



## FISH AND WILDLIFE TRUST FUNDS COMMITTEE

**Chair:** Bryan Burhans (PA)

**Vice-Chair:** J.D Strong (OK)

**September 9, 2021**

**10:00 AM – 1:00PM EST**

### **111th Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Annual Meeting**

Bryan Burhans chaired the meeting. 49 participants in attendance.

- Call to Order, Introductions, Announcements, and Agenda Review – **Bryan Burhans**

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM.

- Approval of the March 2021 Meeting Minutes

The committee approved the meeting minutes from March 9, 2021.

#### **Scheduled Discussion Items**

- Legislative Updates/RAWA – **Kurt Thiede/Sean Saville, AFWA**

**Bipartisan Infrastructure Package Passes Senate** - On August 10, the Senate passed the bipartisan *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* ([HR 3684](#)) by a vote of 69-30. While the fate of the legislation is uncertain, this would authorize historic funding for conservation, and critical programs would be reauthorized, including the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund and the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund. Funding includes \$1 billion directly for hydroconnectivity / barrier removal programs at NOAA and USFWS, with \$800 million set aside for a new competitive grant program for anadromous fish, the long-supported Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program would be established beginning with \$60 million in FY22 and increasing to \$80 million in FY26, \$100 million would be authorized to the DOI and USDA for invasive species detection, prevention, and eradication, and \$400 million for the DOI to provide grants to states, territories, and tribes for voluntary ecosystem restoration projects on private or public land.

**FY22 Budget Resolution** - On August 9, the Senate Budget Committee released an [FY22 Budget Resolution Agreement Framework](#) with reconciliation instructions directing 12 Senate committees to report legislation consistent with the \$3.5 trillion topline figure agreed to in July. Reconciliation bills can change laws affecting mandatory spending and/or tax revenue, and in the Senate, only require a simple majority for passage.

The Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry received instruction of \$135 billion for spending on "agriculture conservation, drought, and forestry programs to help reduce carbon emissions and prevent wildfires," among other things. Sen. Stabenow is [reportedly](#) pushing to nearly double conservation spending by providing \$50 billion in additional funding for farm bill conservation programs over 10 years, potentially increasing baseline funding available in future farm bills.

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources received an instruction of \$198 billion, revised to include DOI funding. The last minute inclusion of DOI programs in the budget resolution comes at the urging of AFWA via American Wildlife Conservation Partners (AWCP), [13 Western Democratic Senators](#), and House Natural Resources Democrats.

The Senate adopted the resolution on August 11; the House cut its recess short to pass the resolution on August 24. The resolution requires Committees to submit legislation to the Budget Committee by September 15. The recommendations will be packaged together by the Budget Committees upon reporting the legislation into an omnibus reconciliation bill.

Moderate Democrats in the House threatened to break the narrow Democratic majority by voting against the resolution unless the infrastructure vote came first. Democratic leadership agreed to hold the infrastructure vote no later than September 27, a few days before surface transportation authorizations are set to expire October 1

**Reconciliation – House Natural Resources Committee Markup** - The House Natural Resources markup began on September 2. As it currently stands, the HNR reconciliation bill includes major priorities for conservation and state agencies that have been years in the making. This includes \$250 million for aquatic ecosystem restoration, \$150 million for federal priority stream gages, \$9.5 billion for coastal and great lakes restoration, \$400 million for the Pacific salmon recovery fund, and \$250 million for grants to states and tribes for marine hatcheries. \$150 million is included for USFWS ESA recovery, with an amendment adopted in markup devoting \$75 million of those funds for developing CCAs and CCAAs for candidate and other at-risk species. Specific language is included to implement the Fish and Wildlife Act and Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, with \$100 million for grasslands restoration and \$10 million for mapping and assisting conservation and restoration of wildlife corridors.

**FY22 Appropriations** - On July 29, the House voted along party lines to pass a \$620 million package of seven appropriations bills, including the Agriculture, Energy and Water Development, and Interior and Environment bills. The House Appropriations Committee has advanced all 12 of its bills using a split on nondefense and defense programs. The Agriculture and Interior-Environment bills provide for 12% and 20% year over year increases in discretionary spending, respectively. However, none of these bills are expected to pass as written in the evenly-divided Senate.

On July 27, the Senate Appropriations Committee advanced the FY22 Agriculture, Energy and Water, and Military Construction and Veterans Affairs spending bill, with the remaining nine bills planned to receive consideration before the end of September. Given the length of the recess and the impending September 30 deadline, a stopgap spending bill to avoid a partial government shutdown seems likely.

#### **AFWA Pursuing Changes for Abandoned Mine Drainage Funding**

While we were pleased to see reauthorization for the Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Program included in the *Infrastructure and Jobs Investment Act* passed by the Senate, as well as an additional \$11.3 billion authorized for the fund, we are actively pursuing amendments that would allow AML funds to be used on all Acid Mine Drainage projects and make funds eligible for states' set-aside accounts. Several state agencies in AMD states sent a letter to the House committees of jurisdiction requesting these amendments. Discussions continue regarding Senate outreach strategy, and we encourage states to reach out to their delegations supporting these changes.

#### **Recovering America's Wildlife Act (H.R.2773/S.2372) Update**

##### **Senate**

- Major news on the legislative front is the introduction of the bipartisan Senate bill ([S.2372](#)) by Sens. Heinrich (D-NM) and Blunt (R-MO) on July 20. Thanks to the impressive work of President Parker Pauley, the Bass Pro shops team, and many other partners in MO and NM, we've got a companion bill led by two tenacious champs in the Senate to complement the House version and continue the bipartisan collaboration led by Reps. Dingell and Fortenberry. We look forward to working with our sponsors' offices and all of you to advance the bill in the Senate.
- Senate strategy—10 R's paired with 10 D's to get Majority Leader Schumer to make good on his promise to tee the bill up for floor time, as well as to motivate Senate Environment and Public Works committee leadership to queue the bill up for action in the committee and advance through regular order.
- High-level touches to Senate offices are particularly appreciated and encouraged to build strong bipartisan support.
- Of important note...the only major difference between the Senate and House versions is the "source of funding" language in the Senate bill. This identifies civil or criminal penalties, fines, sanctions

and similar federal revenues generated from violations of environmental and natural resources laws and regulations as the source to fund the legislation. An important clarifier is that this would be any "remaining natural resource or environmental-related violation revenue" that "are not directed to be deposited in a fund other than the general fund of the treasury or have otherwise been appropriated." So this means no one else's programs are being harmed, no dedicated penalties monies like those from the Deepwater Horizon settlement or other programs that would also go to habitat restoration projects are being touched. We have prepared a handy Q & A document that will be available during the annual meeting and in the [Alliance toolkit](#).

- Reports from DOJ and EPA show that pot of money averages out to about \$2.9B annually on average over the past 5-years and \$1.9B annually over the past 10, so adequate to cover the \$1.4 B price tag of the legislation.

### House

- On the House front, we successfully navigated a hearing in the Water, Oceans, and Wildlife Subcommittee of the House Natural Resources Committee on July 29 (one of more than a dozen bills heard)
- Supportive testimony was given from Rep. Dingell, Collin O'Mara (NWF), Steve Guertin (USFWS), and Dr. Erika Zavaleta (U.C. Santa Cruz)
- No concerns were raised and no tough questions...as expected, so this sets the stage for full committee markup this fall
- [110 bipartisan cosponsors](#) and counting—keep them coming!

### Alliance

- We've heard from many of you that you'd like to see more resources available on the Alliance website for partners to be able to utilize for advocacy and outreach purposes...you asked, we listened...check it out by following the "More Resources" tab on the home page [HERE](#)
- And lots of new members have been added recently to the Our Partners page...check those out here: <https://ournatureusa.com/our-partners/>
- As always the best place to check out the latest messaging, resources, and other campaign materials, see the Alliance online toolkit [HERE](#)

These were a few items covered during the update. The Government Affairs team at AFWA put together a summary with more details made available to the Trust fund Committee members and the participants.

- Industry/Agency Progress & Fish and Wildlife Business Summit - *Jon Gassett, WMI*

The grants were affected because of the pandemic. Industry grant depends a lot on getting out and interacting with industry and state agencies. We have to be creative in how we help to build and improve the relationships between states and industry.

This year, under the current grant cycle and Covid restrictions, we focused on the Industry Database 2.0 version. It is in the final stages now, and we are doing data entry for all companies and individuals. We have a functional product now but not available yet. We are working on the final checks. This database will be very beneficial, especially for the Partner with a Payer Initiative, a significant initiative that started with NSSF. Now USFWS has embraced it and taken it nationwide.

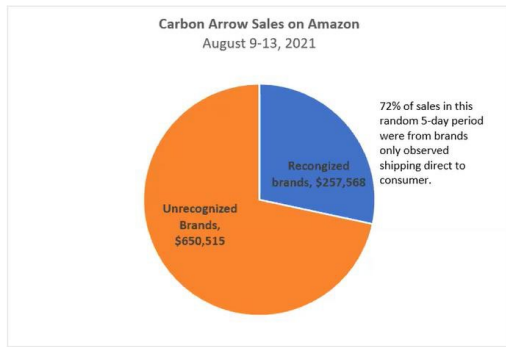
We have current information from 35 state fish and wildlife agencies and ATA's current membership information in the database. As well as Fish and Wildlife services'. Basically, it would help if you had organizations that are players at WSFR and the excise tax world.

As we mentioned before, Mitch King is contracted to work on technical aspects of excise tax issues.

We have been organizing the summit for the last 10 years. The Business Summit last year was postponed due to Covid. It looks like we might have a reset on the summit with a short session during the AFWA Excomm meeting in December. We need to figure out what it will look like going forward.

Jon invited Southwick to start the conversation on the FET slippage.

Rob Southwick – During the meeting in Omaha, NE, we started talking about the issues with the FET slippage. And you can see from the graph below that this issue is not small. This represents only a 5 days sale on Carbon Arrows.

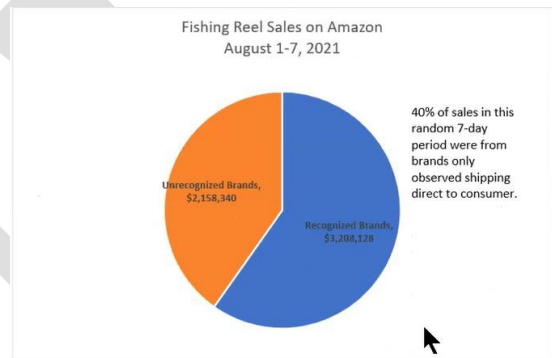


- This represents **\$71,557** in potential lost Wildlife Restoration receipts – plus unfair business practices
- Annual losses? Possibly \$35 million in annual sales, or \$3.9 million in lost receipts

This graph is an example of Fishing Reels sales and losses on WR receipts.

Amazon doesn't own these products; therefore, they don't pay any tax. So, the products sold through Amazon are cheaper, hurting those vendors who pay taxes, which is unfair.

We want to talk about this issue privately and not publicly because that would encourage other buyers to go the cheaper route.



- This represents **\$215,834** in potential lost Wildlife Restoration receipts – plus unfair business practices
- Annual losses? Possibly \$7.5 million in annual sales, or \$7.5 million in lost receipts

- **FET Slippage Update – Dan Forster, ATA/Mike Leonard, ASA**

Mike Leonard - Rob provided some good data. We have touched on two main concerns: the actual loss to the revenue for Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund and the second thinking in longer terms the integrity of this program.

This needs fixing, and that is not going to be easy. We have made little progress. Initially, we hoped to go to the Treasury Department and pursue a regulatory solution in partnership with them through some meetings. However, at the meeting we had a while ago, with AFWA representation, ATA, and ASA, they don't see this as a regulatory fix. The current law doesn't cover this issue rather burdens the consumer. So, we need to look at different ways to capture the tax, maybe through a legislative fix.

We are in the process of setting some meetings on the Hill and have AFWA involvement in this to begin the talks with some congressional allies on pursuing some legislation solutions and hopefully get some momentum and see where it takes us. We are looking to involve the States, and these starts, moving.

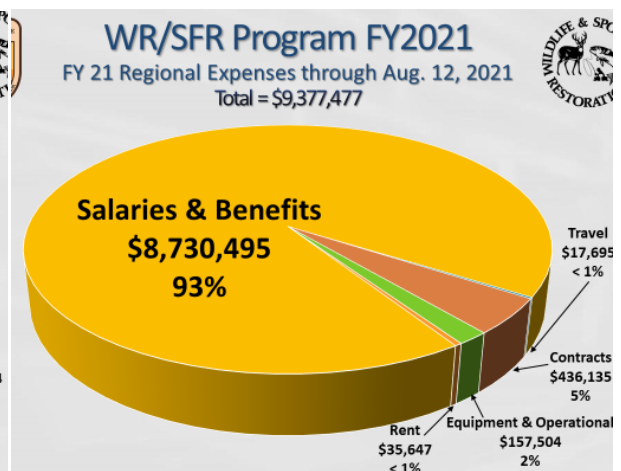
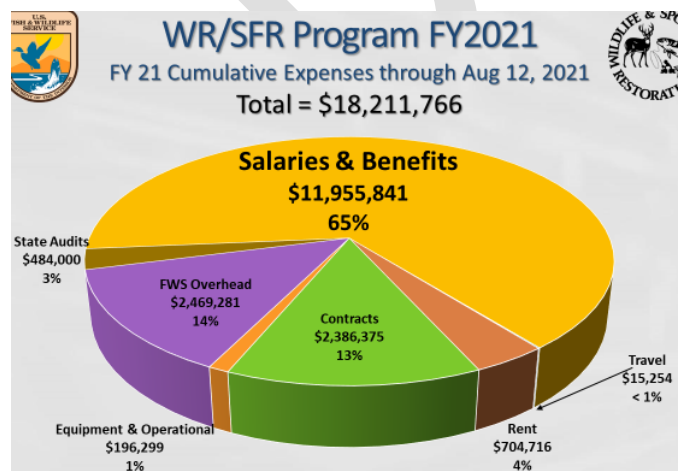
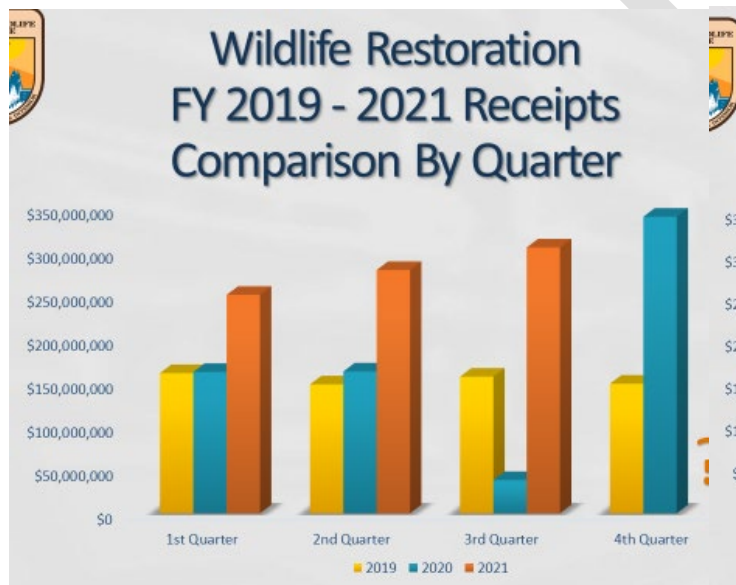
- **Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Update – Paul Rauch/Tim Smith/Bob Curry, WSFR**
  - **WSFR Administrative Charge**
    - Assigned WSFR AD responsibility for Program: Administration, Management, Oversight
    - Set funding caps for administration
    - Requires biennial administrative audits

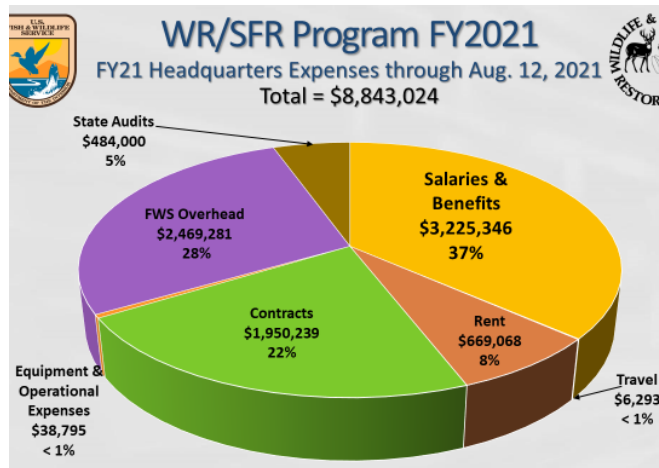
- WSFR's Administrative Evolution
  - React and Survive (2001 - 2016)
  - Evaluate and Plan (2017 - 2020)
  - Build A Strong Future (2021 - 2025)
  - A Strong Future will be Characterized by:*
    - Efficient Administration
    - Management that enhances collaboration, trust, and engagement
    - Oversight that protects Program integrity
  - Efficient Administration:*
    - Established SOPs and BMPs to streamline processing, especially under GS, such as the Project Statement Approach Workflow Diagram
    - Facilitated cross-regional WSFR capacity sharing
    - Granted a waiver to use TRACS real property model in place of paper SF429 forms
    - Adopted NOAA PEIS to streamline NEPA review of coastal restoration projects
    - Developing a standard, internal grant processing workflow tool to help streamline grant
  - Collaborative Management:*
    - JTF Communication Protocol – built for TRACS development – now used broadly
    - JTF SOP for policy development
      - PR modernization guidance issued in July
      - This month JTF established State and WSFR SME Team to provide pre-regulatory support for updating 50 CFR 80
    - RAWA Readiness Planning
      - Coordinated with AFWA on a conceptual plan focused on: Collaboration, Communication, and Grants Delivery
  - Oversight/Integrity:*
    - Increased audit assistance with additional staff person hired from space cost savings
    - Innovative solution to management advisory on Collaborative Conservation Initiatives (CCI)
    - Transitioning to 6-year audit cycle
    - Developing an annual "audit summary report" to provide overview of challenges, BPs
- TRACS Enhancement Update - The Road Ahead
  - Focus on:*
    - Final & Interim Reporting
    - Real Property Status Reporting
    - License Certification & Apportionment Module
    - Continue Efforts to Create User Efficiencies Between TRACS and GrantSolutions
  - WSFR Commitments*
    - Provide resources to maintain/enhance TRACS
    - Manage TRACS within established MOU framework
    - Use the JTF communication protocol for informing States and seeking input on major system related issues
    - Provide a robust training program
    - Pursue efficiencies for users between GrantSolutions and TRACS
- Trust Fund Collection Working Group Charter Review
  - TFCWG was established in 2005 to ensure:
    - accurate and consistent collection of taxes and import duties
    - equitable and fair application of the tax code
  - Comprised of Federal, State and Industry representatives
  - Charter is reviewed every 4 years
  - Primary changes for 2021 are:
    - Updated contact information for principal members
    - Added language for establishing a co-chair approach



- Charter to be reviewed and considered for approval by the AFWA F/W Trust Funds Committee on September 9, 2021

| Program                | FY 2020 State Apportionments | FY 2021 State Apportionments | % Increase or Decrease | FY 2021 State Matching Funds | FY 2021 TOTAL Program |
|------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Wildlife Restoration   | \$601.8 M                    | \$678.9 M                    | 12.8% INCREASE         | \$169.7 M                    | \$848.6 M             |
| Sport Fish Restoration | \$369.7 M                    | \$414.2 M                    | 12.0% INCREASE         | \$103.6 M                    | \$517.8 M             |





| Subprogram        | 2019 Enacted    | 2020 Enacted    | 2021 Enacted    | 2022 Proposed   |
|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| SWG Formula       | \$54.0 M        | \$55.0 M        | \$59.0 M        | \$61.0 M        |
| SWG Competitive   | \$6.4 M         | \$7.4 M         | \$7.4 M         | \$10.0 M        |
| TWG Competitive   | \$4.2 M         | \$5.2 M         | \$6.0 M         | \$8.0 M         |
| <b>STWG Total</b> | <b>\$64.6 M</b> | <b>\$67.6 M</b> | <b>\$72.4 M</b> | <b>\$82.0 M</b> |

➤ **WSFR Policy Update**

- Assessing the Standard Operating Process for developing recommendations on policy topics identified by JTF
- Reviewing proposed changes to 50 CFR 80 & Service Manual Chapters to align with:
  - Target Practice and Marksmanship Training Support Act, P. Law 116-17; and,
  - Modernizing the Pittman Robertson Fund for Tomorrow's Needs Act, P. Law 116-94

Advisories and this guidance may be found at:

<https://fawiki.fws.gov/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=117669889>

- Joint Federal/State Task Force on Federal Assistance Policy (JTF) Update- **Paul Rauch, WSFR**

The Spring (virtual) meeting was held in May 2021. This year few issues were recommended for JTF to address:

- Barter transactions – we will work on this issue and have a white paper ready for the Fall meeting
- The Collaborative Conservation issue - this will also come up for the Fall meeting to continue the discussions
- Audit Process questions
- Continuing and confusion about how do we do the sub accounting around various pots of money – there is no issue to resolve in terms of policy/regulations, but there are issues to resolve around the communication/information

Other issues brought forward that JTF didn't address, but we sent a letter back to the individuals signed by the co-chair Jim Douglas and me for each case.

Also, during that meeting, we reviewed The Modernizing PR Act implementation guidance as a group and agreed it was ready to go. This will lead to the next step, which is setting up a subteam with the subject matter expert to inform the prework in our regulatory update.

The Fall meeting will take place (virtually) from November 30 - December 1.











Jim Douglas is retiring, and Mark Tisa will step in as a co-chair for the JTF.

**Action Item:** Approve the Trust Fund Collections WorkGroup Charter

The Trust Fund Committee voted on approving the Trust Fund Collection Working Group Charter

- 2022 National Survey Update – *Kate Bachtell, NORC*

Kate Bachtell with NORC gave a presentation/updates on NORC work for the 2022 National Survey. NORC completed the Data Collection for Wave 1 Instrument. This is the status as of September 7, 2022. For the sample, we are heavily relying on om AmeriSpeak; this is saving costs.

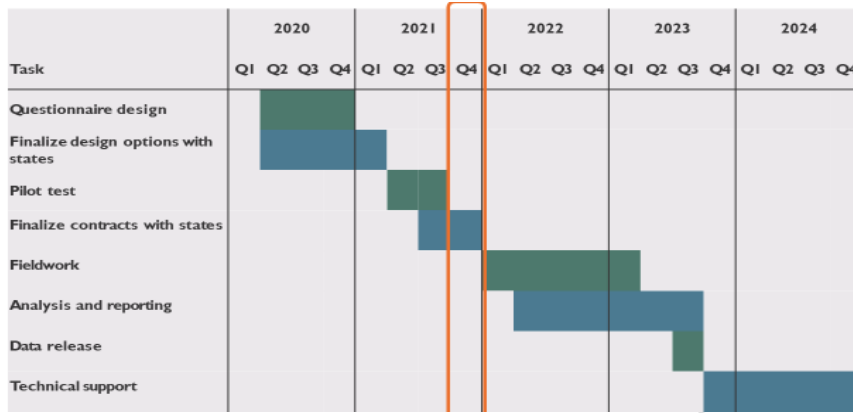
|                           | Screener  | Wave 1  |  |   |
|---------------------------|---|---|--|---|
|                           |   | Angler  | Hunter   | Wildlife-Watching   |
| <b>Field Period</b>       | 4/22 - 6/23   | 7/21 - 8/24 <sup>1</sup>  | 7/21 - 8/24  | 7/21 - 8/24   |
| <b>Modes</b>              |    |    |   |   |
| <b>Sample</b>             | AmeriSpeak panelists, members of AmeriSpeak panelists' households, nonprobability   |   |  |   |
| <b>Completes to Date:</b> |   |   |  |   |
| <b>Web</b>                | 7,128   | 1,258   | 1,318  | 3,366   |
| <b>Telephone</b>          | 181   | 23  | 6  | 79  |
| <b>Mail Survey</b>        | 225   | 75  | n/a  | n/a   |
| <b>TOTAL</b>              | 7,534   | 1,281   | 1,324  | 3,445   |
| <b>Mean Length:</b>       |   |   |  |   |
| <b>Web</b>                | 7.3   | 9.6   | 9.7  | 8.6   |
| <b>Telephone</b>          | 15.1  | 18.4  | 14.9   | 18.2  |
| <b>Mail Survey</b>        | n/a <sup>2</sup>  | n/a <sup>2</sup>  | n/a <sup>2</sup>   | n/a <sup>2</sup>  |

### Pilot Screening Weighting

- *Separate adjustments for:*
  - AmeriSpeak sample – nonresponse, population totals for 18+ for various demographic characteristics
  - Opt-in sample - demographic characteristics
- *Combined two samples using TrueNorth*
  - Identify & model variables that predict being in the non-probability sample (via small area model)
  - Obtain benchmarks to derive TrueNorth weights
- *Preliminary findings:*
  - AmeriSpeak FHWW participation rates similar to what Rockville Institute reported
  - Participation rates from opt-in sample distinct relative to rates estimated using the AmeriSpeak sample
  - Commercial data = somewhat poor predictors of hunting / fishing; reported data in the screener for participation in an activity was much more predictive of future participation

### Timeline





### Preparation for the Main Data Collection

- Processing state license data

Example:

|          | CountyName | Anglers | Hunters | Sportspeople |
|----------|------------|---------|---------|--------------|
| Oklahoma | Adair      | 9,219   | 8,495   | 9,749        |
|          | Alfalfa    | 615     | 484     | 855          |
|          | Atoka      | 1,778   | 1,428   | 2,475        |
|          | Beaver     | 495     | 432     | 728          |
|          | Beckham    | 2,828   | 1,575   | 3,616        |
|          | Blaine     | 1,199   | 640     | 1,488        |
|          | Bryan      | 4,334   | 2,989   | 5,623        |
|          | Caddo      | 2,949   | 1,755   | 3,778        |
|          | Canadian   | 13,035  | 6,654   | 15,969       |

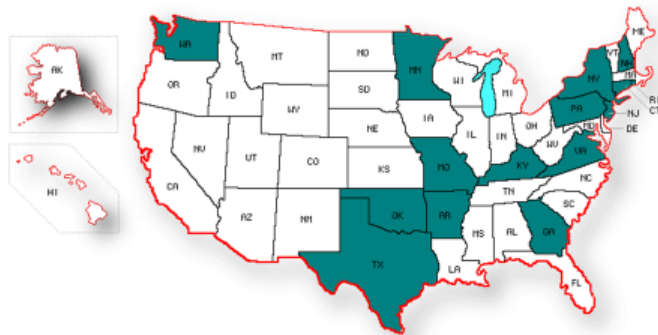
- Reviewing pilot data for mode effects – especially mail survey
- Tracking USPS service closely
- Establishing regional managers for coordination across participating states

### State opt-in

Table 2. Collaboration for 2022 FHVAR by State

| State Agency        | Contract Type    |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Texas               | MSA*             |
| Arkansas            | MSA              |
| New Jersey          | Directly w/ NORC |
| Oklahoma            | MSA              |
| Minnesota           | MSA              |
| Kentucky            | Directly w/ NORC |
| Pennsylvania (boat) | MSA              |
| Pennsylvania (game) | MSA              |
| Rhode Island        | MSA              |
| Virginia            | MSA              |
| Connecticut         | MSA              |
| Georgia             | MSA              |
| New Hampshire       | Directly w/ NORC |
| Washington          | MSA              |
| New York            | Directly w/ NORC |
| Missouri            | MSA              |

Collaborating States



\*MSA = Master Services Agreement between APWA and NORC.

- The Federal Aid Coordinators Working Group – *Breda Bowers, AK*

**FACWG membership updates:** New chair: Brenda Bowers, Leaving: Stacey Wichel, Vice Chair moving on to new position; Mathew Warriner to replace Stacey as Vice-Chair

Most of the updates FACWG had prepared were covered by Paul and Bob. Brenda covered few issues.

**Combined TRACS/GrantSolutions** - The duplicative efforts needed to work in both systems is an ongoing concern for the Federal Aid Coordinators Working Group (FACWG) and Federal Aid Coordinators (FACs), including the increased burden on state FACs. The TRACS Working Group helped to establish a TRACS/GrantSolutions sub-team to identify issues in the grant management process relating to these two platforms, such as user interface, interoperability, functionality, and reporting & monitoring tools. The team will then provide updates and consult with the full TRACS Working Group as part of the overall process. Scott requested feedback by August 7, 2021, which is now viewable on the FA Wiki at <https://fawiki.fws.gov/display/TGES>

**TRACS Update** - It was decided to go with a virtual workshop for the coming TRACS Annual Working Group. This will take place over several half days, beginning October 5 and continuing through November 11. Topics to be covered include reporting, wireframes, objective requirements, and issues arising out of states' feedback from working within the system. Next meeting September 24.

**TRACS Roadmap Update from WSFR:**

- License Certification and Apportionment Module, (which the TRACS WG will see live in October at the TRACS Working Group Virtual Workshop.)
- TRACS Reports, including the Conservation Viewer, which is targeted for Spring 2022 (when we will have a full 12 months of data in TRACS).
- Real Property Status Reporting, (which will be presented to States at the TRACS WG October Workshop.)
- "RAWA Readiness", which includes:
  - Potential revisions to the TRACS Matrix;
  - Grant awards and reporting workflows and Capacity planning; and
  - Coordination and consistency with SWG Effectiveness Measures.
- Access to reports from FBMS (previously available through TRACS)

**CAHSS Technical Advisory Committee** - Adam Brooks (Unified Region 5) will serve as the FACWG representative on the Technical Advisory Committee to the Council to Advance Hunting and Shooting Sports (CAHSS). There has been no committee activity since fall of 2018 when the committee reviewed the annual CAHSS report.

**Updating 50 CFR 80** – The FACWG sent out requests to the states for subject matter experts to work with federal partners on updates to 50 CFR 80. Individuals were identified to be part of the JTF-sponsored WR/SFR Pre-Regulatory Support Team to help draft potential amendments to the regulations addressing the affected sections of the official published guidance, [Implementing the Modernizing the Pittman-Robertson Fund for Tomorrow's Needs Act Guidance](#)

The team has been established and ready to start working.

**2021 FACWG Action Items** - The FACWG will continue to facilitate the communication of important matters to their respective FAC counterparts through continued participation in other working groups and engagement with WSFR staff. We anticipate frequent communications in the next six months regarding the TRACS Enhancement and forthcoming regulatory revisions.

- The Council to Advancing Hunting and Shooting Sports – *Steve Leath, CAHSS*

Steve - For the first time in a long time, the Council has the staff with the right skills, complementing each other to push some of the agenda items in the CAHSS Business Plan.

Swanny – The Council, in the last 5 years, has been a real driving force behind R3 efforts. We helped create the National Hunting and Shooting Sports Plan, and one of the immediate actions in that plan was to put people in the ground. The first R3 coordinator was hired in Georgia in 2015. And in 2020, almost every state had a dedicated R3 position.

Also, in the past 5 years, we have seen a significant increase in participation, which shows in the increase in license sales. Over 8.4M new gun owners in 2020, increase in diversity, and a significant purchase by women.

We have had some Strategic Planning meetings with the Board of Directors, and we have reached out to the community to get feedback on our future direction and what the Council needs to focus on.

*Where are we headed* – We will continue to facilitate and provide all previous services; increase emphasis on new partnerships, e.g., new partners, marketing, diversity, training, research, and data, shooting sports;

*2022-2024 Facilitation of National R3 Strategies (MSCGP Funded)* – We will partner with three other partners on implementing the following grants (MSCGP funded)

Real-time License data Dashboard Improvement and Expansion

Firearms Fundamental Course Promotion through SEAFWA

Social Influencers to Drive R3 in the SEAFWA States

*Resource Highlights* – [www.Nationalr3community.org](http://www.Nationalr3community.org)

- National R3 Community
- National R3 Clearinghouse
- R3 Topic Guides

*Implementation Work Group Close Out*

- National R3 IWG
  - 5,500 hours
  - Set priorities for modern dollars, produced products and tools of immediate needs
- The Assessment Group (TAG) and TAG Review Panel
  - Convening this fall
  - Assessment of the National Hunting and Shooting Sports Action Plan and the IWG work products

National R3 Symposium will take place in Broken Arrow, OK, on May 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022

- New Business
  - Matching Funds For Grants - A report and catalog of proven and potential match sources for the Recovering America's Wildlife Act and other grant programs – Doyle Brown

This report was presented to the AFWA Wildlife Diversity Conservation & Funding Committee. The report aims to identify and catalog existing and potential new funding sources to expand the conservation match portfolio of state fish and wildlife agencies and partners for work on SGCN and allow for an effective and efficient rollout and implementation of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act.

As conservation demands for State and Territorial Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SFWA) increase, the challenge of adequately funding a myriad of actions also continues to increase. New funding options always present new challenges, but SFWA have a long history and proven track record for being able to overcome those challenges—conservation success and creativity often go hand-in-hand. The opportunity presented by new funding mechanisms such as the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA) provides a once-in-a-generation solution to the ever-changing conservation landscape.

Building upon previous reports and surveys conducted by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) and the four Regional Fish and Wildlife Associations, this Report outlines how states can meet the match challenge. Some examples of the match in this Report have been used widely for decades, while others capture newer approaches or have been used in just a handful of states. Also highlighted are new or innovative sources of match that could extend conservation collaboration to new partners within federal, state, and local government and the business and nongovernmental (NGO) communities. New partnerships can help states tap into tens of billions of dollars of new funding and distribute the workload of conservation more broadly. Working with new partners can increase the relevancy of SFWA, thereby strengthening the support base for the critical conservation and management work they conduct.

The Report makes the following six recommendations:

1. Request AFWA periodically conduct a comprehensive survey of the states on match
2. Create a searchable online database on match to share new ideas and opportunities
3. Make the administration of match more consistent across the states

4. Investigate the development of a tool to document, track, and report match more efficiently
5. Explore opportunities with the philanthropic and business communities to create a national pool of match
6. Provide capacity, training, and improve guidance on the administration of match

It is expected that this Report will be regularly updated and serve as a living document and resource to help SFWA overcome the challenges of securing match. While coming up with \$380 million annually in match for RAWA will be a formidable challenge, we hope this Report shines new light on the vast opportunities for match and inspires new thinking that will knock down one more barrier to help agencies address the difficult challenge of conserving the nation's natural heritage.

- Wrap Up/Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:20 PM

DRAFT