

46TH NORTH AMERICAN MOOSE CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP JACKSON, WYOMING 23-26 MAY 2011

The 46th North American Moose Conference and Workshop was held at the Virginian Lodge in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, on 23-26 May 2011. The conference was hosted by the Moose Working Group of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, with extensive help from the Wyoming Chapter of The Wildlife Society and the Teton Science School. There were 100 registered delegates from throughout North America (13 states and 6 Canadian provinces), as well as Germany, Norway, and Sweden. Their broad experience resulted in vigorous discussions about moose research, management, and biology. Due to an extremely wet May and flooding across several states, travel to and from Jackson was an adventure for several participants.

Welcoming remarks were provided by Dr. Fred Lindzey, Chairman of the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission and Professor Emeritus, University of Wyoming. Contributed presentations followed, covering a broad range of topics including harvest, productivity of populations, parasites, and climate change.

A public plenary session entitled "Managing Predator-Prey Systems" was held Tuesday evening at the National Museum of Wildlife Art, and was preceded by an open tour of the museum for conference attendees. Invited speakers were three outstanding large predator ecology specialists, Mike Jimenez (USFWS), Dr. Bob Garrott (Montana State University-Bozeman), and Rod Boertje (Alaska Department of Fish and Game), who discussed the USFWS wolf reintroduction program in the Yellowstone region, specific research on wolf-elk/bison interactions in Yellowstone, and Alaskan wolf/bear-prey systems, respectively. Their informative presentations provided a strong scientific foundation for subsequent public discussion focused on predator management issues and balancing the new and dynamic large predator-prey systems in the greater Yellowstone area.

Wednesday featured an educational and sight-seeing field trip north of Jackson where participants viewed winter moose range in Grand Teton National Park and the willow flats behind the beautiful, historic Jackson Lake Lodge; some

wondered why we weren't staying at the Lodge. A barbeque lunch was provided on the north shore of Lake Jackson at the University of Wyoming-NPS Research Center's AMK Ranch in Grand Teton National Park. The Center sits at the base of the Teton Range and offered participants breath-taking views of the Tetons and ice breaking up on Jackson Lake. After lunch, Dr. Hank Harlow, Director of the Center and noted ecophysiologicalist at the University of Wyoming, gave a short history about the Ranch and related research. Dr. Terry Kreeger (WGFD), renowned expert, followed with an informative workshop on chemical immobilization of wildlife. Moose, elk, and bison were observed at several locations on this field trip that marked the start of beautiful local weather.

The Banquet was held Wednesday evening when Amanda McGraw, recent M.S. graduate of the University of Minnesota, received the Newcomer Award, and Bill Samuel, of winter tick fame and long-time conference attendee and recently retired from the University of Alberta, received the Senior Travel Award. The members of the Organizing Committee received the Order of Alces with kind and insightful words from Dr. Pete Pekins, Chief Editor ALCES. The highlight of the evening was when Dr. Kjell Danell of Sweden graciously received the 2011 Distinguished Moose Biologist Award for his many contributions in research and management of moose. The evening ended with live music provided by the Jared Rogerson Band; during the day, Jared is a biologist with the WGFD.

This highly diverse Conference featured 3 plenary presentations, 22 contributed presentations, 5 posters, a capstone lecture, and field trip. We are grateful to our sponsors including (in alphabetical order) Advance Telemetry Systems (ATS), Hayden-Wing Associates, Jackson Hole Outfitters and Guides Association, Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation, Lotek Wireless, National Museum of Wildlife Art, Nature Mapping, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Teton Science School, Vectronic Aerospace, Virginian Lodge, Western EcoSystems Technology (WEST), Wildlife Heritage Foundation of Wyoming, The Wildlife Society-Wyoming

Chapter, Wyoming Biologist's Association, Wyoming Game Warden's Association, and Wyoming Outfitters and Guides Association. We also thank all the participants who provided items for the auction. The Conference was a tremendous success and we are pleased that so many enjoyed first-time viewing experiences including Yellowstone National Park, the Jackson elk feeding grounds, wolves, bison, "sage-brush moose", displaying sage grouse, spring elk migration, and wolf predation.

CO-CHAIRS: Tim Thomas and Steve Kilpatrick
HOST: Wyoming Game and Fish Department
LOCATION: Jackson Hole, Wyoming
DATE: 23-26 May 2011
NUMBER OF DELEGATES/PARTICIPANTS: 100