

Deer & Wild Turkey

2022 Proceedings

46th Annual Meeting

Midwest Deer & Wild Turkey Study Group

Held Jointly with the Southeastern Cervid and Wild Turkey Working Groups

Rock Springs 4-H Ranch

Junction City, Kansas

August 15-18, 2022



Compiled by Levi Jaster and Kent Fricke

Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks



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Background

The Midwest Deer and Wild Turkey Study Group (MDWTSG) meeting is an annual gathering of wildlife managers sanctioned by and affiliated with the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. Primary objectives of the meeting include dissemination of deer and wild turkey management strategies, discussion of emerging or existing issues associated with deer and wild turkey management, and coordination of regional deer and wild turkey management or research efforts. The meeting location rotates among the Midwestern states that are active within the group.

Forums such as the MDWTSG meeting provide valuable opportunities for state deer and turkey biologists to become acquainted with emerging issues and exchange information and ideas related to deer and turkey research and management. The need for state fish and wildlife agencies to establish and maintain deer and turkey biologist positions and support travel of these biologists to the annual MDWTSG meeting is imperative for exchanging information to promote quality wildlife management and research in each state. It is more important than ever that state agencies are at the forefront of issues related to deer and turkey management in order to protect the heritage and recreational opportunities of hunting for future sportsmen and sportswomen.

Meeting Time and Place

The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP) hosted the 2022 MDWTSG meeting at the Rock Springs 4-H Ranch near Junction City, Kansas on August 15-18. The MDWTSG appreciates the financial support provided by the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) and the National Deer Association (NDA) and logistical support provided by Jared McJunkin (NWTF).

Executive Summary

After several years of discussion both the Southeast and Midwest Deer and Turkey biologists elected to hold a joint meeting to provide fresh perspectives on topics of concern across the regions. The Tuesday morning session was a joint-session with SEWTWG, SECWG and Midwest Deer and Turkey Study Group (MDTSG). The opening talks served as a welcome to Kansas, habitat and game management at Rock Springs Ranch, as well as an overview of turkey/deer management in the state. This was immediately followed by several invited presentations to close out the morning session on Hunter Recruitment, Retention, and Reactivation.

Welcome to Kansas - Brad Loveless welcomed attendees to Kansas and discussed some of the challenges Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks staff face. Public lands represent a tiny proportion (1.8%) of the available land ownership in the state, second only to Rhode Island. Ever present threats to wildlife in the state centered around CWD, commercialization of wildlife and continued declines in wild turkey populations. All which pose challenges in a state where non-residents generate 75% of license revenue and there is considerable demand from NR hunters. Non-residents represent 35-40% of spring turkey harvest, and continued population declines have led to additional consideration for further season reductions (NR draw).

Rock Springs Ranch Youth Hunts & Habitat Management - Clint Thornton provided an overview of the facilities 730 acres in the Flint Hills and Tall Grass Prairie region of Kansas. He discussed native vegetative community restoration on the property focusing on cedar and woody species removal. The property hosts special youth hunts for turkey and deer each year with great success for young hunters.

Deer and Turkey Management in Kansas - Kent Fricke provided an overview of turkey management in Kansas. He indicated state abundance indices were showing similar trends to other states throughout the country, peaks in the mid-2000s and subsequent declines likely fueled by declining reproduction. Continued declining trends are leading to upcoming regulation change recommendations. Levi Jaster closed out the opening session with an overview of statewide deer management in Kansas. The first modern deer season was held in 1965 with an estimated population of 22,300 white-tailed deer. Now the statewide population is stable to slightly increasing with current harvests estimated around 70-80,000 and population estimates near 750,000.

Invited Speakers - Scott Taylor (Pheasants Forever), the National Wild Pheasant Conservation Plan Coordinator, provided an overview of AFWA's Small Game R3 Assessment. Matt Knox (VA) presented Rearranging the Deck Chairs on the Titanic, an overview of deer hunter declines over a 30+ year career in Virginia. Hank Forester (National Deer Association) presented on the Southeast Deer Partnership and R3 Efforts. Chris Chizinski (NE) gave a detailed presentation on hunter demographics in Nebraska. Nicholas Cole (USGS) and Brad Milley (USFWS) closed out the morning presentations by providing an introduction on Change Theory in the context of

managing CWD. The morning finished with a panel discussion that generated good discussion on how to reconcile increasing participation on public lands while simultaneously dealing with potential limited access as well as other ways to appeal to minority groups with R3 efforts.

Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday morning were breakout sessions for deer and turkey representatives. Deer breakout session topics included Change Theory, Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD - communication, surveillance, management and research) and disparities in deer abundance, hunter numbers, and hunting opportunities. Turkey breakout session topics included summaries of regional turkey research and conservation efforts, declining production and abundance, habitat management funding, harvest management, and upcoming or in progress research projects. Presenters included invited speakers representing state agencies, NGOs, academic institutions, and federal agencies followed by group discussions.

Business Meeting

Meeting Funds

- Funds held by NWTF
- No issues raised from members with NWTF holding funds

State Reports

- Reminder to send in state reports to Kent and Levi

Meeting Report

- Will be summarized and finalized by Levi and Kent, Kansas

Storage of past reports and documents

- Everyone is satisfied with documents being stored by University of Wisconsin

2023 Meeting Host

- North Dakota will host
- Planned for Medora in late September

Director Action Items

There are no director action items.

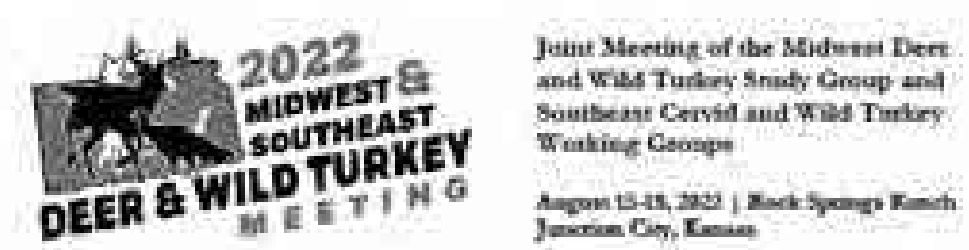
Director Information Items

Periodic joint meetings between adjoining regional cervid and wild turkey working groups will further information sharing and coordination efforts of all participating states.

Time and Place of Next Meeting

The 2023 MDWTSG annual meeting will be hosted by the North Dakota Game and Fish Department, in Medora, North Dakota on September 25-28, 2023 at the Rough Riders Hotel and Conference Center.

Appendix 1: Meeting Agenda



Agenda

Monday, August 13		
6:00-7:00	Dinner at Your Choice Arrival and Check-in Light Evening Social	Looking Lody
Tuesday, August 14		
7:00-8:30	Breakfast	Cafeteria
8:30-9:00	Welcome, Introductions, Announcements Palmer to Kansas Brad Loveland, KDWTF Secretary Back Springs Ranch Youth Hunt & Habitat Management Clint Thompson Deer and Turkey Management in Kansas Lori Jones & Kent Fisher	Heritage Hall
9:00-10:15	Joint Meeting- Habitat Reevaluation, Evaluation, and Restoration A/W/T's Small Game LJ Assessment Scott Taylor, Pleasant Poxon Encouraging the Duck Chase on the Prairie Matt Kline, Virginia Southeast Deer Partnership, KJ Egbert Hank Pomeroy, National Deer Assoc.	
10:15-10:30	Break	
10:30-12:00	Joint Meeting- Habitat Reevaluation, Evaluation and Restoration Wild Turkey Niche(s) in the South Chris Clements, University of Nebraska Tray of Change Nicholas Cole, USGS and Brad Miller, USFWS Final Discussion	
12:00-1:30	Lunch	Cafeteria
1:30-2:30	Business Meetings Deer Turkey	Heritage Hall A Heritage Hall B
2:30-4:00	Break	

4:00-5:00	Business Meetings <i>Milk and Dairy</i> <i>Justices Court</i> <i>Justices Turkey</i> <i>SWIT</i>	<i>Heritage Hall A</i> <i>Heritage Hall B</i> <i>Heritage Hall B1</i> <i>Heritage Hall C</i>
6:00-9:00	General Dinner and Social	<i>Cypress Green Expo</i>
Wednesday, August 27		
7:00-8:30	Breakfast	<i>Cypress</i>
8:30-12:00	Breakfast Meetings <i>Dairy</i> <i>Turkey</i>	<i>Heritage Hall A</i> <i>Heritage Hall B</i>
12:00-1:30	Lunch	<i>Cypress</i>
1:30-5:00	Breakfast Meetings <i>Dairy</i> <i>Turkey</i>	<i>Heritage Hall A</i> <i>Heritage Hall B</i>
6:00-9:00	BBQ Dinner and Social	<i>Cypress Green Expo</i>
Thursday, August 28		
7:00-8:30	Breakfast	<i>Cypress</i>
7:00-9:00	Departure	



**Joint Meeting of the Midwest Deer
and Wild Turkey Study Group and
Southeast Cervid and Wild Turkey
Working Groups**

August 15-18, 2021 | Rock Springs Ranch
Junction City, Kansas

**Deer Breakfast Agenda
Heritage Hall A**

Tuesday, August 16

- 8:30-9:30 **Theory of Change – Antelope Harvest**
- Melissa Cole, USGS & Reed Miller, USFWS

Wednesday, August 17

- 8:30-10:00 **Cervid Working Dinner – Communications & Surveillance**
- Kansas CWD Messaging Campaigns | Levi Jones, Kansas
 - Iowa CWD Ambassador Program | Tyler Haines, Iowa
 - Michigan Surveillance Program | Chad Stewart, Michigan
 - Panel Discussion

10:00-10:30 **Break**

- 10:30-12:00 **Cervid Working Dinner – Management & Research**
- 30 Years of CWD Management | David Hickey, Illinois
 - Iowa Inoculated Harvest Program | Tyler Haines, Iowa
 - Contact Rates Around Elk Sites | Samantha Courtney, Michigan State
 - Panel Discussion

12:00-1:00 **Lunch**

- 1:30-3:00 **Dispensers as deer attractants, hunter incentives, and hunting opportunities**
- Midwest and Southeast Surveillance and Diffusion | Kap Adams, NDA
 - Individual Deer Population Response to Calling | Dwayne Sims, Michigan
 - Panel Discussion

3:00-3:30 **Break**

- 3:30-5:00 **Dispensers as deer attractants, hunter incentives, and hunting opportunities (cont.)**
- Virginia's 2nd Buck Permit | Matt Knox, Virginia
 - Kansas Hunting Access Program | Wes Schwartz, Kansas
 - Panel Discussion



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Turkey Breakfast Agenda *Horngate Hall B*

Tuesday, August 16

- 8:30-9:30 Overview, 12th National Wild Turkey Symposium | Kent Friebe, Jenny Wood
Southeastern Turkey Research Synthesis | Jenny Wood
Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza | Dave Sullinschki, NCWTF
National Wild Turkey Population Update | Mark Herfeld
Housing Safety Tech Focus Update | Jan Collier, Jay Carroll

Wednesday, August 17

- 8:30-10:00 **Low productivity and associated declines in abundance**
- Predator control approaches | Jenny Wood, Emily Ruckow, Kent Friebe
 - Monitoring productivity and recruitment in Wisconsin | Chris Pollock
 - Panel discussion
- 10:00-10:30 **Break**
- 10:30-12:00 **Habitat tracking approaches**
- Mandatory (FL Stamp, SC Tags) | Bobby Welch, Jay Carroll, Boby Lacker
 - Voluntary (AR Stamp) | Jenny Wood
 - Panel discussion
- 12:00-1:30 **Lunch**
- 1:30-2:00 **Harvest management approaches**
- State turkey management plans | Roger Stahlh, Amy Strauss
 - Turkey harvest strategies and harvests | Adam Butler, Kent Friebe
 - Panel discussion
- 2:00-2:30 **Break**
- 2:30-3:00 **In-Progress and Upcoming Research Projects**
- Missouri, Iowa, Tennessee, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Nebraska, Mississippi, Alabama, Texas
 - Panel capture

Appendix 2: Attendance List

First Name	Last Name	Agency	Email
Chris	Cook	AL Division of Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries	Chris.Cook@dcnr.alabama.gov
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Chris	Chizinski	University of Nebraska	cchizinski2@unl.edu
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Appendix 3: Meeting Dates and Location History

Historical host state, location and dates for MDWTSG annual meetings.

Year	State	Location	Date
1977	Missouri	Fountain Grove Wildlife Area	January 17-19
1978	Wisconsin	Wyalusing State Park	January 16-17
1979	Iowa	Rathburn Fish Hatchery	January 15-18
1980	Minnesota	Whitewater State Park	January 21-24
1981	Indiana	Harrison-Crawford State Park	January 19-22
1982	Ohio	Lake Hope State Park	January 18-21
1983	Nebraska	Louisville 4-H Camp	January 17-21
1984	Kansas	Camp Aldrich	January 16-19
1985	South Dakota	Black Hills	May 7-10
1986	North Dakota	Camp-of-the-Cross	January 20-23
1987	Michigan	Kellogg Biological Station	January 27-29
1988	Illinois	Touch of Nature	February 1-4
1989	Missouri	YMCA Camp of the Ozarks	January 23-26
1990	Wisconsin	Bethel Horizons Prairie Center	January 15-18
1991	Iowa	Conservation Education Center	January 14-17
1992	Minnesota	Whitewater State Park	January 13-16
1993	Indiana	Harrison-Crawford State Park	January 11-14
1994	Ohio	Canter's Cave 4-H Park	January 30-February 2
1995	Nebraska	Mahoney State Park	January 15-18
1996	Kansas	Camp Pecusa	January 14-16
1997	South Dakota	Camp NeSoDak	August 24-27
1998	North Dakota	Camp Grafton	August 9-12
1999	Ontario	Blue Springs Scout Reserve	August 15-18
2000	Michigan	Thunder Bay Resort	August 20-23
2001	Illinois	Dixon Springs Ag. Station	August 19-22
2002	Missouri	Conception Abbey	August 18-21
2003	Wisconsin	Bethel Horizons Prairie Center	August 24-27
2004	Iowa	Conservation Education Center	August 22-25
2005	Minnesota	Eagle Bluff Envir. Learning Center	August 21-24
2006	Indiana	Camp Ransburg, BSA	August 20-23
2007	Ohio	Canter's Cave 4-H Park	August 19-22
2008	Nebraska	Fort Robinson State Park	September 14-17
2009	Kansas	Rock Springs 4-H Camp	September 14-17
2010	North Dakota	Camp Grafton	August 22-25
2011	Michigan	Ralph A. MacMullen Center	September 25-28
2012	South Dakota	Custer State Park	October 16-19

2013	Illinois	Allerton Park	August 18-21
2014	Missouri	YMCA Camp of the Ozarks	September 4-11
2015	Wisconsin	Perlstein Conference Center	September 8-11
2016	Kentucky	General Butler State Resort Park	August 22-25
2017	Iowa	Honey Creek State Park Resort	August 28-31
2018	Minnesota	Camp Ripley	August 27-30
2019	Indiana	Brown County State Park	August 12-14
2020	Ohio	Virtual	August 18
2021	Nebraska	Virtual	August 18
2022	Kansas	Rock Springs 4-H Camp	August 15-18

Furbearers

Wildlife Diversity

Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies 2023 Wildlife Diversity Committee Report

Report submitted by Owen Boyle, Chair, to Ollie Torgerson on 26 May 2023.

Meeting Time and Place

The Wildlife Diversity Committee (WDC) annual meeting was held in-person for the first time in four years and, for the first time ever, the WDC met jointly with the MAFWA Public Lands and Private Lands work groups and the Midwest Landscape Initiative from May 9-11, 2023 at the Wilderness Resort in Wisconsin Dells, WI. The WDC also held quarterly video conference calls on August 9, 2022, November 1, 2022 and February 7, 2023. Detailed meeting notes are available from the WDC chair or committee members.

Attendance

The WDC is made up of Wildlife Diversity Program Managers, Endangered Species Coordinators, and Wildlife Action Plan Coordinators from the 13 MAFWA states. The annual meeting was attended by committee members from 10 states with multiple states sending more than one member: IL – 1; IA – 1; IN – 1; MI – 2; MN – 1; MO – 1; ND – 1; NE – 2; OH – 1; WI – 3 (WDC attendance list in Appendix 1). Additional participants included invited speakers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service staff, and MAFWA staff, including Executive Secretary Ollie Torgerson.

Executive Summary

The primary focus of the joint annual meeting was to better position the MAFWA states to successfully compete for the myriad large federal grant opportunities currently focused on several MAFWA priorities including multi-state landscape conservation of priority habitats, tribal engagement and climate change mitigation and adaptation. This first-of-its kind joint annual meeting successfully provided the spark for what committee chairs hope will not only result in significant new grant funding for the region, but a more collaborative framework under which MAFWA committees increasingly work together to scale up our landscape conservation efforts. See Appendix 2 for the joint meeting agenda and Appendix 3 for the WDC business meeting agenda that occurred on day one. The process, outcomes and next steps of the landscape conservation projects portion of the joint annual meeting and table of landscape conservation project ideas generated at the meeting as summarized by MLI and committee chairs is being provided in a separate document to the directors, but can be considered an additional appendix to this report.

Director Action Items

We ask the directors to support very large, multi-state landscape conservation project grant proposals by:

1. funding a grant administrator position for MAFWA to act as the fiscal agent for the partnering states when grantors allow. This will alleviate the need for a single state to shoulder the additional workload of grant administration and awkwardness of bearing responsibility for the work of partner states and make the distribution of funds to states more efficient.

2. if applicable, removing barriers that limit your staff from working more across program areas within your agency and with other states. The joint annual meeting demonstrated the synergy that occurs when staff with different roles, responsibilities and expertise under the broad umbrella of landscape conservation think holistically and collaboratively to generate project ideas that incorporate game, non-game and Species of Greatest Conservation Need, public and private lands management, priority habitats and ecosystems, and socioeconomic co-benefits to ecological priorities.

Director Information Items

Implementation of recommendations from AFWA’s SWAPs and Landscapes report – MAFWA conducted a survey of SWAP coordinators to identify areas of common interest in the Midwest among the recommendations from the [AFWA SWAPs and Landscapes report](#). The survey was based on the five guiding principles and actions described in the report [pages 13-17]. The survey found:

- Strong support for common lexicons for threats and conservation actions
- Support for adopting a common regional habitat lexicon and creating crosswalks from state habitat classification systems to the lexicon
- This is a priority, but needs to be done ASAP as states have started 2025 SWAP revisions
- Support for making SWAPs more accessible to larger audience
- Mutual funding—SWAPs and RSGCN can help prioritize multi-state landscape conservation projects

Nationwide Conservation Agreement for Listed and At-Risk Bumble Bees and Other Pollinators on Energy and Transportation Lands – This project is developing a programmatic conservation agreement and Enhancement of Survival (ESA Section 10) permit application for submittal to USFWS to maintain and enhance habitat on transportation and energy lands for 6 candidate, petitioned, at-risk or federally listed bumble bee species with overlapping habitat requirements across the lower 48 states. It will be modeled after the successful “monarch CCAA” and is being led by the developers of that agreement—University of Illinois, Chicago and Stantec—with funding through a non-traditional Section 6 grant secured by Wisconsin DNR. Providing regulatory assurances for solar farm developers will remove one of the primary barriers to planting new pollinator habitat on tens of thousands of acres in the Midwest and could greatly enhance our ability to recover numerous pollinator and grassland bird Species of Greatest Conservation Need. A continuing role for this committee will be to determine how each state that has insects on their state endangered species lists can provide similar regulatory assurances under state law.

WSFR-approved Section 7 language for Candidate Species – USFWS Wildlife and Sportfish Restoration grant specialists are requiring Section 7 reviews for species that are candidates for federal listing, a process that can be time consuming for state staff. Moving forward this committee will compile a library of Section 7 review language for these species from states that have received approval from WSFR to make this process more efficient. We did this last year for monarch butterfly and multiple states found it helpful.

Time and Place of Next Meeting

Leon Hinz, IL DNR, will assume WDC chair duties and arrange for quarterly conference calls and the annual meeting in May 2024 in Illinois (location TBD).

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Wildlife Diversity Committee annual business meeting participant list

Fullin, Katy	Iowa DNR	SWAP Coordinator
Hinz, Leon	Illinois DNR	SWAP Coordinator
Johnson, Scott	Indiana DNR	Wildlife Science Supervisor
Kleitch, Jennifer	Michigan DNR	Endangered Species Specialist
Henehan, Tony	Michigan DNR	SWAP Coordinator
Cariveau, Alison	Minnesota DNR	State Wildlife Grants Coordinator
Elliott, Anthony	Missouri Department of Conservation	Terrestrial Diversity Unit Supervisor
Link, Greg	North Dakota Game and Fish Dept.	Chief, Conservation and Communications Division
Andersen, Brett	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	Wildlife Diversity Program Manager
Nevison, Sarah	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	Wildlife Diversity Biologist
Hazelton, Erin	Ohio DNR	Wildlife Diversity Administrator
Bergeson, Tara	Wisconsin DNR	Species Management Team Leader
Boyle, Owen	Wisconsin DNR	Species Management Section Manager
Koslowsky, Shari	Wisconsin DNR	SWAP Coordinator
Beck, Claire	MAFWA/MLI	Landscape Conservation Technical Coordinator
Parsons, Kate	USFWS/MLI	Engagement Coordinator
Salas, Dan	Stantec	Senior Ecologist, CSE

APPENDIX 2 – Annual joint committee meeting agenda

Meeting planning team: Anne Reis, Haley Frater and Owen Boyle (WDNR); Claire Beck (MAFWA); Kate Parsons and Alex Wright (MLI)



**MAFWA PUBLIC & PRIVATE LANDS WORKING GROUPS,
WILDLIFE DIVERSITY COMMITTEE &
MIDWEST LANDSCAPE INITIATIVE
2023 MEETING
May 9-11, 2023
Wilderness Resort
Wisconsin Dells, WI**

Theme: LANDSCAPE SCALE CONSERVATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

Context: Normally an annual event, the MAFWA Committees have not had in-person meetings since 2019, and all four of our teams have never met jointly. This meeting will be a chance not only to connect with your team, but also with people from other closely related teams: Public Lands, Private Lands, Wildlife Diversity, and Midwest Landscape Initiative. The goal of this meeting is to think big and think creatively to identify multi-state or landscape-scale projects that can be accomplished through diverse partnerships across the 13-state region that will tangibly move the needle on our shared conservation priorities.

Outcomes: An increased sense of collaboration among states and MAFWA working groups/committees and identified opportunities to better deliver landscape conservation across the region. To include a list of multi-state project ideas that our four teams can present to the MAFWA directors in June as a collaborative statement of where we want to focus our landscape conservation efforts, where those efforts can benefit from collaboration across teams and states and where our teams could benefit from administrative support from the directors to help us plan and apply for large federal funding opportunities related to the Inflation Reduction Act and Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill (e.g., the 2024 America the Beautiful Challenge).

TUESDAY 5/9/2023

Registration & Check-in: Sandstone Corridor

- 7:30 - 9:00** **Breakfast | Sandstone 2**

- 9:00 - 9:30** **General Session | Sandstone 2**

Land Acknowledgement – Anne Reis, Wisconsin DNR

Welcome from the Ho-Chunk Nation – Bill Quackenbush, Cultural Resources Division Manager

Welcome from Wisconsin DNR – Diane Brusoe, Administrator, Division of Fish, Wildlife and Parks

Introduction by Chairs – Anne Reis, Haley Frater and Owen Boyle, Wisconsin DNR

- 9:30 - 9:55** **Scaling up - Partnership-supported Landscape Conservation in SW Wisconsin –**
Cindy Becker, Project Manager, Southern Driftless Grasslands

- 9:55 - 10:20** **Collaborative Partnerships - Reconnecting Wisconsin’s Northwest Sands Landscape**
– Robert (Bob) Hanson, Wisconsin DNR Northwest Sands Wildlife Biologist

- 10:20 - 10:30** **Overview of Landscape Conservation Project Topics and Funding Opportunities**
for Breakout Activity on Wednesday, Kate Parsons, Midwest Landscape Initiative

- 10:30** **Break**

- 10:45 - 12:00** **Partnering with Tribes – A Balancing Act** - Richard Monette, Law Professor at
UW- Madison and Director of the Great Lakes Indian Law Center

- 12:00 - 12:45** **Lunch | Sandstone 7**

- 12:45 - 5:00** **Committee Business**

Public Lands Working Group in **Sandstone 89**
Private Lands Working Group in **Sandstone 3**
Wildlife Diversity Committee in **Tundra EF**

- 5:30** **Cook-out @ Mirror Lake State Park at the Bluewater Bay Shelter**

Transportation on your own or carpool

If asked, notify park staff that you are with MAFWA for waived entry fee

WEDNESDAY 5/10/2023

7:30-8:30 Breakfast Sandstone 2

- 8:30 - 9:00** **Welcome and housekeeping | Sandstone 2**

- 9:00 - 9:45** **Introduction to the Midwest Landscape Initiative | Sandstone 2**
 Sharing of new landscape conservation products, including the Midwest Conservation Blueprint, Regional Species of Greatest Conservation Need, etc.

- 9:45 - 12:00** **Landscape Conservation Projects Small Group Breakout Activity** - facilitated by working group/committee chairs and MLI staff
 Breakout Room **Sandstone 89**
 Breakout Room **Sandstone 3**
 Breakout Room **Tundra EF**

- 12:00 - 12:45** **Lunch | Sandstone 7**

- 12:45 - 1:45** **Landscape Collaboration Discussion | Sandstone 2**
 Breakout Report Outs

- 1:45 - 2:30** **Next Steps: Moving Interjurisdictional Projects Forward | Sandstone 2**
 Group Discussion, How Do You Want to be Involved and Engaged with this Work?
 Committee Chairs, Plans to Report Out to MAFWA Directors at Annual Meeting
 Ollie, Regional Leadership Support of this Work
 MLI Staff, How We Plan on Moving These Projects to Reality

- 2:30** **Break**

- 2:45 - 4:30** **Committee Business (if needed)**
 Public Lands Working Group in **Sandstone 89**
 Private Lands Working Group in **Sandstone 3**
 Wildlife Diversity Committee in **Tundra EF**

Dinner on your own or in groups

THURSDAY 5/11/2023

Breakfast on your own (be sure to check out before you leave)

- 8:30 – 8:40** **Meet outside Wilderness to load into mini-vans**

- 8:40 – 9:00** **Travel to Badger History Museum**
 Located at S7560 U.S. Highway 12, North Freedom, WI 53951
<https://goo.gl/maps/Mv4mfkpVbj4kDfod8>

9:00 - 12:00 Field Tours

Site 1 | Badger History Museum

Verlyn Mueller, Curator/Archivist

Site 2 | Mąą Wakąçąkra Horaje

Randy Poelma, Environmental Sciences Program Manager Site

3 | Sauk Prairie State Recreation Area

Nancy Frost, Sauk County Wildlife

Biologist James Carter, Property Supervisor

Site 4 | USDA Dairy Forage Research Center

Dennis Hancock, Director

Alison Duff, Research Ecologist

Jose Franco, Research Agroecologist

12:00- 12:45 Boxed lunch at USDA Conservation Club (or to go depending on travel plans) 12:45 –

2:00 Field Tour

Site 5 | Baxter’s Hollow, The Nature Conservancy Mike

Mossman, Retired DNR Research Scientist

2:00 – 2:30 Travel back to Wilderness Resort

2:30 Field Trip End | Head back to your home state

Appendix 3 – Wildlife Diversity Committee annual business meeting agenda

MAFWA WILDLIFE DIVERSITY COMMITTEE MEETING

May 9, 2023

Tundra EF, Wilderness Resort, Wisconsin Dells

Moderator: Owen Boyle (WI)

Note taker: Shari Koslowsky (WI)

State Wildlife Action Plans

1:00p.m. **Implementation of recommendations from AFWA’s SWAPs and Landscapes report**
A focus on the topic of SWAP databases and dashboard tool – Clair Beck, MAFWA/MLI

2:00 p.m. **How do states get feedback from internal and external SWAP users?**
– Alison Cariveau, Minnesota DNR

Has anyone conducted a survey or evaluation of your Wildlife Action Plan’s usefulness and useability by staff and partners?

Endangered Species

2:15 p.m. **Section 7 phase 1 reviews for new species of federal interest**
– Scott Johnson, Indiana DNR

Please come ready to share examples of language you use for species like tricolored bat that aren’t yet listed but are popping up on iPAC reviews

2:30 **Break**

3:00 p.m. **Bumble bee Section 10 agreement: How can states mirror regulatory certainty?**
– Dan Salas, Stantec and Owen Boyle, Wisconsin DNR

3:45 p.m. Committee Business

– Owen Boyle, Wisconsin DNR

- Committee priorities for tomorrow’s session?
- Content for annual committee report to the Directors
- Resolutions for the Directors
- Committee chair succession

4:00 p.m. State Updates
– All

4:30 p.m. **Adjourn**

Climate Change

Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies: Climate Change Technical Working Committee Report May 2023

Meeting Time and Place –

The MAFWA Climate Change Committee met virtually on the following days (Appendix 2 has meeting agendas):

- 09/22/22 – 2:30-4:00 pm ET – IA, MI, IL, SD, MN, Midwest CASC
- 11/03/22 – 1:00-2:30 pm ET – IA, MI, SD, MN
- 03/09/23 – 2:30-4:00 pm ET – IA, IL, MI, MN, NE, SD, Midwest CASC
- 04/13/23 – 3:00-4:30 pm ET – IL, MI, MN, NE, WI, Midwest CASC
- 05/04/23 – 3:00-4:30 pm ET - IA, IL, MI, MO, MN, NE, SD, WI Midwest CASC
- 05/22/23 – 3:00-4:30 pm ET – IA, IL, MI, MO, MN, SD

Attendance – see above

Committee members identified in Appendix 1.

Executive Summary –

Over the past few years, there have been a lot of tools that have been developed related to climate adaptation, and agency staff are now inundated and confused about what is relevant to their work. The MAFWA Climate Committee wanted to better support translation of climate adaptation into tangible actions for on-the-ground conservation and management. This year, we worked on developing 2 trainings for agency staff across the region (Appendix 3):

1. The first training will be a training held for the entire MAFWA region that links broad-scale threats like climate change into annual work planning. We plan to hold 2 virtual trainings that any staff within the MAFWA region can attend, which will be lead by NIACS and the MAFWA Climate Committee. This approach will allow staff from across the region to learn from each other and hear from regional experts in adaptation.
2. The second training will be focused on supporting planning for change rather than past conditions using the Resist-Accept-Direct (RAD) framework. These trainings will be virtual or in-person trainings and will be held either at the state-scale or multi-state scale, depending on state needs, and will be led by MAFWA Climate Committee. This allows for state staff to have conversations pertinent to their needs and connects local staff with their adaptation expert.

We plan to implement these trainings over the next year.

Director Action Items –

1. Resolution #1: Enhancing the ability of Midwest FW agencies to implement long-term sustainable management (Appendix 4).

Director Information Items

1. The MAFWA Climate Committee partnered with the MAFWA Diversity Committee to develop a competitive State Wildlife Grants proposal on Assessing Climate Vulnerability and Adaptive Capacity of 538 Midwest Species of Greatest Conservation Need.

Time and Place of Next Meeting -

TBD

Appendix 1: MAFWA Climate Committee Active Members

IA – Katy Fullin

IL – Leon Hinz

MI – Chris Hoving, Amy Derosier

MO – Matt Vitello

MN – Mike Larson

NE – Caroline Jezierski

SD – Eileen Dowd Stukel

WI – Tara Bergeson

USGS Midwest Climate Science Center – Olivia LeDee

Appendix 2: Agendas for meeting

09/22/22 Agenda

1. Round robin catch up
2. Framing what we are talking about: Adaptation
3. Review training idea
4. What are the shared needs?
5. What assets could we take advantage of?
6. Brainstorm: what would this group see as relevant trainings for the work you do?
7. Review Jamboard
8. Next steps

11/03/22 Agenda

1. Reconnect / temperature check
2. Review of last meeting and framing for today's meeting
3. Follow up on action items from last meeting
4. Review of survey results & discussion
5. Updates from NAF Meeting [Chris]
6. Next steps

03/09/23 Agenda

1. Reconnect / temperature check
2. Review of last meeting and framing for today's meeting
3. Review of action items
4. Walk through questions in document, discuss, and update
5. Next steps

04/13/23 Agenda

1. Reconnect / temperature check
2. Review of tools we have listed in our training plan
3. Revisit learning objectives and audiences and update as needed
4. Review resolution and asks for Directors
5. Presenting to Directors at annual meeting
6. Next steps

05/04/23 Agenda

1. Reconnect / temperature check
2. Report out on updating Director's on resolution and training
3. Review final draft of resolution
4. Review RAD slide deck for training
5. Chair for next year?
6. Next steps

05/22/23 Agenda

1. Reconnect
2. Update on action items from last meeting
3. RAD Framework – regional vs stateside approach?
4. How can we support each other to be ready to implement these trainings?
5. Talking points for Directors on trainings
6. Next steps

MAFWA Climate Committee Training Plan

Updated 05/26/23

The Why

There have been a lot of tools that have been developed over the last couple of years related to adapting our work to changes in climate to ensure sustainability, and agency staff are now inundated and confused about what is relevant to their work.

We want to better translate what we know at the national/regional scale related to adaptation into tangible actions on the ground to ensure our management is sustainable in the long-term. To do this, we will develop virtual trainings that walk agency staff through the use of a couple of tools and show them how they can use the tools in their own work.

Framing what we are talking about: Adaptation

There are two approaches to climate change: mitigation (reducing emissions and increasing carbon sequestration) and adaptation (changing what we do or how we do it because the climate has changed or is expected to change). Adaptation tends to be less political and also more relevant to the work fish and wildlife agencies already do. Our trainings will be focused on adaptation.

Training 1: Connecting adaptation, annual work planning, and on-the-ground actions

We see an opportunity to support translating long-term and broad-scale climate and ecology science into actions and activities that are relevant to local fish and wildlife managers in their annual work planning. This training will focus on 2 tools that can support on-the-ground implementation and annual work planning: the recently developed [adaptation checklist](#) developed by EcoAdapt and four state wildlife agencies, and the recently developed “quick version” of the [NIACS adaptation workbook](#). The former tool is designed for managers who are extrinsically motivated (i.e., told to adapt) and the latter tool is designed for those who are intrinsically motivated (i.e., want to adapt).

Two virtual trainings will be held and open to any staff within the MAFWA region and will be led by NIACS and the MAFWA Committee. This approach will allow staff from across the region to learn from each other and hear from regional experts in adaptation.

Learning Objectives:

- Participants will understand that climate change represents a risk to their everyday activities rather than a stand-alone conservation program, including the difference between mitigation and adaptation.
- Participants will understand how smart adaptation can ensure long-term sustainability of investments.
- Participants will understand how to link projects with which they are familiar to adaptation strategies and example actions.
 - Including linkages to annual work plans and/or specific projects.
- Participants will know where to find answers to their questions related to climate projections and adaptation strategies.

Audience:

Core audience: boots-on-the-ground and planners, which includes public and private land managers, biologists, foresters, and planners.

The following audiences would also benefit:

Program managers, regional managers, division direction or agency head, research / monitoring staff, communications and outreach staff.

Training 2: Planning for change rather than past conditions: using RAD as a planning framework

[The Resist-Accept-Direct \(RAD\) framework](#) is a decision-making tool that helps resource managers make informed strategies for responding to ecological changes resulting from climate change. The National Park Service and several federal land management agency partners recently published a report titled Resist-Accept-Direct (RAD) to approach these issues on their lands. It is a useful tool when planning and prioritizing where to put resources in a sustainable way.

Multiple virtual or in-person trainings will be held either at the state-scale or multi-state scale, depending on state needs, and will be led by the MAFWA Committee. We will provide opportunities for state staff to have conversations pertinent to their needs and connects local staff with their adaptation expert.

Learning Objectives:

1. Participants will understand the ways current conservation paradigms assume a lack of trend in climate, and the management challenges this creates.
2. Participants will learn how to apply the resist-accept-direct framework to facilitate planning that incorporates long-term directional change in climate and ecosystem structure and composition.
 - o Examples will be included that consider different levels of staff (e.g., regional planning vs local land managers)

Audience – may vary by state

Planners, public and private land managers, fisheries biologists/ manager, policy makers, managers, decision-makers.

The following audiences would also benefit: communications staff.

Appendix 4: Resolution #1:

RESOLUTION #1

ENHANCING THE ABILITY OF MIDWEST FW AGENCIES TO IMPLEMENT LONG-TERM SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT

WHEREAS, fish, wildlife, and their habitats are being threatened by the impacts of changing weather patterns and climate; and

WHEREAS, climate across the Midwest has changed and continues to change at a scale and pace that is without recent precedent; and

WHEREAS, these changes are directly affecting and will continue to affect wildlife, fish, and their habitats, and indirectly, by multiplying other risks (e.g., invasive species); and

WHEREAS, thoughtful changes in management to better meet the needs and risks of a changed or changing environment (adaptation) is needed for the future sustainability of fish and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, seeking efficient and resilient ways to adapt will help us better meet our Trust responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, in the face of change at a scale and pace that is without recent precedent, our decisions will need to consider different scenarios, instead of looking at how things worked in the past; and

WHEREAS, articulating adaptation strategies that are being implemented will facilitate better communication and understanding with stakeholders;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies hereby

1. Urges that staff within their agency take at least the Training 1 held by the MAFWA Climate Committee.*
2. Urges that staff who develop plans or set management direction within their agency take the Training 2 held by the MAFWA Climate Committee. *

**please see the MAFWA Climate Committee Training Plan Overview for a summary of the trainings.*

CITES

2023 MAFWA Committee Report on the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

MEETINGS TIME & PLACE

(meetings attended by one or more CITES Technical Work Group Representative)

112th AFWA Annual Meeting, September 2022; Fort Worth, TX

Joint State/Federal CITES Meeting & AFWA International Relations Committee

CITES Conference of the Parties (CoP19), November 2022; Panama City, Panama

88th North American Wildlife & Natural Resource Conference, March 2022; St. Louis, MO

Joint State/Federal CITES Meeting & AFWA International Relations Committee

CITES Turtle Listings, Implementation, and State Agency Responsibilities, March 2023;
webinar

Joint State/Federal CITES Meeting; April 2023; Washington DC

CITES Interagency Coordination Committee, hosted quarterly by USFWS; virtual

CITES Technical Work Group regularly conducts business via phone and virtual platforms

CITES TECHNICAL WORK GROUP REPRESENTATIVES

Carolyn Caldwell- MAFWA (MAFWA CITES Technical Work Group Representative)

Scott Buchanan- NEAFWA (Rhode Island Rhode Island DEM, Division of Fish and
Wildlife)

Buddy Baker- SEAFWA (SEAFWA CITES Technical Work Group Representative)

Stewart Liley- WAFWA (New Mexico Department of Game and Fish)

Deborah Hahn- Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies

Ryan Brown- U.S. CITES Delegate Representing the State Fish & Wildlife Agencies and
International Relations Committee Co-Chair (Virginia Department of Wildlife
Resources)

CITES OVERVIEW

The Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) is an international trade agreement among 183 countries (and the European Union) to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten species' survival. CITES works by subjecting international trade in specimens of selected species to certain controls. These require that all imports, exports, re-exports, and introductions from the sea of species covered by CITES have to be authorized. The species covered by CITES are listed in three Appendices, according to the degree of protection they need. Appendix I includes species threatened with extinction. Trade in specimens of these species is only permitted in exceptional circumstances. Appendix II includes species not necessarily threatened with extinction, but for whom trade must be controlled in order to avoid utilization incompatible with their survival. Appendix III contains species that are protected in at least one country, which has asked other CITES countries for assistance in documenting trade.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Office of International Affairs, administers CITES for the United States. The USFWS solicits input and feedback on issues of importance from the state fish and wildlife agencies through the CITES Technical Work

Group of the International Relations Committee of AFWA. The Technical Work Group consists of one representative from each of the four regional associations who work on behalf of states in concert with the USFWS on CITES matters. This state-federal partnership has been effectively working since 1994.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OVERVIEW

CITES updates presented in greater detail include: 1) CITES 19th Conference of the Parties; 2) Webinar: Freshwater Turtles Added to CITES Appendix II and How it May Affect the State Agencies; 3) State/Federal Coordination Procedure Update, 4) CITES and LEMIS Turtle Trade Data Analysis; 5) CITES Standing Committee Inter-Sessional Working Groups; and 6) Big Cat Public Safety Act.

DIRECTOR ACTION ITEM

No action items at this time.

DIRECTOR INFORMATION ITEMS

CITES 19th Conference of the Parties

The most recent CITES Conference of the Parties (CoP19) was held in November 2022. Member countries met to review, discuss, and negotiate changes in the management and trade of the various animal and plant species covered by the treaty. At CoP19, reptiles and amphibians represented half of the 52 species proposals under consideration. Many of the adopted proposals affected turtle species that are native to the United States and are commonly farmed or harvested for commercial exports. Species that were included in Appendix II include mud turtles (*Kinosternon spp.*) and musk turtles (*Stemotherus spp.*) and the transfer of species from Appendix III to Appendix II included the alligator snapping turtle (*Macrochelys temminckii*), common snapping turtle (*Chelydra serpentina*), softshell turtles (*Apalone spp.*), and five species of map turtle (*Graptemys barbouri*, *G. ernsti*, *G. gibbonsi*, *G. pearlensis*, and *G. pulchra*). These new inclusions to CITES Appendix II went into effect on February 23, 2023.

In addition, all species of horned lizards (*Phrynosoma spp.*) were added to Appendix II. The Aleutian cackling goose, the short-tailed albatross, and the Puerto Rican boa were moved from Appendix I to Appendix II. The U.S. withdrew its proposal to add the timber rattlesnake to Appendix II.

Webinar: CITES Turtle Listings, Implementation, and State Agency Responsibilities

Because of the number of new CITES Appendix II turtle listings, it was prudent to host a discussion between the USFWS and state agency staff as a first step in cooperation and communication on the implementation process. Sixty-five state agency staff participated in the March 28th webinar. The USFWS presented an overview of CITES and the new listings, a detailed description of the Legal Acquisition process, and the Non-detriment Finding (NDF) process. Substantial time was allotted for questions as well as to discuss information needs from the States concerning native turtle species management and wild collection regulations. A second webinar is likely to occur later this year.

CITES Federal/State Coordination Procedure Update

As designated under the U.S. Endangered Species Act, the USFWS is the lead agency for implementation of CITES in the United States. State wildlife agencies are partners in U.S. CITES implementation because of their role and authority in implementing fisheries and wildlife management at the State level. In the interest of enhancing communication and coordination with appropriate State agency staff regarding the evaluation and development of listing proposals and other CITES-related policy and administrative actions, the USFWS and AFWA (CITES Technical Work Group) developed a formal Federal/State coordination procedure in November, 1997 that was last updated in 2014.

The coordination procedure was established to develop effective processes for authorized representatives of State Fish and Wildlife Agencies to provide meaningful and timely input on USFWS regulatory proposals and other policy and administrative actions regarding CITES implementation, and allow for dialogue well in advance of decision-making deadlines. In addition, these procedures provide a process to resolve policy and administrative conflicts that undermine the efficient and effective implementation of CITES. Periodically reviewing and updating this document is important especially with significant personnel changes within the USFWS who may not be as familiar with the role of the States in CITES.

CITES and LEMIS Turtle Trade Data Analysis

The CITES Technical Work Group is in the process of contracting the United Nations Environment Program World Conservation Monitoring Center (WCMC) to conduct an analysis of international trade in North American turtles. WCMC is an independent CITES data analysis service respected within the CITES community as a non-biased service. Were this data to be analyzed by the States, the U.S. government or an NGO, the results would inherently be challenged as biased.

The purpose of this project is to synthesize available turtle trade data (CITES and LEMIS) from 2000 to present to assist state and federal wildlife agencies in making informed decisions and recommendations relative to state, national and international issues pertaining to turtle management, regulation, and trade. This will be achieved through developing an international trade status report on all United States turtle species and is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

CITES Standing Committee Inter-sessional Working Groups

Members of the CITES Technical Work Group were invited to join several inter-sessional working groups formed by the CITES Standing Committee (SC). The SC provides policy guidance concerning the implementation of the Convention and oversees the management of the budget. It also coordinates and oversees the work of the CITES Plants and Animals Committees, carries out tasks given to it by the CoP, and drafts resolutions for consideration by the CoP. At least one Team member is serving on the following working groups: reducing the risk of future zoonotic disease emergence associated with international wildlife trade; labeling systems for trade in caviar; livelihoods; sharks and rays; and movement of wildlife diagnostic samples.

Big Cat Public Safety Act

While not specifically a CITES matter, the Big Cat Public Safety Act (BCPSA) is important to any State Wildlife Agency that has dealt with escaped big cats. The BCPSA was signed into law on December 20, 2022 requiring private big cat owners to register their animals by June 18, 2023. The BCPSA places new restrictions on commerce in, possession, breeding, and use (including public contact) of certain big cat species (referred to as “prohibited wildlife species”). “Prohibited wildlife species” is defined as “any live species of lion, tiger, leopard, cheetah, jaguar, or cougar or any hybrid of such species.” Violators of the BCPSA are subject to civil and criminal penalties, and big cats bred, possessed, imported, exported, transported, sold, received, acquired, or purchased contrary to the provisions of the BCPSA are subject to forfeiture.

TIME & PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be the CITES 32nd Animals Committee, June 19-23, 2023; Geneva, Switzerland.

Respectfully submitted May 23, 2023,

Carolyn Caldwell
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Feral Swine

Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies - Feral Swine Committee

2023 Annual Report

Complied and Submitted by Terri Brunjes and Alan Leary, MAFWA Ad-hoc Feral Swine Committee 5/23/2023

The Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (MAFWA) established the Midwest Ad-hoc Feral Swine Committee (MFSC) in 2013. The purpose of the feral swine committee is to further MAFWA's function of promoting the conservation and management of wildlife resources in the face of rapidly expanding feral swine populations which directly endanger those wildlife resources. The Committee is to collect and compare feral swine information among the member States and Provinces, and to provide management and policy recommendations to the Directors of MAFWA.

MISSION: Develop results-driven and science-based management actions to prevent the introduction and spread of feral swine and promote the eradication of existing populations of these animals in the Midwest.

CHARGES:

- 1) Develop management plans for feral swine based on sound scientific and proven methods.
- 2) Promote and encourage research on economically feasible and effective methods of feral swine control.
- 3) Encourage uniform polices on the translocation and interstate movement of feral swine.
- 4) Discuss the role of federal entities in the control of feral swine in the Midwest.
- 5) Encourage partnerships among states and between state and federal entities to unify the battle against the spread of feral swine.
- 6) Advise the MAFWA Directors on issues relating to feral swine policy, inform the Directors of committee actions and execute any directives given by them.

Meeting Time and Place: The MAFWA FSC meeting held a joint meeting with SEAFWA WHWG at the National Wild Pig Conference in Logan, Utah on April 20, 2023. Attendance was low, possibly due to this being the furthest west the conference has been held. In addition, some members could not get approval to travel.

MAFWA FSC Members: A list of members and representative states are included in Appendix 1.

Executive Summary: The MAFWA Feral Swine Committee annual report is summarily reduced to the respective State and Provincial reports submitted with the primary function of the MAFWA Feral Swine Committee being information and exchange network among states and provinces. The number of feral swine/wild pigs removed continues to increase in the more heavily wild pig populated states in the Midwest, with significant reductions in wild pig numbers and distributions in some Midwest states with lower pig numbers. Most of the work in the Midwest states is being conducted by USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services through cooperative agreements with states as part of the National Feral Swine Damage Management Program (NFSDMP).

Director Action Items: Charge 1; Begin development of a broad Midwest feral swine management (eradication/reduction) plan based on sound scientific and proven methods. Discussions were recently held at the AFWA Feral Swine Working Group meeting on the feasibility of creating a national plan, rather than separate regional plans. This plan could be built of the results from WMI's study, case

studies from individual states and USDA APHIS, information from One Health, and BMPs to start the process. This national plan would need to incorporate the differences in regions and states, state laws and policies, as well as the differences in severity of feral swine problems. There is a possibility of creating an Ad-hoc working group for this project. AFWA FSWG plans to have a deeper discussion about this at their fall meeting. They have asked our working groups to have some internal discussions and come back with ideas and input.

Charges 2-6 are being accomplished through continued networking among the Committee representatives, attendance at the International Wild Pig Conference (IWPC) and representative participation in the NWPTF that unfortunately put on temporary hold with the COVID-19 outbreak. Most states are participating in partnerships or agreements with USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services as part of the National Feral Swine Damage Management Program (NFSDMP) funded under the 2014 and 2018 Farm Bills.

Director Information Items: The value of the information exchanged at the IWPC and NWPTF meetings and throughout the year is invaluable to keeping abreast of the rapidly evolving “state of the art and science’ of wild pig population control and hopefully, eventual elimination. The MFSC encourages providing support for representative attendance at both the IWPC and NWPTF meetings when possible, recognizing that participation of all MFSC representatives is beyond their primary or even secondary job responsibilities. The NWPTF website is now housed at The Berryman Institute at Utah State University and now handles organization and communications related to the NWPTF and IWPC’s.

MAFWA Research Priorities: MAFWA Feral Swine Committee members were tasked with developing science-based management priorities by the Science and Research Committee of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA). MAFWA FSC divided these priorities specifically by feral swine and other species of interest.

AFWA Action: AFWA decided to pursue Human Dimensions B-communication efforts to effectively communicate to sport hunting industry the negative effects of hunting feral swine. They created a first draft of a publication titled “Impacts of feral swine on popular game species in the United States” and tasked the National Wild Pig Task Force Policy sub-committee with providing comments by May 31, 2023.

Management Priorities Specific to Feral Swine

Wildlife Health

- a. Disease transmission between feral swine and both native wildlife and livestock
- b. Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) -interspecies CWD infection: risks of feral swine contracting and spreading CWD
- c. African Swine Fever
- d. Pseudorabies
- e. Swine Brucellosis

Weather and Temperature-related Concerns

- a. Indirect and direct effects of climate change on feral swine populations

Invasive Species

- a. Feral Swine

Emerging Technologies

- a. Approval and use of feral swine toxicants and feeders
- b. Improved trap technology
- c. Accurate techniques to determine feral swine densities
- d. Development of bait that attracts pigs without attracting non-target species, such as white-tailed deer and turkey, whose baiting seasons often curtail wild pig trapping efforts

Inter-jurisdictional Cooperation

- a. Collaborative nation-wide plan for feral swine eradication

Human Dimensions

- a. Solutions to counter the release of unwanted pot-bellied pigs
- b. Effectively communicate to sport hunting industry the negative effects of hunting feral swine
- c. Solutions to eradicate feral swine in pig refuges where private landowners prohibit removal

MAFWA FSC Chair rotation

Alan Leary (Missouri) volunteered to chair the MAFWA Feral Swine Committee for the next two years. Our plans are to rotate chairs in alphabetic order by state every 2 years, similar to SEAFWA WHWG.

2022 State/Province Status Reports Submitted

Indiana – Submitted by Zachary Voyles

The last feral swine of Eurasian origin taken in Indiana occurred in 2021. No verified reports of feral swine of Eurasian origin have occurred since that time. Indiana USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services continues to monitor for feral swine through onsite investigations from credible reports and helicopter surveys of past hot spots. Indiana also participated in novel detection methods including eDNA and detection dogs in 2022. eDNA has yielded positive hits for feral swine, however, it is believed the DNA is remnant. Detection dogs have proven useful in other settings for detecting feral swine, but dogs have had no positive hits for feral swine in Indiana. Provided no verified reports of feral swine occur between now and October 2023, Indiana will transition into a monitoring-only phase.

Iowa - Submitted by Jim Coffey

The responsibility of State Feral (Wild) Hog Coordinator falls under the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) forest wildlife program. Jim Coffey is the contact person for the agency. This position is located out of the Chariton Research Station in Chariton Iowa 24570 US Hwy 34 Chariton Iowa (641-774-2958). The Iowa DNR remains the coordinating agency for feral hog incidents working with several other State and Federal agencies. USDA Wildlife Services will continue to take a lead role on eradication and disease testing of located animals. The Iowa DNR depredation team and local conservation officers along with the Iowa Department of Agriculture when needed.

The 2022 calendar year saw little activity in varying locations around the state. A total of 7 hogs were observed in four different reports. Each report came from a different county. These counties spread across the state with no indication of a pattern. Most live hogs were investigated and deemed to be escaped local animals. When owners were identified, they were informed of Iowa laws regarding domestic livestock captivity. All four reports were derived from the general public from personal encounters. Two of the reports were located on wildlife management areas. If able, reports were investigated for confirmation of location. No one area of the State shows a prevalence for sightings. There continues to be an increasing number of heritage breed hogs that are being raised in open pastures and pot-bellied (pet) animals in the State. Of the seven hogs reported 4 were killed with no location of the other three. The Iowa DNR did not kill any hogs during this year. Disease testing is coordinated through the USDA APHIS office and no disease was reported this year. We do plan on continuing with feral hog information in our DNR hunting regulations booklet for 2023-2024. Feral hogs continue to be a concern for wildlife management staff. The Iowa feral hog working group did not meet in 2022. Iowa Department of Agriculture has a new state veterinarian that is concerned about feral hogs and reached out for more communication between agencies as animals are detected.

Kansas - Submitted by Shane Hesting

USDA-APHIS-WS is finishing up the bulk of their feral swine control in Kansas at this time. Those numbers will soon be added to the totals.

USDA is holding the line in Kansas. I think the eradicated populations are now up to 13 or 14. Feral hogs still cross over from Oklahoma into Sumner County and east to Cherokee County. Additionally, feral hogs still have hooves on the ground from Cherokee County north to Miami County. Those border areas consistently get spillover from our neighboring states.

I heard sodium nitrite will be more widely used within 3 years, which would include use in Kansas.

Potbelly pigs have made the news several times in Kansas over the last couple months. It seems the potbellies were thinking feral swine were hogging all the media coverage. More reports of potbelly pigs have been received by KDWP and USDA this year than any other year.

Kentucky - Submitted by Terri Brunjes

The KY Wild Pig Eradication Task Force recently held a meeting to discuss the possibility of promoting a prohibition on wild pig hunting. The Task Force agreed that a prohibition on wild pig hunting was necessary to remove incentives for illegal release and allow for the best chance for complete eradication. This will be presented to the KY Fish and Wildlife Resources Commission at the next commission meeting as a Discussion Item. If it passes through, it will become an Action Item to be voted on at the following Commission meeting. The Discussion phase is a chance for the biologists to educate the public and commission on the issue.

Manitoba - Submitted by Janine Wilmot

In Manitoba, the Squeal on Pigs initiative continues to be delivered by the Manitoba Pork Council, with support from the federal and provincial governments. Reports of invasive swine presence and harvest in the province are directed to the Squeal on Pigs website, or toll free number, and these are verified and targeted for removal by project staff. Removal is primarily through corral trapping.

In the 2022 calendar year, Squeal on Pigs documented sightings of 127 and removal of 122 free-roaming swine in the province. Number removed includes both reported hunter harvest and Squeal on Pigs corral trapping efforts.

Michigan – Submitted by Dwayne Etter

Activity and Removal:

We continued to receive scattered reports of wild pigs throughout Michigan in 2022. This included a few continued reports in the vicinity of a decommissioned private hunting ranch in southcentral Michigan. In fall 2021, the United States Department of Agriculture-Wildlife Services (USDA) responded to reports and recorded photos of Russian boar or hybrids, a prohibited invasive species. In 2022, intense monitoring and removal efforts have continued in the area surrounding the hunting ranch where Russian Boar hybrids originally escaped. USDA removed 10 wild pigs from properties adjacent to the ranch and local residents killed an additional 4- 5 pigs. One additional wild pig was removed by USDA and 2 by local residents in northern Michigan in 2022. MDNR continues to maintain a voluntary online wild pig reporting system. Additionally, MDNR asks all hunters registering a harvested deer about feral pig sightings. Reports are forwarded to USDA for follow up.

Research:

There were no active research projects conducted by MDNR or Michigan USDA-WS in 2022. However, Michigan USDA-WS continues to provide samples to the National Wildlife Research Center's genetics laboratory for ongoing research.

Minnesota – Submitted by Eric Nelson

In 2022, Minnesota is still feral swine free. We do have instances of escaped domestic swine "at large" that end up living in the wild. A total of 14 feral swine complaints in 8 different counties were investigated in 2022. Seven complaints were responded to with a site visit or multiple site visits. We continue to work with our Board of Animal Health on locating the owners and USDA-Wildlife Services on monitoring and removal if necessary.

Our main issue is still loose domestic swine not claimed by their owner. In one case a car hit and kill a swine at night that was never claimed by its owner. Our Conservation officers shot four swine living in the wild at one location. Other swine were seen at that same location but remain at large. A local sales barn worker admitted to having the swine near that location escaping and reported it to the local police department. During an investigation by a Department of Natural Resources Conservation Officer the sales barn owner said they had never had swine escape and the worker was incorrect.