

June 16, 2014



Dear wildlife conservation partner,

The first meeting of the Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife [MDIFW] and its conservation partners will be Tuesday, July 8, 2014, from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. We will meet at [Pineland Farms](#), 15 Farm View Drive, New Gloucester, ME.

As we begin the 2015 Maine Wildlife Action Plan [the plan] update, I have provided links to several documents that set the stage for our deliberations.

The first is a brochure highlighting several of Maine's accomplishments since 2005 using State Wildlife Grant [SWG] funds. We feel these "featured" accomplishments express the intent and the vision of Maine's 2005 plan; a [full summary of SWG accomplishments](#) is also provided. As we plan for 2015 and beyond, it is important to recognize what we have accomplished.

Maine's wildlife action plan must address eight conservation "elements." The first is an assessment of the distribution and abundance of Maine's native fauna to identify those with low populations, significant declines, or high conservation "responsibility" in the state. The most vulnerable wildlife "at-risk" of extirpation – as well as those where Maine has a disproportionate role in their regional conservation – are formally designated as "species of greatest conservation need" [SGCN]. MDIFW has completed an initial assessment and prepared a draft SGCN list, which is the second document. The third is the criteria that we used to assess species status to determine if they are at-risk and appropriate for designation as SGCN. Questions you might consider during your review include: Are the conservation criteria employed for species listing comprehensive and based on sound science? Have we struck the right balance in terms of the length and composition of the SGCN list for Maine?

The SGCN list and SGCN criteria are not final. Rather, they serve as a springboard for your review and consideration. We will discuss each in detail. You will have the opportunity to provide thorough review and comment.

Together we have accomplished much for wildlife over the past 10 years; and with your help, we hope to continue this success into the future. Should you have any questions or desire additional information, please feel free to contact me. I look forward to your participation.

Sincerely,
[Judy Camuso](#), Director
Wildlife Division

- Maine's accomplishments since 2005 using State Wildlife Action Grant fund ([summary](#), [details](#))
- DRAFT: Species of Greatest Conservation Need ([Priority 1](#), [Priority 2](#), [Criteria](#))
- [Agenda for 8 July meeting](#)
- [Best Practices for State Wildlife Action Plans](#)
- [Maine's State Wildlife Action Plan - 2005](#)