



Procedure for Updating U.S. Bird Conservation Region Boundaries

The U.S. NABCI Committee recognizes that the map of Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) is not and was not intended to be a static document. Steps used in the original creation of the map, errors, experience working with BCRs, and new information obtained since 1999 all could potentially contribute to the need for adjusting BCR boundaries. That said, it is the case that at this point in time, a great quantity of planning documents, population goals, and numerous other products have been built around the existing BCR boundaries. To modify these boundaries would potentially cause a ripple effect of other work needing to be revised, which would be counterproductive. Therefore, while the Committee understands the need for occasional changes to BCR boundaries, these changes should be infrequent and must be justified by the proponents to show that the benefits to be gained by making them for bird conservation outweigh the costs from potentially having to re-do existing work.

The Committee is generally pre-disposed not to make changes to BCR boundaries, except in the cases of very obvious errors or very compelling reasons that the advantages outweigh the disadvantages. Given the purpose, scope, and scale of BCRs (see www.nabci-us.org/bcrs.html), minor changes or cosmetic adjustments are not appropriate nor do they affect any biological reality relating to birds and landscapes.

BCR boundary change process:

- 1) Requests for BCR boundary changes will be accepted every five years.
- 2) The first such “window” for accepting changes will be from **September 1 to December 31, 2009**.
- 3) Proponents of a change or changes will complete a detailed information form (downloadable from the [US-NABCI web page](#)) describing the proposed change, which should be e-mailed to dhahn@fishwildlife.org.
- 4) Changes will be reviewed by an ad-hoc committee (the BCR Boundary Review Committee) established for this purpose (see below for membership). This committee will consider the proposed change and make a decision within two months of the acceptance deadline (by February 28, 2010, for the first window). Committee acceptance will be by majority vote after reviewing the information form.
- 5) Changes that are accepted by the committee will be incorporated into the master BCR boundary map, maintained electronically by Bird Studies Canada, and will be available to all users through their web site (www.bsc-eoc.org/international/bcrmain.html).

Proposed Review Committee membership:

- 1) Deb Hahn, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
- 2) Chuck Hunter, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- 3) Rex Johnson, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- 4) David Mehlman, The Nature Conservancy
- 5) David Pashley, American Bird Conservancy
- 6) Terry Rich, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- 7) Ken Rosenberg, Cornell Lab of Ornithology

BCR Boundary Change Proposal Submission Information Sheet (Page 1)

Please insert or include a high-quality image showing the old and proposed new boundaries

Proposer Contact Info:

Date: _____

Name:	
Institution:	
Address:	
e-mail:	
Phone:	
Fax:	

BCRs affected (#/name):

BCR #	Name	BCR #	Name

Joint Ventures affected (please attach a letter of support from each JV's coordinator):

Succinct description of proposed change:

Why is this change necessary (attach all necessary supporting information):

BCR Boundary Change Proposal Submission Information Sheet (Page 2)

What planning-related items will be affected by this change (BCR or JV implementation plans, population objectives, trend calculations, etc)?

Does this change affect BCRs in Canada or Mexico (Y/N)? ___ If yes, please describe:

Are you able to provide Arc Info/Arc View/GIS files showing the new boundaries (Y/N)? ___

Names of two persons familiar with this change who can be contacted for additional information:

Name:		Name:	
Institution:		Institution:	
Address:		Address:	
e-mail:		e-mail:	
Phone:		Phone:	
Fax:		Fax:	