

Memorandum

To: State Directors
From: Duane L. Shroufe, Chair, IAFWA Teaming with Wildlife Committee
Subject: Sources of Information for Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategies
Date: September 15, 2003

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Need: State agency personnel who are developing comprehensive wildlife conservation strategies (plans) will benefit from a list of resources including books, articles, web sites and experts to help them address different required elements in the plans.

The TWW Committee's SWG Work Group has considered this need, and recommended a resolution strategy that I have approved. Their strategy reflects the following assumptions:

- Most agency personnel who are involved in the planning effort are pressed for time, and won't have the luxury of searching for literature. Even if it is available, they won't have time to locate and read a lot of it.
- The sooner a reference list is available, the better, since there is such a short time to prepare the plans in time for the October, 2005 deadline.
- A great deal of work has already been done in developing reference lists, so the task is not as overwhelming as it may seem.
- Agencies need relevant information on conservation planning in general, building partnerships and involving the public, and information on how to maximize political support for the effort. To the extent that it is available, agencies may also want references that address specific elements of the federal legislation. Most helpful may be examples of wildlife conservation plans that have been completed.
- An annotated list will be more useful than one without a description of the resources. It will also take longer to compile, given the time required to locate, review, and annotate the contents.
- Site- and species-specific information can be readily located within states, and need not be part of the list.
- The list should include relevant books, articles, reports, web sites, slide presentations, videos, and information in other media, if appropriate.
- Locating, describing, and publishing a list of the relevant literature, organized in a manner that is helpful to agency planners will take a minimum of two months in which an experienced staff person or contractor works full time.

In compiling the annotated list of relevant literature, the person assigned to this task should take the following steps:

- 1) Obtain existing reference lists and evaluate their utility and relevance. Use as a starting point in building the annotated list. Contact authors or people familiar with the resources and ask them to describe the contents.
- 2) Contact all participants in state wildlife planning workshops by e-mail and ask them two questions: a) Can you recommend any references to help guide plan development, and b) What kind of references would be most helpful to you in the planning process? Ask them to provide complete citations, length, and a few sentences describing the reference. That will save the staff person the time it would take to obtain and review documents.
- 3) Contact the planning coordinators in all states and ask them to provide information in response to questions in #2, above.
- 4) Search the web and compile a set of links to relevant information.
- 5) Using the outline to follow, modified as necessary to facilitate ease of use, compile a list of the best sources of information, on paper and on the Internet (IAFWA site). Invite comments by users, and additions to the list.

Implementation Strategy

To be of greatest use to the state wildlife agencies, this project must be undertaken soon, by a qualified person without other major responsibilities. Several options were discussed for accomplishing this task quickly. They included hiring an intern, private consulting firm, or assigning it to program staff at IAFWA. **Given the urgency, the Work Group recommended that a state agency provide a staff person to accomplish the task. Consequently, the Arizona Game and Fish Department has assigned the task to Lisa Andersen (602 789-3623; landersen@gf.state.az.us), who will be assisted by Work Group members.**

Each reference should contain the following information:

Title

Author(s)

Complete citation

Sponsoring organizations, if any

Format: (book, report, web site, description of presentation – text, drawings, pictures, tables, etc.)

Length

Short description of the reference

Why reference is important for this purpose

Specific information about where to obtain the reference (e-mail addresses, phone numbers, addresses, etc.)

Price, if any

Initial outline for reference list

(The outline may be modified as the references are compiled and additional categories of interest are identified.)

1. Overview of ecosystem management and broad-scale conservation planning
 - a. Planning for species groups and habitats (habitat conservation plans, recovery plans, waterfowl, neotropical birds, etc.)
 - b. Integrating terrestrial and aquatic systems in watershed plans
 - c. Designing conservation networks
 - d. Mapping and use of GIS technology in conservation planning
2. Strategic and operational planning
 - a. Collaborative planning
 - b. Organizational management systems
 - c. Moving from strategies to operations
3. Performance measurement
 - a. Developing goals and objectives
 - b. Program evaluation
4. Strategies for different land uses
 - a. Conserving habitat in developed and developing landscapes
 - b. Conserving habitat in agricultural landscapes
 - c. Conserving habitat in forested landscapes
5. Assessment and monitoring of species, habitats and threats
6. Public involvement and building partnerships
 - a. Stakeholder participation processes
 - b. Integrating activities of local, state, federal, Indian governments
 - c. Integrating public, private, and nonprofit sector conservation strategies
 - d. Human dimensions, i.e., public attitudes toward wildlife
7. Economic benefits of wildlife (any and all taxa) and habitat conservation
8. Outreach and communications
9. Implementation tools
 - a. Conservation policies, regulations
 - b. Land acquisition
 - c. Incentives for private landowners
 - d. Research
10. Conservation funding strategies
11. Examples of comprehensive wildlife conservation plans and strategies
 - a. Statewide
 - b. Ecoregional
 - c. National (from other countries, if relevant)