

Meeting Date: July 28, 2022

Agenda Item No. 8.

Agenda Item: 3 Billion Bird program

Bureau Chief Approval: JR

Prepared by: Jon Rachael, Wildlife Bureau Chief, for Nanette Seto, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Acting Deputy Director, Pacific Region

Background:

A study published in 2019 revealed that the overall population of breeding birds in the United States has declined by 2.9 billion since 1970. These declines encompass a wide range of species, including many birds that have always been considered common, like the red-winged blackbird, which has declined by 96 million. This discovery prompted multiple entities, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, to launch “3 billion bird” initiatives to address the decline.

The Service, through their 3 Billion Birds Program, has identified 6 priorities to initially focus efforts: grassland birds, forest birds, seabirds, shorebirds, aerial insectivores, and bird collisions.

Nanette Seto is the current coordinator of this national program, and each of these focal areas will have a designated team to guide actions moving forward. Deputy Director Seto will provide an overview of the Service’s 3 Billion Bird program at the meeting.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 implements four international conservation treaties that the U.S. entered into with Canada in 1916, Mexico in 1936, Japan in 1972, and Russia in 1976. It is intended to ensure the sustainability of populations of all protected migratory bird species. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act prohibits the take (including killing, capturing, selling, trading, and transport) of protected migratory bird species without prior authorization by the Department of Interior U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Idaho Fish and Game Commission administers state wildlife policy through the Department (Idaho Code 36-104). Wildlife management plans, including species management plans and the State Wildlife Action Plan, guide conservation and management of wildlife and are a direct reflection of the Department Strategic Plan.

Public Involvement Process:

N/A

Justification:

This agenda item is to provide the Commission with information on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s 3 Billion Birds program.

Staff Recommendation:

N/A