

OFWIM News

Newsletter of the Organization of Fish and Wildlife Information Managers

Pre-Meeting 2003

GIS and Information Management for Conservation Planning

September 25-29, 2003
Holiday Inn - Rushmore
Plaza
Rapid City, South Dakota

Last Call!

The Organization of Fish and Wildlife Information Managers (OFWIM) is a nonprofit organization whose goal is to promote the management and conservation of natural resources by facilitating technology and information exchange among fish and wildlife information managers. This meeting is intended to focus on sharing information and tools needed to conduct conservation planning, including that required by the State Wildlife Grants Program.

PAPER SUBMISSIONS

The program committee invites proposals from individuals and groups. Topics should fit into one of the session themes. Format options include:

Presentation (20 minutes)
Roundtable Discussion (1 hour)
Workshop (1, 2, 3, or 4 hours)

Papers that describe the use of GIS and information management for conservation planning work that is currently underway but is not yet complete are welcome. Please submit an abstract and bio using the guidelines posted at www.ofwim.org.

For more information:
www.ofwim.org
ofwim2003@ofwim.org



*Amy Martin, Editor
OFWIM Newsletter
4010 W. Broad St.
Richmond, VA 23230-*

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GIS and Information Management for Conservation Planning

Annual Meeting and Conference

September 25-29, Rapid City, South Dakota

Agenda

Thursday, September 25, 2003

- 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. **Registration**
- 10:00 a.m - 10:20 a.m. **Welcome and Opening Remarks**
- 10:20 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. **Conservation Planning: Setting the Stage**
- 10:20 - 10:50 Becky Wajda, VA: Overview of Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plans
- 11:00 - 11:20 Jeff Lerner, Defenders of Wildlife: The Universe of Conservation Planning and How Plans are Implemented on the Ground Floor
- 11:30 - 11:50 Lori Scott, NatureServe: Using Biotics in the Comprehensive Planning Process
- 11:50 - 12: 00 Announcements
- 1:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. **Identifying and Mapping Species of Greatest Conservation Need**
- 1:30 - 1:50 Shelly Miller and Adam Phelps, VA: A Method for Identifying Species of Greatest Conservation Need
- 2:00 - 2:20 Daniel Vichitbandha, KY: A Method for Digital Submission of Scientific Collection Permit Reports
- 2:30 - 2:50 Beth Stys, FL: Strategic Habitats for Biodiversity Conservation In Florida
- 3:00 - 3:20 Break
- 3:30 - 3:50 Steve Benson, MN: Estimating the Population and Range of Minnesota's Wolves
- 4:00 - 4:20 Greg Krakow, GA: GIS Algorithms Useful for Producing "Fuzzy" Rare Species Locations
- 4:30 - 5:50 TBA
- 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. **Hacker's Ball**

Friday, September 26, 2003

- 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. **Identifying and Mapping Habitats of Greatest Conservation Need**

9:00 - 9:20	David Diamond, USGS: Mapping Habitats of Greatest Conservation Concern
9:30 - 9:50	C. Diane True, MORAP: Using GIS to Develop a Conservation Plan for the Central Hardwoods Bird Conservation Region
10:00 - 10:20	Keith Wethington, KY: The Role of GAP Data and GIS Modeling Techniques in Developing a Comprehensive Plan for State and Tribal Wildlife Grants
10:30 - 10:50	Break
11:00 - 11:20	Shelly Miller, VA: Using Aquatic GAP to Identify and Map Aquatic Habitats of Greatest Conservation Need
11:30 - 11:50	Steven Benson, MN: Minnesota Wildlife Management Area GIS Program
1:30 - 1:50	Tim Nigh, MO: Missouri's Use of Spatial Data in Conservation Planning
2:00 - 3:20	Focus Group 1: Habitat Classification Schemes (Tim Nigh and Becky Wajda)
3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Federal Aid and the Comprehensive Plans
3:30 - 3:50	Mike Sweet, USFWS: Federal Aid Involvement in Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plans
4:00 - 4:20	Mike Sweet, USFWS: How to Write Federal Aid Documents - Question and Answer Session
4:30 - 4:50	TBA

Saturday, September 27, 2003

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. **Field Trips**

Sunday, September 28, 2003

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Session A Strategies for Species and Habitat Conservation and Monitoring	Session B Gap Analysis Program: A Course for Natural Resource Professionals* Part 1
9:00 - 9:20	Jeff Lerner, Defenders of Wildlife: The Oregon Plan	Andy Rosenberger, Conservation Management Institute (CMI)
9:30 - 9:50	Aliya Ercelawn, The Nature Conservancy: Data Management for Ecoregional Planning: TNC's New Approach	
10:00 - 10:20	Break	
10:30 - 11:50	Focus Group II: Strategies and Performance Measures for Biodiversity Planning (Jon Haufler, Ecosystem Management Research Institute)	

* Sponsored by the National Gap Analysis Program, US Fish and Wildlife Service National Conservation Training Center and the Conservation Management Institute

1:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Session A Strategies for Species and Habitat Conservation and Monitoring	Session B Gap Analysis Program: A Course for Natural Resource Professionals* Part 2 <i>Andy Rosenberger, (CMI)</i>
1:30 - 1:50	Vivian Hutchinson, National Biological Information Infrastructure (NBII): Making Data More Valuable	
2:00 - 2:20	Donna Roy, NBII: Webmapping	
2:30 - 2:50	CMI: Data Documentation in the Comprehensive Plans	
3:00 - 3:20	Break	
3:30 - 4:50	Focus Group III: Recommendations to IAFWA Regarding Information Management for Comprehensive Plans	
7:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.	Banquet	

Monday, September 29, 2003

9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	OFWIM Business Meeting 2004 Conference Planning Meeting
11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Wrap Up

* Sponsored by the National Gap Analysis Program, US Fish and Wildlife Service National Conservation Training Center and the Conservation Management Institute



Field Trips

You have two options for a field trip Saturday, 9/27/03. Each field trip costs \$40.00 per person and includes lunch. Both trips will be on full-sized motor coaches (they have bathrooms) and a guide. To attend these trips, pre-purchase will be necessary. A space for field trip tickets is on the registration form located on the last page of this newsletter and at www.ofwim.org.

Black Hills Tour

8:45am	Motorcoach and guide meet group at Rushmore Plaza Holiday Inn
9:00am	Depart hotel
10:00 – 11:30am	Visit Mt. Rushmore
11:30am – 1:30pm	Crazy Horse Memorial, sightseeing & included lunch
2:15 – 3:30pm	Tour the Wildlife Loop Road in Custer State Park
4:40pm	Return to hotel

Badlands Tour

9:45am	Motorcoach and guide meet group at Rushmore Plaza Holiday Inn
10:00am	Depart hotel
10:00-11:30am	Travel to Bandlands via scenic Highway 44
11:30am – 12:30pm	Included lunch at Cedar Pass Lodge, city of Interior
12:45- 2:15pm	Tour Badlands National Park w/ photo stops
2:30 – 3:30pm	Visit Wall Drug
4:30pm	Return to hotel

Donate an item to help support the OFWIM Scholarship Fund!



A great way to help future fish and wildlife information managers as well as to promote your organization.

We're asking for donations in the form of raffle items or door prizes for the upcoming 2003 conference!

All proceeds from the raffle will be used to fund OFWIM's scholarship program for students in advanced degree programs related to fish and wildlife resource management, with an emphasis on information management or GIS.

If you or your organization can make a contribution, contact Barb White by e-mail (barb.white@worldnet.att.net) or phone (303-275-2310). Your support and contribution will be greatly appreciated.

Items that need to be shipped, can be sent to:
Jack Erickson
(OFWIM)
South Dakota Dept. of Game, Fish and Parks
3305 West South Street
Rapid City, SD 57702

OFWIM 2003 Annual Meeting
Slate of Officers
And Request for Newsletter Editor

OFWIM is now accepting nominations from the membership for the following offices. Nominations that have been received thus far are listed. OFWIM is encouraging the membership to become more involved as a member of the Executive Committee. The only prerequisites are enthusiasm and an interest in furthering biological information management.

If you are interested in any of these positions, please contact Kathy Graham, President-Elect, at kgraham@dgif.state.va.us, or (804) 367-9717.

President-Elect The **president-elect** shall be nominated and elected by majority vote from the members and delegates whose annual dues are paid. The duties of the president-elect will be to assist the president as necessary in carrying out the business of the Organization. The president-elect shall succeed the presidency during the following year following his or her term as president-elect. The president-elect shall coordinate all aspects of the annual meeting program as Chair of Program Sub-Committee of the Communications Committee.

Nominees:

None at this time. OFWIM needs you!

Member-At-Large The **member-at-large** serves as advisor to the Executive Committee and coordinates special projects at the direction of the President or Executive Committee. The member-at-large also serves as Vice-Chair of the Data Standards Committee.

Nominees:

Daniel Vichitbandha, KY Dept. of Fish & Wildlife

Newsletter Editor The **newsletter editor** is not an official office of the Organization and therefore may be appointed by the President rather than elected. The newsletter editor issues 4 e-newsletters to the membership each year. At least 2 of the issues are dedicated primarily to the annual meeting. The newsletter editor is responsible for acquiring, editing, and writing content; developing the layout; emailing the newsletter to the membership; and sending notices out on appropriate list-serves with a link to the newsletter. The newsletter editor coordinates closely with the Executive Committee to include pertinent information (such as annual meeting agenda) in the newsletter. Experience with desktop publishing software, such as Adobe Pagemaker, is helpful but not required.

Registration Form: OFWIM 2003 Annual Meeting – "GIS and Information Management for Conservation Planning"

Name (First Name, Middle Initial, Last Name)

Affiliation

Mailing Address

City State/Province Zip/Postal Code Country

Daytime Phone Fax

E-mail Address

Name as it should appear on name tag (if different from above)

Affiliation as it should appear on name tag (if different from above)

Registration Fee (US Dollars)

Full Registration (on or before **8/22/03**) _____ \$255.00 (includes banquet &
Full Registration (after **8/22/03**) _____ \$295.00 Hacker's Ball)

One-day Registration (includes OFWIM membership; does not include banquet or Hacker's ball) _____ \$100.00 (Day(s):_____)

Student Registration-id required** (includes membership, banquet and Hacker's Ball) _____ \$100.00

Field Trip Saturday, 9/27/03 _____ \$40.00 per person # _____ attending
Badlands _____ or Black Hills _____

Additional Guest Tickets:

Hacker's Ball (Thursday, **9/25/03**) # _____ \$15.00 each TOTAL: \$ _____
Banquet (Sunday, 9/28/03) # _____ \$25.00 each TOTAL: \$ _____

TOTAL Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Payment Method: (SORRY, we cannot accept credit cards)

Check (payable to "OFWIM")

Purchase order P.O. # _____

Banquet main course preference: _____ buffalo _____ fish (walleye) _____ vegetarian
(include guest tickets in tally)

****STUDENTS:** The signature of your advisor confirms your current enrollment as a full-time student and your agreement to provide 4 hours of service at the conference.

Advisor signature University affiliation

Return this form along with your method of payment to:

Jake Faibisch, OFWIM Treasurer
International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
444 N. Capitol St., Suite 544
Washington, D.C. 20001
phone: (202) 624-7744
fax: (202) 624-7891
email: ofwim2003@ofwim.org

CONFERENCE / HOTEL INFORMATION

The Holiday Inn-Rushmore Plaza is two blocks from downtown Rapid City and next door to Rushmore Plaza Civic Center. Holiday Inn Rushmore Plaza is easily accessible from I-90, U.S. 16 and state highways 44 and 79. Mt Rushmore is just a 20-minute drive. Courtesy transportation is available to and from the hotel and the airport upon request. Ask the hotel for details when you make your reservation.

A block of rooms have been reserved at special rates for Conference attendees (\$99/night-king rooms (1 King Bed) or standard (2 Double Beds). Conference rates are valid for the nights of September 24-28. You must show state or federal id to receive tax exempt billing and these rooms are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Contact the Holiday Inn-Rushmore Plaza to make your reservations (605-348-4000) now and be sure to mention you'll be attending the Organization of Fish and Wildlife Information Managers (OFWIM) meeting!!

Interested in sharing a room? E-mail Art Smith, art.smith@state.sd.us for assistance in finding a roommate. While other lodging is available in the Rapid City area, we strongly encourage you to stay at the Holiday Inn-Rushmore Plaza to ensure that OFWIM meets its minimum room obligation. We thank you for supporting our efforts in that regard!

Casual clothing is in order, with a sweater or jacket likely needed for any outdoor activities. Rapid City has one of the mildest climates in the Midwest. Protected by the beautiful Black Hills, Rapid City residents enjoy low humidity levels and infrequent precipitation. Average September high temperature: **61°F** degrees, average rainfall: **1.19** inches. Check www.weather.com before you leave on your trip.

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

By Car: Interstate 90 is the main route for driving to the Black Hills, but you can also enter the area on East-West highways US 16, US 18, US 212, or SD 34; and North-South highways US 85, US 385 and SD 79. The South Dakota Department of Transportation keeps all highways in excellent driving condition, even during hard winters. If you want to check current driving conditions, call 605-394-2243 or go to the following web page:<http://www.state.sd.us/dot/>.

By Air: Rapid City Regional Airport is the commercial airline hub for the Black Hills. Schedule your air travel on Northwest Airlines, Skywest Delta Connection or United Express. Private pilots land at state-approved airports at Hot Springs, Custer, Rapid City, Wall, Sturgis, Spearfish, Sundance and Belle Fourche. **Air Time To Rapid City** * Chicago 2:50 * Denver 1:15 * Minneapolis 1:25 * Salt Lake City 2:00