

# Sensing the wildlife

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A collection of the world's foremost authorities on remote sensing will gather in Sioux Falls Oct. 10-12 to discuss that field's emerging importance in wildlife management programs.

Entitled Pecora IV, the three-day symposium is a follow-up to a similar gathering in Canada several years ago, according to Dr. Michael Berger, Washington, D.C., a National Wildlife Federation representative.

NWF is the primary sponsor of the symposium, which will be held at the downtown Holiday Inn. Sioux Falls was chosen as the site for the symposium because of the presence of the EROS Data Center north of the city.

The list of technicians, politicians, wildlife specialists and remote sensing experts who will attend the symposium reads like a who's who in those particular fields.

Attendees will include Robert Frosch, administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration; Robert Herbst, assistant secretary of the Interior; and numerous American and Canadian experts in the fields of remote sensing, wildlife management and their relationship.

In addition, EROS Data Center staff members will conduct technical sessions on current remote sensing technology, analysis and its application to wildlife.

The symposium kicks off Tuesday, Oct. 10, with addresses by Gov. Harvey Wollman, Thomas L. Kimball, executive vice president of the National Wildlife Federation, and Dr. H. William Menard, director of the U.S. Geological Survey.

Berger said that while the application of remote sensing to wildlife management is not new, it is a field that is rapidly developing.

He said that about one-third of the symposium's experts will be Canadian, indicating the importance of international cooperation in the management of wildlife through remote sensing.

Dave Carneggie, an EROS technician, said that the symposium will be the first in this country to deal specifically with wildlife management.

"It's hard to generalize that this is an emerging field," he said of using remote sensing to manage wildlife. "Aerial photos have always been valuable to areas such as vegetation mapping.

"The thing I see emerging is that we're beginning to make measures of habitat parameters, and then correlating the probability of certain an-

imals being within those parameters."

Carneggie said that tracking animals from airplanes, or from ground stations has been used for many years, but that the use of satellites to track animals is "just emerging."

Berger said the symposium will allow high-level technical experts to make others aware of their work in the wildlife management field, to prevent duplication of research and to save those researchers time.

"There is enough data (in remote sensing of wildlife) to now conduct a symposium," he said. "If that data can be exchanged by professionals, then it becomes more valuable."

Both Carneggie and Berger said the significance of the symposium is heightened because of the cooperation between Canada and the United States in the wildlife management aspects of remote sensing.

"It's especially important in areas like the application of a waterfowl census," Carneggie said. "It's an international animal (waterfowl) and the cooperation shows a desire to determine such things as a breeding count."

The symposium is named after William Pecora, a former under secretary of Interior, who was instrumental in the establishment of facilities such as EROS.