

UTAH FRIENDS OF WILDLIFE*

Charter

***Please note this is provided as background but not as a recommended template. While most state wildlife agencies grew up on the terms game and nongame, they are not recommended as useful terms from a biological or cultural standpoint. Think in terms of all wildlife with a focus on wildlife diversity, species of greatest conservation need (as used in the State Wildlife Action Plans), etc. Regardless of the terminology, the ideas here are useful.**

Background: At the invitation of the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR) a Wildlife Summit was held at Hogle Zoo in January 2015 involving UDWR and 15 non-profit organizations active in Utah with interest in wildlife conservation. The objective of the Wildlife Summit was to discuss common interests and opportunities for future collaboration to manage non-game wildlife. Through these discussions it was determined that non-game wildlife interests are not adequately represented in policy development efforts in Utah. This is because political influence regarding wildlife in Utah centers on hunting and fishing interests due to the revenues generated through hunting and fishing licenses. Based on this, the establishment of a coalition of organizations that focus on non-game, non-consumptive wildlife is necessary and beneficial to protect and conserve non-game wildlife and their habitats. UDWR expressed a desire to effectively communicate with non-game interests to gain input into agency programs.

With this charter we establish a new coalition: “Utah Friends of Wildlife”: A coalition of many organizations and individuals who seek to speak with collective voices to influence policy and improve management for Utah’s non-game wildlife and its habitat.

Mission of Utah Friends of Wildlife

Advocate for Utah’s wildlife and their habitat through a strong foundation of science, public education, and collaboration.

Tag-line for Utah Friends of Wildlife: “*A voice for Utah’s non-game wildlife.*”

Members of Utah Friends of Wildlife

Community Wildlife Habitat Partner of National Wildlife Federation
Great Salt Lake Audubon
Hawkwatch Intl.
Hogle Zoo
Raptor Inventory Nest Survey of Utah
Tracy Aviary
Utah Audubon Council
Western Wildlife Conservancy
Wildlands Network
Wild Utah Project

Guiding Principles of Utah Friends of Wildlife

1. Wildlife have intrinsic value, offer ecosystem services and contribute to quality of life for people living in Utah. Wildlife and habitat need to be conserved and protected for the enjoyment of future generations, scientific research, the cultural and economic benefits they offer to communities and the State as a whole, and for their own health and prosperity.
2. Utah Friends of Wildlife will strive to develop effective conservation strategies that utilize credible and relevant science in a transparent manner; and incorporate local knowledge and a diversity of stakeholder interests to inform and advise the UDWR, other local, State and Federal agencies; elected officials; business interests; and the general public.
3. Utah Friends of Wildlife is volunteer-based and inclusive in welcoming relevant and interested organizations and individuals to participate; all have an equal seat at the table. The coalition works to develop consensus across its members while respecting the

various interests and missions of individual organizations, including those whose focus is advocacy, education, research, recreation, policy, membership.

Working Objectives

1. Short Term objectives

- Speak with one voice as a coalition to advocate for non-game wildlife..
- Help identify short-term funding streams for a UDWR, non-game wildlife fund
 - Engage public in reviving non-game tax check-off.
- Work to incorporate a non-game wildlife focus in ongoing, large-scale planning efforts (e.g., Mountain Accord, proposed Bear River Dam, Envision Utah).
 - Identify existing initiatives. Identify organizations/spokespeople that are currently participating in these initiatives and could be liaisons.

Identify specific wildlife issues related to large-scale planning efforts and explore how the coalition might become involved in and have a voice in the processes

2. Long term Objectives

- Work for greater representation of a diversity of interests UDWR's Regional Advisory Councils (RACs), Wildlife Board, and Nominating Committee for Wildlife Board. Specifically, work to ensure that more members representing non-game interests are added to RACs, Wildlife Board, and the Nominating Committee.
- Help UDWR identify better, long-term solutions to significantly increase non-game wildlife management and conservation funding streams
- Develop a campaign to increase public awareness and understanding of the values non-game wildlife and their habitats bring to Utah's quality of life, and increase support for conservation of non-game wildlife and their habitats.
- Develop a public outreach strategy
 - Use the newly revised Utah Wildlife Action Plan to identify opportunities and priority threats to wildlife (2016-2025)

- Research public information efforts and other information from other states that provide insights into different approaches, messages and audiences
- Identify key messaging around priority habitats/species
- Identify best channels and types of messaging to share with diverse audiences and media.
- Consider potential partnerships and opportunities to build upon efforts of individual organizations
- Create a draft budget and identify possible funding sources
- Create timeline for action steps

Tasks and Actions, Year 1

1. **Do something to “put ourselves on the map”** in the coming year
2. **Organize a Utah Stakeholders’ Summit on Wildlife – invite all hunting and angling groups in addition to all of our members.**

WHY? Raise awareness of issues, identify common threats to all wildlife in the state, build common themes for public education, and build a stronger network of organizations that share common concerns, bridging the divide between game and non-game interests; focus on issues that impact wildlife such as population growth, climate change, and habitat fragmentation and deterioration.

HOW? Partner with UDWR, USFWS, BLM, USFS, NPS, Division of Tourism, outfitters, and nonprofit organizations to develop an agenda, identify possible sponsors, and define outcomes. Create a unique event that focuses on issues, collaboration and public education.
3. **Create a simple coalition website or blog** that will provide identity and raise awareness of a limited set of issues. A website could include a list of the members and the charter; and raise issues for public awareness and discussion. A blog could provide a forum for getting public input and raising visibility and support for certain issues.