



THE TRUMPETER SWAN SOCIETY
Twenty-second Conference

“Looking to the Future”

**In coordination with the
Greater Yellowstone Trumpeter Swan Working Group**

**Best Western KwaTaqNuk Resort
Polson, Montana**

October 10-13, 2011

Program

Monday, October 10, 2011

- 8:00 am-5:00 pm** TTSS Board of Directors Meeting - Koostahtah Room
5:30 pm-8:00 pm Conference Registration – Lower Level
6:00 pm-9:00 pm Conference Reception - Michel/Victor/Alexander Conference Rooms

Tuesday, October 11, 2011

7:00 am - 5:00 pm Conference Registration – Lower Level

Conference Presentations – Michel/Victor/Alexander Conference Rooms

OPENING SESSION

- 8:00 am** **Opening Remarks** – Dale Becker, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes Wildlife Management Program, The Trumpeter Swan Society President
8:10 am **Welcome to the Flathead Indian Reservation** – Steve Lozar, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes Tribal Council Member, Polson District
8:20 am **Opening Prayer** – Tony Incashola, Salish and Pend d' Oreille Elders and Culture Committee Director

OVERVIEW OF POPULATIONS AND ISSUES

Session Chair: Dale Becker, The Trumpeter Swan Society President

- 8:35 am** **The 2010 North American Trumpeter Swan Survey**
Co-authors: Deborah J. Groves, Timothy J. Moser, John E. Cornely, and David F. Caithemer
Presenter: Deborah J. Groves, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- 8:55 am** **The Trumpeter Swan Society—Past, Present, and Future**
Presenter: John E. Cornely, The Trumpeter Swan Society Executive Director

CONSERVATION OF GREATER YELLOWSTONE'S FLOCKS

- 9:20 am** **Status of Resident Trumpeter Swans in Wyoming 2011**
Co-authors: Susan Patla and Bob Oakleaf
Presenter: Susan Patla, Wyoming Game and Fish Department
- 9:40 am** **Managing Idaho's Trumpeter Swan Flock for Long-term Viability: Current Status, Long-term Trends, Management Opportunities and Concerns.**
Co-authors: Adonia Henry and Ruth E. Shea
Presenter: Adonia Henry, Scaup and Willet, LLC

10:00 am - 10:20 am – Break

RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT OF TRUMPETER SWANS IN GREATER YELLOWSTONE

Session Chair: Gary L. Ivey, The Trumpeter Swan Society Vice President

10:20 am RMP Trumpeter Swan Management within the Southeast Idaho National Wildlife Refuge Complex Challenges and Opportunities

Presenter: William Smith, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

10:40 am Analysis of Trumpeter Swan Winter Use in the Upper Snake River Region of Idaho

Presenter: Rob Cavallaro, Idaho Department of Fish and Game

11:00 am Conservation-reliant Species: Our New Relationship with Nature

Presenter: J. Michael Scott, University of Idaho

11:20 am Trumpeter Swan Production and Habitat in the Centennial Valley, Montana

Presenter: Jim Roscoe, Centennial Valley Association

**11:40 am Endogenous Contributions to Egg Formation in Trumpeter Swans
Co-authors: Kyle Cutting and Jeffrey Warren**

Presenter: Kyle Cutting, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

12:00 – 1:15 – Lunch

RESTORATION EFFORTS AND GENETIC IMPLICATIONS

Session Chair: John E. Cornely, The Trumpeter Swan Society Executive Director

1:20 pm Current Status of The Trumpeter Swan Reintroduction to The Flathead Indian Reservation

Co-authors: Janene Lichtenberg and Dale Becker

Presenter: Janene Lichtenberg, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes

1:40 pm Middle Madison Valley Trumpeter Swan Restoration Project

Co-authors: Claire Gower and Tom Hinz

Presenter: Claire Gower, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks

2:00 pm Trumpeter Swans in Oregon – Status of the Oregon Flock

Co-authors: Gary L. Ivey and Martin J. St. Louis

Presenter: Gary L. Ivey, The Trumpeter Swan Society

2:20 pm History, Current Status and Future Management of Trumpeter Swans in Yellowstone National Park

Presenter: Douglas W. Smith, U. S. National Park Service

2:40 pm Molecular Genetic Insights into the Biology of Trumpeter Swans

Presenter: Sara J. Oyler-McCance, U. S. Geological Survey, Fort Collins Science Center

3:00 - 3:15 pm – Break

MANAGING FOR LONG-TERM VIABILITY

Session Chair: Ruth Shea, The Trumpeter Swan Society Board Member

3:15 pm How Do We Manage for Long-term Viability of the Greater Yellowstone Meta-population of Trumpeter Swans? Lessons from Greater Sage Grouse Population Viability Analyses

Co-authors: Edward O. Garton and Ruth E. Shea

Presenter: Edward O. Garton, University of Idaho

3:35 pm Making More Effective Use of Partnerships to Ensure the Long-Term Viability of the RMP/US Breeding Segment

Presenter: Dan Casey, American Bird Conservancy

3:55 pm Panel and Group Discussion- Building a Long-term Conservation Vision for Greater Yellowstone's Trumpeter Swans

Panel: Douglas W. Smith (National Park Service), Edward O. Garton (University of Idaho), David Olson (U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service), Yvette Converse (Great Northern Landscape Conservation Cooperative), Dan Casey (American Bird Conservancy), Sara Oyler-McCance (U. S. Geological Survey)

Tuesday Evening - Michel/Victor/Alexander Conference Rooms

7:00 pm Greater Yellowstone Trumpeter Swan Working Group Business Meeting - Rob Cavallaro, Idaho Fish and Game, Acting Working Group Chair

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

FIELD TRIP (advance registration required)

8:00 am – 7:00 pm: Board bus for field trip at the north end of the hotel parking lot. Stops will occur at Pablo National Wildlife Refuge and Ninepipe National Wildlife Refuge to discuss Trumpeter Swan restoration on the Flathead Indian Reservation. The group will then travel to the Blackfoot River Valley to view and discuss Trumpeter Swan restoration and land conservation efforts there, and then return to Polson through the Swan Valley. Box lunch provided.

8:00 pm *Return of the Trumpeters* Film Project- Michel/Victor/Alexander Conference Rooms

Filmmakers Steve and Char Harryman have begun a 5-year film project which will tell the remarkable story of the Trumpeter Swan. They are seeking our ideas and help

Thursday – October 13, 2011

Conference Presentations – Michel/Victor/Alexander Conference Rooms

PACIFIC COAST POPULATION (ALASKA AND CANADA)

Session Chair: Jim Hawkings, Canadian Wildlife Service

- 8:30 am The 2010 Alaska Trumpeter Swan Survey**
Presenter: Deborah J. Groves and John I. Hodges, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- 8:50 am A Summary of the Status, Nesting Success and Cygnet Survivability of a Resident Population of Trumpeter Swans in the Knik River Drainage and Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge, Alaska**
Presenter: William Quirk, Anchorage, Alaska
- 9:10 am Trumpeter Swan Surveys on Minto Flats, Alaska, 1968-2010**
Presenter: Karen S. Bollinger, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- 9:30 am Staging Strategies of Trumpeter Swans in the Knik River Drainage and the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge, Alaska**
Presenter: William Quirk, Anchorage, Alaska
- 9:50 am Potential for Analysis and Comparisons Using Long-term Data Gathered from the Cordova Area, Alaska**
Presenter: Jim King, The Trumpeter Swan Society Board Member

10:10 – 10:30 am – Break

TRUMPETER SWAN RESEARCH

Session Chair: Joe Johnson, Michigan State University, Kellogg Bird Sanctuary

- 10:30 am Unexpected Increases in the Canadian-Breeding Segment of the Rocky Mountain Population: Increasing Population or an Artifact of Changing Survey Methodology?**
Presenter: Jim Hawkings, Canadian Wildlife Service
- 10:50 am Trumpeter Swans and Snapping Turtles**
Presenter: Harry Lumsden, The Trumpeter Swan Society Board Member
- 11:10 am Efficacy of Stable Isotopes to Identify Breeding and Natal Origins of Trumpeter Swans**
Co-authors: Kyle Cutting and Jeffrey Warren
Presenter: Kyle Cutting, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- 11:30 am Lead Shot Poisoning in Swans: Sources of Pellets Within Whatcom County, Washington, and Sumas Prairie, British Columbia**
Co-authors: Michael Smith, Michael Davison, Laurie Wilson, Cindy Schexnider, Jennifer Bohannon, James Grassley, Donald Kraege, Walter Boyd, Barry Smith, Martha Jordan and Christine Grue
Presenter: Mike Smith, University of Washington

11:50 – 1:15 pm – Lunch

INTERIOR POPULATION

Session Chair: Ron Andrews, The Trumpeter Swan Society Board Member

1:20 pm Interior Population Swans: Status and Trends

Presenter: Joe Johnson, Michigan State University, Kellogg Bird Sanctuary

1:40 pm Trumpeter Swans - Not Just Your Wilderness Bird Anymore

Presenter: Larry Gillette, Three Rivers Park District

2:00 pm The Status of Trumpeter Swans at Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge: A Quarter Century After Reintroduction

Co-authors: Wayne L. Brininger, Jr. and Lowell C. Deede

Presenter: Wayne Brininger, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

2:20 pm Iowa to Arkansas Project

Presenter: Dave Hoffman, Iowa Department of Natural Resources

2:40 pm Update on Ontario Trumpeter Swans

Presenter: Harry Lumsden, The Trumpeter Swan Society Board Member

3:00 – 3:20 pm – Break

INTERIOR AND PACIFIC COAST MANAGEMENT

Session Chair: Becky Abel, The Trumpeter Swan Society Board Member

3:20 pm The Management Plan for the High Plains Trumpeter Swan Flock

Presenter: Shilo Comeau, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

3:40 pm Landscape-level Habitat Use by Trumpeter Swans in the Sandhills of Nebraska and South Dakota

Co-Authors: Andy Bishop, Shilo Comeau, James Dubovsky, Adrianna Araya, Roger Grosse, Neal Niemuth and Terry Shaffer

Presenter: Roger Grosse, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Rainwater Basin Joint Venture

4:00 pm Washington State Swan Stewards Update

Presenter: Martha Jordan, The Trumpeter Swan Society, Leader, Washington Swan Stewards

4:20 pm Wrap-up/Conclusions

Thursday Evening

6:30 pm Banquet – Alexander Conference Room

Banquet Address: George Melendez Wright, A Pioneer of Trumpeter Swan Conservation

Jerry Emory, Director of Communications, California State Parks Foundation, is a former board member of the George Wright Society. Jerry has written extensively about Mr. Wright's accomplishments and his great influence on science-based wildlife management in our National Parks.

Awards

Poster Presentations

Posters will be on display in the conference rooms and in the hallway throughout the conference.

Trumpeter Watch

Presenter: Peg Abbott, The Trumpeter Swan Society Outreach Coordinator

Zoos with Trumpeters

Presenter: Cindy Lund

Winter and Summer Use of the Core and Expansion areas in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem by Trumpeter Swans of the Rocky Mountain Population

Presenter: David Olson, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Nesting Ecology of Trumpeter Swans at Seney National Wildlife Refuge, 2006-2009

Presenter: David Olson, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Greater Yellowstone Trumpeter Swan Initiative

Presenter: Ruth E. Shea, The Trumpeter Swan Society Board Member

George Melendez Wright – The Man Who Saved Greater Yellowstone's Trumpeters

Presenter: Ruth E. Shea, The Trumpeter Swan Society Board Member

Leucistic Trumpeter Swans

Presenter: Harry Lumsden, The Trumpeter Swan Society Board Member

Minnesota's Expanding Trumpeter Swans

Presenters: Madeleine Linck and Arnie Fredrickson, Three Rivers Park District

Friday, October 14, 2011

Possible Field Trips for Interested Conference Attendees:

National Bison Range, local Wildlife and Wetland Habitat Restoration Projects and Trumpeter Swan Nesting Areas and other Wildlife Management Projects

Glacier National Park and Local Birding Areas

Conference Sponsors

Wiancko Charitable Foundation

**Division of Fish, Wildlife, Recreation and Conservation
Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes**

The Trumpeter Swan Society

Northwestern Energy

Mission Mountain Audubon Chapter

Southwest Airlines

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks

Montana Ducks Unlimited

Mission Valley Power

Flathead Audubon Chapter

The Trumpeter Swan Society

Members of The Trumpeter Swan Society share a common mission – to assure the vitality and welfare of wild Trumpeter Swan Populations. Since our founding in 1968, our Conferences have brought together agency managers, researchers, private sector partners, and involved citizens to discuss the issues, problems, and opportunities of Trumpeter Swan restoration and management. By maintaining this network between conferences, the Society has helped to promote more effective management and restoration of Trumpeter Swans. In Polson, we will celebrate our past successes from more than 40 years and look ahead to the future for swans and swan management.

The focus of the 22nd Conference will be on the status and challenges of the swans of the Yellowstone Region, but we will also learn about the other North American populations. We welcome your enthusiasm and knowledge and hope that all conference participants will renew their commitment to conserve the majestic Trumpeter Swan and its habitat.

If you are not already a member, we invite you to join The Trumpeter Swan Society.

The Trumpeter Swan Society
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