

A landscape photograph of a Midwest prairie. The foreground is filled with tall, golden-brown grass. In the middle ground, there are rolling green and brown hills with scattered trees. The sky is filled with dramatic, dark clouds, with a bright light source on the right side, creating a strong contrast and a warm glow over the horizon.

Midwest Landscape Initiative

Strengthening conservation collaboration

Midwest Landscape Initiative

- Launched June 2018 by Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Purpose: Develop collaborative approaches for regional conservation priorities
- Developed consistent with the AFWA Resolution on Landscape Collaboration





MLI Structure



Steering Committee Members

Kelly Hepler (SD), Co-Chair

Craig Czarnecki (FWS-3), Co-Chair

Jim Douglas (NE)

Greg Watson (FWS-6)

Dale Garner (IA)

Bill Uihlein (FWS-4)

Sara Parker Pauley (MO)

Photo credit: MI DNR

Technical Committee Members

Katy Reeder (IA), Chair
Brad Potter (FWS3), Chair

Dave Azure (FWS-6)
Ed Boggess (MAFWA)
Pat Deibert (FWS-6)
Ryan Drum (FWS-3)
Jennifer Garland (FWS-4)
Will Inselman (NE)
Tom Kirschenmann (SD)

Scott Larson (FWS-6)
Russ Mason (MI)
Nate Muenks (MO)
Brian Schoenung (IN)
Richard Schultheis (KS)
Chuck Traxler (FWS-4)

Claire Beck (MAFWA)
Amy DeRosier (MI)
Bill Moritz (WMI)



Priority One: Prioritize at-risk species and/or species of greatest conservation need.

Goal 1: Preclude the need to list species as threatened or endangered under federal and/or state law

Goal 2: Coordinate efforts for priority species-at-risk that cross jurisdictions, reducing the burden on any individual entity.



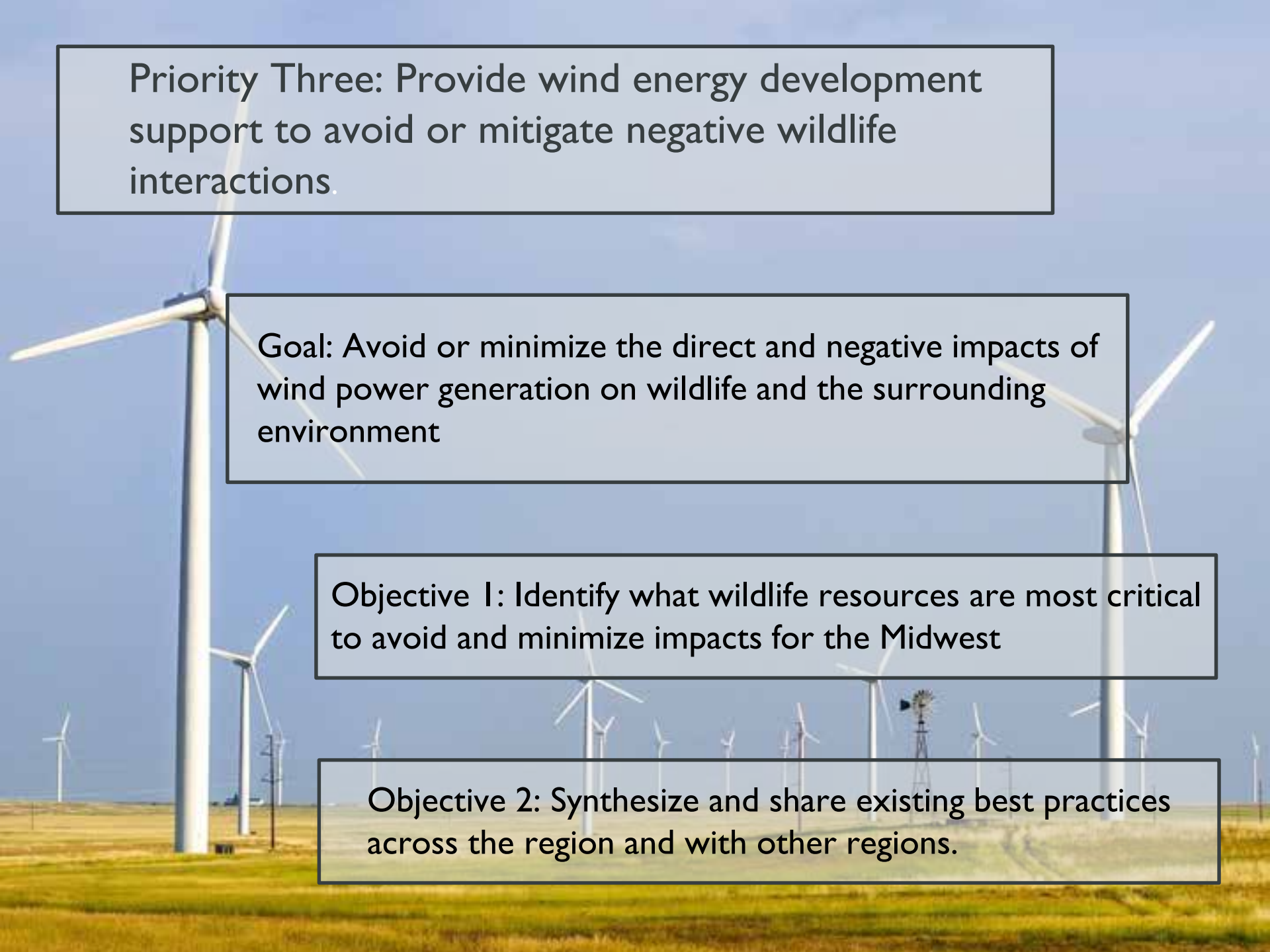
A background photograph showing four people in a grassy field under a cloudy sky. One person in a red plaid shirt is taking a photo with a smartphone. Another person in a dark blue shirt is pointing towards the horizon. A third person in a tan shirt is holding a yellow measuring tape. A fourth person in a green hat and tan shirt is standing nearby. The text boxes are overlaid on this image.

Priority Two: Develop habitat inventory and assessment tools across landscapes.

Goal 1: Inform strategic use of conservation resources toward natural communities and landscapes with an increased probability for conservation success.

Goal 2: Provide assessment tools that allow for integration and interoperability with other regional tools, where appropriate and desired by the members.

Goal 3: Evaluate the effectiveness of conservation management actions within landscapes.

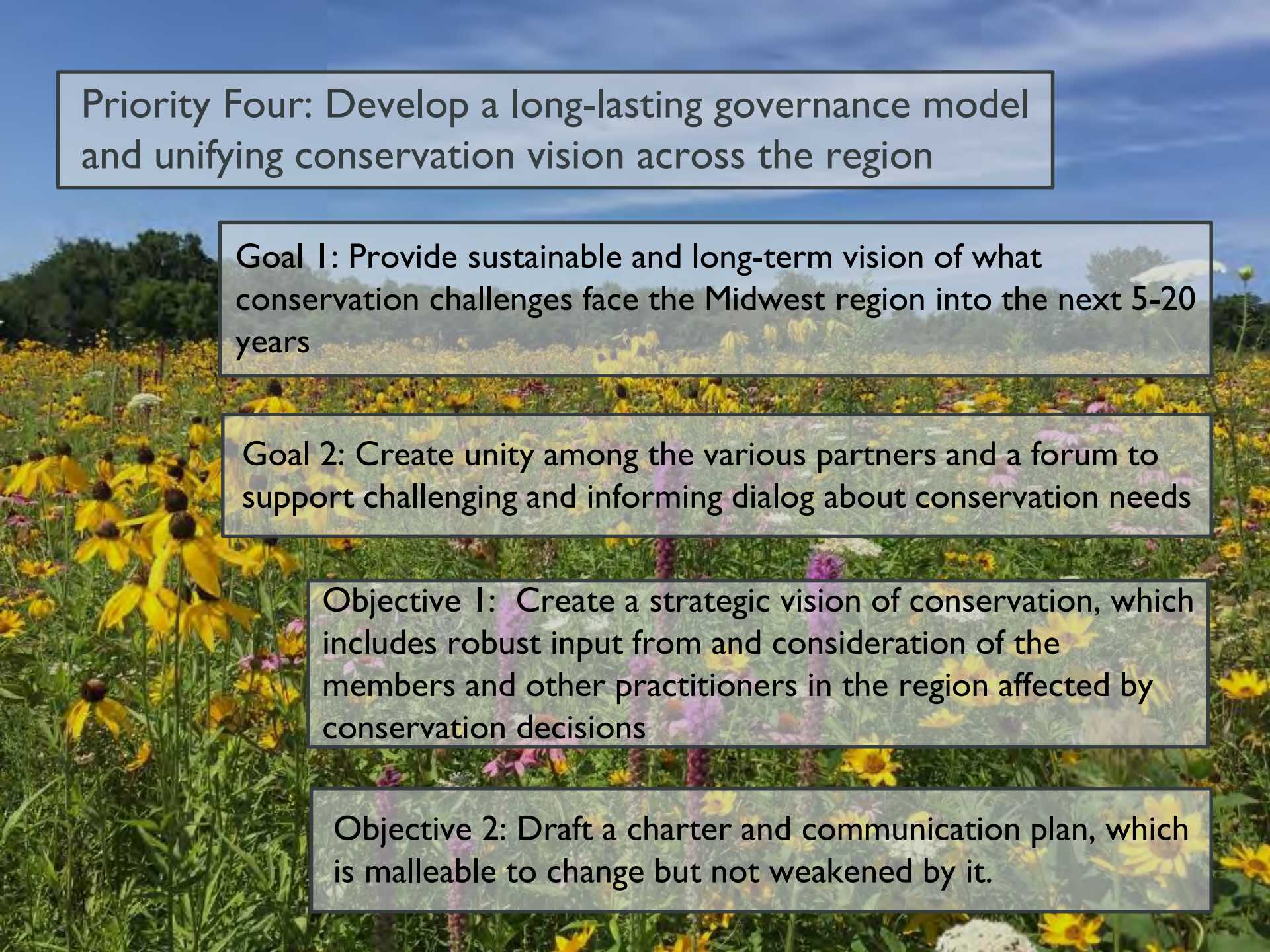


Priority Three: Provide wind energy development support to avoid or mitigate negative wildlife interactions.

Goal: Avoid or minimize the direct and negative impacts of wind power generation on wildlife and the surrounding environment

Objective 1: Identify what wildlife resources are most critical to avoid and minimize impacts for the Midwest

Objective 2: Synthesize and share existing best practices across the region and with other regions.



Priority Four: Develop a long-lasting governance model and unifying conservation vision across the region

Goal 1: Provide sustainable and long-term vision of what conservation challenges face the Midwest region into the next 5-20 years

Goal 2: Create unity among the various partners and a forum to support challenging and informing dialog about conservation needs

Objective 1: Create a strategic vision of conservation, which includes robust input from and consideration of the members and other practitioners in the region affected by conservation decisions

Objective 2: Draft a charter and communication plan, which is malleable to change but not weakened by it.

Accomplishments





The journey is just as important as the outcome.

Alex Morgan



Photo credit: MO DOC



Thank you

Kelley Myers, Midwest Landscape Initiative Coordinator
kelley_myers@fws.gov
515-401-4403

