

Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network U.S. Committee (WHSRN-US)

Work Plan: 1 July 2017 – 31 December 2018

Background

The 2014 survey of U.S. WHSRN sites provides ample information to develop a work plan for WHSRN-US. Most respondents indicated the desire for a stronger, more interactive network and stressed the importance of having information on shorebird populations and conservation status that can be used to add context to their sites and actions they are undertaking. In that sense, there is a need for WHSRN to be a “learning network” where ideas and information on shorebird monitoring, conservation status, management techniques and responses, and awareness and outreach can be freely exchanged. This is a clear role for WHSRN-US. In the last two years, Manomet has also invested in increasing delivery of their long-standing shorebird management workshops. Monica Iglecia, Assistant Director of Shorebird Habitat Management leads this effort and also serves on the US-NABCI Private Lands Working Group. Coordination with Manomet is crucial to be effective and efficient. Most of the actions presented here address communication and outreach needs. The Terms of Reference for WHSRN-US have been revised (June 2017) and are presented in a separate document. Below are suggestions for a work plan (1 July 2017 – 31 December 2018) for WHSRN-US, including a set of initial actions for the USSCP Council. Specific dates and leads will be assigned after WHSRN-US members are in place.

A. USSCP Council Actions

1. Approve updated WHSRN-US Terms of Reference.
2. Approve and appoint Chair of WHSRN-US.
3. Approve WHSRN-US work plan (1 July 2017 – 31 December 2018).
4. Upon Chair appointment, approve list of WHSRN-US members developed by Chair and National Coordinator.

B. Site Nominations

5. Provide timely review of U.S. WHSRN site and landscape nominations per the process outlined in the 2017 WHSRN-US Terms of Reference.
6. Review potential WHSRN sites in U.S. Target those not in the network at the hemispheric or international levels for either numerical criteria or % population, starting with ESA-listed taxa without designated critical habitat and for taxa of “Greatest Concern”, as indicated in the *Shorebirds of Conservation Concern in the United States of America – 2016*.

Communication and Outreach

7. Re-engage the participants in the shorebird management list-serve developed by the USSCP, or some other mechanism, to serve as the “learning network”. Populate with previous participants, Manomet management workshop contacts, and all WHSRN site contacts. Investigate mail chimp as possible source. Hopefully this would help meet the need for increased networking among sites.
8. Investigate repositories for management-related papers. Could be physical downloads or links to on-line documents. Update past information. Some documents have been deposited on at shorebirdplan.org under the “Habitat” tab. Of particular interest from survey participants is information on how shorebirds respond to management interventions. Coordinate with Manomet on implementing this action.
9. Distribute information on shorebird population sizes and flyway populations to all U.S. WHSRN sites. Discuss with site managers on the most appropriate way to add a flyway context for individual sites or landscapes.
10. Assist Bowdoin and Benton Lake NWRs (Montana) with learning more about shorebirds use their refuges.
11. Confirm adding Mark_Fisher@fws.gov as contact for Kelly’s Slough NWR.
12. Reach out to sites to inform them on how WHSRN and USSCP Councils can assist with conservation advocacy for sites, with respect to each Council’s policies.
13. Assess how WHSRN-US might help provide information, or suggested funding sources, for site-specific signage. Review site survey results for specific needs and work with WHSRN Executive Office.
14. Provide some guidance on how to evaluate the effectiveness of projects. Once completed, transmit the PRISM monitoring guidance document. Review available examples of “Theories of Change/Results Chains” for habitat management.
15. Work with Manomet to provide management workshops across the U.S. at key sites.