

**Wisconsin's Wildlife Action Plan (2005-2015)  
Priority Conservation Actions & Conservation Opportunity Areas**

**SUPERIOR COASTAL PLAIN ECOLOGICAL LANDSCAPE**

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**HIGH PRIORITY SGCN AND NATURAL COMMUNITIES**

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|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Black-throated Blue Warbler</li> <li>➤ Canada Warbler</li> <li>➤ Common Tern</li> <li>➤ Marbled Godwit</li> <li>➤ Hudsonian Godwit</li> <li>➤ LeConte's Sparrow</li> <li>➤ Piping Plover</li> <li>➤ Whimbrel</li> <li>➤ Yellow Rail</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Franklin's Ground Squirrel</li> <li>➤ Northern Flying Squirrel</li> <li>➤ Water Shrew</li> <li>➤ Woodland Jumping Mouse</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Boreal Forest</li> <li>➤ Coldwater Streams</li> <li>➤ Dry Cliff</li> <li>➤ Emergent Marsh</li> <li>➤ Great Lakes Beach</li> <li>➤ Great Lakes Dune</li> <li>➤ Lake Superior</li> <li>➤ Moist Cliff</li> <li>➤ Open Bog</li> <li>➤ Shore Fen</li> <li>➤ Warmwater Streams</li> </ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Kiyi</li> <li>➤ Shortjaw Cisco</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Boreal Chorus Frog</li> <li>➤ Mink Frog</li> <li>➤ Mudpuppy</li> <li>➤ Old-maid Underwing</li> </ul>                               |  |

**PRIORITY CONSERVATION ACTIONS**

- Protect and restore harbor and river mouth shoreline and wetland habitats.
- Improve regulations and education to prevent the introduction of additional exotic species and slow the spread of existing aquatic invasive species.
- Manage Great Lakes beach and dune habitat as part of a vegetation mosaic that includes forested ridge and swale, interdunal wetland, shrub carr, and swamp conifer forest with older age classes. Promote concentrated public access points, limited recreational activities in areas where SGCN are present (particularly during breeding seasons), protecting site hydrology, and early detection and management of invasive exotic species.
- Implement new cost share programs or continue voluntary programs to monitor for and aggressively eliminate invasive species, especially in beach, dune, Great lakes Barrens, and coastal fen communities.
- Increase representation of near shore boreal forest by encouraging retention of white spruce, white pine, white cedar, and balsam fir, especially in older age classes, by adaptive management and selective planting.
- Preserve and maintain large expanses of sedge meadow, coastal fen and forested wetlands along the coast and manage in the context of a mosaic of community types.
- In light of climate change and lowering lake levels, monitor community-level vegetation changes in coastal fens.
- Band all Piping Plover chicks within 7-10 days of hatching.
- Install predator exclosures over Piping Plover nests to deter mammalian predation.
- Develop a management plan for shortjaw cisco, the most vulnerable of the Lake Superior whitefish species.
- Manage forested wetlands and fens as part of a vegetation mosaic that includes other open wetland communities, shrub swamp, and swamp conifer forest.
- Work with Partners to protect and manage at least three 5,000-acre grassland bird conservation areas, with 1,000-acre cores of permanent grassland, while incorporating shrub-stage component, especially along streams for shrub land and streamside species.

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**CONSERVATION OPPORTUNITY AREAS**

**Great Lakes and their Shorelines – Global Significance**

Includes the lake and embayments and migratory and winter bird concentration areas.

**COA(s):** Lake Superior (A.01)

SGCN – Horned Grebe, Caspian Tern, Common Tern, Lake Sturgeon, Mudpuppy, Kiyi, Short-jawed Cisco, Bald Eagle.

Public Land – The lake is public water

Legacy Places – None

Important Bird Areas – Kakagon-Bad River Wetlands and Forest Corridor, Lower Chequamegon Bay, Apostle Islands, South Shore Wetlands, and Wisconsin Point.

Great Lakes Shore natural community complex including Great Lakes Beach, Great Lakes Dune, Northern Wet Forest, Northern Sedge Meadow, Open Bog, Alder Thicket, Emergent Marsh, Submergent Marsh, Emergent Marsh Wild Rice, Moist Cliff and Shore Fen.

**COA(s):** Coastal Headlands and Estuaries (1.04)

SGCN – Boreal Chorus Frog, Four-toed Salamander, Mink Frog, Pickerel Frog, Wood Turtle, American Bittern, American Golden Plover, American Black Duck, Bald Eagle, Black Tern, Blue-winged Teal, Bobolink, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Canvasback, Common Tern, Dunlin, Golden-winged Warbler, Hudsonian Godwit, LeConte's Sparrow, Lesser Scaup, Marbled Godwit, Northern Harrier, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Osprey, Piping Plover, Rusty Blackbird Short-billed Dowitcher, Solitary Sandpiper, Trumpeter Swan, Veery, Whimbrel, Yellow Rail, Eastern Red Bat, Franklin's Ground Squirrel, Hoary Bat, Northern Long-eared Bat, and Silver-haired Bat.

Public Land – Lost Creek Bog State Natural Area, Bark Bay State Natural Area, Port Wing Boreal Forest State Natural Area, South Shore Fishery Area.

Legacy Places – Quarry Point to Bark Point, Western Lake Superior Drowned River Mouths.

Important Bird Areas – South Shore Wetlands.

**COA(s):** Apostle Islands (1.03)

Boreal Forest, Northern Wet Forest, Northern Wet-Mesic Forest, Northern Hardwood Swamp, Alder Thicket, Shrub Carr, Northern Sedge Meadow, Shore Fen, Northern Mesic Forest, Great Lakes Beach, Great Lakes Dune, Great Lakes Barrens, Dry Cliff, and Moist Cliff.

SGCN – Four-toed Salamander, American Golden Plover, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Canada Warbler, Least Flycatcher, Marbled Godwit, Northern Goshawk, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Rusty Blackbird, Veery, Whimbrel, Northern Flying Squirrel, and Water Shrew.

Public Land – Apostle Islands National Lakeshore (mainland unit), Big Bay State Park, Madeline Island Land Trust.

Legacy Places – Apostle Islands.

Important Bird Areas – Apostle Islands.

**COA(s):** Bad River (1.02)

Boreal Transition Forest including Great Lakes Savanna, Boreal Forest, Northern Dry-Mesic Forest, Northern Mesic Forest, Emergent Marsh, Great Lakes Dune, Great Lakes Beach.

SGCN – Boreal Chorus Frog, Four-toed Salamander, Mink Frog, Pickerel Frog, Wood Turtle, American Bittern, American Golden Plover, American Black Duck, Bald Eagle, Black-backed Woodpecker Black Tern, Blue-winged Teal, Bobolink, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, , Canada Warbler, Canvasback, Common Tern, Dunlin, Golden-winged Warbler, Hudsonian Godwit, Least Flycatcher, LeConte's Sparrow, Lesser Scaup, Marbled Godwit, Northern

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Harrier, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Osprey, Piping Plover, Rusty Blackbird Short-billed Dowitcher, Solitary Sandpiper, Trumpeter Swan, Veery, Whimbrel, Yellow Rail, and Old-maid Underwing.

Public Land – White River Wildlife Area, Copper Falls State Park, Apostle Islands National Lakeshore (Long Island unit), Iron County Forest.

Legacy Places – Bad River.

Important Bird Areas – Kakagon-Bad River Wetlands and Forest Corridor.

**Boreal Forest Transition – Continental Significance**

Boreal Transition Forest including Great Lakes Savanna, Boreal Forest, Northern Dry-Mesic Forest, and Northern Mesic Forest.

**COA(s):** Pokegama-Nemadji Wetlands (1.06), Brule Boreal Forest (1.05)

SGCN –Four-toed Salamander, Black-backed Woodpecker, Canada Warbler, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Veery, Rusty Blackbird, American Marten, Eastern Red Bat, Gray Wolf, Hoary Bat, Northern Flying Squirrel, Silver-haired Bat, Water Shrew Woodland Jumping Mouse and Old-maid Underwing.

Public Land – Brule River State Forest, Red River Streambank Area, City of Superior Municipal Forest.

Legacy Places – Bois Brule River, Wisconsin Point.

**High Quality Wetland Communities – State Significance**

Northern Wet Forest, Northern Wet-Mesic Forest, Northern Hardwood Swamp, Alder Thicket, Shrub Carr, Northern Sedge Meadow, and Emergent Marsh.

**COA(s):** Bibon Swamp (1.01), Fish Creek (1.07)

SGCN –Four-toed Salamander, Wood Turtle, American Woodcock, Black-billed Cuckoo, Blue-winged Teal, Canada Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Least Flycatcher, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Rusty Blackbird, Veery, Mink Frog, Northern Flying Squirrel, and Water Shrew.

Public Land – Bibon Swamp State Natural Area, White River Fishery Area.

Legacy Places – White River.

Important Bird Areas – Bibon Swamp, Lower Chequamegon Bay.

**Diverse Aquatic Communities – State Significance**

Coldwater streams.

**COA(s):** White and Bad Rivers (A.48), St. Louis Estuary (A.52)

SGCN –Least Darter, Four-toed Salamander, Wood Turtle, Mink Frog, Water Shrew and Calico Crayfish.

Public Land – White River Fishery Area.

Legacy Places – White River.

**Extensive Grassland Communities – State Significance**

Surrogate Grasslands.

**COA:** Lake Superior Grasslands (1.08)

SGCN –American Bittern, American Golden Plover, American Woodcock, Black-billed Cuckoo, Bobolink, Brown Thrasher, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Dunlin, Eastern Meadowlark, Field Sparrow, Golden-winged Warbler, Hudsonian Godwit, LeConte's Sparrow, Northern Harrier, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Short-eared Owl, Upland

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Sandpiper, Western Meadowlark, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Franklin's Ground Squirrel, Northern Flying Squirrel, Water Shrew, Woodland Jumping Mouse and Red-disked Alpine.

Public Land – Small portion of the Brule River State Forest.

Legacy Places – Highway 2 Grasslands.