

Carnivore Ecology and Management Plenary Session Speaker Bios

Steve Buskirk is an Emeritus Professor of Zoology and Physiology at the University of Wyoming. He worked in resource management for the Department of the Interior in Alaska in the early 1970s and earned his Ph.D. in wildlife biology at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks in 1983. His 33 years in Wyoming have been spent teaching courses in wildlife biology, mammalogy, and conservation biology. His research has dealt with the habitat ecology, population ecology, physiological ecology and population genetics of various mammalian species, but primarily carnivores, ranging from small mustelids to large cats. He is the author of *Wild mammals of Wyoming and Yellowstone National Park* (University of California Press, 2016), and lives in Laramie with his wife Beth.

Chuck Anderson received his B.S. in Wildlife Biology from Colorado State University in 1990 and his M.S. and Ph.D. in Zoology and Physiology from the University of Wyoming in 1994 and 2003, respectively. During his Master's work, he developed and evaluated helicopter sightability models to estimate moose and elk population size and composition. Chuck's dissertation research involved a number of projects addressing cougar management, predation and population genetics. Chuck was a Large Carnivore Biologist for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department from 1994 to 1997 and from 2004 to 2006, where he directed research evaluating grizzly bear-cattle interactions and application of DNA-based mark-recapture methods for estimating black and grizzly bear populations. Additionally, he analyzed annual harvest data and prepared annual management recommendations for cougar and black bear populations. During 2003 and 2004, Chuck was a Research Biologist with Arizona Game and Fish Department, where he investigated pronghorn migration patterns and a disease outbreak in desert bighorn sheep. Since December 2006, he has worked in the Mammals Research Section for the Colorado Parks & Wildlife (CPW). In this capacity, he has focused on ungulate research and is investigating landscape scale mule deer/energy development interactions to develop mitigation methods that benefit mule deer populations in areas experiencing extensive energy development. In addition, Chuck has been serving as Mammals Research Leader for CPW since April, 2013.

Jerry Apker has always wanted to “do good things for wildlife”. He received his B.S. in Wildlife Biology in 1981 from Colorado State University, and has been employed with the Colorado Division of Wildlife since 1982. Jerry started as a District Wildlife Manager in San Luis Valley from 1982-1985, and then in Colorado Springs from 1985-1990. In this multi-purpose position he conducted law enforcement, wildlife management, public education, and related public service duties. He became Area Wildlife Manager in Denver West from 1990-1991, and in the San Luis Valley from 1991-2000. In 2000 he became the Carnivore Biologist (and some other stuff) coordinating most aspects of large and small carnivore management actions. He also coordinates the Ranching for Wildlife program and is the state furbearer management specialist. Jerry received the 1985 and 1986 CDOW award for SE Region Excellence and Dedication, and in 1988 for Outstanding Achievement. He was honored by the CCTWS in 2006 with the Jim Olterman Award for Professional Achievement in Wildlife Management. Jerry authored the Black Bear (2003-2016) and Mountain Lion (2002-2013) Status reports for WAFWA and is co-author of *Managing Cougars in North America* (2011).

John Hughes is a wildlife biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Black-footed Ferret Conservation Center in Wellington, Colorado. John has worked for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for 15 years, and his professional interests include conservation and management of endangered species, rangeland ecology, and conservation of wildlife on private lands. John has a bachelor's degree in wildlife biology from the University of Montana, and a master's degree in biology from Kansas State University. John is a member of The Wildlife Society and is a lifelong hunter, birder, and hiker.

Dr. Eric Gese is a Research Wildlife Biologist for the USDA-Wildlife Services-National Wildlife Research Center and Professor in the Department of Wildland Resources at Utah State University. He received his B.S. in Biology from the University of Texas-San Antonio, and his M.S. and Ph.D. in Wildlife Ecology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His research has focused on ecology, behavior, and management of carnivores, and has conducted studies with his graduate students on coyotes, wolves, cougars, swift and kit foxes, jaguars, fishers, and polar bears, as well as prey species including snowshoe hares, mule deer, elk, and pronghorn antelope.

Dr. John Squires is a Research Wildlife Biologist at the Rocky Mountain Research Station in Missoula, MT. From 1998 to the present, John studies the ecology and conservation of Canada lynx and wolverine in the Northern Rocky Mountains. He is also researching, in cooperation with state and federal partners, how lynx are impacted by winter recreation and spruce bark beetle outbreaks in western Colorado. Finally, John studies how ferruginous hawks and other raptors respond to energy development across Wyoming.