

WVNT WG
Attendees = 30
September 23, 2019

Call to order/ review agendas/ Introductions

Work Plan Review

- If you want to be part of this working group, please email Shelly (shelly.plante@tpwd.texas.gov)
- Monthly calls
 - Doesn't mean you are a WG members, but can participate in the monthly calls to be in the loop and engage when you can
 - Would love to have participating from all 50 states; brainstorming and bringing different opinions to the group to have value added to this group
- Review of accomplishments over the past year (listed in work plan)
- Will be having a workshop at next year's annual meeting in September, as well as the WVNT Academy in Florida in February 2020 → different fiscal years, same calendar year
- If we're missing something (accomplishments) listed on the work plan, please let Shelly know so we can add it
- WVNT Academy registration now open → Feb 2020 is the Academy
 - Early Bird Registration Deadline: October 31, 2019
 - Info at www.wvntacademy.com
 - Looking for presentations, especially for the 'Ignite' section
 - May help you get travel approval is you're presenting an Ignite session
 - These presentations are only 5 minutes long – 20 slides
 - Submitting a session proposal for Ignite should only take about 10 minutes on our simple online form (<https://www.wvntacademy.com/cfignite.html>)
 - Doing a 'hack-a-thon' → an idea out of last year's academy
 - Looking for ideas on universal or specific WVNT issues/problems people are struggling with so we can brainstorm in groups ideas to help
 - Only 150 people can register for the academy
 - This conference is every other year

Relevancy Road Map- Elsa (USFWS)

- This is a product of a resolution passed at last year's AFWA Annual Meeting
- Looking at barriers to diversity & inclusion in the fish and wildlife agency framework
 - Help with internal barriers
 - Help reach external audiences → reach broader constituencies
- Identified possible barriers, and came up with strategies and tactics to overcome their barriers
 - Very comprehensive
- It's still in draft form, but should be finalized soon
 - Once finalized it will be available for public consumption
 - Meant to be a living document
- Not meant to be prescriptive

- Scalable strategies and actions
- Should have something in there for everyone
- Looking for feedback from state fish and wildlife agency staff
- Q → how can this be filtered down within an agency
 - A → will be different in every state; it will be sent out to the state directors; the hope is to have each state agency create a team that can try to identify some of these barriers and look at the strategies and tactics to overcome them by using the Relevancy Road Map document
- Look to use this road map and use it in your every-day work plan
- This will be coming mostly from the director down

Outdoor Recreation Roundtable [in Virginia]

- Virginia is the newest state to create an 'Office of Outdoor Recreation':
<https://outdoorindustry.org/advocacy/state-local-issues/state-offices-outdoor-recreation/>
- Promote the outdoor industry and tourism in every state
- This comes from the governor's office
- Looks at business recruitment, business expansion, promote assets and industry, coordinate agencies work with industry
- Look at the outdoor industry association at outdoorindustry.org
- We wanted to get this on everyone radar, especially if this exists in your state so you can touch base and become involved in this roundtable – have the state agencies at the table

EOD-WDCF Joint WG update

- We have a meeting at 3:30pm in this room
- Please come for discussions
- Need more EOD engagement

Upcoming webinars

- We had a number of webinars over the past year
- Look for some potential ideas this fall and winter
 - We have some flexibility with time
 - We publicize and run the webinar; but need presenters and commitment to present
- It really helps spread the word on some great things the states are doing
- We get the word out about the webinars through AFWA networks and other email lists from people involved with the working group
- Might look at having the Outdoor Industry Association give a webinar on what they do, partnerships, etc
 - Also a good way to show that state agencies make good partners with these efforts

State agency updates

- National Bat Week is the last week of October
 - Wildlife Habitat Council (WHC) will be having webinars coming out → stay tuned
 - Check out the WHC website for more information, dates, etc