

Motion #1:

To prepare a memorandum of understanding to formalize collaboration between U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and MAFWA to implement the Wildlife Action Plans across state boundaries.

Issue: Collaboration between U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and MAFWA

The states that comprise MAFWA have been formally and informally working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) to prepare Wildlife Action Plans. The plans have all been approved by the Service and the states have begun implementation. One important consideration is that wildlife species do not recognize state boundaries: species of greatest conservation need in one state are probably species of greatest conservation need in adjacent states depending on ecoregions. Therefore, it is important that states work together to address these common species of greatest conservation need.

Both the Service and the states have initiated projects that address species that cross state lines and address regional and even national level priorities. In the last two years, all of the Service and the states have made significant commitments to implement the plans. The Service has initiated an effort to develop focal area projects to implement the plans. AFWA has initiated a project (the "synthesis project") to identify national and regional priority plan projects. MAFWA hosted a regional priority-setting meeting in St. Louis in 2006. As follow-up, Mark Humpert (NE) is leading an effort among the Wildlife diversity Program managers in the Midwest.

The Service and the states see the need for an umbrella agreement that recognizes these initiatives and formalizes the collaboration between the Service and MAFWA to implement the Wildlife Action Plans. We recommend that an MOU be developed between the Service and MAFWA by a small group of representatives: Service—Robyn Thorson; MAFWA—Scott Hassett; Representative of Wildlife Diversity Program managers in the Midwest—Mark Humpert; AFWA legal counsel; and one other state agency director.

We suggest that the MOU draft MOU be prepared by the September AFWA meeting for action at the MAFWA Executive Committee meeting.

Motion #2:

Amend MAFWA by-laws to form the Wildlife Action Plan Technical Working Committee

Issue: Need for collaboration and coordination by MAFWA states to identify and implement intra-state program priorities and common objectives identified in the states' Wildlife Action Plans to conserve wildlife diversity in the Midwest

In January 2006 MAFW hosted a workshop in St. Louis to develop Midwest regional priorities for wildlife diversity conservation. The workshop participants recognized the need for a group to further develop regional priorities and to coordinate and collaborate in the implementation of regional priorities based on the states' Wildlife Action Plans.

The workshop participants asked a small group to draft a set of guidelines (Terry Little, Doug Harr, Dennis Figg, and others) for review by the MAFWA state wildlife diversity coordinators and to bring this recommendation to the MAFWA Executive Committee.

Motion #3:

Assign the MAFWA Wildlife Action Plan Technical Working Committee to develop and analyze mechanisms to achieve the collaborative vision described in the MOU and recommend to the MAFWA Executive Committee those mechanisms that will be more effective to achieve that vision.