WAFWA Committee Review Survey

Sent to all committee chairs and vice chairs on November 5, 2019 with a requested deadline of November 27, 2019. 22 total responses.

What committee or working group do you serve on? Please check the one that you are completing the survey for.

22 responses

- Budget, Finance and Compliance Committee: 0 (0%)
- Climate Adaption Committee: 0 (0%)
- Executive Committee: 1 (4.5%)
- Habitat Committee: 1 (4.5%)
- Human/Wildlife Conflicts Committee: 0 (0%)
- Inland and Marine Fisheries Committee: 1 (4.5%)
- Legal Committee: 3 (13.6%)
- Legislative Committee: 0 (0%)
- Nominating Committee: 0 (0%)
- Resolutions Committee: 2 (9.1%)
- State/Federal/Tribal Communications Committee: 2 (9.1%)
- Wildlife Chiefs Committee: 0 (0%)
- Wildlife Health Committee: 1 (4.5%)
- Directors' ESA/SARA Working Group: 0 (0%)
- Mule Deer Working Group: 2 (9.1%)
- Wildlife Chiefs' Forest Carnivore Sub-Committee: 1 (4.5%)
- Monarch Working Group: 1 (4.5%)
What role do you play in the committee/working group you listed above? How long have your serve on the committee? Example: Mule Deer Working Group, Chair, 1 year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Time Period</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chair Excom</td>
<td>1 year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chair of the habitat committee</td>
<td>served for last 2 years (1 year vice-chair, 1 year chair)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Member of the Legislative committee</td>
<td>since inception (4 years?)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice Chair</td>
<td>3 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chair</td>
<td>3 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Director Sponsor</td>
<td>1 year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice-chair</td>
<td>12 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice Chair</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Chair</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Western Quail Working Group, Chair</td>
<td>3 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chair</td>
<td>3-4 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice Chair Resource Information Education</td>
<td>4 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>State/Federal Tribal Communications</td>
<td>Vice Chair, 4 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>I don't believe that I'm on any WAFWA committees</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chair</td>
<td>2 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chair, 2 Years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chair, 12 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mule Deer Working Group, 13 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chair, At least since 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Legal Committee, Vice Chair, 15+ years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inland and Marine Fisheries Committee</td>
<td>Vice Chair, 4 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>WSWG Chair for 3 years</td>
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<td>Wildlife Health Committee, Chair, 3 years</td>
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The committee produces a product. Ex: The Mule Deer Working Group produces a 1-page fact sheet. The Human...life Values in the West” publication.
22 responses

The committee allows for success/failure sharing.
22 responses
The committee has a unique and focused charge.

22 responses

- Strongly Agree: 40.9%
- Agree: 36.4%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 9.1%
- Disagree: 9.1%
- Strongly disagree: 0%
- I don't know: 0%

The committee takes on support roles at the request of other committees. Example: The Resource Information and... at the request of other committees.

22 responses

- Strongly Agree: 31.8%
- Agree: 27.3%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 13.6%
- Disagree: 13.6%
- Strongly disagree: 0%
- I don't know: 0%
Committee members are attending meetings consistently.

22 responses

The committee could meet outside of the WAFWA conference and be effective.

22 responses
Does this committee work on subject matter that overlaps with another committee? If yes, please list the committee's name.

22 responses

- Yes 72.7%
- No 27.3%

If yes, please list the committee's name.

- Budget and Finance
- Legislative committee has overlap with most
- Legal Committee
- Wildlife Committee
- Wildlife
- Human Dimensions & Private Lands Access
- Climate Change is an issue that touches everything we do in fish and wildlife conservation. In the future, it would be important to have climate change explicitly discussed in all of these other committees: Western Bird Conservation Committee Wildlife Health Committee Nongame and Endangered Species Committee Inland and Marine Fisheries Committee Human Dimensions Committee Habitat Committee Western Bird Conservation, Human Wildlife Conflict, and possibly less so others
- R3 Committee
- Any committees where federal partners are providing update reports
- Several of them, at the request of that committee
- This could be yes or no as almost all issues/subject matter could be affected by legislation
- Several over the course of the years. Examples include Sheep workgroup, lead and wildlife and wildlife health. Typically support is in the form of message review/suggestions
- WE collaborate with Wildlife Health, Wildlife Chiefs, Wild Sheep WG,
- All committees that generate resolutions
- Law Enforcement and Nongame and Endangered Species but the work of the Legal Committee approaches the subject matter from a different focus
- Habitat committee
- Some specific topics do overlap, and in those cases we work with the appropriate committee or work group. The recommendations on chronic wasting disease management is an example -- that product originated in Wildlife Health but became a joint product with the Mule Deer Work Group.
If the committee was terminated, what gaps or losses would occur?

**Habitat Committee** - loss of coordination of habitat efforts across WAFWA, legislative committee - lack of coordinated discussion on major federal legislative and budget concerns among WAFWA states; important for input to AFWA

Combine with Legal Committee

This subject could be handled by the Wildlife Committee

The WAFWA R3 Committee has been credited with being the most effective R3 work group of the regional associations. Loss would create a gap opportunities for progressive R3 professionals to meet and problem solve effectively.

The committee serves as a valuable forum for sharing information on emerging issues and brainstorming solutions. For example, multiple committee members have shared their needs related to tools for integrating climate information into decision making. Those state agencies are now working on a regional product together (outside of WAFWA, but the connection was made on the committee). The committee could also help the other committees integrate climate information into their charges and work. Joint products from the Climate Adaptation Committee and other committees would be more valuable that solo projects from this committee. The committee suffers from being a low priority for many attendees at WAFWA, because many directors and deputy directors have delegated attendance to staff who don’t typically attend the meetings.

Communication and networking on topics related to the committee’s charge.

Loss of information sharing, loss of collaboration, potential to attend EOD meeting at AFWA but might not work for some states

Because it seems like much of the information overlaps with reports given in other committees, probably not much loss, especially because tribal communications are not occurring so it is primarily states and feds.

Legal opinion, case updates, strategy, etc. sharing and partnership opportunities would be lost which could be very detrimental to WAFWA members
Member sharing and opportunities to build a western coalition on various legislative fronts could be loss. However, these discussions could better be facilitated on a quarterly phone call with member agencies (outside of WAFWA) and not open to the public. Another reason to consider terminating the committee is that many subject areas are sensitive and can't be openly discussed in an open meeting requiring many to occur in exec. session. The biggest loss would potentially be member sharing but that can be handled at AFWA's EOD committee. In terms of products, the RIE Committee hasn't produced any WAFWA directed materials for several years, and when it was tasked, most of the work was conducted by 1-2 member agencies. I checked all of the above recommendations as I think all could be considered and supported. Its been suggested to include "Marketing" as part of the charter which has merit. That discipline would also fit in R3 to some extent.

Director's would have to edit and debate resolutions directly from Committees at business meeting. Lose the valuable exchange of legal issues impacting member states and learning lessons from these legal issues.

Working together with other fisheries related staff on issues affecting the water and fisheries in the west. Though I hope to see a much broader goal of the WSWG to overcome landscape challenges to enhance wild sheep populations and their sustainability as it relates to disease, climate, and anthropomorphic threats, a huge benefit that would be lost if the WSWG was terminated is the knowledge sharing on common issues among wild sheep managers/biologists, veterinarians, and geneticists, that has improved the overall effectiveness and professionalism of all agencies in the wild sheep management arena. WAFWA will lose regional coordination & national leadership on addressing important wildlife disease issues and other subjects (e.g., immobilization drug access) recognized by agency wildlife health professionals as critically important to fish & wildlife management in the West.