

Nevada IBA

Technical Advisory Committee Guidelines

Purpose

- To provide technical guidance to the IBA Program on issues related to the identification, recognition, monitoring, and management of Nevada's Important Bird Areas.

Functions

- Adhere to established state-level criteria for the identification of IBAs (within the broadly accepted framework of global, continental, national IBA criteria).
- Assist in soliciting IBA nominations and collecting data that will be helpful for the identification of IBAs.
- Review nominated and recognized areas and determine their eligibility for IBA status according to the established state criteria.
- Assist in determining where gaps in IBA nominations exist and soliciting further information or nominations for those areas.
- Review and approve a list of IBAs for the state, ensuring that this list is credible, as complete as possible, and broadly representative of the entire state.

Composition

- The committee should be made up of qualified persons familiar with the birdlife, geography, and habitats of the state, including the state IBA coordinator(s).
- There should be as varied a geographic representation as possible to ensure that every region of the state is well represented.
- Members of the committee should be generally supportive of the IBA process and its potential efficacy for bird-habitat conservation.

Requirements

- A minimum of two meetings a year to perform the functions listed above, except where geography makes such meetings highly impractical, in which case phone conference calls or other practices may be substituted.
- Commitment to spend sufficient time for conducting a thorough review of proposed criteria and of nominated sites.

- Commitment of additional time, as available, to assist in collecting data, soliciting nominations, etc.

Guidelines

- For reviewing nominated or recognized sites, the operative question should be, Is this area important for sustaining populations of one or more priority species in this state?
- When reviewing areas, the complete, printed IBA Criteria should be followed as closely as possible. However, the numerical thresholds are not absolute, and a certain amount of subjective judgment is appropriate.
- It is important to have adequate documentation of an area, particularly its bird numbers relevant to the criteria, but an area well known to qualify as an IBA should not be dismissed on the basis of inadequate documentation, and every effort should be made to secure the necessary documentation.
- To the maximum extent, political and other non-ornithological considerations should not factor into judgments about IBA qualifications.
- Every committee member should have one equal vote on all relevant matters (e.g., judging nominations).
- The national IBA coordinator may request to serve on the committee, and be granted one non-binding vote.
- Meetings or other functions of the full committee are chaired by the state IBA coordinator, or the state IBA coordinator may empower another committee member to serve as chair at any given meeting.

Limitations

- The IBA Technical Committee does not set policy for the IBA Program.
- The National Audubon Society reserves the right to modify or overrule any decision of the committee, but sincerely hopes and expects not to exercise this right.
- The National Audubon Society has the final responsibility for the design and implementation of state IBA Programs, and is the lead organization associated with this activity. We will give full credit to the IBA Technical Committee and all its members at every reasonable opportunity.