TRACKING AND REPORTING ACTIONS FOR CONSERVATION OF SPECIES

Expanded PAG Inaugural Meeting
“The Committee encourages the Service and the program partners to complete the Wildlife TRACS database so that the program can better demonstrate its ability to prevent at-risk species from having to be listed under the Endangered Species Act.”

- DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATION BILL, 2012
Wildlife TRACS Purpose & Background
Why You Are Here & Why You Should Care

- 2007 House Appropriations
  - Outcome and performance reporting
  - Geo-spatial mapping
  - Standardization in reporting
  - Landscape-level cooperation/data sharing

- Office of Management and Budget

**NOT PERFORMING**
Results Not Demonstrated

- While the program has a clear purpose and design, the program needs to develop long-term outcome and annual output-oriented performance goals in conjunction with partners. The program needs to emphasize outcome goals that reflect on the improvement of fish and wildlife resources. Achieving these goals depends on the efforts of many partners.
Wildlife TRACS Purpose & Background
Why You Are Here & Why You Should Care

And if that is not enough ....

- Threats to appropriated grants (SWG)
- Threats from diminishing support for excise taxes
- Our Public Trust
  - Transparency
  - Accountability
  - Conservation of American Wildlife
- Future of the North American Model

Take Home Message: The Stakes are Enormous!!
Meeting Our Business Needs

- The DOI Financial and Business Management System (FBMS) will be deployed in November, 2011.

- The FWS Federal Aid Information Management System (FAIMS) will transition to FBMS.

- The non-financial functions of FAIMS will be replaced by a new system—Wildlife TRACS—in October, 2012.
Meeting Our Business Needs

How Do TRACS, FAIMS and FBMS Differ?

- Wildlife TRACS continues all functions of FAIMS except for financial reporting assumed by FBMS.

- Wildlife TRACS includes new functions found in neither FAIMS nor FBMS.
# Meeting Our Business Needs

## How Do TRACS, FAIMS and FBMS Differ?

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Meeting Our Business Needs

Why the Change?

- TRACS based reporting will greatly enhance the Service’s ability to report on the outputs and outcomes of WSFR administered grant programs.

- Improved reporting capabilities are required to ensure continued funding of grant programs in a tough financial climate.

- Opportunity to improve and streamline how we collect, use, and disseminate information about grant programs and accomplishments.
Meeting Our Business Needs

Online Reporting

- State entry of information in TRACS in lieu of submission of conventional performance reports

- Benefits:
  - Increased efficiency
  - Enhanced ability to report on the outputs and outcomes of grant programs in standard formats
  - Increased accessibility to information useful for scientific and management purposes
  - Increased likelihood of continued funding for existing grant programs in this climate of financial crisis and budget cutting
Brief History of Wildlife TRACS

- Build partnerships and develop a prototype project tracking system for State Wildlife Grant Program

Northwest States (and additional states) Rollout (Jan. 2011 - Present)
- Broaden state participation and expand and implement prototype across multiple states

National Rollout and Implementation (Current Phase)
- Continue to broaden state participation and develop a national project information system.
- Data TRACS, Public TRACS
Brief History of Wildlife TRACS

Project Partners

**USFWS – WSFR:**

Hannibal Bolton, AD - Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration

DC and Regional staff

**Project Advisory Group (PAG):**

Washington  Arizona  Georgia
Idaho  Michigan  Missouri
Montana  New Jersey  South Carolina
Virginia  Wyoming  Massachusetts
Utah  AFWA  Nature Serve
TNC  Foundations of Success  Defenders of Wildlife

**Cooperating Agencies:**

USGS  Nature Serve  AFWA

**Contractor:**

Paladin Data Systems, Poulsbo, Washington
Brief History of Wildlife TRACS

Project Accomplishments

- Developed successful prototype
  - The project development team has since modified for national roll out

- Established support for the project (e.g., States, Congress)

- Strengthened partnerships
  - Project Advisory Group
  - Working Committees
What is Wildlife TRACS?

Wildlife TRACS is the new tracking and reporting tool of the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (WSFR).

- Highlights include robust geo-spatial, multi-portal, and decision support capabilities

- TRACS replaces the FAIMS database, set to expire on October 1, 2012, as required by the Department of the Interior (DOI).
When Does Wildlife TRACS Take Effect?

October 1, 2012, for all Programs and Grantees
How Wildlife TRACS Meets WSFR Needs

- **Wildlife TRACS will offer critical geo-spatial viewing and mapping capabilities as well as performance outcome and strategic support tools not in FAIMS but mandated by OMB, GPRA and the U.S. Congress.**

- **Wildlife TRACS will:**
  - Map and display projects and actions in a geospatial environment with multiple GIS layers
  - Track and report project outputs, effectiveness measures, and species and habitat outcomes
  - Facilitate strategic conservation by open standards, shared data, and networking among the States, Territories and Service
What Exactly Does TRACS Track?

- **Plans**
  - An agreed upon set of projects and actions designed to help an agency achieve specific goals, including conservation of species or habitats within a defined geographic region.

- **Projects**
  - User defined to describe one or more related actions undertaken by a group of practitioners to achieve specific goals and objectives. A project is geographically represented by a point and polygon(s) independent of scale and can be related to both parent and/or child projects. Associated data may include: project team members/organizations, target species and/or habitats, threats/drivers, goals/objectives, conservation actions, estimated costs, and funding sources.
What Exactly Does TRACS Track?

- **Conservation Actions**
  - Interventions undertaken by a project team to reduce threats, capitalize on opportunities, or restore natural species and systems (equivalent to a “strategy” in the CMP Open Standards). An action is user defined and can be represented spatially by point(s), line(s), or polygon(s) independent of scale.

- **Funding Instruments**
  - Award information will be uploaded into TRACS from FBMS on a regular basis and can be associated with projects and conservation actions.

- **Conservation Objectives**
  - Concise, specific statements of what exactly will be accomplished by a plan, project, or action as it relates to species or habitats.
What Exactly Does TRACS Track?

- **Effectiveness Measures**
  - A metric of accomplishment describing how successfully goals or objectives were met by implementation of specific actions.

- **Land Data**
  - Land acquisition and disposal is simply another type of conservation action.
What Does TRACS Offer?

- Wildlife TRACS offers customization options, including look-and-feel, data pick-lists, portal views, and other user specific preferences.
- TRACS is a simple but powerful geospatial application. Spatial data is available for reporting and download.
- TRACS brings together internal and external data sources like USGS, FWS, USDA, NatureServe, and more.
- TRACS supports a data upload API for States.
Where We Are Today?

- WSFR has initiated development activities for the data collection component of TRACS—a.k.a. Data TRACS.
- WSFR is nearing completion of a contract with Paladin Data for the viewer component of TRACS—a.k.a. Public TRACS.
- Prototypes of Data TRACS will be released in late December for review by the PDT and eventually the PAG.
Design and Architecture
What is Public TRACS?

- Public TRACS is the public face of Wildlife TRACS.
- Each State, Territory and the District of Columbia has its own secure, custom viewing portal.
- States have the option of a fully configurable data entry portal for non-WSFR information management.
- Public TRACS display WSFR grant information, maps, and reports side-by-side with State configurable data.
- States can work with Paladin Data to extend their data entry portal for non-WSFR information.
What is Data TRACS?

- Data TRACS is used for WSFR grant program information management.
- Data TRACS is accessed through Public TRACS portals.
- Data TRACS is a geo-database for capturing information related to plans, projects, outcomes, funding, strategies, partnerships and species.
- Information in Data TRACS can be published by the States for viewing in Public TRACS.
What about FBMS?

- General information about financial awards will be periodically downloaded from FBMS and uploaded into Data TRACS.

- Projects and Conservation Actions are linked to award information.

- Projects can be entered earlier or later into Data TRACS with a proposed, planning, active, completed, or cancelled status.

- Data TRACS contains only ESTIMATED costs and is not an auditable system. FBMS is the official system for grant fiscal management.
Wildlife TRACS Organization

R9 Executive Committee

Operations & Coordination Team

- Project Advisory Group
- Pilot Development Team
- Vendors
Wildlife TRACS Organization

- **Region 9 Executive Committee**
  
  Hannibal Bolton and Washington-Denver (R9) Staff

- **Operations & Coordination Team**
  
  Ron Essig (FWS), Karl Hess (FWS), Dan Hogan (FWS), Luther Zachary (FWS), Chris Burkett (VA), Erik Neatherlin (WA), Nick Salafsky (FOS), Tim Smith ( Paladin)

- **Project Advisory Group (PAG):**
  
  Currently 48 States, DC, Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands; Will Reach all 50 States by end of September plus Conservation Registry, NatureServe, TNC

- **Pilot Development TEAM (PDT)**
  
  11 States - AZ, FL, GA, ID, MI, MO, MT, UT, VA, WA, WY (10 from Original PAG)

- **Vendors**
  
  Foundations of Success, NatureServe, Paladin Data
TRACS Working Committees

- Standards & Measures – Dan Hogan Lead
- Streamlining – Ron Essig Lead
- Population Module – Chris Burkett Lead
- Outreach and Communication – Karl Hess Lead
TRACS Working Committees

- Applications and Guidance – Ron Essig Lead
- Training – TBA
- WSFR Regional Representatives – Ron Essig Coordinator (General Review and Advice)
PAG Role and Expectations

- Keep abreast of TRACS development and its effects on state grant administration
- Facilitate agency participation in product review and testing
- Communication with State Directors and key staff
PAG Role and Expectations

Public TRACS Development Assistance

- PAG focuses more on Public TRACS by helping guide development
- Pilot Development Team focuses on Data TRACS
- PAG provides input on:
  - Configuration of State portals
  - Desired reports
PAG Role and Expectations

*Data TRACS Products Review*

- Review of work products of others
- PDT is first level review
- PAG is second level review
- Opportunity to join working committees
PAG Role and Expectations

Assist in IT Survey Among States

- Identify spatial data sources within State (e.g., land records, boating access locations)
- Contact persons
- Ability to upload these data/interface with TRACS
PAG Role and Expectations

Training Liaisons

- Point of contact for future training
- Coordinate training logistics:
  - Who
  - When
  - Where
PAG Role and Expectations

Communications Liaisons

- Liaisons to State Directors and key staff
- Homework from this call (and ongoing):
  - Brief Directors and key staff
  - Powerpoint slides from this call can be used
  - http://faims.fws.gov/datatracs
PAG Role and Expectations
Bottom Line PAG Workload

- Monthly calls/WebEx
- Focus on Public TRACS development
- High-level review of Data TRACS products
- Special projects (e.g., IT survey, training contact)
- Liaisons to State Directors and key staff
REMINDERS

- Monthly Call Schedules
  - 3rd Tuesday of Every Month through October 2012 (Next Call Tuesday, September 20)
  - Call-in/Webinar Information and Call Agenda Delivered by 2nd Tuesday of Every Month

- TRACS Web Site
  - [www.fws.ekosystem.us](http://www.fws.ekosystem.us) (Public Viewing)
  - Face Lift Upcoming
  - All Documents/Meeting recordings Available
  - Site for Public TRACS Development ([http://fws.ekosystem.us](http://fws.ekosystem.us) – Authorized Access)
Questions and Answers

Primary Contact for TRACS

Karl Hess, Ph.D.
National Conservation Policy Analyst
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
4501 N. Fairfax Drive, Rm 4032
Arlington, VA 22203
703-358-2293 Office
703-946-0748 Cell
E-mail: Karl_Hess@fws.gov