

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

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HIGH PRIORITY SGCN AND NATURAL COMMUNITIES

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| ➤ American Woodcock | ➤ Ornate Box Turtle | ➤ Calcareous Fen |
| ➤ Blue-winged Warbler | ➤ Western Slender Glass Lizard | ➤ Central Pine Oak Forest |
| ➤ Brown Thrasher | | ➤ Coastal Plain Marsh |
| ➤ Field Sparrow | ➤ Gorgone Checkerspot | ➤ Coldwater Streams |
| ➤ Great Egret | ➤ Karner Blue Butterfly | ➤ Oak Barrens |
| ➤ Henslow’s Sparrow | ➤ Leafhoppers (<i>Paraphilaenus parallelus</i> , <i>Limotettix psedudosphagneticus</i>) | ➤ Sand Prairie |
| ➤ Red-headed Woodpecker | ➤ Red-tailed Leafhopper | ➤ Southern Dry Forest |
| ➤ Rusty Blackbird | ➤ Spatterdock Darner | ➤ Southern Sedge Meadow |
| ➤ Whip-poor-will | | ➤ Wet-mesic Prairie |
| ➤ Whooping Crane | | ➤ Wet Prairie |
| ➤ Willow Flycatcher | | |

PRIORITY CONSERVATION ACTIONS

- Identify and restore oak barrens and oak forest on appropriate sites, such as old fields and pasture lands, to expand and connect existing stands.
- Manage oaks as a large-scale mosaic of patches along a successional gradient that includes oak forest, oak woodland, oak opening, and native or surrogate grassland.
- Maintain or restore mixed pine-oak forests to represent the full natural range of variability in patch sizes and age classes.
- Restore oak/conifer barrens and shrub habitats on public lands in appropriate Conservation Opportunity Areas through fire, ground layer enhancement, and timber management.
- Work with private land owners to promote the creation of smaller savanna restorations that provide habitat for Red-headed Woodpeckers.
- Preserve remaining relict old-growth oak forest patches.
- Develop cost-sharing incentives for private landowners to burn, remove invasive exotic species and regenerate oak forests, oak woodlands, and oak openings.
- Preserve and manage wet-mesic prairie, wet prairie, calcareous fen and southern tamarack swamp sites; restore degraded sites (emphasizing restoration of hydrology), and manage for area-sensitive species in a matrix of surrogate grasslands, sedge meadow, shrub carr, and savanna habitats. Monitor restored sites to determine whether the restoration is maintaining sensitive species.
- Develop educational tools and demonstration/training areas that promote prescribed fire and other oak barrens management practices.
- Develop a practical “toolkit” for maintaining structural and compositional characteristics of oak barrens ecosystems.
- Continue head starting program for Ornate Box Turtles at appropriate sites.

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- Long-term Ornate Box Turtle monitoring is needed to evaluate population status and track trends, especially in light of climate change.
- Implement Karner Blue Butterfly conservation strategies.
- Conduct surveys to find additional occurrence of coastal plain marsh
- Conduct surveys to document invertebrate use of coastal plain marshes.

CONSERVATION OPPORTUNITY AREAS

Bur Oak Openings – Global Significance

Upland mosaic of dry forest and oak savanna including Central Pine Oak Forest, Southern Dry Forest, Sand Prairie and Oak Barrens.

COA(s): Oxford Savanna (10.03)

SGCN – Bullsnake, Ornate Box Turtle, Western Slender Glass Lizard, Blue-winged Warbler, Brown Thrasher, Black-billed Cuckoo, Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark, Field Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Henslow's Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Northern Harrier, Red-headed Woodpecker, Short-eared Owl, Upland Sandpiper, Vesper Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Whip-poor-will, Eastern Red Bat, Franklin's Ground Squirrel, Northern Long-eared Bat, Karner Blue Butterfly, Gorgone Checkerspot, and Leonard's Skipper.

Public Land – None

Legacy Places – Oxford Savanna.

Large Sedge Meadows, Fens, and Prairies – Upper Midwest Significance

Large wetlands embedded in a complex of upland natural communities. The site encompasses the state significant aquatic feature Chaffee Creek – Northern Wet Forest, Shrub Carr, Wet-mesic Prairie, Southern Sedge Meadow, Calcareous Fen, Wet Prairie, Emergent Marsh, and Submergent Aquatic Marsh. In addition, many restorable upland sites feature a mosaic of dry forest and oak savanna including Central Pine Oak Forest, Southern Dry Forest, Sand Prairie and Oak Barrens.

COA(s): Comstock Bog and Germania Marsh (10.01)

SGCN – Blanding's Turtle, Bullsnake, Four-toed salamander, Ornate Box Turtle, Pickerel Frog, Western Slender Glass Lizard, American Bittern, American Woodcock, Blue-winged Warbler, Blue-winged Teal, Black-billed Cuckoo, Black Tern, Bobolink, Brown Thrasher, Eastern Meadowlark, Field Sparrow, Forster's Tern, Golden-winged Warbler, Grasshopper Sparrow, Henslow's Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, LeConte's Sparrow, Northern Harrier, Red-headed Woodpecker, Rusty Blackbird, Short-eared Owl, Upland Sandpiper, Veery, Whip-poor-will, Whooping Crane, Willow Flycatcher, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Eastern Red Bat, Franklin's Ground Squirrel, Northern Long-eared Bat, Karner Blue Butterfly, Gorgone Checkerspot, Leonard's Skipper, and a Limotettix leafhopper.

Public Land – Caves Creek Fishery Area, John Lawton Fishery Area, Comstock Bog State Natural Area, Germania Wildlife Area, Glacial Habitat Restoration Area, White River Fishery Area, Lawrence Creek Wildlife Area, Greenwood Wildlife Area, Bass Lake Fen State Natural Area, and Mekan River Fishery Area.

Legacy Places – Comstock-Germania Marshes, Portage to Buffalo Lake Corridor.

Important Bird Areas – Comstock/Germania Bog.

Large wetland dominated complex of natural communities – Northern Wet Forest, Shrub Carr, Southern Sedge Meadow, Calcareous Fen, Wet Prairie, Emergent Marsh, and Submergent Aquatic Marsh. In addition, many restorable upland sites feature a mosaic of dry forest and oak savanna including Southern Dry Forest, and Oak Barrens.

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COA(s): Puckaway and Grand River Marsh (10.02); Fox River Marsh (10.04)

SGCN – Blanding's Turtle, Bullsnake, Pickerel Frog, American Bittern, American Woodcock, Blue-winged Warbler, Blue-winged Teal, Black-billed Cuckoo, Black Tern, Bobolink, Brown Thrasher, Eastern Meadowlark, Field Sparrow, Forster's Tern, Grasshopper Sparrow, Henslow's Sparrow, Northern Harrier, Red-headed Woodpecker, Rusty Blackbird, Short-eared Owl, Upland Sandpiper, Veery, Whip-poor-will, Willow Flycatcher, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Eastern Red Bat, Northern Long-eared Bat, and Leonard's Skipper.

Public Land – Glacial Habitat Restoration Area, Grand River Marsh Wildlife Area, French Creek Wildlife Area.

Legacy Places – Grand River Marsh & Lake Puckaway.

Important Bird Areas – Grand River Marsh/Grasslands.

Medium-sized Rivers and Streams – Upper Midwest Significance

COA(s): Wisconsin River (Dells to Lake Wisconsin) and Lower Baraboo River (A.21)

SGCN – Lake Sturgeon, Shoal Chub, Paddlefish, Black Buffalo, Least Darter, Midland Softshell Turtle, Osprey, Bald Eagle.

Public Land – Dells of the Wisconsin River, Pine Island Wildlife Area, Leopold District USF&WS, Leopold Reserve.

Legacy Places – Middle Wisconsin River, Baraboo River

Important Bird Areas – Leopold Reserve-Pine Island

Floodplain Forest Communities – State Significance

COA(s): Pine Island (10.05)

SGCN – Eastern Meadowlark, Field Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Henslow's Sparrow, Red-shouldered Hawk, Regal Fritillary.

Public Land – Dells of the Wisconsin River, Pine Island Wildlife Area, Peters Marsh Wildlife Area, Swan Lake Wildlife Area, Leopold District USF&WS, Leopold Reserve.

Legacy Places – Middle Wisconsin River, Baraboo River

Important Bird Areas – Leopold Reserve – Pine Island.

Diverse Aquatic Communities – State Significance

Cold streams and streamside wet-mesic prairie and calcareous fen communities.

COA(s): Chaffee Creek (A.04)

SGCN – Eastern Red Damsel, River Bluet, and Swamp Metalmark.

Public Land – Chaffee Creek Fishery Area.

Legacy Places – Portage to Buffalo Lake Corridor.

High Quality Wetland Communities – State Significance (unmapped)

Coastal Plain Marsh is an unmapped feature found predominantly in this Ecological Landscape. The distribution of this community is limited to a few sites within the sandy beds or margins of extinct glacial lakes, on level or gently sloping glacial outwash sands, and, possibly, in glacial tunnel channels. The lake or pond waters are nutrient-poor and acidic, and all known occurrences of the community are small, or at most, medium-sized. Historically the surrounding vegetation included oak and pine barrens; dry acid forests composed of oaks, pines, or mixtures; sand

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prairie; and various peatland communities. Periodic wildfire would have been the major disturbance force in all of these communities prior to European settlement and the implementation of fire suppression policies. They need to be managed as small patches and not in a landscape context.

SGCN – Solitary Sandpiper, Blanding's Turtle, Northern Long-eared Bat, Spatterdock Darner, Ringed Boghaunter, Sand Snaketail, Warpaint Emerald.

Public Land – None

Legacy Places – Montello Area Coastal Plain Marshes