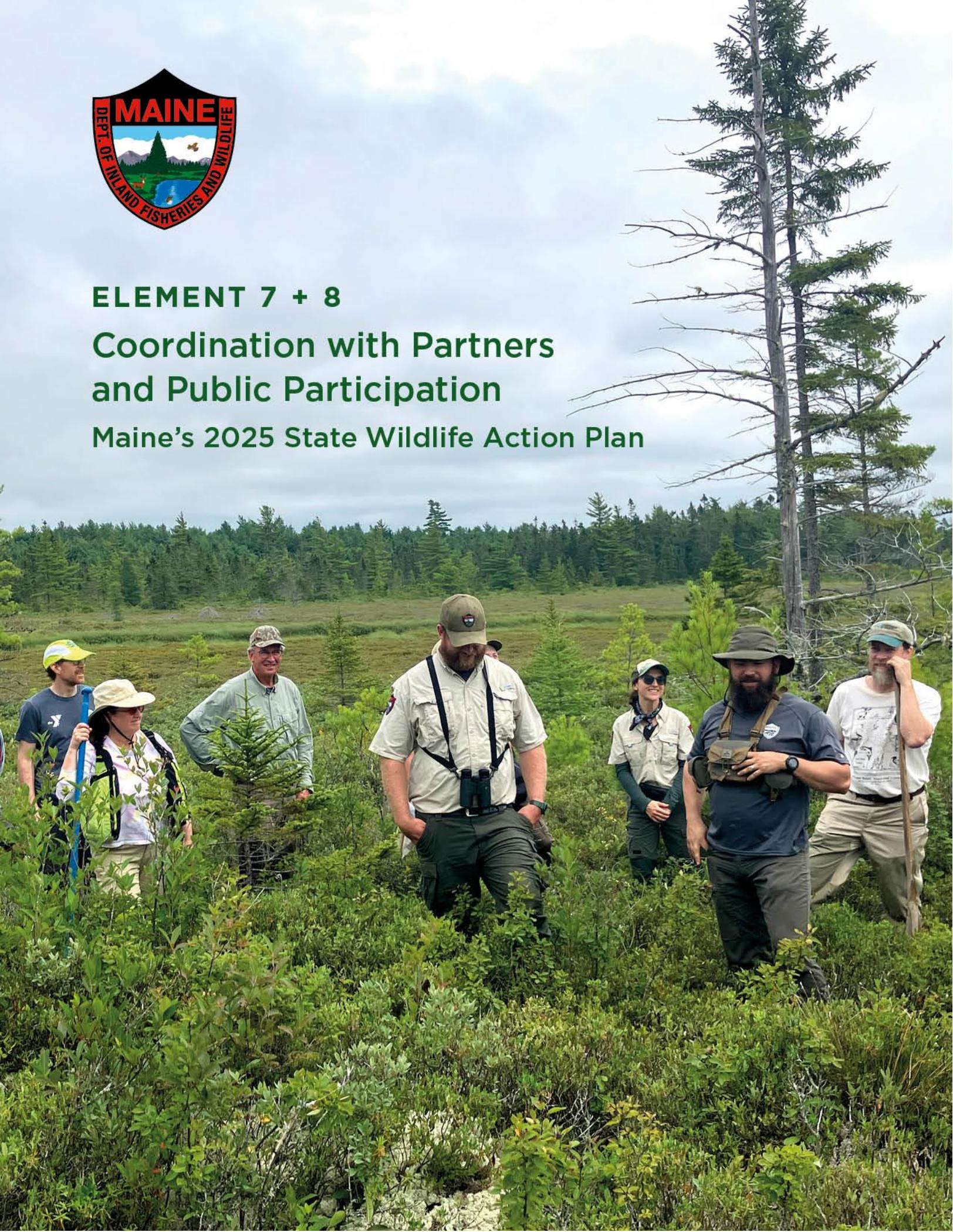




## ELEMENT 7 + 8

# Coordination with Partners and Public Participation

## Maine's 2025 State Wildlife Action Plan



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## Key to Acronyms

BLP	Bureau of Parks and Lands
DACF	Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry
FERC	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
FPC	Forest Products Council
MCHT	Maine Coast Heritage Trust
MDEP	Maine Department of Environmental Protection
MDIFW	Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
MDMR	Maine Department of Marine Resources
MNAP	Maine Natural Areas Program
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NWR	National Wildlife Refuge
SGCN	Species of Greatest Conservation Need
SWAP	State Wildlife Action Plan
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
USFWS	US Fish and Wildlife Service



Prepared by Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife in Collaboration with Maine Departments of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry and Marine Resources, and Key Conservation Partners

## Element 7 + 8: Coordination with Partners and Public Participation

### 7/8.0 Abstract

Maine has a long history of successful collaboration among conservation partners, and built on that history to engage a broad audience in the update of the 2025 State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP). To facilitate a statewide update, the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW), began assembling a Coordination Team in September 2023. This Coordination Team met regularly to ensure the eight required elements of the 2025 Plan were sufficiently addressed.

In March 2024, the Coordination Team established a Steering Committee to help guide the overall development throughout the revision process. The Steering Committee represented key conservation organizations and provided regular review and advice to the Coordination Team. An operational charter (which describes the purpose and responsibilities of the members involved) was developed for and approved by the Steering Committee (see Appendix 7/8-1), which also established four subcommittees (i.e., Coastal and Marine Habitats, Freshwater Aquatic Habitats, Terrestrial and Freshwater Wetland Habitats, and Climate).

Two day-long conservation partner meetings were held to review draft Plan with Maine's Conservation Community, with review primarily focused on Elements 1 through 4. The Coordination Team invited 214 professionals, representing 118 unique organizations to each meeting in December 2024 and May 2025. Following each meeting, we solicited feedback from the broader public through two online surveys. Both in-person meetings and online surveys provided opportunities for the Coordination Team to incorporate feedback through the process, thereby leading to a more inclusive Plan.

The success of Maine's 2025 Plan depends on continued partner and public engagement during plan implementation. To guide implementation of the Plan and to encourage continued public involvement, MDIFW and the Steering Committee identified 12 Programmatic Conservation Actions to undertake over the next 10 years, which will require continued engagement for success.

### 7/8.1 Introduction

Element 7 (Coordination with Partners) requires MDIFW to coordinate, to the extent feasible, with federal, state, and local agencies and Tribal Nations in Maine. These entities manage significant areas of land or water within the state or administer programs that significantly affect conservation of Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) and their habitats during development, implementation, review, and revision of Maine's Plan. Element 8 (Public Participation) requires MDIFW to provide an opportunity for public participation in the development of the Plan (AFWA 2012).

Developing the partnerships identified in Elements 7 and 8 early in the revision process fostered partner ownership and support, maintained positive and collaborative relationships, and ensured that the Plan encapsulates conservation priorities from conservation organizations and the public.

MDIFW prepared the Plan in close cooperation with other natural resource agencies and organizations and built public and political support. Maine's Plan reflects the input and values of Maine's diverse suite of conservation

partners (i.e., federal, state, and local agencies, tribal nations, academia, private conservation organizations, and the public). MDIFW achieved support for the Plan by ensuring that the revision was transparent and open to public input. The ultimate goal is for the Plan to not simply be a tool for MDIFW, but for everyone in Maine.

Successfully implementing many of the Plan's identified conservation actions will require coordinated actions undertaken in partnership. State and federal agencies, conservation partners, and interested persons can lend support by drawing on their expertise and areas of focus to choose which conservation actions they would like to lead or assist with. MDIFW cannot carry out all the conservation goals and outcomes independently; efficient and effective conservation requires collaboration with academic, business, private, and Non-governmental Organization (NGO) partners. To guide the implementation of the Plan and to encourage continued partner and public involvement, MDIFW and the Steering Committee identified 12 Programmatic Actions to undertake over the next 10 years (Chapter 4).

### 7/8.1.1 Significant Differences from Maine's 2015 Plan

Many of the methods and approaches to connecting with external audiences in 2015 were repeated in the 2025 process, but some were new. For example, we hosted a live webinar that was also posted on MDIFW's website that provided both the public and partners with an opportunity to re-familiarize themselves with the 2015 Plan content, in preparation for engaging with the 2025 revision. This approach allowed for additional time to be spent discussing content, rather than providing a detailed background for participants.

Following in-person partner meetings, additional comments were solicited from the public using on-line surveys. These surveys provided opportunities for participation to individuals and organizations that were unable to attend an in-person meeting, due to conflicting schedules or travel limitations. Maine Audubon also hosted an educational table about the Plan at the Maine Land Trust Network annual meeting on April 30, 2025 to connect with new and existing non-profit partners. This provided a new way to engage with potential partners in the process and inform and hear how land trusts could use the plan to further conservation goals.



#### Case Study: Maine's Golden Eagle Research

Golden Eagles historically nested in western Maine, however the last recorded attempt was in 1998. Golden Eagles still migrate and over-winter in Maine, but their secretive nature limits our understanding of this species.

MDIFW worked with partners and private landowners to maintain camera traps stationed near salvaged roadkill, with the hope photographing Golden Eagles feeding. Understanding the timing and duration of Golden Eagle presence in Maine will inform conservation efforts. © MDIFW

### 7/8.1.2 State Wildlife Action Plan Coordination Team

MDIFW began assembling a Coordination Team in September 2023, and requested representation from Maine Natural Areas Program (MNAP) and Maine Department of Marine Resources (MDMR). Additionally, the Coordination Team contracted with Maine Audubon to support the Plan revision and facilitation. This team oversaw and coordinated all aspects of the revision and was responsible for ensuring the eight required elements of the 2025 Plan were met. The Coordination Team made recommendations for professionals to serve on the Steering Committee, Ecosystem Sub-committees, and attend the conservation partner meetings. Maine's Coordination Team included the following members:

- Bethany Atkins, Habitat Section Supervisor, MDIFW
- Casey Clark, Marine Resource Scientist, MDMR
- Phillip deMaynadier, Wildlife Diversity Section Supervisor, MDIFW
- Alexander Fish, Endangered & Threatened Species Coordinator, MDIFW
- Merry Gallagher, Native Fish Conservation Biologist, MDIFW
- Sarah Haggerty, Wildlife Biologist, Maine Audubon
- Kristen Puryear, Chief Ecologist, MNAP
- Justin Schlawin, Beginning with Habitat Program Coordinator, MDIFW
- Nathan Webb, Wildlife Division Director, MDIFW

### 7/8.1.3 State Wildlife Action Plan Steering Committee

In March 2024, the Coordination Team established a Steering Committee to help guide the 2025 Plan's overall development. The Steering Committee membership represented the broader conservation partner group by providing regular review and advice concerning the activities and proposed approach of the Coordination Team (Table 7/8 – 1). The Steering Committee assisted the Coordination Team by reviewing data on SGCN, SGCN criteria, habitat systems, threats, and conservation actions and by offering professional input. The Steering Committee also reviewed plans for conservation partner meetings and public outreach and provided guidance and recommendations. Specifically, they provided suggestions for collecting input from the public and on partner meeting agendas, meeting format, and discussions. The Steering Committee served as representatives and ambassadors for Maine's conservation community, and provided feedback on how to make the plan more accessible and useful for partners. The Steering Committee consisted of representatives from:

- Maine Audubon – Sally Stockwell
- Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands – Andy Cutko
- Maine Coast Heritage Trust – Angela Twitchell
- Maine Coastal Program – Devin Domeyer
- Maine Department of Environmental Protection – Jeremy Deeds, Doug Suitor
- Maine Forest Products Council – Hannah Stevens
- Maine Natural Areas Program – Molly Docherty
- NOAA Maine Field Office – Rory Saunders
- Small Woodland Owners Association of Maine – Tom Doak

- The Nature Conservancy – Josh Royte
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Amanda Cross, Chris Meaney

Table 7/8 - 1 Conservation partner participation in Maine Wildlife Action Plan has increased from the first version in 2005 (i.e., Maine’s Wildlife Conservation Strategy) to the 2025 version.

Partnership Metric	2005	2015	2025
Number of Steering Committee members	0	12 (in addition to MDIFW staff)	13 (in addition to MDIFW staff)
Approximate number of conservation partners (individuals)	64	158	214
Approximate number of unique organizations	51	102	118
Number of partner meetings	3	5 (and steering committee and subcommittee meetings, workshops, and others)	2 (plus online webinar, steering committee and subcommittee meetings, workshops, and others described below)

**7/8.1.4 Plan Review and Update Charter**

The Best Practices for State Wildlife Actions Plans (AFWA 2012) recommends that each state prepare a charter to formalize how conservation partners and fish and wildlife agencies will collaboratively develop their Plan. The Coordination Team and the Steering Committee began preparing Maine’s Operational Charter early in the update; the Steering Committee adopted the charter in July 2024 (Appendix 7/8 – 1). The Operational Charter outlines the organizational structure that MDIFW and partners established to accomplish the Plan update, the process they would use, and the schedule for completing specific tasks. The charter explicitly defines and delineates key roles, responsibilities, and contributions for MDIFW and partners.

**7/8.2 Coordination with Conservation Partners**

The Coordination Team invited 214 conservation partners to participate in the revision of Maine’s 2025 Plan, representing 118 unique organizations and key members of the conservation public (Table 7/8 - 2). This included 12 federal partners, 15 state partners, 5 Tribal Nations, and 86 public and local partners (includes non-governmental conservation organizations).

In December of 2024 MDIFW and Maine Audubon hosted an online webinar so that partners and the public could learn about the update to the Plan, what has been done in the past, and what we hope to accomplish in the 2025 Plan. All partners that attended the in-person Partner Meetings were required to watch the webinar prior to the meeting so that less time was needed for sharing background information during the Partner Meeting and more time was available for participants to engage directly in productive dialogue. We hosted two all-day partner

meetings, one in December of 2024 and one in May 2025 for feedback on SGCN lists, habitats, threats, and conservation actions. Partner meeting feedback was compiled and directed to subcommittee chairs, where it was applied to SGCN lists and rankings, habitat classifications, conservation threats, and conservation actions for each subcommittee. For partners who were unable to attend the in-person meetings, or for attendees who had additional thoughts after the meetings, we provided online surveys to solicit additional input following each meeting. We received 12 responses after the first partner meeting, and 11 responses after the second partner meeting. Feedback from the meetings and the online forms was read and integrated into the plan whenever possible.



Two Conservation Partner meetings were held in December 2024 and May 2025, which allowed Maine's conservation community to provide critical feedback that shaped the development of the Plan. © MDIFW

Table 7/8 - 2 Conservation Partners invited to participate in the two in-person partners meetings - December 2024 and May 2025 – to provide feedback on the Maine Wildlife Action Plan 2025 revision. Either one or multiple professionals were invited from each organization.

Federal	
Acadia National Park	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
Maine Army National Guard	USFWS Ecological Services
National Marine Fisheries Service [Maine Field Station]	USFWS Gulf of Maine Coastal Program
Natural Resources Conservation Service	USFWS Maine Coastal Islands NWR
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	USFWS Moosehorn NWR
U.S. Navy	USFWS Rachel Carson NWR
State	
Baxter State Park	DACF Municipal Planning Assistance Program
Dept. of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry (DACF) - Bureau of Agriculture, Resource Development Division	DACF Bureau of Parks and Lands
	Dept. of Environmental Protection (MDEP)
	Dept. of Marine Resources (MDMR)
DACF Bureau of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources	MDMR Maine Coastal Program
DACF Land Use Planning Commission	Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
DACF Lands for Maine's Future Program	Dept. of Transportation, Environmental Office
DACF Maine Forest Service	Maine Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future
DACF Maine Natural Areas Program	
Tribal Nations	
Houlton Band of Maliseet	Mi'kmaq Nation
Passamaquoddy Tribe – Motahkomikuk (Indian Township)	Passamaquoddy Tribe – Sipayik (Pleasant Point)
	Penobscot Nation
Academia, Businesses, and NGOs	
Appalachian Mountain Club	Maine Rockweed Coalition
Atlantic Salmon Federation	Maine SeaGrant
Backcountry Hunters & Anglers	Maine Tourism Association
Biodiversity Research Institute	Maine Trappers Association
Brunswick Topsham Land Trust	Maine Wolf Coalition
Casco Bay Estuary Partnership	Manomet Center for Conservation Science
Coastal Mountains Land Trust	MDIFW Advisory Council
Colby College	Mt. Agamenticus to the Sea Conservation Initiative
Conservation Law Foundation - Maine Advocacy Center	National Wild Turkey Federation
Consulting forester	National Wildlife Federation
Defenders of Wildlife	Natural Resources Council of Maine
Downeast Lakes Land Trust	New England Forestry Foundation
Downeast Salmon Federation	North Maine Woods
Ducks Unlimited	Northeast Wolf Coalition
Endangered Species Coalition	Northern Maine Partner
Flycatcher LLC	Orono Land Trust
Forest Society of Maine	Project Share
Freeport Wild Bird Supply	Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust
GrowSmart Maine	Restore: The North Woods
Gulf of Maine Research Institute	Rewilding Institute

Island Institute	Ruffed Grouse Society
Keeping Maine's Forests	Sebasticook Regional Land Trust
Lakes Environmental Association	Senator George Mitchell Center / Sustainability Solutions Initiative
Maine Aquaculture Association	Seven Islands FPC
Maine Association of Wetland Scientists	Small Woodland Owners Association of Maine
Maine Association of Conservation Commissions	Spiney Creek Shellfish
Maine Association of Planners	Sportsmen's Alliance of Maine
Maine Audubon Society	The Nature Conservancy
Maine Big Night	Trout Unlimited
Maine Birding Trail	Trust for Public Land
Maine Chamber of Commerce	Two Trees Forestry
Maine Chapter of the Sierra Club	University of Maine at Machias, School of Marine Sciences
Maine Chapter of the Wildlife Society	University of Maine, Orono, Department of Wildlife Ecology
Maine Coast Heritage Trust	University of Maine, Orono, School of Forest Resources
Maine Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Unit	University of Maine, Orono, School of Biological Sciences
Maine Entomological Society	University of New England
Maine Farm Bureau	University of Southern Maine
Maine Farmland Trust	Wells Reserve
Maine Forest Management	Wildlife Alliance of Maine
Maine Forest Products Council	Xerces Society
Maine Lakes Society	
Maine Land Trust Network	
Maine Native Fish Coalition	
Maine Professional Guides Association	
Maine Renewable Energy Association	
Maine Rivers	



Maine's Vernal pools host several SGCN and MDIFW often engages with private land managers and foresters to promote conservation action for these important species and habitats. © MDIFW

### **7/8.2.1 Coordination with Federal Partners**

The Coordination Team invited 12 federal conservation partners to participate in the preparation of the 2025 Plan (Table 7/8 - 2). Federal partners served on the Steering Committee, ecosystem subcommittees, and attended the conservation partner meetings. Federal partners helped ensure their priorities were integrated into the 2025 Plan and provided suggestions on how they might access and utilize the Plan in their work. They brought a more regional perspective to the discussions and made sure their top priorities based on their missions were integrated.

### **7/8.2.2 Coordination with State Partners**

Fifteen state agencies were invited to participate in the preparation of the 2025 Plan (Table 7/8 - 2). State partners served on the Steering Committee, the Coordination Team, ecosystem subcommittees, and attended the conservation partner meetings. The various state agencies all bring different perspectives to the discussions, because they have different missions and focal species, habitats, and activities (marine, plant, forestry). The variety of state agencies brought in additional information on marine life, aquatic life, environmental protection, plants, and plant communities.

### **7/8.2.3 Coordination with Tribal Nations**

The Coordination Team invited representatives from five Tribal Nations in Maine to participate during the 2025 Plan revision process (Table 7/8 - 2). In July 2024, the MDIFW Commissioner sent a letter to each Chief and Natural Resources Director notifying them of the upcoming Plan revision and offered an opportunity to participate. MDIFW additionally sent email requests to each Natural Resource Director (October 2024) and phone calls (March 2025) with follow-up offers to participate and/or offer feedback. Some Nations opted not to participate. However, some Nations designated staff to participate in Conservation Partners meetings, ecosystem subcommittees, or submitted comments during public comment periods. Specific contributions were not quantifiable, but were integrated during multiple opportunities throughout the revision.

During the 2015 Plan revisions, Tribal Nations in Maine met with staff from the USFWS and members of the Steering Committee. The day-long meeting addressed opportunities for collaboration between federal and state agencies, and Tribal Nations in the development and funding of conservation programs for SGCN. Tribal Nation representatives requested that species of tribal cultural significance be included on Maine's list of SGCN species. Maine revised its 2015 SGCN list to include those species (Element 1). In the 2025 revision, we requested review of the 2015 list and included additional SGCN that were identified as culturally significance and biologically declining.

### **7/8.2.4 Coordination with Public and Regional Partners, Including Non-Governmental Organizations**

Eighty-six public conservation partners, including non-governmental conservation organizations, the private sector, and academia, assisted with the update of the 2025 Plan, participating in all aspects of Plan development (Table 7/8 - 2). These partners are the most likely to utilize the Plan with on-the-ground actions in a wide variety of formats. With their engagement the Plan includes practical perspectives, and the partners can be confident the Plan addresses their needs.



Conservation of Maine's SGCN and habitats often relies on partnership between private landowners and conservation organizations. These partnerships often seek to find a balance between human land use and conservation needs. © USFWS Gulf of Maine Coastal Program

### 7/8.3 Public Engagement

We engaged with the public through a variety of tactics, including social media, earned media, blog posts, and through emails (Table 7/8 - 3). After each partner meeting, an online survey was made available to the public to provide comments on the Plan's content and structure; the first survey on SGCN and habitats, and the second survey on threats and conservation actions. MDIFW emails were sent to existing listservs and requested that conservation partner organizations forward the request to their listservs. The first was sent to 189,952 people, with 80,917 unique people opening up the email. The second email was sent to 188,354 people, with 73,938 unique opens. The first online survey received 181 public responses, and the second survey received 63 public responses. Online survey results were reviewed and sent to species specialist and taxonomic experts in MDIFW, MNAP, and MDMR staff and subcommittee chairs for review. Species specialists and chairs determined whether inclusion was warranted and edited content where appropriate.



Table 7/8 - 3 All known press releases, articles, social media posts created to increase awareness and encourage participation in the Maine Wildlife Action Plan 2025 revision.

Outreach Channel	Month
Maine Audubon blog post (Appendix 7-8)	September 2024
New and updated website pages (Appendix 7-9)	December 2024
MDIFW Facebook post	December 2024
MDIFW listserv email- Seeking feedback for 2025 Maine State Wildlife Action Plan Revision (Appendix 7-10)	March 2025, re-sent 2 weeks later to those who did not open the first email
MDIFW Facebook and Instagram Post	March 2025
MDIFW Facebook and Instagram Post	April 2025
Maine Audubon blog post (Appendix 7-1)	May 2025
MDIFW listserv email- Protecting Maine’s Habitats (Appendix 7-12)	May 2025
MDIFW Facebook and Instagram Post	May 2025
MDIFW Facebook and Instagram Post	June 2025
Press- Maine updates state Wildlife Plan, asks for citizen input (Appendix 7-1)	June 2025

**7/8.3.1 Maine Action Plan Webpage**

MDIFW created a State Wildlife Action Plan webpage dedicated to the update to the 2025 Plan. The page allowed the public and partners to view a webinar that gives background information on Maine’s Plan. It also is where the public could access surveys, contact information, the completed 2015 Plan, and an outline of the process for updating the 2025 Plan. Once the 2025 Plan is approved, MDIFW will continue to host a website solely dedicated to the 2025 Plan.

**7/8.3.2 30-Day Comment Period**

MDIFW provided a 30-day comment period, extending from August 1, 2025 to August 31, 2025 to allow the public, conservation partners, agencies, and others an opportunity to review the DRAFT Plan in its entirety and to provide written comments and suggestions.

## Public Comments

MDIFW received 174 total comments, 83 of which were applicable to the Plan and considered by staff. 157 of these comments came through an organized online survey, and an additional 17 comments were submitted through emails directly to natural resource agency staff. Each respondent was provided the opportunity to comment on each of the eight elements, and often a single response contained multiple independent comments. Hence, we did our best to separate these ideas and respond to each individually, however, given the complexity of these comments, this was not always possible. Therefore, individual comments below (Table 7/8-4) may have originated from the same respondent.

Comments ranged from specific text and formatting modifications to general perceptions of MDIFW or Maine environmental concerns. Thirty-four comments were related to text edits, in which readers found errors that were then modified in the text of the Plan when applicable. Notes ranged from minor typos, word choice concerns, and font modifications, to editorial comments such as the use of “climate” versus “weather.” Many of the substantive comments were specific to individual taxa, with recommendations around changes to priority or SGCN listing. All comments were considered. When new information was provided that altered the determination of inclusion of a species on the SGCN list or its priority ranking, modifications were made. Many points were submitted and acknowledged but did not shift the SGCN list or prioritization as they did not meet specific criteria laid out in Chapter 1. Concerns about dams and other waterway barriers, invasive species, and renewable energy were mentioned by several commenters and many comments addressed multiple sections of the Plan. Substantive comments that were relevant to the Plan, and their responses, are summarized and listed below.



Partnerships with private landowners enable MNAP ecologists to survey for SGCN plants and at-risk natural communities on non-public lands. MNAP shares survey results with landowners and encourages adoption of conservation actions. © MNAP

Table 7/8 - 4 Summary of all public comments and inquiries received during a 30-day public comment period August 2025. Summaries of responses are provided.

Affiliation	Comment	Response	Element
NGO	American Eel should be a priority one species	American Eel was revised to Priority 1	1
NGO	Longnose Dace should be a higher priority on the SGCN list	Longnose Dace does not meet enough criteria to warrant elevation to Priority 2. At least two criteria are required for Priority 2 status	1
NGO	Redfin Pickerel should be a priority one species on the SGCN list	This species does not meet enough criteria to warrant elevation to Priority 1	1
public	Questioning the comparison of northern Maine and interior boreal Canada and Spruce Budworm response	While there may be some similarities between these two geographic areas, there are differences as well	1
public	The report does not mention the recently discovered second population of the Endangered Cobblestone Tiger Beetle ( <i>Cicindela marginipennis</i> ) in Maine	Text edited to include two distinct populations in Maine	1
public	Monarch butterfly declines	The Monarch is listed as a P3 SGCN	1
public	Wild Turkey should be on the SGCN list [2 comments]	Wild Turkey do not meet the SGCN criteria for inclusion	1
public	White-tailed deer should be on the SGCN list	White-tailed Deer do not meet the SGCN criteria for inclusion	1
public	Lesser Yellowlegs appear common and should not be priority one	Lesser Yellowlegs are vulnerable to climate change and uncertainties on the coast for migratory species. This species will remain at priority 1	1
public	Inquiry if Solitary Sandpiper should be removed from the SGCN list	Solitary Sandpiper was reduced from P2 to P3, and while there is uncertainty, this taxon is still at risk	1
public	Thanking MDIFW for adding the Gray Wolf	Wolves are currently considered to be extirpated from Maine, but they are federally listed and dispersal of wolves from external populations into Maine is possible	1
NGO	Cougar should be on the SGCN list	This extirpated species is unlikely to recolonize Maine	1

Affiliation	Comment	Response	Element
public	Double-crested Cormorant should not be on SGCN list	Double-crested Cormorants are in decline from Midcoast to DownEast, even while the population along the southern coast is increasing. Specific threats and their influence on the overall population varies geographically across the state	1
public	Northern Goshawk should be a higher priority on SGCN list	The Northern Goshawk is an elusive species with irruptive events that can affect population and distribution, which also affects population trend estimates. It is listed as priority 3, which supports additional efforts to address key data gaps	1
public	Peregrine Falcons should be a lower priority on SGCN list	Peregrine Falcon meets the criteria for Priority 1	1
public	Whip-poor-will should be on the SGCN list	Eastern Whip-poor-will is listed as a P2 SGCN	1
public	Baltimore Oriole should not be listed as a SGCN	Baltimore Orioles have been declining in Maine for over three decades. The species was elevated from P3 to P2 to better reflect regional declines and considerable range contraction within the state	1
public	Orchard Oriole should not be listed as a SGCN as they are at northern limit of their range	Orchard Orioles remain uncommon and highly localized breeder in Maine. They are included as a P3 species which ensures their status is monitored	1
public	Wood Warblers: Questioning why Wilson’s Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, and Chestnut-sided Warbler are on SGCN lists	These species are showing documented population declines, and they meet the criteria for inclusion on the SGCN List	1
public	Clay-colored Sparrows should not be listed on the SGCN as they are at northern limit of their range	The true status of this species in Maine remains poorly understood. It is included as a P3 species for “Understudied Rare Taxa” due to insufficient data to conclusively assess distribution and status	1
public	Olive-sided Flycatchers should be upgraded to Priority 1	This species falls on the border between P1 and P2 and is more closely aligned with other P2 species	1
public	Willow Flycatchers should not be listed as a SGCN	After careful consideration, the Willow Flycatcher has been removed from the SGCN List	1
public	Black-backed Woodpecker should be considered for Priority 1	This species falls on the border between P1 and P2 and is more closely aligned with other P2 species	1

Affiliation	Comment	Response	Element
public	Boreal birds: Agreeing that Evening Grosbeaks have been uplisted to Priority 1, but questioning why Canada Jays are not listed as Priority 1 and Boreal Chickadees not listed	Canada Jay falls on the border between P2 and P3 and is more closely aligned with other P3 species. Boreal Chickadee is included as a P2 species	1
NGO	SGCN birds in general: Questions regarding selection of SGCN bird species and some seemingly common species (Common Grackle, Eastern Towhee, Brown-headed Cowbird, and Northern Mockingbird) being listed	Maine supports extraordinary avian diversity, and this is a well-studied group relative to other taxa, so there is data to assess their status in the state. The mentioned species show steep declines and range contractions	1
public	Questioning the residency status of the Southern Cloudywing ( <i>Thorybes bathyllus</i> ) in Maine so recommend it is not on SGCN list	After careful consideration, the Southern Cloudywing has been removed from the SGCN List	1
public	The subspecies <i>nomen</i> for Sleepy Duskywing ( <i>Erynnis brizo</i> ) is no longer used	Removed subspecies nomenclature	1
public	<i>Euphyes dion dion</i> (Dion Skipper) is likely present in Maine and should be added to SGCN list	The Dion Skipper does not meet criteria for inclusion as SGCN	1
public	Two-spotted Skipper is more secure than initially determined and should be removed from SGCN list	After careful consideration, the Two-spotted Skipper has been removed from the SGCN List	1
public	The Common Branded Skipper is more secure than initially determined and should be removed from SGCN list	After careful consideration, the Common Branded Skipper has been removed from the SGCN List	1
public	Cobweb Skipper is less secure than initially determined and should be ranked as Priority 2 SGCN	After careful consideration, the Cobweb Skipper has been elevated from P3 to P2	1
public	Recommended lowering the SGCN status of the Dusted Skipper to Priority 3	After careful consideration, the Dusted Skipper has been lowered from P2 to P3	1
public	Gray Hairstreak is more secure than initially determined and so should be removed from the SGCN list	After careful consideration, the Gray Hairstreak has been removed from the SGCN List	1
public	The Western Pine Elfin is not as secure as initially determined and so should be ranked as Priority 2 SGCN	After careful consideration, the Western Pine Elfin has been elevated from P3 to P2	1
public	Early Hairstreak is at greater risk of extirpation in Maine than initially assessed and should be priority 2	After careful consideration, the Early Hairstreak has been elevated from P3 to P2	1
public	The Western-tailed Blue is more secure than initially determined and so should be removed from the SGCN list	After careful consideration, the Western-tailed Blue Skipper has been removed from the SGCN List	1

Affiliation	Comment	Response	Element
public	Compton Tortoiseshell is more secure than initially determined and so should be removed from the SGCN list	After careful consideration, the Compton Tortoiseshell has been removed from the SGCN List	1
public	The Hoary Comma is at greater risk of extirpation in Maine than initially assessed and so should be priority 2	After careful consideration, the Hoary Comma has been elevated from P3 to P2	1
public	Box Turtles should be a SGCN species	The Eastern Box Turtle is listed as a P3 SGCN	1
public	Concern for whales relating to wind power	Vessel strikes, changes to habitat, and possible noise impacts associated with renewable energy development in the Gulf of Maine are potential threats to whales. With proper siting, construction, operation, and mitigation procedures, these potential impacts can be reduced or eliminated.	1
public	What is a Natural Community	Natural Community, defined in Chapter 2, is “...an assemblage of interacting plants, animals, and their common environment, recurring across the landscape, in which the effects of human intervention are minimal.”	2
public	Concerns expressed for increasing development on the landscape	Developed habitats are included in the habitat classification of Chapter 2. SGCN associated with these habitats, as well as threats and conservation actions are assigned to this habitat type	2
NGO	Concerns about dams and their small and larger systemic effects and the role of FERC	Dams are included as a threat in Chapter 3 and land protection for headwater streams and shorelines are a conservation action identified in Chapter 4	2
NGO	Both general and site-specific concerns about Dams and their negative impacts on wildlife	The threats associated with dams are discussed in Chapter 3	3
public	Concerns that renewable energy development is not sufficiently studied and ignored as a threat to wildlife (2 comments)	Renewable energy is cited as a potential threat to SGCN and habitats in Chapter 3. Chapter 4 discussed conservation actions associated with these threats	3
NGO	Nonnative fish introductions should be added as a significant threat to Maine’s inland coldwater fish	Invasive and non-native fish are identified as threats for some species including coldwater fish in Chapter 3	3

Affiliation	Comment	Response	Element
public	Concern about all Maine turtle species and suggestion for use of captive propagation and head-starting	The list of conservation actions is intended to address the highest priority threats for Maine's turtles, yet is not an exhaustive list of all possible conservation actions. While we recognize the value of captive propagation and head-starting, we aim to prevent the need for these activities	4
public	Concerns about Spruce budworm management and bird populations	Spruce budworm is a naturally occurring insect in Maine's forests, and MDIFW works closely with other state agencies on management of this species. Retaining dead and decaying trees provides critical resources for Three-toed Woodpeckers and many other bark-foraging birds.	4
public	Comment about riparian buffers and questioning distance requirements	Riparian buffers are identified as important for a number of species, but specific distances will vary depending on the species and habitat types	4
NGO	Concerns about dams and their small and larger systemic effects	Dams are identified as a specific threat in Chapter 3. The Plan is non-regulatory and so while FERC relicensing and dam management impact SGCN, they are regulatory actions not addressed in this Plan	4
public	Comment on engaging the public more on direct and indirect actions	An important part of the Plan was engaging conservation partners and the public, and these groups provided critical advice and input that shaped the Plan. See Chapter 7/8 for additional information	4
NGO	Comment encouraging amphibian refuges	This Plan is non-regulatory and intended to promote non-regulatory conservation actions rather than regulatory ones. Habitat level conservation actions include specific actions for Vernal Pools and land protection	4
public	Recommendations regarding invasive species and early detection and treatment	Invasive plants and animals were identified as threats assigned to both SGCN and habitats, and a number of conservation actions have been identified to address them	4

Affiliation	Comment	Response	Element
public	Comment about there being no action in the conservation actions. Global warming and invasives are prime threats	Climate change and invasive species are identified as threats for both SGCN and habitats in Chapter 3. The creation of SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound) actions is identified as a Programmatic Action in Chapter 4.	4
NGO	Recommendations about regulatory actions under the Endangered Species Act	The intent of the Plan is to identify SGCN and implement conservation actions prior to species requiring listing under the ESA. The Plan is intended to be non-regulatory	4
public	Concern about culverts and insufficient acknowledgement of the negative impacts cross-drains have on environmental issues	Many conservation actions address habitat fragmentation including that caused by culverts. Sedimentation which can be caused by cross-drains is also identified as a threat with conservation actions	4
public	Recommendations encouraging modifications to implementation of the chop & drop rule	There are challenges to the implementation of the Chop & Drop Rule, but the Plan includes conservation actions to support continued efforts to improve connectivity and aquatic habitat improvements including the use of Chop & Drop. Regulatory changes are outside the scope of this Plan	4
public	Comments about extirpated species	The Plan is a non-regulatory tool used to identify species most at-risk in the state, and encourage conservation actions to prevent species listings under MESA. The only extirpated species included in the Plan are those that may naturally recolonize the state from adjacent jurisdictions	5-6
public	Recommendations for including data from bird migration monitoring sites	Bird migration data were used to inform the criteria upon which bird SGCN were identified, and the Plan has been updated to reflect this contribution	5-6
NGO	Request for more collaboration between NGO and private conservation organizations with MDIFW	The State relies on the professional expertise and supplemental capacity brought to conservation actions by the broad and active collection of NGOs and private conservation organizations in Maine, and we anticipate continued collaboration over the next ten years	7-8
all	Text edits- numerous comments	Text amended where appropriate	all

Affiliation	Comment	Response	Element
public	White-tailed deer population concerns	No specific response made to this comment	NA
public	Comments around change that have occurred in Maine over time (multiple comments)	No specific response made to this comment	NA
public	Suggestion for additional survey and monitoring work for multiple species and habitat types (multiple comments)	No specific response made to this comment	NA
public	Comments on format, imagery, etc. (multiple comments)	No specific response made to this comment	NA
public	Comments regarding lead ammunition	No specific response made to this comment	NA
public	Comments regarding natural resource regulations	No specific response made to this comment (the SWAP is not a regulatory document)	NA
public	Comment regarding ticks and turkeys	No specific response made to this comment	NA
public	Comments regarding dislike of solar arrays	No specific response made to this comment	NA
public	Request for cooperative work among agencies, NGOs, hunters, general public	No specific response made to this comment	NA
public	Comments regarding need for law enforcement, education	No specific response made to this comment	NA
public	Comments regarding rooftop gardening and urban habitats	No specific response made to this comment	NA
public	Suggestion for the public to plant more flowers and limit tree removal	No specific response made to this comment	NA
public	Comments regarding logging, ATV use, jetskis, motorboats, wildlife (multiple comments)	No specific response made to this comment	NA
public	Comments regarding livestock and wildlife	No specific response made to this comment	NA
public	Comments regarding federal regulations	No specific response made to this comment	NA
public	Comments regarding litigation	No specific response made to this comment	NA
public	Comments regarding hunting and fishing regulations (multiple comments)	No specific response made to this comment	NA
public	Comments regarding zoning and development restrictions	No specific response made to this comment	NA
public	Comments regarding need for greater funding	No specific response made to this comment	NA

Affiliation	Comment	Response	Element
public	Comments regarding specific recommendations for wolf regulations, research, and survey efforts	No specific response made to this comment	NA
public	Comments recommending use of technology to monitor human impacts on wildlife and habitats	No specific response made to this comment	NA
public	Comments regarding fish populations in specific locations and fishing regulations (multiple comments)	Comment not specific to SWAP	NA
public	Comments regarding water levels and dam regulations (multiple comments)	Comment not specific to SWAP	NA

## 7/8.4 Public and Partner Engagement During Plan Implementation

The success of Maine's 2025 Plan depends on continued partner and public engagement during plan implementation. MDIFW and the Steering Committee identified six Programmatic Actions to help guide implementation and tracking of the 2025 Plan (Table 4 - 13, Element 4). Several of those Programmatic Actions are associated with outreach and public and partner engagement, including those associated with Outreach and Engagement (Programmatic Actions 1-3) and those associated with Regional Partnerships (Programmatic Actions 10 and 11).

1. **Outreach and Engagement (Programmatic Actions 1-3):** Actions to inform and engage the public and partners on Action Plan accomplishments and opportunities for involvement.
  - a. **Programmatic Action 1:** Establish a Plan Implementation Committee comprised of conservation partners and agency staff to help guide implementation of the 2025 Plan (short-term) and prepare for the 2035 Action Plan.
  - b. **Programmatic Action 2:** Devise and implement outreach strategies to inform and engage conservation partners and the general public on 2025 Plan information, accomplishments, and opportunities for involvement.
  - c. **Programmatic Action 3:** Develop a public survey of Plan and non-game species awareness, concerns, and priorities over the short and long term. MDIFW will soon undertake a large-scale public survey to determine attitudes toward game and non-game conservation, management, and funding. Survey results will help guide MDIFW priorities and outreach approaches. MDIFW may also conduct a second survey toward the end of Plan implementation to gauge the effectiveness of public outreach and education efforts developed as part of Programmatic Action 2.
2. **Regional and Statewide Partnerships (Programmatic Actions 10-11):** These actions address continued MDIFW and partner involvement in existing conservation efforts.
  - a. **Programmatic Action 10:** Develop a Statewide Landscape Conservation Blueprint. This resource will complement the Beginning with Habitat Focus Areas of Statewide Ecological Significance and will include 1) additional habitat prioritization for areas that promote connectivity, 2) regional projects and case studies that highlight key conservation investments for maintaining a connected and resilient landscape for people and wildlife, and 3) a conservation investment plan to identify potential conservation projects that could be implemented in the near term.
  - b. **Programmatic Action 11:** This action supports efforts to address the threats identified in the Plan and holds the entire 2025 Plan team – State agencies and partners – accountable for continuing progress on Conservation Actions. The State Plan team and Steering Committee will meet annually to assess implementation efforts, and biennially track the continued relevancy, implementation, and efficacy of the Conservation Actions.

## 7/8.5 Plans for Revision

States are required to review and revise, as appropriate, Plans at least every ten years. In addition to a major plan revision every 10 years, MDIFW is committed to regularly assessing the progress made implementing the Plan. MDIFW will use the programmatic actions described in Chapter 4 to monitor conservation action progress at least annually. As described in Programmatic Action 6 (see Table 4 - 13, Element 4), MDIFW will establish a full-time Plan Coordinator position to track conservation action progress across agencies and partner organizations. As described in Programmatic Actions 1-3, MDIFW will also establish an Implementation Committee in the Fall of 2025 comprised of agency staff and conservation partners. The committee will devise outreach strategies and surveys to engage partners and the public in implementation of the Plan. This committee will meet at least annually to review Plan accomplishments and to address any emerging issues or adaptive management needs that may be identified through monitoring activities. Biennial meetings of this committee will be held to assess continued relevancy and progress on actions, and may include additional partners. A comprehensive plan review will begin in year eight of the 2025 Plan that will include reviewing the criteria and literature used for designating SGCN, revisiting the threat levels assigned to SGCN and habitats, and determining if actions sufficiently prevented additional declines or actually improved threat rankings. MDIFW and its conservation partners will develop a revised Plan by October 1, 2035 for submission to USFWS.



The North Maine Woods remains a primary example of a conservation partnership between private landowners, industry, and the public.

## 7/8.6 Literature Cited and References

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA). 2012. Best Practices Working Group. Best Practices for State Wildlife Action Plans – Voluntary Guidance to States for Revision and Implementation. Washington (DC): Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. 80pp. Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Teaming With Wildlife, State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP).

Glass, T.W., R.A. Beausoleil, L.M. Elbrock, B.N. Kertson, B.T. Maletzke, Q. Martins, M.R. Matchett, T.W. Vickers, C.C. Wilmers, H.U. Wittmer, and H. Robinson. 2024. Limited cougar recolonization of eastern North America predicted by an individual-based model. *Biological Conservation* 110756.

## 7.6 Appendices

### Appendix 7/8 - 1 Operational Charter – Steering Committee

**State Wildlife Action Plan  
Steering Committee  
Operational Charter  
May 2024 – October 2025**

#### 1. Introduction

Maine’s State Wildlife Action Plan is a wildlife conservation roadmap for the state and conservation partners to identify Maine’s species and habitats in greatest conservation need, the threats these species and habitats face, and the conservation actions needed to address those threats. The Steering Committee for the 2025 State Wildlife Action Plan has been engaged to provide technical advice and guidance to the Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife as it develops the 2025 State Wildlife Action Plan, and to review draft information as it is developed. The Steering Committee includes members of Maine’s Conservation Community including agencies, non-governmental organizations, and key stakeholders.

#### 2. Steering Committee Members

Alexander Fish	MDIFW
Tom Doak	Maine Woodland Owners
Amanda Cross	USFWS
Phillip deMaynadier	MDIFW
Merry Gallagher	MDIFW
Casey Clark	MDMR
Rory Saunders	NOAA
Jeremy Deeds	MDEP
Doug Suitor	MDEP
Kristen Puryear	MNAP
Hannah Stevens	Maine Forest Products Council
Justin Schlawin	MDIFW
Sarah Haggerty	Maine Audubon
Sally Stockwell	Maine Audubon
Nathan Webb	MDIFW
Joshua Royte	TNC
Angela Twitchell	MCHT
Bethany Atkins	MDIFW
Devin Domeyer	MDMR
Andy Cutko	BPL

#### 3. Purpose

The purpose of the Steering Committee for the 2025 State Wildlife Action Plan is to:

- Provide technical advice and guidance to DIFW on the development of the 2025 SWAP

- Review draft materials as they are developed and provide feedback
- Participate in subcommittees where appropriate

#### 4. Guiding Principles

As it develops the 2025 plan, MDIFW, the steering committee, and the subcommittees will ensure that the plan

- is built on a foundation of sound scientific principles,
- is accessible, feasible, and operationally valuable to agencies and conservation partners,
- recognizes that the public has a genuine stake in the plan -- wildlife belongs to the public and is held in the public trust,
- is developed in an open, transparent, and inclusive process that encourages and facilitates the involvement of stakeholders and the public

#### 5. Operational Guidance for the Steering Committee

Meetings: The 2025 State Wildlife Action Plan is an update to the well-received 2015 State Wildlife Action Plan, therefore we expect to meet quarterly, but additional work may be required between meetings (i.e. review of documents, meet with subcommittees, etc.). Committee members will be notified of meetings at least 14 days in advance, unless there is mutual agreement to meet with shorter notice.

Mutual Respect and Trust: the strength of the steering committee and the subcommittees is the diverse knowledge and experience of their members. Committee members will base their work upon collective contributions and expect others to abide by the following norms:

- encourage participation by all members
- avoid hidden agendas and to be open about potential conflicts of interests
- ensure all committee members are respected and treated fairly, respect all contributions and ideas, and direct critiques at the idea not the person
- avoid speaking while others are speaking, avoid side-bar conversations, wait until there is an appropriate time to provide your comment
- keep to the topic
- avoid creating distractions
- place cell phones on silent mode, and if receiving a call, step away from the group.

Decision-making: Decisions by the steering committee or subcommittees are advisory and represent recommendations to MDIFW. The steering committee and subcommittees provide advice, input, and guidance to MDIFW during the development of the plan. MDIFW and committee members will strive to be open-minded and creative. As differences arise, committee members will listen to other views and rationale. Committee members will make decisions based on the general "modified consensus" of those present (i.e., if a committee member disagrees with the rest of the group, he or she can nevertheless "live with" the decision and will not oppose the decision or stand in the way of moving it forward.)

If MDIFW decides not to accept a recommendation from the steering committee, it will provide an explanation for its decision.

Concurrence: Committee members agree to participate as specified in this charter.

Time & Travel Expenses: Committee members are responsible for their own time and travel expenses, and will keep track of volunteer hours contributed to the update

Acknowledgement: The 2025 Plan will acknowledge and recognize the contributions of participating committee members and their organizations.

## 6. Process Structure

### 6.1. Steering Committee

The steering committee will help guide the development of the plan. MDIFW assembled a steering committee comprised of various conservation partners and membership was by invitation. MDIFW recognizes that members have obligations to their agency or organization. MDIFW will strive to minimize members' time commitment; however, it is expected that those who agree to participate will endeavor to attend most meetings. The committee may meet either in person or by video call.

The steering committee

- serves as the sounding board for MDIFW on both overall process and plan components and drafts,
- reviews and provides input on all chapters of the SWAP developed by MDIFW and the subcommittees,
- provides feedback to MDIFW on time-sensitive issues involving the development of the plan, and
- ensures that the process follows the charter's statement of purpose and guiding principles.

Members present during committee meetings or video calls are encouraged to participate fully. Not all members may be able to attend and participate in all discussions. As decisions are made or conclusions reached, those not present agree to move forward as a team and not to retrace discussions or decisions.

Steering committee members will share tasks and responsibilities by

- volunteering for tasks, especially those for which they have special expertise or interests,
- providing information that can fill data gaps and advance ideas, and
- keeping current with the plan development, even if unable to attend all meetings and/or discussions.

### 6.2. Subcommittees

MDIFW suggests the following subcommittees be established to assist with the analysis and review of species and habitat descriptions, classifications, rankings, threats and conservation actions. These subcommittees will have the opportunity to review Elements 2-4 before extensive work begins on them to recommend any changes to approach, and to review proposed updates from DIFW for each Element before they are finalized.

- Coastal and Marine Habitats
- Freshwater Habitats
- Terrestrial Habitats

MDIFW also suggests a Climate subcommittee be established to consider how and where to incorporate climate concerns into the SWAP, and specifically to provide guidance on conservation actions for those species and habitats where climate change has been identified as a primary threat. This subcommittee will also coordinate and cross-check their recommendations with those of the habitat subcommittees as appropriate.

All subcommittees will be led by a volunteer from the Steering Committee, and report back to the Steering Committee for a review of their analyses and recommendations before being passed on to MDIFW. Non-steering committee members may be invited to participate as well, at the discretion of the subcommittee lead.

*Appendix 7/8 - 2 Agendas – Conservation Partner Meeting 1 – December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024*

**Maine Wildlife Action Plan Partner Meeting 1  
Maple Hill Farm, Hallowell  
December 9, 2024; 9:00-3:00**

- 9:00 Opening remarks and 2025 updates to State Wildlife Action Plan
- 9:30 Agenda and Introductions
- 9:50 Breakout sessions on habitats and Species of Greatest Conservation Need
- 11:30 Report out from groups (4 groups, 10 minutes each)
- 12:15 Lunch and Networking
- 1:00 Discussion: Threats and Conservation Actions (whole group)
- 2:30 Outline next steps
- 2:40 Closing thoughts from group
- 3:00 Adjourn

*Appendix 7/8 - 3 Agendas – Conservation Partner Meeting 1 – May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025*

**Partner Meeting 2  
May 16, 2025  
Maple Hill Farm in Hallowell  
9:00am – 3:30pm**

- 8:30 Coffee, sign in
- 9:00 Welcome, brief review
- 9:15 Goals for the day – walk through agenda and how things will work for the day
  - Review Threats – ID top 3 threats/macrogroup (1,2,3)
  - Review/Prioritize Conservation Actions
  - Review priorities for each group
- 9:30 Break into subgroups (all materials will be broken out into different habitat groups)
- 9:40 Review Threats – ID top 3 threats
- 11:00 BREAK
- 11:10 Prioritize Conservation Actions
- 12:30 LUNCH
- 1:30 Back into subgroups, review Conservation Actions against Threats
- 2:00 Evaluate your neighbors' results
  - Move through all the other group results serially (15 min at each)
- 3:00 Results, Next Steps, Thank you
- 3:30 Adjourn

Appendix 7/8 - 4 Partner and Public Feedback Surveys :: SGCN and Habitats – Partner Survey

**Appendix 7/8-3. Partner and Public Feedback Surveys**

**Survey 1: SGCN and Habitats – Partner Survey**



**State Wildlife Action Plan**

Thank you to all who were able to attend the in-person SWAP Partners meeting on December 9. The SWAP subcommittee leads have been collating comments and will share your prior feedback with MDIFW, MNAP and DMR staff. We would like to invite you and others who were not able to make the meeting to provide us with additional feedback via the survey below.

\* Required

1. Name \*

2. Organization \*

3. Email Address \*

4. Do you have any additional thoughts on the SGCN selection criteria - what, if anything, needs to be added, modified, or deleted?

5. Please take a closer look at the lists of Species of Greatest Conservation Need and the Habitat Classifications for your break-out group and let us know if you have any additional recommendations, based on the criteria, for adding, modifying, or deleting particular species or habitats. You can also review SGCN or Habitats for any other break-out group you are interested in. The lists can be found [attached in email](#).

6. We heard from several folks that the data in the tables in the 2015 SWAP can be hard to use. What specific recommendations do you have for each table regarding changes in both content and format that would make the information more useful for you?

7. Are there any other comments you would like to share with us regarding improvements you would like to suggest for updating the SGCN or Habitats chapters for the 2025 SWAP? You can also look ahead at the other chapters if you are so inclined.

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Appendix 7/8 - 5 Partner and Public Feedback Surveys :: SGCN and Habitats – Public Survey



### State Wildlife Action Plan Public Survey

We want to hear from you!

In order to strengthen Maine's Wildlife Action Plan, we are seeking feedback for our list of Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) and priority ranking for the species. Feedback must be submitted by Sunday, April 20, 2025.

**Step One:** View current Species of Greatest Conservation Need draft list: [maine.gov/ifw/docs/SGCN\\_Draft\\_List\\_20250304.pdf](https://maine.gov/ifw/docs/SGCN_Draft_List_20250304.pdf)

**Step Two:** View information on the criteria for SGCN for listing and ranking: [maine.gov/ifw/docs/SGCN\\_Criteria.pdf](https://maine.gov/ifw/docs/SGCN_Criteria.pdf)

**Step Three:** Share your feedback using the form below. Please submit one species at a time.

*Please read carefully in order for your feedback to be useful in the process.*

1. Please identify any species that should be added to the SGCN list, existing species that should be removed from the list, or changes to a species prioritization rank (i.e., Priority 1, Priority 2, Priority 3).

**Please enter species below (please only list one species per entry, additional species may be submitted after):**

2. Should this species be:

- Added to SGCN list
- Removed from SGCN List
- Changed in priority rank (i.e., Priority 1, Priority 2, Priority 3)

3. To be considered, please include a detailed explanation and justification based on the criteria as to why the species entered above should be changed. \*

4. Do you wish to recommend another species be added, removed, or changed in priority ranking?

Yes

No

Appendix 7/8 - 6 Partner and Public Feedback Surveys :: Conservation Threats and Actions – Partner Survey



### State Wildlife Action Plan Partner Survey - Threats and Conservation Actions

The State of Maine is currently working on updating the 2015 State Wildlife Action Plan to identify Threats which must be addressed in order to conserve Maine's wildlife habitats over the next ten years, and what Conservation Actions are needed to address those Threats. At the May 16th, 2025 Partner Meeting we worked with partners to review the 2015 Threats and Conservation Actions and began the process of updating and prioritizing them.

Please review these three tables (found here [https://www.maine.gov/ifw/docs/TablesForPartnerSurvey\\_THREATS%26CONSACTIONS.xlsx](https://www.maine.gov/ifw/docs/TablesForPartnerSurvey_THREATS%26CONSACTIONS.xlsx)) and complete the survey below.

**The tables are:**

- 1. **Standard Threat** categories, used by all State Wildlife Action Plans, listed under each of the three major Habitat Groupings, with Threats that were identified at the May 16th meeting as high priority highlighted
- 2. **Highest priority Conservation Actions** identified for each of the Habitat Groupings
- 3. **Climate-related Conservation Actions** identified as high priority for each Habitat Grouping.

#### Threats

For the Threats listed under each Habitat Grouping, are there additional Threats in the list that should be highlighted as **high priorities** over the next ten years? If so, please list them here (you can copy/paste from the table) and explain your thinking

1. Coastal and Marine Habitats (Please list Threat and explain)

2. Freshwater Aquatic Habitats (Please list Threat and explain)

3. Terrestrial and Freshwater Wetland Habitats (Please list Threat and explain)

#### Threats

For the Threats listed under each Habitat Grouping, do you believe any of the highlighted Threats in the list should **not** be identified as **high priorities** over the next ten years? If so, please list them here (you can copy/paste from the table) and explain your thinking

4. Coastal and Marine Habitats (Please list Threat and explain)

5. Freshwater Aquatic Habitats (Please list Threat and explain)

6. Terrestrial and Freshwater Wetland Habitats (Please list Threat and explain)

Conservation Actions

For the Conservation Actions listed under each Habitat Grouping, are there additional Conservation Actions that should be **high priorities** over the next ten years? If so, please list them here and explain your thinking

7. Coastal and Marine Habitats (Please list Conservation Action and explain)

8. Freshwater Aquatic Habitats (Please list Conservation Action and explain)

9. Terrestrial and Freshwater Wetland Habitats (Please list Conservation Action and explain)

Conservation Actions

For the Conservation Actions listed under each Habitat Grouping, do you believe any of the priority Conservation Actions in the list should **not** be identified as **high priorities** over the next ten years? If so, please list them here (you can copy/paste from the table) and explain your thinking

10. Coastal and Marine Habitats (Please list Conservation Action and explain)

11. Freshwater Aquatic Habitats (Please list Conservation Action and explain)

12. Terrestrial and Freshwater Wetland Habitats (Please list Conservation Action and explain)

Climate Change

For the Climate-related Conservation Actions listed under each Habitat Grouping, are there additional Climate-related Conservation Actions that should be **high priorities** over the next ten years? If so, please list them here (you can copy/paste from the table)

13. Coastal and Marine Habitats (Please list Conservation Action and explain)

14. Freshwater Aquatic Habitats (Please list Conservation Action and explain)

15. Terrestrial and Freshwater Wetland Habitats (Please list Conservation Action and explain)

**Climate Change**

For the Climate-related Conservation Actions listed under each Habitat Grouping, do you believe any of the Climate-related Conservation Actions in the list should **not** be identified as **high priorities** over the next ten years? If so, please list them here (you can copy/paste from the table)

16. Coastal and Marine Habitats (Please list Conservation Action and explain)

17. Freshwater Aquatic Habitats (Please list Conservation Action and explain)

18. Terrestrial and Freshwater Wetland Habitats (Please list Conservation Action and explain)

**Other Comments**

19. Please add any other comments you may have about the Threats and Conservation Actions we should be considering over the next ten years here.

Appendix 7/8 - 7 Partner and Public Feedback Surveys :: Conservation Threats and Actions – Public Survey



### State Wildlife Action Plan Public Survey 2 - Threats and Conservation Actions

The State of Maine is currently working on updating the 2015 State Wildlife Action Plan to identify Threats which must be addressed in order to conserve Maine's wildlife habitats over the next ten years, and what Conservation Actions are needed to address those Threats.

Based on your personal understanding of and familiarity with Maine's wildlife and habitats, please list the top 4 significant Threats and top 4 Conservation Actions needed to address significant Threats in each of these three habitat groups: (1) Maine's Coastal and Marine Habitats(2) Maine's Freshwater Aquatic Habitats,(3) Maine's Terrestrial and Freshwater Wetland Habitats.

You can review the list of Threats and Conservation Actions identified in the 2015 SWAP for reference here: <https://www.maine.gov/fw/docs/Threats%20and%20Conservation%20Actions%20for%20SWAP%20Public%20Survey%202022.pdf>

#### Coastal and Marine Habitats

##### THREATS

1. Threat 1

2. Threat 2

3. Threat 3

4. Threat 4

#### Coastal and Marine Habitats

##### CONSERVATION ACTIONS

5. Conservation Action 1

6. Conservation Action 2

7. Conservation Action 3

8. Conservation Action 4

Freshwater Aquatic Habitats

THREATS

9. Threat 1

10. Threat 2

11. Threat 3

12. Threat 4

Freshwater Aquatic Habitats

CONSERVATION ACTIONS

13. Conservation Action 1

14. Conservation Action 2

15. Conservation Action 3

16. Conservation Action 4

Terrestrial and Freshwater Wetland Habitats

THREATS

17. Threat 1

18. Threat 2

19. Threat 3

20. Threat 4

Terrestrial and Freshwater Wetland Habitats

CONSERVATION ACTIONS

21. Conservation Action 1

22. Conservation Action 2

23. Conservation Action 3

24. Conservation Action 4

Other Comments

25. Please add any other comments you may have about the Threats and Conservation Actions needed to address them to conserve Maine's wildlife and habitats over the next ten years here.

Appendix 7/8 - 8 Maine Audubon blog post created to increase awareness and encourage participation in the Maine Wildlife Action Plan 2025 revision.

# Making a Wildlife Plan of Action

BY SALLY STOCKWELL

ENDANGERED/THREATENED SPECIES, FEDERAL ADVOCACY, HABITAT  
CONNECTIVITY, NEWS & NOTES, NORTH WOODS, POLICY & ADVOCACY, STREAM  
SMART, VERNAL POOLS · SEPTEMBER 9, 2024



Maine, along with every other state in the nation, is embarking on a herculean effort to update its 2015 State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP), required by the US Fish and Wildlife Service to access hundreds of thousands of dollars through the State Wildlife Grants program.

The purpose of the SWAP, per Congress, is to keep as many species as possible off the threatened and endangered list by identifying those species and habitats that are declining or otherwise compromised and

developing conservation actions to enhance habitats and boost populations. The plan includes a list of Species of Greatest Conservation Need, key habitats associated with them, identified threats for both species and habitats, and conservation actions for all. It also includes a plan for how to engage partners and the public in both the development of and the implementation of the plan.

Maine Audubon is playing a key role in facilitating the update to the plan, due October 2025. We want to hear from you about what you care about, if you have any additional information about any of the species or habitats, if you have suggestions for actions we can take, and what you think the top priorities for action should be. You can find the [2015 SWAP on the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife webpage](#), where updated sections for the 2025 plan will be posted as they are drafted. We'll be sending out public surveys this fall, so stay tuned to learn how you can get involved and be sure you are [signed up for our e-newsletters and action alerts!](#)

*Above: Saltmarsh Sparrow, photo by USFWS*



**Sally Stockwell**  
Director of Conservation

Appendix 7/8 - 9 The text and images in the new MDIFW webpage for the 2025 State Wildlife Action Plan created to increase awareness and encourage participation in the Maine Wildlife Action Plan 2025 revision.

## State Wildlife Action Plan



Maine's State Wildlife Action Plan serves as a blueprint and shared vision for proactively conserving the state's fish and wildlife, both keeping common species common and preventing at-risk species from becoming endangered. The plan describes both inland and marine species of greatest conservation need (SGCN) and their habitats, key threats, and recommended conservation actions that can be employed by natural resource agencies, land trusts, towns, and other willing conservation partners. Actions are voluntary, non-regulatory, and are intended to supplement, not duplicate, existing fish and wildlife programs.



MDIFW, conservation partners, and the public developed Maine's previous State Wildlife Action Plans in 2005 and 2015, and are now actively working on a 2025 update. An approved State Wildlife Action Plan is required by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to be eligible for [State Wildlife Grants \(PDE\)](#), a key federal funding source for states to conserve nongame species (plants and animals not legally hunted or fished). The plan is revised every ten years to periodically evaluate the health of wildlife populations and identify opportunities to conserve species and vital habitats before they become rarer and more costly to protect. The plan builds on species planning efforts ongoing in Maine since 1968 and a long history of public involvement and collaboration among conservation partners.

Click below to learn what we have accomplished for Maine's wildlife since 2005 and how you can be involved in the 2025 revision.



### [2025 Revision of Maine's Wildlife Action Plan](#)

Find out how you can provide input during the revision of the 2025 plan.



### [2015 Maine Wildlife Action Plan](#)

View Maine's plan to conserve priority wildlife species and habitats throughout the entire state, from the dramatic coastline to the heights of Mt. Katahdin.

### **Working Together to Develop Maine's Wildlife Action Plan**



Maine's Wildlife Action Plan is a shared vision for our state that reflects the expertise and knowledge of over 100 conservation partner groups, including state and federal agencies, tribes, conservation organizations, and other partners - scientists, managers, hunters, anglers, conservationists, landowners, academics, guides, community leaders, and many others - with an interest in working together for Maine's wildlife. This collaboration provides the foundation on which Maine's Wildlife Action Plan was built and will continue to provide input on Plan implementation, tracking, fostering partnerships, building cross-state alliances, and leveraging funding. Given that approximately 94% of Maine is privately owned, landowners are integral to the conservation of our wildlife heritage and natural resources and are an essential component of Maine's Wildlife Action Plan partnership.

Appendix 7/8 - 10 MDIFW listserv email – Seeking Feedback for 2025 Maine State Wildlife Action Plan Revision. First sent March 2025, resent 2 weeks later to those who did not open the first email

**Help us frame the next 10 years of conservation in Maine!**



Purple sandpipers - photo by Logan Parker

Maine's State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) serves as our blueprints for proactively conserving fish, wildlife, and plants to prevent species from becoming Endangered. The plan outlines hundreds of Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN), describes their habitats, identifies key threats to SGCN and habitats, and recommends actions to keep common species common and prevent at-risk species from becoming Endangered.

The plan is revised every ten years to evaluate the health of wildlife populations and identify opportunities to conserve species and vital habitats before they become rarer and more costly to protect. Last updated in 2015, we are now actively working on a 2025 update.

**We want to hear from you!**



We invite you to provide input on the draft Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) list as part of the collaborative [2025 SWAP Revision](#) process.

Please take the time to review the current [SGCN draft list](#), as well as the [criteria for listing and ranking of SGCN](#), then provide feedback using our [online form](#) by **Sunday, April 20, 2025**.

Stay tuned for upcoming opportunities to provide comments on the SWAP as the revision process progresses and to continue your involvement in conservation in Maine.

[Provide Feedback](#)

## What's in a State Wildlife Action Plan?



Maine's SWAP is a shared vision for our state that reflects the expertise of state and federal agencies, conservation organizations, tribes, scientists, outdoor enthusiasts, conservationists, landowners, academics, guides, community leaders, and more!

An approved SWAP is required by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to be eligible for [State Wildlife Grants](#), a key federal funding source for states to conserve nongame species. The eight elements of Maine's SWAP are:

- Identification Species of Greatest Conservation Need
- Description of Key Habitats and Natural Communities
- Identification of Threats to SGCN and their Habitats
- Description of Proposed Conservation Actions
- Proposed Plans for Species and Habitat Monitoring
- Procedure for Periodic Review
- Plans for Coordination with Partners
- Public Participation

[Learn more about the Maine SWAP](#)

## What is a Species of Greatest Conservation Need?



A critical dilemma facing conservation biologists and managers worldwide is the need to allocate limited dollars, staff, and programmatic resources toward a growing list of conservation challenges. Foundational to this prioritization process is the development of a SGCN list.

The primary themes for SGCN prioritization include risk of extirpation, population trend, endemism, and regional conservation responsibility. Secondary themes for SGCN prioritization include climate change vulnerability, survey knowledge, and indigenous cultural significance.

By designating a species as SGCN now, we can take preventative steps to avoid the need for listing the species under the State or Federal Endangered Species Act in the future.

Appendix 7/8 - 11 Maine Audubon blog post reminding the public to engage with the Plan.

## Input needed on State Wildlife Action Plan

BY SARAH HAGGERTY

AMPHIBIANS, ENDANGERED/THREATENED SPECIES, ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION, HABITAT CONNECTIVITY, MAINE'S NATURALIST, NEWS & NOTES, POLICY & ADVOCACY · MAY 28, 2025



**May 28 update from Maine's Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife:**

We invite you to provide input on identifying significant Threats and what conservation actions are needed to address those Threats.

Step 1: Review the [list of Threats and Conservation Actions](#)

Step 2: **Share your input!** Based on your personal understanding of and familiarity with Maine wildlife and habitats, please list the top 4 significant Threats and top 4 Conservation Actions needed to address significant Threats in each of these three habitat groups:

- Maine's Coastal and Marine Habitats
- Maine's Freshwater Aquatic Habitats
- Maine's Terrestrial and Freshwater Wetland Habitat

Please provide feedback using our [online form](#) by **Saturday, June 7, 2025**.

Maine, along with every other state in the nation, is embarking on an effort to update its State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP), last updated in 2015. The purpose of the SWAP is to keep as many species as possible off the threatened and endangered list by identifying those species and habitats that are declining or otherwise compromised, and developing conservation actions to enhance habitats and boost populations. The plan is revised every ten years to evaluate the health of wildlife populations and identify opportunities to conserve species and vital habitats before they become rarer and more costly to protect. The State is now actively working on a 2025 update and is looking for public input.

The plan includes a list of hundreds of Species of Greatest Conservation Need, key habitats associated with them, identified threats for both species and habitats, and recommends actions to keep common species common and prevent at-risk species from becoming Endangered—from New England Cottontails to Wood Turtles, from Rainbow Smelt to Golden Eagles and many more. It also includes a plan for how to engage partners and the public in both the development of and the implementation of the plan.

Maine Audubon is playing a key role in facilitating the update to the plan, due October 2025. We want to hear from you about what you care about, if you have any additional information about any of the species or habitats, if you have suggestions for actions we can take, and what you think the top priorities for action should be.

If you are interested in learning more and providing feedback, please review the [materials on the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife webpage](#) and [complete the survey here >](#)

The survey will close on **Sunday, April 20, 2025** so don't wait.

Thank you for your help conserving Maine wildlife!



**Sarah Haggerty**

Conservation Biologist & GIS Manager

Appendix 7/8 - 12 MDIFW listserv email – Protecting Maine's Habitats.



## Protecting Maine's habitats

Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife sent this bulletin at 05/28/2025 02:33 PM EDT



[mefishwildlife.com](http://mefishwildlife.com)

**We're updating our State Wildlife Action Plan, and we need YOUR input to shape the future of conservation**



*Atlantic puffin*

Maine's State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) serves as our blueprints for proactively conserving fish, wildlife, and plants to prevent species from becoming Endangered. The plan outlines hundreds of Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN), describes their habitats, identifies key threats to SGCN and habitats, and recommends actions to keep common species common and prevent at-risk species from becoming Endangered.

The plan is revised every ten years to evaluate the health of wildlife populations and identify opportunities to conserve species and vital habitats before they become rarer and more costly to protect. Last updated in 2015, we are now actively working on a [2025 update](#).

**We want to hear from you!**



We invite you to provide input on identifying significant Threats and what conservation actions are needed to address those Threats.

**Step 1:** [Review the list of Threats and Conservation Actions](#)

**Step 2:** [Share your input!](#) Based on your personal understanding of and familiarity with Maine's wildlife and habitats, please list the top 4 significant Threats and top 4

Conservation Actions needed to address significant Threats in each of these three habitat groups:

- Maine's Coastal and Marine Habitats
- Maine's Freshwater Aquatic Habitats
- Maine's Terrestrial and Freshwater Wetland Habitat

Please provide feedback using our [online form](#) by Saturday, June 7, 2025.

Appendix 7/8 - 13 Local news article encouraging input on the Maine Wildlife Action Plan.



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JUNE 7 DEADLINE

### Maine updates state Wildlife Plan, asks for citizen input

Tue, 06/03/2025 - 11:02am



*Owl on Beauchamp Point, Rockport (Photo by Lynda Clancy)*

"We're updating our State Wildlife Action Plan, and we need YOUR input to shape the future of conservation," said the Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, June 3, in a newsletter.

Maine's State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) serves as the state's blueprints for proactively conserving fish, wildlife, and plants to prevent species from becoming Endangered, the newsletter said. The plan outlines hundreds of Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN), describes their

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habitats, identifies key threats to SGCN and habitats, and recommends actions to keep common species common and prevent at-risk species from becoming Endangered.

The plan is revised every 10 years to evaluate the health of wildlife populations and identify opportunities to conserve species and vital habitats before they become rarer and more costly to protect. Last updated in 2015, the Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife is now working on a [2025 update](#).

IF&W asks the public to provide input on identifying significant threats and what conservation actions are needed to address those Threats.

**Step 1:** [Review the list of Threats and Conservation Actions](#)

**Step 2:** [Share your input](#).

Based on your personal understanding of and familiarity with Maine's wildlife and habitats, please list the top 4 significant Threats and top 4 Conservation Actions needed to address significant Threats in each of these three habitat groups:

- Maine's Coastal and Marine Habitats
- Maine's Freshwater Aquatic Habitats
- Maine's Terrestrial and Freshwater Wetland Habitat

Provide feedback using our [online form](#) by Saturday, June 7, 2025.

Maine's SWAP is a shared vision for our state that reflects the expertise of state and federal agencies, conservation organizations, tribes, scientists, outdoor enthusiasts, conservationists, landowners, academics, guides, community leaders, and more!

An approved SWAP is required by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to be eligible for [State Wildlife Grants](#), a key federal funding source for states to conserve nongame species. The eight elements of Maine's SWAP are:

- Identification Species of Greatest Conservation Need
- Description of Key Habitats and Natural Communities
- Identification of Threats to SGCN and their Habitats
- Description of Proposed Conservation Actions
- Proposed Plans for Species and Habitat Monitoring
- Procedure for Periodic Review
- Plans for Coordination with Partners
- Public Participation



Appendix 7/8 - 14 MDIFW listserv email – Public Comment Period Open for Maine Wildlife Action Plan.

**Public Comment Period Open for Maine SWAP**

Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife sent this bulletin at 08/04/2025 10:35 AM EDT



[mefishwildlife.com](http://mefishwildlife.com)

**The draft 2025 update of the Maine Wildlife Action Plan is ready for your review!**



[Maine's State Wildlife Action Plan \(SWAP\)](#) provides a blueprint for actively conserving fish and wildlife to help prevent species from becoming endangered and recovering those that are. First created in 2005, the plan is updated every 10 years to periodically evaluate the health of wildlife populations and identify conservation opportunities.

The SWAP is a collaboration of Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Maine Natural Areas Program, Maine Department of Marine Resources, Maine Audubon, and many other members of Maine's conservation community who share a common goal of assessing the status of Maine's biodiversity and identifying conservation priorities for the coming decade.

We encourage you to contribute your knowledge and experience by carefully reviewing the [draft SWAP](#) (in whole or in part) and providing feedback using our [online form](#). While we welcome all input, comments that are specific, constructive, or offer potential solutions are most useful.

**Comments must be submitted by Sunday, August 31 at 11:59pm.** Public comments will be summarized and reviewed by the Maine Wildlife Action Plan Coordination Team.

**Step 1:**

[Review the Draft SWAP](#)

**Step 2:**

[Provide Feedback on Maine's SWAP](#)

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## More information

[About the State Wildlife Action Plan](#)

[Endangered and Threatened Maine Species](#)

[Funding for Nongame and Endangered and Threatened Species](#)

[Essential Wildlife Habitat](#)

[Research and Management Reports](#)

[Community Science Opportunities in Maine](#)

Appendix 7/8 - 15 MDIFW listserv email – Public Comment Period Open for Maine Wildlife Action Plan reminder email sent in final week of review period.



**Ready for your review!**

Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife sent this bulletin at 08/25/2025 03:21 PM EDT



**Less than one week left to review the Draft 2025 Wildlife Action Plan**



Maine's State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) provides a blueprint for actively conserving fish and wildlife to help prevent species from becoming endangered and recovering those that are. First created in 2005, the plan is updated every 10 years to periodically evaluate the health of wildlife populations and identify conservation opportunities.

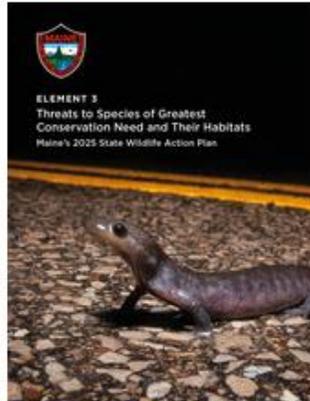
The SWAP is a collaboration of Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Maine Natural Areas Program, Maine Department of Marine Resources, Maine Audubon, and many other members of Maine's conservation community who share a common goal of assessing the status of Maine's biodiversity and identifying conservation priorities for the coming decade.

We encourage you to contribute your knowledge and experience by carefully reviewing the [draft SWAP](#) (in whole or in part) and providing feedback using our [online form](#) by Sunday, August 31.

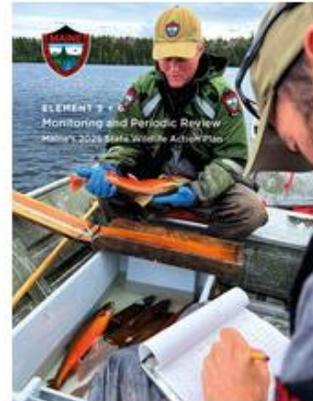
**Step One: Review the draft plan (or portions) of the plan by clicking the links below**



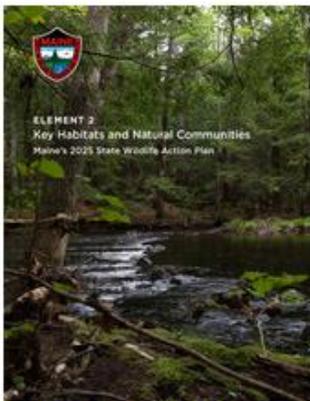
[Element 1: Species of Greatest Conservation Need \(PDF\)](#)



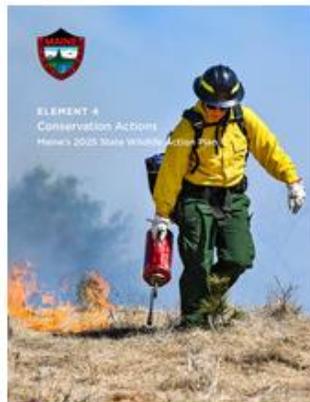
[Element 3: Threats to Species of Greatest Conservation Need and Their Habitats \(PDF\)](#)



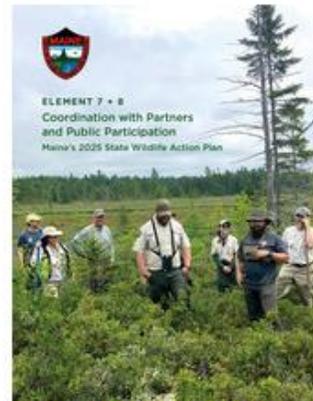
[Element 5+6: Monitoring and Periodic Review \(PDF\)](#)



[Element 2: Key Habitats and Natural Communities \(PDF\)](#)



[Element 4: Conservation Actions \(PDF\)](#)



[Element 7+8: Coordination with Partners and Public Participation \(PDF\)](#)

## Step Two: Share your feedback using the online form by Sunday, August 31

While we welcome all input, comments that are specific, constructive, or offer potential solutions are most useful. **Comments must be submitted by Sunday, August 31 at 11:59pm.** Public comments will be summarized and reviewed by the Maine Wildlife Action Plan Coordination Team.

[Provide Feedback on Maine's SWAP](#)

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### More information

[About the State Wildlife Action Plan](#)

[Endangered and Threatened Maine Species](#)

[Funding for Nongame and Endangered and Threatened Species](#)

[Essential Wildlife Habitat](#)

[Research and Management Reports](#)

[Community Science Opportunities in Maine](#)

Appendix 7/8 - 16 State Wildlife Action Plan Public Survey. Final 30-day public comment period; from August 1 through August 30, 2025.



## State Wildlife Action Plan Public Survey

**Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife is seeking public input on the draft 2025 update of the Maine Wildlife Action Plan through Sunday, August 31 at 11:59pm.** The draft plan may be viewed at <https://www.maine.gov/fish-wildlife/wildlife/wildlife-action-plan/2025-plan-revision.html>

The Action Plan is a collaboration between the Maine Natural Areas Program, Maine Department of Marine Resources, and Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, in which agency staff and Maine's Conservation Community assessed Maine's biodiversity and identified conservation priorities for the coming decade. The Action Plan is intended as a technical resource and guide to conserving Maine's at-risk species and habitats. More specifically, the Action Plan identifies high priority threats and proposes conservation actions to mitigate or address these threats, with the hope of informing 'on-the-ground' conservation efforts. This Action Plan is an update to the 2015 Maine Wildlife Action Plan and the revisions have focused on incorporating survey data and primarily literature generated over the last decade. The Plan capitalizes on knowledge, experience, and expertise of Maine's Conservation Community, which provided insight and knowledge throughout this process.

**Specific Elements of the plan pertain to:**

- 1- Species of Greatest Conservation Need
- 2- Key Habitats and Natural Communities
- 3- Threats to Species of Greatest Conservation Need and Their Habitats
- 4- Conservation Actions
- 5/6- Monitoring and Periodic Review
- 7/8- Coordination with Partners and Public Participation

While we welcome all input, comments that are specific, constructive, or offer potential solutions are more useful. Public comments will be summarized and reviewed by the Maine Wildlife Action Plan Coordination Team.

To submit your comments, please complete the form below.

When you submit this form, it will not automatically collect your details like name and email address unless you provide it yourself.

\* Required

1. Name \*

2. Email Address \*

3. **Element 1: Species of Greatest Conservation Need** - Please share your comments in the field below. When applicable, please include the page number associated with your comment(s). There is a 4,000 character limit (including spaces), if your comment exceeds the limit please submit an additional response.

4. **Element 2: Key Habitats and Natural Communities** - Please share your comments in the field below. When applicable, please include the page number associated with your comment(s). There is a 4,000 character limit (including spaces), if your comment exceeds the limit please submit an additional response.

5. **Element 3: Threats to Species of Greatest Conservation Need and Their Habitats** - Please share your comments in the field below. When applicable, please include the page number associated with your comment(s). There is a 4,000 character limit (including spaces), if your comment exceeds the limit please submit an additional response.

Enter your answer

6. **Element 4: Conservation Actions** - Please share your comments in the field below. When applicable, please include the page number associated with your comment(s). There is a 4,000 character limit (including spaces), if your comment exceeds the limit please submit an additional response.

Enter your answer

7. **Element 5/6: Monitoring and Periodic Review** - Please share your comments in the field below. When applicable, please include the page number associated with your comment(s). There is a 4,000 character limit (including spaces), if your comment exceeds the limit please submit an additional response.

Enter your answer

8. **Element 7/8: Coordination with Partners and Public Participation** - Please share your comments in the field below. When applicable, please include the page number associated with your comment(s). There is a 4,000 character limit (including spaces), if your comment exceeds the limit please submit an additional response.

Enter your answer