

# Delaware Wildlife Action Plan



Keeping Today's Wildlife from Becoming Tomorrow's Memory

## Identifying and Conserving Species and Habitats of Greatest Conservation Need in Delaware

The Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control's (DNREC) Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) is beginning its 2015 Wildlife Action Plan (WAP) revision process. Over the next two years, DNREC's DFW and its partners will work 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 WAP can 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.

By updating the WAP, 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.

Every 10 years, each state must develop a WAP to conserve wildlife before they become rarer and more costly to protect. Delaware's original 2005 WAP will be revised and submitted by October 2015.

As in 2005, Delaware's Division of Fish & Wildlife will lead the development of the new 2015 WAP and will 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 will begin the process of updating the list of Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) and their habitats. Next they will engage a diversity of scientific experts to lend their knowledge and experience in Delaware.



## Congress Identified Eight Required Elements:

1. Distribution & abundance of *GCN Species* indicative of the diversity and health of the State's wildlife
2. Locations and relative condition of *Key Habitats* and community types essential to GCN Species
3. *Potential problems* for GCN Species or their habitats; factors which may assist restoration/conservation
4. Proposed *Conservations Actions* and implementation priorities
5. *Monitoring* plans for SGCN and Key Habitats
6. *Review* procedures at 10-year intervals
7. Plans for *coordinating* with Federal, State, & local agencies and partner organizations
8. Broad *public participation* essential in development & implementation

## Delaware Wildlife Action Plan Timeline

