

Conservation Committee

Committee Members: B. S. Arbogast, E. Baerwald, E. Beever, B. J. Bergstrom, G. Ceballos, J. A. Cook (Chair), A. D. Davidson, N. G. Dawson, N. De la Sancha, A.W. Ferguson, A. T. Ford, B. J. Gaston, A. J. Giordano, J. Gonzalez-Maya, R. L. Honeycutt, A. Krevitz, J. Malaney, R. A. Medellin, R. A. Ojeda, L. A. Randa, M. H. Schadler, S. R. Sheffield, W. Smith, M. E. Tewes, N. Upham, E. Wilson.

Mission:

The Conservation Committee (CC) was established by the ASM in 1927, a few years after the Society passed a resolution condemning the unscientific and propagandistic extermination campaign against predators at its 4th annual meeting in 1924. First known as the Conservation of Land Mammals Committee, the committee's name was changed to the Conservation Committee in 2002 to reflect the fact that it dealt with conservation issues that included all mammals. In 2002–2003, the Aldo Leopold Conservation Award subcommittee that CC had recently established was moved to full standing committee status. The CC promotes research, education, and science-based solutions to conservation and management of native mammals in North America and globally.

Information Items:

(1) The CC welcomes new members E. Baerwald, J. Cook, G. Ceballos, J. Gonzalez-Maya, and M.E. Tewes in 2016.

(2) Activities of the ASM CC from July 2016 to June 2017 included:

- (a) We developed an Action Plan for the Committee to attempt to engage more of the Committee's members in regional or taxon-based conservation issues and to extend our efforts through collaborations with other professional societies when appropriate (e.g., Latin American mammal societies, Society for Conservation Biology, The Wildlife Society).
- (b) In December 2016, ASM sent a position letter, drafted by CC, and signed by President Sikes on the proposed listing of the wolverine (*Gulo gulo luscus*) as threatened in the 48 contiguous US states (hereafter contiguous US). After review of the proposal, we strongly agreed with efforts to protect the wolverine under the ESA.
- (c) The ASM Conservation Committee agreed to organize and sponsor a conservation-based symposium at each Annual Meeting. In 2018 (first available date), we have proposed a Bat Conservation Symposium. Interest in an ESA or Public Lands themed symposia for 2019 has been voiced.

- (d) ASM has been, but is not currently a member of IUCN. We suggest ASM should be a member.
- (e) The ASM Conservation Committee drafted and sent a resolution to the ASM Resolutions Committee concerning the conservation implications for mammals of the proposed US-Mexican Border wall.
- (f) The ASM Conservation Committee continues to monitor the recovery status of several endangered (or threatened) mammals in North America including several wolves, Mexican Gray Wolf, Alexander Archipelago and Red Wolf (*C. lupus*) and the vaquita porpoise (*Phocoena sinus*).
- (g) Position letters and resolutions (after passage) can be read on the ASM Conservation Committee's web page:
<http://www.mammalsociety.org/committees/conservation#tab3>
- (h) The ASM Conservation Committee continues to expand its social media presence with a new FaceBook account (ASM Conservation Committee) and growing Twitter account—@AsmConservation—to announce mammal-related conservation news and promote interactions with the public. The twitter account tweeted out 173 tweets to 200 followers over the past year. We encourage ASM membership to join these efforts and help us update social media by sending new content as appropriate.

Action Items:

(1) Request \$2,500 (for travel and registration) for one member of ASM CC to attend two sister society meetings (SCB and TWS) to discuss and develop collaborative conservation initiatives (probable focus on ESA, Border Wall, Public Lands).

Respectfully Submitted,

Joseph A. Cook, Chair

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