



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
1875 Century Boulevard
Atlanta, Georgia 30345

FWS/IR2&4/SAMB/074160

Paul Johansen, Chief
Wildlife Resources Section
West Virginia Department of Natural Resources
324 Fourth Avenue, Room 305
South Charleston, West Virginia 25303-1228

Dear Chief Johansen:

The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) recognizes the value and importance of the Southeast Conservation Adaptation Strategy initiated by states of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife and collaboratively supported by federal participation from the Southeast Natural Resources Leaders Group.

SECAS has a decade-long record of success in no small part due to working side-by-side through effective and longstanding relationships, engaged as leaders, through partners and partnerships, and providing staff participating in SECAS' mission. This success is a testament to the vision and participation of SEAFWA in supporting SECAS.

The Service joins state agencies in implementing recommendations from the recent examination of the value and governance of SECAS necessary to further enhance success and sustain the relevance of SECAS into the future.

Among those recommendations, the Service remains committed to continuing to provide senior, full-time partnership coordination and staff support for SECAS in order to sustain necessary institutional operations and achieve greater partnership cohesion. Formalizing this commitment exemplifies the high value the Service places on continuing the investment in the relationships, people, products and services that are delivering value to SECAS partners.

The Service's participation in SECAS is of tremendous value in helping to achieve our goals and address our mandates through collaborative approaches with States and other partners. I sincerely appreciate the support of SEAFWA and the individual Directors in continuing to advance landscape scale conservation through SECAS.

Sincerely,

LEOPOLDO
MIRANDA-CASTRO
Leopoldo Miranda-Castro
Regional Director

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