

2015 Maine Wildlife Action Plan

Steering Committee – Meeting #1

September 18, 2014

Attendees: Judy Camuso (IFW), Phillip deMaynadier (IFW), Tom Doak (SWOAM), Molly Docherty (MNAP), Mitch Hartley (USFWS), Jeff Norment (NRCS), Mark Stadler (IFW), Sally Stockwell (Maine Audubon), Charlie Todd (IFW), Angela Twitchell (BTLT), Barbara Vickery (TNC), Nate Webb (IFW), Jed Wright (USFWS)

Summary of Discussion

- MDIFW staff gave a brief overview of Wildlife Action Plan revisions with particular emphasis on themes identified in national guidance as well as MDIFW expectations.
 - Action Plan is a Conservation Plan for Maine, not just IFW
 - Plan will be developed & implemented in cooperation with partners
- Status report
 - 1st meeting with Conservation Partners on July 8th
 - Draft Public Outreach & Communication Plan
 - Meeting with landowners
 - Developed SGCN criteria and list (95% complete)
 - SGCN habitat associations in progress
- Monitoring Conservation Actions
 - How is success assessed/measured? What does success look like?
 - Must define metrics
 - 'Monitoring' does not mean species surveys
- Steering Committee Composition
 - Group should be small, but contain good representation.

- Members should be broad-thinkers but do not necessarily have represent the complete diversity of partner organizations/perspectives.
- May want to consider including a Sportsman’s representative, and an Academic representative.
- Preference for face-to-face meetings as much as possible.
- Purpose of Steering Committee: Provide rapid guidance to IFW on important components of the Action Plan Update as issues arise. Review and provide input on agendas for Partner meetings. Determine the need for sub-committees.
- Action Plan Timeline: Should include Conservation Partner Meetings 4 & 5 on the timeline.
- Ad hoc “landowners committee:” Review scope of discussions from the first meeting on Sept. 11 at MDIFW.
- Marine Fauna: Need to continue work to integrate marine considerations into the Action Plan. Should have a marine-focused person on the Steering Committee. DMR is expressing more interest in becoming involved, drafted ~12 SGCN additions, still reviewing others with Maine Coastal Program, specified several specialty coastal habitats of particular significance, and identified several new partners. The need for a “marine fauna & habitats” subcommittee can be judged better after the 9/30 meeting but may help accelerate attention.
- 9/30 Meeting Agenda
 - Spend less time in background/introductions
 - Need to fully describe how the input on the SGCN list/criteria was used. Clarify why there are now 4 category groupings. Should make it clear to Partners that SGCN list concepts are now considered final unless additional SGCNs (especially marine fauna) are demonstrated to meet these finalized criteria.
 - It will be important to update partners on a conceptual new approach for plan prioritization (habitat focused / overlapping threats where possible) so they understand the importance of the habitat assignments & pending stressor classifications.
 - Need more time (2 hours) to discuss the Habitat Assignments in the break-out groups. Do not use rotations in the break session. Itemize topics to be addressed

in each break out in the Meeting Agenda to generate interest & advance preparation.

- Break-outs should include discussion of SGCN distribution (towns, watersheds, ecoregions etc.), and ways to identify priority habitats.
- Operational Charter: One charter should be developed for the entire Action Plan update process. The role of the Steering Committee (and other subcommittees) should be described within the charter.
- Decision Making: Steering Committee will attempt to reach consensus on all decisions. When this is not possible, as the administrator of the Plan, IFW will make the final decision. When/if they arise, these situations will be discussed with the full group of Partners.
- Next meeting: October 16th, 9 am-noon. Location: Viles Arboretum, Augusta.