

California Pika Consortium

A photograph of a California Pika mouse, a small rodent with light-colored fur and long whiskers, sitting on a large, textured rock. The mouse is facing left, and its body is slightly hunched. The background is a blurred, natural setting with more rocks and some greenery.

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C. Millar

The American Pika

Ochotona princeps

- Lagomorphs
- North America (and Eurasia)
- Rocky mountain slopes
- Thermal tolerance
- Have been petitioned in CA and nationally



California Pika Summit

The first California Pika Summit held November 10, 2009, in Davis, CA.

-> [Agenda](#)

-> [Meeting Notes](#)

-> Presentations

- > Klinger, Robert. [The "Rapture Hypothesis" Scenario](#)
- > Loarie, Scott and others. [Climate threats to the American Pika](#)
- > Millar, Connie and Bob Westfall. [Distribution, Geomorphology, & Thermal Relationships of American Pika in the Sierra Nevada & Great Basin](#)
- > Morelli, Toni Lyn and Deana Clifford. [Pika Handling](#)
- > Nichols, Lyle. [Dating Bodie Hills Pika Extinctions using Fecal Pellets](#)
- > Osborn, Scott and Dale Steele. [Update on California Listing Petition for Pika](#)
- > Patton, James. [Pika - Yosemite transect Grinnell Resurvey Project](#)
- > Peacock, Mary. [Genetic Tools for Inference of Population Structure](#)
- > Perrine, John. [Locating and resurveying the Grinnell-era pika locations in the Lassen Transect region of northern California](#)
- > Ray, Chris. [A low-elevation haven: Exploring the distribution of the American pika within Lava Beds National Monument, CA](#)
- > Roninger, Trisha. [American Pika 12-month Status Review](#)
- > Smith, Andrew. [Bodie Pikas What They Have to Tell Us](#)
- > Hafner, David and Andrew Smith. [Revision of the Subspecies of the American Pika, *Ochotona princeps* \(*Lagomorpha: Ochotonidae*\)](#)
- > Stermer, Chris. [Pika Distribution in California](#)
- > West, Ed. [Can Pikas Adapt to Climate Change? A 30-Year Perspective](#)
- > Wolfe, Shaye. [Protecting the Pika under the Federal and California Endangered Species Act](#)
- > Wright, David. [Status of Pika at Historic Northern Sierra Sites](#)

Priorities

- RESEARCH

- Characterize dispersal/source-sink/metapopulation dynamics and persistence/stability/abundance at multiple scales (group, population, species)
- Establish baseline health and disease program
- Conduct robust remote sensing of potential habitat

- MONITORING

- Establish monitoring protocols and standardized guidelines
- Establish centralized database
- Conduct demographic and density monitoring

- CONSERVATION

- Incorporate pika into multi-species studies and monitoring
- Establish working groups: Identify and expand leadership

Meeting Feedback

+ *“(was) well-organized, product-oriented, (had) enthusiasm, good moderation, good discussions/dialogue, great/diverse topical coverage, good selection of participants, (highlights included) meeting people in person, reviewing and sharing the range of pika research, brainstorming holes in research, increased awareness.”*

- Room was too small and meeting was too short

Short-term Goals

- Formalize meeting notes and priorities list
- Begin communication throughout group and exchange contact information
- Establish website
- Post pdfs of presentations, meeting notes, contact information, etc.
- Establish group organization, including work groups
- Hold symposia at national/regional meetings
- Hold work group meetings
- Coordinate regionally

California Pika Consortium



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- [Publications](#)
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Documents From The California Pika Summit

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The California Pika Consortium (CPC)

- [About the California Pika Consortium \(CPC\)](#)
- [The American Pika](#)
- [CPC Organization](#)
- [California Pika Summit](#)
- [Gallery of Pika Pictures](#)
- [Links](#)

The CPC Website

Nongame Wildlife Program

- > [Habitats](#)
- > [General Plant & Animal Information](#)

California Pika Consortium (CPC)

In response to challenges facing American Pika, an interdisciplinary collaborative effort is forming to foster research, monitoring, education, conservation, and adaptation planning for pikas and other high-elevation species. The California Pika Consortium

The California Pika Consortium (CPC)

- > [About the California Pika Consortium](#)

Goals:

- Share information about pika among research scientists, agency biologists, and conservation groups
- Foster collaborations to provide the best available science in pika management and policy decisions

Collaborative structure already in place if species is listed

Related DFG Links

- > [Hunting Program](#)
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The CPC Website



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- [Habitats](#)
- [General Plant & Animal Information](#)
- [Plant & Animal Species Lists](#)
- [Plant and Animal Pictures](#)
- [Collecting and Research Take Permits](#)
- [Wildlife Viewing](#)
- [Publications](#)
- [Contact Information](#)



Related DFG Links

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The American Pika

Pikas (*Ochotona* sp.) are small mammals related to rabbits that are found at mid to high elevations in North America and Eurasia. Specialized physiological and behavioral adaptations that enable pikas to tolerate cold environments also render them highly sensitive to warm temperatures. Vulnerability to warming coupled with relatively smaller land area available at higher elevations has raised concern for persistence of pikas and other montane small mammals in the face of climate change. The American pika (*O. princeps*) inhabits rocky mountain slopes of western North America. Limited information exists about climatic relationships of American pikas or other high-elevation mammals. Pikas have been petitioned for endangered species listing under federal and California state laws, increasing the urgency to:

- Inventory and map American pika populations;
- Monitor American pika population trends and status;
- Coordinate and expand knowledge of ecological and climate-impact science, and integrate American pika research with studies on other alpine mammals; and
- Develop and implement adaptation plans for the American pika



American Pika
© A. Tshcherbina

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<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/nongame/CPC>

CPC Website



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CPC Organization

CPC Committee

The California Pika Consortium is organized and managed by the CPC Committee. If you are interested in becoming involved in the CPC, contact any of the CPC Committee members:

- > [Deana Clifford](#) - Department of Fish and Game, Wildlife Investigations Lab.
- > [Connie Millar](#) - USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Research Station
- > [Toni Lyn Morelli](#) - UC Berkeley, Department of Environmental Sciences, Policy, and Management
- > [Scott Osborn](#) - Department of Fish and Game, Nongame Program

Work Groups

Efforts of the California Pika Consortium are the responsibility of consortium work groups, which are comprised of volunteers with specific expertise and interests. Click on a work group name for a list of contacts and ongoing projects. If you are interested in becoming involved in the CPC, contact any of the CPC Committee members.

- > [Conservation](#)
- > [Database Coordination](#)
- > [Education and Outreach](#)
- > [Geomorphology and Habitat Mapping](#)
- > [Health](#)
- > [Protocols](#)
- > [Research Coordination](#)

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<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/nongame/CPC>

CPC Organization

45 Members

25 Organizations



Committee
(CPCC)

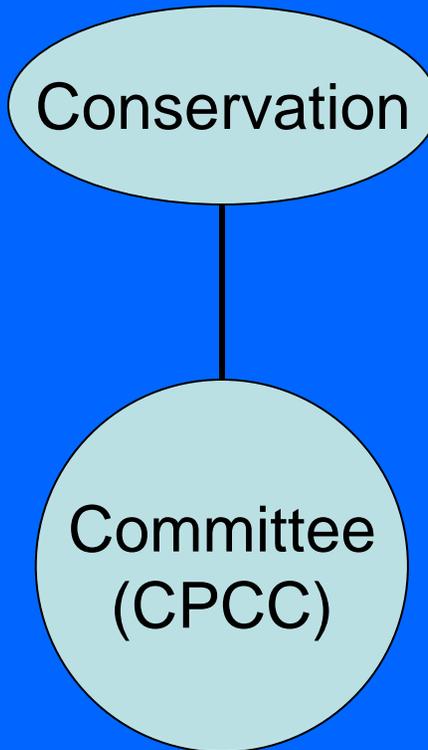
Deana Clifford

Connie Millar

Toni Lyn Morelli

Scott Osborn

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Randy Logsdon

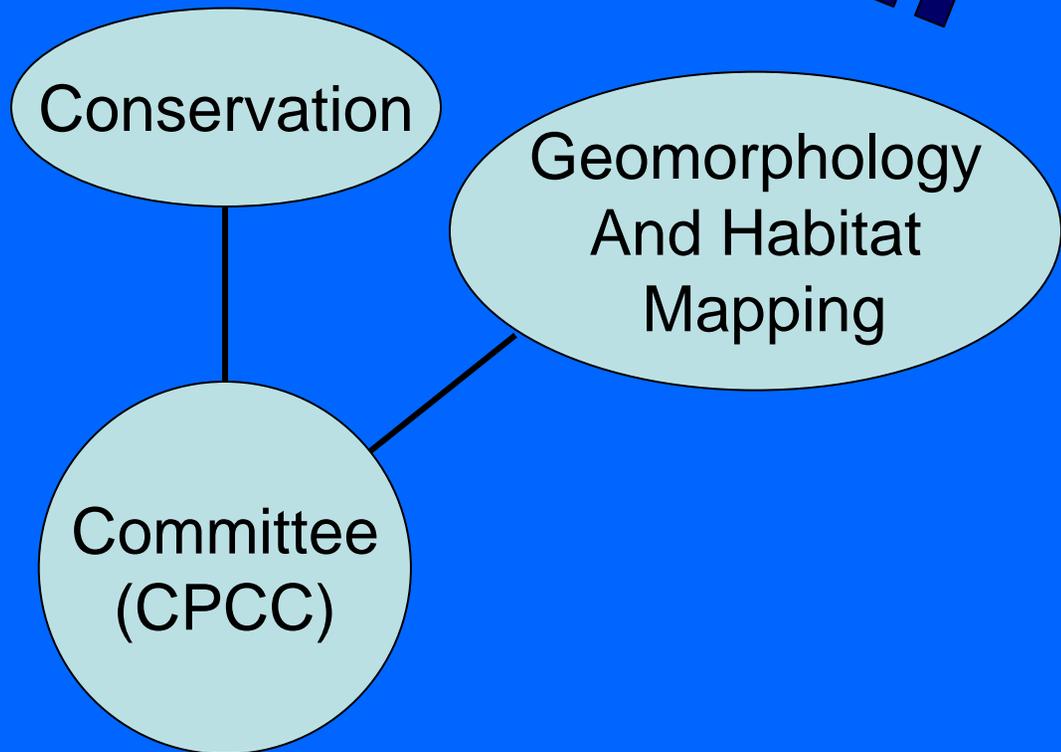
Toni Lyn Morelli

Scott Osborn

Shaye Wolf

Andrew Smith

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Connie Millar*

April Craighead

Liesl Peterson

Chris Ray

Amy Seglund

Bob Westfall

Nifer Wilkening

CPC Organization

Conservation

Geomorphology
And Habitat
Mapping

Connie Millar*
April Craighead
Liesl Peterson
Chris Ray
Amy Seglund
Bob Westfall
Nifer Wilkening

Current Priorities:

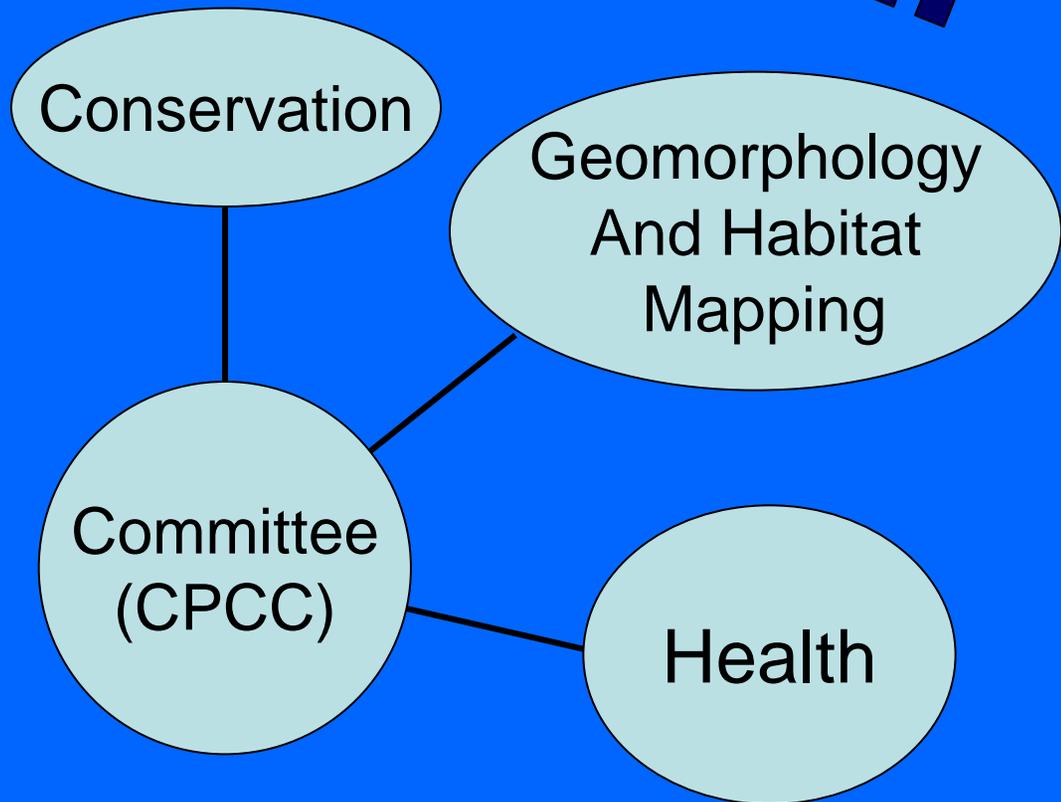
- 1) Develop a list of map & imagery sources
- 2) Share experience using these sources and solicit input from outside colleagues

Next Steps:

- 1) Standardize method for ID'ing pika habitat on any imagery?
- 2) Develop simple method for landscape scale mapping?
- 3) Ground-truthing?

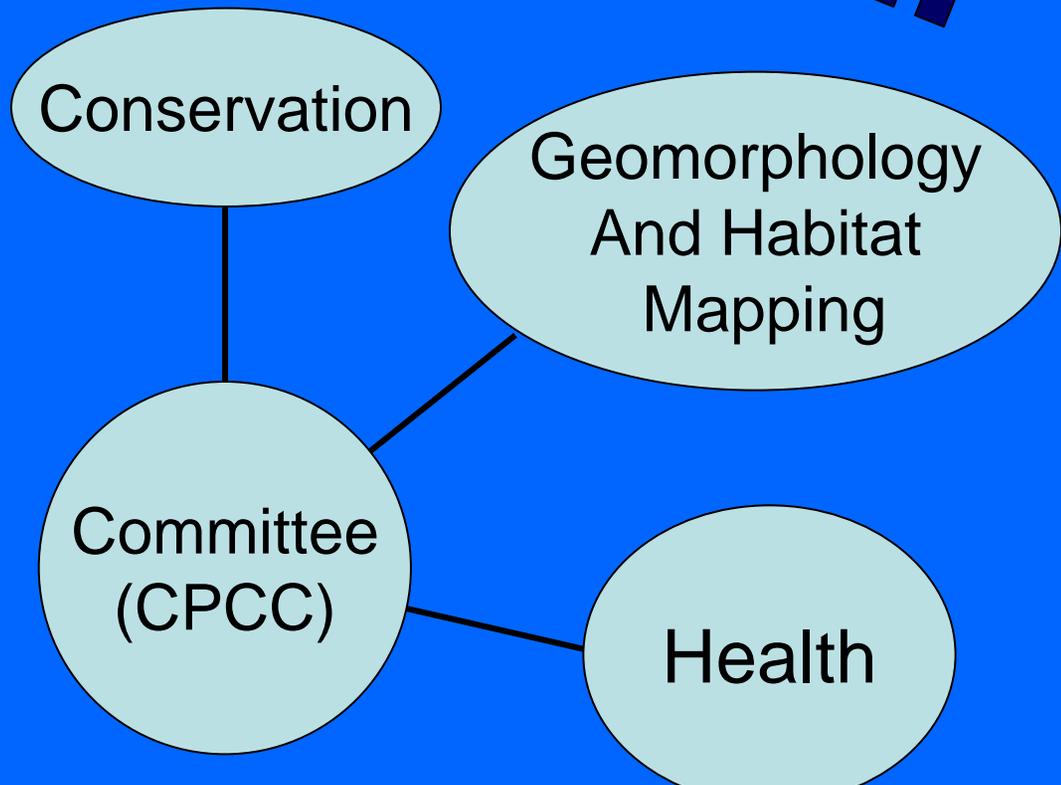
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Deana Clifford*
Richard Brown
Katy Fleer
Janet Foley
Toni Lyn Morelli



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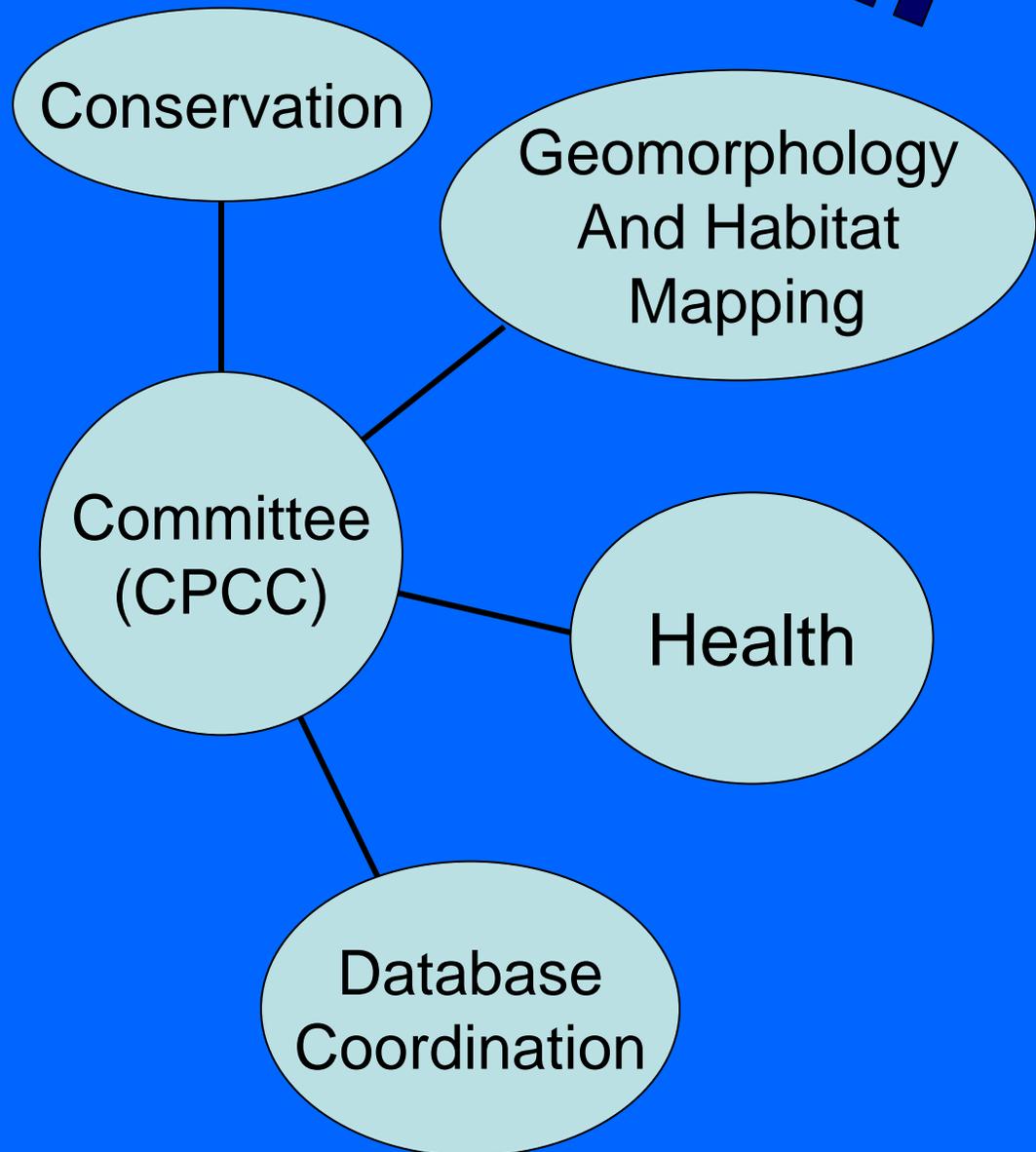


Primary objectives:

- Maintain list of health projects
- Provide health expertise as needed
- Develop studies to address critical knowledge gaps
- Work with researchers to integrate health monitoring and develop and distribute protocols for pika handling and biological sample collection/storage.

CPC Organization

*Toni Lyn Morelli
Sean Finn
John Isanhart
Scott Osborn
Jim Patton
Jon Perrine



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John Isanhart

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Jim Patton

Jon Perrine

-Connect existing databases

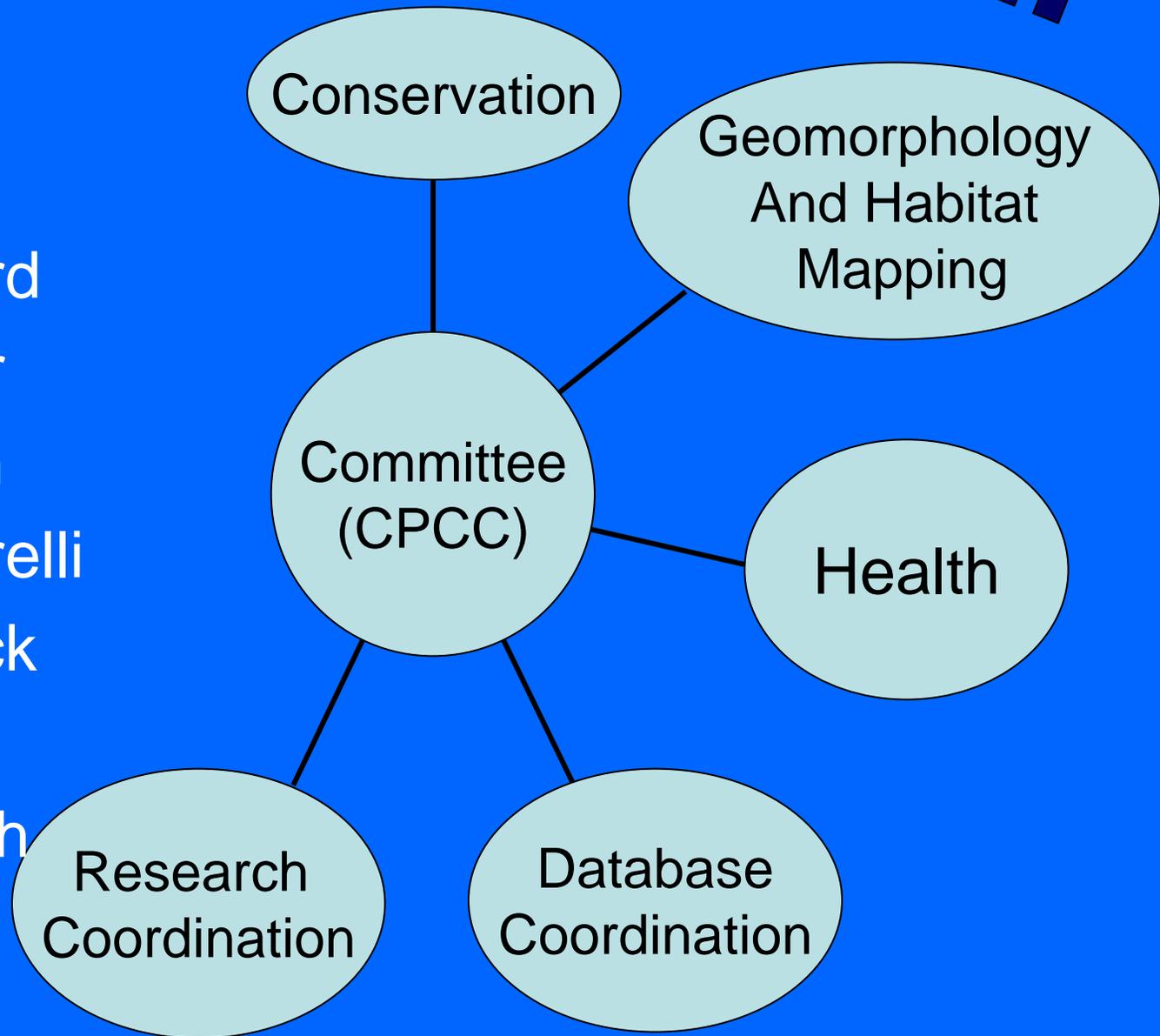
-Encourage the submission of previously collected data

Including information on biological samples, biometric and health data collected, distribution of pikas, other montane mammals, and their habitats.

Database
Coordination

CPC Organization

Ed West*
David Wright
Deana Clifford
Connie Millar
Scott Osborn
Toni Lyn Morelli
Mary Peacock
Chris Ray
Andrew Smith



CPC Organization

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David Wright

Deana Clifford

Connie Millar

Scott Osborn

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Mary Peacock

Chris Ray

Andrew Smith

Objectives

- Gather and compile information on past, present, and proposed future research
- Coordinate with pika and other montane mammal research across California and the west

Accomplishments

- Compiled pika bibliography
- Established internet communication link: Lotus Quickr
- Initiated pika contacts database

Future Priorities

- Identify pika/small alpine mammal research priorities
- Coordinate with other pika interest groups (e.g. 1st Pika Symposium) to develop state and national research priorities

Research
Coordination

Database
Coordination

CPC Organization

Millar

Morelli

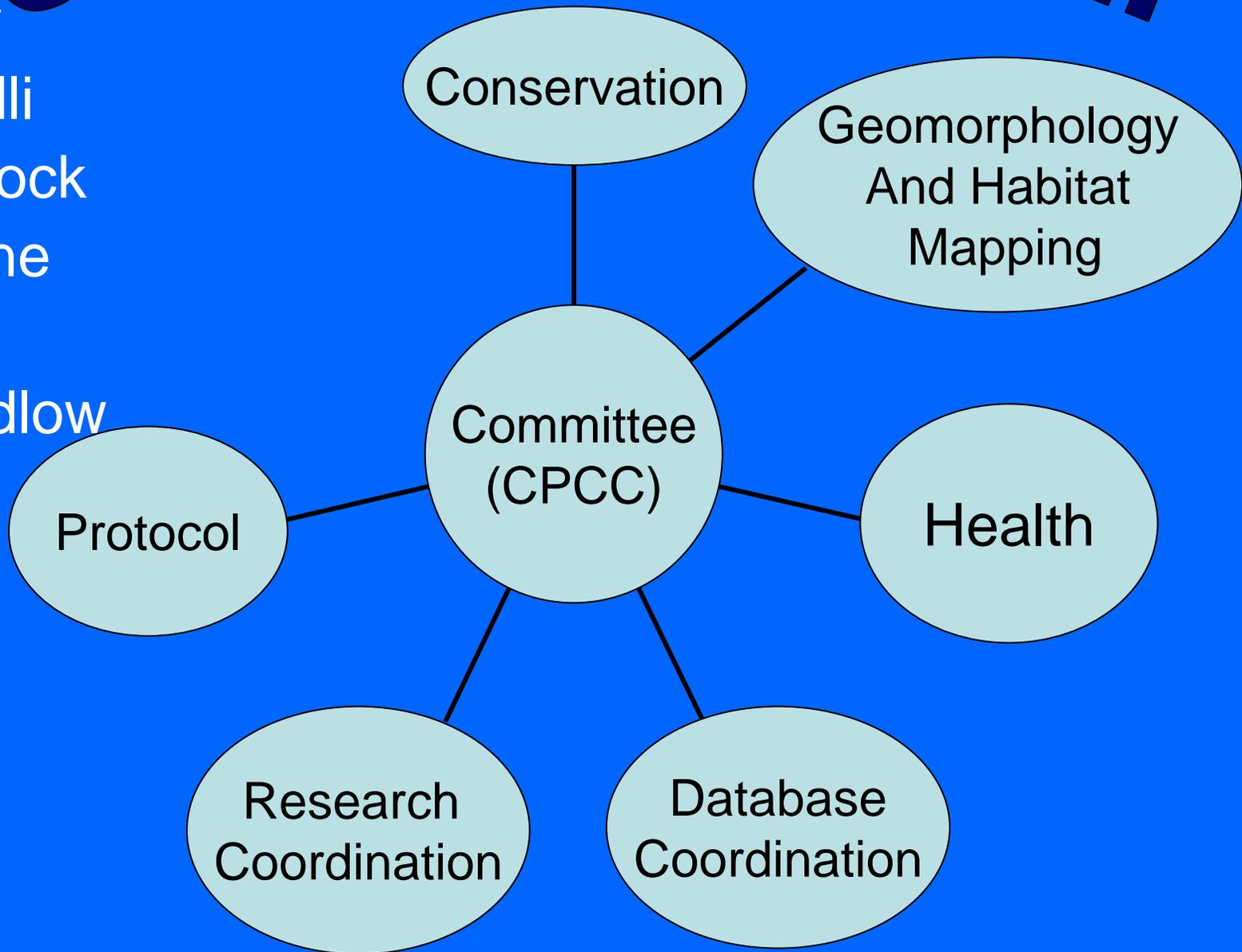
Peacock

Perrine

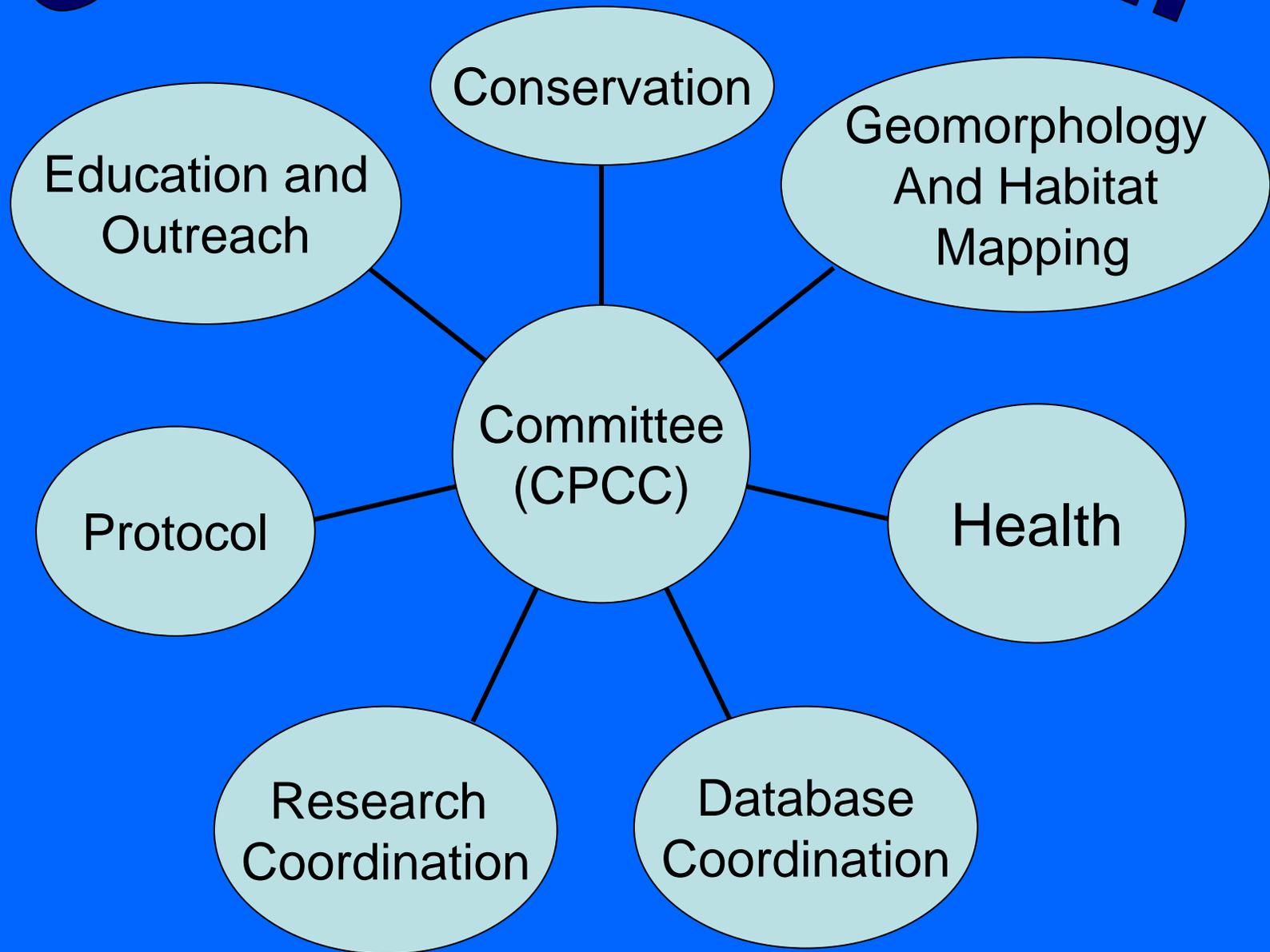
Ray

Shardlow

West



CPC Organization



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- ✓ • Hold symposia at national/regional meetings
 - Hold work group meetings
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Next Steps

- Create centralized database
- Establish standardized protocols
- Map habitat
- ...

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/nongame/CPC>