

# National Conservation Needs

## 2019 MAFWA Committee Report

**Jim Douglas**

Director, Nebraska Game and Parks



## NATIONAL CONSERVATION NEEDS (NCN) REPORT 2019

NCN Committee: Chair Jim Douglas, Dale Garner and Kelly Hepler

In December and January of this year, Executive Secretary Ollie Torgerson assisted MAFWA's National Conservation Needs (NCN) Committee (Jim Douglas, Dale Garner, Kelly Hepler) in soliciting proposals from MAFWA State Directors for the 2020 Multi-state Conservation Grant Cycle.

Only one submittal was received from Dale Garner of Iowa through MAFWA's Wildlife and Fish Health Committee, "Binational Notification System for Chronic Wasting Disease Risk Management". This proposed NCN supports Best Management Practice #13, Movement of Hunter-Harvested Cervid Carcasses in "AFWA Best Management Practices for Surveillance, Management and Control of CWD."

MAFWA's Executive Committee met and approved the proposed NCN on January 22, 2019 and it was submitted on time to the National Grants Committee of AFWA.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Douglas

## 2020 NCN Proposal

### **Binational Notification System for Chronic Wasting Disease Carcass Risk Management**

**Submitted by:** MAFWA Health Committee

**Statement of Need:** Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is a fatal neurologic disease of cervids that impacts wildlife management and poses a threat to cervid populations in all states. Transport of infected carcasses or parts from areas where CWD is present is an acknowledged risk for the continued geographic spread of the disease. States/provinces have a wide range of carcass transport restrictions and/or reporting measures, which are subject to change. Many hunters hunt out-of-state and (legally or illegally) bring carcasses or parts back to their home states/provinces. These hunters may or may not test their harvested cervids for CWD. Samples may be submitted to various State, University, and Federal labs conducting CWD testing and practices for reporting results vary. A system to share positive results between state/provincial wildlife agencies and track out-of-state hunting license purchases is urgently needed to address CWD risk associated with carcass movement.

**Proposals Solicited:** Proposals will focus on the development of a joint United States and Canada system for information sharing between state/provincial wildlife agencies to aid in tracking and managing the risk of import of CWD through movement of wild cervid carcasses or parts by two methods: 1) positive CWD results will be promptly reported to the wildlife agency in the state/province of harvest and in the hunter's home state/province and 2) State/provincial wildlife agencies will report zip codes +/- addresses of out-of-state hunters purchasing cervid hunting licenses to the hunter's home state/province wildlife agency. Proposals must demonstrate the appropriate expertise needed to coordinate multiple states and provinces and effectively address the legal and technical challenges of developing this proposed Notification System for CWD Carcass Risk Management. Proposals should allow for all states/provinces to voluntarily opt in or out of methods 1 and/or 2. Even without 100% participation, participating states' or provinces' ability to address CWD risk associated with carcass movements would greatly improve.

**Desired Outcomes:** Through Method 1, a state/province will be informed when its residents harvest or test a CWD-positive cervid outside of its borders. This alerts the state/provincial wildlife agency to the potential import of CWD-positive carcasses or parts. It provides the state/province the opportunity to respond as they choose, for example, by contacting the hunter to assist with or advise on appropriate carcass or parts disposal. If a deer harvested in one state, but tested in another, tests positive, Method 1 also ensures that the wildlife agency in the state of origin of the harvested deer is promptly informed of results. Method 2, through the sharing of license data, allows state/provincial wildlife management agencies to more accurately assess the risk of unknowing import of CWD. This helps states/provinces inform and refine CWD surveillance plans by identifying areas that may be at greater risk for import of CWD (if, for example, multiple hunters from a particular area in a state hunt in a known CWD positive state). Through these means, this System will allow wildlife agencies to improve assessment and management of CWD risk as well as to address criticisms that there is not adequate tracking and knowledge of deer carcass movement to allow for effective regulation and management.

# Private Lands

## 2019 MAFWA Committee Report

**Jeff Burris**

Private Lands Program Administrator



# MAFWA Private Lands Working Group

- **Annual Working Group Meeting**

  - May 21-23, 2019

  - Maumee Bay State Park, Oregon, Ohio

  - Held jointly with the MAFWA Public Lands Working Group

- **Attending member States**

  - Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota & Ohio.

- The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) Conservation Chief covered the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) in Ohio and touched on the excellent working relationship with the OH Division of Wildlife, CRP Mid-Contract Management & the Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP).

# MAFWA Private Lands Working Group Report

- The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) State Biologist discussed NRCS programs in Ohio, specifically the Wetland Reserve Easement Program (WRE), Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Northern Bobwhite in Grasslands Working Lands for Wildlife Program.
- MAFWA's own Claire Beck engaged the Working Group on ongoing efforts and challenges related to the MAFWA Mid-America Monarch Conservation Strategy.
- The bulk of the discussion within the Working Group dealt with the sharing of successful programs in each State.
- The highlight, as it is every year, was the tour. This year we featured wetlands in the Lake Erie Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (LECREP) and their relationship with the water quality issues ongoing in Lake Erie. We also had the opportunity to plant Milkweed plugs into the Monarch/pollinator plot here at the Maumee Bay State Park.

# MAFWA Private Lands Working Group Report





# MAFWA Private Lands Working Group

## Report

- **Director Information Item**

- Opportunity:

A special issue will be published in the Wildlife Society Bulletin in September, 2019 focused on the topic of private lands conservation including several case studies, precision agriculture, working grasslands, monetizing ecosystem services, landowner surveys, waterfowl, redundancy in government, and a national assessment of state wildlife agencies' investments in private lands conservation. According to the 2016 *National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, & Wildlife-Associated Recreation (FHWAR) report*, on average nationally, 85% of sportsmen & sportswomen hunt on private lands and 64% hunt exclusively on private lands. Additionally, 75% of endangered species rely on habitat on private lands. Directors are encouraged to evaluate their involvement in and their state's commitment to private lands conservation.

- ACTION: None
- There are no Action Items for the Directors.

Respectfully submitted, Jeff Burris, Private Lands Administrator



# MAFWA Private Lands Working Group Report



# Public Lands

## 2019 MAFWA Committee Report

**Mike Ervin**

Public Lands Program Administrator



# Public Lands Working Group Report

- **Met May 21-23, 2019 at Maumee Bay State Park**
  - 11 MAFWA states sent public lands representatives
- **Three discussion points to report**
  1. Monarch conservation strategies on public lands
  2. The need for data on use of wildlife areas
  3. Update on the 2016 neonicotinoid resolution

# Public Lands Working Group Report

- **Monarch conservation strategies on public lands**
  - Discussion led by MAFWA Monarch Technical Coordinator Claire Beck
  - Discussed four points:
    1. Have states set public lands monarch habitat conservation goals?
    2. Would best management practices for monarch conservation be useful?
    3. Do states have a good understanding of the cost of monarch conservation on public lands?
    4. How do states track habitat accomplishments?

# Public Lands Working Group Report

- **The need for data on use of wildlife areas**
  - A significant portion of most MAFWA states budgets are spent on public lands
  - Most states conduct use surveys infrequently
  - Constituent use of wildlife areas is poorly understood
  - Technology exists to collect use data efficiently

# Public Lands Working Group Report

- **Update on the 2016 neonicotinoid resolution**
  - 2017 and 2018 MAFWA states reaffirmed their support of the resolution
  - 2019:
    - States reported progress of complete neonicotinoid bans in farming agreements
    - Some states have made progress require untreated soybeans be utilized in farming agreements, but hadn't made this a requirement for corn
    - Several states have not made progress on this resolution



**Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies**

**Private Lands Working Group**

**And**

**Public Lands Working Group**

**Annual Report**

**2019**

**May 24, 2019**

**Respectfully submitted by**

**Mike Ervin and Jeff Burris**

**Ohio Division of Wildlife**



## **Public and Private Lands Committee Reports**

### **Meeting Time and Place**

The Ohio Division of Wildlife hosted the annual joint meeting from May 21-23, 2019 at the Maumee Bay State Park Lodge in Oregon, OH. This location was chosen to showcase the Lake Erie coastal region of northwest Ohio. Many public lands resources were highlighted including Magee Marsh which is recognized as one of the top birdwatching sites in the world, Howard Marsh Metropark, and Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge. This region also showcased private lands projects & partnerships centered around the Lake Erie Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (LECREP) and the opportunities and challenges for wildlife resources in relation to the water quality issues in the western basin of Lake Erie.

### **Attendance**

There were twenty-five (25) out-of-State attendees registered for the event. All member states were represented at the private lands working group except Minnesota, Wisconsin, South Dakota and Illinois. All member states were represented at the public lands working group meeting except Minnesota and Missouri. Claire Beck the MAFWA Monarch Technical Coordinator gave a presentation to the combined groups and attended both the Public & Private Lands Working Groups.

The Ohio Division of Wildlife had sixteen (16) staff in attendance as speakers and/or participants.

Private Lands tour participants included representatives from Ducks Unlimited, Inc., US Fish & Wildlife Service Partners Program, and the Ottawa County SWCD Wildlife Specialist.

Registrants, speakers and tour participants are listed in Appendix A.

### **Executive Summary**

The meeting began with a joint session of the public and private lands working groups. Division of Wildlife District Two Manager Scott Butterworth welcomed the attendees followed by an introduction to the Ohio Division of Wildlife by Mike Reynolds, Wildlife & Research Administrator. Dr. Laura Kearns, Research Biologist followed with a presentation on Ohio's unique history. Presentations continued with Dr. Christopher Winslow discussing Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs), a presentation on the MAFWA Monarch Plan by Claire Beck, and concluded with a presentation by Gabe Karns on recent surveys concerning access to private land in Ohio. Following the joint session, attendees broke into public land and private land working groups for the remainder of the meeting.

- Dr. Winslow - A high-level glimpse into the projects currently managed by Ohio Sea Grant and OSU's Stone Laboratory with assistance from the University of Toledo. These research efforts aim to: (1) improve detection of HABs and understanding toxin production; (2) assess the health impacts of HABs; (3) develop new treatment methods for contaminated drinking water; and (4) assess the ability of land use changes to reduce nutrient inputs into aquatic ecosystems. Additionally, talk will highlight: (1) nutrient

sources today, (2) our understanding of agricultural nutrient losses, (3) effective best management practices (BMPs), (4) farmer decisions, (5) possible strategies to move toward a 40% P reduction, and (6) information gaps and research needs.

- Claire Beck gave a brief overview and update on the Mid-America Monarch Conservation Strategy, with a focus on how the project is relevant to private and public lands staff at state wildlife agencies. The presentation will also touch on next steps for the Mid-America Monarch Project and future efforts to integrate monarch conservation efforts with other species of concern and a larger landscape-level focus.
- Gabe Karns - Ohio's Cooperative Hunting Program has provided recreational access for hunters, trappers, and anglers for many decades. Though incentives for encouraging landowners to participate have been minimal, enrolled acreage peaked well beyond 1000 landowners exceeding a quarter million acres statewide. Of late, enrollment has been decreasing for varying reasons, and evaluative surveys of participating landowners as well as access users provide useful information for Ohio Division of Wildlife to make informed decisions regarding the Program's future. Coincident with a reduction in cooperative access acreage, a dip in enrolled Farm Bill habitat acreage is anticipated in Ohio. The most precipitous declines are projected for the Scioto Conservation Reservation Enhancement Program (Scioto CREP). To stem habitat declines due to expiring Farm Bill contracts and reduced federal cost-share incentives, upcoming surveys of rural landowners in the focal Scioto CREP area will reveal potential ways by which the Ohio Division of Wildlife may simultaneously incentivize landowners to re-enroll in habitat conservation programs and boost publicly-accessible lands for hunting, fishing, and trapping within Ohio's Scioto River watershed.

### **Private Lands Working Group**

This year's private lands working group discussions focused on the sharing of successful programs. Presentations were given that highlighted CRP in Ohio by Brandi Koehler, FSA Conservation Chief and NRCS programs in Ohio by Nick Schell, NRCS State Biologist. Claire Beck from MAFWA sought input on Monarch habitat issues from the attendees. The group felt this was a productive meeting with relevant discussions. There is value in meeting counterparts from different states, comparing successful projects, issues and challenges and working together toward solutions. **The group encourages the Directors to continue their support for this Working Group and to prioritize attendance by their staff.**

### **Ohio's CRP**

Ohio's FSA Conservation Chief, Brandi Koehler presented information on CRP in Ohio including the history of Lake Erie CREP, Scioto River CREP, SAFE, CRP grasslands. Ohio's Conservation Programs Advisory Committee and MCM process were also discussed. Brandi Koehler provided information on the continuous signup period opening June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019.

### **Ohio's NRCS programs**

Ohio's NRCS State Biologist, Nick Schell, provided an update of NRCS programs including EQIP, CSP, and WRE. Discussion included Monarch Program trends, forestry funding, Working Lands for Wildlife, and the northern bobwhite quail in grasslands project.

### **State Updates - Successful Projects**

**Kansas** has successfully utilized I-sportsman in a private land access program focus on areas missed within their WIHA program. They created limited access program for landowners concerned with being overrun by hunters. The I-sportsman tool allows KS to select specific dates to hunt or specific activities. They have 3 positions with Habitat Forever strategically located, in the Smoky Hills (brush management), Southwest (playa lakes), and Southeast (WRE issues) each with a regionally specific focus. This effort targets WIHA properties which has increased enrollment from landowners that saw this work.

**Nebraska's** cover crop RCPP had 2 signups in 2019 with 6,000 acres going in on 55 properties. WLFW in eastern sandhills focused on grouse and burying beetle. The lack of a CRP signup has been problematic for the Berggren pheasant plan, but they have met or exceeded most access goals. Open fields and Waters saw a 33% increase in private land access paying out \$1.2 million. Added the upland slam to encourage upland hunting participation.

**Iowa** discussed recent license fee increase and restructuring. They will have 12 farm bill biologists once again thanks to the license increase and NRCS partnership. They have plans to visit KS to learn about I-Sportsman.

**Missouri's** efforts to educate livestock producers and agencies on use of native species for forage is gaining traction. NRCS is on board and has recently began working with extension specialists to reach producers. SWCD was mandated to use least cost alternatives instead of natives, but that is being reconsidered.

**Kentucky** is having the same experience as MO regarding use of natives as forage. They are trying to change the grazing culture in large areas (10-15k acres). The 10-yr bobwhite restoration plan is ending. While the first 5 years were good, the last 5 years were generally poor. They are planning to switch to a multi-species habitat approach and possibly implement a habitat stamp.

**Michigan** was the only state in the nation with a SAFE approved. Approximately 17k acres were offered which offset lost CRP acreage. Made plan to replace 15-yr old seed drills available to rent from conservation districts. Cooperative coordinator has been working with 12 pheasant cooperatives and 90-some deer cooperatives. The state reached VPA HIP access goals.

**North Dakota** discussed the precision agriculture program and challenges associated with landowners sharing data. The program has expanded into the southwest portion of the state. Wind energy development is increasing raising questions about how hunting and access may be impacted.

**Indiana's** Grassland for Game Birds and Song Birds program hired 3 grassland biologists and 2 habitat techs. The program had 53 projects in first year and 100 on waiting list. The

urban/suburban deer hunting program involves 10 communities. The APPLE program is leveraging access money with RCPP.

Due to time constraints, **Ohio** shared their successful activities the next day during the MAFWA Monarch discussion. Ohio highlighted their continued successful activities associated with the Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative (OPHI). Staff are busy with educational programs, statewide milkweed pod collection and habitat creation. Examples of unique project partners for these habitat projects include ODOT, golf courses, State Parks, fish hatcheries, solar arrays, and our own District Offices.

### **Wednesday May 22, 2019**

#### **MAFWA Mid-America Monarch Conservation Strategy**

Claire Beck facilitated discussion on MAFWA Mid-America Monarch Conservation Strategy requesting input on effectiveness. The importance of partnerships was highlighted and discussed. Many states have implemented their own monarch strategies utilizing various programs. Many felt CSP, SAFE and EQIP have been useful. Iowa suggested CP42 has been effective and would like to see it return. Missouri suggested in the absence of CP42, plant diversity should be emphasized in other practices. It was suggested MAFWA support webinars or educational videos focused on precision agriculture. Some states have ongoing research, upcoming educational events, and shared positions supported in part by partnering agencies and organizations.

#### **Field Tour**

The private lands working group started off with a tour at a pollinator planting on Maumee Bay State Park where the group planted common & swamp milkweed plugs. We looked at a Lake Erie (LE) CREP riparian buffer and a LE CREP wetland complex. We visited the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge and viewed a solar array comparable to those being created on private lands across Ohio. The group viewed a LE CREP/USFWS/ODNR-DOW/GLFWRA treatment wetland and a 600 acre private wetland restoration and fish passageway. We toured the Zink Calls factory observing the process of producing waterfowl and turkey calls. We wrapped up the tour at the Winous Point Shooting Club (WPSC) where the group met up with the public lands working group for dinner. At WPSC, ODNR-DOW offered helicopter tours of the private and public land habitat in the Muddy Creek Bay area. The group toured the WPSC facility and learned of its history.

#### **Ohio's Quail Grassland Working Lands Program**

John Kaiser presented on ODNR-DOW's Fallsville Quail Heritage area, a National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative focal area. The presentation included information on ODNR-DOW's Bobwhite Quail Grassland Working Lands Project with an example of converting a cool season grass filter strip to native warm season grass pasture. Discussion included states' recommended seed mixes for similar projects.

#### **AFWA Private Lands Think Tank**

The group discussed a critical review of private lands conservation in the U.S. and summarized the recent AFWA discussion on this topic. Several relevant publications are in progress, including several case studies, precision agriculture, working grasslands, monetizing ecosystem

services, landowner surveys, waterfowl, and redundancy in government. The group plans to make directors aware of the special issue publication and possibly symposia on the issue. Specifically, the group may request to lead a symposium at the 2020 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference.

### **Public Lands Working Group**

This year's Public Lands Working Group meeting included a discussion with MAFWA Monarch Technical Coordinator Claire Beck, presentation of state reports, and a habitat tour of public land projects in the Lake Erie Marsh Region. States were requested to submit a condensed state report like the 2018 reports including three successes, highlights, and challenges from their state. Group discussions often stem from items presented in state reports. Key discussion topics are included below.

The consensus is the working group meeting is extremely beneficial to participants. The group encourages directors to continue to support attendance and participation for staff members attending the Public Lands Working Group MAFWA meeting. The meeting connects names and faces, and greatly enhances communication between states on success, failure, and how to avoid pitfalls or potential mistakes when implementing management actions. In addition, the annual meeting has resulted in the creation of a network between states that discusses issues electronically over the course of the entire year.

The public lands working group meeting started with a discussion on the MAFWA Monarch Conservation Strategy. Four points were discussed. The first was a survey of states to determine if public lands monarch and pollinator targets had been set. There was significant discussion on how to quantify pollinator habitat. Several states reported having set targets for public lands specific to monarchs quantified by stems of milkweed. Many states do not have a target number of stems of milkweed or acres of pollinator habitat. Many states who do not have a target suggested a uniform way to quantify pollinator habitat like total stems for monarch habitat would be useful in setting measurable targets. The second point was whether a best management practice document would be beneficial to states. States agreed a BMP document would be useful including species to plant, preparation and planting recommendations, management of existing prairie, a definition of pollinator habitat, a method to quantify success among others. The third point was if states could provide a cost estimate of a successful pollinator planting. Discussion revolved around variable costs depending on the type of restoration and the previous plant community. It was mentioned that Pheasants Forever or NRCS likely have developed cost estimates for these activities. The fourth discussion point was how state track habitat management practices conducted on public lands. Most states reported not having the ability to track management practices using a GIS, however some states do have GIS reporting tools in place or in development.

Another topic of discussion was gathering data on wildlife area use. Many states conduct windshield surveys on about a ten-year return frequency. Kansas utilizes a registration system for some of their areas via I-sportsman software which records use data at a much finer scale. Gathering data on ten-year intervals is important to document trends in use, but likely is not

collected at a fine enough scale to identify issues like crowding of hunters on opening days, quantify use of non-hunters, etc.

**Director Information Items – Public Lands Working Group**

Opportunity: Continued use and proliferation of drone ownership by hobbyists and use of drones as an agency management tool grows as the technology improves. States should continue to document impacts to wildlife and hunting. States continue to see a need for the development of official agency policies regarding drone use on public lands.

ACTION: None

**Director Information Items – Public Lands Working Group**

Opportunity: An annual discussion item is compatible use on public lands managed for fish and wildlife. Lands purchased for fish and wildlife production and hunting opportunities are continually viewed as opportunities for other outdoor related recreation. Impacts to wildlife, overuse by the public, conflicts between hunters, anglers, and trappers and non-traditional users continue increase and pose issues for land managers. However, non-traditional users bring a new constituent group thus making Wildlife Areas relevant and supported by the general public. The 2017 Report identified two approaches to address the issue 1) Educate the public about funding sources used to purchase and operate these areas and 2) clearly specify in acquisition grants, the intended use of the areas as well as indicating that secondary uses are allowed as long and they do not conflict with primary use. This item was discussed again in 2019. The discussion revolved around balancing attracting new constituent groups while emphasizing the funding source utilized to acquire the property and the purpose for which the land was acquired.

ACTION: None

**Director Information Item – Public Lands Working Group**

Opportunity: In 2016, the Public Lands Working Group submitted a resolution for the consideration to encourage evaluation of neonicotinoid pesticide treated seed use on public lands. States continue to pursue wildlife friendly alternatives, try to obtain non-treated seed, and support the discontinued use of neonicotinoid pesticides on state managed lands under its authority. The Working Group reaffirmed this position in 2017, and wished to continue their support in 2018. The 2019 discussion of this topic included several states reporting they had successfully ban the use of neonicotinoid treated seeds in farming agreements. Several other states had made progress banning use of treated soybean seed.

ACTION: None

**Director Information Item – Public Lands Working Group**

A majority of habitat and public use management activities implemented on state Wildlife Areas are funded by 75% WSFR Federal Aid and matching 25% agency funds. In some states, Wildlife Management area staffing, support funding, and basic operations, maintenance, and development projects may at times be limited due to state legislatures and political leadership not fully understanding or appreciating the source or mechanisms by which wildlife management funding is derived. Thus, state wildlife agencies are often subject to fiscal limitations applied to other state agencies receiving general appropriations. Despite availability of both WSFR and license funds to address wildlife habitat and public use needs on state Wildlife Management Areas, fiscal limitations often equate to merely lack of available spending authority in management

budgets. The Group discussed possible approaches to address this, including (1) the need for increasing communication with legislatures and other political leadership to better explain all aspects of WSFR (P-R/ D-J), and how this equates to local spending authority by on- the-ground managers; and (2) possibly develop a video to distribute to legislators and other state leadership explaining the issue.

ACTION: None

### **Director Information Item-Private Lands Working Group**

Opportunity: A special issue will be published in the Wildlife Society Bulletin in September 2019 focused on the topic of private lands conservation including several case studies, precision agriculture, working grasslands, monetizing ecosystem services, landowner surveys, waterfowl, redundancy in government, and a national assessment of state wildlife agencies' investments in private lands conservation. According to the USFWS 2016 report on average nationally, 85% of sportsmen hunt on private lands and 64% hunt exclusively on private lands. Additionally, 75% of endangered species rely on habitat on private lands. Directors are encouraged to evaluate their involvement in and state's commitment to private lands conservation.

ACTION: None

### **Time and Place of Next Meeting**

The next annual meeting will be held in May 2020 in South Dakota.



## Public and Private Lands Committee Reports

### Appendices:

- Appendix A: Private/Public Lands Committee Attendance List
- Appendix B: Joint Meeting Agenda
- Appendix C: Private Lands Meeting Agenda
- Appendix D: Public Lands Meeting Agenda

### Appendix A

#### MAFWA Private/Public Lands Committees Attendance List

First Name	Last Name	Organization
Claire	Beck	MAFWA Monarch Technical Coordinator
Mike	Wefer	Illinois DNR Public
Josh	Griffin	Indiana DNR Private
James	Kershaw	Indiana DNR Public
Pete	Hildreth	Iowa Department of Natural Resources Public
Brian	Hickman	Iowa Department of Natural Resources Private
Dustin	Mengarelli	Kansas Dept. of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism Public
Jason	Deal	Kansas Dept. of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism Public
Wes	Sowards	Kansas Dept. of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism Private
Leroy "Scott"	Harp	Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources Public
Derek	Beard	Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources Public
John	Morgan	Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources Private
Mike	Parker	Michigan Department of Natural Resources private
Earl	Flegler	Michigan Department of Natural Resources Public
Kerry	Fitzpatrick	Michigan Department of Natural Resources Public
Christine	Hannaburgh	Michigan Department of Natural Resources Public
Lisa	Potter	Missouri Department of Conservation Private
TJ	Walker	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission Private
Eric	Zach	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission Private
Scott	Luedtke	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission Private
Pat	Molini	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission Public
Kevin	Kading	North Dakota Game and Fish Department Private
Kent	Luttschwager	North Dakota Game and Fish Department Public
Scott	Butterworth	Ohio Division of Wildlife speaker
Mike	Reynolds	Ohio Division of Wildlife speaker
Mike	Ervin	Ohio Division of Wildlife Public
Jeff	Burris	Ohio Division of Wildlife Private
John	Kaiser	Ohio Division of Wildlife Private

Mark	Wiley	Ohio Division of Wildlife Private
Emilee	Hardesty	Ohio Division of Wildlife Private
Mark	Witt	Ohio Division of Wildlife Private
Emily	Archibald	Ohio Division of Wildlife Private
Caleb	Shields	Ohio Division of Wildlife Private
Laura	Kearns	Ohio Division of Wildlife speaker
Robert	Ford	Ohio Division of Wildlife Public
David	Sherman	Ohio Division of Wildlife Public
David	Kohler	Ohio Division of Wildlife Public
Anthony	Mosinski	Ohio Division of Wildlife Public
Joseph	Lautenbach	Ohio Division of Wildlife tour participant Private Lands
Paul	Coughlin	South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks Public
Anne	Reis	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Public
Russ	Terry	Ducks Unlimited, Inc. tour participant Private Lands
Lori	Stevenson	USFWS Partners Program tour participant Private Lands
Joe	Uhinck	Ottawa SWCD Wildlife Specialist tour participant Private Lands

## Appendix B

### MAFWA Public and Private Lands Working Group Meetings

May 21-23, 2019

Oregon, Ohio

#### Tuesday, May 21, 2019 – Combined Groups

- 9:30-9:45 Welcome – **Scott Butterworth** – Ohio Division of Wildlife District Two Manager
- 9:45-10:15 Ohio Division of Wildlife overview – **Mike Reynolds** – Executive Administrator, Wildlife Management & Research
- 10:15-10:45 Ohio History – **Dr. Laura Kearns** – Ohio Division of Wildlife Research Biologist

- 10:45-11:15 Health Break
- 11:15-11:45 Lake Erie Algae, Research Efforts, Nutrient Loading, and Farmer Decision Making – **Dr. Christopher Winslow** – Director of Ohio Sea Grant and OSU’s Stone Lab
- 11:45-12:15 MAFWA Monarch Plan – **Claire Beck** – Monarch Technical Coordinator for MAFWA
- 12:15 - 12:45 Cooperative Hunting, Trapping & Fishing Agreement Surveys – **Gabe Karns** – Visiting Assistant Professor within the Terrestrial Wildlife Ecology Lab (TWEL) in the School of Environment and Natural Resources at Ohio State University

## Appendix C

### MAFWA Private Lands Working Group Meeting

May 21-23, 2019

Oregon, Ohio

#### Tuesday, May 21, 2019

- 2:00 Introductions
- 2:10 Ohio’s CRP – **Brandi Koehler**, USDA FSA Conservation Chief
- 2:40 Ohio’s NRCS – **Nick Schell**, USDA NRCS State Biologist
- 3:10 Review of May 2018 meeting – **Kevin Kading**, North Dakota
- 3:15 Review agenda
- 3:20 Health Break
- 3:50 States’ Successful Activities – All
- 4:55 Notes/Action Items
- 5:00 Adjourn
- 6-9 Dinner

9:00 Social sponsored by Pheasants/Quail Forever Ohio State Council & Pheasants/Quail Forever

**Wednesday, May 22, 2019**

9:30 MAFWA Monarch Plan & Private Lands – **Claire Beck**

10:45 Adjourn

11:00 Leave for Tour – bag lunch provided (included in registration)

5:00 Arrive for Tour & Dinner (included in registration) @ Winous Point Shooting Club

9:00 Social sponsored by Pheasants/Quail Forever Ohio State Council & Pheasants/Quail Forever

**Thursday, May 23, 2019**

9:30 Northern Bobwhite in Grasslands Working Lands Project – a **John Kaiser**, Ohio Div. of Wildlife Assistant Wildlife Management Supervisor

10:00 Discussion on a special issue of the Wildlife Society Bulletin focused on the topic of private lands conservation

10:30 Notes & Action Items for Directors

11:00 Adjourn

**Appendix D**

**Public Lands Working Group Meeting**

May 21 – 23, 2019

Maumee Bay State Park Lodge

Oregon, OH

**Tuesday May 21, 2019 – Bald Eagle Room**

2:00 Introductions

2:15 Review agenda

2:30 Review 2018 directors report

2:45 MAFWA Monarch Plan & Public Lands – Claire Beck

3:30 Break

4:00 State Reports review and discussion

4:50 Notes/Action Items

5:00 Adjourn

**Wednesday May 22, 2019 – Bald Eagle Room**

- 9:30 State Reports review and discussion
- 11:30 Review tour itinerary and discussion of public lands in the region
- 12:00 Depart for Howard Farms Metropark
- 12:45 Lunch
- 1:15 Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge and Magee Marsh Wildlife Area
- 2:45 Toussaint Marsh Wildlife Area
- 3:30 Aerial Tour from Winous Point
- 4:30 Dinner and tour of Winous Point Shooting Club

**Thursday May 23, 2019 – Bald Eagle Room**

- 9:30 State Reports review and discussion
- 10:30 Wrap up, notes, and action items for directors
- 11:00 Adjourn

# State Wildlife Action Plan

## 2019 MAFWA Committee Report

**Kate Parsons**

Wildlife Diversity Program Administrator



# MAFWA State Wildlife Action Plan



North Dakota Game and Fish Department Headquarters – May 2019

**MAFWA Director's Meeting – SWAP Committee Report**

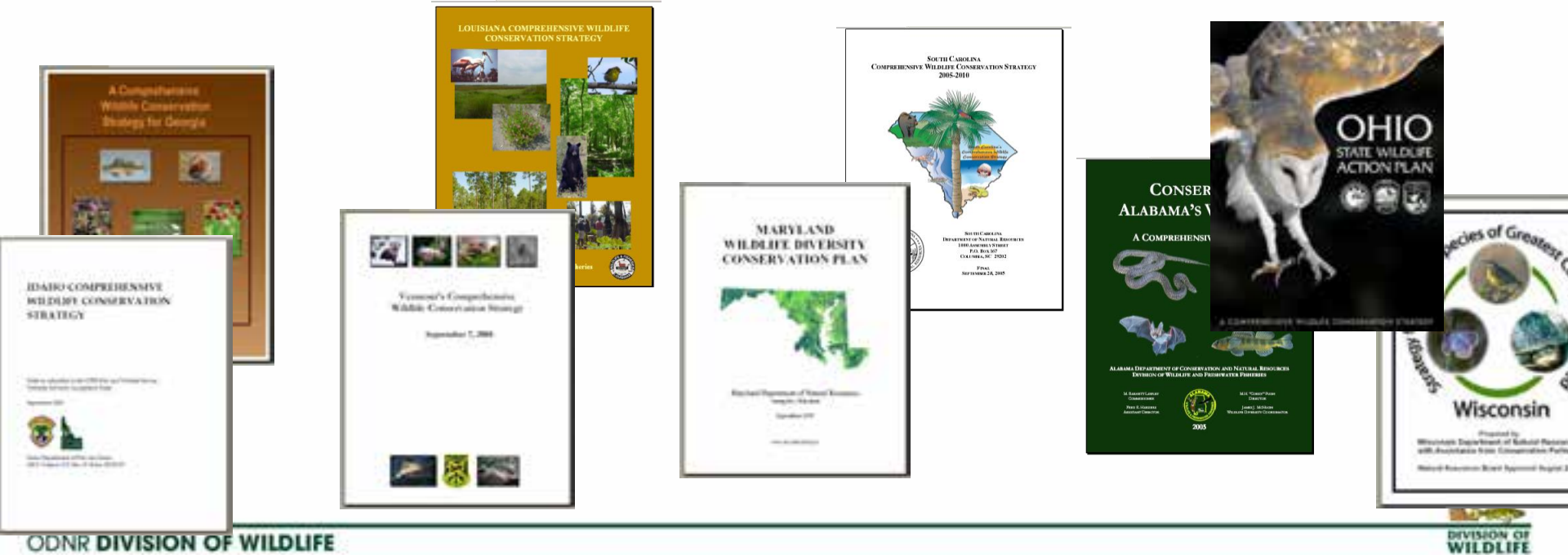
**June 25, 2019**

**Kate Haley Parsons [Kate.Parsons@dnr.state.oh.us](mailto:Kate.Parsons@dnr.state.oh.us)**



# 1. State Wildlife Grants

- **Concern about specific priorities in the competitive program**
  - limits interstate cooperation
- **Support to increase funding levels**
  - annual and competitive SWG



## 2. Recovering America's Wildlife Act

- **Reintroduction is pending**
- **Encourage state support**
  - AFWA document to guide state participation



# 3. USFWS 7-year Listing Work Plan

- Discuss collaboration with USFWS

**National Listing Workplan**  
7-Year Workplan (September 2016 Version)

**Key to Action Types:**

**12M:** 12-month finding on a petition to list a species. If listing is warranted, we generally intend to proceed with a concurrent proposed listing rule and proposed critical habitat designation, if critical habitat is prudent and determinable.

**Discretionary Status Review:** Status review undertaken by discretion of the Service. Results of the review may be to propose listing, make a species a candidate for listing, provide notice of a not warranted candidate assessment, or other action as appropriate.

**Proposed Listing Determination:** For species that are already candidates for listing, a proposed listing determination would either propose the species for listing or provide notice of a not warranted finding. We generally intend to propose critical habitat designations concurrent with proposed listing rules, to the extent prudent and determinable.

**Final Listing Determination:** For species that have already been proposed for listing, the final listing determination would either finalize or withdraw the proposed listing rule. We generally intend to finalize critical habitat designations concurrent with final listing rules, to the extent prudent and determinable.

**PCD:** Proposed critical habitat rulemaking when not concurrent with a proposed listing rule.

**FCP:** Final critical habitat rulemaking for previously proposed critical habitat.

**rPCD:** Revised proposed critical habitat for previously proposed, but not finalized, critical habitat reeding revision.

Package Name	Species Name	Action Type	Lead RD	Priority Bin Ranking (1-5) or LFN	Proposed FY Timeframe	Current Candidate?	Range
	Island marble butterfly	Proposed Listing Determination	R1	LPN 3	FY17	Y	WA
	northern spotted owl	12M/UpListing	R1	2	FY17		CA, OR, WA
	Texas monarch	12M	R1	1	FY17		MP
	lesser prairie-chicken	Discretionary Status Review	R2	N/A	FY17		CO, KS, NM, OK, TX
	San Felipe gambusia	12M	R2	2	FY17		TX
	Wright's marsh thistle	Proposed Listing Determination	R2	LPN 8	FY17	Y	NM
	Kirtland's snake	12M	R3	N/A	FY17		IL, IN, KY, MI, MO, OH, PA, TN
Yellow Lance and Atlantic Pigtoe	Atlantic pigtoe	12M	R4	N/A	FY17		GA, NC, SC, VA
	Barbour's map turtle	12M	R4	N/A	FY17		AL, FL, GA

# 4. Landscape-scale Conservation

- **Support for Midwest Landscape Initiative and participation in Work Groups**
  - Conserving At-risk Species
  - Habitat Inventory and Assessment
  - Wind Energy Development



## **Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies State Wildlife Action Plan Technical Working Committee Report**

### **Meeting Time and Place -**

The committee held quarterly conference calls and one in-person meeting over the last year. Conference calls were held on June 5, September 6, and December 4, 2018 and March 5, 2019. The in-person meeting was held on May 1-2, 2019 in Bismarck, ND at the North Dakota Game and Fish Department Headquarters. See Appendix 1 for the meeting agenda.

### **Attendance -**

Committee members from 10 of the 13 states participated in the in-person meeting. The State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) Technical Committee includes State Wildlife Action Plan Coordinators, Wildlife Diversity Coordinators, and Threatened and Endangered Species Coordinators from the MAFWA states (See Appendix 2); all were invited.

### **Director Information Items -**

1. State and Tribal Wildlife Grant (SWG) Funding
  - a. The “Formula” (as opposed to Competitive) SWG funding apportionment will be \$51.5M for FY19. Previous two years funding for formula SWG 2017 (\$52M) and 2018 (\$50.6M).
  - b. For FY20, SWG was cut 51% in president’s budget.
  - c. 2010 marked the highest SWG apportionment (\$76.5M) since its inception in 2002.
  - d. We continue to be concerned by efforts to use the competitive program to support specific priorities other than conservation of Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) or implementation of SWAPs. Examples of such priorities includes candidate species conservation or migration corridors for iconic western species. This limits the species that MAFWA states could work on cooperatively and dismisses higher priorities based on species rarity or potential federal listing.
  - e. Technical Committee members ask for your continued support to increase funding levels for both the annual apportionment and competitive SWG. SWG remains the primary funding source for rare and declining species conservation and State Wildlife Action Plan implementation.
  
2. Recovering America’s Wildlife Act
  - a. At the time of this report, reintroduction of the Recovering America’s Wildlife Act in the House is likely in the next week or two.
  - b. Should the Act pass, State Wildlife Action Plans will play a significant role in carrying out delivery of conservation funding.
  - c. Technical Committee members appreciate your past support and ask for continued support of the Act. AFWA developed a document to provide guidance for state agency engagement.

- d. The members of this Technical Committee will pass along requests from the Alliance for America's Fish and Wildlife to contact your state's delegation or attend the Fly-in to support the Act.
3. USFWS 7 Year Endangered Species Listing Work Plan
    - a. Technical Committee members believe it would be beneficial for states to participate in the listing process and associated prioritization (binning) as new species are added.
    - b. The Director Liaison will send a letter to FWS Region 3 representatives to discuss key places in the process where states can participate. Committee members are currently developing a process to identify Species of Greatest Conservation Need shared within MAFWA to prioritize conservation across state boundaries and better prepare our agencies to respond most efficiently should any of the selected species be petitioned for federal listing.
  4. Landscape Scale Conservation
    - a. Technical Committee members discussed many ideas at the meeting on how funds and staff resources available for landscape conservation would best serve the mission and goals of this Committee. We have an opportunity for regional collaboration with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service through the Midwest Landscape Initiative (MLI).
    - b. There are several areas where the work of this Committee is being done in concert with the MLI. Three MLI Working Groups are being formed – Conserving At-Risk Species, Habitat Inventory and Assessment, and Wind Energy Development.
    - c. Two of these working groups (Conserving At-Risk Species, Habitat Inventory and Assessment) have resulted from conservation priority needs identified by this Technical Committee. The Technical Committee is a primary resource to engage and aid in delivery of MLI objectives.
    - d. The Technical Committee members ask for your support of these Working Groups and continued collaboration with MLI.

**Time and Place of Next Meeting -**

The committee will continue to hold quarterly conference calls. The next in-person meeting will be held in the spring of 2020 and Ohio will be the host state.

**Appendices -**

Appendix 1. Meeting Agenda

MAFWA SWAP Technical Committee – May 1st and 2nd

Meeting Location: North Dakota Game and Fish Department Headquarters

100 N. Bismarck Expressway, Bismarck ND 58501

May 1<sup>st</sup>

8:30 Introductions

- 9:15 Monarch CCAA for Energy and Transportation Lands
- 10:00 Break
- 10:15 Review of work on MAFWA Regional SGCN Table
- 11:15 ESA Review Process and the State’s Involvement in Recovery Planning and Implementation
- 12:00 Lunch
- 1:00 Midwest Landscape Initiative (MLI) Overview
- 1:30 Our Work and Role in MLI Priorities
- 3:00 Break
- 3:15 Continued Discussion on MLI Priorities
- 4:00 ND Wind Experience
- 4:30 RAWA state response discussion

May 2<sup>rd</sup>

- 8:30 Discussion of Regional Priorities
  - Pollinators
  - Grasslands
  - Mussels
  - Herps
- 10:00 Break
- 10:15 Landscape Health Index Discussion
- 11:15 Director’s Action Items
- 11:30 Next Steps
- 12:00 Adjourn

Appendix 2. Meeting attendance list

<u>State</u>	<u>Attendee</u>
IA	Kelly Poole*
IA	Katy Reeder
IL	Leon Hinz

IN	Brad Feaster
IN	Scott Johnson*
KS	Daren Riedle*
MI	Scott Hanshue
MI	Amy Derosier
MI	Dan Kennedy
MO	Kelly Rezac
MO	Nathan Muenks
NE	Melissa Panella
ND	Patrick Isakson
ND	Greg Link
ND	Sandy Johnson*
ND	Steve Dyke*
OH	Kate Parsons
OH	Erin Hazelton
SD	Eileen Dowd Stukel
USFWS Region 3	Brad Potter*

\* Partial or remote participation