

Society of Conservation Biology Holds First Annual Meeting

The newly-formed Society for Conservation Biology (SCB) held its first annual meeting June 24-25 in Bozeman, Mont. The Society conducted symposia that addressed such varied topics as parasitology and conservation, the significance of edges in conservation biology, advances in conservation biology of fishes, and prospects and recommendations for undergraduate, graduate education and continuing education for professionals. Keynote speaker Raymond Dasmann opened the meeting that sampled collected research and management efforts presently underway in conservation biology. Other speakers' topics ranged from breeding success of small rhino populations and population viability, to interactions of complex landscapes.

One thing that became evident is the overlap and the need for cross-fertilization between conservation biology, landscape ecology, and the more rudimentary humanitarian and biological disciplines.

The SCB banquet speaker, Norman Myers, urged optimism. He related an ongoing struggle by the Australian national government for establishment of a World Heritage Site in Northern Queensland. This apparently is contrary to the Provincial government's intention to log the remnant forests. Later, Paul Erlich, recipient of one of the society's four conservation awards, turned his attention to the request of the Australian government, asking members to not forget how they, as individuals and as an organization, could

be valuable in this and similar efforts.

Three other awards were: one to the New York Zoological Society for its tradition of leadership in conservation biology; one to Dr. Norman Myers for his unrelenting efforts to keep the world's attention on the ongoing destruction of tropical rain forests; and to Michael Lemartz of the USDA Forest Service for combining field studies, concepts of conservation biology and applied forestry techniques into a management program for maintaining viable populations of red-cockaded woodpeckers.

The meeting, its format and subject coverage, was well-organized. Mike Soule, the board and other officers including the chairman/organizer, Peter Brussard (MSU), gave us something really worth anticipating in a second meeting of the Society, to be held at the University of California, Davis, Aug. 14-18, 1988. The CSB meeting will be held jointly with AIBS and the Ecological Society. C. Schonewald-Cox will be the campus organizer for the SCB meeting and is happy to answer questions you may have. At the Davis meeting, a number of symposia will cover focal topics in conservation.

Montana offered cooled weather, 65-70 degrees, and its very beautiful Galatin Basin, surrounded by snow-peaked mountains and most of the mega-vertebrate fauna that still roam these northern mountains.

Christine Schonewald-Cox
NPS Research Biologist, Davis, California