



### **E26 A Different Kind of DNA Casework: When It Has Fangs or Antlers**

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After attending this presentation, attendees will have a better understanding of wildlife forensics at the state level. Case histories will be highlighted from several states covering a variety of species and testing methods. These case histories will include: bighorn sheep cases from New Mexico and Colorado; an elk case from Colorado; grizzly bear, black bear, white-tailed deer, mule deer, and pronghorn cases from Wyoming; and an elk case from Yellowstone National Park. These cases involve species identification using protein analysis and mitochondrial DNA sequencing, sex identification, and matching using microsatellites.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by increasing awareness of the field of wildlife forensics. This presentation is intended to be part of a set of presentations from forensic science practitioners in the wildlife forensics community. Wildlife species have often been the basis for research presented at the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS); however, the work of wildlife forensic laboratories has, in the past, been underrepresented in the AAFS scientific sessions. By presenting multiple talks, highlighting the breadth of the work that is completed in this community, a valuable resource will be provided to the forensic science community at large.

These histories will provide background information of each case, from the law enforcement perspective to the analyses performed in the laboratory to the results of each case. This background information will include information on the discovery of the violation, how officers determined the suspect and collected evidence, and the evidentiary items that were submitted to the laboratory for analyses. For the analyses performed, a brief overview of the testing procedures and results will be provided. The presentation of the cases will also include charges filed, expert witness testimony, if applicable, sentencing, and fines.

It is hoped that these case histories will help explain the diversity of the field of wildlife forensics and while analyses, in some cases, is very similar to that in the human field, they can also be very different. In wildlife forensics, it is most often the animal that is the victim.

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#### **Wildlife Forensics, DNA, Non-Human Forensics**