NAWMP: 3.5 Decades of Leadership and Adaptation
Why has NAWMP Been Successful?

- Born in a crisis of concerns about populations, habitat and hunting
- Founding leaders with vision and determination
- Simple, compelling objectives
- Public/private partnerships, shared responsibility
- Commitment to adaptive management and regular renewal
Once again the dust blew across the Prairies
WILDLIFE MONOGRAPHS

A Publication of The Wildlife Society

MALLARD RECRUITMENT IN THE AGRICULTURAL ENVIRONMENT OF NORTH DAKOTA

by

LEWIS M. COWARDIN, DAVID S. GLYMER, AND CHARLES W. SHAPIER

JANUARY 1965
Effects of Hunting on Duck Populations was highly Contentious
“There has to be a better way”
Dr. Jim Patterson, CWS

Canada and the U.S. each developed national waterfowl management plans in the early 1980s

International “negotiating team” was struck in 1984
Dr. Rollin Sparrowe, USFWS, was the Co-Chair
NAWMP negotiating team, 1985
The Challenge: To plan a vast and unprecedented habitat restoration program

Audacious Goals: $1B & 5.6M acres in 15yr
The Original Proposed NAWMP Joint Ventures

Regional grassroots partnerships, public and private;

Self-formed, focused on regional stewardship;

Pooling skills & resources, united in common-cause
North American Waterfowl Management Plan

Signed in 1986 by Canada and U.S.
To meet our goals we will have to make the program strong enough to weather shifts in politics in the U.S. and Canada.”  Issue #1, 1988
RUSSIA'S LAND-BASED MISSILES

Russian boasts the second-largest inventory of ballistic and cruise missiles in the world. Moscow's strategic nuclear forces perform a variety of missions, from anti-access and area denial in local conflicts to the delivery of strategic nuclear weapons. Significant modernization efforts include new heavy ICBMs, as well as ground-launched cruise missiles in violation of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty.
In the Early 1980s

Not an auspicious launch time for NAWMP
• Competitive grants for wetland conservation in the U.S., Canada and Mexico
• Require matching funds from non-federal U.S. source
• Grants focused on actions providing long-term security
• Managed a quasi-independent Council, appointed by the Secretary of Interior.

Total Duck Breeding Duck Population, 1955-2013

Breeding Population (1000s)
Recent populations of most waterfowl species are at desired levels.
U.S. State of the Birds 2014

BIRD POPULATION INDICATORS IN FIVE INLAND HABITATS

- Grasslands
- Aridlands
- Eastern Forests
- Western Forests
- Wetlands

Percentage Change


See Our Approach for description of bird population indicators.
Taking Stock 2005-2009

- Continental Assessment 2005-2007
- Future Directions of Waterfowl Harvest Management 2006
- Joint Task Group 2005-2007
- Summit on the Future of Waterfowl Management 2008
Trends in waterfowl Hunters

40% decline since 1970s

U.S.
Canada

Millions

NAWMP Revision Consultations (2010-11)
Three Over-arching NAWMP Goals:

- Abundant and resilient waterfowl populations to support hunting and other uses without imperiling habitat.
- Wetlands and related habitats sufficient to sustain waterfowl populations at desired levels, while providing places to recreate and ecological services that benefit society.
- Growing numbers of waterfowl hunters, other conservationists and citizens who enjoy and actively support waterfowl and wetlands conservation.
Three Strategic Foci of 2012 Revision:

- To be Relevant to contemporary society
- To be Adaptable in response to changing ecological and social landscapes
- To be Effective and Efficient; i.e. to feature coherent objectives and management processes that facilitate integration and adaptation. [Note the IIC]
Conservation must become more RELEVANT to contemporary society
Estimates of Human Numbers

Global Human Population

2016 Population: 7.4 billion
Large Scale Landscape Stressors

- Feeding, clothing & housing 9-10 Billion people
  - Agriculture expansion/intensification
  - Water depletion and degradation
- Powering contemporary society
  - Energy extraction impacts
- Changing Climate
- Social/political paralysis
Waterfowl management is now explicitly striving to affect a social-ecological system.

1) Understand values, desires and attitudes of an array of stakeholders
2) Now operating in a multi-objective environment
3) New monitoring, assessment and adaptation challenges for existing institutions
Central Theme of 2012 Revision:

“People Conserving Waterfowl and Wetlands”
Some questions to ponder:

1) Do our institutions have the capacity and nimbleness to respond to multi-objective management?
   - Understanding and experimenting with trade-offs
   - Finding greater synergy with other conservation initiatives?
Some questions to ponder:

2) How can we remain committed to adaptive management in pursuit of all of NAMWP objectives, and how might we build that capacity?
   - At what scales? With what formal rigor?
Some questions to ponder:

3) What arrangement of institutions and processes might be most effective for moving all this work forward?
   - Technical and policy levels
A central challenge for waterfowl management:

.... the fundamental desire to manage effectively and efficiently toward the achievement of multiple NAWMP objectives, in a manner that enables us to learn and improve over time.
Thanks for Listening
NOAA & NASA report 2015 the warmest year since 1880 (with comparable instruments)
Waterfowl conservation

Waterfowl conservation + Ecosystem services