



ASSOCIATION of  
FISH & WILDLIFE  
AGENCIES

# BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

## ABOUT AFWA

The Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies is the “states’ rights” advocate. Collectively, members work to protect state authority for fish and wildlife conservation; elevate science-based management; and strengthen state, federal and private cooperation in conserving America’s natural resources in the public interest.

Members represent the interests of state fish and wildlife agencies on Capitol Hill and before the Administration to advance favorable fish and wildlife conservation policy and funding. Members also collaborate on cross-cutting as well as species-based issues that range from birds, fish habitat, climate change and energy development to state wildlife action plans, conservation education, leadership training and international relations.

The Association leverages every **\$1** contributed by states with an additional **\$4** attained from other sources to promote our collective mission. The return on investment exceeds **100-fold** for each state in terms of the **hundreds of millions** of federal conservation dollars safeguarded by the Association that are provided to state fish and wildlife agencies annually.

## FISH & WILDLIFE FUNDING

The American system of conservation funding through federal excise taxes and license sales has been the successful model for many years. However, as state agencies face ever-shifting natural, financial, political and social environments, it is clear that AFWA’s work to capture funding from the full array of public beneficiaries is crucial.

AFWA focuses on two, primary initiatives to secure and sustain comprehensive and dedicated funding for fish and wildlife conservation: (1) Protect and Enhance Trust Funds, including the Wildlife and Sportfish Restoration and Boating Safety Trust Funds and strengthen support in Congress and the Administration for fish and wildlife excise tax laws; (2) Secure Conservation Funding, which includes the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, the Farm Bill and the Endangered Species Act; as well as secure conservation funding as address new, emerging or nationally significant issues.

*More specifically, some of the key funding opportunities AFWA seeks and coordinates includes:*

Farm Bill - Wildlife and Sportfish Restoration & Boating Trust Funds - State & Tribal Wildlife Grants - Multistate Conservation Grant Program - The Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America’s Fish & Wildlife Diversity

## POLICY & LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

In the U.S. and abroad, AFWA provides a direct, two-way link from the ground to the top levels of government to promote state authority and interests in laws, regulations, court proceedings and policies that enhance and protect state agencies’ ability to conserve and manage fish and wildlife resources and their habitats, consistent with the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation.

The Association focuses on four policy and legislative advocacy initiatives: (1) Protect State Management Authority; (2) Build Congressional Support for State Agencies; (3) Secure Authorization/ Reauthorization of Legislation; and (4) Influence the Administration.

*Some of the key advocacy opportunities AFWA engages on include:*

Congressional Legislation/ Budget Sequestration/ Appropriations/ Sportsmen’s Issues/Reauthorizations - Federal Agency Coordination - International Representation/CITES/ Trapping Standards - Legal Strategy/ Counsel/Wildlife Law

Founded in 1902, the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies represents North America’s fish and wildlife agencies to advance science-based management and conservation of species and their habitats for the public’s long-term benefit and use.  
[www.fishwildlife.org](http://www.fishwildlife.org) @fishwildlife



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## Join Us

How can you help the Association advance a North American fish and wildlife conservation agenda?

- 1) Reach out to your state's Members of Congress when the Association sends a legislative action alert.
- 2) Nominate your agency staff to participate on AFWA committees, subcommittees and working groups.
- 3) Agree to serve as a chair or vice chair on an AFWA committee, subcommittee or working group; participate on a Task Force.
- 4) Talk to other state agency directors in your region about the work of the Association.
- 5) Introduce us to attorneys who may be interested in our Legal Strategy's Pro Bono Attorney Network.
- 6) Enhance your agency's professional leadership development with MAT courses and nominations to the National Conservation Leadership Institute.
- 7) Participate in AFWA's bi-annual directors' forums and business meetings held in March and September.
- 8) Recognize your agency's outstanding staff and programs by submitting an AFWA Annual Award nomination.
- 9) Tell us how we can serve you better.



### Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies

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## COORDINATE CONSERVATION INITIATIVES

AFWA coordinates and facilitates fish and wildlife conservation initiatives among state, provincial, territorial and federal agencies and other partners to enable conservation delivery on a national and international scale.

The Association focuses on three partnership initiatives: (1) Develop and Strengthen Strategic Conservation and Science-oriented Partnerships; (2) Build International Partnerships; and (3) Support National Outreach and Education Initiatives.

*Some of the key partnership-building opportunities AFWA facilitates include:*

**EMERGING ISSUES:** By coordinating conservation-based partnerships, AFWA is tackling today's pressing issues including climate change, fish and wildlife diseases, invasive species, marine/ocean policy and strategic landscape-level management.

**SPECIES-BASED CONSERVATION:** The Association supports professional fish and wildlife management especially concerning the conservation of birds, herpetofauna and fisheries resources as well as coordinating the National Fish Habitat Partnership, State Wildlife Action Plans, Southern Wings and the states' involvement in the U.S. North American Bird Conservation Initiative and the American Wind Wildlife Institute.

**HUNTER/ANGLER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION:** The Association is actively involved with the archery, hunting, shooting sports, boating and sportfishing industries to support the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation to strengthen agency-industry support for sportsmen and women recruitment and retention.

**CONSERVATION EDUCATION:** Designed by state agency experts for state agencies, the North American Conservation Education (CE) Strategy delivers unified, research-based core concepts and messages about fish and wildlife conservation, translated into K-12 academic standards to shape students' environmental literacy, stewardship and outdoor skills.

## MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT & COORDINATION

AFWA is committed to supporting its members by (1) Raising member awareness of AFWA's value to State, Provincial and Territorial Fish and Wildlife Agency Conservation; (2) Provide Professional Development; and (3) Provide Organizational Development and Management Opportunities and Training.

*More specifically, some of the key membership opportunities the Association offers includes:*

**MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE TEAM (MAT):** AFWA's Management Assistance Team provides a variety of services that focus on the human rather than the biological side of state fish and wildlife agencies. MAT offers highly interactive online professional development courses and conservation leadership certification, which affords state agencies with greater options for promoting employee leadership growth.

**NATIONAL CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE (NCLI):** World-class leadership training is available to state agencies to help foster tomorrow's conservation champions. Each year, NCLI offers a program valued at **\$550,000+** for 36 Fellows nominated by state agency directors, NGOs and industry CEOs. While training of this caliber would typically cost upwards to \$24,000 per person for 13 days, NCLI secures sponsors to keep tuition fees at **\$3,750** per state agency participant, subsidizing nearly **\$12,000** for the seven-month program. The Institute features internationally recognized instructors from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government as well as authors and experts with established credentials in the field of leadership.

**ANNUAL MEETING:** The Association holds an Annual Meeting for committees to discuss issues and advance positions and resolutions for full membership adoption. The Association also presents its prestigious Annual Awards honoring leaders in conservation stewardship.

**COMMUNICATIONS:** AFWA publishes a monthly e-newsletter, the **Directors' Line**, for agency heads featuring legislative news, program updates and more. **The AFWA Strategist** is released quarterly, highlighting the top priorities for the organization.