

MONTANA'S STATE WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN

December 2012 Volume 1 Issue 2



State Wildlife Action Plan Progress Update

Montana's State Wildlife Action Plan has come a long way since the last newsletter. We have checked off several tasks needed to complete the Plan, and are in the process of working on others. Here is a quick summary of what we have accomplished so far.

Completed:

1. Identified which community type classification to use in the Plan.
2. Identified the Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) that will be included in the Plan.*
3. Assessed climate vulnerability for all SGCNs.

In process:

1. Ranking community types to identify those that have the highest greatest conservation need.
2. Identifying which SGCNs are data deficient, and classify them as Species of Greatest Inventory Need.

*The SGCN list will be a dynamic list. Species will be added or removed as new information becomes available.



Great Plains Toad

State Wildlife Action Plan Eight Required Elements

1. Information on the distribution and abundance of species of wildlife, including low and declining populations as the state fish and wildlife agency deems appropriate, that are indicative of the diversity and health of the state's wildlife.
2. Descriptions of extent and condition of habitats and community types essential to conservation of species identified in (1).
3. Descriptions of problems which may adversely affect species identified in (1) or their habitats, and priority research and survey efforts needed to identify factors which may assist in restoration and improved conservation of these species and habitats.
4. Descriptions of conservation actions determined to be necessary to conserve the identified species and habitats and priorities for implementing such actions.
5. Proposed plans for monitoring species identified in (1) and their habitats, for monitoring the effectiveness of the conservation actions proposed in (4), and for adapting these conservation actions to respond appropriately to new information or changing conditions.
6. Descriptions of procedures to review the Plan at intervals not to exceed ten years.
7. Procedures for coordinating, to the extent feasible, the development, implementation, review, and revision of the Plan with federal, state, and local agencies and Indian tribes that manage significant land and water areas within the state or administer programs that significantly affect the conservation of identified species and habitats.
8. Broad public participation is an essential element of developing and implementing this Plan, the projects that are carried out while this Plan is being developed, and the species in greatest need of conservation.





Bison

Species of Greatest Conservation Need

Amphibians (6)

Coeur d'Alene Salamander
Great Plains Toad
Idaho Giant Salamander
Northern Leopard Frog
Plains Spadefoot
Western Toad

Reptiles (9)

Common Sagebrush Lizard
Greater Short-horned Lizard
Milksnake
Northern Alligator Lizard
Smooth Greensnake
Snapping Turtle
Spiny Softshell
Western Hog-nosed Snake
Western Skink

Birds (66)

Alder Flycatcher
American Bittern
American White Pelican
Baird's Sparrow
Black Rosy-finch
Black Swift
Black Tern
Black-backed Woodpecker
Black-billed Cuckoo
Black-crowned Night Heron
Black-necked Stilt
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

Bobolink
Boreal Chickadee
Brewer's Sparrow
Brown Creeper
Burrowing Owl
Caspian Tern
Cassin's Finch
Chestnut-collared Longspur
Clark's Grebe
Clark's Nutcracker
Common Loon
Common Tern
Evening Grosbeak
Ferruginous Hawk
Flammulated Owl
Forster's Tern
Franklin's Gull
Golden Eagle
Gray-crowned Rosy-finch
Great Blue Heron
Great Gray Owl
Greater Sage-grouse
Green-tailed Towhee
Harlequin Duck
Horned Grebe
Le Conte's Sparrow
Least Tern
Lewis's Woodpecker
Loggerhead Shrike
Long-billed Curlew
McCown's Longspur
Mountain Plover
Nelson's Sparrow
Northern Goshawk
Northern Hawk Owl
Pacific Wren
Peregrine Falcon
Pileated Woodpecker
Pinyon Jay
Piping Plover

Red-headed Woodpecker
Sage Sparrow
Sage Thrasher
Sedge Wren
Sharp-tailed Grouse
Sprague's Pipit
Trumpeter Swan
Varied Thrush
Veery
White-faced Ibis
White-tailed Ptarmigan
Whooping Crane
Yellow Rail
Yellow-billed Cuckoo

Mammals (28)

Arctic Shrew
Bison
Black-footed Ferret
Black-tailed Jack Rabbit
Black-tailed Prairie Dog
Canada Lynx
Dwarf Shrew
Eastern Red Bat
Fisher
Fringed Myotis
Great Basin Pocket Mouse
Grizzly Bear
Hispid Pocket Mouse
Hoary Bat
Meadow Jumping Mouse
Merriam's Shrew
Northern Bog Lemming
Northern Short-tailed Shrew
Pallid Bat
Preble's Shrew

Pygmy Rabbit
Spotted Bat
Swift Fox
Townsend's Big-eared Bat
Uinta Chipmunk
Western Spotted Skunk
White-tailed Prairie Dog
Wolverine

Fish (23)

Arctic Grayling
Blue Sucker
Bull Trout
Columbia River Redband Trout
Deepwater Sculpin
Iowa Darter
Lake Trout
Northern Redbelly Dace
Northern Redbelly x Finescale Dace
Paddlefish
Pallid Sturgeon
Pearl Dace
Pygmy Whitefish
Sauger
Shortnose Gar
Sicklefin Chub
Spoonhead Sculpin
Sturgeon Chub
Torrent Sculpin
Trout-perch
Westslope Cutthroat Trout
White Sturgeon
Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout
Invertebrates (1)
Western Pearlshell

SWAP Revision Approach

The future of State Wildlife Grants (SWG) has an uncertain fate as SWG has been subject to substantial Congressional budget cuts over the past few years (see first SWAP newsletter).

Fish, Wildlife & Parks is designing the SWAP revision to identify areas where comprehensive efforts should be concentrated, as well as to focus SWG funds.

The foundation of the SWAP revision is SGCN and priority community types, and all fish and wildlife species that use these community types will benefit from this approach.



If you are receiving this newsletter via Postal Service, please contact Deb with your email address to receive this electronically. It will help FWP cut costs and paper use. Thanks!



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To:
Plains
Spadefoot



To:
Pygmy
Rabbit



To: Columbia
Redband
Trout



To:
Pileated
Woodpecker





White-tailed Ptarmigan

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Next Issue, March 2013

Topics covered in our next issue: SWAP update progress, community type ranks, and identifying climate vulnerable species.



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