

Wildlife

Transition Team Committees were asked to identify the top five priority issues in their topic areas by identifying what they believe to be the biggest challenges the State of Alaska needs to address. There were many ideas that were brought forward and categorized and debated. The top five priorities for the Wildlife working group are:

- 1. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game should adopt an innovative business model.**
- 2. Cooperation between agencies (both Federal & State) and departments within the agencies.**
- 3. Manage for abundance and sustained yield by expanding and improving intensive management.**
 - a. Focus management on the wildlife and not people, manage for abundance.**
 - b. Expand intensive management aspects, not just predator control.**
- 4. Improve public relations and engagement.**
- 5. Promote a constitutional amendment for a rural preference.**

The following were identified as stakeholders in Wildlife Management and considered in the priority actions, resolutions, and success:

- Private landowners
- State of Alaska – Dept of Natural Resources (DNR), Dept of Environmental Conservation (DEC), Dept of Public Safety (DPS), Dept of Transportation (DOT), Board of Game (BOG), Dept of Commerce (DOC)
- Alaska Department of Fish and Game divisions: Habitat, Subsistence, Administration, Wildlife Conservation
- Tribes and ANCSA Corporations
- Local Governments
- Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)
- Fed Soup – Bureau of Land Management (BLM), US Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS), National Park Service (NPS), US Forest Service (USFS), US Dept of Agriculture (USDA), US Geological Survey (USGS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Dept of Defense (DOD), Federal Subsistence Board (FSB)
- University of Alaska
- Industry (Guides, Transporters, Tourism)
- Public / Non-Consumptive User
- Hunters – Resident & Non-Resident

- Subsistence User
- Legislature
- Rural / Non-Rural Alaskan Residents

For each of the priority issues, committees were tasked with identifying what success or resolution to the issue would look like and what actions would lead to that success. The committees also discussed what barriers to achieving success would be and what actions might be taken to resolve those barriers. Below are the recommendations for achieving success or resolution for each of the five priorities identified by the Wildlife committee:

1. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game should adopt an innovative business model.

The Department of Fish and Game should be run more like a business: not only increased revenues, but looking for efficiencies, look for a return on investment (are we getting benefit from the cost). Develop a business plan with goals and objectives, manage programs and departments to that plan.

Success elements considered to be agreeable to most Alaskans:

- “wildlife is an asset and should be managed accordingly” and,
- increase and diversify revenue

Possible Actions to Success:

- Change the philosophy of ADF&G to run more like a business (innovative thinking)
 - Use Return on Investment to evaluate programs, are we getting the benefit for the cost.
 - Business Planning – clearly identify goals and objectives
 - Build Public-Private partnerships to reach goals/objectives and leverage funding
 - Expand Constituency
 - Audit Programs – why and how are we spending money
- Funding:
 - Leverage Funds (federal, industry, carbon credits, NGOs, etc.)
 - Partnership marketing (industry, tourism, etc)
 - Implement a license fee (permit and tags) increase
 - Seek alternative sources of funding
 - Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA) funding
 - Pittman-Robertson Act Funding

- Private lands wildlife management implemented (co-management)-take advantage of Farm bill and NRCS funding
 - Recognize value (\$) of wildlife
- Establish an Advisory Committee or Blue Ribbon Commission (Economic Development wildlife managers, economics and business professionals) to review and make recommendations for changes.
- Bring in a CFO/business development expert/financial analyst
 - Can be employee or consultant (or on loan from another department)
 - Answers direct to Governor/Administration
 - Advises on business/financial aspects of projects and programs
- Develop ADF&G business plan with clear goals and objectives
 - Audit existing programs
 - Develop a procedure for analyzing new programs and projects
 - Include financial and social values
- Assess current capacity and research success stories (what works in other places)
 - From this assessment determine max ROI and/or target ROI
 - Use this assessment to plan and prioritize specific programs and products. Examples: Increase funding, public–private partnerships, funding matches
- Evaluate roles/responsibilities to use for maximum potential looking to improve efficient use of resources.
 - Are we getting the most from our money (Leverage money)
 - Create / Renew Partnerships
 - Licensing/permitting
 - Alternative sources of funding – CARA concept, etc.
 - Private lands wildlife management (co-management)
 - Recognize value of wildlife (\$) – it is a resource much like the PFD
 - Define as a food source
 - Utilize carbon credits as conservation tool
 - Better use of federal funds (e.g. climate change \$)
 - Big game commercial services moved from Commerce to ADF&G (currently under Commerce for licensing.)

Barriers to Further Success

- Lack of priority: the financial situation tends to shift focus.
- Lack of buy-in by ADF&G staff
- Need applied science rather than academic research (Need to focus on applied)
- To maximize money leverage - state needs to dialogue/coordinate with ANCs and private landowners
- To increase revenue via license fees, tags, permits or alternative sources, need buy-in from those affected, Governor and Legislature.