

**1ST MEETING OF THE
NATIONAL WILD PHEASANT TECHNICAL
COMMITTEE**

***IMPLEMENTING THE NATIONAL WILD PHEASANT
CONSERVATION PLAN***



HOSTED BY THE WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE

**SEPTEMBER 15-18, 2014
HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS
WALLA WALLA, WA**

**JOEY J. McCANNA, CHAIR
CORRIE THORNE HADLEY, SECRETARY**

2014 REPORT
1ST NATIONAL WILD PHEASANT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING

**THE NATIONAL WILD PHEASANT STUDY GROUP IS A TECHNICAL WORKING COMMITTEE OF
THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES**

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STATE REPORTS



National Wild Pheasant Technical Committee

Colorado Idaho Indiana Illinois Iowa Kansas Michigan Minnesota Missouri
Montana Nebraska New Mexico New York North Dakota Ohio Oklahoma
Oregon Pennsylvania South Dakota Texas Utah Washington Wisconsin

AGENDA

1ST National Wild Pheasant Technical Committee Meeting
September 15-18, 2014
Holiday Inn Express
1433 West Pine Street
Walla Walla, Washington 99362

Monday, September 15, 2014

4:00 pm – 10:00 pm: Check-in

7:00 pm – 10:00 pm: Evening Social (Snacks)

Tuesday, September 16, 2014

7:00 am – 8:00 am: Breakfast (Provided by Holiday Inn Express)

8:00 am – 12:00 pm: Morning Session

Introduction - Joey J. McCanna and Nate Pamplin, WDFW

State Status Reports – Group

10:00 am – 10:15 am: Break

10:15 am – 11:00 am: Probability of Detecting Crowing Pheasants at Variable Distances and Observer Variability in Detecting Wild Pheasants – Scott Klinger, Pennsylvania

11:00 am – 12:00 pm: CRP Initiatives in Washington State – Don Larsen, WDFW Private Land Coordinator

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm: Lunch (Provided by Puget Sound Pheasants Forever)

1:00 pm – 6:00 pm: Afternoon Session

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm: Evaluation of Pheasant Crowing Counts for CRP SAFE Evaluations – Todd Bogenschutz, Iowa

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm: Pheasant Imprinting Study in Washington – Brian Koepke, Washington State University Grad Student

3:30 pm – 6:00 pm: Walla Walla Gun Club Clay Target Shoot and BBQ

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

7:00 am – 8:00 am: Breakfast (Provided by Holiday Inn Express)

8:00 am – 12:00 pm: Morning Session

8:00 am – 9:00 am: Michigan Pheasant Restoration Initiative: Case study – Al Stewart, Michigan

9:00 am – 10:00 am: Washington Hunter Access and GO HUNT Programs –Brian Calkins, Washington

10:00 am – 10:15 am: Break

10:15 am – 11:15 am: Native Grass and Forb Restoration – Mel Asher, BFI Native Seeds, Moses Lake Washington

11:15 am – 12:00 pm: History of the Walla Walla Valley – Nathan Riley, Historian

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm: Lunch (Provided by Puget Sound Pheasants Forever)

1:00 pm – 6:00 pm: Afternoon Session

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm: Western Washington Game Farm and Pheasant Release Program – Chris White, Washington

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm: Spent Lead Shot Ingestion by Pheasants – Travis Runia, South Dakota

3:00 pm – 6:00 pm: Field Trip – Habitat Tour of Farm Bill Programs, WDFW and Local Pheasants Forever Habitat Work (Dinner Provided by Blue Mountain Pheasants Forever Chapter)

Thursday, September 18, 2014

7:00 am – 8:00 am: Breakfast (Provided by Holiday Inn Express)

8:00 am – 12:00 pm: Morning Session

8:00 am – 9:00 am: Habitat Initiative Push Forward From National Wild Pheasant Conservation Plan - Todd Bogenschutz, Iowa

9:00 am – 10:00 am: By-Laws Update and Discussion - Budd Veverka, Indiana

10:00 am – 10:30 am: Update on Progress Updating the National Wild Pheasant Conservation Plan – Travis Runia, South Dakota

10:30 am – 10:45 am: Finalize Who Will be Hosting 2015 Meeting

10:45 am – 11:00 am: Final Thoughts and Meeting Adjournment

Lunch on Your Own



National Wild Pheasant Technical Committee

Colorado Idaho Indiana Illinois Iowa Kansas Michigan Minnesota Missouri
Montana Nebraska New Mexico New York North Dakota Ohio Oklahoma
Oregon Pennsylvania South Dakota Texas Utah Washington Wisconsin

MEETING SUMMARY

1ST NATIONAL WILD PHEASANT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Fourteen Members from states including (IA, ID, IN, KS, MN, MT, NE, OK, OH, OR, PA, SD, UT & WA) attended the National Wild Pheasant Technical Committee meeting, along with representatives from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Regional Pheasants Forever and Blue Mountain Pheasants Forever chapter.



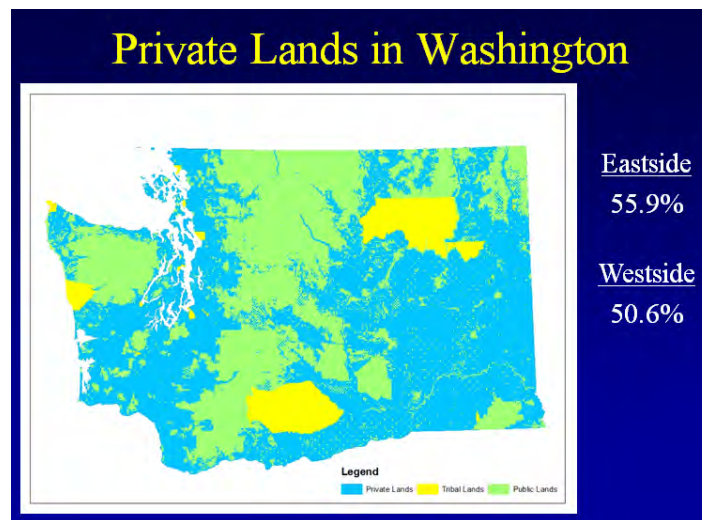
Guests were welcomed Monday evening to a social hour located at the Holiday Inn Express with hors d'oeuvres and beverages donated by the Puget Sound Pheasants Forever and the Walla Walla Blue Mountain Pheasants Forever chapters.

Tuesday morning began with formal introductions and welcome by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's Wildlife Program Assistant Director Nathan Pamplin. Additional attendees included Steve Pozzanghera, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Region 1, Regional Director, Pheasants Forever Regional Field Representative Ryan Storm and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Private Land Biologist's Corrie Thorne Hadley, Erik Lewis and Jason Earl.

Following introductions, state representatives delivered their state reports, summarizing last year's hunting activities, ongoing management activities, and current pheasant research (Appendix 1).

The morning continued with a presentation by Scott Klinger, Pennsylvania Game Commission on the Probability of Detecting Crowing Pheasants at Variable Distances and Observer Variability in Detecting Wild Pheasants. In Pennsylvania, crowing counts are used for monitoring long term trends in pheasant population numbers. The state's goal is to have 10 hens per square mile with monitoring being done over a span of 10 years to determine the status of the population. Rooster crow counts begin mid-April to mid-May at random points identifying roosters and flushing surveys identifying sex ratio coming into the spring and auditory crow counts to estimate pheasant density. Ambient noise created a change in probability of detection as well as the observer's hearing ability due to the intensity of the pheasant crow. Crowing counts were performed within a 3 minute time frame with wind less than 10 miles per hour and a hearing distance of no more than a half a mile, all beginning 10 minutes before sunrise. Cloud cover did not influence crowing rate.

Ending the morning was a presentation from Don Larsen, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Private Lands Coordinator, presenting CRP Initiatives in Washington State.



Private lands in Washington state total 55.9% on the East side of the state and 50.6% on the West side. In Walla Walla County alone, there is 125,000 acres enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and with the latest sign up 43 accepting 1,437 offers accepted bring the total to 225,037 CRP acres. The Primary Nesting Season that is observed in Washington is April 1 through July. Shrub-steppe was historically the most abundant habitat in the Columbia River Basin of Washington. Declines in abundance and quality of shrub-steppe have coincided with declines in the populations of many species including the greater sage-grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*).

CRP and other conservation programs are currently the largest-scale efforts to restore grassland and shrub-steppe habitat in the Columbia River Basin. With the implementation of Shrub-Steppe and Sage-Grouse SAFE (State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement), the greater sage-grouse populations are monitored annually so that populations can be examined as a response to farm conservation programs. Nesting for the greater Sage-Grouse is found 41% in CRP. The SAFE program is similar to CRP except that it is tailored to benefit greater sage-grouse with a diverse mix of native grasses and forbs.

Following lunch, Todd Bogenschutz, Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) presented information on Evaluation of Pheasant Crowing Counts for CRP SAFE Evaluations. Todd's research in Iowa has focused on United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Bill programs and their impacts on upland wildlife populations. IDNR has also worked closely with Iowa State University to develop a spatially explicit, individually based habitat model to determine the impact of various USDA programs, primarily CRP, on pheasant populations. Pheasant population trends in Iowa have been mixed, but declining, over the past 40 years.

Ending the day of presentations was Brian Koepke, Washington State University (WSU) Graduate Student presenting on Pheasant Imprinting Study in Washington. Brian first identified factors that are involved in decline of pheasant populations; habitat loss and habitat degradation, agricultural intensification, mono-cultural agricultural production and elimination of weedy field borders. Larger farm and fields made small fragments of remaining grassland less diverse, herbicides decreasing amount of cover and food sources for grassland bird species in turn resulting in low plant diversity, decline in arthropods and declining chick survival. Brian then purchased 170 ring-necked pheasant eggs, 21 days into the egg cycle and transported them to the Experimental Animal Laboratory Building Vivarium at WSU where the eggs were placed in a brooder at 37.5° C for the last 2-3 days of egg cycle.

Before hatching, Brian began to imprint with chicks using methods of Kimmel and Healy (1987), Palmer (1995), and Doxon and Carroll (2010) which involved talking, singing and whistling to the eggs up to 10 hours a day. Groups of 3-5 chicks foraged in each treatment plots that were identified on four different farms. The chicks foraged for 30-40 minutes, 54 chicks total then humanely euthanized to obtain diet information from gut contents. 42 plant species identified during frequency measurements across farms and treatments including 30 plant species in native forb planting (18 forb species and 12 grass species) and 31 plant species in exotic forb planting (21 forb species and 10 grass species). 24 plant species in control planting treatment consisted of 9 forb species and 15 grass species. Nine orders and 15 families of arthropods were consumed by pheasant chicks across farms and treatments. Orders: Hymenoptera, Hemiptera, Coleoptera were the majority consumed with the family Cicadellidae most consumed.

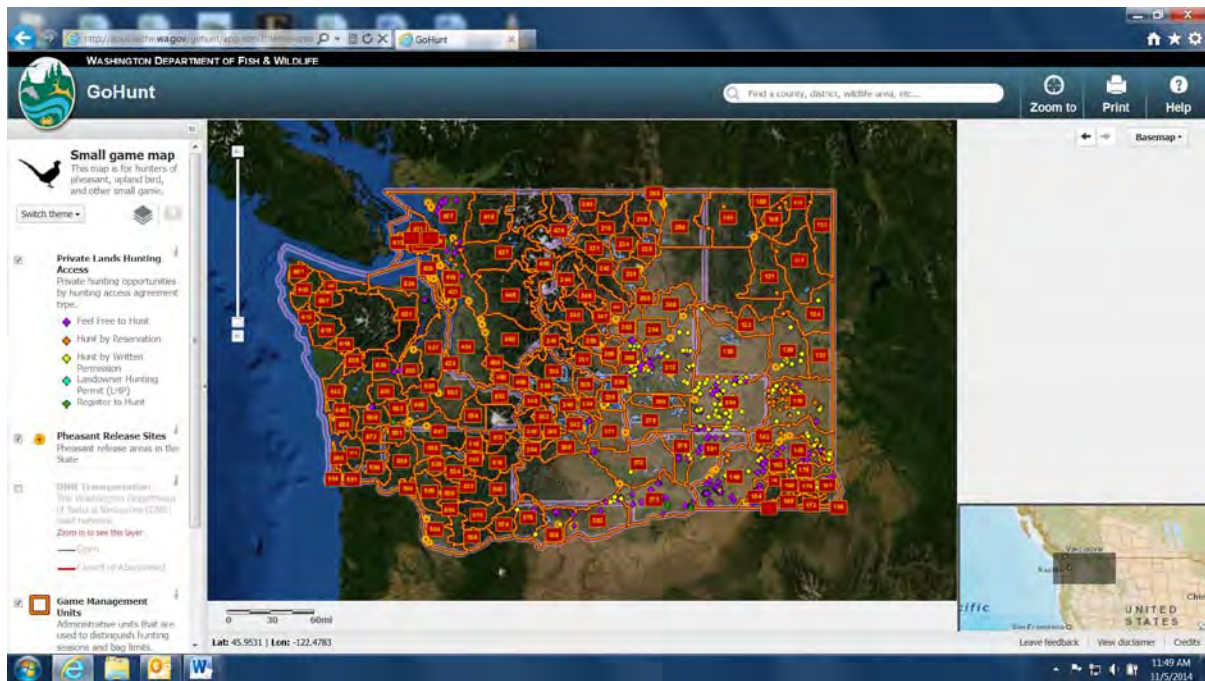
In Brian's conclusion the ring-necked pheasant chicks did not consume a high proportion of insects as has been shown in all studies on this gallinaceous bird species and high overall plant species richness across treatments and frequency of forb species that provide a readily available and less energy intensive (compared with tracking down insects and other arthropods) source of foliage, seeds, blossoms for chicks to consume is likely the reason for chicks consuming a high percentage of plant material. Lower overall plant species richness and less forb species in the control planting treatment could explain why chicks traveled further foraging in the control planting treatment than the native forb or exotic forb planting treatments.

At 3:30 pm on Tuesday, the group left the Hotel to travel to the Walla Walla Gun Club for skeet and trap shooting and a hosted BBQ put on by the Walla Walla Gun Club and the Blue Mountain Pheasants Forever Chapter.

Wednesday morning began with a presentation by Al Stewart, Michigan Department of Natural Resources Constitution on Michigan Pheasant Restoration Initiative (MPRI); Case study. Michigan Pheasant Restoration Initiative is a grassroots conservation initiative started in 2011 to address Michigan's declining pheasant population on a landscape scale. It requires partners working together as equals to increase pheasant populations and increase pheasant hunting opportunities. Efforts on both private & public lands provide a plan and direction to positively impact pheasants in a 10 year plan. The process is to identify potential partners and invite them to get involved by demonstration areas, habitat workshops and media.

Development of a plan to impact habitat on a landscape scale would be put together, targeting larger projects in priority areas with the focus on limited resources to maximize impact and use sound science to identify priority areas. MPRI's goal is to impact 200,000 acres by restoring or enhancing 25,000 acres of grassland habitat; increase access to quality pheasant hunting in Michigan on both public and private lands; increase pheasant hunter recruitment and retention 25% by 2020; develop habitat management guidelines and training; develop partnerships to restore wild pheasant populations in suitable habitats across Michigan; population monitoring and research to insure the best management of the pheasant resource and provide sustainable funding and resources necessary to implement the initiative. Michigan's Hunting Access Program has increased enrollment from 47 farms and 7,400 acres to 153 farms and 17,353 acres along with new signage and registration materials, increased law enforcement, a HAP website and MI-Hunt maps and surveys of both landowners & hunters.

Mid-morning presentation was by Brian Calkins, Section Manager Small Game, Furbearers, and Private Lands with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW); Washington Hunter Access and GO HUNT Programs. Over half of Washington is in private ownership. WDFW Private Lands Program began in 1948 with incentives that included technical assistance, habitat enhancements and hunter management. Program size/priority has fluctuated in response to landowner trends. It supports a dual focus: Habitat and Hunting Access with access closely tied to habitat and conflict with Wildlife Conflict being a new aspect. Current program involves an Olympia Section Lead in developing programs including budget and policies. There are 13 Private Lands Biologists with additional permanent or seasonal technicians with responsibilities and focuses that vary including emphasis on habitat and hunting access. WDFW access programs include Hunting Only by Written Permission, Feel Free to Hunt, Register to Hunt, Hunting by Reservation Only and the Landowner Hunting Permit Program. In reaching the general public of access locations and hunting opportunities, site locations are added to WDFW's online mapping application "GoHunt".



Icons on the map indicate private lands access locations and site details pertaining to the specific location. The Private Lands webpages provide both basic and unique information for each site; huntable species, weapons allowed, habitat description and special rules or opportunities. These pages were created in conjunction with the development of our online reservation system for all access types.

Continuing the morning presentations was Mel Asher, BFI Native Seeds, Moses Lake, Washington on Native Grass and Forb Restoration. Mel, a botanist with BFI Native Seeds, specializes in native grass and forb seed production, as well as ecological restoration planting native plants within the context of the SAFE-CRP program. Seeding methods that are used were developed collaboratively by land managers and botanists from the Bureau of Land Management, WDFW, and BFI Native Seeds, over the last 2 decades, using primarily a trial and error process. The fields that we've worked were originally seeded to crested wheatgrass during the United States Department of Agriculture's Soil Bank Program or early CRP signups in the mid-80s, and crested wheatgrass density was either maintained, or declined, depending on the degree adaptation to the site. So, prior to beginning our work, conditions on these fields range from high density crested wheatgrass with native forb and sagebrush invasion, to extremely low density crested stands, where cheatgrass is co-dominant with crested wheatgrass and annual broadleaf weeds. Site preparation typically takes 15 months, involving 2 mechanical treatments and at least 2 herbicide applications followed by a staged planting, where grasses are seeded the first year, broadleaf weeds are controlled through the next growing season, and then forbs are seeded in the second year. After planting is complete, several more years of passive restoration are also required for the native species to mature and competitively exclude crested wheatgrass and weedy annuals. Chemical treatments begin the following year with a field-wide glyphosate application at 3 qtrs. /ac. This is using a 4 lbs. ai/gal glyphosate product. Rates lower than 3 qtrs. result in very short-term control. A typical grass seed mix used generally consists of 4 or 5 species with various phenologies and structures to provide diverse habitat. Mixes are developed for site specific conditions and precipitation. Forb seed mixes are typically species that are commercially available and establish well from seed, targeting between 2 and 3 lbs. per acre with plantings.

Additional money can be saved by planting forbs into strips or islands, and therefore only planting a portion of the field. To summarize, restoration involves a multi-year, adaptive process including site preparation which takes approximately 15 months, and continually monitoring and timely response throughout the process is critical. Passive restoration may take several more years.

Concluding the morning presentations was Nathan Riley, a historian of the Walla Walla Valley discussing the history of the valley as well as the Missoula floods. The Ice Age floods rearranged the dirt, rocks, streambeds, and contours of 16,000 square miles of the Pacific Northwest. They pared land down to bedrock in places, built it up in others; rerouted rivers; scoured out coulees and potholes; and steepened and widened the Columbia Gorge. Enormous boulders, encased in ice, bobbed along in the floodwaters, ending up on hills and in flatlands hundreds of miles from their origins, a puzzle for the farmers who would someday plow around them. Temporary lakes formed behind natural constrictions along the course of the Lower Columbia River at Wallula Gap, Rowena Gap, and Kalama. Flood-borne sediments settled out of those lakes, becoming part of the rich topsoil that supports the farms and orchards of Yakima, Walla Walla, and the Willamette Valley today. The sediment is also the basis for the quality of wines produced in the Mid-Columbia Basin. Wine grapes require soil that is both fast-draining and water-retentive, characteristics provided by the fine-grained sand and silt in the flood deposits. Wheat grows tall in the areas of the Palouse that the floods skipped over, leaving intact the deep layers of windblown silt and soil that once covered most of the Plateau. Thousands of years after the last drop drained away, the geologic legacy of the floods continues to define the Northwest, from the way the land looks to the uses humans have found for it.

Following lunch, Chris White; Game Farm Manager, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife presented on his Western Washington Game Farm and Pheasant release Program. Game farms in Washington State originally was as many as 12, but eventually all game farms in Eastern Washington were closed by the 1990s due to efforts and funding directed toward habitat. Legislature created the Eastern Washington Pheasant Enhancement Fund originally allocating 80% of revenue to be devoted to bird purchases and a release program but allowing 20% of funds to improve habitat. The past three years this allocation has changed with 50% earmarked for the purchase and release of pheasants and 50% to improve pheasant habitats. In Western Washington, climate and limited habitat preclude wild pheasant populations with hunting opportunities being heavily relied on released birds. Over time, bird rearing operations were consolidated into one location to increase efficiency. 38,000 to 40,000 pheasants are released at 15 areas around Western Washington including several release sites within the 15 areas, encompassing a distance of 350 miles north from Canada and south to Oregon. The Game Farm has become self-funded through license sales operating on an annual budget of \$375,000.00 to raise, operate and maintain pheasants to maturity at the game farm on the 45 acres that it encompasses.

The afternoon was concluded by a presentation from Travis Runia, South Dakota Department of Fish, Game and Parks on Spent Lead Shot Ingestion by Pheasants. Prior to 1991, an estimated 1.6 – 2.4 million waterfowl died annually due to ingestion of lead shot. Lead shot was banned for waterfowl hunting in South Dakota before the national mandate due to waterfowl being very susceptible to lead poisoning. Additional bans on lead shot are accelerating at state level throughout the nation. In Pheasants, lead poisoning has been documented as early as 1876 in United Kingdom with 3% prevalence rate on shooting estate

in the United Kingdom and few opportunistic observations of fatal lead poisoning documented in the United States. Three study sites were identified in South Dakota on high intensity shooting properties in Lyman County and replicated over 3 years and over 2,000 soil samples collected and processed. Results of State Gizzard Prevalence included 1301 gizzards that were collected, 10 contained lead – 0.77% (CI 95%: 0.41-1.41%) Range 1 to 11 No restriction on shot type. 1116 samples taken – 9 contained lead – 0.81% (CI 95%: 0.42-1.5%). Non-Toxic only, 150 Samples – 1 contained lead – 0.67% (CI 95%: 0.11-3.6). The results were similar to previous studies identifying soil prevalence rates and gizzard prevalence rates similar. Pheasants are more likely less affected than waterfowl and doves and more likely to ingest lead pellets within preserves where more shot is available. Populations are more influenced by habitat conditions and weather than lead poisoning.

At 3:30 pm the group left the Hotel for a habitat tour of local Walla Walla County Pheasants Forever habitat projects. The chapter showcased their partnerships with private landowners as well as with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) on planting habitat strips and riparian habitat projects with trees, shrubs and native grasses to benefit pheasants and other wildlife. The second stop of the tour included a landowner testimonial that went through his farm's history of working with the Blue Mountain Pheasants Forever chapter and WDFW including future plans on enhancing existing habitat. Between tour stop locations we witnessed several pheasants making fly-by appearances as well as a covey of California Valley Quail. The tour ended at one of the Pheasants Forever club member's home hosting a barbeque.

Thursday morning began with Todd Bogenschutz, Iowa Department of Natural Resources presenting Habitat Initiative Push from the National Wild Pheasant Conservation Plan. The plan, being modeled after the Bob White Quail plan includes a proposal to hire a National Coordinator to be housed at the Pheasant Forever office in South Dakota which each participating state to contribute \$5000 towards this position. The National Coordinator would assist with lobbying efforts in Washington DC also creating a different Environmental Benefits Index (EBI) for CRP. The Coordinator cannot lobby being funded by Pittman-Robertson funds. It was asked that State Director's reply to the letter of support and commitment of the \$5000.00 or not willing to support no later than September 30, 2014. Joey McCanna (WDFW) will send out an email to all states associated with the national plan requesting State Director's support or non-support in writing including the requesting letter of support from the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and the National Coordinator position description.

The morning continued with discussing the National Wild Pheasant Conservation Plan (hereafter, the Plan) with Budd Veverka, Indiana Division of Fish and Wildlife presenting on the By-Laws Update and Discussion. Criteria for Affiliation were discussed including putting together a steering committee as well as adding regional breakouts for each state to identify a representative. Frequency of meetings was also discussed as there were proposals of meeting every two years, nationally and yearly, regionally. It was also proposed that the current meeting frequency remain the same until the Coordinator position was filled.

Time and Place of Next Meeting – During the business meeting the decision was made to continue meeting annually because we are still in the important early stages of Plan implementation. Wisconsin was nominated and accepted to host the 2015 meeting.

Director Information Items

- All states vested in the Plan were invited to participate at the 2014 meeting.
- Joey McCanna of Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife will be new chair per current by-laws.
- Budd Veverka (IN) will work with Ollie Torgerson to host final Plan on MAFWA website.
- Budd Veverka (IN), Todd Bogenschutz (IA), and Joey McCanna (WA) will work with Ollie Torgerson to revise MPSG by-laws to reflect change from Midwest to National group as well as draft proposals for a Steering committee and National Wild Pheasant Technical Committee.

Director Action Items

- The National Wild Pheasant Technical Committee (NWPTC) recommends dis-banning the Midwest Pheasant Study Group.
- Approve the hiring of a National Coordinator to implement the National Wild Pheasant Conservation Plan.
- The NWPTC adopted new by-laws for Steering and Technical committee structure which may be reviewed at the 2015 MAFWA Annual Director's meeting in Duluth, Minnesota, June 28 – 30.
- Consideration of NCN request pending Oct/Nov conference call by NWPTC.



National Wild Pheasant Technical Committee

Colorado Idaho Indiana Illinois Iowa Kansas Michigan Minnesota Missouri
Montana Nebraska New Mexico New York North Dakota Ohio Oklahoma
Oregon Pennsylvania South Dakota Texas Utah Washington Wisconsin

MEETING PARTICIPANT LIST

1ST NATIONAL WILD PHEASANT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING

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NATIONAL WILD PHEASANT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I. NAME, DESCRIPTION AND AFFILIATION

Section 1. Name. The name of this organization shall be the NATIONAL WILD PHEASANT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (hereinafter referred to as the NWPTC).

Section 2. Description. The NWPTC is a technical and leadership alliance of state and provincial wildlife agencies with stewardship authority for wild ring-necked pheasants, and of federal, state and private conservation partners working on behalf of wild pheasants. The NWPTC shall have membership primarily from states or provinces that have current populations of wild ring-necked pheasants (*Phasianus colchincus*) (hereinafter referred to as pheasant(s)). The primary missions of the NWPTC are to support the National Wild Pheasant Conservation Plan (NWPCP) and to serve the member states through technical assistance, information transfer and interaction with the National Wild Pheasant Management Board.

Section 3. Criteria for Affiliation. Members shall consist of professionals employed by a wildlife agency belonging to the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) and within the wild range of the ring-necked pheasant, and those formally invited to participate by the NWPTC Steering Committee.

ARTICLE II. OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

Section 1. Objectives.

- a. Identify factors responsible for population declines of pheasants and other associated early successional grassland species.
- b. Identify gaps in knowledge about pheasant population dynamics, ecology, habitat management and the socioeconomics of pheasant hunting and habitat enhancement.
- c. Develop and implement solutions to specific pheasant population, habitat and management problems.
- d. Prioritize regional research and management efforts.
- e. Provide sound, scientifically based information to stakeholders, administrators and policy makers.
- f. Perpetuate the tradition of wild pheasant hunting.

Section 2. Strategies.

- a. Provide national leadership, technical guidance and energy to advance the National Wild Pheasant Conservation Plan.

- b. Provide opportunities for better liaison among individual members, hunters and other wildlife enthusiasts, agencies and organizations focused on problems related to the management of pheasants.
- c. Provide a meeting of the NWPTC, on a minimum biennial frame, as a forum for the exchange of ideas and actions to achieve objectives.
- d. Recognize and commend outstanding professional achievements in and contributions to pheasant management.
- e. Address specific resource concerns, policy and management issues, research priorities and outreach needs through NWPTC Subcommittees comprised of experts in specific areas of pheasant conservation and management.
- f. Promote and facilitate coordinated research activities of regional and national significance.
- g. Provide information to policy-makers to influence land-use policy for the benefit of pheasants.
- h. Utilize newsletters, web pages, magazine articles and other media to disseminate information.

ARTICLE III. NWPTC YEAR

Section 1. Operating Year. The NWPTC operating year shall run from the close of the NWPTC meeting to the close of the following NWPTC meeting.

Section 2. Fiscal Year. The NWPTC Steering Committee shall have the power to determine the fiscal year of the NWPTC.

ARTICLE IV. NWPTC VOTING MEMBERSHIP

NWPTC voting membership shall consist of those members employed by a wildlife agency belonging to AFWA and affiliated with the NWPCP. Only NWPTC voting members may hold office, vote on official matters affecting the NWPTC and officially represent the NWPTC on business matters.

ARTICLE V. COMMITTEES, ELECTIONS AND OFFICERS

Section 1. NWPTC Steering Committee. The Steering Committee shall be comprised of 3 members of voting status and 3 member of non-voting status. Three (3) elected, voting members shall, in all best efforts, include representative from the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA), Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (MAFWA), and Northeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (NEAFWA). The term of these 3 elected positions shall be for an operating year and be filled by a vote of the NWPTC membership with a framework that follows the rotation of meetings. The Steering Committee shall also be comprised of 2 non-elected non-voting members, representing academia and a non-governmental organization (NGO). These two members shall be appointed and serve 2-year renewable terms at the will of the National Wild Pheasant Management Board. The Steering Committee shall also be comprised of 1 non-voting non-elected membership held in perpetuity by the coordinator of the NWPCP.

Duties of the Steering Committee include, but are not limited to financial management, promulgation of bylaws, conducting the annual business meeting, conducting the annual

election, coordination of the NWPTC meeting, guiding Standing and Ad hoc Subcommittees, and maintenance of the membership list.

Section 2. Steering Committee Executive Officers. The Executive Officers of the NWPTC Steering Committee shall consist of a Chair (who will head the Steering Committee), Vice-Chair, and a Past Chair. Upon conclusion of the respective Executive Officer term, the Past Chair shall be succeeded by the Chair, who shall be succeeded by the Vice Chair. If the Chair resigns or is unable to serve, the Vice Chair shall assume the position of Chair, and the Vice Chair position shall be filled by election at the next business meeting. If the Vice Chair resigns or is unable to serve, the position shall be filled by election at the next business meeting, and the Steering Committee shall recommend a Steering Committee member to serve as interim Secretary-Treasurer.

The Chair and the NWPCP Coordinator serve as Ex Officio members of, and staff to, the National Wild Pheasant Management Board. The Chair and the NWPCP Coordinator represent the NWPTC at meetings of the AFWA Resident Game Bird Working Group and other meetings as necessary. Members of the Steering Committee shall, in all best efforts, represent the NWPTC at meetings of their respective regional associations.

In order to be enacted all matters upon which the Steering Committee votes must pass on a majority of votes. If a member is not able to attend a meeting in which issues will be voted upon, he/she shall be afforded the opportunity to vote by absentee ballot within a reasonable period of time before which the matter must be resolved.

Section 3. Elections. The Steering Committee election shall take place at the NWPTC business meeting.

CLAUSE A – Nominations shall be taken during the NWPTC business meeting.

CLAUSE B - All nominees must be voting members.

CLAUSE C - Approval shall be obtained from said candidates.

CLAUSE D – If two or more nominations are made and accepted, then secret ballot shall be used to determine the election.

CLAUSE E - The candidate receiving the largest number of votes on the written/electronic ballot shall be declared elected.

CLAUSE F - If, as a result of extenuating circumstances, the NWPTC business meeting is not held prior to November 15, the expired terms of officers shall be extended until the next business meeting.

Section 5. Officers. Officers of the NWPTC shall consist of the Steering Committee and Chairs of Standing Subcommittees of the NWPTC.

Section 6. Standing and Ad hoc Subcommittees. Standing Subcommittees shall consist of:

- a. Policy
- b. Partnerships/Funding
- c. Education/Outreach
- d. Research

The overall responsibility of Standing Subcommittees is to (1) provide expertise, leadership and guidance for the NWPCP at national and regional levels, (2) propose actions to be considered by the NWPTC Steering Committee and (3) facilitate or conduct approved

actions. The Policy Subcommittee works on USDA Farm Bill, energy policy, and cropland/grassland issues. The Partnerships/Funding Subcommittee works on building partnerships with governmental and non-governmental entities with a primary focus on funding habitat creation/restoration efforts. The Education/Outreach Subcommittee works on informing natural resource professionals and building an effective public movement in support of the goals of the NWPTC and the NWPCP. The Research Subcommittee works on improving the biological and scientific foundation of the NWPCP, the establishment of regional and national research priorities, and the publication of the Perdix Symposia Series.

Each Standing Subcommittee shall be headed by a Chair and Vice Chair, to be elected by a majority vote of voting members in attendance at the Subcommittee meeting of the annual NWPTC meeting. Each Subcommittee Chair shall solicit nominations from their Subcommittee voting members and conduct the election. Newly-elected nominee(s) must be approved by the Steering Committee before serving. The Subcommittee Chair and Vice Chair shall serve **two** year terms and upon conclusion of a term the Vice Chair shall assume the Subcommittee Chair position. When a Standing Subcommittee Chair resigns, the Vice Chair shall immediately assume the Subcommittee Chair position and the Vice Chair position shall be filled by election at the next annual meeting. If both the Subcommittee Chair and Vice Chair resign, the Steering Committee Vice Chair shall solicit nominations from the Standing Subcommittee voting members and conduct the election. Chair and Vice Chair positions for all Standing Subcommittees shall be reviewed annually by the Steering Committee. Each Standing Subcommittee Chair shall invite persons from the membership to form the Standing Subcommittee.

Ad hoc Subcommittees may be initiated by a majority vote of the Steering Committee to investigate specific problem areas and make recommendations to the Steering Committee. Ad hoc Subcommittees and a Subcommittee Chair shall be selected by the Steering Committee after reviewing requests for such action submitted by the membership. Funding requests from the Standing and Ad hoc Subcommittees must be approved by the Steering Committee before being implemented.

Section 7. Resignation. Any Steering Committee member, Standing Subcommittee or Ad hoc Subcommittee Chair may resign at any time by giving notice to the Steering Committee Chair. Voting members may resign at any time by giving notice to the Steering Committee Vice-Chair.

ARTICLE VI. MEETINGS

Section 1. Meetings. A meeting of the NWPTC shall be held annually if possible. The host state shall be determined by the Steering Committee after reviewing requests from member states, with a general rotation among the Mountain West States (West of Front Range), Great Plain States, and Great Lake States (East of the Mississippi River).

CLAUSE A - TIMING AND PURPOSE - The NWPTC annual meeting shall be held in September – November, or as determined by the Steering Committee. The purpose shall be for conducting business, electing officers and receiving reports from NWPTC Subcommittees and member states.

CLAUSE B - MEETING COORDINATOR - The professional representative from the host state wildlife agency shall serve as the Annual Meeting Coordinator and Treasurer and shall coordinate with the NWPTC Vice-Chair concerning the meeting's finances.

CLAUSE C - MEETING NOTICE - The dates for the NWPTC meeting shall be determined by the meeting coordinator and representatives of the host state, approved by Steering Committee and the membership shall be informed of these dates at least 2 months prior to the annual meeting.

CLAUSE D - AFFILIATION – Sponsorship of, or donations to, meetings shall be limited to entities whose primary focus or interest is conservation of wild pheasants by habitat management, as determined by the Steering Committee.

CLAUSE E - QUORUM - A quorum for conducting business at the annual meeting of the NWPTC shall consist of at least 50 percent of the voting members, or at least 13 voting members, whichever is less.

CLAUSE F - MEETING RULES - During sessions in which matters will be voted on, order of business and parliamentary procedures shall follow Robert's Rules of Order, latest revision.

CLAUSE G - BYLAWS - NWPTC Bylaws shall be available for inspection during every meeting. Any revisions must be approved by a majority vote of the NWPTC before becoming effective.

Section 2. Steering Committee Meetings. The Steering Committee shall meet at least once annually, as coordinated by the Chair. Additional meetings may be scheduled as needed. A member of the host state for the upcoming annual meeting shall be invited to attend the Steering Committee meetings.

Section 3. Standing and Ad hoc Subcommittee Meetings. These subcommittees shall meet at the annual meeting and shall provide a report to the membership before the conclusion of the meeting. Meetings of these Subcommittees may also be held at any other time as needed.

ARTICLE VII. MANAGEMENT AND FINANCES

Section 1. Finance. The funds of the NWPTC, if any, shall be under the supervision of the Steering Committee and shall be handled by the Vice-Chair. The financial records of the NWPTC shall be periodically examined by the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee shall also review these records and documents prior to any change in the office of the Secretary-Treasurer.

Section 2. Reports and Files.

CLAUSE A - STEERING COMMITTEE CHAIR - The Steering Committee Chair shall be responsible for maintaining historical records, meeting minutes, annual meeting summary reports and other important papers.

CLAUSE B - STEERING COMMITTEE VICE-CHAIR - The Vice-Chair shall provide records and reports as necessary to provide sound accounting and shall record minutes of Steering Committee meetings.

CLAUSE C - ANNUAL MEETING COORDINATOR - The Annual Meeting Coordinator shall be responsible for submitting an annual meeting financial report to the Chair within 45 days after the conclusion of the annual meeting.

The Coordinator shall also provide an Annual Meeting Report to the Steering Committee Chair within 6 months after the conclusion of the annual meeting. The proceedings shall including Steering Committee minutes, business meeting minutes, state reports, Subcommittee reports, poster/paper abstracts and other information as appropriate.

CLAUSE D - STANDING SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRS - Each Standing Subcommittee

Chair shall submit an annual report of subcommittee activities in printed format to the Annual Meeting Coordinator within 30 days following the conclusion of the annual meeting. This report shall be given verbally to the NWPTC at the annual meeting.

ARTICLE VIII. RESOLUTIONS AND PUBLIC STATEMENTS

Resolutions of the NWPTC, if submitted to the membership at least 30 days prior to the annual business meeting, may be proposed at the annual business meeting and passed by a majority vote. Resolutions not submitted to the membership at least 30 days prior to the annual meeting can be brought forward for a majority vote only if 2/3rd majority approve. A resolution passed by the NWPTC shall become the official position of the NWPTC, until rescinded. Other public statements or letters on behalf of the NWPTC may be issued with prior approval of the Steering Committee.

Only NWPTC officers shall officially represent the NWPTC on business matters except that an approved designee of the Steering Committee shall have the authority to represent the NWPTC.

ARTICLE IX. AWARDS

Awards may be given annually, at the discretion of the Steering Committee, to individuals or groups that have made outstanding contributions to the knowledge or management of pheasants.

Nominations shall be presented to the Steering Committee Chair in writing within 30 days prior to the annual business meeting. The Steering Committee is not limited to these nominations in selecting the recipient.

The award shall consist of a plaque or appropriate substitute which shall be presented at the annual meeting, if possible, for the recipient to retain permanently.

ARTICLE X. DISSOLUTION

The NWPTC may be dissolved upon 3/4th majority vote of the voting membership. Upon dissolution, the Steering Committee may donate any financial assets of the NWPTC to a non-profit management or research organization dedicated to the conservation of wild ring-necked pheasants.

PREVIOUS MEETINGS OF MIDWEST PHEASANT STUDY GROUP:

1992 MN – Altura, Whitewater State Park
1993 WI – Prairie du Chien, Wyalusing State Park
1994 SD – Timber Lake, Little Moreau GPA
1996 IL – Urbana, University of Illinois
1998 KS – Stockton, Camp Pecusa
2000 MO – Maryville, Church Camp
2002 IA – Luther, Iowa 4H Camp
2004 MI – Unionville, Fish Pointe WMA

2006 NE – Halsey, Nebraska 4H Camp
2008 OH – Huron, Old Woman Creek Reserve
2009 ND – Fort Ransom, Rockstad’s River Inn
2010 IN – West Lafayette, Ross Camp
2011 SD – Chamberlin, AmericInn
2012 MN – Windom, Shalom Hill Farm
2013 IA – Akron, Hole ‘N the Wall Lodge

NATIONAL WILD PHEASANT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING:

2014 WA- Walla Walla, Holiday Inn Express



National Wild Pheasant Technical Committee

Colorado Idaho Indiana Illinois Iowa Kansas Michigan Minnesota Missouri
Montana Nebraska New Mexico New York North Dakota Ohio Oklahoma
Oregon Pennsylvania South Dakota Texas Utah Washington Wisconsin

2014 STATE PHEASANT REPORTS

See attachments