

YES Conservation Strategy Revision Steering Committee Update

June 2016

A Steering Committee was established at the April 2016 YES meeting. This group was charged with developing recommendations to be considered by YES for updates to the Conservation Strategy. The Committee wasted no time getting started and has held multiple productive meetings. A summary of current progress is detailed below.

The team took issues provided by all interested YES members at the April meeting and organized them into four categories:

- Habitat
- Population Management
- Agency Coordination/Conflict Management
- Steering Committee

Then the committee formed three sub-groups corresponding to the major categories outlined above. The Steering Committee asked the sub-groups to analyze each of their themes and answer three questions:

- Is this theme appropriate for the updated Conservation Strategy;
- How much time is required to address the theme and report back to the Steering Committee;
- Who will chair the sub-group

All sub-groups met and addressed all of their assigned themes and provided a report with recommendations to the Steering Committee.

At a recent meeting, the Steering Committee discussed reports provided by the sub-groups and made decisions regarding agreement or lack thereof on each sub-group recommendation. The Steering Committee is in the process of responding back to the sub-groups with additional guidance on future work, expectations and deadlines. All themes were placed in one of three categories: 1) re-referred to the sub-group for additional consideration and clarification on the recommendation; 2) concur-proceed with implementing recommendation; or 3) placed into the list of themes requiring work and discussion by the Steering Committee.

Next steps will include a final set of sub-group recommendations back to the Steering Committee by mid-July. Additionally, the Steering Committee has a healthy list of themes of its own that will need to be addressed over the course of one or two meetings. The USFWS has indicated they will prioritize the evaluation of public comments specific to the Conservation Strategy so we may have this summary as soon as late June. The Steering Committee will need to analyze this feedback and consider it with regard to changes in the Conservation Strategy. Lastly, the Steering Committee still needs to develop a recommended process by which edits to the Conservation Strategy are considered and approved by YES. The goal is to have the Steering Committee's work complete by the August 2nd YES meeting.