



**WILDLIFE VIEWING AND NATURE TOURISM WORKING GROUP**  
**Chair: Shelly Plante**

**Monday, September 19, 2022**  
**3:15pm-5:15 pm**

**Agenda**

- 3:00** Call to Order/Review Agenda
- 3:05** Work Plan Review
- 3:10** Wildlife Viewing and Nature Tourism Academy Updates:  
2022 Academy Review and 2024 Planning
- 3:25** WVNT Webinar Series
- 3:30** Multi-State Conservation Grant Updates:  
2021 Wildlife Viewer Survey Results and Recommendations final report complete
- 4:30** Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA) – discussion regarding outdoor recreation
- 5:00** Adjourn

<b>Workgroup Work Plan</b>		
<b>Date: October 2021</b>		
<b>Workgroup Name: Wildlife Viewing and Nature Tourism</b>		
<b>Chair: Shelly Plante (TX)</b>	<b>Vice Chair:</b>	<b>Staff: Patricia Allen</b>
<b>Workgroup Charge:</b> To advance wildlife viewing and nature tourism across North America by helping develop, support, and promote programs that welcome and engage new and diverse audiences, build on traditional constituencies, and increase support for wildlife conservation.		
<b>Changes to the Charge:</b> edited charge for clarity from previous version: "To advance wildlife viewing and nature tourism programs within state and federal agencies and private sector organizations as strategies to build support for fish and wildlife conservation by connecting ethnically and geographically diverse people to the outdoors."		
<b>List Major Activities and Objectives Accomplished During the Last Year:</b>		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Monthly conference calls to enable information sharing between organizations, updates on key projects, communication about new wildlife recreation studies and results, and our role in the Recovering America's Wildlife Act legislation and the Relevancy Roadmap, specifically our ability to help with increasing agency relevancy with new constituents and raising awareness about the importance of species of greatest conservation need.</li> <li>2. Hosted webinars throughout the year on wildlife viewing and tourism, and related topics</li> <li>3. Received and started work on a MSCG received for a national Wildlife Viewer Survey with colleagues from Virginia Tech. Literature review, survey development, and national deployment of the survey occurred this year.</li> <li>4. Started planning and coordination of the 2022 Wildlife Viewing and Nature Tourism Academy. Registration and website went live summer 2021 and all speakers lined up and schedule is posted.</li> <li>5. Worked with students with Illinois State University Innovation Consulting Community project to develop messaging to new younger diverse audiences. Report available by request.</li> <li>6. Increased participation in monthly calls, webinars, and meetings.</li> </ol>		
<b>List Activities and Objectives that will be Accomplished in the Coming Year:</b>		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Final work and recommendations from the Wildlife Viewing Survey (MSCG)</li> <li>2. Plan and execute 2022 WVNT Academy in Tucson, Arizona.</li> <li>3. Continue with monthly conference calls and regularly scheduled wildlife viewing/nature tourism webinars.</li> <li>4. Continue to collaborate within AFWA including with the Waterfowl Working Group, Wildlife Diversity Conservation and Funding Committee, Bird Conservation Committee, the Recovering America's Wildlife Act legislation, and the Relevancy Roadmap work; provide regular updates to working group.</li> <li>5. Develop document outlining key components of a statewide wildlife viewing program.</li> <li>6. Increase participation by colleagues working within wildlife viewing and nature tourism positions in partner organizations. There are several states and other organizations not represented in our monthly calls and/or AFWA meetings and we will continue to proactively address those gaps this year.</li> </ol>		
<b>Describe any Changes you Anticipate to the Work Group:</b>		
<b>List Workgroup Members:</b> Shelly Plante (TX); Anne Glick (FL); Jerrie Lindsey (FL); Jessica Ruthenberg (VA); Brian Moyer (VA); Kirsten Bartlow (AR); Jeff Myers (AZ); Kimberly Winter (USFS); Deniz Aygen (ID); Rick Lavender (GA), Werner Barz (FWS-NCTC), Alie Mayes (NE); Anthony Gonzon (DE); Sarah Kendrick (MO); Scott Anderson (NC); Kathleen Sandt (NPS); Jeff Tibbits (OK); Maria Gladziszewski (AK); Bonnie Holding (ME); Virginia Seamster (NM); Laura Dibetta (NY); Carrie McClelland (Yukon, Canada); Mary McCormac (CO)		
<b>Date Workgroup Formed:</b>	<b>Expected Termination Date: TBD</b>	
<b>Comments</b>		