XXIII Meeting of the Canada/Mexico/U.S. Trilateral Committee
for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management
National Conservation Training Center, Shepherdstown, West Virginia
April 8 – 13, 2018

Working Table Agenda: Species of Common Conservation Concern (SCCCWT)

Co-Chairs:

- **Melida T. Tajbakhsh,** Chief, Western Hemisphere Branch, International Affairs, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), United States
- **Jose Francisco Bernal Stoopen**, Director de Especies Prioritarias para la Conservación, Comisión Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas (CONANP), México
- **Mary Jane Roberts**, Species at Risk Management, Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS), Canada

Facilitator:

- **Maricela Constantino**, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Maricela_Constantino@fws.gov, 571.969-9804 (cell)

Remote Access: Remote connection is available for presenters and participants.

For audio access use the information below (Please note we are limited to 20 lines – please advise the Facilitator, Maricela Constantino, Maricela_Constantino@fws.gov if you plan to participate and for what items):

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Remote access to view or present a powerpoint is available through the internet using the Webex platform. Please contact Maricela_Constantino@fws.gov directly to obtain instructions for connection via Webex.

Trilateral Committee Priorities 2014-2017

- Climate Change with a Focus on Adaptation

- Landscape and Seascape Conservation Including Connectivity and Area Based Conservation Partnerships
- Wildlife Trafficking
- Monarch Butterfly Conservation

Working Table Priorities for 2017-2018

- Landscape and Seascape Conservation Including Connectivity and Area Based Conservation Partnerships
- Wildlife Trafficking

Monday, April 9, 2018
Room: Instructional East –114.

(8:45 – 9 am Eastern)
AGENDA ITEM 1 : Welcome, Introductions, and Adoption of the Agenda; 2017-18 Action Items Report; and Country Updates

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Co-chairs and Facilitator – Melida T. Tajbakhsh (FWS), Jose Francisco Bernal Stoopen (CONANP), Maricela Constantino (FWS)

DESCRIPTION: Welcome and introductions of new and returning participants to the working table. Provide an orientation to the table's business for the week. Approval and adoption of the agenda.

BACKGROUND: Standard agenda item to build consensus and ensure full participation.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:

- Approval of any changes to the agenda.
- Adoption of the agenda

SUBMITTED BY: Co-chairs and Facilitator

(9 – 9:30 am Eastern)
AGENDA ITEM 2: Update on the activities and plans of the North American Bat Conservation Alliance

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Charles M. Francis (Canadian Wildlife Service), Jeremy T. H. Coleman (US Fish and Wildlife Service), Rodrigo A. Medellín (UNAM, México)

DESCRIPTION: The co-chairs of the North American Bat Conservation Alliance (NABCA) are proposing to develop an MOU to be signed by the Executive of the Trilateral in 2019, to enhance cooperative efforts to support conservation of bats by the three countries. Some of the proposed elements of the MOU would include: working together to identify appropriate instruments, tools, and

policies that could be used to address threats to bats in each country and cooperatively among countries; developing, sharing, and implementing cooperative programs for monitoring bat populations; identifying shared research needs related to bat conservation and cooperating to address the highest priority needs; working together to ensure areas important to bats are considered in the Key Biodiversity Area program; and developing and sharing Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs) for reducing risks and threats to bats. We will present a draft of the proposed MOU to the table for review and comment.

BACKGROUND: The co-chairs of the Executive Work Table signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) at the 20th Annual Meeting in April 2015 indicating an intention to strengthen cooperation among the three parties to enhance coordination of activities as well as gathering and sharing information related to conservation of bats. One of the outcomes of the LOI was creation of the North American Bat Conservation Alliance (NABCA), which is co-chaired by one representative from each country, and further managed by a steering committee comprising representatives of bat conservation working groups from each of the three countries. NABCA has worked with the bat conservation community to identify and describe threats to bats in North America, and has developed mechanisms related to sharing information on ways to address those threats. The next logical step will be to enhance cooperative actions among the three countries on implementing activities to address threats.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: We seek endorsement of the Trilateral Committee to continue to improve on the promotion and coordination of bat monitoring, research, and conservation activities as identified in the LOI; to support the actions of NABCA to aid in these efforts and to address various threats to bats; and we seek guidance from the SCCCWT on proposed content and next steps for an MOU to be signed at the Trilateral meeting in spring 2019

AGENDA ITEM PRESENTORS: Charles M. Francis, Jeremy T. H. Coleman, and Rodrigo A. Medellin

SUBMITTED BY: Charles M. Francis (Canadian Wildlife Service), Jeremy T. H. Coleman (US Fish and Wildlife Service), Rodrigo A. Medellín (Instituto de Ecología, UNAM, México)

(9:30 - 10 am Eastern)

AGENDA ITEM 3: Binational Recovery of the Lesser Long-Nosed bat

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (Instituto de Ecología), University of Tel Aviv (Israel), University of Bristol (UK), Ulm University (Germany), Arizona Game and Fish Department, Dirección General de Vida Silvestre, Comisión Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas, Reserva de la Biosfera Chamela-Cuixmala, Reserva de la Biosfera El Pinacate, Whitley Fund for Nature, JRS Biodiversity Foundation, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, Department of Defense, Tohono O'Odham, and numerous Interested Parties.

DESCRIPTION: Multiple federal, state, and local collaborators have been working for over 20 years towards recovery of the lesser long-nosed bat (*Leptonycteris curasoae yerbabuenae*, LLNB) to secure the pollination ecosystem service they provide. We propose to continue to conduct annual counts of lesser long-nosed bats at important maternity and late summer roosts and to continue cooperative bi-

national research projects across the range of the species, to understand their nightly movements and migratory routes, to continue documenting the status of the colonies, and the relative reproductive success by the number and activity of the pups. Other studies such as the dynamics of parasite loads, the complete genome, and the evolutionary history and origin of this and the other two species in the genus are essential to fully understand their conservation needs and climate change implications for them.

Historically monitored lesser long-nosed bat roost sites in the U.S. will continue to be monitored as part of the post-delisting monitoring plan required under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. In addition, we propose to partner with the USA National Phenology Network to monitor LLNB forage resources. These efforts are ongoing to document population trends at important roosts and ongoing forage availability for post-delisting monitoring efforts to help guide future regulatory and management actions.

BACKGROUND: Bats, many species of which are considered to be at-risk, are an integral part of ecosystems throughout the world and provide significant ecological services, such as pollination and seed dispersion. Maintaining their presence is critical to the health and function of these systems; however, information on the distribution and status of many bats in northwestern México remains scarce with some exceptions. For example, the LLNB, is a migratory nectar feeding seed disperser that provides valuable ecosystem services throughout its range in the United States and Mexico.

The LLNB has been the subject of long-term monitoring and conservation by the Collaborators in Arizona and Sonora and beyond for over 20 years. During that time, Collaborators have conducted annual simultaneous bat emergence counts at the largest maternity and late summer roosts in northwestern Mexico and Arizona. In 2013 in a joint statement UNAM and SEMARNAT announced the recovery and delisting of the lesser long-nosed bat in Mexico. In 2018, we anticipate LLNB to be delisted from the Endangered Species Act in the U.S. This does not mean that the species is totally recovered. The work is redoubled now to ensure the LLNB maintains stable populations.

Joining forces with other universities has allowed us to achieve significant breakthroughs thanks to the use of leading edge telemetry technology not used previously in any other bat species. With miniaturized GPS tracking units, UNAM researchers have been able to follow movements of individual bats and demonstrate nightly cross-border movements into Arizona. In the process, UNAM has worked closely with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Arizona Game and Fish Department and joint cross-border conservation efforts are crucial to secure the conservation and full recovery of the species. Over the last three years, AGFD provided financial assistance to conduct a research study about foraging routes and distances travelled utilizing GPS tracking units deployed by UNAM.

The Species of Common Concern Table of the Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management has endorsed and actively supported our work for close to a decade and this validation has been essential for the success of the project.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: We respectfully request the endorsement of the Trilateral Committee to continue working on the recovery and conservation of the lesser long- nosed bat

AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR(S): Rodrigo A. Medellin, Instituto de Ecología, UNAM; Angie McIntire and Francisco Abarca, Arizona Game and Fish Department

SUBMITTED BY: Rodrigo A. Medellin, Instituto de Ecología, UNAM; Angie McIntire, Lin Piest, and Francisco Abarca, Arizona Game and Fish Department; Scott Richardson, USFWS.

(10-10:15 am Eastern) **- BREAK**

(10:15 - 10:45 am Eastern)
AGENDA ITEM 4: Black-Footed Ferret Recovery Update

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: U.S. (Pete Gober, Black-footed Ferret Recovery Coordinator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service); Mexico; Canada.

BACKGROUND: Black-footed ferret reintroductions and related recovery efforts have continued since 1991 (U.S), 2001 (Mexico), and 2009 (Canada). Although generally successful with 29 efforts in 10 western states among the three countries, population stability has been limited by drought and especially by an invasive non-native disease (sylvatic plague) that affects both the ferret and its prairie dog prey.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Continued sharing of information among black-footed ferret recovery partners, especially regarding developing disease management products.

AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR(S): Pete Gober, Black-footed Ferret Recovery Coordinator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

SUBMITTED BY: Pete Gober, Black-footed Ferret Recovery Coordinator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

(10:45 – 11:15 am Eastern)
AGENDA ITEM 5: Grassland and Black-Tailed Prairie Dog Conservation

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Arizona Game and Fish Department, Sonora Commission of Ecology and Sustainable Development (CEDES), National University Autonomous of Mexico (UNAM), Janos Biosphere Reserve (JBR-CONANP), Endangered Species Office-CONANP, Dirección General de Vida Silvestre-SEMARNAT, Bureau of Land Management, USFWS, Arizona State Land Department, and the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

DESCRIPTION: In 2017, the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) continued with the re-establishment of black-tailed prairie dogs (BTPD) to the southeastern portion of Arizona. There were two trapping events, one in March and another in September to assess the health and determine the population of the three colonies of BTPD at Las Cienegas National Conservation Area (LCNCA). These monitoring efforts have indicated a steadily growing population with estimates of over 350 prairie dogs and 21.2 occupied acres. Colonies are continually monitored throughout the year by the AGFD. To encourage the participation of volunteers and expand citizen science efforts, this year we developed a

smart device application to collect information on prairie dog counts, weather conditions, and other species observations.

In October, 2017 AGFD translocated 94 BTPD from McGregor Range in New Mexico to a fourth site outside of LCNCA at Sands Ranch. This site is owned by Pima County and is an active cattle ranch. The site was monitored daily after the release and has transitioned to monthly monitoring. Visual counts at this colony have been high and new burrows are appearing regularly.

Grassland restoration has been on-going in grasslands surrounding the existing colonies. Grassland restoration includes removing invasive mesquite trees, rehabilitating grasses, and prescribed fires. To date, over 550 acres of grasslands have been restored and BTPD have quickly started to expand into these cleared areas. AGFD and the Bureau of Land Management completed these restoration activities with funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Additionally, the AGFD Contract's branch completed a six year study (2010-2016) investigating the effects BTPD have on a Lehmann lovegrass dominated grassland community in southeastern Arizona and submitted a final report.

Due to some local conflicts in the area, no population assessments were conducted in Sonora in 2017. In Chihuahua, UNAM continued evaluating population status and observed and increased in colony sizes all over the JBR.

BACKGROUND: AGFD began re-establishing BTPD in 2000. After extensive research was completed on the feasibility of re-establishment, the first BTPD were released in 2008 at the LCNCA. Source populations have been from Ladder Ranch, McDonald Ranch, and McGregor military range in New Mexico and La Mesa colony in Sonora, MX. These colonies have been the source for the four existing colonies.

AGFD is collaborating with the National University of Mexico (UNAM) and the Janos Biosphere Reserve in northern Chihuahua, Mexico to implement conservation actions for the black-tailed prairie dog and black-footed ferret. The Janos Biosphere Reserve is a unique grassland ecosystem containing the largest prairie dog complex in North America. Ferrets were reintroduced in the Reserve back in 2011, but drug trafficking activities in the area made impossible to conduct biological monitoring. Unfortunately, no ferrets have been found, since monitoring was reestablished in 2013. In addition, AGFD continued working with Sonora's Commission on Environment and Sustainable Development (CEDES) to determine the population status of black-tailed prairie dogs in northern Sonora and to plan for the re-establishment of the La Mesa colony near Cananea, Sonora.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:

1) Continue working on binational black-tailed prairie dog recovery.
2) Conduct population surveys in Arizona, Chihuahua, and Sonora.
3) Augment the new colony at Sands Ranch.
4) Continue to work with Sonora and Mexico to establish standardized protocols for monitoring and managing BTPD in the southwest.
5) Continue habitat restoration in Janos.
6) Continue dialogue for potential translocations, if justified.
7) Establish satellite burrow systems adjacent to colonies to encourage expansion and direct dispersals from the main colonies.

AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR(S): Kurt Licence, Francisco Abarca, Arizona Game and Fish Department; Jose Bernal, Office of Priority Species Conservation, CONANP; and Eduardo Ponce, UNAM.

SUBMITTED BY: Kurt Licence, Francisco Abarca and Bill Van Pelt, Arizona Game and Fish Department; Eduardo Ponce, UNAM.

(11:15 – 11:45 am Eastern)
AGENDA ITEM 6: Sonoran Pronghorn Recovery

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Sonoran Pronghorn Recovery Team, Arizona Game and Fish Department, USFWS – Arizona Ecological Services, Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge (CPNWR), Kofa National Wildlife Refuge (KNWR), Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, Arizona Antelope Foundation, Arizona State University, US Border Patrol, Barry M. Goldwater Range, Yuma Proving Ground, The Phoenix Zoo, Los Angeles Zoo, Sonora Commission of Ecology and Sustainable Development (CEDES), Dirección General de Vida Silvestre-SEMARNAT, Pinacate Biosphere Reserve (PBR)-CONANP, Northwest Regional Office-CONANP, and Endangered Species Office-CONANP.

DESCRIPTION: To work toward recovery of the Sonoran pronghorn range wide, the collaborators propose to continue binational monitoring (including telemetry) efforts, continuing a captive breeding program within the CPNWR and KNWR and subsequent releases in the wild, conducting training efforts in survey methodology and other important wildlife management practices for collaborators in Mexico. In 2016, the USFWS finalized and approved the Sonoran Pronghorn Recovery Plan. The revised recovery plan lays out a strategy that includes protecting habitat; increasing and/or maintaining existing populations in the U.S. and Mexico and possibly establishing additional populations, while managing for genetic diversity; removing, reducing, or managing threats to the species; and identifying and addressing priority monitoring and research needs. Achieving the recovery criteria will ensure the long-term conservation and protection of the pronghorn and its habitat and could prompt removing it from the list of endangered species. The plan estimates that the delisting goals could be met by 2036.

In Arizona, the Cabeza and Kofa breeding programs continue to do well. Temporary holding pens at three release sites were constructed during November 2017. These pens are located on the Barry M. Goldwater Range east of Highway 85, in the Mohawk Valley, and in the Valley of the Ajo. In early December, several animals were captured at the breeding pens, processed, and moved into holding pens for their subsequent release after three weeks of acclimation. In Sonora, collaborators conducted aerial surveys at the Pinacate and Quitovac populations, and continued implementing conservation actions for the species. This agenda item is an update on progress made on binational conservation activities.

BACKGROUND: Sonoran pronghorn are endangered in both the U. S. and Mexico. As part of a binational effort in recovery, partners have implemented several successful binational efforts aimed at recovery of the subspecies in both countries. These activities include: conducting range-wide surveys in both countries on a two-year interval, equipping Sonoran pronghorn with GPS-based and VHF telemetry collars in Mexico and the U.S., implementing a captive breeding program in Arizona to provide offspring to augment wild populations in Arizona and Sonora, implementing forage enhancement and water projects, conducting genetic and diseases studies, and providing training efforts in survey methodology and other important wildlife management practices for collaborators in Mexico. These

initiatives have been supported by the Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management for more than a decade.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:

1) Continue working on binational Sonoran pronghorn recovery.
2) Conduct population surveys in Arizona and Sonora.
3) Implement a translocation for 10 Sonoran pronghorn from Arizona to the PBR.
4) Continue releasing Sonoran pronghorn into selected areas in Arizona.
5) Maintain water and forage enhancement projects.
6) Continue discussions on restoring linkages between the populations in Mexico and between the populations in the U.S. and Mexico to benefit the pronghorn that currently are largely isolated, with little exchange occurring with.
7) Continue discussions on establishing a third population in Sonora.

AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR: Jim deVos and Francisco Abarca, Arizona Game and Fish Department; Cristina Melendez, CEDES; Tyler Coleman, Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument; Christa Weise, Kofa National Wildlife Refuge; and Jose Bernal Stoopen and Miguel Grageda, CONANP.

SUBMITTED BY: Jim deVos, John Hervert, Jill Bright, and Francisco Abarca, Arizona Game and Fish Department; Leonardo Corrales, Raul Molina, and Cristina Melendez, CEDES; USFWS - Jim Atkinson, Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge and Erin Fernandez, Arizona Ecological Services Office; Tyler Coleman, Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument; Christa Weise, Kofa National Wildlife Refuge; Jose Bernal Stoopen, Horacio Ortega, and Miguel Grageda, CONANP.

(12 – 1:15 pm Eastern) **- LUNCH**

(Agenda Items 7 – 12 will run from 1:15 – 2:40 pm Eastern)

AGENDA ITEM 7: Conservation and Capacity Building for the Conservation of Amphibians in Sonora, Sinaloa, and Chihuahua.

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: USFWS, USGS, NATURALIA, AC, CONANP (including Priority Species and Áreas Naturales Protegidas of Northwestern México), Comisión de Ecología y Desarrollo Sustentable del Estado de Sonora (CEDES), Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Universidad Autónoma de Querétaro, The Phoenix Zoo, Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, Africam Safari Zoo, the Tucson Herpetological Society, and The Nature Conservancy.

DESCRIPTION: We propose to continue our efforts to build capacity for amphibian conservation in northwestern México; however, this will depend on current travel and budget restrictions improving. These efforts may include continuing to:

1) Teach our workshop titled “Inventory, Monitoring, and Conservation of Amphibians of Northwestern México, with Emphasis in Sonora,” at Naturalia’s Rancho Los Fresnos in northeastern Sonora, México;

2) Support implementation of amphibian research and monitoring in protected areas in Mexico by conducting site visits to assist reserve biologists and by providing some of the necessary basic monitoring equipment to reserve staff;
3) Conduct amphibian inventories at various ranches and reserves in Sonora and Chihuahua to provide data to land managers to inform management and conservation decisions. During these inventories, we propose to document non-native predators (bullfrogs, fish, and crayfish) and to use non-invasive sampling techniques (by swabbing skin with cotton swab) to collect disease and skin microbe samples; and
4) Assess the status of the Chiricahua leopard frog (*Lithobates chiricahuensis*) and Sonora tiger salamander (*Ambystoma mavortium stebbinsi*) and primary threats to these species in Sonora and Chihuahua to provide a baseline for conservation planning and actions, as well as conduct outreach and environmental education for local communities and ranchers about the imperiled status of these amphibians and the need to conserve the species and their habitats.
5) Conduct a BioBlitz for amphibians at Naturalia´s Northern Jaguar Reserve.

BACKGROUND: Fourteen of the 38 amphibian species that have been documented in Sonora are on México's list of species-at-risk; the Chiricahua leopard frog and Sonora tiger salamander are on the U.S. threatened and endangered species list as well. A number of these species are thought to be declining; however, relatively little is known of their status in Sonora. To better understand their status, as well as to build capacity for amphibian conservation in Northwestern México, when travel and budget constraints have permitted, we have conducted amphibian inventories in Sonora to provide information to land managers, and taught amphibian monitoring and conservation workshops.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: We seek the endorsement of the Trilateral Committee to continue our efforts to monitor and conserve amphibians as well as build capacity for their conservation in Sonora, Sinaloa, Chihuahua.

AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR: Cat Crawford, Arizona Ecological Services Office

SUBMITTED BY: Arizona Ecological Services Office, USFWS; Gerardo Carreón, Naturalia; Jim Rorabaugh, Tucson Herpetological Society; Erin Muths and Blake Hossack, U.S. Geological Survey

(Agenda Items 7 – 12 will run from 1:15 – 2:40 pm Eastern)

AGENDA ITEM 8: Conservation and Capacity Building for the Conservation of Bats in Northwestern Mexico.

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: USFWS (Arizona Ecological Services Office and Kofa National Wildife Refuge), Naturalia, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Comisión de Ecología y Desarrollo Sustentable del Estado de Sonora (CEDES), Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), Universidad Autónoma de Querétaro, University of Arizona, The Phoenix Zoo, CONANP (including Priority Species and Áreas Naturales Protegidas of Northwestern México), DGVS, INE, CONABIO.

DESCRIPTION: We propose to continue our efforts to build capacity for bat conservation in northwestern Mexico; however, this will depend on current travel and budget restrictions improving.

These efforts may include continuing to:

1. Teach bat a monitoring and conservation workshop and conduct bat inventories at Naturalia's Los Fresnos Reserve;
2. Conduct site visits to Federal Reserves in northwestern Mexico to assist reserve staff establish bat monitoring protocols; and
3. Support implementation of bat monitoring in protected areas in Mexico by conducting site visits to assist reserve biologists develop monitoring programs and by providing some of the necessary basic monitoring equipment to reserve staff.

BACKGROUND: Bats, many species of which are considered to be at-risk, are an integral part of ecosystems throughout the world and provide significant ecological services, such as pollination and seed dispersion. Maintaining their presence is critical to the health and function of these systems; however, information on the distribution and status of many bats in northwestern México remains scarce with some exceptions. For example, the lesser long-nosed bat (*Leptonycteris curasoae yerbabuenae*), listed as threatened by Mexico and endangered by the U.S., has been the subject of long-term monitoring and conservation in Sonora. This information has allowed us to now reach the point that we have proposed delisting this species in the U.S. As discussed in the other agenda item related to cooperative lesser long-nosed bat recovery, we are proposing to continue work on lesser long-nosed bat roost and forage monitoring in both the U.S. and Mexico as part of the U.S.'s post-delisting monitoring plan.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: We seek the endorsement of the Trilateral Committee to continue and expand our efforts to monitor and conserve bats as well as to build capacity for their conservation in northwestern Mexico.

AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR: Scott Richardson, Arizona Ecological Services Office – Tucson

SUBMITTED BY: Arizona Ecological Services Office, USFWS; Christa Weise, Kofa National Wildlife Refuge, USFWS

(Agenda Items 7 – 12 will run from 1:15 – 2:40 pm Eastern)

AGENDA ITEM 9: Binational Partnerships to Recover and Conserve Listed and Sensitive Species of Mutual Concern in Sonora, Sinaloa, Chihuahua, and Arizona.

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: USFWS (including Arizona Ecological Services Office, Sonoran Joint Venture, Arizona Fisheries Resources Office, Imperial National Wildlife Refuge, Cabeza Prieta NWR, Kofa NWR, Buenos Aires NWR, and San Bernardino NWR), SEMARNAT, DGVS, CONANP (including Priority Species, Reserva de la Biosfera del Pinacate y Gran Desierto de Altar, Reserva de la Biosfera del Alto Golfo de California y Delta del Río Colorado [RBAG], and Reserva Forestal Nacional y Refugio de Vida Silvestre Los Ajos-Bavispe, Área de Protección de Flora y Fauna Sierra de Álamos-Rio Cuchujaqui), National Park Service-Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, U.S. Geological Survey, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Comisión de Ecología y Desarrollo Sustentable del Estado de Sonora, University of Arizona, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Tecnológico de Monterrey, Universidad de Sonora, Universidad de Baja California, Naturalia, Africam Safari Zoo, The Phoenix Zoo, Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, COBACH, CETMAR, International Sonoran Desert Alliance, and the Center for the Study of Deserts and Oceans.

DESCRIPTION: We propose to continue working with our governmental and non-governmental partners at local, state, and Federal levels in México and the U.S. to conserve and recover listed and sensitive species of mutual concern and migratory birds throughout their ranges in Arizona, Sinaloa, Sonora, and Chihuahua.

Under this agenda item we propose to continue or complete the following actions:

1) Support the conservation efforts of land owners and managers in México by assisting with biological surveys on their ranches and reserves, as well as providing technical assistance on species conservation and recovery efforts, such as the reestablishment of species within their historical range;
2) Build capacity for conservation of the flat-tailed horned lizard through education, outreach, and collaborative development and implementation of a management plan in México for the species, in conjunction with a variety of State and Federal agencies in Arizona and California, Pronatura, and the RBAG;
3) Assist AGFD and other U.S. and Mexican partners in developing a plan to augment captive breeding and wild populations of pygmy-owls in the U.S. with owls from Mexico;
4) Support our partners in conducting Sonoran pronghorn monitoring and conservation in Sonora and Arizona, including implementing the Final Recovery Plan for the Sonoran Pronghorn, Second Revision which addresses the Sonoran pronghorn rangewide, including in Arizona and Sonora;
5) Work with Mexican partners and AGFD to assist seeking funding opportunities for thick-billed parrot recovery work in Mexico;
6) Assist our Mexican partners (Africam Safari) in managing the captive breeding of masked bobwhite quail in Mexico;
7) Work with Mexican partners and AGFD to assess the status of yellow-billed cuckoos in Mexico; and
8) Coordinate with Mexico on monitoring and conserving rare plants of mutual concern, including *Lilaeopsis schaffneriana* ssp. *recurva*, *Coryphantha robbinsorum*, *Coryphantha scheeri* var. *robustispina*, *Echinomastus erectocentrus* var. *acunensis*, *Graptopetalum bartramii*, *Pectis imberbis*, *Amourexia gonzalezii*, *Cirsium wrightii, and Pediomelum pentaphyllum*. Coordination activities will include exchange of information on the status of these species, as well as FWS requests to Mexico to review draft recovery plans and related documents.
9) Publish a draft final rule to restore Mexico to the listed range of the Gila topminnow and Yuma clapper rail. This correction will enable the USFWS to be more active in seeking partnerships in Mexico to implement recovery actions for these species.
10) Complete the revised Yuma Clapper Rail Recovery Plan and the revised Gila Topminnow Recovery Plan. Both plans will address recovery of the species throughout their range, including Mexico, and we seek to coordinate with Mexico on recovery planning and implementation for these species.

In addition to the aforementioned activities and those described in our other agenda items, we plan to work with our partners on lesser long-nosed bat, black-tailed prairie dog, and acuña cactus conservation efforts.

BACKGROUND: It is critical to work cooperatively with our Mexican and U.S. partners to conserve

and recover the many listed and sensitive species that occur on both sides of the international border. These species include the Sonoran pronghorn, jaguar, ocelot, lesser-long nosed bat, black-tailed prairie dog, cactus ferruginous pygmy-owl, masked bobwhite, Mexican spotted owl, southwestern willow flycatcher, Yuma clapper rail, thick-billed parrot, yellow-billed cuckoo, Aplomado falcon, bald eagle, Arizona tree frog, Sonoran tiger salamander, Chiricahua leopard frog, Tarahumara frog, lowland leopard frog, Sonoyta mud turtle, New Mexico ridge-nosed rattlesnake, Mexican gartersnake, flat-tailed horned lizard, desert tortoise, Sonoyta pupfish, Río Yaqui fishes, Sonora chub, Gila chub, Gila topminnow, Acuña cactus, Canelo Hills Ladies' Tresses, Tumamoc globeberry, Gentry indigo bush, Pima pineapple cactus, Cochise pincushion cactus, Nichol Turk's Head, Bartrom stonecrop, beardless chinchweed, Huachuca water umbel, Santa Rita yellowshow, and Coleman's coralroot. We have successfully been, and propose to continue, working with our Mexican and U.S. partners to monitor and conserve many of these species.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: The Arizona Ecological Services Office, USFWS, seeks the endorsement of the Trilateral Committee to continue working with our governmental and non-governmental partners at local, state, and Federal levels in México and the U.S. to conserve and recover listed and sensitive species of mutual concern and migratory birds throughout their ranges in Arizona, Sonora, Sinaloa, and Chihuahua.

AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR: Arizona Ecological Services Office – Tucson

SUBMITTED BY: Erin Fernandez, Cat Crawford, Doug Duncan, Julie Crawford, Susan Sferra, and Scott Richardson, Arizona Ecological Services Office; James Atkinson, CPNWR; Christa Weise, Kofa NWR, Bill Radke, USFWS

(Agenda Items 7 – 12 will run from 1:15 – 2:40 pm Eastern)

AGENDA ITEM 10: Conservation of the Imperiled Species of the Río Sonoyta Watershed, Sonora/Arizona.

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: USFWS, SEMARNAT, CONANP-Reserva de la Biosfera del Pinacate y Gran Desierto de Altar (RBPGDA), Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD), Colegio de Bachilleres del Estado de Sonora (COBACH Sonoyta), University of Arizona, Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, the Center for the Study of Deserts and Oceans, and National Park Service-Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument (OPCNM), Dr. Chuck Minckley, CETMAR Puerto Peñasco.

DESCRIPTION: We propose to continue our efforts to conserve the imperiled species of Río Sonoyta watershed, including the Sonoyta mud turtle (*Kinosternon sonoriense longifemorale*), longfin dace (*Agosia* chrysogaster), and Sonoyta [Quitobaquito] pupfish (*Cyprinodon eremus*). The status of the longfin dace has worsened greatly, with fewer than 25 adults remaining in only one pond. These efforts include monitoring populations of these species in Sonora and Arizona; monitoring and managing the four refuge populations of pupfish and dace in Sonora and two permanent and three temporary pupfish refuges in Arizona; working with the municipal government of Sonoyta, Sonora and others to incorporate and implement conservation measures for these species into the design of a proposed wastewater treatment facility in Sonoyta; managing and maintaining Quitobaquito Springs and Pond in Arizona; and working toward the development and implementation of a community-based restoration and conservation plan for the Río Sonoyta for the benefit of native species and the local community. In

2017, the Sonoyta mud turtle was listed as an endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (82 FR 43897 can be found at https://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/arizona/Documents/SpeciesDocs/SonoytaMudTurtle/FR_Final%20Rule_2017-20072.pdf). A binational recovery plan for the species should be developed in the next few years.

BACKGROUND: The Río Sonoyta watershed and Quitovac, an extremely rare and threatened lowland desert stream and spring system in northwestern Sonora and southwestern Arizona, support the only wild populations of Sonoyta mud turtle and Sonoyta pupfish. In recognition of its importance, the Rio Sonoyta is a designated Ramsar wetland of international significance. To address the many threats the Río and its species face, as described above, we have been and plan to continue developing and implementing a variety of conservation programs and projects.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: We seek the endorsement of the Trilateral Committee to continue and expand our efforts to conserve the imperiled species of Río Sonoyta.

AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR: Doug Duncan and Cat Crawford, Arizona Ecological Services Office - Tucson

SUBMITTED BY: Arizona Ecological Services Office, USFWS; Miguel Angel Grageda, RBPGDA; Cristina Jones and Ross Timmons, AGFD; Tyler Coleman, OPCNM; Paloma Valdivia Jimenez, CEDO.

(Agenda Items 7 – 12 will run from 1:15 – 2:40 pm Eastern)

AGENDA ITEM 11: Native aquatic vertebrate Conservation in the Río Yaqui Basin, Sonora, Chihuahua, and Arizona.

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Universidad de Sonora (UNISON), University of Arizona, Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD), Comisión de Ecología y Desarrollo Sustentable del Estado de Sonora (CEDES), USFWS (Arizona Ecological Services Office [AESO], New Mexico and Arizona Fish and Wildlife Conservation Offices [NMFWCO and AZFWCO], San Bernardino National Wildlife Refuge), Texas Natural Science Center-University of Texas at Austin, Chuck Minckley with Cuenca Los Ojos, Desert Fishes Council, Marsh & Associates, LLC., SEMARNAT, DGVS, CONANP, Institute of Aquaculture of Sonora

DESCRIPTION: We propose to re-survey sites in the Río Yaqui basin that were initially surveyed by Hendrickson et al. 1980 for Fishes of the Río Yaqui basin, Mexico and United States [Ariz.-Nev. Acad. Sci. 15(3):1-106]. They surveyed 90 sites in México, and compiled information for about 70 other sites from museums and the literature. Since their surveys in 1978, fish surveys in the basin have been limited to surveys for Mexican trouts by Truchas Mexicanas (Hendrickson et al. 2006), work on Yaqui catfish genetics (Varela Romero), the Río Tutuaca (Brooks and Varela Romero), and private lands conservation efforts on Cajon Bonito and Rancho San Bernardino (Minckley). Wallace et al. and USFWS personnel have done amphibian and chytrid fungus surveys on the Río Aros and other tributaries to the Río Yaqui, including drainages on the Northern Jaguar Reserve, and Rorabaugh (AESO) has compiled all herpetological records from 26 museums for the Río Yaqui basin in Sonora. In 2007, Rorabaugh and others surveyed for gartersnakes at 12 sites in western Chihuahua, including several of Hendrickson's sites, and made notes on fishes and non-native species. Information would

also be gathered on other native aquatic species of concern such as leopard frogs, Tarahumara frogs, salamanders, turtles, and gartersnakes. Limited work has been done on the non-fish native aquatic species.

Many changes have occurred in the Río Yaqui basin since the 1978 surveys. Human activities and their impacts to aquatic ecosystems and their native species have increased in the basin since 1978. Of special concern is the increase in non-native fish, since they almost always pose threats to native fish and other native aquatic species. The distributions of the non-native American bullfrog and crayfish are also of conservation interest. Updated information on the distribution and relative abundance of both native and non-native species will greatly assist with conservation efforts for native Río Yaqui species by understanding threats and mitigating them with local stakeholders.

BACKGROUND: Though a small percent of the Río Yaqui basin lies within the United States, the 6 to 8 fish species that occurred there contributed a substantial portion of the basin's fish fauna; five of those occurred nowhere else in the U.S. Currently, five of these occur in U.S., four of which are listed under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. The Río Yaqui basin has the largest drainage area in the state of Sonora. Thus, the species there contribute greatly to the aquatic diversity of the state.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: We seek the endorsement of the Trilateral Committee to continue and expand our efforts to survey and conserve the imperiled native aquatic vertebrates of the Río Yaqui basin.

AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR: Doug Duncan, Arizona Ecological Services Office - Tucson

SUBMITTED BY: Arizona Ecological Services Office, USFWS; Jim Brooks, NMFWCO USFWS; Alejandro Varela, UNISON; Julie Carter, Native Fish Program Manager and Francisco Abarca, AGFD

(Agenda Items 7 – 12 will run from 1:15 – 2:40 pm Eastern)

AGENDA ITEM 12: Conservation and recovery of the Río Yaqui Catfish, Sonora, Chihuahua, Sinaloa, and Arizona.

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Universidad de Sonora (UNISON), University of Arizona (College of Law, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology), Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD), Comisión de Ecología y Desarrollo Sustentable del Estado de Sonora (CEDES), Pascua Yaqui Tribe, USFWS (San Bernardino National Wildlife Refuge , Arizona Ecological Services Office [AESO], Arizona Fish and Wildlife Conservation Offices [AZFWCO], Southwestern Region Refuges, Southwestern Native Aquatic Resources & Recovery Center, Uvalde National Fish Hatchery), Texas Natural Science Center-University of Texas at Austin, Chuck Minckley with Cuenca Los Ojos, SEMARNAT, CONANP, Institute of Aquaculture of Sonora, US Geological Survey Arizona Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit

DESCRIPTION: The status of the Yaqui Catfish is dire in both the Republic of Mexico and the United States. The Yaqui Catfish in the U.S. were originally captured from Sonora, Mexico by the USFWS and Mexican Natural Resource Specialists in the late 1980s and 1990s, to re-establish Yaqui Catfish in the US. Collected fish were spawned, and a small number of fry from these spawns were released at San

Bernardino NWR in the late 1990s. Those spawned fish are now more than 20 years old; attempts to spawn them have been unsuccessful, no natural reproduction has been verified, and their numbers are dwindling rapidly. In Mexico, the occupied range of the species has been reduced from multiple threats, but largely hybridization with introduced, non-native Channel Catfish. The Pascua Yaqui Tribe has a federal Tribal Wildlife Grant to implement their project, ***"Our River, Our Lives: Stabilizing*** & ***Recovering Threatened and Endangered Native Fish Species*** *in* ***the Upper Rio Yaqui Basin,"*** with the intention of working on both sides of the border.

Many of the partners have met over the last year, and have designed a three-pronged strategy. In the U.S., the USFWS and its partners are attempting to capture all Yaqui Catfish that remain. Once acclimated to the hatchery, USFWS staff will attempt spawning. If the Yaqui Catfish are successfully spawned, a portion will be kept as broodstock at the hatchery, and others will go back to Arizona. Ponds designed for catfish have been created at San Bernardino National Wildlife Refuge. The USFWS has drafted long- and short-term management plans to guide the agencies work on the species.

Work in Mexico will commence with surveys and genetic analysis throughout the historical range of the species. These efforts will inform us as to where the species occurs, where hybridization with non-native Channel Catfish is an issue, the size of the current Yaqui Catfish population, and identify which drainage basins are the highest conservation priority. Once population status is known, attempts will be made to create a refuge population from the most robust wild population, and have them reproduce in captivity in Mexico. This will safeguard against species extinction in Mexico. A reproducing refuge population in Mexico could be used to reestablish populations in both Mexico and the U.S.

Thirdly, the participation of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe will help bridge the international border. The Tribe has a reservation in Arizona, but also has members in Mexico, within the Río Yaqui Basin. The Tribe seeks to connect members to the cultural landscape of the Río Yaqui basin and its native species, develop natural resource management expertise within the Tribe, and educate members.

BACKGROUND: Though a small percent of the Río Yaqui basin lies within the United States, the 6 to 8 fish species that occurred there contributed a substantial portion of the basin's fish fauna; five of those occurred nowhere else in the U.S. Currently, five of these occur in U.S., four of which are listed under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. The Río Yaqui basin has the largest drainage area in the state of Sonora. Thus, the species there contribute greatly to the aquatic diversity of the state.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: We seek the endorsement of the Trilateral Committee to continue and expand our efforts conserve and recover the imperiled Yaqui Catfish in Mexico and the U.S.

AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR: Doug Duncan, Arizona Ecological Services Office - Tucson

SUBMITTED BY: Arizona Ecological Services Office, USFWS; Alejandro Varela, UNISON; Francisco Abarca, AGFD

(2:40 – 3 pm Eastern)
AGENDA ITEM 13: Northwestern Jaguar Recovery

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: USFWS (Arizona and New Mexico Ecological Services Office) and USFWS-led Binational (Mexico – U.S.) Jaguar Recovery Team (including CONANP [Priority Species and ANPs], Comisión de Ecología y Desarrollo Sustentable del Estado de Sonora, SAGARHPA, Universidad de Querétaro, Naturalia, Arizona Game and Fish and Department, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, Panthera, Northern Arizona University, Arizona State University, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, USDA/APHIS-Wildlife Services, Customs and Border Protection, the Tohono O'odham Nation, and others)

DESCRIPTION: We propose to continue to work with our governmental and non-governmental partners at local, state, and Federal levels in México and the U.S. to conserve and recover jaguars.

Specifically, this year we propose to:
1) Complete a final recovery plan for the jaguar, with emphasis on jaguars in western and northwestern México and southwestern U.S.; and
2) Continue implementing recovery actions for the jaguar, including a citizen science project to survey and monitor jaguars in Arizona.

BACKGROUND: The binational Jaguar Recovery Team and USFWS have been working to develop a Jaguar Recovery Plan with emphasis on jaguars in the northwestern portion of their range (southwestern U.S. and western and northwestern Mexico). The draft plan was made available for public review in December 2016 and the plan will be finalized soon after the 2018 Trilateral meeting.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: We seek the endorsement of the Trilateral Committee to work with governmental and non-governmental partners at local, state, and Federal levels in México and the U.S. to conserve and recover jaguars, including finalizing a recovery plan and implementing recovery actions for jaguars with emphasis in western and northwestern México and southwestern U.S.

AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR: Marit Alanen, Arizona Ecological Services Office

SUBMITTED BY: Marit Alanen, Arizona Ecological Services Office, USFWS; and the Jaguar Recovery Team

(3 – 3:15 pm Eastern) **- BREAK**

(3:15 – 3:45 pm Eastern)
AGENDA ITEM 14: Ocelot Recovery Actions

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Mitch Sternberg, Hilary Swarts, Erin Fernandez (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service); Maria Araujo (Texas Parks and Wildlife Department), Tim Snow, Jamey Driscoll, and Francisco Abarca (Arizona Game and Fish Department); Martha López Hernández, Rosa Elena Jimenez Maldonado (Comisión Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas); Carlos Lopez-Gonzalez (Universidad Autónoma de Querétaro); Rogelio Carrera-Treviño (Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León).

DESCRIPTION: This project supports the Species of Common Concern Work Table's goal of management and conservation of small and isolated populations at risk. The endangered ocelot (*Leopardus pardalis*) is in need of binational conservation efforts to ensure its continued existence in the U.S. and Mexico. Project collaborators will be instrumental in the recovery of the ocelot in Texas, Arizona, and Mexico. Similar to conservation actions implemented to other transboundary species like Mexican wolf, Sonoran and American pronghorn, black-tailed prairie dog, and black-footed ferret, we propose that binational partners revise the existing translocation plan between Mexico and the United States by June 2018 for the long-term survival of the populations close to the border.

BACKGROUND: The ocelot is endangered in the U.S. and Mexico. There are two known breeding populations in Texas, and the sustainability of these populations are vulnerable due to a high rate of collisions with vehicles, and due to risks from disease related to a high level of inbreeding. Several ocelots have been recently documented in Arizona and breeding populations occur in Sonora and many ocelots have been documented in Texas and neighboring Tamaulipas. Populations in some parts of Mexico appear stable. Translocation of ocelots from Mexico to Texas is identified in the 2016 Ocelot Recovery Plan as a necessity to lower the risk of extinction of the Texas populations.

Partners have identified populations of ocelots in northern Mexico that may be able to serve as a potential source of ocelots for at-risk populations in other areas, including in Texas. Partners have been collaborating since 2012 to provide updated status on ocelots populations in northern Mexico to the various responsible agencies in order to meet recovery goals and objectives, including those involving translocation between populations. Additional recovery actions that are being implemented focus on reducing road mortality in Texas, increasing ocelot breeding habitat and increasing connectivity in Texas, surveying and monitoring ocelots in both countries, conducting outreach and education for ocelot conservation, compiling ocelot sightings/reports, and supporting partnerships.

In Arizona and Sonora, partners are focused on monitoring ocelots and maintaining connectivity within Sonora, as well as between Sonora and Arizona. Threats to connectivity of Arizona and Sonora populations include expansion of Highway 2 in Sonora and the potential expansion of border fencing.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: We request an endorsement from the Trilateral Committee to support the recovery actions of the Ocelot Recovery Team within the framework of the strategic plans of the Trilateral Committee as well as within the framework of all legal requirements and procedures in each country. In particular, we request support to implement a translocation plan between Mexico and the United States by June 2018, and to implement the plan by the end of 2019 to assist in the long-term survival of the populations close to the border.

AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR: Mitch Sternberg (USFWS)

SUBMITTED BY: Mitch Sternberg, Hilary Swarts, Erin Fernandez, (USFWS); Martha López Hernández (CONANP), Maria Araujo (TPWD); Tim Snow, Jamey Driscoll, Francisco Abarca (AZGFD).

(3:45 – 4:15 pm Eastern)

AGENDA ITEM 15: Mexican Wolf Recovery in the United States and México

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: USFWS Mexican Wolf Recovery Program; Dirección General de Vida Silvestre (SEMARNAT); Dirección de Especies Prioritarias para la Conservación (CONANP); Universidad Autonoma de Queretaro; Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Instituto de Biologia; Mexican Wolf Species Survival Plan breeding facilities; Arizona Game and Fish Department; New Mexico Department of Game and Fish; U.S. Forest Service; White Mountain Apache Tribe; USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services; and others.

DESCRIPTION: We propose to continue to work with our governmental and non-governmental partners at local, state, and Federal levels in México and the U.S. to implement the Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan, First Revision.

Specifically, this year we propose to:

1) Continue working on the development and clearing process of a memorandum of Understanding (MOU) among USFWS, SEMARNAT, CONANP, Arizona Game and Fish Department, and New Mexico Department of Game and Fish for binational collaboration in the implementation of Mexican wolf recovery actions as outlined in the Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan, First Revision.
2) Begin discussions on additional funding to implement recovery actions, in particular for release and management of Mexican wolves in México and for depredation compensation and payments for presence in both countries.
3) Continue México/U.S. collaboration to manage the binational Mexican wolf Species Survival Plan (SSP) Captive Breeding Program to provide Mexican wolves for release in both countries.
4) Continue collaboration among USFWS; SEMARNAT; CONANP; AGFD, and NMDGF on the release of wolves in the U.S. and México.
5) Coordinate among USFWS, CONANP, State wildlife agencies in Arizona and New Mexico, and USDA –APHIS Wildlife Services should wolves in México disperse into the U.S.

BACKGROUND: In November 2017, the USFWS completed the Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan, First Revision, with the assistance of CONANP, SEMARNAT, Arizona Game and Fish Department, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, and other agencies and scientists from both countries. The recovery plan provides guidance that will lead to the delisting of the Mexican wolf under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. Key to Mexico wolf recovery is the establishment of an average annual population of 320 Mexican wolves in the U.S., and an average annual population of 200 Mexican wolves in México. Both populations are reliant on the Mexican Wolf Species Survival Plan Captive Breeding Program. México is in the early phase of establishing a population and thus relies on the breeding program to release adult wolves with pups. Both the U.S. and México rely on the captive breeding program to improve the gene diversity of the wild populations. México and the U.S. collaborate to manage the approximately 52 captive breeding facilities in the United States and México, which house 250- 300 wolves for potential release into the wild. All of these wolves are managed in accordance with the Mexican Wolf SSP. The USFWS, SEMARNAT, CONANP, and AGFD collaborate on the implementation of recovery actions for the Mexican wolf in the United States and México. In 1998, the U.S. completed the first release of Mexican wolves into the Mexican Wolf Experimental Population Area; in 2016, the U.S. wild population had at least 113 Mexican wolves. In 2011, CONANP completed the first release of wolves in México, since their extirpation; in 2017, the México wild population had approximately 30 Mexican wolves.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:

We request endorsement to sign MOU between USFWS and SEMARNAT for binational collaboration in the implementation of Mexican wolf recovery actions as outlined in the Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan, First Revision.

We request direction on how to fund the binational recovery efforts for the Mexican wolf. In particular, we are seeking funding for release and management of Mexican wolves in México and for depredation compensation and payments for presence in both countries.

We request endorsement to collaborate on implementing the Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan, First Revision.

We request endorsement to continue México/U.S. collaboration to manage the binational Mexican wolf Species Survival Plan (SSP) captive breeding program to provide Mexican wolves for release in both countries.

AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR(S): John Oakleaf and Jose Bernal

SUBMITTED BY: Sherry Barrett (USFWS), Jose Bernal (CONANP), Jim deVos (AGFD)

(4:15 – 4:45 pm Eastern)

AGENDA ITEM 16: Strengthening Pronghorn populations in Chihuahua – Reintroduction of Gould's turkey in New Mexico.

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, Priority Species for Conservation Office-CONANP, Dirección General de Vida Silvestre (DGVS)-SEMARNAT, Region 3 Office-CONANP, Ecology office of the Department of Urban Development and Ecology (SEDUE) of the state of Chihuahua, Autonomous University of Queretaro, PROFAUNA, Consejo Ganadero para la Conservación del Berrendo en Chihuahua.

DESCRIPTION: For this project, parties propose to sign an agreement between CONANP and NMDGF as a frame for the exchange of both species between governments in an effort to strengthen local populations. Pronghorn will be captured and transferred in one shipment in November 2018, while Gould's turkey will be transferred in several shipments over 5 years.

CONANP will determine the specific locations where pronghorns will be released, will sign agreements with pertinent landowners and will take care of all logistical details in and permits needed for the importation of pronghorns.

BACKGROUND: Pronghorn are endangered in Mexico, while populations in New Mexico are robust. Specially, in Chihuahua, pronghorn numbers have been declining over the past years, and some studies reflect high loss of genetic diversity due to isolation of the populations and bottleneck effect because of severe drought. In recent years, CONANP has funded projects to establish habitat management actions and specific surveys of local populations, to support the conservation of the pronghorn in Chihuahua.

Gould's turkey are present in Mexico in the Sierra Madre Occidental, and although classified as threatened in the NOM-059-SEMARNAT-2010, populations can be harvested in UMA with permit of the Dirección General de Vida Silvestre – SEMARNAT. In New Mexico Gould's turkeys are currently listed as a state threatened species under the state Wildlife Conservation Act.

In 2017, the NMDGF proposed an exchange of animals to strengthen Pronghorn populations in the state of Chihuahua, and Gould's turkey populations in New Mexico. Therefore, through a grant, CONANP has initiated habitat evaluations and organizing local landowners in Chihuahua to prepare the reception of the animals. The State Government of Chihuahua has been invited and is interested in supporting this effort, through the Ecology office. Also, the NMDGF conducted a visit in 2017 to assess habitat conditions in Chihuahua, and help determining the best sites for the release of pronghorn, which was planned for early 2018. However, due to a number of constraints such release had to be postponed.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:

1) Sign agreement between CONANP/SEMARNAT and NMDGF
2) Develop a translocation plan for 100 pronghorns from New Mexico to Chihuahua
3) Develop a transfer and release plan for 100 Gould's turkeys from Mexico to New Mexico

AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR: José Bernal – CONANP, Stewart Liley – New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

SUBMITTED BY: José Bernal – CONANP, Stewart Liley – New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

CO-CHAIR DAILY WRAP-UP

Tuesday, April 10, 2018
Room: Instructional East –114.

(10:15 – 10:45 am Eastern)

AGENDA ITEM 17: Trilateral Island Initiative: Conservation and Restoration of the Islands of Canada, the United States, and Mexico

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Annie Little (USFWS), Patrick Nantel (Parks Canada), Gilles Suetin (Parks Canada), Federico A. Méndez (Conservación de Islas), Gregg Howald (Island Conservation), Humberto Berlanga (CONABIO), Eduardo E. Iñigo-Elias (Cornell Lab of Ornithology)

DESCRIPTION: This agenda item focuses on a collaborative trilateral effort to conserve and restore marine island ecosystems, including seabird populations. Following the signing of the Letter of Intent (LOI) at the 2014 Trilateral Committee meeting, the three countries have been colloborating on multiple issues of shared interest related to island conservation. We will update the SCCCWT on the status of current collaborative efforts, including ongoing projects, workshops, exchanges, and efforts to promote the LOI.

BACKGROUND: In the last five years, several bilateral and trilateral island restoration projects were initiated. In order to further encourage coordination and collaboration on island projects, a Trilateral Island Working Group was created in 2012. This group developed the LOI that was signed by the three countries at the 2014 Trilateral Meeting in Querétaro, Mexico. The LOI documents that the three countries intend to engage in cooperative bilateral and trilateral activities to promote sustainable environmental policies and practices in support of island conservation. The Working Group will discuss achievements, priorities, and updates of recent collaborative efforts related to island conservation.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: We seek continued endorsement by the Trilateral Committee of collaborative conservation efforts on islands in Canada, United States, and Mexico.

AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR(S): Annie Little (USFWS) and representatives from Canada and Mexico

SUBMITTED BY: Annie Little, USFWS

(10:45 – 11:15 am Eastern)

AGENDA ITEM 18: Arizona-Mexico collaborations to conserve shared bird species of mutual concern

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD), Pronatura Noroeste A.C (PNO), Ejidos, Comisión Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas (CONANP), Comisión Nacional Forestal (CONAFOR), Fondo Mexicano Forestal (FMF), Unidad Forestal Galván, Unidad Forestal Foresta, San Diego Zoo Global (SDZG), Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey (ITESM), Vida Silvestre A.C (OVIS), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Sonoran Joint Venture, Comisión de Ecología y Desarrollo Sustentable del Estado de Sonora (CEDES), BirdLife-CEMEX, Universidad Estatal de Sonora, Southern Sierra Research Station (SSR), Reserva Monte Mojino (Naturaleza y Cultura Sierra Madre, A.C.), Terra Peninsular, CICESE, Point Blue Conservation Science, UNAM, CIBNOR, UABCS

DESCRIPTION: Arizona is collaborating with several partners in Northwest Mexico to support projects that benefit both shared migratory and resident bird species of concern. Other projects have contributed to clarify or prevent the need of listing a bird species. Several of these projects are supported as part of Southern Wings- an AFWA initiative that facilitates partnerships between state fish and wildlife agencies and partners in Mexico, Central, South America and the Caribbean to conserve shared migratory bird species throughout their annual lifecycle. Current projects we are supporting include 1) Conserving neotropical migratory birds by implementing best management practices in old-growth forests of the Sierra Madre Occidental, 2) Status of Western Yellow-billed Cuckoos in Sonora, 3) Conserving and monitoring Golden Eagles within high priority regions of Mexico, 4) The Pacific Flyway Shorebird Survey: Identifying Threats and Conservation Hotspots in Northwest Mexico, and 5) Bald Eagle population assessment in northern Sonora. In the past, other projects included: 1) Establishment of Breeding Bird Survey routes in Sonora, 2) Masked Bobwhite monitoring and habitat assessment, 3) Cactus Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl population estimates and genetic analysis, 4) Yuma Ridgway's Rail surveys in the Colorado River Delta, and 5) Gould’s Turkey reintroductions.

BACKGROUND: For Neotropical migrants and Thick-billed Parrots (TBPA), OVIS and other partners are working to conserve habitat by incorporating habitat management practices that benefit migratory and resident birds in more than 30 ejidos in the Sierra Tarahumara (500,000 ha).The project will also implement conservation actions and monitoring of breeding populations of TBPAs in the protected areas of Tutuaca, Papigochi, Campo Verde, Mesa de Guacamayas and Madera. This project is one of Arizona's longest running bird conservation collaborations in Mexico, having initiated the collaboration with Pronatura Noroeste and ITESM over 10 years ago.

For Western Yellow-billed Cuckoos (YBCU), Universidad Estatal de Sonora is surveying known and suspected YBCU locations across the state to document species occurrence.

For Golden Eagles, Pronatura Noroeste and partners are training biologists to deploy satellite tracking technology, identify occupied territories and areas for conservation, determine causes of mortality, enhance habitat on private ranches, and conduct environmental education and capacity building.

For shorebirds, Terra Peninsular and partners are conducting annual non-breeding bird surveys of 10 wetland sites across NW Mexico, and compiling these survey data into the Pacific Flyway Shorebird Survey.

For Bald Eagles, CEDES will survey the confluence of the Bavispe and Yaqui rivers, as well as the Pinacate Biosphere Reserve. AGFD will provide training to CEDES staff on Arizona's bald eagle productivity monitoring program on February 6-7, 2018. Training will consist of classroom presentations and Q&A discussions as well as field training in Arizona.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Provide and update on status of Arizona-Mexico collaborations to conserve bird species of mutual concern and discuss opportunities to maintain support and enhance partnerships in support of these conservation efforts.

AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR(S): Francisco Abarca and Edwin Juárez, Arizona Game and Fish Department

SUBMITTED BY:
Francisco Abarca and Edwin Juárez, Arizona Game and Fish Department
Andrea Cuéllar, Pronatura Noroeste A.C.
Alberto Macías Duarte, Universidad Estatal de Sonora
Miguel Angel Cruz Nieto, Vida Silvestre A.C
Eduardo Palacios Castro CICESE/Terra Peninsular
Leonardo Corrales and Raul Molina, Comisión de Ecología y Desarrollo Sustentable del Estado de Sonora

(11:15 – 11:45 pm Eastern)
AGENDA ITEM 19: Conservation of the Thick-billed Parrot

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Arizona Game and Fish Department, San Diego Zoo Global

(SDZG), Organización Vida Silvestre A.C (OVIS), Comisión Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas (CONANP), Ejidos, Comisión Nacional Forestal (CONAFOR), Fondo Mexicano Forestal (FMF), Unidad Forestal Galván, Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey (ITESM), Pronatura Noroeste A.C (PNO), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

DESCRIPTION: The Arizona Game and Fish Department and San Diego Zoo Global have for many years collaborated with partners in Mexico working to conserve Thick-billed Parrots and their habitats of mixed conifer forests in the Sierra Madre Occidental (SMO). In December 2017, Arizona, CONANP, San Diego Zoo Global and OVIS held a planning workshop to identify short term conservation priorities and needs for the next two years. This agenda item will provide an update on the Thick-billed parrot Conservation Program, including a discussion on conservation actions being planned for the next two years and path forwards to expanding collaborations to strengthen conservation of the species.

BACKGROUND: The thick-billed parrot (TBPA) is listed as endangered throughout its range, including Mexico and the US. Historically the species range in the U.S. extended as far north as the mountains of southeastern Arizona and possibly southwestern New Mexico. The parrot's current range is limited to high elevations of the SMO, migrating seasonally from their primary breeding (summering) grounds in Chihuahua to wintering areas farther south. Nesting is primarily limited to a small number of areas in Chihuahua with the five most important areas being Madera, Tutuaca, Mesa de las Guacamayas, Papigochic, and Vergel-Guanacevi. Mesa de las Guacamayas (within the Janos Biosphere Reserve) is the northern-most breeding area, located approximately 80 kilometers south of the U.S./Mexico border. As part of a comprehensive conservation program ongoing since the mid-1990s, ITESM, Pronatura Noreste and other partners have worked to reduce threats to priority habitats and to conserve the TBPA populations through active management (monitoring, increase reproductive success, disease research). More recently, OVIS has embarked on continuing to implement conservation strategies for the species.

In 2009 Mexico's National Commission of Protected Areas (CONANP), as part of its Program for Endangered Species Conservation (PROCER), published an action plan (PACE) for the species. The PACE guides recovery of the parrot throughout its current range in Mexico. In 2013 the USFWS adopted the PACE for thick-billed parrot recovery and added an addendum. Following the publication of these two documents, partners came together in 2014 at a binational workshop where conservation strategies and actions were prioritized and needs identified.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:
Continue support for the goal of protecting existing thick-billed parrot populations in the Sierra Madre Occidental and increasing the productivity of the known nesting areas, specifically;

a) Support efforts to ensure protection of critical habitat and nesting areas through various available mechanisms.
b) Continue support for environmental education in communities living adjacent to important habitat areas.
c) Support integration of best practices in forest management to maintain integrity of forest habitat
d) Increase understanding of parrot ecology, including the characterization of wintering grounds, migratory routes, dispersal of juveniles, home range size, and identify novel nesting areas, through the deployment of novel satellite tracking technology.
e) Promote coordination among key stakeholders for implementation of conservation

actions.

AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR(S):
Edwin Juárez, Arizona Game and Fish Department
Miguel Angel Cruz Nieto, Vida Silvestre A.C
Ignacio Vilchis, San Diego Zoo Global

SUBMITTED BY (include name and agency)**:**
Edwin Juárez, Arizona Game and Fish Department
Miguel Angel Cruz Nieto, Vida Silvestre A.C
Maria Elena Rodarte, Comisión Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas
Nadine Lamberski and Ignacio Vilchis San Diego Zoo Global

(12 – 1:15 pm Eastern) **- LUNCH**

(1:15 – 1:45 pm Eastern)
AGENDA ITEM 20: Regulations on salamander importation to prevent *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans* (Bsal) introduction to North America

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:
Canada: Samuel Iverson (Wildlife Health Section, Environment and Climate Change Canada), Chari Marple (Wildlife Health Section, Environment and Climate Change Canada), Caroline Ladanowski (Wildlife Management and Regulatory Affairs Division, Environment and Climate Change Canada)

United States: Michael Adams (Amphibian Research & Monitoring Initiative, U.S. Geological Survey), Camille Hopkins (Office of Ecosystems, U.S. Geological Survey), Susan Jewell (Aquatic Invasive Species Branch, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)

México: Antonio Gonzalez (SEMARNAT, México) and Edgar Cuevas (SEMARNAT, México

DESCRIPTION: A fungal disease, *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans* (Bsal), originating from Asia, has been causing serious population-level effects on native salamanders in some European countries. It is thought that trade in salamanders via the pet industry is the primary means through which the disease spread from Asia. Surveillance indicates that Bsal has not yet entered North America, but given the ecological connectivity across national borders and the importance of North America as a salamander biodiversity hot spot, a coordinated approach is needed to reduce the risk of entry.

The United States adopted trade prohibitions for 201 species of salamander in January 2016. Canada followed suit in May 2017 with a temporary (one-year) restriction on the importation of any salamander species. Scientific information has come to light since the initial adoption of trade restrictions in the U.S. and Canada that indicate a broader range of species are capable of transmitting Bsal than was originally known and that there is a considerable risk of environmental transmission (e.g., via contaminated water or sediments).

In response to this new information, Canadian Wildlife Service officials have recommended longer-term restrictions, wherein the importation of all salamander species will continue to require a permit and permitting decisions will be based upon a risk assessment. Canada will provide an update on the progress of its regulatory response and seek an update from the United States and México regarding their efforts to reduce the risk by implementing similar import restrictions on salamanders.

BACKGROUND: To date, there are no known cases of Bsal infection in North America. However, if Bsal were to enter North America, the impacts on salamanders would likely be severe. Experimental trials indicate that most species are susceptible to infection, and some North American salamander species showed 100% mortality rates.

Some salamander species can carry and spread the disease without showing symptoms. In addition, it is now known that Bsal can infect certain frog species, and that the pathogen produces more than one type of spore, including a type of spore that persists in the environment and can adhere to surfaces that enable it to be transported over long distances.

Amphibians imported into North America originate from a number of countries, including areas in Europe and Asia where Bsal is known to occur in captive and wild salamanders. The U.S. is a significant source of live amphibians imported into Canada, and many of the species that are popular for use in research and as pets are Méxican origin.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:

1. Provide an update on each country's progress on import controls, surveillance, disease-tracking, and future plans for reducing risk to North American salamanders.
2. Discuss opportunities for enhanced coordination on this issue.

AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR(S): Samuel Iverson, Environment and Climate Change Canada and Michael Adams, U.S. Geological Survey

SUBMITTED BY: Samuel Iverson, Environment and Climate Change Canada

(1:45 – 2:15 pm Eastern)

AGENDA ITEM 21: Southern Mountain Caribou Recovery in the United States and British Columbia, Canada

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: USFWS Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office; U.S. Forest Service; Idaho Department of Fish and Game; Idaho Office of Species Conservation; Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife; Kootenai Tribe of Idaho; Kalispel Tribe; Bonner and Boundary Counties, Idaho; Ktunaxa Nation; British Columbia; Canadian Wildlife Service

DESCRIPTION: We propose to continue and expand our work with our governmental and non-governmental partners, including Tribes and First Nations, at local, state, and Federal levels in Canada and the U.S. to recover southern mountain caribou (*Rangifer tarandus caribou*).

We expect to publish a final listing determination (rule) by June 2018 regarding southern mountain caribou protections under the U.S. Endangered Species Act (ESA). The Service will continue to

coordinate with Canada on the recovery of this caribou population. Following publication of the final rule, we will begin to work on a recovery plan for the southern mountain caribou distinct population segment. We intend to draw heavily on existing conservation plans in Canada and the U.S. in the development of the recovery plan.

BACKGROUND: We listed the southern Selkirk Mountains subpopulation of caribou as endangered under the ESA in 1984. In response to a delisting petition we received in 2012, we initiated a new status review of the listed entity. In May 2014, as a result of the updated status review, we proposed to amend the listing under the ESA to recognize the distinct population segment of southern mountain caribou, which is currently comprised of 15 subpopulations, as threatened. The publication of this final rule will conclude our determination process under Section 4 of the ESA. The final determination step triggers our recovery planning responsibilities under the ESA.

All 15 extant subpopulations consist of fewer than 500 individuals each, 13 of which have fewer than 250 individuals and 9 of which have fewer than 50 individuals. Fourteen of the 15 extant subpopulations within this DPS have declined since 2002. Only one transboundary subpopulation (South Selkirk) with the U.S. remains.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: We seek the endorsement of the Trilateral Committee to work with non-governmental and governmental partners at local, state/provincial, and Federal levels in Canada and the U.S. to conserve and recover southern mountain caribou. Specifically, after publication of our final listing determination, we request endorsement to collaborate on the development of a binational draft and final recovery plan for the southern mountain caribou distinct population segment, which we intend to initiate in 2018-2019 and complete in 2019-2020.

AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR(S): Greg Hughes, Tracy Melbihess, or Chris Warren (USFWS); and potentially a colleague from Canadian Wildlife Services

SUBMITTED BY: Greg Hughes, Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office, US Fish and Wildlife Service

(2:15 – 2:45 pm Eastern)

AGENDA ITEM 22: U.S. – Mexico California Condor Recovery Program

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Dr. Jose Bernal, CONANP's Director of Priority Species (j.bernal@conanp.gob.mx); Amedee Brickey, Chief, Migratory Birds and CA Condor Coordinator (amedee_brickey@fws.gov); Amanda Gonzales, Program Officer for Mexico (amanda_gonzales@fws.gov);Adriana Fernandez, Director Chapultec Zoo (fernandez727@hotmail.com)**;** Dr. Ignacio Vilchis, Associate Director of Applied Animal Ecology, San Diego Zoo.

DESCRIPTION: Update on the Implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Mexico and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service providing for cooperation in the recovery of the California condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*).

BACKGROUND: The goal of this on-going binational collaborative project is to establish a self-sustaining population of California condors (*Gymnogyps californianus*) within their historic range of

distribution in Baja California, Mexico in an effort to recover the species. The overall condor population in Mexico continues to grow from a combination of new releases from captive bred birds and natural productivity. Currently, there is an estimated 275 condors in the wild, 39 of which are at the Sierra de San Pedro Martir National Park in Baja California, including the first three chicks born in 2016 at the Chapultepec Zoo as part of the species captive breeding program.

In September 2016, recognizing Mexico's leadership and institutional, professional and financial sustainability, the USFWS and San Diego Zoo presented a Transition Action Plan transferring the financial, operational and logistical responsibilities of the species reintroduction program to CONANP. The Transition Action Plan includes medium-term goals, objectives, and proposed action plan targets to be accomplished no later than July 1, 2018. Upon the completion of the Transition Action Plan both countries will continue their bilateral collaborative conservation activities for the CA condor in Mexico as defined under the species MOU, including but not limited to: research, genetics management of the wild and captive populations, as well as capacity building, and environmental education.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:

- Update on the species status in Mexico.
- Update on the progress CONANP has made to implement the Transition Action Plan and assume full financial and operational management of the California condor Reintroduction Program in Mexico.
- Report on the status of Zacango Zoo's application to become a member of the California condor captive breeding program after Chapultepec Zoo;
- Submit for consideration of the USFWS the nomination of Aragon Zoo as a member of the California condor captive breeding program in Mexico; and,
- Discuss options for improved and increased implementation of the MOU throughout the continue collaboration between CONANP, USFWS and San Diego Zoo on the management of the wild California condor population in Sierra de San Pedro Martir National Park, the breeding in captivity program in Mexico, as well as monitoring and research actions of the species in the wild.

AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR: TBD

SUBMITTED BY: USFWS / CONANP / SAN DIEGO ZOO

(3 – 3:15 pm Eastern) **- BREAK**

(3:15 – 3:30 pm Eastern)

AGENDA ITEM 23: US National Park Service Agency Update: Landscapes/Connectivity and At Risk Species.

AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR: Elaine Leslie, Chief, Biological Resources Division, Natural Resource Stewardship and Science, US National Park Service (NPS)

SUBMITTED BY: Elaine Leslie (NPS)

(3:30 – 4 pm Eastern)

AGENDA ITEM 24: Continental Scale Bison Conservation

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:

Proposed Trilateral Bison Team:
Jenny Powers, National Park Service (United States)
Elaine Leslie, National Park Service (United States)
Steve Torbit, Fish and Wildlife Service (United States)
Lindsay Roger, Parks Canada (Canada)
Jose Bernal Stoopen, Comisión Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas (Mexico)
Keith Aune, Chair, IUCN North American Bison SSG (United States).

DESCRIPTION: The SCCC Working Table is the appropriate forum to examine recent advances in bison conservation across historic range in Canada, Mexico and United States. Each nation has achieved notable advances within the past years, yet there is need for enhanced international cooperation and collaboration for conservation of wild and ranging bison at the continental scale, including improved conservation according to biological principles and ensuring the evolutionary capacity of various bison populations and preserving the genetic diversity of bison.

BACKGROUND: At the 2015 and 2016 SCCC Working Table, a team from Canada, Mexico and United States presented the species' recent advances in science and stewardship, and identified opportunities and challenges for conservation of wild and ranging bison on large landscapes across North American historic range. These opportunities included a comprehensive Status Review and Conservation Guidelines published by the IUCN NA Bison Species Specialist Group (2010) and ongoing IUCN Red List assessment (2014-15); the US Department of Interior Bison Report (2014); the Yellowstone bison brucellosis quarantine feasibility study and Environmental, Assessment (2010-2015); the NPS Call-to-Action for wild bison restoration (2011-2016); collaboration amongst NPS, TNC and Mexican partners for restoration of the Janos-Hidalgo bison herd at the Janos Biosphere Reserve (ongoing); the American Bison Society meeting on shared stewardship (2013, 2016); the new Northern Tribes Buffalo Treaty (2014); and COSEWIC review and listing decisions for plains and down-listing for wood bison; and US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Land Management in Alaska collaboration with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and other stakeholders to develop a plan for reintroducing an experimental non-essential population of wood bison into western Alaska.

Furthermore, in an effort to meet the established goals in its Action Conservation Program for bison, Mexico is currently working towards reaching the first dissemination of its actual herd, currently located in the state of Chihuahua to the state of Coahuila.

As a result of the above referred efforts, parties worked during the second half of 2016 and the first half 2017, on a draft Letter of Intent for Bison Conservation among Canada, the U.S. and Mexico, and presented this to the Executive Working Group for its endorsement. The proposed LOI would facilitate the trilateral collaboration among the three countries, including a program for the use of artificial breeding procedures for bison. However, due to a number of constraints, the Letter was not concluded.

AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR(S): Jose Bernal Stoopen, Director for Priority Species Conservation, CONANP.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Following upon the 2015, 2016 and 2017 presentations described above, the Tri-Lateral Bison Team requests the endorsement of the Executive Working Group to reinitiate the clearance process for the signing of the above referenced Letter of Intent, for the creation of a trilateral group of experts on conservation of the American Bison from the three countries that will facilitate the development of coordinated population and genetic monitoring programs for bison that will allow for reliable inferences about status, distribution, and population trends of bison at various spatial scales, and to initiate a program for the use of artificial breeding procedures for bison.

SUBMITTED BY: Jose Bernal, Office of Priority Species Conservation, CONANP.

(4 – 4:30 pm Eastern)

AGENDA ITEM 25: Golden Eagle: U.S., Mexico and Canada Approach to Management

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: José Bernal Stoopen, CONANP, Priority Species (jose.bernal@conanp.gob.mx), Esteban Rivero, CONANP, Priority Species (manuel.rivero@conanp.gob.mx), Luis Felipe Lozano, CONANP, Priority Species (flozanor@yahoo.com),: Meghan Sadlowski, USFWS Division of Migratory Birds; Brian Millsap, USFWS Division of Migratory Birds; Robert K. Murphy, Phd., USFWS Division of Migratory Birds.

DESCRIPTION: The purpose of this agenda item is to review collaborative efforts among Mexico, Canada, and the US to manage tracking of Golden Eagles, update delegations in all recent advances in technology, consulting, monitoring, and best tracking practices, and identify new partners and goals.

BACKGROUND: Eagles are known for their ability to make large moves. Preliminary data suggests that home range of eagles fluctuate greatly, but that there is a strong tendency for individual to return to within 100 km of their natal site to breed. Dispersal and use of space have an effect on genetics and population dynamics and, particularly on eagles, can have a greater importance in terms of continental scale connectivity. There is currently very little information about the dispersion process and use of habitat during the pre-adult stage, something very important given the fact that it can have implications on reproduction and population biology. In 2014 CONANP, in collaboration with the USFWS, initiated the satellite monitoring of specimens using PTT in Mexico, particularly on juveniles. The knowledge obtained about the movements of these specimens provided valuable information to be used as conservation measures on a greater scale, showing the importance of this type of work in helping target more effective and efficient conservation actions to maintain eagle populations. As a result, a golden eagle distribution and dispersal map was made, allowing for the first time an opportunity to identify daily movements that, to date, had not been possible.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: The goal is to maximize trilateral collaboration in approaches and tools used to track and manage Golden Eagles in the most effective and efficient way possible across their full range.

AGENDA ITEM PRESENTER: José Bernal, Office of Priority Species Conservation, CONANP

SUBMITTED BY: José Bernal, Office of Priority Species Conservation, CONANP.

(4:30 – 5 pm Eastern)

AGENDA ITEM 25: Strengthened Actions for the Protection of the Great White Shark in Isla Guadalupe

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Jose Bernal Stoopen, Director – Office of Priority Species Conservation - CONANP.

DESCRIPTION: Updated presentation of relevant conservation actions in progress, within the Species Conservation Action Plan (PACE) framework for the Great White Shark (*Carcharodon carcharias*).

BACKGROUND: Since 2007, the PROCER (Conservation Program for Species at Risk) has been working, coordinated by CONANP, as the main strategy of the Mexican Federal Government to conserve species at risk in collaboration with other stakeholders. The PROCER works through an Action Plan for the Recovery of Species at Risk (PACE). During 2013 CONANP structured a Working Group to put together a strategy for the conservation and research of the great white shark and finished its PACE, outlining the action items aimed to reduce the threats along its distribution range.

In 2015, CONANP published the Reference Manual for Good Practices for White Shark, implemented in 2016 with the participation of private volunteers. In 2017, however, the referenced Manual was strengthened with the additional participation of CONANP staff as observers, allowing further credibility to the results of such observations.

The main goals of the White Shark Monitoring Program in 2017 were the fostering of good practices during the white shark observation activities from tourists in Isla Guadalupe, and the recording of the sharks' biological and population variations during the period August-November, 2017.

In an effort to strengthen the surveillance and conservation actions for the white shark, the work in the biological station and the rangers shed in the Northern part of the reserve and, as part of the environmental education program, several events where the Program was presented took place.

In 2018, through a PROCER grant we plan to increase the monitoring efforts for the white shark, and boost good practices during cage-diving activities.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:

1) Report to the SCCCWT the current status of the implementation of the White Shark PACE, the current status of the 2017 biological monitoring program of White shark, and the Reference manual for Good Practices for White Shark while diving.

2) Identify any possible bilateral collaboration that may further the above conservation actions.

AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR: José Bernal – CONANP.

SUBMITTED BY: José Bernal – CONANP.

CO-CHAIR DAILY WRAP-UP

Thursday, April 12, 2018
Room: Instructional East – 114.

(9 – 10 am Eastern)
AGENDA ITEM 26: 2018 – 2019 Draft Action Item Report

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: All SCCCWT participants

DESCRIPTION: Preparation of 2018-2019 Draft AIR to include topics and goals.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Completion of 2018-2019 Draft AIR

SUBMITTED BY: Melida T. Tajbakhsh, Chief, Western Hemisphere Branch, International Affairs, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS); Jose Francisco Bernal Stoopen, Director de Especies Prioritarias para la Conservación, Comisión Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas (CONANP), México; Mary Jane Roberts, Species at Risk Management, Canadian Wildlife Service, Canada