State Wildlife agencies to gather information concerning how the American Society of Mammalogists could assist with their conservation planning mandates.

(d) The Chairs of the Letters and Resolution Committee helped President Smith draft a letter from the President to New Mexico Game and Fish concerning new limitations on scientific collecting. The Chairs of the Letters and Resolution Committee have commented on a draft letter from Steve Sheffield concerning renewed access to wildlife and wildlife product import data through the Law Enforcement Management Information System.

Action Items:

(1) We hope to attract new members to the committee to maximize our effectiveness and reach. Ideally, we will have Chairs for each subcommittee so that we can develop and pursue

opportunities in multiple areas related to mammalian conservation. At this year's annual meeting, we will focus on developing initial action items for each subcommittee.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marjorie Matocq, Chair

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