Tribal Coordination and Collaboration in Development of State Wildlife Action Plans

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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.
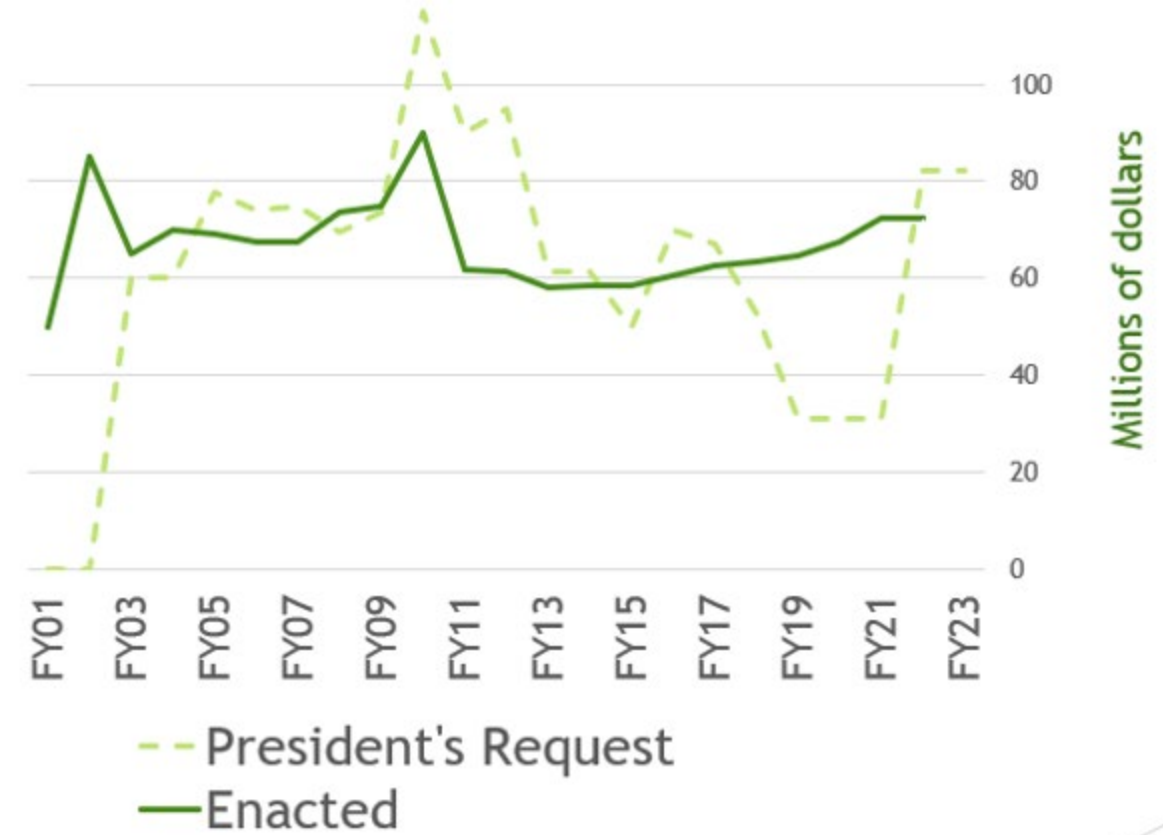
Our Vision

We will continue to be a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals, and commitment to public service.

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

State, provincial, and territorial fish and wildlife agencies in North America have safeguarded fish and wildlife for over 100 years. The public entrusts these agencies with primary stewardship over vital wildlife resources. The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies lends collective voice to its agencies in fulfillment of that responsibility.

State and Tribal Wildlife Grants

State Wildlife Action Plans

- First Plans Completed in 2005
- Must Meet 8 Required Elements
  - *Species of Greatest Conservation Need*
  - *Priority Habitats*
  - *Key Threats*
  - *Conservation Actions*
- $1.3 Billion Needed to Implement
- Landscape Conservation Framework

Tribal Engagement

Required Element #7

*Plans for coordinating the development, implementation, review, and revision of the plan with Federal, State, and local agencies and **Indian tribes** that manage significant land and water areas within the State or administer programs that significantly affect the conservation of identified species and habitats.*

Recovering America's Wildlife Act

- ~50 years of Advocacy

- Blue Ribbon Panel

- $1.3 Billion for States

- $97.5 Million for Tribes

- HR2773 (173 co-sponsors)

- S2372 (34 co-sponsors)

- Offset

- Time to Act is NOW!

Survey of SWAP Coordinators

1. Describe how you involved tribes in the development of your State Wildlife Action Plan.

- Limited engagement by States to involve Tribes
- Tribes were engaged the same as other stakeholders
- Direct contact/going to Tribes/targeted meetings got better engagement

2. Describe how you plan to involve tribes in future revisions of your State Wildlife Action Plan.

- No change
- Start earlier
- More targeted outreach and committing resources
  - Tribal Coordinator
- Engage with non-federally recognized Tribes
- Add TEK

3. Describe any barriers you have encountered to working with Tribes on the development or implementation of your State Wildlife Action Plan.

- Lack of cultural awareness and history of Tribes.

- Lack of State and Tribal Capacity

- Do not know how to engage in a culturally sensitive manner

- Not knowing who to engage

- Need for relationship building

- Other issues impacting SWAP coordinators' ability to engage (i.e., on-going litigation with Tribes, perception of State rules)
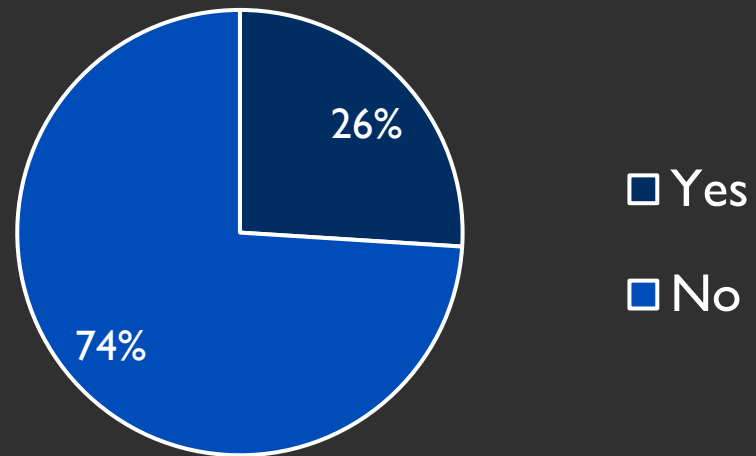
3. Describe any barriers you have encountered to working with Tribes on the development or implementation of your State Wildlife Action Plan

- Element 7

- Consultation vs. meaningful involvement

- Tribes do no see value in the SWAPs for their interests

- Perception that Tribes are not interested if they can't engage

- State criteria for SGCN do not align with tribally identified priorities (e.g, white-tailed deer)

- Engagement too little, too late

4. From your perspective, is the engagement of Tribes in the development of your State Wildlife Action Plan adequate?

26%

74%

☐ Yes

☐ No

5. If you answered "No" to #4, why not?

- Need advice on how/what level to engage
- Relationship building is needed
- Need to communicate earlier and more often
- Need to improve understanding of shared values and perspectives
- Need to increase commitment to mutual objectives.

Outcome of Participant Input

Participant Input

- Do you have barriers to engagement in SWAPs?

Participant Input cont,

- What are your solutions to improving Tribal engagement in future revisions and implementation of SWAPs?

Participant Input cont.

Participant Input cont.

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