

Gray Wolf Conservation and Management Symposium

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Underwritten and Sponsored by the Turned Endangered Species Fund

Co-hosted by Colorado Chapter of the Wildlife Society

Speaker Bios

Mike Phillips has served as the Executive Director of the Turner Endangered Species Fund (TESF) and senior advisor to the Turner Biodiversity Divisions (TBD) since he co-founded both with Ted Turner in June 1997. TESF and TBD work to conserve nature by ensuring the persistence of imperiled species and their habitats with an emphasis on private land. They have been involved in reintroduction projects for imperiled plants, birds, fishes, mammals, reptiles, an amphibian, and an invertebrate. Collectively they represent the largest, most significant private effort in the world to redress the extinction crisis. Since inception the TESF has been actively involved in wolf recovery throughout the U.S. From 1981 until 1997 Mike worked for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Park Service leading historic efforts to restore red wolves to the southeastern U.S. and gray wolves to Yellowstone National Park. In 2006 Mike was elected to the Montana legislature. His service in the state senate will extend through 2020. Mike received his M.Sc. in Wildlife Ecology from the University of Alaska in 1986 and his B.Sc., Ecology, Ethology, Evolution from the University of Illinois in 1980. He lives in Bozeman with his wife, their four children, and two dogs. The TESF is a non-profit, operational charity that conserves nature by ensuring the persistence of imperiled species and their habitats with an emphasis on private land. Since inception, the Fund has been involved in reintroduction projects for imperiled plants, birds, fishes, mammals, reptiles, an amphibian, and an invertebrate. The Fund is the largest, most significant private effort in the world to redress the extinction crisis. Since inception the TESF has been actively involved in wolf recovery throughout the U.S.

Douglas W. Smith PhD is a Senior Wildlife Biologist in Yellowstone National Park. He supervises the wolf, bird and elk programs – formerly three jobs now combined into one under Doug's supervision. His original job was the Project Leader for the Yellowstone Wolf Project which involved the reintroduction and restoration of wolves to Yellowstone National Park. He helped establish this project and position. Doug received a B.S. degree in Wildlife Biology from the University of Idaho in 1985. While working toward this degree he became involved with studies of wolves and moose on Isle Royale with Rolf Peterson, which led to long-term involvement (1979-1994) with this study as well as a M.S. degree in Biology under Peterson at Michigan Technological University in 1988. His M.S. research focused on beavers in northern Minnesota and resulted in an 11 year study of beavers in Voyageurs National Park which eventually led to a PhD from the University of Nevada, Reno in Ecology, Evolution and Conservation Biology in 1997 under Stephen H. Jenkins. He has also conducted beaver research in Wisconsin and Michigan as well as studying wolves in Minnesota with the world's leading wolf expert L.D. Mech (1983). He has published a wide variety of journal articles and book chapters on beavers, wolves, and birds and co-authored three popular books on wolves (*The*

Wolves of Yellowstone & Decade of the Wolf which won the 2005 Montana book award for best book published in Montana) as well as publishing numerous popular articles. The third book, *Wolves on the Hunt*, came out in May 2015. He has participated in a number of documentaries about wolves for National Geographic and British Broadcasting Company (BBC) as well as other media. He is currently working with *National Geographic Magazine* on the May 2016 issue which will be entirely dedicated to Yellowstone National Park celebrating the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service. He is interviewed widely and speaks often about wolves to audiences all over the world. His professional interests include wolf population dynamics, wolf-prey relationships, restoration of ecological processes, raptor conservation, and beaver population dynamics. He is a member of the Mexican Wolf Recovery Team, the Re-Introduction Specialist Group, and Canid Specialist Group for the IUCN. Besides wolves, birds and beavers, he is an avid canoeist preferring to travel mostly in the remote regions of northern Canada with his wife Christine and their two sons Sawyer and Hawken.

Joel Berger is Professor and the Cox Chair for Wildlife Conservation at Colorado State University and a senior scientist with the Wildlife Conservation Society. He works with species larger than a bread box, connects science with policy, and most recently has been mixing fieldwork and geo-diplomacy in the Russian and American Arctic. Joel has received awards from the Guggenheim Foundation, is an elected fellow of the American Association of Advancement of Sciences, and received the Leopold Award by the American Society of Mammalogists for life-long contributions in conservation. He's also been a finalist for the Indianapolis Prize.

Michael G. Thabault graduated from the University of Oregon in 1986 with a Bachelor of Science in Biology. He has 29 years of Federal service, seven with the National Marine Fisheries Service and 22 with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. While with the National Marine Fisheries Service he served in a number of capacities including fisheries observer programs, Regional Office staff in the Southwest Region, and the Habitat and Conservation Division in Santa Rosa, California. He worked on the State and Federal water projects in California's Central Valley beginning in 1990. In 1994 he transferred to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to work for the Endangered Species Division in the Sacramento Field Office. He continued on with the State and Federal water projects through the completion of CalFED Bay-Delta process. Subsequently he provided oversight of the Service's role in CALFED Bay-Delta Program and the Central Valley Project Improvement Act implementation. In January 2003 he moved to the Washington D.C. office of the Service where he coordinated ESA issues related to water development at the national level. In 2004 he began to serve as the Assistant Regional Director for Ecological Services in the Northeast Regional Office in Hadley, Massachusetts. In this capacity he provided oversight of 13 field stations and the implementation of several program elements including Endangered Species, Federal Project Planning, Environmental Contaminants, and the Partners for Fish and Wildlife and Coastal programs. In April of 2009 he accepted the position of Assistant Regional Director for Ecological Services in the Mountain Prairie Region in Denver, Colorado providing similar oversight to eight field stations and 4 recovery programs (wolf, grizzly bear, black footed ferret, and the upper Colorado River fishes).

Barry R. Noon is a professor in the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology at Colorado State University. He graduated from Princeton University in 1971 with a B.S. degree in biology and from the State University of New York-Albany in 1977 with a PhD in ecology. In collaboration with many outstanding students and post-docs, he has conducted research on the effects of land management practices on wildlife populations for the past 40 years. His focus has primarily been on the conservation of imperiled species in forest ecosystems. During this period, he has published over 130 scientific papers and co-authored 4 book-length reports to the federal government on the sustainable management of public lands. For 11 years, he directed a Forest Service Research Lab in the Pacific Northwest (USA) and in 1995 served as Chief Scientist of the National Biological Service, Department of the Interior. During the last 15 years, he has served on federal advisory committees providing recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture on the management of Forest Service lands to better sustain biological diversity and to the Secretary of the Interior on changes to the Endangered Species Act to encourage conservation on private lands. He has also served as chair of the global policy committee for the Society for Conservation Biology and provided testimony to the U.S. Congress on numerous occasions on issues regarding the conservation of wildlife in the U.S. and internationally. Dr. Noon has received several academic awards including the Edward T. LaRoe award from the Society for Conservation Biology (1997), an Aldo Leopold Leadership Fellowship (2004), Colorado State University Distinguished Ecologist (2008-09), and two Senior Fulbright Fellowships to India from the U.S. State Department (2003-04 and 2010-11). In collaboration with his students, his current research focuses on tiger conservation in India, the effects of energy development on imperiled species in the United States, climate change effects on wetland birds, and promoting biodiversity conservation on U.S. Department of Defense lands.

Ken Mills has worked as a large carnivore biologist focused on wolf monitoring and management for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department since 2008. Prior to joining the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, he worked on wolf management and research programs in New Mexico, Ontario, Michigan, and Isle Royale National Park. Ken earned an MSc degree researching wolf ecology and demography in Algonquin Provincial Park, Ontario in 2006.

Carter Niemeyer has Bachelor of Science (1970) and Masters (1973) degrees in wildlife biology from Iowa State University. He has been a state trapper for the Montana Department of Livestock, and a district supervisor for USDA Wildlife Services in western Montana managing and controlling large predators. He was chosen as the wolf management specialist for USDA Wildlife Services covering the states of Idaho, Montana and Wyoming. In that position, he was responsible for livestock depredation investigation, as well as wolf capture for research, relocation or removal. Niemeyer was a member of the wolf capture team in Canada during reintroduction in the mid-1990s. In 2001 he was recruited by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to run the agency's wolf recovery program in Idaho, and retired in 2006, coincidentally on the same day that wolf management was officially handed over to the state of Idaho. He also has worked on wolf issues in Washington, Oregon and California, as well as England, Scotland, France and Kyrgyzstan. He wrote his first memoir, *Wolfer*, in 2010. His second memoir, *Wolf Land*

was published in 2016. Carter lives in Boise, Idaho with his wife, Jenny. Since retirement from federal service he has worked as a private contractor conducting training workshops for federal, state, county, and tribal agencies, as well as academic institutions. He focuses his workshops on wolf capture methodology, livestock damage assessments related to predation and non-lethal ways of reducing livestock damage by large predators. He also assists veterinary staff with wolf handling and chemical immobilization training workshops.

Avery Shawler is the Project Coordinator for the Wood River Wolf Project. She graduated from Middlebury College in Vermont with a degree in Conservation Biology in 2013. She has had a lot of experience in the field - from conducting large mammal abundance and diversity surveys in Namibia, to conducting bat hibernacula surveys in over 60 caves in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. She has also worked for National Ecological Observatory Network in Boulder, Colorado and for the National Park Service in southeastern Arizona. She first arrived in Idaho in 2014 working for the BLM in Shoshone, doing vegetation, sage grouse, and bat surveys. She is now an Independent Contractor for Shawler Conservation Planning LLC in Idaho and works with the Idaho Conservation League, Central Idaho Rangelands Network, The Nature Conservancy, and the Lava Lake Institute for Science & Conservation. She has been with the Wood River Wolf Project since May 2015 and works on applying for grants, coordinating volunteers, purchasing equipment, communicating with WRWP collaborators, and directing field work.

Dr. Stewart Breck is a carnivore ecologist for the National Wildlife Research Center, the research arm of Wildlife Services. His work focuses on the emerging issues associated with the management and conservation of large carnivores in a human dominated world. The goal of all his work is to minimize human-carnivore conflict through better understanding of carnivores, better understanding of people, and development of effective management tools. Stewart attained degrees in ecology and wildlife biology from Colorado State University (B.S. and Ph.D) and University of Nevada Reno (M.S.). His current research is focused on urban coyotes, Mexican wolves, coyotes in Florida, urban black bears and polar bears. He works extensively with graduate students primarily at Colorado State University and is a member of the Human-Bear Conflict Expert Team for the IUCN Bear Specialist Group.

Jim Hammill, Iron Range Consulting & Services Inc., Crystal Falls, Michigan Jim has worked as a wildlife biologist for 42 years, retiring from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources as West Upper Peninsula Wildlife Supervisor in 2002. Currently he is President of Iron Range Consulting & Services, which is focused on providing wildlife and forestry services to private landowners. In 2012 Governor Snyder appointed him to serve on the Michigan Wildlife Council. He has served on the Board of the International Wolf Center, served on the Federal Wolf Recovery Team, and currently serves on the Michigan Master Logger Board. Jim is on the Board of Directors of Safari Club International, and serves as Conservation Committee Vice-Chair and Chair of North American Programs for the Safari Club International Foundation. He has authored many popular and scientific articles concerning wildlife and wildlife habitat management.

Richard Reading, Ph.D. is a Fulbright Fellow with the Okavango Research Institute of the University of Botswana in Maun, Botswana. He is also the part time Direct for Research and Conservation at the Butterfly Pavilion, a consultant in conservation biology, Adjunct Professor within the Department of Biology at the University of Denver (DU), and Scholar in Residence at DU's Graduate School of Social Work. He received a Ph.D. and three Master's degrees from Yale University in Wildlife Ecology and Human Dimensions of Wildlife and an Honorary Doctorate from the National Education University of Mongolia. Rich has worked primarily on grassland ecosystems on six continents, with a focus on the Great Plains of N. America, the steppes of Mongolia, the savannahs of Botswana, and the Altiplano of Peru and Bolivia. His work focuses on developing pragmatic, effective, and interdisciplinary approaches to the conservation of wildlife and protected areas through research, capacity development, and working with local people and governments. Dr. Reading serves on the boards of directors or advisors for several non-profit organizations in the U.S. and overseas; has published over 185 scientific papers and book chapters; dozens of popular articles; and written or edited 8 books.

Dr. Jeremy T. Bruskotter as an associate professor in the School of Environment & Natural Resources at The Ohio State University, and a member of the Terrestrial Wildlife Ecology Laboratory—a partnership between OSU and the Ohio Division of Wildlife. His research is centered on understanding how people make conservation-related judgments and decisions, and the intersection of such judgments with conservation policy. Much of his recent work is centered on understanding judgments and decisions related to large, terrestrial carnivores (such as wolves and bears), and how they impact carnivore conservation and management.

Dr. L. David Mech is a Senior Research Scientist with the U.S. Geological Survey and an Adjunct Professor at the University of Minnesota. He received his B.S. degree from Cornell University and a Ph. D. and an honorary doctorate from Purdue University. He has studied wolves since 1958 on Isle Royale, in Minnesota, Italy, Alaska, Yellowstone, and Ellesmere Island. Dave is the founder and Vice Chair of the International Wolf Center. He has published 11 books and numerous articles about wolves and other wildlife, and he was the 1993 recipient of the Wildlife Society's Aldo Leopold award.

Philip Cafaro is professor of philosophy at Colorado State University and an affiliated faculty member of CSU's School of Global Environmental Sustainability. His work centers on environmental ethics, population and consumption issues, and the preservation of wild nature. He is a life member of the Sierra Club, a former ranger with the National Park Service, and immediate past president of the International Society for Environmental Ethics. Cafaro is the author of *Thoreau's Living Ethics: Walden and the Pursuit of Virtue* and *How Many Is Too Many? The Progressive Argument for Reducing Immigration into the United States*.