

JOURNAL OF WILDLIFE AND PARKS (JWP)

Code of Ethics for Authors

Journal of Wildlife and Parks (JWP) serves the wildlife research profession and society at large in many ways, among them by publishing articles which represent the findings of current scientific wildlife research. Every editor of JWP has the responsibility to establish and maintain guidelines for selecting and accepting papers submitted to JWP.

1. Code of Ethics for Authors

1.1 Originality

Any manuscript submitted by an author must be the original work of the author. Such manuscripts must not cover, in whole or in part, any paper that has been earlier published or currently reviewed from publication by JWP or any other journal. It is also inappropriate for an author to submit a manuscript describing the same research to more than one place of publication, unless it is a resubmission of a rejected manuscript or withdrawn from publication. Thus, an author may not submit to JWP a work that is in whole or in part under review elsewhere, nor submit to another journal or publication outlet a manuscript that is in whole or in part under review at JWP.

Authors must openly cite their own previous work and ideas, even when the work or ideas are not quoted verbatim or paraphrased in the manuscript. If exact sentences or paragraphs that appear in another work by the author are included in the manuscript, the material should be put in quotation marks and properly cited in a way that does not compromise the double blind review process.

The manuscript should recognise the origin, and novelty, of any copyrighted, non-standard datasets used in the paper, for example, a primary dataset created by the author using a survey. If the copyrighted dataset has been used elsewhere by this or another author, the manuscript should cite these other works, whether published or not. While self-citation is encouraged, authors should avoid overly citing their earlier works in order to increase their number of citation. If self-identifying information is necessary, the author should acknowledge the information in the manuscript's Acknowledgements section (which are not forwarded to the Reviewers) and also inform the JWP Managing Editor.

1.2 Plagiarism and Self-plagiarism

All work in the manuscript should be free of any plagiarism, falsification, fabrications, or omission of significant material. Authors should openly cite others' work and ideas, even if the work or ideas are not quoted verbatim or paraphrased. This standard applies whether the previous work is published, unpublished, or electronically available.

Redundancy or “self-plagiarism” is unacceptable and occur in at least two ways: (1) authors reuse portions of their previous works by using identical or similar sentences or paragraphs without quoting or acknowledging; or (2) authors produce multiple manuscripts that are

slightly dissimilar from each other, which are submitted for publication in different journals but without acknowledgement of the other papers. Authors can and often do develop different aspects of an argument in more than one manuscript. However, manuscripts that differ largely in appearance, but are presented as separate and distinct research without acknowledging other related work, constitute attempts (whether unintentional or deliberate) to deceive reviewers and readers by overinflating the intellectual contribution of the manuscript. Since publication decisions are influenced by the novelty and innovativeness of manuscripts, such deception is inappropriate and unethical.

Authors should reduce their recycling of previous writings. If recycling is unavoidable, the author should inform the Editor at the time of submission and reference the previous writings in the manuscript. Such self-referencing should be worded prudently so as to avoid compromising the double-blind review process. If exact sentences or paragraphs that appear in another work by the author are included in the manuscript, the material must be put in quotation marks and appropriately cited.

In cases the Editor deems as “major” redundancy (e.g., multiple overlapping paragraphs), the paper will be rejected and authors may be barred from submitting to JWP for a period of time. In cases of “minor” redundancy (e.g., a single duplicate paragraph describing the research methods), the authors would be asked to rephrase the duplicate sentences. JWP reserves the right to evaluate issues of plagiarism and redundancy on a case-by-case basis.

1.3 Multiple Submissions

JWP does not allow or approve duplicate or concurrent submissions of a paper to more than one peer reviewed journal. An author must not submit the same manuscripts for simultaneous consideration by two or more journals. If a manuscript is rejected by one journal, only then the author may submit it to another journal. JWP’s journal guidelines state clearly that “papers should describe the original work of the authors that has not been previously published in a refereed journal and is not currently under consideration for publication elsewhere.” Multiple submission abuses the resources of all affected journals, including the valuable time of editors, reviewers, and staff, and is unprofessional and unacceptable. In addition, JWP does not accept any submission of manuscripts that have been published in full in a conference proceeding.

1.5 Conflicts of Interest

Authors should avoid conflicts of interest or the appearance of conflicts of interest throughout the research process. A conflict of interest is some fact known to a participant in the publication process that if revealed later, would make a reasonable reader feel misled or deceived (or an Author, Reviewer, or Editor feel defensive). Conflicts of interest may influence the judgment of Authors, Reviewers, and Editors. Possible conflicts often are not immediately apparent to others. They may be personal, commercial, political, academic, or financial.

All authors should include a statement disclosing any financial or other substantive conflicts of interest that may be construed to influence the results or interpretation of their manuscript. All sources of financial support for the project should be disclosed.

There are many professional activities of researchers that have the potential for a conflict of interest. Any professional relationship or action that may result in a conflict of interest must be fully disclosed. When objectivity and effectiveness cannot be maintained, the activity should be avoided or discontinued.

1.6 Authorship Policies

1.6.1 Authorship

Authorship is reserved to those who make major contributions to the research. Credit is assigned to those who have contributed to a publication in proportion to their professional contributions. Major contributions of a professional character made by several persons to a common project are recognized by joint authorship, with the individual who made the principal contribution listed first.

All those who have made significant contributions should be listed as co-authors. The corresponding author ensures that all contributing co-authors and no uninvolved persons are included in the author list. The corresponding author will also verify that all co-authors have approved the final version of the paper and have agreed to its submission for publication.

1.6.2 Change of Authorship

JWP's policy on authorship does not support adding or removing of names once the research paper or article has been submitted to JWP. However, a request for a change to the authorship can be considered by the Chief Executive Editor if the Corresponding author of the manuscript state their reason.

1.6.3 Authors' Affiliation

The primary affiliation for each author should be institution where the majority of their work was done. If the author move to other institution, the current address may also be stated.

1.6.4 Co-Authorship

All Co-Authors of papers should have made significant contributions to the work and share accountability for the results. Authorship and credit should be shared in proportion to the various parties' contributions. Authors should take responsibility and credit, including authorship credit, only for work they have actually performed or to which they have contributed. Other contributions should be cited in the manuscript's Acknowledgements or an endnote. The Corresponding Author who submits a

manuscript to JWP should have sent all living Co-Authors a draft and obtained their assent to submission and publication.

1.7 Copyright Law

Authors should check their manuscripts for possible breaches of copyright law (e.g., where permissions are needed for quotations or tables taken from other publications) and secure the necessary permissions before submission. Authors should avoid anything in the text of the manuscript that might be actionable, such as defamation. Authors should avoid using sexist and biased language that could be interpreted as denigrating to ethnic or other groups; for example, plural rather than single pronouns ("they" rather than "he") are recommended.

1.8 Manuscript Withdrawal

Author may write to the Chief Executive Editor in requesting for the withdrawal of a manuscript that has been previously submitted for intended publication in JWP. However, for manuscript withdrawal is on permitted within two weeks from the initial manuscript submission date to JWP.

1.9 Timeliness

Authors should be prompt with their manuscript revisions. If an Author cannot meet the deadline given, the Author should contact the JWP Managing Editor as soon as possible to determine whether a longer time period or withdrawal from the review process should be chosen.

2. Code of Ethics for Reviews and Editors

2.1 Reciprocity

Reviewing for journals is a professional activity that provides value for the profession as a whole, and should be encouraged. Scholars who submit manuscripts to JWP are normally expected to reciprocate by accepting an invitation to review for the Journal.

2.1 Independence

JWP Editors and Reviewers must maintain their editorial independence and work to ensure that Authors have editorial freedom. Responsibility for acceptance or rejection of manuscripts rests with the Editors. Doing so normally entails advice from Reviewers; however, manuscripts that Editors deem clearly inappropriate may be rejected without such review.

2.2 Double-Blind Peer-Review

JWP follows a double-blind review process, whereby Authors do not know Reviewers and vice versa. Where articles appear in the Journal that were not double-blind reviewed, the standard of review should be clearly stated in the printed Acknowledgements accompanying the article.

For example, an introductory article written by Guest Editors for a Special Issue would normally be single-blind reviewed, and should be so identified when published. The level of review for an invited work published in the Journal (for example, a Commentary written by the Author(s) who received the JIBS Decade Award) should be stated in the Acknowledgements.

2.3 Confidentiality

Any manuscripts received for review must be treated as confidential documents. Reviewers should not discuss the manuscript with anyone other than the JWP Editor. The editor and their editorial staff also shall not disclose any information about a submitted manuscript to anyone other than corresponding author, reviewers, potential reviewers, other editorial advisers and the publisher, as appropriate.

2.4 Review Quality

Normally, two Reviewers should be invited to comment on a manuscript. Authors may request that certain Reviewers not be used, but this decision should be left to Editor's discretion. The Editor should routinely assess all reviews for quality. In rare circumstances, an Editor may edit a review before sending it to an Author (for example, to remove a phrase that would identify the Reviewer) or not send the review to the Author if it is not constructive or appropriate. Ratings of review quality and other performance characteristics should be periodically assessed by the JWP Editor-in-Chief to assure optimal journal performance. These ratings should also contribute to decisions on reappointment to the JWP Editorial Review Board and to ongoing review requests. Individual performance data on Reviewers should be available to the Editors but otherwise kept confidential.

2.5 Decision Quality

The editor is responsible for deciding which of the papers submitted to the journal will be published. The editor will evaluate manuscripts without regard to the authors' race, gender, sexual orientation, religious belief, ethnic origin, citizenship, or political philosophy. The decision will be based on the paper's importance, originality and clarity, and the study's validity and its relevance to the journal's scope. Current legal requirements regarding libel, copyright infringement, and plagiarism should also be considered.

2.6 Timeliness

Editors and reviewers should be prompt with their reviews and take steps to ensure the timely review of all manuscripts and respond promptly to inquiries from Authors about the status of a review. If reviewer and editors cannot meet the deadline given, the Reviewer and Editor should contact JWP Managing editor as soon as possible to determine whether a longer time period or a new Reviewer should be chosen.