Report
State Wildlife Grants
T-10-P-3
F12AF01397

New Jersey's Wildlife Action Plan

Final Report for the Segment
September 1, 2012 – December 31, 2019

NJ Department of Environmental Protection

DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

ENDANGERED AND NONGAME SPECIES PROGRAM

Project: **New Jersey's Wildlife Action Plan**
Federal Aid Project: T-10-P-3 (State Wildlife Grants)
Segment dates: September 1, 2012 to December 31, 2019
Project Leaders: Kris Schantz, John Heilferty

OBJECTIVE: To continue to refine and improve the NJ State Wildlife Action Plan (Plan), enhance its accessibility and use by conservation partners, and monitor implementation of the Plan through outreach to NJ's conservation partners, land and wildlife stewards, and citizens.

Key Findings:
- From 2012 to 2017, the Endangered and Nongame Species Program (ENSP) worked with Division of Fish and Wildlife (NJDFW) personnel, stakeholders, government and non-government conservation partners, a professional editor, and database manager to review and revise the NJ State Wildlife Action Plan (Plan).
  - Interim reports from 2015 and 2016 refer to three phases of work that were eventually compiled into Phase I. The ENSP focused on completing Phase I, which included: 1) integration of the TRACs and IUCN lexicons, 2) developing and revising previously identified threats/action drivers and conservation actions, 3) identifying species of greatest conservation need (SGCN) and Focal SGCN, 4) creating associations between the threats/action drivers and conservation actions with the Focal SGCN, 5) identifying and describing conservation focal areas (CFAs), 6) creating associations between the CFAs and the Focal SGCN, 7) developing "ready-to-go" projects, and 8) creating a public, user-friendly, and query-able database that will generate reports based on specific inquiries or areas of interest.
  - Phase I work resulted in:
    - Identifying 656 species of greatest conservation need.
    - Identifying 107 focal species of greatest conservation need (FSGCN).
    - Developing 442 NJ-specific threats and action drivers within 13 major categories and identifying associations to the applicable FSGCN.
    - Developing 777 NJ-specific conservation actions within 11 major categories and identifying associations to the applicable FSGCN.
    - Identifying 49 conservation focal areas and identifying associations to the applicable FSGCN.
    - Developing 31 projects containing 101 jobs (or sub-projects) and identifying associations to the applicable FSGCN, threats/action drivers, and conservation actions.
    - Developing and populating a database with Plan information, however it is currently not in a user-friendly, searchable format we had anticipated.
- In 2017-2018, the NJDFW sought public input on the Plan revisions, and made revisions and clarifications as needed. The Plan was submitted to the USFWS for final approval in April 2018 and was approved July 26, 2018.
- In 2018-2019, staff focused on our own planning and implementation efforts, as well as assisting our partners' as they pursued local and regional planning and/or implementation work.

Conclusions:
- New Jersey's Wildlife Action Plan continues to be referenced as guidance for conservation from various partners throughout the state.
- The Plan can be difficult for some users to navigate and locate information pertaining to their specific interests.

Recommendations:
- Phase II is to be conducted after 2019. This will include:
  o Prioritizing threats and actions,
  o Providing associations between threats, actions and CFAs,
  o Developing and refining a public-accessible, user-friendly database that will generate reports based on specific inquiries or areas of interest.
- NJDFW should design work plans that identify the most important management actions for focal SGCN and when possible, for all SGCN.
- NJDFW should identify and implement partnerships that serve the greater conservation community.