



# State Wildlife Action Plans Lessons Learned & Open Forum

## Learning Series #13

**Date:** December 13, 2023

**Time:** 2:00pm-3:00pm (ET)

**Meeting Link:** <https://fishwildlife->

[org.zoom.us/j/88435457117?pwd=BXijfcQ8MSjrbgCjPa249qIDBJSZLF.1](https://fishwildlife-org.zoom.us/j/88435457117?pwd=BXijfcQ8MSjrbgCjPa249qIDBJSZLF.1)

**Meeting ID:** 884 3545 7117

**Passcode:** 537456

**One tap mobile:** +13017158592,,88435457117#,,,,\*537456#

**Overview:** It's holiday season and we are wrapping up the year so this month we are doing a recap with some lessons learned from previs

**MEETING AGENDA**

Time (ET)	Topic	Speakers
2:00 PM	Welcome and Introductions (5 min)	Jason Goldberg, FWS; Mark Humpert, AFWA
2:05 PM	Lessons Learned	Mark & Jason Mark 1-6; Jason 7-12
2:20 PM	Open Forum	
3:00 PM	Adjourn	

**Group Discussion Trigger Questions**

- What other lessons resonated with you?
  - How have you incorporated these lessons into your SWAP revision?
  - How can we improve future learning sessions?
  - Are you finding the Learning Series Useful?
  - What topics would you like to see covered in 2024?
- **Overview of session 1-6**
    - We kicked things off with a review of Tribal engagement. Paige Schmidt talked about a survey and analysis she conducted. Noted the need to go where the Tribes are. Spend the time to meet where they are, and be persistent.
      - Since the presentation, Cindy Simpson noted she's been working to reach out to state recognized tribes. Reaching out to nonfederally tribes has been more challenging.
      - We have 11 federally recognized tribes and interest/responses have differed based on the tribe and the size of their environment/natural resources department. But overall, the majority haven't expressed much interest and/or capacity.
    - Session 2- Unveiling of voluntary guidance for incorporating climate change into SWAPs. Climate change affects everything we do and will do, and can be challenging for

some state cultures, but there are other ways of discussing the issue. It's been great to see how widely used the guidance has been.

- Session 3 – Renewable energy. You have a great resource with Meaghan Gade in AFWA. It's important to use tools to help mitigate impacts of solar and wind facilities.
  - 4 – Interactive data and tools – NatureServe and PA Fish and Boat Commission. How do we make plans more accessible to partners?
    - PA Wildlife Action Plan Conservation Opportunity Area Tool at <https://wildlifeactionmap.pa.gov/>
  - 5 – Equity. Corina Newsome – We've all been thinking more about diversity, equity, and inclusion. SWAPs are a great tool to help meet goals because wildlife diversity is for everybody. What are the ways to reach out to underserved communities?
  - 6 – Using Conservation Plan Framework – Guiding principles and recommendations for helping achieve landscape biodiversity. How can we make these plans work better in a regional context? There are regional collaboratives that can support SWAPs and the Conservation Blueprints.
- *(See presentation from Jason for overview of sessions 7-12.)*

## Discussion

- Speaking of tools - I wonder if we might have a session soon on defining your state's SWAP approach. Texas plans on changing our approach for 2025, and I'd love to have a round table or some other type of session to talk about spectrum of SWAP approaches.
- Some of the discussions seem so high-level, it can be difficult to sometimes translate into tangible components. Can we have more specific examples?
  - Agree with Alex - we're starting to go from high level thinking to the nuts and bolts of creating a SWAP. Time to drill down into actually designing, assigning, focusing
- We've been running topics from a survey the SWAP managers completed about two years ago.
- A lot of SWAPs have stakeholder engagement, but unless someone has facilitation skills, they can be tricky. Can experienced coordinators talk about tips and tricks like having Post It notes, off-topic issues that participants might have.
  - National Association of Public Participation – 8 categories worth studying. How do we use the public in this process?
  - <https://organizingengagement.org/models/spectrum-of-public-participation/>
- Also - approaches to stakeholder meetings. What are the objectives? What are we trying to achieve in talking with stakeholders.
- I really liked the wildlife health webinar, that was something we hadn't considered yet and that will be one of the things we'll try to move forward with next year, starting with meeting with the wildlife veterinarian in our Division of Fish & Wildlife.
- Next year, it would be great to hear from other states about how they're going to address some of the topics we had webinars on this year (health, connectivity, etc.)
- Minnesota just wrapped up a pretty successful series of 7 day-long, in-person workshops with internal staff and external conservation partners to gather input on the first 4 elements. We're happy to share how we developed those and how they went.
- We don't know how plans will be structured because we don't know if they'll be digital or some other format. What will we be allowed to produce? That will influence how we lay it out.
  - A workgroup is discussing paperless / virtual SWAPs. We're working on crafting guidance.

- Paul (WSFR) – We welcome the innovation and want to support the great work from the states. We’re confident we’ll be able to reach an agreement that meets WSFR staff to easily access all of the data in the plan, whether a PDF or dashboard. We are confident we’ll be able to come to an agreement.
- Also related to paperless SWAPs, Rafa from FWS SA just shared with Mark a new dashboard model, which the states might be used.
  - It’s still okay if your state chooses to submit paper, but we’re working on digital to allow for options.
- fyi - SEAFWA Wildlife Health Committee is discussion how wildlife health can be incorporated into SWAPs. Our wildlife Vets are joining in that conversation and forming a team for Texas' SWAP.
- One issue to consider is who is the audience we’re trying to communicate to? Some info is relevant for different audiences.
- Species of Greatest Information Need, different from SGCN. Should we discuss here alongside SGCN. (See some SGCN notes below.)
  - Potential issues with game species. But there are some ways to address that.
  - Prioritizing SGCN and Habitats -- we've got a good list, but don't have a system now to determine the highest priorities
  - Strong interest in pursuing SGCNs!
- I really like the open forum discussion format! Thanks to Mark and Jason for the great coordination! :)
- Paul V. will share list of regional SWAP Coordinators.

### **Possible Upcoming Sessions**

- Reviewing topics from last year.
- Reducing the size of the SWAP – Going paperless - February
  - Memo between AFWA and FWS will describe procedure.
- **SGCN criteria**
  - What are the approaches?
  - SGCN criteria would be great (including potentially separate lists like culturally significant species, species in greatest information need, etc.)
  - (Second on SGCN) – How do we narrow a very wide list to the ones we need?
- Some SWAPs go into private lands. Others don't. Colleena (?) – Missouri and Midwest. What are strategies to address private lands? (March / April)
- Wildlife trafficking
- Using databases
- Different approaches to setting criteria for SGCN.
- Culturally important species
  - Needs to have a separate between SGCN species and eligibility issues and species chosen through another set of criteria. There may be a middle road, especially in regard to Tribes.

## Links to Video and Notes from Past SWAP Learning Series and Tentative Future Topics

Date*	Topic (w/Recording Link)	Recording Password	Link to Notes
Wednesday, November 16, 2022	<a href="#">#1 Engaging Tribes and Indigenous People in State Wildlife Action Plans</a>	0T?41Gz.	<a href="#">SWAP &amp; Tribal Engagement Notes</a>
Wednesday, December 14, 2022	<a href="#">#2 SWAPs and Climate Adaptation Guidance</a>	XU.=69*j	<a href="#">SWAP &amp; Climate Adaptation Notes</a>
Wednesday, January 18, 2023	<a href="#">#3 State Wildlife Action Plans and Renewable Energy</a>	=7NSqgQT	<a href="#">SWAP &amp; Renewable Energy Notes</a>
Wednesday, March 15, 2023	<a href="#">#4 Interactive data and tools for SWAP planning and implementation</a>	+6@f9jQW	<a href="#">SWAP &amp; NatureServe Notes</a>
Wednesday, April 19, 2023	<a href="#">#5 Engaging Diverse Partners &amp; Making your SWAP More Relevant</a>	\$p?=!g95	<a href="#">SWAP &amp; Engaging Diverse Partners Notes</a>
Wednesday, May 17, 2023	<a href="#">#6 Using the SWAP &amp; Landscape Conservation Framework for Interjurisdictional Landscape Conservation</a>	B=Jg^@8=	<a href="#">SWAP &amp; Landscape Conservation</a>
Wednesday, June 21, 2023	<a href="#">#7 Making Your SWAP RAWA-Ready</a>	FnJane%1	<a href="#">Making SWAP RAWA-Ready</a>
Wednesday, July 19, 2023	<a href="#">#8 Incorporating corridors into your SWAP</a>	2r#+^rIa	<a href="#">Incorporating Corridors into SWAP</a>
Wednesday, August 16, 2023	<a href="#">#9 Roundtable Discussion</a>	LtnZ1x\$V	<a href="#">SWAP Open Discussion</a>
Wednesday, September 20, 2023	<a href="#"># 10 SWAPs, Federal Planning, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service</a>	3v4008?X	SWAPs and Federal Planning
October 18, 2023	<a href="#">#11 SWAPs and Bat Conservation</a>	?2W2UA*B	<a href="#">SWAP and Bat Conservation</a>
November 15, 2023	<a href="#">#12 Incorporating Fish &amp; Wildlife Health into your SWAP</a>	7XvFM&a\$	SWAP & Fish & Wildlife Health
December 13 <sup>th</sup> , 2023 (2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed of Dec.)	#13 Topic-2023 Round-up on Lessons Learned & Open Forum		
January 17, 2024	#14 Topic TBD		

February 21, 2024	#15 Topic TBD		
March 20, 2024	#16 Topic TBD		
* Note all SWAP Learning Series sessions will be held from 2:00pm-3:30pm ET unless otherwise indicated.			