

January 9, 2009

**WESTERN GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION
WESTERN GOVERNORS' WILDLIFE COUNCIL**

CHARTER

PURPOSE: This Charter delineates the mission, objectives, responsibilities and operation of the collaborative process convened by the Western Governors' Association, hereinafter referred to as the WESTERN GOVERNORS' WILDLIFE COUNCIL (the "WGWC").

A. MISSION

Change is occurring in the West at a pace that is difficult for decision-makers at all levels to track and accommodate. This rapid change is happening on many fronts, including unprecedented population growth and associated land-use impacts, energy development to meet growing demands and reduce dependence on foreign supplies, and new transportation infrastructure. Possible climate change poses further challenges for the region. These fast-paced changes are resulting in notable landscape impacts—including habitat loss and habitat fragmentation—ultimately impacting the West's wildlife and aquatic resources.

The mission of the WGWC is to identify key wildlife corridors and crucial habitats in the West and coordinate implementation of needed policy options and tools for conserving those landscapes.

B. WGWC CREATED

Consistent with WGA Policy Resolution 07-01, "Protecting Wildlife Migration Corridors and Crucial Wildlife Habitat in the West," and WGA report, "Wildlife Corridors Initiative," adopted by the Governors in June 2008, the WGWC shall be established to evaluate the recommendations contained in the WGA Wildlife Corridors Initiative Report. Included will be efforts to more fully develop the recommendations, as appropriate, prioritize recommendations, and oversee coordination and implementation of recommendations to ensure that all associated programs, projects, advocacy positions, and new policies are consistent with WGA policies.

- 1) Membership in the WGWC will consist of one member from each state, as appointed by the Governor, who is a state employee and policy expert in a related field.
- 2) Only WGWC members or their designees may participate in the formal business of the Council. In conducting the business of the Council, the WGWC shall be accountable to the Governors through WGA.
- 3) The WGWC is responsible for approving work plans and schedules on an annual basis.
- 4) WGWC (in cooperation with WGA) shall seek funding to pay for the staffing and

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general operational costs of the WGWC. Additionally, the WGWC may raise funds for project support.

C. TECHNICAL TEAMS, WORKING GROUPS, AND ADVISORY COMMITTEES

- 1) The WGWC may establish technical issue teams, work groups and advisory committees to advise the WGWC on relevant issue areas pertinent to implementation of the WGWC's annual work plan.
- 2) Membership of technical issue teams, work groups and advisory committees will include state fish and wildlife personnel and, as appropriate, expertise from disciplines relevant to the Wildlife Corridors Initiative, including transportation, land use, oil and gas, renewable energy and energy transmission, and climate change.
- 3) The objective of technical issue teams, work groups and advisory committees is to provide expertise to the WGWC and ensure inter-agency and inter-disciplinary coordination, as well as inter-governmental coordination and broad stakeholder involvement.
- 4) Technical issue teams, work groups and advisory committees will provide regular progress reports to the WGWC.
- 5) Work products will be generated for the ultimate review and approval by the WGWC. The WGWC is responsible for approval of all reports and analyses completed by technical teams, work groups and advisory committees.

D. COUNCIL AND ADVISORY GROUP CONSENSUS AND COLLABORATION OBLIGATIONS

- 1) When conducting its business, the WGWC and its appointed advisory groups shall consider the public interest as a whole, with an open mind to the opinions of all concerned parties.
- 2) All participants in the WGWC effort, including technical teams, work groups and ad hoc committees, will be informed and guided by the Enlibra Principles adopted by the WGA.¹
- 3) The WGWC shall operate on principles of consensus. Any issue for which consensus is not reached may be forwarded by the WGWC to the WGA for consideration on a 2/3 vote by the WGWC.
- 4) WGWC, technical issue team, work group and advisory committee members may not use their participation in the WGWC effort as a forum for engaging in practices or communications that violate antitrust laws.

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- 5) WGWC may advocate policies before Congress and the Administration, provided that such policies are developed consistent with the March 7, 1996, WGA memo entitled, "Regional Policy Development: An Integrated Governor Driven Process – WGA/WSWC/WIEB."

E. FACILITATION AND MEETINGS

- 1) All WGWC, technical team, work group or ad hoc committee meetings will be facilitated by WGA, and WGA may retain an independent third party facilitator to assist with this responsibility.
- 2) The WGWC will meet as often as necessary to execute its responsibilities, but at least 1-2 times per year. Meetings will coordinate with Western Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies meetings when possible.
- 3) WGWC meetings will be open to the public. The WGWC may go into executive session by a majority vote.
- 4) Whenever possible, all meetings and electronic consultations will be scheduled well in advance.
- 5) During the first WGWC meeting that occurs after the WGA Annual Meeting, the WGWC shall elect a new Chair and Vice-Chair to serve a one-year term, or until such time as a new Chair is elected..

F. CHARTER REVISIONS

Charter revisions may be made by 2/3 vote of the WGWC.

G. APPROVAL

The WGA Western Governors' Wildlife Council Charter was approved on January 9, 2009.

Kimberly Titus
Alaska Department of Fish & Game

Tom Remington
Colorado Division of Wildlife
David Hensley
Idaho Governor's Office

Bob Broscheid
Arizona Game and Fish Department
Kevin Hunting
California Fish and Game Department

Joe Maurier
Montana Dept of Fish, Wildlife & Parks

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Joanna Prukop
New Mexico Energy Minerals & Natural
Resources Department

Terry Steinwand
North Dakota Game and Fish Department

J.D. Strong
Oklahoma Department of the Environment
Holly Michael
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Tony Leif

South Dakota Dept of Game, Fish, & Parks

John Harja
Utah Governor's Office

John Mankowski
Washington Governor's Office

John Emmerich
Wyoming Game and Fish Department

¹ See WGA Policy Resolution 02-27, Principles for Environmental Management. The Enlibra Principles call for balanced and inclusive processes to determine the most effective environmental and natural resources policy. The eight principles are:

- 1) National Standards, Neighborhood Solutions - Assign Responsibilities at the Right Level
- 2) Collaboration, Not Polarization - Use Collaborative Processes to Break Down Barriers and Find Solutions
- 3) Reward Results, not Programs - Move to a Performance-Based System
- 4) Science For Facts, Process for Priorities - Separate Subjective Choices from Objective Data Gathering
- 5) Markets Before Mandates - Pursue Economic Incentives Whenever Appropriate
- 6) Change a Heart, Change a Nation - Environmental Understanding is Crucial
- 7) Recognition of Benefits and Costs - Make Sure All Decisions Affecting Infrastructure, Development and Environment are Fully Informed
- 8) Solutions Transcend Political Boundaries - Use Appropriate Geographic Boundaries for Environmental Problems