

WHSRN-USA Committee Teleconference Notes – 12 Sep 2019

Present: Brad Andres (note-taker), Joe Buchanan, Monica Iglecia, Robert Penner, Darrin Welchert,

Conservation Goal

Review Biological Criteria. Alex and Brad have compiled information on regionally important coastal sites, or greater, for American Oystercatcher, Wilson's Plover and Snowy Plover.

Action 1. For a subset of sites on the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico coastlines identified in the spreadsheet uploaded onto the Google Drive, undertake identified tasks needed to evaluate and pursue potential WHSRN nominations (Alex, Brad, Darrin; 31 July 2019).

Update: Darrin has contacted the manager at Aransas National Wildlife Refuge about nominating the Matagorda Unit, and perhaps other units, for inclusion in WHSRN based the % population of Wilson's, Snowy and Piping Plovers. Continue to identify potential sites as above.

Action 2. Continue to monitor Audubon's efforts for saline lakes in the Intermountain West and provided information and technical assistance as needed (Brad).

Update: Offer stands to assist Audubon as needed. Lahontan Valley may be a place to engage in the future, particularly for interactions with the Paiute Shoshone Tribe. Actions are stalled a bit because Nevada Department of Wildlife will have a state process for input on the transfer of Carson Lake from the Bureau of Reclamation to NDOW and staff capacity at Stillwater NWR is low. A workshop on phalarope monitoring and conservation was held at Mono Lake in June 2019, and the report is attached.

Nomination Reviews. WHSRN-USA received no nominations to review between March and September 2019.

Technical Assistance to WHSRN Sites

Water in the West. The Pacific Flyway (PFC) Nongame and Waterfowl Technical Committees have been struggling to agree on how and what to tackle regarding western water issues. Joe favors a complete scoping effort to determine what, where and who can address specific

issues of water management capacity and overall water allocation. The PFC Nongame Technical Committee's partners meeting in December 2019 may provide a forum to discuss how to proceed. Better stakeholder involvement (e.g., NWRs managers) and coordination of a collaborative effort (e.g., NWRs and IWJV) are key elements of moving forward.

Action 3. Provide update on PFC scoping meeting and other efforts to address western water issues and WHSRN-USA's role (Joe; after December).

Monitoring. Following up on the distribution of the *Standards for Monitoring Nonbreeding Shorebirds in the Western Hemisphere*, we discussed the possibility of presenting another webinar. On a subsequent PRISM call, there was an action to translate (and modify) the webinar powerpoint into Spanish.

Action 4. Assess potential for a webinar on the Standards for Monitoring Nonbreeding Shorebirds in the Western Hemisphere with a larger suite of partners, including US WHSRN site partners (Brad; 31 October 2019).

Flint Hills. Monica and Robert are working on the development of a Flint Hills Shorebird Initiative, which will bring more focus on shorebird conservation in the region. If funding becomes available for this initiative, we hope to roll out the initiative in 2020.

Communications Goal

Electronic Forum. Although the WHSRN website and electronic forum was launched in April 2019, there is need to stimulate conversations with the greater shorebird conservation and management community.

Action 5. Encourage committee members to make regular posts to the forum. Have WHSRN news mention the forum on a periodic basis. Try to get forum links on agency and organization's websites (ongoing).

Questionnaire Results and WHSRN-USA Role.

Action 6. Use general recommendations and site-specific responses to identify appropriate actions for the WHSRN-USA Committee (Laura, Robert; 31 July 2019).

Update: Completed.

WHSRN Newsletter. WHSRN-USA Committee members agree to assist the Executive Office 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 Completed. Glen developed content for a News Alert on the upgrade of Salt Plains NWR and for their 25th anniversary (completed).

Action 7. Identify any additional site profile articles, with WHSRN Executive Office staff (ongoing).

Capacity Building

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. From Rob Clay: "As the task force will also be looking at issues of land ownership and the requirement to have letters from landowners, we decided to first ensure that we have all relevant information available for existing sites. That entailed scanning and reviewing all of the site nominations, and entering that information into our new sites database. We've also worked to ensure that we have polygons for each WHSRN sites, and now have that information in an online mapping tool that enables comparison of WHSRN boundaries with those of protected areas, IBAs and Ramsar sites. The mapping tool will shortly be made public, and we now have nearly all the information in the database, so we'll be able to inform task force discussions with information from the existing network of sites".

Action 8. Report on task force progress and seek WHSRN-US Committee input on recommendations (Joe, Brad; December 2019).

Next Call – December 2019