



Priority Action Report

Wildlife Forensics

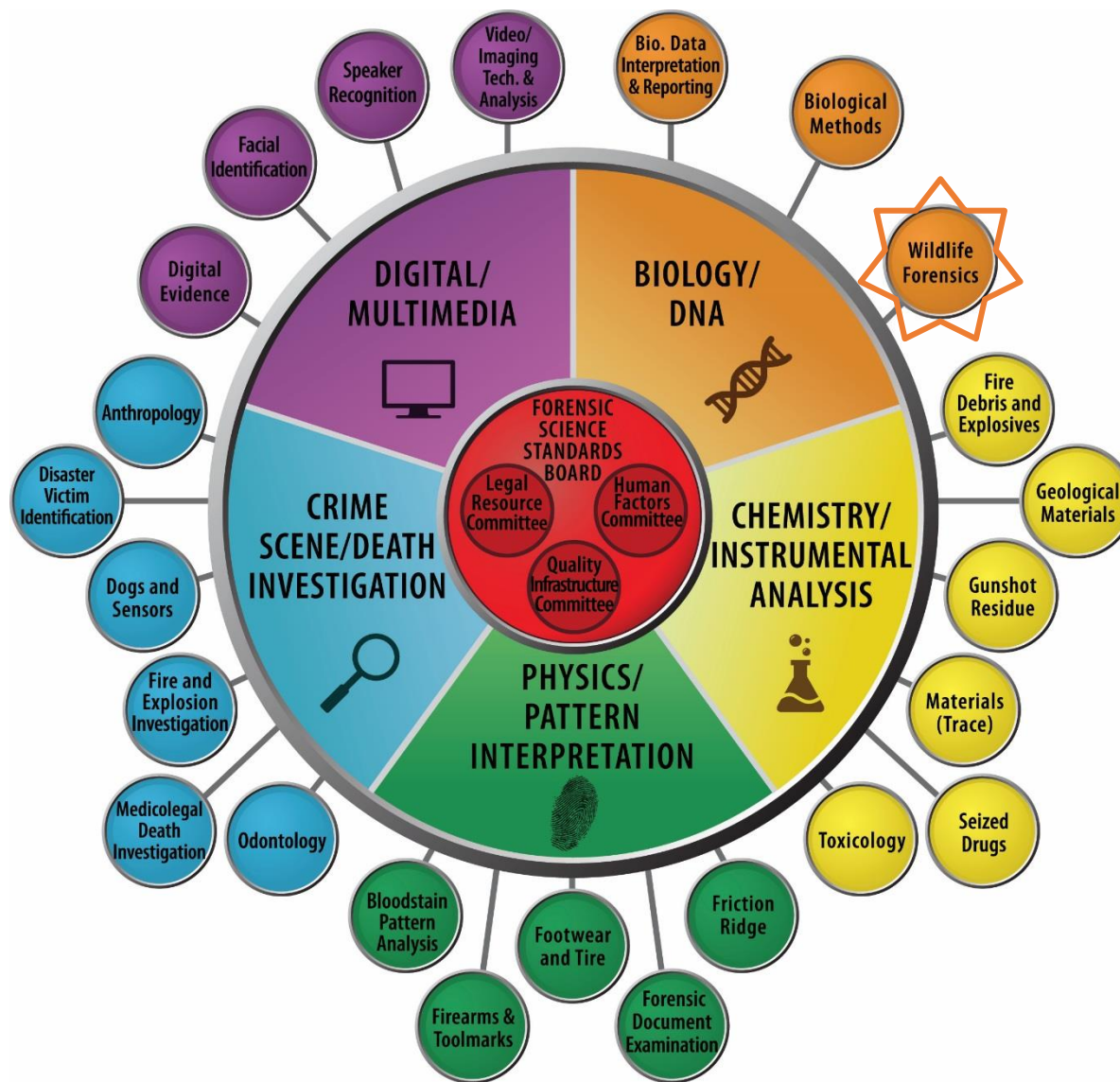
Biology/DNA SAC

M. Katherine Moore, Chair

Mary K. Burnham-Curtis, Vice Chair

February 22, 2016





Subcommittee Leadership



Position	Name	Organization	Term	Email
Chair	Kathy Moore, M.S.	NOAA Northwest Fisheries Science Center Forensic Laboratory	2	Kathy.Moore@noaa.gov
Vice Chair	Mary Burnham Curtis, Ph.D.	USFWS National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Laboratory	2	Mary_Curtis@fws.gov
Executive Secretary	Kim Frazier, M.S.	Wyoming Game and Fish, Wildlife Forensic and Fish Health Laboratory	4	Kim.Frazier@wyo.gov



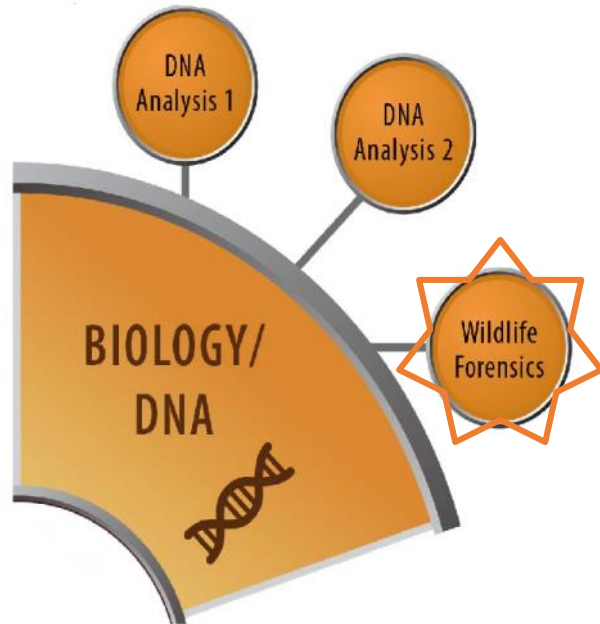
Subcommittee Members



#	Name	Organization	Term	Email
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10	John Planz , Ph.D.	University of North Texas Health Sciences University	3	john.planz@unthsc.edu



Discipline Description



The Wildlife Forensics Subcommittee will focus on standards and guidelines related to taxonomic identification, individualization, and geographic origin of non-human biological evidence based on morphological and genetic analyses.

Summary of Standards/Guidelines Priority Actions

Priority	Working Title of Document
1	General Standards for Wildlife Forensic Practice
2	Report Writing Standards
3	Terminology
4	DNA Standards
5	Morphology Standards
6	Validation - holding pattern

Standards/Guidelines Development Priority 1



Document Title: General Standards for Wildlife Forensic Practice

Scope: This document provides minimum standards and recommendations for practicing wildlife forensic analysts. This document covers good laboratory practices, evidence handling, and training as well as considerations of phylogeny, taxonomy, and reference collections that are specific to wildlife forensic science.

These minimum standards and recommendations are not intended to replace standards in ISO 17025 or other forensic laboratory standards, but are designed to provide guidance for small laboratories and part-time practitioners who are outside of traditional forensic laboratories.

Objective/rationale: Standardize laboratory best practices for wildlife forensic practitioners.

Issues/Concerns: Acceptance in the SDO process

Task Group Name: Standards and Guidelines TG

Task Group Chair Name: Chris O'Brien

Task Group Chair Contact Information: rcobrien@newhaven.edu

Date of Last Task Group Meeting: 28/Jan/2016





Standards/Guidelines Development Priority 1 Document - General Standards

Key Components of Standard:

Training and Personnel

Evidence Handling

Equipment and Methods

**Reference Materials and
Collections**

Case Documentation





Standards/Guidelines for Reference

Title	Organization
SWGWILD Standards and Guidelines, v. 2.0	SWGWILD
Quality Assurance Standards	FBI
ISFG Recommendations	IFSG
ISO 17025:2005	ISO
Guide 19: Modules in a Forensic Science Process	ILAC
Supplemental Requirements for the Accreditation of Forensic Testing Laboratories	ASCLD/LAB
Forensic Requirements for Accreditation (FRA-1:2008/1)	FQS/ANAB
Primary literature publications	n/a



Standards/Guidelines Development Priority 2



Document Title: Wildlife Forensic Report Writing Standard

Scope: This document describes the information to be provided in reports of wildlife forensic examinations. Requirements for both genetic and morphological examination reports are covered. Forensic reports serve a variety of audiences, and must provide a clear and concise summary of methods, results, and conclusions for the use of the investigator, the court, and the litigants.

Objective/rationale: Standardize components included in wildlife forensic reporting documents

Issues/Concerns: Acceptance in the SDO process

Task Group Name: Report Writing TG

Task Group Chair Name: Pepper Trail

Task Group Chair Contact Information: pepper_trail@fws.gov

Date of Last Task Group Meeting: 28/Jan/2016



Standards/Guidelines Development Priority 2 Document - Report Writing

Key Components of Standard:

Chain of custody information

Examination Requested

Examination Conducted

Examination Results

Examination Conclusions



Standards/Guidelines for Reference

Title	Organization
SWGWILD Report Writing Guidelines (DRAFT)	SWGWILD
SWGWILD Standards and Guidelines, v. 2.0	SWGWILD
Quality Assurance Standards	FBI
ISFG Recommendations	IFSG
Primary literature publications	n/a
20 documents from the Catalog under the topic 'reporting'	various





Priority 3: Terminology

Priority Level: High

Suggested Path: SDO

- Terminology and definitions as used in Wildlife Forensics
 - Genetics (cross-discipline)
 - Morphology
- SAC-level Task Group established

Task Group Name: Terminology

Task Group Chair Name: Mary Burnham Curtis

Task Group Chair Contact Information: Mary_Curtis@fws.gov



Standards/Guidelines for reference



Title	Organization
Terminology section of: SWGWILD Standards and Guidelines, v. 2.0	SWGWILD
Terminology section of: SWGWILD Report Writing Guidelines (DRAFT)	SWGWILD
ASTM standards (several) for forensic terminology	ASTM
SWGDM terminology	SWGDM





Standards/Guidelines Reviewed For Technical Merit

Title	Developing Organization	Status*	OSAC Process Stage (e.g., RA 100)
Wildlife Forensics General Standards	Wildlife Sub	Submitted for Review	SDO-300
Wildlife Forensics Report Writing Standards	Wildlife Sub	Ready for Submission to SAC	SDO-300

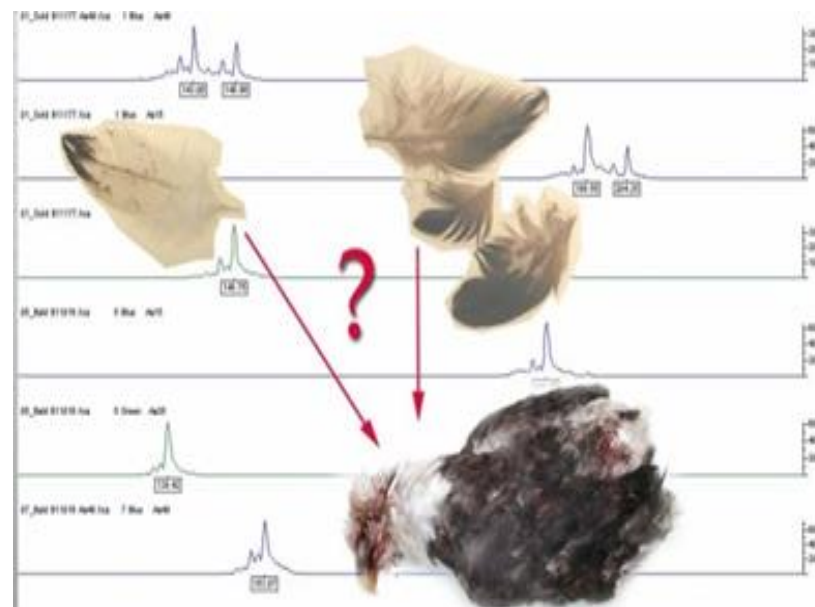


Research Gaps Identified

Develop STR Panels

Validate Existing STR Panels

Geographic Assignment

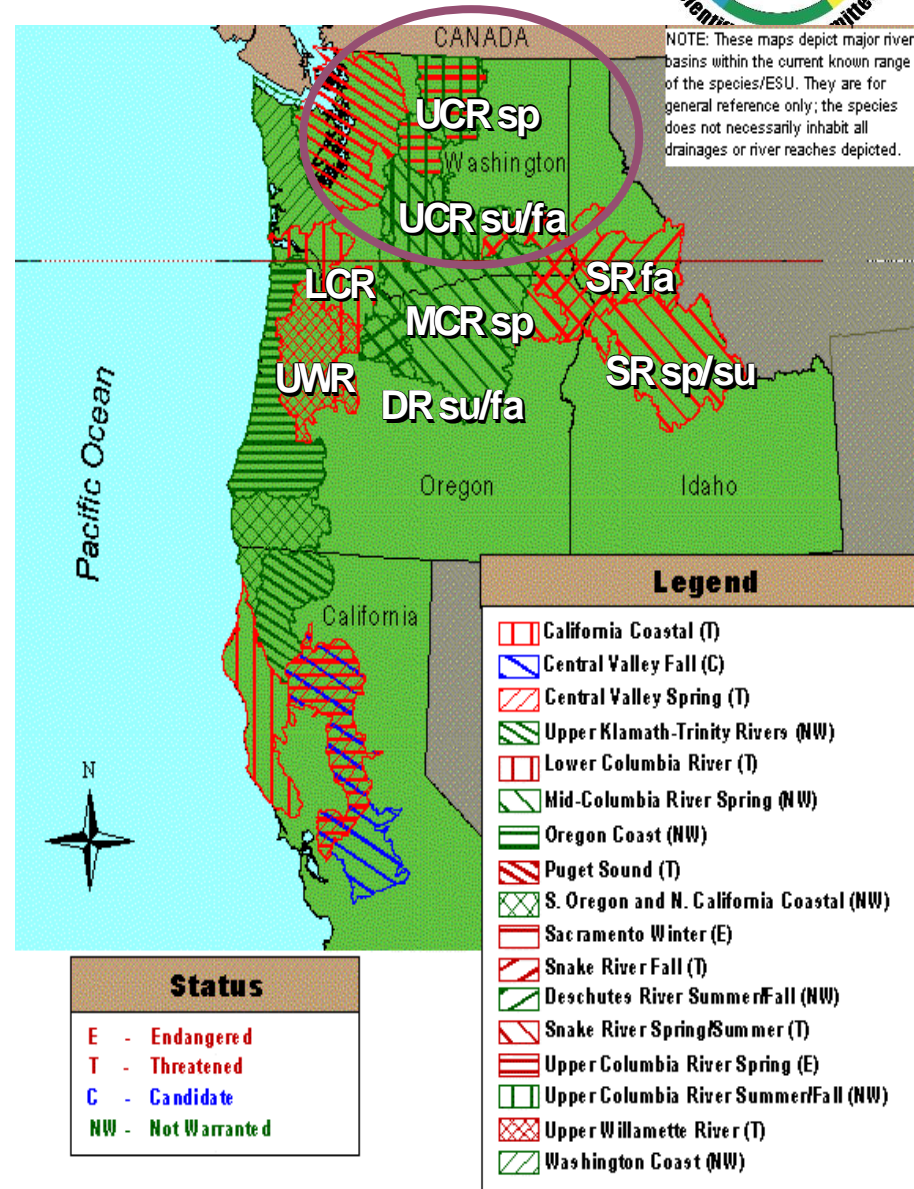


Upper Columbia River Chinook



The Upper Columbia River has two sympatric populations of Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*)

- Spring-run (endangered ESA)
- Summer-run (not listed)



Summary



- Liaise with cross-discipline groups
- Meet regularly and review documents
- Draft new standards for SDO approval
- Initiate SDO process for General and Reporting Standards

Rank	Topic Area
1	General Standards for WF Practice
2	Report Writing Standards
3	Terminology
4	DNA Standards
5	Morphology Standards
6	Standardized STR panels
7	Validation

