

## WHSRN-USA Committee Teleconference Notes – 4 December 2018

Present: Brad Andres, Joe Buchanan, Laura Chamberlin, Glen Hensley, Robert Penner, Khara Strum, Alex Wilke  
Absent: Monica Iglecia, Stephanie Koch, Darrin Welchert

Notes from Alex Wilke and Brad Andres.

### **Review of revised/combined WHSRN-USA Implementation Plan.**

Robert and Brad sent WHSRN-US Implementation Plan to the committee, which combines the Terms of Reference (governance) with strategies, based on the WHSRN Hemispheric Strategic Plan, to develop specific actions for the committee.

Action 1: WHSRN-USA Committee members to provide any additional feedback or edits. Plan will be added and shared on Google Drive (Brad; 6 Dec 2018).

### **Conservation Goal**

*Review Biological Criteria.* Alex completed the site review for American Oystercatcher, and Brad has begun review of important sites for Wilson's and Snowy Plover. Once completed, overlap of sites will be assessed to target outreach to land owners/managers for inclusion in WHSRN.

There are no plans to repeat continent-wide surveys for Snowy Plover, although there may be opportunities to look at variability of site use in the Intermountain West. The plan at Salt Plains NWR is to survey every 3-5 years and evaluate response to habitat change and management.

Action 2. Produce list of sites for Wilson's Plover and coastal Snowy Plover and look for overlaps with American Oystercatcher (Brad, Alex, Darrin; 31 Dec 2018).

Action 3. Reach out to overlap sites for inclusion in WHSRN (Brad, Alex, Darrin; 31 Mar 2019).

Action 4. Assess midcontinent sites for importance to breeding Snowy Plovers (Brad, Glen; 31 Oct 2018). **Completed.** Salt Plains NWR sent modification letter to WHSRN EO to upgrade from regional to international, which was reviewed by the

WHSRN-USA Committee; should know by end of 2018. No other sites in the Great Plains qualify for WHSRN status for breeding Snowy Plovers.

Action 5. Ensure breeding Snowy Plovers are brought into the conversation and water management in the Intermountain West. Report on meetings with the Pacific Flyway Council Nongame Technical Committee and USFWS Region 1 (Joe, Brad; 31 Mar 2019).

*Technical Assistance to WHSRN Sites.* "The Standards for Monitoring Nonbreeding Shorebirds in the Western Hemisphere" was produced by the Program for Regional and International Shorebird Monitoring (PRISM) in October 2018 and need to be distribute to all USA WHSRN partners. Because of the transfer of Carson Lake and Pasture from the Bureau of Reclamation to the State of Nevada, Manomet, National Audubon, and other partners are developing a site assessment for all shorebird site stakeholders in the Lahontan Valley, Nevada. Laura has contacted Khara and potential participants in the workshop.

Action 6. Provide current list of USA WHSRN sites contacts for distribution of nonbreeding shorebird monitoring guidelines (Laura to Brad/Robert; 21 Dec 2018).

Action7. Assist with Lahontan Valley assessment workshop and provide update of progress (Laura, others; 31 Mar 2019).

## **Communications Goal**

*Electronic Forum.* Progress being made, but slower because of re-working the WHSRN website. Forum will have separate URL, but hosted and managed by Manomet, to encourage broader sharing and inclusiveness. The forum will have topics with posts and associated threads, which will eventually be translated into Spanish. A description of the forum and draft list of topics is posted on the Google Drive.

Action 8. WHSRN-USA Committee members to review forum document on Google Drive and provided feedback on Manomet's proposal to host and manage the forum (All; 31 Dec 2018).

*Questionnaire Results and WHSRN-USA Role.* Input for the questionnaire is closed with 41 of 49 sites providing input. Five sites suggested an upgrade, and the WHSRN EO will be providing this information to the WHSRN-USA Committee. Data is still being

analyzed, but it is obvious that the international context and recognition is valued by site partners. Helping site managers to understand the value of their site in the flyway context might be a good point for initiating outreach to USA sites. Video and other digital media could be an effective approach and Committee members might be able to provide footage from their organizations. There was also a desire for shorebird information, and the upcoming revision of shorebird population sizes and trends could be modified for the WHSRN site audience.

Action 9. Provide summary of questionnaire results to determine appropriate actions for engagement of the WHSRN-USA Committee (Laura; 31 Mar 2019).

*WHSRN Newsletter.* WHSRN-USA Committee members agree to assist the EO in developing stories for the newsletter. Articles will either be topic-based, such as a general threat, or site profiles, and length should be 600-700 words. Send any potential ideas to Laura.

Action 10. Develop a Salt Plains NWR site profile article for the March 2019 newsletter (Glen, Brad; 15 Mar 2019).

*Site Dedications.* Khara and Laura have been working with partners at Humboldt Bay for celebration of upgrade in status.

## **Capacity Building**

*WHSRN Hemispheric Council.* Through recent discussions with the USSCP Council, Robert will represent the USSCP Council and WHSRN-USA Committee on the WHSRN Hemispheric Council.

Action 11. Draft letter to WHSRN EO indicating Robert as USSCP representative on the USSCP Hemispheric Council (Brad, Brian Smith; 21 Dec 2018).

*WHSRN Hemispheric Council Committees.* A task force is being convened to address revisions to biological and land owner criteria, in which the WHSRN-USA will participate.

Action 12. Report on task force progress and seek WHSRN-US Committee input on recommendations (Joe, Brad; 31 May 2019).