

Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (MAFWA)
National Conservation Needs (NCN) Committee Report – 2013

NCN Committee Status: Rodney Stokes (MI) left the committee this year which resulted in the NCN committee being short a member. With Rodney's departure, President Jon Gassett appointed Ed Boggess (MN) to serve on the committee along with John Buhnerkempe (Chair, IL) and Jim Douglas (NE). The committee did not meet this year, but did conduct business via email and telephone on two NCN proposals.

Committee Report: The NCN Committee was created in 2004 and charged to become familiar with the NCN and Multi-State Conservation Grant Program (MSCGP) processes and annually counsel the MAFWA on a recommended course of action for submitting NCNs.

For the 2014 Grant Cycle, the NCN Committee received two draft NCN proposals (see attached). The first proposal titled "Implementation of the National Wild Pheasant Conservation Plan" was submitted by Budd Ververka representing the Midwest Pheasant Study Group. The second proposal, submitted by Karen Waldrop, was titled "Improve Benefits for Fish, Wildlife and Their Habitats through Evaluation of Efficacious Control Methods and Management Strategies for Wild Hogs". This proposal was also submitted to the SEAFWA and was approved as their NCN submittal to the MSCGP.

The NCN committee reviewed both NCN proposals following the NSCGP NCN guidelines. As a result of the review, the NCN committee found both proposals qualify for NSCGP funding and recommended that they be submitted to the MAFWA Directors for consideration. The NCN Committee recommended that the "Wild Hog" proposal be submitted as MAFWA's submittal. With five MAFWA members selecting the "Wild Hogs" submittal and one selecting the "Pheasant" submittal, the "Wild Hog" proposal was chosen as MAFWA's NCN selection for the 2014 Multistate Conservation Grant Program.

MAFWA's NCN submittal was approved by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. Since Kentucky submitted this NCN to both the MAFWA and SEAFWA, they took the lead with developing Letters of Intent. Three Letters of Intent were developed to select from:

1. Public Survey - A public survey would be developed to quantify public awareness, opinions and attitudes regarding wild swine management strategies.
2. Toxicants - Develop toxic feral hog baits and associated delivery systems to be registered for use with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
3. Fertility – To use genetically modified existing endemic swine viruses to deliver peptides that will induce contraception in wild hogs.

The MAWFA Directors were asked to provide comments on the draft Letters of Intent but because of the tight deadline with getting the draft Letters of Intent to the Association, the Directors were not able to take formal action. However, several States did take this opportunity to provide comments.

Director Action Items: Reaffirm support to MAFWA members for direct participation and engagement in the NCN and MSCGP processes.

Respectfully submitted by John Buhnerkempe, Chair; May 28, 2013.