

**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 | ➤ Franklin's Ground Squirrel | ➤ Ottoe Skipper |
| ➤ American Golden Plover | | ➤ Poweshiek Skipperling |
| ➤ Black Tern | ➤ Gravel Chub | ➤ Regal Fritillary |
| ➤ Blue-winged Teal | ➤ Lake Chubsucker | ➤ Sculpted Glyph |
| ➤ Blue-winged Warbler | ➤ Lake Sturgeon | ➤ Silphium Borer Moth |
| ➤ Buff-breasted Sandpiper | ➤ Least Darter | ➤ Swamp Metalmark |
| ➤ Cerulean Warbler | ➤ Redfin Shiner | ➤ Two-spotted Skipper |
| ➤ Common Tern | ➤ Slender Madtom | ➤ White-lip Dagger |
| ➤ Dunlin | ➤ Starhead Topminnow | |
| ➤ Field Sparrow | | ➤ Bog Relict |
| ➤ Forster's Tern | ➤ Ornate Box Turtle | ➤ Calcareous Fen |
| ➤ Great Egret | ➤ Northern Ribbon Snake | ➤ Cliff (Escarpment) |
| ➤ Hooded Warbler | ➤ Queen Snake | ➤ Floodplain Forest |
| ➤ King Rail | | ➤ Impoundments/Reservoirs |
| ➤ Marbled Godwit | ➤ Beetles (<i>Saxinis omogera</i> ,
<i>Colaspis suggona</i>) | ➤ Mesic Prairie |
| ➤ Prothonotary Warbler | ➤ Black Striate | ➤ Oak Opening |
| ➤ Red-necked Grebe | ➤ Boreal Top | ➤ Oak Woodland |
| ➤ Red-shouldered Hawk | ➤ Buck Moth | ➤ Southern Dry Forest |
| ➤ Redhead | ➤ Cherrystone Drop | ➤ Southern Dry-mesic Forest |
| ➤ Rusty Blackbird | ➤ Columbine Dusky Wing | ➤ Southern Sedge Meadow |
| ➤ Short-billed Dowitcher | ➤ Dion Skipper | ➤ Southern Tamarack Swamp |
| ➤ Short-eared Owl | ➤ Leafhoppers (12 SGCN spp) | ➤ Warmwater Streams |
| ➤ Solitary Sandpiper | ➤ Liatris Borer Moth | ➤ Wet-Mesic Prairie |
| ➤ Whooping Crane | ➤ Mulberry Wing | ➤ Wet Prairie |
| ➤ Willow Flycatcher | ➤ Mystery Vertigo | |
| ➤ Yellow-billed Cuckoo | | |

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PRIORITY CONSERVATION ACTIONS

- Focus management and restoration efforts in the Mid to North Kettle Moraine Forest Conservation Opportunity Area to emphasize a matrix of older oak-central hardwood forest with smaller patches of oak woodland, oak opening, native prairies and relict forests.
- Focus management and restoration efforts in the southern Kettle Moraine Conservation Opportunity Area to emphasize oak openings, oak woodland and low prairie communities with smaller patches of dry prairie, open marshy wetlands, and patches of older closed canopy forest.
- Create financial incentives to preserve and protect high quality examples of prairie, oak savanna, and oak opening.
- Develop educational tools and demonstration/training areas that promote prescribed fire and other prairie and savanna management practices within the context of smoke management and clean air parameters.
- Identify additional sites containing high quality or restorable oak barrens, oak savannas and woodlands.
- Develop a practical "toolkit" for maintaining structural and compositional characteristics of dry oak forest and oak savanna ecosystems.
- Develop cost share incentives for landowners to burn, control invasive exotic species, and restore oak openings and forests, prairies, fens and sedge meadows.
- Preserve and manage all wet-mesic prairie sites, restore degraded sites, and manage the sites in a matrix of surrogate grasslands and other shrub and savanna habitats for area-sensitive species.
- Where possible, promote private land management of small sites by offering incentives to private landowners for preservation or restoration of prairies.
- Monitor wet-mesic prairies to determine whether prescribed burning and other management activities are maintaining invertebrate diversity.
- Preserve and manage all wet-mesic prairie, calcareous fen and tamarack fen sites; restore degraded sites (emphasizing restoration of hydrology), and manage the sites in a matrix of sedge meadow, surrogate grasslands and other shrub and savanna habitats for area-sensitive species.
- Conduct inventories to better delineate Cerulean Warbler populations on public and private lands.
- Maintain large blocks of open sedge meadow and manage within a complex of associated wetlands such as wet prairie, emergent marsh, shrub-carr, alder thicket and floodplain forest by maintaining hydrology, tree cutting and harvest, prescribed fire and eradicating invasive plant species.
- 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.
- Protection and restoration of natural stream habitat for Slender Madtom is needed in areas where they still persist.
- Protect structures used by Queen Snake as hibernacula.
- Preserve and restore specialized riverine habitats used by Gravel Chub, focused on decreasing siltation.
- Protect the ecological river corridor gradients from lowlands to uplands, along with protection of the floodplain corridor. This will enlarge the amount of habitat available, allow for the movement of species upslope and downslope as environmental conditions change over time, provide suitable habitat for species that require large areas or are dependent upon a mosaic of interconnected habitats for their long-term survival, and will provide migratory bird stopover habitat.
- Preserve habitat on the Niagara Escarpment and protect ecologically significant areas currently occupied by SGCN from conversion to other land uses.
- Partner with prairie and savanna restoration groups to more efficiently accomplish habitat management.

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CONSERVATION OPPORTUNITY AREAS

Niagara Escarpment – Global Significance

Cliff, bedrock communities, and bat hibernacula.

COA(s): Oakfield Ledge (9.14), Fond du Lac Ledge (9.15), Mayville Ledge (9.16), Calumet Escarpment (9.17)

SGCN – Sculptured Glyph, Cherrystone Drop, White-tip Dagger, Black Striate, Mystery Vertigo, Boreal Top.

Public Land – Oakfield Ledge State Natural Area, Dodge County Ledge Park, Mayville Ledge State Natural Area, Neda Mine State Natural Area.

Legacy Places – Niagara Escarpment.

Bur Oak Openings – Global Significance

Complexes of uplands, wetlands, and rivers including Southern Dry Forest, Southern Dry-mesic Forest, Oak Woodland, Oak Opening, Oak Barrens, Shrub Carr, Alder Thicket, Calcareous Fen, Bog Relict, Wet-Mesic Prairie, Wet Prairie, Southern Sedge Meadow, Dry Prairie, Emergent Marsh, and Submergent Aquatic.

COA(s): South Kettle Moraine (9.18)

SGCN – Blanding's Turtle, Four-toed Salamander, Pickerel Frog, Western Ribbon Snake, Acadian Flycatcher, American Woodcock, Black-billed Cuckoo, Blue-winged Teal, Blue-winged Warbler, Bobolink, Brown Thrasher, Cerulean Warbler, Eastern Meadowlark, Field Sparrow, Golden-winged Warbler, Grasshopper Sparrow, Henslow's Sparrow, Hooded Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Least Flycatcher, Louisiana Waterthrush, Northern Harrier, Red-headed Woodpecker, Rusty Blackbird, Short-eared Owl, Solitary Sandpiper, Upland Sandpiper, Veery, Vesper Sparrow, Whip-poor-will, Willow Flycatcher, Wood Thrush, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Eastern Red Bat, Franklin's Ground Squirrel, Northern Long-eared Bat, Prairie Vole, Woodland Vole, Red-tailed Leafhopper, Regal Fritillary, Poweshiek Skipperling, Dion Skipper, Mulberry Wing, Two-spotted Skipper, Silphium Borer Moth, Liatris Borer Moth, Ottoe Skipper, Columbine Dusky Wing, Buck Moth.

Public Land – Kettle Moraine State Forest (south, Lapham Peak), Rome Pond Wildlife Area, Prince's Point Wildlife Area, Clover Valley Wildlife Area, Lulu Lake State Natural Area.

Legacy Places – Southern Kettle Moraine.

Important Bird Areas – South Kettle Moraine.

Kettle Moraine Features – Continental Significance

Complexes of uplands, wetlands, and rivers including Northern Wet Forest, Southern Dry Forest, Southern Dry-mesic Forest, Southern Mesic Forest, Oak Woodland, Shrub Carr, Alder Thicket, Calcareous Fen, Bog Relict, Southern Sedge Meadow, Dry Prairie, Emergent Marsh, Submergent Aquatic.

COA(s): The Mid to North Kettle Moraine (9.08)

SGCN – Blanding's Turtle, Four-toed Salamander, Northern Ribbon Snake, Pickerel Frog, Acadian Flycatcher, American Woodcock, Black-billed Cuckoo, Blue-winged Teal, Blue-winged Warbler, Bobolink, Brown Thrasher, Cerulean Warbler, Field Sparrow, Golden-winged Warbler, Hooded Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Least Flycatcher, Louisiana Waterthrush, Northern Harrier, Red-shouldered Hawk, Rusty Blackbird, Solitary Sandpiper, Upland Sandpiper, Veery, Vesper Sparrow, Whip-poor-will, Willow Flycatcher, Wood Thrush, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Eastern Red Bat, Northern Long-eared Bat, Swamp Metalmark, Dion Skipper, Mulberry Wing, Two-spotted Skipper, Columbine Dusky Wing, Colaspis Leaf Beetle, Saxinis Beetle, and 12 SGCN leafhoppers.

Public Land – Kettle Moraine State Forest (Northern, Pike Lake, and Loew Lake units), Kiel Marsh Wildlife Area, Sheboygan Marsh Wildlife Area, Mullet Creek Wildlife Area, Manitowoc County Park, Nichols Creek Fisheries Area.

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Legacy Places – Campbellsport Drumlins, Kettle Moraine State Forest, Middle Kettle Moraine, Millhome Woods.

Important Bird Areas – North Kettle Moraine.

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

Largest examples of Wet-mesic Prairie, Calcareous Fen, large Sedge Meadow, Tamarack Swamp and associated wetlands. In addition smaller patches of these community types persist and need to be managed in small patches and not in a landscape context.

COA(s): Waterloo Wetlands (9.01), Lake Koshkonong Wetlands (9.02), Jefferson Tamarack Swamp (9.03), Lake Mills Wetlands (9.04), Rush Lake (9.07), White River Marsh (9.12), and Cedarburg Bog (9.13)

SGCN – Blanding's Turtle, Four-toed Salamander, Pickerel Frog, American Bittern, American Woodcock, Black Tern, Black-billed Cuckoo, Blue-winged Teal, Blue-winged Warbler, Bobolink, Brown Thrasher, Canvasback, Dickcissel, Eastern Meadowlark, Field Sparrow, Forster's Tern, Grasshopper Sparrow, Henslow's Sparrow, King Rail, Lesser Scaup, Northern Harrier, Redhead, Red-necked Grebe, Rusty Blackbird, Short-eared Owl, Willow Flycatcher, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Eastern Red Bat, Hoary Bat, Northern Long-eared Bat, Silver-haired Bat, Dion Skipper, Mulberry Wing, Two-spotted Skipper, Columbine Dusky Wing, Colaspis Leaf Beetle, Saxinis Beetle, and 12 SGCN leafhoppers.

Public Land – Waterloo Wildlife Area, Lake Mills Wildlife Area, Jefferson Tamarack Swamp State Natural Area, Storrs Lake Wildlife Area, Lima Marsh Wildlife Area, Fair Meadows State Natural Area, Rush Lake State Natural Area and Wildlife Area, Glacial Habitat Restoration Area, White River Marsh Wildlife Area, Puchyan Prairie State Natural Area, Cedarburg Bog State Natural Area and Jackson Marsh Wildlife Area.

Legacy Places – Cedarburg Bog, Crawfish River-Waterloo Drumlins, Jefferson Marsh, Lake Koshkonong to Kettle Moraine Corridor, Rush Lake, White River Marsh and Uplands.

Important Bird Areas – Greater Lake Koshkonong, White River Marsh, Cedarburg Bog, and Rush Lake.

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

Large warmwater rivers including Floodplain Forest, Northern Sedge Meadow, and Emergent Marsh.

COA(s): Lower Wolf River (A.05), Milwaukee River (A.03) main branches, Oconomowoc River (A.15), Bark River (A.14), Mukwonago River & Illinois Fox River (A.11), and Turtle Creek (A.13)

SGCN – Banded Killifish, Black Buffalo, Gravel Chub, Greater Redhorse, Lake Chubsucker, Lake Sturgeon, Least Darter, Longear Sunfish, Ozark Minnow, Pugnose Shiner, Redfin Shiner, Redside Dace, River Redhorse, Shoal Chub, Slender Madtom, Starhead Topminnow, Western Sand Darter, Blanding's turtle, Four-toed Salamander, Queen Snake, Wood Turtle, American Black Duck, American Woodcock, Black-billed Cuckoo, Blue-winged Teal, Great Egret, Least Flycatcher, Prothonotary Warbler, Red-shouldered Hawk, Rusty Blackbird, Solitary Sandpiper, Veery, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Eastern Red Bat, Hoary Bat, Silver-haired Bat, Buckhorn, Elktoe, Ellipse, Rainbow Shell, Round Pigtoe, Salamander Mussel, Slippershell Mussel, Snuffbox, Elegant Spreadwing, Elusive Clubtail, Plains Clubtail, Pygmy Snaketail, Stygian Shadowfly, Fragile Forktail, Lancer Clubtail and Jade Clubtail, Predacious Diving Beetles, Caenid Mayfly, Water Scavenging Beetles, Dubiraphia Riffle Beetle, White River Crayfish, and Mississippi Grass Shrimp.

Public Land – North Unit Kettle Moraine State Forest, Milwaukee River Farm Heritage, Mukwonago River State Natural Area, Turtle Creek State Wildlife Area, Lulu Lake State Natural Area, Wolf River Wildlife Areas.

Legacy Places – Lower Wolf River.

Important Bird Areas – Lower Wolf River Bottoms.

Diverse Aquatic Communities – State Significance

Floodplain Forest, Southern Sedge Meadow, Surrogate Grassland, Emergent Marsh, and Submergent Aquatic.

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COA(s): Winnebago Pools (9.06), Sugar River (A.17), Raccoon Creek (A.16), Sugar Creek (A.12)

SGCN – Banded Killifish, Black Buffalo, Gravel Chub, Greater Redhorse, Lake Chubsucker, Lake Sturgeon, Least Darter, Redfin Shiner, Redside Dace, Starhead Topminnow, Blanding's Turtle, Mudpuppy, Pickerel Frog, Black Tern, Blue-winged Teal, Canvasback, Forster's Tern, Lesser Scaup, Redhead, Ellipse, Slippershell Mussel, Brush-legged Mayfly, Common Burrower Mayfly, and Flat-headed Mayfly.

Public Land – Avon Bottoms Wildlife Area, Mukwa Wildlife Area, Deppe Wildlife Area, Rat River Wildlife Area, Poygan Marsh Wildlife Area, Wolf River Wildlife Area, Glacial Habitat Restoration Area, Lake Butte des Morts Wildlife Area.

Legacy Places – Avon Bottoms, Lower Wolf River Bottomlands, and Lakes of the Winnebago Pools.

Important Bird Areas – Avon Bottoms, and Lower Wolf River Bottoms.

High Quality Wetland Communities – State Significance

Immense cattail marsh, impounded areas with the ability to manipulate water levels and upland grass.

COA(s): Horicon Marsh (9.09)

SGCN – Blanding's Turtle, American Black Duck, American Bittern, American Golden Plover, American Woodcock, Black Tern, Blue-winged Teal, Bobolink, Brown Thrasher, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Canvasback, Common Tern, Dunlin, Eastern Meadowlark, Field Sparrow, Forster's Tern, Grasshopper Sparrow, Henslow's Sparrow, Hudsonian Godwit, King Rail, Lesser Scaup, Marbled Godwit, Northern Harrier, Redhead, Red-necked Grebe, Rusty Blackbird, Short-eared Owl, Short-billed Dowitcher, Solitary Sandpiper.

Public Land – Horicon National Wildlife Refuge, Horicon Wildlife Area, and Glacial Habitat Restoration Area.

Legacy Places – Horicon Marsh, Upper Rock.

Important Bird Areas – Horicon Marsh.

Extensive Grassland Communities – State Significance

Dry Prairie, Dry-mesic Prairie, Surrogate Grasslands and Oak Opening (restoration).

COA(s): Muralt Bluff (9.11)

SGCN – Bell's Vireo, Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark, Field Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Northern Bobwhite, Vesper Sparrow, Regal Fritillary, Whitney's Underwing Moth.

Public Land – Muralt Bluff Prairie State Natural Area, Buettenhoff/Vale Prairies, Sugar River Trail, Albany Wildlife Area.

Legacy Places – Monroe-Muralt Grasslands.

Floodplain Forest Communities – State Significance

Floodplain Forest, Southern Sedge Meadow, Wet Prairie, Southern Tamarack Swamp, Surrogate Grassland, Emergent Marsh, Submergent Aquatic.

COA(s): Avon Bottoms (9.10), Lower Wolf Floodplain (9.05)

SGCN – Blanding's Turtle, Pickerel Frog, Acadian Flycatcher, American Black Duck, American Bittern, American Woodcock, Black-billed Cuckoo, Black Tern, Blue-winged Teal, Blue-winged Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Red-shouldered Hawk, Rusty Blackbird, Solitary Sandpiper, Veery, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Yellow-throated Warbler, Ellipse, and Slippershell Mussel.

Public Land – Avon Bottoms Wildlife Area, Mukwa Wildlife Area, Wolf River Wildlife Area.

Legacy Places – Lower Wolf River Bottomlands, Sugar River.

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Important Bird Areas – Avon Bottoms, and Lower Wolf River Bottoms.

High Quality Wetland Communities (Southeast Glacial Plain Marshes) – Statewide Significance (unmapped)

Large deep water or hemimarsch features containing high quality and productive wetlands providing an opportunity to protect and manage these scattered features across the landscape. These large wetlands have relatively stable composition and occur mostly in isolated basins. Even though the protection of the diversity found in these wetlands is better addressed in prairie potholes country, our large extensive deep and hemimarsches provide a unique opportunity to manage a broad range of SGCN in concert with existing programs focused on waterfowl. For, this primary purpose, these communities should be managed to capture maximum SGCN diversity. These areas feature a continuum of an extensive matrix of marshland – Southern Sedge Meadow, Bog Relict, Northern Hardwood Swamp, and Surrogate Grassland.

SGCN – Blanding's Turtle, American Black Duck, American Bittern, American Golden Plover, American Woodcock, Black Tern, Blue-winged Teal, Bobolink, Brown Thrasher, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Canvasback, Common Tern, Dunlin, Eastern Meadowlark, Field Sparrow, Forster's Tern, Grasshopper Sparrow, Henslow's Sparrow, Hudsonian Godwit, King Rail, Lesser Scaup, Marbled Godwit, Northern Harrier, Redhead, Red-necked Grebe, Rusty Blackbird, Short-eared Owl, Short-billed Dowitcher, Solitary Sandpiper.

Public Land – Allenton Wildlife Area, Big Muskego Wildlife Area, Bloomfield Wildlife Area, Brooklyn Wildlife Area, Broughton Sheboygan Marsh County Park, Clover Valley Wildlife Area, Deansville Wildlife Area, Eldorado Wildlife Area, Glacial Habitat Restoration Area, Goose Lake Wildlife Area, Grassy Lake Wildlife Area, Honey Creek Wildlife Area, Hook Lake Wildlife and State Natural Area, Hope Lake State Natural Area, Karcher Marsh Wildlife Area, Lodi Marsh Wildlife Area, Mud Lake (Columbia) Wildlife Area, Peat Lake State Natural Area, Peterkin Pond Wildlife Area, Red Cedar Lake State Natural Area, Schoenenberg Marsh Waterfowl Production Area, South Waubesa Wetlands State Natural Area, Theresa Marsh Wildlife Area, Tichigan Wildlife Area, Turtle Creek Wildlife Area, Vernon Wildlife Area, Waterloo Wildlife Area, Pickerel Lake Fen State Natural Area, Cherokee Marsh Fishery Area.

Legacy Places – Arlington Prairie, Dunn-Rutland Savanna and Potholes, Glacial Habitat Restoration Area, Sheboygan River Marshes, White River and Bloomfield Area.

Important Bird Areas – Northern Empire Prairie Wetlands, and Greater Lake Koshkonong.