

SECTION VI

REVIEWING AND UPDATING WYOMING'S CWCS

As indicated within the Congressional guidelines, each state's CWCS must indicate how frequently their CWCS will be updated. Specifically, agencies must provide "Descriptions of procedures to review the Strategy/Plan at intervals not to exceed ten years".

Items 3 thru 6 identified in the CWCS Update section (see below) will be reviewed annually and Wyoming's entire CWCS will be updated on five-year intervals. Through the 1990s and the first five years of the 21st century, Wyoming's landscapes and wildlife resources were affected by significant natural and human-induced occurrences. Issues of drought, residential development, shifts in Wyoming's economy, invasive species, resource extraction, and shifts in the demographic characteristics of Wyoming's human population all have the potential to affect Wyoming's habitats and the wildlife resources they support. By updating this strategy every five years, the WGFD hopes it can continue to be proactive regarding Wyoming's SGCN, and provide valuable and timely services to the people of Wyoming in the management of their wildlife.

As indicated previously, the use of a CWCS is new to Wyoming. Over the next five years a number of lessons will undoubtedly be learned and will need to be incorporated into the 2010 iteration. Taking this caveat into account, it seems three levels of effort will be required to determine the modifications Wyoming's CWCS will require. These include the continuation of activities, a broad review of CWCS methods, and identifying the process which will be used to actually update Wyoming's CWCS.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

Two ongoing activities will be necessary to improve Wyoming's CWCS in 2010. The first involves the Department's annual reporting process. It is here that the status of SWG projects will be recorded and the associated performance measures will be evaluated. When the CWCS is reviewed, these should provide important data points regarding the success or failure of agency efforts.

The second ongoing activity will involve greater coordination and communication between the WGFD and its various partners. During the March, 2005, CWCS workshops (see Appendix VIII) held in Casper, Wyoming, many participants indicated a need for a regular opportunity for interested parties to meet and share information about Wyoming's SGCN. As an example, it may be possible to include such opportunities in conjunction with the annual meetings of the Wyoming Chapter of the Wildlife Society and the Colorado-Wyoming Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. Beginning in 2006, efforts will be made to organize sessions at each of these meetings. At this point, it is impossible to determine if these sessions are feasible or if they would fully meet this need. However, if these sessions prove problematic or insufficient, attempts will be made to make other arrangements through other organizations or institutions.

REVIEW OF CWCS METHODS

As evidenced during the August, 2004, "One Year Out" Conference hosted by the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA), individual states are using a variety of techniques and tools to develop their CWCS, and few states are attempting to coordinate their efforts with their neighbors. Given this diversity, it is likely some efforts will be more successful than others. During 2008 or 2009, it would be advantageous for the WGFD to conduct a review of as many of the CWCS documents as possible to determine if the methods used or products developed by other agencies would be beneficial to Wyoming and, if so, develop a mechanism to incorporate those improvements into Wyoming's CWCS. Given the high profile nature of this national effort, it is possible that such a review could be facilitated by the IAFWA, the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, the Wildlife Management Institute, or some other institution or organization.

CWCS UPDATE

Barring some unforeseen circumstances, the process used to update Wyoming's CWCS will be very similar to the process used in its creation. As such, prior to October 1, 2010, the WGFD will work with its various partners to:

1. Review Wyoming's CWCS in light of ongoing activities and the multi-state review (see above);
2. Update Wyoming's list of SGCN;
3. Update information on the distribution and abundance of Wyoming's SGCN;
4. Update information on the habitats used by Wyoming's SGCN;
5. Describe the problems adversely affecting Wyoming's SGCN or their habitats;
6. Identify and describe the conservation actions necessary to conserve Wyoming's SGCN and their habitats;
7. Develop and describe plans for monitoring the effectiveness of the necessary conservation actions (see item 6);
8. Describe the procedures for developing future iterations of Wyoming's CWCS;
9. Describe plans for coordinating the development, implementation, review, and revision of the CWCS; and
10. Describe the public participation effort associated with the update of Wyoming's CWCS.