

## SCIENCE COMMITTEE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. Scientific Code of Conduct (<http://www.fws.gov/policy/212fw7.html>) guides the professional conduct and management of scientific activities by and on behalf of the Service. The Code applies to all our employees when they engage in, supervise or manage, or apply the information resulting from scientific activities. The Code was approved by the Director in January 2008.
2. The Science Committee formed a Publications Subcommittee in 2005 to meet the challenge of Director Hall to develop a scientific publication policy and publication outlet for the Service. The subcommittee's report and recommendations, which were endorsed by the Directorate, led to the development of the *Journal of Fish and Wildlife Management*. The *Journal of Fish and Wildlife Management* accepts submission of original, high quality, English-language scientific papers on the practical application and integration of science to conservation and management of North American fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats. The inaugural issue was published in June 2010; all issues are available electronic format and are in the public domain. Unlimited full-text HTML and PDF file access is free and open to anyone at <http://fwspubs.org/>
3. As detailed above, the Science Committee formed a Publications Subcommittee in 2005 to meet the challenge of Director Hall to develop a scientific publication policy and publication outlet for the Service. The subcommittee's report and recommendations, which were endorsed by the Directorate, led to the development of the *Journal of Fish and Wildlife Management*. In addition, the recommendations of the subcommittee led the Science Committee to revitalize *North American Fauna*. *North American Fauna* has been in existence for nearly a century, but was dormant since 1993, until now. Monographs are once again being accepted and all 76 back issues are now available in searchable digital format, also available at <http://fwspubs.org/>
4. Developed Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity Contract for peer review and information synthesis. After a competitive bidding process, PBS&J (now Atkins) and Sustainable Ecosystems Institute were selected. PBS&J remains available to conduct work for the Service.
5. Information Quality Act Guidelines establish FWS policy and procedures for reviewing, substantiating, and correcting the quality of information it disseminates to the public. Persons affected by that information may seek and obtain, where appropriate, correction of information that they believe may be in error or otherwise not in compliance with Section 515 of the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act of 2001 (P.L. 106-554, HR 5658). Section 515 is also known as the Information Quality Act (IQA).
6. In conjunction with the development of the *Journal of Fish and Wildlife Management*, and the revitalization of *North American Fauna*, the Science Committee wrestled with the age-old conundrum of "policy review" and their recommendation was endorsed in Director's Order No. 196 and codified in FWS Manual Chapter "Policy Review for Scientific Publications" in 2010 (<http://www.fws.gov/policy/117fw1.html>). With this

guidance, the Service has eliminated the confusing and inconsistently applied requirement for policy review of scientific papers that employees publish in agency-sponsored and external peer-reviewed journals. This is a significant step forward in encouraging and empowering employees to publish and to do so using their official agency and office affiliation.

7. Developed Rachel Carson Award for Scientific Excellence and Science Leadership Award. Committee has screened nominations each year to determine if the criteria are met.

8. Identified problems caused by Least User Access for FWS scientists and labs to the attention of IRTM. IRTM has been working with labs and scientists to allow special scientific software to be loaded on FWS computers and used without interference by security software.

9. Assisted in development of DOI's Scientific Integrity Policy by having a representative on the writing team that developed the DOI Policy. Science Committee member is now the DOI Scientific Integrity Officer.

10. Assisted in the redesign of the Science website for FWS and providing website content on a variety of scientific topics.

11. Developed a "science vision" for FWS that is currently under review by the Directorate Oversight Committee.