**From:** Seth Gallagher
**To:** matt_kales@fws.gov; Hall, Galon - NRCS, Washington, DC
**Subject:** USFWS/NRCS WFLW-CCAA Docs...
**Date:** Monday, March 30, 2015 4:02:19 PM
**Attachments:** NB-300-14-7-LTP (1).pdf

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Matt & Galon:

Matt I hope this email finds you well and in better condition than when we last met. Do either of you have an update on the deliverables ( I think it was a version of Angela Burgess' CCAA/WLFW doc) from the CCAA/WLFW earlier in the month in Lakewood? Tim is on spring break, I hadn't heard anything since the meeting. A JV partner in WA state is looking for info regarding CCAA and WLFW to add to the WA State CCAA being developed by Washington Department of Fish and Game... I was thinking using the most up to date versions of things would be best. I have some other WLFW documents that should suffice for the time being if need be. (Galon the docs. I have that seem best suited is the NB from Chief Weller from 12-2013,including the said attachments - see attached NB)

Thanks for any updates!

Seth

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**Seth Gallagher**
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# NB 300-14-7 LTP – Delivering ESA Predictability Through the WLFW Partnership

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| **National Bulletin:** | 300-14-7 | **Date:** | November 25, 3013 |
| **Subject:** | LTP – Delivering ESA Predictability Through the WLFW Partnership | | |

**Action Required By: December 11, 2013**

**Purpose.** To provide State Conservationists and Directors, Caribbean and Pacific Islands Areas, with information on delivering Endangered Species Act (ESA) predictability to NRCS clients through the Working Lands for Wildlife (WLFW) Partnership.

**Expiration Date.** September 30, 2015

**Background.** WLFW is a partnership between NRCS, private landowners, and many additional entities for the purpose of providing predictability under ESA for specific conservation practices. The term "Working Lands for Wildlife" has been used in reference to financial assistance through the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP), but WLFW is not limited to financial assistance.

**Explanation.** WLFW is an overarching concept of how NRCS works with partners and private landowners to benefit specific wildlife species while maintaining profitable food and fiber production. Through WLFW, NRCS facilitates predictability for specific conservation practices through consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). ESA predictability exempts landowners from any incidental take of the species that may be inadvertently caused by the implementation and maintenance of covered conservation practices identified in a conservation plan. Predictability is not dependent on financial assistance to provide benefits to private landowners, although it is very important. ESA predictability has been developed for seven species: bog turtle, golden-winged warbler, gopher tortoise, lesser prairie chicken, New England cottontail, sage-grouse, and southwestern willow flycatcher. Even though the sage-grouse and lesser prairie chicken function as stand-alone initiatives that predate WLFW, they fall under the WLFW Partnership umbrella because of the ESA predictability that is offered to private landowners.

The attached WLFW Partnership Implementation Plan (attachments A-C) provides detailed information on delivering ESA predictability. In summary—
1. ESA predictability is available from the USFWS to cover practices in the conservation plan (as detailed in the conference reports, conference opinions, and biological opinions), if implemented with the appropriate conservation measures in the defined priority species area. It is not dependent on a financial assistance contract and is provided by the USFWS immediately upon practice implementation. ESA predictability is granted for up to 30 years (depending on the species), as long as the practice is maintained.

2. To assist with the delivery of predictability to NRCS clients, several additional supporting documents have been prepared:

A. A letter from USFWS to the WLFW Partnership participant explaining ESA predictability and incidental take protection (attachment D)
B. A letter from NRCS to the individual client that details the land unit where predictability applies (attachment E)
C. Species-specific "ESA Predictability Frequently Asked Questions" handouts (attachments F-K)

3. A tracking system is being developed that will allow staff to aggregate the voluntarily reported implemented habitat data for outside reporting while preserving individual privacy rights. This tracking system will provide a mechanism for tracking practice maintenance (and associated predictability) for up to 30 years.

ESA Predictability training for all state office personnel in WLFW States will be provided through a national VTC on December 10, 2013, at 2:30 PM EST (VTC coordinate: 71993). Regional webinars will be held on December 11 for all NRCS employees and partners involved with WLFW at the following times:

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| Northeast/Southeast Region (combined) | 10 a.m. EST |
| Central Region | 11:30 a.m. EST |
| West Region | 2 p.m. EST |

Please use the following log-in information to join the appropriate regional webinar:

**Webinar Login:** http://emsp.intellor.com/login/413795

**Dial-in:** After you've connected your computer, audio connection instructions will be presented

If you are unable to join the webinar from a computer, and want to participate in audio only, please dial (888) 621-9649, 413795#. The regional webinars will be recorded and posted on the WLFW SharePoint site upon completion.

**Contact.** If you have any questions regarding WLFW or ESA Predictability, contact Galon Hall, national WLFW coordinator, at (202) 690-1588 or galon.hall@wdc.usda.gov.

/s/
JASON A. WELLER
Chief

Attachment A – WLFW Partnership Implementation Plan
Attachment B – Example WLFW Planner Tracking Sheet
Attachment C – WLFW Process Flow Chart
Attachment D – USFWS Letter
Attachment E – NRCS Letter
Attachment F – Working Lands for Wildlife FAQs
Attachment G - Working Lands QA Bog Turtle FAQs
Attachment H - Working Lands QA Flycatcher FAQs
Attachment I - Working Lands QA Gopher Tortoise Can FAQs
Attachment J - Working Lands QA Gopher Tortoise Listed FAQs
Attachment K - Working Lands QA NE Cottontail FAQs