

Wisconsin Wildlife Action Plan

What is a wildlife action plan?

Wildlife action plans are a collective vision for the future of conservation. Congress charged each state and territory to assess the condition of their wildlife and habitats, identify the problems they face, and outline the actions necessary to conserve them over the long term. By combining the best scientific information available with extensive public participation, each state developed effective action plans that will work for wildlife and for people. The following pages review Wisconsin's plan to conserve wildlife and natural areas before they become too rare or costly to protect.

Global Warming: a Key Threat to Wildlife

Wisconsin is active in the fight against global warming. The state's wildlife plan seeks to slow the rate of climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Aquatic Resources in Greatest Need in Wisconsin



- Cool-water Streams
- Great Lakes Barrens
- Impoundments/Reservoirs
- Inland Lakes
- Lake Michigan
- Lake Superior
- Warm-water Rivers and Streams

Aquatic Priority Conservation Actions

- Restrict excessive groundwater pumping
- Continue restoration of stream habitat and morphology
- Restore floodplain function to cool-water streams through projects that restore and reconnect stream channels with their floodplains
- Install effective fish passages at dams
- Improve watershed land-use practices to reduce non-point source pollution
- Establish water-level management regimes that more closely mimic natural water level fluctuations
- Protect and restore shoreline and littoral-zone habitat
- Seek statewide and regional reductions in mercury emissions from key sources
- Improve regulations and education to prevent the introduction of additional exotic species and to help control and limit the spread of existing populations
- Protect and restore harbor and river mouth shoreline and wetland habitats
- Work to reduce or eliminate and remediate sources of micro-contaminants
- Continue application of effective fisheries management
- Continue effective treatment and regulation of industrial and municipal discharges
- Restore instream habitat and reconnect streams to their floodplains
- Investigate the option of restoration at sites within the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore
- Characterize non-vascular plants and invertebrates before initiating a broad-scale prescribed burning plan



Terrestrial Resources in Greatest Need

- Algific Talus Slope
- Alkaline Clay Bluff
- Alvar
- Bedrock Glade
- Boreal Forest
- Bracken Grassland
- Dry Cliff
- Dry Mesic Forest
- Dry Mesic Prairie
- Dry Prairie
- Forested Ridge and Swale
- Great Lakes Alkaline Rockshore
- Great Lakes Beach
- Great Lakes Dunes
- Inland Beach
- Mesic Prairie
- Moist Cliff
- Northern Dry Forest
- Northern Hardwood Swamp
- Northern Mesic Forest
- Northern Wet Forest
- Northern Wet-Mesic Forest
- Oak Barrens (pictured below)
- Pine Barrens
- Sand Prairie
- Wet-Mesic Prairie
- Wet Prairie



Oak Barrens Habitat, Juneau Co./Armund Bartz

Terrestrial Priority Conservation Actions

- Limit development on and around restorable sites to increase management options
- Develop a practical “toolkit” for maintaining the structure and composition characteristic of barrens ecosystems
- Encourage use of prescribed fire
- Reduce deer density
- Reduce forest fragmentation
- Restrict ATV use in sensitive areas
- Continue air quality management programs
- Continue and support research to find bio-controls for invasives
- Preserve and manage large sites
- Develop incentives to preserve or restore native community types
- Develop incentives to limit grazing on native prairie
- Maintain connectivity for reptiles and invertebrates
- Collect additional data on vegetative structure and composition to resolve classification issues
- Protect alkaline clay bluffs from damage caused by vehicles and foot travel
- Educate the public regarding the ecological values
- Minimize adverse impacts from quarrying and unregulated plant collection
- Acquire surface and subsurface mineral rights
- Limit or avoid rock climbing and other disruptive activities on high-value sites
- Apply Best Management Practices to minimize detrimental soil and water effects



Bobolink, *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*/WDNR

- Develop “Critical Dune Area” or “Environmental Area” designations to protect dune systems from destructive activities such as sand mining, excessive mowing, uprooting of endangered plant species, and raking live vegetation from dune areas
- Increase representation of conifers such as white spruce, northern white cedar, eastern white pine, and balsam fir



USFWS

Be a Part of the Action Through Teaming With Wildlife

* Join the Teaming with Wildlife Coalition and support our state's Wildlife Action Plan. Fill out the Endorsement Form available at www.teaming.com. If your organization has chapters, affiliates, or other close partners, we hope you'll encourage them to join the coalition as well.

* Attend Coalition meetings in your state to get the message first hand from our state's fish and wildlife agency about greatest conservation needs and how your group can contribute to the implementation of our state plan. Find out about priority conservation actions in the plan, approaches for implementing these actions, cultivating the support of local leaders, and more.

* Help educate key decision makers on the need for greater funding for wildlife conservation. Your organization can help by sending out action alerts on key legislative issues related to the State Wildlife Grants Program and the Wildlife Action Plan.

*A complete copy of the Wildlife Action Plan is available through Wisconsin DNR at:
<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/er/WWAP/index.htm>

For More Information:

*Visit the Wisconsin Coalition's new website:
<http://statewildlife.nwf.org/WI>

Or Contact:

Susan Foote-Martin
Teaming with Wildlife Coordinator
Wisconsin Wildlife Federation
Phone: 608-266-0545
Email: susan.foot_martin@dnr.state.wi.us

Signe Holtz
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
PO Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707
Phone: (608) 264-9210
Fax: (608) 266-2925
Email: signe.holtz@dnr.state.wi.us

