

Theodore Roosevelt Genius Prize

Advisory Council Members

Bargerson, Chuck Dr.

Chuck has been with the University of Georgia for 22 years where his work focuses on invasive species and information technology. He has a B.S. and M.S in Computer Science. Websites that he designed have been featured twice in Science Magazine and have received over 1.7 billion hits since 2002. Chuck developed the infrastructure behind Bugwood Images which runs the ForestryImages.org and Invasive.org websites. Recently, Chuck has focused on mapping invasive species and tools for Early Detection and Rapid Response using EDDMapS and smartphone applications. He has led the development of 73 smartphone applications including the first apps for the U.S. Forest Service and National Park Service. He was appointed to the National Invasive Species Advisory Council in 2013 and elected as Chair in 2017. Chuck has been an invited speaker at over 300 regional and national conferences and co-authored over 62 journal articles and outreach publications. Chuck is the current president of the North American Invasive Species Management Association.

Callahan, Renee Ms.

Renee Callahan has more than 30 years of professional and legal experience in federal, state and administrative law, policy and research. As Executive Director for ARC Solutions, Renee leads an interdisciplinary not-for-profit partnership of transportation and wildlife agencies, universities, non-governmental and charitable organizations working to facilitate the widespread implementation of wildlife crossing structures. In addition to raising awareness about proven solutions to reduce wildlife-motorist conflict and reweave natural landscapes, Renee spearheads ARC's work to foster innovation to increase feasibility and ecological effectiveness in the placement, construction and design of wildlife infrastructure.

Comer, Chris Dr.

Chris Comer is the Director of Conservation for Safari Club International Foundation in Washington, DC, a position he has held for three years. He has been actively involved in wildlife conservation and education for 20 years, including being the Robert Minton Distinguished professor of Forest Wildlife Management at Stephen F. Austin State University. He is active in international policy forums such as the IUCN and CITES with a particular focus on sustainable wildlife use and community-based conservation in Africa. Chris holds a bachelor's degree from Carleton College, an M.S. from Penn State, and a Ph.D. in wildlife management from the University of Georgia.

Fuller, Pam Ms.

Pam Fuller is a retired, emeritus scientist with the U.S. Geological Survey where she worked as an invasive species biologist for 28 years. She built and managed the Nonindigenous Aquatic Species Program, an internationally-recognized nationwide database of non-native aquatic species. The database and accompanying website and tools are widely used in scientific, management, and policy applications. She has authored numerous papers on introduced nonnative fishes, patterns of aquatic introductions, and invasive species information systems. Fuller has been involved in a wide array of national and international invasive species research activities and work groups, particularly in the field of invasive species information management.

Gaskamp, Josh Mr.

Josh Gaskamp serves as a wildlife and range consultant in the producer relations program. He joined the Noble Research Institute in 2007, after working as a hunting guide and gun-dog trainer on the King Ranch. His areas of interest include wildlife habitat improvement, range management, white-tailed deer management, fisheries management, plant identification, prescribed fire and feral hog impacts. Gaskamp's research on drop-nets as a potential tool for feral hog control led him to develop the BoarBuster™ suspended corral trap. Gaskamp grew up in Brenham, Texas.

Gore, Meredith Dr.

Meredith L. Gore is an Associate Professor of Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change in the Department of Geographical Sciences at University of Maryland, College Park. Her research uses risk concepts to build new understanding of human-environment relationships and is designed to build scientific evidence for action. The majority of her activities can be described as convergence research on conservation issues such as wildlife trafficking, illegal logging, fishing and mining. Meredith has conducted research in collaboration with local communities in 15 countries on 5 continents with funding from the National Science Foundation, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, DEFRA, Global Wildlife Conservation and others. Her website hosts voluntary, consensus-based and open-access GIS standards to combat wildlife trafficking. In 2016-2017, she served in-residence at the U.S. Department of State Office of the Geographer and Global Issues as a National Academies of Sciences Jefferson Science Fellow. Meredith has continued to provide senior science advising to the State Department on conservation crime as an Intelligence Research Expert; she has advised the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime's Office of Wildlife and Forest Crime, the African Union Commissions' Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture, Wildlife Conservation Society's Urban Bushmeat Team, and Michigan Department of Natural Resources' Wildlife Division. Dr. Gore has published over 75 referred journal articles and book chapters and currently serves as an Associate Editor for *Global Ecology and Conservation*. She is the Editor and author of *Conservation Criminology* (2017, WileyBlackwell), and her co-edited volume *Women and Wildlife Trafficking* (WileyBlackwell) is expected in early 2022. Meredith earned her PhD at Cornell University, MA at The George Washington University, and BA at Brandeis University.

Grow, Shelly Ms.

Shelly Grow is vice president of conservation and science at the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, where she develops and leads programs that advance conservation by the top accredited zoos and aquariums in the United States and 12 other countries. Shelly oversees SAFE: Saving Animals From Extinction to focus the collective expertise within AZA-accredited zoos and aquariums and leverage their audiences to save species. She also manages AZA's conservation and science grants programs and annual member surveys related to field conservation, research, and green (sustainable) businesses practices. Shelly brings people together from diverse fields, including the biological and social sciences, conservation, education, and organizational culture, to achieve conservation solutions.

Long-inspired by the power and potential of interdisciplinary thinking, Shelly received a B.A. in cross-cultural environmental studies from Grinnell College and an M.S. in sustainable development and conservation biology from the University of Maryland – College Park. Whether in spite or because of her surname, Shelly likes to grow – she has worked in organic and sustainable agriculture and enjoys tending a plot in a World War II-era community garden in the District of Columbia.

Heffelfinger, Jim Mr.

Jim Heffelfinger is the Wildlife Science Coordinator for Arizona Game and Fish Department and received degrees from University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point and Texas A&M University - Kingsville. He is also a Full Research Scientist in the School of Natural Resources and Environment at University of Arizona and the Chairman of the Mule Deer Working Group sponsored by the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. Jim has 30 years of experience working in wildlife management with the Federal government, state wildlife agencies, universities, and in the private sector. Jim has authored and coauthored 220+ publications, including dozens of scientific papers, 20 book chapters, TV scripts, magazine articles and the book “Deer of the Southwest” published by Texas A&M University Press.

Lute, Michelle Dr.

Dr. Michelle Lute is a conservation scientist and advocate with fifteen years' experience in biodiversity conservation on public and private lands around the globe. She dedicates her professional life to promoting human-wildlife coexistence through effective public engagement, equitable participatory processes, and evidence-based decision-making. Michelle is the National Carnivore Conservation Manager for Project Coyote whose mission is to promote compassionate conservation and coexistence between people and wildlife through education, science and advocacy.

Mills, Lisa Ms.

Lisa Mills lives in Missoula, Montana and currently serves as a Program Specialist in the Wildlife Conservation and Enterprise Program with the University of Montana. Her work on Asian elephants in India led to the establishment of the Elephant Friendly Tea program, a science-backed certification program that provides economic incentives for conservation. The certification program is implemented through a partnership between the Wildlife Friendly Enterprise Network and the University of Montana, providing benchmarks and guidance for India's tea producers in wild Asian elephant movement zones to incentivize the use of best practices around elephant conservation and the reduction of human-elephant conflict. Lisa also recently served as a NASA Fellow to integrate satellite imagery into the monitoring of landscapes to study the longer term changes that impact endangered species. As part of her work Lisa focuses on a range of species, most recently serves as the science advisor for a new series, the Endangered Podcast, in collaboration with a team of actors, screen writers and film industry artists. The series highlights stories of lesser-known endangered species for a youth audience.

In her 35 year career, Lisa has lived across the USA and in Asia and has worn many hats, including science teacher, environmental educator, science writer, community-based conservation program facilitator, county extension agent, grant program director, and conservation-focused business leader. She has been recognized as a National Science Foundation Fellow, NASA Fellow, winner of the top World Tea Awards 2020 award for global leadership in sustainability in the tea industry, and board member of non-profit organizations including The Linnea Foundation, which she established to support social and environmental initiatives in memory of her daughter who passed away in 2020.

Moreland, Tom Mr.

Responsible for intellectual property agreements (CRADAs, MTAs, MTRAs, NDAs), and manage the patents, licensing and marketing program. This position serves as a liaison (point-of-contact) between Forest Service scientists and technology developers and other Forest Service units, USDA groups, and other agencies. This position performs the activities necessary to plan, conduct, negotiate, administer, coordinate and evaluate technology transfer activities for the Research and Development Deputy Area and agency, where appropriate, and to coordinate with other deputy areas. Before joining the Forest Service, Tom was the partnership liaison for the USDA Agricultural Research Service for 15 years and prior to that, as program manager at the University of Maryland, College of Agricultural for 23 years. Tom earned his Bachelor and Master of Science degrees in technology management from the University of Maryland.

Parker Pauley, Sara Ms.

Sara Parker Pauley serves as the ninth Director of the Missouri Department of Conservation since its formation in 1937. The Missouri Conservation Commission announced Pauley's selection effective November 1, 2016. A native of Columbia, Pauley received both her law degree and bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Missouri – Columbia, and did post-graduate studies in Australia as a Rotary Fellow. She previously served as Director of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources since 2010. She has worked as project manager for D.J. Case & Associates, a natural resources communications firm, and as a deputy director for the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. She has been an instructor at the University of Missouri's School of Natural Resources, teaching a course in natural resource policy and administration. She also serves as the current President of the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies. Pauley began her professional career as a Policy Analyst with the Missouri Department of Conservation from 1993-1996. Over the years, though her career path varied, it has never strayed far from her personal desire to be engaged in the stewardship of Missouri's natural resources.



Piaggio, Toni Dr.

I am a research scientist at the USDA National Wildlife Research Center in Fort Collins, CO. I am a lead researcher for the Wildlife Genetics Lab and the incredible work we accomplish is all due to the amazing team I work alongside. The Lab's focus is on wildlife damage and wildlife disease management at the livestock/wildlife interface. Our research focuses on developing and adapting tools such as environmental DNA, metabarcoding, metagenomics and others to aid in detection and monitoring of invasive species and other wildlife species. DNA/RNA data help us infer population structure, relatedness, and evolutionary relationships are important to our work. We also work in the area of wildlife forensics and study wildlife disease transmission pathways. In our lab, we work hard to develop ways to encourage diversity and inclusion.

Roth, Terri Dr.

Dr. Roth is an Animal Reproductive Physiologist who has served as the Director of the Center for Conservation and Research of Endangered Wildlife (CREW) at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden since 1996. Dr. Roth has conducted research with species ranging from toads to snow leopards but is most renowned for her scientific breakthroughs that led to the success in breeding the critically endangered Sumatran rhino. Dr. Roth has served on the board of the International Rhino Foundation since 2002 and has published over 180 scientific papers and abstracts. She was the 2004 recipient of a Chevron Texaco Conservation Award, "Honoring Our Environmental Heroes" for her Sumatran rhino work. She is also the subject of an award-winning young people's book, *Emi and the Rhino Scientist*, and in 2010 was named a YWCA Career Woman of Achievement in Cincinnati, OH.



Segev, Tchelet Ms.

Tchelet graduated from MIT with a Master's in Environmental Engineering and Bachelor's in Civil and Environmental Engineering. For her thesis, she launched a citizen science project analyzing drinking water quality with the Passamaquoddy tribe in Maine. Tchelet works for the U.S. Forest Service, where she started as a Presidential Management Fellow on the Angeles National Forest in the Los Angeles area managing some post-fire restoration efforts. She has been on rotation for the Forest Service in the Bay Area and Washington DC managing regional partnerships and developing a national corporate engagement strategy. She currently works as a Project Engineer on the Chugach National Forest in Anchorage, Alaska managing recreation infrastructure construction and restoration projects. Prior to joining the U.S. Forest Service, Tchelet worked at a variety of nonprofits in countries ranging from India and Kenya to Mexico and Nepal.

Stone, Suzanne Ms.

Suzanne Asha Stone is the director of the International Wildlife Coexistence Network, which provides expert interdisciplinary assistance, training, collaboration, and shared research to enable communities around the globe to coexist with wildlife. Prior to IWCN, she served as a member of the Yellowstone/Idaho wolf reintroduction team. In 1999, she was recruited by Defenders of Wildlife as their Idaho based wolf conservationist to work with ranchers to minimize wolf and livestock conflicts using innovative and traditional nonlethal methods. In 2008, she co-founded the Wood River Wolf Project to demonstrate and test nonlethal tools and techniques in a wolf and domestic sheep conflict area in central Idaho. She is the lead author on the project's study published by Oxford Press and the Journal of Mammalogy documenting the lowest loss of sheep in wolf range. The project is now fourteen years old and maintains one of the most successful demonstrations of wolf and livestock nonlethal programs. Suzanne is a two-time recipient of the Christine Stevens Award for Innovation in Wildlife Conservation.

Wolstenholme, Rachel Ms.

Rachel is a Wildlife Biologist for the National Park Service, serving Interior Regions 8, 9, 10, & 12 across our western states. She has worked for the NPS and non-profit organizations for 25 years, focusing on endangered species recovery from Yellowstone to the California Channel Islands. Her work also included invasive animal management and eradication. Rachel's M.S. Degree from the University of Montana focused on human-wolf interactions in a rural ranching community. She believes in finding management solutions through collaboration with private landowners, universities, NGOs, and other partners. Her experience includes overseeing feral hog eradication on Santa Cruz Island, California condor reintroduction, gray wolf monitoring, island fox recovery, and wolverine surveys.

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Subcommittee Subject Matter Experts

Carlson Bremer, Daphne, DVM, PhD

Dr. Daphne Carlson-Bremer is currently the Chief of the Combating Wildlife Trafficking Strategy & Partnerships Branch at USFWS, International Affairs. She manages a technical and financial assistance program focused on the illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife parts, partially developed in response to National Strategy for Combating Wildlife Trafficking. Programming focuses on improving capacity for legal and sustainable trade in wildlife globally and combating the illegal trade where it poses an immediate conservation threat. In addition, she provides expertise for policy decisions and actions related to the legal and illegal wildlife trade through the U.S. Task Force on Wildlife Trafficking and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Previously, she served as an American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Science & Technology Policy Fellow at the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Division of International Conservation, Africa Branch. Daphne has worked at the intersection of human, animal and environmental health, including on issues related to conservation, global health, One Health, food security, and development. Daphne practiced veterinary medicine in Houston and San Francisco before pursuing additional training in public health (MPVM) and epidemiology (PhD).



Heimowitz, Paul Mr.

Paul Heimowitz is an invasive species coordinator for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife region covering Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Hawaii, and the Pacific Islands. He works in the Ecological Services Program at the regional office in Portland, Oregon. Paul has over 25 years of experience collaborating with others to prevent, detect, and control invasive species across many taxa and habitats and at varied geographic scales, including international. He has served on a variety of invasive species groups including the Oregon Invasive Species Council and the Western Regional Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species and has helped author numerous regional and national invasive species plans and publications. Among his current projects, Paul is a founder and co-lead of the Northwest Regional Invasive Species and Climate Change network.

Slacum Thompson, Julie Ms.

Julie Slacum has worked for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for 22 years. During that tenure, she has worked in the Coastal program and for the last 12 years supervising the Endangered Species, and Conservation Planning Assistance program staff at the Chesapeake Bay Field Office. For her entire career she has worked to establish partnerships with the states, private landowners, and non-profit and academic institutions to achieve recovery for listed species and to try to preclude the need to list for at-risk species. She has been involved in recovery planning for several species and is currently a member of the bog turtle recovery team. She currently serves on the Leadership Board for the Partners for Amphibian and Reptile Conservation's Collaborative to Combat Illegal Trade in Turtles, and co-chairs the Confiscation and Repatriation Working Group. She is actively working with the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, Turtle Survival Alliance, and the states to find long term resources to support confiscated turtles and to try to get them back out to the wild without impacting our native populations. She is also the Regional (Legacy Region 5) At-risk species lead for Blandings, spotted and wood turtle and is working with the states and other partners to try to preclude the need to list these three species under the Endangered Species Act before a listing decision is made in 2023.

Stephenson, John Mr.

John has been the Fish and Wildlife Service's Wolf Specialist in Oregon since 2005. His primary focus in that position has been on-the-ground efforts to assist livestock producers and other stakeholders in minimizing the problems that wolves cause to livestock operations. He has worked with producers to implement a wide variety of non-lethal prevention measures to keep wolves from depredating on livestock, and have first-hand experience with both successes and failures. He also has 15 years of experience leading habitat improvement efforts on private lands in eastern Oregon as the Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program biologist. In this capacity, he has had the opportunity to work with many landowners to develop and implement habitat restoration projects that benefit both fish & wildlife and working ranches. Early in his career, John worked as a Wildlife Biologist for the U.S. Forest Service for 11 years. He has a B.S. degree in Wildlife Management from Humboldt State University.

Zirngibl, Wendy Ms.

Wendy Zirngibl is a senior policy advisor with the US Forest Service, her home agency for 11 years. Prior to her current position, she directed Forest Service programs in research communications, technology transfer, science education, patents, forest history, scientific integrity, and data stewardship as director of Knowledge Management and Communications in USFS Research & Development. Previous Washington Office positions included communications lead for the National Forest System change efforts, mitigation specialist, planning specialist, and partnership coordinator. In 2019, Wendy served a year-long fellowship with the Brookings Institution in the office of US Congressman Mike Thompson of California as a legislative advisor for environment, science, energy, agriculture, and tribal matters. Before arriving in Washington, her career took her to Alaska's Tongass National Forest to work in the fields of public affairs and congressional relations; Yellowstone National Park archiving wolf remains and cultural objects from the park; and Montana Fish, Wildlife, & Parks, where she first entered the realm of natural resource management. Wendy completed her Master's and PhD research on stakeholder conflict and interagency management of wolves and elk in Greater Yellowstone. She lives in Fairfax, VA with her son and daughter.