



### SCIENCE AND RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Chair: Dr. Russ Mason, Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Vice Chair: Jason Summers, Missouri Department of Conservation

Monday September 25, 2023

10:00am-12:00pm (MT)

Room: Glen 205-Upper Level

113<sup>th</sup> AFWA Annual Meeting | Calgary, Alberta

**Committee Charge:** The Science and Research Committee is responsible for keeping the Association informed of the ecological research and information needs of the States and managing a process for addressing those needs through a variety of mechanisms, including enhanced Federal-State partnerships.

#### Meeting Agenda

Time (MT)	Agenda Items
10:00am	Introductions, Review Agenda, Approve September 2022 Meeting Notes-Russ Mason, Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources
10:05am	Science and Research Needs Survey-Mike Quartuch, Colorado Parks and Wildlife; Natalie Sexton, US Fish & Wildlife Service
10:30am	Relationship between Science and Research Needs and Regional Landscape Priorities-Russ Mason, Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources
10:45am	USGS Cooperative Research Units Strategic Plan Resolution-Russ Mason, Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources (see resolution below)
10:55am	USGS Cooperative Research Units National Cooperators Coalition Update-Keith Norris, The Wildlife Society
11:05am	USFWS Science Applications Update-Deb Rocque/Elsa Haubold, US Fish and Wildlife Service
11:20am	Update: AFWA President's Task Force on One Health-Shane Mahoney, Conservation Visions; Russ Mason, Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources
11:30am	Report: Conservation Social Science Subcommittee-Mike Quartuch, Colorado Parks and Wildlife; Natalie Sexton, US Fish & Wildlife Service
11:45am	Sharing Science: Managing Cross-border Species Movement Between British Columbia and Northwestern US States-James Quayle, Ministry of Water, Land and Resources Stewardship, British Columbia
12:00pm	Adjourn

ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES  
RESOLUTION #2023 - XX

IN SUPPORT OF A STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE US GEOLOGICAL SURVEY COOPERATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE  
RESEARCH UNIT PROGRAM

**WHEREAS**, the US Geological Survey Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit Program (hereafter collectively referred to as the “Cooperative Research Unit Program”) provides essential applied scientific research and technical assistance to the state fish and wildlife agencies, much-needed scientific training for the next generation of fish and wildlife biologists, and is fundamental to the mission of the Association and its members; and

**WHEREAS**, the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies resolved in September 2015 to (a) urge full Congressional funding of the Cooperative Research Unit Program, and to (b) address critical staffing vacancies in this program, which delivers high-quality, actionable scientific research and training to the state and federal natural resource managers and agencies; and

**WHEREAS**, the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies further resolved in September 2021 that it supported the efficient, effective, and affordable Cooperative Research Unit Program which facilitates applied research between natural resource agencies and universities to address current and emerging management-oriented science needs, and provides training and technical assistance to state and federal cooperators; and

**WHEREAS**, the Congress responded with funding and the U.S. Geological Survey filled 38 staff scientist vacancies at 31 Cooperative Research Units in the past three years; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Geological Survey has further responded to these requests by opening new Cooperative Research Units in Nevada, Michigan, and Indiana:

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies commends the U.S. Geological Survey and the Cooperative Research Unit Program for their success in filling staff vacancies and opening new Units; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies now encourages the Cooperative Research Unit Program to develop a vision and a 5-year strategic plan that identifies the financial and logistical requirements necessary to meet the needs of existing Cooperative Research Units and future Cooperative Research Units, as appropriate, and identifies any additional Units that might be needed; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Cooperative Research Unit Program use a process that engages cooperators as part of the process to develop the strategic plan and that identifies any foreseen challenges to future implementation of the strategic plan as they emerge; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Cooperative Research Unit Program provide the Association and its leadership with regular updates regarding the development and implementation of the strategic plan.

*Resolution submitted by the Science and Research Committee.*