Title: Partnership Committee Report

Desired outcome: Board awareness of the Partnership Committee's 2014 accomplishments and to highlight the issues it will address in 2015.

Background: At the October 2013 Board Meeting, the Partnership Committee suggested that it should address the following issues in 2014:

- Development of an approach that links FHP conservation priorities with the Board's National Conservation Strategies;
- Establishment of a process for estimating the costs for achieving FHP conservation priorities;
- Assessment of the need to develop a standard business planning template for use by FHPs.

2014 Accomplishments

The Partnership Committee was relatively inactive during 2014 and so little headway was made in addressing the aforementioned issues. However, in an effort to re-activate its operations by addressing workload issues, the Board took action during its June 2014 Meeting to increase the Committee's leadership capacity by adding two Board members (Stan Allen and Mike Stone) to serve with Steve Perry (EBTJV Coordinator) as the Committee's leadership team.

Since June 2014, the Partnership Committee's leadership team worked with Board staff to develop an agenda for the FHP Workshop that was held on November 2, 2014; updated the Committee's membership roster; and, held one Partnership Committee conference call aimed at establishing priority issues to be addressed in 2015.

Issues to be addressed in 2015

Higher Priority

- Development of an approach that demonstrates the linkages among FHP conservation priorities and the the Board's National Conservation Strategies.
- Development of a process for building consensus support among FHPs for funding proposals (e.g. MSCGP and other sources) submitted by the Board on their behalf.
- Identification of redundancies between the Board's FHP Performance Evaluation criteria and the criteria the FWS uses to allocate NFHAP funds to FHPs and provide guidance to the Board on ways to minimize overlap between the two processes.

Lower Priority

- Assessment of the need to develop a standard business planning template for use by FHPs.

- Establishment of a process for estimating the costs for achieving FHP conservation priorities.