

NWF AND PARTNERS: STATE WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION OVERVIEW



The National Wildlife Federation, with the support of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, is working with five affiliates to implement State Wildlife Action Plans. These plans represent a national mosaic of conservation planning that is now in place for the first time in our nation's history. Wildlife Action Plans provide a comprehensive blue-print for protecting a wildlife legacy for future generations. Our broad vision for this work includes re-building state level networks, called state Teaming with Wildlife Coalitions (TWW), whose mission it is to support and fund Wildlife Action Plans. These coalitions are the primary movement building vehicles through which NWF and partners will carry out the State Wildlife Action Initiative.

Our work is focused on the following six strategies:

- **Reinvigoration of state-based Teaming with Wildlife coalitions** by serving as a hub of operations and information, recruiting conservation, hunting, angling, birding, and other civic organizations, as well as key agency officials and staff, and developing a shared agenda on state wildlife strategy implementation.
- **Identification of best opportunities** within comprehensive state wildlife strategies for proactive, incentives-based wildlife conservation within their states.
- **Implementation of high-priority conservation actions** from the state wildlife strategies in collaboration with wildlife agencies, private landowners, public land managers, land trusts, community leaders and others.
- **Help people** become involved in implementation of state wildlife strategies by utilizing collaborative processes that respect local citizens and organizations, and seek their help rather than expect it.
- **Educate people** about proactive, incentives-based approaches for conserving wildlife and the benefits of investing in species and habitats before they need the protection of regulatory programs.
- **Dissemination of lessons learned, best practices and success stories among states** to insure national and state-based efforts are coordinated through the national Teaming with Wildlife steering committee.

Target States: Through the generous support of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, we have begun working with our local affiliate in 5 states, representing each region of the country:

- Northeast: MA
- Southeast: GA, NC
- Midwest: WI
- West: MT

We also have an additional 19 state affiliates that actively support Teaming with Wildlife, which means NWF has local partners in a total of 25 states. Recent project milestones are highlighted on the next page.

Highlights from Our Accomplishments To-date:

✿ **Reinvigorating State Teaming with Wildlife Coalitions**

Collectively, pilot state coalition recruitment efforts have resulted in 950 member organizations, or nearly 1/5 of the nation's coalition of over 5,500 TWW groups. The pilot state TWW network represents an estimated 2 million citizens, who are members of coalition partner organizations.

✿ **Educating the Public about State Wildlife Action Plans**

NWF and affiliate publications have reached more than 1.6 million readers in each region of the country. In addition, we have distributed informational materials and presentations at over 65 outreach events across the country, which has expanded the reach of the Teaming with Wildlife Coalition to an estimated 80,000 citizens.

✿ **Briefing Decision Makers On the Importance of State Wildlife Grants**

Collectively, NWF and affiliates from 25 states have met with over 100 members of Congress to discuss the importance of funding for wildlife and to share local stories about habitat restoration successes. In collaboration with state wildlife agencies and other NGO partners, we have garnered the support of 38 new Members of the 110th Congress who signed the SWG Dear Colleague letter. In addition, the state Governors of GA, MA, MT, NC and WI have been briefed on this important program.

✿ **Launching National and State Level Websites to Share Lessons Learned**

NWF together with nine affiliate partners and one fish and wildlife agency have launched state level TWW websites to showcase Wildlife Action Plan implementation success stories. Visit our site at: <http://statewildlife.nwf.org> (click on "Partner States" link to view state sites).

✿ **Expanding Project Work to Include New States**

NWF and its pilot affiliate partners have created a model for building strong coalitions supporting State Wildlife Action Plans. In 2007, trainings and meetings were conducted on how to adapt this model in 12 non-pilot states.

