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**Wildlife Diversity Conservation and Funding Committee Report**

Chair: Carter Smith

Vice-chair: David Whitehurst

Meeting of September 12, 2-17

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Annual Meeting

Snowbird, Utah

**Committee Charge:** The Teaming With Wildlife Committeeadvocates for long-term, dedicated funding and annual appropriations for the conservation of at-risk fish and wildlife, nature-based recreation and conservation education. The committee supports the development, implementation and revision of State Wildlife Action Plans and builds, supports and coordinates the national Teaming With Wildlife coalition.

Participants: Chris Colclasure (ARGFC), Chris Racey (ARGFC), Keith Stephens (AKGFC), Darcy Bontempo (TCPWD), Shelly Plante TXPWD), Mark Hatfield (NWTF), Mylea Bayless (BCI), Abby Benson (USGS), Dave Chadwick (MTWF), Chris Smith (WMI), Maria Gladziszewski (AKDFG), Steve Williams (WMI), Chris Berens (KSDWPT), Brad Carner ARGFC), Craig McLaughlin (COPW), Chris Chadwick NMGFD), James Comius (NMGFD), Christy Vigfusson (FWS), Tim Smith (FWS), Luke Houghton (SA), Melanie Steinkamp (USGS), Jim Cogswell HDLNR), David Hanni (TWRA), Paul Badame (UDWR), Chris Keleher (UDNR), Kimberly Hersey (Utah DWR), Lori Scott (NatureServe), Greg Miller (NatureServe), Healy Hamilton (NatureServe), Rex Sallabanks (IDFG), Richard Heilbrun (TPWD), Doug Austin (AFS), Jen Newmark (NDOW), Keith Norris (TWS), Davia Palmeri (AFWA), John Davis (TPWD), Joy Bannon (WYWF), Mike Canning (UTDNR), Geoff Geupel (Point Blue), Ashley Green (UDWR), Karie Decker (NGPC), Rick Jacobson (CTWD), Greg Link (NGFD), Paulette Nelson (NJDFW), Alicia Hardin (NGPC), Elsa Haubold (FWS), Brian Nesvik (WYGFD), Eric Gardner (WDFW), Brian Brooks (IDWF), Priya Nanjappa (AFWA), David Smith (HIDLNR), Julie Kempf (INDNR), EJ Williams (ABC) , Mark Humpert (AFWA)

**Scheduled Discussion Items**

Meeting Convened at 8:07am.

Eric Gardner-This is the first meeting of the committee under its new name. Chairman Carter Smith is unable to attend because he is involved in hurricane recovery efforts. Vice Chair David Whitehurst is also unable to attend. Eric asked participants to introduce themselves. Rex Sallabanks will also be helping with the committee today. A motion was requested to approve the minutes from the last meeting. Rick Jacobson offered a motion; Rex Sallabanks seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Alliance for America’s Fish and Wildlife

Sean Saville-The Alliance for America’s Fish and Wildlife is the implementation phase of the Blue Ribbon Panel. The Panel made recommendations and then we went through a rebranding effort. We are expanding the partnership beyond the Blue Ribbon Panel. The campaign has a steering committee that advises and works with partners. The campaign website is now live. When legislation is introduced we will direct people to the site to contact their legislators. Phase II of the website will include fact sheets. We recently submitted an invited paper to the Wildlife Habitat Council on the need to conserve at-risk fish and wildlife. We are partnering with Ducks Unlimited on a campaign video.

Mylea Bayless-When will the Wildlife Habitat Council paper be coming out.

Sean Saville-It will come out next week.

Richard Heilbrun-Is there a timeline when materials will be placed on the website?

Sean Saville-We are trickling out information so we can give states an early education opportunity. We can set up an FTP site if needed.

Richard Heilbrun-Will materials go out at launch?

Sean Saville-Yes, materials will go out with launch, hopefully in October. It will be sequenced with bill introduction.

Darcy Bontempo-Is the Alliance the public facing brand or is it Our Nature USA from the website. It seems like two different brands.

Sean Saville-It’s not uncommon to do this?

Eric Gardner-That’s a good point, we should keep that in mind.

Paul Badame-Where can we see the fact sheets?

Mark Hatfield-Are there social media goals such as the number of impressions?

Sean Saville-Bond Moroch has social media metrics they will be using.

Darcy Bontempo-Can you share those?

Sean Saville-Yes, we can share them.

Eric Garder-We are looking forward to the launch.

Naomi Edelson-WY, ID, MT affiliates are here and will show examples of what they are doing to support the Recovering America’s Wildlife Act. We are making a big push at NWF to get back to our roots and be a federation in every state. NWF was on the Blue Ribbon Panel. This is Collin O’Mara’s personal priority. He is committing time and financial resources. He is talking to lots of people. I am personally committed too. Field and social media people at NWF are meeting weekly and we are producing materials. We think that elevating the wildlife crisis is important. We need the Hill to recognize the need to fund wildlife. We are working on a report that will communicate that wildlife is in trouble. We are doing social media and we will be using the #funding4wildlife hashtag. We are doing blogs and postcards to raise awareness of the need for funding. NWF is investing in thirteen states. We are putting financial resources into ID, AR, MT, WY , SD, TN, OK, ID, WA, NY, NM and hopefully AK to develop champions on the Hill.

Rex Sallabanks-Does NWF have state-based fact sheets?

Naomi-No, but these are really important.

Sean Saville-Bond Moroch is working on state fact sheets.

Greg Miller-Why are you targeting those 13 states?

Naomi Edelson-We are working in states where we think we can develop congressional champions. We are working with AFWA, Congressional Sportsman’s Foundation and AFWA.

Dave Chadwick-Senator Tester has been a supporter of state wildlife funding going back to 2008. Sen Daines is a supporter of State Wildlife Grants. We are working with MT Fish, Wildlife and Parks and meeting with them regularly. We are doing member and supporter communication, writing opinion pieces, blogs, newsletters. We are trying to elevate the funding issue by communicating with the Montana congressional delegation. We are working with The Nature Conservancy, Wildlife Conservation Society, Defenders of Wildlife, Endangered Species Coalition and other non-hunting groups. We had a discussion last week about a ballot initiative for matching funds. Montana Fish Wildlife Parks passed a resolution in support of this effort. The agency has established priorities for new funding. We are building a coalition of hunting and fishing groups, stock growers and others.

Brian Brooks-Idaho Wildlife Federation has started a campaign. Our affiliate is made up mostly of hunting and fishing groups. We are helping with a letter of support. In Idaho 20 sportsman’s groups have signed on. We will take this to legislators. We met with Senate natural resources staff to try and garner grass roots support. We are working with a coalition of sportsman’s groups to write personalized letters to their members. The Idaho Wildlife Federation is helping to gather support for a license increase. We have an interest in getting more money to fund fish and wildlife. This is an exciting time for Idaho, we are getting people to work together.

Naomi Edelson-Idaho Wildlife Federation is working with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

Brian Brooks-We want the department to be better funded.

Richard Heilbrun-How are you delivering the message that new funding will relieve the burden of sportsman?

Brian Brooks-We are writing letters and talking about at-risk species. In Idaho, sportsmen are sensitive to using sportsmen dollars on nongame. They see this as complementary and supportive of the agency’s mission. It’s a great olive branch.

Joy Bannon-The Wyoming Wildlife Federation is working on this. It will put us in a proactive position. New funding would benefit all interests and the economy. Senator Barrasso is the lead on the Environment and Public Works Committee. He is an important player. The first thing is to connect with the state fish and wildlife agency and the Senator. We want everyone to work in unison. We met with the Fish and Wildlife Agency Director’s office. Brian Nesvick is working on how they would use new funding. Senator Barrasso wants to be a leader on this but the fiscal impact is a concern. He is a fiscal conservative. We have worked with Senator Enzi too. Wyoming folks feel this is important. Sage grouse work has been unifying. We are looking at finding supportive industries and others. We are using social media and conducting meetings. We have a positive campaign in Wyoming.

Naomi Edelson-Joy’s work with Senator Barrasso is important. She is trusted and is helping to move him. She has direct communication with him.

Dave Chadwick-Nearly every state has an NWF affiliate.

Chris Keleher-How much time are affiliates putting into this effort?

Dave Chadwick-I have been spending about a quarter of my time on this.

Joy Bannon-I spend about one third of my time.

Eric Gardner-Some of us have been doing this for some time. Does anyone remember the beanie baby campaign? Who was active during the CARA days? Who was active during the early stages of State Wildlife Action Plans? Many of us care deeply about this issue.

Keith Norris-The Joint EOD/WDCF working group is developing communication materials and strategy.

Jen Newmark-I am the representative from the Education Outreach Diversity Committee. We will be helping with telling the state story. The working group met two weeks ago. We are waiting for legislation to be introduced. States can be working on commission and agency resolutions supporting funding. Some states have already passed resolutions. You can also have state legislatures pass resolutions. Nevada has done both.

Naomi Edelson-Can you share those resolutions?

Jen Newmark-It is helpful to get the legislature geared up. Nevada has a state legislature that will help with congressional support.

Naomi Edelson-The Congressional Sportsman’s Foundation said they would help with state legislatures too. This is a big lift.

Jen Newmark-Texas and several states have put together a document on what we can do now, before there is legislation. It helps set the foundation so we are ready when a bill is introduced. Sean Saville has sent that around.

Richard Heilbrun-If you want a copy of the document, give me a business card and I will send it to you.

Doug Austin-Will the campaign website be a clearinghouse for these kind of materials?

Jen Newmark-That would be a good place for materials. State agencies could be encouraged to send high resolution photos of species to Patty, Mark or Sean. At the next meeting we may expand the working group to include other committees or groups. A work plan has been drafted and will be reviewed at this conference and approved. We can share this through Mark Humpert.

Laurie Scott-How would the photos be organized? Are they SGCN? Maybe you can work with natural heritage programs. We can talk further offline.

Jen Newmark-That sounds great, we should use SGCN.

Sean Saville-Patty is organizing SGCN priorities from SWAPs.

Maria Gladziszewski-Is someone working on putting all materials in one place?

Sean Saville-Patty Allen is the central clearing house. We are thinking about a better way to share.

Jen Newmark-This looks like an elevated priority for the working group. We will look into this.

Naomi Edelson-NWF uses Google Docs for file sharing.

Keith Norris-Drop box is also good.

Paulette Nelson-Some states can’t use Google Docs.

Jen Mock Schaeffer-We are continuing to work with Congressman Don Young and Congresswoman Debbie Dingell. The Fish and Wildlife Service looked at the bill and observed there were some things that were unclear such as private land and public access. We provided some technical changes to the bill such as the definition of wildlife. We are waiting to see a draft of the legislation from legislative counsel. Jeff Crane and Collin O’Mara are co-chairs of the Legislative Working Group. There is interest by other House offices and there is interest in the Senate too. If you drop a bill, you want the committee chairman to like it. We are working with Senator Barrasso and Senator Cardin of EPW. Both are interested and engaged. One of the challenges is the offset. Some offices are not so concerned about the offset. There is optimism that Congress will get behind the bill. This is bipartisan legislation. Some of the Blue Ribbon Panel members like Bruce Culpepper want to help with this.

Maria Gladziszewski -Why don’t we have a bill yet?

Jen Mock Schaeffer-I sent a lot of technical language to staff. There is a new legislative counsel who may not be aware of our community. There are political consequences of striking the findings section.

John Davis-There have been some bumps in the road with those who want to lead and others who say they want to go slow. What are the ramifications if we switch to a member of Congress who wants to run.

Jen Mock Schaeffer-We are thinking about doing this in the Senate.

Naomi Edelson-Joy, Collin and others have checked with Senator Barrasso’s staff about going with someone else. Staff are checking on this. We are doing due diligence so we don’t burn any bridges. It takes time.

Eric Gardner-We are running into a time crunch. Let’s take one more question.

Jen Newmark-Can the industry partners on the Blue Ribbon Panel help to get the bill dropped? If feels like time is short for this session.

Jen Mock Schaeffer-You introduce the bill, then the committee does a markup and you pass it. We have heard from some Directors that industry is the better messenger. Congress is in session two years and yes there is pressure for time and we need to get moving. We are working with our co-chairs. They have board members and we are working with others. Drafting legislation takes time. I was expecting to have a bill in hand a longtime ago. We are doing the best we can. Once we have a bill, work will quicken. We need talking points for industry. We might only get one chance. We will be having some calls on talking points. This committee is invited, we can send out call information. The federal relations and budget committee adopted a revised version of the resolution passed last year. It better explains how the states will use the money and acknowledges that the Blue Ribbon Panel is rolling into the Alliance for America’s Fish and Wildlife. Last year we did not have the name. We can use the resolution for advocacy.

Eric Gardner-There is a briefing on the Alliance at 5pm today. The resolution has been approved by another committee but I wanted to see if this committee wanted to pass a motion in support.

Maria Gladziszewski-I propose an amendment that includes a “whereas statement” on education and wildlife viewing. Offered a motion to approve with a minor edit

John Davis-Seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Naomi Edelson-There is a need to continue advocacy for State and Tribal Wildlife Grants (SWG). It could take 5 years to pass the Recovering America’s Wildlife Act. We need State Wildlife Grants until there is permanent funding. This program helps to build support for the Recovering America’s Wildlife Act. We can talk about both, they do the same thing. We can’t neglect State Wildlife Grants and we need to focus on members on the appropriations committee. We will need them too for the Recovering America’s Wildlife Act. We need to continue doing the Dear Colleague Letter and talk about the wildlife funding crisis. Since Teaming With Wildlife has been disbanded we decided to form a small group of partners (AFWA, NWF, TWS and others to work of State and Tribal Wildlife Grants.

Keith Norris-This small group is needed to continue advocacy.

Rex Sallabanks-I’m very supportive of this concept. How can a state voice its support for AFWA to participate in this group. Is this an action item?

Paulette Nelson-I think we should get the word out to Directors. I can’t imagine a Director would not support this.

Eric Gardner-What would a motion look like? Is there a desire for AFWA to play a role in this group to support State Wildlife Grants until we get permanent funding?

Keith Norris-I don’t know if we are seeking an action on this but we need to highlight the importance to Directors. There could be benefits to doing an action item.

Keith Norris-The action could be to support continued advocacy on State Wildlife Grants.

Naomi Edelson-Working with partners is important.

Paulette Nelson-Is there something concrete?

Paulette Nelson-Offered a motion to recommit that AFWA continue working with partners in support of State Wildlife Grant advocacy. Seconded by Jen Newmark. Motion passed.

Steve Williams-Reported that a second meeting of the Blue Ribbon Panel Relevancy Working Group was held. This working group is taking on the second recommendation of the Panel. Steve Kellert was instrumental in developing the recommendation. The purpose of the second recommendation is to work on ways to keep fish and wildlife relevant in today’s changing society. Kids are spending way less time outside. If we accept this then we have accepted not being relevant. One thing we are looking at is the traditional organizational structure of agencies. Are we covering all the disciplines? Maybe other structures should be considered and include other disciplines such as Human Dimensions. We need new business models.

Rick Jacobson-Can the PowerPoint be shared?

Naomi Edelson-I completely agree and am glad this work is happening. The National Wildlife Federation is also working on this and is developing a toolkit. I would like to help. AFWA has organizational charts.

Darcy Bontempo-Is this attainable in my lifetime?

Steve Williams-Yes it is. There is a growing acceptance that we need to rethink things. There are states delving into the social sciences. This will not be easy and may require governor/legislative responses. If the agency leader is not pushing this then it will be difficult.

Alicia Hardin-Nebraska uses lots of partnership positions and use a university of Human Dimensions work.

John Davis-Texas has a Human Dimensions position. The National Survey shows there are 10 times more wildlife viewers than are hunters, yet game management remains the priority because that is where the funding is. I hope when there is new money this will spur change.

Steve Williams-It’s the chicken and the egg effect. Lots of people will support this. We need to tweak programs to align with the values of residents. If agencies are not thinking about this now then they won’t be ready for new money later.

Eric Gardner-How do we shake loose of the old infrastructure? Can the working group think about this?

Jen Mock Schaeffer-This is helpful. Others would benefit from hearing this. We need to be thinking about how new money would be spent. When we get the money it will be too late. Can we bring in new expertise?

Eric Gardner-States are thinking about match. This will drive change. Maybe we need some best practices. We should also compile a list of lessons learned.

Chris Smith-There will be a special session at the North American that will discuss the chicken vs egg question. We need a change of thinking. Wildlife governance principles can help with that. We have multistate conservation grant funding to help with training at regional association meetings.

State Wildlife Action Plans

Abby Benson-USGS has updated the Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) database. When this was done 10 years ago, data was scraped from PDFs. This time we were able to get states to submit their data in a template after they revised their State Wildlife Action Plans. All the original data is retained and available. We used ITIS for nomenclature and wrote a script to pull information from FWS on threatened and endangered status and from NatureServe. The site can be used to do filters on species or state and you can compare the 2005 and 2015 lists. You can see which states have listed a species as SGCN. We would like to continue working on further developments.

Chris Keleher-Could a standard threat lexicon be added to the system?

Mark Humpert-This is a great resource for the states and their partners. We are appreciative of Abby and USGS for their work on this important database. It will help improve the use and relevancy of State Wildlife Action Plans.

Laurie Scott-Is there a process for adding or removing species to the USGS database?

Abby Benson-Yes, a state simply needs to send an updated template.

Rex Sallabanks-The committee formed a working group a year ago that was co-chaired by Brian Branciforte (FL) and Paul VanRyzin (FWS) to review the guidance for review and revision of State Wildlife Action Plans. We had at least one representative from each region. The changes that were made will affect all states and territories. We did this to help ensure State Wildlife Action Plans remain dynamic and to ease the administrative burden on the states and the FWS. The old guidance was contained in a 2007 joint memo between AFWA and the FWS. The new guidance will replace the 2007 guidance. Major changes include a clarification and change to what triggers a minor and major revision, streamlined the process and created a table to improve clarity.

Eric Gardner-Under this guidance is a state required to gather public input to make a change to their Species of Greatest Conservation Need list?

Rex-No we changed that.

Eric Gardner-This is a major improvement.

Rex-We received a lot of feedback from the states and FWS. The working group feels this is a good product.

Eric Gardner-Is there a motion to approve the guidance?

Jen Newmark-Offered a motion to approve the new State Wildlife Action Plan review and revision guidance. The motion was seconded by Paulette Nelson. The motion was approved unanimously.

State and Tribal Wildlife Grants

Mark Humpert-Gave a report on FY18 funding for the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants program. The Administration proposed a 15% cut to the program and elimination of the competitive grants program for FY18. The House of Representatives is recommending level funding. The Senate has not released a draft of its bill yet. A total of 211 members of the House and Senate signed on to the Dear Colleague Letters supporting State and Tribal Wildlife Grants this year, a record number. This included 30 Republicans in the House and six in the Senate.

Rex Sallabanks- We need to keep up the advocacy for the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants program. AFWA needs to continue doing Fly-ins. They can be small without a big congressional reception. We can’t let Congress forget about the program.

Paulette Nelson-Will there be a Fly-in for the Recovering America’s Wildlife Act?

Mark Humpert-Yes, Sean is planning to do a Fly-in.

Keith Norris-It is important to go to DC and meet with staff to make the case for funding.

Naomi Edelson-The National Wildlife Federation does small Fly-ins all the time. Small ones are OK.

Eric Gardner-It helps states to have a targeted date. Can you tag on to something else?

Naomi Edelson-We have to keep up the advocacy on State Wildlife Grants at the same time we advocate for the Recovering America’s Wildlife Act. We can do both.

Mark Humpert-Wildlife Diversity Program Managers would like to review the criteria used for competitive State Wildlife Grants. The Administration proposed zero funding for these grants in the FY18 budget so it is possible the program will be suspended.

Eric Gardner-We might want to have this committee send up a message now or form a working group to examine the criteria. To affect change, we need AFWA to carry a message forward.

Jen Newmark-The model used for SWAP revision worked well.

Eric Gardner-This committee could recommend that the FWS work with this committee or we could form a working group.

Bob Curry-I don’t see a problem with setting up a team.

Christy Vigfusson-I would be open to that. We thought the SWAP revision guidance model was good. We need to be careful if recipients of grants are on the committee to review the criteria.

Eric Gardner-That is a good point. Should we provide an informational note or take an action?

Jen Newmark-Should a working group be formed through this committee?

Rex Sallabanks-When we formed a working group through this committee for SWAP guidance, it gave us a platform to do the work. It does not seem like it would be the same amount of work for competitive State Wildlife Grants. I recommend that there be an action. We could have the Wildlife Diversity Program Managers do the work. It is best if the states and FWS work together.

Bob Curry-I like the model where a working group is co-chaired by a state and FWS representative.

Eric Garder-Is there a motion?

Alicia Hardin-Moved that the committee form a working group with co-chairs from this committee and the FWS to review the criteria for competitive State Wildlife Grants and make recommendations by Sept 2018. I volunteer Kristal Stoner to help.

Tim Smith-Paul Rauch has several priorities. They include audits, communication, collaboration with the states and agreement on TRACS. Forty nine of 56 states/territories have approved revised State Wildlife Action Plans. The Virgin Islands have not submitted their plan yet. After a successful meeting of the parties, changes in communication processes and design features were agreed to on TRACS. A draft MOU on TRACS is being developed. It will be considered by the Joint Task Force. We ran into problems with performance measures. The solution was to develop a matrix. We are now on our ninth version of the matrix. There have been two national reviews and state fish and wildlife agencies will conduct the final review. The Joint Task Force will be asked to approve. We have developed wireframes to help people understand the look and feel of TRACS. We will take these to the JTF for approval. We have developed a process for communication. We are developing a 5-year report for WSFR. We sent a survey to the states with indicators and be using story maps.

Christy Vigfusson-Staff have been working on a paper on the economics of State Wildlife Grants and hope to publish in a journal.

Keith Norris-Is the FY19 budget being based on the FY18 budget for State Wildlife Grants?

Bob Curry-The request will be based on FY18 proposed levels.

Christy Vigfusson-We appreciate the work of Rex and the State Wildlife Action Plan revision guidance working group. The process worked well. The Department of Interior has a new policy of reviewing grants that are $100K or more. This has slowed the approval of State Wildlife Grants.

Other Reports

Priya Nanjappa-The Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Subcommittee has been elevated to a full committee. This will give us a higher profile and help recruit new members. The committee is trying to track amphibian and reptile diseases. Bsal is spreading across Europe through fire salamanders. A paper this summer reported that the pathogen in more insidious and has two forms of zoospores, those that are encysted and others that stay on the surface of water. Eastern and western newt species in the US will likely be susceptible. The FWS enacted a rule to help keep the pathogen out of the US. The Partners for Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (PARC) disease team has developed a herp disease alert. Trafficking and commercialization of turtles is a concern too. There is an outflow of turtles to Asian markets. PARC created a strategic plan and work plan. We are also working on range-wide issues related to timber rattlesnakes.

John Arway-I chair a national team working on the National Survey on Hunting, Fishing and Wildlife-dependent Recreation. We wanted to look at survey methodology in hopes of reducing costs and accuracy of the survey. We hired a firm to do a mail survey to compare data with the phone survey. There have been problems with state data because of the methodology. Preliminary data has been released for the national survey and shows that fishing is up 8% and hunting is down 16%. The evaluation team will compare the two data sets.

Elsa Haubold-We need better guidance and recommended practices for landscape design. We are working on a performance measurement framework. This has not been available before. We would like input. This week representatives from each LCC are meeting to put their data into a common platform. We will create a single spot for data. The Administration has zeroed out science applications in the FY18 budget. The House of Representatives proposed a $2 million cut for LCCs and there is no funding number in the Senate yet. The Administration is not making LCCs a priority. The Fish and Wildlife Service would like to know what the states need.

Wildlife Viewing-Shelly Plante said they are hoping to get contacts in each of the 50 states. There is a lot of crossover with Wildlife Diversity Programs. There will be a Wildlife Viewing and Nature Tourism Academy February 19-23, 2018 in McCallum TX. The purpose of the workshop is to provide hands on case studies and lessons learned for wildlife viewing. The agenda is online. The conference will be capped at 150 individuals.

Jude Scarl-The Bird Committee has formed a Feral and Free Ranging Cats Working Group and Grassland Working Group.

**Action Items**

Approved the revised AFWA resolution supporting the Recovering America’s Wildlife Act.

Approved a motion to support AFWA’s participation in a new group that will continue advocating for State and Tribal Wildlife Grants (AFWA, TWS, AFS).

Approved new review and revision guidance for State Wildlife Action Plans.

Approved a motion to form a working group co-chaired by state fish and wildlife agency and USFWS staff to review the criteria used for competitive State Wildlife Grants.

**Progress and Opportunities**

Progress was made toward achievement of Goals 1, 2, 3 in the Association's Strategic Plan. This was accomplished by hearing updates and facilitating discussion on funding for the State & Tribal Wildlife Grants program, State Wildlife Actions and the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America’s Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources.

**Threats and Emerging Issues Identified**

None identified.

**New Opportunities Identified**

None

**Submitted by**: Carter Smith