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*Required Elements for State Wildlife Action Plans*

Element 1: "... information on the distribution and abundance of species of wildlife, including low population and declining species as the state fish and wildlife department deems appropriate, that are indicative of the diversity and health of wildlife of the state;"



## REQUIRED ELEMENTS FOR STATE WILDLIFE ACTION PLANS

### *Best Practices for State Wildlife Action Plans*

Report of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies'  
Teaming With Wildlife Committee's  
State Wildlife Action Plan Best Practices Working Group

Element 8. "A State shall provide an opportunity for public participation in the development of the comprehensive plan required under *Element 1*."

*(Fiscal Year 2001 Commerce, Justice, State, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. Public Law 106-553, codified at U.S. Code 16 (2000) 669(c))*

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*Required Elements for State Wildlife Action Plans*

Element 1: "... information on the distribution and abundance of species of wildlife, including low population and declining species as the state fish and wildlife department deems appropriate, that are indicative of the diversity and health of wildlife of the state;"

Element 2. "identifies the extent and condition of wildlife habitats and community types essential to conservation of species identified under *Element 1*;"

Element 3. "identifies the problems which may adversely affect the species identified under *Element 1* or their habitats, and provides for priority research and surveys to identify factors which may assist in restoration and more effective conservation of such species and their habitats;"

Element 4. "determines those actions which should be taken to conserve the species identified under *Element 1* and their habitats and establishes priorities for implementing such conservation actions;"

Element 5. "provides for periodic monitoring of species identified under *Element 1* and their habitats and the effectiveness of the conservation actions determined under *Element 4*, and for adapting conservation actions as appropriate to respond to new information or changing conditions;"

Element 6. "provides for the review the State wildlife conservation strategy and, if appropriate revision at intervals not to exceed ten years;"

Element 7. "provides for coordination to the extent feasible the State fish and wildlife department, during development, implementation, review, and revision of the wildlife conservation strategy, with Federal, State, and local agencies and Indian tribes that manage significant areas of land or water within the state, or administer programs that significantly affect the conservation of species identified under *Element 1* or their habitats."

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2001, 2002 H.R. 2217, the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriation Act, enacting the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program.

Approved Wildlife Action Plan → State Wildlife Grant funding

To be approved, each wildlife action plan must address 8 common elements.

revision at intervals not to exceed ten years,

Element 7. "provides for coordination to the extent feasible the State fish and wildlife department, during development, implementation, review, and revision of the wildlife conservation strategy, with Federal, State, and local agencies and Indian tribes that manage significant areas of land or water within the state, or administer programs that significantly affect the conservation of species identified under *Element 1* or their habitats."

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**ELEMENT 1: ...provide information on the distribution and abundance of wildlife species – including low populations and declining species – that are indicative of the diversity and health of Maine’s wildlife.**

Identify species in greatest conservation need [SGCN]

Congressional directive...the most critical wildlife needs in each state **to preclude the need to list species as threatened or endangered** under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.

**Greater prioritization of SGCN**

comprehensive plan required under *Element 1*."

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Element 1: "... information on the distribution and abundance of species of wildlife, including low population and declining species as the state fish and wildlife department deems appropriate, that are indicative of the diversity and health of wildlife of the state;"

**ELEMENT 2: ...describe the extent and condition of key habitats and community types essential to the conservation of SGCN.**

**Habitats essential to the conservation of SGCN**

**Identify SGCN habitats**

**Identify habitats at greatest risk**

**Greater prioritization of SGCN habitats**

**Greater uniformity in habitat classification**

***Conservation Opportunity Areas* [~Maine's focus areas]**

water within the State, or administer programs that significantly affect the conservation of species identified under *Element 1* or their habitats."

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Element 1: "... information on the distribution and abundance of species of wildlife, including low population and declining species as the state fish and wildlife department deems appropriate, that are indicative of the diversity and health of wildlife of the state;"

**ELEMENT 3: ...identify threats to SGCN Identify key threats to SGCN and their habitats.**

**Greater prioritization of threats to SGCN and their habitats**

**Greater uniformity in threat classification**

Categorize threats

IUCN threat classification

**Climate change:** incorporating climate change into action plans is vital for the development and implementation of effective conservation actions and it will enhance their value and durability over the long term.

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**ELEMENT 4: ...develop conservation actions needed to address threats to SGCN.**

Identify conservation actions needed to prevent endangered species listings and to spur recovery

Describe the components of any given conservation action

**Greater prioritization of conservation actions**

**More specificity concerning on-the-ground actions**

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**ELEMENT 4: ...develop conservation actions needed to address threats to SGCN.**

Setting priorities agreeable to all parties

Must consider the cost of management and the likelihood that the management will succeed

Conservation triage: optimize resource allocation where costs, benefits [including species values], and the likelihood of management success are considered simultaneously.

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**ELEMENT 5: ...describe a plan for three levels of monitoring: species and habitats, effectiveness of conservation actions, and adaptive management.**

Monitoring – the collection and analysis of repeated observations or measurements to evaluate changes in conditions and progress toward meeting a management objective.

- 1] species and habitats
- 2] effectiveness of conservation actions
- 3] adaptive management

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**ELEMENT 6: ...review its action plan at least every 10 years.**

**The revision process must be transparent and open to the public.**

**Plan revisions must reflect stakeholder values**

conditions;"

Element 6. "provides for the review the State wildlife conservation strategy and, if appropriate revision at intervals not to exceed ten years;"

Element 7. "provides for coordination to the extent feasible the State fish and wildlife department, during development, implementation, review, and revision of the wildlife conservation strategy, with Federal, State, and local agencies and Indian tribes that manage significant areas of land or water within the state, or administer programs that significantly affect the conservation of species identified under *Element 1* or their habitats."

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**ELEMENT 7: ...develop, review, and implement an action plan in conjunction with conservation partners.**

Conservation partners = federal agencies, state agencies, Native American tribes, conservation organizations, and academia.

Engage conservation partners to create a comprehensive vision of SGCN, habitats, threats, and conservation actions

Reach out to diverse partners

Identify new partners

Identify common priorities and goals

Pool resources

Cultivate awareness, support, and partnerships

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**ELEMENT 8: ...develop, review, and implement an action plan in conjunction with broad public participation.**

Engage the public

Develop and implement a public participation process

Link the plan to established community values

revision at intervals not to exceed ten years,

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Maine's action plan is **not** MDIFW's plan.

It is developed, implemented, and owned by the citizens of Maine.

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