

SECTION VII

COORDINATION

As indicated within the Congressional guidelines, each state CWCS must include a discussion of “Plans for coordinating the development, implementation, review and revision of the Wyoming CWCS with federal, state and local agencies and Indian tribes that manage significant land and water areas within the state or administer programs that significantly affect the conservation of identified species and habitats”.

The conservation of Wyoming’s rich and abundant wildlife resource is the statutory responsibility of the WGFD, except in those instances where that responsibility is specifically delegated to another entity. That said, it is imperative to recognize that wildlife conservation in Wyoming is much too large and important a task to be carried out entirely by one governmental agency. Many agencies, organizations, groups and individuals have important roles in wildlife conservation in Wyoming, and many of these have had and will continue to have significant roles in developing, implementing and updating this CWCS.

DEFINING ROLES

The process for defining roles in the development of the Wyoming CWCS is critical to its success. Many agencies, organizations, groups and individuals are concerned with the conservation of SGCN, and their contributions to the development of this strategy have been significant. The WGFD, as leader in the development in the CWCS, categorized these stakeholders in the following ways by virtue of their roles in the process:

Partners:

These are agencies, organizations, groups and individuals with data on SGCN or access to data on SGCN. They include:

- Wyoming Natural Diversity Database (WYNDD);
- The Nature Conservancy (TNC);
- Bureau of Land Management (BLM);
- U.S. Forest Service (USFS);
- National Park Service (NPS);
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS);
- Biodiversity Conservation Alliance (BCA);
- Audubon Wyoming;
- Dr. Paul Bartelt – Waldorf College;
- Dr. Chuck Peterson – Idaho State University;
- Dr. Debra Patla - Idaho State University;
- Dr. Brian Smith – Black Hills State University;
- Don Tipton – Rocky Mountain Vivarium; and
- Dr. Alan Cvancara.

Major Stakeholders:

These are agencies, organizations, groups and individuals who may not have significant data or access to data on SGCN, but who have a direct and significant stake in the outcome of the strategy and who were offered an opportunity to play a role in its development. They include:

- Wyoming Department of Agriculture;
- Petroleum Association of Wyoming;
- Wyoming Outdoor Council;
- Greater Yellowstone Coalition;
- Northern Arapaho Business Council;
- Shoshone Business Council;
- University of Wyoming – Institute for Environment and Natural Resources;
- Wyoming Mining Association;
- Wyoming Wool Growers Association;
- Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts;
- Wyoming Stock Growers Association; and
- Wyoming Farm Bureau.

Contact information for partners and major stakeholders is summarized in Appendix I. Contacts with other stakeholders are addressed in Section VIII – Public Participation.

THE PROCESS 2004-2005

Given these defined roles, the following process was conducted to involve both partners and major stakeholders in the development of the Wyoming CWCS:

1. On September 27, 2004, all partners and an initial list of stakeholders were sent a copy of Draft 1 of Wyoming's CWCS, which included a copy of the list of SGCN and a draft copy of Appendix I (now called Appendix II), the species accounts for all SGCN. Their review and comments were requested;
2. During the week of October 25 2004, the WGFD was contacted by various other organizations that wished to receive information on Wyoming's CWCS process. These groups were provided with a copy of the correspondence previously sent to partners and initial stakeholders, a copy of the species accounts, and a cover letter requesting they contact the WGFD if they had information they wished to contribute.
3. Throughout the fall of 2004, the WGFD contacted and met in person with many of the above partners and major stakeholders.. Those who could not be met in person were contacted by phone and e-mail. The purpose of these contacts was to inform them of the CWCS, provide them with information on its purpose and the schedule for its development;

4. From October 2004 through January 2005, the WGFD again contacted partners who indicated an interest in providing comments on the list and species accounts, to discuss that input and associated deadlines, etc. Many partners reviewed this list, compared it to their information and provide significant comment on the draft. In February, 2005, species accounts and other information on the CWCS were posted on the WGFD website.
5. In March 2005, the WGFD hosted a series of CWCS Workshops for WGFD staff and partners. These workshops were organized by taxa and were designed to capture pertinent data on key habitats and fine-tune the distribution, habitat association and monitoring information for these species. Summaries of these workshops are included, in Appendix VIII;
6. On May 10, 2005, Draft 2 of Wyoming's CWCS was posted on the Department's website.
7. On May 11, 2005, the draft CWCS was sent to all partners and major stakeholders with an invitation to comment on that draft. Many partners and major stakeholders were reviewed this draft document and provided significant comment on the draft;
8. From May 10 to May 20, 2005, seven public meetings were held in various locations around Wyoming to present Draft 2 of Wyoming's CWCS, answer public questions, and advise members of the public as to how they could comment upon this document;
9. On June 24, 2005 the final draft of Wyoming's CWCS was posted on the WGFD website. Partners and major stakeholders were invited to meet with WGFD personnel to discuss revisions made to Draft 2; and
10. On July 12, 2005, the final draft CWCS was presented to the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission for their approval. At that time, comments from partners and major stakeholders, along with the public, were invited.

THE PROCESS 2010

The WGFD and its partners see the development and implementation of the Wyoming CWCS as a continuous and adaptive process. As such, the process will continue through the next update of the strategy in 2010. WGFD will maintain contact with interested partners and major stakeholders through the life of this CWCS. These partners and major stakeholders will be involved in the ongoing implementation of this strategy. Periodic reports, both on specific projects and on the overall CWCS will be coordinated and provided by WGFD. No doubt, additional partners and major stakeholders will be added.

In 2009, the process for reviewing and updating the Wyoming CWCS will focus on the 2010 update. While it is impossible to provide specific detail on that process at this time, participants will:

1. Review the list of SGCN, and suggest removal of species that do not warrant a place on that list based on the best information available;
2. Update the species accounts for SGCN, based on the best information available;
3. Review the best available information for SGCN on:
 - Key habitats;
 - Problems and threats;
 - Conservation actions;
 - Monitoring; and
 - Update the CWCS accordingly;
4. Involve partners and major stakeholders in the review and updating of the CWCS;
5. Develop and implement a robust public participation process; and
6. Review the benefits of having a CWCS and determine if this is the best mechanism for conserving Wyoming's SGCN.