

# NJ's State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) Update

**Racing towards the December deadline for FW leadership!**



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Prepared for F&W and ENSAC

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# SPECIES OF GREATEST CONSERVATION NEED

## Element #1

Distribution & abundance of native species to determine “at-risk species” (SGCN)

Progress: List is Complete (association SGCN w/ habitat & region currently underway – due 10/4)

- **NEW**—Screening tool! NJ’s list of all native animal species were run through our updated criteria list (1,254 total).
- **NEW**—Standardized Justifications! FW’s biologists reviewed and used to move species from one category to another.
- **NEW**—SGCN categorized into three bins: Regulated SGCN, SGCN, and Data Deficient SGCN.
- SGCN is finalized.
  - 613 animal species and 128 plant & fungi species are on our list (741 total).
    - Regulated SGCN: 221 animal and 87 plant species (308 total)
    - SGCN: 265 animal and 18 plant species (283)
    - Data Deficient SGCN: 127 animal and 23 plant species (150 total)



No focal species in 2025

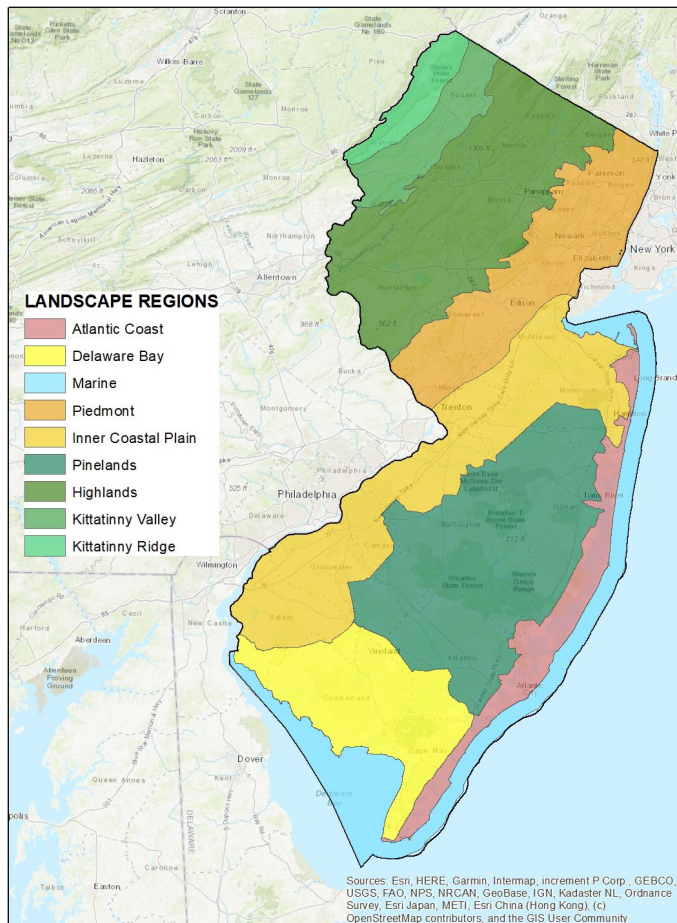
# Habitats

## Element #2

Descriptions, locations & relative conditions of key habitats essential to SGCN conservation.

Progress: Much is done (completed by March 2025)

- **NEW**—Habitats are the foundation of 2025.
- **NEW**—Skylands and Piedmont split
  - 9 Regions: Marine, Atlantic Coast, Del Bay, Pinelands, Inner Coastal Plain, Piedmont, Highlands, Kittatinny Valley, Kittatinny Ridge
  - Urban is an un-mapped region.
- 19 Broad Habitat Types—species are linked/associated with habitats and regions. Complete 10/4
- **NEW**—exploring using Conservation Blueprint (Rowan) and CHANJ (F&W) mapping to create static maps showing relative condition and locations of key habitats.
  - CFAs are not being used in 2025.





# Threats

## Element #3

Identify threats to SGCN and their habitats

Progress: Nearly complete.

- Northeast Threat Lexicon is used by all northeast states – hierarchical system.
- **NEW**—Level Three Threats prioritized for regions and statewide.
  - Over 100 technical stakeholders including DEP staff participated.
  - Fatal flaw review by FW & NHP biologists and SWAP's Technical Advisory Group (TAG).
- **NEW**—no Level Four threats. Creating priority Conservation Actions to address priority threats.
- TO DO: Threats will be linked to habitats or species after priority conservation actions are completed.



# Conservation Actions

## Element #4

Identify and prioritize the conservation actions needed to conserve the SGCN and their habitats.

Progress: Working on this now.

- **NEW**—writing actions to address threats! **Conservation Actions** are the keystone to the 2025 Revision.
  - Using Action Framework (DJ Case) forces action writers to create uniform and complete action statements.
  - Staff, TAG, and Technical Stakeholders currently drafting priority actions to address priority threats.
  - Between January – March 2025 have regional and/or expertise meetings to review/add/prioritize actions.
  - Fatal flaw review by FW and NHP biologists and TAG (due June 2025).
- **NEW**—Prioritized actions! Highest level will be SMART ensure they're effective and achievable (final by May 2025).
- **NEW**—STATEWIDE Priority Actions will be drafted in a separate exercise (FW & TAG).
- **GOAL**—Create mini-Regional Action plans for download (Conservation Action in 2025 SWAP?).



# Monitor

## Element #5

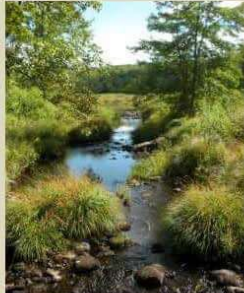
Monitor and evaluate effectiveness of actions taken, address and incorporate new information.

- 2018 approved monitoring plan will be updated with new projects, actions, and plans.



### New Jersey's Wildlife Action Plan

NJ Department of Environmental Protection  
Division of Fish and Wildlife



March 2018



# Review and Revise

## Element #6

Minimum every ten years.

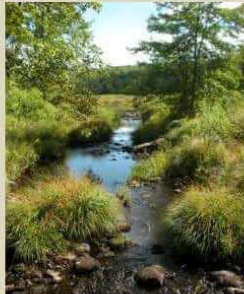
Simple statement

**NEW**—USFWS working on guidance for states with digital SWAPs to more easily make (and get approval for) updates between major revisions.



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# Coordinate

## Element #7

Coordinate revision of the Plan with federal, state, and local agencies, and Indian tribes that manage significant land & water areas.

Progress: Ongoing

- Federal, state, and local agencies are included in our Technical Stakeholder group.
- Invited to Regional Conservation Action meetings.
- TAG: members from non-profits, federal & state agencies, and academia.
- Updated members of NJ's Commission on American Indian Affairs.



# Public Participation

## Element #8

Progress: Ongoing

- USFWS's Requirement is for the entire plan to be shared for public comment 30 days prior to the revision submission.
- Final public comment for a 45-day period (May 12 – June 30).
- Plan to release “chapters” as they are finalized. Element 1 has been out for public comment.
- All public comment notices are highlighted on FW's website and shared via social media channels and NJ.gov email list.

# NEW Technological Advances and More!

Goal to increase engagement and implementation

Pivot from the GIS based query tool to building a dynamic, integrated website!

Progress: Ongoing

OIT, I&E, with DJ Case assisting, will create a SWAP website that is engaging and drives users to take action. We will explore integrating a “Find xyz” option that utilizes our SWAP database. Leaning towards this website living on the DEP platform rather than FW. Inspiration <https://www.fws.gov/> and <https://www.oregonconservationstrategy.org/strategy-habitats/>

DJ Case will run scenarios to ensure searches provide sufficient Conservation Actions to users.

AFWA and USFWS drafted a template for Digital SWAP Submission – will include the basic information needed for reviewers to approve plan. This replaces the required Roadmap.

- Plan to submit draft work to Dee Blanton as Elements are completed = no surprises

Our dream? To have an implementation page for partners to submit actions taken!







**CONCLUSION:**  
**We'll have a solid draft to present to AC Dave Golden and AD Jason Hearon in mid-December!**  
**Goal for FWS submission by July 31, 2025!**

