



## **Report of the IAVS North American Section: 2016-2017**

Peter R. Minchin, Section Chair

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The main activity of the IAVS North American Section during 2016-2017 has been the organization of the IAVS 2018 annual symposium, which is scheduled for July 22-27 at Montana State University in Bozeman, Montana, USA. Our objective is to host an excellent meeting, with a strong scientific program and an exciting array of field trips.

In support of the 2018 symposium we have convened a Local Organizing Committee consisting of:

- 1) Dr. David W. Roberts, Montana State University (co-chair)
- 2) Dr. Peter R. Minchin, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (co-chair)
- 3) Dr. Stephen V. Cooper IV, Montana Natural Heritage (retired)
- 4) Mr. Kent Houston, US Forest Service (retired)

We are planning three pre-symposium excursions, two through the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, and one to mixed grass prairies in Montana, and two more post-symposium excursions to western Montana, northern Idaho, and Alberta, Canada. We have made preliminary contacts with local Chambers of Commerce to organize lodging for the field trips and will be scouting out exact locations in summer 2017.

The draft theme for the meeting is "Intact Native Ecosystems as Benchmarks for Vegetation Science" We anticipate a number of special sessions, including perhaps a revitalization of the Theory and Methods Working Group, as well as hosting the Vegetation Classification Working Group.