



BOTSTIBER INSTITUTE
FOR WILDLIFE FERTILITY CONTROL

THE CASE FOR SUPPORT

Human-Wildlife Conflict

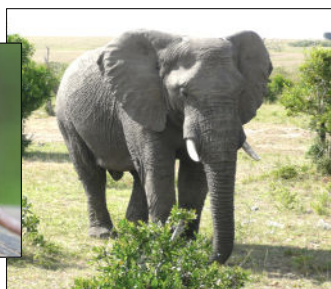
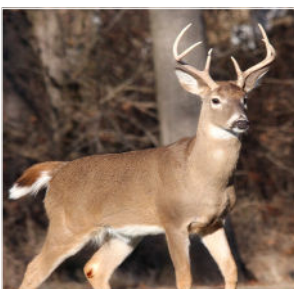
As human populations expand, the delicate balance of human-wildlife interactions has been dramatically altered, leading to an exponential increase in human-wildlife conflicts. A stark example of this shift occurred in 2020 when humans locked down to minimize the spread of COVID-19. Wildlife took notice and free-ranged in national parks, exurbs, and cities throughout the world. This phenomenon highlights the increasingly crucial dilemma of how we humans share intersecting habitats with other animal species in a way that seeks to balance mutual protection and conflict mitigation.

Until recently, efforts to resolve such conflicts focused primarily on lethal population management through methods such as culling with firearms, archery equipment, traps, and toxicants. In the late 20th century, researchers began exploring the possibility of mitigating conflicts by using fertility control to manage wildlife populations as a response to human health and safety, animal welfare and environmental concerns associated with these traditional wildlife management practices.

Forging an Impartial Pathway to Effective, Sustainable Solutions

The Botstiber Institute for Wildlife Fertility Control (BIWFC) was established in 2016 in response to the growing interest in the development and application of wildlife fertility control as a population management strategy. The Institute's mission is "to advance reproductive management as part of an integrated approach to mitigate human-wildlife conflicts and promote coexistence worldwide through education, outreach and engagement." BIWFC serves as a neutral convener and resource for the field by:

- stimulating vital discussion, collaboration, and networking through events including conferences, workshops, seminars and symposia.
- educating wildlife managers, policy makers and the public through events, webinars, and online resources including a repository for publications, quarterly newsletters, factsheets, and videos.
- proactively awarding grants in order to tackle both systemic and interdisciplinary issues that impact wildlife fertility control's viability and sustainability as a population management strategy to be used on a variety of species in various place-based settings.



BIWFC's Work and Impact

Since its establishment, BIWFC has worked to advance the field in the following ways:

- Organized two BIWFC international conferences that attracted global audiences.
- Organized, participated in, attended and/or sponsored conferences and symposia throughout the U.S. and in Africa.
- Presented webinars on a wide range of species and strategy-related topics.
- Produced an award-winning documentary film, "An Overview of Wildlife Fertility Control."
- Several podcasts which have featured BIWFC staff.
- BIWFC has authored and/or collaborated on the publication of eight Fact Sheets.
- Provided grant funding to support seven projects in the field, the making of a documentary, and an international conference focusing on a specific wildlife fertility control strategy.
- Opened a Europe Office in the UK headed by Director Giovanna Massei.



Today, BIWFC shares its work with over 700 agencies, NGOs, universities, companies, consortia, and government agencies (local, regional, national, tribal and international) in over 50 countries throughout North America, South America, Europe, Africa, Asia, and Australasia.

What's Next? BIWFC's Priority for 2023-2024

BIWFC has recently established a new Advisory Committee which is designed to include leaders in the fields of wildlife fertility control, wildlife management, veterinary medicine, human dimension, conservation, science communication, conservation, regulatory agencies, animal welfare, pharmaceuticals, NGOs, for-profits, and academia. The Committee will include members who also function as chairs of working groups, serving as the liaison between their working group and the Advisory Committee.

The Advisory Committee has identified Science Communication as one of the overarching priorities to be addressed in 2023-2024. Science communication is the means by which scientific ideas, methods and research are transmitted to non-expert audiences in an understandable way (Cowan, 2019). Although the field of wildlife fertility control is 40 years old, its advancement and widespread use has been impeded by a persistent and pervasive lack of understanding as well as misinformation among a wide range of stakeholders, including those who would most benefit from its use. A Science Communication working group is being assembled to guide BIWFC as it seeks to increase understanding and receptivity regarding the deployment of wildlife fertility control strategies.



Investing in BIWFC's Mission – Sponsorship/Underwriting Opportunities

BIWFC offers a variety of options to support its critical mission in a way that promotes brand awareness among an influential and interdisciplinary group of stakeholders. Opportunities include:

- 2024 – 2-day workshop on fertility control in Europe to be held at the University of York, U.K.
- 2026 – 10th International Conference on Wildlife Fertility Control – location TBD.
- Quarterly Newsletter – Electronically circulated to approximately 2,000 scientists, practitioners, policy makers, NGO leaders, and members of academia. Newsletters going back to 2018 are housed on the website.
- Individual Webinar/Webinar Series – A wide range of species-related topics is covered in webinars presented each Spring and Fall. Webinars going back to 2018 are housed on the website.
- Online Repository - Peer-reviewed research articles dating back to 1994 are housed on the website.
- Grants to support BIWFC's capacity building and/or other strategic initiatives.
- Co-funding projects BIWFC identifies that address both systemic and interdisciplinary issues of pivotal concern.

BIWFC invites you to join in creating innovative advancements utilizing science and non-lethal means to meet the increasing call for coexistence with wildlife.

Monique Principi, Managing Director mprincipi@botstiber.org
Lawrence Green, External Affairs Officer, lgreen@botstiber.org
www.wildlifefertilitycontrol.org



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