

Agenda
Midwest Public Lands Management Working Committee
Big Cedar Lodge
Ridgedale, MO
May 22 & 23, 2002

Introductions and Attendees:

Russ Titus-MO, Brad Jump-MO, Bill Phillips-MO, Rob Manes-WMI, Bob Dolan-Iowa, Jeff Hoffman-NE, Daylan Figgs-NE, Bill May-Ohio, Bill Bean-IN, Pat Brandon-KY, Tom Beissel-IL, Ken Herring-Iowa, Robert Barbee-KS. States not represented include: Colorado, North Dakota, South Dakota, Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Canadian Provinces.

^ **Action Item:** MO is responsible for follow-up letters after this meeting.

^ **Action Item:** Chairman (Titus) will send report on 2002 meeting to Directors 30 days prior to Midwest Directors meeting

Old Business:

Three letters generated as a result of the 2001 meeting had not received a response as the 2002 meeting began. Rob Manes thinks the International assigned a committee to look into the Midwest Director's concerns that NEPA is a barrier to management, used by some groups to stop management activities, especially on Federal lands. The annual committee report to the directors should include an update on these letters.

Robert Barbee-KS added that even discing is shut down by "SHPO" as part of NEPA process.

Bill Bean -IN . . .same problem.

Tom Beissel -IL "CERP" process works well to protect management actions in the field.

KS-Robert Barbee COE is being more stringent on their land than NEPA.

Rob Manes WMI recommended a reasonable documented process on file. Courts will support this kind of model. Ken Herring- compatible use.

^ **Action Item:** Rob Manes will ensure International is looking at archeological/historical aspects of NEPA

□ **Action Item:** Rob Manes will contact Tom Neibauer and report to group.

The group discussed the USFWS guidelines that govern activities such as field trials some states reported as follows:

-IL. Tom Beissel Illinois is dealing with these activities on a site by site basis.

□Green River□ Amendment to add controlled hunting back to Green River. Tom

Beissel gave a short presentation on the controlled hunt proposal on Green River.

-IN. Bill Bean gave report and update on Indiana field trail status and put and take pheasant status.

-KY. Pat Brandon KY designated four areas for field trials only. Put and take pheasant hunting . . . hunters pay \$10 to apply. Going to private industry and operators only to provide services.

States vary in implementation of put and take hunting and should be a states rights issue. Privatization has been a success in some states. There should be an emphasis on resource management first.

One of the letters sent dealt with Hunting, Fishing, and Trapping opportunities on USFWS lands.

^ **Action Item:** Letters sent in February from directors received no response. (Rob Manes, Ken Herring comments:) Need to ensure that USFWS lands are managed at the same level as adjacent state land. . .not more restrictive. USFWS should request state input before USFWS develops plan/pre-scoping process.

Loss of Habitat on USFS lands. . .NEPA Again was the focus on one of the letters.

^ **Action Item:** Letter sent to chief of USFS received no response. Need to ask directors to solicit response and if need be cc Representatives.

In closing, encouraged state biologists to get involved with the USFS when plans are developed.

New Business:

Committee by-laws were discussed.

^ **Action Item:** Review by laws and discuss at next meeting. . . send e-mail copies of by-laws to each member before next meeting.

North American Grouse Management Plan. Rob Manes discussed the need for coordinated management efforts in and among states. NAGMP accepted by the North American Grouse Partnership. Conceptual plan is developed. Discussion of all grouse species. . .use grouse as □flagship□ species to implement larger grassland/prairie issues and ecological communities. Tie in to bird conservation regions -management plan? Grazing issues. Rangeland. Farm bill is a vehicle to implement private lands management.

^ **Action Item:** Rob Manes will give a presentation to Directors in July requesting the endorse the NAGMP concept. Include/endorse a ruffed grouse plan also.

Rob Manes discussed the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Alliance. . . forest service land

planning and management. The focus is principally about hunting and fishing on National Forest Service lands. The Alliance was established as a way to get hunters and anglers needs presented to USFS. . . broadening scope to include all Fed public lands. This effort has the potential to do a lot of good. WMI is involved on the board of directors. TRCA was influential in North Dakota. (See handout) Funded by private contributions

User conflicts and efforts to resolve them were discussed, mostly as informational. Motorized vs. non-motorized vehicle use as well as secondary uses such as ATVs, snowmobiles, paintballing, easements for towers and utilities, horseback riding, remote control airplanes, etc were discussed in a manner that would foster understanding and share solutions.

^ Easements

KS. Old KDOT, KHP agreements sub-leasing to other agencies.

IN Towers are handled as any other easement, with request going through the commission. Interstate commerce law concerns

NE. Jeff Hoffman. State law prohibits the granting of easements unless in best interest of public

^ Horseback riding.

-KS. Designated Trails

-KY. Designated areas only.

-IA. Four horses or fewer as incidental use on most areas, with seasonal restrictions.

-IL. Designated areas only, governed by DNR trail policy.

-NE No restrictions on wildlife management areas.

-OH The only horseback riding on wildlife areas is for field trials.

-MO. Horses are allowed on roads open to vehicular use. Groups larger than 10 require a special use permit.

^ Paint balling.

-IN No Paintballing.

^ Shooting Ranges

- IN Building new ranges on some areas, upgrading older ranges/facilities. 1-2 unsupervised ranges the remainder are "monitored" facilities.

-All states present said they have at least unmanned shooting ranges/plinking areas present on state areas.

-KS. Has range protection law adopted in 2001. Ranges being shut down because of urban development

-IL. One manned public shooting range. Looking at developing others/budget.

- KY. Building tube unmanned ranges. MOA with clubs..
- Ohio. Bill May. Some ranges shut down due to urbanization. Free to those that have hunting license.

^ Camping

- IN. Campgrounds four being shut down due to health/ADA regulations. Remainder will be brought up to standards.

^ Guides

- KS New law for guides to have written permission from landowners.

^ Hunting near residents

- IA. Bob Dolan. Law that no hunting can occur within 200 yards of an occupied building. Impacting public hunting on state lands. Because state lands are very attractive places for adjacent development.
- IL. 300 yd law on private land. 200 yd. on state land.

^ Land Acquisition

- NE. Daylan Figgs. DU/ TNC purchases of priority land acquisition.

^ **Action Item:** Rob Manes will prepare a draft resolution for directors to forward to IAFWA emphasizing that ranges are important, and that dialog is needed with the shooting industry and other stakeholders to address issues including forced closures, recreational demand, funding for building, staffing, and operations and role of ranges on public lands.

^ Organizational issues. Discussion about organizational direction. Organized in two or more ways . . . regional/district and divisional/sectional instead of one or the other . . . Retirements. . . New Directors. Movement away from □hook and bullet□ organization. . . all species. Discussion about non-hunting culture within organizations.

^ T&E species and how that affects management. Concerns were expressed about traditional management procedures that are being challenged that historically benefitted T&E species. The group discussed this issue. These traditional management procedures that provided habitat for T&E species are now being questioned. As wildlife agencies transition into ecosystems management rather than species management, involvement of all agency personnel is important. Agency organization, internal communication, and knowledge and experience about T&E species are vital to providing effective management for all wildlife. The approach towards wildlife management should be an integrated approach from the beginning when preparing management plans. A team approach to writing plans may be the most productive method for reaching management goals. Hiring the right people and providing the right training is an important first step to accomplishing this. The committee recognized that individual states organized their wildlife agencies in different fashions. Some agencies combine the game and non-game entities, while others separate them. The organization distinctly affects the efficiency of the operation of the agency. It appears

that those agencies that combine game and non-game within the same section and that use the integrated approach to management planning are the most effective.
The discussion of communications challenges. A clean accurate e-mail group is critical.

- **Action Item:** Russ will send e-mail list to Jeff Hoffman..

Next Year's Meeting: Nebraska - For the convenience of those flying in, location should be near Lincoln or Omaha. The third week of May has worked out well in the past (see bylaws). Suggested dates: May 20 - 22, 2003.