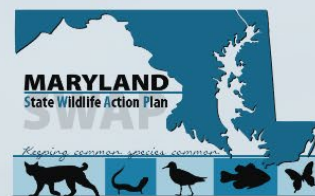




MARYLAND STATE WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN

2025-2035

Appendices



Wes Moore – Governor
Aruna Miller – Lieutenant Governor
Josh Kurtz – Secretary
Karina Stonesifer – Wildlife and Heritage Service Director



Wildlife and Heritage Service
Tawes State Office Building, E-1
580 Taylor Avenue
Annapolis, MD 21401
410-260-8540
Fax 410-260-8596
Web: dnr.maryland.gov

Additional Telephone Contact Information:
Toll free in Maryland: 877-620-8DNR ext. 8540 OR
Individual unit/program toll-free number
Out of state call: 410-260-8540
Text Telephone (TTY) users call via the Maryland Relay

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Women on the Water at Seneca Creek State Park: MD DNR Staff

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Foreword

Welcome to Maryland’s 2025–2035 State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP). This plan demonstrates the combined efforts of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and partners from across the state and the northeast. I am both professionally and personally grateful to everyone who has contributed to this plan and for the work that they do every day. For someone who finds solace in the natural world, I could not imagine a world where species like the eastern box turtle or the frosted elfin no longer thrive.

The overall goal of this plan is to keep common species common and avoid having some of our most common species from being listed as rare, threatened, or endangered while working to recover those species already listed. While the plan is mandated for all states, territories, and the District of Columbia to access State Wildlife Grant funding, it has proven to be a valuable tool that presents strategic conservation approaches for species and habitats in greatest need of conversation.

With the third revision of this plan, it is important to remember that the work that has contributed to this plan has been ongoing for decades. The Wildlife and Heritage Service, Natural Heritage Program has safeguarded Maryland’s most vulnerable species since its founding in 1979 as the lead program responsible for protecting and managing nongame, rare, threatened, and endangered species and their habitats. Since 1979, our team of biologists and volunteers have monitored these communities through tireless field research, technical assistance, data sharing, outreach to landowners, and education to the citizens of Maryland.

Equally as important is the work done by partners at the USFWS and a large array of conservation groups across the state and the region. Without this important collaborative connection, the conservation work that we do would not be nearly as successful or meaningful as it is today. With ever-increasing threats to the species listed in this document, partnerships remain an essential tool to the successful implementation of Maryland’s SWAP.



Karina Stonesifer
Director, Wildlife and Heritage Service
Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Land Acknowledgement

Employees of the State of Maryland serve residents of Maryland who live across many different tribal lands. This statement acknowledges all tribes who maintain relationships with lands claimed by the State of Maryland.

We acknowledge the forced removal of many from the lands and waterways that nurtured them as kin. We acknowledge the degradation that continues to be wrought on the land, waters, and the plants and animals they support in the pursuit of resources. We acknowledge the right of these ecosystems to heal so that they can continue to provide food and medicine for all. We acknowledge that it is our collective obligation to pursue policies and practices that respect the land, waters, and the native species that rely on them so that a reciprocal relationship can be fully restored.

Acknowledgements

The revision of Maryland’s State Wildlife Action Plan was only made possible through the efforts of hundreds of dedicated Maryland Department of Natural Resources staff, community scientists, partner organizations, and many others who contributed their time and expertise to this massive undertaking. Numerous individuals from local, state, and federal agencies, Native American tribes, non-governmental organizations, industry, and academic institutions provided important input throughout the revision of this document. Additionally, this effort would not have been a success without the support and guidance of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Northeast Fish and Wildlife Diversity Technical Committee.

The State Wildlife Action Plan Development Team would like to thank the following individuals for their contributions to the Plan (with apologies to anyone that we missed):

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Ultimately, it is the citizens of Maryland who will reap the benefits of the direction of Maryland's State Wildlife Action Plan. It is to them that these efforts are dedicated. The Development Team thanks the citizens of Maryland for their input during the revision process and for the public appreciation of Maryland's wildlife that drives statewide conservation efforts.

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