



Planners' Rendezvous

CO-SPONSORED BY THE ORGANIZATION OF WILDLIFE PLANNERS
AND THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF RECREATION RESOURCE PLANNERS



FORGING A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN RECREATION AND WILDLIFE PLANNERS

May 13-15, 2008

MISSOULA, MONTANA

Conference Proceedings



To generate new ideas for collaborative approaches to planning, while fostering an increased sense of camaraderie among recreation & wildlife professionals.

CONFERENCE BACKGROUND

In May of 2008, the National Association of Recreation Resource Planners (NARRP) and the Organization of Wildlife Planners (OWP) partnered with one another for the first time to put on a ground-breaking conference event which was intended to provide a forum for recreation and wildlife (including fisheries) professionals to:

- **Share similar experiences...***by discussing the many common goals and issues faced by both professions.*
- **Expand horizons...***by exploring ways in which these two highly specialized professions can benefit from working more closely together with one another in the future.*
- **Forge new professional relationships.**

Ultimately, the goal of this conference was to generate new ideas for collaborative approaches to wildlife and recreation planning, while fostering an increased sense of camaraderie among recreation and wildlife professionals.

This conference was the result of collaboration among many distinguished members of both OWP & NARRP including: Larry Gigliotti (past President—OWP), Jim Eychaner (past President—NARRP), Mike Lewis (former mid-Continent Regional Representative—NARRP), Brenda Adams-Weyant (past President—NARRP), Dana Dolsen (past President—OWP), Glenn Haas (current President at the time—NARRP), and Bill Romberg (current President at the time—OWP).

The conference planning committee comprised three members from NARRP (Mike Lewis, co-chair; Jim Eychaner; and Glenn Haas) and three members from OWP (Larry Gigliotti, co-chair; Bill Romberg; and Rob Brooks, President—Elect, OWP).

As the local state host, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) contributed significant support for this conference in the form of planning assistance, program development, marketing, local logistics, professional staff, printing, teleconference calls, and providing technical and other equipment for the conference. From the very beginning to the end, the entire conference planning process was a shining example of partnership at its best.



**Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks**

Individually, NARRP & OWP have much to offer to this partnership. According to the NARRP website, NARRP has two basic services and/or functions: "... provide the public an opportunity for the enjoyment and benefits of quality outdoor recreation in balance with the protection of natural, cultural, historic, and scenic resources" ... and "...provide its members with the opportunity to see across the national landscape of the many recreation resource stewards in order to advance professional educational development, interagency networking, information and technology exchange, and the nurturing of working relationships and long-term friendships." In a like manner, according to its website, the OWP mission states that its intent is to: "... help improve the management of fish and wildlife agencies ..." and "... help support the professional lives of the people that participate in our organization."

Both OWP & NARRP recognize that success lies in the nurturance of those professionals who align themselves with each respective mission, providing them with growth and learning opportunities so as to better serve the people and the resources to which both organizations dedicate themselves. As well, both organizations collectively understand that managing natural resources is a balancing act between the human (i.e., social) and the natural (i.e., ecological). This means there is a need to facilitate, and ensure that the compatible and ethical stewardship of such resources is communicated and practiced, both individually, and collectively.

By collaboratively learning from one another, NARRP & OWP will grow their networks, widen capacities, and pursue interdisciplinary endeavors that will leverage greater outcomes because of the synergy developed in the community and across the nation. It is hoped that this partnership might be expanded in the future to include other organizations (e.g., the River Management Society, the Society of Conservation Biology's Social Science Working Group, and the International Association of Society and Natural Resource...to name a few), in an effort to bring interdisciplinary practitioners, academia, public agencies as well as NGOs together to focus their combined power of thought and deed on wicked issues like global climate change, children & nature, funding shortfalls, and other pressing natural resources quandaries of this millennia.

By jointly venturing forth in 2008, OWP & NARRP hope to create a broader, conservation-minded, committed community that impacts the public at both the individual and collective levels throughout the country. We would all be wise to realize, as Brenda Adams-Weyant has said, "You can't plan in a vacuum." It is important to get out there and do something about it together! Planners' Rendezvous 08 was just that - a window opened wide enough to let our passion and our dedication flow both ways.



CONFERENCE SUPPORTERS

NARRP & OWP thank the approximately 150 recreation and wildlife professionals from across the United States who attended the conference. A complete list of conference participants is provided at the end of this proceedings.

OWP & NARRP also thank the following conference supporters:

- Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
- National Park Service
- U.S. Forest Service
- Bureau of Land Management
- Bureau of Reclamation
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- National Association of State Park Directors
- University of Montana
- Trails Unlimited
- Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Foundation
- SAS Institute, Inc.
- Lower Colorado River Authority
- Wells Resources, Inc.
- EDAW/AECOM
- Minnesota Implan Group, Inc.
- PBS&J
- Montana Chapter of the Wildlife Society (Wildlife Planning and Administration Working Group)
- Polaris Strategic Consulting
- Bayern Brewing

CONFERENCE PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

MONDAY, MAY 12TH

- 10:00 AM - NOON OWP ExCom Meeting
- 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM Pre-conference workshop: ***Communications that Stick!***
Merrill Ronning (Ronning Leadership Seminars—Eden Prairie, MN)
This workshop was designed to help attendees take away skills that are immediately helpful in conversations and presentations. Attendees learned tools on how to ‘ground’ themselves in a solid and authentic self. They also learned how to position information through various frameworks of conversation that are relevant to the listener, and learned the value of tapping into the right side of the brain by creating images that the audience will remember.
- 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Welcome social

TUESDAY, MAY 13TH

- 8:00 AM - 8:15 AM Welcome to Montana: **Jeff Hagener** (*Director—Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks*)
Welcome to Missoula: **John Engen** (*Mayor—Missoula, Montana*)
- 8:15 AM - 8:30 AM Conference welcomes & announcements: **Jim Eychaner & Mike Lewis**
- 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM Keynote speakers featured:
Perry Brown (*Dean—College of Forestry & Conservation, University of Montana*)
Rick Potts (*NPS—Washington, D.C.*)
- 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM Who we are? NARRP & OWP (plenary session). **Glenn Haas, Bill Romberg, and Dwight Guynn**. In this plenary session, OWP & NARRP provided a brief presentation so that everyone could become familiar with each organization’s history, philosophy, and mode of operation.
- 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Why are we together this week? OWP & NARRP (panel session). **Larry Gigliotti, Bill Romberg, Michele Beucler, Mary Donze, Jim Eychaner, and Dan Wiley**. In this plenary session, selected members from each organization presented their thoughts in the following areas: (1) What do we know about each other? (2) What do we need to know about each other? (3) What are the potential outcomes of meeting together this week?
- 11:45 AM - 1:15 PM Awards luncheon sponsored by Trails Unlimited
OWP Paul C. Weikel Memorial Award Recipient: **Walt Gasson**
NARRP National Recreation Resource Leadership Award Recipient: **Bob Meinen**
NARRP Distinguished Service Award Recipients: **Tim Bradle & Cam Lockwood**
- 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM ***Better Communities Through Cooperation—Lessons Learned from the Blackfoot River Valley*** (plenary session). **Jim Stone, Greg Neudecker, Hank Goetz, Seth Wilson, and Gary Burnett**. This presentation chronicled the development of public recreational access to private land in the Blackfoot River Valley of western Montana, described a partnership between the Blackfoot Challenge and the Nature Conservancy to conserve 89,000 acres of corporate timber lands, and detailed ongoing work between private landowners, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP), and the Blackfoot Challenge to reduce conflicts between livestock and grizzly bears/wolves in the valley.

3:00 PM - 3:55 PM

Concurrent sessions:

► **(Wildlife/Recreation): *A Montana Recreation & Wildlife Partnership to Assess the Impacts of Winter Recreation on Lynx and Wolverines***

Bob Walker (FWP—Helena, MT)

Brian Giddings (FWP—Helena, MT)

Bob Inman (Wolverine Foundation, Inc.—Kuna, ID)

Jay Kolbe (FWP—Seeley Lake, MT)

This presentation described a partnership between the Recreation and Wildlife Divisions of Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks to better manage outdoor recreation programs in a way that least impacts threatened species.

► **(Planning Tools): *Integrating Species Conservation and Recreation Planning: An Example of a GIS Platform Based Model for the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area***

Leo Lentsch (Entrix, Inc.—Georgetown, SC)

John Baas (Michael Brandman Assoc.—San Ramon, CA)

The Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest is using a GIS-based model to estimate impacts of recreational use on special status species habitats on the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area. This model has been successfully used on projects for the Washington Department of Natural Resources, The Nature Conservancy, and the BLM.

► **(Planning & Communication): *Children & Nature***

Jason Holm (FWS—Midwest Region)

John Davy (Virginia State Parks)

Marlene Finley (U.S. Forest Service)

(Marcella Wells—Moderator)

This 2-hour panel session focused on the growing concern that children aren't playing outside much anymore and that this change has profound implications for the mental and physical health of future generations. Planners learned about the national groundswell of attention to reconnecting children with nature.

4:05 PM - 5:00 PM

Concurrent sessions:

► **(Wildlife/Recreation): *How Two Montana Ranch Families Utilized Public/Private Partnerships to Conserve Fish & Wildlife Habitat in the Madison & Missouri River Valleys of Montana***

Tom Hinz (FWP—Bozeman, MT)

Jeff Laszlo (Granger Ranches, LLC—Ennis, MT)

Dickson Sorensen (Forest Grove Productions)

Cindy & Jim Kittredge (Bird Cr. Ranch—Cascade, MT)

This presentation provided a brief overview of the Montana Wetlands Legacy Partnership, followed by discussion of two successful case studies: (1) *Conserving the Bird Creek Ranch* and (2) *Restoring the O'Dell Creek Headwaters*.

► **(Planning Tools): *How the Use of Business Analytical Tools Can Benefit Natural Resource Management Agencies***

Tom Stockburger & Mike Costello

(SAS Institute, Inc.—Denver, CO)

Gone are days when planning can be solely governed by instinct and intuition. Today's fisheries, wildlife, and recreation planners need tools that access data from different sources, provide analytical capabilities, and have the ability to surface the information in useful ways. This presentation explored such business analytical tools.

► **(Planning & Communication): *Children & Nature* (continued)**

5:30 PM - 7:00 PM

Cracker Barrel / Poster Session. This session offered poster presentations and various topic-stations for conference participants to mingle and talk with people about topics that caught their interest.

Topic stations included:

-**Bonnie Ecker** (U.S. Army Corp of Engineers—Seattle, WA). *Natural Resources Management Gateway and Groove: Online Communication Ideas*

-**Sally Guynn** (Management Assistance Team—Shepherdstown, WV). *National Conservation Leadership Institute*

-**Dwight Guynn** (Management Assistance Team—Shepherdstown, WV). *State Leadership Toolbox*

-**Dana Dolsen** (Utah Division of Wildlife Resources—Salt Lake City, UT). *Constituency Surveys Via the Internet: Opportunity of Dilemma?*

-**Sarah G. Lupis Kozlowski & Steve McMullin** (Virginia Tech—Blacksburg, VA). *All Bark & No Bite? Evaluating the Effectiveness of Virginia's Public Process for Addressing Hound Hunting Issues*

-**Brian Stenquist** (Minnesota DNR—St. Paul, MN). *2009 OWP Conference Information*

Poster presenters included:

-**Jessica Montag** (U.S. Geological Society—Fort Collins, CO). *Diagnostic Tool for Choosing Appropriate Socioeconomic Analyses for Land Management Planning*

-**Tim Craig** (BLM—Fairbanks, AK). *Resolving Conflicts Between Subsistence and Recreational (Sport) Hunters in Northwest Alaska.*

-**Rick Just** (Idaho Dept. of Parks & Recreation—Boise, ID). *Crossing the Island*

-**Jonathan Haber** (U.S. Forest Service—MT). *U.S. Forest Service Open Space Conservation Strategy*

-**Wayne Sames** (Minnesota DNR—St. Paul, MN). *Outdoor Recreation in Decline (Twin Cities Public Television Program)*

-**Joe Weigand** (Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks—Helena, MT). *FWP Private Landowner Programs*

-**Deborah Chavez, Patricia Winter, and Jim Absher** (Pacific Southwest Research Station—Riverside, CA). *Recreation Research: Wildland Recreation & Urban Cultures*

-**Nina Gordon & Rick Potts** (CA State Parks & NPS). *NASPD-NPS, Children & Nature Partnership*

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14TH

8:00 AM - 8:55 AM

Concurrent sessions:

► **(Wildlife/Recreation): Missoula's Open Spaces: Providing Wildlife Habitat and Passive Recreation**

Jackie Corday & Morgan Valliant (Missoula Parks & Recreation Dept.—Missoula, MT)

This presentation provided an overview of Missoula's 3,600 acres of open space that are categorized as "Conservation Lands" which include steep grassy hillsides, forests, and riparian river corridors. While managed primarily for their conservation values, they also serve important recreation functions. The focus of this presentation was to address the multiple challenges and approaches that have been taken to balancing conservation goals with high recreational demands.

► **(Planning Tools): *Addressing Visitor Capacity***

Keith Brown (U.S. Forest Service—Tahoe NF)
Mike Yochim (NPS-Yellowstone National Park)
Roger Semler (FWP-Great Falls, MT)
Bruce Watkins (Colorado Division of Wildlife)
(Glenn Haas—Moderator)

3-hour panel session. Recreation and wildlife planners make fundamental visitor capacity decisions for a variety of natural resource based recreational activities. How are these decisions made and what have been the lessons learned? The purpose of this panel session was for fisheries, wildlife, and recreation planners to compare and contrast how their programs operate and to offer suggestions they would have for others.

► **(Planning & Communication): *State Wildlife Action Plans: Status of Implementation and Planning Efforts***

Lynn Quattro (South Carolina DNR)
Lisa Holst (New York State—Albany, NY)
T.O. Smith (FWP—Helena, MT)

This 2-hour session gave an update on national efforts, and provided examples of sharing efforts among states. In addition, this presentation discussed the role recreation planning has in State Wildlife Action Plans...and the opportunities for partnership (State Wildlife Action Plans and Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans).

9:05 - 10:00 AM

Concurrent sessions:

► **(Wildlife/Recreation): *Breeding Birds on a Developed Recreational Site***

Scott Robinson (BLM—Coeur d'Alene, ID)

This presentation described a study that demonstrates that careful planning and development of recreation facilities can alleviate potential impacts to local wildlife. The study evaluated breeding birds five years before, during, and five years after construction of a facility.

► **(Planning Tools): *Addressing Visitor Capacity*** (continued)

► **(Planning & Communication): *State Wildlife Action Plans*** (continued)

10:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Concurrent sessions:

► **(Wildlife/Recreation): *Level of Service: One State's Proposed Tools for Defining and Measuring Success in Access and Recreation***

Jim Eychaner (State of Washington—Olympia, WA).
Sergio Capozzi (EDAW—Seattle, WA).

Public agencies invest millions of dollars in recreation resources from the purchase of land for park use. However, there currently is no satisfactory way to measure the effectiveness of this investment. To help address this inadequacy, Washington State's Recreation & Conservation Office (RCO) recommends testing a level of service (LOS) approach, a well understood concept in land use and urban planning. This presentation described two preliminary LOS tools proposed for multi-year statewide testing in Washington.

► **(Planning Tools): *Addressing Visitor Capacity*** (continued)

► **(Planning & Communication): *Addressing Wildlife Recreation in SCORP Planning***

Patricia Gillespie (NPS—Washington, D.C.)

This presentation reviewed Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan requirements and highlighted how states have addressed wildlife recreation. A facilitated discussion provided participants an opportunity to share ideas on how to integrate wildlife recreation issues, goals, and strategies with a state planning process.

1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Field trips. Four different field trips were offered Wednesday afternoon. Below are descriptions for each of these field trips:

1. **Milltown Dam Removal—Benefits to Local Area Fisheries, Wildlife and Parks (1:00 - 3:30 PM).**

Field Trip Highlights: For the first time in a century, the Clark Fork and Blackfoot Rivers are flowing freely through their confluence near Missoula. After more than 20 years of study, planning, and legal negotiation, the Milltown Dam was breached in March of 2008, and work is well underway on the \$110 million cleanup of the Milltown Superfund site. On this field trip, attendees were provided a birds eye view of ongoing project construction activities from a bluff overlooking the dam. The field trip included presentations on Superfund site remediation, river corridor restoration, river recreation, fisheries & wildlife habitat, and design of a potential new state park.



2. **Bitterroot River Birding & Traveler's Rest State Park (1:00 - 5:00 PM).**

Field Trip Highlights: This field trip began with a short trip by coach to Maclay Flats, a Forest Service day-use area along the Bitterroot River just south of the Missoula city limits. Maclay Flats is one of the stops on the Missoula Valley Birding Trail, and Lolo National Forest staff gave attendees a short presentation on the efforts to establish the trail and produce a guidebook. After the presentation, attendees headed out for a short hike through the ponderosa pine and cottonwood-lined river bottom and watched for spotted sandpipers, killdeer, common mergansers, bald eagles, osprey, blue herons, mallards, red-tailed hawks, and other species. This field trip was completed by traveling ten miles south to Travelers' Rest State Park—a unique Native American and Lewis & Clark campsite with archaeological evidence of the Corp's stay in the area. Attendees visited with the site manager to learn about the area's history and unique park management system. Before heading back to Missoula, attendees joined a Montana wildlife expert for a fun educational wildlife presentation, complete with live birds.



3. **Hiking at Mount Jumbo Wildlife Management Area (1:00 - 5:00 PM).**

Field Trip Highlights: The trip started with a short 10-minute bus ride to the trailhead for the Mount Jumbo North Loop Trail. Participants heard from local Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks wildlife biologists and the City of Missoula Conservation Lands Director about the many challenges and opportunities of balancing public recreation and lands conservation for elk and mule deer winter range. The trail is a five-mile loop with a gentle grade and good views of the Missoula Valley and surrounding areas. There were several organized stops along the trail for short presentations and opportunities for attendees to explore on their own. Physical activity rating: moderate (a 5-mile hike on a trail with a gentle grade).



4. **Blue Ribbon Fly Fishing—An Overview of Montana's Famous Fisheries (12:30 - 5:00 PM).**

Field Trip Highlights: For many people, a trip to Montana isn't complete without wetting a line in one of the state's Blue Ribbon Waters. This field offered a limited number attendees the opportunity to learn some of the basics of fly fishing, and put their skills to use by spending some time fishing nearby Rock Creek.



6:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Banquet sponsored by the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Foundation

The conference banquet and live auction was held at the Governors' Room (on the 2nd floor of Missoula's Historic Florence Building—a short walk from the DoubleTree Hotel on North Higgins Street in downtown Missoula). Entertainment included a live performance by *Bits & Pieces* performers from the Missoula Children's Theater.

THURSDAY, MAY 15TH

8:00 AM - 8:55 AM

Concurrent sessions:

► **(Wildlife/Recreation): *The Importance of Data Collection in Conservation Planning for Sensitive Species within the Sand Mountain Recreation Area***

Dean Tonenna (BLM—Carson City, NV)

The Sand Mountain Recreation Area is a popular OHV destination and unique habitat for several endemic species. Data collection accurately portrayed the cumulative impacts throughout the habitat and brought polarized groups to the planning table to draft a conservation plan that would meet the needs of recreational users and wildlife.

► **(Planning Tools): *Tools from the National Parks Service***

Rick Potts (NPS—Washington, D.C.)

Michael Linde (NPS—Seattle, WA)

Gary Weiner (NPS—Bozeman, MT)

Conservation & Outdoor Recreation Program Managers from the NPS discussed the broad array of technical assistance and granting programs designed to assist states and local communities to conserve their natural resources and develop outdoor recreation opportunities. Planners are encouraged to take advantage of these programs.

► **(Planning & Communication): *Integrating Wildlife, Transportation & Recreation on Public Lands***

Sandra Jacobson (U.S. Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Research Station)

This presentation illustrated how public land managers have used a variety of approaches to mitigate highway impacts on wildlife when providing quality recreational experiences. The goal of this presentation was to encourage planners to recognize the impacts of highways on wildlife and how some of these impacts can be reduced through integrated planning.

9:05 AM - 10:00 AM

Concurrent sessions:

► **(Wildlife/Recreation): *Compatibility & Conflict in Outdoor Recreation—Techniques to Understand the Interactions of Consumptive and Non-Consumptive Outdoor Recreational Uses.***

Jeff Prey (Wisconsin State Parks—Madison, WI)

The interface of recreation users can lead to positive and negative interactions. There are tools and techniques that can be used to understand these interactions and apply mitigation strategies for positive sum gain. This presentation will focus upon the relationship of consumptive and non-consumptive recreational uses along with relevant management strategies.

► **(Planning Tools): *The Importance of Asking More Than Just “Current Users” When Planning for Quality Recreational Opportunities***

Mike Lewis (FWP—Helena, MT)

This presentation described two resident angler surveys conducted on Montana's Rock Creek and Bitterroot River. Survey results demonstrated there are diverse opinions about how rivers should be managed in Montana. The findings suggest FWP should consider regional planning and management efforts when it comes to providing quality recreation and angling opportunities on rivers in the western part of Montana.

► **(Planning & Communication): *Comparing & Contrasting Three Different SCORP Efforts***

John Davy (Virginia DCR)

Mark Ivy (Penn State University)

Jim Eychaner (State of Washington—Olympia, WA)

This presentation discussed three different approaches to SCORP planning and development.

10:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Chinese Geoparks Management: Improving in the Face of Dynamic Change (plenary session). **Tom Christensen** (U.S. Forest Service—Old Hickory, TN). In this plenary session, the audience learned about the dynamic challenges and opportunities facing Chinese (national) Geopark Managers that reflect on management and planning for all parks of the work. It is predicted that Chinese tourism will be the single largest international tourism group visiting the United States in the next decade. Attendees learned how planning challenges are playing out in the premier Chinese national park, Yuntaishan Geopark, a mountain canyon/gorge park in the Henen Province.

11:30 AM - 12:30 AM

Group lunch

12:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Grizzly Bears in Montana—Management & Recreation Challenges (plenary session) **Heather & Derek Reich, Russ Talmo, and Patricia Sowka**. In this plenary session, grizzly bear experts from FWP's northwest region, the Wind River Bear Institute, and FWP's Wildlife Rehabilitation Center provided presentations that address some of the many challenges of managing grizzly bears in Montana. These presentations included a grizzly bear video and a live demonstration of Wind River Karelian Bear Dogs (highly trained dogs used for bear shepherding to save problem bears from relocation and almost certain eventual destruction).

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Summary: What have we learned? (panel session). **Tim Bradle, Nancy Dorman, Bob Reinhart, Dan Wiley, Dana Dolsen, and Brian Stenquist**. In this session, a selected panel summarized the important lessons learned from the conference.

4:15 PM - 5:30 PM

NARRP Member Business Meeting
OWP Business Meeting

6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

OWP Strategic Planning Session

Friday, May 16th

8:00 AM - NOON

OWP Business/ExComm Meeting
NARRP Board Meeting