

Public Lands

2013 Committee Report

by Tony Black Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources

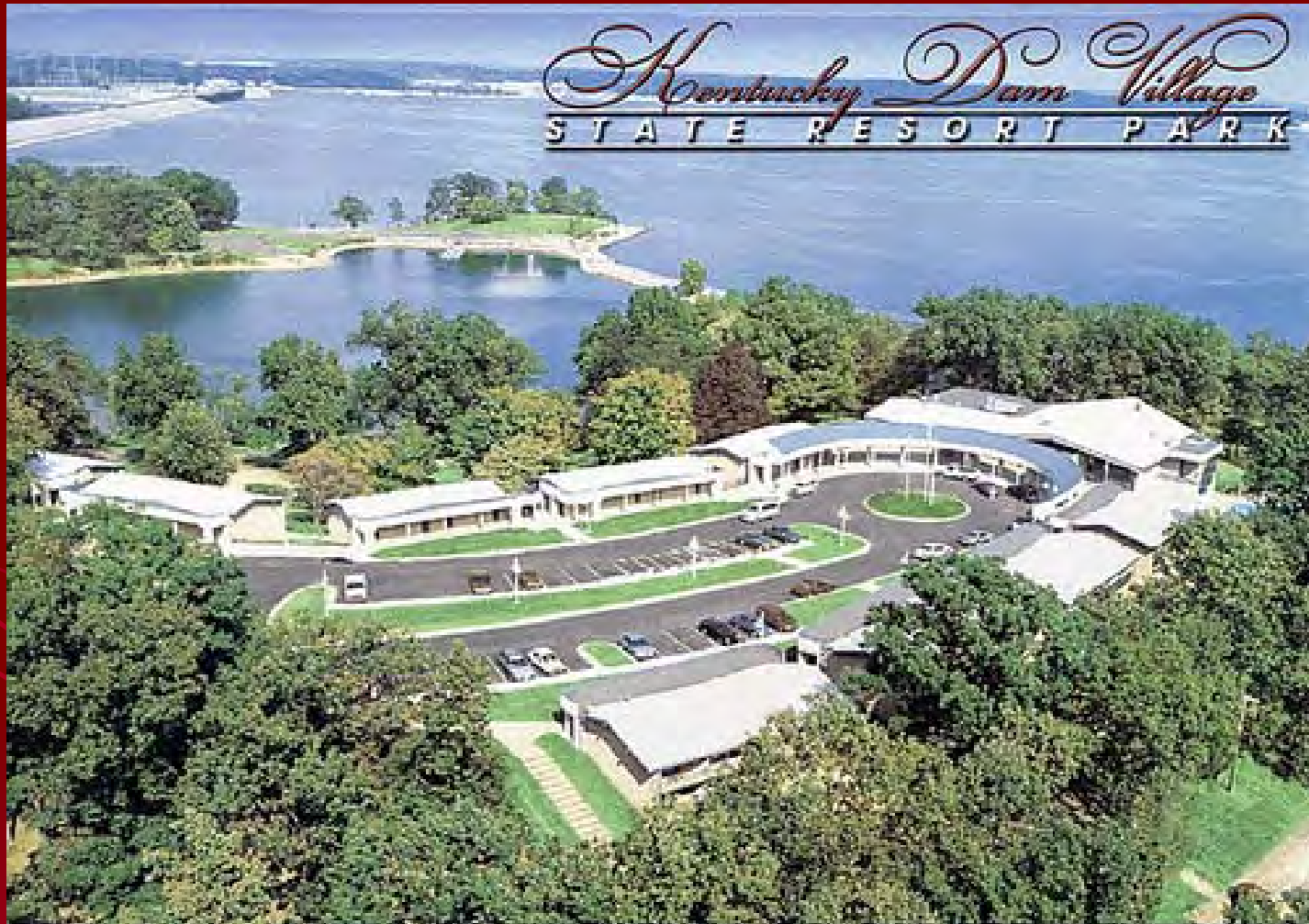


Meeting Highlights

- Working Group meetings held at Ky Dam State Resort Park
- Field Trip: Private Lands & LBL
 1. Private land – Focus Area and Rx Burning
 2. Public land – LBL Oak/Grassland projects

MAFWA 2013

Public Lands Working Group



Field Trip

Private Lands

**6000 acre Focus Area for
quail restoration**

**Visit at 2 landowners,
farm bill projects**



Field Trip Private Lands



Field Trip

Public Lands

150,000 ac. USFS
2000 ac. OHV

**Oak and grassland
restoration approx. 3000 ac**

Land
*Between
The*
Lakes
NATIONAL RECREATION AREA



*The black line shows the border of the Oak-Grassland
Demonstration Area in the Tennessee portion of LBL.*



OHV RIDING & CAMPING

Public Lands Working Group Action Items

1. Prescribed Fire Guidelines
2. Feral Swine
3. Sequestration Impacts
4. Captive Cervids/CWD



Prescribed Fire Guidelines

- Federal agency direction to have each state comply to federal (NWCG) guidelines.
- Each state has adopted its own guidelines while maintaining appropriate safety/training requirements
- Rx burning is a critical tool, that need not be lost to overly complex guidelines.
- Group recognizes the need for fire in the ecosystem but is concerned that national guidelines may reduce burning capacity limiting the ability of state agencies to apply a much needed practice.



Feral Swine

- Increasing problem nationally
- Readily adaptable
- Females produce twice annually
- Young females may produce as early as 6 months of age
- Would like to see working group established for regional control efforts



Feral Swine

Appendix 4.b.ii.

Excellence in Wildlife Stewardship Through Science and Education

THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

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Final Position Statement

Feral Swine in North America

Introduction and Biology

Feral swine (*Sus scrofa*) are members of the domestic swine family *Suidae*, which is native to Europe and Asia, not North America. Feral swine should not be confused with North America's only native pig-like animal – the collared peccary, or javelina (*Pecari tajacu*), of the family *Tayassuidae*. For centuries, though, non-native domestic swine have been propagated and released throughout the continent through accidental escapes from farms, as part of free range farming practices, or to establish feral populations for hunting. These releases occurred most frequently in the southeastern United States. The region between Texas and South Carolina remains the center of feral swine populations in North America. However, in the past decade (2000-2010), the range and abundance of feral swine has increased markedly. In 2010, feral swine are known or suspected to exist in at least 40 states and in parts of Canada and Mexico. Although a reliable estimate of the size of the continental population is not available, recent research indicates it is in the millions of individuals.

Feral swine come from 3 distinct lineages. Some releases of pigs in North America were of pure strain Eurasian wild boar, and a few isolated populations of these animals remain. Most of the populations, though, are descended from domesticated herds. In areas where both previously domesticated pigs and Eurasian wild boar exist, hybridization can and does occur. Regardless of the lineage, all wild pigs in North America are *Sus scrofa*. As noted above, it is important not to confuse *Sus scrofa* with the collared peccary (javelina; *Pecari tajacu*), a native inhabitant of the southwestern United States.

Feral swine are extreme habitat generalists. Whether released or naturally invading, they can survive in most areas of North America, feeding on plants and animals and changing food preference based on availability. They also are one of the most prolific large mammals in North America. In productive habitat, female pigs can begin breeding as juveniles and, while most produce a single litter annually, are physiologically capable of reproducing twice a year. Individual sows may have litters of more than 10, although litter sizes of 3 to 8 are most common. These reproductive traits and a typically low natural mortality rate result in high population growth potential.

Although feral swine are the second most popular large mammal among hunters in North America, next to white-tailed deer, the problems they cause far outweigh any positive benefits they provide. Because of their population size, feeding behaviors, and tendency to exist in groups, feral swine damage agricultural commodities, aquatic systems, forested systems, and native wildlife. In addition, they carry diseases that pose risks to humans, livestock, and other wildlife.

Appendix 4.a.i.

Appendix 4.a.ii.

Appendix 4.b.i.

MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES SUPPORT THE CONTROL OF FERAL SWINE IN THE UNITED STATES RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, feral swine are present in numerous states within the United States, and

WHEREAS, feral swine damage fences, forest stands, natural communities, row and forage crops, parks, cemeteries, and lawns and gardens, and

WHEREAS, feral swine harbor diseases that affect people, pets, livestock, and wildlife, and

WHEREAS, feral swine kill young lambs, goats, calves, and deer, harass adult cattle and horses, and destroy birds' nests and other wildlife, and

WHEREAS, feral swine cause an estimated \$800 million of damage in the United States annually, and

WHEREAS, there is a standing Presidential Directive to control the spread of invasive species, and

WHEREAS, the National Governor's Association has called for joint federal/state programs to help prevent the spread of invasive species, and adequate federal financial support to enable states to control or eradicate invasive species, and

WHEREAS, the distribution and number of feral swine are increasing in the Midwest, and

WHEREAS, the undersigned agencies are responsible for protecting their state's natural resources from invasive species;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies at its annual meeting in Huron Ohio, on July 13, 2005, agrees to:

1. Cooperate in the control of feral swine populations in the Midwest;
2. Urge the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies to adopt a similar resolution; and
3. Urge the United States Secretary of Agriculture, appropriate Congressional Representatives, and the President of the United States to adequately fund coordinated feral hog control efforts in the United States.

Sequestration Impacts

- Delays with USFWS has impacted states receiving annual funding
- Encourage USFWS to prioritize with state input
- Work towards efficiency and partner with states on land matters



Captive Cervids and CWD

- Committee recognizes cervid facilities as a point of interest in the spread of CWD
- More states receiving CWD positives
- 3 new states have confirmed with evidence pointing to captive facilities
- Would encourage Directors to assist with educating legislators and public with accurate information
- Encourage Directors to support measures in reducing the risk of spreading the disease to wild populations

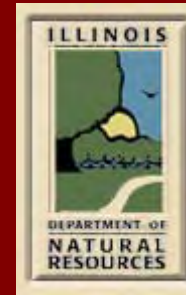


Wildlife Society Publications

Fact Sheet on Captive Cervid Breeding and Wildlife Professional Vol. 6 No. 4 Winter 2012



Attendance for MAFWA



NORTH DAKOTA
GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT



Oil and Gas Development/Exploration

- An increased awareness of the potential to lose valued areas due to commercialization
- Mineral rights ownership needs to be recognized for lands



Summary

- All important topics
- Welcome any assistance or further assistance on addressing items
- We all need to stay together to accomplish goals

