

Implementation

Abstract

Information from the Wildlife Action Plan will be publicly accessible through the NHFG website and UNH Cooperative Extension's program "Taking Action for Wildlife". Effective implementation of the State Wildlife Action Plan will require prioritization of action items and participation of partner organizations. Additional sources of financial support are needed to effectively implement the Wildlife Action Plan over the coming ten years.

Overview

The 2015 revision of the New Hampshire Wildlife Action Plan will guide wildlife and habitat programs until 2025. Implementation will involve department staff, other agencies, and the many partners that assisted in the Plan's revision. Partners who helped write, review, and edit the Plan have a good understanding of its components and have a vested interest in its successful implementation.

Having adequate resources to implement the Plan will be critical. During the ten years since the original Plan was written, no new federal or state funding sources have been generated. State Wildlife Grants have been appropriated annually but funding has declined 15% since 2005, and 35% since the highest levels of funding in 2010. Fortunately, the partners involved with the original Wildlife Action Plan have been deeply engaged in its implementation. While we will ask partners to continue to implement the Wildlife Action Plan's goals in many ways, it will be difficult for NHFG to play the leadership role that is expected without significant funding improvements.

This chapter addresses Elements 6 and 7 of the NAAT Guidelines. Element 6 requires, "each State's provisions to review its Strategy at intervals not to exceed ten years" Element 7 asks for, "each State's provisions for coordination during the development, implementation, review, and revision of its Strategy with Federal, State, and local agencies and Indian Tribes that manage significant areas of land or water within the State, or administer programs that significantly affect the conservation of species or their habitats."

Years 1-2

NHFG will incorporate the Wildlife Action Plan onto its website and/or the Taking Action for Wildlife website, in such a manner as to make the species and habitat profiles, risk assessments, maps, data and actions easily discoverable by anyone wishing to help implement the elements of the WAP. This will include repackaging actions into audience categories so that land trusts, conservation commissions or particular agencies can find the actions that they are most suited to implement. The background information on species, habitats, habitat condition and risks will be easy to find and use. Species and habitats whose conservation requires regional or national participation will be highlighted to attract a broader coalition for implementation. This includes working with other states on ways to provide this information in a regional context.

The Taking Action for Wildlife Program, a technical assistance program developed in partnership with

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UNH Cooperative Extension, will serve as the primary distribution network for implementation at the landowner, town and regional scale, including maps of habitats and habitat rankings. The Taking Action for Wildlife website will be updated to reflect changes in the Plan, and additional tools to help implement the Plan will be developed.

A principle need is the prioritization of Wildlife Action Plan actions. This task will be aided by the risk assessment scores and input of the Wildlife Action Plan Implementation Team and other partners. Further, agencies and organizations need to be identified that have the interest and ability to take on leadership roles in the more complex interagency policy actions. NHFG will be a leader on many strategies, but others may lend their leadership as appropriate. Specific coordinators should be established for the implementation and monitoring of conservation strategies. Contact with state and federal agencies will be made to integrate the priorities and strategies of the WAP into their plans and operations, including State Forest Action Plans, Landscape Conservation Cooperative projects, Climate Center projects, and many others.

Years 1-3

NHFG will work with lead implementation organizations and personnel to develop specific, measurable targets to monitor achievement of Wildlife Action Plan goals. While some performance indicators were developed as a part of the Wildlife Action Plan, additional detail is needed. Working groups may be organized to develop specific work plans and performance monitoring strategies. Work plans for top priorities will be developed in Year 1, while lower priority work plans may not be developed until Years 2-3.

Years 2-10

TRACS will be used as the primary tool for monitoring NHFG implementation of Wildlife Action Plan goals. Information about WAP efforts led by other agencies and organizations will be acquired through direct contacts from Wildlife Action Plan Implementation Team members and periodic (no less than five year) stakeholder gatherings. The Wildlife Action Plan Implementation Team and the Taking Action for Wildlife Team will meet monthly and quarterly respectively to regularly update information and keep the adaptive management process moving forward. Details on measuring and monitoring progress are described in detail in the Monitoring chapter.

Year 10

NHFG will conduct a major plan review in preparation for a new plan in 2025.