

Pennsylvania's State Wildlife Action Plan and State Wildlife Grants Program

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Outline

- **The State Wildlife Grants Program-
What does it mean for
Pennsylvania?**

State Wildlife Grants (SWG)

- **Approximately \$2 M/yr – for species of concern**
 - Split between PFBC and PGC
- Allows PFBC to address critical (non-game) species needs.
- Is part of a national program.
- **Goal: Keep common species common!!**

Examples of PFBC Priorities

- **Non-game fish surveys on the Allegheny and Ohio Rivers**
- **At-Risk herptile species surveys and status assessments**
- **Turtle nest site inventory**
- **Habitat restoration of endangered reptiles**
- **Mussel restoration and recovery plans**
- **Fishway research**
- **Rare fish surveys**
- **Management of aquatic nuisance species**
- **Development of Important Herptile Areas (IHA) list**

Pennsylvania's Wildlife Action Plan

5 guiding principles:

- **Conserving species at-risk:**
- **Keeping common species common:**
- **Recognizing the unique role of Pennsylvania:**
- **Voluntary partnerships for species, habitats and people:**
- **A comprehensive strategy:**

Status of Pennsylvania's State Wildlife Action Plan

- **State Wildlife Action Plan**
 - Submitted September 2005
 - The plan has been approved!!!
 - Revised once.
 - Funded 6 positions within PFBC's Division of Habitat Management.

State Wildlife Diversity Needs

- **State Wildlife Action Plan Identified:**
 - 500+ species (vertebrates)
 - 80% are PA native fauna,
 - 27% imperiled
 - PA has regional/global responsibility for many imperiled species

Taxa	Total number	Species of concern	T & E
Mussels	65	41	22
Snails	>170	52	23
Crayfish	13	4	1
Insects	>10,120	312	161
Fish	217	27	43
Amphibians	36	15	4
Reptiles	37	12	5
Birds	394	80	
Mammals	73	22	6

What does PA's State Wildlife Action Plan do for Pennsylvania's wildlife?

- Identifies statewide issues and establish priorities.
- Identifies statewide species/habitat priorities.
- Establishes prioritized conservation actions
 - surveys, monitoring.
- Provides physiographic area summaries.

State Wildlife Action Plan Goals

1. Improve our basis for decision-making.
2. Plan, prioritize, implement actions.
3. Develop a knowledgeable citizenry.
4. Ensure adequate resources available.
5. Expand and improve coordination among conservation partners.

+ statewide objectives and prioritized actions

Conservation Priority Tiers

Immediate Concern

High-Level Concern

Maintenance Concern

PA Vulnerable

Immediate Concern - examples

- Spotted Darter (G2, S2, NE, PT, Fed prelist, PA responsibility)
- Green salamander (G3G4, S1, NE, PT)
- Eastern massasauga (G3G4, S1S2, NE, Fed prelist)
- Hellbender (G3, S3, NE yes, warrants Fed activity, PA responsibility)

Immediate & focused species management

High Level Concern - examples

- Shorthead Garter Snake (G4, S3, Resp. 90% of global range in PA)
- Mountain chorus frog (G5, S2, NE yes, Resp.)
- Streamline chub (G4, S2S3, S3, NE no, Resp.)
- Mountain earth snake (G5T3, S3, NE yes, Resp. 80% of global range in PA)

Focused research (SU) & species/habitat mgt.

Maintenance Concern - examples

- Jefferson salamander (G4, S4, NE yes, Resp.)
- Eastern hognose snake (G5, S3S4, NE yes)
- Brook silverside (G5, S4, PC, NE no, stable)
- Northern Leopard Frog (G5, S4, NE yes, declines)

Periodic monitoring & habitat level mgt.

PA Vulnerable - examples

- Eastern spadefoot toad (G5, S1, NE yes, peripheral)
- Rough green snake (G5, S1, NE no, PT)
- Hickory shad (G5, S1, NE no, PE)
- Western Chorus Frog (G5, S2, NE no, peripheral)

Status/popn. assessments, resolution of genetic issues

Priority Habitats

- Unfragmented grasslands
- Riparian grasslands
- Riparian thickets/forest
- Barrens

- Conifer forest
- Early success. forest
- Unique natural communities
- High elevation boreal forests
- Rock Habitats
- Private lands

- Exceptionally diverse streams
- Vernal ponds
- Core forest
- Wetlands
- Riparian forest
- Public lands

What species, major taxa, or habitats are being addressed through SWG?

Examples:

- Paddlefish
- Mussels of the Allegheny River
- Massasauga Management
- Dam Removal on Pennypack Creek
- American eel

Future Priorities

NO.	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
1	N 42° 0' 9.10"	W 80° 20' 48.443" (Elk Creek)
2	N 42° 3' 6.15"	W 80° 10' 28.147" (Walnut Creek)
3	N 42° 3' 31.48"	W 80° 16' 18.189" (lakeshore near Trout Run)
4	N 42° 3' 18.90"	W 80° 8' 25.945" (Walnut Creek)
5	N 42° 3' 22.84"	W 80° 13' 27.824" (Walnut Creek)
6	N 41° 59' 57.76"	W 80° 25' 49.981" (Crooked Creek)
7	N 41° 59' 30.43"	W 80° 25' 5.016" (Crooked Creek)

Type latitude/longitude coordinates into maps.google.com to pinpoint exact access locations and generate driving directions.

