



# 2016

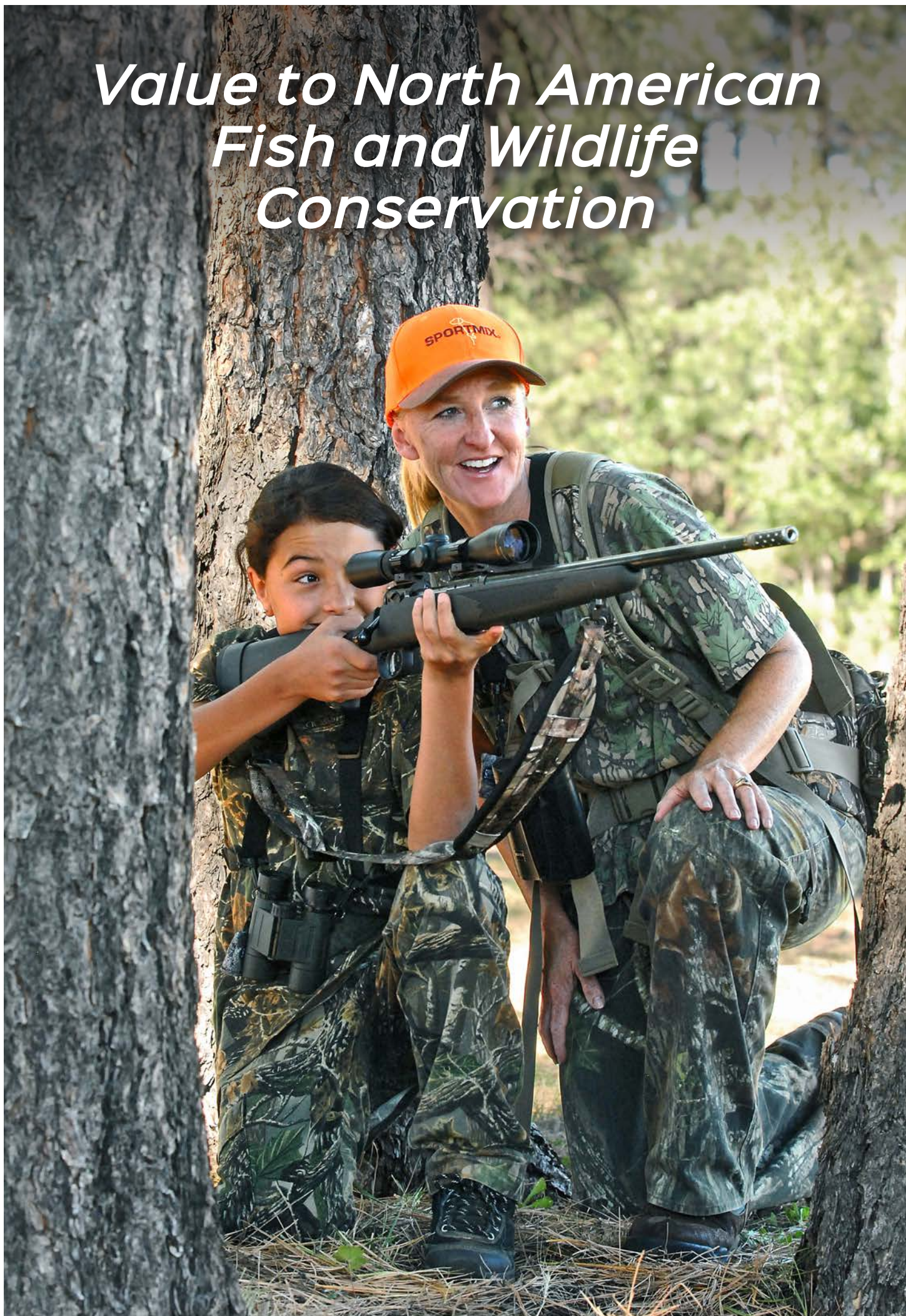
---

## ANNUAL REPORT

# *Value to Partners*

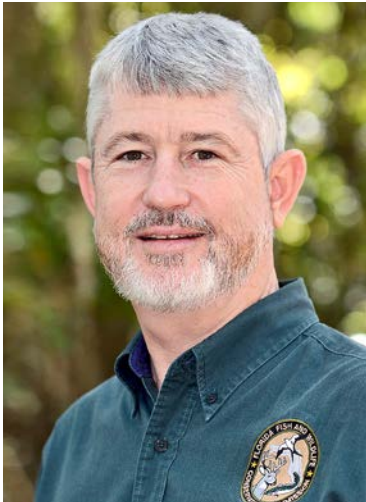


# *Value to North American Fish and Wildlife Conservation*



# President's Message

---



As you read through our annual report, you will see AFWA has been moving forward and making great progress on many fronts. I noted at our annual meeting in September that AFWA serves as the warm and welcome campfire for our conservation community bringing us all together to address today's conservation challenges. It seems, however, with all the activity and excitement in 2016, we have transitioned from a calm and glowing campfire to a brightly burning bonfire!

There is no better example of this transition than the big time event at the National Press Club announcing the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Panel for Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources. I know we are all grateful for President Dave Chanda's obvious passion and tireless leadership on this initiative. It was a proud moment to see him stand with our excellent Co-Chairs, Mr. John L. Morris and Governor Dave Freudenthal and speak about the tremendous importance of this initiative to the future of state led fish and wildlife conservation. With the generous contributions from many AFWA member agencies, great effort from AFWA staff and continuing strong support from members of the Blue Ribbon Panel, we are sprinting forward together to deliver on these recommendations that focus on securing funding through Congress and ensuring our work remains relevant to Americans. As one wise director noted, "we are going to consider this a sprint until we are compelled to see it otherwise."

The presidential election in November and the coming transition provided a major source of fuel for the AFWA bonfire. As the national election results unfolded, timely work by our AFWA team and active input from state directors resulted in a strong suite of priorities for the incoming administration. In addition, our western states directors stimulated an effort to design and conduct an in-depth survey of state fish and wildlife agencies to inform and influence the transition and new federal agency leadership in powerful ways. This excellent groundwork in 2016 positioned the priorities for AFWA and interests of our member agencies front and center with key members of the Trump administration transition team and will certainly have a lasting impact going forward.

The above accomplishments are just two of the many issues and projects we tackled in 2016. In this report, you will find a wealth and diversity of collaborative work that AFWA coordinates and delivers for the benefit of fish and wildlife conservation across North America. And if the flaming bonfire imagery makes some of you a bit nervous, please rest assured in knowing we have ample safety measures in place, and we have a great team of talented professionals keeping the flames completely under control at all times.

I want to close by thanking the many good people who get involved and engage actively and enthusiastically in the work of AFWA. Our collective passion and combined efforts are making a big difference for the future of fish and wildlife conservation.

Thank you!

Nick Wiley  
President

# Executive Director's Message

---

Value-added. Value proposition. These terms often emerge in discussions or decisions regarding an organizations potential engagement with, or contribution to, a new initiative or in thinking about organizational core competencies or relevancy. They get to a basic question of identity or worth, do we or can we make a difference?

I never wake up with any doubt about the ability of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies to bring value to the conservation table. It is in our DNA, dating back to those campfire conversations in the summer of 1902 in Yellowstone. The presupposition or value proposition at that time was that state agency leaders would be better served through collaborative dialogue on the conservation issues of their day rather than going it alone. That has now proven true for over a century.



2016 was a year of value – value to partners and value to North American conservation policy. We led a national dialogue on broader conservation funding, we advanced sustainable use constructs on international stages, and we supported state and provincial management perspectives with integrity and resolve. We did this on Capitol Hill, in DC conference rooms, and in personal conversations – at all times embracing the importance or value of state, provincial, federal, and private partnerships.

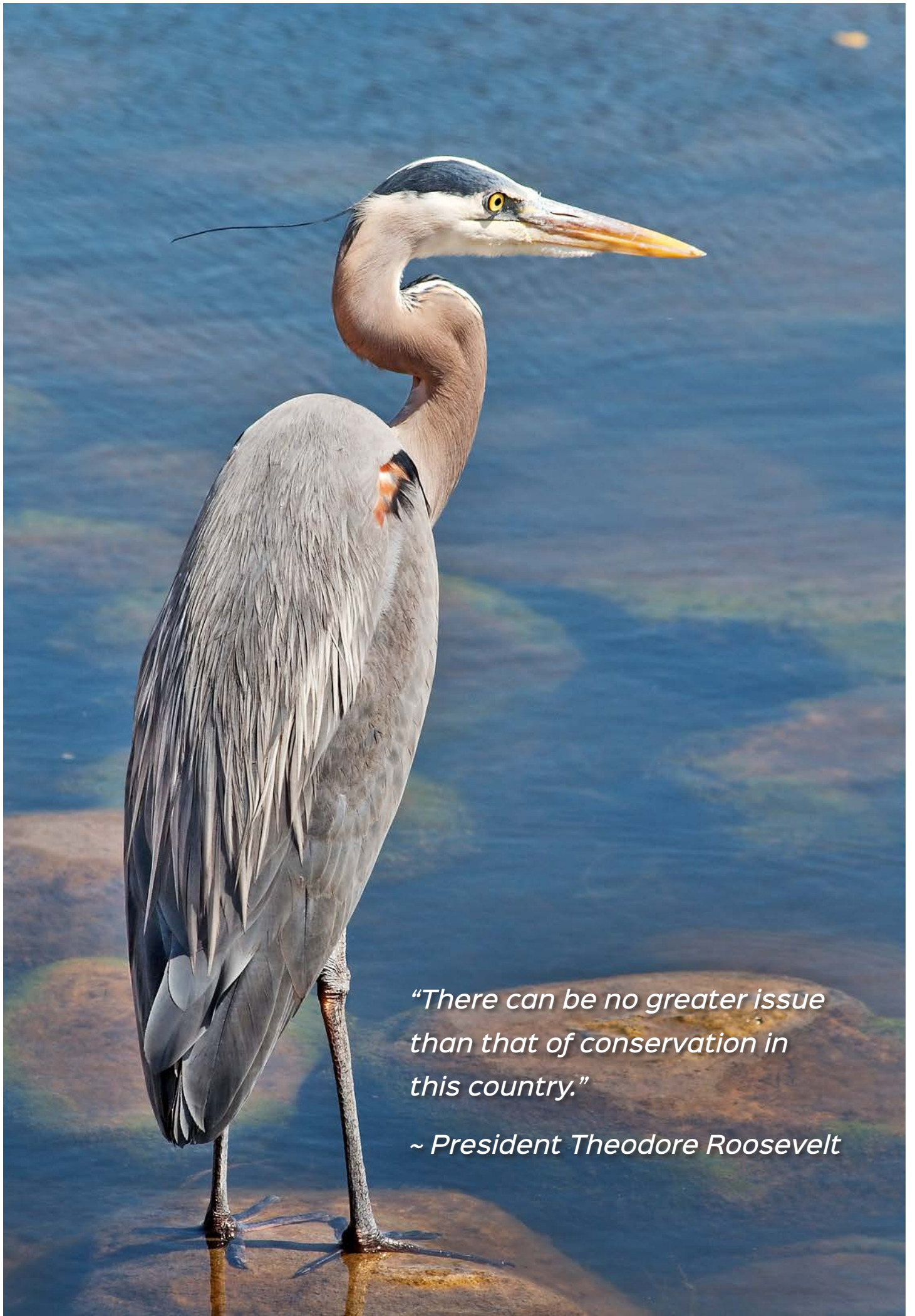
The year ahead will offer new opportunities to bring value, to lead boldly, on issues ranging from advocating for improvements to the Endangered Species Act to giving state directors additional flexibility to spend Wildlife Restoration funds on recruitment, retention, and reactivation of hunters and recreational shooters. The Association covets your support for, and direct work with, these and many other conservation legislation, coordination, and policy opportunities.

Sincerely,

*Ronald J. Regan*

Ronald J. Regan  
Executive Director





*“There can be no greater issue  
than that of conservation in  
this country.”*

*~ President Theodore Roosevelt*

## Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources

The Blue Ribbon Panel reached several important milestones. On March 2nd, the Panel released its recommendations at the National Press Club in Washington DC. John Morris, David Freudenthal, Dave Chanda, Jeff Crane and Collin O'Mara made comments at the packed event. A reception followed at Hart Senate Office Building on Capitol Hill. On July 6, Congressman Don Young (R-AK) and Congresswoman Debbie Dingell (D-MI) introduced the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (HR5650). This bill mirrored the recommendation of the Blue Ribbon Panel by redirecting \$1.3 billion annually from federal energy and mineral development royalties to implement State Wildlife Action Plans. A total of seven Republicans and thirteen Democrats signed on to the bill before the 114th Congress ended. In August, Sean Saville was hired as the Blue Ribbon Panel Campaign Manager. This was made possible through pledges made by 29 states as part of Dave Chanda's 10 for \$10K initiative. Dr. Steve Kellert and Dr. Steve Williams organized a working group to implement the second recommendation of the Blue Ribbon Panel related to agency relevancy and transformation. Steve Kellert tragically passed away in December but the work of the working group will continue in his memory. A robust campaign to pass funding legislation and raise national awareness about the need for increased wildlife conservation was developed and is now underway. A diverse alliance of representatives from the Blue Ribbon Panel as well as other conservation groups, businesses, industry partners, state and federal agencies will lead the charge to realize the panel's vision for sustainable and dedicated funding for proactive wildlife conservation.



Left to right: AFWA Past President Dave Chanda (2015-2016), Co-Chair Dave Freudenthal, Co-Chair John Morris, Panelist Collin O'Mara, Panelist Jeff Crane

Photo taken at the National Press Club, March 2, 2016

*"If we want to secure the future of all of America's fish and wildlife resources, a fundamental enhancement in how we finance conservation is essential. We believe the right path is to begin investing now in a 21st century vision of fish and wildlife."*

*~ Dave Chanda, Past AFWA President 2015-2016*



*Standing Tall on the  
Conservation Issues of Today*





## International Affairs

---

### **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)**

CITES was created to ensure that international trade in wild animals and plants was sustainable. Trade in wildlife and wildlife products, when sustainable, is critical to the conservation of many species. For effective conservation, state wildlife agencies need to ensure that as many management and policy tools are available to them as possible. CITES is one of those tools but is only effective with active participation in all aspects of the Convention. Your CITES Technical Work Group (with representatives from each regional association and the Association) represented state and when applicable Provincial and Territorial interests at interagency meetings and the 17th Conference of the Parties regarding sustainable use of wildlife; and conservation of Polar Bear, American Eel, Corals, Peregrine Falcon, etc.



### **2016 International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) World Conservation Congress**

As an IUCN member, the Association engaged in the 2016 World Congress. The Association teamed up with other like-minded organizations to lobby on and influence decisions and discussions on topics such as waterfowl conservation, trophy hunting, climate change, livelihoods, and the use of lead ammunition. The Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Specialists Group met to develop its 4 year work plan.

## Legal Strategy Program

---

In its third year, AFWA's Legal Strategy program has preceded apace, working with AFWA's Executive and Legal Committees, as well as its Advisory Council, to address issues affecting the relationship between State and Federal conservation agencies. These programs work to raise awareness of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation and provide legal analysis and support for other key AFWA initiatives such as the Joint Federal/State Task Force on Federal Assistance and the Feral and Free-Ranging Cat Work Group.

### **Legal Counsel and Analysis**

Association counsel monitored a number of high-profile legislative and regulatory developments in 2016, and continued to offer forums and clearinghouses for emerging issues in state wildlife management, bringing state practitioners together online and in person. With the input of state directors and attorneys, AFWA provided comment on pending rules and guidance.

We also offer general legal services, including intellectual property protection and corporate governance, to state fish and wildlife agencies, regional associations, flyway councils, and other entities. In the coming year, AFWA's Legal Counsel expects to closely track legislation pertaining to the federal regulatory process, endangered species, and public lands management.

---

*Although illegal wildlife trade discussions revolve mostly around elephants, rhinos, and other nonnative species, the enhanced profile of CITES requires that the state agencies remain an active participant.*

---



Michigan State University College of Law

### **Law School Outreach, Curricular Development, and Publications**

Last year, the Association completed its work with Michigan State University (MSU) College of Law in developing AFWA's Conservation Collection, an archive of resolutions, proceedings, and other historical documents. Also, AFWA's general counsel Carol Bambery taught two law courses at MSU, on wildlife law and energy development. Students in the wildlife law course contributed to the Winter 2016-2017 issue of the Wildlife Law Call, a periodical newsletter containing updates on case law, legislation, and regulation concerning natural resources. Two law schools in Georgia have joined in teaching the wildlife law curriculum. AFWA has continued to create opportunities for conservation law internships, including in Illinois, and hosted two interns in its office last summer.

Work has also begun on a successor to the University of New Mexico's 1993 State Wildlife Laws Handbook, with the goal of providing an online, interactive resource to compile and analyze state wildlife management and protection laws. This portal will allow practitioners to ask important questions relevant to their agencies, and consult comprehensive resources of longstanding law.

### **Farm Bill**

---

The conservation programs authorized by the Farm Bill continue to create opportunities for state fish and wildlife agencies to work with farmers and ranchers and partner with conservation groups to restore habitat, reduce erosion, improve water quality, and provide access to hunters and anglers. AFWA's Agricultural Conservation Committee and its working groups engage regularly with the U.S. Department of Agriculture through meetings, conference calls, and formal letters to provide input and encourage the department to align Farm Bill program delivery with state agency priority resource concerns. Through





the Association, state fish and wildlife agencies are also represented on multiple conservation and agriculture coalitions, helping to develop partnerships and relationships with other groups on a wide range of issues related to Farm Bill authorization and implementation.

In the fall, the Association began work in advance of reauthorization of the Farm Bill, due in 2018. The Agricultural Conservation Committee formed a 2018 Farm Bill Working Group, which will be responsible for developing and drafting AFWA's Farm Bill policy platform, and includes representatives from the Committee, the regional associations of fish and wildlife agencies, and select conservation partners. The priorities and principles in this platform will be used to guide and direct AFWA's efforts to advocate for a strong Farm Bill for fish and wildlife conservation.

## Industry/Agency Coalition

The business community has been a valued conservation partner for a long time; certainly at least since 1937 when the Wildlife Restoration Act passed with the concomitant dedication of excise tax receipts from firearms and ammunition to stateside management programs. In later years such business support would emerge from the angling, boating, and archery industries.

The Association has advocated for renewed or continuing partnerships with industry through the respective trade associations and corporate leadership. In 2016, the Association participated in the 11th Annual State-Industry Business summit. The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries hosted that meeting in Richmond where recreational shooting range development was one of the focal topics of discussion.

---

*Through AFWA, state fish and wildlife agencies are also represented on multiple conservation and agriculture coalitions, helping to develop partnerships and relationships with other groups on a wide range of issues.*

---

## OTHER LEGISLATION & POLICIES

*The Association engages with Congress and the Administration to strengthen support for science-based, state fish and wildlife agency led conservation. In 2016, AFWA and its members sent letters to Congress; delivered testimony and briefings; participated in coalitions; and provided comments to federal agencies on numerous topics, including:*

- Access to public lands for hunting & fishing
- Aquatic and terrestrial invasive species legislation and state authority
- Budget sequestration
- Chronic Wasting Disease Program Standards & state authority
- Clean Water Act and state authority
- Comprehensive energy and hydropower reform legislation
- Controlled Substances Act
- Drought
- Endangered Species Act and proposed rules
- Energy and revenue-sharing legislation
- Farm Bill implementation and reauthorization preparations
- Federal budget and appropriations
- Federal lands management & conservation planning
- Fire-borrowing, forestry reform, and Wildfire Disaster Funding Act
- Lacey Act
- Land & Water Conservation Fund reauthorization
- Magnuson-Stevens Act reauthorization
- Marine Mammal Protection Act
- Migratory Bird Treaty Act and proposed rules
- National Fish Habitat Conservation Through Partnerships Act
- National Fish Hatchery System appropriations
- National Wildlife Refuge System proposed rules and legislation
- Natural resources adaptation
- Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act
- North American Wetlands Conservation Act
- Partners for Fish and Wildlife Act reauthorization
- Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act modernization and marksmanship amendments
- Public lands legislation
- Recovering America's Wildlife Act
- Sage Grouse & Lesser Prairie Chicken legislation
- Sikes Act
- Sportsmen's packages and legislation
- Sport Fish Restoration & Boating Trust Fund
- State fish and wildlife agency management authority

In recent years the “recruitment, retention, and reactivation” of hunters and anglers has been a rallying cry in the state-business-conservation community. Both the Council to Advance Hunting and the Shooting Sports and the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation are at the tip on the spear in helping to drive action for R3 initiatives. The Pittman-Robertson Modernization Bill of 2016 was an ambitious legislative effort to offer state fish and wildlife agencies greater flexibility in the use of federal excise tax dollars for R3 work. We will advance such legislation with new vigor in the next Congress.

The work on the Blue Ribbon Panel on sustainable conservation funding also created new synergies and partnerships between conservation interests and the energy and outdoor recreation sectors. We look forward to continued growth in such vital relationships in the coming years.

## Congressional Relations

---

Congressional legislation has the potential to affect the operations of every state fish and wildlife agency across the country yet many of the Association's state agency members do not have the ability to directly engage Congress on issues of interest. The Association brings value to our state agency members by helping to define a national perspective and advocating Capitol Hill on their behalf. We bring value to our partners by building coalitions, identifying shared challenges and advocating for mutually beneficial solutions. Together with our State Directors, their staffs' expertise, and our conservation partners, the Association works to enact legislation that benefits our collective conservation interests and supports states' authority to manage fish and wildlife resources.

### Improving Recovery of Fish and Wildlife

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) is a cornerstone piece of legislation that was enacted in 1973, and last amended in 1988, to facilitate the recovery of federally threatened and endangered species. The Association and our state agency members support this critically important statute but realized that improvements are needed to fully realize the intent and goals of the Act. The



Association's Threatened and Endangered Species Policy Committee and State Directors identified areas where statutory and rule changes would improve, and likely expedite, the recovery of federally listed species. We developed "General Principles for Improving Implementation of the Endangered Species Act" which was unanimously adopted and will be used to guide any future discussions with federal agencies and Congress for improving the recovery of fish and wildlife species through an enhanced role of our state member agencies.

### **Protecting States' Authority to Manage Fish and Wildlife**

The Association spent a significant amount of time working with Congress and partners on numerous regulations and pieces of legislation to defend states' authorities to: manage fish and wildlife within their borders, including on some federal lands; prevent and manage aquatic invasive species; jointly manage migratory birds with the US Fish and Wildlife Service under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act; fulfill state review requirements for energy permits, siting, and license renewals; and ensure the sustainable use of fish and wildlife resources, among many others.

### **Creating New Opportunities**

With Congressional momentum building around bipartisan energy and sportsmen's legislation, the Association worked with our partners and Congress to, for the first time in 6 years, pass bipartisan sportsmen's bills out of the House of Representatives and the Senate. It was the first time in three Congresses that the National Fish Habitat Conservation Through Partnerships Act passed the Senate. Additional provisions would enhance public access to public lands; create opportunities for states to meet the needs of today's hunters and recreational shooters; provide resources for public access, recreation and conservation through reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, to name a few. Although none of these bills were enacted, tremendous momentum was generated and set expectations for passage in the 115th Congress. Furthermore, the Water Infrastructure Improvement for the Nation Act (S612) was enacted and creates new opportunities for states and their partners to manage and improve water development infrastructure and resiliency for habitats and local communities.



---

*The Association worked with our partners and Congress to, for the first time in 6 years, pass bipartisan sportsmen's bills out of the House of Representatives and the Senate.*

---



CONSERVATION INITIATIVES

*Bringing Value to the  
Conservation Table*

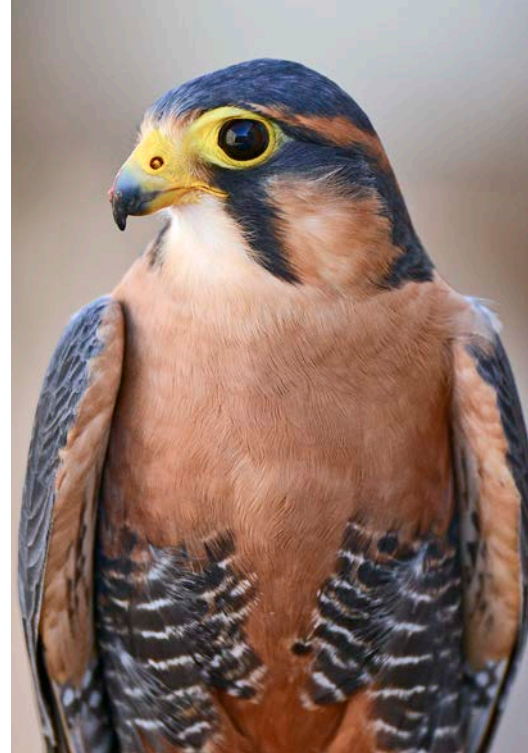


# Bird Conservation

## North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI)

NABCI plays a key role in bringing bird conservation partners together in a non-partisan setting to collectively identify and address some of the biggest issues in bird conservation. In 2016, based on increasing interest in incorporating social science into bird conservation decisions and practices, NABCI and partners established a National Bird Conservation Social Science Coordinator position. This Coordinator will help both to demonstrate how social science can be used to more effectively implement bird conservation, and also to link bird conservation professionals with appropriate social science tools and resources.

NABCI faces the complexities of bird conservation by facilitating communication and information sharing between its diverse array of bird conservation partners. In 2016, NABCI launched a new website ([nabci-us.org](http://nabci-us.org)) that includes a searchable resources directory with links to key national-level resources for bird conservation and a “Bird Conservation Community” section that helps clarify the roles and relationships of bird conservation organizations and partnerships. NABCI also developed and distributed messaging on five key bird conservation programs (North American Wetland Conservation Act, Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act, State Wildlife Grants, Farm Bill, Joint Ventures) and produced an overview document highlighting how these five programs work together for all-bird conservation, to help bird conservation partners communicate with a unified voice about the importance of these critical programs.



Aplomado Falcon (*Falco femoralis*)



## State of North America’s Birds Report

As part of a renewed commitment to international conservation of migratory birds, the first tri-national State of North America’s Birds report was released in May 2016, a collaboration between the NABCI Committees of the US, Canada, and Mexico. The report emphasizes that

one-third of all 1,154 bird species in continental North America face significant risk of extinction without urgent conservation action, and oceans and tropical/subtropical forests host the greatest percentage of species of concern. The report also highlights the importance of building on success and demonstrates the need to replicate conservation successes, such as for waterfowl and wetlands, across other suites of species.

## Southern Wings

2016 marked the hundred year anniversary of the Migratory Bird Treaty. The Treaty demonstrates that although the challenges to migratory bird conservation are complicated they are not insurmountable. Just as successful waterfowl conservation



*One-third of all 1,154 bird species in continental North America face significant risk of extinction without urgent conservation action.*



**Upland sandpiper**  
(*Bartramia longicauda*)

required innovative solutions and tools such as the Treaty, we now need new and innovative solutions and tools to reverse the declines of hundreds of migratory birds throughout the Western Hemisphere as we embark on another 100 years of conservation.

Southern Wings is one of these tools. It facilitates state fish and wildlife agency participation in conservation of migratory birds on their breeding, migration, and nonbreeding locations. Since 2009 state fish and wildlife agencies have provided leadership on the conservation of migratory birds through Southern Wings. They have contributed over \$1.5 million USD and \$550,000 in-kind to the conservation of priority migratory birds on their nonbreeding grounds—funds that are then leveraged. They are engaging in innovative partnerships in critical locations that work with landowners, help provide socioeconomic benefits, guide restoration opportunities to areas that most benefit our shared species, and more.

**North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP)**



*North American Waterfowl Management Plan*

The North American Waterfowl Management Plan was signed in 1986 and is updated roughly every five years. The implementation of the 2012 NAWMP Revision ([www.nawmprevision.org](http://www.nawmprevision.org)) is being assessed by an Update Steering Committee (USC) in preparation for writing a new update by mid-year of 2018. State, federal, and non-government partners are working together to examine what has been and what is remaining to be accomplished from the 2012 Revision. The USC will consult with the bird conservation community, primarily through the Future of Waterfowl-II workshop in September 2017, to identify a clear vision to take the NAWMP forward into the 2020's.

State fish and wildlife agencies have been contributing to Canadian waterfowl habitat projects for over 50 years. Since 1986, state agencies have invested more than \$79 million USD, and the Association continues to encourage state agencies to invest in Canadian projects. The Canadian portion of the Prairie Pothole Region supports an average of 66% of North America's breeding ducks. The Association's "Task Force on State Contributions to NAWMP/NAWCA Projects in Canada" continues to implement its 2012 Action Plan and to support state agency efforts to increase contributions to Canada.



**Wood duck** (*Aix sponsa*)

During 2016, thirty-seven states contributed a total of \$3.1 million USD to Canadian projects. This is a slight decline due to administrative challenges in two states; however, the decline is overshadowed by increases from a number of other states. The state funds, when matched by Ducks Unlimited, NAWCA and Canadian sources, will provide a total annual investment in waterfowl habitat in Canada of approximately \$15 million USD. In addition to supporting habitat projects in Canada, the Association, its state members and non-government organizations continue to work with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to monitor the impact of the 2015 price increase of the U.S. Federal Duck Stamp.



## Amphibian & Reptile Conservation

When new federal policies arise, there can be initial confusion regarding the impacts on state fish and wildlife agency activities. In January 2016, in response to concerns about the fungal pathogen, *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans* (*Bsal*), entering the United States, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) released an interim final rule listing 201 salamanders as injurious via the Lacey Act. The AFWA Amphibian and Reptile Subcommittee held Q&A sessions with USFWS in February to increase understanding and compliance with the rule. We also coordinated and submitted official AFWA comments on the rule in March, and collaborated with USFWS throughout the year, as they worked to finalize the rule.



**American Alligator** (*Alligator mississippiensis*) and **Florida Red-bellied Cooter** (*Pseudemys nelsoni*).

The Subcommittee also recognized that the efforts toward *Bsal* prevention may be an opportunity to examine the unmet needs, challenges, and coordination avenues for all wildlife diseases. We initiated new collaborations with the AFWA Fish & Wildlife Health Committee and the relaunching National Fish and Wildlife Health Initiative, along with the Invasive Species Committee, to begin these discussions. In partnership with groups working on white nose syndrome (WNS), sea star wasting disease (SSWD), and *Bsal*, AFWA was able to secure nearly \$500,000 in private funding. The grant supports critical research while also addressing policies and infrastructures for disease management.



### **Partners in Amphibian & Reptile Conservation (PARC)**

As part of ongoing strategic visioning efforts, PARC revised its mission statement, established Core Values, and drafted a new vision statement to better guide our conservation efforts and partnerships. The Strategic Action Plan overview will be released in early 2017, and includes three, broad strategic areas: network growth, habitat conservation, and species conservation. A detailed operational plan will be released in summer 2017.

The identification of Priority Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Areas (PARCAs) remains a focal area for the next several years, with seven more states slated for 2017-18 (Arkansas, California, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, Ohio, Texas, and Washington). The state fish and wildlife agencies will be engaged as part of the peer-review process when these are developed.

PARC's Disease Task Team continued to be active, with new information and resources added to the webpage, including an e-mail address intended to facilitate communication and potential responses to possible disease-related mortality events.

*PARC's new mission statement:  
Forging proactive partnerships to conserve  
amphibians, reptiles, and the places they live.*



**Marbled salamander** (*Ambystoma opacum*)



## Invasive Species

---

The AFWA Invasive Species Committee continued to explore ways to add value to interstate, and interjurisdictional, collaboration, while also protecting and enhancing state authority. Through our longstanding partnerships with the National Sea Grant Law Center, the Western Regional Panel of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, and the National Association of Attorneys General, we were able to complete a draft guidance document, Model Regulation for State Watercraft Inspection and Decontamination Programs. This effort is a value-added companion to a prior Model Legislative Provisions guidance document, intended to help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species while facilitating interstate, and interjurisdictional, collaboration.

Invasive quagga mussels encase a boat propeller.

The Committee added value by enhancing partnerships with other AFWA committees. We continued to partner with the Amphibian & Reptile Subcommittee and initiated new collaborations with the Fish and Wildlife Health Committee to address invasive pathogens, as well as opportunities to coordinate and improve prevention, early detection, control, and management. In addition, the Committee formed a new partnership with the Bird Conservation Committee to co-lead a Feral Cat Working Group to address legal authorities and models for enhanced management of feral cat populations, particularly on state lands.

Finally, the Association continued to work with staff on the Hill to track and improve invasive species bill language to benefit state fish and wildlife agencies.

## National Fish Habitat Partnership

---

The National Fish Habitat Partnership has implemented nearly 80 projects across 36 states in 2016. Since 2006, the National Fish Habitat Partnership has implemented over 600 projects in 47 states through 20 regional partnerships. Many of these projects have been fostered through coordination efforts by state fish and wildlife and natural resource agencies and are making a difference conserving fish habitat and improving angling opportunities across the country.

### 10-Year Anniversary

April 24, 2016, marked 10 years since the original National Fish Habitat Action Plan was signed by the Secretaries of Commerce and Interior and the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, on the banks of the Potomac River in Washington, DC. In 2016, we developed a new Anniversary logo, as we celebrated the anniversary of the Acton Plan as well as designating some of our top partnership projects as “Legacy projects” to promote the important on-the-ground conservation work implemented through our partnerships. These projects reflect that the work being done through the National Fish Habitat Partnership is truly making a difference in habitat conservation nationally.



## National Fish Habitat Board Releases Second National Assessment

The Science and Data Committee of the National Fish Habitat Board released its second Assessment Report in November 2016, titled: "Through a Fish's Eye: The Status of Fish Habitats in the United States 2015." This report summarizes the results of an unprecedented, nationwide assessment of human effects on



fish habitat in the rivers and estuaries of the United States. The assessment assigns a risk of current habitat degradation scores for watersheds and estuaries across the nation and within 14 sub-regions. The results also identify some of the major sources of habitat degradation. The 2015 report updates and revises the 2010 "Status of Fish Habitats in the United States," that summarized initial results of a first-ever comprehensive national assessment of aquatic habitats at an unprecedented scale and level of detail.

The 2015 Report provides even greater detail and improves our knowledge of the condition of fish habitat in the United States. The 2010 inland streams assessment characterized fish habitat condition using stream fish data from more than 26,000 stream reaches, while the 2015 assessment was based on fish data from more than 39,000 stream reaches nationally. To increase accuracy, the 2015 inland stream assessment incorporated 12 additional human disturbance variables into the fish analysis, when compared to the 2010 assessment. Additional variables incorporated into the 2015 assessment and their summary within catchments and buffers allowed for more explicit characterization of the diverse set of disturbances to stream fish habitats occurring across the Nation than what occurred in 2010, and this was made possible due in part to advances in available GIS layers. With the incorporation of these additional disturbances, managers and decision makers can use assessment results to more explicitly identify limits to stream fish habitats.



The 2015 Report is unique, as it is a web-based application with a framework that allows for efficient updates of assessment information and findings through time. The 2015 report allows users to navigate findings and explore interactive maps of results by region or nationally. In addition, the report provides users with the ability to

download sections of the report as PDF documents, or to save and share a web link that is unique to a subsection of interest. The 2015 Report and Assessment can be found at <http://assessment.fishhabitat.org>.



Table Rock Lake, Missouri

## 10 WATERS TO WATCH IN 2016

States were a key partner in implementing the National Fish Habitat Partnership's list of the 10 "Waters to Watch" in 2016, which represent a snapshot of voluntary, locally driven freshwater, estuarine and marine habitat conservation efforts in progress across the country.

The 2016 "Waters to Watch" projects selected by the National Fish Habitat Board are as follows:

**Carmel River, California** - Project Submission by The California Fish Passage Forum

**Cathie Brown Streambank Stabilization and Habitat Improvement Project, Mulberry River, Oark, Arkansas** - Project Submission by The Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership

**Eel River, Indiana** - Project Submission by The Ohio River Basin Fish Habitat Partnership

**\*Harpeth River, Tennessee (2012)** - Project Submission by The Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership

**Lake Wichita, Texas** - Project Nomination by The Reservoir Fish Habitat Partnership

**Mill Creek and Deer Creek, California** - Project Submission by The California Fish Passage Forum

**Peno Creek, Missouri** - Project Submission by The Fishers and Farmers Partnership

**Qwuloolt Estuary, Washington** - Project Nomination by The Pacific Marine and Estuarine Partnership

**\*Table Rock Lake, Missouri (2012)** - Project Submission by The Reservoir Fish Habitat Partnership

**\*Weber River, Utah (2012)** - Project Submission by The Desert Fish Habitat Partnership and the Western Native Trout Initiative

\*represents Legacy Project through the 10-Year Anniversary of the Partnership. For more information on project maps and descriptions of the 10 Waters to Watch list for 2016, Visit: <http://www.fishhabitat.org/waters-to-watch>



Regulated trapping is a critical wildlife management technique which provides numerous benefits to the public and wildlife populations.

of regulated trapping in wildlife management” and a survey of “state trapping regulations and BMP use.” Final reports from these surveys are anticipated by March 15, 2017.

## Furbearer Resources

### Best Management Practices

Trapping is a strictly regulated, law-enforced activity that helps state agencies collect important information about wildlife and sustain healthy and diverse populations. To improve the welfare of animals captured in traps and modernize trapping technology, AFWA’s furbearer resources program has developed 22 Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Trapping in the U.S. documents. These trapping BMPs are widely used among state agency trapper education programs and recognized at international assemblies.

### Surveys Conducted

Under a multistate conservation grant (MSCG), a National Survey of Trap Use for the Capture of Furbearers was conducted. This survey gathered valuable information that will help in the continued development of BMPs and assist the U.S. in demonstrating how it has met its commitments in the Agreed Minute and Annex signed with the European Union in 1997. You can see the report at [www.fishwildlife.org](http://www.fishwildlife.org). Two additional surveys were completed under the same MSCG: a survey of “public attitudes toward the use

### Furbearer Workshop and Trapping Matters

Under another MSCG, numerous Furbearer Workshops (Fur Schools) and Trapping Matters Workshops have been held around the country. These workshops are designed to help wildlife professionals understand the role of trapping in wildlife management and provide practical training in how to best communicate about trapping with the public and media.

### Science Strategy

Science is the cornerstone of sound fish and wildlife management under the North American Model of Fish and Wildlife Conservation. In 2016, AFWA’s science team, working with the full AFWA staff and our external scientific partners, developed the Association’s first-ever Science Strategy document. The Strategy identifies ways in which the Association can use sound science in its own decision-making processes and also provides a blueprint for AFWA staff to work with state and federal agencies, communicating the best of current fish and wildlife science to the wildlife and fisheries program managers who must apply science in order to tackle real-world problems. The Science Strategy document has now been shared with AFWA leadership, relevant AFWA committees, and key external science partners including scientific societies and the federal science agencies.

## STATE WILDLIFE ACTION PLANS

AFWA’s Teaming With Wildlife Committee organized a working group to review and offer recommendations on streamlining the guidance on revising State Wildlife Action Plans. The working group is comprised of state agency and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services staff. The working group will present their recommendations to the Teaming With Wildlife committee at AFWA’s 2017 Annual Meeting.

## Monarch Butterfly

The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies continued to provide leadership on conservation efforts to conserve and restore populations of the Monarch Butterfly. This iconic migratory species is threatened by habitat loss and has been proposed for listing under the federal Endangered Species Act. In 2016, the Association partnered with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to sponsor a structured decision-making workshop for state agency biologists to examine cutting-edge scientific information that can help guide state-level conservation strategies for the Monarch. AFWA staff also worked to build connections between U.S. state wildlife agency biologists and their Canadian and Mexican counterparts at a dedicated session on Monarch conservation which was held at the Ottawa meetings of the Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management. Finally, AFWA staff and leadership engaged with the National Wildlife Federation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to sponsor a Mid-America Monarch Butterfly Conservation Meeting, which brought together state agency leadership, federal agency leaders, farmers, commodity groups, and scientists to discuss an integrated conservation strategy for the Monarch Butterfly.



## Fish and Wildlife Health

2016 was a critically important year for fish and wildlife health, with Chronic Wasting Disease continuing to expand its presence in populations of deer in the USA and Canada, and White-nose Syndrome in bats jumping the continent to appear on the West Coast for the first time. Other disease invaders on the horizon include the salamander fungus *Bsal*, which has not yet been reported from North America but is currently devastating salamander populations in Europe. To address these and other emerging fish and wildlife disease challenges, the AFWA Fish and Wildlife Health Committee took decisive action to revitalize AFWA's Fish and Wildlife Health Initiative, with exciting new leadership under Wyoming Director Scott Talbott. The revitalized initiative will provide training and coordination to agency leadership and managers who are on the front lines dealing with fish and wildlife disease issues in the state fish and wildlife agencies.



## STANDING DOWN OF TEAMING WITH WILDLIFE COALITION

After more than two decades, the Teaming With Wildlife brand was discontinued in 2016. The 6,400 member coalition was formed in the mid 1990's to advocate for a dedicated excise tax on outdoor products to fund fish and wildlife conservation, education and wildlife-related recreation. The coalition later worked on passage of the Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA) that sought to dedicate \$350 million for wildlife conservation. Although CARA was narrowly defeated, the coalition pressed for the creation of the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration and State and Tribal Wildlife Grants program which have provided states with over \$1 billion in new funding since 2000. The Association is grateful to all the organizations and their millions of members who were part of this historic coalition. AFWA will be reaching out to these organizations in 2017 to join a new campaign and brand centered on the Blue Ribbon Panel's recommendations.



*2016 was a critically important year for fish and wildlife health, with Chronic Wasting Disease continuing to expand its presence in populations of deer in the USA and Canada.*

---

*In 2016, we found that 56 of the revised State Wildlife Action Plans include climate change as a threat.*

---

## Climate Adaptation

---

Climate Adaptation is increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of conservation actions by reducing negative impacts and taking advantage of potential benefits from a changing climate. AFWA's Climate Adaptation program provides agencies with the tools, information, and network required to identify existing conservation actions that will continue to be effective and new actions to implement in order to successfully safeguard fish, wildlife, and habitats. In 2016, we found that 56 of the revised State Wildlife Action Plans include climate change as a threat and incorporated climate-smart conservation actions.

### **National Fish, Wildlife, and Plants Climate Adaptation Strategy**

This year, the Association worked with numerous federal and state agencies through the National Fish, Wildlife, and Plants Climate Adaptation Strategy on the Resilient Lands and Waters Initiative. The Initiative recognized seven partnerships across the country as opportunities to build upon existing multi-partner landscape scale efforts to conserve and restore important lands and waters in discrete geographies and to make them more resilient to a changing climate. Also in 2016, we recognized seven inaugural recipients of the Climate Adaptation Leadership Award for Natural Resources including Jack Sullivan, who recently retired from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.



## Energy

---

Energy demand and consumption continues to increase in the U.S. and this demand will only grow as we strive toward energy independence and more technological advances. The progression toward energy independence has increased interest in development and reduced the cost of renewable energy sources. In 2016, for the third consecutive year, more than half of new energy generation was from renewable technologies, especially wind and solar. The number of U.S. jobs in solar energy overtook those in oil and natural gas extraction for the first time. To effectively conserve fish and wildlife resources and their habitats during rapid energy development, state fish and wildlife agencies must maintain a consistent presence and actively participate with regulatory decision-making agencies and the energy industry.

In 2016 the Association implemented webinars, workshops and other trainings such as Electric Transmission 101 with the Edison Electric Institute, Wind & Wildlife Workshop with the National Renewable Energy Labs and Bat Conservation International, and a Solar Workshop with Duke Energy to assist state wildlife agencies in working closer with the energy industries. We also worked with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to improve the draft Eagle Incidental Take and Eagle Nest Take Regulations.

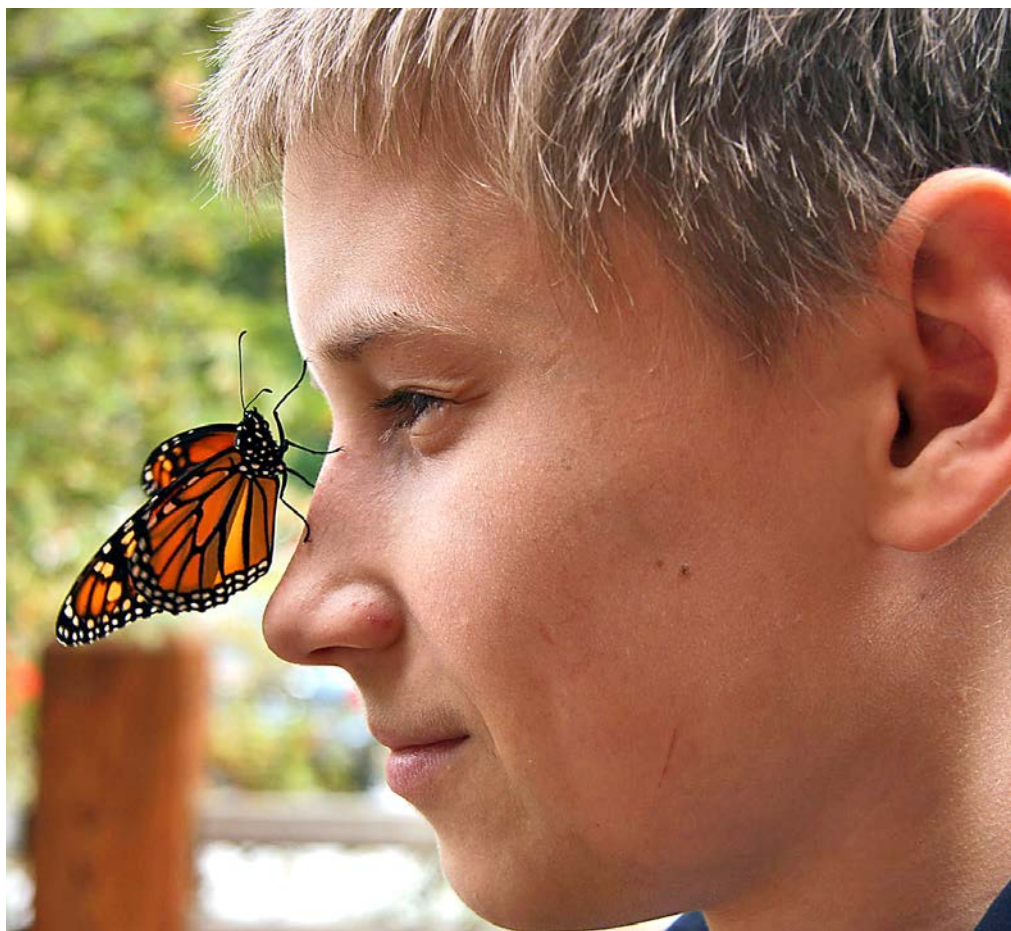
## Conservation Education

---

Conservation education is one of the most vital tools in helping people of all ages understand and appreciate our natural resources. Since 2004, the Association has undertaken a series of multistate conservation grants building a body of knowledge to ensure a unified approach by the states. The grant funding has made it possible for our greater community to unite in preparing this country's citizens to understand and address the major environmental challenges facing natural resource management. The North American Conservation Education (CE) Strategy was designed by state agencies for states and our partners to identify what every American should know, feel and do related to conservation.

The CE Strategy has been compiling information for a Monarch Butterfly Field Investigations companion guide. Once completed, this investigation will leverage the increasing interest in monarch butterflies to reach school-aged youth with messaging about state fish and wildlife management and the work of the state agencies.

The CE Strategy also hosted a monthly webinar series to discuss CE issues and provide online training on Strategy tools. Regularly reaching maximum participation capacity, webinar topics included Applying Diversity Best Practices to Conservation Education, Overview of the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife, The Conservation Education Strategy Toolkit-Resources for the Conservation Educator, and more. More than 20 resources are available on the AFWA website for program planners and educators.



---

*A Monarch Butterfly Field Investigations companion guide... will leverage the increasing interest in monarch butterflies to reach school-aged youth.*

---

CONSERVATION INITIATIVES

*Bringing Value to the  
Conservation Table*





## Multistate Conservation Grant Program

Since 2000, the Multistate Conservation Grant Program has dedicated \$95 million in towards addressing critical conservation priorities on a national and regional level for state fish and wildlife agencies.

Multistate Conservation Grant Program projects implemented in 2016 include:

- ***Increasing Effectiveness of State Wildlife Agencies through Leadership and Professional Development Based on Public Trust and Good Governance Principles (Wildlife Management Institute)*** - The Wildlife Management Institute (WMI) collaborated with representatives from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Michigan Division of Wildlife, New York Department of Environmental Conservation, and Cornell University to pilot test methods to evaluate and improve state agency alignment with recently-developed Wildlife Governance Principles. All four states found the survey tool and workshops provided meaningful, practical results they could immediately implement to improve effectiveness. In 2017, WMI and its partners will offer training in all four regional associations of fish and wildlife agencies in the use of the survey tool and ways to fulfill public trust responsibilities in ways consistent with good governance.
- ***Promoting State Involvement and Interest in the Implementation of International Treaties (Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies)*** - State wildlife agencies influenced the results of, participated in, and represented states and where appropriate provincial and territorial interests to enhance the conservation of wildlife in North America. Key was attendance at the 17th Conference of the Parties with more than 3,500 other participants. State representatives helped pass proposals to remove the Wood Bison from CITES lists and downlist two subspecies of cougar; supported the participation of rural communities in CITES, engaged in conservation of American Eel and coral species; and addressed critical sustainable use issues.

---

*Since 2000, the Multistate Conservation Grant Program has dedicated \$95 million in towards addressing critical conservation priorities on a national and regional level for state fish and wildlife agencies.*

---



Wood bison (*Bison bison athabasca*)

# Professional Leadership

## National Conservation Leadership Institute

The National Conservation Leadership Institute (NCLI) was born out of a need to expand leadership capacity in natural resource management. For 11 years now, NCLI has been meeting that need by connecting conservation professionals



NCLI Alumni and Fellows meet in March 2016 with board members / AFWA leadership to discuss the role of the NCLI community.

with world-class leadership expertise, and with each other. What began as one of the most far-reaching professional development initiatives ever undertaken in natural resource management, has now begun to coalesce into a community of alumni, MAT staff, board members, partners and supporters—together a community of practice.

In 2016 the NCLI community made great strides and impacts on the world of natural resource management. This year saw the graduation of the Institute's 10th Cohort, and welcomed the 36 Fellows of Cohort 11, bringing the total number of NCLI graduates to 353. Diversity

amongst participants grew significantly, with participation from new Industry and Tribal organizations. Financial support for the program expanded, with regional associations pledging contributions, even as efforts kicked off to develop and implement an annual system of Alumni giving. Alumni work also expanded, with graduates self-organizing and successfully delivering continuing education events, and planning small and large scale social and business meetings. Drawing on the gathering momentum of the year, alumni met together and spoke with conservation leadership to discuss how the growing potential of this incredible community might be harnessed moving into 2017 and beyond.



**The NCLI welcomes direct donations** to help prepare the next generation of conservation leaders. Visit [conservationleadership.org](http://conservationleadership.org) for more information about the NCLI and how to become a Fellow or supporter. The NCLI is staffed by AFWA's Management Assistance Team.



## The Management Assistance Team

AFWA's Management Assistance Team (MAT) acts as an internal consulting and training resource for all 51 state fish and wildlife agencies. Supported by funds from a multistate conservation grant, MAT's work helps to advance natural resource management goals through organizational, leadership, and professional development opportunities. MAT's products and services concentrate on agency administration—the people part of the equation.



The Management Assistance Team, now fully staffed for the first time in four years, provided exemplary service to state agencies and partners by offering consulting services and face-to-face training, as well as new and revamped online training designed to fit the busy schedules of state agency employees. At full capacity, MAT's reach broadened in 2016 through increased presence nationally and regionally. Organizational development and consulting services expanded, new online offerings were developed, and training hours doubled.



AFWA's Management Assistance Team, 2016

## 2016 Breakdown

MAT conducted 19 online courses, 7 webinars and 2 face-to-face workshops with training hours totaling 6,699. Of MAT's online offerings, 5 webinars were new to the catalogue, and all were served via the team's custom, online learning management system. MAT also provided leadership and organizational management consulting to nine individual state agencies and one federal agency, serving a total of 28 states and other partner organizations in 2016.

*To view a list of MAT's services and latest professional development opportunities, go to [matteam.org](http://matteam.org).*

## 2016 Annual Meeting

The Association held its 106th Annual Meeting, September 11-14, 2016 in beautiful historic Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Leading off the conference, the 2016 plenary "Making Big Ideas Work: A Look at Our Conservation History and Conservation Future" reflected upon ideas, theories, and insights that have significantly changed the way we think about fish and wildlife conservation. The session delved into the questions of how we can make these big ideas a reality and where we're headed in our conservation future, highlighting the work of the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources.

The Association thanks speakers John Organ, Ph.D., Chief, USGS Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Units; Glenn Geller, former Managing Partner, Brand Planning Strategy, Moroch Partners; and Becky Humphries, Ph.D., Chief Conservation Officer, National Wild Turkey Federation for their insights.

---

*MAT provided leadership and organizational management consulting to nine individual state agencies and one federal agency, serving a total of 28 states.*

---



Dan Forster (GA) receives the Seth Gordon Award.

## 2016 ANNUAL AWARDS

The Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) recognized four individuals, three state agencies and one private landowner for their dedication to advancing fish and wildlife conservation AFWA's Annual Awards Ceremony held on September 13, 2016 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Recipients include:

- Seth Gordon Award- Dan Forster (Georgia Wildlife Resources Division)
- Ernest Thompson Seton Award- Missouri Stream Team Program
- Mark Reeff Memorial Award- Davia Palmeri (AFWA)
- Private Lands Fish and Wildlife Stewardship Award- Paul Tudor Jones, owner of Blue Valley Ranch, Colorado.
- Conservation Law Enforcement Award- South Carolina Department of Natural Resources- Law Enforcement Public Relations
- Special Recognition Awards- Roy Grimes (NASP); Georgia Plant Conservation Alliance
- Tribute to Fallen Heroes- Lt. Arthur A Green (Michigan Conservation Officer).

## 2015 Annual Meeting Resolutions

State agency directors passed four resolutions during AFWA's Business Meeting held on September 14. Resolutions are developed within AFWA committees to express formal opinion for adoption by the Association.

1. Promotion of Recruitment, Retention and Reactivation (R3) activities within state fish and wildlife agencies, submitted by the Angler and Boating Participation Committee and the Hunting and Shooting Sports Participation Committee.
2. An endorsement of Funding for U.S. Forest Service research and development programs that provide management-relevant science to the state fish and wildlife agencies, submitted by the Science and Research Committee.
3. Statement of appreciation to the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources and support for its recommendations and ongoing work, submitted by the Teaming With Wildlife Committee.
4. Appreciation of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission and the Pennsylvania Game Commission for hosting the AFWA Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, PA, adopted September 14, 2016.

To view the full text of the resolutions, visit [fishwildlife.org](http://fishwildlife.org).

## ANNUAL MEETING SPONSORS

The Association extends its appreciation to the 106th Annual Meeting sponsors, exhibitors and, most especially the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission and the Pennsylvania Game Commission

**Sustaining Partners:** Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation

**Platinum:** Bass Pro Shops, NOAA/NMFS, USDA APHIS Wildlife Services

**Gold:** Brandt Information Services, Inc., Ducks Unlimited, National Shooting Sports Foundation, Pheasants Forever, USDA APHIS Veterinary Service, USDA Forest Service, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service

**Silver:** Archery Trade Association, Gordon-Darby, Inc., National Park Service, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Systems Consultants

**Bronze:** American Sportfishing Association, Boone and Crockett Club, Dallas Safari Club, DJ Case & Associates, National Rifle Association, National Wild Turkey Federation, TASER International, The Nature Conservancy, The Wildlife Society, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, Timmons Group, Wildlife Forever

# Planning

## Strategic Planning

The Association's current strategic plan will end in 2017. AFWA leadership and staff will begin working on a new plan in 2017 reviewing our strategic achievements and creating an updated plan for 2018 and beyond. Our current strategic plan can be viewed on the AFWA website.

## Business Planning

Based on AFWA's 2015 Business Plan the AFWA membership approved a dues increase in 2016. The dues increase reflected the Executive Committee's desire to reduce the Association's reliance on a Multistate Conservation Grant supporting core AFWA staff. This transition is reflected in the decreasing percentage of the Association's revenue coming from Multistate Grants.

## Adding Value, Not Staff

Over the last five years the AFWA staff has adapted to focus on the issues of the day. Even as that has happened total staff size has remained relatively stable. In 2013 AFWA had 26 FTEs and we enter 2017 with 27 FTEs!

# 2016 Financials

The funds entrusted to the Association enable us to provide coordinated services; support national and international programs, projects and coalitions; promote wildlife-associated recreation; and help members continue to address the most pressing conservation challenges of the day.

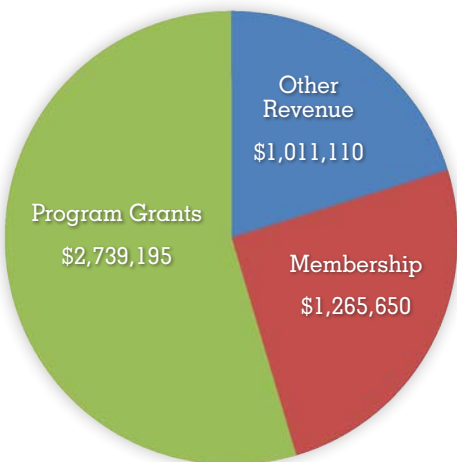


## ASSOCIATION of FISH & WILDLIFE AGENCIES

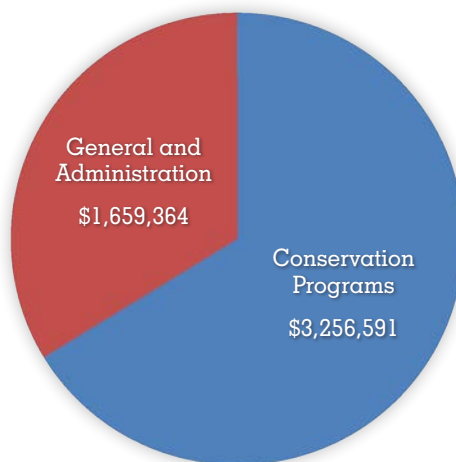
### THE ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES - CORE VALUES

- Collaboration
- Community
- Respect
- Responsiveness
- Excellence

### 2016 REVENUE



### 2016 EXPENSES



The Association's independently audited financial statements and IRS Form 990 are available upon request.

### MEMBERSHIP DUES

|              |        |
|--------------|--------|
| State        | 23.62% |
| Federal      | < 1%   |
| Provincial   | < 1%   |
| Associate    | < 1%   |
| Affiliate    | < 1%   |
| Contributing | < 1%   |

### GRANT REVENUE

|               |        |
|---------------|--------|
| Federal       | 15.74% |
| Multistate    | 31.65% |
| Foundation    | < 1%   |
| International | 4.24%  |

### OTHER REVENUE

|                          |       |
|--------------------------|-------|
| Annual Meeting           | 7.78% |
| Misc. State Contribution | 1.40% |
| Overhead                 | 9.32% |
| Miscellaneous            | 4.47% |

|                |             |
|----------------|-------------|
| TOTAL REVENUE  | \$5,015,955 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | \$4,915,955 |

# The Association Committees, Subcommittees & Working Groups

Almost without exception, the accomplishments of which the Association are most proud started within our 70+ committees by our 1,000+ committee members. Without a doubt, the Association's success in advancing positions that further our collective capacity to manage resources will only continue thanks to the enduring personal contributions of the greater Association membership.

## **AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION**

- Bioenergy Working Group
- Conservation Reserve Program Working Group
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program and Conservation Stewardship Program Joint Working Group
- Farm Bill Easements Working Group
- Forestry Working Group
- Public Access Working Group

## **ANGLER & BOATING PARTICIPATION**

## **ANNUAL MEETING/AWARDS/NOMINATING**

## **AUDIT**

## **BIRD CONSERVATION**

- Migratory Shore & Upland Game Bird Working Group
- Partners in Flight/Shorebird/Waterbird Working Group
- Resident Game Bird Working Group
- Waterfowl Working Group

## **CLIMATE CHANGE**

## **EDUCATION, OUTREACH & DIVERSITY**

- Conservation Education Strategy Working Group
- Diversity Working Group
- Outreach Working Group
- Wildlife Viewing & Nature Tourism Working Group

## **ENERGY & WILDLIFE POLICY**

- Onshore Oil, Gas and Minerals Subcommittee
- Wind, Solar & Transmission Subcommittee

## **EXECUTIVE**

## **FEDERAL & TRIBAL RELATIONS**

## **FINANCE**

## **FISH & WILDLIFE HEALTH**

- Controlled Substances Act Task Force
- Lead & Fish and Wildlife Health Working Group

## **FISH & WILDLIFE TRUST FUNDS**

- Federal Aid Coordinators Working Group
- Trust Fund Collection Working Group

## **FISHERIES & WATER RESOURCES POLICY**

- Drug Approval Working Group
- Water Subcommittee

## **HUNTING & SHOOTING SPORTS PARTICIPATION**

## **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

- CITES Technical Work Group

## **INVASIVE SPECIES**

## **LAW ENFORCEMENT**

- Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact

## **LEADERSHIP & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

## **LEGAL**

## **LEGISLATIVE & FEDERAL BUDGET**

- Budget Working Group

## **NATIONAL GRANTS**

## **OCEAN RESOURCES POLICY**

## **RESOLUTIONS**

## **SCIENCE & RESEARCH**

## **SUSTAINABLE USE OF WILDLIFE**

- Furbearer Conservation Technical Working Group

## **TEAMING WITH WILDLIFE**

- State Wildlife Action Plan Revision Guidance Working Group

## **TECHNOLOGY & DATA**

## **THREATENED & ENDANGERED SPECIES POLICY**

## **WILDLIFE RESOURCE POLICY**

- Amphibian & Reptile Subcommittee
- Human/Wildlife Conflict Working Group

## **TASK FORCES**





## Staff

Ron Regan, Executive Director

Patricia Allen, Director of Marketing & Communications

Carol Bambery, General Counsel

John Bloom, Accounting Manager

Kathy Boydston, AFWA's Wildlife & Energy, Program Manager, retired at the end of 2016

Devin DeMario, Government Affairs Associate

Bettina Fiery, Professional Development Program Manager

Tiffany Fritts, Communications Coordinator

Tim Gray, Administrative Assistant

Estelle Green, Administrative Assistant

Deb Hahn, Director of International Programs

Mary Hughes, Training Specialist

Mark Humpert, Director of Conservation Initiatives

Lane Kisonak, Legal Strategy Attorney

John Lord, Director of Operations

Gina Main, Director of Professional Development

Jonathan Mawdsley, Science Advisor

Amanda Myers, Training & Information Services Administrator

Priya Nanjappa, Amphibian & Reptile, and Invasive Species Program Manager

Angela Rivas Nelson, Executive Assistant

Davia Palmeri, Climate Change Coordinator

Ryan Roberts, Natl Fish Habitat Partnership Program Manager

Sean Saville, Blue Ribbon Panel Campaign Manager

Judith Scarl, Bird Conservation Program Manager, NABCI Coordinator

Jen Mock Schaeffer, Director of Government Affairs

Andrew Schmidt, Agriculture Policy Program Manager

Dean Smith, NAWMP Director/ Wildlife Liaison (Canada)

Gary Taylor, Legislative Director Emeritus

Bryant White, Trapping Policy Program Manager

Silvana Yaroschuk, Multistate Conservation Grants Program Manager

## OFFICERS & EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE\*

### President

Nick Wiley, Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission

### Vice President

Virgil Moore, Idaho Fish & Game Department

### Secretary/Treasurer

Bob Broscheid, Colorado Division of Parks & Wildlife

### Past President

Dave Chanda, New Jersey Division of Fish & Wildlife (thru Dec. 2016)

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### Chair

Glenn Normandeau, New Hampshire Fish & Game Department

### Vice Chair

John Arway, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission

### Members

Ed Carter, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency

Jim Douglas, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission

Kelly Hepler, South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks Department

Greg Sheehan, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources

Carter Smith, Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept.

## EX OFFICIO VOTING MEMBERS

### Canada:

John Blake, Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Environment & Conservation

## REGIONAL ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

### Midwest:

Bill Moritz, Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources

### Northeast:

Catherine Sparks, Rhode Island Dept. of Environmental Management

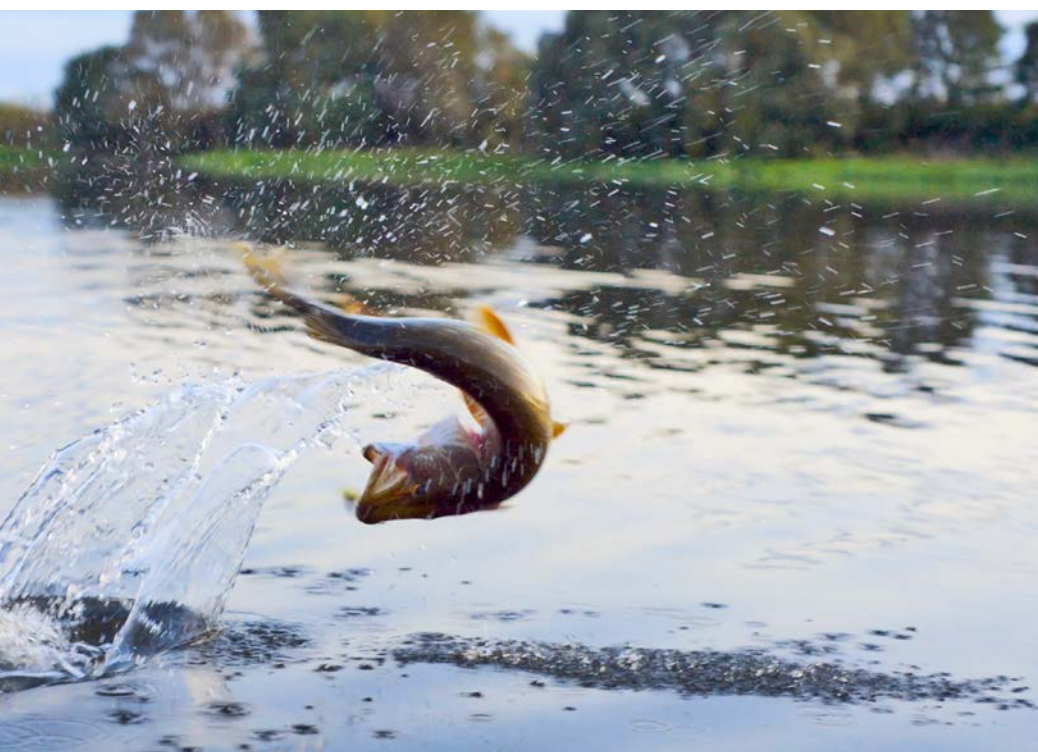
### Southeast:

Gordon Myers, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

### Western:

Scott Talbot, Wyoming Game & Fish Department

\* Current slate 2016-2017  
Officers & Executive Committee Members



# Members of the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies

Why is the Association relevant? It's because of the active involvement of a great assembly of member agencies and organizations to achieve a great vision of sound fish and wildlife resource management throughout North America for long-term public benefit, use and support.

## U.S. STATE & TERRITORIAL AGENCY MEMBERS

Alabama Division of Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries  
Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game  
Arizona Game & Fish Dept.  
Arkansas Game & Fish Commission  
California Dept. of Fish & Wildlife  
Colorado Division of Parks & Wildlife  
Connecticut Bureau of Natural Resources  
Delaware Division of Fish & Wildlife  
DC Department of the Environment, Fisheries and Wildlife Division  
Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission  
Georgia Wildlife Resources Division  
Hawaii Dept. of Land & Natural Resources  
Idaho Dept. of Fish & Game  
Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources  
Indiana Division of Fish & Wildlife  
Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources  
Kansas Dept. of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism  
Kentucky Dept. of Fish & Wildlife Resources  
Louisiana Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries  
Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife  
Maryland Wildlife & Heritage Service  
Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife  
Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources  
Minnesota Division of Fish & Wildlife  
Mississippi Dept. of Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks  
Missouri Dept. of Conservation  
Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
Nebraska Game & Parks Commission  
Nevada Dept. of Wildlife  
New Hampshire Fish & Game Dept.  
New Jersey Division of Fish & Wildlife  
New Mexico Game & Fish Dept.  
New York Division of Fish, Wildlife & Marine Resources  
North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission  
North Dakota Game & Fish Dept.  
Ohio Division of Wildlife  
Oklahoma Dept. of Wildlife Conservation  
Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife

Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission  
Pennsylvania Game Commission  
Rhode Island Dept. of Environmental Management  
South Carolina Dept. of Natural Resources  
South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks Dept.  
Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency  
Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept.  
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources  
Vermont Dept. of Fish & Wildlife  
Virginia Dept. of Game & Inland Fisheries  
Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife  
West Virginia Division of Natural Resources  
Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources  
Wyoming Game & Fish Dept.  
**U.S. FEDERAL AGENCY MEMBERS**  
Bureau of Land Management  
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration Fisheries Service  
National Park Service  
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture - APHIS/Veterinary Services  
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture - APHIS/Wildlife Services  
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture - Forest Service  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
U.S. Geological Survey

## CANADIAN GOVERNMENT MEMBERS

Alberta Environment and Parks  
Canadian Wildlife Service  
New Brunswick Dept. of Natural Resources  
Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Environment & Conservation  
Northwest Territories Dept. of Environment & Natural Resources  
Nova Scotia Dept. of Natural Resources  
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry  
Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment

## AFFILIATE MEMBERS

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission  
College of Natural Resources (University of Wisconsin-Stevens Pt.)

Great Lakes Fishery Commission  
Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission  
International Hunter Education Association-USA  
National Association of State Boating Law Administrators  
National Association of University Fish & Wildlife Programs  
North American Wildlife Enforcement Officers Association  
Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission  
Society for Wildlife Forensic Science  
States Organization for Boating Access  
Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council  
Wildlife Disease Association

## CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS

American Eagle Foundation  
American Sportfishing Association  
Americas Fur Resource Council  
Archery Trade Association  
B.A.S.S. LLC  
Boone & Crockett Club  
Canadian Wildlife Federation  
Delta Waterfowl Foundation  
Ducks Unlimited Canada  
Ducks Unlimited, Inc.  
Fur Institute of Canada  
Fur Takers of America, Inc.  
Hunting Heritage Trust  
National Audubon Society  
National Bowhunter Education Foundation  
National Marine Manufacturers Association  
National Rifle Association - Conservation, Wildlife & Natural Resources Division  
National Shooting Sports Foundation, Inc.  
National Trappers Association  
National Wild Turkey Federation  
National Wildlife Federation  
The Nature Conservancy  
NatureServe  
North American Falconers Association  
North American Grouse Partnership  
North Dakota Natural Resources Trust  
Outdoor Roadmap  
The Peregrine Fund  
Pheasants Forever  
Pope & Young Club  
Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation  
Resource Management Service, LLC  
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation  
Safari Club International  
Sportsmen's Alliance  
The Ruffed Grouse Society  
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership  
Wild Sheep Foundation  
Wildlife Management Institute  
The Wildlife Society

## PHOTOGRAPHERS

**Cover Photo:** USFWS

**Inside Cover (left) Spread:** George Andrekjo, AGFD • **Inside Cover (right) Spread:** George Andrekjo, AGFD

**Additional featured images by:** Additional featured images by: Dori-WikiCommons (pg 6); National Press Club (pg 7); Nebraska Game & Fish (pg 8); USFWS (pg 9); Shutterstock (pg 10, 30-31); Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (pg 11); George Andrekjo (pg 12-13, 20, 21, 30-31); Arizona Game & Fish Dept. (pg 15, 24); Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (pg 15); Brent Stittler (pg 16); Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency (pg 16); Judith C. Scarl (pg 17); Utah DNR (pg 18); Paul Burnett-Trout Unlimited (pg 19); Arkansas Game & Fish (pg 19); Gary Wise (pg 21); Maryland DNR (pg 23); AFWA Staff (pg 26, 27, 28); Texas Parks & Wildlife (pg 34-35)

**Stock images:** Jason Ondreicka/Dreamstime.com (pg7), MSU Law School CC-BY-SA 2.5 (pg10), Tommy Schultz/dreamstimefree.com (pg13), Tom Koerner/USFWS (pg16), Isselee/Dreamstime.com (pg17), Scott Erickson/Dreamstime.com (pg 19), ArtJazz/BigStock.com (pg22), Rinus Baak/Dreamstime.com (pg25)



# JOIN US IN UTAH FOR THE 2017 ASSOCIATION OF FISH & WILDLIFE AGENCIES ANNUAL MEETING



**SEPTEMBER 10-13, 2017 • SNOWBIRD RESORT • SANDY, UT**

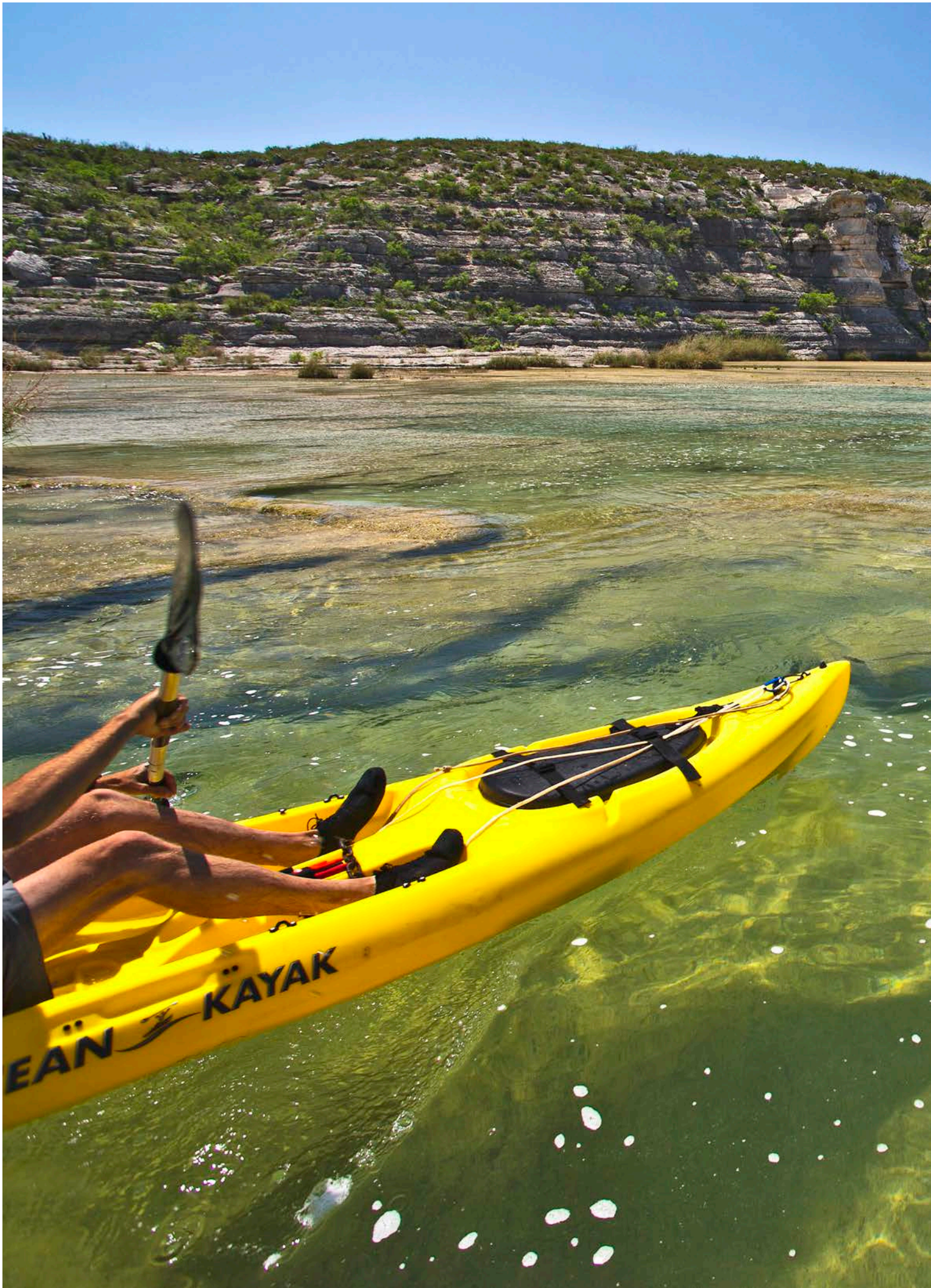


ASSOCIATION of  
FISH & WILDLIFE  
AGENCIES



**snowbird**   
ski and summer resort

[afwaannualmeeting.org](http://afwaannualmeeting.org)



# Adding Value to Our Future

## LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR 2017

---

### **Recovering America's Wildlife Act**

Modernize fish and wildlife conservation by using existing energy development revenues towards state conservation work for species with declining populations.

### **Modernizing the Wildlife Restoration Program**

Enhance states' abilities to meet the needs of today's hunters and recreational shooters.

### **Reauthorizing the 2018 Farm Bill**

Advance voluntary, incentive-based conservation on private lands.

### **Modernizing the Endangered Species Act**

Work with state fish and wildlife agencies to modernize the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

## SCIENCE STRATEGIES FOR 2017

---

### **Fish and Wildlife Health**

Protect fish and wildlife from new and emerging diseases by improving agency preparedness, coordination, and policies.

### **Support Climate Adaptation**

Provide tools, information, and a network to identify existing conservation actions that will continue to be effective and new actions to implement in order to successfully safeguard fish, wildlife, and habitats.

### **"Big Data" for Fish and Wildlife Management**

Help states apply new Google-style data tools and large online databases to improve scientific management of fish and wildlife species across the United States.

### **Demonstrate Bird Conservation Relevance**

Align bird conservation priorities with broader landscape conservation, economic, and human health benefits to broaden partnerships, nationally and internationally.



**ASSOCIATION of  
FISH & WILDLIFE  
AGENCIES**

The Voice of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

1100 First Street, NE Suite 825  
Washington, DC 20002

Phone: 202/838-3474  
Email: [info@fishwildlife.org](mailto:info@fishwildlife.org)

[www.fishwildlife.org](http://www.fishwildlife.org)

Join Us:



[/FishWildlifeAgencies](#)  
[/NFHAP](#)  
[/Management-Assistance-Team](#)  
[/TheNCLpage](#)



[@FishWildlife](#)  
[@FishHabitat](#)  
[@The MATteam](#)  
[@SouthernW1ings](#)