



A VISION FOR COMPREHENSIVE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION IN RHODE ISLAND



Photo by Christopher Raithel

*Identifying & Conserving
Species and Habitats of
Greatest Conservation need
in Rhode Island*

Definitions

"Wildlife" – is any species of wild, free-ranging fauna including fish, mussels, and invertebrates.

"Species of Greatest Conservation Need"

- *Must be fauna, and not flora*
- *May include aquatic species and invertebrates*
- *May include currently listed species and other species of concern*
- *Each state will determine the species that will be included in the plan*
- *Species list is expected to change over time*

For more information:

RI DEM Division of Fish and Wildlife

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Websites:

www.state.ri.us/dem/topics/wltopics.htm
www.iafwa.org/state_wildlife_grants.htm
www.teaming.com/site/index.cfm

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

To be placed on Rhode Island's CWCS mailing list for updates and information, please complete this form:

Name (Please print): _____

Affiliation (if applicable): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____

Email: _____

Send information via: _____ email _____ regular mail

Return this form to:

RI DEM

Division of Fish and Wildlife
Oliver Stedman Government
Center

4808 Tower Hill Road
Wakefield, RI 02879
Phone: (401) 789-3094
Fax: (401) 783-4460

DESIGNING A COMPREHENSIVE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION STRATEGY

In response to widespread public and congressional support for the Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA), which is not currently being considered by Congress, a State Wildlife Grant (SWG) program has been created. Additional federal funds are available through the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program, which requires a Wildlife Conservation Strategy. To be eligible for these federal funds, states must prepare one plan - a Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (CWCS).

The Division of Fish and Wildlife will take the lead in developing Rhode Island's CWCS. By completing a CWCS by September 2005, the Division and its partners will be able to integrate the management of wildlife species, build valuable partnerships, and support efforts to provide more secure, long-term funding.

STATE WILDLIFE GRANTS

Declining wildlife populations and the lack of stable funding for non-game species prompted Congress to enact a visionary program - State Wildlife Grants - to fund efforts by States and partner organizations that address the species of greatest conservation need.

The SWG program is designed to assist States by providing federal funds for the development and implementation of programs



Photo by Virginia Brown

that benefit wildlife and their habitat, including species that are declining or vulnerable. This funding supplements existing fish and wildlife funding programs.

GOALS OF A STATE CWCS

The intent of a CWCS is to create a vision for the future of wildlife conservation. To do this, a state CWCS should:

- ◆ Address the broad array of wildlife.
- ◆ Be fiscally responsible by proactively conserving wildlife.
- ◆ Create partnerships, so that the plan's broad perspective is implemented through local actions and builds on past efforts for the benefit of all wildlife.
- ◆ Have a long-term goal of keeping common species common.

Partners

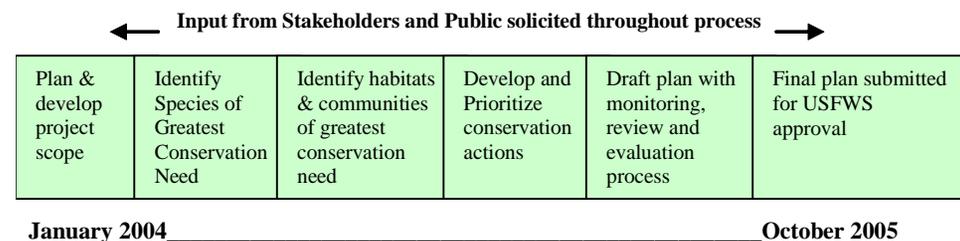
This is an opportunity to shape the direction of current and future wildlife conservation efforts. The Division will coordinate the best scientific data for our design - but we need your help. Your experience, expertise, and ideas are important and we need your input in developing Rhode Island's CWCS.

PREPARING RHODE ISLAND'S CWCS

Rhode Island's plan has identified species of greatest conservation need and their affiliated habitats. Efforts are now underway to develop conservation actions which address the species of greatest conservation need. The plan will also consider other funding available for the conservation of those species.

There are several steps in developing a CWCS (*see below*). In order to implement these steps, we will solicit input from stakeholders that will share responsibilities for this project, including a collaborative partnership of organizations that helped support federal (CARA) legislation, teams of technical specialists and scientists to analyze data and provide scientific recommendations.

Timeline & Process for Rhode Island's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy



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We are here