

**Subject:** Letter to Editors of the Journal of Wildlife Management--CONFIDENTIAL  
**Date:** Friday, August 3, 2018 at 4:26:32 PM Central Daylight Time  
**From:** Krausman, Paul R - (krausman)  
**To:** Adrian Treves  
**CC:** Sarne, Fiona - Hoboken, Ed Thompson, Cameron Kovach, Mike Conner  
**Attachments:** concern\_27July2018.pdf

Dear Dr. Treves:

I am in receipt of your letter to the Editors of the Journal of Wildlife Management dated 27 July 2018 that you and your co-authors sent to our publisher. The letter was sent to me by Fiona Sarne; Ed Thompson and Cameron Kovach were copied, thus I have included them here also. In addition I copied Mike Conner, the Chair of the Publications Committee for The Wildlife Society. All parties have already seen the letter except Mike Conner, thus I attached it here for his information and am asking all recipients to consider this a confidential matter for now.

Your letter was interesting because you implied that comments about the original work by K. K. Wagner and M. R. Conover published in the *Journal of Wildlife Management (JWM)* were commented on in other journals (e.g., the *Wildlife Society Bulletin*) yet have not been aired within the pages of *JWM*. The manuscript has, however, been discussed in numerous places since 1999 when it was published as outlined in your letter. Because of the serious charges you and the co-authors of the letter make against the authors (e.g., methods that can not be reproduced, a breach of scientific integrity,...), I invite you to revise your letter as a comment about the article where you specifically point out the flaws you identified in the paper and make recommendations as to how they should be addressed. Please do this within ScholarOne for the *JWM*. The authors would then be able to respond to your charges and recommendations (within *JWM*, the journal that that published the original paper). Because of the length of the complaint, I would have your comment and the reply from the authors peer reviewed to ensure that the claims you make and the response from the authors were both accurate. In my opinion, this would be the best first step to address the issues you identified. Please let me know if this is an approach you are interested in pursuing. If so, I look forward to seeing your comments about the article. Until later.

Paul R. Krausman  
Certified Wildlife Biologist ®  
Professor Emeritus, University of Arizona  
Editor-in-Chief  
*Journal of Wildlife Management and Wildlife Monographs*  
Editor, TWS/JHUP Wildlife Book Series  
Phone: 406.241.1489



7 August 2018

Dr. Krausman, Editor-in-Chief of JWM

Dear Dr. Krausman,

Thank you for your prompt and conscientious reply and for maintaining the confidentiality we requested.

However, after careful thought, we respectfully decline your offer. We decline because the issue with Wagner & Conover 1999 is not with the interpretation of the science, it is with the appearance of misconduct and the questions of scientific integrity. Therefore, your suggestion of submitting a comment for peer review and rebuttal does not seem to be the appropriate response for us. Peer review is for evaluating the quality of science. Peer reviewers cannot judge research misconduct. Even for evaluating scientific integrity it is a blunt tool because it can only evaluate reproducibility, not transparency—which is the primary problem with Wagner & Conover 1999.

To recap, our letter is about the appearance of research misconduct and apparent violations of scientific integrity. Dr. As we summarized in our letter dated 27 July 2018, the authors had time to respond in peer-reviewed journals to the critique by Mitchell et al. 2004 and then Treves et al. 2016 using the traditional channels of scientific debate. Instead, Dr. Wagner chose to rebut our criticisms in non-peer-reviewed sworn testimony. And in so doing, Dr. Wagner revealed lack of transparency and apparent research misconduct (omission of methods and information necessary to fair peer review). They have had their chance for scientific debate of the traditional sort. We believe that peer reviewers of JWM were not given all the information they needed to evaluate the original article. Addressing the apparent omissions and misleading peer reviewers cannot, in our opinion, be addressed by a peer-reviewed commentary by us and a rebuttal by them.

We are again requesting retraction. We ask that you share with us the journal's policy on retractions. If none exists, please note consortia and individual journals have begun to articulate these, e.g., <https://publicationethics.org/files/retraction%20guidelines.pdf> and <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4511053/>. We recommend JWM's editors evaluate if the original manuscript was sufficiently forthcoming to meet the high standards of the journal and whether the new information Dr. Wagner revealed in legal proceedings warrant retraction, or another form of strong editorial concern. This is particularly important as the U.S. government continues to spend scarce resources and use public assets on the basis of the article in question.

We care, like you, to maintain the scientific credibility of the journal.

Please note we continue to add signatories.

With kind regards,

Adrian Treves, Ph.D.

Shelley Alexander, Ph.D.

Marc Bekoff, Ph.D.

Robert Crabtree, Ph.D.

Camilla Fox, M.A.

John Hadidian, Ph.D.

Jon Way, Ph.D.

Omar Ohrens, Ph.D.

Paul Paquet, Ph.D.

David Parsons, M.S., certified wildlife biologist

Francisco Santiago-Ávila, M.E.M., M.P.P.

Miha Krofel, Ph.D.

Thomas Serfass, Ph.D.

William S. Lynn, Ph.D.

**Subject:** Re: Letter to Editors of the Journal of Wildlife Management  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 7, 2018 at 4:06:06 PM Central Daylight Time  
**From:** Adrian Treves  
**To:** Krausman, Paul R - (krausman)  
**Attachments:** image002.png

I understand. I thank you for taking our letter seriously.

Adrian Treves, PhD  
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Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies  
University of Wisconsin–Madison  
30A Science Hall  
550 North Park Street, Madison, WI 53706, USA  
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**From:** "Krausman, Paul R - (krausman)" <krausman@email.arizona.edu>  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 7, 2018 at 3:58 PM  
**To:** Adrian Treves <atreves@wisc.edu>  
**Cc:** "Sarne, Fiona - Hoboken" <fsarne@wiley.com>, Ed Thompson <ed.thompson@wildlife.org>, Cameron Kovach <ckovach@wildlife.org>, Mike Conner <mconner@jonesctr.org>, JOHN MCDONALD <tws-mcdonald@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** Re: Letter to Editors of the Journal of Wildlife Management

Dear Dr. Treves:

Because you are calling into question "misconduct and questions of scientific integrity" of Drs. Wagner and Conover, this would be a situation that the President of TWS will need to address. These type of issues are addressed confidentially by the President with an *ad hoc* committee that evaluates your claims and will render a decision. I have included Dr. John McDonald, the President of TWS on this email so you have his address. In the meantime, I request Dr. McDonald to follow up and let you know if he needs additional information to initiate an investigation of misconduct and scientific integrity.

Paul R. Krausman

Certified Wildlife Biologist ®

Professor Emeritus, University of Arizona

Editor-in-Chief

*Journal of Wildlife Management and Wildlife Monographs*

Editor, TWS/JHUP Wildlife Book Series

Phone: 406.241.1489

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**From:** Adrian Treves <atreves@wisc.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 7, 2018 1:38 PM  
**To:** Krausman, Paul R - (krausman)  
**Cc:** Sarne, Fiona - Hoboken; Ed Thompson; Cameron Kovach; Mike Conner  
**Subject:** Letter to Editors of the Journal of Wildlife Management

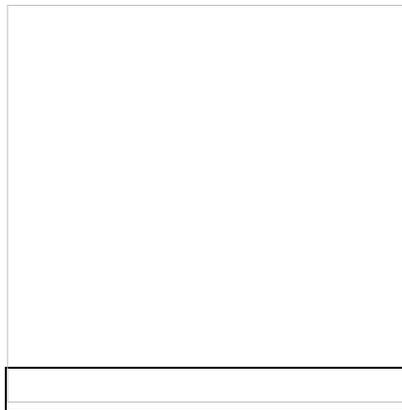
7 August 2018  
Dr. Krausman, Editor-in-Chief of JWM

Dear Dr. Krausman,  
Thank you for your prompt and conscientious reply. We care, like you, to maintain the scientific credibility of the journal.

Please see the attached response letter from the original signatories and new ones who have joined our petition.

I have also attached all of the relevant documents in a dropbox for your convenience:  
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/jmvkiqwbd5j12y/Archive.zip?dl=0>

[Archive.zip](https://www.dropbox.com/s/jmvkiqwbd5j12y/Archive.zip?dl=0)



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Yours sincerely,

Adrian Treves, PhD  
Professor

Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies  
University of Wisconsin–Madison  
30A Science Hall  
550 North Park Street, Madison, WI 53706, USA  
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**From:** "Krausman, Paul R - (krausman)" <krausman@email.arizona.edu>  
**Date:** Friday, August 3, 2018 at 4:26 PM  
**To:** Adrian Treves <atreves@wisc.edu>  
**Cc:** "Sarne, Fiona - Hoboken" <fsarne@wiley.com>, Ed Thompson <ed.thompson@wildlife.org>, Cameron Kovach <ckovach@wildlife.org>, Mike Conner <mconner@jonesctr.org>  
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Paul R. Krausman

Certified Wildlife Biologist ®

Professor Emeritus, University of Arizona

Editor-in-Chief

*Journal of Wildlife Management and Wildlife Monographs*

Editor, TWS/JHUP Wildlife Book Series

Phone: 406.241.1489

**Subject:** Article retraction

**Date:** Saturday, August 11, 2018 at 8:56:29 AM Central Daylight Time

**From:** Krausman, Paul R - (krausman)

**To:** Adrian Treves

**CC:** JOHN MCDONALD, Mike Conner

Dear Dr. Treves:

Thanks for your patience while I looked into your concerns about the paper by Wagner and Conover published in the *Journal of Wildlife Management (JWM)* in 1999. The President (John McDonald) and Publication Committee Chair (Mike Conner) of The Wildlife Society (TWS) are copied on this email because they also reviewed your letter and materials requesting that I, as Editor-in-Chief of *JWM*, retract the article. Based on our review, we do not think a retraction is warranted; your concerns and those of the co-signers of the letter, would be best addressed and publicized in a comment submitted to *JWM*, even if Wagner and Conover do not wish to respond to the criticisms. That would get your concerns in print for all to see. If you do consider this an issue of scientific misconduct, you should file an ethics complaint with the President of TWS. The following site describes the process: <http://wildlife.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Code-of-Ethics-May-2017.pdf>. Thank you for your concerns and I hope this will provide you with a way forward. Until later.

Paul R. Krausman  
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