

**Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation & Management  
San Diego, California – Plenary Session – Wednesday, April 15  
Monarch Butterfly Conservation in North America**

**Presenters and Panelists**

**Daniel M. Ashe, Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

Daniel M. Ashe was confirmed on June 30, 2011 as the 16th Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the nation's principal Federal agency dedicated to the conservation of fish and wildlife and their habitats. His appointment by President Obama is the culmination of a lifetime spent within the Fish and Wildlife Service family.

Dan Ashe was born and spent his childhood in Atlanta, Georgia, where his father began his 37-year career with the Service. Much of Ashe's childhood was spent on national wildlife refuges and fish hatcheries in the Southeast, where he learned to band birds, fish, hunt and, most importantly, simply enjoy the outdoors.

Prior to his appointment as Director, Ashe served as the Service's Deputy Director for Policy beginning in 2009, where he provided strategic program direction and developed policy and guidance to support and promote program development and fulfill the Service mission.

Ashe also served as the Science Advisor to the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service. Appointed to this position in March, 2003, he advised the Service Director and provided leadership on science policy and scientific applications to resource management. As Science Advisor, Ashe led an organizational renaissance for science and professionalism, leading the Service's efforts to respond to changes in the global climate system; shaping an agency agenda for change toward a science-driven, landscape conservation business model; defining an agency Code of Scientific and Professional Conduct; authoring new guidelines for scientific peer review and information quality; building state-of-the-art, electronic literature access for employees; and reinstating internal scientific publication outlets. He was also responsible for leading efforts to build stronger relationships with the U.S. Geological Survey, and scientific professional societies.

From 1998 to 2003, Ashe served as the Chief of the National Wildlife Refuge System, directing operation and management of the 150 million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System, and the Service's land acquisition program. During his tenure as Chief, the Refuge System experienced an unprecedented and sustained period of budget increases for operations, maintenance, construction and land acquisition. The Refuge System also saw vastly expanded public visibility, and partner and community involvement. Ashe also led the Service's migratory bird management and North American wetlands conservation programs from 1998 to 2000, contributing to significant advances in both programs' impact and effectiveness.

From 1995 to 1998, Ashe served as the Fish and Wildlife Service's Assistant Director for External Affairs, where he directed the agency's programs in legislative, public, and Native American affairs, research coordination, and state grants-in-aid. During his tenure in this position, the Service restructured and broadened its communications programs and capacities, incorporating communications expertise into all of its program areas and employee training. The agency implemented a forward vision for Congressional relations, which led to several groundbreaking legislative accomplishments, including enactment of the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act.

From 1982 until 1995, Ashe was a Member of the Professional Staff of the former Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries, in the U.S. House of Representatives. In 13 years on Capitol Hill, Ashe served in several capacities, advising the Committee's Chairmen and Members on a wide range of environmental policy issues, including endangered species and biodiversity conservation, ocean and coastal resources protection, the National Wildlife Refuge System, the National Marine Sanctuaries Program, the Clean Water Act, wetlands conservation, fisheries management and conservation, and offshore oil and gas development.

Ashe's journey to the Nation's Capitol was made possible by the National Sea Grant College Program, in 1982, when he was awarded a National Sea Grant Congressional Fellowship.

Ashe earned a graduate degree in Marine Affairs from the University of Washington, where he studied under a fellowship from the Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation. His Master's thesis, on estuarine wetland mitigation, was published in the Coastal Zone Management Journal, in 1982.

Ashe is very active in local civic affairs in Montgomery County, Maryland, where he and his family reside. He is an avid waterfowl hunter, angler and tennis player. Ashe's father, William (Bill) C. Ashe, also a career employee of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, retired in 1990, and now resides in Harvard, Massachusetts.

### **Luis Fueyo MacDonald, National Commissioner, Comisión Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas**

National Commissioner for Protected Areas since May 2010.

Commissioner Fueyo has had a very productive professional career –both in private and public sectors, always relating his work to environmental issues.

Luis holds a BA in Physics from the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM) and a Master degree from Mexico and Norway. He has specializations in hydro-acoustics, marine resource assessments, and management of coastal ecosystems.

Luis has also studied the following: Environmental Law, Environmental Economics, Natural Resource Assessments, Strategic Planning as well as Public Administration and Leadership. In

2008, he acquired a diploma in Techniques and Tools for Conservation from the Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey (ITESM) and The Nature Conservancy.

#### Other appointments

- Researcher (Asociado B) at UNAM's Faculty of Science (1974-1978).
- National counterpart representative with UNDP/FAO to assess the state of fishery resources in Mexico (1978-1982).
- Researcher (Titular B) at the National Fisheries Institute (1982-1990).
- Regional Director of the Fisheries Research Center at Mazatlán (1986-1990).
- General Director for the Company Science and Technology for Aquaculture (1990-1995).
- Adviser on Fishing Cooperatives at Trusts Instituted in Relation to Agriculture (FIRA, Banco de México) (1990-1995).
- General Director of Inspection and Surveillance of Fisheries and Marine Resources at Mexico's Federal Attorney for Environmental Protection (PROFEPA) (1997-2000).
- General Director of Inspection and Monitoring of Marine Resources and Coastal Ecosystems at PROFEPA (2001-2007).
- Adviser to the Executive Secretary at Mexico's Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity (CONABIO) (2007-2010).

#### **Sue Milburn-Hopwood, Director General – Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada**

Sue Milburn-Hopwood is the Director General of the Canadian Wildlife Service within Environment Canada. She is responsible for the Migratory Birds Program including the Migratory Birds Regulations governing the hunting of migratory birds; Species at Risk; Protected Areas programs including National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries; and Canada's Biodiversity Program. She is also responsible for providing the Secretariat to the Government of Canada's Hunting and Angling Advisory Panel. Prior to her appointment to the Canadian Wildlife Service last spring she was the Director General of Environment Canada's Environmental Protections Operations, managing the department's environmental assessment, environmental emergencies, contaminated sites and disposal at sea programs. She has been working for the Federal Government on environmental and human health issues for over 30 years.

Ms. Milburn-Hopwood has a BSc in Life Sciences from Queen's University, a MA in Environmental Studies from the University of Toronto and a Certificate in Public Sector Leadership and Governance from the University of Ottawa.

She lives in Ottawa with her husband, teenage daughter and two dogs. She enjoys spending time outdoors and at the family cottage.

## **Tom Melius, Regional Director, Midwest Region, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

Tom Melius was appointed as the Midwest Regional Director for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on Oct. 12, 2008. Prior to his Midwest region post, he completed a successful watch over the vast, rugged expanse of the Service's Alaska region. As the Midwest Regional Director, Melius governs over a region that employs 1,088 people, manages 1.29 million acres of land and has field offices in eight states: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio and Wisconsin.

A native of the Great Plains, Melius brings a diverse background and a wealth of experience to the Midwest. Prior to his stewardship in Alaska, he served as Assistant Director for External Affairs in the Washington Office from March 2003 to April 2006. He oversaw the national programs for Public Affairs, Congressional and Legislative Affairs, and the office of the Native American Liaison. He also provided oversight to the Service's National Conservation Training Center located in Shepherdstown, West Virginia.

Prior to his time in External Affairs, Melius served as Assistant Director for Migratory Birds and State Programs. In that position he developed policy, advised the Directorate, and served as its representative on issues relating to the conservation and management of migratory birds, implementation of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan and wetlands programs, Federal Duck Stamps, federal grant programs, and conservation partnerships. He was responsible for and directed the offices of Migratory Bird Management, Bird Habitat Conservation, Conservation Partnership Liaison, and Federal Aid.

From July 1997 to October 1998, Melius was the Director of Conservation Policy and Senior Advisor at the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. From January 1995 to June 1997, he was a senior professional staff member on the U.S. Senate's Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, where he formulated policy for fishery management with the National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Coast Guard; and for coastal programs with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. He also advised the Committee on international conservation matters involving wildlife trade, marine mammals and endangered species.

From 1985 to 1995, Melius was a professional staff member on the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries in the U.S. House of Representatives. There he advised the Committee on issues concerning fish and wildlife legislation.

In 1973 and 1975, Melius earned his bachelor's degree in wildlife biology and a master's degree in fish and wildlife science from South Dakota State University. His broad range of experience, both within and outside the Service, has left him well qualified to deal with the challenges and stewardship opportunities throughout the diverse Midwest lands and waters.

## **Dr. Benjamin N. Tuggle, Regional Director, Southwest Region, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

Dr. Benjamin N. Tuggle is the Regional Director for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) Southwest Region. He began his distinguished career with the Service in 1979 at the National Health Research Center in Madison, WI. Since then he has served in key leadership positions throughout the nation, including field experience and time in the agency's Washington, DC headquarters office.

Dr. Tuggle holds a B.S. in Biology from Fort Valley State University, Fort Valley, GA (1975); and advanced degrees in Zoology from The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH (M.S., 1977 and Ph.D., 1982). Dr. Tuggle's academic pursuits and efforts have produced a total of 18 publications in eight referred scientific journals and three chapters in a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Resource Publication.

Numerous environmental issues of national significance fall under Dr. Tuggle's direction. His responsibilities include: endangered species, migratory birds and fisheries and aquatic resources oversight; National Wildlife Refuge administration; water resource development; applied science decisions; wetland and upland habitat protection and mitigation; habitat conservation, restoration and acquisition; endangered species; energy development; National Wetlands Inventory mapping activities; Coastal Barrier Resources Act; conservation efforts on military installations; marine mammal protection; International wildlife conservation; and other related conservation issues that impact fish and wildlife resources.

Since beginning his tenure as the Service's Southwest Regional Director in 2005, Dr. Tuggle has successfully directed some of the nation's most complex and controversial issues in natural resources management. He has effectively overseen conservation issues along the U.S./Mexico border; created the Wolf-Livestock Interdiction Program for the Mexican gray wolf; and established three new National Wildlife Refuges –including the first urban National Wildlife Refuge in the Southwest. In addition, he has developed and implemented cooperative conservation on public and private lands; worked with wind energy development to promote the Service's conservation mission, and effectively coordinated with the many middle Rio Grande stakeholders to resolve complex water issues.

As Southwest Regional Director, Dr. Tuggle has spear-headed conservation efforts for a variety of controversial species protection initiatives including: the Rio Grande silvery minnow, the Southwest willow flycatcher, the Mexican gray wolf, the dunes sagebrush lizard, the lesser prairie-chicken, and the humpback chub.

Dr. Tuggle works extensively in a collaborative manner with other federal, state and local resource agencies; Native American tribes; the private sector; and non-governmental environmental groups in order to accomplish goals and objectives that promote fish and wildlife conservation. He has maintained this collaborative, productive and positive interaction within FWS, and with its partners, throughout his career with the Service. His precedent-setting partnership efforts have included protecting potentially listed species through conservation agreements with private landowners and industry; establishing tribal eagle aviaries and non-

eagle feather repositories to support Native American religious and cultural activities; and working with private land owners to provide wildlife and water conservation on private lands.

**Ren Lohofener, Regional Director, Pacific Southwest Region, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

Ren Lohofener serves as the regional director of the Pacific Southwest Region. From headquarters in Sacramento, Calif., Lohofener oversees Service programs in California, Nevada and Klamath Basin that administer the Endangered Species Act and Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and manages 51 national wildlife refuges, and three national fish hatcheries. The Service established the California, Nevada Operations Office in 1998 in recognition of the unique natural resource challenges facing California, Nevada and the Klamath Basin. Many of these challenges evolve from the inherently rich biodiversity of this area, coupled with many of the fastest growing communities in the nation. The CNO was renamed Region 8 of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in November 2007. In Region 8, decision-making is placed at the local level, where managers are in a better position to develop partnerships with external groups and organizations.

Prior to coming to Sacramento, Lohofener served as the regional director of the Pacific Region of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, based in Portland, Ore. Lohofener joined the Fish and Wildlife Service in 1989 after working for six years as an ecologist for the National Marine Fisheries Service. Before that, he was a Research Associate and Adjunct Professor at Mississippi State University. Since joining the Fish and Wildlife Service, Lohofener has been a field biologist, the agency's Texas State Administrator and Assistant Regional Director of the agency's Southwest Region. He served as the Service's Assistant Director for the Endangered Species Program in Washington, D.C. A native of Kansas, Lohofener received his Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees from Fort Hays State University in Kansas and his Doctorate degree from Mississippi State University. He is also a veteran of the U.S. Army. Lohofener believes that cooperation and collaboration are essential to all conservation efforts.

**Scott Farris, Director, Governmental Relations, TransCanada Corporation**

**Scott Farris** is TransCanada's Director of Government Relations for the Western United States, a post he has held since January 2005. TransCanada, listed on the New York and Toronto stock exchanges, is one of North America's leading energy infrastructure companies with diversified assets that include more than 40,000 miles of natural gas pipelines, oil pipelines, and twenty power facilities that include wind, solar, hydro, gas, and nuclear generation totaling nearly 12,000 MW.

A former journalist, including as a bureau chief for United Press International, Farris has previously served as a policy and communications advisor to former U.S. Senator Malcolm Wallop (R-Wyo.), former Wyoming Governor Mike Sullivan, former California Governor Gray Davis, and former Portland, Oregon, Mayor Vera Katz. Farris was the Democratic nominee for

Congress in Wyoming in 1998, and is the author of two books *Almost President: The Men Who Lost the Race But Changed the Nation* (Lyons Press, 2011) and *Kennedy and Reagan: Why Their Legacies Endure* (Lyons Press, 2013).

Farris lives in Portland, Oregon, with his wife, and their two children.

### **Eric Sachs, Science & Policy Lead, Monsanto Company**

Dr. Sachs earned a PhD in Genetics at Texas A&M University, and MS and BS degrees in Botany from the University of California, Davis. He has worked at Monsanto Company, St. Louis, for 36 years and has played key roles in the development, authorization and commercial application of GM crops. He currently focuses on the Social, Economic and Environmental impacts of GM cropping systems, as well as supporting science-based regulatory systems and Monsanto's sustainability initiatives. He is responsible for communicating about environmental risk assessment, food and environmental safety, and the social and economic impacts of Monsanto technologies to a broad array of stakeholders, including scientists, policy makers, interest groups, and other individuals seeking to better understand the impacts of agricultural systems and GMOs on food and the environment. Currently, in recognition of the impacts of agricultural systems on habitat for the monarch butterfly and pollinators generally, he is working to build a bridge between the agricultural sector and supply chain and the conservation community. As a leader and communicator within the private sector, he successfully uses his knowledge, experience, and passion to communicate the safety and benefits of GM crops, to demystify the science of biotechnology and to build confidence among policy makers, opinion leaders and the public.

### **Dr. Gilles Seutin, Chief Scientist (Ecosystem Sciences) for the Parks Canada Agency**

Dr. Seutin joined Parks Canada in 2000 to support the development of Canada's Species at Risk Act and its implementation within the Agency. He has been acting Director of the Legislation and Policy Branch in 2010, and has led a systematic review of the Historic Canal System in 2011 and 2012. He has been a member of the Canadian Delegation to the World Heritage Convention since 2006.

Dr. Seutin holds a Ph.D. in Science from Queen's University (Kingston, Canada) and conducted post-doctoral research at the Université de Montréal's School of Medicine, the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, and the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in Panama. He was held adjunct faculty positions at McGill University (Montreal, Canada) and Université Laval (Quebec City, Canada).

### **Scott Hoffman Black, Vice Chair, Monarch Joint Venture and Executive Director, The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation**

Scott has extensive experience in endangered species conservation, pollinator conservation, and sustainable agricultural and range and forest management issues. He has authored over 200 scientific and popular publications, co-authored two books and contributed chapters to several others, and his work has been featured in newspapers, magazines, books, and on radio and television. Scott holds a Master of Science degree in ecology and a Bachelor of Science in horticulture, both through the College of Agricultural Sciences at Colorado State University.

He also serves as the Chair of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Butterfly Specialist Group, Chair of the Migratory Dragonfly Partnership, Vice Chair of the Monarch Joint Venture, and as Deputy Chair of the IUCN Invertebrate Conservation Subcommittee. Scott has received several awards, including the 2011 Colorado State University College of Agricultural Sciences Honor Alumnus Award and the U.S. Forest Service Wings Across the Americas 2012 Butterfly Conservation Award.

**Eduardo Rendón Salinas, Monarch Butterfly Program Coordinator, World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Mexico**

Eduardo Rendón -Salinas is Biologist and PhD candidate in Biological Sciences at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). He has been working since 1993 on the conservation of the monarch butterflies and their wintering sites in Mexico.

Since 2004 he is coordinating the Monarch Butterfly Program which is part of the WWF – Mexico’s Global Program for Nature. Eduardo is in charge monitoring changes in forest cover and monarch population during hibernation periods. He began the Monarch Butterfly Regional Forum and the Monarch Net and also supports writing of research -based scientific articles and books targeting general public.

His passion is to support indigenous communities in the Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve to help them benefiting from government and private sector supports, promoting their social and economic development, which in turn enhance conservation of the Monarch , ecosystem services and biodiversity.

**Eglantina Canales Gutiérrez, Secretary of the Environment, State of Coahuila, Mexico**

Eglantina is a biologist that worked on the wildlife and protected areas program at the Antonio Narro University in Saltillo, Coahuila, until 2000, then became the Director of the NGO *Protección de la Fauna Mexicana* where she implemented various conservation actions until 2009. From 2009 to 2011, Eglantina worked at the National Commission for Natural Protected Areas as the director of the Artiaga Priority Conservation Region, and then was appointed at the Secretary of Environment for the State of Coahuila.

**Ross Melinchuk, Deputy Executive Director, Natural Resources, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department**



Ross Melinchuk is the Deputy Executive Director for Natural Resources for Texas Parks and Wildlife, a position he has held since June 2009. Melinchuk oversees the department's Wildlife, Coastal and Inland Fisheries Divisions. Melinchuk has more than four decades of experience in the natural resources field. Before accepting his current position, he was Director of Public Policy for Ducks Unlimited (DU), where he was responsible for providing strategic direction for public policy and state grant activities for a 15 state region in the South and Southeastern U.S. Prior to his 17 year career with DU, he served as NAWMP coordinator for the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies from 1990-1992. He began his professional career with Saskatchewan Environment, as a wildlife biologist in the late 1970's, ending up as the agency's NAWMP coordinator, a position he held until 1990 when he left Canada to work in Washington D.C. He graduated from the University of Guelph with a Bachelor of Science in Wildlife Biology and earned a Master of Science degree in 1983 from Lakehead University.