

Measuring the Effectiveness of State Wildlife Grant Projects

Albany II Meeting
June, 2011

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Virginia Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries



Working Group



STATES

- 🐾 Dana Baxley (KDFWR)
- 🐾 Faith Balch (MNDNR)
- 🐾 Tara Bergeson (WIDNR)
- 🐾 Chris Burkett (VDGIF)
- 🐾 Wendy Connally (TPWD)
- 🐾 Jenny Dickson (CDEP)
- 🐾 Mike Harris (GDNR)
- 🐾 Eric Rickerson (ODFW)
- 🐾 Tracey Tomajer (NYDEC)

AFWA

- 🐾 Mark Humpert
- 🐾 Priya Nanjappa

CONSERVATION PARTNERS

- 🐾 Karl Hess (USFWS)
- 🐾 Ron Essig (USFWS)
- 🐾 Connie Young-Dubovsky (USFWS)
- 🐾 Amielle DeWan (DOW)
- 🐾 Tess Present (NAS)
- 🐾 Shelley Green (TNC)
- 🐾 Mary Klein (NatureServe)
- 🐾 Mathew Birnbaum (NFWF)
- 🐾 Terra Rentz (TWS)

FOUNDATIONS OF SUCCESS

- 🐾 Nick Salafsky
- 🐾 Caroline Stem

SWG at Risk? Yes



February 2011, the U.S. House of Representatives voted to eliminate the State Wildlife Grants program from the FY2011 Continuing Resolution.



This was a surprise.
But there were warning signs.

Prior Notice

- ❖ Congressional Element 5 of action plans
- ❖ OMB – 2005: “Results not Demonstrated”
- ❖ House Appropriations Language – 2007 and 2008: Comments related to effectiveness, monitoring, and funding
- ❖ OMB/Administration – 2010: “...target programs that are not the best use of taxpayer dollars.”



OMB – 2010: Specific to SWG Effectiveness

“States should have done this five years ago.”

“...expecting progress and need data within one year.”

The Report's Three Essential Parts

1. Set of 11 standard actions
2. Process to develop and test measures for actions
3. Discuss mechanisms for reporting and maintaining data



Common Actions



11 Common Conservation Actions Funded through SWG

Conservation Area Designation	Acquisition/Easement/Lease
Data Collection & Analysis	Management Planning
Direct Management of Natural Resources	Species Restoration
Create New Habitat/Natural Processes	Training & Technical Assistance
Outreach	Land Use Planning
Environmental Review	



Conservation Actions

Data Collection & Analysis

Collecting and analyzing data about species, habitats, and threats

Virginia Example:

Determine species distribution and population status of Virginia crayfish.



Crayfish Sampling Efforts:

- ID sample priorities
- Recruit Partners
- Provide Training and Supplies
- Collect samples, take notes
- Enter data into Collections database/report to partners
- Revise maps and watershed prioritization per new data
- Evaluate SGCN status

Project Outcome Measures:

- Specify the research question(s).
- Are data answering the research question?
- Who are the intended users of this data?
- Are users receiving this information?
- Evidence of data being used?



Roll Up Measures

Similar Projects Generating Similar Data



- % of projects that answered research questions
- % of projects where data reaching target audiences
- % of projects leading to other management actions

Demonstrate That These are More Than “Counting” Projects

Balance



Working for
Balance between
Concise and
Comprehensive



1. Collecting data is not sufficient.
2. Data must be reported in a centralized system.



🐾 Wildlife TRACS

- 🐾 Partial Replacement for FAIMS
- 🐾 Focused on project descriptions and performance reporting
- 🐾 Will include effectiveness measures
- 🐾 State and public components

TRACS Progress

🐾 Progress

🐾 Initial Focus on SWG

- 🐾 Design phase underway
- 🐾 Programming to begin in June
- 🐾 System operational end of 2011



🐾 FY2012 Expand to other WSFR Programs

🐾 11 Pilot states

🐾 Goal to have all states on advisory committee

- 🐾 July 26, 2011 – Teleconference

Questions? Comments? Ideas?



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