



ASSOCIATION *of* FISH & WILDLIFE AGENCIES

Past, Present and Future Roles Relating to Drought Mitigation for Fish & Wildlife

Virgil Moore

Director, Idaho Fish and Game



President, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies





THE VOICE OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES

- Founded in 1902
 - represents North America's fish and wildlife agencies to advance science-based management and conservation of species and their habitats for the public's long-term benefit and use.
- Membership
 - State, Provincial, and Territorial fish and wildlife agencies, federal agencies, non governmental organizations, and life members





ASSOCIATION *of* FISH & WILDLIFE AGENCIES

Our Mission

To support and advocate for State, Provincial, and Territorial responsibility for science-based fish and wildlife conservation.





ASSOCIATION *of* FISH & WILDLIFE AGENCIES

OUR VISION

Sustainable fish and wildlife populations and habitat management in trust for and supported by the public.



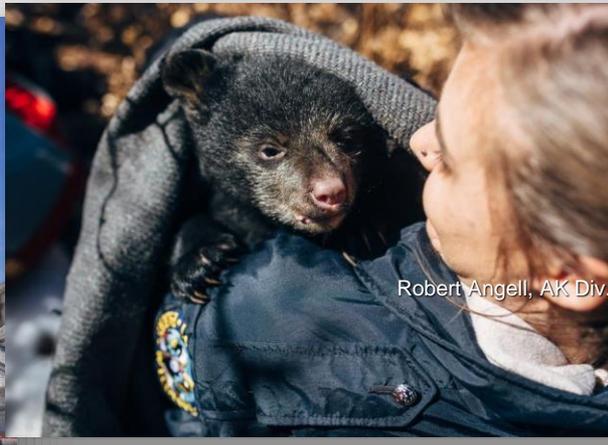


ASSOCIATION *of* FISH & WILDLIFE AGENCIES

A NATIONAL AGENDA

... represents members on Capitol Hill and on key conservation and management policies to ensure fish and wildlife priorities are addressed and

...secure broader, sustained funding for fish and wildlife conservation.



Robert Angell, AK Div. Of Tourism

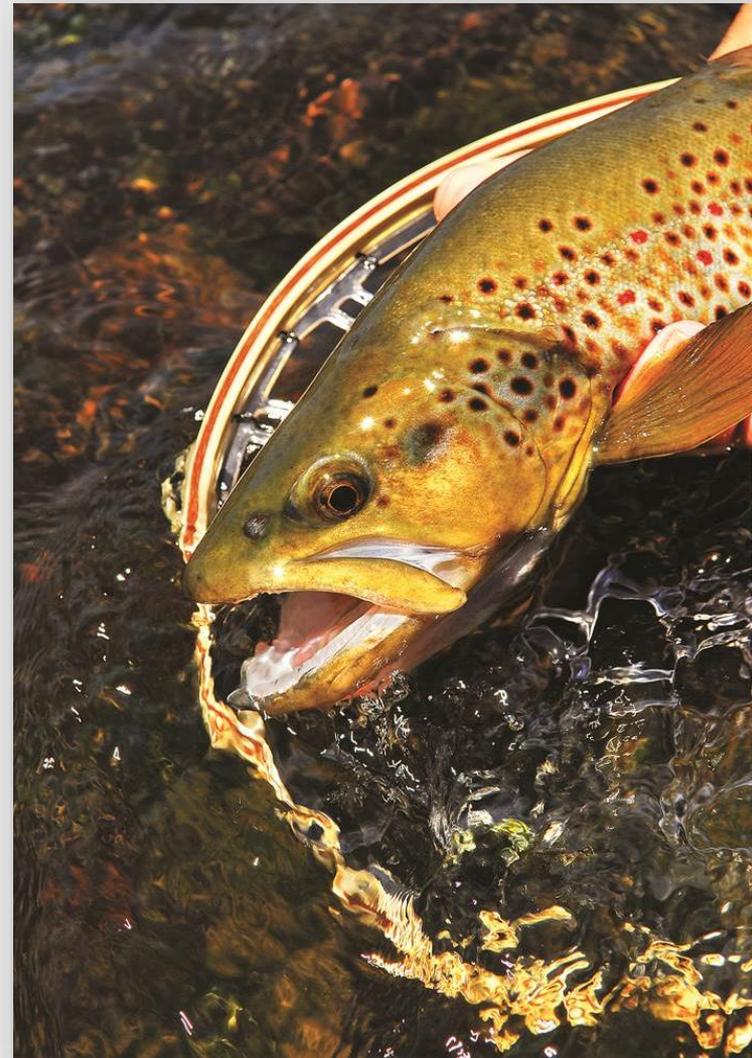




ASSOCIATION *of* FISH & WILDLIFE AGENCIES

Contribute their expertise on **more than 70 committees**, subcommittees and working groups....

Agricultural Conservation ▪ Amphibian & Reptile Conservation ▪ Angler/Boating Participation ▪ Annual Meeting/Awards/Nominating ▪ Audit ▪ Bird Conservation ▪ Climate Change ▪ Education, Outreach & Diversity ▪ Energy and Wildlife Policy ▪ Executive ▪ Federal and Tribal Relations ▪ Finance ▪ Fish & Wildlife Health ▪ Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund ▪ [Fisheries/Water Resources Policy](#) ▪ Hunting/Shooting Sports Participation ▪ International Relations ▪ Invasive Species ▪ Joint Federal/State Task Force on Federal Assistance Policy ▪ Law Enforcement ▪ Leadership/Professional Development ▪ Legal ▪ Legislative and Federal Budget ▪ National Grant ▪ Ocean Resources Policy ▪ Resolutions ▪ Science and Research ▪ Sustainable Use of Wildlife ▪ Technology & Data ▪ Threatened/Endangered Species Policy ▪ Wildlife Diversity Conservation and Funding ▪ Wildlife Resource Policy ... **and more!**





ASSOCIATION *of* FISH & WILDLIFE AGENCIES

National Fish Habitat Action Plan

Mission: to protect, restore and enhance the nation's fish and aquatic communities... and foster fish habitat conservation... for the American people.

This mission will be achieved by:

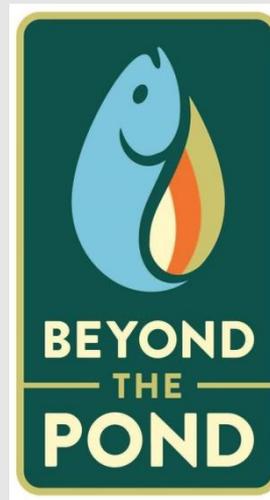
Supporting existing fish habitat partnerships and fostering new efforts

Mobilizing and focusing national and local support for achieving fish habitat conservation goals

Setting national and regional fish habitat conservation goals

Measuring and communicating the status and needs of fish habitats

Providing national leadership and coordination to conserve fish habitats





AFWA Instream Flow Council Scientific & Technical Input Process Established (September 2017)

As needed, AFWA FWRPC fish chiefs will request their respective IFC designees to participate in Fish Chief and other committee teleconferences on an as needed case by case basis for scientific and technical input on instream flow and water level issues pertaining to conserving (protection, restoration and enhancement) of adequate amounts of clean water for fish and wildlife.





Clear Needs identified by 2015 AFWA Drought Forum and Follow-up calls:

1. Build partnerships across governments and with other NGOs
 - a. Better ties to water organizations with links to governors such as Western States Water Council
 - b. Traditional and non-traditional partners recognize and advocate for fish & wildlife habitat as a critical use of water.
2. Use the federal budget process to encourage investment in real-time water quantity and temperature monitoring that will help states make decisions with credible science.
3. Work across boundaries within AFWA
 - a. Establish better links between AFWA Fisheries and Water Resource Policy Committee and other AFWA committees that address water related issues for wildlife in addition to fish and boating access. Consider seeking technical assistance from the Instream Flow Council.
4. Act as a forum for sharing lessons learned
5. Compile tools/resources
 - a. Communication to keep drought in the public eye, avoid the "hydro-illogic cycle"
 - b. International research
- c. Funding mechanisms
- d. Decision support for fish & wildlife management
6. Influence policy decisions
7. Ensure that regulatory flexibility during drought does not negatively affect fish & wildlife
8. Establish better protocol for building flexibility in to ESA
9. Encourage voluntary initiatives for sharing water within states
10. Track policy/legislation changes that might affect state management of fish & wildlife
11. Keep water quantity/quality in the spotlight for long term planning
12. Utilize the drought.gov forum to share information

- The recommendations from the forum could be addressed and managed by standing up a water subcommittee in Fisheries and Water Resources Policy Committee.
- It is hard to message "drought" when they are having "floods" and is a nightmare to relay to the public and policy makers. Hard to get public attention when they are no longer in a water deficit. (the Hydro-illogic Cycle)

Sponsored by: AFWA Fisheries & Water Resources Policy, Climate Change, Science & Research, Threatened & Endangered Species Committees and Ocean Resources Policy Committees





Post Drought Forum Action Examples

Through AFWA Fisheries and Water Resources Policy Committee:

- *Established* Water Subcommittee 2016 (also liaison with other AFWA Fish & Wildlife Committees, Regional Associations and other Stakeholders)
- *Established* formal mechanism for Instream Flow Council scientific & technical assistance and input on instream flow & water level issues
- Improved AFWA coordination with WSWC, WGA, other stakeholders
- Increased engagement on drought & related legislative, regulatory, scientific, technical policy, and other issues potentially negatively impacting adequate amounts of clean water fish & wildlife
- Promoted support for FLOW 2018 & similar workshops





AFWA Instream Flow Council Scientific and Technical Expertise Recognition

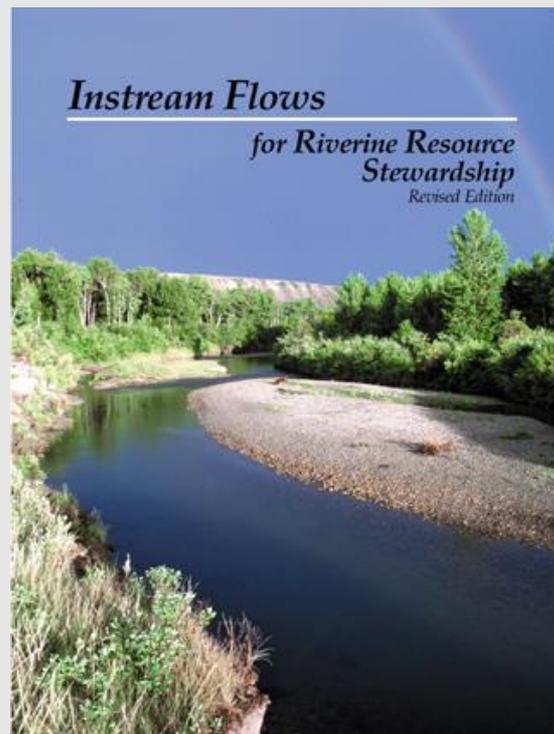
Excerpts from AFWA June 16, 2016 Letter to EPA/USGS

"...Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OW-2015-0335

Re: Notice of Availability-Request for public comments on the draft EPA-USGS Technical Report: Protecting Aquatic Life from Effects of Hydrologic Alteration

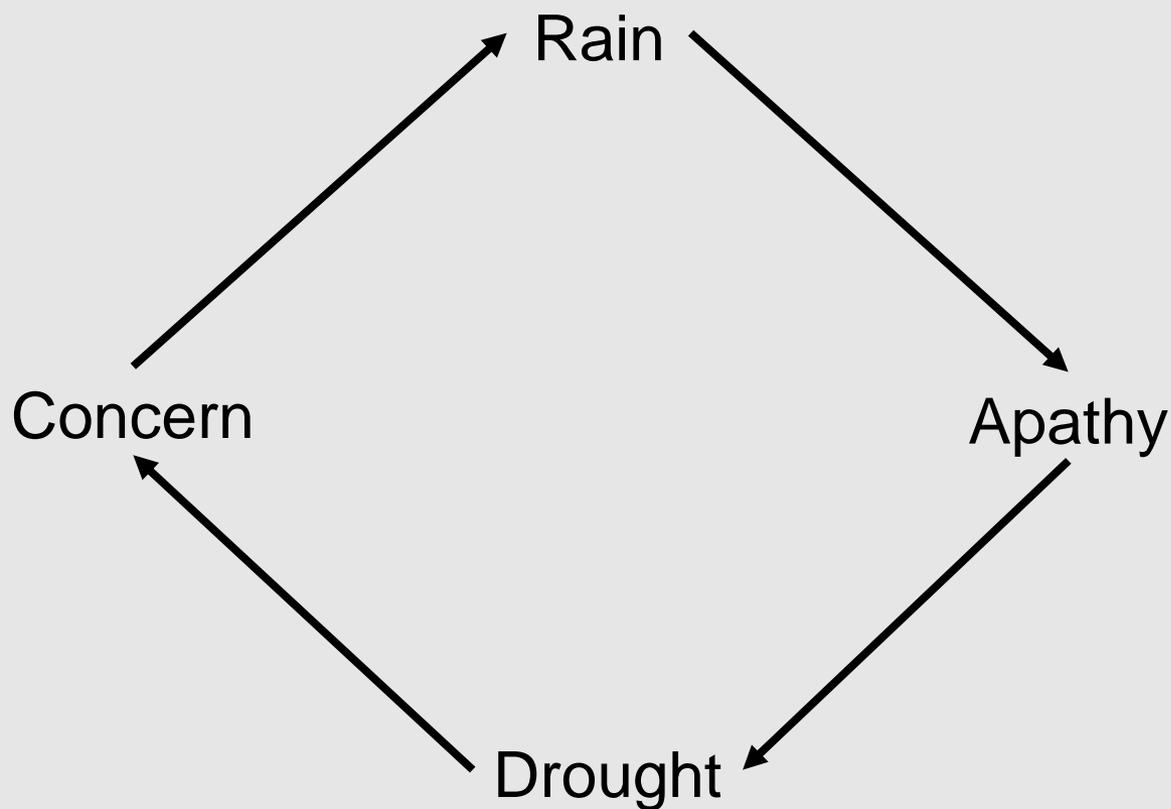
The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (Association) is writing to provide comments for the record on the Draft Technical Report: Protecting Aquatic Life from the Effects of Hydrologic Alteration (Technical Report), prepared by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Geological Survey (USGS; Agencies).... "

"...We are pleased to see that the Technical Report references and relies upon the science provided in the Instream Flow Council (IFC) publication, Instream Flows for Riverine Resource Stewardship (Annear et al. 2004). The IFC, which drafted that publication, is comprised of members of state and provincial fish and wildlife agencies. All state fish and wildlife agencies reviewed the content of the IFC document prior to publication in order to ensure its nationwide applicability, accuracy, and utility, thereby establishing it as a foundational document on the impacts of natural flow regimes on fish and wildlife resources."



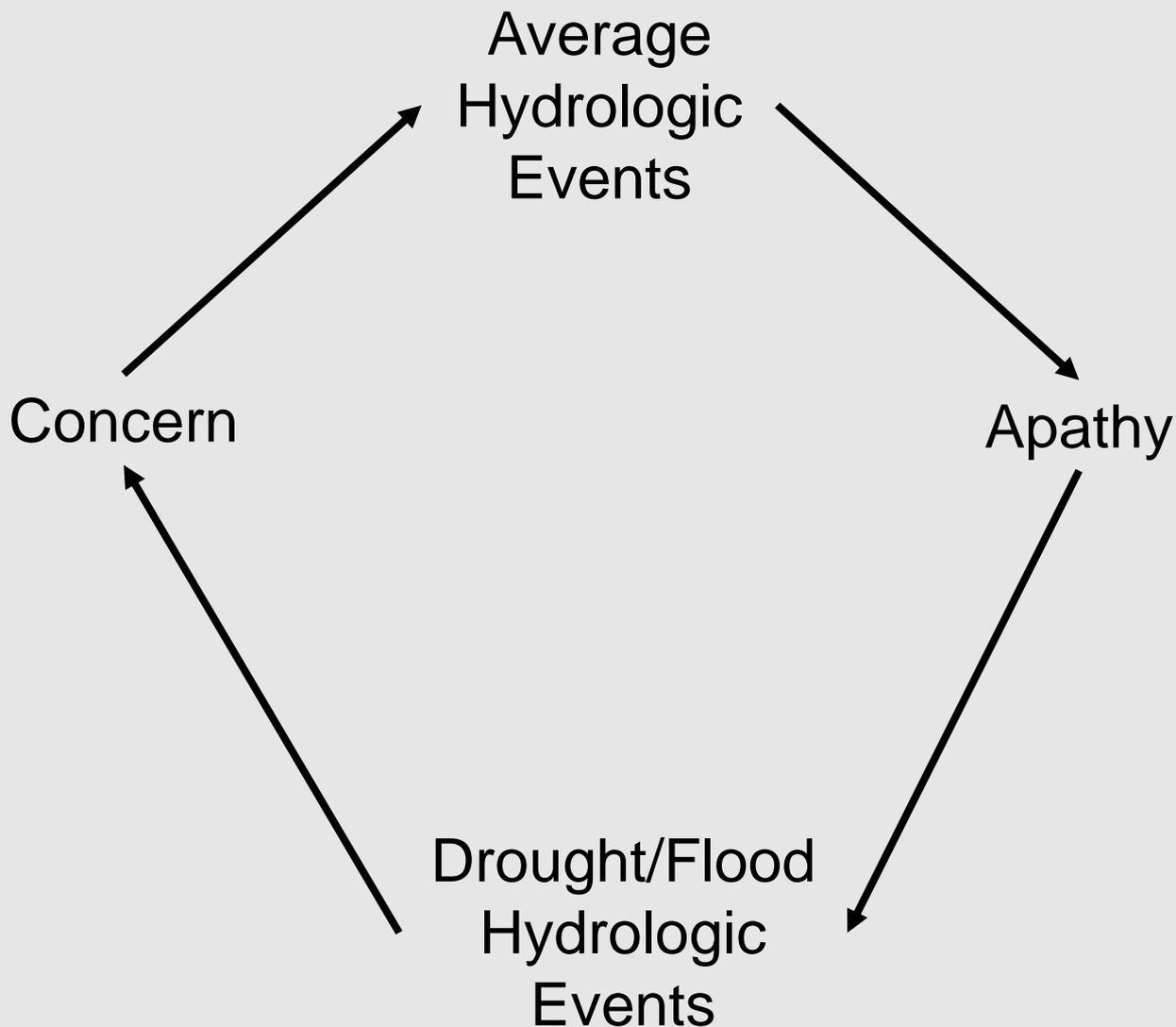


Tackling Drought Hydro-illogic Cycle Challenges





Hydro-illogic Cycle Uncertainty



Teton Dam – June 5, 1976



Columbia River Basin and Reservoirs



What to do?

- Legislate
- Litigate
- Adjudicate
- Regulate



Or

Collaborate





ASSOCIATION *of* FISH & WILDLIFE AGENCIES

What Can You Do Next?

Learn more about AFWA and how to engage through your respective agencies, organizations, and other affiliations



Recovering America's Wildlife Act 2018

Introduced in House (12/14/2017)

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4647

To amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to make supplemental funds available for management of fish and wildlife species of greatest conservation need as determined by State fish and wildlife agencies, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 14, 2017

Mr. FORTENBERRY (for himself and Mrs. DINGELL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to make supplemental funds available for management of fish and wildlife species of greatest conservation need as determined by State fish and wildlife agencies, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Recovering America's Wildlife Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) A diverse array of species of fish and wildlife is of significant value to the United States for aesthetic, ecological, educational, cultural, recreational, economic, and scientific reasons.

(2) More than 100 million citizens of the United States participate in outdoor recreation through hunting, fishing, birding, and other wildlife-dependent recreation, all of which have significant value to the citizens who engage in those activities and provide economic benefits to local communities.

(3) It is in the interest of the United States—

Lead Sponsors:

Jeff Fortenbury (R-NE)

Debbie Dingell (D-MI)





ASSOCIATION *of* FISH & WILDLIFE AGENCIES

Questions?

