

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Resident Game Bird Working Group
September 11, 2020 Meeting Summary

Considerations for Developing Translocation Guidelines

John Morgan (Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources) provided an update on additional review, comments received, and subsequent edits since the March meeting of the Resident Game Bird Working Group. There was a brief discussion regarding the review, comments, and support from the Fish and Wildlife Health Committee. John also updated the Working Group that the final version had been submitted to the Bird Conservation Committee for approval at the Bird Conservation Committee II Meeting scheduled to be held later in the day and that, if approved, the Guidelines would be forwarded for approval at the AFWA Business Meeting the following week. This document has been the emphasis of the Working Group for more than a year and involved a rather extensive review process. The Guidelines were approved by the Bird Conservation Committee on September 11, 2020 and were approved at the AFWA Business Meeting on September 15, 2020.

AFWA Resolution 2019-05-10 – Small Game R3 Assessment

AFWA Resolution 2019-05-10 calls for the Hunting/Shooting Sports Participation Committee and Bird Conservation Committee Resident Game Bird Working Group to cooperatively identify and prioritize 1.) a set of key questions and issues, and 2.) a set of recommended actions related to addressing the long-term decline in small game hunter participation and its implications. A list of seven key questions and issues was finalized in May 2020. Scott Taylor (National Wild Pheasant Conservation Plan Coordinator) provided a draft, unprioritized set of five recommended actions for review and comment. Scott stated that he would be providing the same information at the Hunting/Shooting Sports Participation Committee and the Bird Conservation Committee II Meeting. The goal is to get feedback in order to develop a final prioritized set of recommended actions for approval at the next North American Conference in March 2021.

Featured Partner Update: National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative

John Morgan (Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources) provided a presentation on the new business model for this Initiative that spans 25 states laying out future directions and staffing with an emphasis on improvements in handling and tracking funding from State Agencies.

Working Lands for Wildlife Initiative for bobwhite

Lisa Potter (Missouri Department of Conservation) provided a presentation on this new initiative involving States and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Lisa informed the Working Group that there would be a request for support for this proposal at the AFWA Business Meeting.

Featured Partner Update: National Wild Turkey Federation

Mark Hatfield (NWTF National Director of Conservation Services) provided an update on COVID19 impacts to NWTF fund raising, staffing, and major conservation initiatives. This update is very beneficial for the many organizations that partner with NWTF on habitat conservation and R3 efforts.

Eastern Ruffed Grouse Meeting (August 3-6, 2020) Summary

Ken Duren (Pennsylvania Game Commission) provided a report on the first meeting of this multi-state initiative which included nearly 30 biologists from 18 Eastern State Agencies. The initiative includes plans to conduct a regional Population Status Assessment and Recovery Plan. Progress going forward will be reported through NEAFWA and SEAFWA and through the Resident Game Bird Working Group.