

## In Memoriam



Robert John "Bob" Hudson  
December 16, 1946 – August 17, 2011

Bob Hudson passed away peacefully on August 17, 2011, surrounded by his loving family. Bob was an exceptional person, a truly international, Canadian and northern academician whose many contributions to the conservation, productivity and management of wildlife knew no geographic boundaries.

Bob was born and raised in Hamiota, Manitoba, the second of four children. His father, 'Doc Ed', was a distinguished rural physician, his mother a nurse. Both of Bob's advanced degrees—B.Sc. in Range Management (1967) and Ph.D in Animal Science (1971)—were completed at the University of British Columbia (UBC). Following his graduate research on immunology of lungworm infections of bighorn sheep, Bob did a postdoc (reindeer range assessment) at the Institute of Ecological Botany, Uppsala, Sweden. He was named Assistant Professor at UBC before moving to the University of Alberta (Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry, now Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences [ALES]) in 1974 where he established a long-term and stellar program in Wildlife Productivity and Management. In the mid-to-late 1970s, Bob became interested in rangeland monitoring, management of elephants and rhinos and issues of wildlife production policy and research in Kenya, doing a sabbatical there from 1980-1981. It was not all work for Bob while in Kenya, as he met the love of his life there, Yasmin, whom he married in 1981. Daughters Suraya and Tasreen were born in 1986 and 1992; Bob's family was truly the center of his life.

Bob had a brilliant mind, with breadth and depth, and became an international leader in several research areas including multi-species grazing systems, bioenergetics of wild herbivores, system dynamics and more recently, sustainability science. He established the Ministik Wildlife Research Station (MWRS) in 1977 in a rural aspen parklands setting east of Edmonton where he and graduate students did some brilliant research (e.g., classic studies of bioenergetics) using captive bison, wapiti, mule and white-tailed deer and moose as study animals. Along the way he edited eight books and authored two books and many book chapters and extension articles, and over 160 peer-reviewed scientific articles.

While Bob was doing his thing at MWRS, Elk Island National Park and other sites in Western Canada, Kenya, India (sabbatical), Korea, Malaysia, China, South America, etc, his graduate students (n=55) were becoming leaders in Canada's north, Western Canada, Africa, China and elsewhere. These students are a crucial part of Bob's legacy, carrying forward his positive and visionary approaches, always thinking about what is to come or what might be with some critical, synthetic thought. He was the model of how to escape current dogma and advance toward new paradigms.

Bob was dedicated to collaboration and service. As one example, in 2010 he published a 300 page e-book, edited a 400 page book and co-authored a paper. Also, during his illnesses, he was Associate Dean International (ALES), Founding Director, Alberta Veterinary Research Institute, Acting Director, Canadian Circumpolar Institute and Chair, University Animal Policy and Welfare Committee. During the same time he was Theme Editor UNESCO Encyclopedia of Life Support Systems, Editor and Chief Open Conservation Biology Journal, Associate Editor Journal of Wildlife Management, and on the Editorial Board and Advisory Board of several journals and research centres.

In conclusion, Bob Hudson was a brilliant visionary in contemporary wildlife management issues; a person who shared that vision in quiet modest ways we all came to admire. He will be missed.

Bill Samuel, Professor Emeritus, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Alberta, Edmonton

Brad Stelfox, Forem Technologies and the ALCES group, Calgary

Lee Foote, Professor, Department of Renewable Resources and Director Devonian Botanic Garden, University of Alberta, Edmonton