



2015–2025

Wisconsin Wildlife Action Plan

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Prepared by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources with assistance from many conservation partners

2015-2025 Wisconsin Wildlife Action Plan

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“When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world.”
– John Muir



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Cover Photos

Red-headed woodpecker, Dave Menke
Aerial landscape, Eric Epstein
Blazing star, DNR State Natural Area staff

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The 2015-2025 Wisconsin Wildlife Action Plan would not have been developed without the dedicated effort and commitment of the individuals acknowledged below. Through their hard work and expertise, this second iteration of the Plan, first published in 2005, will continue to guide conservation of Wisconsin's wildlife species and natural communities. In addition, we extend our appreciation to all of the individuals who provided their knowledge, comments and assisted us in numerous other ways through working groups and public outreach.

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Over 300 individuals comprised of experts and professionals both within and outside the Department contributed to the content of the Wisconsin Wildlife Action Plan through the following technical teams recognized in *Section 8. Agency Coordination and Public Participation* of this Plan:

- Advisory Team
- Bird, Fish, Mammal, Herptile and Invertebrate Species Teams
- Natural Community and Ecological Landscape Team

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Executive Summary

Background

In 2001, Congress authorized the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to implement and fund a program to help states proactively address the needs of declining wildlife species before they required listing as Endangered or Threatened. The State Wildlife Grants (SWG) Program provides federal grant funds for native animals, including species not hunted or fished. Funds must be used to benefit species of greatest conservation need (SGCN) and their habitats as described in each state's Plan. States must have an approved State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) to receive the federal apportionment or competitive grants through the State Wildlife Grant program¹. The Wisconsin Wildlife Action Plan (WWAP)² is constructed around USFWS's requirement that each state's SWAP address *eight elements*. How the elements are addressed is largely left up to the needs and circumstances of each state. ***Use and implementation of the information and conservation actions described in the WWAP are voluntary.***

The *eight elements* have been condensed below into their primary focus:

- Element 1: identify Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN)
- Element 2: identify the extent and condition of habitats for SGCN
- Element 3: identify factors negatively affecting the persistence of SGCN and their habitat and priority research and survey efforts needed for Elements 1 to 3
- Element 4: define and implement conservation actions and opportunities
- Element 5: monitoring plans for species/habitat; effectiveness of conservation actions; and for adapting conservation actions to new information
- Element 6: procedures to review and revise the SWAP
- Element 7: plan for coordinating the SWAP with federal, state, local agencies and tribes that manage significant land and water areas or programs in the state that affect SGCN/habitat
- Element 8: public participation in SWAP development and implementation

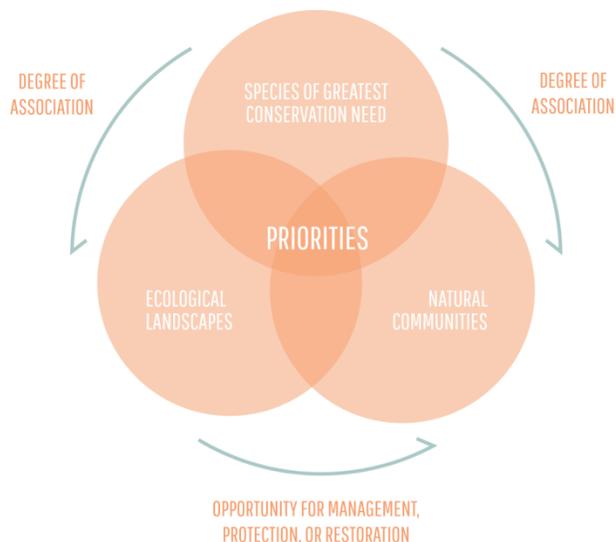
The WWAP was published in 2005 as a comprehensive inventory of the nature and status of rare and declining species, natural communities and ecological landscapes within our state. WWAP1 was very large and contained a fantastic amount of valuable baseline information that would serve as a reference to users. A follow-up smaller document "*Priority Conservation Actions and Opportunity Areas*" was published in 2008 that was more accessible to land and conservation planners and managers. Also known as the "*Implementation Plan*", this follow-up Plan focused on identifying the best places in Wisconsin to implement conservation actions. Both plans can be viewed online³.

¹ <http://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/Subpages/GrantPrograms/SWG/SWG.htm> (Search Terms: USFWS State Wildlife Grant Program).

² To make a distinction between the first WWAP and revisions in this submittal, WWAP1 and WWAP2 will be used; if there is no comparison to be made, WWAP will be used.

³ <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/WildlifeHabitat/ActionPlan.html> (Search Terms: Wisconsin Wildlife Action Plan)

Since its inception, the Wisconsin Wildlife Action Plan's (WWAP) greater mission has broadened beyond that of meeting a federal grant requirement. It is a plan for all of Wisconsin to help rare and declining species so that they and the habitats where they live are sustained for future generations. Use and implementation of the information and conservation actions described in the WWAP are voluntary.



All SWAPs must be revised at intervals not to exceed ten years in order to continue to receive federal SWG funds. Revisions to the first 2005 WWAP were submitted to Region 3 of USFWS prior to the 1 October 2015 deadline.

It is our goal to make this second version of the WWAP more useful and accessible to all DNR programs, as well as individuals and organizations outside the DNR that carry out conservation actions in our state regardless of whether they are part of or secondary to their primary objectives. We hope that in the next 10 years the WWAP will serve as a living document that both guides conservation priorities for SGCN and their habitat AND is guided by the progress, knowledge gained, and success toward achieving those goals. Together with partners and stakeholders that have a conservation interest, we are looking forward to continuing implementation of the WWAP with better tools to use the plan and monitor the success of our efforts.

Wisconsin's Approach to the WWAP

The WWAP is built upon three bioecological levels of organization that fit with Elements 1 and 2 of the eight required SWAP elements: Species of Greatest Conservation Need; natural communities (as representative of habitat); and ecological landscapes. By gathering and analyzing information and data about the relationships among SGCN, natural communities and landscapes as well as the issues that affect them (Element 3) and the conservation actions that sustain and support them (Element 4), the WWAP helps its users make decisions about the most important conservation actions to implement in the state and where the best opportunities exist to implement them. We continue to strengthen our ability to monitor the well-being of SGCN and their habitats and the effectiveness of conservation actions undertaken throughout our state and beyond (Element 5) and use this as feedback to make improvements and updates to the Plan (Element 6). The plan is successful only with full collaboration and exchange of ideas and outcomes with other agencies, organizations and individuals (Elements 7 and 8). This basic approach has not been changed in WWAP2.

Wisconsin's Approach to the Revisions - Positive Outcomes and Challenges for the WWAP

We looked at the positive outcomes and appraisals that followed the first publication of the WWAP to help us determine the scope of the WWAP revisions that would be undertaken for WWAP 2. Some of these were obvious—and motivated by the passage of time and need to update data; others were a direct response to difficulties users had with accessing, understanding and using the WWAP to help them with their work. The most important of these are listed below.

- It takes effort to update the SGCN list; the decision process should be similar for all species and readily reproducible.
- Many conservation organizations use the WWAP to help plan their conservation projects.
- Resource use and development projects identify SGCNs and conservation opportunity areas during planning and design to minimize effects to these resources.
- Bring the WWAP to stakeholders who may voluntarily incorporate conservation actions into their work to provide benefit to SGCN and their habitat.
- The document is large; essential information should be provided to users in a way they can download and analyze according to their own objectives. Provide data and information in an online web-based format.
- There is a lot of good information in the WWAP, but some users may be unclear how to use it at the scale at which they work.
- So much conservation work occurs throughout the state and we should look for ways to summarize, manage and track this—especially to build upon success.
- The WWAP ensures that Wisconsin remains eligible for federal funding from the State Wildlife Grants Program.
- Continue efforts to coordinate and prioritize conservation actions to benefit the largest number of Species of Greatest Conservation Need, as well as other game and non-game species, by providing information on threats and conservation needs from both habitat and regional perspectives.
- SGCN, natural communities and landscapes need to be linked to threats and actions in the WWAP. Conservation Opportunity Areas need to be linked to SGCN and their habitats.
- Provide tools to support agencies, organizations, and individuals in meeting their conservation goals. The WWAP can help them identify how their interests match up with the priority conservation needs described in the document.

- Build partnerships and encourage collaborative approaches to conserving habitats and species at the local level.
- Use methods and processes in the WWAP that can readily adapt to a changing environment throughout the next ten years. Not only can these tools be periodically updated as new data are gathered, but partners and the Department can use the WWAP to anticipate changing opportunities and threats.

Summary of Results for Proposed WWAP Updates and Revisions

Since their original publication, the WWAP and the Implementation Plan have been divided up and placed online as web content, original text, maps and even separated into other standalone documents. Once the revisions provided in this submittal have been accepted by USFWS, they will replace existing online content and will not be available as a hard copy document. Some Sections in this WWAP submittal contain updated information about one or multiple elements as follows:

- Section 3 SGCN Summaries (Elements 1, 2, 3 and 4)
- Section 4 Natural Community Summaries (Elements 2, 3, 4 and 5)
- Section 5 Conservation Opportunity Areas (Elements 2, 4 and 5)
- Section 6 Monitoring (Element 5)
- Section 7 Plan Review (Element 6)
- Section 8 Public and Agency Participation (Elements 7 and 8)

The WWAP revisions are summarized below according to each of the eight elements.

Element 1 - Species of Greatest Conservation Need (Section 3)

We revised the process by which Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) are selected as a major part of the updates to Element 1. Internal and external experts and professionals on technical teams used this process to produce a new list of SGCNs as well as species with information needs (SINS) that need more information before they can be fully assessed.

Each major taxonomic group was reassessed using the updated process that incorporated use of NatureServe's Conservation Status Assessment methodology (aka Natural Heritage Methodology) for deriving state and global ranks (SRank and GRank). Ten factors were used to assess conservation status, grouped into three categories—rarity, threats, and trends. In addition to SRanks and GRanks, additional filters were used to place emphasis on characteristics relevant to Wisconsin, including high or moderate vulnerability to climate change, genetically isolated species, or species with unique habitats in our state. Species with information needs (SINS) that could not be assessed were also identified. The same approach was applied to invertebrates and vertebrates⁴. The updated SGCN selection process ensures a well-documented and consistent assessment of species, which can be readily updated as new information becomes available. Tables ES1 and ES2 summarize the results of the SGCN update.

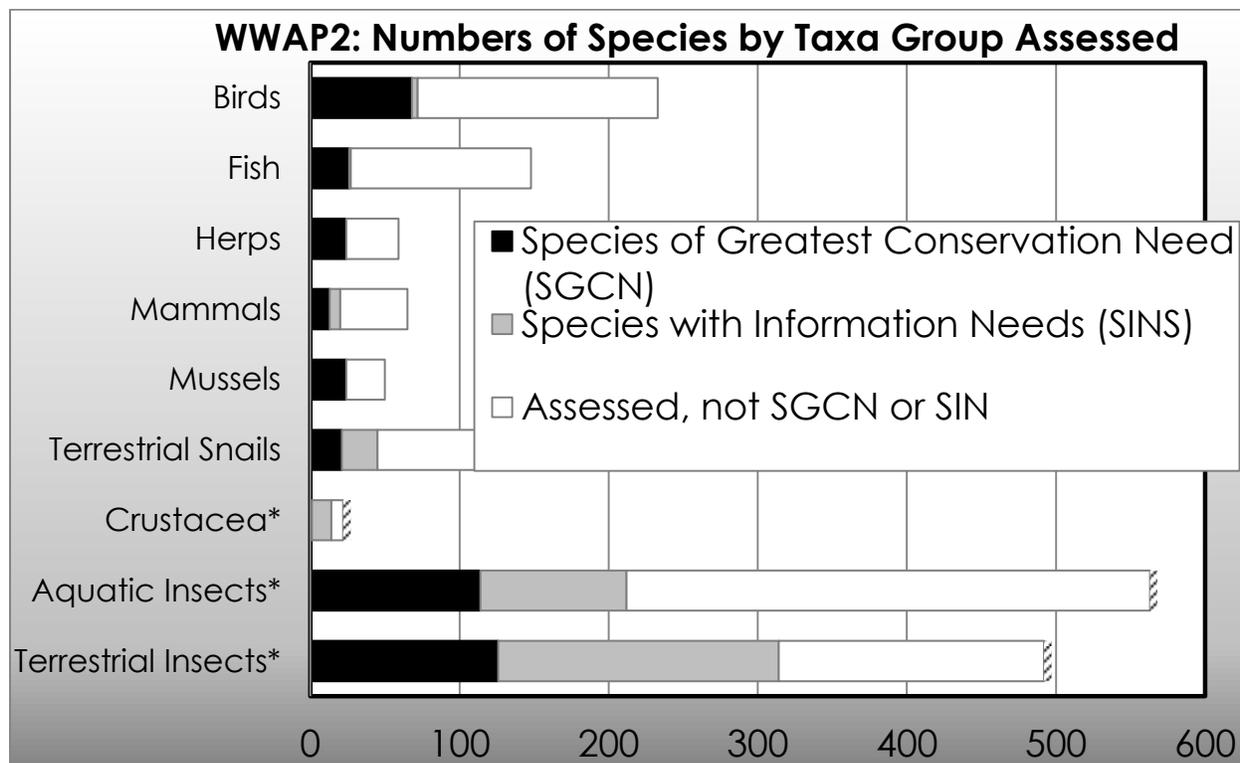
⁴ In WWAP1 invertebrates and vertebrates were assessed using different approaches.

Section 2 describes the SGCN selection process in detail and Section 3 provides SGCN lists, summaries and other related results by taxonomic group.

Table ES1. Comparison of the Number of Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCNs) in the First WWAP1 and the Revised WWAP2

SGCN Count	WWAP1	WWAP2
Birds	84	68
Fish	30	26
Herptiles	24	24
Mammals	14	13
Insects - Aquatic	326	114
Insects - Terrestrial	124	126
Invertebrates - Crustacea	16	1
Invertebrates - Mussels & Clams	26	24
Invertebrates - Terrestrial Snails & Misc.	38	21
TOTAL	682	417

Table ES2. Relative Summary of Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN), Species with Information Needs (SINS) and Species that are Not SGCN or SINS for Each Taxonomic Group



Element 2 – SGCN Habitats (Sections 3, 4 and 5)

For each of the Species of Greatest Conservation Need, the critical habitats needed to support healthy populations within Wisconsin and distribution in the state were identified in the form of association scores with Natural Communities and Ecological Landscapes (SGCN-NC and SGCN-EL scores). The association scores were updated and are summarized below in Tables ES3 and ES4. The complete association scores are provided in Section 3 by taxonomic group. The DNR's Natural Heritage Inventory program⁵ was used to identify and define most terrestrial, wetland and aquatic community types used in this analysis. Ecological landscape definitions were taken from the Ecological Landscapes of Wisconsin Report⁶.

In WWAP1 66 community types were assessed. In WWAP2 a total of 108 natural communities were used in the analysis. Natural communities are grouped within eight major habitat groups: northern forest, southern forest, savanna, barrens, grassland, wetland, aquatic, and miscellaneous. The increased number of communities assessed in WWAP2 is due to the following:

- Communities that were lumped together in WWAP1 were assessed separately in WWAP2 (e.g., black spruce swamp and tamarack swamp were separated from northern wet forest).
- Seral stages were added to northern dry forest, northern mesic forest and northern dry mesic forest community types
- Aspen/birch, conifer plantation, riverine impoundment, and transportation/utility corridor were added.
- The inland lake community group was broken out into its constituent communities based on shallow/deep, hard/soft, drainage/seepage classifications consistent with DNR and Federal water programs.

Each Ecological Landscape was also evaluated to determine which of the natural communities occurring within it present the best opportunities for management and restoration. These natural community and ecological landscape opportunity scores (NC-EL scores) were updated and their results are summarized in Table ES5. For example, in the Southwest Savanna Ecological Landscape, there are major opportunities to sustain and manage oak openings, oak woodlands, and dry, dry-mesic, and mesic prairies. All of the NC-EL scores are provided in Section 4 for each natural community type within each of the eight groups.

⁵ <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/nhi/> (Search Terms: Wisconsin natural heritage inventory). Select the "Explore" option.

⁶ <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/landscapes/> (Search Terms: Ecological Landscapes of Wisconsin)

Table ES3. Number of SGCNs Highly or Moderately Associated with Each Community Group

Taxonomic Group	Aquatic (lakes-rivers)	Barrens	Grassland	Miscellaneous	Northern Forest	Savanna	Southern Forest	Wetland
Birds	10	16	25	12	17	13	20	37
Fish	24							
Herptiles	11	12	20	15	7	12	13	12
Mammals	6	6	6	7	8	6	9	7
Insects - Aquatic	93			1	7	1	7	32
Insects - Terrestrial	5	49	92	18	18	21	10	14
Invertebrates - Crustacea			1					
Invertebrates - Mussels	24							
Invertebrates - Terrestrial Snails			4	12	12		12	7
Total SGCN	173	83	148	65	69	53	71	109

Table ES4. Number of SGCNs Highly or Moderately Associated with Each Ecological Landscape

Group	Central Lake Michigan Coastal	Central Sand Hills	Central Sand Plains	Forest Transition	North Central Forest	Northeast Sands	Northern Highland	Northern Lake Michigan Coastal	Northwest Lowlands	Northwest Sands	Southeast Glacial Plains	Southern Lake Michigan Coastal	Southwest Savanna	Superior Coastal Plain	Western Coulee and Ridges	Western Prairie
Birds	36	31	34	25	24	16	23	32	14	28	40	24	16	23	33	24
Fish	1	6	4	4	3	1	2	4	3	3	14	4	3	1	18	6
Herptiles	4	7	9	5	3	4	3	3	3	6	11	5	5	3	18	4
Mammals	4	8	8	9	8	5	7	7	8	6	9	5	7	7	9	3
Insects - Aquatic	20	24	23	24	45	18	16	19	21	30	38	11	13	29	47	10
Insects - Terrestrial	15	22	33	7	15	15	14	16	7	28	46	21	36	14	89	21
Invert - Crustacea											1	1				
Invert - Mussels	7	3	2	14	3	1		1	3	3	6	3		1	17	16
Invert - Terrestrial Snails	7	1		1	2	1		12			2		3	1	11	2
Total Vert Animals	45	52	55	43	38	26	35	46	28	43	74	38	31	34	78	37
Total Invert Animals	49	50	58	46	65	35	30	48	31	61	93	36	52	45	164	49
Total (all SGCNs)	94	102	113	89	103	61	65	94	59	104	167	74	83	79	242	86

Table ES5. Number of Natural Community Types within Each Community Group that Have High or Moderate Opportunities for Management within an Ecological Landscape

Community Group	Central Lake Michigan Coastal	Central Sand Hills	Central Sand Plains	Forest Transition	North Central Forest	Northeast Sands	Northern Highland	Northern Lake Michigan Coastal	Northwest Lowlands	Northwest Sands	Southeast Glacial Plains	Southern Lake Michigan Coastal	Southwest Savanna	Superior Coastal Plain	Western Coulee and Ridges	Western Prairie
Aquatic (lakes-rivers)	4	16	6	14	21	8	17	4	4	13	15	5	6	5	7	7
Barrens		2	3			1				2				1	3	
Grassland	1	5	4	1		1	1	1		1	6	4	5	1	6	5
Miscellaneous	10	4	3	5	5	5	2	10	1	2	4	3	4	7	7	5
Northern Forest	10	4	16	14	17	17	16	13	15	13	2			18	1	
Savanna											2	1	2		3	3
Southern Forest	3	5	6	1	1			1			6	4	5	1	8	3
Wetland	9	14	12	11	14	8	14	11	8	9	12	8	1	13	10	4

Elements 3 and 4 – Issues and Challenges to SGCN and Their Habitat, and Conservation Actions (Sections 3 and 4)

The revisions to Elements 3 and 4 that are summarized below address comments from WWAP1 users: conservation actions should be better matched or linked to the issues and challenges they address; many of the conservation actions were applicable to multiple species or habitat types and it was difficult see these commonalities; terminology used to describe actions was inconsistent; many actions were too general to be informative; and it was difficult to track actions by action, issue/threat or place.

Three major revisions were undertaken for these two elements to address these comments. First, issues and challenges that affect conservation of SGCN and natural communities (habitat) and the conservation actions they address, were updated by the technical teams. Included in this effort were a series of natural community workshops convened to assess vulnerability to changing climate conditions for each terrestrial natural community group. The results of this vulnerability assessment will help WWAP users adapt the scope of other proposed conservation actions to consider the added influence of changing temperature, precipitation and related events. Many issues and conservation actions operate on a habitat or natural community level and may be coordinated to simultaneously address the needs of multiple species. Implementing the conservation actions presented in the WWAP will significantly improve

conditions for these species, but the reader is reminded these are voluntary options developed for and by WWAP users.

Secondly, a standardized taxonomy or classification was developed to help group conservation actions as they were being updated, and to establish a common language to discuss actions at multiple scales and with multiple conservation partners. The classifications are consistent with national and international classifications, but some categories or definitions have been modified to address Wisconsin's circumstances (e.g., invasive species or the interpretation of protection versus preserve or restore).

An Actions Database is being designed and developed in collaboration with partners and WWAP users as an implementation tool that can catalog each action and identify them by characteristics that might commonly be used to sort and prioritize according to the needs of the user. The Actions Database will take the issues and actions from Sections 3 and 4 of this submittal and, if appropriate, disaggregate them into more discrete actions. Other fields will be populated for each action such as the species benefited by the action, which counties the action is applicable to, which action and threat categories the action falls into, the overall severity or priority of the threat that the action addresses, and who may implement the action (e.g., landowners, conservancies, etc.) and desired outcomes. Users will eventually be able to filter the database to answer questions such as which actions are important in a particular area of the state given the natural communities that are present, which additional species may benefit by the action and which actions have similar desired outcomes.

Updated conservation actions and the issues and challenges they address are provided in this WWAP. They are presented by taxonomic group and community group in Sections 3 and 4, respectively. This reflects the reality that many of the conservation actions (and threats to conservation) affect multiple species and communities and can be grouped as such. The characteristics about each conservation action that go into the Actions Database will be developed with partners and WWAP users during plan implementation. In WWAP1 over 1300 conservation actions were assessed and evaluated. In WWAP2 with the added rigor of the specifications for defining and classifying actions and their targets, we anticipate that by the time the Actions Database is completed and edited approximately 350-450 updated conservation actions will be tracked by the database.

All states were asked to consider and incorporate changing climate and weather into their SWAPs. Rather than act independently, precipitation and temperature variability and extremes tend to exacerbate almost all the other issues and challenges identified for SGCN and their habitat. Research is needed to adapt conservation actions that are already being implemented to address these threats to consider the additive effects of changing temperature and precipitation patterns. In addition to climate- and weather-related issues, the following three general issue and action combinations were the most frequently cited across all taxonomic and natural community groups:

- Issue: Invasive and disease-causing species.
- Action: Awareness and education about and use of multiple, integrated methods and best practices to prevent and control these species in all environments; continued research and monitoring.
- Issue: Habitat loss, fragmentation, and degradation originating from multiple sources of development and resource use.
- Action: Practices to avoid and minimize loss or fragmentation of habitat; policy and conservation planning supportive of conserving SGCN habitat; comprehensive management of protected and preserved areas to maintain and restore diverse communities and habitats; incentives to encourage conservation on private lands.
- Issue: Modification of environmental processes that includes water extraction and hydrological change, alteration of natural fire regime, and habitat modification.
- Actions: Policy and best management practices supportive of conserving SGCN habitat; comprehensive management of protected and preserved areas to maintain and restore diverse communities and habitats; incentives to encourage conservation on private lands.

Unsustainable resource use was commonly cited for terrestrial SGCNs and their habitat, while water pollution in the form of sediment, fertilizer nutrients and chemicals were commonly cited for aquatic SGCNs and habitat. Actions for both these issues were focused on support and compliance with best management practices and conservation planning to manage for diverse habitats to persist on landscapes mixed with these other uses. Improved awareness, training and education to increase compliance with existing regulations, standards and practices was frequently cited as essential to meet desired outcomes.

Information to understand issues and conservation actions, monitor future trends and measure successful outcomes is an issue for all taxonomic and natural community groups. Academia, state and local agencies cannot cover this need alone. Many citizens and volunteer groups are highly interested in and capable of contributing to these efforts through various forms of citizen-based monitoring and science. Actions that support their training and participation are beneficial to all taxonomic groups and natural communities.

Element 4 – Conservation Opportunity Areas (Section 5)

Conservation Opportunity Areas (COAs) also support Element 4 of the WWAP in that they are places on the landscape that contain ecological features, natural communities or SGCN habitat for which Wisconsin has a unique responsibility for protecting or contains habitat with dominant responsibility for conservation when viewed from the global, continental or upper Midwest perspectives. Those undertaking conservation actions in our state, whether they are landowners, businesses, conservation groups or resource agencies may focus their actions in conservation opportunity areas. By definition, these areas imply greater likelihood of success in helping SGCN and their habitat. *The reader should note however, that COAs are mappable sites relying on readily available georeferenced information and do not*

identify all the places important or necessary for conservation in our state. Conversely, the boundaries of COAs do not imply that the same level of opportunity for conservation exists throughout the COA.

Conservation Opportunity Areas were defined and presented in the Implementation Plan in 2008⁷. In considering revisions to COAs we recognized that given online web content, there is no longer a need to distinguish between the WWAP and the Implementation Plan. Most importantly, the criteria used to originally define COAs and the role that COAs play in our state, needs reevaluation at a scale and depth beyond the scope of this WWAP and should be the subject of a distinct project.

For these reasons we chose to focus efforts on further integrating COAs into the rest of the WWAP by compiling COA information such as associated SGCN, natural communities, ecological features (e.g. Important Bird Areas) within each COA, and ecological landscapes that overlap with each COA, into a database so each COA could eventually be related to actions in the Actions Database. We also identified starting points to begin the larger effort of updating COAs. Many of these suggestions are based on ecologically significant areas identified by WWAP partners since 2007-2008.

Element 5 – Monitoring (Section 6)

Section 6 of this WWAP presents updates to this Element, primarily focusing on opportunities to measure the implementation of priority conservation actions. Similar to our reevaluation of the role and criteria for selecting COAs, we also recognized that adopting an approach or method for monitoring outcomes and the effectiveness of conservation actions will require a large effort with partners and WWAP users outside the scope and schedule of this revision. Section 6 establishes the framework and a conceptual process that will be used to develop and implement a biological monitoring and effectiveness measures system for SGCN and their habitats. It includes an example of how results chains (logic models) will be used to track conservation actions from on the ground implementation to intermediate outputs, outcomes, and ultimate results.

Element 6 – Plan Review (Section 7)

The SGCN selection process and effectiveness monitoring measures, as well as database support tools, are all intended to facilitate a timely and consistent evaluation of the status and response of SGCN and their habitats to conservation actions. Section 7 of this submittal describes the tools and schedule that form the basis of a well-documented response to changing environmental conditions and changes in the status of SGCN and their habitat.

⁷ <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/WildlifeHabitat/COA.html> (Search Terms: Wisconsin Conservation Opportunity Areas)

Elements 7 and 8 (Section 8)

Section 8 describes how conservation partners and the public have been involved in its development as well as plans for continued participation during plan implementation. A large group of experts representing a broad range of conservation interests from throughout the state were invited to participate on technical teams for SGCN taxonomic groups, natural community groups or in a technical advisory role. Approximately 35 individuals representing 30 organizations (including state and federal agencies, private wildlife conservation organizations, the academic community, Native American Tribes, lake groups, and many others) agreed to be members of the Advisory Team. In addition over 200 species and natural community experts representing a range of organizations provided technical expertise throughout the process. Public outreach and review was extended through small discussion groups and online surveys to citizens throughout the state as well as an opportunity for comment on the final draft document during the 31-day public review period.

Interpreting the WWAP and its Content

Readers are encouraged to be mindful of the following when using and interpreting information presented or referred to in the WWAP.

- Use and implementation of the WWAP is entirely voluntary; this includes conservation actions, which are voluntary options developed for and by WWAP users.
- While the WWAP is required to address certain elements of SGCN/habitat conservation, the content provides direction and intent, but it is not prescriptive (i.e., the WWAP does not provide protocols, methods or detailed guidelines).
- Use the WWAP to help identify conservation actions compatible with your objectives. Some questions to consider include the following: What actions, in what part of the state, could your organization implement? Which actions, in which places, would provide the most benefits for the greatest number of SGCNs? Which actions do not conflict with other objectives?
- Be aware of groups of species with similar needs. Use the information in the WWAP as starting points in planning and implementing conservation actions. For example, projects focused on a particular species-natural community-Ecological Landscape combination may be able to incorporate the needs of many other Species of Greatest Conservation Need (as well as other species that are not rare or declining) that also occur in that natural community and that ecological landscape.
- Recognize the complexity of habitat management. By its nature, managing habitats will positively affect some species and negatively affect others. Land managers have long wrestled with how best to balance the needs of multiple species and habitats for a variety of conservation and economic uses. For example, managing for older growth forests at a location may benefit some species, but may not benefit (in fact, may displace) others that require forests at earlier successional stages. Similarly, thinning a woodland to create a savanna will likely displace

species that require “forest interior” conditions. The WWAP provides the framework for landscape-level planning that can help ensure SGCN with conflicting habitat needs are maintained somewhere on the landscape.

- It is often beneficial to approach the complexity of land management by looking beyond a specific property and examining how it fits into a broader area. This larger scale assessment should incorporate not only ecological opportunities but also economic issues, social needs, and political boundaries.
- Conservation actions are identified at various scales (species level, natural community, ecological landscape). The conservation actions presented here will significantly help the Species of Greatest Conservation Need, but they are voluntary options offered to WWAP users and are not requirements. The actions and priorities are intended to provide a “menu” of opportunities that may or may not be appropriate at any given place or point in time.