



March 20, 2012

To: Minnesota Association of Conservation Professionals

Re: Teaming With Wildlife Fly-In Support

Dear Conservation Colleagues:

Thank you for supporting an advocacy trip to The Teaming With Wildlife Fly In! Through the generous support of Minnesota Association of Conservation Professionals, the Minnesota Prairie Chicken Society, Minnesota Sharp-tailed Grouse Society and Woodcock Minnesota, The Minnesota Chapter of The Wildlife Society was able to send me to this event in Washington, DC on Feb. 28-29.

Feb. 28th included a day of excellent advocacy training, while Feb. 29th was a busy day of meeting with our ten Congressmen and women's legislative assistants. Don Arnosti of Audubon, Brad Hagemeyer of Minnesota Conservation Federation and I made a great "Team Minnesota". Together we explained the benefits of State Wildlife Grant funds in Minnesota and keeping common species common, and that these grants can act as the 'brain money' for assessment, monitoring and research (plus can be used on private lands), while our Outdoor Heritage funds can act as the 'muscle money' to get work done on public and other protected lands. Our goal is to get support for the same level of funding as in FY12 (\$61.3 million).

As of today, 109 House members had signed a Dear Colleague Letter supporting State and Tribal Wildlife Grants in FY13. This number far surpasses last year's number (63), demonstrating the success of the Fly In! This letter will be a strong show of support for the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants program throughout the entire appropriations process. Also as of today, a Dear Colleague Letter will also be circulated amongst Senate Members.

This trip was a wonderful opportunity to help make our conservation voice heard, as well as a wonderful learning experience. I definitely recommend that Minnesota continue sending members of our conservation organizations each year. It is not only a good investment in support of wildlife conservation, but also an investment in our members' professional growth.

Once again, thank you!

Sincerely yours in conservation,

Jodie Provost
President Elect
Minnesota Chapter of The Wildlife Society