

Joint Engagement & Education Committee and Wildlife Diversity Conservation Funding Committee Working Group Notes

AFWA Annual Meeting 2024

AGENDA

Review of the charge

- Overview and asked if there were any issues and suggested edits
- Can send suggestions via email later if preferred

Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA Overview)

- Funding legislation that will help conserve biodiversity around the country
- 12,000 species at risk
- There isn't enough funding to address this issue; RAWA would address this need
- The Blue Ribbon Panel (2015) did research to find out how much \$\$ would be needed address this crisis = \$1.4B → implement ~70% of the State Wildlife Action Plans (SWAP)
- Outreach and Education is part of RAWA
- Dedicated funding

RAWA Legislative Update

- Senate – RAWA Bill (S.1149); have agreed to co-author a Dear Colleague Letter to the leadership in Finance; working toward identifying the PayFor for the bill
 - Trying to connect with the Republicans who have co-sponsored on the bill to also sign on to the Dear Colleague Letter; need help reaching out to these senators with the ASK to sign on to the Letter.
- Alliance for America's Fish & Wildlife- there was a letter that was signed in 2022 that showed the collective conservation support for RAWA; this is being resurfaced and an updated version sent into congress
- Looking for help identifying the stories we want to tell on the Hill to help with the latest push for RAWA support in the Senate.
- Making the connection to State Wildlife Action Plans (SWAP)

American Wildlife Conservation Partners (AWCP) creates a transition document for incoming presidency; the importance of dedicated funding has been mentioned several times in that document.

ASK: help with bullet point fact sheets that we can give to staffers to keep RAWA top of mind;

- will wait until after the election so we know where we want to prioritize our efforts.
- Can try to create some social media posts to help show the need and connecting to the State Wildlife Action Plans
- Tell the story beyond the conservation benefit
 - Make connection to people

Coming up on the 20th Anniversary of State Wildlife Grants and State Wildlife Action Plans

- Package this celebration of the state success stories connected to this; connecting to SWAP and RAWA; telling the people connection too → need storytellers
- Connect with your Master Naturalists to curate stories and information
- Make sure to tie any messaging to the voters
- Best to have a token (not a gift) to accompany the information, that way it's not just something in a stack of papers.

The group should share where traction is taking place, how, and resources.

Highlight the 10 year SWAP report.