

Susan Elizabeth Shideler

October 12, 1942–August 10, 2007

Dr Susan E. Shideler passed away on 10 August 2007 at her home in Inverness, CA, USA. Susan earned her Ph.D. in Physical Anthropology at UCLA in 1969, writing her dissertation on the reproduction of endangered species in captivity, at the Center for Reproduction in Endangered Species at the San Diego Zoo. Along with her husband, Bill Lasley, Susan began her research career developing methods to study reproduction in intractable captive wildlife species through the measurement of urinary and faecal steroid hormone metabolites, negating the need for blood samples. In 1985 she moved, along with Bill, to the Center for Health and the Environment at the University of California at Davis. While at UCD, she was a prolific publisher in the area of reproductive endocrinology. She also completed field studies in the application of remote pregnancy testing and ovulation detection in wild horses, and later, free-ranging bison of Yellowstone, where she was able to define density-dependent changes in reproduction. In 1995, Susan began her investigation of the use of immunocontraception in the wild Tule wapiti of Point Reyes National Seashore and subsequently showed that entire population trends could be altered through this humane and remote approach to wildlife management. As such, she was one of the pioneers in the field of wildlife contraception. During this latter project she spent days and months on the range



learning to identify individual animals, collecting faecal samples for reproductive studies and delivering porcine zona pellucida vaccine from horseback. Following her retirement in 2003, Susan pursued studies at the San Francisco Theological Seminary in San Anselmo, with the hope of working as a hospice chaplain. Dr Shideler was a pioneering scientist in wildlife contraception, a friend to so many, a mentor to a fortunate few, and a humanitarian who loved both people and animals with all of her energy. She was one of us and she will be missed.

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