

State Wildlife Action Plan Review and Revision

Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy
For New Mexico



Prepared by:

New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

In cooperation with:

Over 170 public agencies, conservation organizations, commodity interests,
municipalities, private partners, and tribal representatives.

February 14, 2006



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Background

- In 2002 PL 107–63 established the State Wildlife Grants Program;
- Program allocates funds to each state;
- To benefit at-risk wildlife species and their habitats and prevent listing;
- States had to submit a wildlife conservation strategy by 1 Oct 2005 to participate in the program.



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New Mexico

- Prepared Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy in 2004/5;
- Received almost **\$14 million** since 2002 (about 1.5% of the national total);
- Funded over **55 grants** including purchase of Double E Ranch in 2014 and helped fund over **94** Share With Wildlife projects;
- Is revising the CWCS and will submit a State Wildlife Action Plan by 1 October.



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Required Elements of a SWAP

1. Distribution and abundance of species of **wildlife**, including low and declining populations called Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN);
2. Location and condition of **key habitats**;
3. Assess **threats** which may affect SGCN or their habitats;
4. Identify **actions to conserve** SGCN and their habitats;
5. Plan to **monitor** SGCN and their habitats;
6. Schedule **review** of Strategy at least every ten years;
7. To **coordinate** with federal, state, and local agencies and tribes that manage significant land areas;
8. Provide for necessary **public participation**.



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SWAP Must

- Identify Species of Greatest Conservation Need (each grant must link to at least one of these species);
- Link threats to species;
- Link conservation needs to species (each grant must address at least one conservation need/action identified in the SWAP);
- Somehow address climate change;



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Department Approach

- Focus on **aquatic/riparian** habitats;
- Assess impacts of **climate** change;
- Follow AFWA **Best Practices** guidelines;
- Removed **bear and deer** from list of SGCN;
- Adopt **standardized classifications** such as National Vegetation Classification, EPA ecoregions, and Salafsky et al. 2008 standard lexicon of threats and conservation actions;
- Focus efforts by **prioritizing** SGCN and key habitats establishing tiers;
- Identify Conservation Opportunity **Areas**

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Process/Status

1. Established a **Core Team** of Department and interested agency representatives to guide revision;



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Core Team Invitees

- Bureau of Land Management
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Eastern New Mexico University
- EMNRD: State Forestry Division
- EMNRD: State Parks Division
- Fish and Wildlife Service
- Forest Service
- Mid-Region Council of Governments
- New Mexico Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit
- New Mexico Environment Department
- New Mexico State Land Office
- NMSU Department of Fish, Wildlife and Conservation Ecology
- NMSU Range Improvement Task Force
- UNM Department of Biology
- UNM Natural Heritage New Mexico
- US Army Corps of Engineers
- US Army White Sands Missile Range
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Western New Mexico University
- Jicarilla Apache Nation
- Mescalero Apache Tribe
- Navajo Nation
- Okhay Owingeh
- Pueblo of Acoma
- Pueblo of Cochiti
- Pueblo of Isleta
- Pueblo of Jemez
- Pueblo of Laguna
- Pueblo of Nambe
- Pueblo of Picuris
- Pueblo of Pojoaque
- Pueblo of San Felipe
- Pueblo of San Ildefonso
- Pueblo of Sandia
- Pueblo of Santa Ana
- Pueblo of Santa Clara
- Pueblo of Santo Domingo
- Pueblo of Taos
- Pueblo of Tesuque
- Pueblo of Zia
- Pueblo of Zuni



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Photo: Mark L. Watson

Process/Status



Photo: Charles W. Painter

3. Reached out to Department biologists and **reviewed** Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy to identify needed updates;
4. Reassessed all **NM species** to identify Species of Greatest Conservation Need;
5. Identified and assessed all **habitat types** in the State, focused on aquatic and riparian;
6. Assessed **threats** to species and habitats;
7. Identifying **opportunities** for conservation;



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Process/Status



7. Identifying **monitoring** needs;
8. Currently **writing** the draft New Mexico State Wildlife Action Plan;
9. Will notify the general public and hold outreach **meetings** on the draft SWAP.



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Process/Status

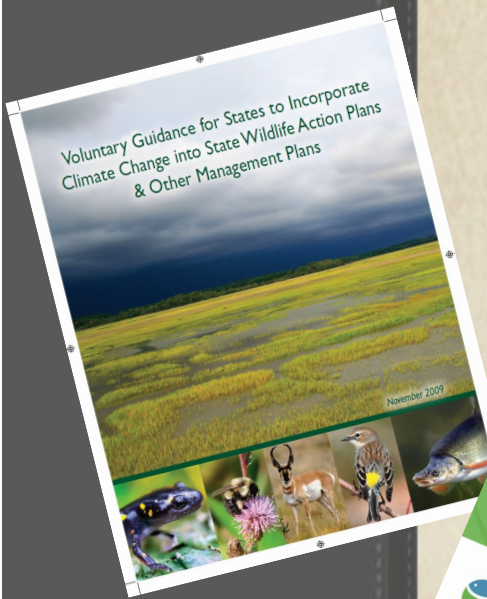
10. Review public **comments** and fold into the DRAFT as needed;
11. Provide to Director for **review** and approval;
12. Final error check, formatting, and prepare document to **submit** SWAP to Fish and Wildlife Service by 1 October.



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Guidance and Resources



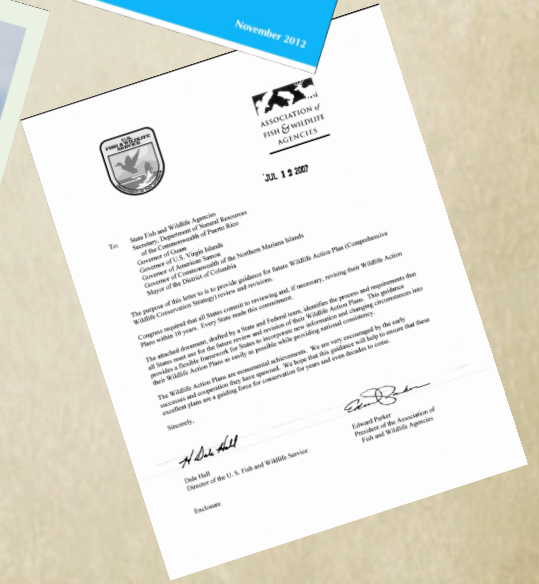
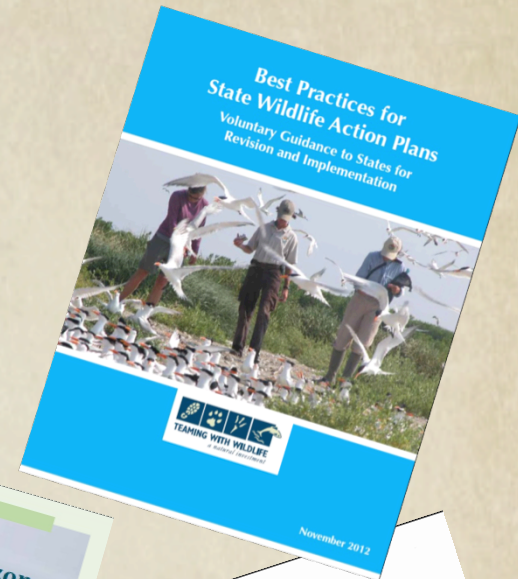
Webinar Series on State Wildlife Action Plan Revision



11.21.13
1-2:30pm



The graphic contains a grid of six small photographs showing various wildlife: a bird on a nest, a duck in flight, a pelican on a log, a bird in a nest, a colorful bird, and a pelican. Below the grid are the logos for the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and the ID (Iowa Department of Natural Resources).



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Many thanks to Department
staff and participating
agencies!

Questions?



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