

THE SECOND ANNUAL WILDLIFE SOCIETY CONFERENCE SETS RECORDS

BY MICHAEL COFFEY

A RECORD SETTING 2,100 wildlife biologists, managers, administrators, natural resource leaders, and students attended the second annual conference of the Wildlife Society last September in Portland, Oregon. The conference, "Excellence in Wildlife Stewardship through Science and Education," provided a wide range of topics relevant to the theme and included 19 symposia, 44 sessions, and over 400 papers and poster sessions. Both symposia and contributed papers and posters were grouped by subject matter and, other than the plenary session, ran concurrently. Field trips, associated meetings, and a wide variety of special activities provided opportunities for participants to visit and renew old or make new acquaintances.

The plenary session addressed "Long-term Research on Keystone Species: Implication for Ecosystem Management." Five outstanding speakers fleshed out the symposium. Jack Berryman, the Wildlife Society's 1995 Aldo Leopold Award Recipient, provided opening remarks with James A. Estes of the National Biological Service, who discussed the sea otter in nearshore marine communities following E. Charles Meslow, the western regional representative of the Wildlife Management Institute, addressed the role of the north-

ern spotted owl in late successional forests, and Samuel J. McNaughton of the University of Syracuse, New York, Biological Research Laboratories examined grazing ungulates in African savannas. H. Ronald Pulliam, Director of the National Biological Service, provided a perspective on human populations and global ecosystems.

The Wildlife Society decided to hold its own conference 2 years ago in part to provide a forum for working field biologists and managers to exchange information. With the vast amount of wildlife management and research activities conducted throughout the national park system this forum is an excellent opportunity for field people to share and present information. Somewhat of a disappointment, however, was the small number of papers reporting research and management activities in the national park system and the small number of National Park Service personnel in attendance. It is time to get our message out to our peers, exchange information, and participate in the wildlife community.

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Mike Coffey is a Wildlife Biologist with the Natural Resource Partnerships Program Office of the National Natural Resource Program Center in Fort Collins, Colorado. His phone number is (970) 225-3553.