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Whitetails Unlimited Starts Work on White House Conference Plan

The Whitetails Unlimited Executive Board of Directors recently had its first opportunity to review and discuss the issues presented at the White House Conference on North American Wildlife Policy, and they are working on the innovative ideas included in the final report.

Mike Spors, WTU's national conservation representative, attended the conference and provided the board with a comprehensive recap of the meeting. More than 500 representatives of wildlife conservation groups and wildlife agencies from around the country met to discuss the development of a comprehensive 10-year Recreational Hunting and Wildlife Conservation Plan.

The WTU Board is evaluating ways that the organization can further the goals of the plan within the mission and operation of the 26-year-old, national, nonprofit conservation group.

The plan includes three guiding principles and a list of nine core values, all of which fit comfortably within the existing mission of Whitetails Unlimited. "One of the core values of the partnership includes supporting traditions, and the rich tradition of deer hunting ranks extremely high in the outdoors category," stated Pete Gerl, WTU executive director. "We're looking at the most effective ways that we, as an

organization, can support and move forward this plan. This isn't something that we're going to let sit on a shelf until the next national meeting is slated years from now."

"The White House Conference served as the ideal venue for organizations like ours to provide input on specific issues, and ultimately help mold the development of the final plan," said WTU President Jeff Schinkten. "But the responsibility of all of us involved with conservation does not end with the end of the conference—we must continue working on the 10-year plan."

Board members noted that as a single organization WTU cannot accomplish everything in this comprehensive plan, but will work to prioritize WTU programs that will advance the plan.



Secretary Kempthorne addresses the conference, emphasizing Interior initiatives to preserve America's hunting heritage.

Photo: Tami Heilemann, DOI-NBC



Happy Holidays

As the holiday season is upon us, we find ourselves reflecting on the past year and on those who have helped to shape Whitetails Unlimited in a most significant way. We value our relationship with you and look forward to working with you in the year to come. WTU wishes you a very happy holiday season and a new year filled with peace and prosperity.

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