

2019 UPDATE: USFWS Mountain-Prairie Region



AKA

DOI Unified Regions 5, 7, and 9



12 Unified Regions Based on Watersheds



FWS Science Applications Program

- Grasslands and Sagebrush Landscapes – support acquisition and delivery of applied science
- Inform strategic conservation for priority species and habitats cooperatively identified by partners and FWS
- In R6, grasslands and sagebrush are rich in migratory bird resources
 - Some of conservation concern
- Natural linkages
 - WAFWA Sage EOC/Sagebrush Conservation Strategy
 - Midwest Landscape Initiative



FWS Science Applications Program

- Internal Considerations
 - Opportunity for close internal collaboration between Science Apps and Mig Birds
 - Combined Assistant Regional Director



Grassland/Grassland Bird Conservation

- **“Grasslands Roadmap Summit”**
- Bird Conservancy of the Rockies (BCR) and others
- Envisioned as a 3-day workshop of conservation leaders: agencies, tribes, NGOs, industries, landowners, academia, and international partners
- **Purpose:** to develop a unified framework that will guide and inform grassland conservation efforts and investment strategies for the next 10 years.



Grassland/Grassland Bird Conservation

- Wind Energy
 - Indirect effects
- Wetland and Grassland easements
 - High interest
 - Tile drainage
 - Fall workshop to update science informing decisions



Conservation without Conflict and WGA Collaborative Conservation Task Force

- Both are developing efforts focused on
 - Using collaboration
 - To address “Species at Risk”



FY19-20 Hunting Expansions in MAFWA States

- **Kansas:**

- **Kirwin NWR:** extend the waterfowl season by 81 days and adding 902 acres

- **Nebraska:**

- **Valentine NWR:** extend the coyote hunting season by 88 days on 70,000 acres

- **South Dakota:**

- **Sand Lake NWR:** extend the white-tailed deer hunting season by 49 days on 20,000 acres

- **FY20-21:** Work with you to identify additional opportunities



FY19-20 New Fishing Opportunities



- **North Dakota:**
 - Valley City NFH: Codify recreational fishing
- **South Dakota and Nebraska via Gavins Pt NFH:**
 - Re-establish a genetically viable blue catfish population in the Missouri River, provide anglers an opportunity for a trophy fishery
 - Brood fish collected this fall and production the following year
 - Surplus fry provided to Nebraska State Fish Hatcheries for other rec fish opportunities
- **South Dakota:**
 - Gavins Point NFH: new opportunities on USFS National Grasslands in Western South Dakota.

ESA DOWNLISTING AND DELISTING ACTIONS

- **Colorado Butterfly Plant**
 - Final delisting rule due to recovery
 - The threats at the time of listing have been eliminated or reduced, and additional populations found
 - Multiple populations through most of its current range in **Colorado and Wyoming**
 - once presumed extirpated **from Nebraska** - a few individuals found in Kimball County

ESA DOWNLISTING AND DELISTING ACTIONS

- **Canada lynx (*Michigan and Minnesota*)**
 - 2017: 5-year review recommending delisting of DPS
 - Late 2019: Anticipate a proposal to delist
 - Inclusion of conservation measures into federal forest mgt plans provide increased certainty
 - Climate change?
 - likely to occupy multiple geographic units through 2050

ESA DOWNLISTING AND DELISTING ACTIONS

- **American burying beetle**

- Recent proposal to downlist to threatened
- Public comment through July 2, 2019
- 1989: known only in OK and RI
- Now: 9 states, including Kansas, Nebraska, and South Dakota
- Focused conservation efforts - relatively stable populations
- Proposed 4(d) rule



ESA DOWNLISTING AND DELISTING ACTIONS

- **Interior least tern**



- On the horizon
- Currently estimate more than twice the number of birds estimated for recovery
- 1985: ~ 2,000 birds and today ~ 18,000
- One of the most widely distributed federally listed species in the continental US

TOPEKA SHINER RECOVERY PLAN

- Range: Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, and South Dakota
- States participated with FWS in a Species Status Assessment (SSA)
- States participating in development of draft recovery plan
- SSA will inform required “5-year review” of the species status
 - ~3 months
- The draft recovery plan is expected to be available this fall



Voting Proxies

Memorandum

To: Whom It May Concern

From: Mark Reiter

Date: June 13, 2019

RE: Proxy - MAFWA Annual Director's Meeting

I hereby authorize Amanda Wuestefeld to vote my proxy at the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Annual Directors' Meeting on June 26, 2019, and to act in my stead, authorizing this person fully to do all things that I could or might do if personally present. I also authorize this person to do every act whatsoever necessary or proper to be done in all matters that may lawfully come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof. Further, I hereby revoke any proxy or proxies previously given by me to any person or persons.

Signature:



Mark Reiter

Division Director



**TOURISM, ARTS AND HERITAGE CABINET
KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE RESOURCES**

Matthew G. Bevin
Governor

#1 Sportsman's Lane
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601
Phone (502) 564-3400
1-800-858-1549
Fax (502) 564-0506
fw.ky.gov

Regina Stivers
Deputy Secretary

Don Parkinson
Secretary

Rich Storm
Commissioner

Memorandum

To: Whom It May Concern

From: Rich Storm, Commissioner

Date: June 11, 2019

RE: Proxy - MAFWA Annual Director's Meeting

I hereby authorize Karen Waldrop to vote my proxy at the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Annual Directors' Meeting on June 23-26, 2019, and to act in my stead, authorizing this person fully to do all things that I could or might do if personally present. I also authorize this person to do every act whatsoever necessary or proper to be done in all matters that may lawfully come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof. Further, I hereby revoke any proxy or proxies previously given by me to any person or persons.

Signature: 

Printed Name and Title: Rich Storm Commissioner

mn DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

June 12, 2019

To Whom It May Concern

RE: Proxy – Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Annual Directors' Meeting

I hereby authorize Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' Division of Fish and Wildlife Deputy Director Pat Rivers to vote my proxy at the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Annual Directors' Meeting, Sunday, June 23-Wednesday, June 26, 2019, and to act in my stead, authorizing this person fully to do all things that I could or might do if personally present. I also authorize this person to do every act whatsoever necessary or proper to be done in all matters that may lawfully come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof. Further, I hereby revoke any proxy or proxies previously given by me to any person or persons.



Grant L. Wilson, Acting Director
Division of Fish and Wildlife
DNR Building – 500 Lafayette Road
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155-4020
651-259-5180
Grant.Wilson@state.mn.us

GLW/JLS/jls

Send to MAFWA Secretary via email at: sheila.kemmis@ks.gov
Ms. Sheila Kemmis
MAFWA Recording Secretary
Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism
512 Southeast 25th Avenue
Pratt, Kansas 67124-8174