

## SUSTAINING WILDLIFE POPULATIONS IN A HUMAN DOMINATED WORLD: WHAT KNOWLEDGE DO WE NEED, AND HOW CAN WE GET IT?

John Linnell & John Odden, Norwegian Institute for Nature Research, Tungasletta 2, 7485 Trondheim

Wildlife research is conducted for a wide range of reasons. On one level it is conducted to advance human knowledge and our understanding of the natural world. However, on another level we also seek knowledge for specific reasons. With the present focus on biodiversity conservation and the quest for sustainable ecosystems there is a real need to find ways to integrate wildlife and other biodiversity into landscapes which are dominated by human activities. Because of a wide range of conflicts that can occur between wildlife and humans, and between different potential users of the landscape there is a constant demand for precise ecological knowledge. This knowledge is needed to help the public and their appointed / elected decision makers make informed decisions. In this talk we outline some of the key knowledge needs for large mammals (ungulates and carnivores) in Norway and address the potential tools that are available to us to obtain this knowledge. An effort will be made to explain the various advantages and disadvantages of the different technologies that currently exist within the context of their ability to provide the answers that are needed and their respective animal welfare considerations. We shall place special emphasis on the relative usefulness of invasive and non-invasive methods. Finally, we shall attempt to explore the question of "when do we have enough knowledge"?