

JOINT WORKING GROUP: EDUCATION, OUTREACH, & DIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE DIVERSITY
CONSERVATION AND FUNDING COMMITTEES

Co- Chair: Shelly Plante (TX)

Co-Chair: Daren Riedle (KS)

Thursday, March 10, 2022

Participants: 30

Agenda/Notes:

Call to order, introductions, review of agenda, Daren Riedle (KS)

- Asked everyone to introduced themselves in the chat

RAWA update, Sean Saville (AFWA)

- A big thanks to those who have been putting go out social materials, articles, and other RAWA content. Super helpful!
- At 166 co-sponsors in the House- good bipartisan partnership
 - The pay-for is the main sticking point; will be edited to include this before going to the full House floor
 - Trying to actively get more co-sponsors on the bill
- Senate- 32 bipartisan co-sponsors
 - Working with EPW staff to address concerns that were brought up during the hearing at the end of last year
 - Next step is mark-up at the end of March/early April
 - This is where most activity is happening on RAWA right now
 - Short-term goal: do as much outreach to EPW members as possible before markup
 - Have solid support on the Senate side so far; and is prioritized in the committee
 - The amount of money being designated is not being argued; working on some of the smaller issues that are holding up the bill
 - There are 9 EPW members that are co-sponsors on the bill; 11 are not → need to focus on those 11 senate targets
- What can we do now to help support the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA)?
 - Would love to see updated resolutions and media placement in support of RAWA
- Is there anything else we should be doing on the House side?
 - Continue to get more sponsors would be ideal; if we can get a majority of the house votes (221), the better luck we'll have for RAWA passage.
 - Members Not Cosponsoring (11/20 members on EPW):
 - Carper
 - Cardin

- Markey
- Merkley
- Sanders
- Capito
- Sullivan
- Inhofe
- Ernst
- Shelby
- Lummis

- Highest Priority Targets:

1. Capito
2. Cramer
3. Wicker
4. Graham
5. Sullivan
6. Inhofe

- EPW cmte cosponsors: Duckworth, Kelly, Padilla, Stabenow, Whitehouse, Boozman, Cramer, Graham, Wicker
- The likelihood of getting it passed before Memorial Day is low, but getting it through committee by then is very high.

Shovel-ready Project Update

- These are very helpful, especially with reaching out to congressional staff (House and Senate)
- We are missing a few states fact sheets, and several are in development
- The fact sheets are still important and have been very helpful outreach materials

Other Questions:

Q: Does the education portion of the bill need to be RTE species related?

A: No, that is not a requirement.