

CHARTER FOR THE
NATIONAL WILDERNESS LEADERSHIP COUNCIL
OF THE
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM

Purpose: The purpose of the National Wilderness Leadership Council (WLC) of the National Wildlife Refuge System (Refuge System) is to:

- Serve as an advisory body to the Refuge Chiefs on all matters pertaining to wilderness in the Refuge System, and enhance the ability of the agency to address critical wilderness stewardship issues.
- Continue to ensure the preservation and protection of wilderness resources and character of Refuge System wilderness consistent with management regulations, policies, and law, to include all areas identified as designated, proposed, recommended, and study.
- Assist the Refuge Chiefs, when necessary, in developing and implementing programs and projects that improve the accountability, consistency, and continuity of Refuge System wilderness stewardship.
- Continue to promote the understanding of wilderness stewardship as a core mission of National Wildlife Refuge System.
- Ensure the Refuge System continues to be a leading partner in wilderness stewardship efforts within the framework of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Primary WLC Functions: The WLC integrates disciplines across the organizational structure of the Refuge System to accomplish the following:

- Implement the Conserving the Future Planning Implementation Team's wilderness recommendations in, "A Landscape-Scale Approach to Refuge System Planning"
- Implement the interagency Wilderness Policy Council's priority action items of, "2020 Vision Implementation Plan - Interagency Actions for Stewardship of America's National Wilderness Preservation System"
- Review Refuge System management policies and other documents on Wilderness Stewardship and revise if necessary. The WLC reviews 610 FW 1 - 5 and other applicable polices and guidance and develops additions, updates, or modifications if needed.

WLC Membership: The WLC is comprised of the Deputy Chief, NWRS and the Deputy Refuge Chiefs or other regional representatives designated by the Regional Refuge Chief.

The duties of members include attendance at and participation in WLC functions, completion of WLC assignments, participation in subcommittees, and facilitation of communications with refuges, regions and programmatic contacts. From time to time, members may also be requested to assist associated program implementation efforts.

National Wilderness Coordinator (NWC): The NWC is principally responsible for providing staff support and direction to the Council in order to advance the NWRS in meeting our collective objectives. The Duties of the NWC include;

- Meeting logistics and materials preparation.
- Communicating key issues to the Council.
- Project and training accountability.
- Preparing periodic updates of Council accomplishments and effectiveness.

Reporting: The WLC reports to the Chief, NWRS.

Chairperson/Vice Chairperson: Two members are selected by the full membership to function as the WLC Chairperson and Vice Chairperson for a minimum term of 1 year terms. The Vice Chairperson assists and backs up the Chair. The duties of the Chairperson include:

- Facilitation of WLC meetings and functions.
 - Oversight of WLC operations, including approval of meeting agenda items, schedules, meeting locations, subcommittee operations and other activities affecting WLC purpose and functions.
 - Coordination of the assignment of WLC members to various projects and duties and oversees the completion of these projects.
-
- Training: Before or early during their terms, all members will be required to complete the National Wilderness Stewardship Training course sponsored by the Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center.

Approved: Cynthia T. Martz Date: 1/31/2017
Chief, National Wildlife Refuge System