



WILDLIFE DIVERSITY CONSERVATION & FUNDING COMMITTEE

IN-PERSON MEETING

Chair: Jenny Dickson, Connecticut Dept. of Energy & Environmental Protection

Vice Chair: Debbie Colbert, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Tuesday September 23rd 1:15 pm to 3:15 pm (MT)

Room: Canyon Ballroom 4

115th Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Annual Meeting (Tucson, AZ)

Committee Charge: *Advocate for long-term dedicated funding and annual appropriations for the conservation of species of greatest conservation need, nature-based recreation, and conservation education and support development, implementation, and revision of State Wildlife Action Plans.*

AGENDA (ET)

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| 1:15PM | Welcome & Introductions-Chairwoman Jenny Dickson, CTDEEP & Vice Chairwoman Debbie Colbert ODFW |
| 1:25PM | Overview of the Arizona Game and Fish Wildlife Diversity Program-Tom Jones, AGFD |
| 1:40PM | Pollinator and Invertebrate Working Group Update-Ross Winton, WDFW & Skye Bruce, AFWA |
| 1:55PM | Update on Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Coordination-Jenny Dickson, CTDEEP |
| 2:00PM | Discussion Topic #1: State Wildlife Action Plan Revision and Approval-Mark Humpert, AFWA |
| 2:15PM | Discussion Topic #2: A Vision for Wildlife Diversity Conservation-Jenny Dickson, CTDEEP; Debbie Colbert, ODFW; Mark Humpert, AFWA |
| | <u>Action:</u> Approve report and resolution (attached) |
| 2:40PM | Tracking State Wildlife Action Plan Implementation-All |
| 2:50PM | Next Steps for Wildlife Diversity Conservation-Jenny Dickson, CTDEEP |
| 3:00PM | NatureServe InSite Program-Anne Bowser, NatureServe |
| 3:15PM | Adjourn |

RESOLUTION 2025-XX-XX

A VISION FOR WILDLIFE DIVERSITY CONSERVATION IN THE FUTURE

WHEREAS, many populations of native reptiles, amphibians, fishes, insects, mussels, birds, mammals, plants and other taxa are declining, as documented in the State of the Birds Report, State of the Bats Report, and other reports including a National Wildlife Federation publication that estimated $\frac{1}{3}$ of all U.S. species are facing an increased risk of extinction; and

WHEREAS, State fish and wildlife agencies (“agencies”) play a leading role in conserving the nation’s wildlife diversity, which is intertwined with the health and well-being of the Nation’s communities and economy; and

WHEREAS, this year marks the 25th anniversary of the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants program, which provides agencies with critical funding to proactively conserve a wide variety of species, address declining species, eliminate the need for additional listings under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and aid in the recovery of ESA-listed species; and

WHEREAS, this year marks the 20th anniversary of the launch of the first science-based and collaboratively developed State Wildlife Action Plans (SWAPs) that are blueprints for conserving over 12,000 species of greatest conservation need (SGCN) nationwide; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other partners have been crucial in supporting and collaborating with state fish and wildlife agencies to develop and support implementation of State Wildlife Action Plans; and

WHEREAS, a lack of dedicated and sustained funding for agencies remains the largest obstacle to conserving thousands of SGCN identified in SWAPs; and

WHEREAS, state wildlife diversity program managers provided input into a Wildlife Diversity Visioning Report, which calls for a future where wildlife and the natural world are cherished as vital national treasures and flourish through well-funded collaborative conservation led by state fish and wildlife agencies and partners.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (Association) adopts the findings, conclusions, and recommendations in the Wildlife Diversity Visioning Report; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Association shall lead efforts to raise awareness of, promote the use of, and secure funding for implementation of the third generation of State Wildlife Action Plans.

Submitted by the Wildlife Diversity Conservation and Funding Committee