

Gene Pools Task Force Proposes Five-Year Plan

A NPS Task Force on Conserving Gene Pools met in Washington, D.C. Sept. 16-18, at the call of NPS Director William Penn Pott, Jr., and under the leadership of Christine Schonewald-Cox, NPS Research Scientist with the NPS/CPSU at University of California, Davis.

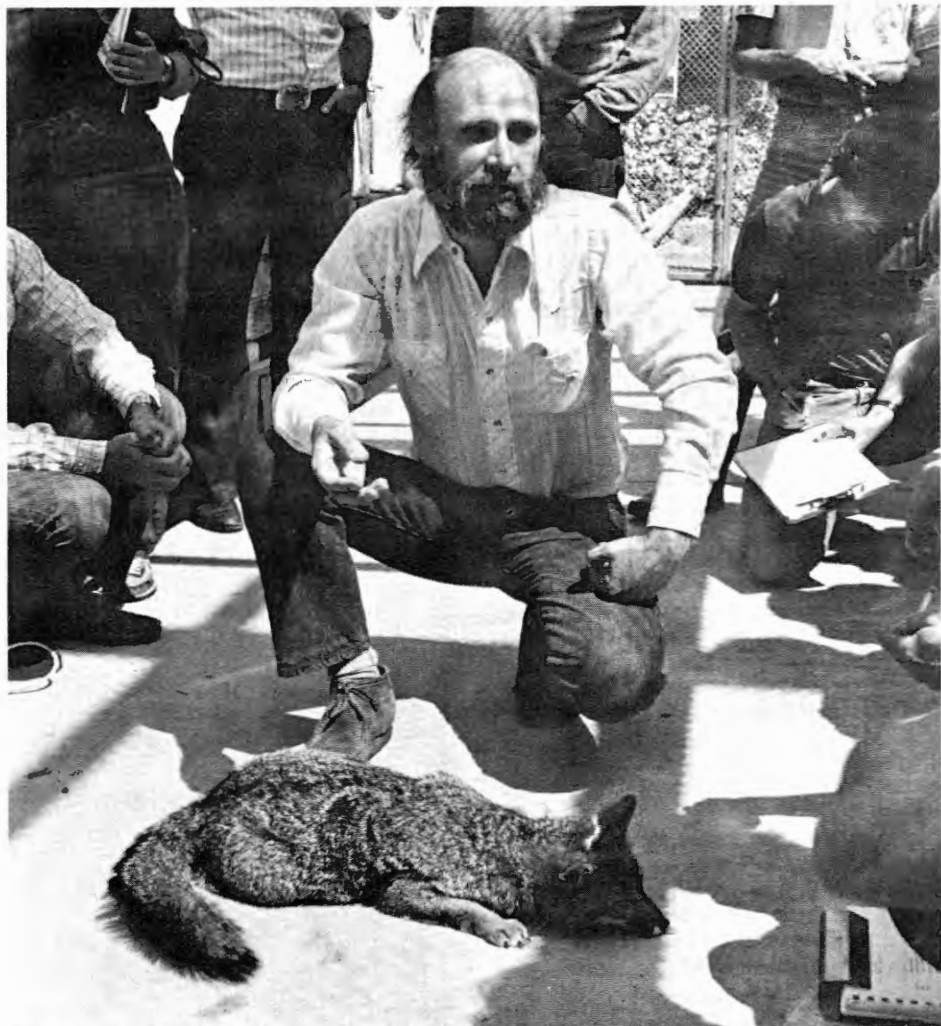
The 20-person group included a selection of outstanding non-NPS scientists in genetics, demography, community ecology, and related fields: Dr. Peter Brussard of Montana State University, Dr. Steven M. Chambers of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Dr. John Eisenberg of the Florida State Museum, Dr. James L. Hamrick of the University of Georgia, Dr. Larry D. Harris of the University of Florida, Dr. David Kafton of the National Council on Gene Resources, Dr. Lawrence Riggs, president of GENREC in Berkeley; Dr. Michael H. Smith of the Savannah River Ecology Laboratory, and Dr. Bruce Wilcox of Stanford University.

Several members of the Task Force met with NPS Assoc. Dir. Dick Briceland following the meeting and generated a five-year action program which later was

proposed to Director Mott. This program focuses on inventory and monitoring of biological diversity in the parks, training of NPS staffs, public education and outreach, interagency cooperation, and establishment of a Director's Steering Committee for Biological Diversity. The proposed five-year action prototype program would open the door for intensive biological diversity work in the National Park System, according to Dr. Schonewald-Cox, who is currently reviewing and synthesizing the mountain of material produced by the three-day Task Force meeting.

"We plan," she said, "to have the report ready for public presentation by the winter of 1987. Meanwhile, the Director has responded favorably to our proposal, and it is now being presented to the Regional Directors."

"Based on the outcome of the RDs' response," Schonewald-Cox said, "a program eventually will be established that will increase our knowledge of biological diversity and sharpen our ability to make decisions and to apply our knowledge in its management of the National Park System."



An immobilized Kit Fox is examined by John Sacklin, Environmental Specialist at Redwood NP, during a training course on wildlife immobilization held during the summer at Humboldt State University and cosponsored by the University and Redwood NP. The course was attended by personnel from NPS, BLM, USFWS, and several state agencies and organizations, according to Redwood NP Supt. Douglas G. Warnock.