



ASSOCIATION of
FISH & WILDLIFE
AGENCIES

THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES POLICY COMMITTEE

Chair: Brian Nesvik (WY)

Vice-Chair: Eric Gardner (WA)

Wednesday, September 25, 2019

8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

109th AFWA Annual Meeting

Room TBD/ InterContinental Saint Paul Riverfront Hotel/ Saint Paul, MN

AGENDA

- 8:00am Call to order, introductions, and review agenda – Brian Nesvik, WY
- 8:10am Update: White Paper on the "Best Management Practices for the Development and Application of Quantitative Models for the Conservation and Management of Rare Species," by the AFWA S&R Committee and WDPMers – Jonathan Mawdsley, AFWA
- 8:15am Update since the last committee meeting: states' and FWS training workshops on Assessing Decision-Risk in Species Range Maps and Distribution Models for Use in Conservation and Management – Thomas Edwards, Research Scientist and Assistant Leader; USGS, Cooperative Research Units Program (t.edwards@usu.edu)
- 8:30am FWS update: Using SDMs to improve current range maps for select listed species under the ESA
- Progress and information sharing; Q&A – Gary Frazer, FWS
- 8:45am How does the United States fair in biodiversity conservation compared to other North, Central, and South America countries and others across the globe? Presentation and discussion: IPBES Biodiversity Report and the Americas Assessment – Doug Beard, USGS
- 9:15am States' Roundtable discussion: Recent ESA successes, challenges, and troubleshooting
- 10am Break
- 10:15am Review and discussion: Changes to implementing the ESA and new final rules – Gary Frazer, FWS and Angela Somma, NOAA
- Presentation, discussion, Q&A
- 10:45am WAFWA prelisting 10(j) concept, discussion – Craig McLaughlin, CPW

- 11am Update on the status of Monarch conservation across the states
- Actions in the mid-America region – Ed Boggess and Claire Beck, MAFWA
 - Actions in the western region – TBD
 - FYI–Forthcoming discussion – who is doing what in response to the following House Appropriations Report Language?: “MONARCH BUTTERFLY POPULATIONS – The Committee is aware the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service is gathering information to determine whether the monarch butterfly should be listed as a threatened or endangered species under the Endangered Species Act. Monarch butterflies are a fixture in crop fields across the Nation and listing them could have significant impacts on agriculture. The Committee directs the Secretary of the Interior to work with the Secretary of Agriculture in coordination with the states, and private and nonprofit organizations to develop and implement strategies, such as setting up milkweed reserves, to help protect monarch butterfly populations and preserve the natural habitats critical to their survival. The Secretaries are directed to report back within 120 days of enactment of this Act on the status of this plan and any other actions the Departments are taking to encourage support of monarch conservation.”
 - FYI, AFWA staff are planning to host a conference call with members of this committee and the Science & Research Committee to discuss this language and Monarch conservation ideas and strategies after the Annual Meeting.
- 11:15am Federal Partner updates: FWS, NMFS (Angela Somma), WS, BLM (Kim Trip), USFS, USGS, NPS, NRCS,
- Ongoing and new priorities for federal agencies and what it means for existing/other T/E efforts?
- 11:45am Legislative Updates: Recovering America’s Wildlife Act – Devin DeMario, AFWA
- 11:50am AFWA’s Strategic Plan for 2021-2025: opportunity for committee input – Brian Nesvik, WY
- Questions to Consider (AFWA’s current strategic plan is available at this [LINK, see next page](#)):
 - #1 - What strategic objective, that is related to this committee’s work, would you like to see in AFWA’s next strategic plan?
 - #2 – How would you like to see the work of this committee reflected in the next Strategic Plan? What would you change from the current plan?
- 12pm Adjourn

Committee Charge:

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- *Review procedural or categorical problems affecting threatened and endangered species listings and de-listing and critical habitat proposals as reported in the Federal Register and suggest appropriate action.*
 - *Keep abreast of legislative proposals and oversight hearings and recommend Association involvement.*
 - *Maintain active liaison with appropriate federal agency offices, the conservation community, states and regional associations.*
 - *Serve as the subject matter and support group on endangered species that are covered by CITES or other international arrangements.*
 - *Subcommittees and Working Groups: ESA and Climate Change Working Group (not active)*
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AFWA Strategic Planning Questions for Committees 109th Annual Meeting; September 25, 2019

The Association's Strategic Plan expires at the end of 2020. As we begin working on the next Plan, we would appreciate input from AFWA's Committees. The questions below are intended to gather feedback to be used in developing the next plan. Please circulate these questions to committee members and forward any feedback to your committee staff (jenmock@fishwildlife.org) or to jlord@fishwildlife.org. For your reference a summary of the current plan is included.

QUESTIONS:

#1 - What strategic objective, that is related to your committee's work, would you like to see in AFWA's next strategic plan?

#2 – How would you like to see the work of your committee reflected in the next Strategic Plan? What would you change from the current plan?

2018-2020 Strategic Plan Summary

The Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies is the collective voice of State, Provincial and Territorial fish and Wildlife Agencies.

Mission: To support and advocate for State, Provincial, and Territorial responsibility for science-based fish and wildlife conservation.

Vision: Sustainable fish and wildlife populations and habitat managed in trust for and supported by the public.

The Plan is organized into four Strategic Goals and Association Initiatives:

Fish and Wildlife Funding: Protect and Enhance Trust Funds; Secure Conservation and Wildlife Associated Recreation Funding.

Coordinated Conservation Initiatives: Develop and Strengthen Conservation & Science -orientated Partnerships; Build International Partnerships; Strengthen Business and Industry Relationships; Support National Outreach and Education Initiatives; Enhance Relevancy of State Conservation Initiatives.

Policy and Legislative Advocacy: Enhance State Authority to Manage Fish & Wildlife; Build Congressional Support for State Fish & Wildlife Agencies; Secure Authorization / Reauthorization of Conservation-related Legislation; Strengthen Collaboration with the Executive Branch.

Membership Support: Raise Member Awareness of AFWA's Value to State, Provincial and Territorial Fish and Wildlife and Agencies and Conservation Organizations; Raise Awareness of the Prominent Issues and the Role of Fish & Wildlife Agencies; Provide Professional Development; AFWA Organizational Effectiveness & Operational Management.