



NAWMP Joint Venture and NSST Species Action Group Progress Report Guidance

17 April 2015

Introduction

In response to recommendation A.1 of the 2005-06 North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) Continental Progress Assessment Final Report (Assessment)¹, the NAWMP Committee (Plan Committee [PC]) and NAWMP Science Support Team (NSST) identified a need to repeat the Assessment on a regular basis and develop a process by which Joint Ventures (JV) and action groups would periodically update the PC on their progress toward achieving objectives of the NAWMP. Specifically, the NSST Accountability Framework Committee recommended that the PC, NSST, and JVs adopt the following procedures:

- The Plan community should repeat comprehensive assessments of the NAWMP at approximately 10-year intervals. Between those assessments, JVs and action groups should meet triennially with the PC to provide updates to reporting elements.

Concurrent with these discussions was recognition that emerging Joint Ventures (i.e., those not currently endorsed by the PC) may also play an important role in habitat conservation to achieve the goals of NAWMP. Thus, the PC bears a responsibility to review emerging JV Implementation Plans for their expected benefits to waterfowl and observance of the principles, objectives, and priorities of the NAWMP. A process was thus developed by which emerging JVs could have their Implementation Plans reviewed by the NSST Implementation Plan Review Committee and considered for endorsement by the PC (**See Appendix A**). Following PC endorsement of their Implementation Plan, JVs would join the schedule of progress reporting to the PC (Table 1) and be officially considered “NAWMP JVs.”

The January 2013 meeting of the PC in Sacramento, California marked the completion of the first round of formal NAWMP JV and NSST Species Action Group (SAT) progress reporting that began in 2008. Formal JV and SAT progress reports represent an essential piece of accountability for the PC Co-chairs and at the Sacramento meeting the PC expressed a desire to begin a new round of progress reports as soon as possible. At the same time the PC agreed that the next round of reports should be framed as a lighter presentation while enhancing opportunities for the PC to provide effective recommendations.

¹ A.1. “The Plan Committee should ensure development of a clearer and more robust accountability framework for the achievement of NAWMP biological objectives involving all organizational levels in the Plan community.”

Subsequently, the PC has adopted a “risk-based” approach whereby those JVs and NSST species action groups most critical to waterfowl provide longer reports. JVs not considered priority waterfowl regions will report at the same frequency, but will produce shorter reports.

New progress reporting schedule

This document provides a schedule for quadrennial reporting of NAWMP JVs and NSST species action groups (Table 1) and issues guidance for JVs wishing to submit Implementation Plans for endorsement by the NAWMP Committee.

| Table 1. Schedule of NAWMP Joint Venture (JV) and NSST species action group progress reports to the NAWMP Committee (PC) over three complete reporting rounds. | |
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| Joint Venture/NSST species action group | Reporting period |
| Black Duck JV ^a Sea Duck JV ^a | Winter PC Meeting (2014) |
| Atlantic Coast JV Eastern Habitat JV | Summer PC Meeting (2014) |
| Pacific Coast JV San Francisco Bay JV | Winter PC Meeting (2015) |
| Intermountain West JV Prairie Habitat JV | Summer PC Meeting (2015) |
| Playa Lakes JV ^c Rainwater Basin JV Northern Great Plains JV | Winter PC Meeting (2016) |
| Canadian Intermountain JV Pintail Action Group ^b Scaup Action Team ^b | Summer PC Meeting (2016) |
| Lower Mississippi Valley JV Gulf Coast JV Upper Mississippi River/Great Lakes Region JV | Winter PC Meeting (2017) |
| Sonoran JV ^c Central Hardwoods JVs ^c Central Valley JV | Summer PC meeting (2017) |
| Black Duck JV ^a Sea Duck JV ^a Arctic Goose JV ^a | Winter PC Meeting (2018) |
| Atlantic Coast JV Eastern Habitat JV Prairie Pothole JV | Summer PC Meeting (2018) |
| Pacific Coast JV Central Valley JV San Francisco Bay JV | Winter PC Meeting (2019) |
| Intermountain West JV Prairie Pothole JV Prairie Habitat JV | Summer PC Meeting (2019) |
| Playa Lakes JV ^c Rainwater Basin JV Northern Great Plains JV | Winter PC Meeting (2020) |
| Canadian Intermountain JV | Summer PC Meeting |

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| Pintail Action Group ^b Scaup Action Team ^b | (2020) |
| Lower Mississippi Valley JV Gulf Coast JV Upper Mississippi River/Great Lakes Region JV | Winter PC Meeting (2021) |
| Sonoran JV ^c Central Hardwoods JVs ^c | Summer PC meeting (2021) |
| Black Duck JV ^a Sea Duck JV ^a Arctic Goose JV ^a | Winter PC Meeting (2022) |
| Atlantic Coast JV Eastern Habitat JV | Summer PC Meeting (2022) |
| Pacific Coast JV Central Valley JV San Francisco Bay JV | Winter PC Meeting (2023) |
| Intermountain West JV Prairie Pothole JV Prairie Habitat JV | Summer PC Meeting (2023) |
| Playa Lakes JV ^c Rainwater Basin JV Northern Great Plains JV | Winter PC Meeting (2024) |
| Canadian Intermountain JV Pintail Action Group ^b Scaup Action Team ^b | Summer PC Meeting (2024) |
| Lower Mississippi Valley JV Gulf Coast JV Upper Mississippi River/Great Lakes Region JV | Winter PC Meeting (2025) |
| Sonoran JV ^c Central Hardwoods JVs ^c | Summer PC Meeting (2025) |
| ^a Species JVs will report progress in achieving priority actions under their Implementation Plans and progress in providing assistance to habitat JVs. ^b NSST species action groups will report on progress in achieving priority actions contained in their respective prospectus. ^c JVs not considered priority waterfowl regions will report at the same frequency but will produce shorter reports. | |

The PC will allot 120 minutes for high priority NAWMP JVs and NSST species action group reports. Those JVs not considered priority for NAWMP will be allotted 90 minutes to report. Oral presentations should be delivered to the PC in a format and manner that permits interactive discussion and feedback from the PC. Pre-circulating JV presentation information to the PC is recommended and viewed as helpful to the PC to improve the ensuing dialogue and may provide the PC the opportunity to think about questions that might be asked of the PC. The PC reserves the option to provide additional comments in writing to JVs at a later date, but comments shall be delivered **within 90 days** following the report date. PowerPoint presentations and handouts following the structure of the reporting elements are encouraged, especially when they expedite the reporting process.

New progress reporting format

Recent recommendations under the 2012 NAWMP to revisit continental waterfowl population objectives and to develop new, explicit people objectives linking human

desires to those continental waterfowl population objectives will entail new JV work towards revamping waterfowl habitat delivery planning. Specific roles for NAWMP JVs in delivering on the NAWMP 2012 Action Plan have yet to be clarified. Hence, focusing on JV efforts to meet the recommendations of the Action Plan may not yet represent a viable and useful format since reassessment at the JV level will require time to allow them to report on progress towards meeting these new objectives. As JVs develop planning to meet NAWMP 2012 Action Plan recommendations, a new set of reporting elements may be established over the next 5 years. These dimensions need to be clearly defined in terms of implementation planning first. The NAWMP's Interim Integration Committee needs to establish a path for the JVs to act - and therefore to report back on to the PC before the JVs can move forward with reporting elements. However, we encourage JVs to address progress on this front when reporting opportunities arise.

In the interim, reporting will shift from the concept of JVs progress towards meeting a "comprehensive content" (Table 2) in all areas to a more focused discussion of key issues relevant to implementation and planning for each JV.

Over the next 5 years, this new reporting framework will include the following elements (not listed in any particular order):

- General updates of JV/NSST species action group planning and implementation
- Updates to specific issues raised in the last first round of reports (i.e., updates to PC recommendations previously provided to each JV/NSST species action group – See Appendix B)
- Specific key issues where the JVs/NSST species action groups desire PC assistance to enhance progress
- Actions in relation to recommendations of the NAWMP Action Plan where progress has been made

It is recommended that JV Coordinators and their staff review these reporting format recommendations to provide input to better meet their needs. Desired modifications to existing reporting elements by each JV can be included in future PC meeting agendas.

Finally, the PC has articulated their commitment to continue hosting progress reports in a helpful, conversational dialogue that results in improved NAWMP JV/NSST species action group performance. Encouraging more dialogue among JVs to develop synergistic relationships to improve efficiency and effectiveness, especially in establishing links to continental bird initiative goals is recommended as well.

Plan Committee Endorsement of Implementation Plans of Emerging JVs:

Emerging JVs desiring to have their Implementation Plans considered for endorsement by the PC will be required to meet the minimal content of *NAWMP Desired Characteristics for Habitat Joint Venture Partnerships* (Table 2). These criteria should be useful to JVs in developing or revising Implementation Plans, and the NSST expects they ultimately will result in more effective and efficient delivery of the NAWMP.

NSST review and PC endorsement will be restricted to the waterfowl sections of Implementation Plans and specifically address the extent to which Implementation Plans are expected to benefit waterfowl populations and observe the principles, objectives, and priorities of the NAWMP.

Emerging JVs may request endorsement consideration at any time, and shall direct initial correspondence in this regard to the NAWMP Coordinator. The NSST Implementation Plan Review Committee will conduct at least three technical reviews of subject Implementation Plans to determine if minimal criteria are satisfied. Following their completion and summary, comments generated from NSST technical reviews will be offered for additional consideration by the full membership of the NSST over a two week review period. From these reviews, the NSST will develop a recommendation for or against PC endorsement of the subject JV Implementation Plan. This recommendation and all NSST reviewer comments will be submitted to the PC **at least 25 days prior** to the scheduled PC meeting during which an endorsement decision is to be made. Upon receiving PC endorsement, the subject JV will be incorporated into the schedule of NAWMP JV quadrennial progress reporting to the PC (Table 1).

Joint Ventures who's Implementation Plans are currently not endorsed by the NAWMP Committee:

- Appalachian Mountains JV
- East Gulf Coastal Plain JV
- Oaks and Prairies JV
- Rio Grande JV