



# TRACS Monthly

August 2015

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Live TRACS Trainings:

August 11th - 12th 2015 [TRACS Live Classroom Training in Denver, CO](#)

November 17th - 18th 2015 [TRACS Live Classroom Training in Denver, CO](#)

### Weekly Virtual Classes:

Tuesdays 8:00am - 4:00pm: [TRACS Basics Class \(VILT\)](#)

Wednesdays 8:00am -4:00pm: [TRACS Advanced Class \(VILT\)](#)

Thursdays 8:00am - 12:00pm: [TRACS Mentoring/Roundtable Session](#)

## TRACS LINKS



Visit the TRACS Knowledge Management Site



Watch the TRACS YouTube Channel



Like us on Facebook



Go to the TRACS Conservation Viewer



Follow the TRACS Twitter Feed



Join the TRACS LinkedIn User Group

## TRACS Updates

AUGUST 7, 2015

*Dear Wildlife TRACS User Community,*

### TRACS Training Updates:

- New videos in the advanced course have been posted to the KMS and TRACS YouTube Channel including: [Importing Shapefiles Video](#) and [Copying and Deleting a Project Video](#).
- The TRACS Advanced VILT has been extended to a full-day session. In addition to classes, keep in mind we also offer an informal [mentoring/round table session](#) every Thursday morning where anyone can drop in with a question, review a specific topic or just "chat" about TRACS with other users.
- Remember to visit the [TRACS Knowledge Management Site \(or KMS\)](#) for all your TRACS training and reference needs. This site is updated regularly as new training videos and reference materials are developed.
- Check out the new [TRACS Forums](#), where you can ask questions or discuss various topics including region-specific guidance, best management practices and grant-program specifics. There are also general forums, such as "[Ask The TRACS Team](#)" and "[Pet Peeves in TRACS](#)".

### TRACS System Updates:

- Check out the latest [QA review summary for July 2015](#) for troubleshooting tips based on common errors found in the quality assurance review of randomly selected projects.
- State-specific shared shapes such as game units or WMAs have been added to the geopicker in TRACS (currently available for NY, MN, AL, AK, CA, ID, NV, OR, VT, WA and NH). Contact the [Help Desk](#) for assistance.

### Report on the Outcomes Workshop:

On June 24-25, a group of WSFR staff met in Denver to discuss an approach to tracking and reporting on WSFR grant-funded project accomplishments. The charge to participants was to begin implementation of recommendations developed by a State/Federal Outcomes Working Group that had been approved

by Hannibal Bolton in December, 2014. Among those recommendations was the need to apply Outcomes Reporting to all 13 WSFR grant programs and sub-programs.

Workshop participants specifically looked at a methodology developed in 2011 by an Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies committee and captured in a report titled “State Wildlife Grant Effectiveness Measures. The report used results chains to describe a “theory of change” that would result from implementation of 11 different categories of conservation actions. Measureable objectives were identified at key points in each chain, representing stages of a project life-cycle.

The unanimous conclusion at the end of the Denver workshop was that the same theory of change could be applied to the other 12 WSFR grant programs. In fact, participants discovered that the chains developed by the AFWA committee addressed many of the types of actions implemented under all WSFR grant programs. Workshop participants continued to develop and review chains after the workshop and now have completed draft chains for 18 categories of actions.

The next step for the Project Outcomes initiative is to present the approach to WSFR’s Senior Management Team in August. Then, the Joint Federal/State Task Force on Federal Assistance Policy (JTF) has requested the opportunity to review and comment on the “framework” for the Outcomes Initiative. Assuming the project continues to move forward, the Program Accomplishment Branch plans to schedule a workshop in October/November to seek state input and identification of objective measures that can be implemented without major disruption or inconvenience for project sponsors.

The final step will be to apply the Outcomes data structure into TRACS for ease of reporting. WSFR hopes to have the Project Outcomes initiative complete and fully implemented by December 2016.

On behalf of the TRACS Team, thank you for your support!

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**Questions or comments?** Email the [TRACS Help Desk](#) or [TRACS Training Team](#).

**Our mailing address is:**

Program and Accomplishment Reporting Branch, Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
6550 Gateway Rd, Trailer Z-80, Commerce City, CO 80022

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