The Western Working Group of Partners in Flight

Characteristics of a successful 25-year collaboration dedicated to bird conservation

Formed in 1991 to unite Western North America regional organizations around bird conservation approaches and needs.

Since 1991 fifty-seven meeting have been held biannually in 3 countries.
Western Working Group

Successes and Accomplishments

**Biggest accomplishments of WWG**

1) Multi-state and multi-agency projects using standardized approach (e.g. IMBCR, MAPS, AKN, thrasher, Short-eared Owl)

2) Development of new conservation tools and training opportunities (e.g. ‘roadshows’).

3) Voluntary, non-regulatory approach to conservation (e.g. ‘focal species approach’)

4) Increased knowledge, technical expertise and capacity of all agencies engaged
Western Working Group

Key reason for participation?
1) Inspiration and invigoration
2) Maintain collaborations
3) Obtain technical expertise ('learn from others')
4) Eliminate duplication

Lessons learned (or advice to other groups)?
1) Meet at least 2 times per year for consistency and relevancy
2) Open and flexible agenda (‘something for everyone’).
3) Include local groups and conservation issues
4) Rotate leadership (every 2 years)
5) New projects and ideas welcome (‘Its ok to fail’)

Things to work on in the future?
1) Increase diversity of partners (need more industry, tribes, state agencies, land trusts and international)
2) Move more towards ‘all birds’ (not just landbirds) and habitat Joint Ventures.
3) Focus more on human dimension (‘Get to know our target audience better’)

[Image]