Montana's State Wildlife Action Plan

Introducing You to the Comprehensive Strategy Update

September 2012 VOL. 1 ISSUE 1

Lower Clark Fork River

The State Wildlife Grant program is the nation's **core** program for **preventing** endangered species listings and ensuring we keep common species common.

The Comprehensive Fish and Wildlife Conservation Strategy (CFWCS), 2005

In the early years of fish and wildlife management, the focus was placed on game animals, sportfish, and their associated habitats. This focus was, and continues to be, a result of hunters and anglers providing most of an agencies funding through purchasing hunting and fishing licenses.

Without reducing the attention focused on important game and fish species, it is Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks' (FWP) duty to also manage for hundreds of other species and their habitats. The problem is, however, funds to manage other species are very limited.

Congress created the State Wildlife Grant (SWG) funding program in 2000, to help address the conservation needs of fish and wildlife species not generally hunted or fished. Congress stipulated that each state and territory that wished to participate in the SWG funding program must develop a State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) by October 1, 2005. All 56 states and territories submitted SWAPs by the deadline and made commitments to review and perhaps revise their SWAP every 10 years.

Pallid Sturgeon

FAQs

Why is the CFWCS being updated?

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service requires all states and territories to update their strategies at least every 10 years to qualify for SWG funding. In Montana, we decided to submit our revised strategy in 2013. The revisions will reflect the current status of species within Montana to better direct FWP's conservation and management efforts for the next 10 years.

Why is the title changing from CFWCS to SWAP?

All states and territories must meet 8 required elements (detailed in the next newsletter) when updating their SWAPs. Because of this, there are common threads in all completed SWAPs. It made sense for the titles, wording, and design of the SWAPs be similar for ease of use and comparison between states and territories. While the latter two have not occurred yet, the naming has. Most states and territories will be using "State Wildlife Action Plan" in the title of their documents. And yes, this includes fish as well!

What components are being reviewed and possibly changed?

Many species or groups of species that were identified as Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) or Species of Greatest Inventory Need (SGIN), and their associated habitats, were the focus of inventory and research projects since 2005. We will assess what we have learned from these projects and evaluate the need to update components of the SWAP. Specifically, we will modify the lists of threats, SGCN, SGIN, and community types of greatest conservation need based on new information.

Milksnake

How much money has FWP received through SWG?

Year	Amount
2012	$845,742
2011	$825,379
2010	$1,347,486
2009	$1,075,974
2008	$1,084,148
2007	$1,070,615
2006	$1,063,223
2005	$1,094,118
2004	$1,078,493
2003	$1,025,499
2002	$1,367,332

WHO CAN BE INVOLVED IN THE SWAP UPDATE?

The easy answer is anyone that wants to be, can be involved at some level. We maintain a mailing list for interested parties (this is why some of you are receiving this newsletter) and we will be holding public meetings regarding the update in 2013. More specifically, however, there is a SWAP update Steering Committee and two technical teams.

Steering Committee (FWP)
Mack Long, Region 2
Pat Gunderson, Region 6
Ron Aasheim, Helena
Rob Brooks, Helena
Ken McDonald, Helena
Bruce Rich, Helena
Dave Risley, Helena

External Technical Advisory Team
John Carlson, Bureau of Land Management
Gary Tabor, Center for Large Landscape Conservation
Bryce Maxell, Montana Natural Heritage Program
Pete Husby, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Sterling Miller, National Wildlife Federation
Brian Martin, The Nature Conservancy
Yvette Converse, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Eric Johnston, U.S. Forest Service

Common Loon

FWP Technical Advisory Team
Technical Lead:
Scott Story, Helena
Fish:
Leo Rosenthal, Region 1
Ladd Knotek, Region 2
Ron Spoon, Region 3
Grant Grisak, Region 4
Jeremiah Wood, Region 5
Tyler Haddix, Region 6
Jason Rhoten, Region 7
Lee Nelson, Helena
Wildlife:
Chris Hammond, Region 1
Jay Kolbe, Region 2
Claire Gower, Region 3
Brent Lonner, Region 4
Allison Begley, Helena (Region 5 representative)
Kelvin Johnson, Region 6
Dean Waltee, Region 7
Lauri Hanauska-Brown, Helena
Catherine Wightman, Helena

HOW DO I FIND MORE INFORMATION?

Check out our *Conservation In Action* page on the Fish, Wildlife & Parks website at: http://fwp.mt.gov/fishAndWildlife/conservationInAction/ to learn about SWG funded projects and the latest information on the SWAP update.

Contact your TAT representatives listed above or contact the SWAP update lead:
Deb O'Neill, Fish and Wildlife Plan Coordinator
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
PO Box 200701
Helena, Montana 59620
mtswap@mt.gov
(406) 444-3755

September 2012

Next Issue, December 2012

Topics covered in our next issue: SWAP update progress, the future of SWG funding, and the 8 elements that must be included in the SWAP update.

VOL. 1 ISSUE 1

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www.fwp.mt.gov

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
PO Box 200701
Helena, Montana 59620