

## **Western Governors' Wildlife Council State-Federal Implementation Group**

### **Charge**

The State-Federal Implementation Group (SFIG) is formed for the purpose of providing ongoing collaboration and communications to develop, coordinate and make more consistent data useful for resource management between state wildlife agencies and federal natural resource management agencies. The SFIG will inform and provide input to the Western Governors' Wildlife Council for this purpose.

In consultation with federal agencies, the Wildlife Council agreed to form the SFIG at its October 2009 meeting in Helena, Montana. Specific initial tasks for the SFIG would include the following items in addition to other issues:

- Implementation of the June 2009 Memorandum of Understanding between the Western Governors' Association and the Secretaries of Agriculture, Energy and the Interior regarding identification and uniform mapping of crucial habitats and wildlife corridors including the following:
  - - Identify specific avenues for cooperation and integration of existing federal efforts with state DSS development efforts;
    - Coordinate respective efforts of federal agencies to assist in the development of state-based decision support systems;
    - Advise the Wildlife Council on further development and implementation of the white paper that seeks to establish a framework for a state-based and regionally compatible decision support system;
    - Consolidate and streamline the process of requesting and providing wildlife and other related data between state and federal agencies;
    - Recommend as part of each state's DSS a process for sharing data from state wildlife agencies, state natural heritage programs, federal agencies, tribes, local governments, conservation organizations and industry to enhance data quality, reliability and availability; and
    - Review current processes that work toward consistency for wildlife population data, and mapped data of wildlife corridors and crucial habitat across various political jurisdictions.
    - Identify the information needs of key land use decision makers and assist in the development of DSSs that help to meet those needs. Seek routine use of state DSSs by those decision makers.
- Establish points of contact and otherwise ensure communication and coordination takes place at the regional and state level with regards to DOE-funded wildlife DSS pilot projects.

The SFIG may also be used to discuss activities specific to an individual federal agency or Department that the Council as a whole would then seek to address.

### **Composition**

Membership should include Parties to the June 2009 MOU, and specifically representation from the agencies and bureaus that are working on relevant data collection and mapping efforts. Participants should be high-level, able to make policy recommendations and also knowledgeable on the programs of their departments. A recommended composition of representatives is as follows, but the Council is open to including federal representatives that are necessary to best accomplish the tasks above.

#### WGWC members

John Harja, Utah, Chair

John Mankowski, Washington, Vice-Chair

Kim Titus, Alaska

Tom Darin, Western Transmission Liaison, Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, Department of Energy (*currently detailed to White House Council on Environmental Quality*)

Michael Bean, Counsel to the Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior

Anne Zimmerman/Chris Iverson, Director/Assistant Director, Watershed, Fish, Wildlife, Air and Rare Plants Division, U.S. Forest Service

Natural Resources Conservation Service – *Pending*

Bruce Beard, Basing Directorate, Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense, Installations and Environment, Department of Defense

### **Meetings and Procedures**

In 2010, the SFIG will likely have a maximum of three in-person meetings. SFIG in-person meetings will typically be scheduled to take place just prior to regular meetings of the Wildlife Council to allow SFIG issues and outputs to be addressed by the Council on a regular basis and to minimize travel requirements. Other meetings of the SFIG may also occur with Council concurrence. Conference calls of the SFIG will take place as needed between meetings of the Council to address issues and minimize travel.

Western Governors' Association staff will ensure the necessary coordination and communications between the SFIG and the Stakeholder Advisory Group also being formed by the Council.