

Report  
State Wildlife Grants  
**T-10-P-4**  
F19AF0122

**New Jersey's Wildlife Action Plan**

Interim Report for the Period  
January 01, 2021 – December 31, 2021

**NJ Department of Environmental Protection**

**DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**

**ENDANGERED AND NONGAME SPECIES PROGRAM**



## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

<b>Project:</b>	<b>New Jersey's Wildlife Action Plan</b>
Federal Aid Project:	T-10-P-4 (State Wildlife Grants)
Report period:	January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021
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:**

- The ENSP staff continued to format data in preparation for an online database. This effort focused on some of the outstanding tasks, including identifying associations between the Plan's 777 conservation actions and 442 threats/action drivers, and the 11 general habitats, 49 Conservation Focal Areas (CFAs) identified within NJ's Plan, and 21 State counties.
- ENSP staff participated in regular meetings of the Northeast Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies (NEAFWA) technical groups. The managers' meetings cover coordination of state actions and planning within the region. Four ENSP biologists participated in virtual meetings to begin revising the criteria and ultimate categorization of regional species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN).

### **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. The ENSP continues to investigate potential contractors to develop an online database-supported Plan that is user friendly.
- ENSP staff experience and research is necessary to review and revise the lists of SGCN and focal species in preparation for the Plan revision.

### **Recommendations:**

- Continue to pursue a contractor (or other resource) that can develop an online database-supported Plan that achieves the ENSP's vision for accessibility and is consistent with the state's website format.
- Continue to identify the associations between the Plan's components (FSGCN, habitats, CFAs, threats, conservation actions, etc.) in preparation for the development of the database.
- Work with species experts to identify the highest priority actions for focal species (by taxon) and focal habitats (by landscape region). If possible, identify links with potential partners and funding sources, create references for this information, and incorporate the information into the database for public access.
- Continue participation in the NEAFWA working groups to maintain regional coordination on regional SGCN criteria and lists, and on regional SWAP databases.

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