



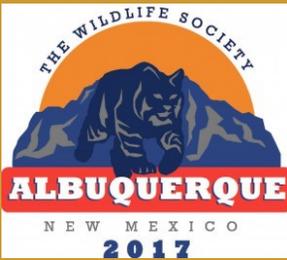
Passport

The Newsletter of the International Wildlife Management Working Group of The Wildlife Society

Volume V, Issue 2

September 2017

"In the coming year, we will be soliciting your input in understanding how the TWS membership perceives what it means to be 'international' in the world of wildlife conservation"



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Message from the Chair

Greetings everyone!

By the time you read this, you may be packing your bags for Albuquerque. We anticipate a TWS Annual Conference bursting with international flavor and opportunity, and I hope you'll join us to savor it. This year, the IWMWG will have a booth at the Exhibitor Hall on Monday and Tuesday, so please come and say hello, and volunteer an hour or two to help spread the word about our WG mission. Our sponsored symposium organized by Chair-Elect Melissa Merrick and University of Arizona professor Dave Christianson (see story on page 2) will be an important international mark on your conference calendar. Please consider sending us some feedback if you attend. Last week, we announced the latest successful applicants to our annual Travel Grant. Congratulations to Rekha Warrrier (\$500) and Sujeevan Bullard (\$750) as the domestic and international travelers, respectively. If you can attend their talks (see page 5), I'm sure they would appreciate your interest – they are both deeply committed to important wildlife work on distant shores.



Jonathan Derbridge, IWMWG Chair, exploring flooded area at Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument.

In the coming year, we will be soliciting your input in helping TWS understand how the membership perceives what it means to be "international" in the world of wildlife conservation. Primarily through our contributions to the International Involvement Ad hoc Committee, President-Elect John McDonald has encouraged us to help the Society define its international role. Naturally, IWMWG members will have thoughtful views on this question so please help us fulfil this important role of advising Council. Stand by for news on an upcoming survey of our working group members. Additionally, we welcome emails with your thoughts on this topic anytime. Finally, my thanks to you for participating in this year's board position election. Allie Burnett was elected Secretary-Treasurer and we are immensely fortunate to have such an energetic, passionate, and diligent wildlifer to help us stay on task with achieving our mission. Congrats to Allie! Here's to a great TWS 2017 conference!

Sincerely,

~ Jonathan

Outgoing WG Officer Made Lasting Contributions

By Claire Crow

Our working group has been synthesized from the contributions of many officers and members over the years, and among those to whom we are indebted is outgoing Secretary-Treasurer Adrian Roadman. Adrian improved our WG's communication capacity by helping to get us on Facebook and keeping our webpage updated. Our logo was created in 2013, by combining designs submitted by Adrian and by WG member Lauren Hayhurst. With gratitude, we thank you Adrian.

Practical Challenges of Transboundary Research Explored

Interview with co-creator of IWMWG-sponsored symposium

By Claire Crow; photos courtesy of David Christianson

“Border policies not only impact wildlife species, but can also add challenges to carrying out collaborative research and transboundary conservation.”



“ Science is transboundary, by definition ... the influence of local or regional politics can sometimes create challenges to the process of discovery and the free and open sharing of information. ”



David Christianson is Assistant Professor of Wildlife, Fisheries and Conservation Biology at the University of Arizona’s School of Natural Resources & the Environment. Dave’s research interests lie in wide-ranging carnivore and herbivore species. He collaborated with IWMWG’s Chair-elect Melissa Merrick and Chair Jonathan Derbridge to propose and plan the IWMWG-sponsored symposium “Connecting Wildlife and Science: Borderlands and Beyond”, which will take place on Wednesday, Sept 27, at 10:30 AM, Albuquerque Convention Center 240, as part of the TWS Annual Conference. ~ ed.

Dave Christianson’s international wildlife research includes working closely with the *Zambian Carnivore Programme* (zambiacarnivores.org), a field-based non-profit organization researching and implementing immediate conservation actions to manage large carnivore species, their prey, and the ecosystems they inhabit. Ecotourism is a large part of the Zambian economy, driven in particular by wide-ranging species such as lion, spotted hyaena, cheetah, African wild dog, leopard, and their prey. The *Zambian Carnivore Programme* conducts research and educational programs, and engages in conservation actions such as snare disabling, anti-poaching patrols, and land-use planning. Closer to home, Dave also studies Sonoran pronghorn and desert bighorn sheep in the Sonoran Desert in the borderlands of the USA and Mexico. Both species have the potential to move across the international border. He cooperates on this research with US and Mexican land management agencies and the Pinacate Biosphere Reserve.

Dave says the “Connecting Wildlife and Science: Borderlands and Beyond” symposium will focus on the practical side of conducting wildlife conservation research across boundaries. International boundaries are essentially meaningless to wildlife which move in the landscape, yet policy in one country can impact wildlife in a neighboring country. While there is an increased need to understand boundary effects on species, it is also true that policy in one nation may impact research collaboration and the efficacy of each nation’s conservation actions. Political boundaries also

create opportunities to better understand the ecology of wide-ranging species as border policies often create perturbances such as border walls, security infrastructure, and concentrated human activity from commerce, smuggling, immigration and national security/law enforcement. Border policies not only impact wildlife species, but can also add challenges to carrying out collaborative research and transboundary conservation. Dave conceived of the symposium because transboundary work typically deals with complex problems over large distances and multiple bureaucracies, and funds and other support can be difficult to procure due to added logistical complexity and pressure to avoid the perception of impacting border security.

Science is transboundary, by definition, and Dave has found that the influence of local or regional politics can sometimes create challenges to the process of discovery and the free and open sharing of information. His assessment of the current situation is that as international boundaries across the globe harden, scientists around the world will need to spend more time and resources on the administrative side, considering diplomacy and accommodating policy changes, in order to execute transformative research and guide conservation actions. The symposium is intended to demonstrate the exciting research occurring along borderlands and potentially initiate conversations about

Dave Christianson researches wildlife species that span the international border in the Sonoran Desert, as well as studying wide-ranging species in Zambia.



the future of collaboration to address transboundary knowledge gaps. Globally, scientists and conservationists must meet the challenges presented by landscape scale questions using limited resources. Through collaboration we can benefit from collective efforts that leverage our shared resources.

TWS members can best support wildlife management and research across international and other boundaries by supporting travel opportunities for foreign scientists and researchers to participate in policy discussion, research collaborations and conferences, says Dave. Compared to the United States, scientists in other countries often have far fewer resources to initiate collaborative research. He suggests that waiving or reducing conference attendance fees, and providing accommodations and travel grants to wildlife professionals coming from other countries would increase the global influence and diversity of our Society while supporting information sharing and creative problem-solving for wildlife management and conservation.

Wildlife move across jurisdictional boundaries. The species that move the most, over the largest scale, are often the ones that we know the least about, and the ones that might be in the most critical danger. Boundaries often follow geographical features, such as rivers, occupied by species specialized to those same features. Other boundaries divide large stretches of contiguous habitat, like the Sonoran Desert, bisecting home ranges. If we can't work together to develop conservation policies, we will forfeit the life histories and habitats of these species. That's what makes boundaries intriguing to scientists, and also why working across boundaries is important for conservationists. The "Connecting Wildlife and Science: Borderlands and Beyond" symposium will share challenges of, and successes in, conducting wildlife research and conservation across boundaries.

"TWS members can best support wildlife management and research across boundaries by supporting travel opportunities for foreign scientists and researchers to participate in policy discussion, research collaborations and conferences"

IWMWG Acts Globally, Brainstorms Locally

By Claire Crow

As an internationally-focused group, our membership is spread far and wide. However, a small group of us recently capitalized on a local concentration of IWMWG members, including both the Chair and Chair-Elect, in the vicinity of Tucson, Arizona. All WG members listed on the current roster with an address close to Tucson were invited to meet at a local lunch spot on July 5, 2017, as an opportunity to socialize with other wildlife professionals with an interest in international wildlife management. Although the meeting was not organized as such, the conversation naturally evolved into a brainstorming session. We discussed ways to better facilitate communication and collaboration among wildlifers across the globe, and provide support to wildlife professionals from other countries attending TWS conferences. Ideas emerging from this lunch discussion will be touched on at the IWMWG meeting, 7:30 AM Monday Sept 22, Room 22 in the Albuquerque Convention Center, and committees will be formed to further develop and implement these ideas. Expect to hear more soon on how you can be involved, and please don't hesitate to contribute your ideas by contacting any of the working group officers (see page 7 for contact info).

"Ideas emerging from this lunch discussion will be touched on at the IWMWG meeting in Albuquerque"



IWMWG members (left to right) Ashwin Naidu, Melissa Merrick, Claire Crow, Jonathan Derbridge and Jeannie Greven meeting for lunch in Tucson.

Photo by Ashwin Naidu.

TWS-sponsored Symposium Presentations

Connecting Wildlife and Science: Borderlands and Beyond

Wednesday, Sept 27, 10:30 AM - noon, Albuquerque Convention Center (ACC) 240

Noninvasive Genetic Monitoring of Sonoran Pronghorn along the United States-Mexico Border

Lisette Waits; Susannah Woodruff; Paul Lukacs; Stephaine Doerries; Miguel Grageda; Jennifer Adams; John Hervert; James Atkinson.

Dr. Waits is Distinguished Professor and Department Head of Fish and Wildlife Sciences at University of Idaho. Research interests lie in conservation genetics and molecular ecology over four continents, with collaborators from North America, Europe, Asia, Central America and South America.

An Overview of Advances in Connectivity Conservation at the Borderlands of Sonora and Chihuahua

Juan Carlos Bravo

Director of the Mexico Program, Wildlands Network. Collaborates with Mexican conservation groups and raises awareness in the USA about the habitat connectivity challenges in Mexico. Involved in establishment of the Northern Jaguar Reserve, the initial reintroduction of wolves into Mexico, and beaver and pairie dog conservation along the San Pedro River from Sonora to Arizona.

Border Impacts on Wildlife

Miguel Angel Grageda; Tyler Coleman

Miguel Angel Grageda is Director of Natural Resources for El Pinacate Y Gran Desiert Altar Biosphere Reserve in Sonora, Mexico. Tyler Coleman's research is focused on conservation of threatened and endangered species and the impacts of human disturbance on wildlife behavior and population dynamics in U.S. National Parks (National Park Service).

Wildlife Conservation in Mexico: Challenges and Risks

Karla Pelz Serrano

Professor, Department of Environmental Sciences, Universidad Autonoma Metropolitana. Conservation biology projects in central Mexico on the restoration and recovery of endangered species and ecosystems.

Challenges and Opportunities for the Conservation of Wildlife in Mexico

David García Solórzano; Jesús Edgardo López González; Carlos González-Rebeles Islas

Scientific Board Director, Alianza Mexicana para la Conservación de la Vida Silvestre. AMECViS is a network of researchers across the bioregions of Mexico, currently expanding throughout North and Central America and the Carribean to collaborate with educational and research institutions around the world.

Presentations by IWMWG Travel Grant Winners

The IWMWG received five applications this year, for the two grants available - one for domestic travel and one for international travel to present at the TWS Annual Conference.

Rekha Warriier will be travelling from Colorado State University to present “**A Novel Application of Dynamic Occupancy Models with False Positive Errors to Quantify the Seasonal Use of Sugarcane Farmlands in Northern India by Tigers**”. The presentation is based on doctoral research on the ecology of tigers (*Panthera tigris*) in agricultural areas of the human-dominated Central Terai Landscape in northern India. Particularly in rapidly developing nations like India and China, it has become evident that increasing protected areas is an insufficient tactic on its own for long-term conservation of wide-ranging large carnivores. An understanding of spatial and temporal use of habitat beyond protected area boundaries can be used to develop a comprehensive use policy that complements ongoing tiger conservation efforts within protected areas. **Wednesday, Sept 27, 2:30 PM, ACC 220.**

Sujeevan Bullard will be travelling from Chennai, India to present “**The Fisherman and the Fishing Cat: How Coastal Lives Depend on a Wild Cat’s Habitat**”. The presentation is based on the direction and production of a documentary film bringing to light conservation efforts, including educational outreach and citizen science, being conducted in the developing world, with special emphasis on fishing cats (*Prionailurus viverrinus*) living outside a protected area in Andhra Pradesh, India. **Tuesday, Sept 26, 10:30 AM, ACC 10.**



Photos from TWS IWMWG member meeting 2015



IWMWG Meeting Draft Agenda: something for everyone

Albuquerque Convention Center Room 22, 7:30 AM, September 25, 2017

Welcome and Introductions - Melissa Merrick, IWMWG Chair-elect

Greeting from Ed Thompson, CEO The Wildlife Society

Adjustments to Agenda - input from all members

Treasurer’s Report - Allie Burnett, IWMWG incoming Secretary-Treasurer

New Business:

Request for Passport articles - Claire Crow, editor

Committees - Jeannie Greven, Claire Crow, Melissa Merrick

Defining “international involvement” - input from all members

Program to provide technical support on analytical methods and study design

- input from all members

Potential symposium topics for 2018 TWS conference - input from all members



Please invite your friends and colleagues at the conference to join the working group meeting!

We are looking for your input on several important topics and we look forward to and value all member contributions. We offer numerous ways to be involved in the future of international wildlife management.

Membership in the TWS IWMWG includes a subscription to the *Passport* (the working group's newsletter) and opportunities to collaborate on international wildlife management-related topics. You can join or renew your membership by logging in to The Wildlife Society portal and adding the IWMWG to your annual membership; the cost is \$10.

Current TWS Members can join by:

1. Going to <http://wildlife.force.com/>
2. Enter your email address on file and password
3. Click on 'add memberships' on the bottom left
4. Scroll down to 'Working Group Dues' and select "International Wildlife Management Working Group"
5. Check out by entering your payment information

International Wildlife Study News:

The Sept/Oct 2017 Wildlife Professional (Vol 11, No. 5) was chock full of international wildlife management articles, from the cover story on Mexican wolf (*Canis lupus baileyi*) recovery efforts to the "Science in Short" brief on declining sea ice habitat leading to increased polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*) interactions with humans, increasing the risk of polar bear attacks in Canada, Greenland, Norway, Russia and the USA. Also from the Sept/Oct 2017 Wildlife Professional (Vol 11, No. 5):

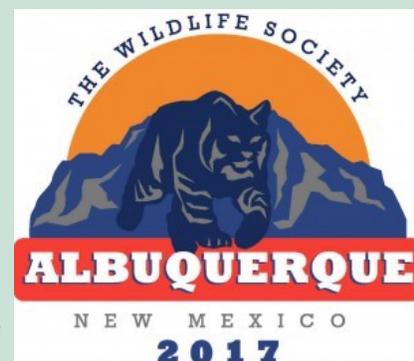
- Canada is creating a recovery strategy for the rufa red knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*) which breeds in arctic Canada, winters in southern South America, and migrates through intertidal marine habitat in the United States. Most of the threats to the rufa red knot occur outside of Canada, particularly horseshoe crab harvesting at Delaware Bay where it has been estimated (Cornell Lab of Ornithology) that close to 90% of the entire rufa red knot population can be present in one day.
- Collaborative long-term research between the USA and Mexico on ocelots in the Tamaulipan Biotic Province transborder coastal area, adjacent to the Gulf of Mexico, has shown that the 2 populations in south Texas have experienced genetic drift and inbreeding, designated landscape corridors have not improved the connectivity of ocelot populations, and no transborder genetic exchange has occurred in the last 40 years. Conservation success will require focused and sustained recovery efforts where habitat restoration is most feasible and will not disperse ocelots into areas of high risk. Private landowners are key to recovery of this species in Texas.
- Habitat fragmentation along the US-Mexico border would increase with the proposed impermeable wall along 1,000 miles of the border. Significant impacts are possible to jaguar (*Panthera onca*) movements, and to the gene flow of Sonoran pronghorn (*Antilocapra americana sonoriensis*), Chiricahua leopard frog (*Lithobates chiricahuensis*), black-tailed prairie dog (*Cynomys ludocianus*), desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*), and other species whose habitat is bisected by the international border.
- Sonoran pronghorn require large home ranges, likely due to limited forage availability and quality, and localized rainfall. The US-Mexico border is currently permeable to pronghorn in most of their transborder habitat, but documented pronghorn crossings are rare. The revised recovery plan, developed by a binational team, strategizes management for genetic diversity and threat mitigation. Translocations may be indicated as forage responds to changing climactic conditions.
- The new Wildlife Act of the Government of the Northwest Territories was crafted in a collaborative process to better reflect the shared management with Aboriginal organizations. The 15-year process featured some impasses and adaptive restarts, modelling successful collaborative governance.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) recently announced that the snow leopard (*Panthera uncia*), has been downlisted from Endangered to Vulnerable. Conservation projects may have helped to slow the rate of decline; projects protecting livestock are intended to reduce "revenge killing" of snow leopards. The species is still threatened by poaching and the loss of habitat, which crosses 12 nations.

2017 annual meeting in Albuquerque, Sept 23-27.

- * **Your working group (IWMWG) meeting Sept 25 7:30 AM, ACC 22**
- * **IWMWG-sponsored symposium Sept 27 10:30-12:10, ACC 240**
- * **IWMWG exhibitor booth #409—come visit us at coffee breaks on Monday and Tuesday !**
- * **Casual activities with other WG members—inquire at WG meeting or at exhibitor booth.**

The theme of this year's conference, "Wildlife Conservation: Crossroads of Cultures", reflects perfectly our working group's mission of facilitating communication and collaboration across international boundaries for the benefit of wildlife and people throughout the world.



THE WILDLIFE
SOCIETY

INTERNATIONAL
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MANAGEMENT
WORKING GROUP

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I hope you enjoy your
Passport. Please send me
your comments and
suggestions for future
issues! ~ Claire

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wildlife.org/iwmwg

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International
Wildlife
Management
Working Group

Vision

The IWMWG will increase collaboration among wildlife professionals around the world.

Mission

The IWMWG will provide a forum for information exchange through expanded use of communication technologies.

Goals

1. To promote meetings and electronic communication among professionals worldwide working in wildlife management and habitat conservation.
2. To sponsor symposia and workshops and to host forums at The Wildlife Society's Annual Conference and other affiliated meetings.
3. To assist TWS staff in preparing technical reviews, position statements and other materials related to international wildlife management issues.
4. To encourage wildlife professionals worldwide to become members and participate in TWS activities and events.

Working Group Officers:

Chair: Jonathan Derbridge (derbridge@email.arizona.edu)

Chair-elect: Melissa Merrick (mmerrick@email.arizona.edu)

Secretary/Treasurer: Adrian Roadman (adrian.roadman@gmail.com)

Past Chair: Robin White (rpwhite@usgs.gov)