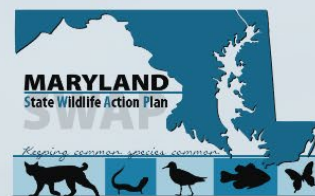




MARYLAND STATE WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN

2025-2035

Chapters



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

The facilities of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources are available to all without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age, national origin or physical or mental disability.

Cover Image Credits

Baltimore oriole (Icterus galbula): Lois Underwood
White fringed orchid (Platanthera blephariglottis): Gwen Brewer
Great purple hairstreak (Atlides halesus): Lynn Davidson
Women on the Water at Seneca Creek State Park: MD DNR Staff

Suggested citation: Maryland Department of Natural Resources. 2025. Maryland State Wildlife Action Plan. Annapolis, Maryland.

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):

Kim Abplanalp, Robert Aguilar, Christina Allen, Frank Allen, Mike Allen, Jason Avery, Anna Awimbo, Owen Bailey, Deborah Barber, Anjela Barnes, Braeden Bayne, Wayne Bell, Debby Bennett, Shruti Bhatnagar, Wayne Bierbaum, Shane Boehne, Rick Borchelt, Ashley Bowers, Meg Boyd, Tom Bradshaw, Jim Brighton, Clara Brill-Carlat, Addie Brown, Andrew Brown, Shannon Browne, Daniel Buonaiuto, Allison Burnett, Ryan Butler, Jeff Cagle, Patrick Carney, Megan Carr, Rick Cheicante, Denise Clearwater, Emily Cohen, Kelly Collins-Choi, Ryan Colliton, Jack Cover, Susie Creamer, Lindsay Crone, David Culver, Dave Curson, Karen Cyr, Suzy Daubert, Sabrina Deeley, Patricia Delgado, Julie Devers, Kevin Dodge, Maryanne Dolan, Sam Droege, Caitlin Embly, Lori Erb, Matt Evans, Christine Favorito, Dan Feller, Kim Finch, Timothy Foard, Gabriel Foley, David Foltz, Eric Frederick, Judy Fulton, John Garrison, Rachel Gauza, Concetta Gibson, Doug Gill, Maren Gimpel, Nancy Gladden, Jakob Goldner, Walter Gould, Aaron Graham, Will Graham, Ken Green, Francesca Grifo, Adam Griggs, Bill Hahn, Christopher Heckscher, Paula Henry, Darcy Herman, Kirsten Hoffman, Mark Hoffman, Aaron Hogue, Norris C Howard, Jr., Hunter Howell, Emily Huang, Bill Hubick, Bill Hulslander, Jack Hutchison, Roman Jesien, Paul Kazyak, Cherry Keller, Erin Kilbane, Steve Kimble, Kristin Kirkwood, Alex Kiser, Barry Knisley, Jackie Koehn, Kayle Krieg, Niranjana Krishnan, Kathy Lambrow, Andrew Landsman, Marie LaPorte, Ben Larson, Katie Lautar, Betsy Leppo, Julian J. Lewis, Eric Liebgold, John Lill, David Lillard, Bernie Lohr, Abraham Lopez Trejo, Luke Macaulay, Clare Maffei, Ariella Malfaro, Tom Maliszewski, Joan Maloof, Richard Manteuffel, Rich Mason, Sean McCandless, Jim McCann, Carol McCollough, Scott McDaniel, Liz

McDowell, Scott McGill, John McKitterick, Shawn McLaughlin, Karyn Molines, Jorge Bogantes Montero, Fredrika Moser, David Mosher, David Mozurkewich, Carey Murphy, Claire Nemes, Cristina Niciporciukas, Krista Noe, Jessy Oberright, Kevin Omland, Richard Orr, Aydin Orstan, Joe Ottomano, Ben Pagac, Harry Pavulaan, Timothy Pearce, John Pfeiffer, Mary Phipps-Dickerson, Jim Piateski, Margaret Poethig, Dana Price, Diann Prosser, Richard Raesly, Aaron Reb, Colin Rees, Tim Reichard, Leslie Ries, Lindsay Ries, Tierra Robinson, Casey Rucker, Karen Russell, John Sandkuhler, David Satterfield, Kurt Schwarz, Rich Seigel, Thomas Serfass, Nita Settina, Sophia Seufert, Kate Sheehan, Jeff Shenot, Beth Sheppard, Jay Sheppard, Suzanne Shoemaker, Sean Sipple, Dan Skalos, Connie Skipper, Ward Slacum, Stacy Small-Lorenz, David Smith, Jackie Smith, Kevin Smith, Marlene Smith, Mark Southerland, Ben Springer, Mike Spurrier, James Steeil, Warren Steiner, Taryn Sudol, John Sullivan, Sherman Suter, Casey Swecker, Clara Thiel, Julie Thompson-Slacum, Laura Todd, Robin Todd, Carly Toulan, John Turgeon, Roshan Kian Vignarajah, Liana Vitali, Carl Wagner, David Walbeck, Mary Walsh, Marcia Watson, Billy Weiland, Raquel Wetzell, Jerry Wilkinson, Jenny Willoughby, Michael Wilpers, Juls Wood, Peter Woods, and Amy Young.

Maryland Department of Natural Resources staff, especially: Paula Becker, Dave Brinker, Julien Buchbinder, Jane Burgess, Elliott Campbell, Jason Cessna, Brett Coakley, Candice Collison, Aaron Cook, Carson Coriell, Sam Dixon, Claudia Donegan, Rachel Donnelly, Neal Dziejpak, Sally Ehlers, Brian Eyler, Rob Feldt, Mary Genovese, Daniel Goetz, Katherine Gorsuch, Edwin Guevara, Anne Hairston-Strang, Andrew Hangen, William Harbold, Jason Harrison, Kayla Harvey, Sarah Hilderbrand, Jacob Holtz, Josh Homyack, Ashlee Horne, Jeffrey Horne, Tomas Ivasauskas, Matthew Jargowsky, Claudia Jones, Carrie Kennedy, Megan Kubala, Kevin Lamp, Bob Long, Joseph Love, Rachel Marks, Gregory Mathews, Katharine McCarthy, David O'Brien, Dana Pattera, Paul Piavis, Marisa Ponte, David Sanderson-Kilchenstein, Jennifer Saville, Ann Sekerak, Francis Smith, Mark Staley, Will Steckman, Jo Swift, Marek Topolski, Ashley Triplett-Peltzman, Jonathan Trudeau, Jim Uphoff, Jacob Wells, Branson Williams, Sarah Witcher, and Joe Zimmermann.

The following individuals made up the State Wildlife Action Plan Development Team who led the revision process and who wrote the Plan: Mimi Sanford, Matt Ashton, Gwen Brewer, Lynn Davidson, Brian Durkin, Max Ferlauto, Chris Frye, Mark Hall, Chloe Jacobson, Jay Kilian, Dana Limpert, Jason McNees, Beth Schlimm, Kevin Stohlgren, Joshua Tabora, Amanda Weschler, Angel Willey, and Megan Zagorski.

The Development Team thanks Jonathan McKnight, Associate Director, Wildlife and Heritage Service and Natural Heritage Program Director (retired), and Karina Stonesifer, Director, Wildlife and Heritage Service, for their direction and support during the revision process.

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.

Full Table of Contents: Chapters

Chapter 1: Introduction to Maryland’s State Wildlife Action Plan

Chapter 2: Maryland’s Land and Waterscape

Chapter 3: Maryland’s Species of Greatest Conservation Need

Chapter 4: Maryland’s Key Wildlife Habitats

Chapter 5: Threats to Maryland’s Species and Their Habitats

Chapter 6: Conservation Actions

Chapter 7: Monitoring and Effectiveness Measures

Chapter 8: Revision Process and Outreach

Chapter 9: Review, Revision, and Implementation

Full Table of Contents: Appendices

Appendix 3a. Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN)

Appendix 3b. State Assessment Priority Species (SAPS)

Appendix 3c. Species removed since 2015

Appendix 3d. Wildlife Diversity Sources of Information

Appendix 4a. Key Wildlife Habitat list, including supplemental location and grouping information

Appendix 4b. Key Wildlife Habitat to National Vegetation Classification Ecological Community crosswalk

Appendix 4c. Cross-reference to Maryland’s Key Wildlife Habitats and the Northeastern Terrestrial Wildlife Habitat Classification System

Appendix 4d. Cross-reference to Maryland’s Key Wildlife Habitats and the Northeastern Aquatic Habitat Classification System

Appendix 6a. Full list of species-level threats and actions

Appendix 6b. Full list of habitat-level threats and actions

Appendix 7a. Species-level monitoring programs in Maryland

Appendix 7b. Habitat-level monitoring programs in Maryland

Appendix 8a. List of organizations that contributed to Maryland’s 2025 SWAP revision