

NATIONAL HCP COALITION MEETING



STAKEHOLDER COMMITTEE MEETING
JUNE 15, 2017



National HCP Coalition Coming Together

It wasn't that long ago that struggles between land developers and environmental agencies often played out in courtrooms across the country. Today, these groups are gathering in meeting rooms to work through the delicate balance of protecting endangered species habitat while recognizing that development drives the economic engines in their communities.

The Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan (EAHCP) is one such model for collaboration, but there is a growing number of habitat conservation plan teams experiencing the same type of planning evolution. And that growth has generated a national coalition which focuses on bridging gaps in the sometime conflicting goals of ecosystem protection and economic development.

USFWS new HCP handbook, and provide some input to the federal government's new transition team about grant funding for our country's HCPs. I think the momentum is very positive and we're looking forward to working very hard to make this work."

Toward its goals of creating efficiencies for HCP programs, the HCP Coalition is working to encourage the USFWS, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers and other federal agencies to improve alignments in the Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act and other associated regulations to reduce staff time in preparing, reviewing and administering the various aspects of their permits. Additionally, the Coalition will be seeking to increase



These are a few of the endangered species being protected around the country. From left to right, Comal Springs Fountain Darter, the Pacific Fisher found in California, and the Florida Manatee.

- Recently formed
- Brings together:
 - HCP program managers
 - USFWS,
 - Environmental agencies
 - Academia
 - Stakeholder groups
 - Developers
- Opportunities to learn best practices with HCPs



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► Example policy positions:

- Promotes, encourages, and supports multispecies, landscape scale HCPs to streamline economic activity and conserve species and ecosystems.
- HCPs should be designed and developed within an eco-regional context when possible and appropriate.
- Urges the USFWS to prioritize work related to development and approval of landscape scale HCPs to optimize resources.



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➤ Benefits to EAHCP:

- Climate change
- NEPA process
- Permit rollover efficiencies
- Network/contacts
- Facilitation and consensus
- USFWS program documents, regulations, processes
- Amendments/clarifications
- AMP

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- Nathan Pence has accepted a position on the National Coalition's Steering Committee
- "While the ecosystem challenges we face...are different than those of other HCPs, we all are working to meet federal regulations while trying to be a positive component in our local development. That's not always easy to achieve, and so it's helpful to listen to others talk about situations and how they've worked through things in their own communities." - Pence

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- Next meeting Nov 28-30, 2017, at National Conservation Tech Center in West Virginia



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