



Fish and Wildlife Trust Funds Committee

**Friday, March 18, 2016
8:00am – 12:00pm
Pittsburgh, PA**

Ed Carter (TN), Chair Bob Ziehmer (MO), Vice-Chair

Committee Charge

- Guide the actions of the Association to maintain and enhance funding for fish and wildlife agencies derived from the Sport Fish Restoration and Wildlife Restoration programs and related Federal Assistance programs which includes:
 1. Promoting policies and procedures for efficient and effective administration of federal assistance funds.
 2. Improving system accountability.
 - Demonstrate success stories; and facilitate timely and accurate accumulation and flow of funds.
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Minutes

Call to Order, Introductions, Announcements, and Agenda Review

Ed Carter

Approval of the North American Conference 2015 Meeting Minutes

Ed Carter

- Motion made to approve the minutes, seconded. No objections were made. The motion passed.

Refresher on Trust Funds

Ed Carter

- Wanted a refresher to remind us of how these work, especially if folks are present who are not familiar with the trust funds, and also lots of legislation and regulations are pending that will affect trust funds.
- Power point covers fund sources for wildlife restoration and for sport fish restoration, fund distribution, allowable and unallowable uses of funds

Legislative Updates -

Jen Mock Schaffer

- (Jen was not able to come to the committee meeting)

Fish & Wildlife Business Summit

Jon Gassett

- Industry-Agency Summit
 - Struggling to get the next Industry-Agency summit meeting planned because having trouble getting co-chairs pinned down.
 - Looking at July 5-8 timeframe, Richmond or Fairfax, VA.
 - Will be shooting range-focused, and NRA has facility in Fairfax that would be ideal to use
 - Further, the focus will be on what recreational shooters contribute to conservation.
 - Also, focusing on state-level I-A summits. Three states have done good work in this area. Putting together a workgroup to discuss how to best package a state-level summit. Some states are out in front on this, but others could use assistance with a template, assistance, even funding.
- Want to build a marketing and PR campaign for WSFR programs and contributions of hunters, shooters, and anglers to conservation. PR law restricts this type of expenditure, while DJ doesn't. Trying to develop a "Smokey Bear" type campaign for WSFR.
- A small group (subgroup of the Trust Funds Collection Working Group) is working on ensuring excise tax collection equity (AFWA, ATA, federal)
- Working on a database of industry leadership based on state so that state directors will have this information available to them when working on partnerships. Are also thinking about adding the state contacts to the database so it's two-way and useful for both states and industry. Need to get approval from states to put this information in the database, through AFWA.
- Emily Cope (SC) offered some comments on SC's fishing industry summit and its success
- Question for Jon – has the collection workgroup looked at taxing airguns? Jon says that airguns are not firearms, as PR defines the term, so they can't be taxed. However, a future legislative change could fix this; a dialogue with state directors would make sense, as we should find out what other means hunters are using to take game (e.g., spears). Point of clarification – the tax code defines firearm, not PR. Suggestion to invite the airgun industry in July (Crosman, etc.)
- Question about the NSSF summit – the past summits have been intense "TED-style" talks. This setup is meant to maximize the flow of information to industry partners, whereas the business summit has mostly been a two-way conversation.
- Ed asks if there is any movement on the firearms side of the industry along the lines of what the archery side is doing to exempt certain products from tax. Mitch King offers that there has not been equity in collection of taxes, which is why some archery companies are considering asking for exemptions, caps on various parts, etc.

Multistate Conservation Grant Program Initiative

Mitch King

- The Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act of 1937 (16 U.S.C. 669-669k) uses the proceeds from a federal excise tax to fund grants to state and territorial fish and wildlife agencies for projects to benefit wildlife resources and to conduct programs for hunter education. The excise tax is set at 10% of the wholesale price for pistols and revolvers, and 11% for other firearms as well as shells or cartridges. An 11% tax on archery equipment (broadheads, bows and equipment that attaches to bows) and \$0.49 per arrow shaft is also deposited into the fund. Total collections from these taxes were approximately \$814 million in FY2013, \$825 million in FY2014, and \$695M in FY2015. All of the revenues from these excise taxes go into a special account called the Wildlife Restoration Fund administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) in the Department of

the Interior. Grants from the Wildlife Restoration Fund may be used for: restoration, conservation, management and enhancement of wildlife and their habitat; providing public use and access to wildlife resources; and providing for education of hunters and development of shooting ranges.

- Reasons for Change
 - To create an additional \$5M in available funds for projects under PR, with extra funds coming from taxes on archery equipment. The extra money would be available for national R3 programs. The Council to Advance Hunting and the Shooting Sports would be able to submit grant requests for these funds, but would not be guaranteed funds.
 - To make it clear that PR funds are available for programs promoting hunting and shooting recruitment programs. Specifically doing this by making hunter and recreational shooter recruitment a purpose of the act by introducing a definition and making sure that 4b, 4c, and 10 – pots of money under these sections – are available for that purpose. As proposed, 4b has a 25% cap on spending on recruitment. States do not have to spend any on recruitment, but they can. Also changing PR to allow states to spend on ranges regardless of whether ranges are part of a hunter recruitment program.
- Legislative work
 - Sen. Risch and Rep. Duncan are leading the charge in Congress
 - S. 2690 was dropped yesterday; hoping that a companion bill will be dropped on the House side in the next 2-3 days.
 - A Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation briefing breakfast is scheduled for next Tuesday at 8a in Rayburn HOB
 - Great support from states so far, with agencies calling their representation on the Hill
 - Election process might hinder the effort, plus the SCOTUS nomination. Trying to keep the effort out of committee process so it doesn't get bogged down; hope to move by unanimous consent / suspension. Support from Speaker Ryan and he is optimistic. They will try again next year if they don't get it through this year.
- Related discussion (Ed Carter): MSCGP
 - In AFWA executive committee this week, AFWA has made a commitment to reduce its MSCGP ask to make more money available for other applicants.
 - AFWA will also reduce its multi-year grant asks so that there's more money available each year.
 - State dues will go up, about \$6,000, to cover the difference.
 - Relatedly, there will probably be a state assessment to support the Blue Ribbon Panel effort; this support cannot come from WSFR funds.

Council to Advance Hunting and Shooting Sports

John Frampton

- The Council is a non-profit, charitable, educational organization incorporated in the DC. The concept of the Council was an outgrowth of AFWA's Industry/Agency Coalition, which matured after 4 years of meetings and relationship building amongst the key stakeholders of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation.
- Council is planning to compete for funds under proposed grant program under PR modernization. If they do not get the legislative change or are not successful in any subsequently-created grant program, they will rely on states to offer additional funds. They have sent letters to all states asking for \$10,000 over three years and have already had some responses.
- Council has been hard at work with partners on the national R3 plan. The second draft is out on their website. Please read through it and offer comments. Website is nationalR3plan.com.
- They have trademarked their logo and the R3 logo and the national R3 website is up and running. It is a tool for collaboration and has been successful so far.
- They partnered with RBFF last fall, doing a conservation awareness study, which included

questions about why people are hunting, how they got started, did they know about the PR/DJ excise taxes. Results showed that many did not know about the taxes. This is on their website

Federal Aid Coordinators Working Group

Paula Nicholas

- Mentions their effort to have a national meeting for the FAC, for which they are seeking a MSCG and have submitted an NCN. The need is strong – so many issues with WSFR that they can discuss; will invite federal partners, too. Examples: TRACS changes, changes with federal regulation such as Supercircular and 50 CFR 80. It has been 30 years since the last meeting. Value in discussing the topics in a large community. The plan would be to have a 5-day agenda. Toward the end, each WSFR region could have its own annual meeting, which would only require that each FA coordinator obtain a single travel approval. Also at the meeting, they can talk about further group organization. Hope to do in a centrally-located city, such as Indianapolis, St. Louis, Kansas City, or Oklahoma City, in October 2017. If they get selected to apply for a MSCG, they will ask for about \$180K; this will help offset travel costs for states that have issues covering travel costs. Also, looking for a sponsor.
 - Question for Paula: thinking about relevance. Spring JTF will meet soon. Some of the issues identified in the NCN and in the report will be resolved before Oct. 2017. But, strengthening the partnerships is very important. Suggestion that she be clear on what she is trying to accomplish when she submits MSCG. She agrees, but notes some other things they could talk about, for example, 5-year reports are due around the time of the proposed meeting. Noted that they need to talk about trying to impact change – if this is the goal of the grant and the meeting. Point is made that everyone needs to be sure they are on the same page as the effort goes forward as to what it will entail. One thing here is providing consistency and uniformity from FWS across the country, which will have a lot of value. Another member adds that if the states are to spend the money to send employees, they want to make sure that the meeting is worthwhile and valuable.
 - Request that Tom Busiahn send out draft proposal for the national conference prior to
- Outstanding action item from Tucson meeting: *“Action Item: Ross Self made a motion that the Federal Aid Coordinator’s Working Group will review and update as necessary the working group’s charge to best meet current and future needs for effective program implementation. Lisa Evans seconded. No objections. The motion passed.”*
 - **This action item will be held over for the next meeting, in Philadelphia in September – was moved and seconded and passed.**
- Working Group governance issues:
 - Wanted to take a look at their bylaws, and not there yet
 - One thing they’re also trying to do is to have more coordination between the members of the Group: quarterly conference calls, information sharing
 - A related issue is that they are not able to always travel to FWTF meetings and others, such as TRACS working group, which is a problem.
 - Point is that they have not been able to finalize their internal organization; they are not ready to make a bylaw change...
 - Suggestion that at regional “AFWA” meetings, there should be a report from the working group
- (see attached report for additional information from Working Group)

Federal Aid Coordinators Working Group

Ed Carter

- JTF will meet in April
- Describes a current issue with license certification, which is that there is a lack of uniformity and equity in how states certify / count their hunters and anglers’ licenses
- The JTF has been working this issue, as has AFWA
- About 2 years ago, the AFWA Executive Committee asked a working group, headed by Dan Forster

(GA), to examine the issue and to report back. The report showed that the license certification numbers didn't always match with the national survey's indication of participation numbers. Dan proposed that one way to address inequities in license certification would be to require a partial participation model wherein for certain license types, states would have to show that the license in particular was actually used (the purchaser actually intended to buy that privilege)

- The JTF, in Nov. 2015, reexamined the issue. A legal report indicated that without legislative change in PR and DJ or full agreement from all states, a participation model would not work. Back to the drawing board: what is a "paid" license?
- Instead, they proposed to come up with a base price for any license product that would count for certification purposes (e.g., a state would have to charge enough for each license, including multi-year and multi-privilege products, so that it would generate at least \$X in order for it to count for certification.) In most states, this would be a one-day (trip) fishing license.
- A workgroup is working on this issue and will meet again prior to the JTF, then will take this to JTF in April for an update, which will consider the recommendation and then send its own recommendation. The JTF's recommendation will be taken to AFWA executive committee for consideration in late spring / summer, which will then decide what to do, perhaps to include taking a proposal to the full AFWA business meeting in September. The timing of these processes may change, but this is the current plan.
- Question: A lot of money is spent on national survey. Have the states considered using the national survey or something similar to indicate participation for purposes of certification? The JTF and states did talk about the participation idea, but there was not confidence that the results of the national survey are fully accurate (concerns about sample size, policy changes that would allow tacking on privileges, perception of survey subjects as to whether they had participated, etc.)
- Point from Tom B. – more happened at the fall JTF. WSFR staff are making changes to the 50 CFR 80 and would love to put appropriate changes in to capture license cert before they go forward on with a rule, so they are waiting on AFWA.

WSFR Program Update / TRACS

Steve Barton

- SFR & Boating TF
 - There were some changes to the SFR and Boating TF. The MSCGP is no longer coming off the top. When you look to the differences between FY '15 and '16, these are major differences. Also, the Coastal Wetlands program changed; the transfer to the DHS-Coast Guard for the boating safety program increased, to cover the CG admin \$ that now comes off the top. CVA and Boating Infrastructure have been combined. Some tweaking to the formula processes they went through w/ regard to admin fees. Amounts on slides do not include sequestration.
 - Distribution of SFR&BTf – (see attached slides)
 - Boating safety reports (see attached slides)
 - Paddlecraft is the quickest-growing class of vessels, but not taxable. Deaths and injuries during use of paddlecraft are increasing, which is a problem, as they are not required to register, so they do not pay in to state coffers and states have to use resources to address incidents
 - Louisiana coastal wetlands continue to diminish. Money for the program that addresses this (LA CWPPRA) comes from the small engine fuel tax. It's about \$120M/yr
- WSFR Program
 - (see slides for \$ amounts received and distributed)
 - The only part of the whole PR program that has to be reauthorized is the interest on the funds
 - Forecast that about \$763M will be collected for WR this year, which is an increase from last year, but below a couple of previous years.
 - SFR – expecting about the same receipts as last year. A small uptick in the number of boat

registrations last year, as opposed to the previous years, where it dropped.

- (slide on sequester amounts)
- SWG program (see slides)
- Wallop-Breaux reauthorized and no change in administrative fee provisions
- WSFR administration – got \$25.6M for 2016; average “overhead” rate is 1.8%
- Issues w/ WSFR Administration internal to FWS (see slide)
- TRACS
 - (see slides for more info)
 - Two major system updates since Dec. 2015; have improved workflow manager and added some text fields for land and estimate costs forms as well as corrected GIS issue
 - TRACS will transfer to Amazon Cloud soon – should not experience issues
 - More states are using TRACS and entering more information
 - Looking to enhance system in 2017; hope to finish in Oct. 2017
 - TRACS Working Group met in Denver last week; they focused on where they want TRACS to be in 5-10 years
 - 4 areas identified to measure WSFR program performance: administrative effectiveness measures, project outcomes, program accomplishments (a 5-year report), WSFR purpose. Used what AFWA suggested on effectiveness measures
 - There are TRACS training opportunities available for states
 - TRACS manuals are available for states, too
- Audit
 - findings in states from FY '15 (see slide)
 - costs on audits are going up soon, in contrast to previous years, where they were able to hold costs steady
 - are having trainings for OIG auditors
- Changes in Financial Assistance Policy and Oversight
 - (see slide for issues)
 - Laws and regulations affecting FA
 - FFATA
 - DATA
 - Grants Oversight and New Efficiency Act (GONE)
 - 2 CFR 200
 - 2 CFR 1403 (Financial Assistance Interior Regulation) – having multiple issues with this so will probably go through multiple iterations
 - (slides identify upcoming program work plan items)
 - Note that grant recipients will be held more closely to 90 and 120 deadlines for grant “liquidation” after closing date (see slide)
 - DOI being audited for how effective they are in their FA programs...FWS is “red,” which is not good. Relate to transparency and accountability. Specifically, some issues are some grants are way past performance period; some recipients are not registered or up-to-date with “SAM,” the grant system. This “red” status may affect states...

Tom Busiahn

- Policy and Programs Branch.
- They're working on policy development, the goal of which is to streamline it and make it easier to find for interested parties. Need to update and fill in gaps, too. Right now, policy and guidance are in a lot of different places.
- Specific changes
 - 50 CFR 80
 - Want to incorporate 15 FWS manual chapters
 - Also, wanting to move ahead quickly on targeted 50 CFR 80 revision to capture

- AFWA recommendation on license certification
 - Have heard from federal aid coordinators and regional WSFR staff that they might need to slow down in the changes to 50 CFR 80, as folks are feeling a little overwhelmed.
 - Some are intended to help the regulation match with provisions in the Supercircular (2 CFR 200)
 - Want to get a proposed rule out by fall 2016, after targeted rulemaking on license certification.
- Real Property Policy
 - Is from 1992, is very outdated, so long-term effort to get this updated
 - Want to get this in regulation, but a few years ago, agreed that would first put in policy, then move to regulation
 - 3 new policy chapters out for comment in 2014
 - Have had a lot of comments from states, FWS regions, etc. and are working through those comments
 - Revised draft is now on FA Wiki site
 - Next steps: by May, will have responses to comments on Chs. 7 and 8 and will provide opportunity for alternative responses; will meet with states in summer and fall to talk about any issues; get approval from DOI solicitor and Office of Valuation Services; want to send to FWS Director in Dec. 2016 for approval
 - In 2017, would begin writing real property regulation, to include oil and gas, based on chapters
 - Issues with real property policy mostly related to appraisals, valuations, and approvals (see slide)
- BIG and CVA Regulations
 - Published new rule for BIG in May 2015 which doubles max award for Tier 1 grants, which worked well in 2016 competitive process
 - Developing a rule for CVA that they hope to have in draft by late 2016 for informal review
 - SFBPC convening technical group to discuss technical issues and advise FWS on this
- SWAPs
 - Due date to revise SWAPs was 10/2015. 6 plans have not yet been submitted.
 - FWS is reviewing these and have approved 14 so far
 - States without a revised SWAP will not get funds until plans submitted. In close conversation with those states.
- (slide showing update on FWS grant awards in various programs out of Headquarters)
- WSFR does some national communications and outreach to educate public on the program and are trying to come up with ways to be more informative at trade shows
- WSFR staff interact with some NGOs who are stakeholders, including SOBA, IHEA, and AREA
- 2016 National Survey information (see slide)
 - AFWA task force to find new funding for the survey met this week; good meeting, but no workable ideas yet
- Administrative Effectiveness Measures
 - AFWA and JTF asked FWS to justify ask for additional administrative funds
 - They have 26 measures across 9 categories; trying to choose meaningful and measureable things. Asking state FA coordinators what they want to see from FWS to help set these things. Will continue working on in 2016
 - (see slide for specific measures they have selected)
 - Will be reviewing at the spring Chiefs' meeting
 - In a testing phase now for effectiveness measures

- Will keep JTF up to date
- TRACS and Outcome Measurement
 - TRACS is in place, meeting basic grant management needs
 - 2017 TRACS enhancement will fulfill original vision: program accountability, roll up and report on accomplishments, and document effectiveness systematically
 - They used AFWA's SWG "effectiveness measures" as a starting point for designing outcomes
 - They have some design for the outcome measurements in place and will be programming the outcomes into TRACS and will have them ready to use by Q32017
- Programmatic Performance Report (5-year report). Will contain information about how WSFR grant programs are helping states meet their conservation and recreation goals. E.g., a "set of stories" that help organize quantitative indicators of success across the states to show how WSFR has helped.
- Regional Reports
 - Every FWS region now has a WSFR chief
 - (see slides for highlights from each region)
- Comment: DOI needs to offer more yellow book courses (for appraisers), as appraisers want to take the course, but can't find opportunities
- Comment: JTF is going to work on an MOU to define effectiveness measures and outcome measurements. Need to ensure that working with FWS so that FWS doesn't continue to go forward on this work when the states are not quite on board/ready. Will discuss at JTF.

Joint Task Force of Federal Assistance Policy Update

Kelly Hepler

- JTF items for April meeting:
 - TRACS Memorandum of Understanding
 - TRACS standardized Objectives and Indicators and Technical Debt
 - Actual costs related to Omni-Circular (2 CFR 200)
 - License certification – final action
 - Federal Aid Coordinators' Working Group regional meeting and the proposed National WSFR-FAC meeting
 - 50 CFR 80 changes – timeframe and extent
 - Grant template
 - WSFR program 5-year reporting
 - Blue Ribbon Panel – draft implementation language
 - Excise taxes collection issues including discussion on air guns
- List will go out ahead of the meeting and JTF members will work on fleshing them out next week.
- Kelly indicates that Busiahn's and Barton's power point would be useful – some of the material in it – for the JTF
- Any additional items?
 - Getting JTF minutes out earlier
- If any other items arise, we need to have them to Joyce Johnson (FWS) by the end of next week.

Blue Ribbon Panel

Mark Humpert

- The Blue Ribbon Panel is a group of business, government, academic, and conservation leaders that have convened to find funding for nongame species conservation / carry out state wildlife action plans. The need is dire, as Mark details.
- They met over the past year or so and came out with a recommendation that they have written into legislation and will take to Congress

- The recommendation will take a piece of the mineral development royalties from federal lands and waters that are currently directed into general treasury receipts and earmark them for a particular account in the PR statute (already created) from the CARA initiative; will operate like MSCGP for game and sport fish projects.
- The panel will also do work to examine the impact of societal changes on relevancy of fish and wildlife conservation
- Next steps include: introduce legislation, launch a campaign, business outreach, agency relevancy/transformation working group.
- Makes the point that if we can get ahead of the threats to species on the state WL action plans, we can present a significant cost savings down the road

Trust Funds Collection Working Group

Hannibal Bolton

- Defers to his staff – Barton and Busiahn – and their previous report

Committee Workplan

Ed Carter / Ashley Salo

- No comments.
- Will review more in depth at AFWA meeting in September.

Final Comments and Discussion

All

- Appreciation voiced for putting committee agendas up ahead of time
- Hannibal offers that he and FWS are open to meeting in between meetings if an issue arises

ADJOURN – 11:45am

Federal Aid Coordinators Working Group Report
To the
FISH AND WILDLIFE TRUST FUNDS COMMITTEE
North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference 2016

The following issues are currently of main concern to the Federal Aid Coordinator's Working Group:

A. **National Conservation Need** (Strengthening the Federal/State Partnership)

An action item resulting from discussions during the 2015 Joint WSFR Chiefs/Federal Aid Coordinators Working Group (FAC-WG) was the formation of a National WSFR- FAC Meeting committee with the goal of preparing a Multi-State Conservation Grant proposal for consideration by the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund Committee during the 2016 North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference. Coming out of the meeting last spring, there was general consensus by all WSFR and state participants that a national meeting to discuss the historic and unprecedented changes occurring within the WSFR program would benefit the partnership. Paula Nicholas (FAC-CO), Marie Strassburger (WSFR Region 7), Steve Klein (WSFR Region 8), Tom Busiahn (WO WSFR), Bob Longcor (FAC-NJ), Kathy Justison (FAC-IL) have initially volunteered to serve on the meeting committee.

Paula Nicholas is credited with providing the framework for the proposal that was recently adopted by the National Trust Fund Committee for sponsorship. Her proposal serves as the foundation for the NCN submitted to the Trust Fund Committee. The National WSFR-FAC Meeting would incorporate the Regional WSFR-FAC meetings that normally occur during any given year. Regional and topical breakout sessions will be also be included. The State representatives on the committee have already contacted Delaney Meeting and Event Management, LLC to discuss interest in planning the event, and WMI was approached to determine their interest in being a project partner; Scot Williamson expressed support for the partnership opportunity. Total expected Multi-State Grant request: \$180,000 - \$300,000 (?).

The FACWG believes a national meeting of WSFR program specialists and state FACs is necessary to ensure recently enacted regulatory changes are implemented across the Regions in a consistent manner and to give state FACs the opportunity to provide feedback and technical guidance to WSFR on the proposed revision of 50 CFR 80, development of 50 CFR 75, rollout of TRACS version 2, and the new 5-year Reporting requirement.

B. **TRACS**

TRACS continues to dominate discussions within the FACWG and the WSFR Regions the working group members represent. A workshop was held in October, 2015 and included members of WSFR, the TRACS working group (TWG), and the FAC-WG. The purpose of the meeting was to begin the discussion on the use of results chains to generate project-level outcomes. It was apparent from the exercise that the Service and the States are still struggling with how to accurately define a TRACS project so the data can roll-up to a meaningful scale for the reporting of program accomplishments.

Other topics discussed during the workshop include:

1. **TRACS version 2**, scheduled for release in October 2017.
2. **Technical debt**- refers to the gap between the current version in use and the most recent version available. TRACS version 1 is in operation and maintenance status. No new enhancements are planned. PAR branch will focus development and enhancement efforts on version 2.
3. **Standardized Objectives and Indicators**- There is recognition among the TWG/FACWG and the Service that standardization may be the best way forward for TRACS development if the platform is going to satisfy its original purpose as an

accomplishment reporting tool. As it stands now, States will have to re-enter previously approved projects into TRACS to incorporate the changes brought about by standardization.

Ongoing SFWA TRACS concerns:

1. Estimated Costs- Although the Service has consistently stated the estimated costs reported in TRACS are not auditable, the States have not seen this memorialized in regulation or policy. Now there is great concern that the new Omni-Circular 2 CFR 200 has actually mandated more detailed cost estimates in TRACS reporting.
2. SFWAs are only now beginning to complete their first performance reporting cycle using TRACS, and many are not seeing the reporting outcome they expected.

The FACWG recommends having one active member serve as a liaison to the TRACS working group so information on issues and concerns can be easily communicated back to Regional FACs.

C. 50 CFR Revisions (Parts 75 & 80)

During the period 3/1/2015- 9/30/2015 the WSFR Policy Branch, Pete Barlow, conducted a series of webinars to discuss the development of 50 CFR 75 and revision to 50 CFR 80. The development of 50 CFR 75 is an effort to consolidate WSFR grant administrative regulations that are common to all WSFR grant programs.

The purpose of the 50 CFR 80 revisions is to revisit regulatory issues not addressed during the 2011 revision. The Service has exhibited interest in giving certain WSFR policies the force of law by incorporating policy into regulation. FACWG members, as well as Regional FACs, participated on the conference calls.

Given the scope of this initiative, the potential impact on state conservation activities, and the plethora of competing WSFR interests that might compromise the current ability of state to adequately review proposed changes, the FAC-WG recommends delaying the release of the CFRs for comment until after the national meeting and States complete the first TRACS version 2 reporting cycle.

D. WSFR 5yr Report

In December 2014, a small group of state and Federal participants developed a white paper *“WSFR Project and Program Performance Reporting – A Framework for Moving Forward”* which included recommendations for project outcome reporting and Program Performance Reporting. The white paper was a response to a 2007 OMB PART review that expressed concerns over the WSFR program’s ability to demonstrate results that contributed to the national conservation effort. The report included recommendations for project outcome and program performance reporting including the development of a baseline report that all future performance will be compared every five years.

In November 2015, several FAC-WG members participated in a WSFR sponsored workshop to flesh out what an initial “baseline” report could look like. Much of the discussions centered on what information would be useful and what is readily available. Members of the report working group are currently refining the conservation “stories” that will be shared in the baseline report, as well as subsequent 5-year reports. There was acknowledgement that states would likely not be willing or able to collect data that is not already in existence. There was a fairly unanimous consensus that if baseline information is desired, the FWS should spend time searching known sources of data, including state websites, before asking the states for any additional information.

Participants agreed to contribute towards development of the baseline report, but TRACS should provide the bulk of the data for reporting efforts in the future.

The current FAC-WG Chairman, Bob Longcor, plans to attend the AFWA meeting this

fall to present the final 2016 FAC WG status report to the TFC.

Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund and Wildlife Restoration Account

AFWA Trust Fund Committee Report March 18, 2016



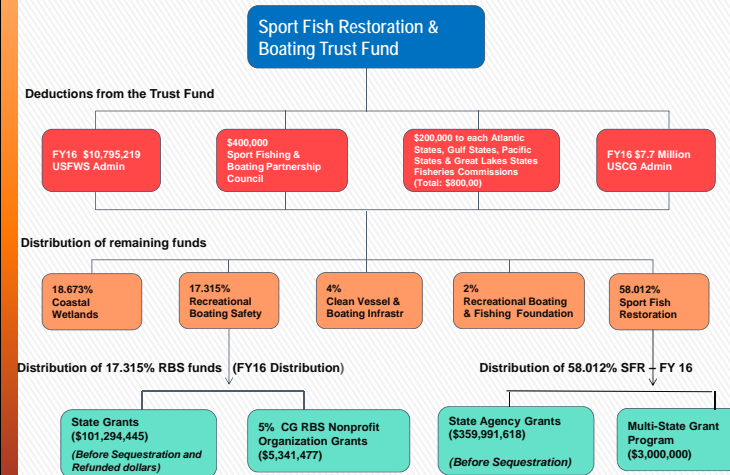
SPORT FISH RESTORATION & BOATING TRUST FUND



SPORT FISH RESTORATION AND BOATING TRUST FUND CHANGES IN DISTRIBUTION OF REVENUE FROM FAST ACT Effective With FY 2016 Distributions

	FY 2015	FY 2016
INITIAL PROGRAM DISTRIBUTION ("Fixed Costs")		
Coast Guard Administration		7,700,000
Multistate Conservation Grants Program	3,000,000	
Four Fisheries Commissions at \$200,000 each	800,000	800,000
Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council	400,000	400,000
Administration of the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act	10,798,459	10,795,219
TOTAL Budget Authority Taken "Off the Top"	14,998,459	19,695,219
DISTRIBUTION OF NET RECEIPTS		
	Percentage Based	Percentage Based
Coastal Wetlands	18.5%	18.673%
Corps of Engineers (70% of Coastal)		
North American Wetlands Conservation (15% of Coastal)		
FA Coastal Wetlands Grants (15% of Coastal - includes admin)		
Transfer to DHS-Coast Guard - State Boating Safety Programs	18.5%	17.315%
Clean Vessel Act/Boating Infrastructure Program (includes admin)		4.0%
Clean Vessel Act (includes admin)	2.0%	
Boating Infrastructure (includes admin)	2.0%	
National Outreach and Communications (includes admin)	2.0%	2.0%
Apportionment of to States Fish/Wildlife Agencies	57.0%	58.012%
Less Multistate Conservation Grants Program		3,000,000
Note: Amounts do not reflect Sequestration		

Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund – Distribution



Source of Numbers: USFWS Arrows Table: 12-30-15


US Coast Guard Boating Safety Division








US Coast Guard Boating Safety Division



FY 15 Recreational Boating Safety Grants

- ❖ State and Territories
 - ❖ 56 Grants
 - ❖ \$101,970,350 Awarded
- ❖ Non-Profit Organization Grants
 - ❖ 26 Grants
 - ❖ 12 Nonprofit Organizations
 - ❖ \$5,336,477 Awarded


US Coast Guard Boating Safety Division



2014 Accident Information

- 4,064 accidents that involved approximately \$39 million dollars of damage
 - 610 deaths,
 - 2,678 injuries
- The fatality rate was 5.2 deaths per 100,000 registered recreational vessels.
 - 10.6% increase from last year's fatality rate of 4.7 deaths
- Compared to 2013 Numbers,
 - accidents increased 0.05%,
 - deaths increased 8.9%, and
 - injuries increased 2.2%.

US Coast Guard Boating Safety Division



2014 Accident Information

- 78% of fatal boating accident victims drowned
 - 84% were not wearing a life jacket.
- 23% of deaths occurred where the operator had received boating safety instruction.
- 12% percent of deaths occurred when operator had received a nationally-approved boating safety education certificate.
- 80 % of drowning's used vessels less than 21 feet in length.
- Top five primary contributing factors
 - 1) Operator inattention, 2) improper lookout, 3) operator inexperience, 4) excessive speed, and 5) alcohol

US Coast Guard Boating Safety Division



- Alcohol use is the leading known contributing factor in fatal boating accidents;
- Most common types of vessels involved in accidents:
 - 47% Open motorboats
 - 17% Personal watercraft
 - 15% Cabin motorboats
- Vessel types with the highest percentage of deaths were:
 - 47% open motorboats
 - 13% canoes, and
 - 10% kayaks
- The 11,804,002 recreational vessels registered by the states in 2014 represent a 1.7% decrease from 2013 with 12,013,496 recreational vessels



North American Wildlife Conference

Coastal Wetlands Planning Protection & Restoration Act

March 2016

U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service



Louisiana Coastal Wetland Loss: A Nationally Significant Problem

A Reason for LA Coastal Restoration

- 1.2 million acres of Coastal LA wetlands lost 1932-2000
- 448,000 acres of loss predicted from 2000 to 2050



Coastal Wetlands Planning Protection & Restoration Act Task Force





LA CWPPRA Accomplishments

- » Total Fed. Funding (1991-2019) - \$2.0 B
- » Total Expenditures - \$924 M
- » Total Active Projects – 155
- » Constructed Projects – 102
- » Projects Currently Under Construction – 20
- » Project in E&D – 27
- » Net acres restored/protected ~ 97,000 acres (392km²)

(3-2016)



Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program Washington Office Organization

Hannibal Bolton – Assistant Director, WSFR



Bob Curry – Deputy Assistant Director, WSFR

Steve Barton – Chief, Administration and Information Management Division



Tom Busiahn – Chief, Policy and Programs Division

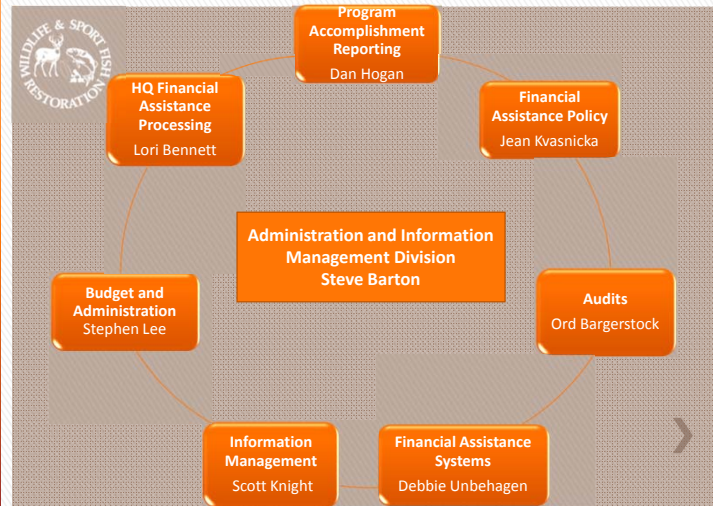


Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program

Division of Administration and Information Management



Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program



Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program

WILDLIFE RESTORATION (PR)

- States received \$695.1 Million in FY 2016 - a decrease of \$113 M from 2015
- States will add matching funds of at least \$269.5 Million. A total \$964.4M wildlife program



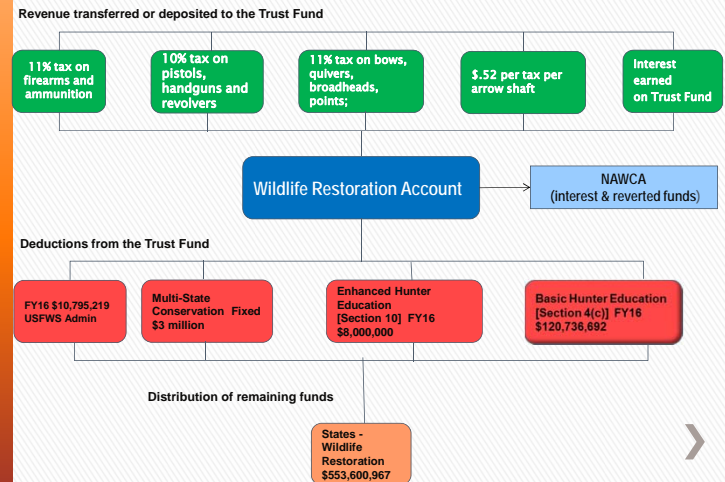
SPORT FISH RESTORATION (DJ)

- States received \$361.1 M in FY 2016 - an increase of \$14.6 M from FY 2015
- States will add matching funds of at least \$115.5 M. A total \$ 476.6 M Sport Fish Program



Total WSFR Program Funding of \$1.44 Billion

Wildlife Restoration Account – FY 16



Source of Numbers: USFWS Arrows Table: 12-30-15

Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program

Wildlife Restoration Funding – 2016

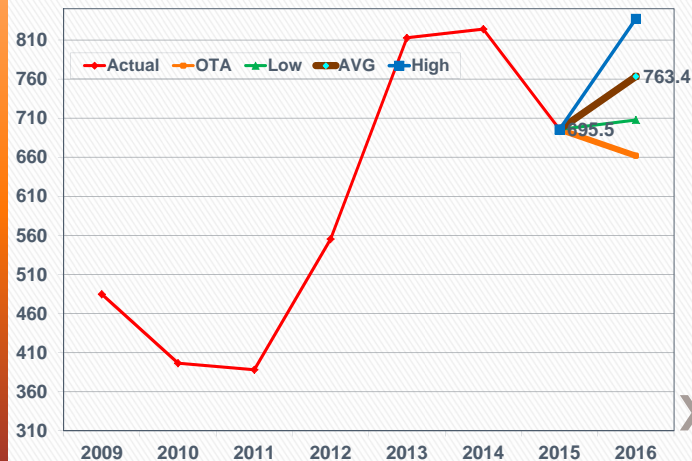
- Firearms Revenues through December up 1.6%
- Archery Revenues Through 3rd Quarter down ~11%



P-R Wildlife Restoration Program 1st Quarter Receipts In Millions (M)

Year	16	15	14	13	12	11	10
QRT 1 Total	176.6	173.8	233.3	171.9	123.0	66.9	101.3
Firearm/ Ammo	163.0	158.6	216.4	158.2	110.1	52.3	90.8
TOTAL YEAR	Est 763.4	695.5	824.5	812.8	555.3	388.2	396.6

Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program Wildlife Restoration Total Revenues Actual vs.. Forecasts



D-J Sport Fish Restoration Funding

» Total Domestic Fishing Excise Tax Revenue through January up 16.7% from FY 15

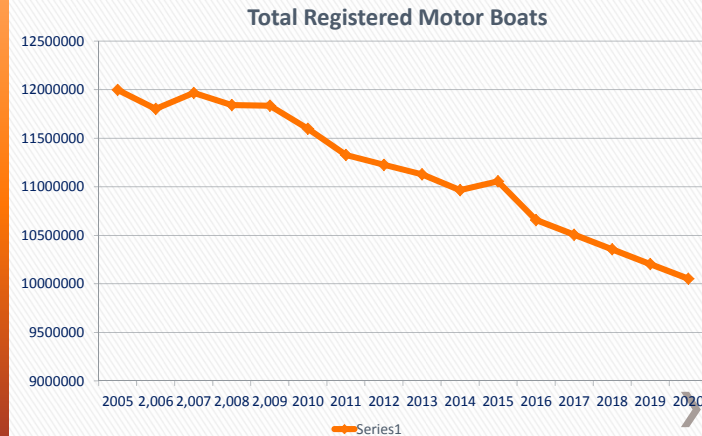
» Total Revenue currently **flat**



D-J Sport Fish Restoration Program 1st Quarter Receipts In Millions (M)

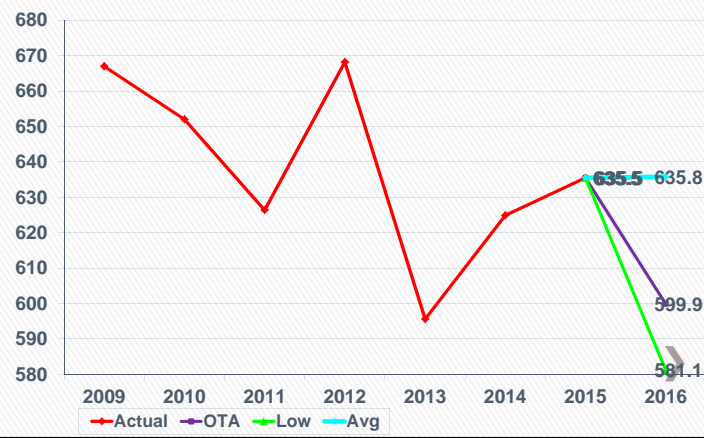
Year	16	15	14	13	12	11	10
Jan. Total	146.4	146.8	139.5	149.5	142.8	140.7	152.4
Domestic Fish	28.7	24.6	19.1	26.5	23.9	21.5	19.4
TOTAL YEAR	Est 635.8	635.5	624.9	595.6	668.2	628.4	650.3

D-J Sport Fish Restoration Funding



Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program

Sport Fish Restoration Total Revenues Actual vs. Forecasts



Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program

Sequester – Wildlife and Sport Fish Funding

- » Gramm-Rudman-Hollings Act (Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act)
- » Sequester required of all Mandatory Accounts, Programs and Activities currently through FY 21
- » Amounts sequestered were based on the actual receipts
- » Sport Fish \$42.9M
- » Wildlife \$60.1 M



Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program

Est FY 17 Sequester – Wildlife Rest Funding

	EST 2017 (a)	WSFR Sequester EST %	2017 Sequester Est. Amount	2016 Sequester Add Back	WSFR FY 17 Budget / Apportionment
Firearm and Bow Hunter Education & Safety Grants	8,000,000	7.00%	560,000	544,000	7,984,000
Basic Hunter Education	122,500,000	7.00%	8,575,000	8,210,095	122,185,095
Multi-State Conservation Grant Program	3,000,000	7.00%	210,000	204,000	2,994,000
Wildlife Account FWS Administration	10,923,000	7.00%	764,610	734,075	10,892,465
Wildlife Rest Apportionment to States	517,577,000	7.00%	36,230,390	37,600,327	518,856,937
Total	662,000,000	7.00%	46,340,000	47,292,497	662,952,497

Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program

Est FY 17 Sequester – Sport Fish Rest Funding

	2017 (a)	WSFR Sequester EST %	2017 Sequester Est Amount	2016 Sequester Add Back	WSFR FY 17 Budget / Apportionment
FWS Wetlands Grants & NAWCA (Each)	16,244,868	7.00%	1,137,140	1,172,881	16,280,609
Clean Vessel, BIG	23,199,083	7.00%	1,623,936	1,674,975	23,250,122
Outreach Grants	11,599,541	7.00%	811,968	837,488	11,625,061
Multi State	3,000,000	7.00%	210,000	204,000	2,994,000
Regional Fish Commissions (Each)	200,000	7.00%	14,000	13,600	199,600
Sport Fishing Boating Partnership Council	400,000	7.00%	28,000	27,200	399,200
Sport Fish Program FWS Administration	10,922,603	7.00%	764,582	734,075	10,892,096
Sport Fish Restoration Grants to States	309,945,576	7.00%	21,696,190	24,292,168	312,541,554
Total	392,356,539	7.00%	27,464,958	30,170,067	395,061,651

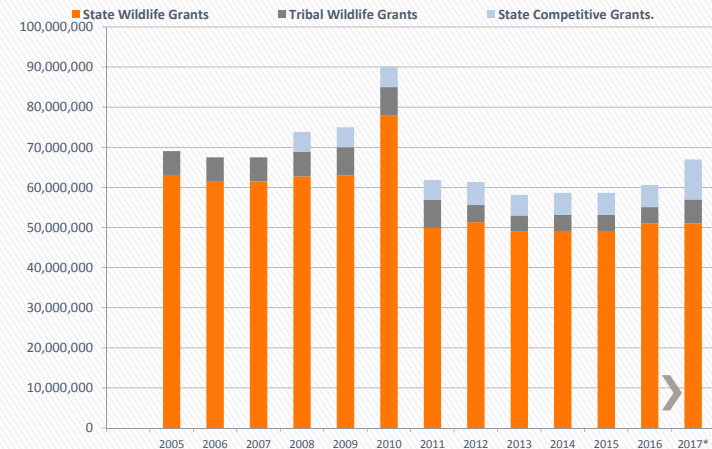
State Wildlife Grants Program FY 2016

	FY 2016 Appropriated
SWG Formula	\$51.00
SWG Competitive	\$5.49
Tribal Competitive	\$4.08
STWG TOTALS	\$60.57

➤ Fully Apportioned in March, 2016



Annual State Wildlife Grant Appropriation Levels FY 2005-2016



State & Tribal Wildlife Grants Program FY 2017

	FY 2017 Request
SWG Formula	\$51,000
SWG Competitive	\$9,959
Tribal Competitive	\$6,000
STWG TOTALS	\$66,959



Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program

- **National Legislative Issues:**
 - Wallop-Breaux Reauthorization – Extended
 - Expires 2021
 - WSFR Administrative Funding
- **License Certification Issues**
- **ASAP Blackout**
 - September 24 – September 30



WSFR Offices



Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program **WSFR Administration**

- » In 2016, the FWS received \$25,557,116 to administer the WSFR Programs:

Sport Fish Restoration -	\$ 10,849,432
Wildlife Restoration -	10,849,432
State Wildlife Grants -	3,381,869
CVA & BIG -	476,383
- » This funds about 94 full time staff to administer WSFR grants and 12.6 FTE State Wildlife Grants.
- » Average WSFR "Overhead Rate" is 1.8%
- » **Fixed Costs:**

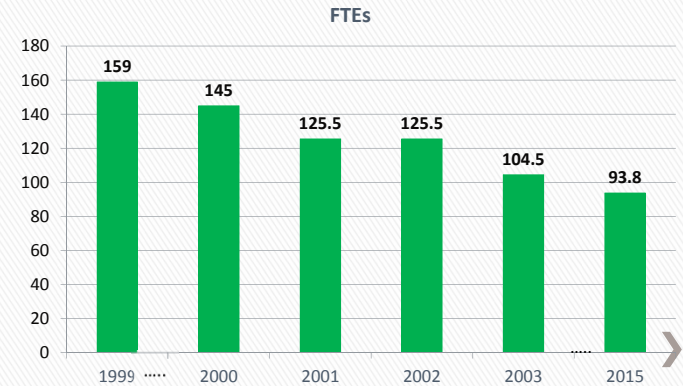
State Audits	\$2.1 million
Central Overhead	1.9 million
Office Space	1.2 million
Regional Office Overhead	0.1 million



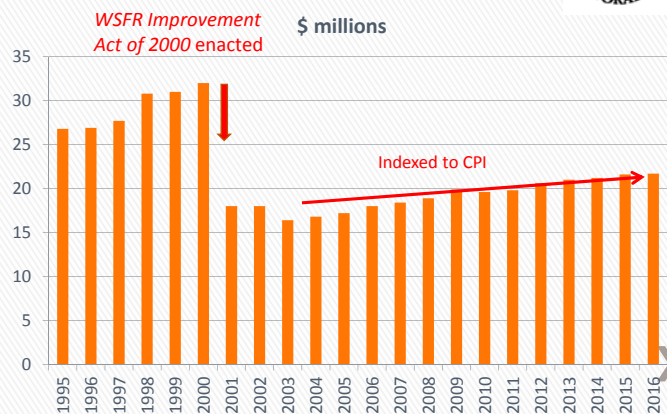
Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program WSFR Administration

	2003 Alloc	FTE Used 2015	FTE Vacant
Region 1	9	8.2	0.8
Region 2	9	7.9	1.1
Region 3	14	13.7	0.3
Region 4	14	12.9	1.1
Region 5	14	11.1	2.9
Region 6	12	9.6	2.4
Region 7	4	4.5	-0.5
Region 8	3	4.0	-1.0
HQ	25.5	21.6	3.9
Totals	104.5	93.8	11.0

Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program FTEs utilized WR + SFR only



Administrative funds WR + SFR only



Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program

Wildlife and Sport Fish Funding Status and Issues

- » Managing budget on 10% vacant positions
- » State legislation reviews and comments on bills
- » State agency consolidation issues
- » Matching requirements for some States
- » Diversion Actions
- » Service to States
 - > Longer Grant Processing Time
 - > Reduced Travel to States for
 - + Site Visits, Monitoring, Coordination



TRACS Today



Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program Program and Accomplishment Reporting

• TRACS – Operations & Maintenance

- Two major system updates since December, 2015:
 - **Workflow Manager**—new filter options available and changes to interim report workflow (December)
 - **Land and Estimated Cost forms**—text fields to prevent privacy information, zero cost validation changes (March)
 - **Corrected topology on GIS reference layers** (March)
- TRACS migrates to a new cloud vendor (March)
- O&M focused on Help Desk priority issues and bug fixes

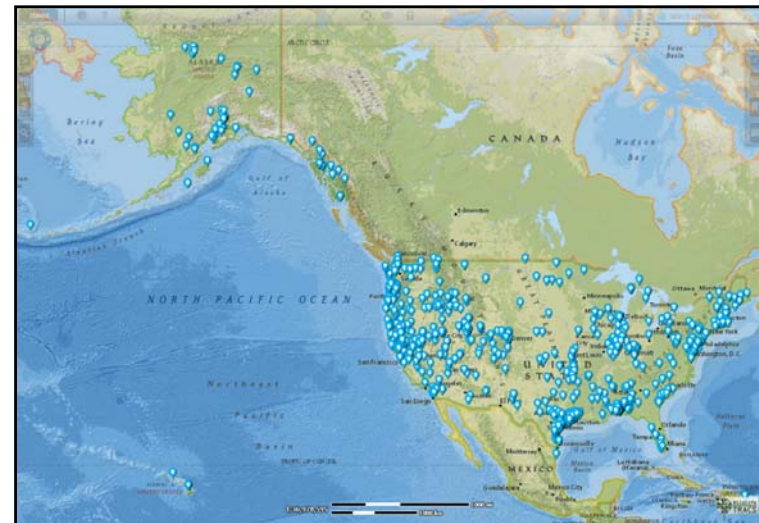


Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program Program and Accomplishment Reporting

• TRACS – Development, Operations and Maintenance

Noteworthy numbers:

	2014	2015	2016
State and Federal system users	393	652	760
Total projects entered	1,369	3,848	5,121
Approved project proposals	836	3,473	5,231
Approved performance reports	96	543	1,168
States performing direct data entry	29	41	45



TRACS spatial project locations 2014 - 2015

Introducing: TRACS 2017 Enhancement



Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program

Program and Accomplishment Reporting

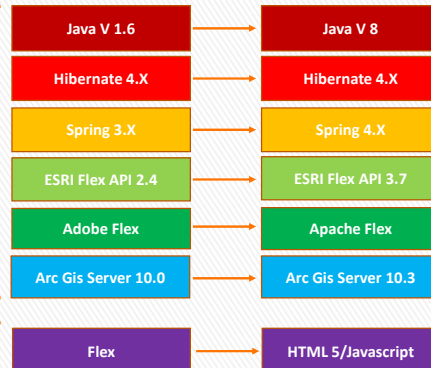
• TRACS – 2017 ENHANCEMENT

- Underway; target date—October, 2017
 - Enhancement will address:
 - technical debt,
 - streamlining grant application and
 - reporting, program outcomes and effectiveness measures
 - TRACS Working Group met in Denver, March 8-10. Meeting focused on standardized objectives, system “mock ups,” outcomes and effectiveness measures
 - Next steps are final requirements analysis and initiate development process



Priority #1: Addressing Technical Debt in the TRACS Software Stack

Libraries, APIs, Servers
(migration, upgrades)



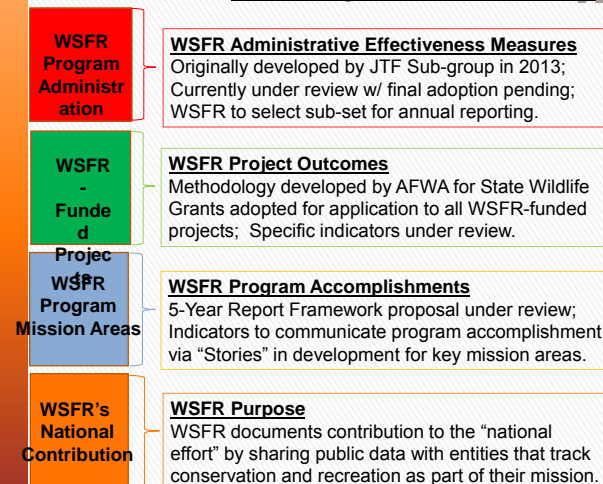
Application Architecture
(migration, validation)

Server side validation/security/business rules
Business rules audit and documentation
Unit and Integration testing
Automated UI level tests (Selenium)
Single sign-on (Active Directory SAML)

[Infrastructure Overview](#)



Measuring WSFR Performance



Framework* for Project Outcomes

1. Establish the purpose for each Grant program and identify desired long-term results;
2. Identify the most common generic actions funded by each grant program;
3. Update generic results chains;
4. Describe, via a results chain, how actions will lead to desired impacts;
5. Identify effectiveness measures to assess progress at key points of the project lifecycle;
6. Incorporate project outcomes measures into the TRACS data system;
7. Collect and Report Effectiveness Measures Data

* "Framework" means a process, and the product that it generates.

2. Identify the most common generic Strategies funded by each WSFR grant program;



AFWA Effectiveness Measures Working Group

1. Direct Management of Natural Resources
2. Species Restoration
3. Creation of New Habitat
4. Acquisition / Easement / Lease
5. Conservation Area Designation
6. Environmental Review
7. Management Planning
8. Land Use Planning
9. Training & Technical Assistance
10. Data Collection & Analysis
11. Education
12. Incentives
13. Stakeholder Involvement

TRACS Project Outcomes Methodology Workshop

1. Direct Management of Natural Resources
2. Species Reintroduction and Stocking
3. Creation of New Habitat
4. Real Property
5. Conservation Area Designation
6. Environmental Review
7. Planning
8. Training
9. Technical Assistance
10. Data Collection & Analysis
11. Outreach and Communication
12. Incentives
13. Stakeholder Involvement
14. Facilities Construction and Renovation
15. Facilities Operation and Maintenance
16. Coordination and Administration
17. Training of Trainers
18. Recruitment of Hunters and Anglers

TRACS 2017: Status and Timeline

1. Establish the purpose for each Grant program and identify desired long-term results (COMPLETED 06/24/15)
2. Identify the most common generic actions funded by each grant program; (COMPLETED 06/24/15)
3. Update SWG generic results chains; (COMPLETED 10/14/15)
4. Describe, via a results chain, how actions will lead to desired impacts; (COMPLETED 3/10/16)
5. Identify effectiveness measures to assess progress at key points of the project lifecycle; (TRACS WG Workshop)
6. Incorporate project outcomes measures into the TRACS data system; (April, 2016 – September, 2017)
7. Collect and Report Effectiveness Measures Data (October, 2017)

TRACS Working Group Workshop

Tuesday, March 08-10, 2016
Denver, Colorado

- Results Chains Intermediate and Long-Term Outcomes
- 5-Year Report Indicators
- Project Reporting Template
- Performance Report Template
- Standardized Objectives
- Project-Level Matrix
- Financial Data
- Guidance on 2CFR200 (Performance Evaluation)



**TRACS
2017 Enhancement
Configuration Guide**

Spring, 2016



Purpose: To finalize TRACS 2017 "requirements" for delivery to the Program Accomplishment Reporting Branch.

Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program

Program and Accomplishment Reporting

• TRACS – Help Desk Support

- 744 end-user Help Desk tickets resolved by PAR staff in the past 12 months
- TRACS Help Desk email (tracs-helpdesk@fws.gov) and phone (303-275-2350) support available
- TRACS Knowledge Management Site
<http://tracs.fws.gov/learning>

Includes training videos, updates, class schedules, contact information, user guide, guidance materials, and best management practices by grant program



Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program

Program and Accomplishment Reporting

• TRACS – Training Opportunities

- **Virtual Instructor-Led Training:** Web-based 3 to 8 hour sessions three days per week (Tues., Wed., Thurs.)
- **Video Modules:** 24 X 7: 5-minute basic and advanced training videos and assessments online
- **Instructor-Led Training:** Traditional 2-day classroom sessions
- Training information, schedule, and registration available on the TRACS Knowledge Management Site
<http://tracs.fws.gov/learning>



Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program Audit Findings FY 2011 through 2015 Audits

Top 11 Findings	Total	% Of Agencies
Unreconciled Real Property Records	24	37%
Unsupported or Ineligible Match	23	35%
Other Direct Costs	21	32%
Asset Management	18	28%
Program Income	17	26%
Potential Diversion	17	26%
Payroll Costs	12	18%
License Certification	13	20%
Assent Legislation	8	12%
Indirect Costs	8	12%
Late or Inaccurate FFR and Performance Reports	8	12%

Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program Audit Branch

➤ New Audit Engagement FY 2017 – 2021

➤ OIG Auditors & WSFR Fiscal Training

➤ Training Dates - April 5-7, 2016

➤ Topics

- Overview of WSFR Grant Monitoring Processes
- Status 50 CFR 80 Targeted Rulemaking
- Funding Accountability and Transparency Act



Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program

Financial Assistance Policy and Oversight

FY16 through March

- In-house & formal training to new staff
- Reviewed/coordinated FWS input on seven draft DOI policies
- Reviewed draft 50 CFR 75 for WSFR Policy Branch
- Jan 1 2016 Federal Award Performance Integrity and Information System FAPIIS implementation:
 - Updated standard Award Terms & Conditions
 - Updated Notice of Funding Opportunity NOFO & Award Templates



Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program

Financial Assistance Policy and Oversight

FY16 through March cont.

- **Laws and Regulations Impacting Financial Assistance:**
- **Federal Funds Accountability & Transparency Act FFATA**
 - Basic information about the recipient, sub-recipient and the project being funded
- **Digital Accountability & Transparency Act DATA**
 - Government-wide financial data standards
- **Grants Oversight & New Efficiency Act GONE**
 - Timely close out of awards – OMB rules pending
- **2 CFR 200**



Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program

Financial Assistance Policy and Oversight

Mar-Oct 2016 Anticipated

- Coordinate FWS input on proposed 2 CFR 1403, Financial Assistance Interior Regulation
- Coordinate FWS response to General Accountability Office GAO evaluation on competitive grants merit reviews
- Conducting DOI Targeted Review testing focused on competitive grant merit reviews
- Deliver merit review guidance based on new DOI policy and GAO/Targeted review findings



Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program

Financial Assistance Policy and Oversight

Mar-Oct 2016 Anticipated cont.

- Conduct A-123 Appendix A internal controls testing of grants
- Revise policies Financial & Performance Reporting for Grant and Cooperative Agreement Awards 516 FW 1 & 2 (2 CFR 200 & DOI policy impacts)
- Establish new policy on:
 - Award suspensions and terminations
 - Amendments
 - Performance measurement
 - Conflicts of interest
- Update guidance/templates for FY17
- Deliver FY16 FA Assurance Statement to DOI



Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program **Financial Assistance Systems Branch**

- 2/24/16 Change to ASAP end dates implemented to bring the DOI into closer compliance with existing requirement in 2 CFR 200.343 (b)
- Recipients must liquidate all obligations within 90 days of period of performance on the funding line
- Will impact recipients ability to request and receive funds once the line end date plus 120 days is reached
- Once the end date plus 120 day is reach the award line in ASAP will be suspended and no further payment requests will be allowed
- Exception will be an approved time extension to the reporting period which will also extend the time to liquidate funds in ASAP
- This change will require that WSFR Grant Specialists notify FAS when reporting extensions are approved. FAS will adjust the date in ASAP

Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program **Financial Assistance Systems Branch**

- Provided support and technical assistance to Service users for FBMS, SAM, ASAP and Grants.gov through resolution of 121 helpdesk tickets
- Provided support to ASAP recipient organizations
- Processed 52 ASAP Enrollments and 35 ASAP Waivers
- Continuing to work with DOI to improve FAADS/USA Spending/FSRS reporting process and incorporate DATA Act

Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program **Financial Assistance Systems Branch**

- Completed WSFR User Guides for Grant Reports in TRACS
 - Financial Assistance Summary Report
 - Subsidiary Ledger Detail Report
 - Milestone Plan Report
 - Obligation and Expenditure Status Report
 - Obligation and Payment Report
 - Safety Margin Report
 - FWS Year End Carryover Report
 - FWS Safety Margin Simulation

Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program **Financial Assistance Systems Branch**

- Implemented Service Financial Assistance Health Metrics – October 2016
 - Tool to assist in managing financial assistance operations
 - Improve Service ratings with DOI, program reviews and audits
 - Improve data quality in FBMS and data sent to external systems such as USA Spending, ASAP, FSRS, etc.
 - Increase program and recipient compliance with policy
 - Increase transparency of monitoring activities to Service programs

Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program Financial Assistance Systems Branch

- **Monitoring Items:**
 - FBMS SAP - ASAP data sync errors
 - Program compliance with establishing a payment method for converted awards and prior to releasing new awards
 - Financial Assistance Awards Data System (FAADS) and FAADS-PLUS data entry errors
 - Program compliance with Service policies requiring PRISM Milestone Plans (516 FW 1 and 2)
 - Recipient compliance with System for Award Management (SAM) registration requirements (2 CFR 25)
 - Program compliance with Service policy requiring timely award closeout (516 FW 7).



Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program Financial Assistance Systems Branch

As of March 2, 2016

- **Open Awards in FBMS:**
 - 11,551 \$1,840,534,123.18
- **Transactions for FY 2016:**
 - 820 Obligations \$301,274,552.32
 - 853 De-obligations \$91,122,924.17
 - 15,904 Payments \$608,902,428.67



Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program Information Management

- Training
 - 34 courses scheduled
 - ~1,400 students
- eLearning
- Webinars
- Public Website / Twitter / Facebook
- Financial Assistance Wiki



Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program Online Project Leaders Course

- Development underway
- Pilot course in Summer of 2015
- Course available August of 2016
- On-demand, just-in-time and self-paced
- Micro-learning design principles



Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program

Regionally Hosted Instructor Lead PLCs

- **Beginning in FY17 the PLCs will transition from state specific courses to regionally based events.**
 - **Courses will be coordinated with WSFR Regional Offices**
 - **Location to be selected by WSFR Regional office.**
 - **Open to all States in the region.**



Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program

Assistance with TRACS

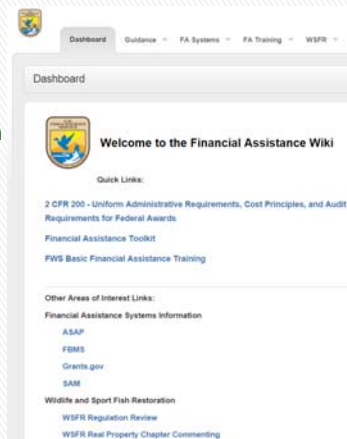
- **Assisting the PAR Branch with development of standard objectives for TRACS.**
- **Creating sample grants for the various project types.**



Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program Financial Assistance Wiki

Wiki Improvements

- **User navigation**
- **Layout & organization**
- **Information discovery**
- **Additional content**



Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program



Policy and Programs Division

Chief – Tom Busiahn
Policy Branch – Lisa Van Alstyne
Programs Branch – Christy Vigfusson
Survey Branch – Sylvia Cabrera
CIAP Branch – Penny Bartnicki



Policy Development

GOAL: Reorganize, update, & fill gaps in regulations & policies

	Now	Dec 2017
Regulations	3	7
Manual Chapters	27	6
Handbooks	2	1
Policy Memos or Notices	21	0

ADVANTAGES: Simpler – Easier to keep current – All programs covered – Addresses real property acquisition & disposition – States can review all proposed policies & provide comments



WR & SFR Regulations

Current rule at 50 CFR 80



Updated 50 CFR 80

New rule at 50 CFR 75 for all WSFR-administered grant programs

- Will incorporate 15 FWS policy chapters, which will then be rescinded
- If recommended by AFWA, targeted revision (license certification) will be done before full revision is proposed



50 CFR 80 revision

- » Gathered input from State & FWS staff via weekly webinars, June - Sept 2015
- » Development slowed per request of State and FWS staff to “tap on the brakes” due to workload
- » Continuing to develop technical changes (e.g. to comply with 2 CFR 200)
- » Proposed rule by fall 2016, after targeted rulemaking on license certification.



50 CFR 80 License Certification

- » No other issue takes so much time and attention in policy discussions.
- » FWS proposed a simplified approach to JTF in November 2015.
- » JTF modified and endorsed the proposal, brought it to AFWA ExCom in December.
- » FWS will move quickly to publish a proposed rule if AFWA endorses the approach.



Real Property Policy

- » Current FWS policy from 1992 is outdated and misleading.
- » Three new policy chapters out for comment, Aug–Dec 2014
 - > Chapter 6: Overview
 - > Chapter 7: Acquisition
 - > Chapter 8: Application, Prior Approvals, Reports
- » 825 comments from 23 State agencies, 7 FWS Regions, et al.
 - > Chapter 6: 53 comments, revised draft now online on FA Wiki
 - > Chapter 7: about 527 comments, revision underway
 - > Chapter 8: about 150 comments



Real Property Policy Next Steps

- » By May, FWS responses to comments on Chapters 7 & 8 will be posted, inviting alternatives to FWS responses.
- » July-Oct 2016: WSFR will meet with up to three State agencies at a time to explain policies and identify "fatal flaws."
- » Final policies must be approved by DOI Solicitor and DOI Office of Valuation Services.
- » Dec 2016 – Policies will be sent to FWS Director for approval.
- » 2017 – WSFR will begin development of a regulation based on the chapters, to include monitoring and disposition of real property, with a focus on gas & oil leases.



Real Property Policy Top Issues

- » FWS approval of decisions / products related to valuation
 - > Appraiser qualifications
 - > Estimate of market value, etc.
- » Chapters exceed requirements of regulations
- » Qualification standards for appraiser / review appraiser
- » Buying land for more than market value
- » Step-by-step sequence of acquisition procedures
- » Shelf life of an appraisal
- » Case-by-case exception authority



BIG & CVA Regulations

- » Published revised rule for Boating Infrastructure Grants (BIG) in May 2015
 - > Doubles max award for Tier 1-State grants to \$200K
 - > Worked well in 2016 competitive process
- » Developing revised rule for Clean Vessel Act grants (CVA)
 - > Analyzing input received thru Federal Register, fall 2015
 - > Expect a draft rule for informal review by late 2016
- » SFBPC agreed to convene technical group to advise FWS on emerging issues and technology



State and Tribal Wildlife Grants (\$ 1,000s)

	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017
	Enacted	Enacted	President's request
State Grants Formula	49,124	51,000	51,000
State Grants Competitive	5,487	5,487	9,981
Tribal Grants Competitive	4,084	4,084	6,000
Totals	58,695	60,571	66,981



State Wildlife Action Plan Revisions

- » States to review / revise SWAPs by October 1, 2015
- » Regional Review Teams recommend approval by FWS Director
- » 14 revised SWAPs approved to date: WY, NE, AZ, NV, KY, FL, TX, SD, MT, SC, CT, CA, ND, RI
- » States that have not submitted revised SWAP will not receive FY16 SWG funds until SWAP is submitted



HQ Grant Programs

	Type	HQ role	
CIAP	Formula	All functions	All grant activity to be complete by Dec '16
Multistate	Competitive (AFWA)	All functions except ranking	FY16 grants have all been awarded
BIG	Formula & competitive	Review / rank (w/ SFBPC)	FY16 awards to be announced this week
CVA	Competitive	Review / rank, Fed agency review	FY16 awards to be announced in April
Coastal Wetlands	Competitive	Review / rank (w/ FWS Coastal Program)	FY16 awards announced in January
SWG-C	Competitive	Review / rank	FY16 grants to be announced in May



Industry Trade Shows

WSFR booth at 2015 trade shows:

- > Archery Trade Association, January 8-10, Indianapolis, IN
- > SHOT Show, January 20-23, Las Vegas NV
- > ICAST/IFTD Show, July 14-17, Orlando, FL

Goal: Provide manufacturers up-to-date information on WSFR program and partnerships, and how excise taxes benefit conservation and public use

- » State fish and wildlife agencies provide staffing assistance and State perspective
- » Provide information on State success stories and outstanding projects



Stakeholder NGOs

- » International Hunter Education Association (IHEA)
- » Aquatic Resource Education Association (AREA)
- » States Organization for Boating Access (SOBA)

» NGO meetings provide forum for:

- > Cross-regional meetings of WSFR staff specialists
- > Networking with stakeholders
- > Training and input on policy and regulations
- > Understanding current techniques and technologies



National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation

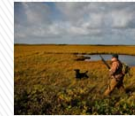
Conducted every 5 years since 1955 to measure participation and economic impact

Requested by the States and sponsored by FWS

U.S. Census Bureau has conducted all but the 1955 and 1975 National Surveys

Reliable *state-level data* collected since 1980

Since 2000 funded by Multistate Conservation Grants Program



2016 National Survey and 50-State Survey

National Survey

Same methodology to maintain comparability and trends

- » U.S. Census Bureau
 - > Computer-assisted interviews
 - > Telephone and in-person
- » U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 - > Coordinator
- » 4 States (OK, ME, MN, and VA)

50-State Survey

Mail data collection methodology

- » Rockville Institute
 - > Self-administered paper questionnaire
- » AFWA Technical Workgroup
 - > Overseer
 - > Comparison of methodologies by third party



Measuring WSFR Performance

WSFR Program Administration

WSFR Administrative Effectiveness Measures

Originally developed by JTF Sub-group, November, 2013; Currently being tested with 2015 data. **Tom Busiahn, Lead**

WSFR-Funded Projects

Outputs and Outcomes for WSFR Funded Projects

Methodology developed by AFWA for State Wildlife Grants. Currently in testing for application to all WSFR-funded projects. **Dan Hogan, Lead**

WSFR Program Purpose

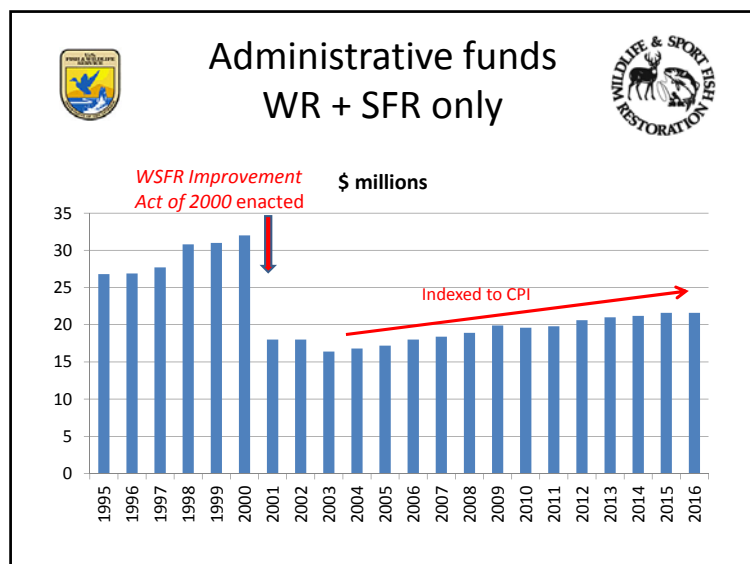
Outcomes for the WSFR Program

5-Year Report Framework approved by Asst Director; Baseline Report 2017; subsequent reports on program accomplishments every 5 years. **Karl Hess, Lead**

WSFR National Contribution

To Be Developed

WSFR documents contribution by sharing public data with agencies/entities that track conservation and recreation status and trends as a part of their mission. **Tim Smith interim contact; Lead TBD**



Administrative Effectiveness Measures

- Requested by AFWA and JTF to justify admin funding increase
- 26 measures across 9 categories
- Focus on things that are meaningful and measurable
- Testing underway with FY 2015 data
- Provisional goals set for FY 2016

Administrative Effectiveness Measures

1. Grant administration – time taken to award funds, close out grants
2. Policy development – timely update of policies
3. State capacity development – regional workshops & coordination efforts
4. FWS capacity & functional support – time to respond to state needs
5. Audit support – timely corrective action

Administrative Effectiveness Measures

6. Training - % of staff trained, # courses & slots
7. Workforce utilization - % of positions filled
8. Post-award monitoring - site visits, high-risk grantee monitoring
9. HQ audit measures – audits funded, time to review corrective actions

TRACS & Outcome Measurement

- TRACS is in place, meeting basic grant management needs
- 2017 enhancement will fulfill original vision...
 - Program accountability
 - Roll up and report on accomplishments
 - Document effectiveness systematically
- Based on AFWA's SWG "effectiveness measures"

TRACS & Outcome Measurement

- Requirements for data structure have been designed by TRACS Working Group
- Expect 12-15 months of programming
- Update training materials
- Project Level Outcomes ready for use in 3rd quarter of 2017
- All past & current training on TRACS remains valid

Programmatic Performance Report

- "5-year report" for short
- Baseline report in 2017 using currently available information from States
- 2022 and subsequent reports largely derived from TRACS
- Content: How are WSFR grant programs helping States to meet their goals for:
 - Fish & wildlife conservation
 - Recreation & public use

Programmatic Performance Report

- A set of "stories" that help to organize quantitative indicators of success across States
- Principles:
 - We know more than we think we do.
 - It is possible to summarize what we know.
 - We need a framework to provide common currency.
 - We must be flexible because information is not standardized now.
 - Create products of interest to important audiences.

WSFR Regional Offices



WSFR Regional Chiefs

- » Region 1 (Northwest) – Kathy Hollar
- » Region 2 (Southwest) – Cliff Schleusner
- » Region 3 (Midwest) – Jim Hodgson
- » Region 4 (Southeast) – Mike Piccirilli
- » Region 5 (Northeast) – Colleen Sculley
- » Region 6 (Mountain-Prairie) – Steve Jose
- » Region 7 (Alaska) – Steve Klein
- » Region 8 (Pacific Southwest) – Marie Strassburger



2015 Highlights – Midwest (Reg. 3)

TRACS: Training and hand-off of TRACS to the States. Three States have assumed TRACS work, a fourth will be completed shortly. All Region 3 States will be completing TRACS by October 1, 2016.

ESA consultation challenge: Listing of Northern Long-eared bats requires more consultation with ES Field Offices, further increasing turn-around time on grant approvals.

2015 Highlights – Southeast (Reg. 4)

- » **Hunter Education:** \$20.7 million in Sec. 4 and Sec. 10 grants to construct, renovate, or maintain 93 firearm and archery shooting ranges.
- » **Land Acquisition:** 18,112 acres of fee-title terrestrial habitat protected.
- » **Boating Infrastructure Grants:** \$296K for four Tier 1 projects in GA, MS, NC, and SC. Eight Tier 2 awards totaling \$4.2 million. Many projects delayed by ESA consultation with NOAA.
- » **Boating Access:** \$2.5 million obligated; current Regional allocations at 14.6%. Challenges include completion of environmental compliance. Working with the Army COE and NOAA to develop programmatic consultations.
- » **TRACS:** As of October all state agencies registered and entering new grants and reports into TRACS. WSFR and States submitted 1,226 project statements and 465 performance reports in TRACS.

2015 Highlights – Northeast (Reg. 5)

- » **Staffing:** Full staffing after years of significant vacancies. Focused on training new staff & addressing backlogs for TRACS & land reconciliation.
- » **Land acquisition:** More than 7,000 acres of habitat protected, mostly with PR funds. Huge increase in land acquisition due primarily to the PR bump.
- » **TRACS:** Looking forward to a briefings and conversations about TRACS at the Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference in April.
- » **State Wildlife Action Plans:** Expect to complete 9 SWAP reviews in FY16.



2015 Highlights – Pacific SW (Reg. 8)

- » **Coastal Wetlands:** Completion of \$1M Sonoma Creek Enhancement project in CA, benefiting ESA-listed Ridgeway Rail and Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse plus migratory birds and other tidal marsh species.
- » **Audits:** OIG audited CVA program in CA Division of Boating & Waterways. Four of 5 findings resolved by November. Nevada DOW audit report received in September with no findings.
- » **Challenges in land acquisition:** Lack of State and FWS staff results in:
 - > Lack of good inventory of lands: grant -funded lands, nonfederal match , license-funded, and lack of regular reconciliation of inventory
 - > Sellers pull out due to long time between grant award and purchase.
 - > Appraisals must be redone due to the passage of time;
 - > Lack of monitoring of purchased lands leads to:
 - + Inappropriate use (homeless encampments, trails, dumping)
 - + Disposal of property w/o authorization & compensation to the Program
 - + Accrual of tax debt on FA-funded property; possible tax liens.



Thanks for your attention!

KEEP OUR WATER CLEAN--USE PUMPOUTS

Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program

