

RESOLUTION REGARDING THE BAITING AND FEEDING OF CERVIDS TO REDUCE THE RISK OF DISEASE TRANSMISSION AND ESTABLISHMENT

WHEREAS, baiting (placement of food by humans to aid hunter harvest), recreational feeding (placement of food by humans to aid in wildlife viewing for entertainment) and supplemental feeding (placement of food by humans to increase the nutrition available to wildlife) congregate animals and increase transmission of infectious diseases;

WHEREAS, increased transmission of diseases in deer may place wildlife, domestic livestock and public health at risk;

WHEREAS, some infectious diseases such as chronic wasting disease (CWD) and bovine tuberculosis (TB) may remain infectious at bait or feed sites after the feed or bait no longer exists;

WHEREAS, baiting and feeding artificially concentrates deer and their activity, facilitating both animal-to-animal contact and exposure to potentially disease-contaminated sites;

WHEREAS, evidence to date suggests that restrictions on feeding quantity would not mitigate the potential for disease transmission and that putative mitigating practices such as spreading feed or bait over a specified area, or restricting the kinds of food items that can be used does not substantially reduce the potential risk for disease transmission;

WHEREAS, baiting and feeding may both change social dynamics among animals and increase contacts between otherwise disparate individuals, groups, or species-another risk factor for disease transmission;

WHEREAS, peer-reviewed research suggests the effects of baiting for increasing harvest is insignificant;

WHEREAS, diseases such as CWD and TB can result in devastating economic losses and/or significant ecological impacts;

WHEREAS, effective communication, education and enforcement are enhanced when rules and regulations are consistent across state and provincial boundaries;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (MAFWA) acknowledges the social and political sensitivity associated with restricting baiting and feeding cervids.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MAFWA agrees with the current wildlife research and expertise that illustrates the negative effects of baiting and feeding of cervids on disease transmission and establishment.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MAFWA recommends advancing this issue of baiting and feeding restrictions to AFWA for development of a national position on

baiting and feeding of cervids to reduce the risk of disease transmission and establishment.

Adopted June 24, 2018

**RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO THE ARTIFICIAL MOVEMENT OF NON-
ENDANGERED CERVID SPECIES**

FAILED

WHEREAS, the restoration of cervids to historical range is a current endeavor by some state, federal, and tribal wildlife agencies;

WHEREAS, the movement of wildlife is movement of a "biological package" potentially hosting numerous disease agents or parasites that may result in the inadvertent introduction of disease with devastating economic losses and/or significant ecological impacts;

WHEREAS, chronic wasting disease (CWD), a fatal, neurologic disease of cervids, currently has no antemortem test with reliable sensitivity and therefore no way to assure uninfected status in a living cervid;

WHEREAS, the geographic spread of CWD has been exacerbated via human intervention and trade;

WHEREAS, inconsistencies in disease surveillance and management exist between differing states and provinces;

WHEREAS, concerns exist regarding transmission potential and human susceptibility to CWD;

WHEREAS, significant population level impacts have been documented in mule deer, white-tailed deer, and elk in areas where CWD is endemic, including decreased survival and productivity;

WHEREAS, injured or "orphaned" deer may be moved across county lines for the purposes of rehabilitation;

WHEREAS, peer-reviewed studies cite inappropriate behavioral traits and poor survival probabilities in rehabilitated deer;

WHEREAS, effective communication, education and enforcement are enhanced when rules and regulations are consistent across state and provincial boundaries;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the banning of the artificial movement of non-endangered cervid species is a practical and justifiable best management practice to reduce the risk of disease transmission and establishment;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Health Committee encourages the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies directors to adopt this resolution at their annual meeting in Bismarck, North Dakota on June 24-27, 2018.

MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES

**SUMMER MEETING, JUNE 24-27, 2018
BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA**

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the North Dakota Game and Fish Department has so efficiently and enthusiastically organized and conducted the 2018 summer meeting of the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies;

WHEREAS, Director Terry Steinwand, Scott Peterson, Lynn Timm, and support staff have worked together with local and national conservation organization partners making all the state representatives welcome;

WHEREAS, the North Dakota Game and Fish Department's efforts resulted in setting an all-time attendance record;

WHEREAS, the members of the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies wish to express their gratitude for all the collaborative efforts of the North Dakota Game and Fish Department;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies at its annual meeting in Bismarck, North Dakota, on June 27, 2018, acknowledges the hard work and hospitality of Director Steinwand and his staff and hereby passes this resolution in a showing of great appreciation.

**Awards Luncheon
Monday, June 27, 2018**

Members of the Awards Committee are: Terry Steinwand, North Dakota; Mark Reiter, Indiana; Jim Leach, Minnesota; Dale Garner, Iowa and myself. I want to thank them for their assistance in choosing the winners. We had 20 nominations for the five main awards.

Award winners are:

The Law Enforcement Officer of the Year award is given to the individual who in the past year has shown superior leadership, initiative, and dedication in their duties. This person should personify achievement, public service, education, and above all natural resource conservation. This award goes to **Edward McCann, WI**; *award accepted by Todd Schaller.*

The Wildlife Biologist of the Year award is given to the individual who has shown an unparalleled initiative towards the better understanding of wildlife and their conservation. This award goes to **Nancy Christel, WI**; *award accepted by Nancy.*

The Fisheries Biologist of the Year award is given to the individual who has shown an unparalleled initiative towards the better understanding of fishes and their conservation. This award goes to **Bruce Drecktrah, MO**; *award accepted by Bruce.*

The Spirit of the Shack award is given to the individual who exemplifies the ideals of the great conservationist and educator, Aldo Leopold, and who has contributed to conservation in a superior way. This individual should epitomize stewardship and dedication to fish and wildlife conservation. This award goes to **Danny Hartwig, Forestry Regional Supervisor, Missouri Department of Conservation for his CWD efforts**; *award accepted by Danny.*

Excellence in Conservation award is given to the agency that has shown excellence in conservation through a specific project. Each member agency would select one project completed in the awards year that exemplifies the goal of fish and wildlife conservation. This award also has a perpetual plaque. This award goes to **Michigan Department of Natural Resources Wildlife, Marketing and Outreach Division for CWD response**. *Award accepted by Steve Chadwick.*

2nd Excellence in Conservation
Grasslands for Gamebirds and Songbirds Committee, IN. *Award accepted by Amanda Wuestefeld..*

2nd Special Recognition award goes to the **St. Louis Zoo staff, for being key partners in conservation and recovery of several native wildlife species in Missouri.** *Award presented to: and accepted by Bob Merz, St. Louis Zoo.*

The Past President's Award is given to **Terry Steinwand, North Dakota** who has served as the MAFWA President for the past year. Terry will receive this award at the end of the business meeting on Wednesday.

The rest of the awards are presented by President Terry Steinwand.

**Awards Luncheon
Monday, June 27, 2018**

Sagamore of the Forest, Fields and Streams – “A sagamore is the head of northeastern Native American tribe. The word is generally synonymous with sachem, although sometimes a sachem is considered a chief of the first rank, and a sagamore one of the second rank. Sagamore can also refer to great man among the tribe to whom the chief would look for wisdom and advice.” This honor is bestowed on any Director or upper level staff member that has contributed significant service to MAFWA. To qualify for this recognition, recipients must provide 4 years of service to MAFWA, have a 75 percent meeting attendance and serve on one or more committees. This award goes to **Keith Sexson, KS Dept. of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism**. This is his last MAFWA meeting as he will be retiring in December. *Award presented by Terry Steinwand and accepted by Keith.*

Special Recognition award is given to deserving individual that has shown commitment to MAFWA and natural resources. This award goes to **Keith Sexson, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism for his commitment to the resources for 50 years (as of November 8) working for the same natural resource agency.** *Award presented by Terry Steinwand, accepted by Keith.*

President's Award – The award was presented to **Nebraska Todd Porter, North Dakota Legislature, Chair of House Energy and Natural Resource Committee.** *Award accepted by Todd.*

Award below will be given later in the week, at time to be determined by Terry and Ollie.

Special Recognition award is given to deserving individual that has shown commitment to MAFWA and natural resources. This award goes to **Tom Melius, Regional Director of USFWS Midwest Region** for his commitment to MAFWA and the eight member states in his region. Tom has been an excellent conservation steward for 40 plus years.

Special Recognition award is given to deserving individual that has shown commitment to MAFWA and natural resources. This award goes to **John Fischer, Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study for his commitment to the resources and wildlife health issues.** *Award accepted by John.*



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Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies

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Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Awards Nominations Form 2018

Award (check only one per form)

☐

Spirit of the Shack

☐

Fisheries Biologist of the Year

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Wildlife Biologist of the Year

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Law Enforcement Officer of the Year

Nominator information

Name: Todd Schaller

Organization: Wisconsin Dept. Nat Res

Title: Chief Conservation Warden

E-mail: Todd.Schaller@Wisconsin.gov

Phone number: 608-381-8927

1. Provide a brief (one page or less) overview explaining why the individual/agency meets the criteria for the award:

Conservation Warden Edward McCann was recognized as Wisconsin 2017 Haskell Noyes Efficiency Award winner – nominated by his peers and selected by the Bureau of LE Management Team

Ed has developed a well-balanced program that touches all corners of responsibility and has consistent and well thought-out enforcement, education, and goals to gain voluntary compliance. Ed is excellent at building relationships with community members and members of the criminal justice system. Ed is highly respected by other law enforcement officers in the area and they continuously seek out his advice and guidance on their cases. Ed continuously works to better himself, actively seeking out training and opportunities to develop skills. Ed's willingness to share his knowledge and help other wardens and law enforcement officers develop their skills is a true testament to Ed's character and maturity. Ed is a visionary and continuously demonstrates his "outside the box" thinking to look at new and innovate ways to be successful and have an effective law enforcement program.

2. Please list and/or describe specific projects, work or accomplishments relevant to the award. Please limit your information to one page.

One word can summarize Ed's investigative ability and that word is "brilliant." Ed has created an art form in his ability to successfully investigate cases. Ed has dedicated countless hours to fine-tuning his investigative skills and that dedication has made him shine in many of the large-scale cases. Ed's impressive investigative ability is highlighted by many of his ginseng cases (Tony Grant, Wiebke Fur, and Project Red Berry), illegal felon case, illegal fur case, waterfowl guiding, protected species, commercial fishing, and thrill-killing cases, amongst many other complicated and successfully investigated cases.

Ed is involved with youth events and outdoor events throughout his area, including a youth outdoor day, Special Olympics fishing days, and many other programs put on by local parks and recreation departments, USFWS, etc. In an effort to reach out to "non-traditional" customers, Ed has done a presentation on "what a warden does" which helps members of the public who are non-consumptive users or are not familiar with the role of a warden to understand our

role, how we work to protect the resources, and how we can all work together.

Ed has implemented a community wardening philosophy that has built relationships with others and in-turn has helped Ed better serve the community and fulfill the mission of the DNR and Bureau of Law Enforcement. Ed's dedication to building relationships is highlighted by his relationship with other law enforcement throughout the area and the respect those officers and agencies have for Ed and the work he does as a conservation warden.

McCann's Commitment to teamwork is showcased by his dedication in helping develop the skills of wardens across the state and serving as a mentor to those who seek out his guidance. Ed has stepped forward to work with and help shape deputy wardens to move forward as full-time wardens. Involved in DNR academy training on; report writing, interview & interrogation and advanced interview & interrogation. Ed is certified as a Field Training Officer, NASBLA Tactical Boat Operator, NASBLA Air Boat Operator.

Ed is a visionary who is very intentional in his actions to ensure his role as a conservation warden will have the greatest impact on fulfilling the mission of the DNR and protecting our state's natural resources while gaining voluntary compliance and using the most appropriate enforcement action. Ed has contributed to many successful, high-impact cases over the years and wardens across the state seek out Ed's skills and expertise for challenging cases. Over his career Ed has been the recipient of many prestigious awards including Chief's Awards, Boating Officer of the Year, Harold D. Hettrick Investigative Excellence Award, and a Life Saving Award. Ed's career is highlighted by his continued success and as young wardens we look up to Ed as a mentor, as a leader, and as somebody we can trust to help us build our own successful careers.



MIDWEST

Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies

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Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Awards Nominations Form 2018

Award (check only one per form)

☐

Spirit of the Shack

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Fisheries Biologist of the Year

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Wildlife Biologist of the Year

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Law Enforcement Officer of the Year

Nominator information

Name: Michelle Carlisle

Organization: WI-DNR

Title: Wildlife Biologist

E-mail: Michelle.Carlisle@wi.gov

Phone number: 715.554.1728

1. Provide a brief (one page or less) overview explaining why the individual/agency meets the criteria for the award:
2. Please list and/or describe specific projects, work or accomplishments relevant to the award. Please limit your information to one page.

Nancy Christel exemplifies the passion, commitment, and knowledge that any resource agency would be lucky to have as part of their team, but we thankfully have her on ours. No matter how difficult an objective is, if it is the right thing to do for wildlife, Nancy will make it happen. An easily quantified and durable product of Nancy's dedication is getting 6410 acres of land permanently added to the Namekagon Barrens Wildlife Area. This is a landscape scale barrens project aimed at benefiting many wildlife species, but most importantly sharp-tailed grouse. 5010 acres of the property were being leased by the state from the county. Nancy recognized that the Namekagon Barrens needed permanent protection for the sake of the effort that the department had already put into managing this priority barrens habitat and for effective sharp-tailed grouse management. The lease was set to expire in 2017 and Nancy was an integral part in completing a land trade with the county before this date.

Moving this effort forward took collaboration with many different user groups. Thanks to Nancy's bottomless drive for utilizing every opportunity possible that might benefit wildlife, she had already started a Friends of the Barrens groups, which helped to serve as a cheerleader for this effort. This was one of many outside people or groups that embraced the idea of the Namekagon Barrens and the importance of barrens management based on Nancy's enthusiasm combined with her solid understanding of the science behind it, and her ability to communicate to people of varying backgrounds. Furthermore, Nancy facilitated the purchase and donation of an additional 1400 acres that was purchased through private grants such as *Wal-Mart Acres For America* and *The Nature Conservancy*. This project stands out among other key purchases Nancy has made to protect streams and wildlife habitat across Burnett and Washburn county including additions to the Beaver Brook Wildlife Area and fishery and wildlife areas along the Clam River.

Barrens management is constant work, most efficiently managed by prescribed fire. Under the best of circumstances, burning enough acres a year to keep up with succession on a large-scale project would be a challenge, but the NBWA is in a landscape with complex wildfire considerations, but Nancy has managed to get ahead of schedule. She has done this by diligently working to make prescribed burns more efficient and safer while continuously communicating and improving relationships with fire control staff. This collaboration has ensured that few opportunities to burn have been missed on the barrens and around 1000 acres have been burned each year. Here again, Nancy's relationship with the friends group has also helped, as they have served as ambassadors for the importance of barrens management with neighboring private landowners, gaining support for prescribed fire.

Diverse user groups such as dog trailers have supported the management, donated funds and have been a strong proponent of the management of these Barrens. Nancy has also developed new sharp-tailed grouse viewing blinds for

the public and an online calendar system through the friends group to gain further support for the property and offer unique wildlife viewing opportunities. No matter how satisfying landscape scale projects are, it is not all about the barrens when CWD lands on your doorstep. As a tremendous outlier to previous occurrences, this was a surprise to everyone, but Nancy was on the spot, coordinating efforts for sampling CWD in this new area. Nancy has been a driver in achieving strong sampling levels in the area along with striving to ensure quality data and quick results for the hunters. She helped develop the NW WI CWD Citizens Advisory Team, consisting of interested members of the public with diverse backgrounds from whom the state could solicit feedback about CWD Management. Early on this team was integral in educating the public on CWD and receiving public feedback on sampling plans.



**Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Awards Nomination Form (year)**

I want to nominate: Bruce Drecktrah, MO

Award (check only one per form)

☐

Spirit of the Shack

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Fisheries Biologist of the Year

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Wildlife Biologist of the Year

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Law Enforcement Officer of the Year

Nomination respectfully submitted by Brian D. Canaday, Fisheries Division Chief
– Missouri Department of Conservation. brian.canaday@mdc.mo.gov (573)-522-4115 *3174

2. Provide a brief (one page or less) overview explaining why the individual/agency meets the criteria for the award:

2. Please list and/or describe specific projects, work or accomplishments relevant to the award. Please limit your information to one page.

It is my pleasure to nominate Mr. Bruce M. Drecktrah as the Midwest Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies Fisheries Biologist of the Year.

Bruce's work has improved hatchery operations in both the warm and coldwater side of the Division, provided key guidance and leadership to the coldwater hatchery system, lead staff in simplifying fish regulations, priority geographies and worked to increased fish populations and angler enjoyment of aquatic resources as well as provided Department leadership on many committees and work groups. Many others seek Bruce out to be a part of their work teams, interview panels and assignments.

Bruce provides leadership by and through example. He provides strong support and leadership to the staff he supervises. Bruce willingly works the extra hours needed to complete assignments and he continually demonstrates the flexibility needed to meet a diverse workload. Bruce has a style of quiet leadership by example that people are drawn to. "*Excellence*" best describes Bruce, his passion and abilities, and we are fortunate to have him in Missouri. I can think of no one that is more deserving of this award than Bruce. Additional supporting information is as follows:

Bruce is a proven leader. He has a career long, strategic plan for self-improvement and that is inspiring to his staff and peers. Thanks in part to his solid communication skills, Bruce is an effective supervisor that provides encouragement, direction and a willingness to consider opposing points of view during the decision making process. Bruce has a national reputation for his work with the Missouri River basin states with paddlefish and pallid sturgeon. He has built relationships with partners and has taken on many difficult tasks and responsibilities to help find conservation solutions.

I am proud to say that I currently serve Bruce as his immediate supervisor. I continue to watch him grow and take on conservation challenges with a calm and easy going demeanor. Bruce is a good critical thinker. His clear ambition to make a difference for future anglers comes through in his commitment to the Missouri Department of Conservation's Angler Recruitment, Retention, and Reactivation Program. He has developed and conducted several non-traditional outdoor experiences including a wildly popular youth frog gigging and archery clinic. It is this kind of passion for engaging citizens in new and unique ways that will continue to serve Bruce and the Department well into the future.

Today in his role as Fisheries Field Operations Chief, he leads a staff of approximately 75 employees involved in fish management and fish culture across southern Missouri. Bruce has served in a variety of leadership roles within the Department serving as chair for committees of his peers engaged in all phases of aquatic and terrestrial natural resource management. Throughout, Bruce's skills as an effective communicator have contributed to the success of his projects, staff, and peers.

For over 23 years, Bruce has become a recognized leader within Fisheries Division and the Department. He has continually and consistently demonstrated

leadership, innovation, dedication and a “can-do” attitude. Bruce willingly takes on difficult tasks and shows true leadership and professionalism in representing the Department and the resources he is dedicated to managing. With Bruce, you know that he is always “POY”, Proud of You! You also know that when Bruce is involved, you are going to have some fun as well!

The ultimate professional demeanor is the hallmark of his work with staff in other Divisions, other government agencies, non-governmental agencies and most importantly, the public.

In thinking about this nomination, words like: **Expert, Leader, Professional, Teacher, Coach, Mentor**, and **Friend** come to mind. Bruce Drecktrah has exemplified what it means to be a **Conservation Professional**, and we are fortunate to have him, his talents and his energy in Missouri.

Biographical Information

After obtaining a degree in Fish and Wildlife Management and working for a few years in the private sector, Bruce began his career with the Missouri Department of Conservation as an Aquaculture Specialist at one of Missouri's four warm-water hatcheries. Over time, he moved through the ranks and now leads a very dedicated group of resource professionals in the southern portion of the state and guides operations in Missouri's warm and cold-water hatcheries. Over the course of his career, Bruce has gone from being an employee that was only interested in things that directly related to his small circle of influence to someone who looks far beyond his daily responsibilities to see what role he can play moving conservation forward in the Department, the state, and the nation. Throughout his career, Bruce has proven an exemplary employee.

Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Awards Nominations Form 2018

Award (check only one per form)

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Spirit of the Shack

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Fisheries Biologist of the Year

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Wildlife Biologist of the Year

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Law Enforcement Officer of the Year

Nominator information

Name: Tom Draper

Organization: Missouri Department of Conservation

Title: Deputy Director

E-mail: Tom.Draper@mdc.mo.gov

Phone number: 573-522-4115 x3217

1. Provide a brief (one page or less) overview explaining why the individual/agency meets the criteria for the award:

The white-tailed deer is arguably the most important game White-tailed deer are both socially and economically important to the citizens of the state and as Missouri's most popular game animal, the Department of Conservation (Department) expends considerable resources to ensure they remain on the landscape for citizens now and into the future.

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a fatal deer disease that has the potential to reduce deer numbers and the quality of deer hunting in Missouri. The Department began monitoring the state's free-ranging deer herd for CWD in 2001 and intensified efforts when the first CWD-positive animal was found in 2010 in northern Missouri. Since then, CWD has been detected in several counties around the state and the Department is working to limit the spread of the disease. Beginning in 2016, the Department implemented regulations that required hunters to submit deer taken during the opening- weekend of the season for sample collection in certain CWD management zone counties. This

regulation resulted in a monumental effort by Department staff to ensure that each collection station had well-trained staff, all the necessary supplies to ensure Missourians received the superior customer service they've come to expect from this agency, and that there was a high degree of confidence in sampling efforts.

Danny Hartwig is a Forestry Regional Supervisor and works out of our regional office in Kirksville, Missouri. Danny was among the first staff who engaged in the effort to contain the spread of CWD in that portion of the state. As work continued, Danny realized the effort to contain CWD would take a more disciplined approach.

2. Please list and/or describe specific projects, work or accomplishments relevant to the award. Please limit your information to one page.

In 2016, Danny stepped up to lead the Department's new mandatory sampling effort and served in this capacity for the first two years of the program. From the very beginning, he had excellent ideas and suggestions to improve the process and ensure sampling was conducted efficiently and effectively. This was no small feat given the complexity of the issue and the number of Department resources allocated to the effort.

Internal and external partnerships were invaluable as plans were made and Danny went to great lengths to build those connections. Using the Incident Command System (ICS), Danny demonstrated his ability to lead at a Department-wide level. In doing so, he has built a strong reputation as a trusted leader and is known for his professional and candid approach to everything he tackles. Danny has the ability to clearly communicate direction and fosters a "can-do" attitude across all components of this team effort.

Danny assembled a team and began identifying sample collection sites that fit very specific criteria. They planned for every foreseeable situation and issue that could arise when you have large teams of staff taking on very different roles away from their assigned duty stations. Training programs were built, supplies were procured, and contingency plans were drafted. A high priority was placed on the safety and wellbeing of Department staff. Danny lead a very thorough after action review following the first year of sampling and implemented changes that allowed the Department to significantly streamline the process in 2017.

As a testimony to the Team's efforts under Danny's leadership, goals were met for two years of mandatory testing, with over 32,000 samples collected and well over 90% hunter compliance. Danny would be the first to tell you that the success of CWD mandatory sampling was truly a team effort. He would also tell you that it was a privilege to serve as the Incident Commander and his success in this role is a result of the dedication and commitment of Department staff and volunteers along with their desire to provide superior service to Missouri citizens.

In my experience, it takes vision, personal integrity, determination, and courage to lead efforts and people in challenging times and situations. Danny's hard work and personal integrity has positioned the Department well for future disease management activities and I am honored to nominate him for MAFWA's "Spirit of the Shack" Achievement Award.



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Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies



Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Award Nomination Form 2018

Award Categories (check only one per form)

I want to nominate: Wildlife, Marketing and Outreach Divisions of Michigan
Department of Natural Resources (CWD Response)

Nominator: Russ Mason, Ph.D.
Michigan Department of Natural Resources – Wildlife
Division Chief
masonr2@michigan.gov
517-243-8928

☐ Spirit of the Shack

☐ Wildlife Biologist of the Year

☒ Excellence in Conservation

☐ Fisheries Biologist of the Year

☐ Law Enforcement Officer of the Year

1. Provide a brief (one page or less) overview explaining why the individual/agency meets the criteria for the award:

This nomination recognizes the unique and extraordinary efforts of the Wildlife and Marketing and Outreach Divisions of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (Department) for the Department's response to chronic wasting disease (CWD). It especially recognizes the contributions and leadership of Steve Chadwick, Deputy Chief, Wildlife Division, and Kristin Phillips, Chief, Marketing and Outreach Division. The effort was designed to co-create a durable management strategy to address the impacts of this disease.

In 2016, CWD was detected in Ingham County Michigan. Since then, the disease has been identified in 11 counties in central lower Michigan and more than 60,000 samples have been tested. The Wildlife Division and Marketing and Outreach Division of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources have collaborated with Michigan deer hunters and other conservationists as well as the captive cervid industry in Michigan to co-create and implement a transparent and science-based approach to the management of this disease. The approach recognizes that success depends not only on implementing the best available science but also on solid and durable support from the hunting community and from captive cervid industry.

2. Please list and/or describe specific projects, work or accomplishments relevant to the award. Please limit your information to one page.

In addition to the development and implementation of an active and intensive surveillance program, Wildlife Division and Marketing and Outreach Division staff have:

- Developed a structure and process to enhance communication, decision making, and accountability for the numerous tasks we were assigned.
 - 1. Structure included three distinct teams with different responsibilities.
 - 2. There is crossover in participation to make sure everyone is in the loop and up to speed on decisions and assignments.
 - 3. The three teams are: communications, operations, and executive steering.
- Each team has held weekly meetings since February 2018.
- Identified and tasked staff with roles and responsibilities within each team, for example:
 - meeting coordination
 - internal and external communications
 - research

- disease testing and surveillance
 - deer and disease management
- Developed internal and external communications plans and a public engagement plan for developing 2018 regulations:
 - Internal plan
 - Bi-weekly messages to all department staff and Natural Resources Commissioners
 - Talking points
 - Web refresh and content
- Public engagement plan:
 - 11 focus group meetings
 - 11 public meetings across the state
 - Tribal consultations
- External Communications Plan:
 - Hunter and public survey development, execution and analysis (utilizing a marketing firm)
 - Development of media plan and message strategy for hunters
 - Monthly presentations to Natural Resources Commission
 - Meetings and discussion with Natural Resources Commission
 - Full-day Natural Resources Commission meeting with research presentations including university and experts from Pennsylvania
- Materials developed:
 - Natural Resources Commission presentations
 - Public meeting video and presentations
 - Info sheet and input doc for public meetings
 - Talking points (multiple sets)
 - Frequently asked questions
 - Survey

- Briefing papers for commission
- Meeting agendas



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Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies

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Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Awards Nomination Form (year)

I want to nominate: Grasslands For Gamebirds & Songbirds
Committee

Award (check only one per form)

☒ Excellence in Conservation

☐

Spirit of the Shack

☐

Wildlife Biologist of the Year

☐

Fisheries Biologist of the Year

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Law Enforcement Officer of the Year

Nominator information

Mark Reiter

mreiter@dnr.IN.gov

1. Provide a brief (one page or less) overview explaining why the individual/agency meets the criteria for the award:
2. Please list and/or describe specific projects, work or accomplishments relevant to the award. Please limit your information to one page.

For the 2017 Director's "Team Of The Year" award, I nominate the "Grasslands For Gamebirds & Songbirds" (GGS) committee. This committee was convened to: Develop a grassland habitat initiative in response to SWAP findings & guidance, secure an RCPP, use alternative funding to further DFW objectives, & improve conservation impacts on private lands throughout Indiana. The committee consists of employees from multiple sections and units of DFW including the education unit, wildlife science unit, and private lands unit. GGS Committee participants include: Patrick Mayer, Sam Whiteleather, Ben Miller, Erin Basiger, Jason Wade, Nate Yazel, Jeff Thompson, Lance Tresenriter, Mike Mycroft, Michelle Cain, Matt Broadway, Allisyn Gillet, Angie Haywood, Jody Kress, Sam Jordan, & Josh Griffin.

The 2015 State Wildlife Action Plan identified loss of grassland habitats as one of the biggest threats to Indiana Wildlife. Further, midwestern state wildlife agencies have developed regional SWAP objectives of importance that includes grassland habitat, pollinator habitat, and freshwater mussels. The GGS initiative will address both grassland and pollinator habitats. The established habitat from GGS will also act to improve water quality necessary for the survival of multiple freshwater mussel species. The GGS Committee designed the initiative to address all of these large scale conservation objectives in a way that benefits Indiana wildlife & natural resources, builds capacity through funding more biologist positions & providing financial assistance to landowners, boosts the economy, and provides more recreational opportunities for Indiana citizens.

Each year, the "DFW To Do List" identifies big picture objectives to help guide the Division. The "2017 DFW To Do List" included an objective to "Secure An RCPP". By securing an RCPP, the Division would also be addressing a recurring need-to use alternate funding to address Division objectives. Through the efforts of this GGS Committee, not one, but two RCPP's were secured. The two RCPPs consist of the GGS, and the Regional Partnership "Reversing Declines in Grassland Biodiversity". Both initiatives will deliver grassland and pollinator habitat on private lands throughout the state of Indiana. The GGS initiative will fund 3 full time "grassland biologist" positions and provide approximately \$700,000 to fund habitat development & management. The regional RCPP effort will provide manpower, financial assistance, and resources to promote a "working lands" initiative targeted at management of current agricultural practices that are more beneficial to wildlife & Indiana's natural resources. This includes things such as prescribed grazing, fescue eradication, and the use of prescribed fire. The two initiatives together will develop at least 2,650 acres of grassland habitat throughout six different regions of the state while also providing at least 25% high quality quail habitat within a 6,000 acre focus area in Greene County.

The Division is the lead agency in the 31 partner GGS Initiative which was selected for RCPP funding of \$1 Million dollars. The RCPP program encourages partnership. The GGS RCPP submittal included approximately \$833,000 in partnership contribution. Additionally, the GGS committee developed a donation account through the Indiana Natural Resources foundation. To date, approximately \$200,000 have been contributed by sponsors of the effort. All told, the budget for the GGS initiative is above \$2 Million dollars-with nearly all of this money already

secured! Partners & sponsors include NGOs, conservation organizations at the federal, state & county level, private companies, utility companies, private individuals, etc.

The second RCPP selected for funding through the efforts of this GGS Committee was the regional RCPP “Reversing Declines In Grassland Biodiversity”. While the exact funding level of this initiative is still being negotiated for Indiana, it is intended to fund at least one partner position (likely a grazing specialist) that will promote working lands efforts on current agricultural lands. This initiative will also provide up to another \$200,000 in further financial assistance that will allow landowners to establish and manage grassland and pollinator habitats.

Both RCPP projects require monitoring. The regional RCPP will have a monitoring protocol for grassland songbirds developed by the Central Hardwoods Joint Venture, the lead agency of that initiative. The GGS initiative will develop a National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative (NBCI) focal area on both public and private land on and around Goose Pond FWA in Greene County. This will allow the Division to be able to gather more data on grasslands, songbirds, and the prized bobwhite quail, all while increasing our conservation impacts throughout Indiana.

All told, the impact of the GGS committee will likely result in approximately \$2.75-3 Million dollars for conservation in Indiana including the funding of 3 full time biologist positions and another partner/contract position. The efforts of this committee have also built a foundation of partnership with a number of other conservation enthusiasts that may allow for an even larger impact on conservation in the future! The GGS Committee used their knowledge, experience, dedication, creativity, innovation, and a collective will to make this into a reality for the Division!

Perhaps most importantly, the GGS Committee engaged in some unique and different approaches to make this effort a success. Some of these included: marketing, targeting non-traditional customers to gain support for conservation efforts, seeking out sponsorships, fund raising efforts, using a synergistic approach to engage partners in a landscape level conservation effort, developing a new hunter access program (entitled APPLE) to increase recreational opportunities and then leveraging money from that to support the RCPP proposal, beginning development of regional habitat teams designed to be the “boots on the ground” establishing habitat for landowners, using outreach and education to gain a unified conservation message from partners, etc. Many of these roles and jobs put staff out of their comfort zones. Many of these projects required long hours of work and didn’t fit the contemporary duties of DFW staff. However, these efforts may well lead us to previously unfound success and serve as a template for future conservation efforts!

Truly, the GGS Committee collectively used staffs’ education, experience, passion, and commitment to truly move the needle and make a significant impact on conservation in Indiana! It would be fitting that DFW recognize the efforts of the GGS committee with the 2017 “Director’s Team Of The Year” award!

Special Recognition – John Fischer (no written nomination)



MIDWEST

Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies

®

Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Awards Nomination Form (year)

I want to nominate: St Louis Zoo

Award (check only one per form)

X Special Recognition Award

☐

Spirit of the Shack

☐

Fisheries Biologist of the Year

☐

Wildlife Biologist of the Year

☐

Law Enforcement Officer of the Year

Nomination of the Saint Louis Zoo for the Midwest Special Recognition Award

Nominator information

Name: Jeff Briggler/Andrea Schuhmann

Organization: Missouri Department of Conservation

Title: State Herpetologist (Briggler), Natural History Biologist (Schuhmann)

E-mail: jeff.briggler@mdc.mo.gov

Phone number: 573/522-4115 ext. 3201

1. Provide a brief (one page or less) overview explaining why the individual/agency meets the criteria for the award:

Saint Louis Zoo (STLZ) staff from multiple disciplines (herpetarium, insectarium, veterinarian, and life support system staff) have been and continue to be key partners in the conservation and recovery of several native wildlife species of Missouri. The STLZ established WildCare Institute Centers in the mid-2000's with the goal of saving endangered species and their ecosystems around the world. There are currently 12 established WildCare Institute Centers in which two of these centers are devoted to the long-term propagation and recovery of two endangered species (Hellbender and American Burying Beetle) in Missouri. In 2002, Ron Goellner (Director of Animal Collections, STLZ) and Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) initiated a collaborative project to construct a dedicated facility for long-term captive propagation of hellbenders at the STLZ. Progress occurred rapidly on the construction of the facility, employing dedicated staff, and obtaining wild animals for breeding. With the passing of Ron Goellner in February 2006, the hellbender propagation facility was named in his honor for his commitment, passion, and dream of conserving hellbenders. The Ron Goellner Center of Hellbender Propagation, WildCare Institute at the STLZ became a model both nationally and internationally for amphibian propagation and collaboration among zoos and state agencies. In addition to Hellbender efforts, the STLZ has partnered with MDC on efforts to propagate and reintroduce the American Burying Beetle back into the wild of Missouri, a project now spanning over a decade. Both Centers have been nationally and internationally recognized by receiving several awards from the Association of Zoos and Aquariums and government agencies. Through these Centers they have secured funding and donations to support their role of breeding, rearing, augmenting, and reintroduction of these two, endangered species to meet recovery objectives outlined by the Ozark Hellbender and American Burying Beetle recovery teams. STLZ leadership and staff have not only made these Centers a priority by the long-term commitment of the breeding and rearing of these two animals via establishment as a WildCare Institute Center, they also have allocated significant resources (more than 15 dedicated staff and day-to-day operation cost) to conserve these species. Great successes have occurred since the conception of the Hellbender and American Burying Beetle Centers and some of the most significant outcomes are highlighted below in the response to Question 2.

2. Please list and/or describe specific projects, work or accomplishments relevant to the award. Please limit your information to one page.

Since the conception of the Hellbender Center in 2002 at the STLZ, significant progress has occurred with establishing and refining husbandry protocols, hatching eggs, expansion of rearing space, construction of additional breeding raceways, devoted funding, and dedicated staff to care for Hellbenders. The facility began with 1 indoor artificial stream on zoo grounds to naturally breed wild collected adults and a few aquariums for rearing young. Now the facility consists of the three artificial streams (1 indoor and 2 outdoor) and 4 large rooms for hatching eggs, rearing young, and conducting research projects. Not only is this facility top notch, it is the model that other zoos and breeding facilities are using today. In addition, the STLZ provides it collective expertise (veterinarians, zoo managers, nutritionists, pathologist, etc.) and many dedicated staff (zoo keepers) available to care for Hellbenders. To date, approximately 7,000 larval Hellbenders have been reared at the STLZ with more than 4,500 individuals already returned to their native rivers in Missouri and Arkansas to augment existing populations. On an average year, the STLZ staff take care of between 3,800 to 4,200 individuals. These milestones alone achieved by zoo staff are remarkable, but autumn of 2011 marked one of the most significant achievements to date for this species. The world's first captive-breeding of the Ozark Hellbender occurred at the STLZ, and resulted in more than 150 larval Ozark Hellbenders. All the effort and support put forward by numerous individuals of the STLZ made this day possible. An even greater achievement occurred in 2012 and 2013 with not only continued success in captive-breeding, but also breeding success occurred in all three artificial streams (1- indoor and 2-outdoor).

Successful captive-breeding has occurred for six consecutive years, and second-generation individuals (those reared at the STLZ) augmented in the breeding stock in the artificial streams have successfully bred in captivity.

The STLZ has also partnered with the MDC on efforts to reintroduce the federally endangered American Burying Beetle into Missouri, a project now spanning over a decade. Through the Center for American Burying Beetle Conservation, staff have secured funding and donations to support their role in obtaining brood stock, breeding, rearing, and releasing the beetle onto publicly owned land in southwest Missouri. Using STLZ captive-reared beetles from wild stock in Missouri, approximately 2,000 individuals have been released in Missouri since 2012. Recent surveys in the relocation area have increased from formerly only finding a handful of beetles to finding 850 in 2016. The STLZ has masterfully engaged countless members of the public, dozens of volunteers, and dedicated staff in the recovery of this rare beetle.

These successful achievements of captive-breeding of the Hellbender and American Burying Beetle will not only buy time for these two species by establishing and bolstering populations of these endangered animals, but they likely will save both species long-term on the Missouri landscape. The STLZ is instrumental in leading the charge for the propagation efforts of Hellbenders and American Burying Beetles. These collaborative partnerships between government and non-government organizations have been used as exemplary examples of a multi-agency, multi-disciplinary approach to recovery of an endangered species on a national and international scale. Therefore, we are honored to recommend the outstanding staffs of the Ron Goellner Center for Hellbender Propagation Center and the Center for the Conservation of the American Burying Beetle, WildCare Institute, Saint Louis Zoo for the Midwest President's Award from the Midwest Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies.

No written nominations for the rest of the awards.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

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MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF FISH & WILDLIFE AGENCIES

JUNE, 2017~~8~~

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS
MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF FISH & WILDLIFE AGENCIES

PREAMBLE

The name of this organization shall be the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (Association). The Association shall be organized and operated as a non-profit professional association as described in 501(c)(6) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code with the purpose of promoting the protection, preservation, restoration and management of fish and wildlife resources.

~~The Conservation Enhancement Fund (Fund) shall be organized and operated as a non-profit charitable organization as described in 501(c)3 of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.~~

The Association ~~and the Fund were~~ was incorporated in the State of Kansas on August 19, 2005. The Association ~~and the Fund~~ shall comply with K.S.A. 17-1759, et seq., known as the "Charitable Organizations and Solicitations Act." To the extent these bylaws conflict with a provision of the Act, the Act shall govern.

The objectives of the Association shall be:

- (a) to protect the right of jurisdiction of the Midwestern states over their wildlife resources on public and private lands;
- (b) to ~~scrutinize carefully~~ scrutinize state and federal wildlife legislation and regulations and to offer support or opposition to legislative proposals or federal regulations in accordance with the best interests of the Midwestern states;
- (c) to serve as a clearinghouse for the exchange of ideas concerning wildlife and fisheries management, research techniques, wildlife law enforcement, hunting and outdoor safety, and information and education;
- (d) and to encourage and assist sportsmen's and conservationists' organizations so that the fullest measure of cooperation may be secured from our citizenry in the protection, preservation, restoration and management of our fish and wildlife resources.

The Association met for the first time on October 28, 1934 in Des Moines, Iowa. At that time the group was known as the Association of Midwest Fish and Game Commissioners. The Association first received its non-profit status in 1968. The Association's name was changed to the Association of Midwest Fish and Wildlife Commissioners in 1972, to the Association of Midwest Fish and Wildlife Agencies in 1977, and to the Midwest

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies in 2001.

ARTICLE I

OFFICERS

Section 1. The Officers of the Association shall be President, First Vice-President, and Second Vice-President. The President and both Vice-Presidents shall be the duly authorized voting representative of their member state or province and shall be selected on an alphabetical rotation basis, with the First Vice-President being from the state or province next in order of rotation following the President and the Second Vice-President being from the state or province next in rotation following the First Vice-President. The term of office shall commence 30 days following adjournment of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' (AFWA) annual meeting and conclude 30 days following adjournment of the succeeding annual AFWA meeting. The First Vice-President shall automatically succeed to President if he/she remains eligible. ~~In the event that~~ If the President separates from a member agency (or is replaced by that agency), the First Vice-President shall fulfill the remaining term, followed by their regular term.

Section 2. The Board of Directors shall be composed of the officers identified in Article I, Section 1 and one representative from each state and province except those represented by the officers. Such state or provincial Board member shall be the chief executive officer of the fish and wildlife agency of his/her state or province, or his/her designee. A Board member may, by written notification to the President, designate a voting proxy from the Board member's state or province. However, Executive Committee members may not designate a proxy for the conduct of Executive Committee business.

ARTICLE II

OTHER ASSOCIATION POSITIONS

Section 1. The Association shall establish the position of "Treasurer." An Association member agency may provide an individual to serve in this capacity or the Association may contract with a member agency or an individual to fill this position. This is a nonvoting position.

Section 2. The Association shall also establish the position of "Executive Secretary." An Association member agency may provide an individual to serve in this capacity or the Association may contract with a member agency or an individual to fill the position. This is a nonvoting position.

Section 3. The Association may establish the position of "Recording Secretary." This is a nonvoting position.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership shall be by states and provinces and representation of each state and province at meetings shall be by its duly authorized representative or representatives.

Section 2. The area of membership in the Association shall be the states of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin, and the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Ontario and such additional states and provinces as may request membership and be elected by majority vote of the member states and provinces in annual meeting.

Section 3. Membership in the Association of an individual shall terminate upon the expiration of the member's term of office as a state fish and wildlife administrator.

Section 4. Other professional organizations may be granted affiliate membership in the Association based upon demonstration that the Constitution and Bylaws of said organizations meet the basic standards of the Association. Application for affiliate membership shall be forwarded to the Executive Secretary at least 90 days prior to a regular meeting of the Association and shall include a current Constitution and Bylaws and a letter stating the organization's justification for affiliate membership. Affiliate membership shall be voted on by the voting representatives and must attain a majority vote of a quorum. Affiliated membership dues shall be \$75.00 per year; however, this fee may be waived by a majority vote of a quorum. The fee is automatically waived for affiliated conservation agencies or organizations that provide annual financial resources to support the Association through the following sponsorships: Major Sponsor (\$5,000 or more); Gold Sponsor (\$3,000-4,999); Silver Sponsor (\$2,000-2,999); Bronze Sponsor (\$1,000-1,999); and Sponsor (\$500-999).

ARTICLE IV

DUTIES OF OFFICERS and OTHER POSITIONS

Section 1. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Association, appoint all special committees, preside at meetings of the Board of Directors, and perform such other duties as are naturally incumbent upon the office to serve the Association and the Fund. Copies of the annual proceedings shall be forwarded to each member in good standing, with the cost of preparation and handling to be paid out of Association funds. All other copies are for distribution at the discretion of the host state or province.

Section 2. The First Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President in the latter's absence, and specific duties may be assigned as deemed necessary by the President.

Section 3. The Board of Directors shall conduct the business of the Association.

Section 4. The Executive Secretary shall perform the following services for the Association ~~and the Fund~~:

- (1) Function as the official "Executive Secretary" for the Association carrying out liaison services by keeping in communication via e-mail, mailings, phone contact and personal visits with member Directors, or their designated representatives, to enhance the viability of the Association.
- (2) Work to obtain direct involvement and commitment of member Directors and affiliate leaders to build strength in the Association as a leading force in the Midwest on behalf of fish and wildlife issues.
- (3) Assist the Executive Director of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies in coordinating actions and communications relevant to the Midwest Association.
- (4) Respond to inquiries for information regarding the Association and ~~the Fund and~~ to routine correspondence.
- (5) Develop and maintain a web site for the Association.
- (6) Carry out directives of the President and/or Executive Committee of the Association.
- (7) Assist with the scheduling of meetings and conference calls and notify appropriate members.
- (8) Record minutes in the absence of the Recording Secretary.
- (9) Provide such other services as may be mutually agreed upon by both parties.

Section 5. The Recording Secretary shall perform the following services:

- (1) Record and publish the annual proceedings of the Association.

- (2) Record and retain the minutes of all meetings of the Association, and perform such other duties as are naturally incumbent upon the office.
- (3) Assist other officers and positions with correspondence and record keeping.
- (4) Serve as the custodian of all permanent files and records of the Association.
- (5) Other duties as assigned by the President.

Section 6. The Treasurer shall perform the following services for the Association and the Fund:

- (1) Be custodian of all funds of the Association ~~and the Fund~~.
- (2) Establish and have access to Association ~~and Fund~~ bank accounts.
- (3) Draw all warrants for payment of claims properly presented and expend funds necessary to pay appropriately invoiced bills, provided such warrants are signed by a director selected and approved by the Executive Committee.
- (4) Invoice members and sponsors and collect dues and funds.
- (5) Review monthly account reports and monitor income and expenditures.
- (6) Prepare reports to the Executive Committee detailing income, expenditures and asset values.

~~(7) Prepare and present annual budgets, financial and audit reports.~~

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~~(8)~~(7) Perform record-keeping, reporting and filing actions to ensure the Association complies with its governing documents and any other relevant laws or regulations, including but not limited to any required filings with the state of Kansas or the Internal Revenue Service to maintain the Association's status as a tax-exempt non-profit organization and legal entity, and provide a report of any such required actions to the Executive Committee at its next meeting.

~~(9)~~(8) Develop, present and oversee budgets, accounts and financial

statements and reports and present such records for auditing purposes.

~~(10)~~(9) Ensure that appropriate accounting procedures and controls are in place and comply with the Associations' Internal Controls for Cash Policy.

~~(11)~~(10) _____ Serve as liaison with any staff and volunteers about Association and Fund financial matters.

~~(12)~~(11) _____ Monitor the Association's investment activity and ensure its consistency with the Association's policies and legal responsibilities; liaise with the Investments Committee and review reports submitted thereby.

~~(13)~~(12) _____ Ensure independent examination or audits are executed and any recommendations are implemented; provide report of results at the regular annual meeting.

~~(14)~~(13) _____ Make formal presentation of the accounts at the regular annual meeting and more frequently as requested by the Executive Secretary, the President or the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE V

MEETINGS

One regular meeting shall be held annually. The meeting will be held in and hosted by the state or province in which the President has administrative responsibility, or in such other locations designated by the Association. It is the intent of the Association that the costs of the annual meetings and related business functions may be paid by the Association. When necessary, special meetings may be called by the President or the Executive Secretary. Members shall be given 90 days' notice of regular annual meetings; 60 days' notice for special, in-person meetings; and five days' notice for special, telephonic meetings and telephonic meetings of the Executive Committee.

The Association may authorize members, affiliates and other groups to exhibit at its meetings, subject to the Exhibitor/Sponsor Policy approved by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VI

VOTING

Voting shall be by states and provinces, as units. Each state and province shall have one vote. All voting shall be by voice vote, except that a reasonable request by any member state or province for a secret ballot shall be honored. Any matters of Association business requiring action in the interim between meetings may be handled by the Executive Committee, by majority vote of that committee.

ARTICLE VII

DUES

Annual Dues shall be ~~–~~\$3,800 per member state and \$100 per province, payable in advance, at, or before each annual meeting; provided that annual dues may be suspended for any given year by a majority vote of a quorum. Dues shall be adjusted annually by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Midwest published by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics. Dues shall be adjusted using the annual change in the CPI-U for the month of January of the previous fiscal year. The annual dues for the upcoming year shall be reported at the Association's regular annual meeting by the Treasurer.

ARTICLE VIII

FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of the Association shall be January 1 through December 31.

ARTICLE IX

QUORUM

A quorum is defined as a simple majority of the states.

ARTICLE X

AMENDMENT

The Constitution and Bylaws (Bylaws) of the Association may be amended at any regular meeting by a majority vote of a quorum; provided, however, a written copy of such proposed amendment shall have been received by the President and the Executive Secretary and sent to members at least 30 days before the regular annual meeting or special meeting called for that purpose; and provided that such changes shall be effective only to the extent they are authorized by applicable law. Proposed Bylaws amendments should be presented to, or generated by, the Bylaws Committee and reviewed by the Executive Committee prior to submitting to voting members of the Association for their

consideration. With approval of the First Vice-President, the President may call for voting by mail (including electronic mail) in lieu of a meeting. In this event, the 30-day notice shall still apply, the date of opening ballots shall be previously announced, notice sent to each member within forty-eight hours of vote tabulation by the Executive Secretary and all ballots shall be kept for one year following the vote.

ARTICLE XI

TYPES OF COMMITTEES/BOARDS

Section 1. There shall be three kinds of committees: Standing, President's Ad Hoc, and Technical Working.

Section 2. The following Standing Committees shall be appointed by the incoming President within 30 days after assuming office, they shall serve during the period intervening between annual meetings and at such meetings, or until the purpose of each such committee has been accomplished and it has been discharged by the President.

- A. The Executive Committee shall be composed of six members of the Association: The President, First Vice President, Second Vice-President, immediate Past President, and two other members to be appointed by the President with specific consideration for geographical balance. Any state or province represented on the Executive Committee by more than one individual shall be restricted to a single vote on this committee. The Executive Committee shall have general supervision of the affairs of the Association between its business meetings, make recommendations to the Association as necessary and shall perform such other duties as may be specified in these bylaws. The Executive Committee shall be subject to the orders of the Board of Directors and none of its acts shall conflict with action taken by the Board of Directors. Special meetings of the Executive Committee may be called by the President as necessary. The Executive Committee may also act via conference call or by mail (including electronic mail). In the event that an officer of the Association or the immediate Past President separates from a member agency (or is replaced by that agency), their replacement in a member agency shall serve for the remainder of their term, with the exception of President. If the President separates from a member agency (or is replaced by that agency), their replacement in a member agency will serve in their place on the Executive Committee for the remainder of the term as a Special Board Member with voting rights, and the First Vice-President will succeed to President for the remainder of the term.
- B. The Auditing Committee shall be composed of three members: The First Vice President of the Association, who shall act as chairman, and two other

members to be appointed by the President. The Auditing Committee shall audit the financial records of the Association annually and report the result of its audit at the annual regular meeting.

- C. The Resolutions Committee shall be composed of three members, one of which shall be designated as Chairman by the President. Copies of proposed resolutions should be received by the President and the Executive Secretary and sent to members for their consideration at least 30 days before the regular annual meeting. Courtesy resolutions and resolutions of a ~~last-minute~~last-minute nature may be recommended to the Board of Directors at the annual meeting. Furthermore, proposed resolutions for which an urgent need arises between annual meetings may be presented to the Board of Directors for consideration via mail (including electronic mail), provided members are given a 15-day notice. Members shall be notified of the vote outcome by the Executive Secretary within forty-eight hours of vote tabulation.
- D. The Awards Committee shall be composed of five members, one of which shall be designated as Chairman by the President. The Awards Committee shall administer the official annual awards program of the Association.
- E. The Bylaws Committee shall be composed of at least one member, designated by the President. The Bylaws Committee shall recommend Bylaws changes to the Executive Committee for consideration.
- F. The Investments Committee shall be composed of three members. The President shall designate one of the members as Chairman. The purpose of the committee is to review investments, including the Jaschek portfolio, the Conservation Enhancement Fund, and other permanent assets of the Association and make recommendations to the Association per the investment policy statement. The Investments Committee shall make an annual report to the Board of Directors at the annual meeting.
- ~~G. The Conservation Enhancement Fund shall be overseen by a Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall be comprised of the Executive Committee plus one additional Association member appointed by the President. The purpose of the Fund shall be to support those activities of the Association which maintain and enhance the capability of all member states and provinces to develop and implement comprehensive fish and wildlife programs for all species of wildlife and their habitats. The Conservation Enhancement Fund Committee shall make recommendations for expenditures from the Fund for consideration by the Board of Directors at the regular annual meeting. The Committee shall report its activities, including no activity in the event there are no funds in the Fund, annually to the Board of Directors when making its recommendations.~~

H.G. The Program Committee shall be comprised of four members, one from the host state of the previous annual meeting, one from the host state of the current annual meeting, one from the host state of the next annual meeting, and the Executive Secretary. The purpose of the committee is to assist the host state with developing presentation and discussion topics and suggesting speakers for the non-business portion of meeting.

Section 3. Ad Hoc Committees may be established as deemed necessary by the President of the Association or vote of the Members and shall serve until the purpose of each such committee has been accomplished and it has been discharged by the President or by vote of the Members.

Section 4. The Association may establish Technical Working Committees as deemed necessary to conduct the affairs of the Association. Upon establishment, these committees shall adhere to the following:

- A. Within one year from establishment, each committee shall submit to the Association for approval a Mission Statement, a list of specific responsibilities, and a description of operating procedures that will become part of the official minutes of the Association.
- B. All Technical Working Committees shall submit a written report electronically to the President and the Executive Secretary 30 days in advance of the annual meeting of the Association and may choose to conduct necessary committee business during the period between annual meetings as per their approved operating procedures.
- C. Each Technical Working Committee shall be automatically abolished by the first of August every three years unless reinstated by vote of the Association. As the end of the ~~third-year~~third-year approaches, the Association shall assess the merits of reinstating the Technical Working Committee.
- D. Resolutions from Technical Working Committees for Association action shall be submitted to the Chair of the Resolutions Committee 30 days in advance of the annual meeting for consideration by the Board of Directors.

The Association recognizes the following Technical Working Committees (year of automatic abolishment in parentheses):

Climate Change (2019)

Legal Committee (2020)

National Conservation Need (NCN) Committee (2020)

Midwest Private Lands Wildlife Management Group (2018~~21~~)

Midwest Public Lands Technical Working Committee (2019)
Midwest Wildlife and Fish Health Committee (2019)
Midwest Deer and Wild Turkey Study Group (2020)
Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers (2020)
Midwest Furbearer Group (20~~18~~²¹)
Wildlife Action Plan Technical Working Committee (20~~18~~²¹)
Hunter and Angler Recruitment and Retention Technical Working Group (2020)

ARTICLE XII

PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the Association in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any special rules of order the Association may adopt.

Adopted 1936
Amended 1942
Amended 1944
Amended 1949
Amended 1954
Amended 1960
Amended 1964
Amended 1969
Amended 1971
Amended 1972
Amended 1975
Amended 1976
Amended 1977
Amended 1978
Amended 1980
Amended 1987
Amended 1993
Amended 1995
Amended 1996
Amended 2000
Amended 2001
Amended July 16, 2003
Amended July 13, 2004
Amended July 13, 2005
Amended July 12, 2006
Amended July 18, 2007
Amended July 2, 2008

Amended July 1, 2009
Amended December 23, 2009
Amended June 29, 2011
Amended June 27, 2012
Amended June 26, 2013
Amended June 25, 2014
Amended July 1, 2015
Amended June 29, 2016
Amended June 28, 2017
Amended June 27, 2018



The background of the slide is a solid orange-brown color, overlaid with a pattern of stylized, semi-transparent leaves in various shades of brown and gold. The leaves are scattered across the frame, creating a textured, autumnal feel.

Executive Secretary

Annual Report 2018



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Association of
Fish & Wildlife
Agencies





MIDWEST
Association of
Fish & Wildlife
Agencies

**84TH MIDWEST ASSOCIATION
OF FISH & WILDLIFE AGENCIES
ANNUAL DIRECTORS' MEETING**

FINAL PROGRAM

JUNE 25-28, 2017

**EUGENE T. MAHONEY STATE PARK
ASHLAND, NEBRASKA**

Farewell

Petering



Moritz



Farewell

Thiede



Johnson

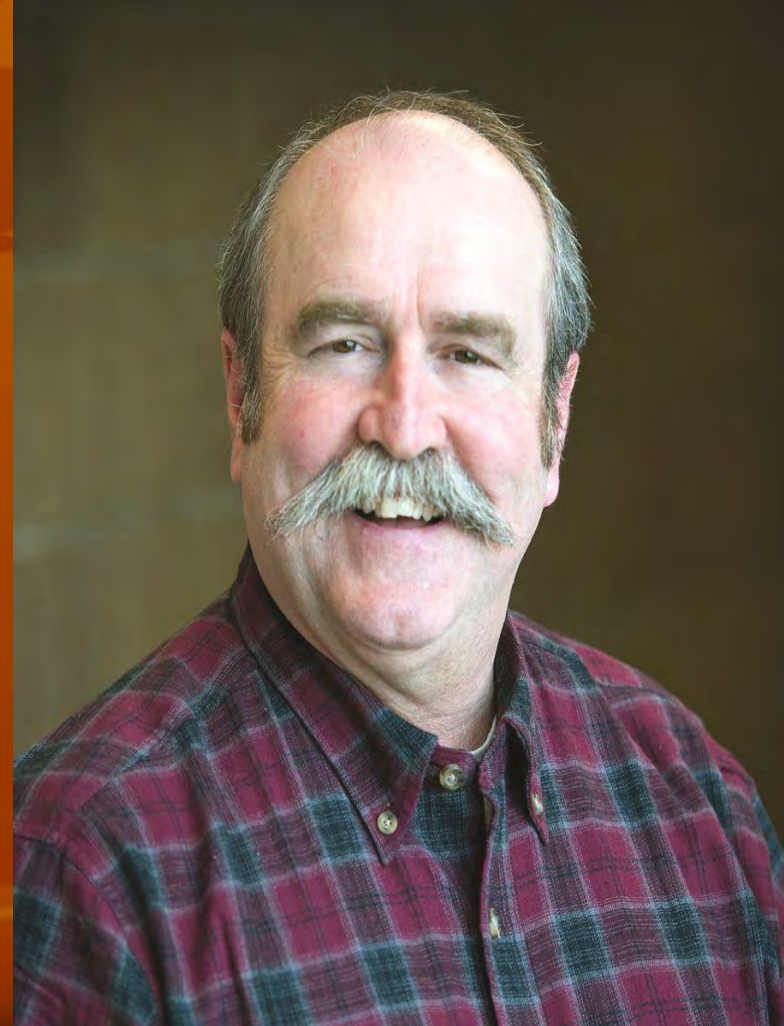


Welcome

Miller



O'Neill



Welcome

Meyers



Olson





MID-AMERICA MONARCH CONSERVATION STRATEGY

2018-2038

Version 1.0

Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

June 2018

Monarch State Liaison

Ed Boggess



Monarch Conservation

NFWF Grant III



Monarch Technical Coordinator

Claire Beck



New Policies

- Internal Controls for Cash
- Confidentiality
- Conflict of Interest and Compensation

President Transition

Douglas



Steinwand



Renewed Contract



Hunting & Fishing Chiefs

- Align state/Fed. hunting/fishing regs on refuges
- Expand recreation access on refuges
- Promote R3 activities

FWS/MAFWA Science Applications





MIDWEST

Association of
Fish & Wildlife
Agencies



JUNE 24-27, 2018

RAMKOTA HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER
BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA

Sponsorships



“Bombdiggity”

- 1) Incredible, beyond anything you could imagine. awesome, wonderful and way cool.
- 2) Awesomeness in its purest form.
- 3) Complete awesomeness to its fullest extent.

CLfT/MAFWA Cooperative Agreement



Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference



**Strengthening
Natural
Resources
through
Collaboration**

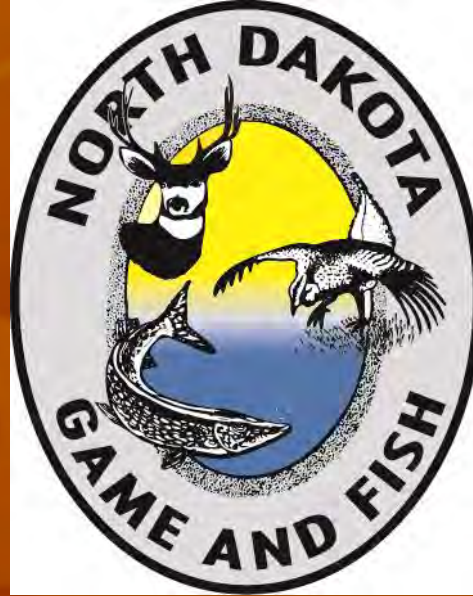
78th Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference

Milwaukee, Wisconsin | January 28-31, 2018

DMEM/MAFWA 3-Year Contract



Thank You!!!



• DELANEY •
MEETING & EVENT
MANAGEMENT, LLC
Est. 1997

Celebrating 10+ Years of Service

North Dakota Conference Planning Team





The History

MIDWEST Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies



85 Years
Publication
Briefing

**1934
-
2018**



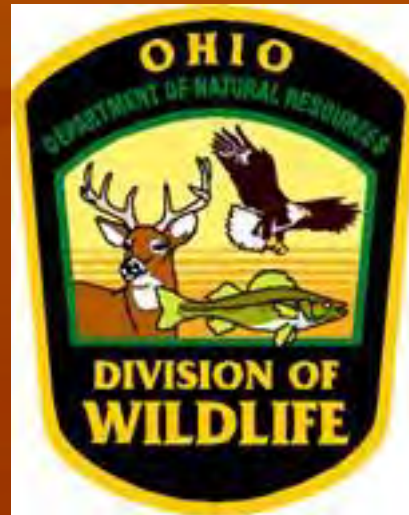
MIDWEST
Association of
Fish & Wildlife
Agencies

by Sheila Kemmis, MAFWA Recording Secretary, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism



Next MAFWA Conference

Sandusky, Ohio
Late June, 2019



The background of the slide features a repeating pattern of stylized leaves in various shades of orange and brown, creating a textured, autumnal effect.

Questions?

Sponsorships



Other Duties *“As Assigned”*



© Can Stock Photo - csp23023315

Thank You!!!

Bill Moritz



Thank You!!!

Carol Bambery



Thank You!!!

Sheila Kemmis



NATIONAL WILD PHEASANT CONSERVATION PLAN



AUGUST 2013



Message from the Chairman

Our partnership to create a more united front for pheasant conservation completed its second full year at the end of March. The decision to create this organization in 2016 was well timed, as the federal Farm Bill now under consideration in Washington, D.C. provides a critical opportunity to impact habitat abundance for pheasants and other grassland wildlife for years to come. We approached our advocacy for a more conservation-minded Farm Bill with a heightened intensity this year as Agriculture Committee lawmakers in both the House and Senate began drafting legislative language for inclusion in their final bills. We expect our efforts to bear fruit in the coming year.

Our credibility with policymakers rests on our ability to provide recommendations based on reliable science. We took action this year to make that science more accessible to everyone, to synthesize what is known into realistic recommendations, and to begin work on cooperative projects that will advance our knowledge base more quickly than through the usual state-by-state approach to pheasant research. Whatever hand we are dealt through the legislative process, improved science and planning tools that result from this cooperation will help us make the most out of the resources available. Thank you to everyone who has helped us in these endeavors.

Tony Leif

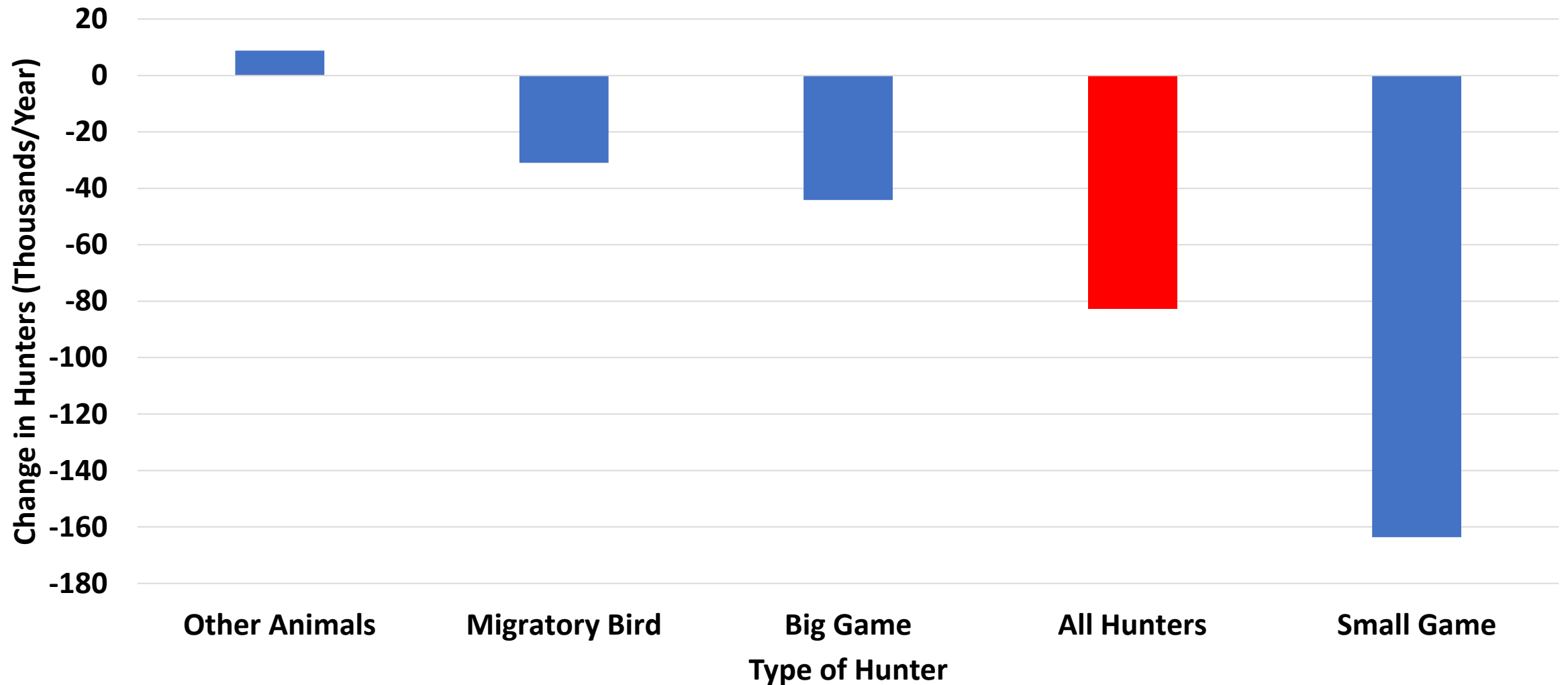
Chairman, National Wild Pheasant Conservation Plan Management Board
Director, Division of Wildlife, South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks



Available at:
nationalpheasantplan.org

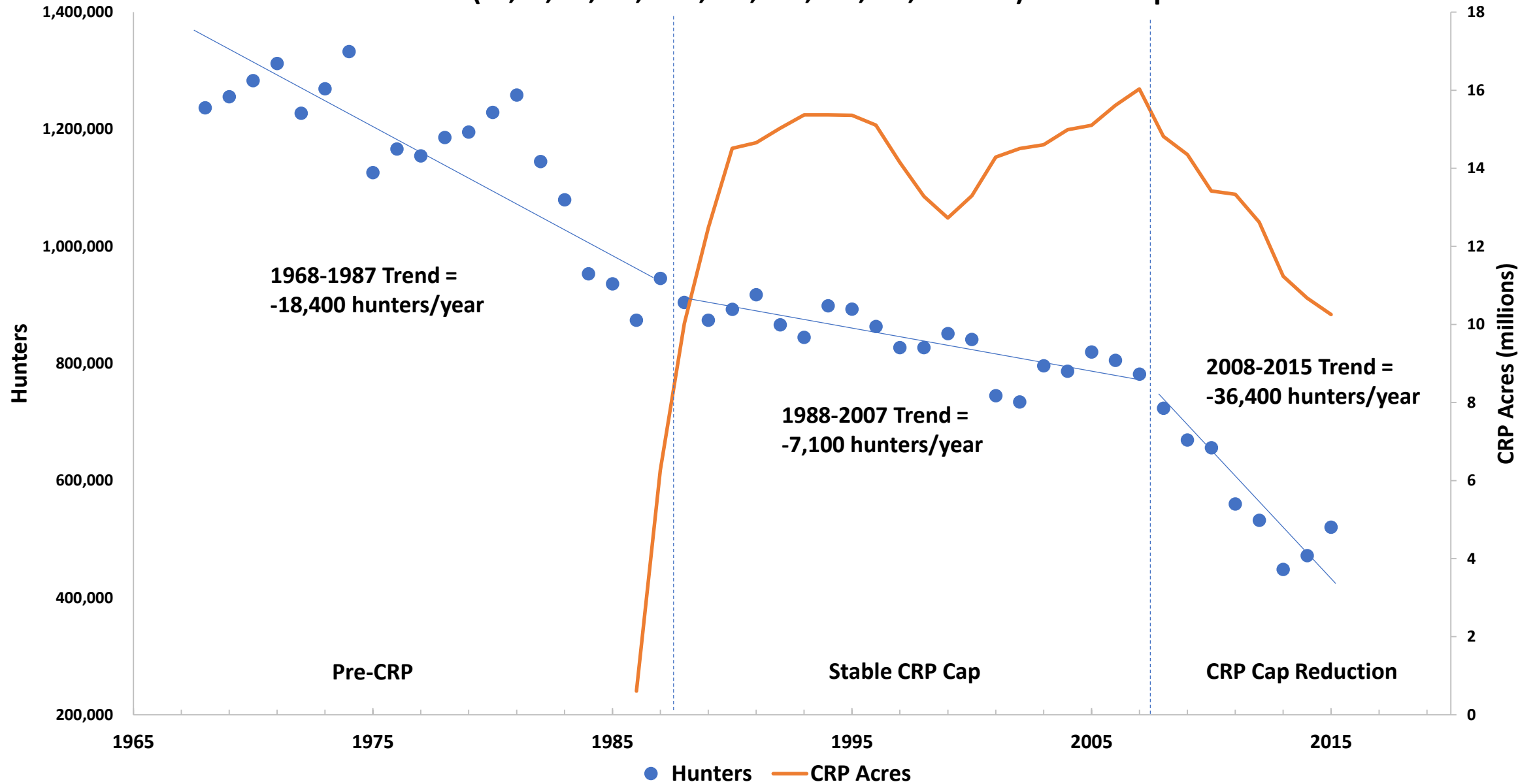
Average Annual Numeric Change in U.S. Hunter Numbers, 1991-2016

National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Outdoor-Related Recreation



Pheasant Hunter Trends, 1968-2015

Total for 10 states (ID, IL, IA, KS, MN, NE, ND, OR, SD, and UT) with complete data

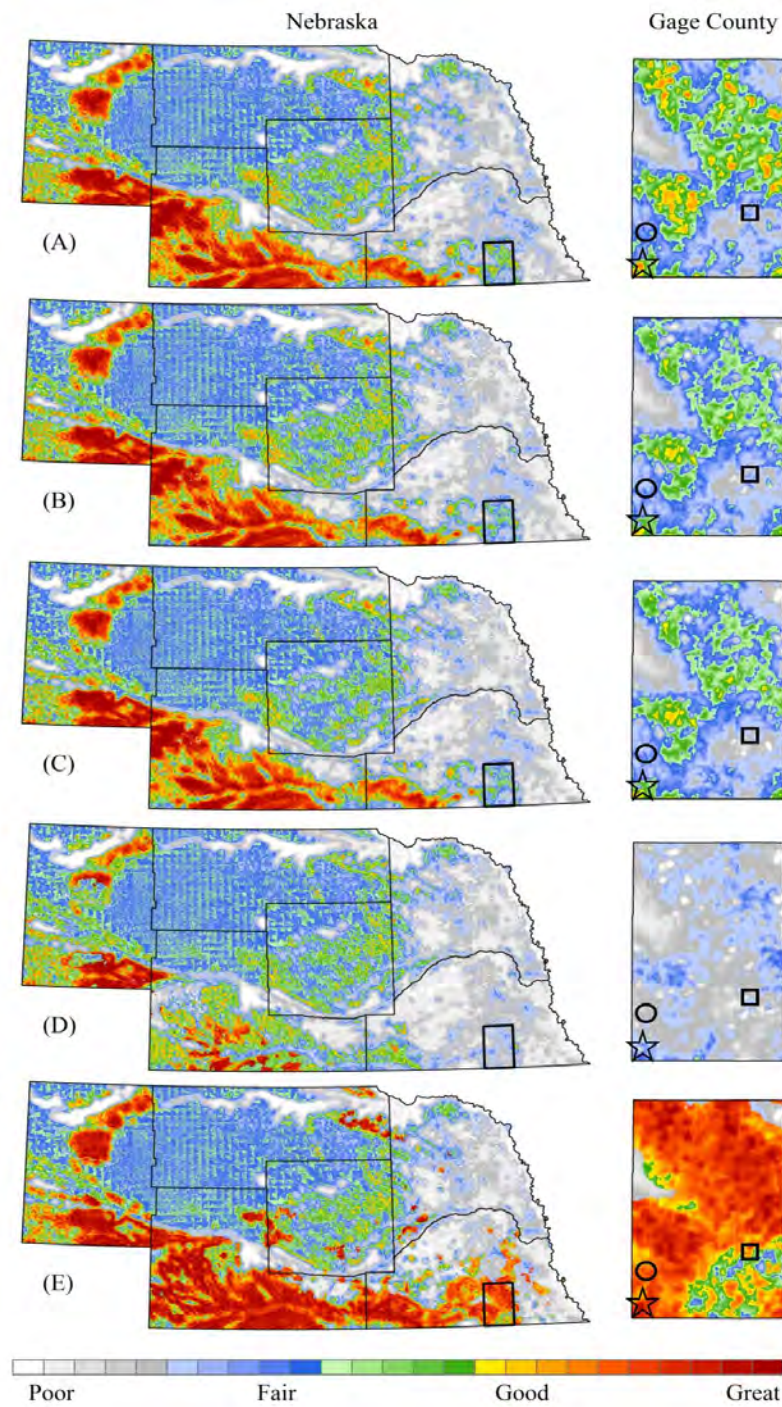


Key Conclusions

- The national decline in hunter participation is mostly driven by the loss of small game hunters
- CRP acreage clearly influences pheasant hunter participation (habitat is an R3 issue)
- Hunter losses are likely to continue at CRP acreage caps currently proposed in pending Farm Bill legislation
- Exploration of a wider array of approaches beyond CRP is becoming more essential

Managing pheasants in an era of diminished CRP

- More strategic distribution of CRP enrollments (within states, not among states)



Status quo

50% CRP loss
(random)

50% CRP loss
(targeted)

50% of wheat to
corn

25% of corn to
wheat

Managing pheasants in an era of diminished CRP

- More strategic distribution of CRP enrollments (within states, not among states)
- Selective promotion of soil health practices (cover crops, etc.)
- Selective promotion of precision ag analyses
- Innovation in maximizing satisfied hunters (addressing the perception of “crowding” as an R3 barrier)
- Innovation in funding for farmland habitats (PR, RAWA)
- Interstate cooperation to speed learning and innovation



National Wild Pheasant Conservation
Plan & Partnerships

Annual Report

April 1, 2017 - March 31, 2018

Message from the Chairman

Our partnership to create a more united front for pheasant conservation completed its second full year at the end of March. The decision to create this organization in 2016 was well timed, as the federal Farm Bill now under consideration in Washington, D.C. provides a critical opportunity to impact habitat abundance for pheasants and other grassland wildlife for years to come. We approached our advocacy for a more conservation-minded Farm Bill with a heightened intensity this year as Agriculture Committee lawmakers in both the House and Senate began drafting legislative language for inclusion in their final bills. We expect our efforts to bear fruit in the coming year.

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Tony Leif

Chairman, National Wild Pheasant Conservation Plan Management Board
Director, Division of Wildlife, South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks

“Our mission is to foster science-based, socially-supported policies and programs that enhance wild pheasant populations, provide recreational opportunities to pheasant hunters, and support the economics and social values of communities.”



Coordination

Our Management Board oversees the strategic direction of the partnership, and is composed of representatives from 13 state wildlife agencies and Pheasants Forever, Inc. The Board kept us focused on work related to the passage of a wildlife-friendly federal Farm Bill, as well as encouragement of regional and national-scale tools to help predict the effects of habitat changes. The Board met this year in Snowmass, Utah and Norfolk, Virginia in association with other national conservation meetings.



Management Board members (l to r): Jeb Williams (ND), Dave Nomsen (PF), Russ Mason (MI), Jim Douglas (NE), Wayne Rosenthal (IL), Sal Palazzolo (ID), and Chair Tony Leif (SD). Not pictured: Todd Bogenschutz (IA), Keith Sexson (KS), Jim Leach (MN), Mike Reynolds (OH), Bryan Burhans (PA), and Clayton Wolf (TX), and Angeli-cue Curtis (WA).

The National Wild Pheasant Technical Committee consists of pheasant biologists from state agencies across the country and serves a science advisory role for the partnership. Technical Committee working groups began addressing potential multi-state cooperation on improving summer brood count data for predicting fall hunting conditions, and providing recommendations for translocations of wild pheasants. The group met this year in Garden City, Utah.



National Wild Pheasant Technical Committee members at their 2017 annual meeting in Garden City, UT (l to r): Robert Perez (TX), R.J. Gross (ND), Todd Bogenschutz (IA), Scott Taylor (National Pheasant Plan Coordinator), John Laux (NE), Jeff Lusk (NE), Jeff Prendergast (KS), Tom Keller (PA), Mark Wiley (OH), Travis Runia (SD), Avery Cook (UT), Mark Witecha (WI), Jason Robinson (UT), and Tony Selley (Cache Valley Pheasants Forever). Attendees not pictured: Al Stewart (MI) and Jeff Knetter (ID).

Dr. Scott Taylor, the partnership's Plan Coordinator, is based in Pheasants Forever's Brookings, South Dakota office. He helps facilitate the work of both the Management Board and Technical Committee, and serves as the point of contact with external partners such as the North American Bird Conservation Initiative and AFWA's Resident Game Bird Working Group. The work items described below were his primary responsibilities this year.

Farm Bill Advocacy

The 2018 Farm Bill is our partnership's highest policy priority, with a significant increase in the Conservation Reserve Program acreage cap being paramount. Related work completed this year includes:

- A survey of state wildlife agencies to confirm that an increase in CRP acreage was not only the highest priority for pheasants, but for wildlife in general
- Participation in Pheasants Forever's June fly-in event to Washington, D.C., including meetings with Senators John Thune (SD) and Heidi Heitkamp (ND); Senator Mike Rounds' (SD) chief of staff; Representatives Rodney Davis (IL) and Kristi Noem (SD), Representative Steve King's (IA) Agriculture Policy Advisor; and Josh Maxwell, professional staff for the House Committee on Agriculture

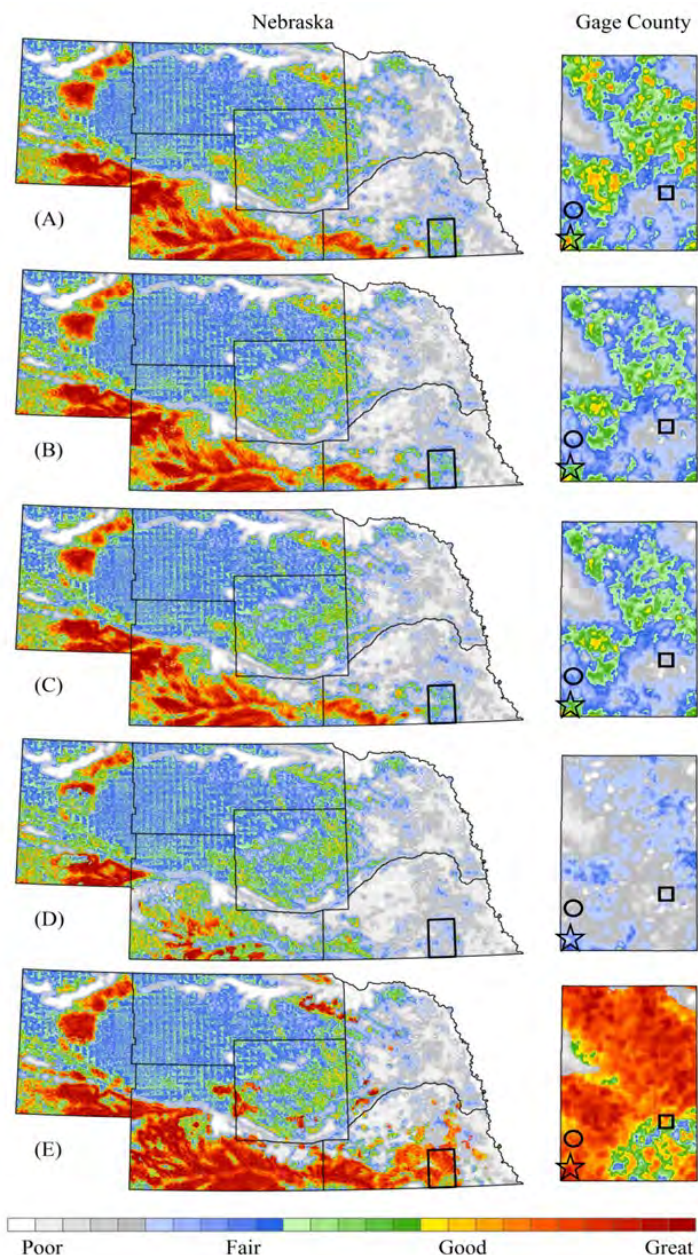


Representative Rodney Davis of Illinois (third from right) with some of the Pheasants Forever/Quail Forever delegation (l to r: National Pheasant Plan Coordinator Scott Taylor, QF Director of Field Operations Tim Caughran, Illinois State Coordinator Erin Holmes, and Chapter Leaders Glenn Bishop and Jack Dahl) in Washington, D.C.

- Written testimony on the partnership's Farm Bill conservation program priorities to the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry
- Oral testimony on the importance of CRP to pheasant hunter participation at the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Agriculture's Farm Bill Listening Session in Morgan, MN
- Correspondence with each U.S. Senate and House Agriculture Committee member about the importance of CRP and the Voluntary Public Access-Habitat Improvement Program (VPA-HIP) to national pheasant hunter participation

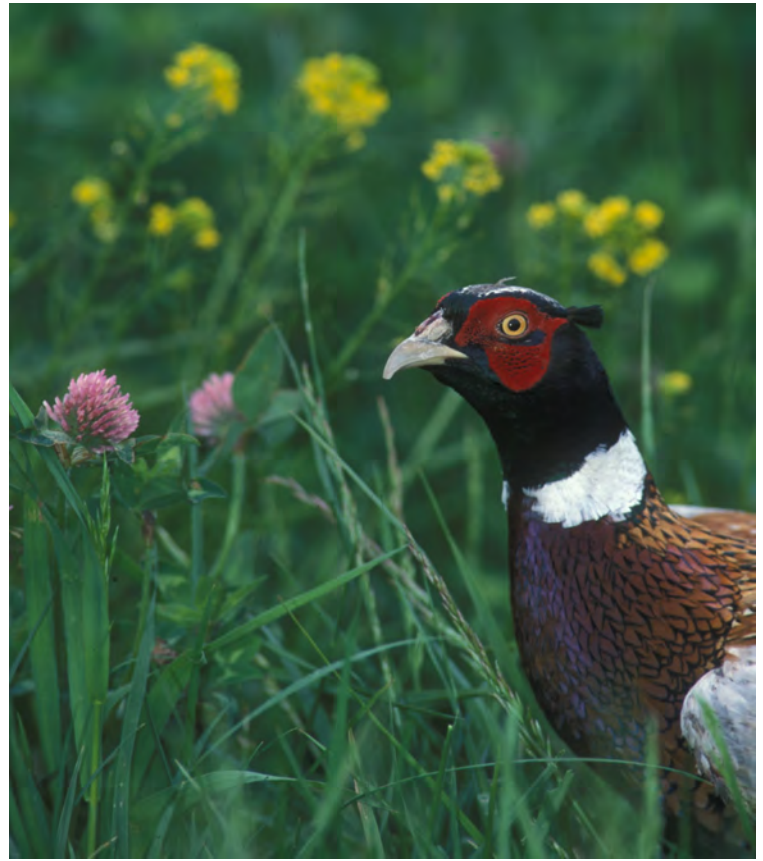
Large-scale Science Collaboration

One of partnership's key goals is to help the states work together to produce more robust planning tools for large-scale pheasant habitat conservation. We organized several partners who share this goal (Playa Lakes Joint Venture, Rainwater Basin Joint Venture, Prairie Pothole Joint Venture, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Services Agency, the Nebraska Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, and several state wildlife agencies) to agree on the utility of a tool that could be used to estimate the costs and benefits of large-scale land use changes related to policy options. We are currently seeking funding to begin construction and will learn the outcome of those inquiries during the next reporting period.



Examples of predicted pheasant abundance under five different land use scenarios based on a landscape-scale habitat model. The partnership seeks to develop such model-based tools across the pheasant range. Image courtesy of T. J. Fontaine, Nebraska Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit.

At the request of USDA-FSA, we also reviewed the effects of historical cropland conversion programs (i.e., CRP and its predecessors) on pheasants and made recommendations for future improvements. Results of this work will be published in the *Wildlife Society Bulletin* in June 2018.



Science and Policy Communication

When decision-makers have all the relevant information at their disposal, better policy results. We therefore created a user-friendly library of key pheasant literature organized by topic, including summaries of each publication. The library currently includes over 300 references and is available on the partnership's website at nationalpheasantplan.org.

On behalf of AFWA's Resident Game Bird Working Group, we also identified all the resident game bird abundance and harvest data sets available from all 50 state wildlife agencies. This serves as a resource for researchers interested in addressing questions for these species at a regional or national scale, and is also available on the website.

Finally, we began distributing a monthly update to our partners called *Pheasant News and Notes*. Each issue provides Farm Bill and USDA news, field and policy notes from the states relevant to pheasant management, and a list of recent publications. Current and back issues are available on the website.

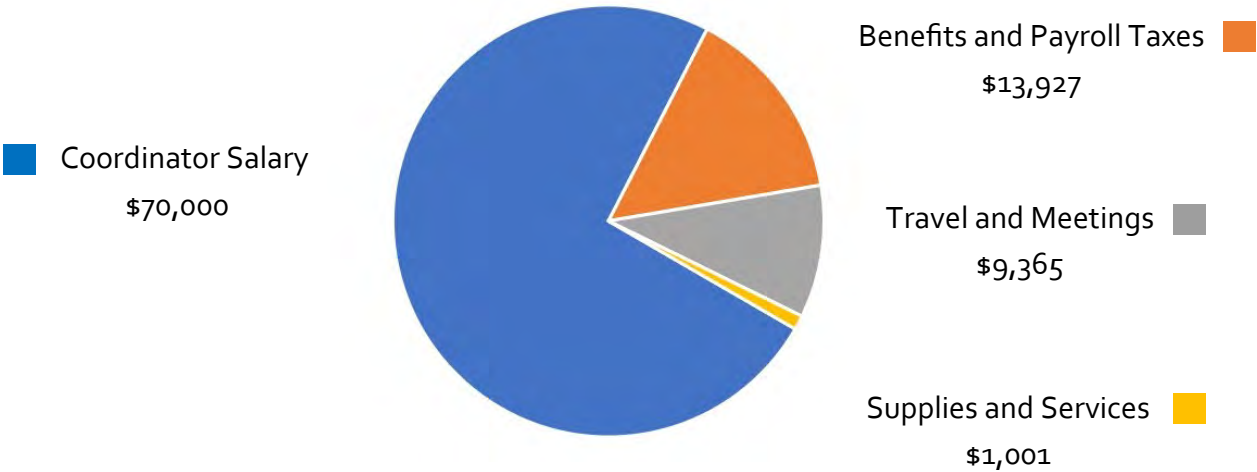
Financial Activity

Funding for the Plan Coordinator position during this period was derived from contributions by 19 state wildlife agencies and Pheasants Forever, Inc. State contributions ranged from \$3,000 to \$15,000 for the position’s initial three-year term, and PF contributed \$30,000 (plus administration of the position), for a total of \$268,500. The Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies annually invoices the states for their contributions, reimburses PF for expenditures associated with the position, and deducts a 5% banking fee.

The following agencies and organizations provided or have pledged future financial support for the Coordinator position:

- Colorado Division of Wildlife
 - Idaho Department of Fish and Game
 - Illinois Department of Natural Resources
 - Indiana Department of Natural Resources
 - Iowa Department of Natural Resources
 - Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism
 - Michigan Department of Natural Resources
 - Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
 - Missouri Department of Conservation
 - Nebraska Game and Parks Commission
 - New Mexico Game and Fish Department
- North Dakota Game and Fish Department
 - Ohio Department of Natural Resources
 - Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation
 - Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
 - Pennsylvania Game Commission
 - Pheasants Forever, Inc.
 - South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks
 - Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
 - Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
 - Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
 - Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Total Coordinator Expenditures (April 1, 2017 – March 31, 2018): **\$94,293**



All pheasant photos courtesy of Pheasants Forever, Inc.