

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MAMMALOGISTS CONSERVATION OF LAND MAMMALS COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT (2000-2001)

The Conservation of Land Mammals Committee was first established by the ASM in 1927, and is one of the oldest and consistently most active committees in the Society. The Committee functions to fulfill the ASM's responsibilities to promote the conservation and welfare of natural populations of land mammals. Service on the Committee provides ASM members interested in conservation with opportunities to work towards supporting mammalian conservation in a variety of ways. Currently, the committee is subdivided into eight subcommittees, including two action subcommittees (Position Letters, Resolutions), and six information subcommittees (Conservation Education, Coordination with other Societies/Committees, International Conservation Issues, Special Projects, Mammalian Conservation News, and ASM Conservation Award. The subcommittee reports are as follows:

*** ACTION SUBCOMMITTEES ***

POSITION LETTERS (Alex Krevitz, Chair)

The position letters subcommittee pursued the development of four new position letters this year, including letters dealing with a US Fish and Wildlife Service proposal to downlist/reclassify the gray wolf in the lower 48 states, closing of the Smithsonian's Conservation Research Center in Front Royal, VA, creating a buffer zone for gray wolves around Denali National Park, and protection of the endangered Iberian lynx in Portugal. In addition, we completed work on an additional letter on feral and free-ranging domestic cats that has been in the works for two years.

The first letter was written in response to a USFWS proposal to downlist/reclassify gray wolves (*Canis lupus*) throughout the lower 48 states. Overall, the Committee was very displeased with the proposal. It was found to contain several seriously flawed suggested actions, none of which could be justified on a scientific basis. First, the USFWS would protect only wolves in four Distinct Population Segments (DPSs) in 19 states (Southwestern DPS, Western Great Lakes DPS, Western DPS, and Northeastern DPS). Historically, gray wolves inhabited 45 states, and almost half of these states are excluded from the four DPSs. It was unclear to us how these DPSs were established. We suggested the creation of two additional DPSs, Central States (NE, KS, MO, IA) and Southeastern DPS (VA, KY, NC, SC, GA, TN), all recently inhabited gray wolf range. The proposal does not indicate why ESA protection should not be afforded to gray wolves in the 26 states left out of the proposed DPS scheme. Second, the Southwestern DPS would include the only "endangered" or fully protected wolf population in the entire US. This is the DPS in which the Mexican gray wolf (*C. l. baileyi*) is experiencing a problematic reintroduction. We pointed out that a potential problem with the Southwestern DPS is that AZ and NM would each have wolves from two different DPSs with differing protection under the ESA, thereby presenting a potentially confusing jurisdictional situation. Third, it was unclear as

to why gray wolves in three DPSs were proposed for downlisting from “endangered” status, the most protection afforded under the ESA, to “threatened”, a lesser level of protection that, under some circumstances, would allow for take of wolves. Wolves from the reintroduction programs in Idaho and the Greater Yellowstone Area would retain their “nonessential experimental” designation, which is equivalent to “threatened”. Fourth, we were very unclear as to why the time frame for delisting/reclassification, originally scheduled for 2002-2003, was moved up, and how this may impact both the short- and long-term survival of the gray wolf. Fifth, we were surprised to see no emergency mechanism in place to activate relisting if, for example, numbers decline unexpectedly due to an epizootic or a harsh winter. Finally, the Committee was deeply concerned about a statement in the proposal that the USFWS would no longer assume an active role in future wolf reintroductions. It appeared that the USFWS would like to relegate its responsibility for wolf recovery and subsequent monitoring to States and Tribes with limited resources and no realistic assurances of adequate funding. Without active guidance and participation from the USFWS, we wonder how wolf populations can recover throughout portions of its historic range as mandated by the ESA. This letter was forwarded to ASM President Kunz for submission to the USFWS in Nov 2000. The USFWS received almost 15,000 comments on their proposal, and an outside firm was hired to handle the comments. As of June 2001, they were still dealing with all of the comments and no decisions have been made on this one way or the other.

The second letter was written in response to the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution’s plan to close their Conservation Research Center in Front Royal, VA. The Committee, as well as several other ASM members we were in contact with, had serious concerns about this planned closing as well as the general direction the SI appeared to be heading regarding research. The letter was strongly supportive of the CRC, its conservation research and training record, and its overall importance to the conservation community, and expressed our concern that the SI maintain a balance among research, education, and public outreach. This letter was forwarded to ASM President Kunz on 3 May for submission to SI Secretary Lawrence Small, the whole SI Board of Regents, and appropriate members of Congress (in time for their annual board meeting on 7 May). On 7 May, Secretary Small announced that he had changed his mind and that the SI’s CRC would stay open after all. Evidently, he had received a large number of correspondences from individuals, organizations, and scientific societies criticizing his move to close the CRC, and he viewed that as damaging to the SI image. Stay tuned to this issue – it may not be final just yet.

The third letter was written in response to a continuing problem with regard to the absence of a protective buffer zone for gray wolves around Denali National Park (NP). The Denali area wolf packs have shown a sharp decline over the past 20 years or so, and almost all of the packs occurring around the Denali NP entrance have been extirpated. The famous Toklat pack is the only remaining pack in the area, and its numbers have been severely reduced. Hunting and trapping of wolves is allowed in parts of Denali NP as well as on State lands bordering the Park, and these activities have taken a serious toll on the wolves in this area. Recently, the Alaska Wildlife Alliance proposed to the Alaska Board of Game that they establish a 75-mi² protective buffer zone for gray wolves on State lands adjacent to the NE section of Denali NP. However, the State of Alaska was undecided about this and requested public comments. In our letter, we addressed our concern about the serious need for gray wolf protection in the Denali NP area and strongly supported the establishment of this buffer zone. This letter was forwarded to ASM President Kunz on 18 May for submission to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. On 22

May, the Alaska Board of Game announced that they would indeed be establishing the recommended 75-mi² protective buffer zone for gray wolves on their lands adjacent to Denali NP, the first real protection for gray wolves in Alaska.

The fourth letter was written in response to an immediate problem regarding protection of the endangered Iberian lynx in Portugal. The Iberian lynx (*Lynx pardinus*) is the world's rarest felid and among the most endangered carnivores. In Portugal, one of its disjunct habitats is located in Alentejo, where the proposed construction of a dam threatens approximately 45 lynx (a large portion of the total population). If built at the height specified in the plans, it would completely flood the Mediterranean scrub habitat of the lynx in this region. This scrub vegetation is used by the European rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*), the main food source of the lynx. From the information we had, it was apparent that the dam was sure to be built, and that ground-breaking would begin in summer 2001. In our letter, the Committee suggested that, in order to avoid this potential devastating habitat destruction and negative impacts on the lynx, the dam be built 12 m lower than originally planned. This would avoid the flooding of this important lynx habitat that would result from the dam being built at the higher level. This letter was forwarded to ASM President Kunz in early June for submission to the appropriate recipients in Portugal as well as the bank that is funding the dam project in Portugal.

The feral and free-ranging domestic cat letter was written to address a concern about the impacts of feral and free-ranging cats on small mammal populations, specifically as it concerns insular and other vulnerable mammalian species such as the six endangered subspecies of the beach mouse, *Peromyscus polionotus*, occurring along the coasts of Alabama and Florida. Currently, there is a nationwide program known as TTVAR (Trap, Treat, Vaccinate, Alter, Release) that takes in orphaned or otherwise feral cats with the sole purpose of releasing them back into the wild in "healthy" condition. Threats that cats pose to small mammals are compounded by the current policies of this program, where cats are fed, vaccinated, spayed/neutered, and released back into wild areas where the now healthier cats exert an increased negative impact on small mammals, birds, and a number of other smaller animals. Although the policies of this program are well-intended, the release of these cats into the wild is taking a serious toll on small mammal and bird populations, particularly in the case of the beach mouse (a listed subspecies in AL and FL), and the letter requests that the focus of this program be amended to arrange adoptions instead of release into the wild again. Our Committee has been in contact with The Wildlife Society and the Ornithological Council on this issue, and may propose a joint effort on this issue. This letter, as well as the recipient list and possible joint efforts, will be discussed at our Committee business meeting in Missoula and will be forwarded to President Kunz in July 2001.

Future issues potentially meriting position letters such as large carnivorous mammal conservation and recovery in the lower 48 states, great ape conservation, the fate of the Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA) in Congress, proposed listings/delistings of mammalian species by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and other related issues will continue to be monitored by this subcommittee. Recommendations for position paper issues are welcome from any ASM member.

RESOLUTIONS (Charles Long, Chair)

The resolutions subcommittee received three suggestions for resolutions this year, all three

from inside the committee. This year's resolutions dealt with conservation of orang-utans in Indonesia and Malaysia, recovery of the grizzly bear in the lower 48 states, and protection of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from oil/gas development.

The resolution on the conservation of orang-utans stems from the dire situation in Indonesia and Malaysia, where rapid destruction of lowland forest habitat due to illegal logging has resulted in a dramatically sharp decline in orang populations (50% decline in the past 10 years alone). In January 2001, Dr. Birute Galdikas, the world's foremost expert on orang-utans, announced that this species will become extinct in the wild within 10 years without immediate action. By targeting key recipients in the Indonesian and Malaysian governments, economic organizations funding global development (e.g., The World Bank), and the US Congress and State Department, we intend that this resolution bring attention to this important matter and hope that it might help remedy some of the problems faced by orang-utans in the wild. In addition, our Committee has been in contact with the Orangutan Foundation International (OFI) in Los Angeles, CA, and Dr. Cheryl Knott from Harvard Univ. who has been studying wild orangs in Indonesia, and they were very supportive of our efforts and are assisting in compiling Indonesian and Malaysian recipient information. The Committee was also in contact with the Australian Mammal Society (AMS President Chris Dickman) this spring regarding this issue and possible joint efforts in addressing the orang-utan conservation problem in Indonesia and Malaysia.

The resolution on grizzly bear recovery stems from a 25 April 2001 announcement by Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton that she and the administration were unwilling to comply with the Selway-Bitterroot Grizzly Recovery Plan. Much time and energy, including an environmental impact statement, over a period of >7 years were spent on this unique recovery plan for grizzlies in this 6000 mi² wilderness region of Idaho and Montana, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service endorsed it in Nov 2000. There was extensive public input into the process, and the final plan was endorsed by virtually all interested parties. The resistance to this plan is coming from the Governor of Idaho (Dirk Kempthorne) and some individuals that live in some of the small towns that border the wilderness area, and Kempthorne filed a lawsuit against the federal government in Jan 2001 to stop this grizzly recovery effort. The dilemma stems from the fact that the Department of the Interior is mandated by the Endangered Species Act to recover threatened and endangered species, and by failing to comply with this recovery plan, the Secretary is failing to do her job. Intended recipients of this resolution are the Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton, members of Congress, including the House Resources and Budget Committees and Senate Environment and Public Works and Budget Committees, the President, Vice-President, and Chair of the CEQ as well as selected conservation organizations/scientific societies.

The resolution on protection of the Arctic NWR from oil/gas development stems from the need to address the continuing serious threat to this important arctic refuge and its natural resources, including a wealth of mammalian species. The threat of developing the coastal portion of this refuge (1002 Area) has been there for many years, but a new administration with strong oil/gas industry ties that took office in Jan 2001, a new Secretary of the Interior that favors oil/gas development in the Arctic NWR, and the recent Cheney Energy Task Force report released in May 2001 that specifically calls for oil/gas development in the Arctic NWR seriously heighten the threats to this important refuge and therefore the need for us to respond to these threats. Intended recipients of this resolution are the appropriate House and Senate Committees, the President, Vice-President, and Chair of the CEQ as well as selected conservation organizations/scientific societies.

Regarding past resolutions, updated information on mammalian predator control and USDA - Wildlife Services, conservation of grassland ecosystems/prairie dogs, bison/brucellosis in Yellowstone NP, and Canadian Endangered Species Protection Act issues will be made available under the Mammalian Conservation News section of the CLM webpage on the ASM website. Of particular note is a bill (H.R. 4819) introduced by Rep. Thomas Udall (D-NM) in the last session of the 106th Congress (2000) which encouraged USDA - Wildlife Services to emphasize nonlethal methods of predator control. In July 2000, Steve Sheffield spoke with his staffer and he requested a copy of our resolution on this topic from 1999, which was sent along with the cover letter and recipient list by ASM President Kunz to Rep. Udall's office for their use. The bill was referred to the House Agriculture Committee, but did not get any further before the end of the session.

***** INFORMATION SUBCOMMITTEES *****

CONSERVATION EDUCATION (Chair - vacant)

The focuses of the subcommittee this year were the writing of a new educational brochure dealing with large mammalian carnivores and the Grassland Education module.

A new educational brochure dealing with large mammalian carnivores was written, entitled "Why large carnivorous land mammals are important". The Committee feels that large mammalian carnivores in particular are being greatly impacted by humans and that we should do a better job of educating the public on this important issue. Topics covered in the brochure include identifying the large carnivorous land mammals of North America, brief (1 pp.) accounts of each species (including body size, distribution, range size, conservation status, habitat needs, significant life history traits), problems faced, ecological role and importance, economic value, consequences of large mammalian carnivore-human conflicts and removal of large mammalian carnivores from nature, coexistence of large mammalian carnivores and humans, and where to obtain further information on large mammalian carnivores and their conservation. This large job was divided into parts and committee members worked on their individual assignments throughout the year. A draft manuscript was completed in May 2001 and will be available for comment at the ASM meeting in Missoula, MT in June 2001 to coincide with our Committee's Symposium on large mammalian carnivores. We hope to incorporate comments received at the meeting, finalize the manuscript, and get the brochure printed by fall 2001. This brochure will also be available on the ASM website.

Although the Grassland Education module was completed several years ago, we have spent the last few years attempting to make it readily available to teachers and other educators. The decision was made two years ago to change the format of the entire module to electronic format and place it on a CD. Since 1999, Steve Sheffield has been working with Defenders of Wildlife and the US Fish and Wildlife Service on placing the program on CD, designing the CD and CD jacket, and arranging production of CDs. We are still working on replacing many of the one-time use items that were part of the program with items that do not have such restrictions and putting some of the materials (e.g., activities) in electronic format. At this point, it is not possible to predict when the CD will finally be finished. Much interest has been shown in this education program from many parts of the country, and Steve Sheffield has had numerous requests for copies of this program over the past few years. We are anticipating that the module

will be distributed through the ASM Secretary-Treasurer's office and we are planning on making it available through the ASM website as well.

Finally, as a reminder to everyone, copies of our brochure "Why species become threatened or endangered: a mammalogist's perspective", published in January 1997, are available from the ASM Secretary-Treasurer (H. Duane Smith). This brochure is available on the CLM Committee webpage of the ASM website.

COORDINATION (Roland Kays - Chair)

The aim of this subcommittee is to communicate with other professional scientific societies that share our interests in conservation issues, with the intention of keeping them informed as to our conservation-related activities and possibly interacting with them on conservation matters. Our major goals again this year were to (1) place CLM committee information on the ASM website, (2) communicate and interact with as many other scientific societies that share conservation interests as possible, and (3) work closely with other ASM Committees and the ASM Board to accomplish our Committee goals.

In the fall of 2000, Steve Sheffield submitted current information on the CLM committee, including roster of members with contact information, committee/subcommittee missions and assignments, and copies of the 1999-2000 annual committee report and our brochure "Why species become threatened and endangered: a mammalogist's perspective" to Sue McLaren for inclusion on the ASM website. We invite visitors to the CLM Committee webpage to contact the committee regarding any mammalian conservation-related issues (whether to request or to provide information).

This Committee has had contact with several scientific societies dealing with conservation issues over the past year, including the Australian Mammal Society, Society for Conservation Biology, The Wildlife Society, Raptor Research Foundation, Southwestern Association of Naturalists, and the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles. In addition, our Committee has been in contact with several non-governmental organizations dealing with conservation issues over the past year, including Defenders of Wildlife, National Wildlife Federation, and The Nature Conservancy.

Over the past year, this Committee has interacted with a number of ASM Committees, including Informatics, International Relations, Legislation and Regulations, Marine Mammal, Membership, Program, Public Education, Public Relations, and Resolutions Committees. We are represented on the new Public Relations Committee, and we will be making a stronger effort to promote important mammalian conservation issues, conservation-related activities at the annual meeting, and our Committee's activities in the press. During the past year, we have designated Committee members as official liaisons with the International Relations and Membership Committees, thereby creating closer cooperation with these committees. We have also continued to work close with the ASM President on sending resolutions and position letters.

INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION ISSUES (Janet Rachlow, Chair)

The role of this subcommittee is to monitor mammalian conservation issues on the international scene and to recommend possible action(s) to be taken. Over the past year, this subcommittee has been active in monitoring international mammalian conservation issues. In

addition, the subcommittee has compiled a list of websites involved with international conservation issues (soon to be available on the CLM Committee homepage).

New Legislation

Great Ape Conservation Act of 2000

On 1 November 2000, President Clinton signed the Great Ape Conservation Act of 2000 (H.R. 4320). The Act authorizes \$5 million in annual US aid to fund local wildlife management authorities and other organizations in Asia and Africa dedicated to protecting all four great apes – chimpanzees, orang-utans, gorillas, and bonobos. Unfortunately, at the present time, all of these great apes are endangered and face potential extinction in the next 20 years. This bill is significant in the fact that it takes a critically important step in bringing world attention and important funding to the serious plight of all of the great apes. The bill will be administered through the Division of International Conservation of the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and funds will be available beginning in October 2001.

Current Reauthorization of Acts for International Mammalian Conservation

During the past 13 years, the US Congress has enacted several species-specific acts in support of international conservation efforts for declining or rare large mammals. The purpose of each act is to provide financial support for “on-the-ground” conservation programs within the species’ range countries. Species-specific funds were created and are dispersed through annual competitive grant programs. The funds are administered by the US Fish & Wildlife Service’s Division of International Conservation. Three of the acts are up for reauthorization in 2001:

African Elephant Conservation Act of 1988

African elephant (*Loxodonta africana*) populations have declined in recent decades due to poaching for ivory and habitat loss. In response, the African Elephant Conservation Act of 1988 created the African Elephant Conservation Fund to provide financial assistance for conservation, management, and reduction of human-elephant conflicts in African nations. A total of \$2,994,000 were awarded for 1998-2000, during which 51 projects were supported in 18 countries. In addition, over \$6 million in matching and in-kind support were generated. The African Elephant Conservation Act of 1988 was amended in 1992 and reauthorized in 1998. Rep. Gilchrest of Maryland has introduced the African Elephant Reauthorization Act of 2001 (H.R. 643) to continue financial support for conservation projects through 2007.

Asian Elephant Conservation Act of 1997

Habitat for the Asian elephant (*Elaphas maximus*) is increasingly limited due to land conversion and growing human populations. This act supports conservation of Asian elephants, their habitat, and education about elephants in their range states through establishment of the Asian Elephant Conservation Fund. In the past 2 years, 29 grants totaling \$1,196,500 were awarded for conservation of Asian elephants. Over one million dollars in matching monies and in-kind support also were generated. The Asian Elephant Reauthorization Act of 2001 (H.R. 700), sponsored by Rep. Saxton of New Jersey, was introduced to extend the Asian Elephant Conservation Fund through 2007.

Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act of 1994

Populations of Asian rhinos [Indian (*Rhinoceros unicornis*), Javan (*R. sondaicus*), and Sumatran (*Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*)] and African rhinos [black (*Diceros bicornis*) and white (*Ceratotherium simum*)] have been decimated due to poaching for their horns. Land development and habitat loss also threaten these species. Similarly, tiger (*Panthera tigris*) populations have been reduced as a result of trade in body parts as well as habitat destruction. The Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Fund was established in 1994 to assist in conservation of these species through financial support for protection, law enforcement, education, and alternative medicinal research. Fifty-one projects in 13 countries were awarded a total of \$1,160,600 during 1999-2000. Over \$2 million in matching and in-kind support were received in association with those grants. The Act was amended in 1998 to explicitly ban import, export, or sale of any products containing rhinoceros or tiger parts. The current legislation sponsored by Rep. Gilchrest of Maryland, the Rhinoceros and Tiger Reauthorization Act of 2001 (HR645), would extend the Fund through 2007.

Status of Bills and Current Congressional Activity

International Wildlife - on 15 March 2001, the House Resources Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans (James Hansen, R-UT, Chair) held a hearing on pending legislation of interest to the Fish and Wildlife Service, H.R. 463, the "African Elephant Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2001", H.R. 465, the "Rhinoceros-Tiger Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2001" and H.R. 700, the "Asian Elephant Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2001." Marshall Jones, Acting Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, accompanied by Ken Stansell, Acting Assistant Director for International Affairs, testified before the subcommittee in support of the legislation. The Service advocated two minor technical amendments to increase project sustainability and increase public participation through advisory groups under each of the three Acts. Senator Bob Smith (R-NH), Chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, plans on introducing comparable reauthorization legislation soon.

SPECIAL PROJECTS (Chair - vacant)

The Special Projects subcommittee has had as its focus a project involving the survey of mammal population monitoring programs in US and Canada for several years now. In March 1997, this project was initiated to assess the current status of mammalian population monitoring in this country. Members of this Subcommittee sent out questionnaires to representatives in all 50 states. By June 1998, we had received replies from 44 states. However, two problems with the information we had received to this point were evident: most states were confusing the terms survey, inventory, and monitoring, and many states had 3, 4, or even 5 different mammal people and we were receiving incomplete information from these states because some of these people were being missed by the questionnaire. In 1999, the focus for this project was to re-contact all 50 US states and 12 provinces of Canada and verify the information that was received and make sure that it was for monitoring efforts only. This effort continued into 2000, and included searches of the websites of all state and provincial wildlife agencies. As of last year, we had updated information for all 50 US states and 12 Canadian provinces. The updated results of this project were presented by Committee members Steve Sheffield, Tom Lee, and Justina Ray and

non-Committee member Stewart Spencer as a poster at the annual ASM meeting in Durham, NH in June 2000. The final task of the subcommittee with regard to this project is to publish the results, and a manuscript of the results from this project currently is in preparation with the goal of submitting it for publication in 2001. The Committee is now beginning discussion on initiating a new project to work on a methodology to derive scores for conservation prioritization for all mammalian species in North America.

MAMMALIAN CONSERVATION NEWS (Robert Manson, Chair)

The role of this subcommittee is to actively monitor conservation news that impacts mammalian species and report on its findings in the CLM Committee annual report for the benefit of the ASM membership. In 1999, this subcommittee compiled a working list of conservation news sources in order to assist us in this endeavor. These sources include printed materials (e.g., journals, magazines, newsletters, etc.) as well as the internet (e.g., web pages, listservers, etc.). This year, we continued our efforts to build on previously collected sources of information on mammalian conservation. Several news sources were eliminated as being out-of-date or unreliable, while a number of others were added in efforts to keep the membership informed of conservation-related issues involving mammals in a timely fashion. The internet has rapidly become one of the most effective research tools in this endeavor, and many new websites were added to our list. Our master list of sources is available from our subcommittee to any interested ASM members. Many news items were compiled during the past year, and the plan was to have these available on the CLM Committee's webpage on the ASM website. However, to this point, we have been unable to post these to the ASM website due to problems with the website and its host (AIBS). We are working with Sue McLaren to try to get these news items posted as soon as possible. We are choosing to post them to the CLM Committee webpage instead of including them all in the annual report for several reasons, including saving on paper (a much more manageable annual report size), and the ability for us to stay current by posting news items to the webpage as we find them. We encourage any and all ASM members to share mammalian conservation news items with us that they think may be of interest to the ASM membership at large.

ASM CONSERVATION AWARD (Kathleen LoGiudice, Chair)

This subcommittee was formed following the 1999 annual meeting in Seattle, WA to explore the possibility of establishing an ASM Conservation Award. Throughout the year, the Committee brainstormed on the creation of this award. At our Committee business meeting in Durham, NH, the full Committee discussed in detail specific aspects of the award such as funding, criteria, and eligibility, and following this, the idea of this award was made public at last year's ASM members meeting. The name of the award is to be the Aldo Leopold Conservation Award in Mammalogy, so named not only because of his significant and lasting influence in wildlife conservation and management, but particularly due to the fact that Aldo Leopold had great interest in mammals, he was an active member of the ASM and a member of the CLM Committee (4 years), and his son A. Starker Leopold served as Chair of the CLM Committee in the 1950's. In addition, his students had a profound impact on the field of mammalogy. This past year, the subcommittee was tasked with laying out details on each aspect

of the award. In addition, as it was decided to seek outside funds instead of requesting ASM Board funding, an additional task of the subcommittee was to identify potential funding sources for the award. Many different guidebooks and websites were searched for foundations and other organizations that award funds for our purposes. A letter was drafted to send to each of the foundations identified as potential sources of funding for this award. Currently, we are exploring different funding sources and soliciting ideas for funding for this award.

***** MISCELLANEOUS *****

Large Carnivore Symposium

The CLM Committee organized a Symposium that will take place during the ASM annual meeting in Missoula, MT in June 2001. The Symposium, entitled “Ecology and Conservation of Carnivores in Human-Influenced Landscapes”, will be chaired by Steve Sheffield and Kerry Foresman. The Committee felt that the Missoula, MT location provided an excellent opportunity to explore this issue, as many of the leading large mammalian carnivore biologists are stationed in the immediate area and human-carnivore interactions are a major issue in this part of the country. The issue of human interactions with large mammalian carnivores remains as contentious as ever and continues to receive much press in the US, particularly in the west. Large mammalian carnivores are thought to play an integral role in the normal functioning of ecosystems, but this is contentious and not well understood. As larger-sized carnivores continue to decline in number, the need to better understand their role in natural systems is greater than ever. This knowledge will allow us to better direct priorities and allot conservation resources and efforts to these organisms in the future. In the meantime, while researchers attempt to answer some of these questions, recovery efforts of these carnivores need to continue, and there clearly needs to be a strong, united conservation-oriented strategy for dealing with human interactions with large mammalian carnivores. Otherwise, populations of these species will become so small and fragmented that recovery efforts become exceedingly difficult and expensive. The main goals of this Symposium are to clarify our understanding of the ecological role of these top predators and to forge a strategy for human co-existence with large mammalian carnivores. The Symposium will consist of a number of invited speakers and a discussion panel. In addition to invited speakers and ASM meeting participants, this Symposium will be open to the general public, a first for the ASM meeting. We’re hoping for a number of wildlife biologists, land managers, and others from the general geographic area who would not normally attend an ASM meeting and participate in the discussion panel. The generation of discussion regarding the state of our knowledge in these areas will help in developing conservation strategies and improving methods for coexistence. Ultimately, we will make the findings of this Symposium available to land managers, policymakers and others involved in development, land use and management, large carnivore conservation and other areas that impact human-large carnivore interactions.

Invited Symposium speakers and their topics are as follows:

William J. Zielinski, USFS Redwood Sciences Laboratory, Arcata, CA – The ecology and distribution of fishers and martens in California and implications for forest management.

Jeffrey P. Copeland, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Idaho Falls, ID – An annotated bibliography of wolverine (*Gulo gulo*) science.

Howard B. Quigley, Hornocker Institute and Wildlife Conservation Society, Bozeman, MT – Cougars in the United States: lessons from the successful management of a large carnivore.

Diane K. Boyd, Teller Wildlife Refuge, Corvallis, MT – Wolf habituation as a conservation conundrum.

Christopher Servheen, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Missoula, MT – Challenges to grizzly bear conservation in the human-dominated landscapes of the Rocky Mountains.

The goal of this discussion panel is to develop some ideas from the group regarding the ecological role and importance of large mammalian carnivores, priorities for conserving these animals, and for improved methods of human coexistence with these mammals. Presentations and discussions will serve as the basis for papers we propose to publish as a Special Feature in the *Journal of Mammalogy*. Papers are forthcoming from all Symposium speakers, and discussion ideas, statements and recommendations will also be published and used by the ASM Conservation of Land Mammals Committee in conservation action items such as position letters and resolutions.

*** EPILOGUE ***

The Conservation of Land Mammals Committee hopes that the ASM membership and other interested parties enjoy reading this report. ASM members that wish to serve on the Conservation of Land Mammals Committee should communicate their interest to both the ASM President and the Chair of the Committee. All ASM members are encouraged to become actively involved in the Committee's activities and business by notifying the Committee of pertinent and timely conservation issues. Undoubtedly, there are members out there whom are either working on conservation-related studies or who are otherwise familiar with certain conservation issues that our Committee is not aware of. Well, we want to hear from you!!! CLM Committee members are ready and very willing to assist other ASM members in the preparation of resolutions or position letters representing the Society's official position on specific conservation issues. ASM members directly involved in mammalian conservation matters or having ideas for possible resolutions or position letters on conservation issues should contact the Committee (see CLM Committee website for contact info). As mentioned above, we are beginning to maintain updated mammalian conservation news information on our CLM Committee webpage as we receive it, so please remember to check the CLM webpage for these news items. It is important for members to keep informed and as up-to-date as possible on conservation issues that impact mammalian species.

Finally, I would like to sincerely thank all of the CLM Committee members for their valuable assistance during the course of the past year. Special thanks goes to all of my Subcommittee Chairs for handling the extra responsibility and workload so well and responding to my many pleas for assistance in a usually timely fashion. I would also like to thank Becky Pierce, Virginia Naples, Jody Sandel, and especially Jim Moyers and Gerda Nordquist who rotated off the committee in the summer of 2000 for their years of valuable service to the committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven R. Sheffield, Ph.D., Chair,
Conservation of Land Mammals Committee

2000-2001 Members

Brad Bergstrom	Charles Long
Brad Blood	Robert Manson
Erin Boydston	Stephanie MacDonald
Terry Doonan	Anita Morzillo
Kerry Foresman	Dave Rabon
Tom Gehring	Janet Rachlow
Jacob Goheen	Lynda Randa
Reg Hoyt	Justina Ray
Roland Kays	Lillie Rendt
Mike Kreuzer	Penny Reynolds
Alex Krevitz	Dan Rosenblatt
Tom Lee	Margaret Schadler
Kathleen LoGiudice	Sacha Vignieri
	Steve Sheffield, Chair