

Migratory Shorebird and Upland Game Bird Working Group  
March 7, 2019  
Denver, Colorado  
Meeting Notes

HIP Updates

Shaun Oldenburger provided an update Document that came up through the dove task force to improve HIP. A multi-state PR grant was awarded to WMI to take charge of this project and move forward with a number of volunteer states. They are still looking for additional central flyway and pacific flyway states. They will work with IT staff, working with communications, working with directors, etc. Many/most states have some sort of HIP issue, and this project has the potential to help with some of those issues. Chairmanship of that working group has gone to Karen Waltrop in Kentucky, with Josh from Arizona as the new vice-chair. The big part of this change is to remove the 3<sup>rd</sup> party vendor from the equation, no questions asked at the point-of-sale. NOI just got to WMI to this week, so the timeline is probably implementation in 2020. Dr Dave Otis did the analysis looking at the HIP questions a few years back, which should be something the HIP WG looks at some point as well.

Webless Research Program Updates

Ken Richkus provided an update on these funds. In 2017, they did do an RFP and funded some crane survey work. In 2018, they did not do a RFP, but had the same 50K. This year the same \$50,000 is in the budget, so there will be \$100K total to spend. FWS should have an RFP published by late next week. It remains a line item in the budget, with hope at some point in the future the amount can increase. Projects selected based on priority information needs documents, review committee. Shaun – thanks to FWS for keeping that as a line item in there when not easy to do.

Follow up question from Ken and Discussion, Is it worth only considering every 2 years with 100K like has just happened recently, or do every year if it is only 50K? From that discussion,

**Action item - go back to flyways to seek input if webless funding should be made available every two years so more funds are available for projects or stick with the annual cycle we have had in the past.**

Interior Band-tailed Pigeon Management Plan Update

The plan has been updated, which includes some new analysis. The update was approved by both Central and Pacific Flyway Councils.

National Dove Task Force Update

Rich Schultheis provided an update to activities of the group. Issues discussed at the last meeting include the potential of an integrated population model for mourning doves, reward banding, and status of the priority information needs update. A draft list of the priority information needs was presented. The goal is to have a draft document to discuss with this group by the fall AFWA meetings. Questions on multi-stock management, the value of scale of economic impact, and the importance of R3 data were discussed.

Woodcock Task Force Update

Al Stewart provided a summary of the woodcock task force meeting this week, including a discussion of young forest initiatives. Brent from American woodcock society discussed coordination with states, where opportunities might be for that initiative.

Al also mentioned the current effort to review the woodcock harvest strategy, including thresholds and framework dates. There have been a few calls, and the group will reconvene shortly to move forward. Woodcock symposium – organizers are finishing up the proceedings now. They are close to finished with this effort. They will meet in April to finalize everything.

#### East Coast Woodcock Telemetry Project

Al Steward presented slides summarizing a project tracking woodcock marked in the east that was also presented at the woodcock task force meeting. 112 birds have been marked so far, and the project is still ongoing. It includes birds in winter/spring to track movement back north.

Questions were asked regarding if work is looking at land coverage of habitats, conservation work on the wintering grounds, and what mid-latitude stopover locations looked like.

#### NAWCA

**There was discussion, and then approval of the resolution to support reauthorization of NAWCA is coming from the Waterfowl Working Group.**

#### NABCI

Alicia went to her first meeting in July as the chair of this group. As things come up, she may be reaching out to this group for input/comments to most appropriately represent this group. NABCI list of priorities has been formed, including 5 themes. The state of the birds report is in the works, including some discussion of RAWA and role it might have. Dr. Jessica Barnes is working on HD work for this group. The typical meeting didn't happen because of the shutdown. There will be a session at TWS to discuss the NABCI priorities, contact Jeff Walsh if you're interested in presenting.

#### MCCS

Shaun is working up final report on the dove modified call count survey project. He plans to rerun the analysis before finalizing everything. The goal is by late summer, which could potentially mean he can provide a final summary to this group at AFWA this fall.

#### Vice Chair

Alicia asked for permission to fill vice chair. Previously it was Dave Morrison.