
CHAPTER 6

OUTREACH AND COORDINATION



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Introduction

This chapter addresses Elements 7 and 8, discussing the outreach and coordination with partners, stakeholders, and the general public both during the 2014-2015 Delaware Wildlife Action Plan (DEWAP) revision process and the approach to be taken over the next 10-year implementation period.

Planning Context

The DEWAP fits into an existing framework of statewide strategies established to conserve and protect the state's natural resources, including habitat for wildlife. These strategies focus on different approaches to conservation (e.g., land acquisition, preservation, changes in land use, infrastructure investments, policy, etc.), but they are all coordinated and have shared mapping elements and common goals to ensure consistency in implementation.

In 1978, the State of Delaware enacted the Natural Areas Preservation System (7 Del. Code, Chapter 73) for the purpose of establishing an inventory of natural areas statewide and a system of nature preserves. A "natural area" as defined by the law is an "area of land or water, or of both land and water, whether in public or private ownership, which either retains or has reestablished its natural character (although it need not be undisturbed), or has unusual flora or fauna, or has biotic, geological, scenic or archaeological features of scientific or educational value." "Nature preserves" are natural areas that have been formally "dedicated," or estate, interest or rights transferred, to the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC), for and on behalf of the state. The state's registry or inventory of natural areas was first created in 1978, with a major update in 2006. There are currently 67 natural areas identified in the state, and 19 nature dedicated nature preserves.

In 1990, the Delaware Land Protection Act (7 Del. Code, Chapter 75) established an Open Space Program in the state. The Open Space Program coordinates the acquisition of various state lands including parks, fish and wildlife areas, forests, nature preserves, and cultural sites. The program is administered by DNREC's Division of Parks and Recreation. A nine-member Open Space Council advises the Secretary of the Department on the implementation of the program and recommends specific land purchases. Quarterly meetings are held to review properties brought before the Council by an interagency Working Group. Recommendations to preserve properties are based on a rating of natural, cultural, recreational and locational attributes and a consideration of land use plans and purchase options.

The Land Protection Act also authorized the development of "State Resource Area" (SRA) maps for guiding acquisition of property or rights in real property through the Open Space Program. SRAs consist of existing protected state, federal, local, and private conservation organization lands, in-holdings, and potential additions to already protected areas. SRAs include some of the finest examples of Delaware's diverse natural and cultural heritage, unspoiled wetlands, mature forests, rare plant and animal habitats, geological and archaeological sites, open space for recreation and greenway connectors.

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In 2011, State Strategies for Policies and Spending and Executive Order 26 issued by Governor Markell directed where the state should allocate its resources and focus state programs to address population growth and land development issues. Although decisions concerning land-use occur at the local and county level, the state can influence the way development occurs through its spending and management policies. The Strategies are based on the premise that by making wise decisions about building and managing highways, water and sewer systems, and other public facilities (commonly called "gray infrastructure"), the state can reduce the negative effects of poorly planned, unfocused growth. Spatial analysis was used to build Strategies maps, which classify land in three main categories: lands that are not available for development, lands for which state and local policies do not favor growth, and lands for which state and local policies do favor growth.

In 2012, the University of Delaware, the Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT), and the Office of State Planning Coordination developed a program and report "Complete Communities in Delaware Office of State Planning Coordination," which addresses the value of ecotourism as well as large natural areas. This report states that the water, natural resources, and ecosystems contained in Delaware's watersheds are a valuable economic resource to the state. The socioeconomic value of water, natural resources, and ecosystems in the Delaware's watersheds is described in "Economic Benefits and Jobs Provided by Delaware Watersheds," a January 2012 report published by the Institute for Public Administration's Water Resources Agency (Narvaez and Kauffman 2012). The report highlights that Delaware's 4 major basins and 46 watersheds are an economic engine that provides:

- Between \$2 billion and \$6.7 billion in economic activity, including market and non-market value of agriculture, water supply, fishing, hunting, recreation, boating, ecotourism, and navigation/port benefits.
- Ecosystem goods and services (natural capital) value provided by habitat such as wetlands, forests, farms, and open water.
- Over 70,000 direct and indirect jobs, which provide over \$2 billion in annual wages in the coastal, farm, ecotourism, watershed organization, water supply/wastewater, recreation, and port industries.

Delaware's Watershed Resources Registry, currently being developed by the Delaware Watershed Assessment Program in conjunction with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), will include models to identify both preservation and restoration opportunities using a set of metrics derived from geospatial data.

The State of Delaware Enterprise geographic information system (GIS), known as *FirstMap*, serves as a centralized repository for commonly used GIS data layers, and facilitates the sharing of geospatial data and information within the state. This application is accessible to the public for browsing, and anyone can request access to download data.

The planning processes summarized above illustrates opportunities to coordinate and inform the DEWAP priorities and principles with these planning processes. This historical planning context describes the way in which the DEWAP can effectively be implemented to help improve conservation in Delaware.

Outreach: Partner and Public Input (Element 7 & 8)

Outreach for the 2015 DEWAP took many forms, including formal and informal meetings, workshops, surveys, mailings, articles, outreach materials (e.g., presentations (Figure 6.1), fact sheets, posters, press releases), websites, and social media, as well as personal contacts and correspondence. A dedicated DEWAP website and an email address were established to disseminate information to a wider-audience and receive public input throughout the process. DEWAP materials, progress updates, and events were posted on the site throughout the DEWAP development to maximize public awareness and participation.



Figure 6. 1 Stakeholder Workshop on Elements 1 and 2 (SGCN and Key Habitats) at St. Jones Reserve, Dover, DE. Photo: Shannon Alexander

Stakeholder workshop agendas, reports, and other meeting materials, as well as DEWAP elements and chapters, were also posted to allow stakeholders time and opportunity to review relevant materials during each stage of DEWAP development (e.g., identifying species of greatest conservation need [SGCN], key habitats, threats, and conservation actions). A DEWAP survey was posted on this website that solicited public input and was referenced with each outreach correspondence. Additionally, press releases and media interviews were timed to allow for stakeholder events or meetings taking place throughout the state, and representatives met with key partners to discuss the 2015 DEWAP and distribute outreach materials. These activities demonstrate considerable efforts to solicit public input during key phases of the development (Appendix 6).

DEWAP Organizational Infrastructure for Outreach and Coordination

In order to coordinate with its partners, the DNREC Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) first established an effective internal DEWAP administrative framework (Table 6.1.) The DNREC DFW launched the DEWAP revision late 2013 when the Oversight Team was established and an expert consultant was contracted to assist in the DEWAP update. The DEWAP Revision Development Team took the lead in the development of the 2015 DEWAP, including outreach, document drafting, and coordination. A general scope of work was developed to guide the effort, identifying key tasks to be accomplished. Specific guidance provided by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) Best Practices (AFWA 2012), and later the Northeast Lexicon and Synthesis (Crisfield and NEFWDC 2013, Terwilliger and NEFWDC 2013), informed the approach throughout the planning process. With this guidance in mind, and with the input of a broadening circle of stakeholders and the conservation community, Delaware developed its 2015 DEWAP partnership approach, providing for general and technical input throughout the process.

Teams, Members, and Affiliations

Table 6. 1 Oversight Team

DEWAP Oversight Team- DNREC Division Staff			
First Name	Last Name	Position	DNREC DFW Section
Karen	Bennett	Delaware Bayshore Initiative Coordinator	Wildlife
John	Clark	Environmental Program Administrator	Fisheries
Shelley	DiBona	Environmental Program Manager; Federal Aid Coordinator	Outreach, Licensing & Grants Management
Robert	Hossler	Species Conservation and Research Environmental Program Manager	Wildlife
William	Meredith	Environmental Program Administrator	DFW Mosquito Control
Stewart	Michels	Marine and Shellfish Environmental Program Manager	Fisheries
Thomas	Moran	F & W Regional Manager (Glasgow Field Office)	Mosquito Control
Craig	Rhoads	Habitat Conservation and Management Environmental Program Manger	Wildlife
Joseph	Rogerson	Species Conservation and Research Program Manager	Wildlife
David	Saveikis	Director	DNREC DFW
Michael	Stangl	Freshwater and Anadromous Fish Environmental Program Manager	Fisheries

The Revision Development Team (Table 6.2) consisted of the contractors/consultants and key DNREC staff who worked together on a daily basis to develop the document and process.

Table 6. 2 Revision Development Team

Revision Development Team		
First Name	Last Name	Organization
Joseph	Rogerson	DNREC DFW
Kevin	Kalasz	DNREC DFW
Karen	Terwilliger	Terwilliger Consulting, Inc.
Matt	Sarver	Sarver Ecological, LLC- TCI team
Shannon	Alexander	Terwilliger Consulting, Inc.

The DEWAP Technical Review Team (Table 6.3) included the key experts from DNREC and partners who had expertise in the topic area of SGCN or key habitats, as well as conservation issues across the state. They developed the SGCN and key habitat lists and criteria. They also reviewed the DEWAP documents, attended the series of workshops, and were called upon frequently during the process for expertise.

Table 6. 3 Technical Review Team

DEWAP Technical Review Team- Internal and External Taxa Experts		
First Name	Last Name	Organization
BIRDS		
Matt	Bailey	DNREC DFW
Chris	Bennett	DNREC DPR
Greg	Breese	USFWS
Matthew	DiBona	DNREC DFW
Anthony	Gonzon	DNREC DFW
Kitt	Heckscher	Delaware State University
Kevin	Kalasz	DNREC DFW
Rick	McCorkle	USFWS
Matt	Sarver	Sarver Ecological, LLC
Greg	Shriver	University of Delaware
Jim	White	Delaware Nature Society
Jean	Woods	Delaware Museum of Natural History
FISH		
Lee	Anderson	University of Delaware
Johnny	Moore	DNREC DFW
Ian	Park	DNREC DFW
Mike	Stangl	DNREC DFW
Edna	Stetzar	DNREC DFW
Jeff	Tinsman	DNREC DFW
Don	Wujtewicz	Delaware State University
Jordan	Zimmerman	DNREC DFW
HERPETOFAUNA		
Bill	Langworthy	DNREC DFW

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DEWAP Technical Review Team- Internal and External Taxa Experts		
First Name	Last Name	Organization
Nate	Nazdrowicz	University of Delaware
Holly	Niederriter	DNREC DFW
Edna	Stetzar	DNREC DFW
Jim	White	Delaware Nature Society
INVERTEBRATES		
Charles	Bartlett	University of Delaware
Sam	Droege	USGS
Matthew	Sarver	Sarver Ecological, LLC
Hal	White	University of Delaware
Jim	White	Delaware Nature Society
Michael	Bott	DNREC DWS
Anthony	Gonzon	DNREC DFW
Kitt	Heckscher	Delaware State University
Michael	Moore	University of Delaware
MAMMALS		
Bill	Langworthy	DNREC DFW
Holly	Niederriter	DNREC DFW
Joseph	Rogerson	DNREC DFW
HABITATS		
Mark	Biddle	DNREC DWS
Robert	Coxe	DNREC DFW
William	McAvoy	DNREC DFW
Greg	Moore	DNREC DFW
Mike	Valenti	DE Department of Agriculture

Partner and Stakeholder Involvement and Coordination

These teams listed above in Tables 6.1-6.3 guided the development of the DEWAP. The plan revision process allowed the partners, public, and stakeholders to have input throughout the 2 years of its development. Partners and stakeholders participated in the identification of SGCN and key habitats via email correspondence and a series of workshops. The results were posted on the DNREC Website for public input with a press release announcing their availability.

Stakeholders and partners then assisted in identifying and ranking the conservation issues and actions through a series of workshops over a year-long process. These were then posted on the web for public review. A final workshop inviting the over 140 representatives from stakeholder and partner agencies and organizations was held to review and refine the draft issues and actions and they were again posted on the website for public input. Recommendations for continuing and expanding specific partnerships are contained within many individual conservation actions in Chapter 4. Immediately following these

workshops, reports containing a summary of the input received were emailed to attendees and invitees, and posted on the DEWAP website, Figure 6.2 shows the cover pages of two such reports.



Figure 6. 2 Partner and Stakeholder Workshop Reports

Public Outreach and Input

Public input was obtained primarily by means of the plan/agency website that was created for the original DEWAP on DNREC's home page, and enhanced and updated throughout the 2015 revision process. The site, <http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/fw/dwap/Pages/default.aspx>, provided an opportunity for the public to review components of the plan as they were completed, and to submit comments. DNREC and DNREC DFW also posts updates and information on its Facebook sites. Approximately 25 comments were received through the website indicated email, and suggestions were incorporated into the plan as appropriate. A survey collecting information concerning an individual's familiarity with the DEWAP and suggestions for how to make the document more accessible and functional was made available on the website, and links were supplied on materials at each meeting, workshop, and press release. A total of nine people completed the survey, and their suggestions were incorporated into the strategy for making the document and database as relevant as possible to users and potential users. Examples of outreach materials used during the 2015 DEWAP revision process can be found in Appendix 6.

Chapter 4 contains a set of statewide overarching education and outreach actions that recommend multiple high priority methods of enhancing outreach to the public. Some include school curricula, teacher training, and field trips, while others include enhancement of DNREC and partner conservation group outreach programs.

Plan Implementation

The 2015 DEWAP has been designed to facilitate implementation through its broad involvement of staff, key partners, and stakeholders. First, many DNREC division and section staff were involved in plan

development and will be conducting or involved in the priority conservation actions they identified with their many external partners. Secondly, the many partners involved in DEWAP development identified and ranked priority actions along with DNREC staff, so they are knowledgeable and will be engaged in its implementation.

Several aspects of DEWAP implementation are noteworthy of their use of partnerships. The Key Partners-Technical Review Team that provided guidance for the plan revision (see Table 6.2 above) will continue on as a “steering committee,” coordinated by DFW, to guide plan implementation. For this purpose the committee includes representatives from other state agencies, additional external organizations, and stakeholder and user groups. It is anticipated that initially this group will meet every year to set priorities, strategize approaches for implementing actions, and review measures of success. Specific tasks may include formulating the schedule and process for plan updates and revisions and reviewing those updates and revisions; reviewing proposed conservation actions and monitoring efforts; establishing a process for providing State Wildlife Grant funding to external parties; reviewing proposed internal and external grant projects; and other appropriate actions.

One implementation strategy will be to develop more detailed, site-based conservation plans for ecologically distinct portions of the Green Infrastructure Natural Resources Focus Area. A pilot project for such plans was completed through a partnership between DFW and the Delaware chapter of The Nature Conservancy (TNC)’s Blackbird-Millington Corridor Conservation Area Plan.

The Blackbird-Millington plan seeks to preserve and enhance the Corridor’s natural resources by bringing the perspectives of the scientific community together with those of local residents, planning agencies, and conservation organizations. This innovative approach to conservation planning focuses on maximizing cooperation and support among a diversity of organizations, agencies, and individuals. The results of this planning effort will serve as a guide for targeting multiple resources to the Corridor – from public and private conservation partners, community members, and other interested individuals.

As was made available for the initial DEWAP, an interactive version of DEWAP will be posted on the DNREC website following acceptance of the plan. This will incorporate features not included in the hardcopy version (due to format limitations), scalable maps, and hyperlinks. DNREC’s Facebook and other social media will contain DEWAP information and links to encourage its use and access.

New for the 2015 revision is an information-rich, relational database created to track all the information on the eight elements of the DEWAP. Through web-enabling, these data will be able to be queried and provide information online for partners, stakeholders, and the general public. The data in this database are compatible with DNRECS’s Water Resource Registry, and integration of these data and search tools proves to be promising for a multitude of user groups.

Coordination with Federal, State, and Local Partners

Each major phase of the DEWAP development involved partners. From the first press release announcing the revision was underway, to emails and workshops to identify and prioritize SGCN, key habitats, threats,

and actions (Elements 1-4). They were involved in ranking and prioritizing the conservation actions in a series of workshops and were fully engaged in their refinement. Government agencies at the local, state, and federal level participated in the DEWAP revision over a two-year period and provided invaluable input and coordination opportunities for both plan development and implementation. Appendix 6 lists and summarizes each level of stakeholder and partner roles and coordination and includes a list of the DEWAP stakeholders.

Collaboration with Tribal Partners

The Lenape Indian Tribe of Delaware formed a constitutional Tribal Government in March, 2010. The Tribe is a member of the Confederation of Sovereign Nentego-Lenape Tribes, which is an intertribal union involving this tribe, the Nanticoke Tribe in Sussex County, DE, and the Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Indian Tribe (headquartered in Bridgeton, New Jersey) who are historically and genealogically interrelated.

The Lenape Indian Tribe of Delaware was also granted state-designated tribal area status for the purpose of the federal 2010 U.S. Census. The Tribal Constitution provides a structure for a Sovereign Tribal Government and is the acknowledged standard at the national level.

The Lenape Indian Tribe of Delaware represents the citizens of a Lenape Tribal Community concentrated in central Kent County, Delaware. According to Principal Chief, Dennis J. Coker, their mission is to protect the cultural identity of the Lenape people of Delaware through educational, social, and cultural programs and to promote the physical and economic health of their citizens through specialized health and economic development programs tailored to their needs. They also advocate for the civil and human rights of the community and its citizens.

Tribes were contacted to participate in the DEWAP process. Chief Coker of the Lenape Tribe participated in a DEWAP workshop and provided input for the plan and shared his concerns for the state of Delaware's fish and wildlife.

Collaboration with Non-governmental Organization Partners

The DNREC DFW also collaborates with several non-governmental organizations (NGOs) 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.

Over sixty organizations were invited to participate in the workshops for the DEWAP development, a full list of participating organizations can be found in Appendix 5 (e.g., Figure 6.3). Many others were notified by press release and DNREC website updates. TNC, 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 the DEWAP and are highlighted here for their roles and significant contributions. They assisted and contributed throughout the DEWAP development and will be instrumental in the implementation of the DEWAP as well. Participation in these organizations' annual

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meetings and providing presentations and posters on DEWAP updates are examples of coordination opportunities throughout the next decade.



Figure 6. 3 Partner and Stakeholder Workshop for Input on Elements 1-5. Photo: Shannon Alexander

Literature Cited

Crisfield, E. and the Northeast Fish and Wildlife Diversity Technical Committee (NFWDTC). 2013. The Northeast Lexicon: Terminology Conventions and Data Framework for State Wildlife Action Plans in the Northeast Region. A report submitted to the Northeast Fish and Wildlife Diversity Technical Committee. Terwilliger Consulting, Inc., Locustville, VA.

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