



MIDWEST

Association of
Fish & Wildlife
Agencies

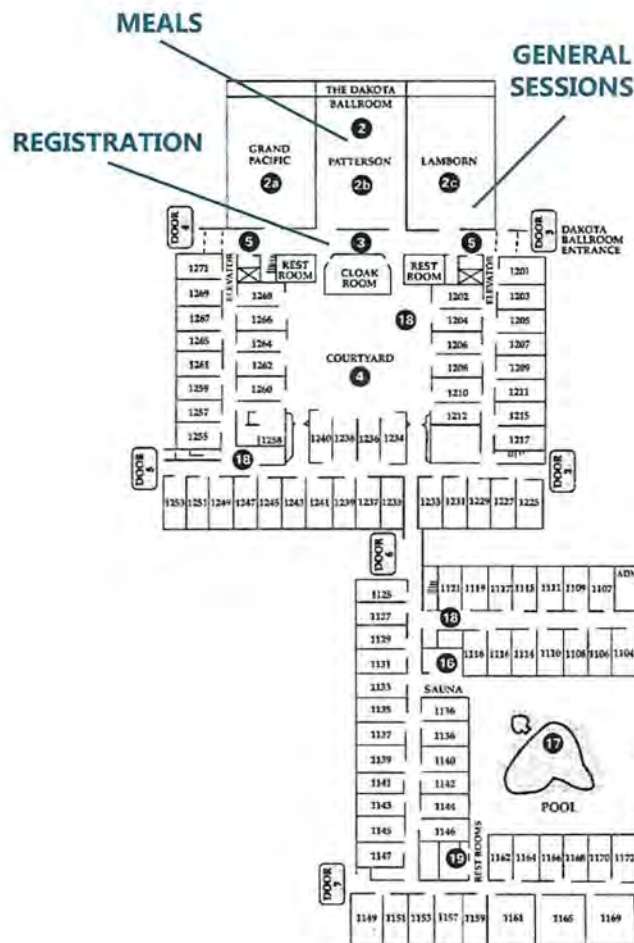


JUNE 24-27, 2018

RAMKOTA HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER
BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA

Ramkota Hotel Bismarck

Guest Service Map



1. The Missouri Room
- 1a. Heart
- 1b. Sheyenne
- 1c. Cannonball
2. The Dakota Ballroom
- 2a. Grand Pacific
- 2b. Patterson
- 2c. Lamborn
3. Coat Rooms
4. Courtyard
5. Elevators
6. Gift Shops
7. Front Desk (Room Registration)
8. Governor's Room
9. Lobby
10. Game Room
11. Health Club
12. Nickels Lounge
13. Seasons Cafe & Restaurant
14. Administration Offices
15. Sales and Catering
16. Sauna
17. Indoor WaterPark
18. Pop, Ice
19. Rest Rooms



MIDWEST

Association of
Fish & Wildlife
Agencies

85th Annual Directors' Meeting

June 24 – 27, 2018

Ramkota Hotel ♦ Bismarck, North Dakota

“Partnerships”

Contents

President's Message	2
Conference Acknowledgments	3
Program Agenda	4
Featured Events	8
About Our Sponsors	10
About MAFWA	19
Partners	20
Upcoming Events	21



President's Message

WELCOME TO NORTH DAKOTA

On behalf of the North Dakota Game and Fish Department, welcome to the 85th Annual Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Directors' Meeting. This year's gathering is again filled with reports and information from member states that will hopefully benefit everyone in attendance. Today's conservation challenges are many, and meeting those challenges requires diligence, passion, and cooperation.



North Dakota is primarily an agricultural state, but our hunting, trapping and fishing heritage is significant. So much so that the right to hunt, fish and trap are part of our constitution. North Dakota's landscape is varied, with glacial Lake Agassiz and the relatively flat topography of the Red River Valley in the eastern third of the state, the Drift Prairie and Coteau in the central third, and the rugged badlands in the west.

The theme of this year's annual meeting is "partnerships." While this is not a new concept to any of us, it's more important than ever to work on challenges together, and even step outside of customary alliances to find new partners to enhance the effort to maintain the outdoor heritage we so dearly cherish.

During your stay in North Dakota you'll have an opportunity to visit some native prairies that are crucial to the survival of both game and nongame species. And you'll see how agriculture and wildlife production coexists. If you get the chance, and happen to extend your stay, you can also experience some world-class walleye fishing on the Missouri River, or visit the rugged and scenic badlands just two hours west of Bismarck.

We hope your time in North Dakota is memorable, and if there is anything we can do to help, just let us know. We're certain that with a little effort and the will to do a little exploring, you can't help but enjoy the great outdoors of North Dakota.

Terry Steinwand, President
Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

Acknowledgments

Conference Steering Committee

Terry Steinwand
Scott Peterson
Lynn M. Timm
Ollie Torgerson
Delaney Meeting & Event Management

North Dakota Game and Fish Department Steering Committee

Administrative Services Division
Conservation & Communications Division
Enforcement Division
Wildlife Division

MAFWA Executive Committee

Terry Steinwand (ND), President
Mike Miller (OH), First Vice President
Kelly Hepler (SD), Second Vice President
Jim Douglas (NE), Past President
Keith Sexson (KS), Member
Mark Reiter (IN), Member

Program Agenda

- * **Dress Code:** Casual attire throughout the conference.
- * **Meeting Room Assignments:** All shared meetings for **MAFWA/AMFGLEO** are noted with an asterisk (*) and will be held in the **Lamborn Room** and all meals (breakfast and lunch) will be held in the **Patterson Room**. Other events located as indicated on agenda.
- * **AMFGLEO-only** meetings will be held in the Heart Room.

SUNDAY – JUNE 24, 2018

2:00 p.m. – * **Conference Registration Desk Open – Dakota Ballroom Foyer**

6:00 p.m. – **MAFWA Executive Committee – Lamborn Room**

5:00 p.m. –
6:00 p.m. – * **President's Welcome Reception – Courtyard**
Sponsored by Sovereign Sportsman Solutions
Remarks by Eric Richey

8:00 p.m. – * **Hospitality Room – Suite 1258 & Courtyard**
11:00 p.m. *Sponsored by Bass Pro Shops*

MONDAY – JUNE 25, 2018

7:00 a.m. – * **Breakfast – Patterson Room**
8:00 a.m. *Sponsored by Archery Trade Association – Remarks by Dan Forster*

7:00 a.m. – * **Conference Registration Desk Open – Dakota Ballroom Foyer**
5:00 p.m.

8:00 a.m. – * **Greetings and Welcome to North Dakota**
8:30 a.m. *U.S. and Canadian National Anthems*
Randy Meissner, Licensing Manager, NDGFD
Opening Remarks: Lt. Governor Brent Sanford (invited)

8:30 a.m. – * **Remarks from USFWS**
8:45 a.m. *Greg Sheehan, Principal Deputy Director, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service*

8:45 a.m. – **MAFWA/USFWS Panel and Progress on Science Applications**
10:30 a.m. *Facilitator: Jim Douglas*

- *Jim Douglas – Director, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission*
- *Greg Sheehan – Principal Deputy Director, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service*
- *Dr. Benjamin Tuggle – Assistant Director for Science Applications, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service*
- *Kelley Myers – LCC Coordinator, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service*
- *Kelly Hepler – Department Secretary, South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks*

10:30 a.m. – * **Refreshment Break – Courtyard**
10:45 a.m. *Sponsored by D.J. Case and Associates, Inc.*

10:45 a.m. – **Monarch Conservation Report**
11:00 a.m. *Claire Beck, MAFWA Monarch Technical Coordinator*

11:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	ND Pollinator Report <i>Sandy Johnson – Conservation Biologist, NDGFD</i>
11:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.	* Keynote Address: Tribal Partnerships <i>Scott Davis, Executive Director, ND Indian Affairs Commission</i>
11:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	* Director Group Photo & AMFGLEO Group Photo – Grand Pacific Room
12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	* Awards Luncheon – Patterson Room <i>Sponsored by Ducks Unlimited and Canadian NAWMP Partners</i> <i>Remarks by David Brakhage and Tim Sopuck</i> (See details on page 8)
1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Partnership Panel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Dr. Steve Adair, Director, Great Plains Regional Office, Ducks Unlimited</i> ▪ <i>Rachel Bush, North Dakota State Director, Pheasants Forever</i> ▪ <i>Keith Trego, Executive Director, ND Natural Resources Trust</i> ▪ <i>Josh Dukart, Former Executive Director, ND Grazing Lands Coalition</i>
3:00 p.m.	Refreshment Break – Courtyard <i>Sponsored by Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation</i>
3:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	Offsite Dinner Event at Black Leg Ranch featuring Blind Joe <i>Co-sponsored by Brandt Information Services and North Dakota Natural Resources Trust – Remarks by Kelsey Hersey</i> <i>Depart from hotel 3:30 p.m.; return at 9:00 p.m.</i> (See details on page 8)
9:30 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.	* Hospitality Room – Suite 1258 & Courtyard <i>Sponsored by National Shooting Sports Foundation</i>

TUESDAY – JUNE 26, 2018

7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.	* Breakfast – Patterson Room <i>Sponsored by National Wild Turkey Federation</i> <i>Remarks by Ross Melinchuk</i>
7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	* Conference Registration Desk Open – Dakota Ballroom Foyer
8:00 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.	* Electronic Licensing and Tagging <i>Todd Schaller – Chief Conservation Warden, Wisconsin DNR</i>
8:45 a.m. – 9:05 a.m.	American Fisheries Society Report <i>Doug Austen – Executive Director, American Fisheries Society</i>
9:05 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	Missouri River Fish Research <i>Paul Bailey – District Fisheries Supervisor, NDGFD</i>
9:30 a.m. – 9:55 a.m.	Prairie Moose Report <i>Jason Smith – Big Game Biologist, NDGFD</i>
9:55 a.m. – 10:10 a.m.	* Refreshment Break – Courtyard <i>Sponsored by National Rifle Association</i>
10:10 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.	AFWA Report <i>Virgil Moore, AFWA President; Director, Idaho Department of Fish & Game</i> <i>Ron Regan, Executive Director, AFWA</i>

10:40 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	MAFWA Committee Reports Facilitator: Ollie Torgerson, MAFWA Executive Secretary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CITES ▪ Climate Change ▪ Feral Swine ▪ Hunter and Angler Recruitment and Retention ▪ Deer and Wild Turkey ▪ Furbearers ▪ Law Enforcement ▪ Legal ▪ National Conservation Needs ▪ Private Lands ▪ Public Lands ▪ Wildlife Action Plan ▪ Wildlife and Fish Health
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	* Lunch – Patterson Room <i>Sponsored by Kalkomey Enterprises – Remarks by Ray St. Germain</i>
1:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.	Federal Partners Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service – Noreen Walsh, Region 6 Director ▪ U.S. Forest Service – Tracy Grazia, Region 9 Wildlife Program Manager ▪ Department of Interior – Olivia LeDee, Acting Director, Northeast Climate Adaptation Science Center ▪ USDA APHIS – Dr. Doug Eckery, Assistant Director, National Wildlife Research Center – "Overview of WS NWRC Bird and Predator Research" ▪ U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service – Tom Melius, Region 3 Director
2:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	* Refreshment Break – Courtyard <i>Sponsored by The Wildlife Society (TWS) and The ND Chapter of TWS</i>
2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	* State Hot Topics Facilitator: Terry Steinwand
3:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.	Nationally Significant Wildlife Health Issues <i>Dr. John R. Fischer, Director, Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study</i>
3:45 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	The Importance of Leveraging Partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ USDA Wildlife Services – John Paulson, North Dakota State Director ▪ U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service – Todd Frerichs, Project Leader, Audubon National Wildlife Refuge ▪ Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation – Tim Sopuck, CEO
5:00 p.m. – 8:45 p.m.	* Offsite Dinner Event: Nishu Bowmen Archery Complex <i>Sponsored by National Archery in the Schools Program, with support from Kalkomey Enterprises; Beverages Sponsored by North Dakota Bowhunter's Association – Remarks by Roy Grimes</i> (See details on page 9)
9:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.	* Hospitality Room – Suite 1258 & Courtyard <i>Sponsored by Airgun Sporting Association</i>

WEDNESDAY – JUNE 27, 2018

7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.	* Breakfast – Patterson Room <i>Sponsored by Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever</i> <i>Remarks by Rick Young</i>
7:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	* Conference Registration Desk Open – Dakota Ballroom Foyer
8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	MAFWA Business Meeting Terry Steinwand, MAFWA President <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Call to Order and Roll Call• Agenda Review• Approval of 2017 Annual Meeting Minutes• Treasurer's Report - Roger Luebbert• Audit Committee Report - Mike Miller (OH)• Investments Committee Report - Wayne Rosenthal (IL)• Resolutions Committee Report - Jim Leach (MN)• Awards Committee Report - Keith Sexson (KS)• Bylaws Committee Report - Sara Parker Pauley (MO)• Executive Secretary's Report - Ollie Torgerson• Approval of Affiliate Members - Ollie Torgerson <i>Old Business</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• National Wild Pheasant Plan Update - Scott Taylor• Greater Prairie Chicken/Sharp-tailed Grouse Plan Update - Keith Sexson (KS)• Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference - Sara Parker Pauley (MO) <i>New Business</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mid-Continent Monarch Strategy Report - Bill Moritz (MI)• RBFF Update - Dave Chanda, VP State Agency Engagement• 2019 Budget Approval - Roger Luebbert
10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	* Refreshment Break – Courtyard <i>Sponsored by Mule Deer Foundation and North Dakota Petroleum Council</i>
10:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	MAFWA Business Meeting (continued) Closing Comments – President's Remarks Passing of Gavel to Next State
12:00 p.m.	Conference Adjourns

Featured Events: Monday

☆ Awards Luncheon — *Patterson Room*

Monday, June 25 / 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Sponsored by Ducks Unlimited and Canadian NAWMP Partners

Remarks by David Brakhage (DU) and Tim Sopuck (Canadian NAWMP)

Presented by: The Awards Committee – Keith Sexson, Chair

- ★ Law Enforcement Officer of the Year
- ★ Wildlife Biologist of the Year
- ★ Fisheries Biologist of the Year
- ★ Spirit of the Shack
- ★ Excellence in Conservation
- ★ Special Recognition Service Award
- ★ President's Award

☆ Offsite Dinner Event: Black Leg Ranch

Monday, June 25 / 3:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Co-sponsored by Brandt Information Services and North Dakota Natural Resources Trust

This event is included in the full conference registration fee, and transportation will be provided as follows:

Board bus/vans at 3:30 p.m. outside Door #4 (left of the main conference rooms) for departure to the Black Leg Ranch. We'll begin the return shuttles to the hotel at approximately 8:30 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. The drive is an estimated 30 minutes.

Join us for an informative trip to a working ranch where members of the Doan family will give participants a brief history of the ranch and highlight the ranch's innovative approach to holistic native prairie management. In 2016, the Black Leg Ranch received both the inaugural North Dakota Leopold Conservation Award and the National Cattlemen's Beef Association Environmental Stewardship Award. The ranch's current management strategy focuses on improving soil health while maximizing biomass production. The Black Leg Ranch offers a unique vista of native prairie and scenic wetlands.

The evening's main festivities will take place in a renovated barn located at the ranch headquarters and will include drinks, a catered meal and entertainment by Blind Joe. Enjoy a ranch tour from 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m., social at the ranch headquarters from 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m., and dinner at 6:00 p.m.

Featured Event: Tuesday

☆ Offsite Dinner Event: Nishu Bowmen Archery Complex

Tuesday, June 26 / 5:00 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.

Sponsored by National Archery in the Schools Program with support from Kalkomey Enterprises; Beverages sponsored by North Dakota Bowhunter's Association

This event is included in the full conference registration fee, and transportation will be provided as follows: board shuttle vans beginning at 5:00 p.m. outside Door #4 (left of the main conference rooms) for departure to the Nishu Bowmen Archery Complex. Vans will shuttle participants intermittently. The return shuttle schedule will be announced onsite. The facility is located within walking distance of the hotel (approx. 2 miles) near the shoreline of the mighty Missouri River. The drive is an estimated 5 minutes.

Join us at the recently constructed Nishu Bowmen Archery Complex and partake in a friendly archery competition which will mimic an actual National Archery in the Schools Program competition. NASP archery demonstration at 5:30 p.m., followed by an archery competition and dinner.



About Our Sponsors

MAJOR LEVEL

Brandt Information Services

Richard Wise and Tiffani Santagati

501 N. Duval Street

Tallahassee, FL 32301

richardw@brandtinfo.com; tiffanis@brandtinfo.com

www.brandtinfo.com

Brandt Information Services develops customized applications and systems for the administration and issuance of recreational licenses, off-road vehicle registrations, state park reservations, and more. We offer unique marketing opportunities and a customer centric approach to all our solutions and services. Since 1985, Brandt has provided local, state, and federal government with cutting edge solutions that empower the end user and streamline business processes. Call Tiffani Santagati, Directional of Outdoor Licensing & Recreational Sales, (404) 698-1900 or via email at tiffanis@brandtinfo.com. Visit us online at www.brandtinfo.com.

☆ Co-Sponsor of

Monday Night Dinner

National Archery in the Schools

Roy Grimes and Kevin Dixon

W4285 Lake Drive

Waldo, WI 53093

rgrimes@nasparchery.com

www.naspschools.org

The National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP®) is in its 13th year. Currently more than 12,000 schools and 2 million students are participating in 47 states, 7 Canadian Provinces, 4 African Countries, Australia, New Zealand, Mongolia (2013) and the United Kingdom (March 2014). NASP® Coordinators certify about 7,000 new teachers each year to present archery lessons as part of the school day. Teaching the skill of target archery to a student population, 77% of whom have not shot archery before, inspires these young people to be lifetime shooting sports participants.

☆ Sponsor of

Tuesday Night Dinner

Sovereign Sportsman Solutions

Eric Richey and Bill Creighton

495 Page Farm Road

Tryon, NC 28782

erichey@s3gov.com; bill.creighton@gmail.com

www.s3gov.com

Sovereign Sportsman Solutions, LLC (S3) is a technology and solutions development organization focused on developing a broad range of licensing, permitting, reservations, registration, back office, revenue accounting, and asset management solutions for local, state, federal, and tribal government agencies.

☆ Sponsor of

Sunday Welcome Reception

GOLD LEVEL

Archery Trade Association

John Nelson, Dan Forster and Matt Kormann

4652 Hawkins Academy Road

Social Circle, GA 30025

johnnelson@archerytrade.org; danforster@archerytrade.org

www.archerytrade.org

Serving its members since 1953, the Archery Trade Association is the organization for manufacturers, retailers, distributors, sales representatives and others working in the archery and bowhunting industry. The ATA is dedicated to making the industry profitable by decreasing business overhead, reducing taxes and government regulation and increasing participation in archery and bowhunting. The organization also owns and operates the ATA Trade Show, the industry's largest and longest-running trade show worldwide.

☆ Sponsor of

Monday Breakfast

Kalkomey Enterprises

Ray St. Germain and Mitch Strobl

14086 Proton Road

Dallas, TX 75244

rstgermain@kalkomey.com; mstrobl@kalkomey.com

www.kalkomey.com

Kalkomey AMS Licensing includes an array of marketing and communication services. Maximize recruiting efforts and retain sportsmen with data-fueled campaigns. Identify and reactivate lapsed sports enthusiasts with targeted and timely communication. Outreach Optimization services help agencies harness the full power of Kalkomey's AMS licensing system.

☆ Sponsor of

Tuesday Lunch

National Wild Turkey Federation

Becky Humphries and Ross Melinchuk

770 August Road

Edgefield, SC 29824

bhumphries@nwtf.net; rmelinchuk@nwtf.net

www.nwtf.org

The National Wild Turkey Federation is a 501 (c) (3) non-governmental organization dedicated to the conservation of the wild turkey and preservation of our hunting heritage. The NWTF is a grassroots, volunteer organization governed by a volunteer member board of directors. Its volunteers are organized in a state and local chapter system.

☆ Sponsor of

Tuesday Breakfast

Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever

Dave Nomsen, Howard Vincent, Rick Young
2301 Research Park Way
Brookings, SD 57006
dnomsen@pheasantsforever.org

www.pheasantsforever.org

Pheasants Forever is dedicated to the conservation of pheasants, quail and other wildlife through habitat improvements, public awareness, education and land management policies and programs.

☆ Sponsor of
Wednesday Breakfast

U.S. Forest Service - Region 9

Steve Kuennen
626 E. Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 800
Milwaukee, WI 53202
skueennen@fs.fed.us

www.fs.fed.us

The mission of the USDA Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.

USDA APHIS-Wildlife Services

Jason Suckow and Willie Harris
920 Main Campus Dr., Suite 200
Raleigh, NC 27606
jason.suckow@aphis.usda.gov

www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/wildlifedamage

Wildlife Services, a program in USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, provides federal leadership to create a balance allowing people and wildlife to coexist. Addressing wildlife damage to agriculture, property, natural resources, and human health, its skills are employed at emergencies and in response to requests. Contact: 1-866-4USDA-WS (1-866-487-3297) or www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife-damage.

SILVER LEVEL

Airgun Sporting Association

Mitch King
5405 Favorite Gulch Road
Helena, MT 59602
mitch@airgunsporting.org

www.airgunsporting.org

The Airgun Sporting Association is committed to working with state wildlife agencies to promote airgun hunting and recreational shooting across the country. The airgun industry recognizes the important role of the state wildlife agencies in wildlife management, hunter and recreational shooter access and hunter recruitment, retention and reactivation and we look forward to working with the agencies to identify future partnership opportunities.

☆ Sponsor of
Tuesday Hospitality Room

Bass Pro Shops

Robert Ziehmer and Martin MacDonald
2500 E. Kearney
Springfield, MO 65898
rlziehmer@basspro.com

www.basspro.com

Bass Pro Shops, an international catalog and internet retailer, is also America's most popular outdoor store, offering shoppers the largest selection of quality outdoor gear, clothing and accessories from top industry names at value prices. Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World stores are also part museum, part art gallery, part education, conservation and entertainment centers.

☆ Sponsor of

Sunday Hospitality Room

Canadian NAWMP Partners

Dean Smith
142 Michener Drive
Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada S4V 0G8
dsmith@fishwildlife.org

www.nawmp.wetlandnetwork.ca

The Canadian partners of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) are engaged in habitat projects through four joint ventures, the Boreal Initiative, and other federal and provincial programs. Wetland and waterfowl conservation projects in the Canadian breeding grounds provide over 75% of the continental waterfowl population. Hunters across the United States benefit from wetland retention and restoration activities in Canada. The Canadian NAWMP partner agencies are thankful and honored to work in collaboration with state fish and wildlife agencies, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and Ducks Unlimited Inc. to improve waterfowl habitat all across the continent.

☆ Co-Sponsor of

Monday Awards Luncheon

Ducks Unlimited

David Brakhage
1220 Eisenhower Place
Ann Arbor, MI 48108
dbrakhage@ducks.org

www.ducks.org

Ducks Unlimited takes a continental, landscape approach to wetland conservation. Since 1937, DU has conserved more than 13 million acres of waterfowl habitat across North America. While DU works in all 50 states, the organization focuses its efforts and resources on the habitats most beneficial to waterfowl.

☆ Co-Sponsor of

Monday Awards Luncheon

National Shooting Sports Foundation

Jim Curcuruto and Steve Sanetti

11 Mile Hill Road

Newtown, CT 06470

jcurcuruto@nssf.org

www.nssf.org

The National Shooting Sports Foundation is the trade association for the firearms industry. Its mission is to promote, protect and preserve hunting and the shooting sports. Formed in 1961, NSSF has a membership of more than 10,000 manufacturers, distributors, firearms retailers, shooting ranges, sportsmen's organizations and publishers.

☆ Sponsor of

Monday Hospitality Room

North Dakota Natural Resources Trust

Keith Trego

1605 E. Capitol Avenue, Suite 101

Bismarck, ND 58501

keith@naturalresourcestrust.com

www.ndnrt.com

The mission of the Trust is to: preserve, enhance, restore, and manage wetlands and associated wildlife habitat, grasslands, and riparian areas in the state of North Dakota. The Trust is pleased to work with an array of partners within the private, state, county, and federal sphere of the agriculture and conservation communities.

☆ Co-Sponsor of

Monday Night Dinner

U.S. Geological Survey

Robin O'Malley and Olivia LeDee

1499 Campus Delivery (200 Lake Street)

Fort Collins, CO 80523

romalley@usgs.gov

www.usgs.gov

The USGS serves the Nation as an independent scientific agency that collects, analyzes, and provides unbiased information and understanding about natural resource conditions, issues, and problems. USGS supports and manages a robust and interdisciplinary portfolio of research and scientific capabilities. Visit the USGS booth to learn more about the role biological science plays in conservation and natural resource decision-making and policy.

BRONZE LEVEL

D.J. Case and Associates

Dave Case
317 E. Jefferson Boulevard
Mishawaka, IN 46545
dave@djcase.com

www.djcase.com

Since 1986, DJ Case & Associates has worked with state and federal natural resource agencies and conservation organizations every day, helping them communicate effectively to achieve their conservation goals. We provide the full range of communications services--from marketing plans, meeting facilitation and strategic planning to Web development, human dimensions research, and video production.

☆ Sponsor of

Monday Morning

Refreshment Break

National Rifle Association

Peter Churchbourne
11250 Waples Mill Road
Fairfax, VA 22030
pchurchbourne@nrahq.org

www.nrahe.org

The National Rifle Association of America is a nonprofit organization founded in 1871 and supported by the membership fees of over 5 million members. One of the purposes of the Association is to promote hunter safety and to promote and defend hunting as a shooting sport and as a viable and necessary method of fostering the propagation, growth and conservation, and wise use of our renewable wildlife resources.

☆ Sponsor of

Tuesday Morning

Refreshment Break

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

Blake Henning
5705 Grant Creek Road
Missoula, MT 59808
bhenning@rmef.org

www.rmef.org

Founded in 1984 by four hunters, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation is a leading conservation organization that has protected or enhanced habitat on more than 7.1 million acres, secured public access to more than 1.1 million acres, and is a strong voice for hunters in access, wildlife management, and conservation policy issues.

☆ Sponsor of

Monday Afternoon

Refreshment Break

SIGNAGE

Voss Signs

Tom Tenerovicz
PO Box 553, 112 Fairgrounds Dr
Manlius, NY 13104
tom@vosssigns.com

www.vosssigns.com

Since 1965, Voss Signs, LLC has produced custom and stock signs for various customers that include: forestry professionals, land owners, state and federal government agencies. Signs are manufactured either screen-printed or digitally printed on aluminum, plastic or other custom substrates providing long-term outdoor durability.

☆ Sponsor of
Event Signage

SPONSORS

Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers (AMFGLEO)

Bob Thompson
6060 Broadway
Denver, CO 80216
bob.thompson@state.co.us

www.midwestgamewarden.org

The Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers (AMFGLEO) was chartered February 1944 at Lincoln, Nebraska. There are currently 23 member agencies from Canada and the United States. The AMFGLEO meets every year taking turns in different states and provinces. The meetings have been beneficial to the member agencies. Over the years, the AMFGLEO has become the lead group among wildlife enforcement organizations in the development and maintenance of training for field officers that protects the resource and benefits the citizens of our states, provinces, and countries.

Mule Deer Foundation

Miles Moretti
404 E. 4500 S., Suite B-10
Salt Lake City, UT 84107
miles@muledeer.org

www.muledeer.org

The Mule Deer Foundation is the only conservation group in North America dedicated to restoring, improving and protecting mule deer and black-tailed deer and their habitat, with a focus on science and program efficiency. MDF is a strong voice for hunters in access, wildlife management and conservation policy issues. MDF acknowledges regulated hunting as a viable management component and is committed to recruitment and retention of youth into the shooting sports and conservation. Get involved at www.muledeer.org.

☆ Sponsor of
Wednesday Morning
Refreshment Break

National Wildlife Federation

Mike Shriberg
213 W Liberty Street, Suite 200
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
fikej@nwf.org
www.nwf.org

The National Wildlife Federation Great Lakes Regional Center is the leader in protecting and restoring the Great Lakes for the people and wildlife depending on our greatest freshwater resource.

North Dakota Bowhunter's Association

Darrell Belisle
PO Box 374
Bismarck, ND 58502
bigbucks@westriv.com
www.ndbowhunters.org

☆ Sponsor of
Tuesday Night Beverages

The NDBA was organized in 1952 by a group of dedicated archers. In 1953 North Dakota became the last state to have a special bow and arrow season. Today we have one of the longest bow seasons in the country. The NDBA is a group of dedicated archers working to improve and protect the rights and privileges of bowhunters and to promote and expand the sport of archery in North Dakota.

North Dakota Chapter The Wildlife Society

Rick Warhurst
1605 E. Capitol Avenue, Suite 101
Bismarck, ND 58501
rick@naturalresourcestrust.com
https://ndctws.wordpress.com/

☆ Sponsor of
Tuesday Afternoon
Refreshment Break

The North Dakota Chapter of the Wildlife Society is specifically concerned with approaches to effective management of North Dakota's plant and animal communities. The Chapter provides expertise in advising legislative and judicial processes surrounding the controversial management of many natural resource assets. It advocates the holistic treatment of environmental questions. The Chapter was founded in 1963 and incorporated in 1981 under the laws of North Dakota.

North Dakota Petroleum Council

Ron Ness
100 W Broadway, Suite 200
Bismarck, ND 58501
ndpc@ndoil.org
www.ndoil.org

☆ Sponsor of
Wednesday Morning
Refreshment Break

The North Dakota Petroleum Council's (NDPC) purpose is to provide governmental relations support to the more than 490 companies it represents who are involved in all aspects of the oil and gas industry including oil and gas production, refining, pipeline, mineral leasing, consulting, legal work, and oil field service activities in North Dakota, South Dakota, and the Rocky Mountain region.

The Nature Conservancy- Central Division

Karla Suckling and Rob McKim

Central Division, 1101 West River Pkwy, Suite 200

Minneapolis, MN 55415

ksuckling@tnc.org

www.nature.org

The Nature Conservancy is an international charitable environmental organization, headquartered in Arlington, Virginia. Its mission is to "conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends."

The Wildlife Society

Keith Norris

425 Barlow Place, Suite 200

Bethesda, MD 20814

keith.norris@wildlife.org

www.wildlife.org

The Wildlife Society represents and serves >10,000 leaders in wildlife science, management and conservation. TWS publishes scientific and management-focused research, provides networking opportunities, advocates science-based policies, and offers professional development opportunities that inspire, empower, and enable wildlife professionals to sustain wildlife populations and their habitats through science-based management and conservation.

☆ Sponsor of
Tuesday Afternoon
Refreshment Break



About MAFWA

Our mission is to provide a forum for state and provincial fish and wildlife agencies to share ideas and information, pool resources, and initiate action to benefit the management and conservation of fish and wildlife resources in the Midwest.



Formed in 1934, The Midwest Association is comprised of 16 states and provinces encompassing some of the greatest diversity in lands, waters, and wildlife in North America.

www.mafwa.org

MAFWA Partners

Affiliates

American Fisheries Society	National Shooting Sports Foundation
American Sportfishing Association	National Wildlife Federation
Archery Trade Association	National Wild Turkey Federation
Brandt Information Services	North American Grouse Partnership
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation	Pheasants Forever
D.J. Case and Associates	Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
Delta Waterfowl	Ruffed Grouse Society
Ducks Unlimited	Southwick Associates
Healing Our Waters Coalition	The Nature Conservancy
Kalkomey Enterprises, Inc.	Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
MICRA	Wildlife Forever
Mule Deer Foundation	Wildlife Management Institute
National Archery in the Schools Program	The Wildlife Society
National Rifle Association	

Sister Organizations

- Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA)
- Northeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (NEAFWA)
- Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA)
- Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA)

Upcoming Events



Western Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies Annual Conference

July 12 – 17, 2018
Hilton / Eugene, Oregon
www.wafwa.org



Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies 108th Annual Meeting

September 9 – 12, 2018
Tampa Marriott Waterside Hotel / Tampa, Florida
www.afwaannualmeeting.org



Southeastern Association for Fish & Wildlife Agencies 72nd Annual Conference

October 21 – 24, 2018
Renaissance Riverview Plaza Hotel / Mobile, Alabama
www.seafwa.org/conference



84th North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference

March 4 – 9, 2019
Sheraton Denver Downtown / Denver, Colorado
www.wildlifemanagementinstitute.org



MIDWEST Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies

86th Annual Directors' Meeting
June, 2019 ♦ Ohio

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper appears to be a standard notebook page or a sheet of stationery designed for writing.

Skyscraper vs. dome

22

This image shows a single page of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, leaving small margins at the top and bottom. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

North Dakota is the leading producer of sunflowers in the United States.

NOTES

[illegible]

Fun fact ...

National Wildlife Refuges:

North Dakota has 63 wildlife refuges – more than any other state in the nation.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

MAJOR



GOLD



United States Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Wildlife Services

SILVER



BRONZE



SIGNAGE

SPONSOR







MIDWEST

Association of
Fish & Wildlife
Agencies

*Thank you to all of our
sponsors for their
generous support!*

MAJOR



MAJOR

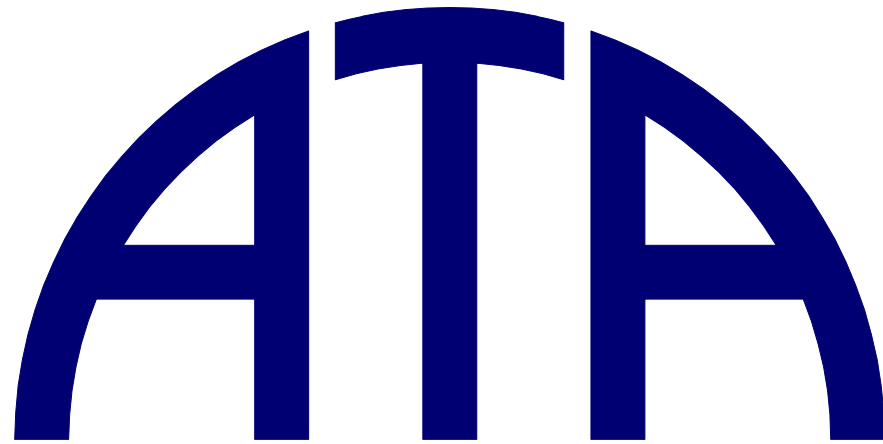


National Archery *in the* ***Schools Program***

MAJOR



GOLD

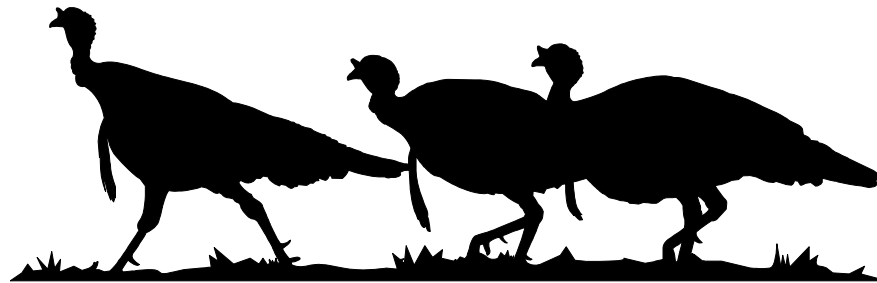


ARCHERY TRADE ASSOCIATION

GOLD



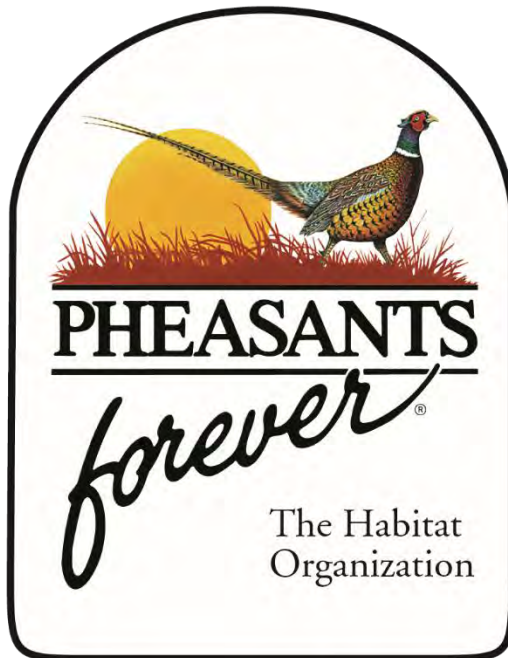
GOLD



NWTF

Conserve. Hunt. Share.

GOLD



GOLD



Region 9

GOLD



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Wildlife Services

SILVER



AIRGUN SPORTING
ASSOCIATION

SILVER



SILVER

The Canadian partners of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan are thankful and honored to work in collaboration with State fish and wildlife agencies, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and Ducks Unlimited Inc. to improve waterfowl habitat all across the continent.



SILVER



SILVER



SILVER



BRONZE



BRONZE

DJCase
& associates

BRONZE



NRA

BRONZE



SIGNAGE



SPONSOR



SPONSOR



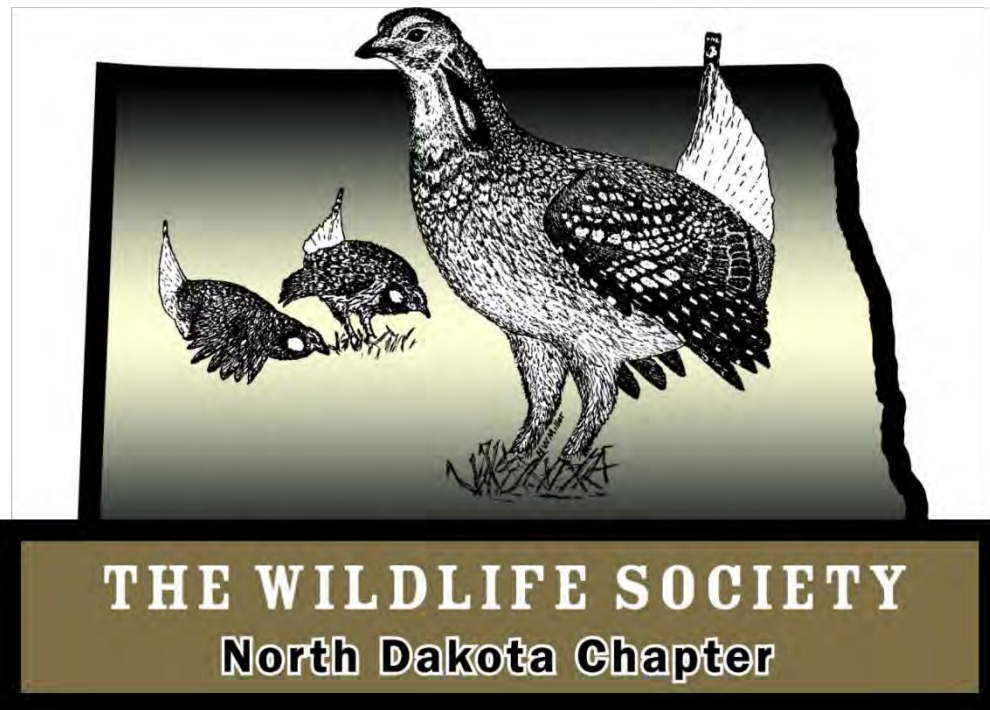
SPONSOR



SPONSOR



SPONSOR



SPONSOR



SPONSOR

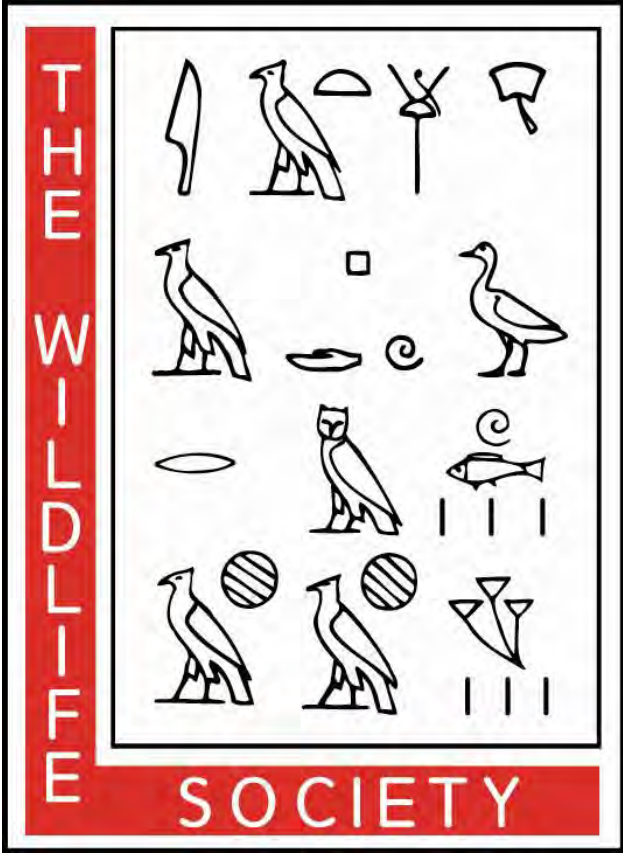
The Nature
Conservancy



nature.org

Central Division

SPONSOR



Shared Priorities

1. Habitat inventory/assessment
2. Prioritize At-risk species conservation
3. Wind energy development support
4. Governance and strategic planning

Work Plan DRAFT Approach

I. Habitat Inventory/Assessment

- The MAFWA region houses a diversity of natural communities. As a region, it is imperative we strive to conserve the integrity of these systems, including their respective species assemblages, through landscape conservation. In order to achieve this, we must ensure an understanding of their current distribution, abundance, trend, and quality across MAFWA states and work to prioritize resource investment toward those natural communities in greatest need of collaborative conservation effort (e.g., identification of conservation opportunity areas (COAs)).

Additionally, the conservation community has long discussed the need to develop a tool (e.g., landscape health index (LHI)) to assess whether or not conservation management actions are successfully creating resilient landscapes. This missing cornerstone assessment is vitally important as we embark on collaborative conservation in order to objectively define desired future conditions, evaluate the health (quality) of a landscape (e.g., COAs) over time, and inform decision-making regarding the amount and duration of resource allocation toward the landscape.

1. Coordinate SWAPs across the MAFWA region to inventory habitats to define regional COAs as shared priorities (partially underway)
2. Develop decision support tools/models that could include but are not limited to: incorporating threats assessments, projected stressors, and/or focal areas dependent on the management relevant questions (e.g., how to prioritize funding decisions and grant distributions, where and whether to acquire land, support for land management decisions, regulatory decisions such as

where to propose conduct mitigation for 401/404 and incidental take permits, etc.). Examine developing inventories and assessments around habitat types, sustainable or “healthy” landscapes, etc.

3. Integrate decision tools and models (e.g., multi-species habitat database, multi-target blueprints, etc.), when applicable, to address broader and higher scale management questions.

Use the tools to:

- a. Develop regional conservation plans for those species or collection of species
 - b. Coordinate activities and secure funding to implement the plans, locally or regionally
3. Communication: create forums for regular updates and progress to be reported
 - a. Development of a website on MAFWA or FWS pages
 - b. Monthly or quarterly update email from the SWAP Coordinator on overall activity and progress to all states and affected FWS programs
 - i. Templates through EA
 - c. Reports to MAFWA Committees and FWS programs at regular meetings

II. Prioritize at-risk species conservation

- Across the MAFWA Region, there is an increasing number of species that are widely recognized as declining, and some species are requiring substantial state agency resources when petitioned for listing. There is a need for MAFWA to take a strategic approach to 1) address species on the FWS 7 year listing plan and 2) prevent species from being listed and petitioned. There is interest and support from the FWS to prevent the need for listing, as well.
1. Coordinate SWAPs across the MAFWA region to identify priority species for collaborative conservation (e.g., at-risk species, species of greatest conservation need (SGCN), etc.) (partially underway)
 2. Consolidate state level and other pertinent information for these targets
 - a. Develop communication channels or forums for sharing information
 - b. Identify gaps in information and/or research
 3. Determine what is needed -regional plan, research, models, species/ habitat data, etc- for priority targets
 4. Policy Support and Considerations:

- a. Create better understanding of the petitioning and review process by the states and develop more and more productive avenues for cooperation and coordination.
 - b. Create more effective methods for early engagement with FWS on petition processes
 - i. State representation on SSA/pre-listing panels
 - ii. Conduct early or regular consultation on at-risk species at regular state fish and wildlife agency meetings, e.g., AFWA, MAFWA, etc.
- 5. Monarch/Pollinator Support
 - a. Continue to support policy and technical liaisons funded by FWS grants and housed by MAFWA
 - b. Continue to support state representation on the SSA
 - c. Continue to support the MidAmerican Monarch Conservation Strategy and (1) determine methods to implement the strategy and (2) explore methods to expand the effort to all pollinators
 - d. Support research on monarch/pollinator issues
- 6. Communication: create forums for regular updates and progress to be reported
 - a. Development of a website on MAFWA or FWS pages
 - b. Monthly or quarterly update email from the SWAP Coordinator on overall activity and progress to all states and affected FWS programs
 - i. Templates through EA
 - c. Reports to MAFWA Committees and FWS programs at regular meetings

III. Wind Energy

- Wind energy development has been promoted and supported across the MAFWA region for a number of years. Renewable energy portfolios, wind energy production tax credits, interests in expanded domestic energy capacity, climate change concerns related to fossil fuels and interest in “green” energy have all contributed to a more recent surge in wind energy development across the region. Wind energy provides great benefits to the economic and environmental health of the region, but negative wildlife interactions must be acknowledged and managed appropriately. MAFWA states and FWS are interested in supporting and siting wind development and generating wind based energy in a manner that minimizes or avoids negative

wildlife interactions, particularly as it may impact migratory birds and bats, species of greatest conservation need, or threatened and endangered species.

1. Assemble a working group of FWS and state FW agency staff to examine wind energy development policy and science needs. Connect with the existing AFWA working group to avoid duplication. Also examine the potential impact of other renewable or expanding energy uses, e.g., solar, transmission line siting, etc.
 - a. Science: Coordinate with existing FWS work group in Region 6, currently led by Steve Torbit, to:
 - i. Conduct review of existing literature
 - ii. Identify additional research needs.
 - b. Policy
 - i. Gather and share individual state policies/regulations re: wind development
 - ii. Review siting guidelines/mitigation recommendations for wind energy development
 1. Recommend updates where needed
 2. Recommend new guidelines/mitigation recommendations where or for what species none exist
 - iii. Understand and engage on opportunities for HCPs; be a forum for discussion and participation.
 - c. Information Sharing: host forums for FWS and state FW agency staff to share information and/or discuss strategies for managing wildlife interactions with wind development
2. Coordinate wind energy development communication and education efforts.
 - a. FWS Region 3 Wind Energy Workshop (July 17-19) - information sharing to development more regional approach to HCPs, as well as the development of a 5-year science agenda
 - b. Support and attend AWWI workshop in November.
3. Communication:
 - a. Development of a website on MAFWA website
 - b. Monthly or quarterly update email from the wind coordinator on overall activity and progress to all states and affected FWS programs
 - i. Templates through EA

- c. Reports to MAFWA Committees and FWS programs at regular meetings

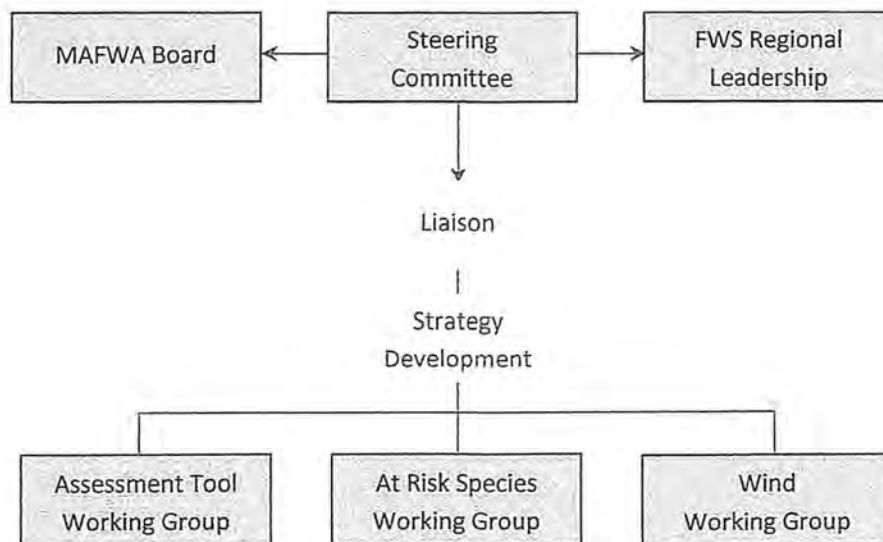
IV. Governance and Strategic Planning

- MAFWA states and FWS recognize that landscape conservation is needed because most fish and wildlife species occur and complete their life requirements in ecological systems that cross administrative boundaries. However, working at larger scales requires broader stakeholder engagement, effective communication, transparency and accountability. The best decisions about species or habitats occur when diverse stakeholders contribute to the understanding of the issues and actions taken. The FWS director and AFWA President have tasked the regional associations and FWS regions to define what successful landscape conservation looks like” to help guide what approaches are needed and to overcome challenges to successful landscape conservation. Establishing long-term goals and strategic direction to accomplishing them, and developing a governance structure to meet those challenges, are essential to the future success of this collaboration.

1. Identify a FWS liaison to MAFWA
2. Develop a framework for collaboration between FWS Science Applications and MAFWA
 - a. Establish a steering committee of MAFWA directors and FWS representatives.
Committee will:
 - i. Hold regular meetings, at least quarterly and at least twice annually in person
 - ii. Monitor this and subsequent work plans and report to MAFWA Board and FWS leadership progress or challenges
 - iii. Identify and deploy working groups, and/or work with existing MAFWA committees, to address work plan elements; identify other groups that may need to be part of the steering committee and/or work groups and make recommendations to MAFWA and FWS leadership about their inclusion (FACA)
 - iv. Identify modifications to proposed governance structure to improve development of priorities, develop of work plans and implementation of strategies into the future
 - d. Report findings to AFWA work group, about both governance structure and work plan implementation, and share lessons with other regions

3. Develop a MAFWA [ten, five]-year strategic vision to help inform shared priorities. The document should identify long-range needs or challenges but should remain nimble to respond to unforeseen or emerging issues.
 - a. Identify a facilitator and subset of directors to form a working group
 - b. Gather information: query each member state, committees, NGOs
 - c. Hold a one-two day planning session to identify 5-10 year issues
 - d. Provide discussion and adoption at Annual Meeting; or hold a special meeting in the Winter

Proposed DRAFT Structure



Mid-America Monarch Conservation Strategy

JUNE 2018 UPDATE

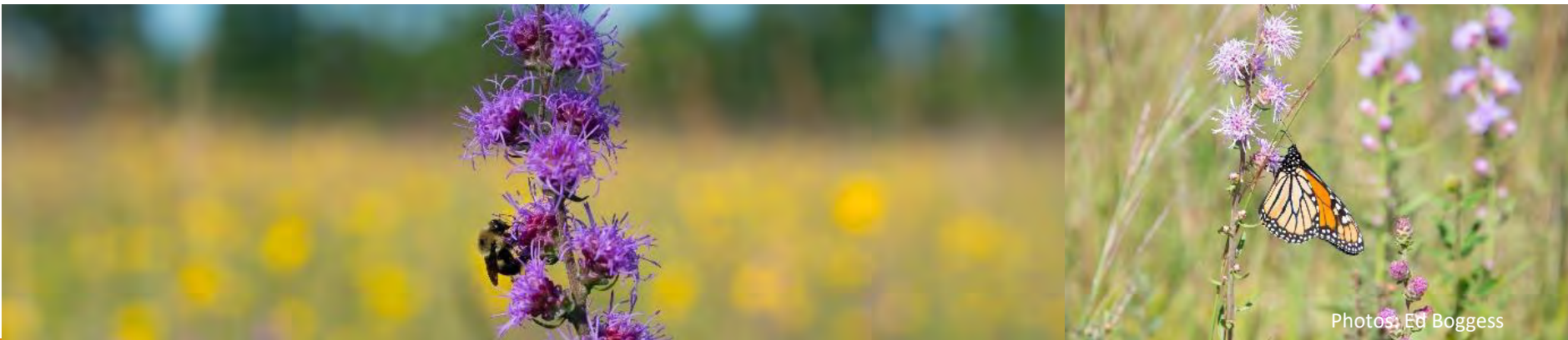
MAFWA ANNUAL DIRECTORS' MEETING

BISMARCK, ND



Overview

- ❖ Review of MAFWA Monarch Project context and grant funding timeline
- ❖ Summary of Mid-America Monarch Conservation Strategy document
 - Content
 - Major commitments and actions
 - Public input process
- ❖ Next Steps for MAFWA Monarch Project



MAFWA Monarch Project – Grant Funding (NFWF)

NFWF I

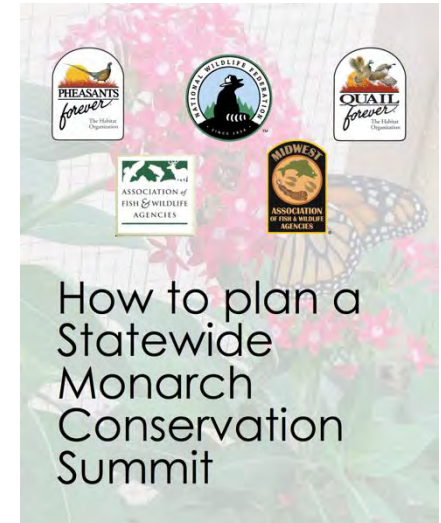
- Funding to support state-level monarch summits and plans, as well as initial regional monarch conservation workshops (joint with NWF, PF, AFWA – funding to NWF)
- 2015-2016

NFWF II

- Funding to contract technical coordinator to develop Mid-America Strategy and provide travel support for meetings
- 2016-2018

NFWF III

- Funding to contract implementation coordinator and support implementation of Mid-America Strategy through large partner conference and workshops for state technical staff
- 2018-2019



MAFWA Monarch Project – Grant Funding (other)

MAFWA

- Funding to support initial scoping workshop
- Oct 2105

USFWS

- Funding to support conservation liaison and states' meetings and monitoring
- 2016-2018



Mid-America Monarch Conservation Strategy - Contents



MID-AMERICA MONARCH CONSERVATION STRATEGY

2018-2038

Version 1.0

Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

June 2018

Mid-America Monarch Conservation Strategy - Contents

PART ONE – INTRODUCTION

- *PURPOSE AND STATEMENT OF PROBLEM*
- *STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT PROCESS AND ADMINISTRATION*
- *STATES' LEGAL STATUS AND AUTHORITY FOR MONARCHS*
- *SPECIES INFORMATION*
- *DISTRIBUTION AND POPULATION STATUS*
- *THREATS*

PART TWO – SPECIES POPULATION AND HABITAT GOALS

- *MONARCH POPULATION GOALS*
- *MONARCH HABITAT POTENTIAL AND GOALS*

Mid-America Monarch Conservation Strategy - Contents

PART THREE – HABITAT CREATION AND MANAGEMENT

- ***PRIVATE LANDS: AGRICULTURE AND CONSERVATION***
- ***PROTECTED NATURAL LANDS***
 - **FEDERAL CONSERVATION LANDS**
 - **STATE CONSERVATION LANDS**
 - **PRIVATE LANDS**
 - **TRIBAL LANDS**
- ***RIGHTS-OF-WAY***
 - **TRANSPORTATION RIGHTS-OF-WAY**
 - **UTILITY RIGHTS-OF-WAY**
- ***ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE***
 - **MINED LANDS**
 - **ENERGY GENERATION SITES**
- ***URBAN CONSERVATION AND ENGAGEMENT***

Mid-America Monarch Conservation Strategy - Contents

PART FOUR – OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

**PART FIVE – RESEARCH, MONITORING, ADAPTIVE
MANAGEMENT, AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT**

**PART SIX – CAPACITY, FUNDING, AND IMPLEMENTATION
OF REGIONAL STRATEGY**

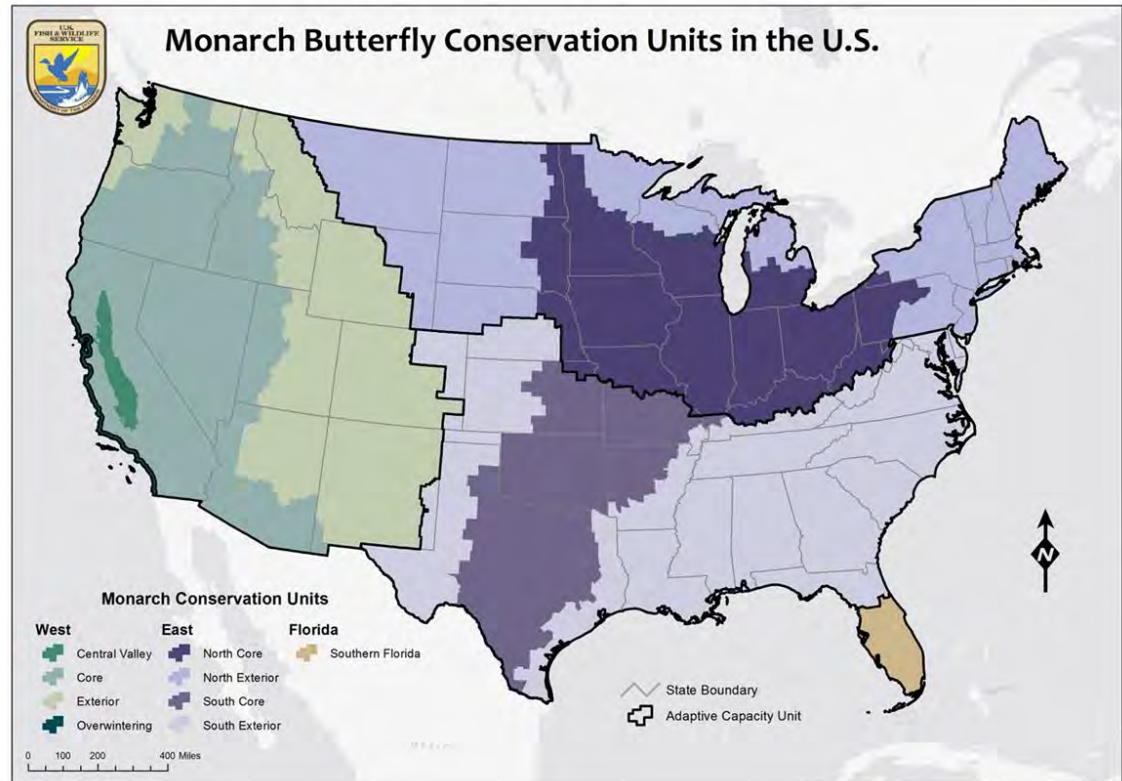
**PART SEVEN – STATE MONARCH CONSERVATION
SUMMARIES**



Mid-America Strategy – Major Commitments and Actions

Habitat Goals

- Regional goal of 1.3 billion additional milkweed stems in North Core conservation unit by 2038
- South Core conservation unit goals TBD in 2019
- Most states in North Core have adopted state-level milkweed stem goals
- Work with partners to develop acreage targets by sector that will be needed to meet population and habitat goals
- Work to incorporate monarch habitat needs into broader landscape conservation programs and actions

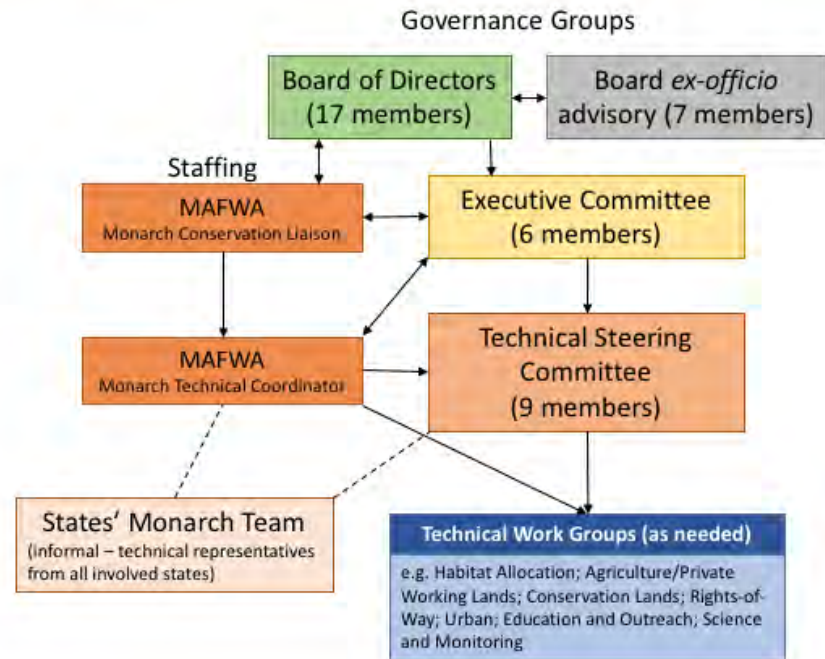


Mid-America Strategy – Major Commitments and Actions

Governance

- MAFWA Mid-America Monarch governance structure in place through 2038, including Board, Executive Committee, and Technical Steering Committee
- Further staffing beyond 2019 dependent on additional funding

Mid-America Monarch Conservation Strategy - Governance Model



Mid-America Strategy – Major Commitments and Actions

Adaptive Management

- Mid-America Monarch governance structure committed to adaptive management of strategy goals and actions
- Technical Steering Committee has primary responsibility for reviewing inputs into adaptive management strategy and suggesting updates

Action	Initiation Year	Frequency	Completion	Group Responsible
Review species status data and new pertinent scientific literature	2019	Annually	n/a	Mid-America Monarch Technical Steering Committee
Review performance of participating partners, including progress towards habitat goals as well as suggested actions/improvements by sector	2019	Annually	n/a	Mid-America Monarch Technical Steering Committee
Review and propose Strategy adaptations based on new information and performance reports	2019	Review information annually; produce report every five years beginning in 2023	n/a	Mid-America Monarch Technical Steering Committee

Mid-America Strategy – Public Input Process



New plan aims to reverse monarch butterfly decline

Posted on [May 11, 2018](#) by [admin](#)

The Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (MAFWA) welcomes public comments through May 31 on a draft conservation plan that provides a blueprint for reversing the decline of the eastern monarch butterfly population.

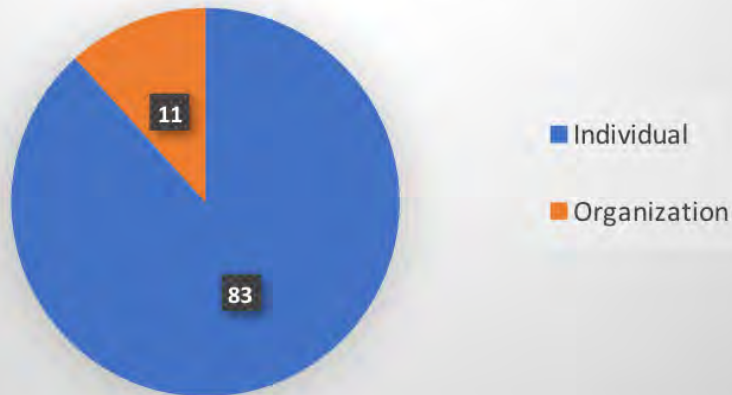
The draft plan, called the [Mid-America Monarch Conservation Strategy](#), builds on existing efforts of state, federal, and local agencies and private organizations and individuals.



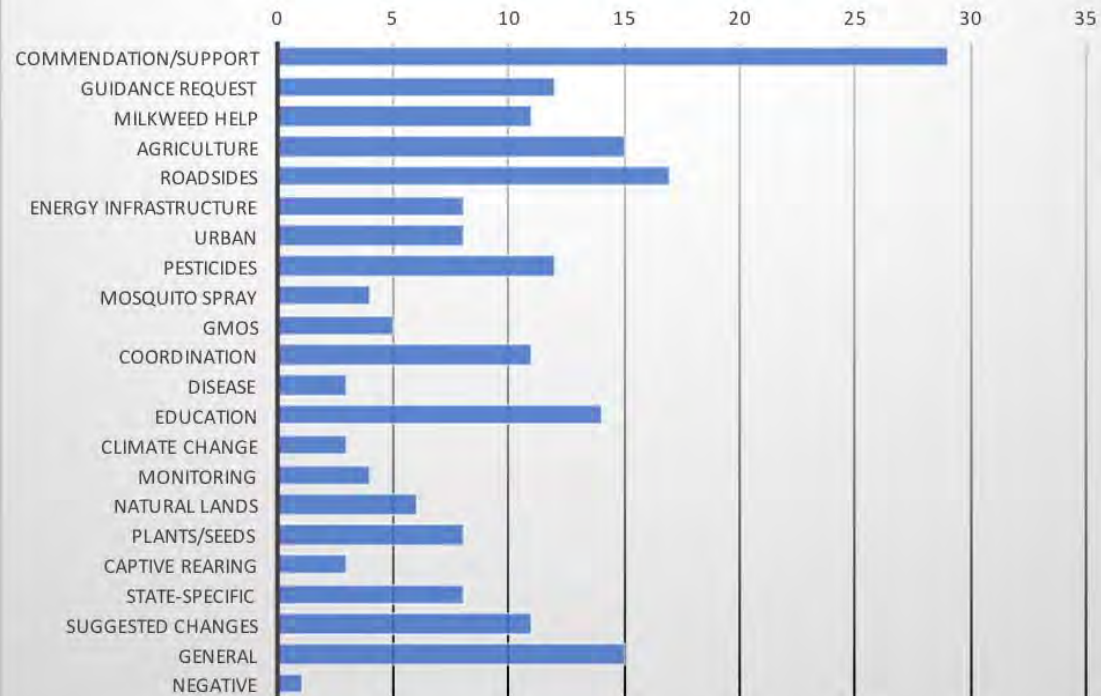
- Three formal rounds of input, starting with only members of the governance structure and ending with a full public review in May
- Several state agencies helped spread the word through press releases
- 94 total unique comments received during public input period
- Several comments and suggestions resulted in changes to Strategy document contents

Mid-America Strategy – Public Input Process

Type of Commenter



Comment Themes



MAFWA Monarch Project – Next Steps

- Strategy document Version 1.0 finalized this week
- Partner conference in November 2018 to refine strategies, actions, and next steps
- Updates to Strategy document as needed in response to Species Status Assessment, results of the November conference, and initial listing decision in June 2019
- Workshops with state agency technical staff to assist with Strategy implementation, habitat progress tracking, and further goal refinement for South Core states



Photos: Ed Boggess

Questions?

MAFWA Website: : www.mafwa.org

MAFWA Monarch Emails:

Ed Boggess, Monarch Conservation Liaison: Ed.Boggess@state.mn.us

Claire Beck, Monarch Technical Coordinator: Claire.Beck@dnr.state.oh.us

Bill Moritz, Board Chair: moritzw@michigan.gov

North Dakota Perspective Monarchs and Pollinators



Sandy Johnson
North Dakota Game and Fish Department

"I can't believe your using our money for butterflies! I thought this was the game and fish dept. By the way what is the bag limit on monarch butterflies and will this be a lottery application or an over the counter license?"

- comment from NDGF online Monarch Survey
August 2, 2017



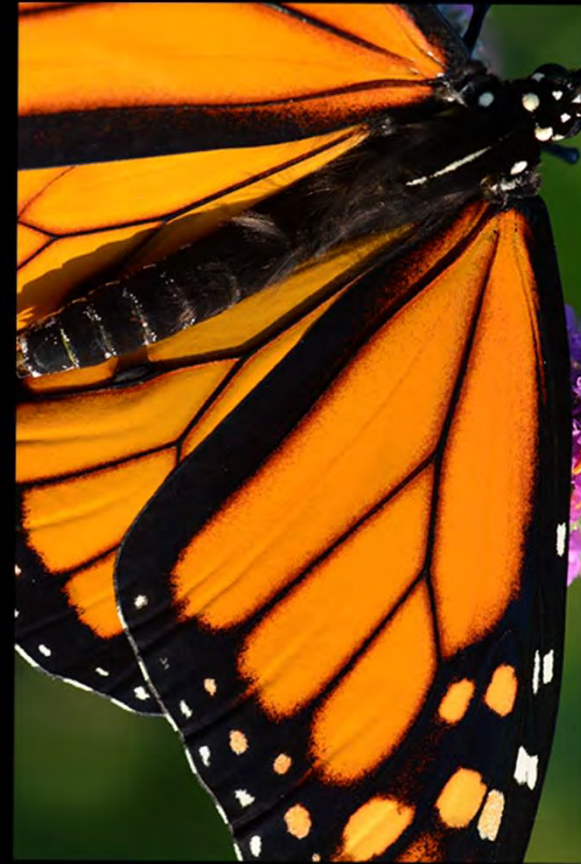
State Authority for Insects



- N.D.C.C. §20.1-01-02 #58. Definition of “wildlife”
 - *"Wildlife" means any member of the animal kingdom including any mammal, fish, bird (including any migratory, nonmigratory, or endangered bird for which protection is also afforded by treaty or other international agreement), amphibian, reptile, mollusk, crustacean, or other **invertebrate**, and includes any part, product, egg, or offspring thereof, or the dead body or parts thereof. Wildlife does not include domestic animals as defined by section 36-01-00.1 or birds or animals held in private ownership.*
- N.D.C.C. §20.1-01-03. Ownership and control of wildlife is in the state.
 - *The ownership of and title to **all wildlife** within this state is in the state for the purpose of regulating the enjoyment, use, possession, disposition, and conservation thereof, and for maintaining action for damages as herein provided...*
- However, there are no laws in statute or proclamation that specifically address the protection of invertebrates; hence, they don't fall into the category of protected wildlife. The public, therefore, can “take” these species without specific licenses or in specific manners.

North Dakota Monarch Butterfly and Native Pollinator Strategy

- 1st Version – December 2016
- “Living Document” for the next 5 years, or until the year 2020
 - 2nd Version released April 2018
- Annual updates from partners
 - 15 partners
 - 2-3 page summary of conservation efforts, outreach, research, etc.
- Monarch Butterfly Conservation Planning Update – November 2017 with more than 30 participants from 16 agencies/organizations

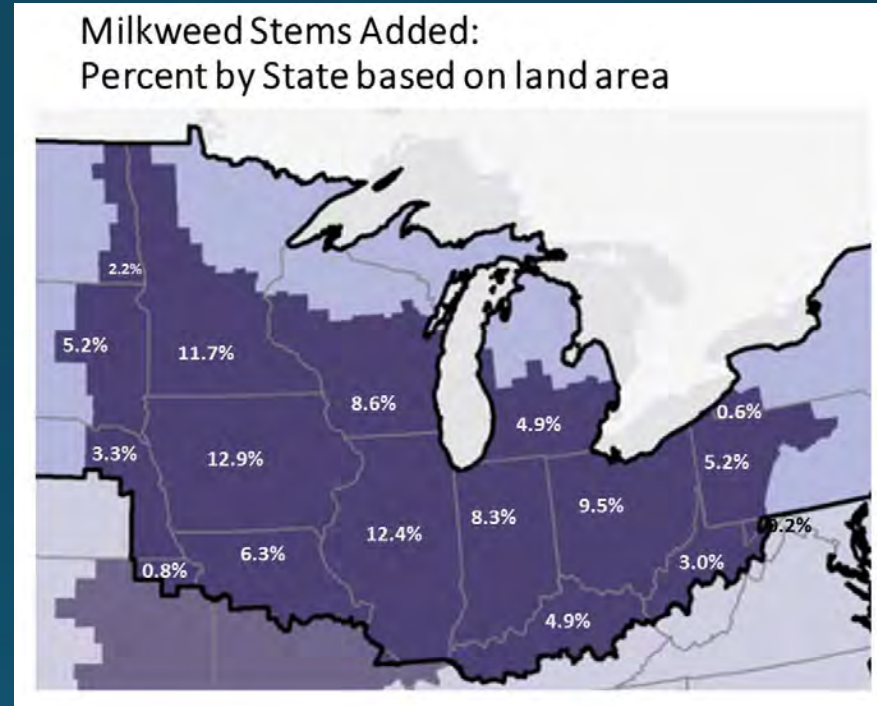
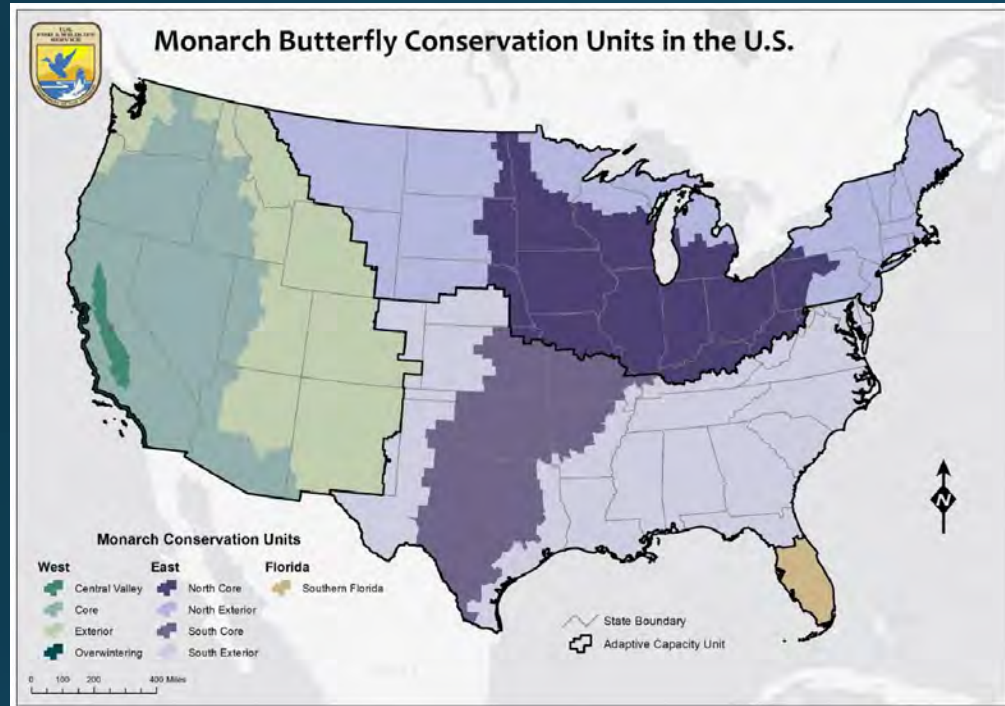


NORTH DAKOTA MONARCH BUTTERFLY AND NATIVE POLLINATOR STRATEGY

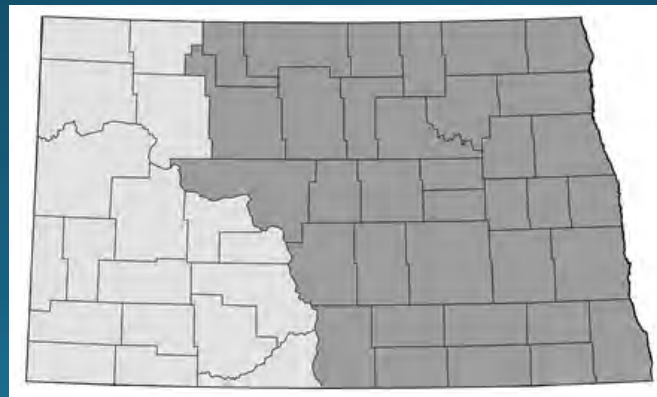
December 2016

MAFWA Mid- America Monarch Conservation Strategy

North Dakota Goal = 35 million stems by 2038



Emphasis for monarch conservation activities will be in the eastern 2/3 of ND.



Monarch Conservation Opportunities in North Dakota

- Public land – Wildlife Management Areas, State Parks, Wildlife Refuges, etc.
- Private land
 - CRP, WRP, CREP, NDGF Private Lands Programs, USFWS Partners Program
 - Nonproductive areas, field edges, odd areas, the “bits and pieces”
- Roadsides – NDDOT
- Home gardens
- City parks, green space
 - Urban Woods and Prairies Initiative in Fargo
- Schools, Universities
 - NDGF Urban Pollinator Program (UPP)
- Golf courses
- Right-of-ways
- Red River Diversion
- Governor’s Main Street Initiative
- Industry, business



State Challenges - Insects

- NDGF constituents
- Management
 - Example - haying/mowing dates for wildlife
 - Primary Nesting Season April 15 – August 1
 - Monarch Caterpillar Season July 15 – September 30
- Noxious Weed Laws
 - Perception milkweed is a state listed noxious weed
 - Common Milkweed listed in 4 counties
- Funding



Uncertainty

- Is milkweed the limiting factor in North Dakota?
 - Statewide?
 - Locally?
- Better management of milkweed?
 - Enhancement of existing patches
 - Education
 - Reduce mowing
 - Reduce spraying



With pollinators, it's much the same as other declining wildlife

- **Loss of habitat**
- Habitat fragmentation
- Anthropogenic disturbances
- Pesticides
- Disease, parasites
- Invasive species
- Pollution
- Climate change or “weather extremes”



One Common Theme – Healthy, Diverse Habitats



Noteworthy Pollinator Survey/Monitoring Efforts

- North Dakota State University
 - Statewide bee and butterfly surveys.
 - 3 sites per county every year from 2017 to 2020
 - 39,000 butterfly observations and 10,000 bee observations in 2017
 - ND Dept. of Agriculture, NDGF, and other funding partners
- USFWS/NRCS
 - Obtain statistically valid data for listing decision of 4 petitioned insects
 - Landscape models
- USGS – Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center
 - Pollinator Library
 - Improve understanding of foraging needs of flower-visiting insects



More Monarch Survey Comments

"If there were pollinator programs available for Barnes county I would be interested in putting some cropland into it."

"Last year I removed about 8 small trees in my naturally occurring milkweed patch in order to provide more sunlight. As a result I have about twice as many milkweed plants as last year."

"I have pollinators plantings and pheasant nesting grass plantings with milkweed. I have been leaving all milkweed and planting more for several years."

"I started spot spraying my three tracts of CRP for noxious weeds last year. In the past the entire tracts were sprayed. Milkweed density has gone way up this year."

"I own some land in Mott, ND however I am out of state resident. I would be very open to seeding Milkweed on some of my land. Is there any assistance from the state?"

Strength in Numbers

Partnerships add value, expand expertise, increase deliverables, and make for better success.

Just some of our connections...



- Funds earned through charitable gaming.
- Has a conservation mission.
- Partner in acquisition projects totaling 4,371 acres.



- Terry Steinwand's staff person (Rick Warhurst) for the Central Flyway is housed in NDNRT office.

- Funds come from oil production tax.
- Nine grants approved for \$5,430,983.
- Including:
 - Working Grasslands Partnership I, II, & III.
 - Bakken Development and Working Lands Program.



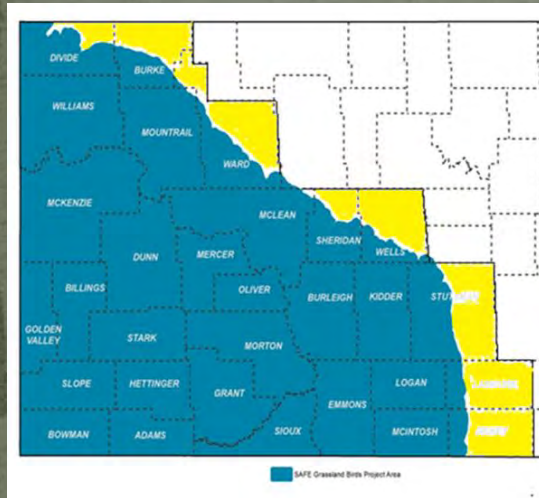


WORKING GRASSLANDS PARTNERSHIP

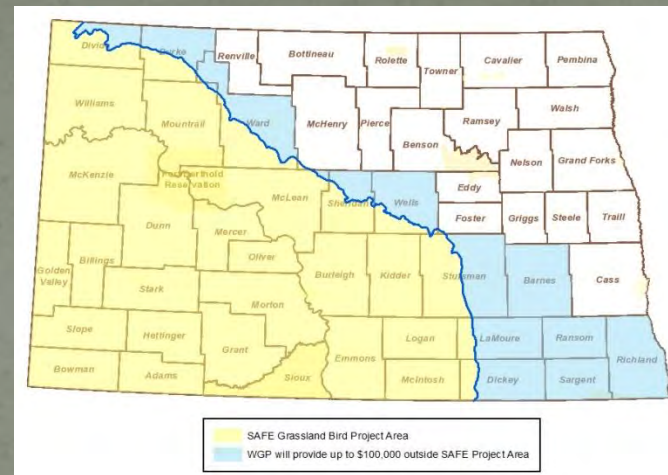
Phases I, II, and III

Our partners sign up landowners/renters for 10-year agreements on expired/expiring CRP to keep it in grass. The Trust has supplied lease dollars, then with OHF grant and matching funds, there is cost-share on fencing and water developments, as well as grazing plan development to benefit soil health and their production value.

WGP I



WGP II



WGP III



- Encompassing all 53 counties as of the last OHF round approval.
- Totaling \$4.2 million dollars in OHF, match, and in-kind funds.
- Almost 300 miles of fence will be installed.
- Estimated at 100 contracts to be signed at the completion of all three phases.
- Approximately 42,000 acres could remain in grassland and will become better forage and production value for the landowner.

Bakken Development and Working Lands Program (BDWLP)

APPLICANTS:

Dunn County Soil Conservation District
and
ND Natural Resources Trust



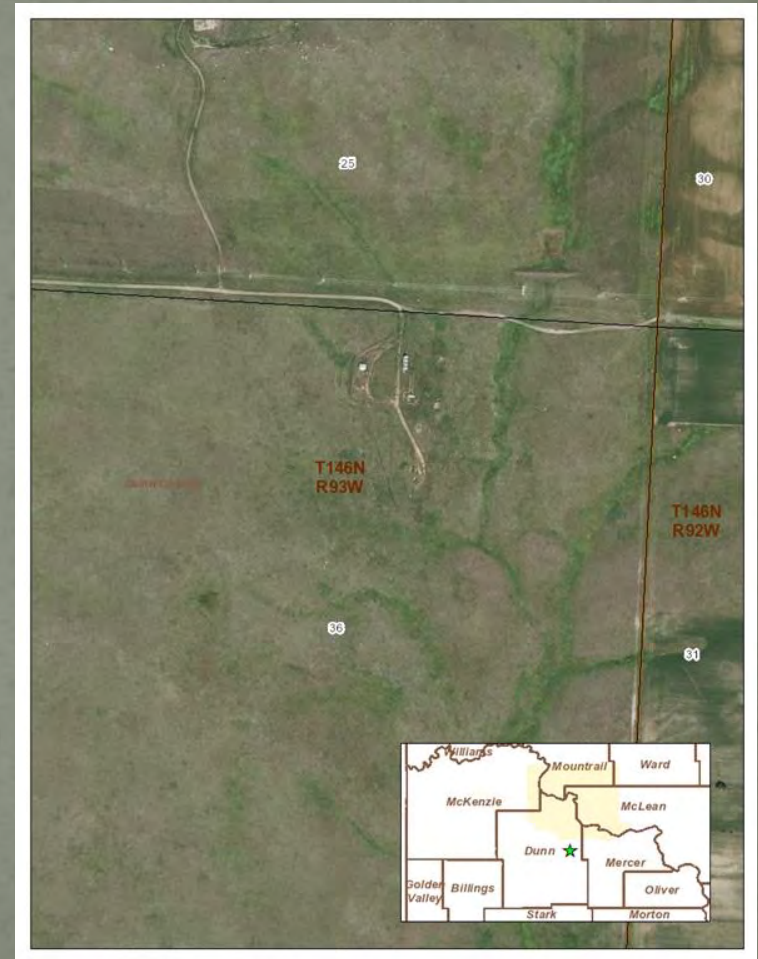
PARTNERS/SUPPORTED BY:

- Badlands Advisory Group
- Vision West North Dakota
- Mule Deer Foundation
- Dunn Center City Council
- Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
- Pheasants Forever
- Dunn County Commission
- City of Watford City
- McKenzie County Commission
- Watford City Police Department
- ND Game and Fish Department
- US Forest Service
- ND Petroleum Council
- USFWS Partner's Program
- ND Department of Mineral Resources
- ND Wildlife Federation
- ND Department of Health
- NRCS
- NP Resources
- McKenzie County Grazing Association

BDWLP deliverable value = \$3,845,000



- Dedicated to reducing the impact that oil-producing counties have experienced and increasing the productive value of land.
- Methods include grazing planning—via infrastructure improvements, cover crops, grass seeding—and reclamation partnership with the Dept. of Mineral Resources.



Reach out to provide outreach...

- The Trust has an educational component of its Strategic Plan, implemented through our Small Grant Program where partners can apply for grants up to \$10,000/year.
- To date we've awarded \$294,500 in 43 grants.



Examples of organizations & projects we've helped: Junior Duck Stamp, soil health workshops, pollinator gardens, research using social media tools, ND Envirothon, Gateway to Science Center, and much more!

Currency Collaboration



- PPJV
- NGPJV
- ND Action Group
- Great Plains Fish Habitat Partnership
- Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program

Since 2011, the Trust has managed over \$2.2 million in funds

Partnership makes all things possible...

