

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

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HIGH PRIORITY SGCN AND NATURAL COMMUNITIES

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|-------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ➤ Black-billed Cuckoo | ➤ Chrysus Arctic | ➤ Bracken Grassland |
| ➤ Golden-winged Warbler | ➤ Hoary Elfin | ➤ Coolwater streams |
| ➤ Vesper Sparrow | ➤ Northern Blue Butterfly | ➤ Northern Dry Forest |
| | ➤ Pink-edged Sulphur | ➤ Northern Dry-Mesic Forest |
| ➤ Mudpuppy | ➤ Tawny Crescent | ➤ Northern Wet-Mesic Forest |
| ➤ Wood Turtle | | ➤ Pine Barrens |
| | ➤ Bedrock Glade | |

PRIORITY CONSERVATION ACTIONS

- Create financial incentives to manage for jack pine and oak.
- Create financial incentives to address the differential market values between plantation forestry and natural regeneration, retention of old-growth patches, or prescribed burning in and around core managed areas.
- Develop educational tools and demonstration/training areas that promote prescribed fire and other barrens/bracken grassland management practices.
- Manage the full range of barrens successional stages and diverse habitats in a landscape context. A comprehensive landscape plan will require identification and management of early succession cores. The barrens also need to have areas managed in a shifting mosaic of timber harvest with many clearcuts, some older than rotation-age stands, some thinning of stands for savanna structure and a few protected groves. Many small open patches are needed to conserve rare Lepidoptera. To enhance landscape attributes, red pine plantations can be applied to appropriate sites where the historic fire regime indicates that groves occurred.
- Restore oak/conifer barrens and shrub habitats on public lands in appropriate Conservation Opportunity Areas through fire, ground layer enhancement, and timber management.
- Identify additional sites containing high quality or restorable barrens.
- Develop a practical “toolkit” for maintaining structural and compositional characteristics of barrens ecosystems.
- Develop conservation partnerships with county forests, private groups, and industrial forest landowners with the goal of planning landscape management.
- Integrate land-use planning efforts across federal, state, county, and local ownership boundaries.
- Eliminate off-trail operation of motor vehicles and off-road vehicles in barrens and bracken grassland restorations that leads to invasive plant establishment, wind and storm erosion, or dominance of Pennsylvania sedge.
- Identify northern blue butterfly habitat restoration opportunities and plant larval host and nectaring species, where appropriate.
- Maintain large blocks of northern wet-mesic forest, especially in older age classes, as habitat for area- and disturbance-sensitive species.
- Imbed and maintain smaller northern wet-mesic forest patches in a matrix of upland forest.

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- Focus stream habitat and morphology restoration on areas where land use and wood turtle populations suggest the best success.
- Maintain lowland shrub communities like alder thicket and shrub-carr, and manage the surrounding working forest to benefit Golden-winged Warblers by leaving scattered off-site aspen, ash and tamarack in shrub-dominated areas and managing the adjacent upland forest in a shifting mosaic of patch sizes and age classes to provide continuous habitat.
- Protect and restore large river habitat for Pygmy Snaketail and other aquatic invertebrate SGCN.

CONSERVATION OPPORTUNITY AREAS

Pine-Oak Barrens – Global Significance

Large outwash plains with a continuum of Pine Barrens, Northern Dry Forest, and Northern Dry-Mesic Forest.

COA(s): Dunbar Barrens (15.05) and Athelstane Barrens (15.06)

SGCN – Blanding's Turtle, Wood Turtle, Black-billed Cuckoo, Brown Thrasher, Canada Warbler, Field Sparrow, Golden-winged Warbler, Northern Goshawk, Northern Harrier, Least Flycatcher, Red Crossbill, Red-shouldered Hawk, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Upland Sandpiper, Veery, Vesper Sparrow, Whip-poor-will, Gray Wolf, Northern Flying Squirrel, Woodland Jumping Mouse, Chrysus Arctic, Tawny Crescent, Henry's Elfin, Hoary Elfin, Northern Blue Butterfly, Pink-edged Sulphur, Leonard's skipper, Cobweb Skipper, Indian Skipper, Pink Sallow, and Graceful Clearwing.

Public Land – Amberg Wildlife Area, Dunbar Barrens State Natural Area, Pike Wild River, Marinette County Forest.

Legacy Places – Athelstane Barrens.

Important Bird Areas – Athelstane Barrens and Dunbar Barrens.

Large Blocks of Predominately Older Northern Forest – Upper Midwest/Regional Significance

Large outwash plains with a continuum of Northern Dry Forest, Northern Dry-Mesic Forest, and small patches of Bracken Grassland

COA(s): Nicolet Dry Forest (15.03), Peshtigo River (15.01)

SGCN – Wood Turtle, Black-billed Cuckoo, Brown Thrasher, Field Sparrow, Northern Goshawk, Least Flycatcher, Red-shouldered Hawk, Whip-poor-will, Northern Flying Squirrel, Woodland Jumping Mouse, Chrysus Arctic, Tawny Crescent, Henry's Elfin, Hoary Elfin, Indian Skipper, and Graceful Clearwing.

Public Land – Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, Marinette County Forest, Peshtigo Brook Wildlife Area, and Oconto County Forest.

Legacy Places – Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest.

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

The predominant feature is bracken grassland that falls into this category. Additional acres of Northern Dry Forest and Northern Wet forest are found in the COA.

COA: Spread Eagle Barrens (15.07)

SGCN – Wood Turtle, Black-billed Cuckoo, Brown Thrasher, Field Sparrow, Northern Harrier, Least Flycatcher, Upland Sandpiper, Vesper Sparrow, Whip-poor-will, Northern Flying Squirrel, Woodland Jumping Mouse,

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Chrysus Arctic, Tawny Crescent, Henry's Elfin, Hoary Elfin, Pink-edged Sulphur, Leonard's Skipper, Cobweb Skipper, Indian Skipper, and Graceful Clearwing.

Public Land – Spread Eagle Barrens State Natural Area.

Legacy Places – Spread Eagle Barrens.

Important Bird Areas – Spread Eagle Barrens, and Waupee Lake.

Medium-sized Rivers and Streams – Upper Midwest/Regional Significance

Medium-sized Coolwater River systems including riparian communities.

COA(s): Peshtigo River (A.08), Upper Wolf River (A.05)

SGCN – Lake Sturgeon, Blanding's Turtle, Four-toed Salamander, Mink Frog, Mudpuppy, Pickerel Frog, Wood Turtle, Bald Eagle, Osprey, Solitary Sandpiper, Water Shrew, Lancet Clubtail, Water Scorpions, Extra-striped Snaketail, Riffle Beetles, Pygmy Snaketail, Slippershell Mussel and Snuffbox.

Public Lands – Peshtigo River State Forest, Marinette County Forest.

Legacy Places – Peshtigo River.

High Quality Wetland Communities – State Significance

Large forested wetland blocks with opportunities for focused management to perpetuate old northern wet-mesic forest with some areas featuring northern dry-mesic forest and bedrock glades.

COA(s): Brazeau Swamp (15.02), Northeast Wisconsin Forest (15.04), Coleman Lake (15.08), and Amberg (15.09)

SGCN – Four-toed Salamander, Pickerel Frog, Wood Turtle, Canada Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Least Flycatcher, Northern Goshawk, Gray Wolf, Northern Flying Squirrel, Water Shrew, and Woodland Jumping Mouse.

Public Land – Peshtigo Brook Wildlife Area, South Branch Oconto Fishery Area, Marinette County Forest, Oconto County Forest, Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, Town Corner Wildlife Area, Amberg Wildlife Area.

Legacy Places – Brazeau Swamp, Menominee Tribal Forest.

Important Bird Areas – Waupee Lake, Athelstane Barrens, and Menominee Forest.

Bedrock Communities – (unmapped) State Significance

Bedrock outcrops supporting glade communities. Most of Wisconsin has the bedrock buried beneath glacial materials. In the Northeast Sands, the bedrock was so resistant to the effects of glacial grind and wear that many bedrock outcrops still persist. These bedrock glades often contain many different plants and animals than the surrounding forest. These glades provide limited habitat for SGCN and need to be managed as small patches where they are located. Natural Communities – Bedrock Glade, Northern Dry Forest, and Northern Dry-Mesic Forest.

SGCN – Bullsake, Dusted Skipper, Northern Blue Butterfly.

Public Land – Oconto County Forest, Marinette County Forest, Florence County Forest, Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest.

Important Bird Areas – Athelstane Barrens.