

Resolutions Committee

Committee Membership: S. Chavda, A. W. Ferguson, D. Gonzalez, J. Lombardi, T. J. McIntyre, S. G. Mech, L. Olson, S. R. Sheffield, D. W. Sparks, J. A. Yunger (Chair).

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 issues that involve mammals. The Resolutions Committee also writes the Host Resolution for the Annual Meeting of the ASM.

Functioning:

As part of the Resolution Committee's Mission, 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. 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 input from the Society; as a result, they rarely comprise a rapid development.

Information Items:

(1) The Resolutions Committee received one proposed resolution this past year. This resolution relates to management of public lands. The Public Lands Resolution is moving forward and at the time of this report has undergone final editing. A list is being compiled of potential recipients. The resolution and potential recipients will be circulated among the ASM members in May.

(2) The Committee is also considering options to increase distribution of ASM resolutions beyond direct mailings and our website. This would be to increase the influence of our Society Resolutions and help to increase Society profile. For example, using digital media beyond our own website and working with NGOs that have an interest related to an ASM resolution.

Action Items:

(1) Consider the possibility of voting on resolutions electronically. In a digital era, having to wait until June may reduce the effectiveness of some resolutions. There have been a couple of past instances where Presidential Letters were suggested as alternatives due to the lack of timeliness associated with some resolutions. Also, this would allow members that may not be able to attend the meeting the opportunity to have input on the final approval of ASM resolutions.

Respectfully submitted,

John Yunger, Chair
(jyunger@govst.edu)