

The AFWA Strategist

Update for Members and Partners of the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies

Winter 2016-2017

Priorities for the First 100 Days of the Trump 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 is recommending the following actions for the First 100 Days of the Trump Administration:

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.



Winter Leadership Courses from MAT

Registration is now open for AFWA's Management Assistance Team Winter 2017 online leadership development courses. The following courses and webinars are scheduled to be offered: Adaptive Leader I, Power, Resolving Conflict, What Great Managers Know, Meeting Facilitation Webinar (NEW), and Unleashing Talent Webinar (NEW). For more information, go to www.matteam.org.



www.fishwildlife.org
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AFWA Legislative Priorities for the 115th Congress

With new Congressional leadership often comes change, such as a change in committee priorities, member composition, staff and subcommittee organization.

AFWA's priorities of the 115th Congress is to educate new staff and Members and help them understand the roles, responsibilities, authority and conservation impacts of state fish and wildlife agencies as well as the interests of state constituents and the priorities of our fish and wildlife conservation community. Some of AFWA's top state fish and wildlife legislative priorities over the coming year include:

- **Recovering America's Wildlife Act**- Modernize fish and wildlife conservation funding by dedicating a portion of existing federal energy and mineral development revenues towards state-based work directed at species of greatest conservation need.
- **Modernizing the Wildlife Restoration Program**- Enhance states' abilities to meet the needs of today's hunter and recreational shooters.
- **Authorization of 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).



Standing Down with Teaming With Wildlife

There is a lot of preparatory work for a new funding campaign in support of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act. With assistance of pro bono marketing support we are in the process of developing a new brand - one that is consistent with a new day, new energy, and new hopes for securing broader, dedicated funding for your state agencies. This means we will be "standing down" with the Teaming With Wildlife brand and its related messaging, including re-defining a new approach for the annual legislative Fly-In. There are lots of details to sort through with that action alone and we'll be sending out more information as they become available.

We understand that standing down the Teaming With Wildlife brand will be disappointing for some but we want you to know that nothing has changed in terms of our enduring commitment to fish and wildlife funding. Your passion for this cause is appreciated and has inspired us and will be needed for the next phase of this campaign. We hope that you will continue to engage and support this effort in the future and will keep you informed of its progress. Now we will embark on an exciting and an ambitious new campaign path with like vigor.



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AFWA Executive Committee Updates

The AFWA Executive Committee met at the Washington DC offices on December 12-13. Below is a summary of major topics and decisions. Please contact AFWA staff if you would like more information on any of these subjects.

- **Legal Think Tank / Legal Updates:** Executive Committee received an update on the work of the legal think tank including several current legal issues. The Executive Committee provided direction for the Think Tank's 2017 work portfolio. For more information contact Carol Bambery (CBambery@fishwildlife.org).
- **Project Wild:** Executive Committee reviewed an agreement to acquire Project Wild and financial projections for the program. The Executive Director was authorized to sign the agreement once negotiations are completed which will formalize AFWA's acquisition of Project Wild.
- **Administration Transition:** AFWA staff have prepared Administration Transition documents which are available on the AFWA website at www.fishwildlife.org.
- **Budget Updates:** The Finance Committee reported to the Executive Committee on 2016 Budget Performance and presented an updated 2017 budget. The 2017 budget was adopted.
- **WSFR JT – License Certification and TRACS report:** The Executive Committee accepted a report on the TRACS program submitted by WMI. The recommendations in this report should pave an acceptable path forward with TRACS. Recommendations on license certification were also adopted. For more information on either of these please contact Carol Bambery (CBambery@fishwildlife.org). You can review the TRACS Review Report on our website at: www.fishwildlife.org/files/TRACS_Review_Report_-_SUMMARY_-_DRAFT.PDF
- **Membership Categories:** The Past President's Task Force has begun a review of AFWA's membership categories with the objective of better aligning them with the AFWA's mission and objectives.

Blue Ribbon Panel Update

We will be encouraging state directors to reach out to members in the US Senate and House of Representatives seeking their support when the Recovering America's Wildlife Act is reintroduced in the 115th Congress. A **Brand Truthing Workshop** took place in Washington D.C. on November 8-9 to develop the new look and feel of the Blue Ribbon Panel campaign. The results and messaging recommendations that emerged from the workshop are being cultivated by the Bond Moroch creative team. This messaging strategy that will be developed from this will be used to help shape the ongoing campaign as well as used to create a communications and outreach toolkit for the states.

Wildlife Law Call

The Wildlife Law Call: Case Updates newsletter is a project of AFWA's legal strategy program. AFWA legal staff, students, and interns collect some recent fish and wildlife-related cases that we think would be of interest to states and partners and share them via an email newsletter. Please subscribe if you think this project would of interest and use to you. If you want to subscribe to this newsletter contact Lane Kisonak (lkisonak@fishwildlife.org) or Carol Bambery (CBambery@fishwildlife.org).

Founded in 1902, the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies represents North America's fish and wildlife agencies to advance science-based management and conservation of species and their habitats for the public's long-term benefit and use.

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