



## Waterfowl Working Group 2020-21 Work Plan

Subcommittee Work Plan		
<b>Date:</b>		
<b>Subcommittee Name:</b> Waterfowl Working Group		
<b>Chair:</b> Jeff Ver Steeg, CPW	<b>Vice Chair:</b> David Brakhage, DU	<b>Staff:</b> Dean Smith
<b>Subcommittee Charge:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Contribute to the implementation of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) 2012 Revision and 2018 Update to conserve priority landscapes for waterfowl habitat and to advance the human dimensions aspects of the Plan.</li> <li>2. Advance policies, legislation, and funding initiatives (NAWCA and others) in support of wetland protection and restoration, with consideration of drought, water quality, and climate change issues.</li> <li>3. Provide guidance and oversight for the Fall Flights program, including the provision of support for the President's Task Force on the Fall Flights program and development of a report by the fall of 2021.</li> <li>4. Initiate and support wetland and waterfowl habitat information sharing with Congress, state, federal, and NGO partners, and the public.</li> </ol>		
<b>Changes to the Charge:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Updated Charge 3 to reflect the new name for the Fall Flights program and establishment of the AFWA President's Task Force.</li> </ol>		
<b>List Major Activities and Objectives Accomplished During the Last Year:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identified issues and provided recommendations to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to improve the marketing and use of the Federal Duck Stamp.</li> <li>2. The NAWMP Communications Committee has representation from state, federal, and NGO organizations and focused on planning the communication strategy for the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of NAWCA and for more recently NAWMP, in general. The purpose of the committee is to (1) develop and guide a broad NAWMP Communications Strategy, (2) build support for waterfowl and wetland conservation, (3) create a NAWMP Communications Network, and (4) develop a NAWCA 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Communications Strategy.</li> <li>3. Finalized a new name ("Fall Flights") and logo for the State Contributions to Waterfowl and Wetland Habitat Conservation Projects in Canada. The Association is now pursuing a Trademark Registration for the name and logo.</li> <li>4. Encouraged a Presidential Task Force to review the Fall Flights program goals, progress, and opportunities to enhance the program. Drafted Terms of Reference for the proposed Task Force.</li> </ol>		

**List Activities and Objectives that Will be Accomplished in the Coming Year:**

**1. NAWMP Implementation**

- a) Facilitate discussions to identify and promote ways to better understand and incorporate user / supporter desires (human dimension elements) in planning and delivering waterfowl management actions and assist in the coordination of NAWMP human dimension efforts with other BCC bird working groups, NABCI, Flyway Councils, etc.
- b) Support the efforts of the HD-PETWG to (1) find additional resources for further analysis of the HD survey data, (2) encourage states to include waterfowl hunting in their R3 planning, and (3) initiate development of a birdwatching R3 Plan.
- c) Identify priority actions to assist states, NGOs and others to effect waterfowl conservation at state and national levels and to achieve the new NAWMP objectives.
- d) Continue to provide overviews of NAWMP implementation, including reports from IIC, PET, HDWG, etc. and discuss the direction and needs of the waterfowl community to advance the implementation of the 2012 NAWMP Revision and the 2018 NAWMP Update.
- e) Seek ways and means to encourage increased integration of waterfowl management elements through discussions and contribute to a potential review of the efficiency of existing waterfowl management processes and structures.
- f) Encourage participation in efforts to advance NAWMP implementation.

**2. Wetland Conservation / Protection**

- a) Establish a new Federal Duck Stamp Task Group to work with US Fish and Wildlife Service and Amplex (e-vendor for the Federal Duck Stamp) to help improve the marketing of the Federal Duck Stamp.
- b) Continue to share policy/legislative information and strategies to support state and NGO efforts to increase NAWCA appropriations and to ensure the legislation or companion programs (i.e., PR interest, coastal funding) are re-authorized by Congress.
- c) Continue work with the Bird Conservation and Budget and Legislative Committees on the issue of funding for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Migratory Bird Program to ensure adequate allocation of resources to support critical programs. Monitor funding and staffing levels and allocation of these resources within the USFWS.

**3. Fall Flights (State Contributions to Canada) Action Plan Implementation**

- a) Continue to develop and promote the Fall Flights program to increase State contributions to Canada.
- b) Support a new Presidential Task Force for the Fall Flights program that will review progress, better define the value proposition of the program, review and update allocation of the funding goal, build the brand, increase participation and engagement, and prepare a report with recommendations prior to the September 2021 annual meeting.

**4. Information Sharing**

- i. Engage with the NAWMP HD-Public Engagement Team to identify opportunities to broaden support for wetland habitat conservation and wetland management by creating a greater understanding of the value and impacts of wetland conservation on human (societal) health and welfare.
- ii. Inform members about wetland conservation issues affecting waterfowl, and future direction of related programs.
- iii. Inform legislative leaders (state/national) about wetland and waterfowl issues and accomplishments of state and NGO actions, using normal AFWA governance procedures (e.g. committee recommendation for action or annual resolution and approval at business).

**Comments:** None