

**Governor’s Fish and Wildlife Taskforce—Casper, Wyoming  
July 29-30, 2015 Meeting Notes – Wyoming Oil and Gas Commission Building**

Day 1 – July 29, 2015 Attendance	Day 2 – July 30, 2015 Attendance
<p><b>Task Force Members:</b> Tom Burman Aaron Clark Stan Cooper Dale Critchfield Kim Floyd Matt Fry Richard Garrett Steve Kilpatrick Ryan Lance Jim Magagna Bob Model Ruth Ann Petroff (pm) Mike Porter Jesse Rodenbough Scott Talbott</p> <p><b>Facilitators:</b> Phil Van Horn, Align Jody Shields, Align</p> <p><b>Wyoming Game and Fish:</b> Rebekah Fitzgerald, Wyoming G &amp; F John Kennedy, Wyoming G &amp; F Renny McKay, Wyoming G &amp; F Pat Crank, Wyoming G &amp; F Commission Keith Culver, Wyoming G &amp; F Commission Richard Klouda, Wyoming G &amp; F Commission Charles C. Price, Wyoming G &amp; F Commission</p> <p><b>Public Sign-In Sheet:</b> Chris Colligan, Greater Yellowstone Coalition Noah Grimmie, Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife Carolyn Hageman, Wyoming Farm Bureau Marti Halverson, HD 22 Penny Maldonado, Cougar Fund Janet Marschner, Wyoming Wildlife Society Jeff Muratore Reg Rothwell, Wyoming Wildlife Federation Bob Wharff, Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife Tony Woodell, Wyoming Wildlife Foundation</p>	<p><b>Task Force Members:</b> Aaron Clark Stan Cooper Dale Critchfield Kim Floyd Matt Fry Richard Garrett Steve Kilpatrick Ryan Lance Jim Magagna Bob Model Ruth Ann Petroff Mike Porter Jesse Rodenbough Scott Talbott</p> <p><b>Facilitators:</b> Phil Van Horn, Align Jody Shields, Align</p> <p><b>Wyoming Game and Fish:</b> John Kennedy, Wyoming G &amp; F Richard Klouda Wyoming G &amp; F Commission</p> <p><b>Public Sign-In Sheet:</b> Chris Colligan, Greater Yellowstone Coalition Kerry Drake, Wyo File Noah Grimmie, Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife Carolyn Hageman, Wyoming Farm Bureau Marti Halverson, HD 22 Orion Remington Bob Wharff, Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife Tony Woodell, Wyoming Wildlife Foundation</p>

*The purpose of the Task Force is to develop a coherent strategy, including recommendations and measurable actions that the State can implement in order to broaden opportunities to effectively manage Wyoming's fish and wildlife resources.*

## **Day 1 – July 29, 2015**

8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Ryan Lance, Task Force Chair, opened the meeting and stated the outcome for this meeting is to finalize recommendations for the governor's office. Following this, he invited opening comments from fellow task force members.

### **Wyoming Wildlife Management Institute**

Steven Williams, President, Wildlife Management Institute, presented information about the process for auditing (reviewing) state wildlife agencies and programs. Matt Dunfee, Programs Manager, Wildlife Management Institute, presented a briefing on R3 (recruitment, retention and reengagement).

### **Recommendations Discussion**

At the May and June meetings the Task Force considered and debated several potential recommendations. To facilitate the discussion, Align placed the potential recommendations into three categories: (1) Task Force Consensus, (2) Under Consideration, and (3) Considered and Off the Table. The preliminary assignment of recommendations and topics into categories was based on the July Task Force meeting outcomes.

1. Task Force Consensus
  - The Wyoming Game & Fish Commission (Commission) should have the authority to control and manage its revenues and expenditures for programs directly related to game & fish species.
  - Hunter and angler fees collected should not be used to subsidize non-hunter/angler initiatives or programs.
  - General fund appropriations should be adjusted to address non-game programs and other expenses.
  - Increase Governor's Endangered Species Act (ESA) budget to adequately address petitioned, candidate and listed species.
  - A General Fund appropriation to fully fund the Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resources Trust (WWNRT) at the authorized level of \$200 million.
  - Engage an objective and qualified third party to conduct a program review of the WGFD with a report to the Governor before the 2016 legislative session.
2. Under Consideration
  - General Fund appropriation dedicated to identifying hunter and angler recruitment opportunities and ideas for non-consumptive (non-hunter and non-angler) revenue sources.

- WGFD should be responsible for its own deferred maintenance expenses (currently, \$1.5 million).
  - It is appropriate for general fund to continue funding capital improvements.
3. Considered and Off the Table
- Feed Grounds
  - Indexing future license fees
  - Specific Non-consumptive user fees

### **Day One continued and Day Two – July 30** (until 12:00 PM)

The Task Force went through each of these draft recommendations/topics and made changes and additions. The notes below reflect the progress as of the end of the meeting on July 30<sup>th</sup>.

1. Task Force Consensus
  - a. Engage an objective and qualified third party to conduct a program review of the WGFD with a report to the Governor before the 2016 legislative session.
  - b. The Wyoming Game & Fish Commission should have the authority to establish fees for licenses, stamps and permits for programs directly related to game & fish species within limits established by the legislature (e.g. limits on and frequency of adjustments, and agency operating fund balance.) *General consensus, one member withheld consent*
  - c. Revenues generated from licenses, stamps and permits should be used for programs that benefit game species.
  - d. General fund appropriations should be allocated to fully fund management of currently legislatively funded non-game species and other “legislatively mandated” programs. “Non-game species” shall include Sensitive Species, Grizzly Bears, Wolves and Sage Grouse. “Legislatively Mandated” programs shall include Aquatic Invasive Species and Veterinary Services.
  - e. Adjust Governor’s Endangered Species Act (ESA) budget to adequately address species that, if listed, may adversely affect Wyoming’s economy.
  - f. Fully fund the Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resources Trust (WWNRT) at the authorized level in order to allow the Trust to achieve its purposes without future appropriations.
  - g. Upon implementation of task force recommendations 1b, 1c, and 1d, general fund appropriations should not be allocated for the purpose of health insurance costs for employees in commission funded programs.
  - h. WGFD should be responsible for its own deferred maintenance expenses (currently, \$1.5 million). It is appropriate for general fund to continue funding capital improvements

2. Under Consideration
  - a. General Fund matching appropriations combine with WGFD with intent to increase hunter and angler recruitment, retainment and reengagement and a.2) develop ideas for non-traditional (?) non-consumptive (non-hunter and non-angler) revenue sources. (TF not ready)
  - b. New: Engage with Wyoming congressional delegation with the goal of reforming the ESA. In the interim, secure additional federal funding for state mgt of ESA to decrease WY Gen fund appropriations.
3. Considered and Off the Table
  - a. Feed Grounds: Include ROI of feed grounds in program audit? WGFD will run current 5 year average 2009-2014.
  - b. Indexing future license fees

### **Third Party Program Audit**

The Task Force brainstormed ideas for items to include a Third Party Program Audit. Those ideas appear below:

- Review of current R3 programs reflecting needs and dollars
- Does current license fee structure foster R3?
- Audit of current strategic plan, priorities against practices and outcomes
- Best practices
- Adequacy of funding and efficiencies in habitat
- Compare of WY access programs w/ other states' access programs
- Full review of current license fee structure, looking at revenue, price, numbers and types of licenses offered as well as management and commission authority
- Big 6: Objective assessment of: Bird farms, feed grounds, WY Wildlife magazine, positions, employee housing, vehicle fleet, hatcheries, access
- Sensitive species
- Adequate personnel for habitat, external research, information technology,
- Coop unit adequacy, coop with NGOs
- ROI—value-- in special programs—
- If find items outside scope, note it for the TF
- Non-traditional revenue information
- Future needs and future
- Look at future of Wyoming wildlife, not just WGFD

## **Big Six**

The Task Force further discussed the importance of addressing the Big Six and their components as follows:

- Non-traditional revenue information
- Future needs and future
- Look at future of Wyoming wildlife, not just WGFD
- Employee housing—efficiency, cost, value, public benefit, comparison with other WY. State agencies, best practices among neighboring states
- Access—short and long-term access, adequate resources, adequate personnel. Landowners who want to participate—link to R3
- Positions and restructuring; definitive figures; compare to other states e.g. personnel as a %-age of overall budget
- Vehicles—rotation, value, allocation, efficiency in replacement

## **Non-Traditional Revenue Sources**

The Task Force further discussed Non-Traditional Revenue Sources as outlined below.

- Forward looking component to the TF report to Governor
- “User” is and “beneficiaries” is vastly broader than just hunters and anglers
- Everyone in the State benefits.
- Make the case that all benefit and all have a stake.
- Monetize the visitors’ and residents’ value received from our fish and wildlife resources
- Discussion: Hunters & anglers are capable of sustaining wildlife management, but the task force recognizes that all Wyoming residents benefit from the revenues that its wildlife generates and h & a should not solely bear the burden to sustain resources that all enjoy and benefit from economically

## **Next Steps and Next Meeting**

Ryan stated that he would be meeting with Kari Gray, Governor’s Chief of Staff, to review the recommendations to date and discuss report to Travel, Recreation, Wildlife and Cultural Resource Joint Committee. There will be no Task Force meeting in August. The Task Force will meet again once the Third Party Program Audit is complete.

## **Public Comments**

An opportunity was given for public comments in the morning and afternoon of Day 1 and at the end of the meeting on Day 2.