

Wildlife Conservation & Management Summit – 8 December 2023

Mountain Time	Presentations	Brief abstracts
8:30 – 8:45	<i>Welcoming remarks – Gilbert Proulx</i> <i>Rules of the Summit – Jessica Malyk</i>	
8:45 – 9:45	Oh, for wildlife’s sake! Let’s be honest about conservation & management <i>Gilbert PROULX</i>	On the basis of nearly 50 years as a field wildlife biologist, researcher and manager, the author identifies issues that impact on wildlife. These relate to species-at-risk, habitat loss, human-wildlife conflicts including predator and “pest” control, pollution, animal welfare, invasive alien species, bad management caused by socio-political interests, and the North American Model for Wildlife Conservation. The author proposes solutions to implement proper procedures, recognize and protect valuable habitats, preserve and ensure the perseverance of populations, and prevent or reduce pollution, pesticides and invasive species. Finally, he identifies basic principles that should be considered when developing a model for wildlife conservation.
9:45 – 9:50	<i>Transition Break (for new speaker)</i>	
9:50 – 10:35	Urban wildlife management: a square peg? <i>John GRIFFIN, John HADIDIAN & Bernard UNTI</i>	The authors make the case for the rising significance of urban wildlife and identify some of the particular challenges associated with that rise. They call for a new and/or revised wildlife conservation praxis that incorporates the social, cultural and technical insights of urban wildlife management, and make the case for its transformative potential.
10 :35 – 10 :40	<i>Transition Break</i>	
10:40 – 11 :35	Behind the veil of secrecy: revealing the impacts of crude oil and saline spills on wildlife in Alberta <i>Kevin TIMONEY</i>	This review describes some of the impacts to wildlife that occur as a result of crude oil and saline spills and hydrocarbon production. The exploitation of hydrocarbons has resulted in persistent changes in the biota; decreased biodiversity; declines of native species and communities; defaunation; increased predation along linear disturbances; changes in animal movements and migrations; increased direct and indirect mortalities; increased metabolic and respiratory stress and reproductive impairment; noise effects on songbirds; damage to riparian zones, barriers to fish movement, and declines in fisheries; widespread habitat loss; and persistent contamination. The regulator’s failure to protect the environment and the public interest are the result of regulatory capture by the fossil fuel meta-organization.
11 :35 – 11 :40	<i>Transition Break</i>	
11 :40 – 12 :20	How does non-selective trapping affect species at risk in Canada? <i>Gilbert PROULX</i>	In this review, through published scientific literature and government documents, the author aimed to: 1) determine which SAR are reportedly captured in traps set for fur-trapping, pest control, and research; 2) identify traps and trapping systems that are the most frequently involved in the capture of non-target SAR; 3) determine the reasons for the capture of SAR in traps; 4) estimate the impact of non-selective trapping on the persistence of SAR populations; and 5) provide recommendations to remedy the effects of non-selective trapping on SAR.
12 :20 – 13 :15	<i>Lunch</i>	
13 :15 – 13 :55	Conservation of freshwater turtles in the Anthropocene: Indigenous-engaged approaches to tackle a timeless problem <i>Lingrui MENG, Jonah LEHMAN, Colette ISAAC, Tristyn SANDY, Leah FREDERICKS, , Keith NAHWEGAHBOW, Stephen MCGREGOR, and Patricia CHOW-FRASER</i>	The authors present 2 ongoing conservation projects focused on the recovery and protection of the Blanding’s turtle, one within Whitefish River First Nation located at the northern shore of Mnídoo Gamii, and the other in Moose Deer Point First Nation located along the eastern shore of Mnídoo Gamii, located in Ontario. They adopted principles of the two-eyed seeing approach by considering the needs of the community and research priorities equally, and by weaving Indigenous Knowledge (IK) and Western Science (WS) in planning field activities.

13 :55–14 :00	<i>Transition Break</i>	
14 :00 – 14 :45	<p>Modern toolbox to address a decades-old problem in the conservation of freshwater turtles: Blanding's turtles (<i>Emydoidea blandingii</i>) as a case study <i>Kelton ADDERLEY-HERON, Brynn HICKEY, and Patricia CHOW-FRASER</i></p>	<p>The authors introduce several emerging approaches that address some limitations of traditional techniques. These include using 1) multi-sensor biologgers to explore movement and behaviour, 2) environmental DNA to determine occupancy, and 3) pattern recognition software to avoid invasive notching. They summarize existing traditional approaches, show the advantages and disadvantages of these new tools, and illustrate how they support research to protect Blanding's turtles in Ontario, Canada.</p>
14 :40–14 :45	<i>Transition Break</i>	
14 :45 – 15 :25	<p>“Broadening” the concept of success for translocations <i>Aaron N. FACKA and Roger A. POWELL</i></p>	<p>The authors argue that identifying important milestones in the early ‘establishment’ phase of translocations remains important but that assessing “success” is largely an outdated concept that does not consider important aspects related to unintended or unpredictable outcomes. They present a case study of a recent reintroduction of fishers that based its evaluation of success on 1) understanding the reasons for being able to establish, or not to establish, a new population, 2) understanding the effects of removing fishers on a source population, 3) understanding use of habitats by fishers on an industrial timberland and 4) testing a series of a priori hypotheses of animal behavior and ecology.</p>
15 :25 – 15 :30	<i>Transition Break</i>	
15 :30 – 16 :10	<p>Evaluating fact claims accompanying policies to liberalize the killing of wolves <i>Adrian TREVES, L. Mark ELBROCH, and Jeremy BRUSKOTTER</i></p>	<p>Predators can support ecosystem health and diversity disproportionate to their numbers. Nevertheless, several U.S. state governments recently initiated killing grey wolves non-selectively and in large numbers. Among the justifications, governments claim that wolf-killing would: (1) increase human safety;(2) raise human tolerance for surviving wolves; (3) prevent livestock loss; and (4) increase wild ungulate populations. The authors review the research and assessed the governments’ claims. They also summarize explanations for the partisan politics behind wolf-killing and the potential harms of unsupported fact claims to good governance and democratic policy formulation.</p>
16 :10 – 16 :15	<i>Transition Break</i>	
16 :15 – 16 :55	<p>Ecological advantages of grey wolf (<i>Canis lupus</i>) reintroductions and recolonizations in North America <i>Kimberly A. VILLENEUVE and Gilbert PROULX</i></p>	<p>The authors review studies and assessments of wolf reintroductions and recolonizations, and determine how the reestablishment of wolf populations has contributed to the wellbeing of wildlife communities and ecosystems. They give particular attention to wolf reintroductions in Yellowstone and Isle Royale National Parks; and recolonizations in the northwest Rocky Mountains, particularly in Montana, Idaho, and Banff and Jasper National Parks. On the basis of their review of ecological advantages associated with the restoration of wolf populations, the authors believe that there is a need for innovative educational programs, and to counter-balance speculations and prejudicial assumptions with fact-based programs, to better co-exist with wolves, and re-connect disjunct wolf populations with further reintroductions and recolonizations.</p>
16 : 55 – 17 :00	<i>Closing remarks – Gilbert Proulx</i>	