XXIV Meeting of the Canada/Mexico/U.S.
Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management
Victoria, Canada
April 8-12, 2019

Working Table: Species of Common Conservation Concern

Co-Chairs:

- **Craig Machtans,** Manager, Species at Risk and Migratory Bird Programs, Northern Region, Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment and Climate Change Canada, Canada;
- **Eduardo Ponce Guevara**, Acting Director for Priority Species Conservation, National Commission for Natural Protected Areas (CONANP), Mexico;
- **Maricela Constantino**, Biologist, Branch of Delisting and Foreign Species, Division of Conservation and Classification, Ecological Services, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S.

Facilitators:

- **Angélica Narvaez**, Coordinator for Monitoring and Recovery of Endangered Species, Office of Priority Species for Conservation (CONANP), Mexico. angelica.narvaez@conanp.gob.mx
- **Maricela Constantino**, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, maricela_constantino@fws.gov

Remote Access Information:
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USA and Canada 866-692-3582

Participant Passcode: 34281388#

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2019 Priorities: Trilateral Committee/Species of Common Conservation Concern Working Table

- Integrating Human Dimensions
- Technology Innovation for Conservation
- Connectivity (terrestrial)
- Adaptation to Ecosystem Change

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MONDAY, April 8, 2019

09:00-12:30	Plenary Session – Human Dimensions and Community Engagement
12:30-2:00	*Lunch*
2:00-5:00	Field Trip – Victoria Harbour Migratory Bird Sanctuary and NatureHood Program
5:00-6:00	Dinner on Own
6:00-8:00	Opening Reception

TUESDAY, April 9, 2019
Room: East Vancouver Island Boardroom

9:00-9:30	**AGENDA ITEM 1: Welcome, Introductions, Adoption of the Agenda** **COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:** Craig Machtans (Canadian Wildlife Service), José Eduardo Ponce Guevara (CONANP; México), Maricela Constantino (US Fish and Wildlife Service) **DESCRIPTION:** Welcome and introductions of new and returning participants to the working table. Approval and adoption of the agenda. **BACKGROUND:** Standard item to build consensus and ensure full participation. **REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES**: ▪ Approval of any changes to the agenda. ▪ Adoption of the agenda
9:30–9:45	**AGENDA ITEM 2: 2018-19 Action Item Report (AIR)** **COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:** Craig Machtans (Canadian Wildlife Service), José Eduardo Ponce Guevara (CONANP; México), Maricela Constantino (US Fish and Wildlife Service) **DESCRIPTION:** Report on major accomplishments or challenges from the Action Item Report (AIR) (particularly those that are not on this year's agenda) and any outstanding actions from the previous meeting. **BACKGROUND:** The AIR is used to record decisions and monitor progress on work. Working tables review the previous year's AIR at the beginning of each annual meeting. **REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:** Monitor progress on action items and agreements. Identify issues and challenges in accomplishing action items.
9:45–10:15	**AGENDA ITEM 3: Country Updates**

	COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Craig Machtans (Canadian Wildlife Service), José Eduardo Ponce Guevara (CONANP; México), Maricela Constantino (US Fish and Wildlife Service) **DESCRIPTION:** Each country co-chair presents a short country report with relevant information to the SCCCWT. **BACKGROUND:** Standard agenda item to present and underline relevant events that have occurred in each of the three countries. **REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES**: Information only
10:15-10:30	*Break*
10:30-11:30	*Joint Session with Ecosystems Working Table (Agenda Items 4-5)* *Room: Center Vancouver Island Boardroom*
10:30-11:00	**AGENDA ITEM 4:** Shifting from Single Species to Multi-species and Ecosystem-based Approaches to Conservation in Canada **COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:** Alaine Camfield, Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), Lindsay Rodger (Parks Canada) **DESCRIPTION:** ECCC will provide an overview on the Pan-Canadian Approach to Transforming Species at Risk Conservation in Canada. This new approach represents key strategic shifts in conservation from predominately single-species to more multi-species and ecosystem based approaches, and from broad, independent efforts to more targeted and collaborative efforts on shared priority places, species, sectors and threats. The Pan-Canadian Approach also shifts emphasis away from assessment and planning and focuses on increasing effort on implementing actions that achieve meaningful outcomes. The Government of Canada invested $1.35 billion in Budget 2018 in the Nature Legacy. With these funds the federal government will support nature conservation and protection, in partnership with others. This includes: conserving and protecting at least 17% of Canada's land and freshwater, protecting and recovering species at risk and their habitats and improving Canada's natural environment. Funding for the Nature Legacy will be in part through the Nature Fund, a $500 million dollar investment over five years which will be matched by philanthropic foundations, corporate, not-for-profit, provincial, territorial and other partners who will contribute at least an additional $500 million to raise a total of $1 billion for conservation action. There are two streams for the fund: spaces and species at risk. The spaces stream of the Canada Nature Fund will provide resources that will enable key partners and stakeholders to significantly advance progress toward Canada's biodiversity commitments. Under the species at risk stream, partners will contribute to the protection and recovery of species at risk and other biodiversity for priority species, places and sectors. Through innovative, multi-species and ecosystem-based initiatives, the Nature Fund will support priorities for action and build relationships with Indigenous peoples, other governments and organizations, industry and other resource users.

	Parks Canada will overview their site-based approach to Species at Risk action planning including developing and implementing their 21 multi-species action plans for Species at Risk. In addition, they will outline their experience using the Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation as a conservation planning tool. **REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:** To share information on new approaches to species at risk conservation and best practices, and facilitate a discussion about integrating species at risk conservation and ecosystems conservation approaches. **AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR(S):** Alaine Camfield, Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC); presenting in person, Lindsay Rodger (Parks Canada); presenting in person. **SUBMITTED BY:** Alaine Camfield, Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)
11:00-11:30	**AGENDA ITEM 5:** The Nested Hexagon Framework, a standardized yet flexible data aggregation and mapping tool to assist with planning and conservation efforts across North America. **COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:** University of Kansas, Bill VanPelt (Arizona Game and Fish), Jen Mock Schaeffer (AFWA), Steve Hanser (USGS), **DESCRIPTION**: The Nested Hexagon Framework is a spatial data grid comprised of three nested and hierarchically referenced spatial mapping units (one sq. mile hexagons, 7 sq. mile cogs, and 49 sq. mile wheels). Each mapping units' identification number provides a reference to the units that it is a part of, and the units that are part of it. This numbering convention allows data entered at one scale to easily be related to data entered at the other scales. Furthermore, the Framework has an attribute table that can accept data from a wide variety of input layers in such a way that inputs are standardized to facilitate more effective searches and analysis. The standardized spatial and attribute schema of the Nested Framework captures key pieces of information from input data layers to convey the highlights, obscure (protect) specific spatial locations, and provide a reference back to the source data layer. **BACKGROUND:** The Nested Hexagon Framework was created to be compatible with the WAFWA westwide Crucial Habitat Assessment Tool that provides a summary ranking (1-6) of priority areas based on state policies and priorities. A reoccurring theme from CHAT user feedback was the lack of more specific information about what was is in a hexagon and why it was ranked the way it was. The creation of a multiscale framework compatible with the CHAT was identified as an opportunity by the University of Kansas as a way to address both the varying levels of spatial sensitivity concerns and the ability to combine attributes of different data to inform users of what was in an area. Since its creation in 2017, the Nested Hexagon framework has been used to summarize and present information for the western monarch conservation plan, black tailed prairie dog conservation strategy, bat priority areas. Additionally discussions are in progress with Nature Serve to use the Framework to summarize a

	new species richness layer they are finalizing as well as their expansive database of species occurrence data. **REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:** Consideration of the Framework as a standard spatial and attribute schema to reference data to that partner agencies and organizations are encouraged to integrate relevant data products to. **AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR(S)** (include name and agency)**:** Michael Houts, University of Kansas.
11:30-11:40	*Return to East Vancouver Island Boardroom*
11:40-12:10	**AGENDA ITEM 6:** Update on Trilateral Island Initiative: Conservation and Restoration of the Islands of Canada, the United States, and Mexico **COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:** Annie Little (USFWS), Patrick Nantel (Parks Canada), Gilles Suetin (Parks Canada), Federico A. Méndez (Conservación de Islas), Gregg Howald (Island Conservation), Humberto Berlanga (CONABIO), Eduardo E. Iñigo-Elias (Cornell Lab of Ornithology), Jennie Duberstein (FWS) **DESCRIPTION:** This agenda item focuses on a collaborative trilateral effort to conserve and restore marine island ecosystems, including seabird populations. Following the signing of the Letter of Intent (LOI) at the 2014 Trilateral Committee meeting, the three countries have been colloborating on multiple issues of shared interest related to island conservation. We will update the SCCCWT on the status of current collaborative efforts, including ongoing projects, workshops, exchanges, and efforts to promote the LOI. We will highlight in particular the 2019 Trilateral Committee priortities as it relates to conservation efforts on island ecosystems within the three countries. **BACKGROUND:** In the last five years, several bilateral and trilateral island restoration projects were initiated. In order to further encourage coordination and collaboration on island projects, a Trilateral Island Working Group was created in 2012. This group developed the LOI that was signed by the three countries at the 2014 Trilateral Meeting in Querétaro, Mexico. The LOI documents that the three countries intend to engage in cooperative bilateral and trilateral activities to promote sustainable environmental policies and practices in support of island conservation. The Working Group will discuss achievements, priorities, and updates of recent collaborative efforts related to island conservation. **REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:** We seek continued endorsement by the Trilateral Committee of collaborative conservation efforts on islands in Canada, United States, and Mexico. **AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR(S):** Annie Little (USFWS) and representatives from Canada and Mexico (TBD) **SUBMITTED BY:** Annie Little, USFWS

12:10-12:30	**AGENDA ITEM 7**: Eurasian Collared Dove **COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:** Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept., Dirección General de Vida Silvestre, Tamaulipas Hunting and Fishing Commission, Nuevo Leon Parks and Wildlife, Coahuila Environment Department, Chihuahua Wildlife Department. **DESCRIPTION:** In line with the Trilateral Committee's objective to identify and address current and future threats to biodiversity in North America, this agenda item discusses the Eurasian collared dove (Streptopilia decaocto) as an invasive exotic species in Texas and in some parts of Mexico. **BACKGROUND:** In early 2018, the Environment Secretary of the state of Coahuila proposed that the wildlife workshop held annually by the Mexico-Texas Rio Grande states include a discussion on the Eurasian collared dove, an invasive exotic that was turning detrimental to ranches as mourning dove hunters were not interested in the non-native dove and potential displacement of native bird species was a concern. In Texas, ranches with a similar problem now offer Eurasian collared dove hunting year-round since, as a non-native, it is not protected by any game regulations. Mexico is following a similar approach. Habitat preferences of the species and research needs call for discussion and coordination. **REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:** To identify an emerging species of concern and to foster binational collaboration to assess threats and research needs. **SUBMITTED BY/AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR:** Maria Araujo, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
12:30-2:00	*Lunch*
2:00-2:20	**AGENDA ITEM 8:** Update on the activities and plans of the North American Bat Conservation Alliance **COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:** Charles M. Francis (Canadian Wildlife Service), Jeremy T. H. Coleman (US Fish and Wildlife Service), Rodrigo A. Medellín (UNAM, México) **DESCRIPTION:** The co-chairs of the North American Bat Conservation Alliance (NABCA) are proposing to continue supporting and enhancing cooperative efforts to promote conservation of bats by the three countries. Some of the proposed actions to be endorsed include: working together to identify appropriate instruments, tools, and policies that could be used to address threats to bats in each country and cooperatively among countries; developing, sharing, and implementing cooperative programs for monitoring bat populations; identifying shared research needs related to bat conservation and cooperating to address the highest priority needs; working together to ensure areas important to bats are considered in the Key Biodiversity Area program; and developing and sharing Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs) for reducing risks and threats to bats.

	BACKGROUND: The co-chairs of the Executive Work Table signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) at the 20th Annual Meeting in April 2015 indicating an intention to strengthen cooperation among the three parties to enhance coordination of activities as well as gathering and sharing information related to conservation of bats. One of the outcomes of the LOI was the creation of the North American Bat Conservation Alliance (NABCA), which is co-chaired by one representative from each country, and further managed by a steering committee comprising representatives of bat conservation working groups from each of the three countries. NABCA has been very active and effective. It has worked with the bat conservation community to identify and describe threats to bats in North America, and has developed mechanisms related to sharing information on ways to address those threats. The next logical step will be to enhance cooperative actions among the three countries on implementing activities to address threats. **REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:** We seek endorsement of the Trilateral Committee to continue to improve on the promotion and coordination of bat monitoring, research, and conservation activities as identified in the LOI; to support the actions of NABCA to aid in these efforts and to address various threats to bats. Specifically we need to address the main threats of: wind energy, white-nose syndrome, mapping and protecting migratory bat corridors, and roost destruction (at the three-country level), and recovery of specific binational and trinational species. **AGENDA ITEM PRESENTORS:** Charles M. Francis, Jeremy T. H. Coleman, and Rodrigo A. Medellin **SUBMITTED BY:** Charles M. Francis (Canadian Wildlife Service), Jeremy T. H. Coleman (US Fish and Wildlife Service), Rodrigo A. Medellín (Instituto de Ecología, UNAM, México)
2:20-2:35	**AGENDA ITEM 9:** Update on Conservation and capacity building for the conservation of bats in northwestern Mexico. **COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:** USFWS (Arizona Ecological Services Office and Kofa National Wildife Refuge), Naturalia, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Comisión de Ecología y Desarrollo Sustentable del Estado de Sonora (CEDES), Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), Universidad Autónoma de Querétaro, University of Arizona, The Phoenix Zoo, CONANP (including Priority Species and Áreas Naturales Protegidas of Northwestern México), DGVS, INE, CONABIO. **DESCRIPTION:** We propose to continue our efforts to build capacity for bat conservation in northwestern Mexico; however, this will depend on current travel and budget restrictions improving. These efforts may include continuing to: 1. Teach bat a monitoring and conservation workshop and conduct bat inventories at Naturalia's Los Fresnos Reserve; 2. Conduct site visits to Federal Reserves in northwestern Mexico to assist reserve staff establish bat monitoring protocols; and

	3. Support implementation of bat monitoring in protected areas in Mexico by conducting site visits to assist reserve biologists develop monitoring programs and by providing some of the necessary basic monitoring equipment to reserve staff. 4. Continue post-delisting monitoring and research of lesser long-nosed bats **BACKGROUND:** Bats, many species of which are considered to be at-risk, are an integral part of ecosystems throughout the world and provide significant ecological services, such as pollination and seed dispersion. Maintaining their presence is critical to the health and function of these systems; however, information on the distribution and status of many bats in northwestern México remains scarce with some exceptions. For example, the lesser long-nosed bat (*Leptonycteris curasoae yerbabuenae*), listed as threatened by Mexico and endangered by the U.S., has been the subject of long-term monitoring and conservation in Sonora. Information from these efforts, as well as recent information from the United States, was used to delist this species in the U.S. in 2018. As discussed in the other agenda item related to cooperative lesser long-nosed bat recovery, we are proposing to continue work on lesser long-nosed bat roost and forage monitoring in both the U.S. and Mexico as part of the U.S.'s post-delisting monitoring plan. We are particularly interested in cooperating on work being done on this species at the Pinacate Biosphere Reserve. **REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:** We seek the endorsement of the Trilateral Committee to continue and expand our efforts to monitor and conserve bats, as well as to build capacity for their conservation in northwestern Mexico. We will continue to what makes up successful post-delisting monitoring and research to maintain the viability of delisted species. **AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR:** Scott Richardson, Arizona Ecological Services Office – Tucson **SUBMITTED BY:** Arizona Ecological Services Office, USFWS; Christa Weise, Kofa National Wildlife Refuge, USFWS
2:35-2:55	**AGENDA ITEM 10:** Binational Recovery of the Lesser Long-Nosed bat **COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:** Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (Instituto de Ecología), University of Tel Aviv (Israel), Arizona Game and Fish Department, Dirección General de Vida Silvestre, Comisión Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas, Reserva de la Biosfera Chamela-Cuixmala, Reserva de la Biosfera El Pinacate, Whitley Fund for Nature, JRS Biodiversity Foundation, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, Department of Defense, Tohono O'Odham, and numerous Interested Parties. **DESCRIPTION:** Multiple federal, state, and local collaborators have been working for over 20 years towards recovery of the lesser long-nosed bat (*Leptonycteris curasoae yerbabuenae,* LLNB) to secure the pollination ecosystem service they provide. We propose to continue to conduct annual counts of lesser long-nosed bats at important maternity and late summer roosts and to continue

	cooperative bi-national research projects across the range of the species, to understand their nightly movements and migratory routes, to continue documenting the status of the colonies, and the relative reproductive success by the number and activity of the pups. Other studies such as the dynamics of parasite loads, the complete genome, and the evolutionary history and origin of this and the other two species in the genus are essential to fully understand their conservation needs and climate change implications for them. Historically monitored lesser long-nosed bat roost sites in the U.S. will continue to be monitored as part of the post-delisting monitoring plan required under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. In addition, we propose to partner with the USA National Phenology Network to monitor LLNB forage resources. These efforts are ongoing to document population trends at important roosts and ongoing forage availability for post-delisting monitoring efforts to help guide future regulatory and management actions. **BACKGROUND:** Bats, many species of which are considered to be at-risk, are an integral part of ecosystems throughout the world and provide significant ecological services, such as pollination and seed dispersion. Maintaining their presence is critical to the health and function of these systems; however, information on the distribution and status of many bats in northwestern México remains scarce with some exceptions. For example, the LLNB, is a migratory nectar feeding seed disperser that provides valuable ecosystem services throughout its range in the United States and Mexico. The LLNB has been the subject of long-term monitoring and conservation by the Collaborators in Arizona and Sonora and beyond for over 20 years. During that time, Collaborators have conducted annual simultaneous bat emergence counts at the largest maternity and late summer roosts in northwestern Mexico and Arizona. In 2013 in a joint statement UNAM and SEMARNAT announced the recovery and delisting of the lesser long-nosed bat in Mexico. In 2018, LLNB was finally delisted from the Endangered Species Act in the U.S. This does not mean that the species is totally recovered. The work is redoubled now to ensure the LLNB maintains stable populations. Joining forces with other universities has allowed us to achieve significant breakthroughs thanks to the use of leading edge telemetry technology not used previously in any other bat species. With miniaturized GPS tracking units, UNAM researchers have been able to follow movements of individual bats and demonstrate nightly cross-border movements into Arizona. In the process, UNAM has worked closely with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Arizona Game and Fish Department and joint cross-border conservation efforts are crucial to secure the conservation and full recovery of the species. Over the last three years, AGFD provided financial assistance to conduct a research study about foraging routes and distances travelled utilizing GPS tracking units deployed by UNAM. The Species of Common Concern Table of the Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management has endorsed and actively supported our

	work for close to a decade and this validation has been essential for the success of the project. **REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:** Requesting endorsement of the Trilateral Committee to continue working on the recovery and conservation of the lesser long-nosed bat. **AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR(S):** Rodrigo A. Medellin, Instituto de Ecología, UNAM; Angie McIntire and Francisco Abarca, Arizona Game and Fish Department
2:55-3:15	**AGENDA ITEM 11:** Update on Ocelot Recovery Actions **COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:** Mitch Sternberg, Hilary Swarts, Erin Fernandez (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service); Maria Araujo (Texas Parks and Wildlife Department), Tim Snow, Jamey Driscoll, and Francisco Abarca (Arizona Game and Fish Department); Martha López Hernández, Rosa Elena Jimenez Maldonado (Comisión Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas); Arnulfo Moreno Valdez (Comisión de Parques y Biodiversidad de Tamaulipas); Teresita Lasso (Comisión de Ecología y Desarrollo Sustentable del Estado de Sonora); Carlos Lopez-Gonzalez (Universidad Autónoma de Querétaro); Rogelio Carrera-Treviño (Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León). **DESCRIPTION:** This project supports the Species of Common Concern Work Table's goal of management and conservation of small and isolated populations at risk. The endangered ocelot (*Leopardus pardalis*) is in need of binational conservation efforts to ensure its continued existence in the U.S. and Mexico. Project collaborators will be instrumental in the recovery of the ocelot in Texas, Arizona, and Mexico. Similar to conservation actions implemented to other transboundary species like Mexican wolf, Sonoran and American pronghorn, black-tailed prairie dog, and black-footed ferret, we propose that binational partners revise the existing translocation plan between Mexico and the United States in the next several years to help ensure the long-term survival of the ocelot populations close to the border. **BACKGROUND:** The ocelot is endangered in the U.S. and Mexico. There are two known breeding populations in Texas, and the sustainability of these populations are vulnerable due to a high rate of collisions with vehicles, and risks from disease related to a high level of inbreeding. In Arizona and Sonora, partners are focused on monitoring ocelots and maintaining connectivity within Sonora, as well as between Sonora and Arizona. Threats to connectivity of Arizona and Sonora populations include expansion of Highway 2 in Sonora and the potential expansion of border fencing. Several ocelots have been recently documented in Arizona. Breeding populations occur in Sonora and many ocelots have been documented in Texas and neighboring Tamaulipas. Populations in some parts of Mexico appear stable. Translocation of ocelots from Mexico to Texas is identified in the 2016 Ocelot Recovery Plan as a necessity to lower the risk of extinction of the Texas populations.

	Partners have identified populations of ocelots in northern Mexico that may be able to serve as a potential source of ocelots for at-risk populations in other areas, including in Texas. Partners have been collaborating since 2012 to provide updated status on ocelot populations in northern Mexico to the various responsible agencies in order to meet recovery goals and objectives, including those involving translocation between populations. Additional recovery actions that are being implemented focus on reducing road mortality in Texas, increasing ocelot breeding habitat and increasing connectivity in Texas, surveying and monitoring ocelots in both countries, conducting outreach and education for ocelot conservation, compiling ocelot sightings/reports, and supporting partnerships. **REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:** We request an endorsement from the Trilateral Committee to support the recovery actions of the Ocelot Recovery Team within the framework of the strategic plans of the Trilateral Committee as well as within the framework of all legal requirements and procedures in each country. In particular, we request support to implement a translocation plan between Mexico and the United States by June 2018, and to implement the plan by the end of 2019 to assist in the long-term survival of the populations close to the border. **AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR:** Mitch Sternberg (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) **SUBMITTED BY:** Mitch Sternberg, Hilary Swarts, Erin Fernandez, (USFWS); Martha López Hernández (CONANP), Maria Araujo (TPWD); Tim Snow, Jamey Driscoll, Francisco Abarca (AZGFD).
3:15-3:30	**AGENDA ITEM 12**: Update on Northwestern Jaguar Recovery **COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:** USFWS (Arizona and New Mexico Ecological Services Office) and USFWS-led Binational (Mexico – U.S.) Jaguar Recovery Team (including CONANP [Priority Species and ANPs], Comisión de Ecología y Desarrollo Sustentable del Estado de Sonora, SAGARHPA, Universidad de Querétaro, Arizona Game and Fish and Department, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, Panthera, Northern Arizona University, Arizona State University, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, USDA/APHIS-Wildlife Services, Customs and Border Protection, the Tohono O'odham Nation, and others) **DESCRIPTION:** We propose to continue to work with our governmental and non-governmental partners at local, state, and Federal levels in México and the U.S. to conserve and recover jaguars. Specifically, this year we propose to: 1) Complete a final recovery plan for the jaguar, with emphasis on jaguars in western and northwestern México and southwestern U.S.; and 2) Continue implementing recovery actions for the jaguar, including a citizen science project to survey and monitor jaguars in Arizona. **BACKGROUND:** The binational Jaguar Recovery Team and USFWS have been working to develop a Jaguar Recovery Plan with emphasis on jaguars in the

	northwestern portion of their range (southwestern U.S. and western and northwestern Mexico). The draft plan was made available for public review in December 2016 and the plan will be finalized in 2019. **REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:** We seek the endorsement of the Trilateral Committee to work with governmental and non-governmental partners at local, state, and Federal levels in México and the U.S. to conserve and recover jaguars, including finalizing a recovery plan and implementing recovery actions for jaguars with emphasis in western and northwestern México and southwestern U.S. **AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR:** Marit Alanen, Arizona Ecological Services Office **SUBMITTED BY:** Marit Alanen, Arizona Ecological Services Office, USFWS; and the Jaguar Recovery Team
3:30-3:45	*Break*
3:45-4:00	**AGENDA ITEM 13:** Update on Binational partnerships to recover and conserve listed and sensitive species of mutual concern in Sonora, Sinaloa, Chihuahua, and Arizona. **COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:** USFWS (including Arizona Ecological Services Office, Sonoran Joint Venture, Arizona Fisheries Resources Office, Imperial National Wildlife Refuge, Cabeza Prieta NWR, Kofa NWR, Buenos Aires NWR, and San Bernardino NWR), SEMARNAT, DGVS, CONANP (including Priority Species, Reserva de la Biosfera del Pinacate y Gran Desierto de Altar, Reserva de la Biosfera del Alto Golfo de California y Delta del Río Colorado [RBAG], and Reserva Forestal Nacional y Refugio de Vida Silvestre Los Ajos-Bavispe, Área de Protección de Flora y Fauna Sierra de Álamos-Rio Cuchujaqui), National Park Service-Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, U.S. Geological Survey, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Comisión de Ecología y Desarrollo Sustentable del Estado de Sonora, University of Arizona, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Tecnológico de Monterrey, Universidad de Sonora, Universidad Estatal de Sonora, Organizacion Vida Silvestre, Universidad de Baja California, Naturalia, Pronatura Noroeste, Africam Safari Zoo, The Phoenix Zoo, Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, COBACH, CETMAR, International Sonoran Desert Alliance, and the Center for the Study of Deserts and Oceans. **DESCRIPTION:** We propose to continue working with our governmental and non-governmental partners at local, state, and Federal levels in México and the U.S. to conserve and recover listed and sensitive species of mutual concern and migratory birds throughout their ranges in Arizona, Sinaloa, Sonora, and Chihuahua. **BACKGROUND:** It is critical to work cooperatively with our Mexican and U.S. partners to conserve and recover the many listed and sensitive species that occur on both sides of the international border. These species include the Sonoran pronghorn, jaguar, ocelot, lesser-long nosed bat, black-tailed prairie dog, cactus ferruginous pygmy-owl, masked bobwhite, Mexican spotted owl, southwestern willow flycatcher, Yuma clapper rail, thick-billed parrot, yellow-billed cuckoo, Aplomado falcon, bald eagle, Arizona tree frog, Sonoran tiger salamander, Chiricahua leopard frog, Tarahumara frog, lowland leopard frog, Sonoyta mud turtle, New Mexico ridge-nosed

	rattlesnake, Mexican gartersnake, flat-tailed horned lizard, desert tortoise, Sonoyta pupfish, Río Yaqui fishes, Sonora chub, Gila chub, Gila topminnow, Acuña cactus, Canelo Hills Ladies' Tresses, Tumamoc globeberry, Gentry indigo bush, Pima pineapple cactus, Cochise pincushion cactus, Nichol Turk's Head, Bartram's stonecrop, beardless chinchweed, Huachuca water umbel, Santa Rita yellowshow, and Coleman's coralroot. We have successfully been, and propose to continue, working with our Mexican and U.S. partners to monitor and conserve many of these species. **REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:** The Arizona Ecological Services Office, USFWS, seeks the endorsement of the Trilateral Committee to continue working with our governmental and non-governmental partners at local, state, and Federal levels in México and the U.S. to conserve and recover listed and sensitive species of mutual concern and migratory birds throughout their ranges in Arizona, Sonora, Sinaloa, and Chihuahua. **AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR:** Arizona Ecological Services Office – Tucson **SUBMITTED BY:** Erin Fernandez, Cat Crawford, Doug Duncan, Julie Crawford, Susan Sferra, Nichole Engelmann, and Scott Richardson, Arizona Ecological Services Office; James Atkinson, CPNWR; Christa Weise, Kofa NWR, Bill Radke, USFWS
4:00-4:15	**AGENDA ITEM 14:** Update on Conservation of the imperiled species of the Río Sonoyta watershed, Sonora/Arizona. **COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:** USFWS, SEMARNAT, CONANP-Reserva de la Biosfera del Pinacate y Gran Desierto de Altar (RBPGDA), Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD), Colegio de Bachilleres del Estado de Sonora (COBACH Sonoyta), University of Arizona, Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, the Center for the Study of Deserts and Oceans, Dennis Caldwell, National Park Service-Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument (OPCNM), Dr. Chuck Minckley, CETMAR Puerto Peñasco. **DESCRIPTION:** We propose to continue our efforts to conserve the imperiled species of Río Sonoyta watershed, including the Sonoyta mud turtle (*Kinosternon sonoriense longifemorale*), longfin dace (*Agosia chrysogaster*), and Sonoyta [Quitobaquito] pupfish (*Cyprinodon eremus*). The status of the longfin dace is precarious, occurring in only one constructed pond. These efforts include monitoring populations of these species in Sonora and Arizona; monitoring and managing the five refuge populations of pupfish and dace in Sonora and two permanent and three temporary pupfish refuges in Arizona; working with the municipal government of Sonoyta, Sonora and others to incorporate and implement conservation measures for these species into the design of a proposed wastewater treatment facility in Sonoyta; managing and maintaining Quitobaquito Springs and Pond in Arizona; and working toward the development and implementation of a community-based restoration and conservation plan for the Río Sonoyta for the benefit of native species and the local community. In 2017, the Sonoyta mud turtle was listed as an endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (82 FR 43897). Critical habitat for the mud turtle was proposed in December 2018,

	only in the U.S. A binational recovery plan for the species should be developed in the next few years. **BACKGROUND:** The Río Sonoyta watershed and Quitovac, an extremely rare and threatened lowland desert stream and spring system in northwestern Sonora and southwestern Arizona, support the only wild populations of Sonoyta mud turtle and Sonoyta pupfish. In recognition of its importance, the Rio Sonoyta is a designated Ramsar wetland of international significance, and the Pinacate is a World Heritage Site. To address the many threats the Río and its species face, as described above, we have been and plan to continue developing and implementing a variety of conservation programs and projects. **REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:** We seek the endorsement of the Trilateral Committee to continue our efforts to conserve the imperiled species of Río Sonoyta. **AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR:** Doug Duncan and Cat Crawford, Arizona Ecological Services Office - Tucson **SUBMITTED BY:** Arizona Ecological Services Office, USFWS; Miguel Angel Grageda, UA; Cristina Jones and Ross Timmons, AGFD; Peter Holm, OPCNM; Paloma Valdivia Jimenez, CEDO.
4:15-4:30	**AGENDA ITEM 15:** USFWS Update on Conservation and capacity building for the conservation of amphibians in Sonora, Sinaloa, and Chihuahua. **COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:** USFWS, USGS, NATURALIA, AC, CONANP (including Priority Species and Áreas Naturales Protegidas of Northwestern México), Comisión de Ecología y Desarrollo Sustentable del Estado de Sonora (CEDES), Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Universidad Autónoma de Querétaro, The Phoenix Zoo, Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, Africam Safari Zoo, the Tucson Herpetological Society, and The Nature Conservancy. **DESCRIPTION:** We propose to continue our efforts to build capacity for amphibian conservation in northwestern México; however, this will depend on current travel and budget restrictions improving. These efforts may include continuing to: 1) Support implementation of amphibian research and monitoring in protected areas in Mexico by conducting site visits to assist reserve biologists and by providing some of the necessary basic monitoring equipment to reserve staff; 2) Conduct amphibian inventories at various ranches and reserves in Sonora and Chihuahua to provide data to land managers to inform management and conservation decisions. During these inventories, we propose to document non-native predators (bullfrogs, fish, and crayfish) and to use non-invasive sampling techniques (by swabbing skin with cotton swab) to collect disease and skin microbe samples; and 3) Assess the status of the Chiricahua leopard frog (*Lithobates chiricahuensis*) and Sonora tiger salamander (*Ambystoma mavortium stebbinsi*) and primary threats to these species in Sonora and Chihuahua to provide a baseline for conservation planning and actions, as well as conduct outreach and environmental education for

	local communities and ranchers about the imperiled status of these amphibians and the need to conserve the species and their habitats. **BACKGROUND:** Fourteen of the 38 amphibian species that have been documented in Sonora are on México's list of species-at-risk; the Chiricahua leopard frog and Sonora tiger salamander are on the U.S. threatened and endangered species list as well. A number of these species are thought to be declining; however, relatively little is known of their status in Sonora. To better understand their status, as well as to build capacity for amphibian conservation in Northwestern México, when travel and budget constraints have permitted, we have conducted amphibian inventories in Sonora to provide information to land managers, and taught amphibian monitoring and conservation workshops. **REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:** We seek the endorsement of the Trilateral Committee to continue our efforts to monitor and conserve amphibians as well as build capacity for their conservation in Sonora, Sinaloa, Chihuahua. **AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR:** Cat Crawford, Arizona Ecological Services Office **SUBMITTED BY:** Arizona Ecological Services Office, USFWS; Gerardo Carreón, Naturalia; Jim Rorabaugh, Tucson Herpetological Society; Erin Muths and Blake Hossack, U.S. Geological Survey
4:30-4:50	**AGENDA ITEM 16:** North American Collaboration on *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans* a deadly fungal threat to North American salamanders **COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS**: Esther Quintero, Ana Isabel González & Patricia Koleff CONABIO-México, Eria Rebollar Center of Genomic Sciences, UNAM, México, Georgia Born-Schmidt PNUD-México. Craig Martin, USFWS. **DESCRIPTION:** *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans (Bsal)* is a fungal pathogen that causes chytridiomycosis in salamanders. The pathogen arrived to Europe though imports of amphibians from Asia, and has since caused mass die-offs in wild European fire salamanders, spreading through the continent. There are no reported infections by *Bsal* in Mexico or North America, but efforts should be made to closely monitor native populations as well as on implementing trade restrictions. Mexico is the fifth richest in amphibians having between 376 (Parra-Olea et al., 2014) and 394 described species (Frost, 2017), and at least 146 described species of salamanders, making it the second country with more salamander diversity in the world (Basanta et al., 2019), followed by the United States. Moreover, 67% of all Mexican amphibians are endemic to the country, and more than 71% are listed under some risk category by the IUCN, which makes local conservation efforts especially relevant. Under this scenario, *BSal* is a high priority invasive species for Mexico, due to the risk it poses to Mexican salamanders. Recent models have found that Bsal has areas from the Sierra Madre Oriental (SMO), Trans-Mexican Volcanic Belt (TVB), Sierra Madre del Sur (SMS), Mexican Gulf and Yucatan Peninsula as potential suitable regions in Mexico (Basanta et al., 2019). These suitable areas contain 51% of the salamander species in the country, 47 of which occur within 13 hotspots, defined as areas with moderate to high suitability for the fungus, in

	which five or more species of salamanders were distributed (Basanta et al., 2019). Moreover, these hotspots include diverse ecosystems, including tropical, temperate and cloud forests, which are already under severe anthropogenic pressures. Thus, it is clear that trilateral efforts should be made towards preventing the arrival of *Bsal* as well as to implement immediate management actions if this emerging pathogen should be detected in any one of the three countries. **BACKGROUND:** *BSal* has been identified in previous trilateral meetings as a serious risk to North American Amphibians. Measures have been taken to forbid imports of certain species from Europe, and a trilateral *Bsal* taskforce has been set to coordinate efforts and prepare rapid responses through the North American *Bsal* Strategic plan. **REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:** Identification of new partners and collaborators at a trilateral level **AGENDA ITEM PRESENTORS:** Dr. Ma. Esther Quintero (Mexico), Craig Martin (US) **SUBMITTED BY:** CONABIO
4:50-5:10	**AGENDA ITEM 17:** Update on conservation and recovery of the Río Yaqui Catfish, Sonora, Chihuahua, Sinaloa, and Arizona. **COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:** Universidad de Sonora (UNISON), University of Arizona (College of Law, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology), Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD), Pascua Yaqui Tribe, USFWS (San Bernardino National Wildlife Refuge, Arizona Ecological Services Office [AESO], Arizona Fish and Wildlife Conservation Offices [AZFWCO], Southwestern Region Refuges, Southwestern Native Aquatic Resources & Recovery Center, Uvalde National Fish Hatchery), Texas Natural Science Center-University of Texas at Austin, Chuck Minckley with Cuenca Los Ojos, SEMARNAT, CONANP, Institute of Aquaculture of Sonora, US Geological Survey Arizona Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit **DESCRIPTION:** The status of the Yaqui Catfish is dire in both the Republic of Mexico and the United States. The Yaqui Catfish in the U.S. were originally captured from Sonora, Mexico by the USFWS and Mexican Natural Resource Specialists in the late 1980s and 1990s, to re-establish Yaqui Catfish in the US. Collected fish were spawned, and a small number of fry from these spawns were released at San Bernardino NWR in the late 1990s. Those last two spawned fish are now more than 20 years old; attempts to spawn them have been unsuccessful, natural reproduction has been extremely rare, and their numbers are dwindling rapidly. In Mexico, the occupied range of the species has been reduced from multiple threats, but largely hybridization with introduced, non-native Channel Catfish. The Pascua Yaqui Tribe has a federal Tribal Wildlife Grant to implement their project, "***Our River, Our Lives: Stabilizing*** & ***Recovering Threatened and Endangered Native Fish Species*** *in* ***the Upper Rio Yaqui Basin,"*** with the intention of working on both sides of the border.

	Many of the partners have met over the last year, and have designed a three-pronged strategy. In the U.S., the USFWS and its partners are attempting to capture all Yaqui Catfish that remain. Once acclimated to the hatchery, USFWS staff will attempt spawning. If the Yaqui Catfish are successfully spawned, a portion will be kept as broodstock at the hatchery, and others will go back to Arizona. Ponds designed for catfish have been created at San Bernardino National Wildlife Refuge. The USFWS has drafted long- and short-term management plans to guide the agencies work on the species. Work in Mexico will commence with standard fishery surveys, eDNA surveys, and genetic analysis throughout the historical range of the species. These efforts will inform us as to where the species occurs, where hybridization with non-native Channel Catfish is an issue, the size of the current Yaqui Catfish population, and identify which drainage basins are the highest conservation priority. Once population status is known, attempts will be made to create a refuge population from the most robust wild population, and have them reproduce in captivity in Mexico. This will safeguard against species extinction in Mexico. A reproducing refuge population in Mexico could be used to reestablish populations in both Mexico and the U.S. A refuge pond has been created at Rancho San Bernardino by Cuenca los Ojos. Thirdly, the participation of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe will help bridge the international border. The Tribe has a reservation in Arizona, but also has members in Mexico, within the Río Yaqui Basin. The Tribe seeks to connect members to the cultural landscape of the Río Yaqui basin and its native species, develop natural resource management expertise within the Tribe, and educate members. **BACKGROUND:** Though a small percent of the Río Yaqui basin lies within the United States, the 6 to 8 fish species that occurred there contributed a substantial portion of the basin's fish fauna; five of those occurred nowhere else in the U.S. Currently, five of these occur in U.S., four of which are listed under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. The Río Yaqui basin has the largest drainage area in the state of Sonora. Thus, the species there contribute greatly to the aquatic diversity of that state. **REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:** We seek the endorsement of the Trilateral Committee to continue and expand our efforts conserve and recover the imperiled Yaqui Catfish in Mexico and the U.S. **AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR:** Doug Duncan, Arizona Ecological Services Office - Tucson **SUBMITTED BY:** Arizona Ecological Services Office, USFWS; Alejandro Varela, UNISON; Tony Robinson, Ross Timmons, and Francisco Abarca, AGFD
5:10-5:30	**AGENDA ITEM 18:** North American Collaboration on the desert pupfish (*Cyprinodon macularius),* an endemic species of Colorado River Delta

	COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Esther Quintero & Patricia Koleff CONABIO-México; Eduardo Ponce Guevara, CONANP, Martha J. Román, CEDES San Luis Río Colorado, Sonora **DESCRIPTION:** The desert pupfish (*Cyprinodon macularius*) is an endemic species from the Colorado River Delta. Currently, it is the only survivor species out of seven native ictiofauna species originally present in the river (Ruiz-Campos et al. 2012). The distribution of this pupfish has been severely fragmented, so their natural populations in Mexico are restricted to the Lower Colorado River Basin in the Biosphere Reserve Alto Golfo de California y Delta del Río Colorado, as well as in the geothermal evaporation ponds of Cerro Prieto in Baja California. In the US, some natural populations still remain in Salton Sea, California; and in Arizona, within 14 refuges created exclusively for its conservation (Román et al. 2018, Ruiz-Campos et al. 2012, Varela & Hendrickson 2009). The Colorado River Delta was a wildlife-rich wetland, but the creation of dams on the Colorado river diverted most of its water to cities and farms near the border, leaving much of the delta to slowly dried up. Furthermore, habitat continues to decline for other ongoing threats like habitat alteration and effects of exotic species (Glenn et al. 1996). Nowadays the two Countries collaborate together to recover the river. **BACKGROUND:** The Colorado River Delta has been recognized as an important wetland for native and migratory species. Its recovery and restoration is crucial for habitat health as well as for the wellbeing of the surrounding communities. **REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:** Identification of new partners and collaborators at a trilateral level. **AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR:** Dr. Eduardo Ponce/Dr. Ma. Esther Quintero **SUBMITTED BY:** CONABIO, CONANP
	Dinner on your Own

WEDNESDAY, April 10, 2019
Room: East Vancouver Island Boardroom

09:00-11:00	Commission for Environmental Cooperation Joint Session – *Vancouver Island Ballroom*
11:00-12:30	*Lunch*
12:30-3:45	*SCCCWT Convenes - East Vancouver Island Boardroom*
12:30-1:15	**AGENDA ITEM 19:** Status report on the U.S. California Condor Recovery Plan and on last year efforts on the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Mexico and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service providing for cooperation in the recovery of the California condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*).

	COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Jose Eduardo Ponce, Acting Director for Priority Species Conservation (j.ponce@conanp.gob.mx); Amedee Brickey, Chief, Migratory Birds and CA Condor Coordinator (amedee_brickey@fws.gov); Amanda Gonzales, Program Officer for Mexico (amanda_gonzales@fws.gov); Fernando Gual, Director General for Mexico City Zoos and Wildlife (fernando.gual.sedema@gmail.com)**;** Ignacio Vilchis, Associate Director of Applied Animal Ecology, San Diego Zoo, Ana Sofia Manzur, Director General, State Commission for Natural Parks and Wildlife (CEPANAF) **DESCRIPTION:** Once numbering in the thousands, the California condor *(Gymnogyps californianus)* was found from British Columbia to Baja California, Mexico, but these coastal populations declined dramatically as European pioneers settled within its range until the species was near extinction by the mid-1980s. The 1996 California Condor Recovery Plan, developed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's California Condor Recovery Team recommended Northern Baja California as a potential release site. Following many years of discussion, the governments of Mexico and the U.S. entered into a Memorandum of Understanding in 2014 providing for cooperative actions furthering the recovery of California condor, including sharing of information, strategies, expertise, public information, educational material and training between and among the recovery programs for this species. This agenda item provides an update concerning both, the species status in the U.S. and the implementation of the MOU. As of this writing, there is an estimated 290 condors in the wild, 42 of which are in the Sierra de San Pedro Martir National Park release site in Baja California, Mexico including five chicks born between 2016 and 2018 at the Chapultepec Zoo, and a sixth chick born in 2019 that will very likely be joining the Mexican wild population. The US Fish and Wildlife Service is developing delisting criteria to use in amending the 1996 recovery plan for condors. At the time this plan was developed, there was not enough known about population viability in the wild to discuss what recovery would look like. **BACKGROUND:** The goal of this on-going binational collaborative effort is to establish a self-sustaining population of California condors (*Gymnogyps californianus*) within their historic range of distribution in Baja California, Mexico in an effort to recover the species. The overall condor population in Mexico grew steadily until 2014 from a combination of new releases from captive bred birds and natural productivity. However, cross border regulations resulting from concerns related to the highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) occurring in the United States have prevented the export of birds to Baja California from captive breeding sites in the United States since 2015. Since then, the one to two wild-fledglings born each year have been replenishing adult deaths. Thus, the population of condors in Mexico is at risk of declining, as its current size would not provide enough cushion in case of any excessive mortality. Alternative efforts to supplement the wild population include the establishment by CONANP of the first California condor captive breeding program centered at the Chapultepec Zoo since 2015. A total of six chicks have been successfully hatched as a result of this effort. The three chicks hatched in 2016 in Chapultepec Zoo were

transferred to Sierra de San Pedro Martir that same year and released in to the wild later in October 2017. In 2017 and 2018, two more chicks were hatched in the Chapultepec Zoo, and transferred to San Pedro Martir in October 2018. In addition, the Zacango Ecological Park, which is part of the State of Mexico's Commission for Natural Parks and Wildlife (CEPANAF), was added as an official party to the Program in 2018, and it is currently in the process of ensuring the transfer of a couple of birds to become part of its education and awareness program.

In September 2016, recognizing Mexico's leadership and institutional, professional and financial sustainability, the USFWS and San Diego Zoo presented a Transition Action Plan transferring the financial, operational and logistical responsibilities of the species reintroduction program to CONANP. The Transition Action Plan included medium-term goals, objectives, and proposed action plan targets to be accomplished no later than July 1, 2018. Some of CONANP's most remarkable milestones regarding the Transition Action Plan include the hiring of two full time employees for the release site and securing funding from the United Nation's Global Environmental Facility to cover the salaries of the rest of the core team. In addition, partners held a Binational Coordination Meeting in San Diego, CA in August 29, 2018 to tackle those Transition Action Plan targets and tasks that were still pending. Topics discussed ranged from the transfer of vehicles and equipment, to sharing of the species monitoring data, and coordination of research and veterinarian care activities. During the meeting, CONANP stated its desire to establish a limited captive breeding population in Mexico that will be supplemented by birds breed in the United States to ensure genetic diversity of this population. CONANP's short-term goals were described as follows:

i) Continue to support the efforts of the Direction General of Zoos and Wildlife of Mexico City to expand the captive breeding program by submitting a proposal to the USFWS requesting the addition of Aragon Zoo to the program;

ii) Resume the annual transfer of juvenile birds from the U.S. to increase the wild population in Mexico. All the Partners agreed to work together to import 4 to 6 juvenile captive-bred birds from the U.S. into Mexico in the spring of 2019.

iii) Define the next steps regarding Zacango Zoo involvement including which birds will be part of its future display exhibit, as well as the environmental education and awareness component of this effort; and

iv) Improve communication among domestic and international partners.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:

- Update on the species status in the U.S. and Mexico;
- Update on the status of the three chicks breed in captivity in Mexico in 2016 and released into the wild in 2018;
- Update on the status of the chicks hatched in captivity in Chapultepec Zoo in 2018 and 2019;

	• Update on CONANP's implementation of the Transition Action Plan. • Report on the status of Zacango Zoo's application to become a member of the California condor captive breeding program after Chapultepec Zoo; • Submit for consideration of the USFWS the nomination of Aragon Zoo as a member of the California condor captive breeding program in Mexico; and, • Update on species conservation research and non-lead hunting education programs in Baja California. • Discuss options for improved and continuous implementation of the MOU throughout the continued collaboration between CONANP, USFWS and San Diego Zoo on the management of the wild California condor population in Sierra de San Pedro Martir National Park, the breeding in captivity program in Mexico, as well as monitoring and research actions of the species in the wild. **SUBMITTED BY/AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR(S):** Amedee Brickey (USFWS), Jose Eduardo Ponce (CONANP), Ignacio Vilchis (San Diego Zoo Global).
1:15 – 1:35	**AGENDA ITEM 20:** Update on Southern Wings **COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:** Deborah Hahn, AFWA **DESCRIPTION:** The mission of Southern Wings is to provide a mechanism to support and facilitate State Fish and Wildlife Agency participation in conservation projects that support the conservation of shared migratory bird species in Mexico, Central and South America and the Caribbean. **BACKGROUND:** This is ongoing program for the State agencies with partnerships with Mexican and Canadian partners. We have presented on this program at previous meetings. The Program started in 2009. Since 2009 30 state fish and wildlife agencies have contributed almost $2.8 million to projects in the Colorado River Delta, Chihuahuan Desert grasslands, Laguna Madre, Sierra Madre Occidental, and Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico; Costa Rica; Nicaragua; Dominican Republic; Guatemala; Bolivia; and Colombia. It connects well with the Trilateral priority of connectivity even though terrestrial sites for migratory birds =are not always right next to each other. **REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:** Inform the Committee about the projects occurring in Mexico, consider how to increase participation by Mexican and Canadian partners for the conservation of shared migratory bird species, and discuss potential additional collaboration opportunities. **AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR:** Deborah Hahn, AFWA **SUBMITTED BY:** Deborah Hahn, AFWA
1:35-2:00	**AGENDA ITEM 21:** Update on Implementation of the North American Rabies Management Plan.

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: North American Rabies Management Team: Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies; Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies; Canadian Rabies Committee; Canadian Food Inspection Service; Environment Canada; Cornell; Indian Health Services; University of Alaska – Fairbanks; Mexico Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock Husbandry, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food (SAGARPA), National Service for Health, Safety and Food Quality (SENASICA); Mexico Ministry of Health (SALUD), National Center for Epidemiology Surveillance and Disease Control (CENAVECE); Ministere des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune due Quebec; Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Mexico (SEMARNAT); Navajo Nation; New York State Department of Health; Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources; Provincial Health New Brunswick; Public Health Agency of Canada; Texas Department of Health Services; Thomas Jefferson University; United States Animal Health Association; United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services and International Services; United States Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México; Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources; Global Alliance for Rabies Control; Puerto Rico Department of Health; PAHO; and Wistar Institute

DESCRIPTION: Despite remarkable precedents and achievements in the rabies management field, greater accomplishments are possible through trilateral cooperation. The establishment of a North American Rabies Management Plan (Plan) represented a key step in facilitating planning processes by which mutual border rabies control and prevention goals and objectives can be identified and better met among Canada, Mexico, the Navajo Nation, and the United States. Plan architecture has been formed and will continue to be shaped with input from each country through representatives in the fields of wildlife management, public health, and agriculture. Rabies management creates the interface that requires integration of these areas of responsibility. This Plan establishes a mechanism for rabies management in North America by assessing and defining the needs, priorities, and strategies required to control and eventually eliminate terrestrial rabies and to determine methods for managing bat rabies virus variants.

BACKGROUND: The North American Rabies Management Plan is designed to provide direction and serve as a catalyst for cooperative rabies management actions at the continental level. Key components of this Plan include routine communications on policies and rabies status, exchange of scientific and technical information, and collaboration on surveillance and control projects along the immediate borders of the four nations. The North American Rabies Management Plan, therefore, is designed to foster international cooperation involving governments at all levels, indigenous groups, nongovernmental organizations, corporations, universities, and private citizens. Success of the Plan depends on effective partnerships among all segments of society that have a role in rabies management. This Plan can be easily modified to adapt to change as a function of planning processes among bordering states and provinces and at the federal level. The ultimate function of the plan is to provide a framework and forum for constructive interaction among the states and provinces and

	federal levels of Canada, Mexico, and the U.S. to address challenges jointly and, thus, better ensure that long-term rabies management goals are met within each country and in North America. **REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:** • Continued support of the North American Rabies Management Plan • Increased border surveillance between Mexico and the US. • Participation by the US and Canada in the impacts of climate change on rabies spread associated with Arctic foxes. • Cross border participation in bat surveillance for rabies titers and impacts of climate change on bats especially vampire bats. • Continued support for data, samples, and technological exchanges across borders • Continued support to evaluate rabies vaccines in wildlife species **SUBMITTED BY/AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR:** David L. Bergman, US Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services
2:00-2:40	**AGENDA ITEM 22:** Update on Mexican Wolf Recovery in the United States and México **COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:** USFWS Mexican Wolf Recovery Program; Dirección General de Vida Silvestre (SEMARNAT); Dirección de Especies Prioritarias para la Conservación (CONANP); Universidad Autonoma de Queretaro; Arizona Game and Fish Department; and New Mexico Department of Game and Fish. **DESCRIPTION:** We propose to continue to work with our governmental and non-governmental partners at local, state, and federal levels in México and the U.S. on the conservation and recovery of the Mexican wolf along the U.S./Mexico border and throughout its historical distribution and on the implementation of the Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan, First Revision. Specifically, we propose to: 1) Continue working on the development and clearing process of a memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or Letter of Intent among USFWS, SEMARNAT, CONANP, Arizona Game and Fish Department, and New Mexico Department of Game and Fish for binational collaboration in the implementation of Mexican wolf recovery actions as outlined in the Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan, First Revision. 2) Begin discussions on additional funding to implement recovery actions, in particular for release and management of Mexican wolves in México and for depredation compensation and payments for presence in both countries. 3) Continue México/U.S. collaboration to manage the binational Mexican wolf Species Survival Plan (SSP) Captive Breeding Program to provide Mexican wolves for release in both countries.

4) Continue collaboration among USFWS; SEMARNAT; CONANP; AGFD, and NMDGF on the release of wolves in the U.S. and México.
5) Coordinate among USFWS, CONANP, and state wildlife agencies in Arizona and New Mexico, and USDA–APHIS Wildlife Services should wolves in México disperse into the U.S.

BACKGROUND: In November 2017, the USFWS completed the Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan, First Revision, with the assistance of CONANP, SEMARNAT, Arizona Game and Fish Department, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, and other agencies and scientists from both countries. The recovery plan provides guidance that will lead to the delisting of the Mexican wolf under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. Key to Mexico wolf recovery is the establishment of an average annual population of 320 Mexican wolves in the U.S., and an average annual population of 200 Mexican wolves in México. Both populations are reliant on the Mexican Wolf Species Survival Plan Captive Breeding Program. México is in the early phase of establishing a population and thus relies on the breeding program to release adult wolves with pups. Both the U.S. and México rely on the captive breeding program to improve the gene diversity of the wild populations. México and the U.S. collaborate to manage the approximately 52 captive breeding facilities in the United States and México, which house 250 to 300 wolves for potential release into the wild. All of these wolves are managed in accordance with the Mexican Wolf SSP. The USFWS, SEMARNAT, CONANP, and AGFD collaborate on the implementation of recovery actions for the Mexican wolf in the United States and México. In 1998, the U.S. completed the first release of Mexican wolves into the Mexican Wolf Experimental Population Area; in 2017, the U.S. wild population had at least 114 Mexican wolves. In 2011, CONANP completed the first release of wolves in México, since their extirpation; in 2017, the México wild population had approximately 30 Mexican wolves.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:

- We request endorsement to seek an expeditious clearance process and approval to sign the above referenced MOU or Letter of Intent for binational collaboration in the implementation of Mexican wolf recovery actions as outlined in the Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan, First Revision, as soon as possible.

- We request guidance to identify additional depredation compensation and payments for presence in both countries.

- We request endorsement to continue collaborating on implementing the Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan, First Revision.

- We request endorsement to continue México/U.S. collaboration to manage the binational Mexican wolf Species Survival Plan (SSP) captive breeding program to provide Mexican wolves for release in both countries.

AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR(S): Brady McGee, Marie Palma, Eduardo Ponce, Jim deVos, Stewart Liley

	SUBMITTED BY (include name and agency)**:** Brady McGee (USFWS), Eduardo Ponce (CONANP), Jim deVos (AGFD), Stewart Liley (NMDGF)
2:40-3:00	**AGENDA ITEM 23:** Grassland and Black-Tailed Prairie Dog Conservation **COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:** Arizona Game and Fish Department, Sonora Commission of Ecology and Sustainable Development (CEDES), National University Autonomous of Mexico (UNAM), Janos Biosphere Reserve (JBR-CONANP), Endangered Species Office-CONANP, Dirección General de Vida Silvestre-SEMARNAT, Bureau of Land Management, USFWS, Arizona State Land Department, and the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. **DESCRIPTION:** In 2018, the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) continued with the re-establishment of black-tailed prairie dogs (BTPD) to the southeastern portion of Arizona. There were two trapping events to assess the health and determine the population of the three colonies of BTPD at Las Cienegas National Conservation Area (LCNCA), one in March and another in September. These monitoring efforts have indicated a steadily growing population with estimates of over 350 prairie dogs and 21.2 occupied acres. Colonies are continually monitored throughout the year by the AGFD. To encourage the participation of volunteers and expand citizen science efforts, this year we developed a smart device application to collect information on prairie dog counts, weather conditions, and other species observations. Grassland restoration has been on-going in grasslands surrounding the existing colonies. Grassland restoration includes removing invasive mesquite trees, rehabilitating grasses, and prescribed fires. To date, over 550 acres of grasslands have been restored and BTPD have quickly started to expand into these cleared areas. AGFD and the Bureau of Land Management completed these restoration activities with funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Additionally, the AGFD Contract's branch completed a six year study (2010-2016) investigating the effects BTPD have on a Lehmann lovegrass dominated grassland community in southeastern Arizona and submitted a final report. There were monitoring activities carried out in the Janos Biosphere Reserve to evaluate distribution, abundance, and health status of BTPD. The complex occupied 8,150 acres (3,323 ha) inhabited by around 30,000 individuals. The results of the clinical examination indicate that BTPD have a good health status. Restoration and outreach efforts were also conducted in priority sites within the Janos Biosphere Reserve. No population assessments were conducted in Sonora in 2018. **BACKGROUND:** AGFD began re-establishing BTPD in 2000. After extensive research was completed on the feasibility of re-establishment, the first BTPD were released in 2008 at the

	LCNCA. Source populations have been from Ladder Ranch, McDonald Ranch, and McGregor military range in New Mexico and La Mesa colony in Sonora, MX. In 2018 the AGFD, the National University of Mexico (UNAM) and the Janos Biosphere Reserve (CONANP), implemented a number of monitoring and conservation actions for the black-tailed prairie dog and black-footed ferret. Restoration and educational efforts also were conducted in the region. The Janos Biosphere Reserve is a unique grassland ecosystem containing the largest prairie dog complex in North America. Ferrets were reintroduced in the Reserve back in 2011, but drug trafficking activities in the area made impossible to conduct biological monitoring. Unfortunately, no ferrets have been found since monitoring was reestablished in 2013. Epidemiological diagnoses have been carried out in the Janos Biosphere Reserve. So far, the presence of any bacteria such as *Yersinia pestis* in the region has not been confirmed. However, as a preventive measure, it has been suggested to continue monitoring the BTPD colonies and their associated species. Currently, BTPD complex is recovering, however, threats persist on the region. Therefore, it is necessary to continue with conservation efforts needed to maintain species and ecosystem processes in a human dominated landscape. In addition, AGFD continues working with Sonora's Commission on Environment and Sustainable Development (CEDES) to determine the population status of black-tailed prairie dogs in northern Sonora and to plan for the re-establishment of the La Mesa colony near Cananea, Sonora. **REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:** 1) Continue working on binational black-tailed prairie dog recovery. 2) Conduct population surveys in Arizona, Chihuahua, and Sonora. 3) Augment the new colony at Sands Ranch. 4) Continue to work with Sonora and Mexico to establish standardized protocols for monitoring and managing BTPD in the southwest. 5) Continue habitat restoration and environmental education campaigns in Janos. 6) Continue dialogue for potential translocations, if justified. 7) Establish satellite burrow systems adjacent to colonies to encourage expansion and direct dispersals from the main colonies. 8) Determine the relocation protocol to translocate prairie dogs within the Janos Biosphere Reserve. **AGENDA ITEM PRESENTORS:** Bill Van Pelt and Francisco Abarca, Arizona Game and Fish Department; José Eduardo Ponce Guevara, Office of Priority Species Conservation, CONANP. **SUBMITTED BY:** Bill Van Pelt, Jamey Driscoll, and Francisco Abarca, Arizona Game and Fish Department; and José Eduardo Ponce Guevara, CONANP.

3:00-3:15	**AGENDA ITEM 24:** Update of Black-footed ferret recovery efforts in Mexico, Canada, and the United States **COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:** • **Mexico:** Eduardo Ponce Guevara, jponce@conanp.gob.mx (CONANP) • **Canada:** Tara Stephens, TaraS@calgaryzoo.com (Calgary Zoo) Stefano Liccioli, stefano.liccioli@canada.ca (Parks Canada) • **United States:** Pete Gober, pete_gober@fws.gov, (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) **DESCRIPTION:** Black-footed ferret conservation efforts have occurred in Mexico, Canada, and the United States for several decades. **BACKGROUND:** Since 1991, captive bred black-footed ferrets have been released into the wild at 30 different sites across western North America. Mexico initiated one site in 2001 and Canada initiated one site in 2009. The United States initiated the most recent site in 2018. Successful reintroduction efforts rely on several traditional wildlife management efforts, but principally on the management of the nonnative disease, sylvatic plague, which affects both ferrets and their prairie dog prey. Wildlife managers must address landowner tolerances related to endangered species protections (ferrets) and pest concerns (prairie dogs). Emerging technologies involving genetic manipulations have resulted in a novel plague vaccine formulation for prairie dogs and may result in gene editing that could infer plague immunity in ferrets. **REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:** Continued tri-national communication and support **AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR(s):** • **Mexico:** Eduardo Ponce Guevara, jponce@conanp.gob.mx (CONANP) • **Canada:** Tara Stephens, TaraS@calgaryzoo.com (Calgary Zoo) Stefano Liccioli, stefano.liccioli@canada.ca (Parks Canada) • **United States:** Pete Gober, pete_gober@fws.gov, (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) **SUBMITTED BY:** Pete Gober, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
3:15-3:30	*Break*
3:30-4:45	*Joint Session with Ecosystem Working Table (Agenda Items 25-27) – Center Vancouver Island Boardroom*
3:30-3:50	**AGENDA ITEM 25:** U.S. National Park Service Updates: Bison Conservation, Condor Restoration, Grassland Restoration, Landscape-scale work **COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:** Elaine F. Leslie, Chief, Biological Resources, U.S. National Park Service **DESCRIPTION:** An overview will be given of species conservation initiatives of the National Park Service in the U.S.

	REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: To share information of species-focused conservation supporting larger ecosystems.
3:50-4:10	**AGENDA ITEM 26:** Parks Canada Agency updates: Plains Bison conservation, Greater Sage Grouse recovery, and Grassland Restoration **COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:** Lindsay Rodger, National Manager, Species Conservation, Parks Canada Agency **DESCRIPTION:** An overview will be given of species at risk recovery initiatives of the Parks Canada Agency, focusing on plains bison, greater sage grouse, and related grassland restoration initiatives. **REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:** To share information regarding species-focused conservation and recovery efforts and supporting ecosystem restoration work. **AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR:** Lindsay Rodger, National Manager, Species Conservation, Parks Canada Agency **SUBMITTED BY:** Lindsay Rodger, National Manager, Species Conservation, Parks Canada Agency
4:10-4:40	**AGENDA ITEM 27:** Private Lands Conservation in North America **COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS**: Dave Walker, Farm Conservation Programs Manager, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (facilitator); José Eduardo Ponce Guevara, Acting Director for Priority Species Conservation, National Commission for Natural Protected Areas (CONANP); and Robin Bloom, SARPAL Coordinator, Canadian Wildlife Service. **DESCRIPTION**: Conservation on private lands, in particular working with farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural producers, is a critical component of any broad grasslands conservation strategy. The NAGA proposal puts working with ranchers at the center of its strategy of grasslands conservation while keeping working lands working. This presentation will provide an overview of private lands conservation programs in North America with perspectives from all three countries, along with a facilitated discussion around how to incorporate private lands conservation programs into trilateral efforts and initiatives. **BACKGROUND**: In 2015-2016, the CEC supported a two-year project, entitled, "Engaging Farmers and Other Landowners to Support Monarch Butterfly and Pollinator Conservation" with the overarching goal to promote habitat restoration and enhancement in key breeding grounds and migration corridors of the monarch butterfly in Canada, Mexico, and the United States. Since much of the breeding habitat has been lost to agriculture and other land development, this project reaches out to farmers, other land-owners, communities and organizations in the three countries to provide practical, tested guidance about how to create and maintain

	monarch-friendly habitat. This will also contribute to the conservation of other native pollinators on land under agricultural production. This conversation builds upon that work. **REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES**: Building off the work of the CEC, discuss potential opportunities for trilateral collaboration with regards to engaging farmers, ranchers, and other producers in grasslands conservation, as part of a larger trilateral grasslands conservation effort. **AGENDA ITEM PRESENTORS**: Dave Walker, Farm Conservation Programs Manager, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (facilitator); José Eduardo Ponce Guevara, Acting Director for Priority Species Conservation, National Commission for Natural Protected Areas (CONANP); and Robin Bloom, SARPAL Coordinator, Canadian Wildlife Service.
	Dinner on Own

THURSDAY, April 11. 2019
Room: East Vancouver Island Boardroom

09:00-10:00	*Joint Session with Migratory Bird Table* **AGENDA ITEM 28:** Golden Eagle: U.S., Mexico and Canada Approach to Management **COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:** Eduardo Ponce and Angélica Narváez (CONANP), Brian Millsap (USFWS) **DESCRIPTION:** The purpose of this agenda item is to review collaborative efforts among Mexico, Canada, and the US to manage tracking of Golden Eagles; update participants on all recent advances in technology, consulting, monitoring, and best tracking practices, and identify new partners and goals. **BACKGROUND:** Currently, there are a number of golden eagle individuals in Mexico with transmitters that have generated information about the dispersion and use of habitat during the pre-adult stage. Despite the fact that eagles do not migrate, data suggests that their home range fluctuate greatly, and there is a strong tendency for individuals to return within 100 km of their natal site to breed. Similar information has been collected in the United States. Collectively, the knowledge obtained about movements shows eagles use both US, Mexico, and Canada, opening an opportunity for a joint collaboration to monitor and maintain eagle populations. In this regard, the proposed agenda item intends to explore the possibility to work on a continental report for Golden Eagle distribution and population status. **REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:** Update participants at the Table in an effort to establish some form of collaboration that may strengthen Mexico's current

	Golden Eagle tracking project and identify proper contacts in the U.S. and Canada that Mexico could work with to conduct a population diagnose at a continental scale. **AGENDA ITEM PRESENTORS:** Eduardo Ponce Guevara, Office of Priority Species Conservation (CONANP) and Brian Millsap (USFWS) **SUBMITTED BY:** Eduardo Ponce, Office of Priority Species Conservation, CONANP
10:00-10:15	*Break*
10:15-10:45	**AGENDA ITEM 29:** Strengthening Pronghorn populations in Chihuahua – Reintroduction of Gould's turkey in New Mexico. **BINATIONAL/TRINATIONAL:** Binational - Mexico and United States **COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:** New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, Priority Species for Conservation Office-CONANP, Dirección General de Vida Silvestre (DGVS)-SEMARNAT, Autonomous University of Queretaro, PROFAUNA. **DESCRIPTION:** For this project, parties propose to continue collaborating in implementing the translocation of Gould´s turkey to New Mexico, and discuss the possibility of working together on pronghorn connectivity and monitoring and the possible translocation of a second herd of pronghorn in 2020. **BACKGROUND:** Pronghorn are endangered in Mexico, while populations in New Mexico are robust. Specially, in Chihuahua, pronghorn numbers have been declining over the past years, and some studies reflect high loss of genetic diversity due to isolation of the populations and poaching. In recent years, CONANP has funded projects to establish habitat management actions and specific surveys of local populations, to support the conservation of the pronghorn in Chihuahua. Gould's turkey is present in Mexico in the Sierra Madre Occidental, and although classified as threatened in the NOM-059-SEMARNAT-2010, populations can be harvested in UMA with permit of the Direccion General de Vida Silvestre – SEMARNAT. In New Mexico Gould's turkeys are currently listed as a state threatened species under the state Wildlife Conservation Act. In 2017, the NMDGF proposed an exchange of animals to strengthen Pronghorn populations in the state of Chihuahua, and Gould's turkey populations in New Mexico. In 2018, parties developed a project to identify and assess the potential sites and conditions in order to determine the best sites in which pronghorns could be released, and obtained the necessary approvals from the landowners in Chihuahua to prepare the reception of the animals. As a result, in November 2018, a group of 100 pronghorns were captured in Colfax County in the state of New Mexico, and released in Hacienda Corralitos and in Rancho Ojo de Federico, in the State of Chihuahua. **REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:**

	1) Develop a transfer and release plan for 100 Gould's turkeys from Mexico to New Mexico. 2) Develop a translocation plan for 100 pronghorns from New Mexico to Chihuahua. 3) Assess pronghorn population viability in NPA in northern Mexico. 4) Evaluate the possibility of establishing a semi-captive breeding facility in the Janos Biosphere Reserve to promote and ensure the genetic diversity and act as a surplus of animals to the different populations throughout the state. **AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR:** Stewart Liley, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish; Carlos Lopez Gonzalez, Autonomous University of Queretaro; Angelica Narvaez, Office of Priority Species Conservation, CONANP. **SUBMITTED BY:** José Eduardo Ponce – CONANP, Stewart Liley – New Mexico Department of Game and Fish.
10:45-11:15	**AGENDA ITEM 30:** Update on Sonoran Pronghorn Recovery **COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:** Sonoran Pronghorn Recovery Team, Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD), U.S, Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) – Arizona Ecological Services, Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge (CPNWR), Kofa National Wildlife Refuge (KNWR), Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument (ORPI), Arizona Antelope Foundation, Arizona State University, US Border Patrol, Barry M. Goldwater Range, Yuma Proving Ground, The Phoenix Zoo, Los Angeles Zoo, Sonora Commission of Ecology and Sustainable Development (CEDES), Dirección General de Vida Silvestre-SEMARNAT, Pinacate Biosphere Reserve (PBR)-CONANP, Northwest Regional Office-CONANP, and Endangered Species Office-CONANP. **DESCRIPTION:** To work toward recovery of the Sonoran pronghorn range wide, the collaborators propose to continue binational monitoring (including telemetry) efforts, continuing a captive breeding program within the CPNWR and KNWR and subsequent releases in the wild, conducting training efforts in survey methodology and other important wildlife management practices for collaborators in Mexico. In 2016, the USFWS finalized and approved the Sonoran Pronghorn Recovery Plan. The revised recovery plan lays out a strategy that includes protecting habitat; increasing and/or maintaining existing populations in the U.S. and Mexico and possibly establishing additional populations, while managing for genetic diversity; removing, reducing, or managing threats to the species; and identifying and addressing priority monitoring and research needs. Achieving the recovery criteria will ensure the long-term conservation and protection of the pronghorn and its habitat and could prompt removing it from the list of endangered species. The plan estimates that the delisting goals could be met by 2036. In Arizona, the Cabeza and Kofa breeding programs continue to do well. Temporary holding pens at two release sites, including a new release site, were constructed during November 2018. The new release site is located on the East Arm of Yuma

	Proving Ground east of Highway 95 and adjacent to Kofa National Wildlife Refuge. The second release site was at Kofa National Wildlife Refuge; although, no animals were released this year at Kofa NWR. Trapping attempts for the capture and release operation at Kofa National Wildlife Refuge stared on January 4th; initial attempts to capture all the animals were successful, but on January 6th all of the animals escaped via a small side gate on one of the bomas. Attempts were made to re-capture the herd the following week but they were unsuccessful; consequently, no animals were released from the Kofa pen this year. In mid-December, 18 animals were captured at the Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge pen, processed, and moved into a holding pen for their subsequent release at the new release site after three weeks of acclimation. Additionally, the Arizona range-wide survey was conducted on December 8th – 16th. The estimated population in the wild is 215 Sonoran pronghorn. This agenda item is an update on progress made on binational conservation activities. **BACKGROUND:** Sonoran pronghorn are endangered in both the U. S. and Mexico. As part of a binational effort in recovery, partners have implemented several successful binational efforts aimed at recovery of the subspecies in both countries. These activities include: conducting range-wide surveys in both countries on a two-year interval, equipping Sonoran pronghorn with GPS-based and VHF telemetry collars in Mexico and the U.S., implementing a captive breeding program in Arizona to provide offspring to augment wild populations in Arizona and Sonora, implementing forage enhancement and water projects, conducting genetic and diseases studies, and providing training efforts in survey methodology and other important wildlife management practices for collaborators in Mexico. These initiatives have been supported by the Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management for more than a decade. **REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES**: 1) Continue working on binational Sonoran pronghorn recovery. 2) Conduct population surveys in Arizona and Sonora. 3) Implement a translocation for 6 Sonoran pronghorn from Arizona to the PBR. 4) Continue releasing Sonoran pronghorn into selected areas in Arizona. 5) Maintain water and forage enhancement projects. 6) Continue discussions on restoring linkages between the populations in Mexico and between the populations in the U.S. and Mexico to benefit the pronghorn that are currently largely isolated. 7) Continue discussions on establishing a third population in Sonora. **AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR:** Jim deVos and Francisco Abarca, Arizona Game and Fish Department **SUBMITTED BY:** Jim deVos, John Hervert, Jill Bright, Cynthia Soria, and Francisco Abarca, AGFD; Leonardo Corrales, Raul Molina, CEDES; Erin Fernandez, Arizona Ecological Services Office, USFWS; Christa Weise, Kofa National Wildlife Refuge; and Eduardo Ponce, Angelica Narvaez, Ana Luisa Figueroa, Martin Sau, CONANP.
11:15-12:00	**AGENDA ITEM 31:** Continental Scale Bison Conservation

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Jenny Powers, National Park Service (United States) Elaine Leslie, National Park Service (United States), Lindsay Rodger, Parks Canada (Canada), Eduardo Ponce and Angélica Narváez, Comisión Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas (Mexico), Glen Plumb, Chair, IUCN SCC Bison Specialist Group (United States); Flora Moir and Pedro Calderón, Fondo Mexicano para la Conservación de la Naturaleza (Mexico).

DESCRIPTION: The SCCC Working Table is the appropriate forum to examine recent advances in bison conservation across historic range in Canada, Mexico and United States. Each nation has achieved notable advances within the past years, yet there is need for enhanced international cooperation and collaboration for conservation of wild and ranging bison at the continental scale, including improved conservation according to biological principles and ensuring the evolutionary capacity of various bison populations and preserving the genetic diversity of bison.

BACKGROUND: At the 2015 and 2016 SCCC Working Table, a team from Canada, Mexico and United States presented the species' recent advances in science and stewardship, and identified opportunities and challenges for conservation of wild and ranging bison on large landscapes across North American historic range. These opportunities included, among others, a comprehensive Status Review and Conservation Guidelines published by the IUCN NA Bison.

In Mexico, the only herd of American bison (*Bison bison*) is currently located within the Janos Biosphere Reserve without the interference of domestic livestock genes, turning it into a population source of genetics locally adapted for the recovery and conservation of the species in the country. Its location represents the southern end of its distribution, so it is important to create new herds to recover their ecological role and protect the gene pool of the species. Its recovery in the US and Canada has been strongly linked to the creation of dynamic markets for exploitation, giving the species an important economic value that serves as an incentive for producers. Currently, the biggest impediment to this happening in Mexico is legal, since regulations limit the economic development of herd owners. In addition, there is a lack of information on the current status of the general population of bison in the country, which limits the design of future conservation initiatives. The proposed discussion will establish the bases that will launch the second stage of bison conservation in Mexico.

During the second half of 2016 and the first half 2017, parties worked on a draft Letter of Intent for Bison Conservation among Canada, the U.S. and Mexico, and presented this to the Executive Working Group for its endorsement. The proposed LOI would facilitate the trilateral collaboration among the three countries, including a program for the use of artificial breeding procedures for bison. However, due to a number of constraints, the approval process for this LOI was not concluded.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Following upon the presentations described above, the Tri-Lateral Bison Team requests the SCCWT support to continue dialogue on American bison conservation and, if appropriate, to begin the clearance process for the signing of the above referenced Letter of Intent which would

	formalize the creation of a trilateral group of experts on conservation of the American Bison from the three countries. The proposed LOI would facilitate the development of coordinated population and genetic monitoring programs for bison that would allow for reliable inferences about status, distribution, and population trends of bison at various spatial scales, and to initiate a program for the use of artificial breeding procedures for bison. **AGENDA ITEM PRESENTORS:** Fondo Mexicano para la Conservación de la Naturaleza (FMCN); Priority Species Office (CONANP); Glenn Plumb, Chair, IUCN SCC Bison Specialist Group. **SUBMITTED BY:** Eduardo Ponce, Office of Priority Species Conservation, CONANP
12:00-12:20	**AGENDA ITEM 32:** Porcupine Caribou **COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:** Craig Machtans (CWS); Main organizations involved in management: USFWS, Alaska Department of Fish &Game, Yukon Government, Government of Northwest Territories, Porcupine Caribou Management Board, Gwich'in, Inuvialuit, and Inupiat Governments and Indigenous Organizations. **DESCRIPTION:** Passage of the US Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (2017) provided congressional authority to lease a portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska for oil and gas development. This agenda item provides an update and description of issues of a jointly managed, transboundary caribou herd from the Canadian perspective. **BACKGROUND:** Canada and the United States jointly manage a medium sized (population 218,000) barren ground caribou herd that annually ranges between northeastern Alaska and northern Yukon and western Northwest Territories. The herd tightly congregates for calving and post-calving on the coastal plain, usually in a portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge known as the "1002 lands". The countries signed a treaty in 1987 outlining the shared goal of conserving the herd and its habitat, minimizing irreversible damage or long term adverse effects to the caribou, and to ensure continued customary and traditional use of the herd by Indigenous people. Canada has permanently protected almost all of the areas used for calving in Canada, as well as protecting and managing other portions of the herd's annual range and implementing a rigorous domestic management structure to ensure sustained use of the herd. Interestingly, the Porcupine Caribou herd is the only large caribou herd in North America that is at high population levels and growing. The apparent success of the herd is tied to the herd's access to a diverse range of habitats/conditions across all critical time windows, resulting in favourable cow and calf survival, but with relatively low productivity. Population modelling predicts that development in the 1002 lands will decrease calf survival and, given the relatively low productivity of the herd and lack of other high quality calving areas, could lead directly to population declines. Some of the challenges of joint management will be

	discussed, including all the different levels of engagement on this issue, from the field biologist level to formal country-to-country meetings. **REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:** For information and awareness **AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR(S):** Craig Machtans, CWS **SUBMITTED BY:** Craig Machtans, CWS
12:20-1:45	*Lunch*
1:45-2:05	**AGENDA ITEM 33:** Revision of SCCCWT Terms of Reference Discussion **COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:** SCCCWT Co-Chairs, Facilitators, and Participants **DESCRIPTION:** Table participants will review the existing SCCCWT Terms of Reference (TOR) and discuss any necessary revisions or updates to accomplish the following: Revise/Update SCCCWT Terms of Reference to accomplish the following – • Align TOR with new Trilateral Committee Overarching Priorities • Clarify expectations of participations, facilitators and Co-Chairs • Revisit all section of the TOR including goals, objectives, etc. **REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:** Participants will come to agreement on the need for any revisions to the SCCCWT Terms of Reference. **SUBMITTED BY:** SCCCWT Co-Chairs
2:05-2:25	**AGENDA ITEM 34:** Maximizing Efficiency and Effectiveness of the SCCCWT **COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:** SCCCWT Co-Chairs, Facilitators, and Participants **DESCRIPTION:** Table participants will be asked to provide feedback/suggestions for ways to maximize efficiency and effectiveness of the working table for the 2020 meeting. This may include restructuring the working table agenda to enhance opportunities for information sharing and effectiveness. **REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:** The working table participants will agree on actionable items for inclusion in the 2019 Action Item Report. **SUBMITTED BY:** SCCCWT Co-Chairs
2:25-2:40	*SCCCWT Co-Chairs Wrap-Up*
2:40-3:15	Time reserved for SCCCWT co-chairs to prepare materials for ET, Preparation of 1-page highlights document and Action Item Report

3:15-3:30	*Break*
3:30-5:00	Working Tables Report out to Executive Table – *Galliano Boardroom*
6:30 -	Closing Dinner – Royal BC Museum