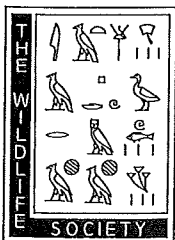


WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT and CONSERVATION

Contemporary Principles and Practices

EDITED BY Paul R. Krausman and James W. Cain III



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PREFACE

Wildlife management and conservation are at a crossroads. Wildlife habitat is being altered at unprecedented rates because of human influences. Efficient and effective management is critical for the future of wildlife habitats, but it can only be accomplished by incorporating all stakeholders into the process. Our textbook incorporates the animal, its habitat, and how human management influences them both—the wildlife management triad. These three components are central to wildlife management and form the core of the profession. Unfortunately, the human side of wildlife management has not received as much attention as wildlife species or their habitats, but it must be recognized for effective management. Wildlife in North America belongs to the public, which must be considered in management decisions. Simply discussing animals and their habitats will not address the complexity of wildlife management in the 21st century, especially with increasing human demands for landscape use. Wildlife habitat is decreasing, and human use of those lands is facing serious challenges. We need leaders in wildlife management and conservation who are able to understand the biology of wildlife species and how landscapes can be managed to ensure their survival and long-term viability. This book considers the ways wildlife is managed and explores how management is only successful when the animal, habitat, and people are equally considered. It emphasizes the importance of structured decision making and planning in the process of wildlife management.

Wildlife Management and Conservation is for future wildlife leaders, written by current leaders in the field who are members of The Wildlife Society (TWS), the professional society for wildlife biologists. No other course is as important for undergraduate wildlife biologists as the basics of management and conservation. As such, this text is endorsed by TWS and written by TWS professionals across the nation.

Designed for use in various wildlife curricula, this book can serve as a stand-alone text for programs that do not have classes in all of the topics covered, or it can be used as an introductory text for students in programs that have a more complete suite of wildlife classes. It also contains a solid review of the profession for graduate students and practicing professionals.

This volume consists of 19 chapters, beginning with definitions of the wildlife profession and history of wildlife conservation in North America (Chapters 1–3). We then discuss the human dimensions of wildlife management (Chapter 4) and include that important dynamic throughout the text. Chapter 5 addresses the importance of structured decision making, a critical component in management. Following those chapters is an exploration of the biological component of management (Chapters 6–14), habitat and wildlife restoration (Chapters 15 and 16), and how climate change influences wildlife populations (Chapter 17). The last two chapters address conservation planning and include case studies of wildlife population management. Each chapter introduces readers to key personalities in the profession through short biographies.

Future leaders in the wildlife profession must use numerous tools to be effective, relevant, and current. One of those tools is a solid education related to wildlife biology, habitat, and the human dimensions that dictate what we do. *Wildlife Management and Conservation* has been written to assist in that effort.