



Michigan's Wildlife Action Plan

~ Factsheet ~



Michigan's Wildlife Action Plan (WAP) provides a common strategic framework and information resource to aid in conservation of Michigan's aquatic and terrestrial wildlife.

- The WAP can be used by any individual or organization interested in wildlife conservation, regardless of the type of area or scale at which they are working.
- Baseline assessments of the current status of Michigan's wildlife species of greatest conservation need and their habitats are provided through a combined coarse-scale (habitat) and fine-scale (species) approach.
- Regional priority threats to wildlife and their habitats and conservation actions needed are summarized for each of 8 ecologically defined regions of Michigan.
- 20 statewide priority wildlife threats and significant conservation issues are identified, and actions to address each threat and issue are recommended.
- 9 overall statewide priority conservation actions are identified – those actions that would address multiple threats and issues and may have the greatest influence on wildlife throughout Michigan.

The WAP identifies and assesses landscape features, within aquatic and terrestrial systems, that are essential to wildlife in Michigan (coarse-scale).

- By primarily using a coarse scale approach based on habitat needs of wildlife, implementation of the WAP will help to more effectively conserve rare, declining and common species statewide.
- 48 aquatic landscape features (e.g., Great Lakes offshore, Cool medium river, Small inland lake) and 43 terrestrial landscape features (e.g., Prairie, Lowland shrub, Dry hardwood forest) are identified and used as the primary organizational unit.
- Landscape features can be found and conserved within 4 terrestrial regions (ecoregions) and 4 aquatic regions (Great Lake basins) that are defined for Michigan.
- 364 landscape feature summaries are provided (1 for each terrestrial and aquatic landscape feature, within each ecoregion and lake basin, respectively), each of which includes information on distribution, general condition, associated natural communities, associated species of greatest conservation need, associated threats, and conservation needs.

The WAP identifies and assesses 404 aquatic and terrestrial wildlife species of greatest conservation need (fine-scale).

- 9 major taxonomic groups are represented by the species of greatest conservation need (SGCN): mussels, snails, crayfish, insects, fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals.
- All 81 federally and State listed threatened & endangered wildlife species, and all 156 "Special Concern" wildlife species (identified by Michigan Natural Features Inventory) are included.
- An additional 167 species are also included as SGCN due to declining populations or other characteristics that may make them vulnerable.
- 404 species summaries are provided (1 for each SGCN), each of which includes information on distribution, abundance, threats, habitat use, and species-specific conservation needs.

Development of the WAP was coordinated by the DNR, but made possible by participation of many conservation partners, including State, Federal and tribal agencies, local governments, conservation organizations, universities, private landowners, and other interested individuals.

- 203 conservation partners were contacted – nearly 60% became active participants.
- 48 recognized experts were consulted regarding SGCN.
- 12 public meetings and 8 additional conservation partner meetings were held.
- Improved communication and cooperation between conservation partners within the WAP's framework will lead to more effective management of Michigan's lands and waters.