

## Foreword

How sad it will be if modern society moves forward leaving a legacy of extinction for many of our fellow creatures. Development in much of North America has reached the point where extraordinary measures are often necessary to prevent the demise of natural habitats and associated species. Despite the protections legislated on both Federal and State levels, a sustainable future for many threatened and endangered species looks very dim. Sustainability takes on new meaning when we look at the impacts of continued development on North American wildlife populations. This is especially true for the ungulates and carnivores which require vast land areas to maintain viable populations.

When viewed from a landscape perspective, we realize that areas large enough to support these populations continue to diminish. Loss of habitat has resulted in the necessity to implement very costly measures to maintain connectivity between smaller and smaller fragments of habitat. To accommodate wildlife movement, 'Greenways' programs, which include ambitious land acquisition components, have developed in many areas of North America. Single species management has taken a back seat to a more holistic 'ecosystem management' approach. Traditional management philosophies become challenged as we realize the vast variety of ecosystems contained in the larger landscape. Our current lack of knowledge of many aspects of both the species and landscape perspectives has become obvious.

When we factor in the complexities of human intervention, the picture becomes even less clear. In competition between humans and wildlife for the more desirable habitats, wildlife is most always the loser. There are very few areas of North America where human demands for wildlife habitat for society's needs have not significantly reduced both the quality and quantity of those habitats to the point where significant declines in wildlife populations have resulted. High among the perceived needs of society is the ability to move freely and rapidly within and between all habitats. Therein lies the substance of this seminar: "Transportation Related Wildlife Mortality".

Contained in these proceedings you will find the thoughts of some of the individuals who daily deal with this collision of wildlife values with man's desires to manage, to his benefit, this planet on which we must coexist. We find that the problem, which is well defined by many of the contributors, is not so different from one area of North America to another. Further, it is evident that impacts are not restricted to any taxonomic group, but rather all creatures are impacted - from reptiles and amphibians to grizzly bears and panthers. Therefore, you will find contributions which address the gamut of wildlife from the very small to the very large.

It is also obvious that attempts at single species management have not been totally successful. Broader areas that encompass landscapes which cross national and state boundaries must be addressed, thus necessitating new bonds of cooperation. The complexities of the ecosystems within these large landscapes require the expertise of a wide variety of scientists to even begin to formulate strategies to deal with the sustainability of these systems and associated wildlife. The ever increasing demand for faster, more efficient public and private transportation encroaching upon our natural ecosystems, results in inevitable conflicts with wildlife and their habitats. While these conflicts can be costly in terms of property damage and human safety, the experience is largely fatal to the wildlife encountered. Opportunities to prevent these encounters was the topic of many of the presentations, and the latest approaches from around the world were presented. Attendees and speakers left the conference with the realization that much needs to be done to address transportation related wildlife mortality in North America. However, they also realized that they had been a part of a big first step toward bringing into better focus the magnitude of the problem and some of the approaches to addressing the conflicts between wildlife and transportation. Only continued commitment to finding innovative ways to accomplish both the goals of preserving viable wildlife populations and accommodating reasonable and efficient transportation corridors will do the job.

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