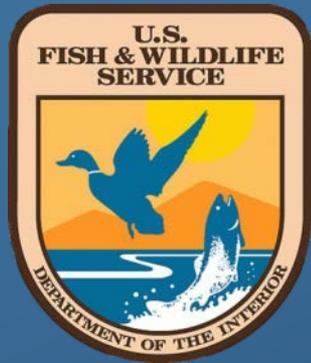




U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Mountain-Prairie Region



Tribal Update and Roundtable Follow-up

Matt Hogan, Deputy Regional
Director



Roundtable Follow-Up

- **On August 28, 2013** we hosted a Tribal Leadership Roundtable discussion in Rapid City, South Dakota to enhance communication and collaborative partnership efforts to more successfully address our mutual interests in fish, wildlife and plant conservation across our 8 state western region.
- Overall the meeting was acknowledged as a success with **13 tribes participating and 25 tribal members** engaging in the workshop style roundtable.
- As an outcome of the gathering and conversation we hope to see improved working relationships, increase awareness of conservation priorities and future collaborative tribal conservation projects for the benefit of fish and wildlife.



Our Action Items

- **ACTION: Summary Report Distribution** - Email out the meeting summary report to all meeting participants and tribes within the Region. The summary will also include sections that identify the Service action items, commitments, contact information and portfolios of the Service senior leadership at the Roundtable.
- **RESPONSE:** We were late getting these out but yesterday evening, Ivy Allen our Tribal Communications Specialist, sent you an email with the report attached and with a flyer about an upcoming spring course offered at CSU for wildlife management.



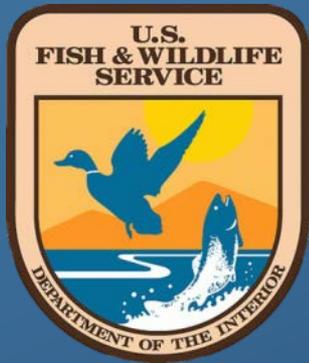
Our Action Items

- **ACTION: Teleconference Call Follow-up** - we promised we would schedule a follow up teleconference call & webinar to occur in late November or early December. We invited all roundtable meeting participants and tribes within the Mountain-Prairie Region to participate.
- **RESPONSE:** By joining us here today you are part of the commitment and strengthening the two conversation and connections between us.



Our Action Items

- **ACTION: Next in Person Tribal Meeting** – Possible options could be in conjunction with the Denver Powwow (on the Thursday before or Monday after) which runs from *March 21-23, 2014*, we will could offer a two-part Tribal Meeting.
- Options, Part I could include a funding workshop and a follow-up discussion from the August Roundtable. Part 2 could be a Regional Eagle Summit.
- There was some thought that this might not be the best time to meet but the Service wants to piggy back with an ongoing meeting.
- Are there summertime options we should consider and is Denver Powwow really a good option?



Surrogate Species Concept and Process Introduction

Steve Torbit, Science Applications



Strategic Habitat Conservation: Selecting Species for Designing Functional Landscapes





The 21st Century Conservation Vision

To meet the challenges of the 21st Century, we must:

- Make strategic, cost-effective conservation investments;
- Increase efficiency, transparency, accountability; and
- Design/manage for landscapes that support self-sustaining populations of fish and wildlife and provide for the needs of people.



Leaving a lasting wildlife legacy for future generations



What Are Surrogate Species?

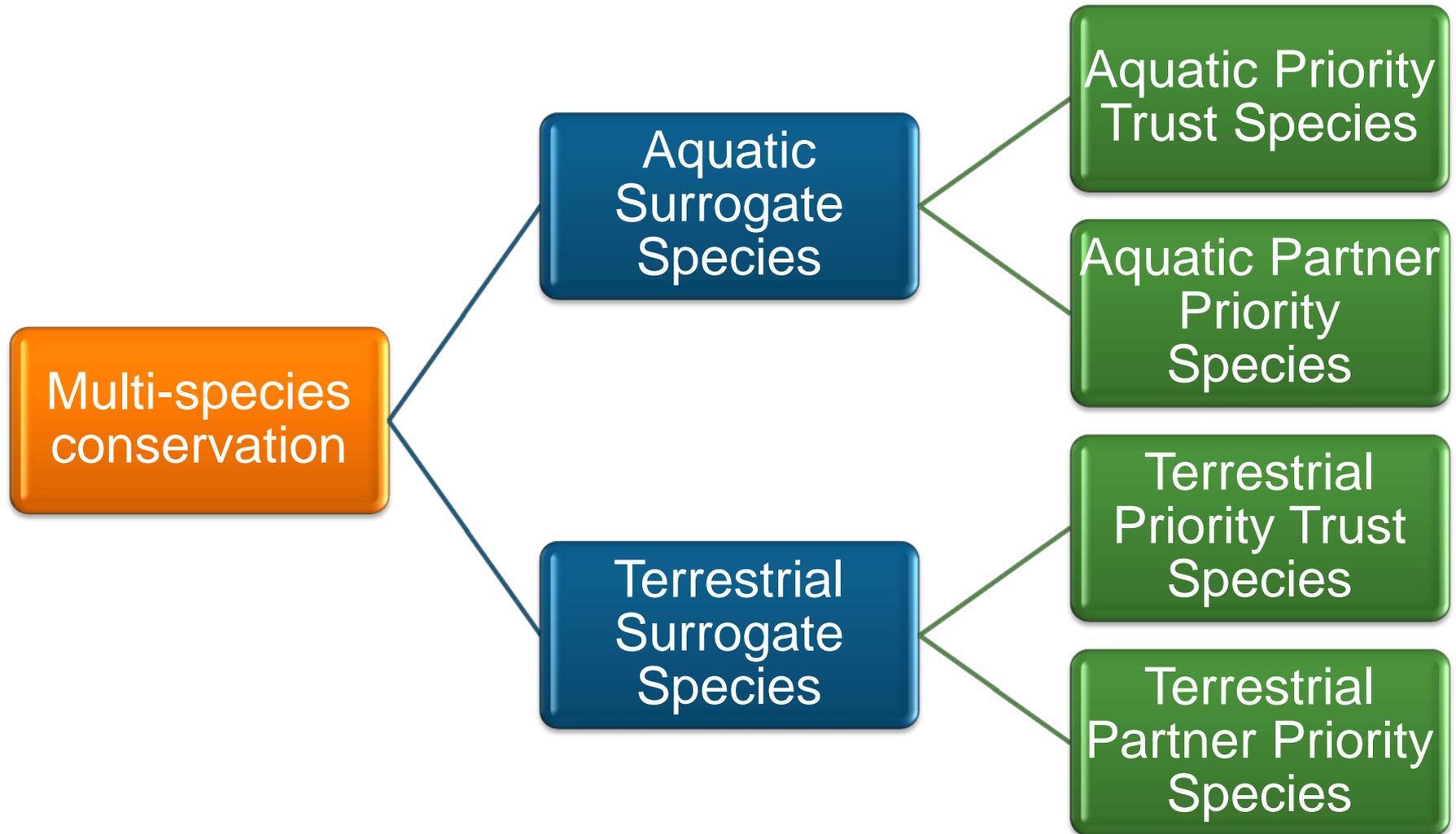
Surrogate species are used to represent other species or aspects of the environment.

They are used for comprehensive conservation planning that supports multiple species and habitats within a defined landscape or geographic area.





What is the Surrogate Approach?





Surrogate Species Version 1.0

- **Version 1.0 will consist of the identification of a least one geography to develop a surrogate species approach together with the relevant state(s); including:**
 - A description of the identified landscape, explicit geography, key ecological features (habitat types, aquatic systems, etc.).
 - List of all species occurring in the landscape that have been designated by the Service or a state fish and wildlife agency as a species of management interest.
 - Preliminary or potential surrogate species under consideration in that landscape. Status of existing population objective(s) for the preliminary surrogate(s) and status of ongoing discussions about developing objectives.



Region 6 1.0 Geography

- Flint Hills of Kansas





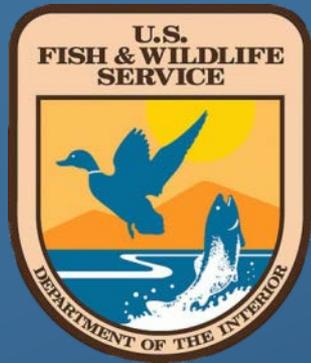
Flint Hills – East/Central Kansas





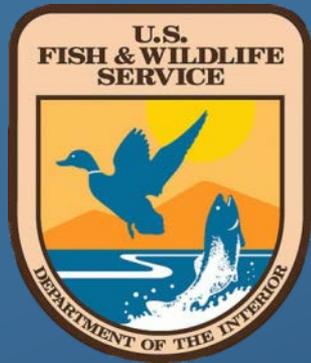
Comments and Questions





Proposed Changes to Eagle Regulations

Clint Riley, Migratory Birds



Proposed Changes to Eagle Regulations

Clint Riley, Migratory Birds



The Service is considering revisions to a number of eagle-related regulations and policies, including:

- Changing regulations governing rehabilitation of golden eagles
- Captive propagation of golden eagles
- Eagle carcass disposition
- Management of depredating eagles
- Revision of bald and golden eagle take permit regulations



Rehabilitators and Golden Eagles

Rehabilitators must release healthy birds to the wild, except falconers may request releasable raptors for falconry; this exception has a conservation purpose – fewer birds removed from wild for falconry.

Now: Rehabilitators can transfer golden eagles to master falconers.

Considering: Requiring that eagles be released to the wild.



Captive breeding of Golden Eagles

Raptor propagation is typically used for falconry purposes, but could be used for conservation purposes as well. We have received requests to allow captive propagation of golden eagles.

Now: Captive propagation is not allowed for eagles, but is for other raptors.

Considering: Allowing golden eagles to be bred in captivity.



Biological Sampling of Eagle Carcasses

Now: Most eagle carcasses (except those kept as evidence, or research subjects) are sent directly to the Eagle Repository for distribution.

Considering: To improve our understanding of mortality, contaminant loads, and genetic structure of populations, we are considering allowing some eagles to be sent directly to the National Wildlife Health Center, Madison, WI, for discrete sampling, e.g. eagle parts not typically requested by tribes: tissues/organs, damaged broken feathers, some bones. After samples are taken, eagles will be promptly sent to the Repository for distribution to tribes.



Management of Depredating Eagles

Now: Up to now, the FWS has issued permits to USDA-APHIS that allow take of depredating eagles that cause risk to human health and safety or to loss of livestock or wildlife.

Considering:

- Permits may be issued to livestock owner, or State on behalf of multiple owners, rather than to APHIS
- Permits for protection of wildlife issued to state agencies
- Limiting take to hazing or live-trapping, no lethal allowed
- Establishing a priority order for distributing eagles trapped under this rule (e.g. among Tribes – aviaries; educational programs; falconers; release to the wild; etc.)



Revising Bald and Golden Eagle Take Rule

New permit regulations in 2009 allow for incidental and nest take:

- standard take permits – one time take
- programmatic permits– long term, recurring take, 5-yr renewable permits

Take permit applications must:

- be 'consistent with goal of stable or increasing breeding populations' (no net loss)
- part of an otherwise lawful activity;
- be avoided & minimized to maximum extent practicable and
- have an Eagle Conservation Plan



Revising Bald and Golden Eagle Take Rule

Considering:

- Changing issuance language/terminology . (Now there are different criteria for Standard v. Programmatic permits)
- Changing conditions for determining when compensatory mitigation for eagle take appropriate & what kind of mitigation we should be considering as adequate.
- Revising the preservation standard ('consistent with the goal of stable or increasing breeding populations').



Revising Bald and Golden Eagle Take Rule

Considering:

- Reviewing population management objectives for eagles
- Determining the geography of consultation for a given project, which tribes are “affected tribes,” under the regulations
- Establishing required data standards to adequately assess risk to eagles from particular activities
- Other issues?



Revising Bald and Golden Eagle Take Rule

Nest Take Rule Revision – Considerations:

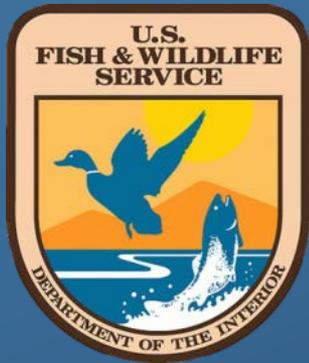
- More clearly define “nest,” including the definitions of Inactive and Active nests
- Address whether and when mitigation is required if removing a nest
- Add protection of wildlife to the reasons that an inactive eagle nest may be removed
- Reconsider the requirement that suitable alternative nesting habitat be available to the nesting eagles before nest take is allowed
- Reconsider the requirement that eggs or nestlings must be transferred to a rehabilitation facility; this could become a permitting requirement.



Timeframe and Comment Opportunities

**As we revise the 2009 Bald and Golden Eagle take rule,
and other regulations:**

- We will continue consultation with Tribes
 - Exploring option of hosting sessions at other Tribal events
- We will circulate NEPA analysis of revised rule
- Important targets for revision of 2009 Take rule:
 - proposed rule by mid 2014 and
 - final rule by end of 2014



Tribal Wildlife Grants Update

Marla Trollan, External Affairs



Tribal Wildlife Grants

FY 2013

**There
are 13
proposals
from 12
tribes**

The R6 TWG schedule for **FY 2014** is as follows:

September 3: Request for Proposals closed.

December 17: Final Regional rankings completed, certified and submitted to the Washington D.C. for competition in the National ranking process.

Generally, the National office does not announce grant selections until right before the new Request for Proposals process begins.

The Request for Proposal process generally runs from May 1 through September 1.



Expectations for 2014 Tribal Wildlife Grants



At the Nationally level they expect funding to be close to last years or possibly decreased.



It is likely that only 2 to 3 grants will be funded.



We know this is disappointing news but only congress has the power of the purse to control the funding levels.



Last year (FY 2013) two grants were awarded funding: One for (\$191,286) and another for (\$200,000).



Tribal Strategic Plan

- This is a Regional Priority
- Identify and develop strategies for Service work with Tribes that have overlapping conservation goals and to assist with elevating them in priority.
- Gather input from all Service programs to create a focused operational strategy.
- Improve tribal communications from the Service.
- We are working with email more to communicate routine notifications, news releases and listing or ESA communications.



Comments and Questions

THANK YOU