

Program Agenda

with speaker biographies

"Moving Conservation Ahead in the 21st Century"

- **Dress Code:** casual attire throughout the conference.
- **Meeting Room Assignments:** **Maryland A/B** for all meetings and **Empire Room** for meals (breakfast and lunch). Other events located as indicated on agenda.

SUNDAY – JUNE 26	
2:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Conference Registration Desk Open
5:00 pm – 6:00 pm Plaza Room	MAFWA Executive Committee
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm Zodiac Room	President's Welcome Reception <i>Sponsored by National Wild Turkey Federation</i> Jason Lupardus
8:00 pm – 11:00 pm	Hospitality Room <i>Sponsored by the National Archery in the Schools Program</i>
MONDAY – JUNE 27	
7:00 am	Conference Registration Desk Open
7:00 am – 8:00 am	Breakfast <i>Sponsored by the Archery Trade Association</i> Remarks by Mitch King
8:00 am – 8:15 am	Greetings and Welcome to Missouri Bob Ziehmer, MAFWA President and MO Director
8:15 am – 8:30 am	Director Topics Tom Melius (USFWS) , Midwest Regional Director for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
8:30 am – 10:30 am	State Hot Topics Each Director will describe a recent agency challenge and response as a teaching moment Open Discussion on State Reports Facilitator: Ollie Torgerson
10:30 am – 10:45 am	Refreshments <i>Sponsored by D.J. Case & Associates</i>
10:45 am – 11:45 am	Funding and Relevancy – A Recipe for a Robust Conservation Future <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of the work of the Blue Ribbon Panel • A vision for the future Panelists: Ron Regan (AFWA), Dave Chanda (NJ), Steve Williams (WMI) Moderator: Bob Ziehmer (MO) Ron Regan is the Executive Director for the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. Ron spent over 25 years working for the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department where he served as Deer Project Leader, Director of Wildlife, and Commissioner. Ron has a strong professional interest in the historical underpinnings of our profession and the future standing of state fish and wildlife agencies in terms of authority, identity, and relevance. He has co-authored two papers regarding

	<p>the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation, both of which focus on state engagement, and he has participated in a variety of reviews and panel discussions about the Model.</p> <p>Ron serves on the Boards for the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, the Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council, the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation, the Council to Advance Hunting and the Shooting Sports, the National Deer Alliance, and the National Conservation Leadership Institute. Ron is a professional member of The Wildlife Society and the Boone and Crockett Club.</p> <p>Ron has a B. S. in Wildlife Biology from the University of Vermont (1974) and he is a Certified Wildlife Biologist (TWS).</p> <p>Dave Chanda, an accredited wildlife biologist with a Master's in Public Administration, has been working in the field of wildlife management for more than 35 years. As Director of the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife (Division), Dave is responsible for the conservation and management of all of New Jersey's fish and wildlife resources, including the shellfish and marine fisheries resources, freshwater fisheries, upland and endangered species. Together, all of Division's programs share the important responsibility of conserving the Garden State's nearly 800 species of fish and wildlife as well as the lands and waters on which they depend.</p> <p>Dave currently serves as President of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, and serves on the Board of Directors for the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation, Council to Advance Shooting Sports, the American Sportfishing Association, and the National Conservation Leadership Institute.</p> <p>Steve Williams is the President of the Wildlife Management Institute (WMI), founded in 1911, WMI is a non-profit conservation organization dedicated to providing leadership to conserve, restore, and enhance North American wildlife and its habitat. As President of WMI, Steve serves on the Board of Directors of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Council to Advance Hunting and Shooting Sports, Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council (a federal advisory council to the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture), National Conservation Leadership Institute, the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Fish and Wildlife Resources, and is a professional member of the Boone and Crockett Club and The Wildlife Society. Prior to joining WMI, Steve served as Director of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Secretary of the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, Deputy Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Game Commission, and Assistant Director for Wildlife and Deer Project Leader of the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. He received his B.S. and Ph.D. from The Pennsylvania State University and a M.S. from the University of North Dakota.</p>
<p>12:00 pm – 1:30 pm Starlight Ballroom</p>	<p>Awards Luncheon <i>Sponsored by Ducks Unlimited and Canadian North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) Partners</i></p> <p>Remarks by David Brakhage (DU) & Dean Smith (Canadian NAWMP)</p> <p>Presented by – The Awards Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law Enforcement Officer of the Year • Fisheries Biologist of the Year • Wildlife Biologist of the Year • Spirit of the Shack • Excellence in Conservation • Sagamore Award • President's Award

1:30 pm – 2:00 pm	<p>Trading a Focus on Species for a Habitat Approach Nathan Muenks (MO)</p> <p>Nate Muenks serves as Habitat Management Coordinator for the Missouri Department of Conservation. Nate is responsible for coordinating the Department's Comprehensive Conservation Strategy, which is a process that identifies Missouri conservation priorities to inform decision-making regarding the greatest opportunities for sustainable conservation of fish, forest and wildlife resources. A significant portion of Nate's duties include efforts to identify and aid in the management of quality habitat systems throughout the state to ensure diverse landscapes for Missouri's native flora and fauna. In addition to these duties, Nate also coordinates the Department's terrestrial invasive species management efforts, working collaboratively with the Department's aquatic invasive species coordinator, housed within the Fisheries Division.</p> <p>Prior to joining the Missouri Department of Conservation, Nate spent 9 years (2006 – 2014) with the Missouri Department of Transportation as a Sr. Environmental Specialist, where he specialized in streams and wetlands, including work with delineation, permitting, mitigation, restoration and monitoring. From 2011 – 2014, Nate served a dual capacity, retaining wetland and stream focus, while taking on additional duties as the Missouri Department of Transportation's statewide erosion and sediment control coordinator.</p> <p>In 2002, Nate earned a B.S. in Biology with an Emphasis in Wildlife from Missouri State University.</p>
2:00 pm – 2:30 pm	<p>Looking to the Future of Bird Conservation: Engaging a Broader Constituency Judith Scarl (NABCI/AFWA)</p> <p>Judith Scarl is the US Coordinator for the North American Bird Conservation Initiative as well as the Bird Conservation Program Manager for the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. Prior to working at AFWA, she spent 5 years in Vermont leading multi-state citizen science conservation projects for vulnerable songbirds, such as Bicknell's Thrush and Rusty Blackbird. She has an undergraduate degree from Harvard University and a Ph.D. from Cornell University, where she studied vocal communication in Australian and Costa Rican parrots.</p>
2:30 pm – 3:00 pm	<p>Knowing the Public We Serve; Knowing their Expectations & Desires Dr. David Thorne (MO)</p> <p>Dr. David Thorne is the Policy Supervisor for the Missouri Department of Conservation and leads the Policy Coordination Unit in the Department's Administration. He has worked in the Department for over 25 years, with assignments in conservation policy, planning, and human dimensions. He has a Ph.D. in Wildlife Science from Purdue University and Bachelor's and Master's degrees from the University of Missouri.</p>
3:00 pm – 3:15 pm	<p>Refreshments <i>Sponsored by the Mule Deer Foundation</i></p>
3:15 pm – 4:15 pm	<p>MAFWA Committee Reports Ollie Torgerson, Facilitator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change • Deer and Wild Turkey • Feral Swine • CITES

4:15 pm – 4:45 pm	<p>Can We Manage Our Big Rivers as a Central Swimway? Sara Tripp (MO)</p> <p>Sara Tripp is the Large River Ecologist for the Big Rivers and Wetlands Field Station in Jackson, MO. She has been with the Department for almost 4 years. Sara's responsibilities include examining recreational and commercial fisheries of Missouri's large rivers for management and sustainability. Sara's current research focuses on combining large river fish population demographics with movement data to inform river managers and policy makers and define the true spatial extent of riverine fish populations.</p>
4:45 pm – 5:00 pm Location TBD	Director Group Photo
6:30 pm – 10:00 pm	<p>Offsite Dinner Event: Mississippi River Boat Tour aboard the Tom Sawyer <i>Take a relaxing cruise and discover the best view of the St. Louis skyline from replica nineteenth-century paddle-wheel riverboats. They were brought to St. Louis in 1964 so spectators could get a close-up view of the Arch as it was being constructed, and are the only riverboats on the St. Louis Riverfront today. Hear the waters churn and admire the view as you ride along the mighty Mississippi River, where Lewis and Clark completed their historic journey.</i></p> <p><i>Sponsored by Brandt Information Services Remarks by Tiffany Santagati & Richard Wise</i></p> <p><i>Busses will stage and pick up at the Lindell St. entrance. Directors will meet in the main lobby and staff will direct you to the appropriate location.</i></p>
9:00 pm – 11:00 pm	<p>Hospitality Room <i>Sponsored by the National Shooting Sports Foundation</i></p>

TUESDAY – JUNE 28

7:00 am	Conference Registration Desk Open
7:00 am – 8:00 am	<p>Breakfast <i>Sponsored by Kalkomey Remarks by Mitch Strobl</i></p>
8:00 am – 8:45 am	<p>How to Tell Our Message Effectively--Who We Are, What We Do, Why Are We Important? Joanie Straub (MO)</p> <p>Joanie Straub has been working in marketing and communications for over 22 years. Since July 1, 2015, she has served as the Outreach and Education Division Chief for the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC). She started her conservation career at MDC as Media Specialist for the Department's Central and Northeast regions in 2012. Raised in Southwest Missouri with an appreciation of the outdoors, Joanie currently lives in Columbia with her husband and two sons. While she enjoys exploring the outdoors with her family, she also enjoys the quiet moments of watching wildlife out her back window with her morning cup of coffee. Joanie has a dual bachelor's degree in Broadcast Journalism and History from the University of Missouri and a master's degree in Technical Communications from Colorado State University.</p>
8:45 am – 9:20 am	<p>Thinking Outside the Box to Reach New Groups for Conservation Jordan Burroughs (MI)</p>

	<p>Jordan Pusateri Burroughs is the nation's first Boone and Crockett Club academic specialist. Her position is a jointly funded partnership between Michigan State University Extension and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, with operation funding provided by an endowment started by the Boone and Crockett Club. As a wildlife outreach specialist, Jordan is passionate about working with partners and stakeholders to bridge the science-policy interface by creating and disseminating knowledge to improve our joint understanding of complex wildlife-related issues. Her work focuses on stakeholder engagement, conservation education, science communication and natural resources leadership development. Jordan creates and provides oversight for a number of innovative conservation and hunting recruitment programs including administration, program delivery, research and evaluation. Jordan received her M.S. in Fisheries and Wildlife from Michigan State University and her B.S. in Fisheries and Wildlife from University of Missouri-Columbia.</p>
9:20 am – 9:30 am	<p>Update on the Joint Task Force Meeting with the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Chiefs and the Federal Aid Coordinator's Working Group Doyle Brown (MO)</p> <p>During the last 5 years, Doyle Brown has served as the Federal Aid Coordinator for the Missouri Department of Conservation. Doyle has been with the Department since 2004 initially serving in the capacity as a Policy Coordinator. He is currently serving a term in the Federal Aid Coordinator's Working Group on behalf of the eight (8) states in U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Region III.</p>
9:30 am – 10:00 am	<p>Measuring Returns On Investment, Showing Citizens that Conservation Pays Tom Treiman (MO)</p> <p>Tom Treiman is a natural resource economist with the Missouri Department of Conservation's Resource Science Division. Tom has a Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin in Applied Economics and a B.A. from Yale University in Economics. Tom works across a wide array of projects with MDC and when he has any spare time he likes to spend it outdoors climbing up cliffs and, so far, making it back down safely.</p>
10:00 am – 10:15 am	<p>Refreshments <i>Sponsored by the National Rifle Association</i></p>
10:15 am – 10:30 am	<p>AFWA Report Ron Regan, AFWA Executive Director Dave Chanda, AFWA President and NJ Fish and Wildlife Director</p>
10:30 am – 12:00 pm	<p>MAFWA Committee Reports (continued) Ollie Torgerson, Facilitator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Furbearers • Hunter and Angler Recruitment and Retention • Law Enforcement • Legal • National Conservation Needs • Private Lands • Public Lands • Wildlife Action Plan • Wildlife and Fish Health
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	<p>Lunch <i>Sponsored by Pheasants Forever</i> Remarks by Dave Nomsen</p>
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	<p>Panel Discussion – Wildlife Diseases Can Change Your World</p>

	<p>Dr. John Fischer (SCWDS) & Dr. Kelly Straka (MO)</p> <p>Dr. John Fischer is a wildlife biologist, veterinarian, and Director of the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study (SCWDS) at The University of Georgia. As SCWDS Director, John works with the wildlife agencies of 18 southeastern, Midwestern, and northeastern states; the USDA; the U.S. Department of the Interior; and many other organizations to determine the population impacts of wildlife diseases and parasites and to delineate the role of wildlife in the epidemiology of human and domestic animal diseases.</p> <p>Dr. Kelly Straka completed her Bachelor's degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Management in 2002. She spent several years as a wildlife biologist for Ducks Unlimited, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and a private environmental toxicology laboratory on the beautiful shores of Lake Superior. Kelly returned to school at the University of Minnesota where she concurrently completed a DVM in Interdisciplinary Medicine, a Master's degree in Public Health, and a three-year traineeship with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Kelly joined the Missouri Department of Conservation in September 2012 as the first state wildlife veterinarian and the director of Missouri's Wildlife and Aquatic Health Unit.</p>
2:00 pm – 2:15 pm	<p>Refreshments Sponsored by The Nature Conservancy</p>
2:15 pm – 3:30 pm	<p>Federal Partners Session</p> <p>Good Neighbor Authority Kathy Lynn, Deputy Director, U.S. Forest Service</p> <p><i>Kathryn Lynn</i> is deputy regional forester for the Eastern Region. She began her federal career with the Air Force at Andrews Air Force Base. She served as a program analyst for the Department of Energy in Las Vegas, Nevada, and as the Budget Officer for Department of Defense Dependents Schools at Yokota Air Force Base in Japan. Kathy began her career with the Forest Service as a Budget Officer on the Mark Twain National Forest in 1999. She then held various leadership positions in Budget in both the Washington Office and Albuquerque Service Center. Prior to becoming deputy regional forester, Kathy served as Deputy Area Budget Coordinator for the National Forest System in the Washington Office.</p> <p>Feral Swine Update Jason Suckow, Western Regional Director, U.S Department of Agriculture-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service-Wildlife Services</p> <p><i>Jason Suckow</i> is the USDA APHIS Wildlife Services Western Regional Director. He has held that position since December 2014, but has been with the Wildlife Services program since 1989 holding various positions across the US. There are two Regions in the Wildlife Services program. The WS Western Region covers from North Dakota to Texas and everything West, including Guam and the America Samoa's.</p> <p>Climate Science Center Support for MAFWA States Robin O'Malley, U.S. Geological Survey, Climate Science Centers</p> <p><i>Robin O'Malley</i> is Policy and Partnership Coordinator at USGS National Climate Change and Wildlife Science Center (NCCWSC) which manages the eight regional Department of the Interior Climate Science Centers. Prior to joining NCCWSC, Mr. O'Malley was Director of Program Development and Director of the Environmental Reporting Program at The H. John Heinz III Center for Science, Economics and the Environment. Mr. O'Malley has also worked at the Department of the Interior, both on the Policy staff and as Chief</p>

	<p>of Staff for the National Biological Survey, served as a Special Assistant to Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt, Deputy Science Advisor within the Interior Department, Associate Director for Natural Resources at the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), and senior environmental advisor to Governor Thomas H. Kean of New Jersey. He holds a Master's degree from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government and a Bachelor's degree from the State University of New York.</p> <p>Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration TRACs Grant Management System Update Jim Hodgson, Region 3 Federal Aid Chief, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service</p>
3:30 pm – 4:00 pm	<p>Monarch Butterfly Initiatives Kelley Myers (IA) & Tom Melius (USFWS)</p> <p>Kelley Myers is the Conservation Recreation Administrator for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. In this role, she oversees the fish and wildlife programs as well as state parks, forestry, land acquisition and development, and conservation law enforcement programs for the state of Iowa. She is Iowa's director representative to the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and sits on the Boards of the American Wind and Wildlife Institutes, the National LCC Council, the Monarch Joint Venture and the National Fish Habitat Partnership. Kelley has been with the DNR since 2003, mostly serving as an attorney for the programs she now leads.</p> <p>Tom Melius was appointed as the Midwest Regional Director for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on Oct. 12, 2008. Prior to his Midwest region post, he completed a successful watch over the vast, rugged expanse of the Service's Alaska region. In the Midwest region, Melius governs a region that employs 1,088 people, manages 1.29 million acres of land and has field offices in eight states of our 13 states. Tom's broad range of experience, both within and outside the Service, has left him well qualified to deal with the challenges and stewardship opportunities throughout the diverse Midwest lands and waters.</p>
4:00 pm – 7:00 pm	<p>Field Trip to the St. Louis Zoo Tour of the Hellbender Captive Breeding Program at the Ron Goellner Center for Hellbender Conservation <i>A Missouri resident, the hellbender, is the largest species of salamander native to North America. The hellbender populations have been threatened by stream impoundments, pollution and siltation for years yet seemed to do okay in Missouri and Arkansas. However, over the past 10 years, due to unknown factors, the populations in the Ozark Mountains experienced a sudden decline of 70%.</i></p> <p><i>The Hellbender Conservation Center has worked hard for over a decade to create a successful breeding program for hellbenders in order to ensure the future for this unique amphibian. The Center has been successful in its efforts, with the Saint Louis Zoo and Missouri Department of Conservation announcing in 2011 that Ozark hellbenders had been bred in captivity- a world's first for either of the two subspecies of hellbender. In order to expand efforts, the Zoo is constructing a climate-controlled habitat for the breeding program in order to ensure continued successful efforts to save this species.</i></p> <p><i>Sponsored by the St. Louis Zoo and the Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation (MCHF)</i></p> <p>Remarks by: Jeff Briggler, Ph.D. (MO); Jeffrey P. Bonner, Ph.D., Jeff Etting, Ph.D., Mark Wanner (St. Louis Zoo); and Kevin Roper (MCHF)</p> <p><i>Busses will stage and pick up at the Lindell St. entrance. Directors will meet in</i></p>

	<i>the main lobby and staff will direct you to the appropriate location.</i>
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Dinner on Your Own
9:00 pm – 11:00 pm	Hospitality Room <i>Sponsored by the National Shooting Sports Foundation</i>

WEDNESDAY – JUNE 29

7:00 am – 8:00 am	Breakfast <i>Sponsored by Bass Pro Shops</i>
8:00 am – 8:15 am	State Commitments Related to Trapping Ed Boggess (AFWA) Ed Boggess was Director of Fish and Wildlife for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for more than five years before his retirement this past February. He worked in the fish and wildlife conservation arena for more than 40 years, including more than 33 years with Minnesota DNR, 7 years with Kansas State University Extension Service, and 1 year with Iowa DNR. His previous positions with Minnesota DNR included Deputy Director of Fish and Wildlife, Fish and Wildlife Policy Chief, Assistant Chief of Wildlife, and Furbearer Program Leader. He is past chair of the AFWA Fur Resources Technical Subcommittee, Fur Resources Committee, Wildlife Resource Policy Committee, Sustainable Wildlife Use Committee, and most recently the Presidential Task Force on Trapping Policy.
8:15 am – 10:00 am	MAFWA Business Meeting Bob Ziehmer, MAFWA President <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call to Order and Roll Call • Agenda Review • Approval of 2015 Annual Meeting Minutes • Treasurer's Report – Roger Luebbert • Audit Committee Report – Bob Ziehmer (MO) • Investments Committee Report – Bob Ziehmer (MO) • Resolutions Committee Report – Terry Steinwand (ND) • Awards Committee Report – Keith Sexson (KS) • Bylaws Committee Report – Kelley Myers (IA) • Executive Secretary's Report – Ollie Torgerson • Approval of Affiliate Members—Ollie Torgerson Old Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Wild Pheasant Plan Coordinator-Jim Douglas (NE) & Scott Taylor New Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater Prairie Chicken and Sharp-tail Grouse Plan – Keith Sexson (KS) • USFWS/MAFWA Monarch Butterfly NOFO – Ollie Torgerson • Conservation Leaders for Tomorrow - Zach Lowe • 2017 Budget Approval—Roger Luebbert Passing of Gavel to Next State
10:00 am – 10:15 am	Refreshments <i>Sponsored by the Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers (AMFGLEO)</i>
10:15 am – 12:00 pm	MAFWA Business Meeting (continued) Bob Ziehmer, MAFWA President
12:00 pm	Conference Adjourns



**83RD MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF
FISH & WILDLIFE AGENCIES**
Annual Directors' Meeting

The Chase Park Plaza Hotel
St. Louis, Missouri
June 26 - 29, 2016



HOSTED BY



MIDWEST
Association of
Fish & Wildlife
Agencies

Welcome!

On behalf of the Missouri Conservation Commission and the Missouri Department of Conservation, welcome to the **83rd Annual Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Directors' Meeting** in St. Louis. Thank you for making this meeting a priority. This meeting is a valuable opportunity for executive-level conservation leaders to come together and be a collective voice for fish, forest, and wildlife conservation. The theme of this year's meeting, ***"Moving Conservation Ahead in the 21st Century"***, is a timely one and a continued focus for all of us.



We have a rich history of conservation in Missouri. We have been fortunate to have had more than 75 years of unique conservation governance, led by a citizen Commission. The Conservation Department's mission has been sustained through the commitment of Missourians to dedicate one-eighth of one percent sales tax to protect their fish, forest, and wildlife resources. There have been many successful partnerships and services along the way, but citizen support continues to be an essential cornerstone. As an agency, we are constantly looking at new and creative ways to engage our citizens to make conservation an important and personal part of their lives.

During your visit, we hope you will take advantage of opportunities to get outside and see more of St. Louis, or travel back soon to one of the many unique conservation areas across Missouri. We also hope this meeting is informative and continues to build on the collaborative work being accomplished on the state, regional, and national levels. On behalf of the Conservation Commission, Department, and 6 million Missouri citizens, thank you for your ongoing efforts to preserve this nation's conservation mission!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Robert L. Ziehmer".

Robert L. Ziehmer, Director

Acknowledgements

Conference Steering Committee

Bob Ziehmer
Denise Bateman
Norman Murray
Ollie Torgerson
Delaney Meeting & Event Management

Missouri Department of Conservation Steering Committee



Denise Bateman
Kim Bax
Kim Devine
Kathie Hubbard
Dawn Kirchner
Donna Baldwin
Lisa Dunham
and many more!

MAFWA Executive Committee

Bob Ziehmer (MO), *President*
Jim Douglas (NE), *First Vice President*
Terry Steinwand (ND), *Second Vice President*
Jim Leach (MN), *Past President*
Keith Sexson (KS), *Member*
Bill Moritz (MI), *Member*

Upcoming Events



Western Association of Fish & Wildlife Summer Meeting

July 21-27, 2016
Cody, Wyoming / Holiday Inn & Comfort Inn
www.wafwa.org



Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies 106th Annual Meeting

September 11 – 14, 2016
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania / Marriott Downtown
www.fishwildlife.org



Southeastern Association for Fish & Wildlife 70th Annual Conference

October 15 – 19, 2016
Baton Rouge, Louisiana / Hilton Hotel
<http://www.seafwa.org/conferences/2016>



82nd North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference

March 5 – 10, 2017
Spokane, Washington / Davenport Hotel
www.wildlifemanagementinstitute.org

Save the Date for 2017

MAFWA 84th Annual Directors' Meeting

June 25 – 28, 2017

Mahoney State Park ♦ Ashland, Nebraska

About MAFWA

MISSION STATEMENT: Our mission is to provide a forum for state and provincial fish and wildlife agencies to share ideas and information, pool resources, and initiate action to benefit the management and conservation of fish and wildlife resources in the Midwest.



The Midwest Association is comprised of 16 states and provinces encompassing some of the greatest diversity in lands, waters, and wildlife in North America.

www.mafwa.org

Partners

Affiliates	
American Sportfishing Association	National Shooting Sports Foundation
Archery Trade Association	National Wildlife Federation
Brandt Information Services	National Wild Turkey Federation
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation	North American Grouse Partnership
D.J. Case and Associates	Pheasants Forever
Delta Waterfowl	Quail and Upland Wildlife Federation
Ducks Unlimited	Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
Healing Our Waters Coalition	Ruffed Grouse Society
Izaak Walton League of America	Southwick Associates
Kalkomey Enterprises, Inc.	The Nature Conservancy
Mark LaBarbera and Associates, Inc.	Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
MICRA	Wildlife Forever
Mule Deer Foundation	Wildlife Management Institute
National Archery in the Schools Program	

Sister Organizations

- Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA)
- Northeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (NEAFWA)
- Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA)
- Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA)

Program Agenda

"Moving Conservation Ahead in the 21st Century"

- ♦ **Dress Code:** casual attire throughout the conference.
- ♦ **Meeting room assignments:** **Maryland A/B** for all meetings and **Empire Room** for meals (breakfast and lunch). Other events located as indicated on agenda.

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6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	☆ President's Welcome Reception — Zodiac Room <i>Sponsored by National Wild Turkey Federation</i> <i>Remarks by Jason Lupardus</i>
8:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.	Hospitality Room <i>Sponsored by National Archery in the Schools Program</i>
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8:15 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	Director Topics Dan Ashe, Director, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	State Hot Topics: <i>Each Director will describe a recent agency challenge and response as a teaching moment.</i> Open Discussion on State Reports Facilitator: Ollie Torgerson
10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.	Refreshment Break – <i>Sponsored by DJ Case & Associates</i>
10:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.	Funding and Relevancy: A Recipe for a Robust Conservation Future <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Overview of the work of the Blue Ribbon Panel ▪ A vision for the future Panelists: Ron Regan (AFWA), Dave Chanda (NJ), Steve Williams (WMI); Moderator: Bob Ziehmer (MO)

SIGNAGE SPONSOR

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Since 1965, Voss Signs, LLC has produced custom and stock signs for various customers that include: Forestry Professionals, Land Owners, State and Federal Government Agencies. Signs are manufactured either screen-printed or digitally printed on aluminum, plastic, or other custom substrates providing long-term outdoor durability.

CONTRIBUTING SPONSORS

Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers (AMFGLEO)

Bob Thompson
6060 Broadway
Denver, CO 80216
E: bob.thompson@state.co.us
www.midwestgamewarden.org

*Sponsor of
Wednesday Morning
Refreshment Break*

The Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers (AMFGLEO) was chartered February 1944 at Lincoln, Nebraska. There are currently 23 member agencies from Canada and the United States. The AMFGLEO meets every year taking turns in different states and provinces. The meetings have been beneficial to the member agencies. Over the years, the AMFGLEO has become the lead group among wildlife enforcement organizations in the development and maintenance of training for field officers that protects the resource and benefits the citizens of our states, provinces, and countries.

Mule Deer Foundation

Miles Moretti
404 E. 4500 S., Suite B-10
Salt Lake City, UT 84107
E: president@muledeer.org
www.muledeer.org

*Sponsor of
Monday Afternoon
Refreshment Break*

The Mule Deer Foundation (MDF) is the only conservation group in North America dedicated to restoring, improving, and protecting mule deer and black-tailed deer and their habitat, with a focus on science and program efficiency. MDF is a strong voice for hunters in access, wildlife management, and conservation policy issues. MDF acknowledges regulated hunting as a viable management component and is committed to recruitment and retention of youth into the shooting sports and conservation. Get involved at www.muledeer.org.

BRONZE LEVEL

DJ Case & Associates, Inc.

Dave Case / Phil Seng
317 E. Jefferson Blvd.
Mishawaka, IN 46545
E: dave@djcase.com
www.djcase.com

Sponsor of
Monday Morning
Refreshment Break

Since 1986, DJ Case & Associates has worked with state and federal natural resource agencies and conservation organizations every day, helping them communicate effectively to achieve their conservation goals. We provide the full range of communications services—from marketing plans, meeting facilitation, and strategic planning to Web development, human dimensions research, and video production.

National Rifle Association

Brian Hyder
11250 Waples Mill Road
Fairfax, VA 22030
E: bhyder@nrahq.org
www.nrahq.org

Sponsor of
Tuesday Morning
Refreshment Break

The National Rifle Association of America is a non-profit organization founded in 1871 and supported by the membership fees of over 5 million members. One of the purposes of the Association is to promote hunter safety and to promote and defend hunting as a shooting sport and as a viable and necessary method of fostering the propagation, growth and conservation, and wise use of our renewable wildlife resources.

The Nature Conservancy

Rob McKim / Karla Suckling
1101 West River Pkwy, Suite 200
Minneapolis, MN 55415
E: ksuckling@tnc.org
www.tnc.org

Sponsor of
Tuesday Afternoon
Refreshment Break

The Nature Conservancy is an international charitable environmental organization, headquartered in Arlington, Virginia. Its mission is to "conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends."

Program Agenda continued

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Awards Luncheon — Starlight Ballroom <i>Sponsored by Ducks Unlimited and Canadian North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) Partners</i> <i>Remarks by David Brakhage (DU) and Dean Smith (Canadian NAWMP)</i> Presented by – The Awards Committee
1:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Trading a Focus on Species for a Habitat Approach Nathan Muenks (MO)
2:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Looking to the Future of Bird Conservation: Engaging a Broader Constituency Judith Scarl (NABCI/AFWA)
2:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Knowing the Public We Serve; Knowing their Expectations & Desires David Thorne (MO)
3:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.	Refreshment Break – Sponsored by Mule Deer Foundation
3:15 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.	MAFWA Committee Reports Facilitator: Ollie Torgerson <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate Change Deer and Wild Turkey Feral Swine CITES
4:15 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.	Can We Manage Our Big Rivers as a Central Swimway? Sara Tripp (MO)
4:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Director Group Photo
6:30 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.	☆ Offsite Dinner Event: Mississippi River Boat Tour aboard the Tom Sawyer <i>Sponsored by Brandt Information Services</i> <i>Welcome Remarks by Tiffany Santagati and Richard Wise</i> <i>See details on page 10.</i>
9:00 p.m. – 12:00 a.m.	Hospitality Room <i>Sponsored by National Shooting Sports Foundation</i>

TUESDAY – JUNE 28, 2016	
7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Conference Registration Desk Open
7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.	Breakfast – <i>Sponsored by Kalkomey</i> <i>Remarks by Mitch Strobl</i>
8:00 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.	How to Tell Our Message Effectively – Who We Are, What We Do, Why Are We Important? Joanie Straub (MO) & Brian Blank (KY)
8:45 a.m. – 9:20 a.m.	Thinking Outside the Box to Reach New Groups for Conservation Jordan Burroughs (MI)
9:20 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	Update on the Joint Task Force Meeting with the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Chiefs and the Federal Aid Coordinator's Working Group Doyle Brown (MO)
9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Measuring Returns on Investment, Showing Citizens that Conservation Pays Tom Treiman (MO)
10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	Refreshment Break <i>Sponsored by National Rifle Association</i>
10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	AFWA Report <i>Ron Regan, AFWA Executive Director</i> <i>Dave Chanda, AFWA President; NJ Fish and Wildlife Director</i>
10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	MAFWA Committee Reports (continued) Ollie Torgerson, Facilitator <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Furbearers ▪ Hunter and Angler Recruitment and Retention ▪ Law Enforcement ▪ Legal ▪ National Conservation Needs ▪ Private Lands ▪ Public Lands ▪ Wildlife Action Plan ▪ Wildlife and Fish Health
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch – <i>Sponsored by Pheasants Forever</i> <i>Remarks by Dave Nomsen</i>

National Archery in the Schools

Roy Grimes / Kevin Dixon
4285 Lake Drive
Waldo, WI 53093
E: michelleh@nasparchery.com
www.nasparchery.com

*Sponsor of
Hospitality Room
on Sunday*

The National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP®) is in its 13th year. Currently, more than 12,000 schools and 2 million students are participating in 47 states, 7 Canadian Provinces, 4 African Countries, Australia, New Zealand, Mongolia (2013), and the United Kingdom (March 2014). NASP® Coordinators certify about 7,000 new teachers each year to present archery lessons as part of the school day. Teaching the skill of target archery to a student population, 77% of whom have not shot archery before, inspires these young people to be lifetime shooting sports participants.

National Shooting Sports Foundation

Steve Sanetti / Samantha Pedder
11 Mile Hill Road
Newtown, CT 06470
E: spedder@nssf.org
www.nssf.org

*Sponsor of
Hospitality Room on
Monday & Tuesday*

The National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) is the trade association for the firearms industry. Its mission is to promote, protect, and preserve hunting and the shooting sports. Formed in 1961, NSSF has a membership of more than 10,000 manufacturers, distributors, firearms retailers, shooting ranges, sportsmen's organizations, and publishers.

Pheasants Forever

Howard Vincent / Dave Nomsen / Rick Young
2301 Research Park Way
Brookings, SD 57006
E: dnomsen@pheasantsforever.org
www.pheasantsforever.org

*Sponsor of
Tuesday Lunch*

Pheasants Forever is dedicated to the conservation of pheasants, quail, and other wildlife through habitat improvements, public awareness, education, and land management policies and programs.

SILVER LEVEL

Bass Pro Shops

Martin MacDonald
2500 East Kearney
Springfield, MO 65898
E: mmacdonald@basspro.com
www.basspro.com

Bass Pro Shops, an international catalog and internet retailer, is also America's most popular outdoor store, offering shoppers the largest selection of quality outdoor gear, clothing, and accessories from top industry names at value prices. Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World stores are also part museum, part art gallery, part education, conservation and entertainment centers.

Sponsor of
Wednesday Breakfast

Canadian NAWMP Partners

Dean Smith
142 Michener Drive
Regina, SK, Canada S4V0G8
E: dsmith@fishwildlife.org
www.nawmp.wetlandnetwork.ca

The Canadian partners of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) are engaged in habitat projects through four joint ventures, the Boreal Initiative, and other federal and provincial programs. Wetland and waterfowl conservation projects in the Canadian breeding grounds provide over 75% of the continental waterfowl population. Hunters across the United States benefit from wetland retention and restoration activities in Canada. The Canadian NAWMP partner agencies are thankful and honored to work in collaboration with State fish and wildlife agencies, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and Ducks Unlimited Inc. to improve waterfowl habitat all across the continent.

Co-Sponsor of
Awards Luncheon

Ducks Unlimited, Great Lakes

Atlantic Regional Office

David Brakhage
1220 Eisenhower Place
Ann Arbor, MI 48108
E: dbrakhage@ducks.org
www.ducks.org

Ducks Unlimited (DU) takes a continental, landscape approach to wetland conservation. Since 1937, DU has conserved more than 13 million acres of waterfowl habitat across North America. While DU works in all 50 states, the organization focuses its efforts and resources on the habitats most beneficial to waterfowl.

Co-Sponsor of
Awards Luncheon

Program Agenda continued

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Panel Discussion – Wildlife Diseases Can Change Your World Dr. John Fischer (SCWDS) & Dr. Kelly Straka (MO)
2:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.	Refreshment Break <i>Sponsored by The Nature Conservancy</i>
2:15 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	Federal Partners Session Good Neighbor Authority Kathy Lynn, Deputy Director, U.S. Forest Service Introduction to Directors Robert Harper, Director Water, Fish, Wildlife, Air & Rare Plants, U.S. Forest Service Feral Swine Update Jason Suckow, Western Regional Director, U.S. Department of Agriculture-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service-Wildlife Services Climate Science Center Support for MAFWA States Robin O'Malley, U.S. Geological Survey, Climate Science Centers Midwest Regional WSRF Report, TRACS, Lands, and Other Issues on the Horizon Jim Hodgson, Region 3 Federal Aid Chief, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
3:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Monarch Butterfly Initiatives Kelley Myers (IA) & Tom Melius (USFWS)
4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	Field Trip to the Saint Louis Zoo <i>(See details on page 10)</i> <i>Sponsored by the Saint Louis Zoo and the Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation (MCHF)</i> <i>Remarks by: Jeff Briggler, Ph.D. (MO); Jeffrey P. Bonner, Ph.D., Jeff Ettling, Ph.D., Mark Wanner (Saint Louis Zoo); and Kevin Roper (MCHF)</i>
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	Dinner on Your Own
9:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.	Hospitality Room <i>Sponsored by National Shooting Sports Foundation</i>

WEDNESDAY – JUNE 29, 2016	
7:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Conference Registration Desk Open
7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.	Breakfast – <i>Sponsored by Bass Pro Shops</i>
8:00 a.m. – 8:15 a.m.	State Commitments Related to Trapping Ed Boggess (AFWA)
8:15 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	MAFWA Business Meeting Bob Ziehmer, MAFWA President <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Call to Order and Roll Call ▪ Agenda Review ▪ Approval of 2015 Annual Meeting Minutes ▪ Treasurer's Report – Roger Luebbert ▪ Audit Committee Report – Bob Ziehmer (MO) ▪ Investments Committee Report – Bob Ziehmer (MO) ▪ Resolutions Committee Report – Terry Steinwand (ND) ▪ Awards Committee Report – Keith Sexson (KS) ▪ Bylaws Committee Report – Kelley Myers (IA) ▪ Executive Secretary's Report – Ollie Torgerson ▪ Approval of Affiliate Members – Ollie Torgerson Old Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ National Wild Pheasant Plan Coordinator –Jim Douglas (NE) & Scott Taylor New Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Greater Prairie Chicken and Sharp-tail Grouse Plan – Keith Sexson (KS) ▪ USFWS/MAFWA Monarch Butterfly NOFO – Ollie Torgerson ▪ Conservation Leaders for Tomorrow – Zach Lowe ▪ 2017 Budget Approval—Roger Luebbert Passing of Gavel to Next State
10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	Refreshment Break – <i>Sponsored by the Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers (AMFGLEO)</i>
10:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	MAFWA Business Meeting (continued) Bob Ziehmer, MAFWA President
12:00 p.m.	Conference Adjourns

National Wild Turkey Federation

Becky Humphries
770 Augusta Road
Edgefield, SC 29824
E: bhumphries@nwtf.net
www.nwtf.net

The National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) is a 501 (c) (3) non-governmental organization dedicated to the conservation of the wild turkey and preservation of our hunting heritage. The NWTF is a grassroots, volunteer organization governed by a volunteer member board of directors. Its volunteers are organized in a state and local chapter system.

*Sponsor of
President's Welcome
Reception*

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services- Region 6

Noreen Walsh / Matt Hogan
134 Union Blvd. P.O. Box 25486
Denver, CO 80225
E: matt_hogan@fws.gov
www.fws.gov

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

U.S. Forest Service- Region 9

Kathleen Atkinson/Steve Kuennen/Leakhena Au
626 E. Wisconsin Ave, Suite 800
Milwaukee, WI 53202
E: lau@fs.fed.us
www.fs.fed.us

The mission of the USDA Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.

USDA - Wildlife Services

Jason Suckow / Robert Hudson
920 Main Campus Drive, Suite 200
Raleigh, NC 27606
E: robert.L.hudson@aphis.usda.gov
www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife

Wildlife Services, a program in USDA's Animal and Plant Health inspection Service, provides Federal leadership to create a balance allowing people and wildlife to coexist. Addressing wildlife damage to agriculture, property, natural resources, and human health, its skills are employed at emergencies and in response to requests. Contact: 1-866-4USDA-WS (1-866-487-3297) or www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife-damage.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services- Region 3

Tom Melius / Charlie Wooley

1 Federal Bldg. Room 630

Fort Snelling, MN 55110

E: charles_wooley@fws.gov

www.fws.gov

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service takes pride in working with you, our trusted partners, to conserve, protect and enhance fish and wildlife resources in the Midwest. For more information, visit fws.gov/midwest

GOLD LEVEL

Archery Trade Association

Jay McAninch / Mitch King

PO Box 70

New Ulm, MN 56073

E: mitchking@archerytrade.org

www.archerytrade.org

Serving its members since 1953, the Archery Trade Association (ATA) is the organization for manufacturers, retailers, distributors, sales representatives, and others working in the archery and bowhunting industry. The ATA is dedicated to making the industry profitable by decreasing business overhead, reducing taxes and government regulation, and increasing participation in archery and bowhunting. The organization also owns and operates the ATA Trade Show, the industry's largest and longest-running trade show worldwide.

Sponsor of
Monday Breakfast

Kalkomey Enterprises, Inc.

Kurt Kalkomey / Mitch Strobl

14086 Proton Road

Dallas, TX 75244

E: mstrobl@kalkomey.com

www.kalkomey.com

Kalkomey, which produces www.hunter-ed.com, is North America's leading provider of recreational safety education and data management products. Kalkomey produces print and Internet courses that have provided official safety certification since 1995. Kalkomey offers safety courses in boating, hunting, bowhunting, and off-road vehicle and snowmobile operation. For more information, visit www.kalkomey.com.

Sponsor of
Tuesday Breakfast

Featured Events

Awards Luncheon — *Starlight Ballroom*

Monday, June 27th / 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM

Sponsored by Ducks Unlimited and Canadian North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) Partners

Remarks by David Brakhage (DU) and Dean Smith (Canadian NAWMP)

Presented by – The Awards Committee

- ★ Law Enforcement Officer of the Year
- ★ Fisheries Biologist of the Year
- ★ Wildlife Biologist of the Year
- ★ Spirit of the Shack
- ★ Excellence in Conservation
- ★ Sagamore Award
- ★ President's Award

Mississippi River Boat Tour

Monday, June 27th / 6:30 PM - 10:30 PM

⇒ Included in Full Conference Registration Fee. Transportation provided. Board buses at 6:30 PM for departure from hotel main lobby. (The drive is approximately 25 minutes.)

Offsite Dinner Event: Mississippi River Boat Tour aboard the Tom Sawyer

Sponsored by Brandt Information Services. Welcome Remarks by Tiffany Santagati and Richard Wise.

Take a relaxing cruise and discover the best view of the St. Louis skyline from replica nineteenth-century paddle-wheel riverboats. They were brought to St. Louis in 1964 so spectators could get a close-up view of the Arch as it was being constructed, and are the only riverboats on the St. Louis Riverfront today. Hear the waters churn and admire the view as you ride along the mighty Mississippi River, where Lewis and Clark completed their historic journey.

Featured Events

Saint Louis Zoo

Tuesday, June 28th / 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM

⇒ Included in Full Conference Registration Fee. Transportation provided. Board buses at 4:15 p.m. for departure from hotel main lobby.

Tour of the Hellbender Captive Breeding Program at the Ron Goellner Center for Hellbender Conservation

Sponsored by Saint Louis Zoo and Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation

A Missouri resident, the hellbender, is the largest species of salamander native to North America. The hellbender populations have been threatened by stream impoundments, pollution and siltation for years, yet seemed to do okay in Missouri and Arkansas. However, over the past 10 years, due to unknown factors, the populations in the Ozark Mountains experienced a sudden decline of 70%.

The Hellbender Conservation Center has worked hard for over a decade to create a successful breeding program for hellbenders in order to ensure the future for this unique amphibian. The Center has been successful in its efforts, with the Saint Louis Zoo and Missouri Department of Conservation announcing in 2011 that Ozark hellbenders had been bred in captivity- a world's first for either of the two subspecies of hellbender. In order to expand efforts, the Zoo is constructing a climate-controlled habitat for the breeding program in order to ensure continued successful efforts to save this species.

Join us to tour this unique facility and learn more about local efforts to save this amphibian.



Saint Louis Zoo
Animals Always®

About Our Sponsors

MAJOR LEVEL

Brandt Information Services

Tiffani Santagati / Richard Wise
501 N Duval Street
Tallahassee, FL 32301
E: tiffanis@brandtinfo.com
www.BrandtInfo.com

*Sponsor of
Offsite Event: River
Boat Tour*

Brandt Information Services develops customized applications and systems for the administration and issuance of recreational licenses, off-road vehicle registrations, state park reservations, and more. We offer unique marketing opportunities and a customer centric approach to all our solutions and services. Since 1985, Brandt has provided local, state, and federal government with cutting edge solutions that empower the end user and streamline business processes. Call Tiffani Santagati, Directional of Outdoor Licensing & Recreational Sales, (404) 698-1900 or via email at tiffanis@brandtinfo.com.

Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation

Kevin Roper
P.O. Box 366
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0366
www.mochf.org

The Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation (MCHF) is a nonprofit, charitable organization that helps meet financial needs placed on natural resource conservation and conservation-related outdoor recreation. Since our founding in 1997, we have allocated almost \$20 million for conservation funding statewide. MCHF advances the conservation and appreciation of fish, forest, and wildlife resources by applying financial resources to the priorities of the Missouri Department of Conservation in collaboration with donors and other partners.

Saint Louis Zoo

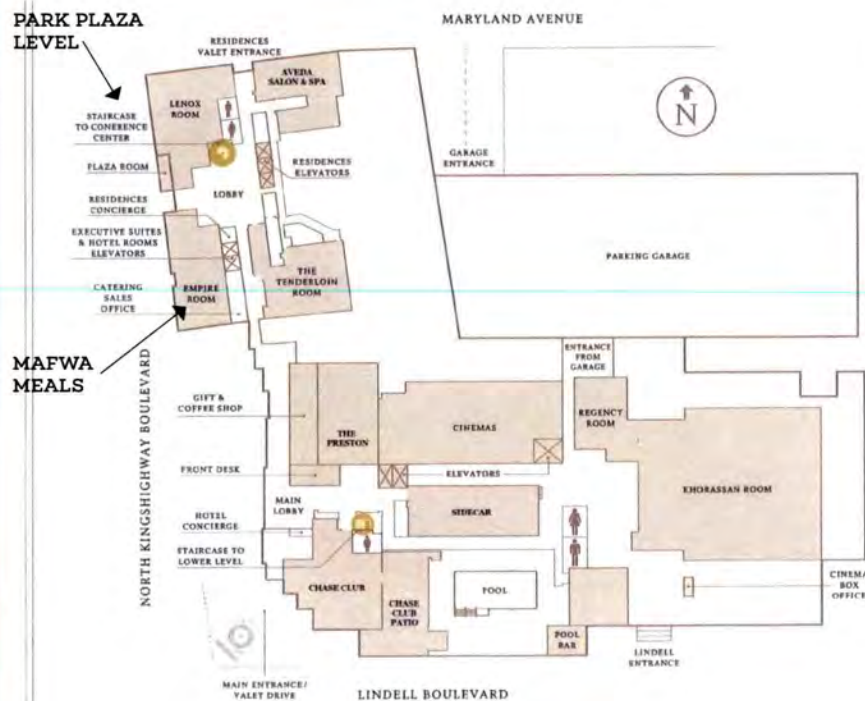
Jeffrey P. Bonner, Ph.D. / Dana Brown President & CEO
One Government Drive, St. Louis, MO 63110
www.stlzoo.org

*Sponsor of
Field Trip:
Saint Louis Zoo*

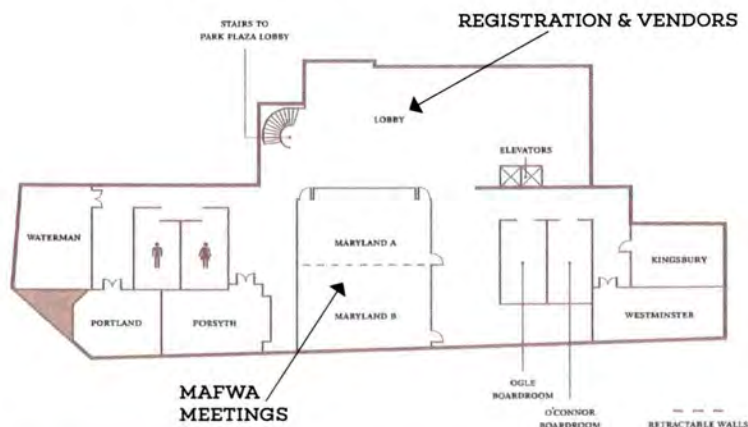
Located on 90 acres in Forest Park, the Saint Louis Zoo (Zoo) is home to more than 603 species of animals, many of them rare and endangered. It is one of the few free zoos in the nation and has been named #1 zoo by Zagat Survey's U.S. Family Travel Guide in association with Parenting magazine. The Zoo annually attracts more than three million visitors, who can see 14,840 wild animals—including the thousands of leafcutters and butterflies. Since its 1910 founding, the Zoo has been renowned for its beautiful, naturalistic exhibits, its diverse collection of animals and its innovative approaches to animal management, wildlife conservation, research, and education.

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Region 3



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Investing In Your Conservation Legacy



Saint Louis Zoo
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GOLD



Region 6



Region 9



United States Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Wildlife Services



Conserves. Hunt. Share.



ARCHERY TRADE ASSOCIATION



Our Work Saves Lives

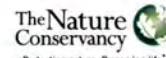
SILVER



National Archery in Schools Program

BRONZE

SIGNAGE



CONTRIBUTING SPONSOR



AGENDA
MAFWA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Sunday, June 26, 2016
5:00 p.m. CDT
Plaza Room
Chase Park Plaza Hotel
St. Louis, MO

WELCOME JIM LEACH--BOB

CALL TO ORDER—BOB

QUORUM—OLLIE

AGENDA REVIEW—BOB

APPROVAL OF MAY 9, 2016 EXEC. COMM. MINTUES—BOB

FINANCIAL REPORT—ROGER

PROPOSED FY17 BUDGET--ROGER

MAFWA/USFWS MONARCH NOFO--OLLIE

MAFWA OPERATIONS MANUAL—OLLIE

MAFWA TREASURER CONTRACT—BOB

CORPORATE AUTHORIZATION RESOLUTION--OLLIE

LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP--OLLIE

OTHER BUSINESS—BOB

2017 MAFWA CONFERENCE--JIM

NEXT MEETING DATE –OLLIE

ADJOURN



Update from Regional Director Tom Melius to State Directors for 2016 MAFWA Summer Meeting

Eastern Massasauga (IA, IL, IN, MI, NY, OH, PA, WI, and Ontario)

- Proposed rule to list as threatened published on September 30, 2015 (under Multi-District Litigation settlement).
- Final determination due September 30, 2016.
- During public comment period for the proposed rule, the Service received a comment to develop a 4(d) rule for human safety. The Service is addressing human health and safety concerns through existing regulations and provisions in the ESA.
- Michigan has submitted a Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances for State lands. The public comment period closed March 24, 2016. The Service's East Lansing Field Office is completing analysis and Biological Opinion for issuance of the Enhancement of Survival permit.

Northwestern Moose (MI, MN, ND, and WI)

- Petition from Center for Biological Diversity and others received July 2015.
- Petition to list the U.S. population of Northwestern subspecies of moose (*Alces alces andersoni*), which occurs in MI, MN, ND, and WI, as a Distinct Population Segment.
- Substantial 90-day finding published on June 3, 2016.
- Comment period closes August 2, 2016.

Monarch Butterfly

- Petition from Center for Biological Diversity and others received August 2014.
- Substantial 90-day finding published on December 31, 2014.
- Species Status Assessment initiated in 2016.
- Currently in settlement negotiations with plaintiffs regarding due date for 12-month petition finding.

Rusty Patched Bumble Bee (IL, IN, OH, PA, ME, MA, MN, NC, WI, and Ontario)

- Petition from the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation received February 2013.
- Published substantial 90-day finding September 18, 2015.
- Species Status Assessment initiated; webinar for States in January 2016.
- 12-month finding due September 30, 2016, per settlement agreement.

What is the Petition Process?

Petitions are formal requests to list a species as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act. We must make a finding within 90 days of receiving a petition (to the extent practicable) as to whether there is "substantial information" indicating that the petitioned listing may be warranted.

If this preliminary finding is positive, we conduct a status review.

Within one year of receipt of the petition, we must make a further finding that the listing either is or is not warranted.

We can incorporate a positive 12-month finding into a proposed listing rule or, if a prompt proposal is precluded by other listing activities, a proposal may be deferred. These "warranted but precluded" determinations require subsequent one-year determinations in each successive year until either a proposed listing rule is published or a "not warranted" finding is made.

Arkansas Darter (AR, CO, KS, MO, and OK)

- 12-month finding due September 30, 2016 (under Multi-District Litigation settlement).

Kirtland's Snake (IL, IN, KY, MI, MO, OH, and PA)

- Petition from Center for Biological Diversity and others received April 2010.
- Substantial 90-day finding published on September 27, 2011.
- Species Status Assessment initiated; 2 webinars for States in November 2015.
- 12-month finding due September 30, 2017, per settlement agreement with petitioners.

Hellbender (Eastern subspecies) (14 States; R3 States are IL, IN, MO, and OH)

- Petition from Center for Biological Diversity and others received April 2010.
- Substantial 90-day finding published on September 27, 2011.
- 12-month finding due September 30, 2018, per settlement agreement with petitioners.
- Species Status Assessment likely to be initiated within 6 months.

Ozark Endemic Crayfishes (AR and MO)

- Petition from Center for Biological Diversity and others received April 2010 for Coldwater crayfish and Mammoth Spring crayfish.
- Substantial 90-day finding published on September 27, 2011.
- Species Status Assessment initiated in 2015.
- 12-month finding for Coldwater crayfish tentatively targeted for September 30, 2018, per draft national listing work plan; 12-month finding for Mammoth Spring crayfish tentatively targeted for September 30, 2020, per draft national listing work plan.
- Coldwater Crayfish assessment will also include Big Creek and St. Francis River crayfishes.

Tri-colored Bat

- Petition to list the bat as threatened or endangered received from Center for Biological Diversity and Defenders of Wildlife on June 14, 2016.

Western Great Lakes Wolf Litigation

- The Service and the Department of Interior have appealed the December 19, 2014 Federal court decision that relisted the western Great Lakes distinct population segment of wolves.
- We filed our Reply Brief on April 11, 2016, and all briefing concluded on June 8, 2016. No oral argument has been scheduled.
- The D.C. Circuit typically does not schedule arguments over the summer, so this case will likely be heard in the fall.
- At this point, we speculate that a decision will likely not occur until late 2016, at the earliest.

Northern Long-eared Bat Litigation

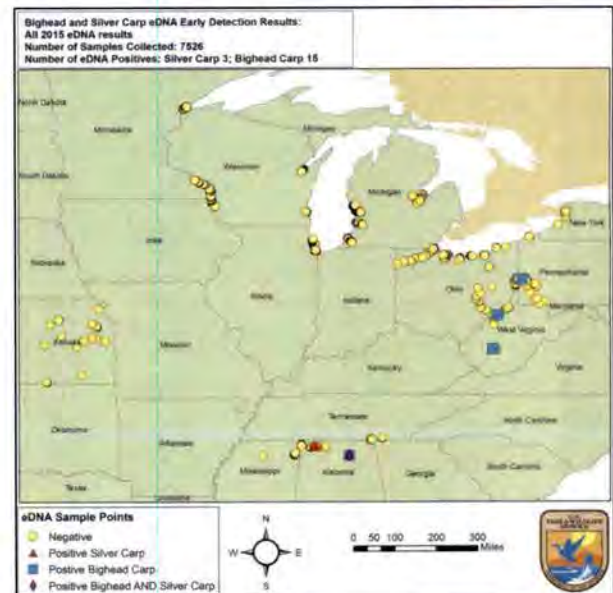
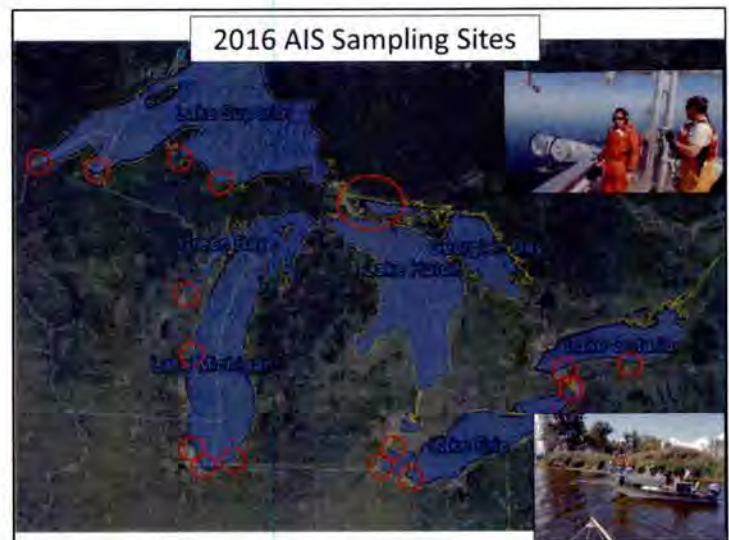
- The Service and the Department of Interior received two separate complaints from the Center of Biological Diversity and Defenders of Wildlife.
- Challenges the threatened listing determination, (4)d rule, and biological opinion.
- Solicitor's response due to Center for Biological Diversity on July 1; Defenders of Wildlife due July 15.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Midwest Region: Asian Carp Management in the Great Lakes, Ohio River, and Upper Mississippi River Basins

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) works with its partners to address the threat of Asian carp (Bighead, Silver, Black, and Grass Carp) in the Great Lakes (GLB), Ohio River (ORB) and upper Mississippi River (UMRB) basins. Building on the recommendations of the national-scope "Management and Control Plan for Bighead, Black, Grass, and Silver Carps in the United States" (National Plan) of 2007, the Service is playing a lead role in the coordination and development of collaborative Asian carp basinwide partnerships and prevention strategies, in actively providing technical expertise and capacity for on-the-ground detection, prevention, and control initiatives.

Service actions in the Great Lakes Basin:

- Serving with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as co-chair of the 24 member, bi-national Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee (ACRCC), whose mission is to prevent the introduction and establishment of Asian carp in the Great Lakes
- ACRCC recently released:
 - 2016 Asian Carp Action Plan, summarizing 60 high-priority early detection, prevention, and control projects being funded this year
 - 2016 Monitoring and Response Plan (MRP), the annual interagency tactical plan focused on defending the Upper Illinois Waterway (IWW), Chicago Area Waterway System (CAWS), and Great Lakes from the advance of Asian carp
 - Developed by the ACRCC's Monitoring and Response Work Group; now includes new rapid response "contingency plans" for potential use in the event of the detection of Asian carp in navigation pools in the upper IWW
- Leading interagency partnership efforts to monitor for the potential presence of Asian carp using eDNA technology (Whitney Genetics Laboratory in Lacrosse, WI)
- Conducting field monitoring for various life stages of Asian carp adjacent to, upstream, and downstream of the Corps of Engineers electric dispersal barrier in Chicago, IL
- Investigating potential entrainment and transport of small fish by barges in the IWW
- Providing leadership on communications with partners and stakeholders on Asian carp issues as co-chair of the ACRCC Communications Work Group and administrator of the AsianCarp.us website
- Collaborating with U.S. Geological Survey, Corps of Engineers and others to develop and deploy potential new control tools such as carbon dioxide, complex sound and selective fish toxicants



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Midwest Region: Asian Carp Management in the Great Lakes, Ohio River, and Upper Mississippi River Basins

In 2015-2016, some upstream movement of Asian Carp toward Lake Michigan was observed in the IWW, with the current observed northern range of adult Bighead and Silver Carp located approximately 47 miles from Lake Michigan. However, to date, only Grass Carp have been captured or detected directly in the Great Lakes (excluding historical records of three Bighead Carp captured in western Lake Erie in 1995 and 2000).

Service actions in the Upper Mississippi River Basin and Ohio River Basins:

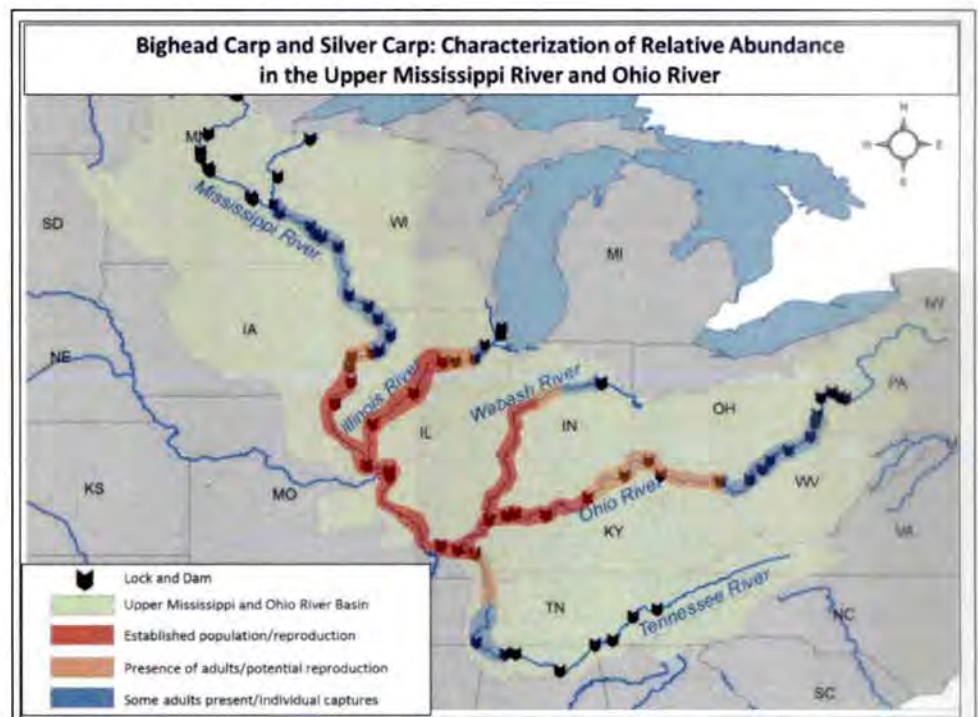
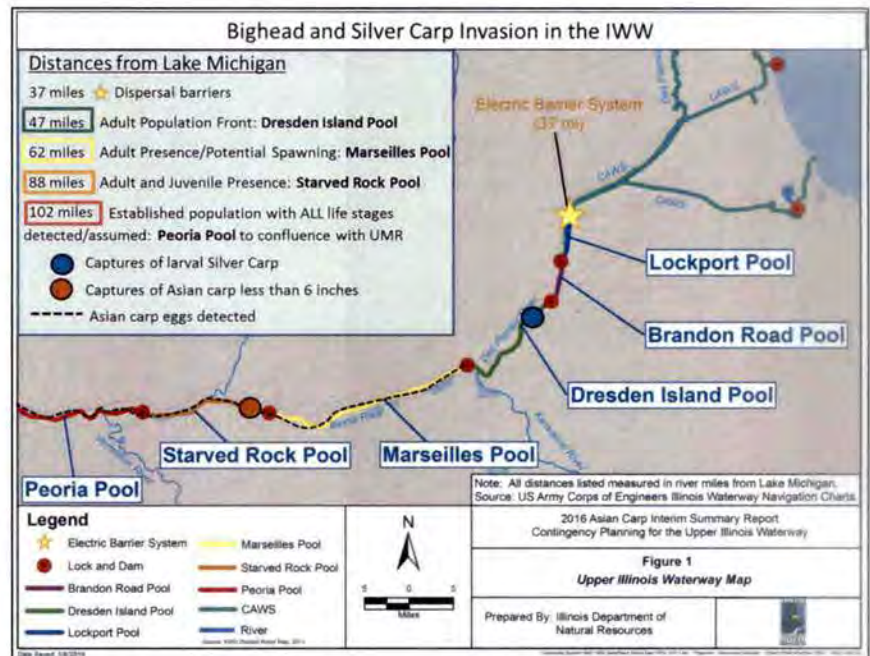
- Coordinating with State and Federal partners in support of the National Plan goals for Asian carp management, and direction provided in the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (WRRDA), Section 1039
 - Called for enhanced interagency collaboration and Service leadership to prevent the further expansion of Asian carp in the UMRB and ORB, and annual reporting of accomplishments
- Collaborating with MICRA and other partners to identify priority project needs, develop annual work plans, and provide funding for on-the-ground early detection, prevention, and control activities
- Leading development of annual WRRDA Report to Congress summarizing all Federal and State agency activities and expenditures for Asian carp in management in the UMRB and ORB (Report)

The figure to the right is from the 2015 Report, which summarizes July 2014 through September 2015.

In 2016, the Service will continue to work closely with its partners to identify needs, and to develop and implement highest-priority projects in the GLB, UMRB and ORB, with available resources. This includes leveraging and sharing new developments and lessons-learned between basin partnerships and cooperating agencies to maximize return-on-investment, and support goals and objectives of basinwide Asian carp strategies and the National Plan.

For additional information, please contact

Todd Turner, ARD Fisheries, Midwest Region, 612-713-5127, Todd.Turner@fws.gov.





BLUE RIBBON PANEL

ON SUSTAINING AMERICA'S DIVERSE FISH & WILDLIFE RESOURCES





Blue Ribbon Panel

*CHARGE: Recommend a mechanism
to sustainably fund the conservation of
ALL fish and wildlife*

NATIONAL CO-CHAIRS

John Morris, Founder Bass Pro Shops
David Freudenthal, Former Governor Wyoming

Three Meetings Held in 2015

Final Report Released March 2016



L-R: - David Freudenthal and John Morris



BLUE RIBBON PANEL

ON SUSTAINING AMERICA'S DIVERSE FISH & WILDLIFE RESOURCES

PANELISTS

The members of the Blue Ribbon Panel includes many of the top leaders in conservation and business...they all share a commitment to conserving our nation's fish and wildlife resources for the next generation to enjoy.



BLUE RIBBON PANEL

ON SUSTAINING AMERICA'S DIVERSE FISH & WILDLIFE RESOURCES

FUNDING TARGET=IMPLEMENT STATE WILDLIFE ACTION PLANS
Nationally=\$1.3 billion annually in new funding
(Average State Share - \$26 million)





BLUE RIBBON PANEL

ON SUSTAINING AMERICA'S DIVERSE FISH & WILDLIFE RESOURCES

- Funding Criteria Developed (*funding must be dedicated, sustained for at least 10 years, achievable within 5 years, and expand contributor base*)
- *Two Dozen Funding Options Examined*



BLUE RIBBON PANEL

ON SUSTAINING AMERICA'S DIVERSE FISH & WILDLIFE RESOURCES

Recommendations
Released
at the
National Press Club
in Washington DC
on 3/02/2016
#Funding4Wildlife



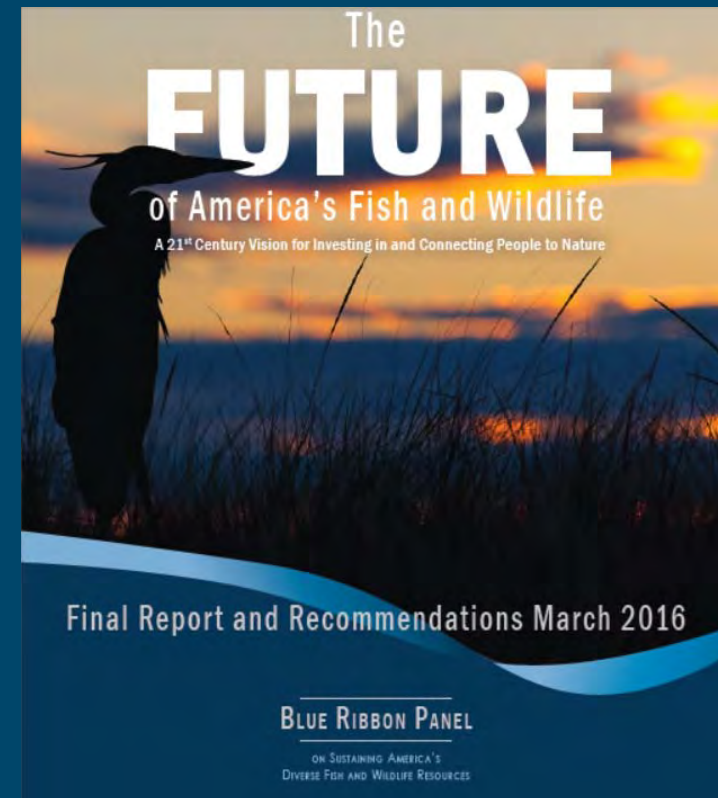
BLUE RIBBON PANEL

ON SUSTAINING AMERICA'S DIVERSE FISH & WILDLIFE RESOURCES

RECOMMENDATION #1

RECOMMENDATION 1

Congress dedicate up to \$1.3 billion annually in existing revenue from the development of energy and mineral resources on federal lands and waters to the Wildlife Conservation Restoration Program (16 U.S.C. 669b(a)).



BLUE RIBBON PANEL

ON SUSTAINING AMERICA'S DIVERSE FISH & WILDLIFE RESOURCES

RECOMMENDATION #2

RECOMMENDATION 2

The Blue Ribbon Panel will examine the impact of societal changes on the relevancy of fish and wildlife conservation and make recommendations on how programs and agencies can transform to engage and serve broader constituencies.

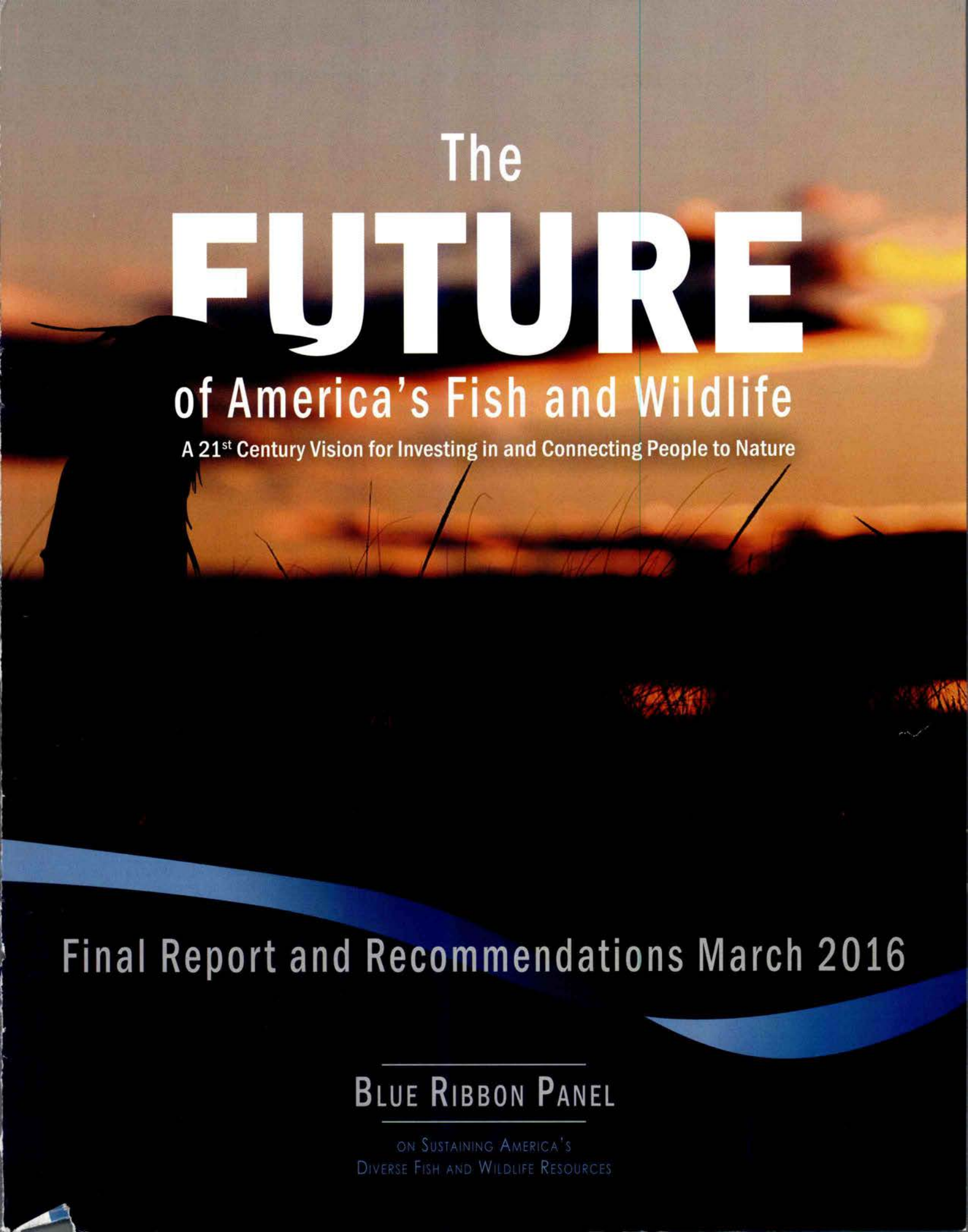


BLUE RIBBON PANEL

ON SUSTAINING AMERICA'S DIVERSE FISH & WILDLIFE RESOURCES

NEXT STEPS

- Introduce Legislation
- Launch Campaign
- Communications (“Telling the State Story”)
- Business Outreach
- Agency Relevancy/Transformation Working Group



The **FUTURE**

of America's Fish and Wildlife

A 21st Century Vision for Investing in and Connecting People to Nature

Final Report and Recommendations March 2016

BLUE RIBBON PANEL

ON SUSTAINING AMERICA'S
DIVERSE FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES

THE FUTURE OF AMERICA'S FISH AND WILDLIFE

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MEMBERS AND THEIR AFFILIATIONS

NATIONAL CO-CHAIRS	John Morris , Noted Conservationist and Founder, of Bass Pro Shops David Freudenthal , Former Governor, State of Wyoming; Senior Counsel, Crowell & Moring
MEMBERS	Kevin Butt , Regional Environmental Director, Toyota Motor Engineering & Manufacturing, NA, Inc. Richard Childress , CEO & Chairman, Richard Childress Racing Enterprises; Board Member NRA Jeff Crane , President, Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation Bruce Culpepper , Executive Vice President, Shell Americas John Doerr , President & CEO, Pure Fishing, Inc. Jim Faulstich , Vice Chair, Partners for Conservation; Owner Daybreak Ranch John Fitzpatrick , Director, Cornell Lab of Ornithology Greg Hill , President & COO, Hess Corporation Becky Humphries , Executive Vice President, National Wild Turkey Federation Stephen Kellert , Professor Emeritus, Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies Jennifer Mull , CEO, Backwoods Equipment, Inc.; President Outdoor Industry Association John Newman , Board Member, Ducks Unlimited, Inc. Mike Nussman , President & CEO, American Sportfishing Association Margaret O'Gorman , President, Wildlife Habitat Council Glenn Olson , Donal O'Brien Chair in Bird Conservation and Public Policy, National Audubon Society Collin O'Mara , President and CEO, National Wildlife Federation Connie Parker , CEO, CSParkergroup; Board Member Teddy Roosevelt Conservation Partnership Charlie Potter , CEO, Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation Steve Sanetti , President & CEO, National Shooting Sports Foundation John Tomke , Chair, Wildlife & Hunting Heritage Conservation Council Jeff Trandahl , Executive Director & CEO, National Fish & Wildlife Foundation James Walker , Board Vice Chairman, EDF Renewable Energy; Board Member American Wind Wildlife Institute Steve Williams , President, Wildlife Management Institute Bob Ziehmer , Director, Missouri Department of Conservation
EX OFFICIO MEMBERS	Michael Bean , Principal Deputy Asst. Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks, US Department Interior Ronald Regan , Executive Director, Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies

FOREWORD

Fish and wildlife have been central to our work and our lives. Whether it's providing gear for the outdoor enthusiast, governing a state with a rich outdoor heritage or simply spending quality time in the outdoors, we can't imagine a world without fish and wildlife.

Our generation has been blessed with abundant elk, wild turkeys and a diversity of sport fish—but this has not always been the case. A century ago, most game species were imperiled and our nation was facing a fish and wildlife crisis. Fortunately hunters, anglers and the shooting sports and fishing industries rose to the occasion and secured funding so the states could do the important work of restoring and managing fish and wildlife. This remarkable partnership led to one of the greatest conservation success stories the world has known.

Yet what is hidden from most Americans is another impending fish and wildlife crisis. For every game species that is thriving, hundreds of nongame species are in decline. Unlike the conservation finance system that was created for game and sport fish, there is no comparable funding mechanism to manage the majority of fish and wildlife under state stewardship. As a result, thousands of species of birds, frogs, turtles and even the iconic monarch butterfly are slipping through the cracks and could become endangered in the future.

Equally alarming to us is the growing disconnection between people and nature. Today, children and adults spend far less time in nature which is affecting their physical and mental health and untying a bond with the outdoors that helps ensure there is a next generation of conservationists. If this trend continues, fewer Americans will understand the importance of or need for fish and wildlife conservation.

David Freudenthal

Former Governor,
State of Wyoming

John Morris

Founder of
Bass Pro Shops



We asked a distinguished group of business and conservation leaders to help solve a problem plaguing the conservation community for decades. In this report, the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources recommends a new funding approach that will help ensure all fish and wildlife are conserved for future generations.

A lot is at stake if we don't act soon. Every American benefits when we have healthy and accessible fish and wildlife. We need to start down a new path where we invest proactively in conservation rather than reactively. Doing so will help us avoid contentious endangered species battles that inhibit business, slow the economy and pass on the high cost of species recovery to the next generation. We invite you to join us in our quest to advance a 21st century vision for fish and wildlife conservation.



WE BELIEVE IN SUSTAINING FISH AND WILDLIFE

Our nation's fish and wildlife are one of its most valuable assets. Our quality of life, outdoor heritage and prosperity are tied to the health and sustainability of these treasures. Yet, we are facing an impending fish and wildlife crisis that could alter future Americans' opportunity to benefit from these resources.

For decades, thousands of species of native birds, mammals, fish, frogs, turtles and insects have been slipping through the cracks because we lack a financial safety net to ensure their long-term survival. Threats such as habitat loss, invasive species, extreme weather and disease are taking an increasing toll. Today, over 12,000 species of fish and wildlife have been designated as species in greatest conservation need.

Compounding this problem are societal changes that are altering the connection between people and nature. Over 80 percent of Americans now live in urban environments and we spend an average of 11 hours a day on electronics. These changes and others are affecting the quantity and quality of time spent in contact with nature. This growing separation and aversion to the natural world is affecting our citizens' health and their understanding and appreciation of the natural environment.

Healthy habitats benefit more than just fish and wildlife. An environment managed sustainably for fish and wildlife helps safeguard the air we breathe, the water we drink, the food we eat, the scenery we view and the \$646 billion outdoor recreation economy. As our nation's population increases, so does the stress we put on our shared natural resources. When a species is pushed to the brink and becomes endangered, taxpayers are burdened with the cost of recovery, businesses face greater regulatory uncertainty and society risks losing a piece of the natural environment that we will never get back.

The states are entrusted with ensuring the health of our nation's fish and wildlife. Today, most are not able to meet this immense and important challenge because our conservation funding system is outdated and insufficient to conserve the majority of species under their care. Inadequate funding also limits efforts to inform and engage people to instill appreciation in fish and wildlife. If we don't modernize our system of conservation funding soon, thousands of additional species will become endangered and there may be far too few citizens in the future who will notice or care.

In the 1930s, the nation was mired in the Great Depression and the bounty of wildlife that greeted the first European settlers was rapidly dwindling. The need for restoration was urgent, but funding was scarce. Hunters and the shooting sports industry united with state fish and wildlife agencies, conservation groups, gardeners, women's clubs, birders and others to rally Congress to dedicate funding from an excise tax on guns and ammunition to restore game populations. In later years, the sport fishing and boating industries followed suit by establishing a similar tax on fishing gear and motorboat fuels to fund the restoration of our nation's sport fish. This historic collaboration is unparalleled and is the reason why we have thriving populations of white-tailed deer, wild turkey, largemouth bass and other game and sport fish species today.

This remarkable success story demonstrates that in times of need, private citizens, government and business can work together to find an innovative solution to solve a significant conservation challenge. A similar collaboration is needed today to address the crisis facing thousands of species that are not hunted and fished and to help reconnect people with nature. We believe a 21st century conservation funding system is needed now to safeguard our nation's fish and wildlife.

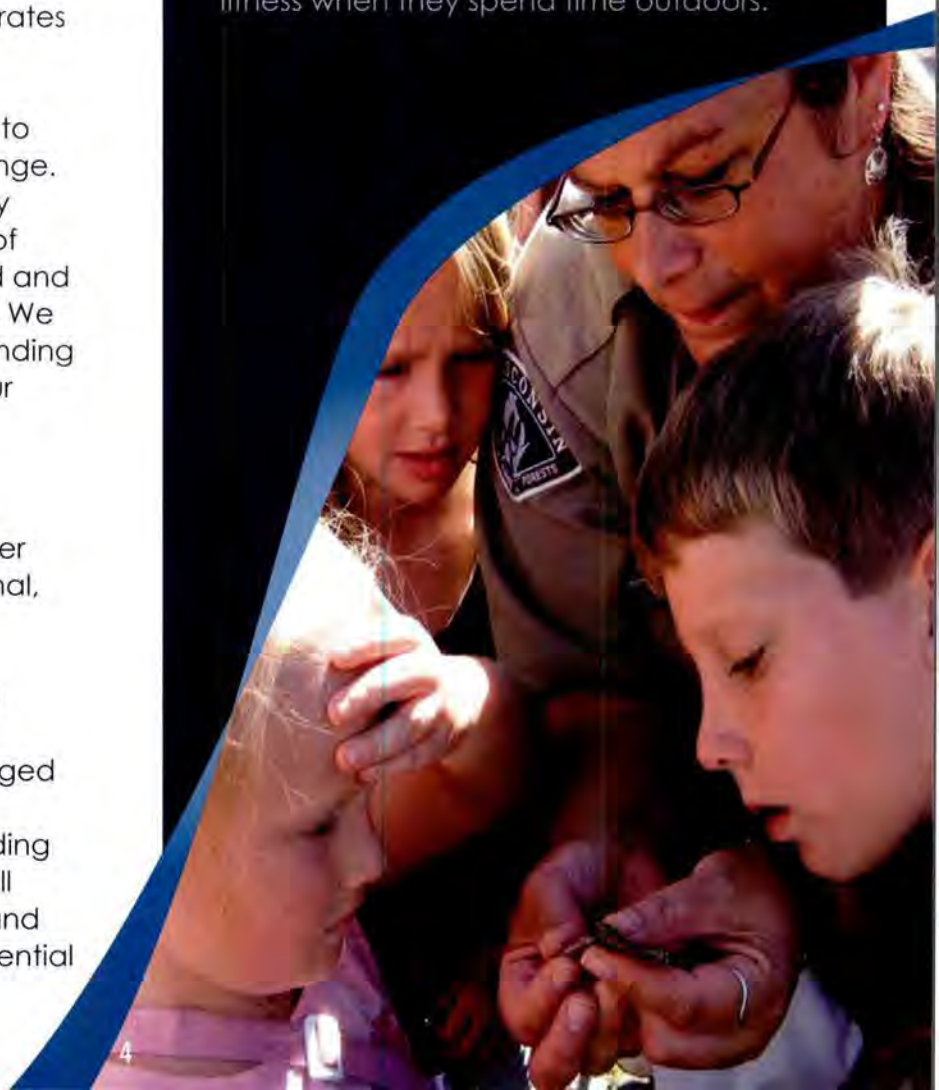
About the Blue Ribbon Panel

In September 2014, John Morris, Founder of Bass Pro Shops and David Freudenthal, former governor of Wyoming asked business and conservation leaders to join them on the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources. The Panel was charged with examining the current system of conservation funding and recommending a new mechanism that will conserve all fish and wildlife. After three meetings and consideration of nearly two dozen potential

funding options, the Panel agreed on two recommendations that will help set a new course for fish and wildlife conservation in this country.

Benefits of Connecting People (Especially Kids) with Nature

When we spend time in nature, we accrue physical and mental health benefits. Even a short amount of time in nature each day can improve concentration, reduce stress, lower blood pressure and improve mental health, all of which can help prevent disease. Some of the greatest health benefits are seen in children who are better able to complete tasks, follow directions, think critically and have improved physical fitness when they spend time outdoors.



If we've learned any lessons during the past few decades, perhaps the most important is that preservation of our environment is not a partisan challenge; it's common sense. Our physical health, our social happiness, and our economic well-being will be sustained only by all of us working in partnership as thoughtful, effective stewards of our natural resources.

- President Ronald Reagan



Benefits of Enhanced Ecosystem Services

Our natural environment provides benefits that help make life possible. These benefits include clean air and water, food, fiber, medicine, storm protection, soil retention, carbon storage, pollination, recreation and other attributes. These benefits often do not carry price tags, are not traded on the stock exchange and are hard to quantify. Yet, our use of and need for these life-supporting services is imperative. Worldwide, these ecosystem services are valued minimally at \$18 trillion per year.

WE BELIEVE

THERE IS A FISH AND WILDLIFE CRISIS

The recovery of the nation's game and sport fish is one of our greatest conservation success stories. This achievement was possible because hunters, archers, recreational shooters, anglers, boaters and their industries banded together to support a tax on their products to finance fish and wildlife conservation. Today, this funding provides over a billion dollars to the states to monitor fish and wildlife, conduct research, protect and manage habitat and deliver quality access for hunting and fishing. This funding along with hunting and fishing license fees, serves as the primary source of revenue for most state fish and wildlife agencies.

There is no similar source of dedicated funding for thousands of species that are not hunted or fished. As a result, an increasing number of species are becoming rare and imperiled. In the coming years, thousands of species could be added to the list of federal threatened and endangered species. Nearly 1,600 species of animals and plants are already listed and the states have identified over 12,000 species in their State Wildlife Action Plans that are in greatest conservation need. The 20th century model of funding was never designed to meet the 21st century demands of fish and wildlife conservation.

Decades of inadequate funding have prevented the states from implementing the proven, cost effective strategies needed to keep fish and wildlife healthy. It costs taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars each year to restore threatened and endangered species, outlays that might be avoided or greatly reduced if proactive conservation measures were implemented first. The cost of complying with endangered species regulations and lost revenue from project delays also impacts business. A new vision for fish and wildlife funding is needed that will allow a greater number citizens to be investors in fish and wildlife conservation.

CONNECTICUT'S COMPREHENSIVE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION STRATEGY



State of Connecticut
Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Natural Resources

State Wildlife Action Plans - Blue Prints for Conserving Fish and Wildlife

Each State, territory and the District of Columbia have created comprehensive State Wildlife Action Plans. These science-based plans, developed in collaboration with conservation partners, lay out the key threats to fish and wildlife and the actions needed to conserve over 12,000 species in greatest conservation need and their habitats. Development of the plans in 2005 was a historic accomplishment but implementation has been curtailed because of a lack of funding.

WE BELIEVE A SOLUTION IS IN SIGHT

RECOMMENDATION 1

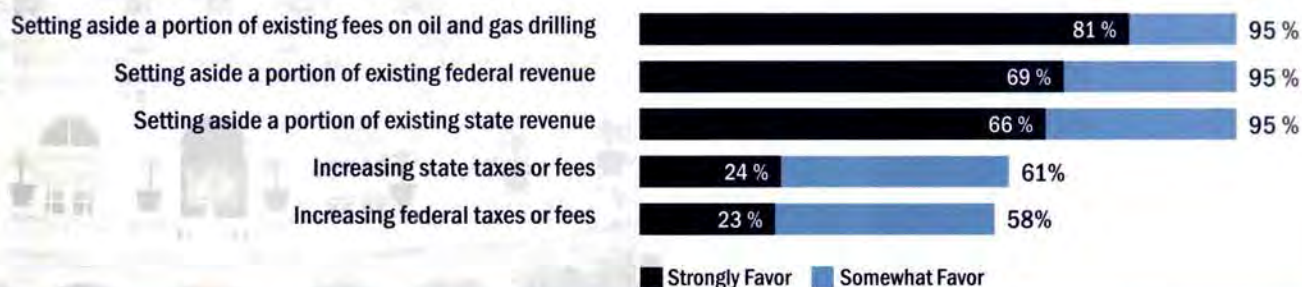
Congress dedicate up to \$1.3 billion annually in existing revenue from the development of energy and mineral resources on federal lands and waters to the Wildlife Conservation Restoration Program (16 U.S.C. 669b(a)).

The Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources recommends that Congress dedicate up to \$1.3 billion annually in existing revenue from the development of energy and mineral resources on federal lands and waters to the Wildlife Conservation Restoration Program. These funds would provide states with the resources needed to implement State Wildlife Action Plans which are designed to conserve 12,000 species in greatest conservation need. Effective implementation of these plans would require an estimated \$1.3 billion in new funding. Without funding, the states will be unable to implement voluntary, non-regulatory measures that have been proven to prevent threatened and endangered species listings.

In 2013, businesses that extracted energy and mineral resources on federal lands and waters paid \$12.3 billion in royalties, fees, and bonus bids to conduct their work. These companies provide vital services to the country by supplying the raw materials needed to fuel our economy and meet consumer demand. The oil, gas and minerals found on federal lands and waters are held in trust and belong to every American. Investing a portion of these proceeds into fish and wildlife conservation is supported by the public and will help ensure that current and future generations share in this wealth.

When advocates are given a range of options to fund State Wildlife Action Plans, they are much more supportive of using existing revenues than tax or fee increases.

Source Public Opinion Strategies - 2006



This mechanism will not require businesses or taxpayers to pay more, but instead allow all Americans to become investors in fish and wildlife conservation.

The funds should be dedicated to the existing, but unfunded, Wildlife Conservation Restoration Program, without displacing or diminishing funding directed to the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The Wildlife Conservation Restoration Program was created by Congress in 2000 to *"extend financial and technical assistance to the States under the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act for the benefit of a diverse array of wildlife and associated habitats, including species that are not hunted or fished, to fulfill unmet needs of wildlife within the States in recognition of the primary role of the States to conserve all wildlife"*. The program allocates funds using a formula, requires nonfederal match and provides states with the flexibility to also implement programs that help people learn about and access fish and wildlife for wildlife viewing, photography and other passive forms of recreation.

In order to build support for increased funding, the role of the states in conserving fish and wildlife needs to be conveyed to the public. The states led the way a century ago when most of the nation's game species were

imperiled and they can keep species from becoming endangered when they have sufficient resources. This story of state-based fish and wildlife conservation is not understood by most Americans. A communication and marketing strategy should be launched to inform the public of the states' role as guardian of our nation's fish and wildlife.

Additionally, strong and diverse grassroots support will be needed to make the case for new funding. The national Teaming With Wildlife coalition was organized two decades ago to support dedicated and sustained funding for fish and wildlife conservation. The coalition includes over 6,400 organizations representing millions of birders, hikers, hunters, anglers, natural resource professionals and others, making it one of the largest and most diverse coalitions ever assembled for a conservation cause. The coalition should be activated and expanded to support the recommendations of this Panel.

Benefits of the outdoors to the economy

Healthy fish and wildlife is good business and contributes to a strong economy. The nation's 90 million hunters, anglers and wildlife watchers spend \$145 billion annually and generate tens of billions of dollars in federal, state and local taxes. Overall, consumers spend \$646 billion on outdoor recreation and provide 6.1 million direct jobs each year.



RECOMMENDATION 2

The Blue Ribbon Panel will examine the impact of societal changes on the relevancy of fish and wildlife conservation and make recommendations on how programs and agencies can transform to engage and serve broader constituencies.

The Blue Ribbon Panel will convene a working group to examine how shifting demographics and changing attitudes about nature are affecting the relevancy of fish and wildlife conservation. As the nation becomes more urban, ethnically and culturally diverse and disconnected from nature, the public's perceptions and values associated with fish and wildlife are changing. Although core constituencies like hunters and anglers will continue to be key allies, there is a need to broaden stakeholder representation to ensure fish and wildlife conservation remains relevant and supported by people from all walks of life.

Every citizen has a stake in and benefits from healthy fish and wildlife, but most have little contact with or understanding of the state agency responsible for their stewardship. To remain relevant, state fish and wildlife agencies will need to transform their structures, operations and cultures to meet the changing expectations of their customers. If state fish and wildlife agencies fail to adapt, their ability to manage fish and wildlife will be hindered and their public and political support compromised.

The working group will solicit input from a team of interdisciplinary experts to better understand the challenges facing fish and wildlife agencies and make recommendations on how to help them transition and transform so they can more effectively serve the needs of all citizens and all fish and wildlife.



SUCCESS STORY - BALD EAGLE

A half century ago, our nation's symbol was severely imperiled. The continental population of bald eagles declined from over one hundred thousand nesting eagles to less than 600 pairs. Following nearly four decades of intensive conservation and management, the bald eagle has recovered with nesting pairs now exceeding 10,000.

SUCCESS STORY - ARCTIC GRAYLING

In 1994, Montana's arctic grayling was designated a candidate for federal endangered species listing. State and federal agencies and private partners worked together to complete 450 habitat projects impacting 165,000 acres which helped double the arctic grayling population. In 2014 the US Fish and Wildlife Service determined that these efforts precluded the need to federally list the species, providing regulatory certainty for ranchers.

SUCCESS STORY - NEW ENGLAND COTTONTAIL

The New England cottontail, the inspiration for Peter Cottontail, was almost lost due to habitat degradation and competition from the eastern cottontail. In 2006, this species was designated as a candidate for federal Endangered Species Act protection. State and federal agencies, private organizations and private citizens worked together to start a captive breeding program and restore young forest habitats in New England. In 2015, the US Fish and Wildlife Service removed the species from the candidate list.

WE BELIEVE

EVERYONE BENEFITS FROM HEALTHY FISH AND WILDLIFE

A fundamental shift in how we finance fish and wildlife conservation is needed. We invest far too little in conservation until a species is in trouble and "emergency room" care is required. This flawed approach drives up costs, puts fish and wildlife at great risk and creates an environment of regulatory uncertainty for business.

The Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources has a solution. Dedicating a portion of federal royalties and fees from mineral and energy development in proactive fish and wildlife conservation would stem the flow of endangered species listings and make every American an investor in this important work. New funding would also provide resources to states to help reconnect people with nature and improve access to the outdoors to improve health and cultivate the next generation of conservationists.

The fish and wildlife resources that are part of our rich natural heritage are here because of the vision, passion and commitment of the conservationists who preceded us. Our generation will be judged by the state in which we leave these resources to the next. We must pick one of two paths. Do we proactively invest in conservation to ensure fish and wildlife are sustained or saddle the next generation with the high cost of recovering the species whose care we neglected. We believe that the right path is to begin investing NOW in a 21st century vision for fish and wildlife.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS/CREDITS

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TO LEARN MORE

About the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources contact:



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