

WAFWA Hunter, Angler and shooting sports participation committee meeting:

Gary Taylor: Hunter Heritage funding supported by Obama and Salizar was killed in the OSPB(?) appropriations committee. Full appropriations committee also deleted this (hunter retention and recruitment funding) from their package. AFWA partnered with the CSF to find a champion to carry this effort thru ask a key “ask” from the appropriators. At this point, it’s not likely to make it through the budget this year.

There have been some funds dedicated to “getting kids outdoors” package which will go to USFWS, BLM, USPS, (Youth Conservation Core, etc.).

America’s Wildlife Heritage Act (HR 2807) (attachment): intended to give wildlife conservation as much a role in Fed. agency management actions as other activities. This has been now routed through the AFWA process to consider for potential support from the state wildlife agencies. Introduced by Rep Kind in June, 2009. This bill would provide some direction to the Federal agencies to coordinate their wildlife objectives with the State wildlife agencies. No hearing scheduled, but forwarded to the Natural Resources Committee. Fundamentally, it’s a good start, but there are still many challenges ahead to see this bill through congress.

Target Practice and Marksmanship Training Support Act (HR 6767) (attachment): Introduced by Rep Udall of Colorado to encourage the development of shooting ranges on Federal lands using PR funding already allocated to State Wildlife agencies. These developments would protect the federal agencies against liability for shooting ranges.

Dr. Del Benson, Colorado State University: Hunter Angler and shooter Recruitment through Community Conservation Clubs (attachment): Producers and consumers discussion over the importance the communication role and the “ask” from the Producers (states) to the consumer (hunter/angler). Fewer and fewer consumers available to ask for help. Dr. Benson is currently leading a collaborative effort (NWF, PF, TRCP, etc.) to develop a comprehensive outreach effort to the “Citizen Conservationist.” This effort is to revitalize conservation clubs. The question is: “What is the next step?”

4 legs of this “club” tool:

- 1) Getting adults and youth in nature.
- 2) Habitat based work
- 3) Ask these groups to identify important habitats in each state to prioritize efforts by the clubs/state wildlife agency
- 4) Fun

Jim: Alberta model could be a good model to inform this effort. Alberta Fish and Wildlife offers tags to encourage Hunting Tomorrow Foundation and to get youth into the field. Youth wildlife certificates have increased 10-12%/yr general hunting licenses have also increased about the same % during the same time.

Dr. Benson: There are multiple good models, but do we need to organize a coordinated thrust to get this effort off the ground?

Steve Ferrell: Thru a small funding allocation many of these smaller clubs can become more empowered to serve as the recruiting mechanism. States can develop small grants to accommodate.

Mitch King: recruitment remains one of the biggest issues, yet we continue to use biologists to serve as the messenger. We should be focusing on those that are talented or focused on the marketing tools as the appropriate messengers within the state agencies.

Mark (CO): have focused 15 personnel and 5 specifically for hunter retention and recruitment. This effort is to organize the approach and outreach by Colorado.

Alaska: Has developed a "Friends of BOW" group to support the women graduating from BOW to support other Conservation organizations.

Value of agencies focusing their efforts in a more concerted way and ask the directors and agencies to support that organized approach. Look at the club idea and see if it fits in this organizational effort.

Steve Ferrell; Roy Elicker; Josh Avey (AZ); Mark Kanichy (CO); Stacy Hall (AK); Dr. Del Benson; Ruben Cantu (TX); Jim Allen (Alberta); Mitch King (ATA); John Elchinger (SCI); Melissa Mock (Responsive Management); E. Lynn Burkett (BLM); Cliff Schleusner (FWS); Lisa Evans (AK); Steve Riley (NB); Chris McKay (FWS); Roger Fuhrman (OR); Cindee Johnson (UT); Ty Gray (AZ)

Steve Ferrell: Creation of the Committee was intended to break out from some of the other WAFWA Committees to ensure sufficient consideration of the issues associated with these activities was occurring within WAFWA.

Steve Ferrell: Discussion of the purpose of this Committee: "To function as the Association's principal forum for discussion, gathering information and/or identifying actions relative to all aspects of these important issues and to report its deliberations and recommendations to the WAFWA directors for either informational purposes or their approval at both the mid-winter or annual business meetings of the association. Further, once actions would be agreed upon by the collective body of directors, the committee's leadership and membership would be the principal means to implement these positions/priorities within WAFWA member agencies where there is interest in doing so and/or advance and advocate these priorities and proposed actions within the framework of AFWA to achieve even greater and more meaningful results." (Proposal to establish this committee: attached).

Steve Ferrell and Roy Elicker: presented the Committee with the option to include trapping (S. Ferrell) and watchable wildlife (R. Elicker), significant discussion occurred on the scope and interest of including those topics in the committees title or function.

It was agreed that the Chair/Co-Chair will draft a change in the Committee title and distribute to the Committee for further consideration and approval at the Mid-Winter WAFWA meeting in San Diego.

**ACTION.**

State Reports:

AK, AZ, Alberta, CO, NB, ?, OR, TX, UT, WY.

Mitch King: Presented information regarding the Community Archery Strategy being deployed by the Archery Trade Association and state partners. This effort includes a new function named "Explore Bowhunting."

Steve Ferrell: Budget Priorities, this year the committee will be supportive of

- 1) Open Fields full funding
- 2) Support for shooting range development on Federal Lands
- 3) ???

Action discussion:

- 1) This committee would like to be advancing products from this WAFWA committee to the AFWA Education Committee to help move that committee forward.
- 2) This committee would like to develop a WAFWA Hunter Recruitment and Retention Plan that could be presented to AFWA.
- 3) Establish a workshop, made up of a mix of agency personnel, some project managers and administrators, to help develop a master plan, rank and prioritize existing programs and generate a Plan to help guide a more concerted effort regionally.

Final Decision on title of Committee was agreed as:

Hunter, Angler, shooting sports, and wildlife recreation participation Committee