

FINAL
Joint Federal/State Task Force on Federal Assistance Policy (JTF)
Meeting: November 7-8, 2012
Location: Hyatt Place, Denver, CO

JTF Cochairs: Kelly Hepler (ADFG) and Hannibal Bolton (USFWS)
AFWA Contact: Ashley Salo, AFWA, Multistate Conservation Grants Coordinator
USFWS Contact: Joyce Johnson, Special Assistant for Program Development and Analysis
JTF Members: Gary Armstrong, Mike Piccirilli, Lisa Evans, John Organ, Wayne MacCallum, Steve Barton, Jon Gassett, John Frampton, Larry Voyles, Joyce Johnson, Curtis Taylor, Lisa Van-Alstyne
Legal Counsel: Carol Bambery and Larry Mellinger
Guests: Paul Hayduk (R1), Steve Robertson (R2), Jim Hodgson (R3), Steve Jose (R6), Steve Klein (R7), Sue Detwiler (R8)

Wednesday November 7th

1. **Welcome and Introductory Remarks (1:00pm)** – Bolton/Hepler
2. **WSFR 75th Anniversary Update/Wrap-up/What’s Next** – John Frampton
 - Bass Pro highlighted the WSFR 75th Anniversary celebration in their fall catalogue. This catalogue reaches millions of hunters, shooters, anglers, and boaters.
 - WSFR 75th Anniversary celebration was mentioned in hunting magazines across 30 states.
 - WSFR 75th Anniversary Work Group is working to get all of the governors and state legislatures/general assemblies to sign on to a proclamation about the value of WSFR and its role in the future relationship between states, industry, NGOs, and constituents. Currently have 20 states with passed proclamations and eight states with signed proclamations: Arkansas, Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Maryland, South Dakota, Vermont, and Virginia
 - Multistate Conservation Grant to enhance the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program was selected for funding during AFWA’s Annual meeting in September 2012. The nine main objectives of the grant are:
 1. Objective One: A) Liaison to work with state fish and wildlife agencies and the four trade groups; B) Minimize or eliminate potentially controversial and divisive issues among industry and state partners; C) Enhance positive relationships between states and industry.
 2. Objective Two: A) Seek fairness in the application and enforcement of the excise tax; B) Increased involvement of AFWA with Tax Fund Collection Work Group; C) Work with ATTB and the IRS

3. Objective Three: A) Enhance awareness of the WSFRP; B) Increase awareness of assent language (highlight the connection between license revenue and excise tax apportionment); C) Realize state resolutions/proclamations by 90% of states
4. Objective Four: A) Enhance the “Tool Kit” developed for the 75th Anniversary Celebration; B) Increase visibility of WSFRP at industry trade shows and special events
5. Objective Five: A) Distribute WSFRP educational messaging in product packaging, industry web sites and other media used by industry; B) Better brand the WSFRP (brand logo or messaging); C) Inform public on the success and need of the WSFRP
6. Objective Six: Create a listing of all hunting, shooting, fishing, boating and related sporting industries in each state (appropriate contact information on key industry staff will be provided to state agency directors).
7. Objective Seven: Video segments promoting the success and need for the WSFRP will be developed and provided to states, industry, NGOs, AFWA and CAHSS for use on web sites and at events
8. Objective Eight: Assemble a strategic group of industry and state leaders (think tank) to recommend proactive measures that meet future challenges.
9. Objective Nine: Expose and put the state agency directors in touch with experts to assist in best business practices (Industry has staff and associates who can share this information with the states). This objective was recommended during the Industry-State Coalition meeting in Denver during May 2012.

3. Update on the Council to Advance Hunting and Shooting Sports – Voyles/Taylor

- There are twenty-seven fully engaged state members with the Council.
- CEO (Bill Creighton) has been on board for a year. Has worked with Richard Childress to increase the social media for the Council.
- Currently working on implementing a strategic approach on how to address the hunting and shooting sports.
- Member states have committed 2 million dollars which will fund the Council through 2015.
- The Council was selected for a Multistate Conservation grant during AFWA’s annual meeting in September 2012. One goal of this grant is to help the Council achieve membership from all 50 states. It is critical for the Council to obtain this goal. NGO’s may pay for membership to the Council on behalf of a state.

4. Minnesota DNR/Listening Group – Hodgson

- A listening group was formed with industry partners to gather information on WSFR and to educate users on the WSFR program.

- One objective from the listening group was to create a template “how to guide” for the project for other states use.
- Formed a coalition to develop a list of questions and a list of participants for the listening group.
- Summary of Responses:
 - Personal knowledge of WSFR? All participants were familiar with excise tax. Few of the participants knew what happened to the tax money after it was paid. The participants had average knowledge of the WSFR program.
 - How well is WSFR communicating about the program? 7 participants rated poor while 1 participant rated it fair. Main comment from the survey: “Give me a reason to support it.”
 - Attitude on WSFR program? 6 rated it as good but that the program could be improved. Biggest concern pertains to how the excise tax funds are spent. Participants felt there were lack of accountability and found it difficult to find program information.
 - What do the participants like? The dependability of the funding source. The support it provides to public land. The partnership aspect among users.
 - How can WSFR better communicate with users? Through a clear website with specific purpose of projects and how funds are spent. Provide an update on funded projects annual.
 - Participants want detailed information on how the money is spent (data) in order to communicate with industries, users, and the public.
- Accomplishments: Have developed “how-to” template after listening group. Currently developing website to incorporate the recommendations received from group. Have not yet been able to make the “how-to” template guide available region wide due to budget restrictions.
- An opportunity to further this initiative could be potentially made through the Multistate Conservation grant program which is currently soliciting National Conservation Needs (NCNs) for the 2014 grant funding cycle.

Action Item: Jim Hodgson will email presentation and relevant handouts to Joyce Johnson for distribution to WSFR chiefs/JTF. Carol Bambery and Larry Voyles will prepare agenda discussion items for the industry agency summit to discuss local level industry agency interaction and will report back with industry suggestions to JTF.

Action Item: Larry Voyles, Hannibal Bolton, Carol Bambery will have further discussions with industries to solicit their inputs on what they feel are effective measures and whether or not they are in fact cost effective at the Agency Industry summit. JTF will review the results from beta test and the initial input by states into the TRACs system to see if it’s possible to provide industry with clear effective performance.

5. Sequestration –

- Need to keep the message on sequestration as simple as possible and get the word out to sportsmen/industry members, etc. to help educate them on what is currently happening.
- Key to sequestration will be working with Congress in order to have the trust funds exempt. There needs to be a concerted effort from all states and AFWA to move Congress to exempt the trust fund from sequestration.
- The sequestration will impact funding across the whole board, including administrative costs.
- AFWA will be seeking legislative change if waiver to exempt the trust fund does not go through. Exemptions have been made for the trust fund in the past.
- Sequestration occurs after you've received the money, not before.
- After improvement act, specific dollar amount is apportioned for administrative costs.
- The PR interest money (which goes into NAWCA) is not exempt from sequestration.
- AFWA's President, Jeff Vonk (SD) has distributed a fact sheet on sequestration. It discusses the 2011 budget control act which was passed when Congress had approximately a 1.2 trillion dollar deficit to deal with. The act assigned different percentages to funds which would be sequestered. Some exemptions from sequestration were carved out in the budget control act 1985 (ex: SSN). Payments to trust funds through excises taxes are exempt in the 1985 act. It was payments to the trust funds which were not exempt.
- There is one appropriation which authorized the Treasury Secretary to put the excise taxes into the trust fund. There is a second appropriation which authorizes the Treasury Secretary to take money out of trust fund and allocate it to states.
- Best argument is the sequestration of the trust funds does not accomplish what Congress is intending for it to do. The funds reside in the trust fund account and therefore cannot be used to address budget deficits. The sequestration of the trust funds is an oversight which needs to be corrected through a resolution on sequestration.
- Does exemption apply to funds which are appropriated? It applies to tax revenues which are appropriated into the trust fund (the second appropriation which allows the Treasury Secretary to allocate the trust funds money to the states).
- If action is not taken sequestration will be automatic on Jan 3rd. Sequestration would put WSFR back to 2007 level of administrative funds. Our ability to be responsive to diversions will be severely compromised under limited funding.

Action item: *The following language needs to be included in any updates from AFWA (Carol Bambery):* Best argument is the sequestration of the trust funds does not accomplish what

Congress is intending for it to do. The funds reside in the trust fund account and therefore cannot be used to address budget deficits. The sequestration of the trust funds is an oversight which needs to be corrected through a resolution on sequestration.

6. AFWA and State Wildlife Grants – Mark Humpert

- Update on Teaming with Wildlife and funding for States biodiversity programs
 - The Budget Control Act raised the debt ceiling by up to \$900B and reduced spending by \$917B over 10 years (\$21B cut for FY12). It also created the formation of the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction (Super Committee) which selected future cuts of \$1.2T-\$1.5T (50% defense/50% non-defense). Sequestration will happen if there is no deal by the end of the year (2012).
 - First short-term recommendation from the Teaming with Wildlife Coalition was to facilitate a Director-driven state communication and educational effort targeting congressional delegations. TWC had made the annual TWW Fly-in more strategic by encouraging states with members on the Interior Appropriation subcommittees to participate.
 - Second short-term recommendation was to maintain an organized and engaged Teaming with Wildlife coalition to advocate for wildlife diversity funding. The TWC has created a coalition activated for a sign-on letter 600+ groups and is also active on social media.
 - The third short-term recommendation is to seek congressional action to move State and Tribal Wildlife Grant funding to the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program subaccount under the Pittman-Robertson program. There have been meetings held with House & Senate Appropriations & Senate authorizing Committees and a working group has been established. The charge of the working group is to develop a white paper to submit to AFWA's Executive Committee by December 2012.
 - The fourth short-term recommendation is to establish a Wildlife Diversity Funding Working Group to identify and prioritize potential funding mechanisms. A draft charter has been developed. The next action will be to present it to AFWA's Executive committee in December 2012.
 - The fifth short-term recommendation is to facilitate an effective state-level awareness and communication effort supporting wildlife diversity funding. The coalition is planning as part of national meeting on SWAP & landscapes. The State coalition events are in PA, ID, OH.
 - The first long-term recommendation is to pursue federal legislation to provide dedicated funding for wildlife diversity conservation. AFWA is currently working with NWF and others on post-election proposal and the Wildlife diversity funding working group is looking at revenue sources.
 - The second long-term recommendation is to determine state-by-state funding needs and justifications for wildlife diversity conservation. A funding needs survey was conducted by AFWA & Southwick Associates and was completed in 50 states & DC. The final report is expected to be completed in fall 2012.

- The third long-term recommendation is to conduct new polling and/or synthesize existing polling data on the public's attitudes towards wildlife diversity conservation including its funding mechanism. Data gathering has started.
- The fourth long-term recommendation is for a continued Association outreach on State Wildlife Action Plans and coordination of the Teaming with Wildlife coalition. There has been a federal outreach. The Association position is funded thru Dec. 2013
- AFWA and Effectiveness Measures for SWG
 - Need to communicate successes better with policy makers. Have to be able to show how success is measured (i.e. aggregated results).
 - The public wants to hear of successes from State Wildlife Grants.
 - Is the work performed being effective? Is it accomplishing the objective?
 - Applied a generic model to measure effectiveness to multiple SWG. The Conservation Measures Partnerships developed an Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation. It was developed by leading organizations & agencies. It draws on many fields and is an open source/common language. It is used around the world (ex: Great Lakes, TNC Preserves, Swedish National Parks, Donor Funding Programs and Academic Training)
- SWG and interaction with TRACS
 - Five steps: 1) define generic conservation actions; 2) use results chains to describe the theory of change; 3) ID a limited set of effectiveness measures; 4) develop & test data collection questionnaires; and 5) collect & analyze data & adapt
 - There seven criteria for measures: 1) Linked-to key factors in results chain; 2) Measurable-both qualitative & quantitative; 3) Precise-defined the same by all; 4) Consistent-unlikely to change over time; 5) Sensitive-can measure change; 6) Overarching-can be measured at different stages; and 7) Achievable-not onerous to collect
 - The next step for TRACS is to translate measure, review reports, and develop programmatic measures.
 - These measures were designed for use by State Wildlife Grants. Will be able to separate the SWG program from other grant programs. The measures have been field tested in ten states.
 - The states will be able to make the determination of successful measures, not a third party entity.
 - Wildlife action dollars do not go into WCR sub-account. It is a line item appropriation.
 - These measures were developed for SWG not for PR/DJ. TRACS will be developed to be a two performance measurement system. In addition to the typical outcome measures for grants there will be extra questions in the system for the performance measures on SWG. These questions will not be applicable to other grant programs.
 - PR/DJ grant accomplishments will always need to be separate from SWG accomplishments.

The JTF and its Partnership Approach – Hepler/Bolton

- State Director/WSFR Survey of Priority Issues and follow-up
 - TRACS will be a big issue for states. Training staff for TRACS will be crucial.
 - Wildlife damage management and predator management/control programs remain an issue. May need to look at moving towards regulation for predator management since it is difficult to enforce through policy alone.
 - Need consistency on license certification issue. AFWA has created a work group to take up the licenses issue in order to obtain a general consensus. There will be a unified approach through AFWA.
 - Need clarification on use of Section 10 vs 4c Hunter Education funds for the shooting sports. There is potential for artificial constraint.
 - The environmental compliance documentation procedure for WSFR grants should be taken on by the JTF. The interaction between regional WSFR/ES office can create a bottle neck in processing grants and might be inconsistent with regulatory requirements.

Tracking and Reporting Actions for the Conservation of Species (TRACS) – Dan Hogan/Steve Barton

- **Data TRACS (internal to FWS-States) - Fact Sheet; Updated Q&A's; Training, and Implementation timeline**
 - FAIMS will be officially decommissioned on October 1 2012. Data information in FAIMS will be converted to Data TRACS on December 15th 2012. FAIMS database will be archived on December 15th 2012 and will no longer be a live database.
 - Data TRACS development and testing is in full swing. Alpha version was tested in September 2012. There was significant amount of feedback received during the alpha testing (90 pieces of information on items to change/tweak).
 - Awarded cloud info structure: Cloud Infrastructure as a Services (Cloud IaaS) in September 2012. A guidance committee was formed and will have full early access to the alpha testing system in November 2012.
 - Beta system of TRACS will be made available in January 2013 to support training and testing. (Note: The difference between alpha and beta is an alpha system is not ready for primetime while a beta system is stable).
 - Will have the beta system ready to go live by January 2013. At this point in January the system will not be changing frequently except for minor tweaks.
 - WSFR grant process in data TRACS has three steps: 1) Application, 2) Implementation, and 3) Performance Reporting.
 - Grant Application: This is a plan which will be inputted into Data TRACS. This plan is optional. Will only be required for comprehensive management systems. The plan is very simple. It will contain project name, lead contact on the project, project goals, etc.

- Implementation –“Project” – This is where high level information on the project will be entered into data TRACS. This is what will be accomplished under the grant, not what has been accomplished.
- Almost all of the 13 critical elements in the 50 CFR 80.82 have been added to the system at the project level. There are additional critical elements being built into the system such as: need, purpose, results/benefits. These elements will more or less relate to the project statement.
- An “Action” would be entered into TRACs when activities on the project have been completed or are being conducted. Currently recommending to the states to create a draft action entry structure in TRACS for entering in performance reporting later. This is only a recommendation and will not be required.
- Project bundling in TRACs – This will essentially be completing a PDF bundle. States will be responsible for consolidating all projects (even if it’s only one project) within Data TRACs. The PDF will be submitted as an attachment through the grant application portal being used (i.e grants.gov). States are encouraged to use grants.gov.
- FBMS – FBMS will not interface with TRACs until the grant is approved in the FBMS system. FBMS information will be downloaded daily into TRACs. There will be limited information received from FBMS (mostly financial information).
- Performance reporting can be met by the official submission of data into TRACS. This would be accomplished by entering data into TRACs on an action level.
- Supplementary performance information can also be an attachment. This could be research information/scientific publications which do not have data fields in TRACs.
- Performance reporting timeline will be determined by the duration of the grant. Milestone plans for projects are in FBMS. Grant amendments which would increase the duration of the project will also reside within FBMS.
- Performance reporting approvals – States will need their own review process for performance reporting approval.
- Effectiveness measurement of performance: These are expected to be added to the database for SWG projects starting after calendar year 2012. States have the option to add active SWG projects prior to 2013 but are not required too.
- Walkthrough of Public TRACS –(wildlifetracs.us)
 - Users will have the ability to search the Public TRACs page by states/territories. The only information available in Public TRACs will be from what is currently in Data TRACs. States have the option to supplement the information listed in Public TRACs.
 - The public will have the ability to see summary pages of projects by state, territory, etc. This information will be at a high level project description, high level explanation of costs, high level

description of goals identified, any progress made, actions occurred under project, etc

- **Discussion:** Have there been safeguards placed to protect states intellectual property? The information will only be displayed at a high level description. This information will be derived from what states choose to input into Data TRACs. The states have an option to edit the information on Public TRACs as necessary.
- Walkthrough of Data TRACs:
 - The Data TRACS model has a similar appearance as the Windows 8 system. This was selected since the Windows 8 style is generally used for mobile applications.
 - The purpose of the dashboard on the main screen is to present as many pieces of functionality in one place and provide as many snapshots in one place as possible.
- Workflow Manager tab applies to how a project moves through its life cycle or workflow cycle. It walks projects through the approval process in the system and allows users to understand where their projects are in the life cycle.
- User Management tab manages the group permission levels. This system gives the states flexibility on how complicated they choose to structure their group permissions.
- Rules will be in set in the system once the state has entered, reviewed, and approved the grant. Some fields in TRACs will be editable and others will not.
 - **Discussion:** Will this be determined regionally or will it be a standard workflow nationally? It will be a standard workflow nationally. A Guidance committee has been developing the subject area of the workflow, i.e. – who will do what/when.
 - It would be helpful to see the problems initially identify in the alpha testing group. Specifically which issues were identified that will not be changed.
 - The items which were discovered during the alpha testing will all be addressed. In addition, internally we had the policy branch and training branch go over the system and have discovered additional requirements which will need to be fixed. There have been representatives from each region who participated in the alpha testing group. We will also be looking for anything (technical related / policy related) which would “kill” the system during the January beta-rollout.

ACTION ITEM: Steve Barton will report back to the JTF on any major policy issues which were identified during the testing of the beta Data TRACs which will be roll-out on January 3rd.

- **Continued Discussion:** Suggestion – Select an individual from the JTF to participate in the testing. This person could be a surrogate for the JTF group to examine any policy issues which may come up during the beta-testing.

- The timeframe for asking an individual from the JTF to spend quality time with the beta testing team to assess if any potential policy issues, has been missed and would apply to Public TRACs not Data TRACs.
 - Concern with some states that State Fish & Wildlife Agencies will lose control within the state to manage Public TRACs.
 - There is a mechanism through the Service for state agencies use if this issue arises. The Services' contract with Paladin Data Systems gives ownership of the license to the Service.
- The data ingestion tab will extract current data from existing state databases into Data TRACs. The long term vision for this functionality will not reach maturity until late spring 2013.
- Converted data tab relates to FAIMS. This will bring the accomplishments from FAIMS into TRACs.
- One of the more consistent pieces of feedback from the user review sessions was the need for a streamline layer to the system where folks can see very clearly how to get from point A to point B in terms of which information needs to be entered into the TRACs system. Currently working on developing a layer to the system that will serve as a type of a wizard which would walk users through the system.
- The first data element entered into the system is the "Plan." Will enter a plan: name, description, plan type, contact person for the project, and duration of the project. A plan will also identify goals. The goals identified are in the context of need/purpose of the project. The information entered in the "Plan" step will be at a very high level.
- Project level data entry -how are you going to describe the project (i.e describe as an administration project, recreational project, conservation management, etc).
- The next step will be to describe the "Action" categories such as: coordination and administration, education, law enforcement, etc. These options were mapped back to FAIMS.
- After the action categories are added a user will identify the lead contact on the project and also identify any partners working on the project.
- Will also need to enter in the goals of the project. These can be "Need/Threat" or "Purpose/Target."
 - **Discussion:** Will the states be held accountable (through an audit, by the public, etc) for the information listed in the "Need/Threat" or "Purpose/Target" category in TRACs?
 - The information reported in the system by the states should be at the lowest required level. What information is added to TRACs is currently optional. The TRACs Guidance committee is currently looking to see what information will eventually be required and what information will not be required. The Guidance committee includes representatives from state Directors, WSFR regional reps, and NCTC reps.
 - The discussions from the last JTF meeting in Anchorage it was determined that the only item which would be required

in TRACS would be the CFR 80.82 requirements. Any additional requirements would only be optional, or required for SWG if applicable.

- Need further clarification of the role of the Guidance committee. The Guidance committee should not make any policy decisions which would override decisions made by the JTF.
- Need to ensure there is communication between JTF and the TRACS Guidance committee.
- The recommendations which will come out of the TRACS Guidance committee on requirements of each of the programs will need to come to the JTF for review.

ACTION ITEM: Subset of the JTF (Lisa Evans, Gary Armstrong, Jon Gassett) will review policy issues identified or arising from decisions made by the TRACS Guidance Committee.

- (Continued Walkthrough of Data TRACs) :
 - The “Cost” field will eventually be separated out by an estimated federal cost, estimated match, etc. You will not be required to separate out the different types of funding (i.e SWG, PR) in the estimated costs.
 - There will also be the ability to identify if a project is sensitive in the system (i.e. private land, sensitive species, etc).
 - Over the course of the grants next year there will be action performed on the grant. When entering in this information you will need to add an action name, status, category, strategy (criteria options listed), and activity. The information entered here will be at a fairly high level.
 - The next tab will identify the habitat. Users will be able to use the Nature Conservancy habitat list in the TRACs system or the states can use its own database/list.
 - What has been identified in TRACs is a broad range of habitat descriptions. The Nature Conservancy list has a direct correlation with these broad habitat descriptions.
 - The reason for the standardization was most states had already worked with the Nature Conservancy to put their habitats into a system wide crosswalk.
 - Another tab under the action field is “species”. If an action is benefiting a species then that species will need to be identified in the system. TRACs will draw information on species from four standard databases: ITAS, Threat and Endangered Species system from the FWS, Catalogue of Life, and the Nature Conservancy species information.
- Upcoming schedule for Data TRACs:

- Need multifaceted training approach for TRACs. The training strategy should address marketing & communication, technical proficiency, and grants management.
- Between November –December 2012 the TRACS Guidance committee will be developing guidance on definitions, required fields, best practices, workflow, roles, etc.
- The Guidance committee will have access to Data TRACS starting in November 2012.
- The stable beta testing will begin in January 2013.
- Training team will convene in January to develop a complete training package and message.
- The test training course will be in February 2013 for 15 individuals in Denver, CO.
- Training will begin for WSFR staff in March-April 2013
- State instruction and training will begin in May-December 2013

The JTF and its Partnership Approach – Hepler/Bolton

- Historical Perspective - Policies in the Past 10 years
 - When JTF was established there was an agreed upon approach/process for the JTF to deal with national policy issues. Over the last two years the JTF has not been following these processes. There needs to be more structured discussions on how to bring initiatives to the JTF and how the JTF will process these initiatives.
 - There are redundant presentations being presented at JTF meetings, AFWA meetings, etc.
 - Should go back and document the process which was initially established for this group. We need to stay true to the process or people will begin to question the need for JTF to meet.
 - When JTF originally started the agenda items were significant issues (national issues). Need to have an agenda developed first and then decide the length of the JTF meeting based on the agenda instead of limiting the discussions to one-two days.
 - There should be a standing agenda item for the Fish & Wildlife Trust Fund committee to request JTF agenda items (Chair, Curtis Taylor)

Action Item: Chairman Curtis Taylor will have a standing agenda item for the Trust Fund committee to discuss and identify any outstanding national policy issues related to the WSFR program. Pertinent minutes from the Joint Task Force will be added to AFWA Director’s Line.

Action Item: Joyce Johnson, Lisa Evans, and Kelly Hepler will put together a document to summarize the JTF process on how to bring forward and process issues through the JTF. This committee will also identify feasibility and/or necessity of conducting the WSFR Program customer satisfaction survey with the states and the suggestions will be brought back to the JTF.

Hunter Recruitment – Small Group recommendations on introductory shooting programs as a tool for hunter recruitment – John Organ et al.

- Lisa Evans / John Organ / WSFR staff have developed a white paper on this issue. Now need to go back and examine the paper from a policy level, as there are three separate issues: 1) Eligible use of PR/DJ funds for recruitment and retention programs/projects (defining marketing, public relations and outreach as it relates to allowable activities); 2) Eligible use of Section 4 Hunter Education funds for NASP; and 3) Eligible use of Hunter Education funds for shooting sports programs.
- The WSFR Chiefs have all received the document which deals with funding NASP program with Section 4c basic hunter education.
- The options to communicate the issue more broadly were discussed, including sending a memo from the JTF with the previously prepared White Paper and notice that the JTF is working on the issue. A small group will review the White Paper and make a recommendation for action at the next JTF meeting. Lisa Evans will draft a cover memo from the JTF Co-Chairs that conveys existing guidance on the eligible use of Section 4c Hunter Education funds for NASP and explains that a small group of the JTF will review and make recommendations to the JTF regarding the eligible use of PR/DJ funds for recruitment and retention programs/projects and shooting sports programs. Small working group consists of Lisa Evans, Joyce Johnson, John Organ, and Gary Armstrong.
- Need to determine who will be the intended audience for each issue to ensure broad dissemination of information.
- Different options and approaches to disseminate information: 1) Through AFWA's Director's Line; 2) WSFR Chiefs; 3) Appropriate AFWA committees at the North American conference in March 2013; 4) International Hunters Education Association (IHEA); and 5) The Council to Advance the Hunting and Shooting Sports webpage.

Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council – Small Group recommendations – Gary Armstrong

- The Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council will be meeting in the first two weeks of April. If possible, there should be a joint session between the Council and the JTF.

2011 National Survey summary results – Joyce Johnson

- The preliminary survey results will be released in early December 2012. The states' reports will follow.
- The total cost for the survey has not been finalized.

Review of JTF Meeting Action Items – Hepler/Bolton

Action Item: Jim Hodgson will email presentation and relevant handouts to Joyce Johnson for distribution to WSFR chiefs/JTF. Carol Bambery and Larry Voyles will agenda discussion items for the industry agency summit to discuss local level industry agency interaction and will report back with industry suggestions to JTF.

Action item: The following language needs to be included in any updates from AFWA (Carol Bambery): Best argument is the sequestration of the trust funds does not accomplish what

Congress is intending for it to do. The funds reside in the trust fund account and therefore cannot be used to address budget deficits. The sequestration of the trust funds is an oversight which needs to be corrected through a resolution on sequestration.

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Action Item: Chairman Curtis Taylor will have a standing agenda item for the Trust Fund committee to discuss and identify any outstanding national policy issues related to the WSFR program. Pertinent minutes from the Joint Task Force will be added to AFWA Director's Line.

Action Item: Joyce Johnson, Lisa Evans, and Kelly Hepler will put together a document to summarize the JTF process on how to bring forward and process issues through the JTF. This committee will also identify feasibility and/or necessity of conducting the customer satisfaction survey with the states and the suggestions will be brought back to the JTF.

Action Item: Small group will review previously prepared White Paper on recruitment and retention to see if issue is adequately resolved in the White Paper. Lisa Evans will draft a cover memo for consideration by the JTF Co-Chairs that conveys existing guidance on the eligible use of Section 4c Hunter Education funds to support NASP and explains that a small group of the JTF will review and make recommendations to the JTF regarding the eligible use of PR/DJ funds for recruitment and retention programs/projects and shooting sports programs. Small working group consists of Lisa Evans, Joyce Johnson, John Organ, and Gary Armstrong.

Action Item: Small group (Organ, Evans, Johnson) will review WSFR policy on wildlife damage management (521 FW 1.8H, 1.9, 1.10; 521 FW 2.9H, 2.10, 2.11) to see if predator control needs further clarification through the JTF small group process.

Schedule for spring JTF Meeting -

- May 1-2 2013 in Western Kentucky. Will coordinate on airport options with Jon Gassett.
- November 6-7, 2013 in New Orleans, LA