

7. Review and Revision

7.1 Introduction

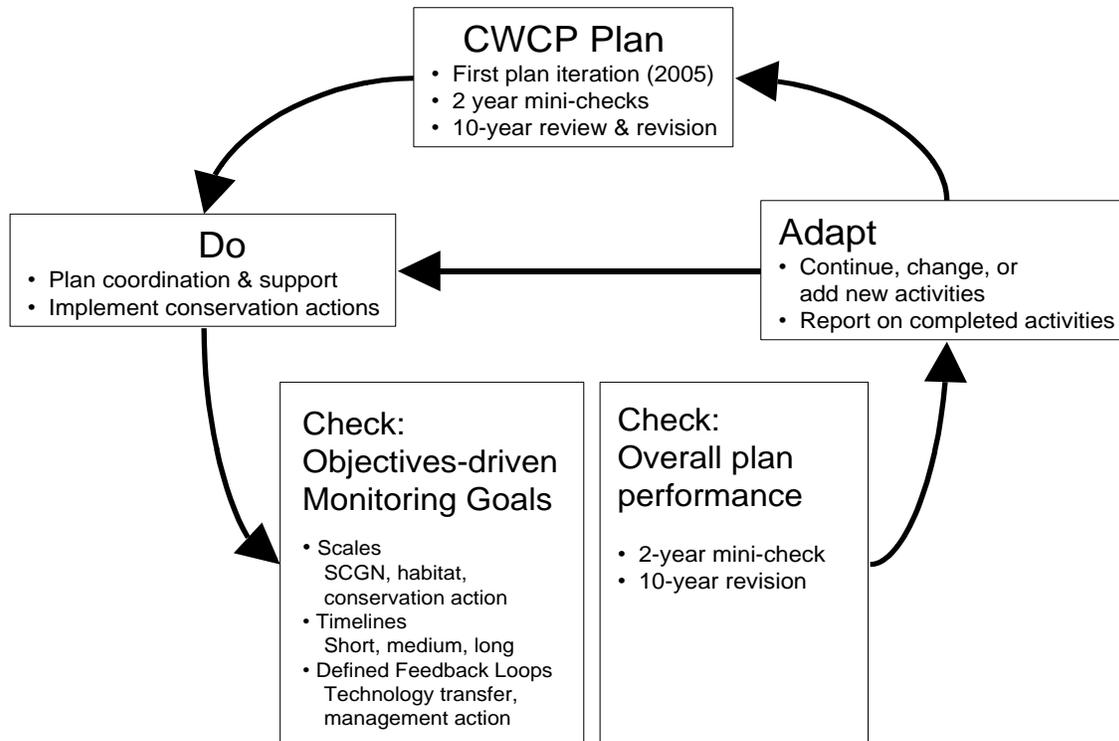
This section covers SWAP Element 6, the future of the WWAP, the information it provides, continued improvements and interactions with partners and stakeholders that use the WWAP during implementation.

(6) Descriptions of procedures to review the Strategy/Plan at intervals not to exceed ten years.

Much of the review and revision strategy for the WWAP is integrated with the monitoring and effectiveness measures framework and results presented in Section 6. The outcomes of our monitoring will help us evaluate and report the success of implemented conservation actions that protect Species of Greatest Conservation Need and their habitats.

Review and revisions will follow the principles of Adaptive Management, an approach to continuous improvement that incorporates the results of monitoring and evaluation into management actions. This approach was established in WWAP1 (below) and is valid for WWAP2. Through improvements in WWAP2, such as establishing a consistent documented process to identify and evaluate SGCN and improving natural community descriptions to describe SGCN habitat, the Plan contents can be more responsive to changing environmental and biological conditions and the needs and interests of conservation partners.

Wisconsin’s Strategy for Adaptive Management, Including the Role of Monitoring



7.2 Organization of Plan Implementation and Improvements

During the next ten years, there will continue to be interim updates and improvements to the WWAP, as one would expect when using an adaptive management process. In WWAP2, some of these improvements have been mentioned as being outside the scope and schedule of this revision. They are complex topics predicated on collaboration with many experts, stakeholders and conservation partners (e.g., meaningful identification and design of conservation opportunity areas, established system for monitoring effectiveness of conservation actions or related projects). The Actions Database is a component of the WWAP referenced throughout the revisions, that will be part of plan implementation (i.e., characteristics about each conservation action such as “how”, “where”, “what species or natural communities benefit”, “what is the intended outcome” are detailed in the database as partners and stakeholders determine how to implement them).

In addition to the Department of Natural Resources’ Natural Heritage Program, which has the primary responsibility for maintaining the WWAP, the WWAP Technical Advisory Team and collaboration with the other technical teams will continue. After approval of the revisions, the roles, objectives and participants on the Technical Advisory Team will be updated. The other technical teams will be called upon depending on the nature and extent of the topic to be addressed. The WWAP informs and is informed by many

organizations and individuals that make conservation decisions in our state and beyond its borders – this collaboration includes Plan review.

7.3 Preliminary Scope of Review and Revision

Systematic information gathering, evaluation, data management and documentation facilitate reporting on the WWAP's influence on the status of Wisconsin's Species of Conservation Need (SGCN). Some of the areas where these efforts will occur are described below:

- Revisions to the list of SGCN will be considered if substantial new information indicates that revisions are warranted. Global rank (GRank) and state rank (SRank) will be updated based on changes to Natural Heritage Inventory rankings. Individuals knowledgeable about the factors used in assessing SGCN status will check to see if there are significant adjustments that should be made to the ranking criteria, given any new information available. Special attention will be paid to those species previously identified as having information needs. Assuming that there are substantive changes to the species rankings, scores will be recalculated and the list of SGCN revised. This effort should include a means by which people can notify the WWAP coordinator when new information affecting SGCN status is available. Such notices will be archived in the SGCN database and consulted to determine if a review is needed. Intermittent reviews can then be scheduled with the relevant professionals or experts, depending on which species are involved.
- The status of Natural Communities and habitats will be periodically assessed through a similar approach. The WDNR, both internally and through its partners, has access to a large amount of diverse information about natural communities and habitats in our state. The key is to ensure that this information is translated into the association scores and natural community conservation actions in the WWAP.
- As our environment is changing on multiple scales of complexity, it is important to keep track of conservation actions that are being implemented and whether they are having a positive effect on Species of Greatest Conservation Need and their habitats.
- Through existing programs or systems notify managers and other decision makers of new or modified conservation actions.
- The performance measures and analysis through Monitoring (see Chapter 6) are an integral part of revision. This will help us check on and report the outcomes of the State Wildlife Grants projects in the context of monitoring and effectiveness measures.

Some WWAP improvements are potentially complex projects that will require collaboration with partners and stakeholders before they can be implemented. For example:

- Translate the WWAP revisions into online tools and WWAP user/outreach materials for conservation decision makers.
- Consider tools and approaches for partners to collectively recommend priority issues and conservation actions at a local, state and regional level.
- Consider approaches to more fully explore issues and conservation actions in mixed land use context.
- The Actions Database will be developed as a support tool for Plan implementation to match issues and actions to help guide internal and external decisions about conservation projects and SWG funding. We will consider if there are any major new challenges to species or their habitats that are not covered by conservation actions in the Actions Database. The Actions Database is not intended to be an independent source to track conservation efforts and outcomes, but rather record characteristics about conservation actions that can link to other available conservation tracking systems.
- Expand the role and design of conservation opportunity areas to meet the current and future needs of SGCN and their habitat.

7.4 Continued Communication and Coordination for WWAP Implementation

We look forward to strengthening collaboration with a broad range of interested conservation partners, stakeholders and WWAP users after the WWAP is approved and implementation continues. At that time we will use results and excerpts from this submittal to develop outreach materials that will engage broader conservation audiences and others that may wish to voluntarily incorporate conservation of SGCN and their habitat into their objectives. As part of the review and revision process, interested conservation partners and the public will be kept informed of updates, evaluations, and opportunities to participate.

A webpage provided updates and kept the most current information available to participants and the public. The web page also serves as a permanent archive for planning information and will continue to be updated throughout the acceptance and implementation phases of the WWAP. The Bureau of Natural Heritage Conservation provides annual reports of its own conservation actions, not only for the State Wildlife Grant Program, but for its many supporters and partners.¹

Communication and coordination with partners and interested citizens will be important in WWAP implementation. The Department of Natural Resources hopes to collaborate and share responsibilities with other conservation partners to help people use the information in the WWAP and contribute information to make it better. In order to ensure successful WWAP implementation, ongoing communications and collaboration will be pursued in these areas:

¹ <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/EndangeredResources/> (Search Terms: WDNR Natural Heritage Conservation Report)

- Meetings to update technical teams and non-technical stakeholders on WWAP use, the Actions Database and other aspects of WWAP implementation, reviews and revisions, and responses to the adaptive management approach.
- Web site updates and improvements that allow people to access data and use it based on their conservation objectives.
- Annual summary of WWAP accomplishments, achievements, advances, and modifications that occur from on-the-ground projects funded by State Wildlife Grants.
- Continued development of the Actions Database into a communication and data dissemination support tool for partners to access via the web.