U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Update

2019 States Organization for Boating Access Conference
Portsmouth, Virginia

Paul Rauch, Assistant Director, Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (WSFR), USFWS

September 2019
“The only thing constant is change.”

Heraclitus
Department of the Interior

- **Shutdown**: 35 days
- **Reorganization**: 12 Interior Regions*
- **Leadership**: Secretary, ASFWP, ASPMB, FWS Acting Director, FWS Director Nominee, Director Office of FA
- **Policy**: FAIR, FAITAS Certification, SO 3370, SO 3374
- **Systems**: GrantSolutions
• **Reorganization**: Joint Administrative Operations

• **Leadership**: 6 Directorate members (30%) retired

• **Policy**: Hunt – Fish Rule*; ESA Rule

• **Systems**: Content Management System
Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration

- **Reorganization**: Financial Assistance Operations
- **Leadership**: Chief, Programs and Policy
- **Policy**: 50 CFR 80; Range Bill; On-line hunter ed as match; program income
- **Systems**: TRACS*
- **Initiatives**: Admin Funding; Vision Implementation; Strategic Communications Plan, Audit Compliance
FY2020
A Return to Normalcy

• **2-Year Budget Deal:** Shutdown unlikely

• **DOI:** Organization/leadership stability; grant review process simplification

• **FWS:** Confirmed Director; organizational adjustments are complete

• **WSFR:** Complete ongoing initiatives; minimal staff turnover
Department of the Interior
Reorganization

Objectives:

• Reduce administrative redundancy
• Remove jurisdictional and organizational barriers to citizen service
• Facilitate joint problem solving, and efficient decision-making
• Delegate funding and authority to the field
• Improve coordination among federal, state and local agencies
Department of the Interior’s Regions

12 Unified Regions Based on Watersheds
Department of the Interior’s Field Special Assistants

Field Special Assistant assigned to each Region to:

- Enhance stakeholder collaboration
- Coordinate major interagency efforts
- Resolve jurisdictional conflicts between bureaus
- Represent the Secretary at the field level
- Assure fast Secretarial response on critical local issues
# Department of the Interior’s Field Special Assistants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Field Assistant</th>
<th>Bureau/Office</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Thomas Shope</td>
<td>Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Shannon Goessling</td>
<td>Office of the Solicitor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Tony Sullins</td>
<td>Office of the Solicitor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Lars Herbst</td>
<td>Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Linda Walker</td>
<td>U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Mike Celata</td>
<td>Bureau of Ocean Energy Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Alan Mikkelsen</td>
<td>Office of the Secretary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Ray Suazo</td>
<td>Bureau of Land Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Alan Mikkelsen</td>
<td>Office of the Secretary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Stan Austin</td>
<td>National Park Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Steve Wackowski</td>
<td>Office of the Secretary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Cindy Orlando</td>
<td>National Park Service</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Field Committees will:

- Be established for each Region
- Include a Senior Executive from each bureau
- Establish goals and activities in coordination with the Secretary and Field Special Assistant
- Work under the coordinating direction of the Field Special Assistant
- Strive for the efficient and effective management of each region in support of overall objectives
Hunting and Fishing Chiefs Update

In 2017, FWS Hunt – Fish Team established to support implementation of SO3347 and SO3356 by:

- Evaluating hunting and fishing access on FWS land
- Assessing FWS-State regulatory alignment
- Eliminating obsolete and redundant regulations
- Supporting R3 efforts
Hunting and Fishing Chiefs Update

In 2019, Team completed its review of over 450 Refuges and Hatcheries resulting in:

- Elimination of over 5000 obsolete, misaligned and/or redundant regulations (43% reduction from current)
- Increased access on 1.4 million acres of FWS land
- 2600 improvements to FWS-State regulatory alignment
- Publication of 2019-2020 Hunting and Sport Fishing Regulation codifying above changes
TRACS Enhancement

What has changed?

✓ Is being collaboratively developed
  Meeting of the Parties
  Joint Task Force (JTF)
  TRACS Working Group
  Communications Protocol

✓ Has targeted, meaningful, nationally consistent data
  Developed by TRACS Working Group
  Vetted by JTF
  Reviewed by all 50 States and 6 Territories
  1000+ comments addressed

✓ Is user friendly and has intuitive workflow
TRACS Enhancement

What will the new TRACS do?

- Document WSFR Grant performance
- Standardize accomplishment reporting
- Certify licenses and apportion funding
- Maintain and reconcile real property records
- Allow projects to be viewed spatially (GIS)
- Present Program accomplishments to the public on a national scale
TRACS Enhancement

We will be successful if the New TRACS:

✓ **Enhances accountability by:**
  - Meeting federal reporting requirements
  - Demonstrating sound grant management
  - Providing transparency on the use of tax payer dollars

✓ **Improves efficiency by:**
  - Streamlining data entry and reducing redundancy
  - Using modern, user friendly web technology
  - Simplifying performance reporting and response to data calls

✓ **Enables effectiveness by:**
  - Generating accurate national consistent reports
  - Allowing projects to be viewed spatially (GIS)
  - Supporting efforts to tell the “WSFR Story”
Considerations for a Schedule Adjustment:

• Reduced production capacity (staffing)
• Success of Alpha Testing (400 changes)
• Time needed to fully address changes
• Narrow window between release date and Directors’ vote
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Milestone</th>
<th>Original</th>
<th>Revised</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preview for State Directors</td>
<td>March 11-13, 2020</td>
<td>March 11-13, 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beta/”Fatal Flaw” Review</td>
<td>September 30, 2019</td>
<td>April 1 – April 30, 2020*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Train the Trainer Workshop</td>
<td>December 10-12, 2019</td>
<td>June 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Release Date</td>
<td>January 1, 2020</td>
<td>June 15, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Directors’ Vote</td>
<td>March 13, 2020</td>
<td>September 16, 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>North American</td>
<td>AFWA Annual Conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>State Hand-Off</td>
<td>May 01, 2020</td>
<td>October 01, 2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Sport Fish Funding Picture
Sport Fish Restoration & Boating
Trust Fund Receipts

Gas taxes (motorboats & small engines) average 72% of trust fund receipts for past 10 years.
## Sport Fish Restoration & Boating Trust Fund

### Comparing Receipts through 3rd Quarter ($M)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>‘13</th>
<th>‘14</th>
<th>‘15</th>
<th>‘16</th>
<th>‘17</th>
<th>‘18</th>
<th>‘19</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3rd Quarter Total (Q1-Q3)</td>
<td>388.4</td>
<td>424.5</td>
<td>432.5</td>
<td>427.1</td>
<td>423.6</td>
<td>459.8</td>
<td>458.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic Fish Tackle (Q1-Q3)</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>86.5</td>
<td>90.2</td>
<td>93.9</td>
<td>83.4</td>
<td>105.3</td>
<td>102.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| TOTAL YEAR (Q1-Q4) | 595.6| 624.9| 635.5| 627.7| 632.0| 649.3| Est 650
Questions?

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