

SWAP information meeting February 21, 2013 Brown County State Park

Meeting participants:

Mark Reiter

DFW's Core Team

Julie Kempf

Amanda Wuestefeld

Steve Donabauer

Nate Levitte

Shannon Winks

Sandy Clark-Kolaks

Brant Fisher

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Partners

John Shuey

Joe Robb

Mark Stacy

Brian Nentrup

Melany Glossa

Heather Bacher

Greg Bielfuss

Background:

- Indiana is beginning the 2015 State Wildlife Action Plan revision efforts.
- IN Fish and Wildlife charged with implementing plan throughout the division, and make it a useful , guiding document for as many partners as possible.
- A Core Team of Fish and Wildlife staff was established in late 2012.
- In process of forming a partner group, which will help with getting feedback and structure the future plan. This is why we are here today.
- Goal is to think in overarching issues that affect the conservation and management of Indiana's natural resources.

Introduction question: If you could only do one thing to positively effect change on conservation Indiana what would you do?

- Work with the conservation community to better advocate for sustainable capitalism – long term not just short term results
- Work to get the conservation community working together as a team on individuals
- Increase awareness of public of the economic value of wildlife
- Help reconnect children to nature – see value and appreciate
- Work to get people to care more about natural resources
- Kill fescue and put more water on the landscape
- Work together to be more effective
- Create a Comprehensive statewide conservation plan that includes private, NPO's, state, etc.
- Create stronger land ethic among landowners – long term view point
- Full federal funding for land and water conservation

- Reconciliation: everyone learn to live in a way not to hurt ecosystems
- Building collaborative efforts – public understanding and connecting with natural resources
- Everyone in conservation community agrees on 90% so that is where we should focus and get things done – not argue over and get bogged down on the 10%
- Shared burden on pub/private lands for property access and on costs
- Emphasis on recreation when discussing a conservation plan/natural resources
- Shared conservation vision for state, prioritized as critical for the future of Indiana – that is as opposed to random acts of conservation

Sticky note activity: We know Indiana has been successful at conserving and managing natural resources when...

Everyone asked to write down ideas, one per sticky note. Sticky notes were then collected and grouped by suggested categories by two sets of participants.

Flip chart 1 - Groupings + ideas

Funding/Value

- The conservation community all talks the same message
- When everyone supports wildlife management work financially
- Citizens value these resources
- common language for conservation partners

Pollution

- No trash along roads
- no more superfund sites
- move out of top 10 state for pollutants

Ecosystem

- healthy habitats
- we manage the whole system
- fencerows return to the landscape
- wildlife/natural habitats interspersed among all landscape uses
- Threats are abated NNIS, climate change
- I don't see any phragmites or purple loosestrife
- diverse population of wildlife

Response/Action Items

- No Till everywhere
- Engaged public
- active stewards of the resource
- Kids outside
- Conservation cropping systems

Public Opinion/interest

- when the public like the objective

- when education has been provided
- public understands 'conservation'
- all Hoosiers value wildlife
- 'known' for our forest and grasslands

Water Quality

- Clean Rivers/Streams
- Streams are clean
- No 303D list

Flip chart 2 - Groupings + ideas

Large-Scale managed Landscapes

- diverse habitats and species
- we manage habitats, not species
- when habitats are contiguous
- balanced secure habitat/ecosystems
- functional landscapes that are viable for all species
- native early successional habitats are common in Indiana
- common wildlife species remain common
- quality habitat all over Indiana (public and private lands)
- habitats that sustain populations

Funding

- More partnerships on the ground
- When sufficient funding is available
- broad fiscal support for wildlife

Broad value of all wildlife

- when non-game species are as valued as game
- when we value non-consumptive natural resource recreation

Endangered species

- rare mussels re-established
- listed species become delisted
- white nose syndrome effects minimized
- decline of species at risk of extirpation has been reversed
- reducing species on the T & E list
- Healthy Rivers/Stream with native communities
- maintain native aquatic vegetation diversity and abundance
- increase cold-water habitat in glacial lakes
- increase water clarity and quality

Invasive Species

- invasive species no longer threaten conservation lands
- no fescue
- invasive species controlled

-fescue replaced with warm season grasses

Education and Recreation

- People connected to nature
- adults outside
- outdoor recreation such as hunting and fishing readily available to all
- kids outside
- more Hoosiers enjoying the outdoors/natural resources
- increased number of outdoor recreation participants
- awareness of and interest in wildlife (public/politicians)

Game and Habitat Improvement

- Quail make a comeback
- Rough Grouse make a come back
- Buffer strips

***not listed under a category**

- Public recognition of a good job

Last question: What does a successful conservation community that work collaboratively to enhance and conserve fish and wildlife mean to you and your organization?

- Crossover of issues and benefits
- protect all of our species, not just the legislative definition
- see how other successes can be used again here (reintroductions for instance)
- increased opportunity for funding, increased opportunity for outreach and education, public awareness
- increased public value
- conservation community has the same message
- shared priorities, make noticeable progress – biodiversity – protect all species not just ones in statute
- only way to do landscape level conservation – work together
- increased opportunity for funding and public awareness
- increase public value – public understands and care and then put money toward natural resources
- In be known for wildlife/habitats increase positive impact on economy
- Pooling money
- Opportunity for partnerships and leverage resources – bigger picture thinking, climate change/adaptability move toward long term thinking
- Major funders out there that require tie-back to state plan and not always able to do that
- shared vision to get next generation interested, work between public and private lands, and overcome barriers
- shared vision to tap financial resources tied to SWAP
- Shared vision will take further w/all initiatives, programs, etc out there
- Research aspects on water quality, etc. – beneficial
- people don't love something they don't value, can't value it unless they experience it—recreation – get outside –hands on
- need plan in order to conserve resources – has to be large scale

- allows partners to do what they are best at
- funding for non-traditional or consumptive wildlife activities – go beyond hook/bullet
- SWG money
- If Fish and Wildlife does not have a comprehensive/holistic plan w/everyone involved we won't get this (our job)done.
- managing for one (target), how might that help/impact others(non-target)
- need to have that new/alternate funding from non-consumptive users to either boost or replace money that is lost

Wrap-up

Who are we missing? Suggestions for invites to next meeting.

- Indiana Land Protection Alliance – Cliff Chapman
- US FWS – Scott Pruitt
- Ducks Unlimited – Joe Borders
- NWTF – Steve
- QDMA – Bob Ducharm
- National Park Service – Rory Robinson (NPS, national trails and conservation assistance program)
- Corps of Engineers – Mike Ricketts
- Upper White River Watershed Alliance
- Indiana Hardwoods – Dan Ernst
- Energy Company
- Purdue - Rob Swihart

Next meeting on March 21 from 11-2 location TBD