



ASSOCIATION of  
FISH & WILDLIFE  
AGENCIES

**THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES POLICY COMMITTEE**

**Chair: Vacant**

**Vice-Chair: Eric Gardner (WA)**

**Wednesday, September 13, 2017**

**8:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

**AFWA Annual Meeting**

**Ballroom 1 / Snowbird Resort**

**Sandy, UT**

**Draft Agenda**

- 8:00 am Call to Order/Review Agenda – Eric Gardner
- 8:05 Introductions – All
- 8:10 Improving Recovery of Federally Listed Threatened and Endangered Species
- Discussion: WGA’s ESA Recommendations from Year 2 of the Species Conservation and ESA Initiative– David Willms (20 minutes)
  - Discussion: AFWA’s Recommendations for Improving ESA Implementation: Presentation and discussion of AFWA technical guidance document; what it is and isn’t; utility, next steps, and update on the legislative front– Jen Mock Schaeffer (15 minutes)
  - Briefing: American Fisheries Society’s position on changes to the ESA – Doug Austen, *invited* (15 minutes)
  - State’s Roundtable: ESA challenges in your state and collaborative troubleshooting – All
    - Are there administrative implementation improvements we can recommend? (30 minutes)
- 9:30 Legislative Update – ESA, HELP for Wildlife Act, and Recovering America’s Wildlife Act – Jen Mock Schaeffer
- 9.40 Data collection and management, inventorying and monitoring challenges: state and federal agencies’ needs and new or alternative approaches
- Presentation: Development of new species distribution modeling tools and their application in management of threatened or endangered species at the state level, and more broadly for SGCN and other species of interest – Dr. Healy Hamilton, NatureServe
- 10.00 Health Break
- 10.15 Continued–Discussion: Use and application of NatureServe’s species distribution model or other leading tools to cost-effectively collect inventory, monitoring, and other data important to

management and listing decisions. What do States think, how are they using them, are there limitations or concerns, etc. -- All

- Any thoughts on how well the North American Bat monitoring framework has helped in collecting scientifically-rigorous data at the most meaningful scale for decision-making?-- All

10.30 Highlights of a Multi-partner Conservation Effort for ESA species

- National Alliance of Forest Owners' At-Risk Species Initiative with the USFWS --Jimmy Bullock

10.50 Federal Partner updates: FWS (Gary Frazer), NMFS (Lisa Manning on Section 6 grants), BLM (Kim Trip), NPS, USFS, NRCS, others?

11.20 Latest ESA Related Litigation and Court Decisions

- Western Great Lakes gray wolf DPS opinion from the D.C. Circuit -- Lake Kisonak (15 minutes)
- Yellowstone grizzly bear delisting - how many suits/potential suits coming, claims; and Mexican wolf- what is the impact of the publication of the draft recovery plan -- Anna Seidman (30 minutes)

12pm Adjourn

If time permits or follow-up with this fall/winter with committee conference calls and/or webinars:

- Update: States' and partners' progress on Monarch conservation -- Ed Boggess
- Private Landowner Incentives and the ESA -- Discussion: How can we improve private landowner incentives? What works, what doesn't, why, and what would make things work better for private landowners and species conservation/recovery? What role can private partnerships play? -- All
- Review of 2017-2018 committee work plan; modify with meeting actions as necessary -- All

Committee Charge:

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- *Review procedural or categorical problems affecting threatened and endangered species listings and de-listing and critical habitat proposals as reported in the Federal Register and suggest appropriate action.*
  - *Keep abreast of legislative proposals and oversight hearings and recommend Association involvement.*
  - *Maintain active liaison with appropriate federal agency offices, the conservation community, states and regional associations.*
  - *Serve as the subject matter and support group on endangered species that are covered by CITES or other international arrangements.*
  - *Subcommittees and Working Groups: ESA and Climate Change Working Group*
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