



ASSOCIATION *of*
FISH & WILDLIFE
AGENCIES

THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES POLICY COMMITTEE

Chair: Angi Bruce (WY)

Vice Chair: Eric Gardner (WA)

89th North American Wildlife & Natural Resources Conference

Grand Rapids, MI

Thursday, March 28, 2024

1:00 PM – 4:00 PM ET*

Agenda

1:00 PM Call to order– Angi Bruce, WY

Introductions

Agenda Review/Repair

Approval of Meeting Summary: 2023 TESPC Fall Meeting – Calgary, AB - Canada

1:15 PM Legislative Updates – Kurt Thiede, AFWA

- Recovering America’s Wildlife Act
- America’s Wildlife Habitat Conservation Act
- ESA Flexibility Act
- Other

1:30 PM Perspectives on ESA Reforms: Benefits of State Involvement in Recovery Planning, Recovery Goals, and State Management as Recovery Benchmarks are Achieved.

Hannah Downey, Policy Director, Property and Environment Research Center (PERC)

Jonathan Wood, Vice President of Law & Policy, PERC

2:00 PM Bird Conservation Recovery Opportunities – Steve Holmer, American Bird Conservancy

2:15 PM Committee Discussion Topic: Species Status Assessments Update / Discussion

At our Spring Meeting in St. Louis and again at our Fall meeting in Calgary, there was a discussion on Species Status Assessments (SSA), state involvement, and process enhancements. This agenda item provides an opportunity to revisit the topic and get updates from the USFWS.

2:30 PM NOAA/NMFS Updates – Angela Somma, Division Chief, Office of Protected Resources

2:45 PM USFWS Rule and Listing Updates – Gary Frazer, Deputy Director for Operations, USFWS

3:15 PM State Committee Member Roundtable: State Updates

State members of the committee are asked to highlight new opportunities, overcoming challenges, successes and leveraging collaborative partnerships in the context of Federally and/or State Listed Threatened and Endangered Species

3:45 PM Other business

- Future Agenda Topics

Preview: How do we address the transition between a species classification.

- *Case studies, lessons learned*
- *Good stories*
- *Smart pathways*
- *Glide path to delisting*

Adjourn*

*** All times approximate and the meeting may end ahead of the scheduled time depending on discussion and questions from the committee.**

Threatened and Endangered Species Policy Committee Charge

- Review procedural or categorical issues affecting threatened and endangered species listings under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) as well as downlisting/de-listing and critical habitat designation proposals as reported in the Federal Register; suggest appropriate action.
- Keep abreast of legislative proposals and oversight hearings and recommend Association involvement when appropriate.
- Maintain active liaison with appropriate federal agency offices, the conservation community, states and regional associations.
- Serve as the subject matter and support group on endangered species that are covered by CITES or other international arrangements.