



NAWMP Revision: **Progress** & Prospects





MEMORANDUM

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FROM: DAVID A. SMITH- NAWMP COMMITTEE CO-CHAIR
FOR
STEVE WENDT - NAWMP COMMITTEE Co-CHAIR
DON CHILDRESS - IAFWA AHM TASK FORCE



SUBJECT: APPOINTING A JOINT TASK GROUP (JTG) FOR CLARIFYING NAWMP POPULATION OBJECTIVES AND THEIR USE IN HARVEST MANAGEMENT

DATE: JUNE 14 2005

Your participation in an *ad hoc* group of waterfowl scientists is requested to advance Recommendation A of AHM Task Force Status Report #5, (the establishment of a technical group to explore useful ways in which to interpret NAWMP goals for both habitat and harvest management). This Joint Task Group (JTG) is being asked to further develop and discuss options for the future use of waterfowl population objectives in both harvest and habitat management activities. Initial ideas along these lines were first put forth by some members of the proposed JTG in a draft manuscript entitled *Reuniting Waterfowl Management*, and have been subsequently discussed by both the AHM Task Force and NAWMP Committee.



Joint Task Group Recommendations (March 2007)

1. Harvest managers should adopt a shoulder strategy for Northern Pintails and Mid-Continent Mallards.
2. NAWMP should adopt the same shoulder strategy to ensure coherence.
3. Enhance the technical capacity of the AHMWG and the NSST.
4. Focus more science on reducing key uncertainties.
5. Convene an HD working group to assess stakeholder values and develop an approach for more explicitly incorporating HD information into management decisions.
6. Convene a waterfowl management policy summit.



Messages from Minneapolis Summit (August 2008)

The Pre-Workshop Survey:

Agree:

An inordinate amount of time is spent on annual regulation setting.

Monitoring and evaluation require more attention.

M & E and management science have declined at the university level

Resources dedicated to habitat conservation should be re-allocated among important waterfowl landscapes

Attention to waterfowl and wetlands has declined at the federal level

Disagree:

Managers are well-positioned to achieve a net gain in wetland habitat.



Messages from Minneapolis Summit

The Pre-Workshop Survey:

Achieved Low Success in:

Goals for harvest and habitat management that are complementary and coherent

Understanding and incorporating hunter expectations and satisfaction

Simplifying waterfowl regulations

Clear process for setting and revising population goals

Rallying support of non-hunters



Messages from Minneapolis Summit

Conclusions:

- 1) A group or venue be created to continue the work of the Human Dimensions Working Group. (94% agreed or strongly agreed)
- 2) The NAWMP update should be used to develop more coherent goals for waterfowl harvest and habitat management. (88% agreed or strongly agreed.)



GETTING STARTED

The PC appointed A NAWMP Revision Steering Committee (Feb 2009):

- Broad-based; focal point for gathering, vetting and synthesizing ideas about content
- ID tech work and resources needed
- Review NAWMP Assessment report and highlight topics needing attention
- Develop stakeholder engagement process
- Propose a review of management processes and institutions in light of the Revision
- Propose work plan, schedule, process, etc.



2009 Progress to Date

- 1) Revision Steering Committee met in April to elaborate charge; numerous conference calls.
- 2) Technical working group established and met at Patuxent in June to consider a process for re-formulating Plan objectives.
- 3) RSC published the NAWMP Revision Scoping Document in early August
- 4) PC met in August, reviewed draft Scoping document and agreed with recommendation that a series of objective identification workshops should be conducted as part of the initial consultation process - details TBD.



Messages from PC Meeting (Aug 2009)

Draft Purpose Statement:

The purpose of the Plan is to sustain abundant waterfowl populations while preserving the traditions of wildfowling and achieving broad benefits to biodiversity, ecosystem processes and the people of North America. Plan goals will be accomplished by partnerships that conserve habitats and sustain populations, guided by sound science.

A Vision for Integrated Waterfowl Management

✓ Allocation of time, talent and money

Desired Outcomes for the 2011/12 Revision (5)



2009 Progress to Date

- 5) Members of Technical Work Group met via conference calls to design and organize this pilot workshop for the Plan Committee.
- 6) The Technical Work Group met on November 9-10 to finalize workshop plans and a recommended consultation process.
- 7) Plan Committee meeting/workshop November 11-12. Approved 2-phase consultation process



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Moving Forward

- Conduct initial series of workshops to:
 - Identify fundamental objectives for waterfowl management
 - Identify alternative, broad-scale (high level) strategies for achieving objectives
 - Create ownership of objectives



Primary participants = waterfowl management community - involved in managing populations, habitat, and hunting

- Plan Committee, Revision Steering Committee
- NAWMP Science Support Team (NSST)
- AHM working group
- HD working group
- NAWC Councils and Staff
- Federal, state, provincial governments
- Joint Ventures (Habitat & Species)
- Flyway Councils and Technical Committees
- NGOs - DU, CA Waterfowl, Delta, WMI, others
- Minneapolis Meeting participants
- Sporting conservation council



- Use consistent process
- Diversity of Attendees
- ~2 regional workshops in Canada
- ~4 regional workshops in the U.S., options include:
 - NSST in Memphis
 - Flyway Technical Committee meetings
 - Joint Venture Board Meetings
 - Additional opportunities
- NA Conference, March 22, 2010



How will the results be used?

The Revision Steering Committee will be responsible for synthesizing workshop results, drawing on technical resources as needed

Proposed objectives hierarchy

Technical group - initial prototype model and decision framework

Vetted with Plan Committee



Consultation Process Round 2

- Communicate results back to waterfowl management community
- Facilitated face to face, review consequence tables, weights, and trade-offs
- Use consultation results to inform objective hierarchy, decision framework, modeling protocols proposed in draft Revision document



Key Points on the timeline

March 22, 2010 - Final round 1 workshop(s) in Milwaukee at NAWNRC

April, 2010 - Revision Steering Committee begins work to synthesize results, develop prototype

September, 2010 - Begin round 2 consultations at AFWA annual meeting

January, 2011 - Begin drafting NAWMP Revision document

June, 2011 - First draft released for comment

January, 2012 - Final draft for PC approval

