

MDIFW'S Mission



Conserve, protect and enhance fish and wildlife resource

Encourage wise use

Plan for future use and preservation

Provide for effective management

Major Funding Sources



- Pittman-Robertson (wild birds & mammals)
- Dingle-Johnson (sport fish)
- Wallop-Breaux (sport fish)
- Section 6 (T &E)
- Conservation Plate
- Sportsman's Plate
- Chickadee Checkoff
- Outdoor Heritage Fund
- Oil Spill Conveyance Fund
- Competitive Grants



Nongame – No stable & secure source of funding

State Wildlife Grants Program

A stable and secure source of funding for E&T and Nongame wildlife?



- Since 2002 (WCRP in 2001)
- Part of Interior Appropriations / Land & Water Conservation Fund
- Restore/enhance at risk wildlife populations & habitats
- Funding based on land area and population
- Non-federal match required (between 50 -75%)

State Wildlife Grant Program



IS

- Nation's core program to prevent listing
- Supported by > 3,000 groups
- Strong bipartisan support
- Non-regulatory
- Cooperative effort with partners

IS NOT

- Land use plan
- Land acquisition plan
- New T/E species plan



Maine's Wildlife Action Plan



An historic opportunity and challenge to provide effective and visionary leadership in conservation of all wildlife occurring in Maine.



State Wildlife Action Plan Update

A requirement to participate in State Wildlife Grants



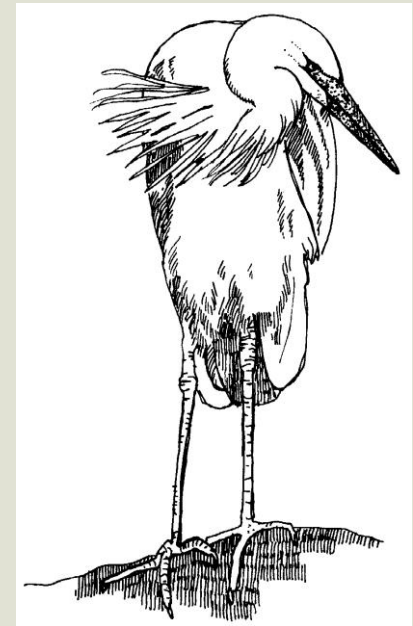
- 8 required elements identified by Congress
- Review & approval by USFWS— approve, conditionally approve, disapprove
- October 1, 2015 deadline



8 Required Elements



1. Distribution & abundance of SGCN
2. Location & condition of habitats & communities
3. Threats/stresses & priority research
4. Conservation actions
5. Monitoring plans
6. Procedures to review the plan
7. Coordination with partners
8. Public participation



Scope of SWAP



- Identify and focus on “species in greatest need of conservation”
- Address the “full array of wildlife” and wildlife-related issues
- Keep common species common
- Supplement, not replace existing programs/projects
- Build/strengthen partnerships

Maine's 2005 State Wildlife Action Plan



- Identifies 213 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN),
- 21 key habitat types,
- 140 Focus Areas of Statewide Ecological Significance, and
- Hundreds of problems and threats and conservation actions to address threats

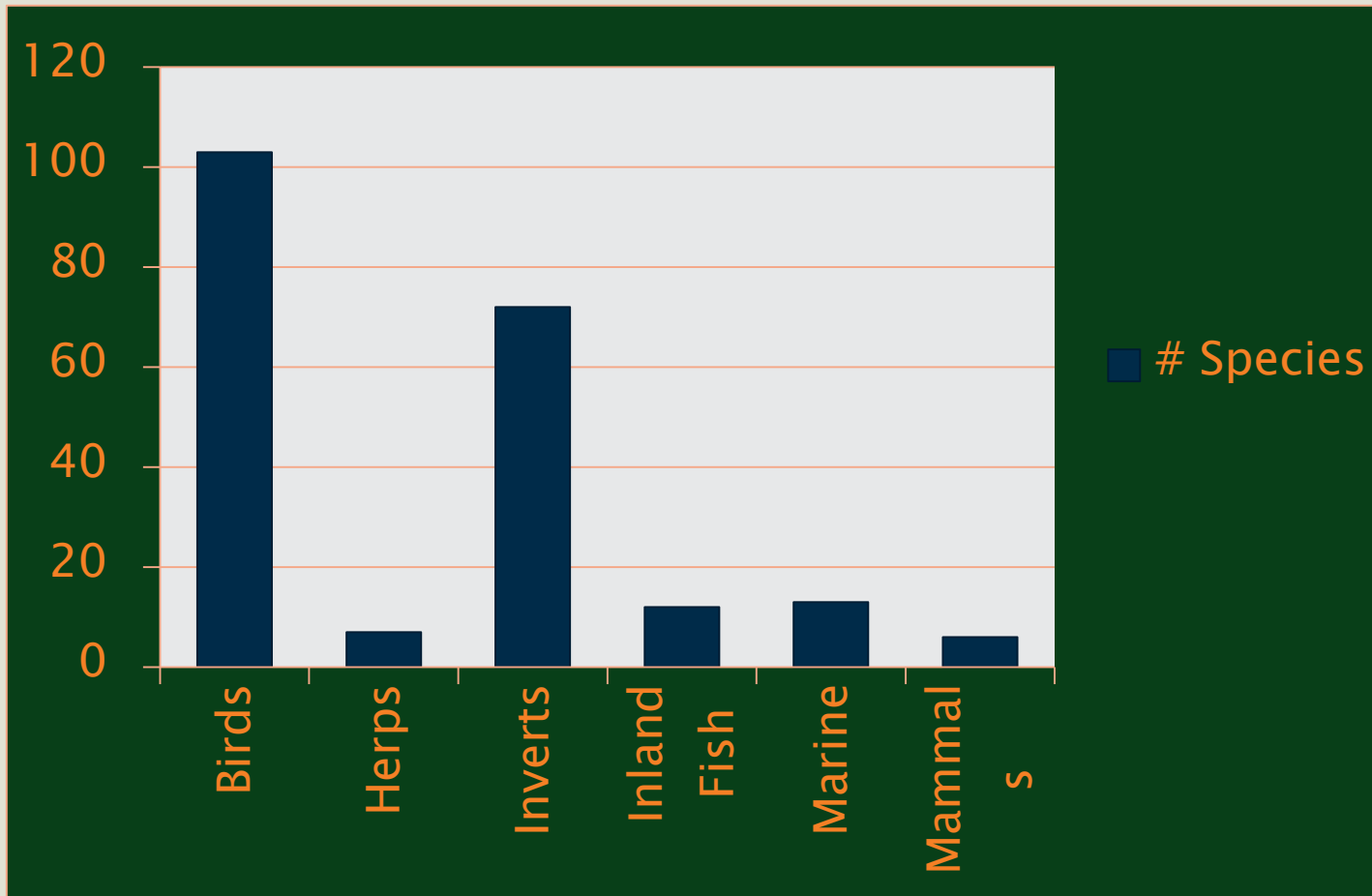


Species of Greatest Conservation Need



- Fauna, not flora
- Inland & marine
- Birds, non-marine mammals, herps, inverts, inland fish, and marine
- Prioritized based on conservation need and risk of extirpation
- Further evaluated based on “knowledge & readiness” and “need for additional funding”
- Dynamic

Species of Greatest Conservation Need



Cross walked with Natural Communities

SWAP: 21 Key Habitats *t* Layers



Table 42. Nexus of Beginning with Habitat layers with Maine's CWCS key habitats.

High Value Plant and Animal Habitats	Riparian Habitat	Large Habitat Blocks
Dry woodlands and Barrens (<60% canopy cover)	Marine Open Water	Coniferous Forest
Mountaintop Forest (including krummholz)	Estuaries and Bays	Deciduous and Mixed Forest
Alpine (summits and tablelands above treeline)	Rocky Coastline and Islands	Grassland / Agricultural / Old Field (shrubs <50%)
Cliff face and Rocky Outcrop (including talus)	Unconsolidated Shore (beaches and mudflats)	Shrub / Early Successional (including regenerating forests)
Caves and Mines	Estuarine Emergent Saltmarsh	
	Freshwater Lakes and Ponds	
	Emergent Marsh and Wet Meadows	
	Forested Wetland	
	Shrub-scrub Wetland	
	Peatlands	
	Rivers and streams	



140 Focus Areas of Statewide Ecological Significance

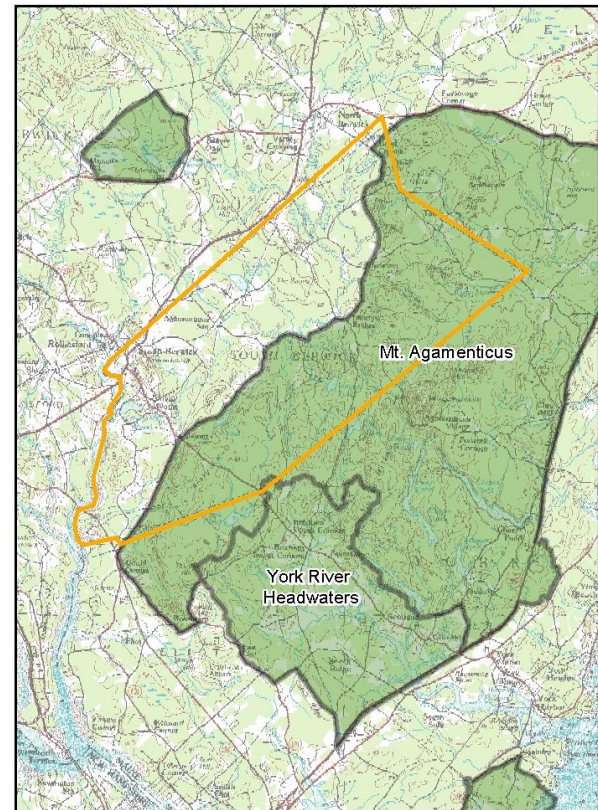


What are they?

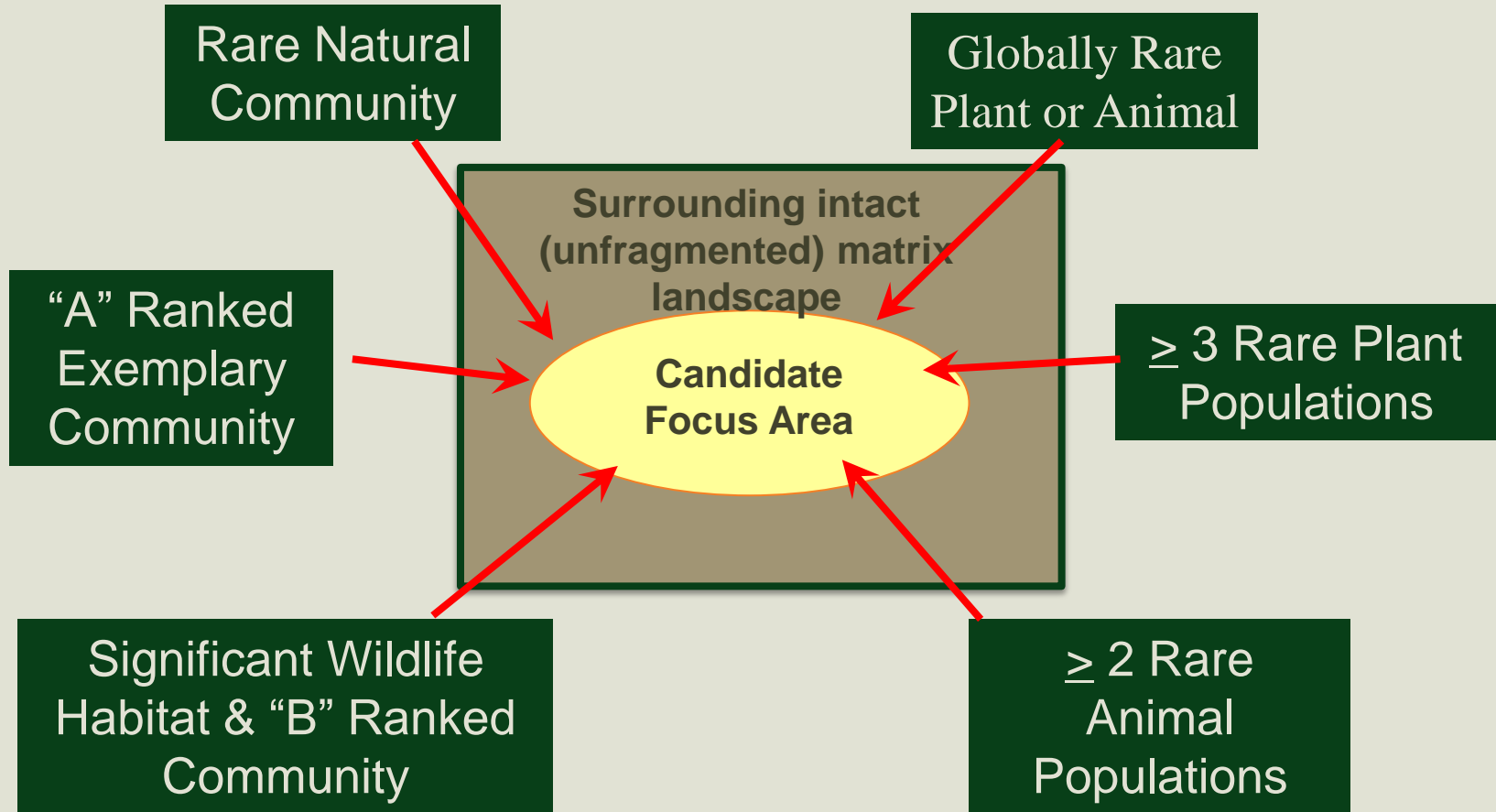
Areas that contain unusually rich concentrations of at risk species and habitats and their supporting landscape conditions.

Why designate them?

Draw attention to and build momentum for groups (towns, land trusts) focused on strategic approaches to conservation.

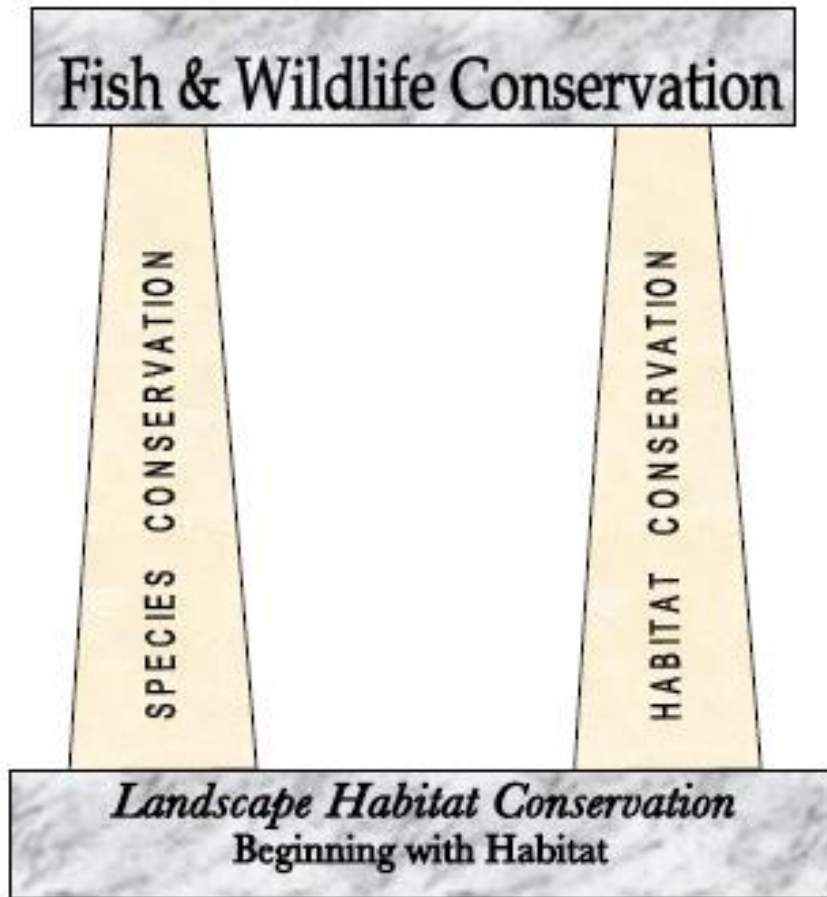


Focus Areas



Locations meeting ≥ 2 criteria can be proposed as candidate FA's

SWAP Supported on Foundation are Two Conservation Pillars



- Species-specific Population Conservation
- Species-specific Habitat Conservation

Landscape Habitat Conservation is Foundation of Maine's SWAP

- Purpose is to ensure adequate habitat for
SGCN and full array of wildlife
- Tools include:
 - Beginning with Habitat
 - Focus Areas
 - Farm Bill Programs
 - Land Acquisition (LMF, NAWCA)
 - Partnerships with land trusts, landowners,
state & federal agencies, NGOs



Implemented Via 5 Program Initiatives

- Surveys and Inventories

Data gaps & informational needs on distribution, abundance, and status of SGCN

- Research

Gaps in understanding of life history, productivity, mortality, habitat requirements, limiting factors, interactions with other species, conservation needs of priority spp.

- Population Management

Addresses acute population threats (e.g., take, excessive mortality)

- Habitat Conservation

Addresses threats to SGCN habitat due to alteration and degradation, conversion, fragmentation, introduction of invasive species and exotics, pollution, etc.

- Education and Outreach

Addresses the public's lack of understanding of needs & requirements of SGCN, and the need to raise the public's awareness of the threats to SGCN and their habitats.



Guiding Principles for Implementing SWAP Given Limited Funding

- “Umbrella” approaches to conservation and data gathering (BwH / eco-regional surveys)
- Provide some funding for critical population management issues
- Provide some funding for surveys and research to answer conservation questions
- Maintain steady funding for systematic landscape conservation approaches (address the most species and most threats over time)
- Maintain flexibility to be able to respond to all needs and leverage partnerships



SWG Accomplishments in Maine



Beginning with Habitat

- The premise of *Beginning with Habitat* [BwH] is that local planning undertaken with the knowledge of local natural resources will allow Maine's towns and cities to grow and develop and conserve open space for fish, wildlife, and plant habitat.
- BwH compiled data on water resources, riparian habitats, high value plant and animal habitats, focus areas of statewide ecological significance, undeveloped habitat blocks, and habitat connections. BwH made these data available in both printed and digital formats, including an interactive, on-line map service.

SWG Accomplishments in Maine



Beginning with Habitat

- BwH is a *voluntary* program and has engaged over 175 towns: providing habitat maps and assistance with open-space planning to municipalities, land trusts, and landowners.
- BwH has assisted numerous regional conservation planning initiatives across Maine and in comprehensive or conservation planning.
- Recently, the program completed a climate change vulnerability assessment that is informing sea level rise adaptation plans in several communities and also the 2015 update of Maine's wildlife action plan.

SWG Accomplishments in Maine



- Survey and Inventory
 - Ecoregional surveys
 - Lake habitat inventories & stream surveys
 - Status of brook floater
 - Maine Butterfly Atlas
 - Spicebush swallowtail surveys
 - Ringed boghaunter surveys
 - Cobblestone tiger beetle conservation
 - River surveys and analysis of wood
 - turtle populations
 - Timber rattlesnake habitat surveys



SWG Accomplishments in Maine



Survey and Inventory

- Black tern surveys
- Aerial surveys of common loons
- Aerial census of great blue herons
- and other colonial wading birds
- Harlequin duck and purple sandpiper surveys
- Habitat and distribution of arrowhead spiketail dragonfly
- Surveys to determine wintering distribution of Barrow's goldeneye
- Maine seabird atlas



SWG Accomplishments in Maine



Conservation and Monitoring

- New England cottontail conservation
- Bald eagle monitoring and conservation
- Peregrine falcon monitoring
- Status and monitoring of Maine owls
- Shorebird migration monitoring
- Monitoring roseate tern nesting
- Island nesting tern and great cormorant monitoring



SWG Accomplishments in Maine



Conservation and Management

- Piping plover and least tern management
- Conserving grassland birds in Maine
- Study of sea run brook trout
- Foraging behavior of razorbills
- Canada lynx diet and ecology
- Northern Black racer conservation
- Enhancing shorebird conservation in Casco Bay



SWG Accomplishments in Maine



Environmental Assessments

- Survey and mapping of important shorebird habitats
- Identifying purple sandpiper wintering areas
- Effects of dam removal and relocation on yellow lampmussels and tidewater muckets
- Effects of tidal restrictions on the breeding ecology of saltmarsh sparrows
- Blandings turtle road research
- Determining the relationship between nest predation of rusty blackbirds and timber management
- Risk assessment of saltmarsh passerines to mercury contamination

