



CONSERVATION TRANSITION PLAN FOR PRESIDENT-ELECT DONALD J. TRUMP

Enhance State-Federal Partnerships to Secure America's Fish & Wildlife Future

ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION

The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (Association) was founded in 1902 to support and advocate for state, provincial, and territorial authority for fish and wildlife conservation and to assist its member agencies in promoting science-based resource management in collaboration with public and private partners. Members of the Association include fish and wildlife agencies in every state as well as federal agencies such as the National Park Service (NPS), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Forest Service (USFS), and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC IMPACT

In 2011, anglers, hunters and wildlife watchers spent over **\$104 billion** to pursue their outdoor passions, and their activities supported over **2 million jobs**.

FEDERAL APPOINTMENTS

The Association looks forward to providing insight on appointments at federal natural resource agencies. We encourage the appointment of professionals with strong natural resource backgrounds, an understanding and respect for the jurisdiction and authorities of state agencies, and a commitment to working cooperatively with state fish and wildlife agencies.

Legislative Priorities

Recovering America's Wildlife Act

Modernize fish and wildlife conservation by using existing energy development revenues towards state conservation work for species with declining populations.

Modernizing the Wildlife Restoration Program

Enhance states' abilities to meet the needs of today's hunters and recreational shooters.

Reauthorizing the 2018 Farm Bill

Advance voluntary, incentive-based conservation on private lands.

Modernizing the Endangered Species Act

Work with state fish and wildlife agencies to modernize the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Recommended Actions for the First 100 Days of President Trump's Administration

The Association is committed to enhancing state and federal partnerships and advancing the conservation of America's fish and wildlife resources. To facilitate and build strong relationships, the Association recommends the following actions for the First 100 Days in office:

Priorities for the First 100 Days

1. Issue a new Executive Policy affirming and recognizing state agency authority for management of fish and wildlife within their borders and committing to enhanced cooperation with the states across all federal agencies and federal lands and waters;
2. Develop and execute a Memorandum of Agreement between the Departments of the Interior, Commerce, and Agriculture and the Association establishing procedures for developing and implementing agencies' policies with the states that advance new constructive, dynamic relationships among all parties;
3. Work with the state fish and wildlife agencies to build upon and modernize 43 CFR Part 24, Department of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Policy on State-Federal Relationships;
4. Issue an Executive Policy affirming the importance of and support for hunters and recreational shooters, demonstrating responsible gun ownership and use, in the restoration and conservation of wildlife and habitat in our country through associated excise taxes on firearms, ammunition, and archery equipment that are apportioned to the Wildlife Restoration Program and to each state;
5. Issue an Executive Policy affirming the importance of and support for anglers and boaters, demonstrating responsible boating operations, in the restoration and conservation of fish and habitat and boating access, safety, and education in our country through associated excise taxes on fishing equipment and fuel taxes on motor boats and small engines that are apportioned to the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund and to each state.

Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies

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THE ASSOCIATION ALSO STRONGLY RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS IN THE EARLY STAGES OF THIS ADMINISTRATION:

- Work with state fish and wildlife agencies to improve implementation of the ESA strengthen the cooperative roles for state fish and wildlife agencies through revised policies, and cooperatively draft legislation that modernizes the ESA;
- Maintain strong conservation funding and agriculture and forestry conservation provisions during reauthorization of the 2018 Farm Bill to advance voluntary, incentive-based conservation on private lands.
- Expand public access to all federal lands and waters for fish and wildlife dependent recreation and recreational shooting; and implement a policy that incorporates state and local support in the designation process of terrestrial and marine monuments via the Antiquities Act;
- Better define the relationship between federal land management agencies and state fish and wildlife agencies ensuring that fish and wildlife management remain fully under the authority of the states; that all land use, recreation and resource management plans are cooperatively developed with the states; and federal habitat management goals are congruent with and support state established fish and wildlife population objectives on federal lands and waters in order to improve those areas for fish and wildlife;
- Reevaluate the Biological Integrity, Diversity, and Environmental Health policy and regulations of the USFWS National Wildlife Refuge System to ensure fish and wildlife management by state fish and wildlife agencies is appropriately respected in any forthcoming actions;
- Renew attention and conclusive actions taken on wilderness policy, especially on National Forest System and BLM lands, that assures state fish and wildlife agencies will continue to have access for fish and wildlife management;
- Provide additional cooperation and clarification between the NPS and state fish and wildlife agencies on the management of fish, wildlife, and habitat inside and outside of national park and national recreation area boundaries;
- Improve coordination with state fish and wildlife agencies on energy development projects including permitting requirements and limitations, mitigation requirements, and early consultation with the federal land management agencies and industry stakeholders;
- Cooperatively develop organic fisheries legislation and policies that define the roles, responsibilities and expectations of the USFWS's Fish and Aquatic Conservation Program, ensuring better coordinated state and federal conservation outcomes;
- Renew attention to managing the introduction and spread of fish and wildlife pathogens through enhanced state-federal cooperation, and develop improved funding, coordination, and response frameworks for managing diseases and emerging threats;
- Champion budgets and funding for state fish and wildlife conservation priorities and federal programs that provide applied research to inform fish, wildlife, and natural resource management decisions and actions.
- Support HR 5650, Recovering America's Wildlife Act, which would provide \$1.3 billion annually in existing energy development revenues towards state conservation work for species with declining populations;
- Endorse legislation modernizing the Wildlife Restoration Program to enhance state fish and wildlife agencies' abilities to meet the needs of today's hunters and recreational shooters (S 2690/HR 4818);
- Support fixing the wildfire-borrowing budget problems and promote active forest management on national forests and grasslands to improve habitat and combat insect infestations, diseases and invasive species;
- Collaboratively explore alternative management regimes for sport fisheries under the Magnuson-Stevens Act, strengthen cooperative roles for state fish and wildlife agencies through revised policy or congressional actions, and garner state and local support before proposing marine protected areas;
- Modernize water management infrastructure for real-time, adaptive management of water resources, consistent with state water law;
- Modernize the Land and Water Conservation Fund to include fish and wildlife as a primary purpose, improve public access for fish and wildlife dependent recreation and recreational shooting, including access through private lands, provide funds for habitat stewardship, and enhance state-side programs; and
- Maintain funding for successful partnerships that coalesce diverse public-private partnerships and their priorities, resources and capacities to leverage federal funds and address important national and international fish and wildlife conservation needs.