

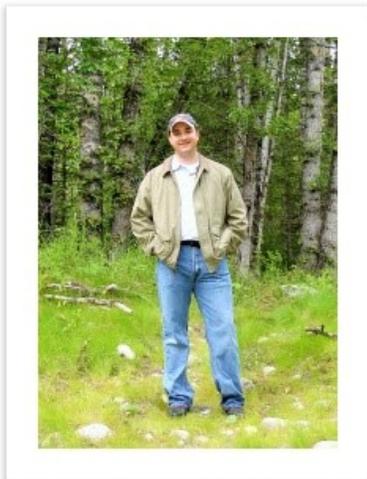
*Tracking and Reporting Actions for the Conservation of Species*

***TRACS at AFWA***

TRACS will be at the center of the WSFR's participation in the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies 104<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, September 20-24 in St Louis, Missouri. The event will bring together more than 700 leaders from fish and wildlife agencies and conservation groups from all 50 states, U.S. Territories, Canada and Mexico. WSFR will host an exhibit booth featuring information on the TRACS system, as well as providing an opportunity to see live demos, receive training, or get technical questions answered about the system. The booth will be staffed by Yonah Cohen, one of WSFR's new Technical Trainers, and Tim Smith, State and Stakeholders Liaison. In addition, Hannibal Bolton, WSFR Assistant Director, will present program updates to several AFWA committees and work groups.



**Come by the TRACS booth to say hello to Yonah and Tim!**



**Dan Hogan, PAR Branch Chief**

***TRACS Working Group Established***

In August, Dan Hogan, Branch Chief for WSFR's Program Accomplishment and Reporting Branch (PAR), announced establishment of the TRACS Working Group. The TRACS Working Group will bring together system users and key partners to exchange ideas and information, and discuss issues related to the performance of the TRACS system. "The Working Group will assure effective communication so that opportunities to improve the system are quickly identified and approaches developed" said Hogan. The Working Group will have a broad range of responsibilities, including advising of system bugs and defects, recommending system enhancements, and identifying training and user support needs.

Membership in the TRACS Working Group is designed to assure geographic representation, as well as a balance of state and federal users. Eight regional WSFR representatives will serve on the committee along with eight state Federal Aid Coordinators. Organizations representing states nationally are also invited, including the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA). State Members of the TRACS Working Group are: Carol Bybee (WY); Brad Compton (ID); Sherri Crouch (AZ); Brad Gunn (NC); Kathy Justison (IL); Bob Longcor (NJ); Nathan Soboleff (AK); and Stacey Whichel (FL). Mark Humpert represents AFWA. The Working Group is chaired by Tim Smith, State and Stakeholder Liaison for PAR. WSFR Regional Rep's are LeAnne Bonner, Susan Boring, Karla Drewsen, Ron Essig, Rafael Gonzalez, Otto Jose, Fabian Romero, and Cliff Schleusner. Paul Van Ryzin is the WSFR Policy Advisor, and Tim Smith, States and Stakeholders Liaison for the PAR Branch, is Chair.



**Tim Smith**

### *The "B-Side" of TRACS*

Back in ancient times (also known as "analog"), music came to the masses on vinyl discs called 45's that had an A side and a B side.

The A side was usually the hot new release that would get airplay on local radio stations and that fans would flock to purchase. I will always remember standing in line at Korten's Music Store in Longview, Washington to buy my first 45 - "Little Bit of Soul" by The Music Explosion. The B Side was a song called "I See the Light". I know that only because I looked it up, not because I ever played it. Occasionally, however, the B-side would catch on and actually out-play the A-side. Everyone knows "Rock Around the Clock" by Bill Haley and the Comets. You may not know, however, that originally "Rock Around the Clock" was the forgotten B Side of the Comets' hit tune "13 Women".

TRACS has an A and a B side as well. Side A is Grant Management. WSFR's immediate need to replace FAIMS and get TRACS into the hands of the systems 300-plus users has grabbed the headlines to date. On the B-side is Information Sharing. Information Sharing isn't required like Grant Management, so it's less urgent, but certainly not forgotten. It's a critical side of TRACS for tens of thousands of federal, state, tribal, local, NGO, commercial, and public stakeholders that will benefit from the data and reports produced by the system. Over the next 12 months, TRACS Side B will begin to get more airtime as states, stakeholders and WSFR begin to discuss, design and develop the communication and collaboration functions of TRACS. And in the near future the two sides of TRACS - Grant Management and Information Sharing - will be viewed as a single integrated function. Just like (A) "Proud Mary" and (B) "Born on the Bayou" were in 1969, spinning away at a perfect 45 revolutions per minute.

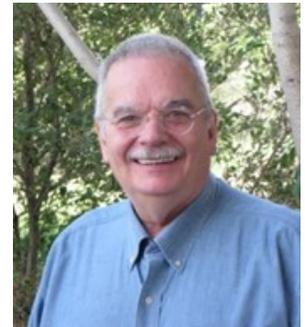
***(Editor's Note: Tim Smith's TRACS Blog can be found at: <https://tracs.fws.gov/wiki/dashboard>)***

### *TRACS Trainers Hit the Road*

It's a quick transition for WSFR's new TRACS system trainers as they hit the road for a series of training sessions in September and October. Yonah Cohen and Evan Lockwood joined the PAR Branch in July and have been cramming for a busy Fall TRACS Training schedule. Evan has over 25 years of experience in software training, primarily in the financial, telecommunications, and medical industries. Yonah studied Wildlife Biology and has a degree in Environmental Studies from Colorado University at Boulder. Prior to joining WSFR, she worked as a technical trainer in the health care field.



**Yonah Cohen**



**Evan Lockwood**

Their fall schedule looks like this:

**September 20 - 24**

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) Annual Meeting. St Louis, MO

**October 08**

State's Organization for Boating Access (SOBA). North Little Rock, AR

**October 24**

Federal Aid Coordinators, Regions 1,7-8. Seattle, WA

For the most current information on TRACS visit us at <https://tracs.fws.gov/wiki>