



ASSOCIATION of
FISH & WILDLIFE
AGENCIES

AFWA FERAL & FREE-RANGING CAT WORK GROUP
Co-Chair: Sara Schweitzer (North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission)
Co-Chair: Colin Gillin (Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife)

84th North American Wildlife & Natural Resources Conference
Sheraton Denver Downtown, Denver, CO

Thursday, March 07, 2019, 8:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Report to Bird Conservation Committee II

- Twenty-two (22) people attended our meeting, representing 7 state agencies, 5 federal agencies, the Canadian Wildlife Service, 5 non-governmental organizations, and 1 academic institution.
- There are **no actions** coming from this Working Group meeting, only information items.
- The minutes from our September 2018 meeting were reviewed and approved before we discussed new business.
- Lane Kisonak of AFWA provided a written summary of his work with the **State Wildlife Law Project** but was unable to attend our meeting due to a conflict. By spring 2019, this project's **library of statutes** will be updated and **will include the topic of feral and free-ranging cats**. The library is accessible online, and metrics are used to determine activity. So far, there have been 775 visits to the site, and 135 users have book-marked it, indicating increased interest.
- Members of this WG will get the **FFRC WG page** linked to the State Law Project page, as well as our partners' sites (e.g., American Bird Conservancy, The Wildlife Society, Flyway Councils, and others). Creating these links will increase visibility of the FFRC WG page and the work we have posted on it.
- Grant Sizemore reviewed recent **policies** put forward by states, as well as **legal actions**. Of note, there are 3 state bills (NJ, SC, VT) under consideration that would sanction and fund trap-neuter-release (TNR) as the approved method of managing feral and free-ranging cats.
 - The case, **Jones Beach State Park, New York vs. the American Bird Conservancy** was decided in December 2018 in ABC's favor. All cats in the colony at Jones Beach SP had to be removed to protect the federally-listed Piping Plover. This is the first case in which the Endangered Species Act was used to protect a federally-listed species from free-ranging cats.
 - On January 29, 2019, **Hawaii's Invasive Species Council passed Resolution 19-2**, supporting the keeping of pet cats indoors and the use of peer-reviewed science in pursuing humane mitigation of the impacts of feral cats on wildlife and people. The resolution was signed by representatives from the Department of Land and Natural Resources; Department of Agriculture; Department of Health; Department of Transportation; Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; and University of Hawaii.
- Ashley Gramza of Arkansas Fish and Game is **beginning analyses of data from the survey this WG distributed in 2018**. A couple key messages from survey responses were state agency's interest in this AFWA WG providing BMPs for dealing with feral and free-ranging cats, and outreach materials.
- Colin Gillin led the discussion about **BMP and technical report development**. WG members identified chapters and people who would draft material for each. We discussed the primary topics to be included, acknowledging that the document could be updated as needed after the first version. The WG would plan to have rough drafts of each chapter completed before July 01, 2019 and present the first version at the September 2019 AFWA meetings.
- **The Feral and Free-Ranging Cat Work Group requests approval to move forward with the BMP and Technical Report.**