

Winter 2009



# OFWIM News

## President's Message: Robin Carlson

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Happy New Year, OFWIM members! I am excited to kick off 2009 with you, and would like to highlight some of OFWIM's recent activities. I'd also like to share with you the ways in which you can get involved.

The 2008 OFWIM Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico was a great success. All of the presentations, posters and panel discussions met a very high standard, and it is with great pleasure that we were able to present the best presentation and best poster with awards at the end of the conference. See page 3 for the winner's names! We also saw the excellent presentation and poster created by the winner of our 2008 Student Scholarship: Andrew Whittle, from the University of Kentucky.

A million thanks go to the members of all of last year's committees for making the conference such a success. I would particularly like to thank the Executive Committee and Meeting Planning Committee for their commitment of time and energy to the conference planning process, especially to Julie Prior-Magee for her help with local details and to Bruce Thompson (Director, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish) to be our keynote speaker. Special thanks also go to Inigo San Gil and the Long Term Ecological Research (LTER) Network Office for helping with a wide variety of on-site and technical details. Finally, we were treated to an incredibly interesting and informative field trip to the Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge led by Mike Friggens, of the Sevilleta LTER.

At the Annual Meeting, we learned the results of the officer elections, and I would like to welcome Jennifer Carlino (formerly Pollock) as our new President-Elect, Lisa Zolly as our continuing Secretary, Kristin Rogers as our new Treasurer, and Don Schrupp as our new Member-At-Large. Furthermore, I'd like to thank Past President Sabra Schwartz for all of her fearless leadership as President last year! I also want to thank outgoing Treasurer Aliya Ercelawn for her two years of hard work keeping our finances in line, and Viv Hutchison for all of her valuable help and advice as Past President in 2008.

At the end of the 2008 Conference, all of the attendees joined in a lively and productive discussion about how to move forward with OFWIM in the coming year. As a result, I am looking forward to a year filled with new and exciting ways to get involved with OFWIM. Here are some highlights:

1. Register on the OFWIM Portal, brought to us by the USGS NBII program. This is a fantastic way to see what the OFWIM committees are up to, and to network with your OFWIM colleagues.
2. Stay tuned for more information about Webex trainings this year. The first training will be about how to use the OFWIM Portal to the fullest, with other topics to be announced. If you have a topic that you would be interested in learning about (or could offer to teach), please don't hesitate to let me know.
2. Join a committee. The list of OFWIM committees and contact information is on page 6. Committees are one way OFWIM members can stay active during the year. Your involvement ensures that OFWIM stays relevant to you!
4. Help us with outreach. Ask your agency or organization to join as an Organization Member if it hasn't already. Spread the news about OFWIM at conferences and meeting (we have a poster and flyer that you can use, available on the OFWIM website). Tell all your colleagues!

I'm looking forward to another wonderful year with OFWIM! Our 2009 Conference will be in Seattle, Washington. Thanks to generous offers to host future meetings, we will be holding meetings in Kentucky, Missouri, and Texas (not necessarily in that order) in the following years. The OFWIM conferences are a great place to network with your colleagues from across the country, as well as to learn about new tools and techniques to take back home to your agency or organization. By expanding our use of the OFWIM Portal and Webex trainings this year, we are turning those networking opportunities into a year-round resource!

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any suggestions for how to make OFWIM better, or if you have any questions about what OFWIM can do for you. I can be reached at [rcarlson@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:rcarlson@dfg.ca.gov).

All the best, Robin Carlson— 2009 OFWIM President



## My First OFWIM Experience: Danny Lewis (Texas Parks and Wildlife)

The October, 2008 meeting in Albuquerque was my (and Chris Cumming's) first opportunity to attend and participate in an OFWIM Conference. What an exciting time to decide to jump into the mix!

We had a lot of questions as the conference began.

First off, we were not sure what sort of individuals comprised the organization. This was answered in the discussions revolving around the vision survey and goals for the organization. We found OFWIM is made up of: (1) Resource people who have taken on information management duties, (2) IT-centric people who perform these functions and (3) some are data librarians. While the organization is attempting to decide which direction to go in relation to these groups, I see great potential in having all three available. Combining the technical savvy of the IT people with the field awareness of the Resource people and the data cataloging experience of the Data Librarians could be of great benefit to the group as a whole. In the future, perhaps short breakout session for each might be one option to explore.

Chris and I fall into the IT group, and one of our main goals in attending this meeting was to actually network with other individuals who face similar issues as we do. We wanted to see what sorts of things are being developed by other agencies across the country. No problem there, I was impressed by the number of different states and agencies that were represented, and with the variety of work that is being accomplished. The NBII Portal promises to provide a networking avenue, allowing interaction with other members of OFWIM as well as within individual committees throughout the year. And there are certainly many opportunities for service on committees, helping to further the mission of the organization.

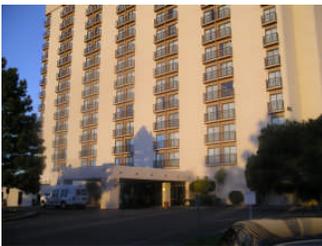
The OFWIM conference has already impacted my work. For example, the presentations on metadata have me completely rethinking the design and format of the metadata for the databases that I have responsibility for.

Overall, the atmosphere of this group has all the comforts of a family in its size, yet still maintains the knowledge base of many larger organizations. What a great combination to have!

I guess the one downside was that I didn't win anything in the raffle...but it wasn't for a lack of Lila trying to take every last dollar I had! (grin)



OFWIM was held at the Albuquerque Grand Hotel in Albuquerque, NM. Over 65 people attended the conference.



## My First OFWIM Experience: Andrew Whittle (University of Kentucky)

Thanks to OFWIM!

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank everyone at OFWIM for giving me the chance to attend and present at their annual conference. I was warmly welcomed at the conference. During my presentation, I received positive feedback and constructive criticism, which were very helpful in improving my research. The conference also provided a platform for me to interact with wildlife professionals and greatly broadened my horizons in this profession. I hope to keep the line of information open between myself and OFWIM and ask for the membership to keep me informed on any job openings at their places of employment. I would really appreciate any help.

Thanks again and hopefully I will be talking to many of you in the future.

Andrew Whittle: [andrew.whittle@uky.edu](mailto:andrew.whittle@uky.edu) , 859-816-8197

**OFWIM 2008 Best Presentation Winner**

Joel Sartwell  
Missouri Department of Conservation (Columbia, MO)

**“Animal-Borne Video Systems: Recent Developments for Terrestrial Conservation Research”**

Knowledge of wild animal behavior and resource selection is most accurate when direct observations of animals are made. It is impractical, if not impossible, however, to directly and efficiently observe free-ranging animals for extended periods of time without affecting their behavior. To overcome these limitations, researchers have turned to directly mounting video cameras on the wild animals. Video cameras, commonly used in covert surveillance, are now small and rugged enough to withstand weeks of abuse while attached to a free-ranging wild animal without adverse affect on that animal. These animal-borne video systems allow researchers to record fine scale movements as well as features of the surrounding environment and thus provide the context for how animals make decisions and how they interact with other individuals. I will discuss the developments and research potential offered by these video systems as well as look at what we've recorded on white-tailed deer in Missouri.

**OFWIM 2008 Best Poster Winner**

Cathy Ricketts and Beth Stys  
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (Tallahassee, FL)

**“Mapping Threats to Florida’s Freshwater Habitats”**

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission’s Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (CWCS) is an action plan for conserving the state’s wildlife and natural areas. In 2005 the CWCS identified 27 threats to Florida’s freshwater habitats. This project assembled statewide geographic datasets representing 15 out of 27 of these threats. Creating a comprehensive database of threats is an essential step towards achieving the overall goals of improving strategic habitat conservation planning and addressing causes of low abundance and decline of species in aquatic habitats. These data were used to determine the relative level of individual threats to each sub-watershed (HUC 12 unit) within Florida. Ten uncorrelated data layers depicting unique threat categories were combined to create a composite Freshwater Threats Index. Based on the composite index map a distinct gradient of increasing threat level is evident progressing from Northwest Florida to east and south. At a regional scale, road density dominates as the most common reason for high threat values in northern Florida, while agriculture dominates in the west-central region and waterway modification dominates in east-central and southern Florida. This multi-scale assessment is effective at both highlighting local conditions which may instigate further investigations and illustrating regional trends.



*Congratulations  
to all OFWIM  
2008 winners!*



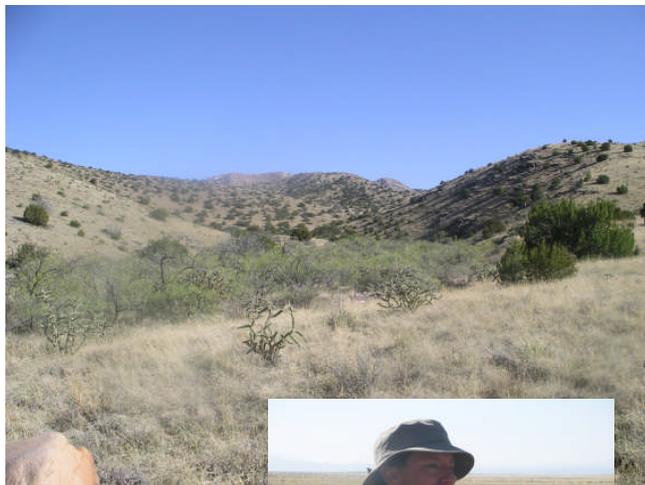
### OFWIM Field Trip Summary



The OFWIM Field Trip took place on the Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge, just south of Albuquerque. It was led by Mike Friggens, an accomplished career ecologist. Over 20 people attended the day-long event. Our journey crossed several ecosystems as we explored the preserve!



OFWIM Field Trip attendees at the Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge



Mike Friggens, Sevilleta LTER field ecologist, led the trip



OFWIM participants headed out to observe a scientific plot

## OFWIM 2009 Officers and Committees

### Officers:

President: Robin Carlson	rcarlson@dfg.ca.gov
President-Elect: Jen (Pollock) Carlino	jennifer_carlino@usgs.gov
Secretary: Lisa Zolly	lisa_zolly@usgs.gov
Treasurer: Kristin Rogers	kristin.rogers@MyFWC.com
Member-at-Large: Don Schrupp	hqwris@lamar.ColoState.edu
Past-President: Sabra Schwartz	sschwartz@azgfd.gov

### Committees:

#### Meeting Planning Committee

Chair - Jen (Pollock) Carlino	japollock@usgs.gov
Vice Chair - Viv Hutchison	vhutchison@usgs.gov

#### Communications Committee

Chair - Viv Hutchison	vhutchison@usgs.gov
Vice Chair - Lisa Zolly	lisa_zolly@usgs.gov

#### Elections, Nominations and Awards Committee

Chair - Beth Stys	beth.stys@MyFWC.com
Vice Chair - Robin Carlson	rcarlson@dfg.ca.gov

#### Data Standards and Technology Trends Committee

Chair - Scott Anderson	scott.anderson@ncwildlife.org
Vice Chair - Don Schrupp	dschrupp@ix.netcom.com

#### Membership and Outreach Committee

Chair - vacant	—
Vice Chair - Kristin Rogers	kristin.rogers@MyFWC.com

#### Training and Education Committee

Chair - Don Schrupp	dschrupp@ix.netcom.com
Vice Chair - vacant	—

#### Vision and Goals Committee (Ad-Hoc)

Chair - Mark Brunner	mark.brunner@mdc.mo.gov
Vice Chair - vacant	—

#### Bylaws and Organization Committee (Ad-Hoc)

Chair - vacant	—
Vice Chair - Sabra Schwartz	sschwartz@azgfd.gov



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## OFWIM Business Meeting Minutes

### Meeting Minutes

#### OFWIM 2008 Annual Business Meeting

Albuquerque, NM

29 October, 2008



### I. Call to Order

- a. Meeting was called to order by Sabra Schwartz, OFWIM President

### II. Determination of Quorum

- b. There are 89 members in the database.
- c. There are 46 attendees at the business meeting: quorum is met.

### III. Old Business

- d. President's message, Sabra Schwartz
  - i. Sabra welcomed everyone to the meeting.
  - ii. Sabra was glad that everyone was able to be at the OFWIM conference in light of budget cuts and travel restrictions at the agencies.
- e. Officer reports
  - i. 2008 President's report, Sabra Schwartz (**Attachment A**)
    1. Motion: Annie Simpson moved to accept the report; Aliya seconded; motion carried.
  - ii. 2008 Secretary's report, Lisa Zolly (**Attachment B**)
    1. Motion: Beth Stys moved to accept the report; Lila Wills seconded; motion carried.
  - iii. 2007 Business Meeting Minutes, Lisa Zolly (**Attachment C, available on [www.ofwim.org](http://www.ofwim.org)**)
    1. Motion: Mark Brunner moved to accept last year's minutes; motion seconded by Keith Wethington; motion carried.
  - iv. 2008 Treasurer's report, Aliya Ercelawn (**Attachment D**)
    1. Treasurer's quiz: How well do you know OFWIM finances and your ExComm?
    2. Aliya reviewed the OFWIM finances for 2008
    3. Motion: Scott Story moved to accept 2008 Treasurer's report; motion seconded by Keith Wethington; motion carried.

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## OFWIM Business Meeting Minutes (con't)

### f. Committee Reports

- i. Outreach Committee, Aliya Ercelawn (**Attachment E**)
- ii. Awards and Nominations Committee, Viv Hutchison (**Attachment F**)
- iii. Communications Committee, Shelaine Curd-Hetrick (**Attachment G**)
- iv. Meeting Planning Committee, Robin Carlson (**Attachment H**)
- v. Training & Continuing Education Committee, Don Schrupp (**Attachment I**)
- vi. Data Standards/Technology Trends, Scott Anderson (**Attachment J**)
- vii. Vision Committee, Mark Brunner (**Attachment K**)

### IV. Elections

#### g. Slate of Candidates

- i. President Elect: Mark Brunner, Jennifer Pollock
- ii. Treasurer: Michael Barbour, Kristen Rogers
- iii. Secretary: Lisa Zolly
- iv. Member-At-Large: Don Schrupp, Keith Wethington

### V. New Business

#### h. Election Results

- i. President Elect: Jen Pollock
- ii. Treasurer: Kristen Rogers
- iii. Secretary: Lisa Zolly
- iv. Member-At-Large: Don Schrupp

### VI. New President's Message, Robin Carlson

- i. Thinking for the future: new technologies and efforts
  - i. Portal community
  - ii. Changes to the Web site
  - iii. Training and Education committee offerings
  - iv. Don's work on the forthcoming GIS site
  - v. Bylaws changes
    - 1. Adding a new membership category for students
    - 2. Clarifying committee participation: current members eligible



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## OFWIM Business Meeting Minutes (con't)

- vi. Goals and Visions Committee: Mark Brunner has resurrected it and will be discussing some of the work they have done over the past year.
- vii. Newsletter Editor: Shelaine Curd-Hetrick is willing to continue on in this role, but will be on maternity leave soon, and is willing to step aside if someone is interested in taking on editorial duties.
- viii. We are looking for suggestions for locations for the 2010 and 2011 conferences.

### VII. Awards

- j. Competitive awards were presented to the following:
  - i. Best GIS Web-based Technical Application was not presented this year, due to a lack of nominations.
  - ii. Best Non-GIS Web-based Technical Application was not presented this year due to a lack of nominations.
  - iii. Best Poster Award (2008 Conference) was presented to Beth Stys
  - iv. Best Presentation Award (2008 Conference), presented the next day
- k. Service Awards were presented to the following:
  - i. Sabra Schwartz for her service as OFWIM President Elect in 2006/2007 and OFWIM President in 2007/2008.
  - ii. Aliya Ercelawn for her service as OFWIM Treasurer from 2006-2008.
  - iii. Jen Pollock for her service as OFWIM Member at Large in 2007/2008.
  - iv. Lisa Zolly for her completion of Robin Carlson's term as OFWIM Secretary in 2007/2008.

### VIII. Comments and Discussion

### IX. Adjourn

- 1. Motion: Sabra Schwartz moved that the 2008 Annual Business Meeting Adjourn; motion seconded by Scott Anderson ; motion carried; meeting was adjourned.

-- Minutes prepared by Lisa Zolly, OFWIM Secretary

#### Reminder on a Post-OFWIM 2008 Opportunity ...

At the Hacker's Ball at the OFWIM 2008 Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico, a presentation was given regarding training opportunities on use of remote sensing/image processing software through ITT/Visual Information Solution's 'MindShare Pro-tram' through their workshop materials for Vegetation Analysis for Land Management Applications.

Copies of the datasets, and PDFs of the tutorials were graciously made available by ITTVIS to interested OFWIM 2008 attendees. This notice is a reminder that those recipients of the data/tutorial PDF DVDs are welcome to contact Bob Ternes of ITT Visual Information Solutions to request a copy of the ENVI 4.5/Fx software DVD (and a 30-day evaluation keycode). Bob can be reached at bternes@ittvis.com



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## 2009 Individual Membership Form

Use the form below to join OFWIM as a new member or to renew your membership for 2009. Individual Members are entitled to vote in the annual election and hold office. Current members are notified of new newsletters and have access to special OFWIM web content. Current members also receive a discount on 2009 conference registration.

If you work for an organization with 4 or more individuals interested in OFWIM membership, you may benefit from obtaining an Organizational Membership. Information about Organizational Membership can be found at: <http://www.ofwim.org/org/membership.html>

The 2009 OFWIM annual membership period is January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009. To become a new member of OFWIM or renew your current membership, please complete and mail the form below with a check or money order for \$25 (in U.S. dollars!) payable to **OFWIM**, to:

Kristin Rogers, OFWIM Treasurer  
c/o FL Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission  
7922 NW 71st Street  
Gainesville, FL 32653  
(352) 955-3211 x106

### OFWIM 2009 Membership Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone:(\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax:(\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_



<http://www.ofwim.org/>

Your agency is invited to join the

### **Become an Organizational Member of OFWIM**

The Organization of Fish and Wildlife Information Managers (OFWIM) is a non-profit professional organization whose goal is to promote the management and conservation of natural resources by facilitating technology and information exchange among fish and wildlife information professionals. An affiliate of the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA), OFWIM was formally established in 1993. In achieving its mission, OFWIM emphasizes coordination, outreach, technical assistance, and continuing education. Members of OFWIM include GIS specialists, database managers, biologists, web developers, programmers, researchers, and others who manage information and technology related to fish and wildlife resources.

Benefits include:

- ✦ Quarterly Newsletter
- ✦ Discount on registration for the OFWIM Annual Conference
- ✦ Access to the OFWIM content management system, an internet resource for sharing information and facilitating discussion among fish and wildlife information managers
- ✦ Access to the OFWIM-L e-mail listserv

Networking and professional development opportunities for fish and wildlife information management professionals

Government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and other groups whose mission involves management of fish and wildlife populations or habitat, are encouraged to become OFWIM Organizational Members. Each Organizational Membership costs \$100 and entitles the organization to 6 OFWIM Individual Memberships, with full member privileges. Individual Memberships are also available at the cost \$25 per year. An Organizational Membership form is now available on the website.

<http://www.ofwim.org/org/OrgMembership.html>

ORGANIZATION OF FISH AND  
WILDLIFE INFORMATION  
MANAGERS

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## Member Reminders

\*\*\*Renew your membership today!\*\*\*

\*\*\*State Representatives interested in Protected Areas are reminded to visit: <http://www.protectedlands.net/main/find.php> for more information about current Protected Areas work. A login and password will need to be established.\*\*\*

**Thank you to all who submitted  
information and articles to this  
issue of the OFWIM news!**

**Article Deadline for Spring Issue:  
March 15, 2009**



**Save the date...**  
**September 8-11, 2009**  
**Seattle, WA**  
**OFWIM 2009**