

Midwest Associations of Fish and Wildlife Agencies National Conservation Needs (NCN) Report – 2015

Meeting Time and Place: The NCN Committee meets as necessary via teleconference and/or email. Committee members in 2015 are: Jim Douglas (NE) Chair, Scott Zody (MO), and Ed Boggess (MN).

Executive Summary: The NCN Committee was created in 2004 and charged to be familiar with the NCN and Multi-State Grant Program (MSCGP) processes and annually counsel the MAFWA on submitting NCNs.

On November 18, 2015 MAFWA leaders were notified and reminded that each regional association may submit one NCN for consideration and encouraged to submit draft language for proposals to the NCN Committee by January 14, 2015.

For the 2016 grant cycle, one proposal for submission was received by the NCN Committee. The MAFWA Ad Hoc Feral Swine Committee submitted a proposal to “Improve benefits for fish, wildlife and their habitats through evaluation of efficacious management strategies for feral swine.” (See attached.) The proposal was approved by the Executive Committee for submittal with a 5-0 conference call vote on January 29. A letter was subsequently submitted by Executive Director Ollie Torgerson.

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

Director Information Items: The MSCGP is very important and its success hinges on the willingness and ability of the members of AFWA committees and regional associations to directly participate. For this reason, the MAFWA NCN Committee will continue to vigorously pursue MAFWA membership understanding and engagement of the process by: 1) regular communications to MAFWA members about the process and related deadlines for submittals, 2) assisting with the development of draft NCNs according to AFWA guidelines, and 3) facilitating review of the LOI, if requested by the MAFWA President or Executive Committee.

Respectfully submitted by Jim Douglas, Chair; June 12, 2015

MAFWA Ad Hoc Feral Swine Committee

Proposed NCN for the 2016 Multistate Conservation Grant Program

Title:

Improve benefits for fish, wildlife, and their habitats through evaluation of efficacious management strategies for feral swine.

Statement of Need:

The spread of invasive feral swine throughout the United States has been exacerbated by their illicit translocation and release for the purpose of establishing recreational hunting opportunities. Efficacious management strategies used to counter the spread of feral swine and control their abundance are only as effective as the public support they garner. In general, the public understands that feral swine pose multi-faceted threats to natural resources, but there is a critical lack of effective outreach describing their anthropogenic spread and how presumptive support of possibly ineffective management strategies may contribute more to the issue than to a solution.

Desired Proposals:

Grant proposals should address this NCN through research that will evaluate efficacious management strategies for feral swine, prioritizing human dimensions of public support for control schemes and regulatory frameworks. Such research would foster economical implementation and efficacy in reducing existing populations and preventing the continuing spread of invasive feral swine to new areas.

Desired Outcomes / Expected Benefits:

Multistate Conservation Grant Program research on invasive feral swine will provide state, federal, and private resource managers with empirical documentation revealing strengths and weaknesses of varying management strategies as they relate to public sentiment and dissimilar levels of invasion by state, and provide science-based recommendations for unifying economical and efficacious management strategies as they apply locally, regionally, and nationally.