

Conservation Committee

Committee Members: J. B. Arbogast, C. Aylward, P. Barboza, E. Beever, A. Chavez, J. Cook, M. Dyck, A. Ferguson, J. Frey, L. Harding, 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), T. J. McGreevy, R. Medelin, L. Randa, M. Rentz, L. Ruedas, S. Sheffield, A. Shupinski, 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 2024 to May 2025 included:

(a) A subset of the committee met at the annual meeting in June 2024 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). Michael Rentz serves as Chair of the Education Committee. Joe Cook and Andreas Chavez Chair the Letters and Resolution Committee. 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.

(c) The Committee met online to discuss the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's proposed ruling to manage the Grizzly Bear as six Distinct Population Segments. The committee reviewed the proposed ruling, discussed its implications, and came to the consensus that the proposed ruling would have a positive conservation outcome for the species as a whole. The committee deemed it not necessary to develop a formal comment from ASM at the time, but that we will monitor the progression of this case.

(d) In response to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's proposed ruling that would rescind the definition of "harm" as it currently stands in Endangered Species Act, the Committee developed a comment letter detailing the negative consequences of such a ruling. President Felisa Smith signed the comment letter and it was uploaded to the Federal Register on behalf of ASM.

Action Items:

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.

No additional action items.

Respectfully Submitted,
Marjorie Matocq, Chair
(mmatocq@unr.edu)