

USFWS - STATE - TRIBE AMERICAN GINSENG BIOLOGY WORKING GROUP

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR STATE AND TRIBE AMERICAN GINSENG PROGRAMS

On July 11, 2017, a Federal/State/Tribe Wild American Ginseng Coordination Meeting was held in Morgantown, West Virginia. A key outcome of the meeting was the establishment of four working groups (Biology, Enforcement, Outreach, and Regulatory) composed of representatives of the USFWS, States and Tribe. Each working group was tasked with addressing specific issues identified at the meeting, and to make recommendations on those issues to the State and Tribe ginseng programs.

The Biology Working Group was tasked with the following issues:

- What field protocols are States and Tribe using to monitor ginseng populations?
- What are possible funding sources for status surveys of wild ginseng?

The Biology Working Group recognizes the challenges the States and Tribe face to successfully design and implement a ginseng monitoring plan, from staff and funding commitments, data collection and analysis, to reporting and using the results. To help address these issues and assist us in developing recommendations to the State and Tribe ginseng programs, we have developed the following questionnaire.

We greatly appreciate your input on the following questions:

- 1) What main questions should a monitoring protocol for wild American ginseng address?
For example, a monitoring protocol might address:
 - population assessment and trends
 - effects of harvest
 - population demography
 - conservation status

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: We are collecting this information subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501) to help the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of monitoring ginseng populations, and the sustainability of this important species in trade. Your response is voluntary. According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. OMB has reviewed and approved this survey and assigned OMB Control Number 1090-0011.

Estimated Burden Statement: We estimate it will take you 13 minutes to respond to the questionnaire, including time to read instructions, gather information, and complete and submit the documents. You may submit comments on any aspect of this information collection to the Information Collection Clearance Officer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 5275 Leesburg Pike, MS: BPHC, Falls Church, VA 22041-3803. Please do not send your survey to this address.

- 2) Does your agency have staff and resources to field monitor wild ginseng populations?
- 3) If yes, please provide an estimate of the amount of staff, time, and the frequency committed to monitoring wild ginseng populations (e.g. # of staff, # of weeks; every # years), or could be committed for monitoring.
- 4) Please describe the objectives of the ginseng monitoring protocol currently or previously implemented in your State or Tribe.
- 5) If your agency does not field monitor wild ginseng, is there a different agency or institution(s) in your State or Tribe that does or could monitor ginseng populations? Please name the agency/institution(s).
- 6) Would your State or Tribe Ginseng Program be interested in implementing a standardized monitoring protocol* for American ginseng?

**A standardized monitoring protocol for American ginseng would include defined objectives and data collection methodology designed to improve the quality and effectiveness of monitoring wild ginseng among the States and Tribe, and would provide comparable data that can be analyzed across the range of the species.*

- 7) Would you or someone in your Program be willing to review a draft standardized monitoring protocol for American ginseng?
- 8) Is ginseng survey/monitor data and site location information in your State or Tribe protected from Freedom of Information requests by the public?
- 9) Does your agency have funding to implement a standardized monitoring protocol for wild ginseng?
- 10) Do you have any suggestions for potential funding sources (e.g., state, federal, private) or grants that could support monitoring wild ginseng?
- 11) If your State or Tribe issues harvester permits/licenses, is any ginseng population information or other information collected from diggers after the harvest season?
- 12) Do you know of any new literature published on the status of ginseng in your State or Tribe?

Additional Feedback:

Do you have any other comments or feedback for the Ginseng Biology Working Group?