
APPENDIX 6

OUTREACH AND COORDINATION SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND MATERIALS



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DNREC Administrative and Partner Framework

This appendix describes Delaware's overall wildlife conservation delivery system. The mission of the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control is to ensure the wise management, conservation, and enhancement of the State's natural resources, protect public health and the environment, provide quality outdoor recreation, improve the quality of life and educate the public on historic, cultural, and natural resource use, requirements and issues (<http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/Pages/AboutAgency.aspx>). DNREC works with many partners to meet the goals identified by their mission. DNREC administers natural resource conservation through a series of Divisions and Programs, each tasked with a separate focus area. The three offices are the Office of the Secretary, Office of Environmental Protection, and Office of Natural Resources. Responsibilities of the three offices are further distributed into the Divisions outlined below (<http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/Pages/Divisions.aspx>).

Office of the Secretary

Division of Energy & Climate is responsible for strategic energy planning and policy to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens and economy of the State. The Division seeks to accelerate Delaware's transition to a clean energy economy and ensure that Delawareans have access to cost-effective and reliable energy by increasing energy efficiency and conservation, increasing the use of cleaner fossil fuels and renewable sources of energy, and modernizing Delaware's transmission and distribution infrastructure. The Division includes the Delaware Energy Office.

Delaware Coastal Programs manages, protects and monitors the state's coastal resources through the administration of the Delaware Coastal Management Program, Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve (DNERR) and the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program. This includes managing over 6,000 acres in designated size, one of 28 National Estuarine Research Reserves across the country.

Office of Community Services is responsible for supervision of and coordinating compliance with federal, state, local regulations related to environmental and natural resources enforcement with DNREC's Divisions of Air Quality, Waste & Hazardous Substances, Water, Watershed Stewardship, Fish & Wildlife, and Parks & Recreation.

The **Financial Assistance Branch** administers the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, making funding available to municipalities, private organizations, nonprofit organizations and private individuals.

Office of Environmental Protection

Division of Air Quality is responsible for protecting the public from harmful effects of air pollution in the outdoor air. The Division continuously monitors air quality, issues daily air quality forecasts and monitors emissions from air pollution sources in the state and oversees emission testing for vehicles.

Division of Waste & Hazardous Substances oversees the handling, transferring and storing of solid and hazardous waste by regulating, monitoring, inspecting and enforcing Delaware's environmental laws and regulations.

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Division of Water monitors, manages and protects Delaware's ground and surface waters, tidal wetlands and underwater lands; serves as a link to the Delaware Estuary Program, Inland Bays Estuary programs and the Delaware River Basin Commission; provides centralized geographic information system services; and coordinates citizen volunteer monitoring programs.

Office of Natural Resources

Division of Parks and Recreation protects and maintains 16 state parks and related preserves and greenways totaling more than 25,000 acres. The Division administers the state's land protection programs, as well as the Greenways program.

Division of Watershed Stewardship manages and protects the state's soil, water and coastlines with a comprehensive array of watershed programs to ensure proper stewardship of Delaware's natural resources.

Division of Fish & Wildlife conserves and manages the fish and wildlife resources of the state, including restoration of habitats; conducts biological surveys and studies of living resources; provides safe and enjoyable fishing, hunting, and boating opportunities to the citizens of Delaware and its visitors; manages over 60,000 acres including wildlife areas, ponds, boating access and other facilities for public use and enjoyment; controls mosquitoes to minimize nuisance and protect against mosquito-transmitted diseases; enforces fish and wildlife conservation and boating safety laws; provides fishing, hunting and boat licensing services; and improves the public's understanding and interest in fish and wildlife resources through information and outreach programs.

Both in 2005 and 2015 the Office of Natural Resources' Division of Fish & Wildlife (DFW) took the lead in the creation of the Wildlife Action Plan. DFW is organized into the following Sections:

- ❖ Director's Office
- ❖ Fisheries Section
 - Marine and Shellfish
 - Freshwater and Anadromous Fish
- ❖ Mosquito Control Section
- ❖ Wildlife Section
 - Habitat Conservation and Management
 - Species Conservation and Research
 - Landowner Incentive Program
- ❖ Enforcement Section
- ❖ Outreach, Licensing & Grants Section

Other DNREC Programs

Several other conservation programs are within the DNREC opportunities for enhanced coordination at the state level to implement the DEWAP. The Bayshore Initiative in particular is an existing partner with DFW (<http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/Pages/Delaware-Bayshore.aspx>).

Collaboration with State Partners

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In Delaware and adjacent states, DNREC DFW regularly meets with state partners to coordinate the conservation of important ecological and geographical resources containing SGCN and Key Habitats. Examples of these geographic initiatives and partnerships include the Delaware Bay the Chesapeake Bay Programs, as is true with many of the planning areas listed in tables 5.2 and 5.3. These partnerships were utilized to develop the outreach and coordination plan for this DEWAP. These state agency and institutional partners will be involved annually to implement many of the DEWAP conservation actions. These agencies also meet more frequently to consult on specific projects in the state, such as large development or transportation activities. DelDOT is a key partner in that regard. The State Strategies map was consulted in the DEWAP process and it will be important to disseminate information from the DEWAP to this office to integrate wildlife concerns into state planning activities. Department of Agriculture's Forestry Division is a key partner in SGCN and habitat management across the state. As such, care was taken to coordinate with the most current Forestry Plan in the Development of the DEWAP. Internal DNREC coordination between Wildlife, Fisheries, Water, Mosquito control, Wetlands and Water Resources, Parks and Recreation, and Bayshore Initiative are critical ongoing partnerships.

New partnerships will be formed as a result of this process and are critical to implementing new conservation actions that were identified by DNREC DFW and its partners. The existing partnerships represent institutional opportunities to involve numerous stakeholders in the implementation of the DEWAP, addressing the needs of SGCN and key habitats throughout the state. For instance, DNREC and its partners already own and/or manage over XXXXX acres of land within the state – lands which are already protecting SGCN and key habitats and available for adaptive management practices to enhance Priority Wildlife Habitat values. Opportunities for future collaboration include the annual coordination and other joint partnership meetings scheduled throughout the year. Updates to and progress towards conserving DEWAP target species, habitat and conservation actions are discussed and evaluated, allowing partners to incorporate accomplishments and updates into their plans, programs and annual budgets for synchronized implementation.

Collaboration with Federal Partners

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The USFWS maintains several fish and wildlife conservation efforts in Delaware. The National Wildlife Refuge System (Refuge System) has established a complex of National Wildlife Refuges (NWRs) protecting valuable fish and wildlife habitat. The Coastal Delaware NWR Complex includes the prime Hook NWR and Bombay Hook NWR. These refuges have conserved approximately over 18,000 acres of coastal habitat in the state (USFWS 2013 http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Prime_Hook/what_we_do/conservation.html and 2015 http://www.fws.gov/uploadedFiles/Region_5/NWRS/South_Zone/Coastal_Delaware_Complex/Bombay_Hook/History.pdf). Each refuge has developed a Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) that summarizes fish

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and wildlife resources and habitats, assesses the refuge's resource and management needs, and outlines a conservation plan for meeting those needs (USFWS 2013). Although the CCPs began in 2012, other plans such as the Habitat Management Plans (HMPs) and other more specific plans address specific species or habitats, for each refuge within the Delaware NWR Complex have been developed and are revised to adapt to changing conditions and management priorities. Several SGCN are found on the USFWS refuges, representing a prime opportunity to incorporate SGCN and habitat information into their management plans in order to further implement the DEWAP through this important federal partner. Annual coordination meetings are anticipated to provide opportunities for information exchange and updates on DEWAP targets and implementation progress. Continued cooperative work on Piping Plover, colonial waterbirds, and rare beetles are examples of such opportunities over the next decade.

In addition to preserving land for the conservation of valuable fish and wildlife resources within Delaware, the USFWS has provided several million dollars in grants for conservation projects in the state in recent years. The USFWS and NRCS has a new partnership called Working Lands for Wildlife that uses agency technical assistance and financial assistance from the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) to combat the decline of federally listed and other species of concern on private lands. This program allows for an additional opportunity for USFWS to work with DNREC DFW to implement management strategies of SGCN within the state of Delaware. The Delaware Bay Estuary Program in Smyrna, Delaware, collaborates with states and partners adjacent to Delaware Bay on habitat restoration projects, land conservation, and the identification of priority coastal habitats and threats to coastal and marine habitats

(www.fws.gov/delawarebay)

The USFWS's Fisheries Program, National Estuarine Reserve Program, and the Chesapeake Bay Program work to protect fish and wildlife habitats in Delaware, focusing on the restoration of migratory fish. The USFWS also maintains a Law Enforcement Special Agent in Delaware to enforce existing federal fish and wildlife conservation laws and occasionally assist state law enforcement efforts. The DNREC DFW regularly collaborates with each of these USFWS offices and the refuges, and the grant programs represent a funding mechanism for implementing this DEWAP. Coordination meetings with each of these programs will occur throughout the next decade on important conservation issues (e.g., recovery planning, HMP revisions, landowner assistance, refuge planning, and migratory bird planning) and provide opportunities to implement DEWAP initiatives to target SGCN and key habitat conservation actions, and exchange and update information on these important targets. Revisions of each HMP and other program plans will allow USFWS to incorporate DEWAP targets and become an active implementation partner of the DEWAP.

U.S. Geological Survey

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) has several on-going natural resource programs and projects within Delaware and its marine waters that contribute to the conservation of fish and wildlife resources. The Water Resources Division (WRD) of the USGS has on-going projects to study water quality and quantity in Delaware. The Biological Resources Division (BRD) of the USGS also has scientific programs to aid in the understanding and conservation of fish and wildlife resources within Delaware, with staff located at the

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Water Science for Maryland, Delaware and the District of Columbia (<http://md.water.usgs.gov/>). DNREC DFW coordinates with USGS scientists to monitor, research, and protect the state's fish and wildlife resources, and this ongoing partnership will allow for efficient implementation of several of the research and monitoring needs identified in this DEWAP.

Natural Resources Conservation Service

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) offers several key programs for private landowners, states, communities, tribes and nonprofit organizations to conserve and protect fish and wildlife resources (<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov>, Table 6-4). These programs typically are administered with the assistance of the USFWS the DNREC DFW. The grant programs offer a means for the state to collaborate with private landowners to achieve fish and wildlife conservation goals in a cooperative manner. The NRCS develops State Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) plans to prioritize habitat needs and areas within each state. Funding from the WHIP and Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) have restored hundreds of acres of these priority habitats, and provide an ongoing partnership for implementing DEWAP conservation actions related to these key habitats and the SGCN they support. This is a key partnership opportunity for implementing conservation for SGCN and key habitats, as NRCS incorporates the information from the DEWAP into their plan revisions and programs.

NRCS also addresses the need for pollinators to enhance biodiversity through a number of methods including the Farm Bill of 2008 and the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/plantsanimals/pollinate/help/>). The Farm Bill authorizes a range of incentive-based conservation programs on agricultural lands that can be used to create or improve pollinator habitat. Farmers who participate in these programs, including the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) receive special consideration for financial incentives. Other programs under the Farm Bill allow opportunities for landowners to conserve and create habitats for pollinators through the use of certain plants for cover crops and riparian buffers and through the handling of pest management practices and prescribed burning. NRCS is also a partner in the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign which is an alliance of over 150 state and federal agencies, non-profit organizations, and corporations that coordinate pollinator research, conservation, education, and policy in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico.

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Table App. 6. 1 Natural resource conservation programs available through the U.S. Department of Agriculture).

Agency	Program	Description	Financial Assistance	Technical Assistance
Farm Service Agency (FSA), U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA)	Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)	Voluntary program for farmers and ranchers to assist in compliance with environmental laws and regulations, establish vegetative cover on highly erodible cropland, improve water quality, establish wildlife habitat, and enhance wetlands and forests.	Yes	Yes
Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), USDA	Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA)	Voluntary program that provides cost-share assistance to farms for watershed management or irrigation structures, tree planting for windbreaks or water quality improvement, soil erosion control measures, integrated pest management or conversion to organic farming.	Yes	
	Conservation Partnership Initiative (CPI)	Voluntary program that provides grants to states, communities, tribes, and NGOs for planning conservation projects in terrestrial and aquatic habitat, coastal resources, livestock nutrient management, and/or minor/specalty crop pest management.	Yes	Yes
	Conservation Security Program (CSP)	Voluntary conservation program that rewards farmers and ranchers in high priority watersheds (including the Scituate Reservoir and Pocasset watersheds) that maintain and enhance the highest standards of environmental stewardship on their lands.	Yes	Yes

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Agency	Program	Description	Financial Assistance	Technical Assistance
	Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)	Voluntary program that provides cost sharing for agricultural improvements that will help meet water quality and other environmental objectives.	Yes	Yes
	Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP)	Voluntary program that provides matching funds to state, tribal or local governments, and non-governmental organizations to purchase development rights to maintain existing farms and/or ranches.	Yes	
	Farmland Protection Program	Voluntary program that provides matching funds to states, communities, tribes and nonprofit organizations for the purchase of conservation easements to protect productive farmland.	Yes	
	Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)	Voluntary program that allows landowners to protect, enhance or restore grasslands, pastures, shrublands, and ranges on their properties.	Yes	Yes
	Resource Conservation and Development (RCandD) Program	Localized program that assists state, tribal and local governments and NGOs in rural areas in conservation planning and management, sustainable development and quality of life improvements.	Yes	Yes

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Agency	Program	Description	Financial Assistance	Technical Assistance
	Soil and Water Conservation Assistance (SWCA)	Voluntary program to provide cost-share incentives to farms and ranches for soil and water conservation measures, related natural resource conservation, and compliance with environmental laws and regulations.	Yes	
	Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program	Voluntary program that assists landowners and local organizations to develop and implement watershed plans, conduct river basin studies, flood hazard analyses, floodplain management practices, and water and land conservation measures.	Yes	Yes
	Watershed Surveys and Planning	Voluntary program that assists states, communities, tribes and others to survey and plan watershed protection, sediment and erosion control, water quality, flood prevention, fish and wildlife enhancement, wetland restoration and creation, and other water needs projects.	Yes	Yes
	Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)	Voluntary conservation program that protects, enhances and restores wetlands and their wildlife resources on private lands.	Yes	Yes
	Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)	Voluntary program that assists landowners to create high quality aquatic, riparian, wetland and upland habitat areas that support wildlife populations of local, state, national or tribal significance.	Yes	Yes

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Agency	Program	Description	Financial Assistance	Technical Assistance
U.S. Forest Service, USDA	Forest Inventory and Analysis Program	Tracks the status, distribution and health of forestland throughout the country.		Yes
	National Resources Inventory (NRI) Program	Monitors the status and trends of non-federal land use throughout the country.		Yes
	Stewardship Incentives Program (SIP)	Voluntary program that encourages private forest landowners to maintain productive and healthy forests.	Yes	Yes
	State and Private Forestry Programs	Assists private landowners, businesses, states, tribes and communities to sustain and manage forestlands, control invasive species, restore urban trees and greenspace, and manage the impacts of wildland fires on communities and the environment.	Yes	Yes

Other important Federal Partners

DNREC and the DEWAP process coordinated with several other key federal agencies.

The National Park Service

The National Park Service (NPS) does not have a big presence in Delaware but maintains several historic sites and trails in DE and can be investigated at: www.nps.gov/de/.

U.S. Forest Service

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) offers technical and financial assistance to states, operates national programs on invasive species, forest and rangeland management (including fire) and biological diversity, and tracks the status, distribution and health of forestland throughout the country (<http://www.fs.fed.us>). While there are no national forests in Delaware, the DNREC partners with the USFS to inventory and monitor the state's forest resources, the trends of which are discussed in Chapters 2, 3, and 4. This existing partnership provides a foundation to implement DEWAP survey, monitoring and conservation actions related to key forest habitats.

Northeast Climate Science Center

The Northeast Climate Science Center (NECSC) is part of a federal network of eight Climate Science Centers created to provide scientific information, tools, and techniques that managers and other parties interested in land, water, wildlife and cultural resources can use to anticipate, monitor, and adapt to climate change.

Recognizing the critical threats and unique climate challenges and the expansive and diverse nature of the NE region, no one institution can provide the region-wide expertise on all critical levels. Thus, the University of Massachusetts Amherst (UMass), College of Menominee Nation (CMN), Columbia University (CU), Marine Biological Laboratory (MBL), University of Minnesota (UMN), University of Missouri Columbia (UMO), and University of Wisconsin-Madison (UWI) have formed the Northeast Climate Consortium (NECC) to host the DOI NECSC, working with USGS and partners to provide deep and diverse resources for successfully meeting the regional needs for climate impact science assessment, education and stakeholder outreach throughout the NE region. In addition to the host institutions, the NECSC will include several resource management partners, including Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs) that exist, in part or whole, within the NECSC bounds. <http://necsc.umass.edu/> <http://www.doi.gov/csc/northeast/index.cfm>

Environmental Protection Agency

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is the federal agency responsible for enforcing the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, and other environmental regulations that protect Delaware's fish and wildlife

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resources. The agency has a specific presence in Delaware through DNREC DWS which administers its water quality and wetland assessment programs. Maps resulting from this joint federal/state effort are displayed in Chapters 2 and 3 to depict relative condition of important aquatic and wetland habitat resources in the state. Delaware's Water Portal can be accessed at www.dnrec.delaware.gov/wr.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) administers several natural resource programs that effect Delaware's fish and wildlife resources (<http://www.noaa.gov>). NOAA is the key federal agency charged with protecting the nation's marine resources, including federally-listed marine species such as sea turtles (when they are in the water; the USFWS has jurisdiction over nesting sea turtles) and Shortnose Sturgeon. Federal fishery management plans (FMPs) and the implementation of Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) regulations are also NOAA functions. As a result of these interests, NOAA maintains a research and regulatory presence in the state's marine waters.

Additionally, the Sea Grant Program is administered by NOAA. The Delaware Sea Grant College Program conducts research, education, and outreach projects to help people wisely use, manage, and conserve Delaware's ocean and coastal resources. The program is a partnership involving the National Sea Grant College Program in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), U.S. Department of Commerce; the State of Delaware; and the University of Delaware. Delaware Sea Grant's current strategic plan establishes the program's top priorities in marine research, education, and public outreach for 2014-2017. The plan aligns with the following focus areas identified in the National Sea Grant College Program's 2014 national strategic action plan:

- [Healthy Coastal Ecosystems](#)
- [Resilient Communities and Economies](#)
- [Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture](#)
- [Environmental Literacy and Workforce Development](#)

NOAA's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management oversees state coastal zone management agencies (the Coastal Resources Management Council-CRMC), authorizing and funding their management programs (<http://coastalmanagement.noaa.gov>). In addition, NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration produces oil spill ecological risk maps and responds to the clean-up and restoration of damaged ecosystems following oil and fuel spills (<http://response.restoration.noaa.gov>). NOAA is the leading federal agency promoting the research and restoration of submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) and has collaborated with (and funded) eelgrass restoration projects in Delaware Bay. NOAA also manages a network of National Estuarine Research Reserves (NERR),

Mid- Atlantic Fishery Management Council

As mentioned in Chapter 1, the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) (<http://www.mafmc.org>) is a regional council that manages the fishery stocks of numerous marine and estuarine species, several of which have been identified as SGCN for Delaware (e.g., Atlantic Sturgeon, short-nosed sturgeon, skates). Delaware is a member of the MAFMC, and DNREC regularly collaborates with the Council on the protection and management of these species as well as marine habitats. The Council also works with NMFS and others in the protection of key habitats through the designation of Habitat Areas of Particular Concern and Marine Protected Areas, the management of EFH, and collaborative fisheries management research through NMFS's Cooperative Research Partners Program.

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

Delaware is a member of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC), which assists in the management of mobile fishery species within state waters through regional and national coordination (<http://www.asmfc.org>). As listed in Chapter 1, the ASMFC has formulated interstate fishery management plans for several SGCN, including American Eel, Atlantic Sturgeon, Atlantic Menhaden, Lobster, Horseshoe Crab, Weakfish, and Winter Flounder. The Commission's Research and Statistics Program coordinates stock assessments, tagging, habitat mapping, economic and social science studies and many other research efforts related to fisheries resources and management. Thus the ASMFC is a vital partner and mechanism for protecting Delaware's fishery resources.

Department of Defense

The U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) operates the Dover Air Force Base in Dover DE. This large base coordinates with DNREC and maintains current natural and cultural resource management plans to minimize impacts to Delaware's wildlife and habitats. The two agencies have worked together on the restoration of military lands, remediating contaminated sites and wildlife concerns (www.dover.af.mil/).

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) is the federal agency that oversees the protection of wetlands and waters of the U.S. through Section 404 of the Clean Water Act permit program and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act permit program. These permit programs protect the wetlands and waters of Delaware by avoiding, minimizing and mitigating impacts to these important habitats. DNREC closely coordinates with the ACOE on its regulatory functions to protect the state's wetlands and waters. The SGCN and key habitats identified in the DEWAP can be integrated into those regulatory permit reviews. ACOE also designs, constructs and maintains water resources development projects like dredging, dredge disposal, and shoreline stabilization. The Water Management Section owns and maintains numerous dams, reservoirs and floodways, but none of these are located in Delaware. The technical and financial assistance programs of the

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ACOE, including their Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Program, will provide an additional mechanism to implement DEWAP conservation actions.

Collaboration with Academic Partners

University of Delaware (UD)

DU is an important partner with the Delaware conservation community, collaborating with the DNREC and the other partners to research, monitor, and implement a variety of conservation projects throughout the state. DE participated in the DEWAP revision process through its expertise and several staff members served on the Technical review Team, attended workshops, and provided invaluable information on the SGCN and Key habitats. Several key studies on marsh migration and climate change as well as secretive marsh birds provided DE and the 13 NE states important information on these threatened systems. DU was awarded a Regional Conservation Needs Program Grant for these important regional projects.

Delaware State University

Delaware State University provided critical expertise during the DEWAP process. Staff members participated in the Scientific Review team and attended workshops to select the SGCN and key habitats. They provided important statistics information on the status of SGCN from their studies and experience.

Delaware Cooperative Extension Service

The Delaware Cooperative Extension Service has programs on agriculture and forestry, domesticated animal health, and water quality assistance to local, state, federal governments and landowners. The Extension Service assisted in the DEWAP process by cosponsoring a wildlife workshop and presenting information on the DEWAP at its annual conference to a wider audience of important agricultural and forest landowners. The Extension Service was a key partner in the development of this DEWAP and will remain an important partner in its implementation in many aspects.

Collaboration with Non-governmental Organization Partners

The DNREC DFW also collaborates with several non-governmental organizations (NGO) to conserve and protect fish and wildlife resources and their habitats. These stakeholders are vital to successfully implementing this DEWAP, and their contributions to this DEWAP and natural resource conservation in Delaware are discussed in this chapter. Existing programs with some of these NGOs provide an important opportunity to implement the DEWAP with non-governmental partners. The Nature Conservancy, Delmarva Ornithological Society, Delaware Nature Society, Delaware Museum of Natural History, Delaware Wild Lands, Ducks Unlimited, and The National Wild Turkey Federation were key partners in the development of

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the DEWAP and are highlighted here for their roles. These organizations assisted throughout the DEWAP development process and contributed greatly to its update and improvement. Participation in these organizations' annual meetings and providing presentations and posters on DEWAP updates are examples of potential coordination opportunities throughout the next decade.

Organizations attending/invited to the DEWAP revision workshops:

- Brandywine Conservancy
- Center for the Inland Bays
- Chesapeake Bay Foundation
- Chesapeake Conservancy
- Christina Conservancy
- City of Newark
- Conservation Districts
- Delaware Audubon
- Delaware BASS Federation
- Delaware Estuary
- Delaware Farm Bureau
- Delaware Greenways
- Delaware Museum of Natural History
- Delaware Nature Society
- Delaware River Basin Commission
- Delaware Riverkeeper Network
- Delaware Sea Grant Marine Advisory Service
- Delaware Wild Lands, Inc.
- Delmarva Ornithological Society
- Ducks Unlimited
- Eastern Shore Land Conservancy
- Flint Woods Preserve
- Longwood Gardens Natural Areas Management
- Marine Mammal Education, Research, & Rehabilitation (MERR)
- Mt. Cuba Center
- Nanticoke River Watershed Conservancy
- National Wild Turkey Federation
- New Castle Conservation District
- North American Land Trust
- Partnership for the Delaware Estuary - Delaware Estuary Program
- Pepco Holdings, Inc.
- Sierra Club
- Surfrider Foundation
- Sussex Bird Club
- Sussex Conservation District
- Sussex County Land Trust
- The Conservation Fund
- The Nature Conservancy
- The Wildlife Society
- Tristate Bird Rescue
- White Clay Creek Conservancy
- Winterthur

DEWAP Process Development Plan and Schedule

This appendix depicts the SWAP process and the project flow chart of major steps identified in the process. It lays out the tasks and stages of Delaware's Wildlife Action Plan process and lists the timeframe for completion and the key parties leading and/or involved with each stage. Timeframes are presented in quarterly intervals of the calendar year and represent actual completion times in the development process as well as anticipated completion targets for the implementation and revision processes.

For the 2015 DEWAP Revision, a consultant, Terwilliger Consulting Inc., assisted DNREC DFW staff in the development of the process and product. The overall approach was to be as inclusive and comprehensive as possible. This DEWAP was viewed as an opportunity to inventory, poll, and coordinate with the wide array of existing public and private conservation programs and to further provide a common goal and direction for not only DNREC DFW efforts, but for other public and private conservation efforts in Delaware.

The goal of this effort was to chart a course for comprehensive wildlife conservation in Delaware for the next decade. Notable objectives were to:

- Complete and approve the DEWAP by October 1, 2015;
- Develop a broader, more comprehensive and effective conservation strategy for wildlife species and habitats in Delaware using the SWG SWAP process;
- Develop broader and more effective public/stakeholder support and collaboration for wildlife conservation in Delaware;
- Provide for a coordinated, effective wildlife conservation delivery system in the state by charting a scientifically sound strategy supported by the conservation community and beyond; and
- To see implementation and integration of this plan by DNREC and the conservation community at large.

DEWAP Planning Process

The following table summarizes the planning process utilized throughout the development of Delaware's Wildlife Action Plan and outlines the anticipated review and revision schedule for the next revision in ten years.

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Table App. 6.2 2015 Revision Timeline

TIMELINE	2013		2014				2015			
	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	2015 thru 2025
DE WAP TASKS										
<i>Planning (Project development and research)</i>										
Plan and scope project										
Plan meetings for agency and stakeholders										
Develop communication/outreach plan and materials										
Research and inventory programs, plans, data, maps										
Contact/communicate with staff, stakeholders, public										
Plan Component Development (eight key elements)										
<i>ID Species/Habitats of Greatest Conservation Need</i>										Annual coordinate with S rank process
Research and compile data, compile existing GCN list and ID categories, get staff input on draft list, send to staff for additions to draft/send habitat associations to staff-										

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habitat associations descriptions/writing Refine for stakeholder workshop									
Engage DNREC staff, other public agencies and stakeholders, experts, Teaming With Wildlife Coalition through workshops									
Review and refine lists (staff and experts)									Annual coordinate with S rank process
Engage broader public as appropriate									
<i>ID Conservation Threats and Actions for each species/habitat</i>									Annual coordinate with S rank process
Research and compile existing data									
Engage agency staff and stakeholders through workshops									
Review and refine lists (staff); prioritize actions									
Engage broader public as appropriate									
<i>Develop monitoring/evaluation strategy</i>									Annual coordinate with project reporting

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<i>Develop maps and supporting materials</i>										As needed
<i>Write plan</i>										2023
<i>Outline and format (draft for DNREC approval)</i>										2023
<i>Draft plan</i>										2024
<i>Submit for review and revisions, make revisions</i>										2025
<i>Submit final plan</i>										2025
<i>Implementation, review, revision</i>										Coordinate with Grant agreement reporting

List of DEWAP Stakeholders

This Appendix lists Delaware's stakeholders that were contacted in the development of the 2015 Revision and whom will continue to be contacted with updates during its implementation and next 2025 revision. These stakeholders received email, phone or meeting requests for information and input on the development and implementation of the DEWAP (Elements 7 & 8). They were invited to attend the key workshops held to incorporate their input on SGCN, key habitat, issue and conservation action development. They were also periodically reminded to visit the web page to see updates.

- American Birding Association
- Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge
- Brandywine Conservancy
- Center for the Inland Bays
- Chesapeake Bay Foundation
- Chesapeake Conservancy
- Christina Conservancy
- City of Newark
- Delaware Advisory Council on Wildlife and Freshwater Fish
- Delaware Audubon
- Delaware Bass Federation
- Delaware Estuary
- Delaware Farm Bureau
- Delaware Greenways
- Delaware Invasive Species Council
- Delaware Museum of Natural History
- Delaware Nature Society
- Delaware Wild Lands, Inc.
- Delaware Department of Agriculture – Plant Industries, Agricultural Preservation and Planning, and Forestry
- Delaware Division of Parks and Recreation
- Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife
- Delaware Division of Water Resources
- Delaware Department of Agriculture
- Delaware Department of Transportation
- Delaware Sea Grant Marine Advisory Service
- Delaware State University
- Delmarva Ornithological Society
- Ducks Unlimited, Delaware Chapter
- Eastern Shore Land Conservancy
- Flint Woods Preserve
- Lenape Indian Tribe of Delaware
- Longwood Gardens Natural Areas
- Marine Mammal Education, Research, & Rehabilitation
- Mt. Cuba Center
- Kent Conservation District
- Nanticoke Indian Tribe
- Nanticoke River Watershed Conservancy
- National Park Service – White Clay
- National Wild Turkey Federation, Delaware Chapter

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- New Castle Conservation District
- North American Land Trust
- Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge
- Sussex Conservation District
- Partnership in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation
- Partnership for the Delaware Estuary – Delaware Estuary Program
- Pepco Holdings, Inc.
- Sierra Club
- Sussex Bird Club
- Sussex County Land Trust
- The Conservation Fund
- The Nature Conservancy – Delaware Chapter
- The Wildlife Society – MD/DE Chapter
- Tristate Bird Rescue
- University of Delaware
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – Chesapeake Bay Program
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Delaware Bay Estuary Project
- U.S. Geological Survey
- White Clay Creek Conservancy
- Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library

DEWAP Public Input/Outreach Approach

This appendix summarized the input plan that was designed for use in the DEWAP process to contact Delaware's stakeholders and public (Elements 7 & 8). The input plan identified different tiers of stakeholders and developed appropriate messages, methods, and objectives for each group.

Table App. 6. 3 Audience Tiers

Type of Promotion	Audiences Targeted			Target Date
	Tier 1 Stakeholders- DNREC, Fed/sate partners Collaborators Goal: Consult and collaborate	Tier 2 Stakeholders- Interested but limited investment Goal: Inform and involve	Tier 3 General Public Goal- Inform	
Direct Email/Call Fact sheets/ program material/ surveys	Email, mail 4/14	Email, mail 4/14	Unique replies to emails	Quarterly (Same as website- see below)
Direct mail/email Brochures/Flyers	Email, mail 4/14	Email, mail 4/14		Initial mailing , then distribute at meetings & presentations throughout 14-15
Website- Updated quarterly Phase 1- Introductory material Phase 2- GCN species/habitat info Phase 3- Conservation Actions, Threats Phase 4- Conservation Actions Draft Phase 5- Draft Plan update Phase 6- final plan announcement	maps and threats to help ID conservation Actions	X	X	Winter 2013 through April 2014- Intro materials July 2014- GCN info and solicit October Conservation actions - solicit input Jan 15- C Actions draft April- June 15 Draft plan September 15- Final Plan
Planning Committee meetings DNREC/agency internal memos- Inreach TWW meetings/correspondence	X			Meeting- Every month monthly updates monthly emails minimum
Newsletters- put in org /agency newsletters	X	X		Quarterly to every 6 months

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Public Input/Outreach Approach

Magazine articles- DNREC or state conservtn orgs	X	X	X	Quarterly to every 6 months
Public relations: press releases	Quarterly X	X	X	Quarterly with website updates
Workshop	June- GCN January- Consrvtn Actions X	X	X	2 for Tier 1 ,possible invite to Tier 2
Exhibit /poster at Meetings	X	X		Every Possible state meeting; set up traveling exhibit
DNREC staff and TWW staff briefing/report at all meetings possible	Distribute brochures, and updates	Distribute brochures, and updates	Distribute brochures, and updates	All meetings possible Develop schedule and list
Presentations to Tier 2 and 3 groups				As requested

DEWAP Public Input Timeline and Tracking

This Appendix outlines the approach for major workshops held during the DEWAP development process, each of which solicited input from stakeholders/public/partners at important phases of the document's development. Although there were many Revision Development and Technical Review Team meetings and workshops, the first Stakeholder Workshop was held on April 24, 2014, and not only reviewed the Revision process and timeline, but also solicited input on the selection and identification of SGCN, key habitats, conservation issues and actions, and data gaps. The second workshop was held on December 2, 2014, and focused primarily with more detail about identifying and addressing new/emerging issues and conservation actions to Delaware SGCN and habitats. Following initial invitational emails, reminder emails inclusive of materials to review in preparation for the workshops, were sent to stakeholders. June 17, 2015, the third and final workshop allowed experts, partners, and stakeholders to review, edit, and rank the updated issues and conservation actions. Follow up meetings/correspondence with participants provided for input and comments to be incorporated. Notices for and information from these meetings were posted on the web.

A list of most meetings, workshops, and correspondence is below. The information in this list is not inclusive of all outreach nor is it inclusive of all details of the listed events and correspondence. It is to be assumed that information or events available for the broader audience tiers were also available for more refined participant tiers.

Table App. 6. 4 2015 Delaware Wildlife Action Plan Outreach

<u>Event Title</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Participant Tier</u>
Meeting	8-Jan-13	Regional
NE Synthesis Project	25-Feb-13	Regional
NE SWAP Database and Synthesis Project	13-Mar-13	Regional
69th Annual Northeast Fish & Wildlife Conference	7-Apr-13	Regional
NE Regional Synthesis Steering Committee Work Session	8-Apr-13	Regional
NE Regional Conservation Tools for SWAP Revision Connect, Conserve, and Collaborate In an Era of Changing Landscapes - The Tango of Landscape Conservation	9-Apr-13	Regional
	4-Jun-13	Regional
RD Team DEWAP Coordination Call	11-Sep-13	Partners
RD Team DEWAP Coordination Call	12-Sep-13	Partners
NEFWDTC Annual Meeting	23-Sep-13	Regional
DEWAP Set Up Meeting	26-Sep-13	Stakeholders
DEWAP Conference Call	1-Oct-13	Partners

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DEWAP Public Outreach Materials

DEWAP Conference Call	3-Oct-13	Partners
RD Team DEWAP Coordination Call	3-Oct-13	Partners
Northeast Wildlife Administrators Association Fall 2013 Meeting	8-Oct-13	Regional
RD Team DEWAP Coordination Call	18-Oct-13	Partners
DEWAP Planning Meeting	22-Oct-13	Partners
RD Team DEWAP Coordination Call	4-Nov-13	Partners
RD Team DEWAP Coordination Call	2-Dec-13	Partners
RD Team DEWAP Coordination Call	16-Dec-13	Partners
Oversight Team Presentation	18-Dec-13	Partners
Wildlife Diversity Program Managers	6-Jan-14	Regional
Data Management Meeting (DE & AL)	12-Jan-14	Partners
DEWAP Coordination Call	14-Jan-14	Partners
RD Team DEWAP Coordination Call	21-Jan-14	Partners
RD Team DEWAP Meeting	29-Jan-14	Partners
Northeast State Wildlife Action Plan Coordinators Meeting	4-Feb-14	Regional
Database Meeting	19-Feb-14	Partners
RD Team DEWAP Coordination Call	20-Feb-14	Partners
RD Team DEWAP Coordination Call	27-Feb-14	Partners
RD Team DEWAP Coordination Call	27-Feb-14	Partners
Workshop: Preparing for Tomorrow's High Tide	1-Mar-14	Stakeholders
DE WAP email established	5-Mar-14	Stakeholders
RD Team DEWAP Coordination Call	11-Mar-14	Partners
DE WAP RDT Meeting	27-Mar-14	Partners
Advisory Council on Wildlife and Freshwater Fish	1-Apr-14	Public
70th Annual Northeast Fish & Wildlife Conference	13-Apr-14	Regional
Conference Call	21-Apr-14	Stakeholders
Communications	24-Apr-14	Partners
DEWAP 2015 Revision Kick Off Meeting	24-Apr-14	Public
DFW Web Site Update	9-May-14	Public
DFW Web Site Update	14-May-14	Public
SGCN list review request	5-Jun-14	Partners

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Update Letter	17-Jun-14	Stakeholders
RD Team DEWAP Coordination Call	20-Jun-14	Partners
RD Team DEWAP Coordination Call	25-Jun-14	Partners
Update Letter	30-Jun-14	Partners
RD Team DEWAP Coordination Call	22-Jul-14	Partners
RD Team DEWAP Coordination Call	8-Aug-14	Partners
NEFWDTC Annual Meeting	2-Sep-14	Regional
RD Team DEWAP Coordination Call	8-Sep-14	Partners
RD Team DEWAP Coordination Call	1-Oct-14	Partners
SGCN list email	9-Oct-14	Partners
SGCN list email	14-Oct-14	Partners
DFW Web Site Update	15-Oct-14	Public
Press Release	30-Oct-14	Public
PR published	31-Oct-14	Public
RD Team DEWAP Coordination Call	31-Oct-14	Partners
DEWAP Workshop Invite	17-Nov-14	Stakeholders
RD Team DEWAP Coordination Call	21-Nov-14	Partners
DEWAP Partner & Stakeholder Workshop	2-Dec-14	Stakeholders
RD Team DEWAP Coordination Call	16-Dec-14	Partners
DE & AL Database Meetings	12-Jan-15	Partners
AG Woodland Wildlife Conference	16-Jan-15	Regional
RD Team DEWAP Coordination Call	20-Jan-15	Partners
RD Team DEWAP Coordination Call	20-Jan-15	Partners
Federal Aid Meeting	23-Jan-15	Partners
Expert Engagement	26-Jan-15	Partners
NE Regional Coordination Call	20-Feb-15	Regional
RD Team DEWAP Coordination Call	11-Mar-15	Partners
Expert Engagement	13-Mar-15	Partners
RD Team DEWAP Coordination Call	13-Mar-15	Partners
Bird Expert Workshop	6-Apr-15	Partners
DEWAP Key Habitat Classification Meeting	29-Apr-15	Partners
Personal Communication; Lenape Tribe	4-Jun-15	Partners
Stakeholder Workshop	17-Jun-15	Stakeholders

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Facebook announcement for the Public Open Houses	6-Jul-15	Public
Public Open House – New Castle: Ommelanden	28-Jul-15	Public
Public Open House – New Castle: Ommelanden	28-Jul-15	Public
Public Open House – Kent: Georgetown	29-Jul-15	Public
Public Open House – Kent: Georgetown	29-Jul-15	Public
Public Open House – Sussex: DNREC's R & R Auditorium	30-Jul-15	Public
Public Open House – Sussex: DNREC's R & R Auditorium	30-Jul-15	Public

DEWAP Outreach Materials

This appendix reprints the agendas for the first and last major workshops held during the DEWAP development process, to serve as examples of all such workshops, each of which solicited input from stakeholders/public/partners at important phases of the document's development. Also found here are examples of outreach materials utilized during the revision process.

Agendas and Reports

**Delaware Wildlife Action Plan Revision
Kick-Off Meeting and Lunch
April 24, 2014 9 am until 1 pm
St. Jones Reserve 818 Kitts Hummock Rd, Dover, DE 19901
www.dnrec.delaware.gov/coastal/DNERR/.../StJonesReserve.asp...**

Goals of Meeting:

- Provide Information on the DEWAP Revision Overview and Approach
- Solicit Input and participation in plan development
- Identify next steps

AGENDA	
9:00 – 9:15 am	Welcome & Introductions – Rob Hossler, Environmental Program Manager , Species Conservation and Research, DNREC DFW
9:15 – 10:15 am	Project overview and goals- Kevin Kalasz, Program Manager – Biodiversity, Species Conservation and Research, DNREC DFW Regional and National guidelines and requirements- Karen Terwilliger, Terwilliger Consulting, Inc. Summary of DEWAP approach- DEWAP team Review of 8 required Elements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCN Species and Key Habitats • Threats and Actions • Monitoring and Data Gaps • Outreach and Revision
10:15 – 10:30 am	BREAK
10:30 am - NOON	Groups proved input for each Topic: SGCN Species, Key Habitats, Threats, Actions/Monitoring
NOON – 1:00 pm	Lunch (Provided) – Next Steps, Wrap-Up, Adjourn

Delaware Wildlife Action Plan Revision Meeting

June 17, 2015 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 pm

St. Jones Reserve 818 Kitts Hummock Rd, Dover, DE 19901

<http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/coastal/DNERR/Pages/StJonesReserve.aspx>



"Keeping Today's Wildlife from
Becoming Tomorrow's Memory"

Meeting Purpose:

- Provide Updates on the DEWAP Revision
- REVIEW AND PRIORITIZE ACTIONS
- Solicit Final Input on Plan Development

AGENDA

AGENDA	
9:00 AM	Welcome and Intros– DNREC Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) Joe Rogerson-Program Manager and Dave Saveikis – Director
9:15 AM	Summary of DEWAP Progress Update on the 8 WAP elements Task for the day: Review and Prioritize Actions at 3 levels: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Statewide- most broad• Key Habitats• GCN Species- most specific Review statewide actions as a group then break out into groups to complete statewide actions Statewide Actions: Instructions to the group: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review and comment on wording and rank• Anything missing- ID gaps
9:30-10:30 AM STATEWIDE ACTIONS	 Group reviews specific ACTIONS for Species Move to another group if complete Herps, Mammals Fish and Aquatic Inverts Invertebrates Birds- 2 groups
Break	
10:45-12:15 SPECIES ACTIONS	
12:15 Lunch	Lunch (15 min break then working lunch)

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	AFTERNOON
12:30 pm HABITAT ACTIONS	Review Habitat Actions by Group: Aquatic Forest Nonforested uplands Tidal Wetlands Non-tidal wetlands
Break-	Break
2:30 pm HABITAT ACTIONS	Continue habitat actions
3:30 pm	Next Steps and Wrap up and request for input (COAs their program info)
Wrap up 4 pm	Thanks and Adjourn

Fact Sheet

(July 2015 Public Open Houses Version)

Conservation Need in Delaware

The Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control's (DNREC) Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) is well into its 2015 Wildlife Action Plan revision process. Over the past year, DNREC's DFW and its partners have worked with wildlife experts and other key stakeholders throughout the state and region to develop a comprehensive plan to conserve wildlife and natural places, enhancing the quality of life in Delaware. As communities grow, the DEWAP will help guide and conserve wildlife and the places they live for future generations. This Revision will update the 2005 assessment of Delaware's wildlife and natural places, identify the problems they face, and outline actions needed to conserve them over the long term. Every 10 years, each state must develop a SWAP to conserve wildlife before they become rarer and more costly to protect.

By updating the DEWAP, DNREC also qualifies for millions in matching funds from the Federal State Wildlife Grants program established in 2000 to support conservation of non-game species and their habitats.

As in 2005, Delaware's Division of Fish & Wildlife has lead the development of the new 2015 DEWAP and has been and will continue to engage their conservation partners. Key stakeholders will help develop a realistic and effective plan to conserve Delaware's wildlife while considering constituent needs. Through this process, Delaware will be able to secure funding for state and local efforts to effectively conserve its important wildlife resources.

DFW first updated the list of Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) and their associated habitats. Now, with your help, we are finalizing the Issues and Conservation Actions, the core of the Wildlife Action Plan.

DEwildlifeactionplan@gmail.com

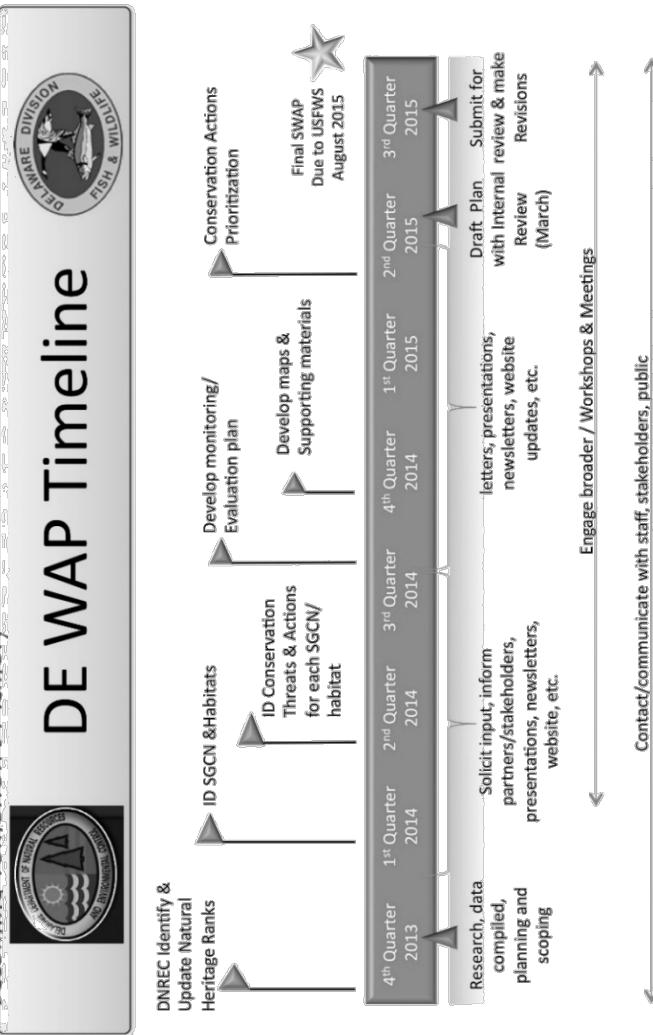
<http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/fw/dwap/Pages/default.aspx>

Eight Required Elements:

1. GCN Species
2. Key Habitats
3. Potential Issues
4. Conservation Actions
5. Monitoring Plans
6. Review Procedures
7. Coordination
8. Public Participation



"Keeping Today's Wildlife from
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2013 PLANNING

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2014 INPUT / WRITING 2015 WRITING / REVIEW / SUBMIT

News Releases



NEWS for immediate release

For more information:

Contact: Joanna Wilson, DNREC Public Affairs, 302-739-9902

DNREC Public Affairs Office 302-739-9902

DNREC Division of Fish & Wildlife's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan revision underway

DOVER (Oct. 30, 2014) – Over the next year, DNREC's Division of Fish & Wildlife and its conservation partners will work with wildlife experts and other key stakeholders throughout the state and region to develop the 2015 Delaware Wildlife Action Plan, a comprehensive plan to conserve wildlife and natural places. Investing in and implementing the plan will help conserve wildlife and protect their habitat for the benefit of current and future generations.

The Wildlife Action Plan will assess Delaware's wildlife and natural landscape, identify the challenges they face, and outline actions needed for conserving them over the long term. Wildlife status is often an early indicator of environmental degradation that can affect humans, so proactive conservation can benefit both wildlife and people.

By updating Delaware's plan, DNREC's Division of Fish & Wildlife also qualifies for matching funds from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's State Wildlife Grant Program, which was established in 2000 to support conservation of non-game species and their habitats. Every 10 years, each state must revise its plan to conserve wildlife species of concern before they become rarer and more costly to restore and conserve.

"The intent is to keep rarer species from becoming endangered, and to keep common species common," said Division of Fish and Wildlife Director David Saveikis. "This is one of the most important ways the Division of Fish and Wildlife can conserve species in an efficient and cost-effective manner."

The revision process involves reassessing and prioritizing species and habitats and identifying opportunities for conservation action, as well as threats to fish and wildlife, including those most species vulnerable to habitat loss or degradation and climate change. Input from the public, wildlife partners and stakeholders is encouraged throughout the revision process for the Wildlife Action Plan.

"This plan will address the effects of climate change and sea level rise on wildlife species and their habitats, and the actions identified will help set the stage for increasing climate change resiliency," said Delaware Wildlife Action Plan Coordinator Kevin Kalasz. "Scientists, hunters, anglers, conservationists and other stakeholders in the business and agriculture sectors will work together to develop workable conservation actions to address or alleviate these threats and effectively conserve Delaware's valuable wildlife resources."

Delaware's ecosystem supports thousands of vertebrate and invertebrate wildlife species, from its scenic Delaware Bay coastline to its upland and wetland forests. Included in this incredible natural diversity is a

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DEWAP Public Outreach Materials

suite of mammal, bird, reptile and amphibian, fish and invertebrate species of greatest conservation need (SGCN). These species depend on many different key habitat types throughout the state.

Last spring, the Division of Fish & Wildlife hosted the Delaware Wildlife Action Plan Kickoff at the St. Jones Reserve, where more than 30 wildlife specialists from the state, private and not-for-profit sectors came together to discuss criteria for SGCN selection and identify conservation actions to address threats.

"The Delaware Wildlife Action Plan is not just a plan for DNREC and the Division of Fish and Wildlife, but a plan for the citizens and organizations that have an interest in species and habitat conservation and management," said Wildlife Section Administrator Rob Hossler. "To ensure that key species of greatest conservation concern are included in the final plan, we are seeking input from scientific experts, public and private stakeholders and nongovernmental organizations."

Over the next year, experts from these sectors will compile updated information on species and habitats to identify key actions needed to serve as a blueprint for statewide wildlife conservation actions. Additional meetings and ongoing website updates will continue to seek ideas and feedback on the Wildlife Action Plan. Draft sections of the plan will be available for public comment as they are completed, and a final draft of the full plan is expected to be available for review in the fall of 2015.

To review the Delaware Wildlife Action Plan, or to stay updated on the revision process, visit [Delaware Wildlife Action Plan](#). The deadline for public comments on the SGCN list is Saturday, Nov. 15. Comments can be submitted by email to DEWildlifeActionPlan@gmail.com or by regular mail to Kevin Kalasz, Species Conservation and Research Program at 4876 Hay Point Landing Road, Smyrna, DE 19977.

DNREC is committed to preserving the quality of Delaware's environment, maintaining the health and safety of its residents, and protecting the natural systems upon which life depends. DNREC's Division of Fish and Wildlife's mission is to ensure that the freshwater, marine and wildlife resources of the State of Delaware will be conserved and managed for equitable and sustainable use.

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NEWS for immediate release

For more information:

DNREC Public Affairs Office 302-739-9902

Contact: Joanna Wilson, DNREC Public Affairs, 302-739-9902

Public input sought for DNREC Division of Fish & Wildlife's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan draft revision

Open house meetings set for July 28-30 in New Castle, Kent and Sussex counties

DOVER (July 6, 2015) – Over the last year, DNREC's Division of Fish & Wildlife and its conservation partners have worked with wildlife experts and other key stakeholders throughout the state and region to develop the 2015 Delaware Wildlife Action Plan (DEWAP). Required in order for Delaware to be eligible for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) State Wildlife Grant Program funding, the DEWAP will assess Delaware's wildlife and habitats, identify the challenges they face and outline actions needed for conserving them over the long term.

A series of stakeholder workshops have been held recently to identify and prioritize the fish, wildlife and associated habitats most in need of conservation. Identifying and prioritizing these valuable Delaware natural resources is required by the USFWS to obtain federal funding for many conservation efforts in the state. This process also ensures that common species remain common by utilizing conservation efforts throughout Delaware with many public and private partners over the next decade, preventing these species from becoming endangered or threatened.

Input from the public, wildlife partners and stakeholders is encouraged throughout the DEWAP revision process. This month, public open house meetings will be held in each of Delaware's three counties. These open houses will give the public the opportunity to meet, ask questions and provide their input to the 2015 DEWAP development team.

Meetings will be held from 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. on the following dates and locations:

- **New Castle County:** Tuesday, July 28, Ommelanden Hunter Education Training Center, 1205 River Road, New Castle, DE 19720
- **Kent County:** Thursday, July 30, DNREC's Richardson and Robbins Building Auditorium, 89 Kings Highway, Dover, DE 19901
- **Sussex County:** Wednesday, July 29, Delaware Technical Community College, Room 344B in the Arts & Science Center, 21179 College Drive, Georgetown, DE 19947

"This plan will address the many effects and impacts of concern such as climate change, habitat loss, disease and pollution on our wildlife and their associated habitats, and the actions identified will help coordinate conservation efforts that ensure a viable future for Delaware's wildlife, fish and their habitats," said Joe Rogerson, Delaware Species Conservation and Research Program manager, Division of Fish & Wildlife. "Scientists, hunters, anglers, conservationists and other stakeholders will work together to develop

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conservation actions to address or alleviate these threats and effectively conserve Delaware's valuable wildlife resources."

To review the Delaware Wildlife Action Plan, or to stay updated on the revision process, visit <http://de.gov/dewap>. Comments can be submitted by email to DEWildlifeActionPlan@gmail.com, or by regular mail to Joe Rogerson, Species Conservation and Research Program, 6180 Hay Point Landing Road, Smyrna, DE 19977.

Since 1911, the Division of Fish & Wildlife has worked to conserve and manage Delaware's fish and wildlife resources, provide safe and enjoyable fishing, hunting and boating opportunities to citizens and visitors, and improve the public's understanding and interest in the state's fish and wildlife resources through information and outreach programs. The Division of Fish & Wildlife's goal is to manage and provide access to the lands with which the Division is entrusted for public use and enjoyment.

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