
PROGRAM AND BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE PRESENTS



CARNIVORES2009

Carnivore Conservation in a Changing World

NOVEMBER 15-18, 2009

The Grand Hyatt Denver
Denver, Colorado



www.carnivoreconference.org

Defenders of Wildlife is grateful to the following Carnivores 2009 sponsors:



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Preface

Welcome to Defenders of Wildlife's **Carnivores 2009: Carnivore Conservation in a Changing World**. We are pleased to once again bring the conference to Colorado, a state at the forefront of so many carnivore conservation issues.

The theme of this year's conference addresses society's foremost conservation challenge: climate change. According to the U.S. Global Change Research Program's 2009 report *Global Climate Change Impacts in the United States*, temperatures in the American West have already risen by about 1.5°F, and are projected to rise by much more by the end of the century. Carnivore species that depend on snow and ice for habitat, such as lynx and wolverine, are clearly in trouble. And as changes in temperature and precipitation reshape our ecosystems and landscapes, the future of other carnivores is in jeopardy as well. Over the next three days, we'll explore the impacts of climate change, look for ways to adapt our conservation paradigm to a warming climate, and even examine the ways that protecting and restoring top predators can help systems better respond to the changes ahead. We'll also address how shifting our energy supply to renewable resources to respond to climate change may have significant impacts on carnivores and their habitat.

Of course, while climate change will require us to rethink much of what we do to preserve the nation's natural heritage, many of our basic conservation tools will remain the same. Some approaches, like connecting habitats and landscapes, will take on added importance, so an entire track will explore the science of connectivity, how it can be informed by cutting-edge tools like landscape genetics and implemented at a landscape scale. We'll also present a series of sessions exploring how one physical barrier to connectivity—the border wall between the United States and Mexico—is impacting the landscapes and unique biodiversity of the American Southwest and northern Mexico.

In addition to these specialized topics, the conference will once again offer an unparalleled look at the biology, ecology and conservation of the wide array of carnivore species. Several sessions will discuss mesocarnivores, which are on the rebound in much of the eastern United States after a long absence but more threatened than ever in the West. And as always, the ethical and policy questions of living with wolves, coyotes and other carnivores will be fully explored.

Rodger Schlickeisen
Defenders of Wildlife

Conference Agenda

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15

10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Field Trip. This special tour of the Denver Zoo features the zoo's well-known carnivore exhibits, including Predator Ridge, Bear Mountain, Wolf Pack Woods and Northern Shores. Buses will depart and return from the hotel's Welton Entrance.

3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Registration Open. Imperial Ballroom foyer (Hotel, second floor).

Poster setup. Imperial Ballroom foyer.

Exhibit hall setup. Imperial ballroom.

7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Welcome reception. Enjoy complimentary refreshments and explore the newest exhibit of the Wildlife Experience (10035 South Peoria, Parker, CO 80134), one of Denver's premiere museums, which focuses on combining wildlife and conservation with interactive learning. Shuttle buses will operate on a loop from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. This event is free to conference registrants (please wear your name badge or bring a photo ID for admission). Guests may attend for a fee of \$10, payable at the door.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16

7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Registration open. Imperial Ballroom foyer.

7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Exhibit hall open. Imperial Ballroom. Light breakfast foods will be available from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m., and coffee breaks at 9:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. will also be held here. See page xii for complete list of exhibitors.

8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

Plenary session. Imperial Ballroom. A coffee break will follow the plenary.

10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Conference breakout sessions (see pages vi-xi for detailed daily schedule). Breakout rooms are located in the Hyatt Conference Center, on the second floor of the Atrium tower, across the breezeway from the hotel.

10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Mission:Wolf Session I. Mt. Sopris Room (Hotel, lobby level). Open to ticket holders only.

12:00 p.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Screening of *American Coyote: Still Wild At Heart* (Longs Peak Room). (See page 26 for details.)

1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Mission:Wolf Session II. Mt. Sopris Room (Hotel, lobby level). Open to ticket holders only.

3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Mission:Wolf Session III. Mt. Sopris (Hotel, lobby level). Open to ticket holders only.

Conference Agenda (cont.)

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16

7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Carnivore Film Festival. Imperial Ballroom. We will show *The Lords of Nature*, a special sneak preview of the upcoming *Nature* release *Clash: Encounters of Bears and Wolves*, and more! (free to conference registrants, \$5 for guests). Full details, see page 68.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17

7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Registration open. Imperial Ballroom foyer.

7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Exhibit hall open. Imperial Ballroom. Light breakfast foods will be available from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m., and coffee breaks at 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. will also be held here.

8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Conference breakout sessions (see pages vi-xi for detailed daily schedule). Breakout rooms are located in the Hyatt Conference Center, on the second floor of the Atrium tower, across the breezeway from the hotel.

10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Mission:Wolf Session IV. Mt. Sopris Room (Hotel, lobby level). Open to ticket holders only.

1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Mission:Wolf Session V. Mt. Sopris Room (Hotel, lobby level). Open to ticket holders only.

3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Mission:Wolf Session VI. Mt. Sopris Room (Hotel, lobby level). Open to ticket holders only.

5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Poster reception and booksigning. Imperial Ballroom and Foyer. Peruse the exhibit hall and speak with poster presenters about their work. (Poster abstracts begin on page 233).

Authors of carnivore-related books will also be on hand to sell and sign their work. Light refreshments and a cash bar will be available. See page 150 for additional details.

7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Banquet. Capitol Peak Ballroom (Atrium tower, 38th floor). Cost: \$75. Tickets must be purchased by 7:00 p.m. Monday. See page 150 for additional details.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18

7:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Registration Open. Imperial Ballroom foyer.

Exhibit hall open. Imperial Ballroom. Light breakfast foods will be available from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m., and coffee break at 10:00 a.m. will also be held here.

8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Conference breakout sessions (see pages vi-xi for detailed daily schedule). Breakout rooms are located in the Hyatt Conference Center, on the second floor of the Atrium tower, across the breezeway from the hotel.

Conference Information

Welcome to the Grand Hyatt Denver

Carnivores 2009 activities are divided between the Hotel and the Atrium tower of the Grand Hyatt Denver. The Imperial Ballroom, Mt. Sopris Room and Maroon Peak Room are in the Hotel, and the Mt. Elbert, Mt. Evans, Grays Peak and Longs Peak rooms are in the Hyatt Conference Center on the second floor of the Atrium tower, which is connected by breezeway to the Hotel. The banquet on Tuesday is on the 38th floor of the Atrium tower. Located in the heart of the Central Business District and steps from the 16th Street Pedestrian Mall, the hotel is convenient to a huge array of dining options to suit any budget.

Ambassador Wolf Workshops

Mission:Wolf will bring ambassador wolves for six small-group programs to allow attendees an up-close look at a live wolf. Mission:Wolf is a peaceful wolf sanctuary located in the remote mountains of Colorado. The refuge supports a primitive visitor center that provides visitors and volunteers with hands-on working experience. Socialized ambassador wolves travel nationally, offering public education about wild wolves while stimulating people to care about and respect nature. The programs will provide information on basic wolf biology and behavior and offer a unique opportunity to interact one-on-one with a wolf. There is no cost for this workshop, but space is limited to the first 200 conference registrants who enroll. Tickets to an assigned session are included in your registration packet and are not transferable to any other session. No food or beverage is permitted in the sessions. For more info visit www.missionwolf.com.

Notice to Speakers and Poster Presenters

To ensure a fair time allotment for all speakers, moderators have been instructed to adhere to the schedule. Please complete your presentation in the designated time allowed so as not to shortchange other speakers or interfere with other conference activities.

Speakers who are using PowerPoint presentations must submit their presentations on a USB device (flash drive), CD or a Zip (100 or 250) disk at the registration desk at least three hours prior to their session. Speakers should report to their assigned rooms 30 minutes before the start of their session for a final check of audiovisual materials.

Posters should be set up in the Imperial Ballroom foyer between 3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. on Sunday and must be removed by 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday. Velcro and thumbtacks will be provided. All poster presenters should plan to be present for the poster session on Tuesday from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. to discuss their work with interested attendees.

Carnivores 2009 Science Advisory Committee

Peter Brown, McGill School of the Environment

James Estes, University of California, Santa Cruz

Lloyd Lowry, University of Alaska, Fairbanks

Barry Noon, Colorado State University

Reed Noss, University of Central Florida

Pete Peterson, University of North Carolina

Ron Pulliam, University of Georgia

Rich Reading, Denver Zoo

Bill Ripple, Oregon State University

David Wilcove, Princeton University

Gerald Zuercher, University of Dubuque

Monday, November 16

8:00-9:30	Plenary (Imperial Ballroom): Ecological Consequences Of Large Predator Removal: A Comparison Of Five U.S. National Parks, Robert Beschta and William Ripple (page 1)	
MT. ELBERT ROOM		MT. EVANS ROOM
10:00-NOON	<p>The U.S.-Mexico Border Wall: Implications for Carnivore Conservation 2</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Challenges To Carnivore Conservation In The Mexico- U.S. Border Region, Rurik List Potential Effects of the U.S.-Mexico Border Fence on Ferruginous Pygmy-owl, Matt Clark Border Fence and Fragmentation Effects on Mid-sized Mammals in Arizona's National Parks, Jamie McCallum Using Remote Cameras To Assess Wildlife Species, Habitat Preference, And Potential Impacts In The Mexican Sky Islands, Jennifer Yates Landscape Connectivity For Black Bears In Arizona: Identifying Corridors And Determining The Impacts Of Habitat Fragmentation, Todd Atwood Genetic Structure And Black Bear Habitat Connectivity Across The US-Mexico Border, Cora Varas 	<p>Ecology and Recovery of Mesocarnivores 8</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Wolverine Distribution In The East Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, Jason Wilmot Confirming The Identity Of Suspected Predators Of Fishers Through Molecular Techniques, Greta M. Wengert Restoring Lynx, Wolverines And Fishers In The American West--What's It Gonna Take? David Gaillard State-Space Modeling As A Method For Data Integration In Monitoring Carnivore Populations At Large Scales, John Melko An Alternative Method For Tracking Movement In Elusive Carnivores, Danielle Ethier Reconstructing the Evolution and Geographic Spread of Early Domestic Dogs, Sarah Brown
1:30-3:00	<p>Conservation Challenges, Priorities & Opportunities in the U.S.-Mexico Border Region 27</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Identifying Potential Conservation Areas For Felids In The USA And Mexico: Integrating Reliable Knowledge Across An International Border, Melissa Grigione Genetic Management for Borderlands Carnivores, Melanie Culver A Carnivore Conservation Model In The Rio Aros Basin, Sonora, Mexico, Ron Thompson A Carnivore Conservation Model In The Rio Aros Basin, Sonora, Mexico--A Perspective From Mexico, Martinez Jesus Florencio Moreno 	<p>Climate Change 31</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Polar Bears In The Greenhouse: Global Populations Under Stress, Bruce G. Marcot Lynx and Climate Change: Cat (and Managers) on a Hot Tin Roof? Gary Koehler Can Predators Reduce Atmospheric Carbon Dioxide Through Trophic Cascades? Jim Estes Climate Change Adaptation and Carnivore Conservation, Aimee Delach
3:30-5:30	<p>Jaguars 43</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Bio-Politics And The Path To Jaguar Recovery, Tony Povillitis Jaguar Monitoring In Sonora, Mexico (1999-2009): Towards A Recovery For The Northern Populations, Carlos A. López González Jaguar Population Connectivity In Northwest Mexico, Daniela Valera Community Protected Areas and the Conservation of Jaguars and their Prey in the Chinantla Region of Oaxaca, Mexico, Joe Figel What's On The Menu? Food Habits Of Pumas And Jaguars In The Lowland Amazon Forest Of Peru, Samia Carrillo-Percastegui Jaguar Corridors In Brazil, Leandro Silveira 	<p>New Tools for Sea Otter Research 49</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Foraging Choices And Density Dependence In The Sea Otter: The Perspective Of Nutritional Ecology, Katherine Ralls Does Variation In Sea Otter Activity-Time Budgets Reflect Population Performance? James Bodkin Stable Isotopes: A Powerful Tool For Exploring Dietary Variation Within And Among Sea Otter Populations, Seth Newsome Archival Time-Depth Data Reveal Seasonal Variation In Sea Otter Foraging Behavior, George Esslinger Using Archival Time-Depth Recorders To Measure Within- And Between-Population Variation In Diet And Foraging Success Of Sea Otters, Martin T. Tinker Diet, Behavior And Disease In Sea Otters: Implications For Conservation In A Resource Limited Coastal System, Martin T. Tinker
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MT. ELBERT ROOM		MT. EVANS ROOM	
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