NAWMP Continental Progress Assessment Peer Review Summary

ISSUE	THEMES	REVIEWER CITED
PPR bias	NAWMP encompasses other species outside of PPR, some with declining population trends. Some coastal wintering habitats may be limiting for some species (e.g. black ducks, sea ducks) and carrying capacity of coastal habitats has declined. This contradicts recommendation #9 that other species outside of PPR deserve attention.	J.P Dunn
	PPR focus would lead to less funding directed toward species breeding in other regions, several of which remain far below population objectives (e.g., black ducks, scaup, and sea ducks).	W. Harvey
Recognition for Nonbreeding JVs	Threats to non-breeding habitats have not diminished since inception of NAWMP, even with aggressive habitat protection and restoration efforts. Need to account for those species (e.g. Black duck, sea ducks) that breed or winter outside of the PPR. Higher duck densities may not be supported on wintering coastal habitats threatened by development or disturbance, particularly in areas with high human populations that may limit survival during key wintering periods. In coastal habitats, intensive programs are the most effective to provide permanent protection to wintering and foraging habitats under severe threats from development and degradation. Great potential for degradation and outright loss of wintering habitat in eastern North America, much of it located in coastal areas near dense human	J.P. Dunn W. Harvey
Prioritize Recommendations	Need a priority list that recognizes that some recommendations need to be fulfilled before others can be accomplished.	M. Vrtiska
	Some direction on prioritization and timelines are needed here. Given the enormous workload laid out for the NSST, should one of the highest-priorities be to accomplish recommendation #21?	J. Gammonley

Appendix F	If the need for Plan influence on extensive programs and policy issues is a top priority, more specific recommendations are needed on who should move these actions forward, benchmarks for progress, and timelines to direct and track these achievements. It might have been useful to anonymously discuss ideas and methods that have not worked out and lessons learned.	M. Vrtiska
Tracking Accomplishments	I suggest the report include a brief section that provides an example of the minimum information needed to evaluate the effectiveness of the Plan at a continental scale. This section might contrast 2 species, one for which we have a relatively large amount of information (e.g., mallard), and one that is relatively poorly understood (e.g., scaup or a sea duck). For each species, the section should list the important questions that need to be answered about the species and its habitat (along with the necessary precision), how the information would be used to direct future conservation actions, and recommendations for approaches for obtaining this information (and their costs).	J. Gammonley
Tracking Net Change	Biological models that describe landscapes needed to meet waterfowl needs in terms of habitat type and amount need to reflect actual conditions including "environmental variation" and need to account for changes in habitat availability over time.	J.P. Dunn
Funding M&E	Need increased focus on measuring progress. This has been a weakness in the past. If new funding is not forthcoming, I would support use of a small percentage of NAWCA funds for this purpose. Adaptive management may be a very costly endeavor for most JVs, and technology for testing some assumptions on an annual or semi-annual basis is just not there. If structure, resources, and technology are not there, JVs may need to look at more traditional methods of evaluation.	W. Harvey M. Vrtiska
	NABCI monitoring report strongly recommends management-based bird monitoring programs, consistent with the recommendations for monitoring and adaptive management in relation to NAWMP, but how specifically can these tie-ins be strengthened, particularly in relation to securing the needed funding for effective Plan monitoring? The NABCI report seems to favor monitoring at the BCR level – how do we resolve potential conflicts with JV and continental-scale monitoring needs related to	J. Gammonley

	NAWMP, or do we need to?	
NAWCA	Geographic prioritization already built into the NAWCA process that gives added weight to projects in PPR.	J.P. Dunn
Peer Review	DBHC led the assessment and a former JV employee served as coordinator – increased potential for bias. Consider independent assessment group future assessments. Assessment would have been more thorough if all levels of the JVs and Flyways and other Plan partners were allowed to provide input.	M. Vrtiska
	Independent perspectives on what makes a good program and what questions should be asked and answered might be helpful. Future assessments should include a wider range of Plan partners.	J. Gammonley
NAWMP Emerging Issues	There is a need to identify and prioritize specific, emerging issues facing North American waterfowl that the Plan can address; Most urgently needed for the boreal forests and the Arctic where energy development and mining activities are increasing around key breeding areas, and in Mexico.	J. Gammonley
NABCI	There was not a thorough appraisal in terms of manpower, time or resources needed for JVs to deliver all-bird conservation and its impact on reaching NAWMP goals and objectives. Need a better system for allocation of resources.	M. Vrtiska
Unifying Waterfowl Mgmt.	In terms of merging harvest management and habitat conservation, are there other strategies for bridging this gap (e.g., meeting of Central Flyway JVs and Central Flyway Waterfowl Technical Committee at the 4th NADS). Should this be conducted in other flyways? Other avenues to reconcile the two groups?	M. Vrtiska
NSST	There was some explanation on why the NSST was probably not as effective as it could be, but there was no related explanation for the apparent lack of communication and leadership exhibited by the Plan Committee. NSST need to be revitalized and staffed. Assessment dumps a lot on the plate of the NSST, so getting the	M. Vrtiska
	NSST staffed may rise in how recommendations are prioritized.	