

44TH NORTH AMERICAN MOOSE CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP IDAHO STATE UNIVERSITY, POCA TELLO, IDAHO 14-17 JUNE 2009

The 44th North American Moose Conference and Workshop was held at Idaho State University (ISU) in Pocatello, Idaho, 14-17 June 2009. The theme for the conference was "Population, Behavioral, and Landscape Ecology of Moose: Implications for Theory and Management." The conference was hosted by the Department of Biological Sciences at ISU, with extensive help from the Idaho Department of Fish and Game and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. There were 77 delegates registered for the meeting who came from throughout North America and Sweden. The US was represented by delegates from 16 states, and Canada by participants from 5 provinces; their broad experience resulted in vigorous discussions about moose research, management, and biology. All enjoyed beautiful weather, at least during some of the mornings, and the predicted plague of mosquitoes never emerged.

Following welcoming remarks by Pamela Crowell, the Vice President for Research at ISU, the conference was initiated with a Plenary Session. Topics of presentations were far ranging, and included applied and theoretical material of interest to moose biologists and managers. Mark Boyce, Vince Crichton, Lisa Shipley, Mike Wolfe, John Fryxell, Matt Kauffman, and Terry Bowyer gave talks that generated considerable discussion for the remainder of the conference. The Plenary Session was followed by a Poster Session.

Contributed presentations filled the following Monday, again ranging across a broad range of topics, including harvest, productivity of populations, parasites, and climate change. The presentations were followed by a Business Meeting where the Albert W. Franzmann and Distinguished Colleagues Memorial Award was established. On Tuesday, delegates chose between a field trip to Camas National Wildlife Refuge organized by Mark Gamblin and Carl Mitchell, and a Home Range Workshop presented by John Kie and Art Rodgers. Both activities were great successes, and those on the field trip observed a Shiras moose as well as adding numerous bird species to their life lists. The workshop and field trip were followed by a well-attended picnic, during which even moosers

could not consume all of the refreshments.

Wednesday started with a Predator-Prey Roundtable discussion organized by Matt Kauffman, with participants Terry Bowyer, Mark Boyce, Doug Brimeyer, Mike Mitchell, Mike Wolf, and Pete Zager. The proposed delisting and management of gray wolves in the Rocky Mountains was a central theme of discussion, for which the audience provided important contributions. The roundtable was followed by the final three contributed talks, and then the Capstone Presentation by Kris Hundertmark (2007 recipient of the Distinguished Moose Biologist Award) who discussed genetics of moose worldwide, and why there is only one species of moose. This excellent presentation was followed by a tour of the exhibits and collections at the Idaho Museum of Natural History and a discussion of Ice Age mammals lead by Bill Akersten.

The Banquet was held Wednesday evening, with a further, and this time successful, attempt to reduce the available refreshments. Lisa Shipley and Matt Kaufman were given Newcomer Awards, and Ken Child received the Senior's Travel Award. The members of the Organizing Committee received the Order of Alces, and the contributions of the staff of the Department of Biological Sciences at ISU to the conference were praised. The highlight of the evening was Ken Child receiving the 2009 Distinguished Moose Biologist Award for his many contributions to the management of moose. These awards were followed by a lively auction by expert auctioneer, John Nelson, where everyone did their best to keep the conference from going into the red.

In total, there were 7 Plenary Presentations, 16 Contributed Presentations, 4 Posters, a Roundtable Discussion, a Home Range Workshop, a Field Trip, the establishment of a Memorial Award, and the Capstone Lecture. In all, there was a diversity of high-quality and productive activities for all to attend. We are grateful to our sponsors, including Monsanto, the North American Moose Foundation, Agrium, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Southeast Idaho National Wildlife Refuges, The Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Stoller, Inc.,

and the Department of Biological Sciences at Idaho State University. We also thank those who provided items for the auction, including, but not limited to, US National Park Service, Yellowstone Center for Resources, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, Tribal enterprises, Stackpole Books, Bruce Becker, Teton Photo Works, and Midway USA.

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DATE: 14-17 June 2009
OF DELEGATES/PARTICIPANTS: 77