

Federal Budget Process



ASSOCIATION of
FISH & WILDLIFE
AGENCIES

How can AFWA be more effective?

AFWA—The Collective Voice



AFWA represents its state agency members in Washington DC to advance favorable fish and wildlife conservation policy and funding. AFWA works collaboratively with partners on the most important issues.

Federal Agency & Funding Support

Building strong conservation ethics and relevance

AFWA—The Collective Voice

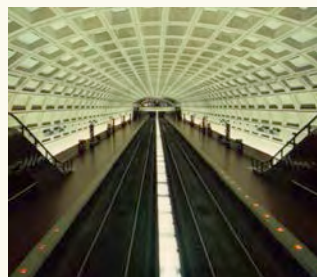


- This year the Legislative and Federal Budget Committee has been discussing how to be more effective at being heard “on the hill” and on building political support for many of AFWA’s strategic initiatives.
- Now, more than any time in our history, we need to be thinking and planning strategically for our future success, and we will need to approach the process differently if we want to be effective*.

* Guynn, Sally Dr. 2012 White Paper: Rethinking Strategic Planning Management Assistant Team (MAT) of AFWA. January 2012.

Legislative & Federal Budget Committee

- Identifies, evaluates and recommends positions on bills and policy issues coming before the U.S. Congress with the potential for affecting the needs, interests, role and authority of AFWA's members.
- Explores ways of working with Canada and Mexico on significant legislation affecting our respective countries.
- Develops recommendations on the budgets of the federal resource agencies.

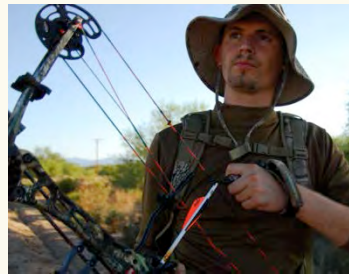


AFWA Committee Structure

29 Standing Committees, 35 Subcommittees, and 29 Working Groups, including the **3 new ones we will talk about today**).

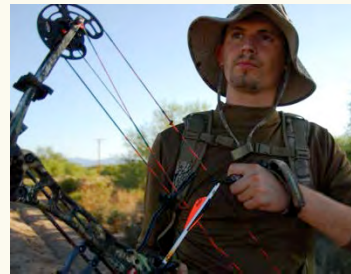
Standing Committees are not expected to change much over time and are often responsible for the creation of important national conservation actions and positions. Frequently, chairs appoint small **working groups** to focus on issues facing the committee. These groups often meet between regularly scheduled committee meetings and works on the committee's behalf.

Only fish and wildlife agency members are permitted to chair a subcommittee or work group within a committee.



Current Process (Challenges)

- Committee is not reaching its full potential and is primarily reactionary in carrying out its charge.
- Related to the budget process, state agency participation isn't equal across the board and the final response may not be applicable or reflective of all states.
- Document may not be helpful to our intended audience (Congress, Administration and federal agencies) resulting in missed opportunities to get funding on AFWA priorities.



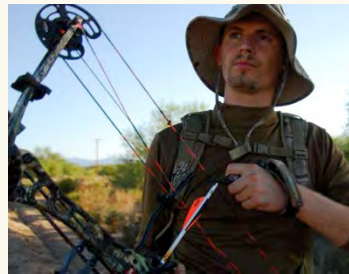
Federal Budget Process (abbreviated)

Table 1. Congressional Budget Process Timetable

Deadline	Action to be Completed
First Monday in February	President submits budget to Congress.
February 15	Congressional Budget Office submits report on economic and budget outlook to Budget committees.
Six weeks after President's budget	Committees submit reports on views and estimates to respective Budget Committee.
April 1	Senate Budget Committee reports budget resolution.
April 15	Congress completes action on budget resolution.
June 10	House Appropriations Committee reports last regular appropriations bill.
June 30	House completes action on regular appropriations bills and any required reconciliation legislation.
July 15	President submits mid-session review of his budget to Congress.
October 1	Fiscal year begins.

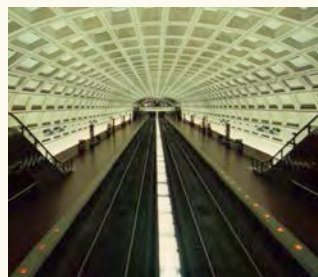
To be effective communications need to follow a “why-what-when-how” approach

- Explain the importance of AFWA’s position on conservation policies (**Why people should adopt AFWA’s view**).
- Describe the political challenges and opportunities and link them to strategic initiatives (**What is critical for fish and wildlife and the estimated funding needed to be sustainable**).
- Spend time developing important relationships (**Know when to involve your network**).
- Be credible, consistent and focused on delivering clear, concise communications (**Explain the facts and benefits vs. costs**).



Legislative & Federal Budget Committee

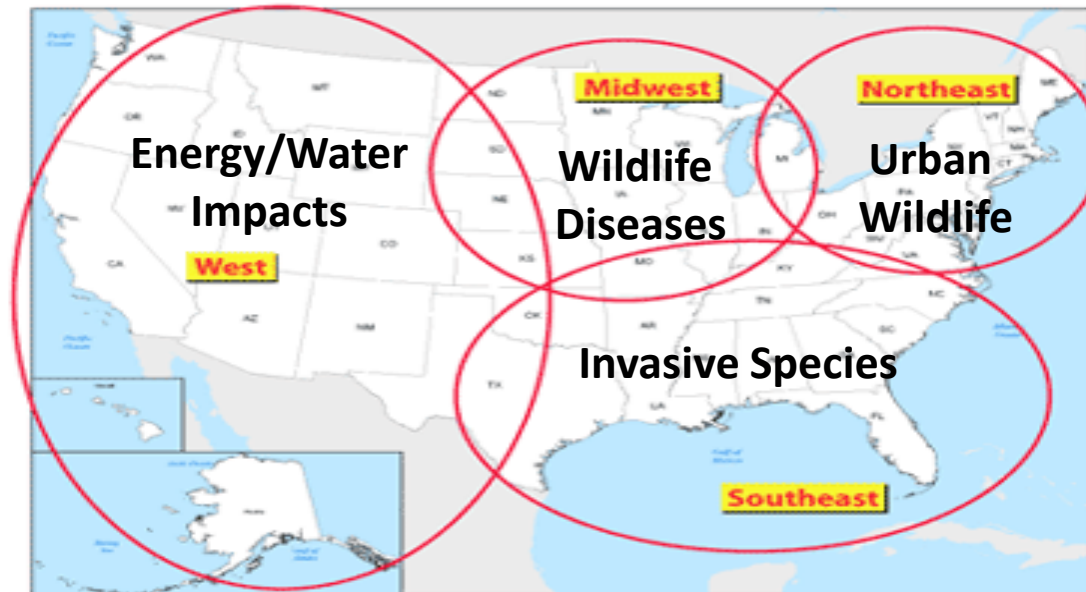
- Budget Working Group *(new in 2013)*
- Legislative Working Group *(new in 2013)*
- Communications & Outreach Working Group *(new in 2013)*
- ***Initial Charge:*** *Each working group shall identify, develop and provide to the Committee a plan on how to strategically align the Committee's mission and product delivery to better meet the needs of AFWA members, propose revisions and recommendations to the Committee's main processes (legislative and budgetary) and explore future direction, particularly in terms of communication and marketing, for the Committee.*



Regional Associations of Fish & Wildlife Agencies

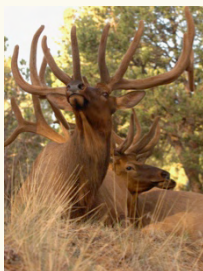
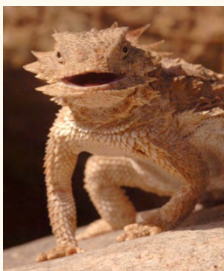


MIDWEST
Association of
Fish & Wildlife
Agencies

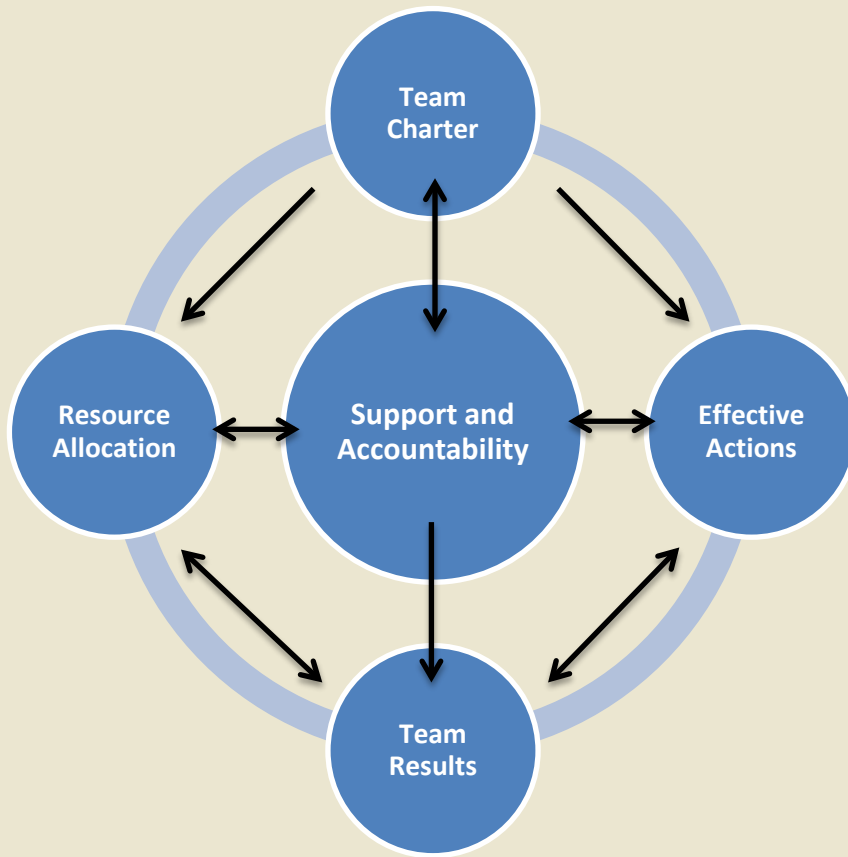


Working Groups

- **Composition (minimum of 12 to 15 members)**
 - 1 member from each regional association
 - At least 4 members from different states (prefer one from each region)
 - AFWA member NGOs
- **Operations**
 - Regional committees preferred to develop budget priorities and guide policy positions
 - Work group chairs works closely with AFWA staff and L&FB Committee Chair
 - Conference call meetings at least once a quarter
- **Resources**
 - AFWA staff and other committees, state agency staff expertise
 - Existing resources (THOMAS) and news sources (e.g. The Hill)



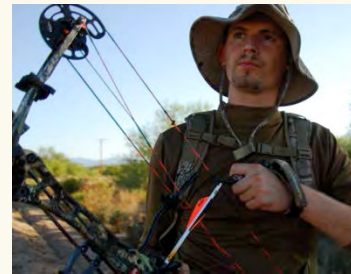
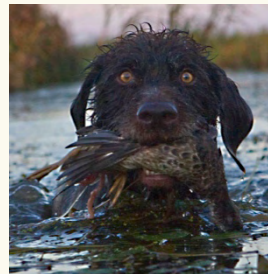
Team Performance



Collaborate with other AFWA committees, regional associations, and partners on AFWA priorities.

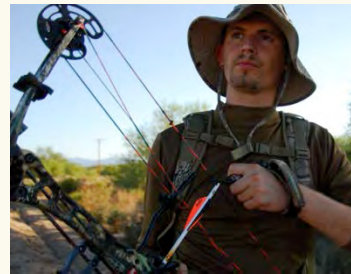
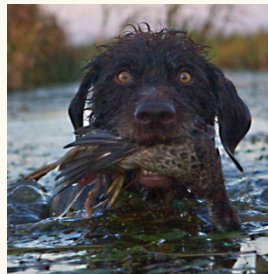
Create Feedback Loop for continuous team interactions and process improvement

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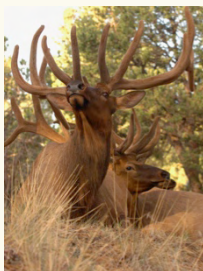
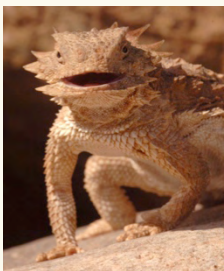
Opportunities / Solutions (New Process)

- Influence the federal budget process more often following the 2-year federal timeline (e.g. conversations with OMB, White House, and Congressional committees).
- Explore alternative ways (webinars) for states to participate and collaborate with other AFWA committees, regional associations, and partners on coordinating communications on AFWA priorities.
- Develop key messages to influence federal policies, develop a political toolbox, and provide legislative updates and analysis to AFWA members.



Budget Working Group

- **Work with AFWA Committees, Subcommittees & Working Groups to identify federal priorities.**
- **Revamp AFWA's Document to focus on the proposed President's Budget based on AFWA Priorities**
- **Identify opportunities to meet with OMB, congressional committees, etc. on federal priorities.**
- **Build relevancy/advocacy with other partners including industry, non-profit and conservation groups to deliver key messages.**
- **Revamp the federal hearing process to be more interactive.**

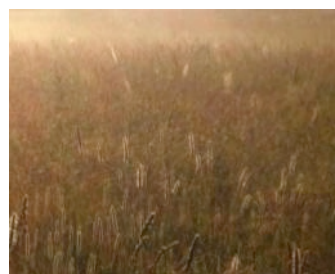


Budget Working Group Example

- **Week of June 2nd APPROPRIATIONS NEWS/UPDATES:**

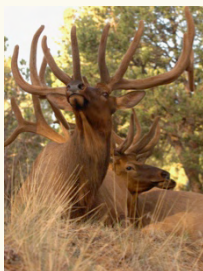
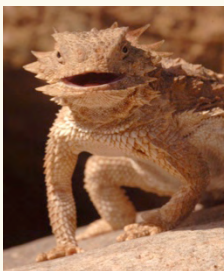
The House Appropriations Agriculture Subcommittee, on a voice vote, passed its FY14 Appropriations Bill to the Full Committee. The Bill proposes to cut more than \$500 million from mandatory conservation.... Environmental Quality Incentives Program (17 %), Wetlands Reserve Program (roughly 24 %), and the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (43 %).

- **AFWA Action:** On Tuesday, June 4, more than 25 national conservation organizations [including AFWA] delivered a letter to House Appropriators opposing the practice of cutting mandatory conservation program funding in annual appropriations bills.
- **AFWA Priority:** High, affects all regional associations
- **AFWA Risk Assessment:** Critical, requires immediate AFWA alert
- **AFWA Follow-up:** Continue to track activity and discuss next steps



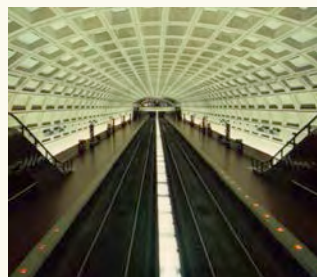
Importance of linking regional priorities

- Wide variety of issues and challenges from region to region
- Allows AFWA regional associations to contribute to effort directly.
- Allows for additional states within regions to voice opinions.
- Builds grassroots support for priorities and allows more opportunity to build relevancy with elected officials and congressional staffers.
- Increases buy-in by AFWA members and a shared understanding.



Legislative Working Group

- **Work with AFWA Committees, Subcommittees & Working Groups to identify federal priorities.**
- **Performance will advance AFWA Strategic Goals 1, 2, and 3**
- **Identify, analyze and communicate on progress of key legislation to all AFWA members.**
- **Work with Farm Bill Working groups to enhance communications and provide timely updates.**



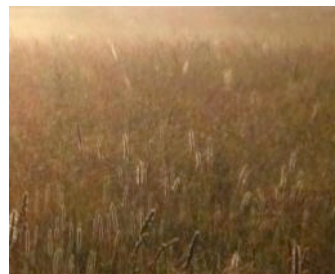
Legislative Working Group Example

H.R. 2261: To ensure the continuation of successful fisheries mitigation programs, and for other purposes.

(Also called: National Mitigation Fisheries Coordination Act)

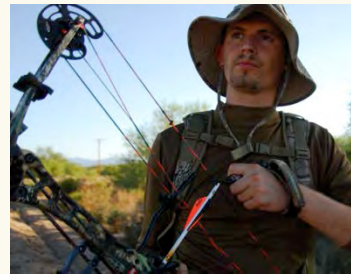
Sponsor: Rep. Eric “Rick” Crawford [R-AR1]

Summary: The Act will mimic mitigation programs in the Western U.S. by requiring Water Development Agencies to reimburse for the costs associated with the destructive effects federal water projects has had on local fisheries. **The Act has two basic elements: 1) A requirement for the responsible Federal Agencies causing the need for mitigation to pay for it. 2) Requires FWS coordination to develop long-term agreements satisfying the mitigation commitments made to the states where water projects were built.**

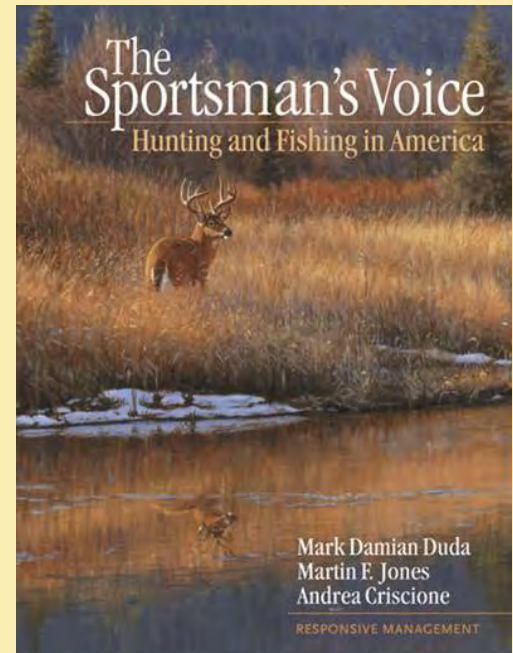
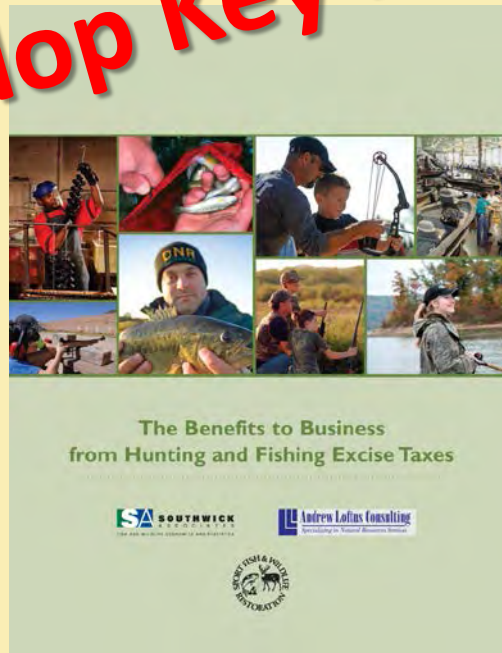


Communications & Outreach Working Group

- **Work with other AFWA committees, subcommittees and working groups to develop political toolkit.**
- **Performance will advance AFWA Strategic Goals 2, 3 and 4.**
- **Work with AFWA partners including industry, business, non-profits and other conservation-minded organizations.**
- **Develop a communication toolkit for state directors.**



Communications & Outreach





AFWA Strategic Goal: Secure and sustain comprehensive and dedicated funding for fish and wildlife conservation.

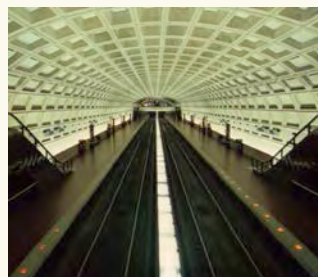
AFWA Strategic Goal: Promote policies, legislation, laws, regulations and legal strategies that enhance and protect member agencies' ability to conserve and manage fish and wildlife resources and their habitats, consistent with the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation.

AFWA Strategic Goal: Coordinate and facilitate fish and wildlife conservation initiatives among state, provincial, territorial and federal agencies and other partners, enabling conservation delivery on a national and international scale.

AFWA Strategic Goal: Support and facilitate education, participation, communication and leadership capacity for and among AFWA members.

AFWA Performance Indicators from Goals #1, 2 and 4

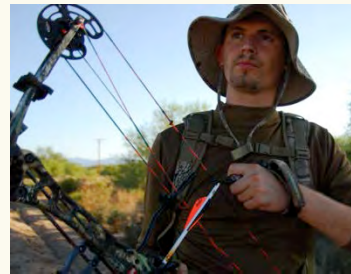
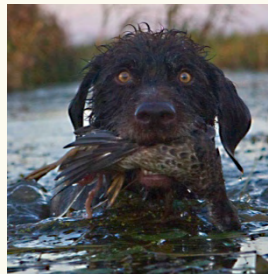
- **Number of Members of Congress supporting excise tax laws, state authority and jurisdictional issues.**
- **Number of directors who engage Congress when requested by AFWA.**
- **Number of direct relationships between directors and Members of Congress or their staff.**
- **Number of bills passed that include AFWA's recommendations and priorities.**
- **Number of actions taken (letters, phone calls, etc.) that positively influence administrative processes.**
- **Number of states, provinces and territories using AFWA's collaboration tools.**



Does this recommended approach:

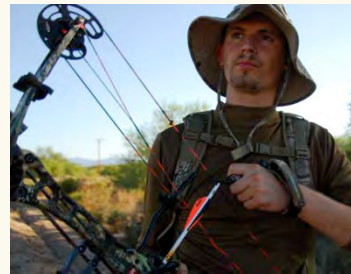
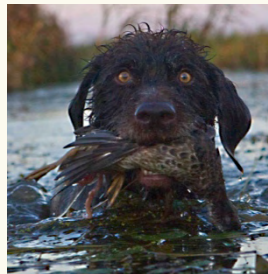
- 1) Reinforce responsiveness to customers?
- 2) Demonstrate committee accountability and effectiveness?
- 3) Encourage adaptive learning and creative problem solving?
- 4) Demand superior public service?
- 5) Provide national leadership in fish and wildlife management?"

YES, with continuous and deliberate interactions with AFWA staff and state leadership on political topics



Timeline for White Paper

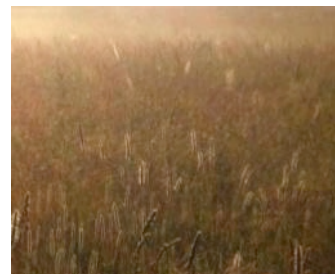
- June 17 - Co-chairs and Jen will review working group comments and prepare Revision 2 for review by the L&FB Committee Chair and Vice Chair.
- **June 24 – Overview by L&FB Committee at the MAFWA Director's Meeting**
- July 1 - Comments from the L&FB Committee Chair and Vice Chair are due to the working group co-chairs and Jen.
- July 17 - Revision 3 of the white paper will be circulated to the full L&FB Committee for review and comment.
- July 19 - Full committee conference call to walk through/Q&A the revised white paper.
- August 1 - Comments from the full Committee are due to co-chairs and Jen.
- Week of August 19 - Revision 4 and final draft of the white paper circulated to the full Committee in preparation for discussion and adoption at AFWA Annual Meeting in Portland, OR, September 8-12, 2013.
- Doyle Brown doyle.brown@mdc.mo.gov Tim Schaeffer tischaeffe@pa.gov
- Jen Mock Schaeffer jenmock@fishwildlife.org



Call for Action

We need the Regional Associations to consider the following:

- ☐ **Discuss and recommend regional staff (or delegated individual) to participate on the working groups**
- ☐ **Discuss and recommend additional states participate on the working groups to provide additional input and expertise into the process**
- ☐ **How to best develop priorities (e.g. WAFWA) and be more involved as the working groups begins to show progress**
- ☐ **State Director's comments are needed and appreciated**



Questions?

