

State Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plans

A Key Partnership Opportunity for the
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the
State Fish and Wildlife Agencies

Director's Vision

- ✓ The States are our major partners in effecting Wildlife Conservation on a national basis
- ✓ The Service should help provide knowledge and expertise as requested by the States
- ✓ Service employees have been informed about the State planning process, and are knowledgeable in the roles that the Service can play in the development and implementation of the Strategies/Plans (CWCSs)

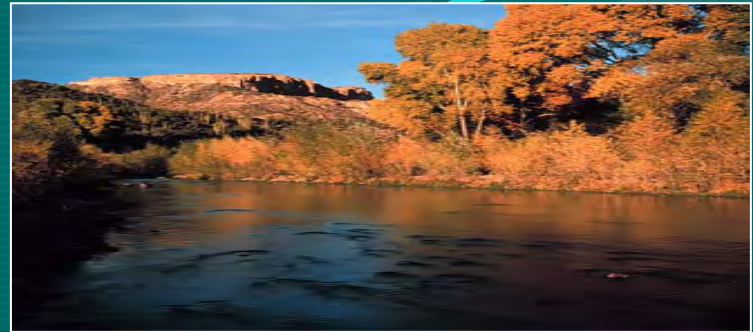


Partnerships

STATES

Wildlife Conservation Benefits

- This national “blueprint” for wildlife conservation in the fall of 2005 will provide the impetus for additional Congressional support
- Increased potential for sustaining populations of wildlife species in decline



History of the State Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plans

- In FY 2001, the **Wildlife Conservation Restoration Program** requires the States to develop a Strategy by October 2005 to be eligible. All States/Territories commit.
- In FY 2002, 2003, and 2004, the **State [and Tribal] Wildlife Grants Program** requires the States to develop a Plan (synonymous with the Strategy) by October 2005 to be eligible.
- The States must include eight essential elements in the CWCSs

Strategy/Plan Timeline – Past, Present and Future



“Statewide” Plans Addressing Wildlife Resource Needs

- These CWCSs are not solely for the State Agency. They are plans to meet the wildlife conservation needs in each State, across jurisdictions and regardless of management authority.
- The State is the “quarterback” in the development, but all wildlife conservation agencies and organizations monetary and human resources will be needed to complete the Team and implement the CWCS.
- IAFWA, the States and the Service will be presenting these CWCSs to Congress to demonstrate there is a national collaboration for future wildlife conservation



Development Assistance Teams

- Sustain the **Teaming with Wildlife Work Group** State-Federal-NGO Partnership During the Next 15-18 Months
- Provide opportunities for States to share progress and coordinate planning **across State lines**
- Maintain lists of **resources and contacts** both within and outside of the Service
- Respond to **State requests for assistance** from Endangered Species, Refuges, Migratory Birds, Fisheries, and Habitat Conservation
- Support and coordinate **Service field staff assistance** to States

The National Acceptance Advisory Team (NAAT)

- **Objective** – to provide a process for the review and acceptance of CWCSs that ensures they have satisfactorily addressed the eight critical elements
- **Members** – Assistant Director for MBSP; all Assistant Regional Directors for MBSP; an IAFWA representative; 4 State agency Directors representing the four Regional Fish and Wildlife Associations
- **Work Schedule** – to meet as often as needed to ensure a quality review and feedback process with the States such that all CWCSs will be received and reviewed by the Service no later than 10/01/2005

The National Acceptance Advisory Team (continued)

- **NAAT** met first in Spokane on March 17, and again in Minneapolis on June 17-18
- **NAAT Charter** has been completed
- **Current tasks** include:
 - Schedule NAAT work during the next 15-18 months
 - Complete a CWCS Review Guide for Team Members
 - Complete a review/decision-making process for the NAAT to follow
 - Attend the Nebraska One-Year-Out CWCS Conference in August