WILDLIFE VIEWING AND NATURE TOURISM WORKING GROUP Chair: Shelly Plante
Tuesday, March 21, 2023
88th North American Wildlife & Natural Resources Conference

3:15pm Call to order, introductions, and review of agenda
Shelly Plante - chair of working group
Sign in passed around and agenda
Introductions

3:30pm Multi-State Conservation Grants

- 2021 Grant - just came off of this grant (gave presentations on national results in Fall 2022)
- 2023 Grant - now diving into (includes Community of Practice to work with 19 states/territories to implement projects based on recommendations from Wildlife Viewer Survey)
- June Pathways conference - very involved in and have handouts with more information
- Upcoming Academy in 2024: in Duck, NC February 19-23, 2024
- "Wildlife viewer survey enhancing relevancy and engaging support from a broader constituency" was the title of the grant
- Encourage others to read report or watch the recorded webinar with main points (report and webinar links located in bottom right corner of WVNT Working Group page on AFWA site: https://www.fishwildlife.org/afwa-acts/afwa-committees/wildlife-viewing-nature-tourism-working-group)
- Read executive survey at front and read conclusions at the back summary that reveal the recommendations if the full survey length is intimidating
- Areas between the executive summary and conclusions have meat of information to dive deeper into
- To prepare for the survey a literature review, QR code provided, lit review went over all wildlife viewer survey information from other surveys from the past 10 years. It is condensed to highlight the salient points to take back to agencies (link for lit review available on Working Group's AFWA page as well)
- Survey itself, QR code, available online. Data is also available online for national and regional data from the 4 AFWA regions
- Information from survey can also be accessed from webinar

Multi-State Conservation Grants For 2023

- Implementing Recommendations from Wildlife viewer Survey
  - From that, building a Community of Practice (group of people who interact with each other on an ongoing basis to share knowledge, resources, experience and expertise about a common interest)
  - There are 19 member states and territories including Yukon
  - Committed to doing a project that supports one of the recommendations from the Wildlife Viewer Survey and 5 buckets of project ideas. People can work with others States that are also working with others that are working on same buckets.
  - The states are doing some project to engage the community, brainstorming together and communicating
- Those doing revenue generating project for their states through wildlife viewers will try to find a way for wildlife viewers to engage with their state agencies through some type of monetary support of the agency. Those states will be working together to create a brain trust of whats working and whats not working, troubleshooting and working through the red tape of the state agency
- Process has been great. Had first two monthly calls
- Virginia Tech has been the organization that have received the most from the MultiState Grant and the working group is partner. Va Tech is guiding the process.
  - Will hold monthly community practice meetings
  - May 31 - All day in person work session at Pathways Conference June 1 - Ft Collins, Co
  - Collaborating with Va Tech to create a project plan, share progress and by end of the year hope to have a fully implemented project
  - Community of practice will give 19 unique projects that a state agency or territory have implemented based on the recommendations from the survey.
  - The results will show how it worked out, what it looked like. So that other organizations (state, federal, nonprofits, etc) can get ideas and good examples of how people are putting research into action; will be presented in a website/story map at the end of the project

Topics with the 5 Buckets

  - Develop programs to engage Viewers
  - Connect with BIPOC and underserved audiences
  - Develop opportunities for viewers to financiall support agencies

- Provide information to wildlife viewers
- Promote around-the-home wildlife viewing.

Other Project Components -
- Online Viewing information Platform - Create a website, that will house all research, literature and reports and case studies from the 19 states and territories
- Share wildlife viewing materials
- Urban viewers analysis with researchers to do a deeper dive
- Presentations of Wildlife Viewer Survey results - ACI, wildlife society, and getting in front of wider audiences.

Upcoming Events
- 2023 Pathways Conference: Managing Wildlife in an Era of Mutualism - May 31-June 2, 2023, Fort Collins, CO
- https://sites.warnercnr.colostate.edu/pathways/ - WVNT panels and sessions

Some Approved Pathway Sessions that our working group submitted -
- Multistate Survey of Wildlife Viewers, Research and Application (Va Tech presenting and States talking about what they are doing)
- Encouraging BIPOC Viewers the importance of support and identity
- Implementing equity and inclusion in the outdoors (w/ alex pradross?/ Diana Presgiacoma)
- Wildlife viewing survey benefits from a state agency perspective (Florida)
- Wildlife Viewing plan (Virginia) - Research in Action, Implementing a community of practice
- Long distance relationships, promoting ethical wildlife viewing
- Working with Underserved Communities
- Innovative engaged through state wildlife viewing programs

5th Wildlife Viewing and Nature Tourism Academy: Duck, North Carolina - February 19-23, 2024
- www.wvntacademy.com - **website**
- Submissions **for Proposals discussion**
  - June 16th deadline.
  - End of July - will inform of proposal selection

Registration
- End of October to Early Bird rates to Registration
- Must pay for own registration

Archives found on website
- past presentations

Additional Information
- field experiences - Nature tourism

Ongoing communication tools
- Webinars, - bit.ly/3Ks38zs
- Email lists
- Facebook Group
- eBird
- Restore the Wild - Virginia's membership program for non-game people
- Monthly Calls - talk about whats coming up and whats going on with the state

Adjourn