



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Washington, D.C. 20240



In Refer To:
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Memorandum

To: Service Directorate

From: Director *Steve Williams*

Subject: Service Partnership with States in the Development and Implementation of Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plans

As a result of Congressional Appropriations language, State fish and wildlife agencies must develop and implement Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plans (CWCP) by October 1, 2005. The Service has been working with the States, the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA) and interested organizations to provide CWCP guidance during the past 2 years.

At the request of the IAFWA, the Service is establishing Development Assistance Teams in each Region and forming a National Advisory Acceptance Team, which will ensure the CWCP meet the standards, established by Congress and our Secretary.

The Assistant Regional Directors (ARD) for Migratory Birds and State Programs will lead the Development Assistance Teams. The Teams will consist of two subgroups. One will focus on 'process-related' questions from the States and the other subgroup will involve all of our Divisions and will tackle 'content-related' queries from the States regarding information or expertise that resides within the Service that can strengthen State CWCP's.

Additionally, the National Advisory Acceptance Team will have a quality control function and will ensure that all State CWCP contain the eight essential elements required by Congress and the State Wildlife Grant program legislation. The members of this Team will include the Assistant Director for Migratory Birds and State Programs; all ARDs for Migratory Birds and State Programs; an IAFWA representative, and a State agency staff representing each of the four Regional fish and wildlife associations. We anticipate this Team will begin to function this spring.

This is a tremendous opportunity to facilitate partnerships with our State counterparts and to reach our common conservation goals.

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