



ASSOCIATION of  
FISH & WILDLIFE  
AGENCIES

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**Report from the  
Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies  
to the MAFWA Directors**

**June 2012**

Organization

**Gary Taylor** began work with DU on June 18<sup>th</sup>. We will be interviewing candidates for his position in the near future. In the meantime, Tim Schaeffer, PA Fish and Boat Commission, is staffing the government affairs position on a part-time basis.

We welcome **Amy Thompson** to AFWA – she will be working on communications and outreach assignments part-time for the next 18 months.

We are working on a **new strategic plan**. We have completed initial planning exercises with members and partners, the Executive Committee, and staff.

We have completed an **affiliation agreement** with the Council to Advance Hunting and the Shooting Sports which is housed at our DC Office.

We are in the process of developing **governance manuals** for the Association's Executive Committee and the AWARE Board.

Policy and Program Updates

Thirty-six fellows for the next **NCLJ class** have been selected; the classroom residency begins September 30<sup>th</sup> at NCTC.

The Association continues to be active in advancing **state-federal relationships** as a follow-up to discussions from the Annual Meeting in Omaha. The Association's Executive Committee met with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Directorate in December to build relationships and discuss issues/concerns. This was the first ever meeting between the two leadership teams. President Gassett and Dan Ashe have issued a joint letter to FWS-state leaders about the importance of this partnership and both individuals have "spent time in each other's boots."

The Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council has established a working group to develop recommendations for improved state-federal collaboration.

The 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs officially kicked off on January 17, 2012 at the Las Vegas SHOT Show during a press conference and implementation is ongoing. The campaign's web site is online at [www.wsfr75.com](http://www.wsfr75.com) thanks to the generous support of the Brothers Group, which donated its services to design and develop the site. WSFR 75 also has a Facebook site at [www.facebook.com/WSFR75](http://www.facebook.com/WSFR75); [www.twitter.com/#!/wsfr75](http://www.twitter.com/#!/wsfr75), #WSFR75; and YouTube at [www.youtube.com/WSFR75](http://www.youtube.com/WSFR75).

To aid with WSFR 75 campaign implementation, a Communications Toolbox is available at [wsfr75.com](http://wsfr75.com) featuring a collection of templates, promotional ideas and the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary logo. State agencies are encouraged to continue customizing and using the materials. If your agency publishes a related story or video, please share the link on the WSFR 75 social media sites.

Questions and suggestions concerning the WSFR 75 campaign can be directed to John Frampton at [jframpton@fishwildlife.org](mailto:jframpton@fishwildlife.org). John is now on a contract with AFWA leading state engagement with the campaign, especially regarding the industry dimension.

The 2012 Teaming with Wildlife Fly-in was held February 28-29, 2012 in Washington DC. A total of 80 individuals participated representing 28 states. Based on a recommendation of the President's Task Force on Wildlife Diversity Funding, we made a special effort to encourage states with members on the Interior Appropriations subcommittee to attend, yielding 17 of 23 states with members on the subcommittee. Dan Ashe, Director of the US Fish & Wildlife Service spoke at both the Advocacy training and Congressional reception this year and emphasized the importance of the partnership with states and the value of the State & Tribal Wildlife Grants Program. The annual congressional reception drew over 300 individuals and remarks were provided by Dave Chanda, Congressmen Don Young (AK) and Jose Serrano (NY), and Senators Jon Tester (MT) and Sheldon Whitehouse (RI). Two Dear Colleague Letters were circulated requesting State and Tribal Wildlife Grants funding. The House letter was signed by 110 members (up from 63 last year) and the Senate letter by 33 members (up from 31 last year). Copies of the letters and a news release are available at <http://www.teaming.com>.

Work continues on Wildlife TRACS, the new tracking and reporting system for the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program. An advanced prototype will be available soon. A Project Advisory Group, made up of representatives from 49 states meets monthly. A Project Development Team and four associated committees also meet regularly to provide input on the new system. An FAQ, screen shots and other information is available at <http://www.wildlifetracs.com/>. The Joint-Task Force on Federal Assistance will be taking a look at policy implications for TRACS, especially the public portal. Deputy Director Rowan Gould (FWS) stated at the AFWA Business Meeting in Atlanta that it wants to ensure state policy questions are addressed before rolling out the public side of Wildlife TRACS.



**National Invasive Species Awareness Week** was held from February 27<sup>th</sup> to March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2012 in Washington, DC. Areas of invasive species emphasis in their visits on the Hill included the proposed loss of funding for implementation of state Aquatic Nuisance Plans in the President's Budget proposal for FY 2013, and prevention of introduction/further spread, eradication, and management needs for Asian carp as well as quagga and zebra mussels.

The **North American Conservation Education (CE) Strategy** is holding a monthly webinar series to explore the many resources and products available to agencies and other partners to connect more people, and especially youth, to the outdoors and increase our nation's understanding of how fish and wildlife and their habitats are conserved. Webinars are held the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month at 2 pm EDT and last approximately 60-90 minutes. All webinars are archived on AFWA's Vimeo channel at [www.vimeo.com/channels/afwa](http://www.vimeo.com/channels/afwa).

Upcoming webinars:

6/27: America's Wildlife-Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow  
8/22: Outdoor Skills Education in Schools  
9/26 Evaluating Conservation Education Programs  
10/24: Landscape Investigations & Project-based Learning  
11/28: Connecting Kids with Nature

The CE Strategy hosted a two-day workshop "Partners in Conservation Education—A Common Voice for Conservation" in Tempe, AZ February 21-23, 2012 for NGO stakeholders to collaborate with state agencies on how we can better work together to deliver quality conservation and outdoor skills education programs.

The CE Strategy has hired a contractor, M. Lynette Fleming, to perform an evaluation to determine if the Strategy has accomplished its goals to elevate the value of conservation education, advance AFWA's conservation education agenda and achieve excellence in conservation education. *Ms. Fleming may be contacting you in the coming months to conduct a brief interview.*

AFWA signed an agreement with the National Geographic Society to distribute the CE Strategy's Landscape Investigations Guidelines through the organization's education network. National Geographic also will be working with the CE Strategy working group to complete a new chapter for the Guidelines.

On behalf of AFWA's **Diversity Working Group** (Education, Outreach & Diversity Committee), the **Management Assistance Team** shortly will be sending out a survey to all 50 states to determine the minority and gender percentages of state agency workforce compositions. The working group and MAT plan to release a findings report by AFWA's annual meeting in September.

The **Amphibian & Reptile Subcommittee** has completed its report compiling laws and regulations over the use of amphibians and reptiles in the United States, and it has been posted to the AFWA website under the Amphibian & Reptile Conservation Focus Area, as well as linked from the Amphibian & Reptile Subcommittee page. The direct link is [http://www.fishwildlife.org/files/SOU\\_FULL-lo-res.pdf](http://www.fishwildlife.org/files/SOU_FULL-lo-res.pdf). Each State Director and members of their Wildlife Diversity and Law Enforcement staff received a hard copy binder. A limited number of additional binders are available upon request. The Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (PARC) annual report is now available at <http://www.parcplace.org/publications/parc-annual-reports.html>.

A **National Furbearer Harvest Statistics Database** was recently compiled and is available on the AFWA website. An **interactive Trapper Education Program** is now available on-line for state and federal use. The US Furbearer Conservation Technical Work Group continues to coordinate the development of **Best Management Practices for Trapping** and plans to release a BMP this year for Ringtail while updating BMPs for raccoon, coyote and gray fox.

The **National Fish Habitat Board** launched a brand enhancement strategy at the end of 2011 and is now being referred to as the National Fish Habitat Partnership. In March, at the White House Conference on Conservation, the Secretaries of the Interior (Salazar), Commerce (Bryson) and Agriculture (Vilsack) agreed to sign a Secretarial MOU to carry out the National Fish Habitat Action Plan. The NFHP Board is also completing a revision to the Action Plan, which we expect will be published later this summer. The next Board meeting will be during July 10 and 11 in Portland, Maine. For more information contact Ryan Roberts at [rroberts@fishwildlife.org](mailto:rroberts@fishwildlife.org).

The **National Fish, Wildlife and Plants Climate Adaptation Strategy** (Strategy), which was asked for by Congress in the 2010 Appropriations Act Conference Report, is being led by a partnership between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the New York Division of Fish, Wildlife, and Marine Resources (representing the States with support provided by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies).

Over 100 natural resource professionals and scientists were recruited from different agencies at the state, federal, and tribal levels from all over the country to serve as Technical Team Members and write the source material for the Strategy. This material was synthesized by a Management Team co-chaired by the FWS, NOAA, and AFWA. The final draft has been completed and sent through the federal Legislative Referral Memorandum process with the Office of Management and Budget before its official release, which is expected in this summer.

The Strategy has a website [www.wildlifeadaptationstrategy.gov](http://www.wildlifeadaptationstrategy.gov) where interested parties are encouraged to learn more and receive information on upcoming events, release dates, and related efforts.



**The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) Technical Working Group** – Jack Buckley (NEAFWA), Buddy Baker (SEAFWA), Carolyn Caldwell (MAFWA), Bob Broscheid (WAFWA) and Deb Hahn (AFWA) – represent the state wildlife agencies at CITES meetings. Each state agency representative represents the states in their region and communicates with the states as issues arise. The CITES Technical Working Group's travel is supported by a 3-year Multi-State grant that allows the states to travel for meetings and to remain independent in our positions and participation. This grant expires on December 31, 2012. A proposal for funding for the next 3 years has been submitted under the recently approved NCN. The CITES Team attended the Animals Committee in March 2012. At this meeting the Team represented the state agencies' views on climate change, CITES species being considered for reviews, the development of non-detriment findings in order to ensure that state authority and perspectives are considered and that CITES decisions do not impede state agency wildlife management. These meetings are critical to ensure that the state agencies' voice is heard and considered. For more details please see the CITES report prepared by the CITES Technical Working Group ([www.fishwildlife.org](http://www.fishwildlife.org) focus area International Relations). Additional updates on the turtle farming workshop held in Louisiana, the recent bobcat and alligator CITES tag failure issues, and a pending request for input to USFWS from the states on CITES species listings will be distributed at the Regional Association meetings.

**The Southern Wings Program** is taking off. Twenty-six states have participated to date (AZ, AR, CO, KS, TN, OK, SD, IA, WI, MO, NE, PA, TX and the 13 states of NEAFWA). Each year the Program continues to increase the number of states participating and the amount of voluntary contributions that are made. In the First 3 years of the Program, State wildlife agencies have contributed over \$300,000 (with an additional \$226,800 in partner contributions) in monetary contributions and over \$550,000 in in-kind contributions. The Southern Wings Leadership Committee drafted a 10-year Vision for the Program that has been reviewed and endorsed by the AFWA Bird Conservation Committee. The Vision will guide the Program over the next 10 years. Currently, strategies are being developed for annual action to achieve the goals and objectives laid out in the Vision. For more information, please visit the AFWA website [www.fishwildlife.org](http://www.fishwildlife.org) under focus area Southern Wings Program.

**The AFWA State Wildlife Action Plans Best Practices Working Group** is developing a set of best practices that states may use voluntarily when revising their plan. The best practices will be illustrated using innovations taken from the states. In addition, a subgroup of the working group will provide recommendations on how to clarify the 2007 SWAP revision guidance document. The working group is comprised of State Wildlife Action Plan Coordinators, Wildlife Diversity Program Managers, and USFWS and NGO representatives. All State Wildlife Action Plan Coordinators, Wildlife Diversity Program Managers, as well as members of the larger conservation community will have opportunities to review and comment on the draft product. The final document will be submitted for approval to the TWW Committee this September.

The **USFWS' Land-Based Wind Energy Guidelines** were released in their final form on March 23, 2012. The final version is available at [http://www.fws.gov/windenergy/docs/WEG\\_final.pdf](http://www.fws.gov/windenergy/docs/WEG_final.pdf). AFWA plans to work closely with the USFWS and the American Wind Wildlife Institute on training opportunities for state agency staff regarding the implementation of these guidelines. For more information, contact Allison Vogt at [AVogt@FishWildlife.org](mailto:AVogt@FishWildlife.org).

The **2012 NAWMP Revision** was signed by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior on June 1, 2012 at the 75<sup>th</sup> annual National Convention of Ducks Unlimited. The Minister of the Environment for Canada is expected to sign the Plan as early as June 12<sup>th</sup>, and their Mexican counterpart will likely sign at some future date. The NAWMP Plan is available in PDF format at <http://www.nawmprevision.org/>.

A two-year action plan is being developed to help begin to implement the NAWMP Revision. The action plan will be available in early summer and it will provide guidance on what and how the waterfowl community will need to undertake new population and habitat goal setting exercises and to adjust Joint Venture implementation plans to better align with the Plan Revision. Additionally, the action plan will help guide how the waterfowl community moves toward addressing the new people or human dimension goal of the Plan. Lastly, there will be a team/committee established to help integrate all three goals of the Plan Revision. The exact structure of this committee is under discussion but it will likely be composed of senior managers/program leaders and technical experts, working together on the complex problems of integration and coherence.

The Association's Task Force on State Contributions to NAWMP/NAWCA Projects in Canada has completed its work. As a reminder, the Association passed a resolution in September 2011 to reaffirm its commitment to the \$10 million annual goal for state agencies to provide funds for Canadian NAWMP/NAWCA projects. This resolution also committed to the creation of an action plan. The action plan was distributed to all Directors on March 8<sup>th</sup>. The Association accepted the Action Plan through a motion at the business meeting in Atlanta and the Waterfowl Working Group and Bird Conservation Committee are now beginning to implement the actions. Dean Smith is the contact person and the Action Plan can be obtained by contacting him via email at [dsmith@fishwildlife.org](mailto:dsmith@fishwildlife.org).

The Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH) and its partners, including the Association, hosted **Canada's first National Fish and Wildlife Conservation Congress** in Ottawa from May 27 to May 31. Larry Voyles, Vice Chair of the Association's Executive Committee, Dan Ashe, Dean Smith, myself, and other state and federal staff were involved in the sessions at the congress. In total, almost 25% of the attendees were from the United States. The Prime Minister of Canada, Stephen Harper, announced the establishment of Canada's National Hunting and Angling Advisory Panel. The Panel is tasked with providing broad advice to the government on programs and policies related to conservation and hunting and fishing, and promoting and encouraging the effective stewardship of Canada's marine and terrestrial wildlife. The panel includes 19 organizations from across Canada.



## Legal Update

### **Arkansas Case**

The Supreme Court has agreed to take up a dispute between the Army Corps of Engineers and the state of Arkansas over damage to Arkansas' 26,000 acres of wildlife management area. The U.S. Supreme Court will answer an important question of law that may significantly affect the way our agencies manage wildlife habitat and resources. The Federal Circuit in Washington, D.C. had ruled that a temporary physical invasion by government-induced flooding is never compensable as a taking under the 5th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, only permanent flooding is. That ruling effectively overturned a \$5.77 million judgment (over \$10 million with interest) to the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC) for the physical taking of 18.1 million board feet of timber on AGFC's 24,000-acre WMA. The United States Army Corps of Engineers destroyed the timber when it intentionally deviated from its authorized water control plan to release water from a dam at rates that flooded downstream AGFC property during the growing season for six consecutive years. Justice Elena Kagan has recused herself from the case, most likely because she was involved in the litigation in her previous position as solicitor general.

AFWA's Executive Committee authorized filing an amicus brief in the case supporting Arkansas Game and Fish in its request for the Supreme Court to hear the appeal. AFWA for the first time utilized the services of a pro bono law firm in Arkansas to assist in drafting the brief. AFWA's brief, pursuant to Executive Committee's direction, asked the Court to provide clarity to this area of law.

### **California Game Warden Case — Maikhio v. California**

On March 5<sup>th</sup> the U. S. Supreme Court denied the game violator's request for the U. S. Supreme Court to review the lower court's holding. The rule of law is:

"For the reasons discussed below, we conclude that the Court of Appeal erred in determining that, under the applicable California statutes and the Fourth Amendment of the United States Constitution, a game warden may make such a vehicle stop only if the warden is aware of facts that give rise to a reasonable suspicion that the angler or hunter has violated a fish and game statute or regulation. As we shall explain, California authority has interpreted the relevant statute as authorizing a stop of a vehicle occupied by an angler or hunter for such purposes, and the United States Supreme Court has held in a number of decisions that an administrative search or seizure may be conducted, consistent with the Fourth Amendment, in the absence of reasonable suspicion that a violation of a statute or administrative regulation has occurred."

### **CBD's petition to EPA**

The Center for Biological Diversity and 99 other groups filed a third petition to regulate lead in shot and bullets under EPA's authority granted by the 1976 Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). Previous attempts by CBD had failed with EPA stating there was a statutory exemption for lead in ammunition. EPA also relied on state jurisdictional authority to regulate lead.

The petition argued tighter controls would prevent "widespread poisoning" of eagles, California condors and other wildlife. It would also protect public health, the groups say, because lead from ammunition can contaminate the environment, as well as hunted animals that are eventually eaten. The 99 groups were principally Audubon Society groups. In this third petition, the groups claimed that EPA's rejection of the previous petition was unfounded, arguing that the agency does indeed have authority over ammunition under TSCA. On April 9th, EPA dismissed the petition on the basis that the "2012 submission is substantially the same as the petition to regulate lead bullets and shot submitted in 2010. To the extent that there are differences, they are not substantive."

More recently, CBD and six additional state-based organizations have filed litigation against the EPA regarding lead ammo. We will evaluate options for participating in or informing the case.

### Legislation

#### **FY13 Budget and Appropriations**

Although FY13 Appropriations bills will likely not be concluded until after the November elections, the House Subcommittees are drafting bills for Subcommittee consideration and action. Similar to the circumstance that preceded the conclusion of the FY12 Appropriations bills, the Senate and House are starting from different places with respect to the FY13 budget allocations, which under regular order would result from a Budget Resolution agreed to by both chambers.

In recent years, including last year, the House and Senate could not agree on a Budget Resolution, and we know already that they will not agree for FY13 either. The Senate has already said that it will accept the FY13 budget allocation identified in the Budget Control Act (BCA) that was passed and signed into law last summer. The House has said it views the BCA allocation as a ceiling and Members are building a Budget Resolution to come in below that.

Since the House will likely pass a Budget Resolution at a lower number, they will be drafting FY13 Appropriations bills with a lower allocation than will the Senate. And while the House has said it is fully their intent to report individual appropriations bills out of the full Appropriations Committee, there is no indication that any will be brought to the House floor before the November election. What that means is a Continuing Resolution to begin FY13 on October 1, then House and Senate Leadership will have to reconcile the allocation differences between the two chambers, and then likely FY13 will be concluded with a series of Minibus bills or a larger omnibus bill.



**Comparison of proposed FY13 funding levels for selected grant programs  
administered by the FWS**

<b>Program</b>	<b>Administration FY13 Request</b>	<b>FY12 Enacted</b>	<b>FY11 Enacted</b>	<b>FY10 Enacted</b>
State & Tribal Wildlife Grants	\$61.323M \$4.268 tribal \$13.0M competitive 65:35 match	\$61.421M \$4.275 tribal \$5.74 competitive 65:35 match	\$61.88M \$6.99 tribal \$4.99 competitive 65:35 match	\$90M
North American Wetlands Conservation Fund	\$39.425M	\$35.554M	\$37.4M	\$47.6M
Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund	\$60.0M	\$47.757M	\$59.9M	\$85.3M
Multinational Species Conservation Fund	\$9.980M	\$9.481M	\$9.98M	\$11.5M
Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Fund	\$3.786M	\$3.792M	\$3.99M	\$5.0M

### **Comprehensive Transportation Reauthorization**

By a strong bipartisan vote of 74-22, the Senate passed a comprehensive two-year reauthorization of Surface Transportation programs, including a straight-up reauthorization of the Sportfish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund (Wallop-Breaux) authority with no changes to either policy or distribution of funds—a position the Association supports.

Also included in the bill is a provision that the Senate adopted as an amendment by a 76-22 landmark vote that would dedicate 80% of the fines collected under the Clean Water Act from the Gulf Horizon spill to environmental remediation and economic recovery in the Gulf Coast states. This provision further provides dedicated funding (not subject to appropriations) of \$700M per year for two years to the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which includes a further provision carving out 1.5% off the top dedicated to enhancing access for hunting, fishing and other wildlife-dependent recreation on federal public lands. The Association joined 34 other fish and wildlife conservation organizations in supporting the RESTORE/LWCF/Access provision in the Senate.

The fate of the Transportation bill in the House is still very unclear. House Speaker Boehner seeks to do a longer bill (traditionally 5-6 years), but has been unable to get 218 votes to support paying for it with revenues from OCS oil and gas leases and royalties, and the House Transportation Committee Chair is reluctant to take up the Senate two-year bill as an alternative. The current extension expires on June 30<sup>th</sup>.

## Farm Bill

On April 20, 2012, Charwoman Debbie Stabenow of the Senate Ag Committee introduced her farm bill which consolidated 23 conservation programs into 13 and reformed the commodity title among other provisions to save \$23.7 billion over 10 years per the budget agreement last fall. The bill cuts 10%, \$6.4 billion, from the Conservation Title. The bill was marked-up by the committee on April 26 and passed by a vote of 16-5. Those opposing the bill include Senators Chambliss (GA), Boozman (AR), Cochran (MS), and McConnell (KY) because of alleged commodity safety net inequities for Southern rice and peanut producers. Senator Gillibrand (NY) opposed the bill because of cuts to the nutrition title. The Chair's mark did not recouple conservation compliance to crop insurance or contain a Sodsaver provision. However, we were able to garner enough votes to have the Thune/Johanns amendment, which contains a Sodsaver provision, included in the Manager's amendment which was adopted by the Committee.

The bill, now known as S. 3240 – the Agriculture Reform, Food and Jobs Act of 2012, obtained a cloture vote of 90-8 on June 7. The bill was debated during the week of June 11 during which over 260 amendments were filed. Amendments range from repealing conservation programs such as CRP, EQIP, CSP and the Forest Legacy Program to eviscerating the Clean Water Act and limiting actions of the EPA. One amendment of particular interest is the Tester/Thune amendment which is called the Sportsmen's Package. It contains 18 bills that we support including the Fish Habitat Conservation Act and reauthorizations for NAWCA, NFWF, and others. AFWA is reviewing the list of amendments and developing a list of those we will support/oppose. We will share that list with you and ask for your assistance in advancing/thwarting those provisions. As of 5pm, Friday, June 15, 2012, no agreement has been reached on amendments and debate is expected to continue into the week of June 18<sup>th</sup>. If no agreement is reached soon, the bill could be pulled from the floor and too much time lost to successfully reauthorize it before the September 30, 2012 expiration.

The House Ag Committee is poised and ready to introduce its version of the farm bill as early as June 18<sup>th</sup>. However, we suspect there will be no action until the Senate passes its farm bill. On May 31<sup>st</sup>, Representatives Noem (SD) and Waltz (MN) introduced the Protect Our Prairies (POP) Act which contains a Sodsaver provision and mirrors the Thune/Johanns amendment in the Senate bill. We are working to gain support for this provision among members of the House Ag Committee as well as members outside the committee. The House's budget cuts an additional \$10 billion from the budget agreement reached last fall, all of which the House Ag Committee cut from the Nutrition Title during budget exercises earlier this year. Bipartisan support for the farm bill will be required to pass the House, and these cuts will make it extremely difficult. Clearly, the Senate bill is the high water mark for funding and there will be less money in the House's version.



Unfortunately, there is a very good chance that Farm Bill reauthorization will not be concluded this year. Since the current authorization expires September 30, 2012, Congress will have to pass a spending authorization (of current law) extension, probably until sometime in the next Congress next year.

There will be increased pressure to move toward proportional cuts across all titles of the Farm Bill which will mean more money cut from conservation programs. The current political climate in the House is to constantly push for increased cuts at every turn, and we will continue to see this pressure on the Conservation Title and the Farm Bill. Many are concerned about what a Farm Bill could look like after it passes the House floor, and the bill may be very difficult to conference in committee with the Senate's version of a Farm Bill. To hold the funding line at a 10% cut and guard against additional cuts to the Conservation Title and programs will require all of us working together – all state fish and wildlife agencies with our conservation partners, and maybe a few unusual collaborations – to end up with a Conservation Title that continues to protect, restore, and enhance fish, wildlife, and their habitats across the country.

Ron Regan, Executive Director

