



SCIENCE AND RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Chair: Dr. David Yoskowitz, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Vice Chair: Jason Sumners, Missouri Department of Conservation

Monday September 22, 2025

3:30PM-5:30PM (MT)

Room: Grand Ballroom 2

115th AFWA Annual Meeting (Tucson, AZ)

Committee Charge: The Science and Research Committee is responsible for keeping the Association informed of the ecological research and information needs of the States and managing a process for addressing those needs through a variety of mechanisms, including enhanced Federal-State partnerships.

Meeting Agenda

<u>Time (MT)</u>	<u>Agenda Item</u>
3:30 PM	Introductions & Review Agenda-David Yoskowitz, TPWD
3:40 PM	Social Science Subcommittee Update-Mike Quartuch, CPW
3:55 PM	Update on USGS Ecosystem Mission Area & the Cooperative Research Unit Strategic Plan-Kevin Pope, USGS
4:10 PM	Update on USFWS Science Applications-Jason Sumners, MDOC
4:25 PM	Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning-David Yoskowitz, TPWD & Darin Moore VDWR -Update on AI/ML Survey (see questions on back) -AI/ML user examples & shared learning experiences
4:45 PM	NASA Earth Science Division & NASA-funded WMI Project Updates-Jessica Burnett & Janet Nackoney, NASA
5:05 PM	One Health Committee Update-Jason Sumners, MDOC
5:10 PM	‘Hot’ Science & Research Topics-All
5:20 PM	Discuss Annual Work Plan Priorities-Jason Sumners, MDOC
5:30 PM	Adjourn

Potential Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning Research Questions

1. **Current Use**
How is your agency currently using Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML)? Please describe examples, including both successes and challenges.
2. **Future Plans**
In what ways does your agency anticipate using AI and ML in the next 5–10 years?
3. **Challenges & Concerns**
What do you see as the greatest challenges, risks, or concerns related to your agency's use of AI and ML?
4. **Policies & Oversight**
What policies, guidelines, or oversight mechanisms does your agency have in place for AI and ML?
5. **Technologies in Use**
Which tools, platforms, or technologies does your agency use to implement AI and ML?
6. **Organizational Placement**
Within your agency, where are AI and ML activities housed (e.g., IT, research, data science, operations)?
7. **Limitations**
Are there applications of AI and ML that your agency has chosen not to pursue? If so, why?
8. **Training & Skills**
Does your agency provide training or require specific skill sets for staff working with AI and ML?
9. **Staffing & Positions**
Has your agency created new positions or hired staff to support the use of AI and ML?
10. **Data Standards**
Does your agency have standards, requirements, or prerequisites for datasets before they can be used in AI and ML projects?
11. **Support Needs**
How can the AFWA Science and Research and AFWA Conservation Business Practices Committees and the AFWA Technology & Data Subcommittee best support your agency's use of AI and ML?
12. **Partnerships & Collaboration**
Is your agency collaborating with other agencies, universities, or private sector organizations on AI and ML projects? If so, how?
13. **Ethics & Equity**
How does your agency consider ethical, cultural, or equity concerns when applying AI and ML to fish and wildlife conservation?
14. **Data Security & Privacy**
What measures does your agency take to ensure data privacy, security, and responsible use of AI and ML?
15. **Outcomes & Evaluation**
How does your agency measure the effectiveness or success of AI and ML applications? Be specific when describing your evaluation methods and account for both internal input (i.e., process improvements and efficiencies) and external input (i.e., customer/constituent feedback)."
16. **Barriers to Adoption**
What barriers (e.g., funding, staff expertise, technology, data availability) limit your agency's ability to use AI and ML?
17. **Vision & Opportunities**
What opportunities do you see for AI and ML to transform fish and wildlife conservation in the future?
18. **Communication**
In what ways did your agency communicate-both internally and externally-when/if adopted specific AI and ML technologies and applications?