

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

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HIGH PRIORITY SGCN AND NATURAL COMMUNITIES

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ➤ American Bittern | ➤ Yellow Rail | ➤ Prairieana kansana (Leafhopper) |
| ➤ American Golden Plover | | ➤ Purple Wartyback |
| ➤ Black-backed Woodpecker | ➤ Banded Killifish | ➤ Pygmy Snaketail |
| ➤ Brown Thrasher | ➤ Greater Redhorse | ➤ St. Croix Snaketail |
| ➤ Connecticut Warbler | ➤ Pugnose Shiner | |
| ➤ Dunlin | | ➤ Coldwater streams |
| ➤ LeConte's Sparrow | ➤ Boreal Chorus Frog | ➤ Coolwater streams |
| ➤ Marbled Godwit | ➤ Bullsnake | ➤ Emergent Marsh-Wild Rice |
| ➤ Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow | ➤ Northern Prairie Skink | ➤ Impoundments/Reservoirs |
| ➤ Northern Harrier | | ➤ Inland Lakes |
| ➤ Red Crossbill | ➤ Dusted Skipper | ➤ Northern Dry Forest |
| ➤ Sharp-tailed Grouse | ➤ An Issid Planthopper | ➤ Northern Sedge Meadow |
| ➤ Short-billed Dowitcher | ➤ Gorgone Checkerspot | ➤ Northern Wet Forest |
| ➤ Solitary Sandpiper | ➤ Henry's Elfin | ➤ Northern Wet-mesic Forest |
| ➤ Trumpeter Swan | ➤ Karner Blue Butterfly | ➤ Oak Barrens |
| ➤ Vesper Sparrow | ➤ Olympia Marble | ➤ Pine Barrens |
| ➤ Wilson's Phalarope | ➤ Phlox Moth | |

PRIORITY CONSERVATION ACTIONS

- Create financial incentives to manage for jack pine and oak.
- Create financial incentives to address the differential market values between plantation production 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 management practices.
- Implement the Northwest Sands Integrated Ecosystem Management Plan to manage the full range of barrens succession stages and diverse habitats in a landscape context. A comprehensive landscape plan requires identification and management of early succession cores. The "barrens" also needs to have places 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 stands should be thinned to a safe amount of residual standing timber then burned for stand regeneration while leaving charred legacies. Manage shallow publicly-owned lakes by maintaining open shorelines. To enhance landscape attributes, red pine plantations can be applied to appropriate sites where the historic fire regime indicates groves occurred.
- Restore jack pine and oak 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.

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- The landscape is especially well suited to conduct research to determine Franklin's Ground Squirrel distribution, habitat use, population, and mortality factors.
- Maintain large blocks of habitat; manage complexes of sedge meadow in conjunction with associated wetlands such as open bog, poor fen, emergent marsh, shrub-carr, alder thicket and northern wet forest where possible.
- Protection and restoration of natural lake and stream habitat, including establishment of refuge areas and appropriate management of aquatic plants, are needed for conservation of the Pugnose Shiner, which requires clear waters and littoral zone vegetation.
- This landscape has an especially important role for managing shorebird habitat on public lands at flowages and impoundments. Through dikes, water levels can be raised to flood these areas, and through water control structures, water levels can be manipulated to benefit shorebirds. Migration phenology and specific habitat requirements must be considered when managing for shorebirds.
- Opportunities to manage for boreal birds, Lepidoptera, and other boreal taxa are important considerations in the Brule Spillway and Blueberry Swamp.

CONSERVATION OPPORTUNITY AREAS

Pine-Oak Barrens – Global Significance

Large outwash plain with a continuum of Pine Barrens, Oak Barrens, Northern Dry Forest, Northern Dry-mesic Forest, Northern Wet-mesic Forest, Northern Hardwood Swamp, Northern Wet Forest, Northern Sedge Meadow, Open Bog, Alder Thicket, Interior Beach, Inland Lakes, and Bedrock Glade.

COA(s): Crex Barrens and Wetlands (2.02), Namekagon Barrens (2.03), Douglas and Bayfield County Barrens (2.04), Moquah Barrens (2.06) and Fish Lake Barrens and Wetlands (2.07)

SGCN – Blanding's Turtle, Boreal Chorus Frog, Bullsnake, Four-toed Salamander, Pickerel Frog, Wood Turtle, American Woodcock, Bald Eagle, Black-backed Woodpecker, Black-billed Cuckoo, Blue-winged Teal, Bobolink, Brown Thrasher, Canada Warbler, Connecticut Warbler, Eastern Meadowlark, Field Sparrow, Golden-winged Warbler, Least Flycatcher, Northern Goshawk, Northern Harrier, Osprey, Red Crossbill, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-shouldered Hawk, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Upland Sandpiper, Veery, Vesper Sparrow, Whip-poor-will, Franklin's Ground Squirrel, Gray Wolf, Northern Prairie Skink, Northern Flying Squirrel, Water Shrew, Woodland Jumping Mouse, Karner Blue Butterfly, Gorgone Checkerspot, Tawny Crescent, Henry's Elfin, Olympia Marble, Dusted Skipper, Mottled Dusky-wing, Cobweb Skipper, Indian Skipper, Pink Sallow, Phlox Moth, Graceful Clearwing and an Issid Planthopper.

Public Land – Brule River State Forest, Crex Meadows Wildlife Area, Douglas County Wildlife Area, Fish Lake Wildlife Area, Namekagon Barrens Wildlife Area, St. Croix National Scenic River, Governor Knowles State Forest, Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, Burnett County Forest, Bayfield County Forest, Polk County Forest, Washburn County Forest, Douglas County Forest.

Legacy Places – Danbury to Sterling Corridor, Crex Meadows, Namekagon-Brule Barrens, Chequamegon-Nicolet NF.

Important Bird Areas – Namekagon/Solon Springs Barrens, Crex Meadows, Fish Lake Wetlands and Barrens, and Moquah Barrens.

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

Large sedge meadows and open marshes with a continuum of Northern Sedge Meadow, Emergent Marsh, Emergent Marsh-Wild Rice, Submerged Aquatic, and Surrogate Grassland. Also including impoundments focused on the open water and mudflats during drawdowns.

COA(s): Fish Lake (2.01), Amsterdam Sloughs (2.08) and Crex (2.09)

SGCN –Blanding's Turtle, Boreal Chorus Frog, Four-toed Salamander, Mink Frog, Pickerel Frog, Wood Turtle, American Bittern, American Golden Plover, Black Tern, Blue-winged Teal, Bobolink, Brown Thrasher, Canvasback, Dunlin, Eastern Meadowlark, Field Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Hudsonian Godwit, LeConte's Sparrow, Lesser Scaup, Marbled Godwit, Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Marbled Godwit, Northern Harrier, Red-necked Grebe, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Solitary Sandpiper, Trumpeter Swan, Upland Sandpiper, Yellow Rail, Wilson's Phalarope, Franklin's Ground Squirrel.

Public Land – Amsterdam Sloughs Wildlife Area, Crex Meadows Wildlife Area, Fish Lake Wildlife Area, Polk County Forest, Burnett County Forest.

Legacy Places – Danbury to Sterling corridor, Crex Meadows.

Important Bird Areas – Fish Lake Wetlands and Barrens, and Crex Meadows.

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

The Upper St. Croix River and Namekagon Rivers and the adjacent upland ridges feature medium-sized river systems and the adjacent terraces communities including Warmwater Rivers including riparian communities, Sand Prairie, Northern Dry Forest, Northern Dry-mesic Forest and Forested Seeps.

COA(s): Upper St. Croix River and Namekagon Rivers (A.45)

SGCN – Gilt Darter, Greater Redhorse, Lake Sturgeon, Longear Sunfish, River Redhorse, Mink Frog, Mudpuppy, Pickerel Frog, Wood Turtle, Golden-winged Warbler (stream corridors), Louisiana Waterthrush, Osprey, Eastern Red Bat, Hoary Bat, Northern Long-eared Bat, Silver-haired Bat, St. Croix Snaketail, Pygmy Snaketail, Lancet Clubtail, Extra-striped Snaketail, Spectacle Case, Salamander Mussel, and Purple Wartyback.

Public Land – Burnett County Forest, Douglas County Forest, St. Croix National Scenic River. Governor Knowles State Forest

Legacy Places – St. Croix River.

Important Bird Areas – Namekagon-Solon Springs Barrens.

Diverse Aquatic Communities – State Significance

Including drainage lakes through which flow medium-sized river systems including Coldwater Streams, Coolwater Streams and riparian communities.

COA(s): Yellow River including Big Sand and Yellow Lakes (A.47)

SGCN – Banded Killifish, Gilt Darter, Least Darter, Pugnose Shiner, Greater Redhorse, Blanding's Turtle, Boreal Chorus Frog, Mink Frog, Mudpuppy, Pickerel Frog, Wood Frog, Bald Eagle, Osprey, Pygmy Snaketail.

Public Lands – Burnett County Forest, Washburn County Forest.

Legacy Places – Yellow River.

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High Quality Wetland Communities – State Significance

Large forested wetlands including the Brule Spillway contain Northern Wet Forest, Northern Wet-mesic Forest, Open Bog, Poor Fen, and Muskeg.

COA(s): Blueberry Swamp (2.05)

SGCN – Boreal Chorus Frog, Four-toed Salamander, Mink Frog, Pickerel Frog, Wood Turtle, Black-backed Woodpecker, Connecticut Warbler, Canada Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Rusty Blackbird, Veery, Northern Flying Squirrel, Water Shrew, Woodland Jumping Mouse.

Public Land – Brule River State Forest, Douglas County Forest.

Important Bird Areas – Brule Glacial Spillway.