



The U.S. Shorebird Conservation Partnership

Building Collaborative Action for Shorebird Conservation

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Dr. Rob Clay, Director
Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network Executive Office
Manomet
P.O. Box 1770
Manomet, MA 02345

Dear Dr. Clay,

As you are aware, we have re-invigorated the WHSRN-US Committee. In developing a work plan for the committee and in light of some recent nomination reviews, we have a few suggestions regarding the landowner agreement language, a regional biological criterion, and discussion of WHSRN landscapes. Our suggestions regarding the landowner agreement comes from the experience of WHSRN-US Committee members who have worked with partners in developing nomination packages. From these discussions, we believe practitioners are often interpreting the WHSRN process and commitment a bit differently than what is currently outlined on the WHSRN website. We therefore suggest that the following replacement language be considered by the Executive Office or the WHSRN Hemispheric Council, whichever is appropriate.

“Agreement of the owner/manager

For WHSRN sites, a letter is required from the appropriate landowners or managers who agree to make a commitment in good faith to the following three conservation values that are core to the designation process. For WHSRN landscapes, the nominating landowner, manager, or other organization would accept responsibility for working with additional landowners, managers, and other stakeholders to uphold the same good faith commitment to the following three conservation values:

1. To include shorebird conservation as one of their top priorities;
2. To the greatest extent possible, protect and manage for shorebirds; and
3. To update WHSRN on changes to the site's or landscape's point-of-contact or in its status (boundaries, degree of protection).”

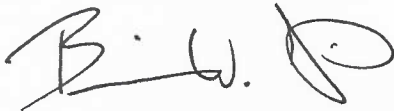
We believe the landscape discussion on the webpage for “Selection Criteria” should be moved to near the top of the page.

The regional criterion of having only 1% of a geographic population opens the door for the potential of a multitude of sites that support a minimal number of birds (e.g., two Great Lakes Piping Plovers). We therefore suggest the following change:

“Sites of Regional Importance:
at least 20,000 shorebirds annually; or
at least 1% of the biogeographic population for two or more species.”

Thank you for consideration of these suggestions. We look forward to moving WHSRN forward in the USA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. W. Smith", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Brian Smith, Chair
U.S. Shorebird Conservation Council