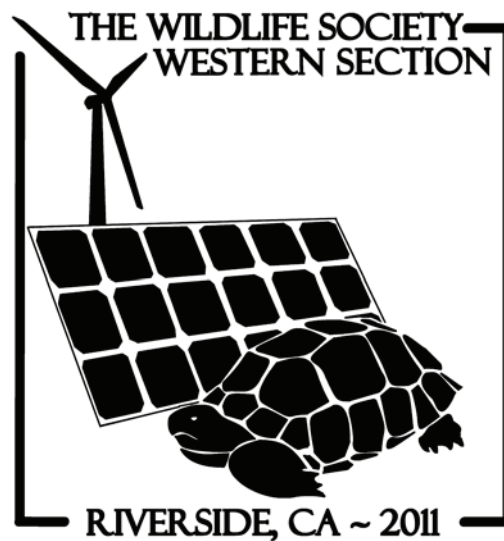


2011 Annual Conference

**The Western Section of
The Wildlife Society**

CONFERENCE THEME:

**Alternative Energy and Wildlife:
Current Efforts to Balance Conflicting Sustainability Goals**



PLENARY SESSION THEME:

Recruiting the Next Generation of Wildlife Professionals

February 9-11, 2011
Riverside Convention Center
Riverside, California

MOURAD GABRIEL, University of California Davis, Davis, CA 95616, (707) 826-1313, mwgabriel@ucdavis.edu; Co-authors: Leslie Woods; Stefan Kellar; Patty Gaffney; Megan Jones; Rick Sweitzer; Craig Thompson; Reginald Barrett; Kathryn Purcell; Deana Clifford; Mark Higley; Karen Terio; Sean Matthews; Edward Dubovi; Greta Wengert; Linda Munson

Diseases and Parasitism

Thursday, 3:30 p.m., Magnolia

Abstract: The insular fisher (*Martes pennanti*) populations within the states of Washington, Oregon and California are being considered for listing under the Endangered Species Act. To date, the causes of mortality in fishers have not been documented within the state of California. In order to implement conservation efforts to reduce fisher mortality, the causes of mortalities need to be described. We identified proximate causes of mortality in fishers within three long-term California fisher research projects; one in northwestern California and two in the southern Sierra Nevada. Over 65 fisher necropsies were performed by wildlife pathologists at the University of California Davis between the years of 2007-2010. Causes of mortality included infections with protozoan, bacterial and viral pathogens, predation from other carnivores, vehicular trauma and anticoagulant rodenticide poisoning. Investigation of several mortalities that occurred in a small area within a short time period during 2009 resulted in the detection of a distemper epidemic in the southern Sierra Nevada fisher population. Accordingly, we recommend performing full necropsies in conjunction with serological and molecular diagnostics to aid in the identification of cause-specific mortalities and indicate whether infectious and noninfectious agents may play roles in fisher susceptibility to other causes of mortality for fishers.