Attachment B: Executive Summary of First Stakeholder Implementation Meeting (February 23, 2006)

Summary Report on the
First Wildlife Action Plan Stakeholder Meeting
Environmental Law Institute
to
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Fish and Wildlife
Endangered and Nongame Species Program

March 2006

Executive Summary
The First Wildlife Action Plan Stakeholder Meeting was held on Thursday,
February 23, 2006 at Duke Farms in Hillsboro, New Jersey. The primary goal of
the meeting was to solicit stakeholder input into prioritizing the top ten high
priority statewide conservation goals among the 63 listed in the New Jersey
Wildlife Action Plan.

Twenty of the state-level goals were discussed, debated, and consolidated. The
over 40 stakeholders in attendance were then asked to rank, from 1-10, the top
state-level goals. The outcome of that ranking exercise can be found at
Appendix H. This final list of the priority state-level goals has been edited slightly
by the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife's Endangered and Nongame
Species Program staff to more accurately reflect the issues raised by
stakeholders at the meeting.

Participants stated that there were four issues that, although possibly implicit,
should be a critical component to meeting the top priority goals. These include
the following:

1. Public education and outreach should be an integral tool for meeting all of
    the priority goals;
2. Conservation efforts designed to meet these priority goals should include
    conservation strategies specific to urban and suburban areas;
3. Adaptive management techniques should be used to meet the priority
    goals. Monitoring will be critical to determining the appropriate adaptive
    management strategies; and
4. The priority goals are explicitly designed to address threats to all species
    of greatest conservation concern.

Background

On Thursday, February 23, 2006, the Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey (CWF) and Environmental Law Institute (ELI) convened the first of what is currently planned to be three wildlife action plan stakeholder meetings in partnership with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW).

The New Jersey Wildlife Action Plan, a proactive plan to conserve wildlife before they become more rare and more costly to protect, was submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service October 1, 2005. (Copies of the plan are available at: <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/ensp/waphome.htm>.) The multi-scale plan identifies threats, conservation goals, and conservation actions at the state-level, landscape-level (5 regions plus the ocean), and sub-regional level.

The stakeholder meetings are designed to solicit input from a diverse array of stakeholders and achieve the following objectives:
1. Identify the agency's high-, medium-, and low priority state-level conservation goals;
2. Identify the high priority conservation strategies necessary for meeting the high priority state-level goals; and
3. Develop a process for soliciting feedback from partner organizations on implementation successes and obstacles.

Summary of First Stakeholder Meeting

Meeting Goals and Advance Preparation
The First Wildlife Action Plan Stakeholder Meeting was held from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm on Thursday, February 23, 2006 at the Coach Barn at Duke Farms. Both the facility and refreshments were provided through a generous donation from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. (See Appendix A for Agenda.)

The objectives of the First Stakeholder Meeting were to:
- Review the pre-selected high priority goals;
- Discuss and organize the high priority goals; and
- Rank the top ten high priority goals

Over 60 stakeholders were invited to attend the meeting. CWF received positive RSVPs from 55 individuals and 44 stakeholders attended the meeting (see Appendix B for list of attendees).

The primary goal of this first meeting was to identify and prioritize the top ten high priority state-level conservation goals. In preparation for the working meeting, the invited stakeholders were asked to review *in advance* the 63 state-level goals outlined in the New Jersey Wildlife Action Plan (see

Appendix C) and identify five high priority goals and ten medium priority goals only. Seventeen of the invited participants returned their ranking forms to DEP in advance of the meeting. In addition, five ranking forms were submitted by all of the DFW's Endangered and Nongame Species Program (ENSP) regionally-based biologists. (See Appendix D for the list of participants who provided ranking forms.)

Introductory Sessions
David Chanda, Director of DEP's Division of Fish and Wildlife, gave welcoming remarks and thanked all of the stakeholders for their participation and support. Jessica Wilkinson, Director of ELI's State Biodiversity Program, served as the facilitator and gave the participants an overview of the meeting objectives.

Larry Niles, Chief of DFW's Endangered and Nongame Species Program, provided the attendees with background on the purpose of the New Jersey Wildlife Action Plan, its basis in the Landscape Project, and stated that the plan is designed to be a blueprint for wildlife conservation for the full array of conservation partners in the state, not solely the Division of Fish and Wildlife. Kris Schantz, Senior Zoologist with ENSP, provided participants with an overview of the public comments received to date. She stated that DFW received 89 distinct letters over a 13-week public comment period. These comments were summarized into 50 distinct comments and recommendations. Thirty-eight of these comments were anti-hunting related or expressed support for the "Trap, Neuter, Release Program" for feral cat colonies. The remaining 12 comments focused on implementation efforts. These included comments about potential partnerships, the need for on-going research throughout the state, a desire to focus conservation efforts in suburban and urban areas, issues regarding off-road vehicles, and emergency response planning. These issues will be revisited and incorporated, where appropriate, during the development of the implementation plan.

Following a brief question and answer session, Emile D. DeVito, Manager of Science and Stewardship for the New Jersey Conservation Foundation and a member of the Endangered and Nongame Species Advisory Committee, provided attendees with an overview of the threats facing wildlife in New Jersey statewide. The presentation drew heavily from Section I. E. of the Wildlife Action Plan.

Discussion of Priority State-Level Conservation Goals
The majority of the remainder of the day was devoted to a discussion of the top high priority goals selected by the stakeholders in advance. The participants were presented with a list of the top 15 high priority goals identified by invitees in advance of the meeting (see Appendix E, Section I). After a review of these 15 high priority goals, participants were then allowed to add back onto the list items that received fewer votes, but were considered a particular priority. In addition to the 15 pre-selected goals, an additional 5 goals were added back to the list (see

Appendix E, Section II). As a result, 20 state-level goals were selected for further discussion (see Appendix E).

The stakeholders discussed each of the top 20 state-level goals in turn. Participants were asked to provide input if they needed further clarification on the goal being discussed. They were also asked to advocate strongly for or against the goal at hand. During this lengthy discussion, participants were given leeway to debate many issues related to the goals, as well as organize the goals where they felt there were significant redundancies. As a result, at the end of the open discussion of the state-level goals, the original list of 20 (15 plus the 5 added back in) was consolidated to 14 state-level goals (see Appendix F).

Final Ranking Exercise
Participants were provided with a list of these 14 revised state-level goals (Appendix F) and asked to rank the top 10 goals in order of 1-10, with one being the highest priority. The results of that ranking exercise can be found in Appendix G. This final list of the top 13 state-level goals has been edited slightly by ENSP staff to more accurately reflect the issues raised by stakeholders at the meeting. Most significantly, goals #6 and #13 were combined, yielding a final list of 13 state-level goals. Appendix H reflects the final, edited version of the ranking exercise.

Preamble Issues
Several issues were identified by the participants as those that were of particular importance as to warrant inclusion in any preamble to the final list of high priority state-level goals. Although many of these issues may be implicitly included in the priority goals, participants felt that they were important enough to warrant an explicit mention. These included the following:
1. Public education and outreach should be an integral tool for meeting all of the priority goals;
2. Conservation efforts designed to meet these priority goals should include conservation strategies specific to urban and suburban areas;
3. Adaptive management techniques should be used to meet the priority goals. Monitoring will be critical to determining the appropriate adaptive management strategies; and
4. The priority goals are explicitly designed to address threats to all species of greatest conservation concern.

Coalition Building and Closing Statements
Troy Ettel, Director of Conservation & Stewardship for New Jersey Audubon Society, discussed with the attendees the need to build a New Jersey coalition to support efforts to secure full implementation of and necessary funding for the New Jersey Wildlife Action Plan. Additional resources and information on the national coalition building effort can be found through the web site of the International Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies at: <http://www.teaming.com/ctk/>. More general information the State Wildlife

Grants program, state wildlife action plans, and the communications toolkit for the state wildlife actions plan can also be found at <http://www.teaming.com/>.

Larry Niles, Chief of DEP's Endangered and Nongame Species Program, provided closing statements. He stated that a report (provided here) would be made available to the attendees summarizing the day's discussion and the outcome of the ranking and that this stakeholder meeting was the first in a series of meetings envisioned for soliciting input into and support for implementation of the New Jersey Wildlife Action Plan. He concluded by thanking the attendees for their input and participation.

APPENDICIES:
A: Final Agenda
B: List of Attendees
C: 63 State-Level Goals
D: List of participants who provided ranking forms
E: Top 20 High Priority Goals
F: Final Ranking Form – Top 14 Consolidated Goals
G: Outcome of Final Ranking
H: Final Ranking –Prioritized State-Level Goals

ConserveWildlife
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First Wildlife Action Plan Stakeholder Meeting

February 23, 2006
9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Duke Farms
Coach Barn

FINAL AGENDA

8:30 – 9:00   **Coffee and Registration**

9:00 – 9:15   **Welcoming Remarks**
                David Chanda, Director
                Division of Fish and Wildlife
                New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

9:15 – 9:30   **Introductions, Objectives, Review of Agenda**
                Jessica Wilkinson (Facilitator)
                Environmental Law Institute

9:30 – 9:45   **Review Background and Purpose of the New Jersey Wildlife Action Plan**
                Larry Niles, Chief
                Endangered and Nongame Species Program
                DEP, Division of Fish & Wildlife

9:45 – 10:00   **Summary of Public Comments**
                Kris Schantz, Senior Zoologist
                Endangered and Nongame Species Program
                DEP, Division of Fish & Wildlife

10:00 – 10:15   **Questions & Answers**

10:15 – 10:30   BREAK

10:30 – 11:00   **Overview of the Statewide Threats**
                Emile D. DeVito, Ph.D., Manager of Science and Stewardship
                New Jersey Conservation Foundation
                Endangered and Nongame Species Advisory Committee

11:00 – 11:15 **Questions & Answers**

11:15 – 12:00 **Presentation and Discussion of Top 20-25 Statewide Goals**

12:00 – 12:45 LUNCH

12:45 – 1:30 **Presentation and Discussion of Top 20-25 Statewide Goals** (continued)

1:30 – 2:00 **Further Discussion of Statewide Goals**

2:00 – 2:15 **Ranking**

2:15 – 2:45 **Building the New Jersey Teaming With Wildlife Coalition**
Troy Ettel, Director of Conservation & Stewardship
New Jersey Audubon Society

2:45 – 3:00 **Wrap-Up and Summary of Next Steps**
Larry Niles, Chief
Endangered and Nongame Species Program
DEP, Division of Fish & Wildlife

First Wildlife Action Plan Stakeholder Meeting

List of Attendees

First	Last	Organization
Doug	Adamo	National Park Service
Bob	Allen	The Nature Conservancy
Steve	Atzert	Edwin B Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge
Naomi	Avissar	ENSP
Andrea	Bonette	Sourland Planning Council
Janet	Bucknall	USDA APHIS Wildlife Services
John	Bunnell	Pinelands Commission
Dave	Chanda	NJ Div. Fish & Wildlife
Sharon	DeFaclo	ENSP
Emile	DeVito	NJ Conservation Foundation
Mandy	Dey	ENSP
Dante	Dipirro	NJ Highlands Council
Mim	Dunne	DFW
Troy	Ettel	New Jersey Audubon
Jose	Fernandez	Div. of Parks & Forestry
Jose	Fernandez	Parks and Forestry
Leann	Foster-Sitar	American Littoral Society
Pola	Galie	CWF
Dave	Golden	ENSP
Tom	Gravel	Trust for Public Land
Gabor	Grunstein	NJ Farm Bureau
Larry	Herrighty	DFW

First	Last	Organization
George	Howard	NJ State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs
Dave	Jenkins	ENSP
Robert	Jennings	Morris County Park Commission
Marjorie	Kaplan	Office of Policy, Planning & Science
William	Koch	Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge
Kerry	Miller	ANJEC
Tom	Niederer	NJ Forestry Association
Larry	Niles	ENSP
Margaret	O'Gorman	CWF
Laurie	Pettigrew	DFW
Jaclyn	Rhoads	Pinelands Preservation Alliance
Kris	Schantz	ENSP
Annette	Scherer	USFWS-Field Office
Howard	Schlegel	Cape May Refuge
Liz	Semple	NJDEP Office of planning and policy
Bill	Sheehan	Hackensack Riverkeeper, Inc.
David	Smart	Natural Resources Conservation Service
Mick	Valent	ENSP
Jessica	Wilkinson	ELI
Nancy	Wittenberg	NJ Builders Assoc. Rep (Giordano Halleran & Ciesla)
Joanna	Wolaver	New Jersey Audubon

Wildlife Action Plan: Implementation Prioritization		
In the following pages, you will find the 63 state-level <u>goals</u> identified in NJ's Wildlife Action Plan. A separate document has also been provided to you with the state-level goals and the conservation strategies identified to accomplish these goals to use for your reference. Please review the following goals and identify **five (5) high priority goals and ten (10) medium priority goals <u>only</u>** and return your completed document via e-mail to Linda Watson at linda.watson@dep.state.nj.us. To insure that your priorities are included in the stakeholders' meeting discussion on February 23rd, please return this file NO LATER than Monday, February 20th, 3:00pm.		

Topic	State-level Goal	Prioritization (total: 5 high and 10 medium priority goals)	Comments
1. Addressing National, Inter-state, and Statewide Threats			
a. Invasive Terrestrial and Aquatic Species and Exotic Pathogens			
	1) Restore and maintain species of special concern wildlife populations through collaborative protection of native species and habitats.		
	2) Conduct long-term monitoring to evaluate habitat and wildlife restoration efforts.		
	3) Reduce the adverse impacts of invasive, exotic and over-abundant native species on critical wildlife, natural communities, and habitat quality.		
	4) Identify and restore unique ecosystem processes through the control and/or removal of invasive and exotic species.		
b. Suburban Sprawl and Large-acre zoning			
	5) Identify and protect breeding, migration, wintering habitats and landscapes essential for long-term viability of wildlife populations.		
	6) Maintain connectivity of habitats at the landscape scale.		
	7) Encourage creation and enhancement of wildlife habitat on private lands.		
c. Motorized Recreation Vehicles			
	8) Identify and actively protect public natural lands with rare wildlife and heaviest illegal ORV and personal watercraft use.		
	9) Restore and maintain wildlife populations through the collaborative protection of species and habitats from disturbance and habitat degradation by		

Topic	State-level Goal	Prioritization (total: 5 high and 10 medium priority goals)	Comments
c. Motorized Recreation Vehicles (continued)			
	10) Conduct long-term monitoring to evaluate protection and restoration efforts of both wildlife and their habitats.		
d. Subsidized Predators:			
	11) Reduce impact on wildlife populations of subsidized predator populations, including free-roaming and feral cats.		
	12) Identify and restore more natural predator-prey relationships through the control of subsidized predators and restoration of natural predators.		
e. Oil Spills			
	13) Identify and protect breeding, migratory, and wintering habitats and landscapes essential for long-term viability of wildlife populations with an emphasis on habitats supporting endangered, threatened, and declining wildlife.		
	14) Assess, reduce and mitigate the impacts of oil spills on critical habitat.		
f. Contaminants (point and non-point sources)			
	15) Restore and maintain wildlife populations through the collaborative protection of species and habitats.		
	16) Conduct long-term monitoring to evaluate population viability and protection and restoration efforts of both wildlife and their habitats.		
g. Direct Human Impacts on Native Wildlife and Ecosystem Health			
	17) Eliminate illegal collection of reptiles and amphibians within New Jersey and the release of unwanted exotic species into New Jersey's natural environment.		

Topic	State-level Goal	Prioritization (total: 5 high and 10 medium priority goals)	Comments
g. Direct Human Impacts on Native Wildlife and Ecosystem Health (continued)			
	18) Identify, protect and minimize human disturbance at sensitive locations (nests, hibernacula, breeding pools, critical concentration or feeding areas, etc.).		
	19) Minimize impacts of controlled water releases on fishes, freshwater mussels, dragonflies, damselflies, and other aquatic organisms.		
	20) Minimize impacts of illegal draw-downs by enforcing existing regulations.		
	21) Minimize impacts of water intake systems on aquatic organisms.		
	22) Minimize acoustic effects to anadromous freshwater fishes and marine mammals and turtles.		
	23) Promote public awareness and conservation.		
	24) Minimize impacts of snag removal and stream cleaning on aquatic species.		
	25) Identify and restore unique ecosystem processes (i.e. fire within the Pinelands).		
h. Development			
	26) Identify and protect breeding, migration, wintering habitats and landscapes essential for the long-term viability of endangered, threatened and declining wildlife populations.		
	27) Restore and maintain wildlife populations through collaborative protection of species and habitats.		
	28) Conduct long-term monitoring to evaluate population viability, protection and restoration efforts of both wildlife and their habitats.		

Topic	State-level Goal	Prioritization (total: 5 high and 10 medium priority goals)	Comments
h. Development (continued)			
	29) Minimize impacts of dredging, channelization and dam construction on aquatic species.		
	30) Minimize impacts of snag removal and stream cleaning on aquatic species.		
	31) Restore historic anadromous fish spawning habitat to what it was before dam installation to increase population size.		
	32) Minimize acoustic effects to anadromous freshwater fishes and marine mammals and turtles.		
I. Road Mortality of Wildlife			
	33) Identify and protect breeding, migratory, wintering habitats and landscapes essential for long-term viability of endangered, threatened and declining wildlife populations.		
	34) Conduct long-term monitoring to evaluate population viability, protection and restoration efforts of both wildlife and their habitat.		
j. High Deer Densities			
	35) Restore and maintain wildlife populations through collaborative protection of species and habitats.		
	36) Conduct long-term monitoring to evaluate population viability, protection and restoration efforts of both wildlife and their habitat.		
	37) Identify and restore more natural vegetative communities through sustainable, area-specific deer densities.		

Topic	State-level Goal	Prioritization (total: 5 high and 10 medium priority goals)	Comments
k. Unsustainable Land Management Practices on both Private and Conserved Lands and Waters			
	38) Minimize impacts of agricultural practices on aquatic waterways, ground-nesting birds, reptiles and amphibians.		
	39) Improve communication between farmers, state and private foresters and land stewards of private, local, state and federal lands to develop silviculture plans that enhance habitats for species of conservation concern and maintain or improve the ecological integrity of the natural community.		
	40) Investigate impacts of aquaculture on critical habitats and wildlife and develop BMPs to minimize negative impacts.		
	41) Minimize impacts of other potentially deleterious land management practices, such as dune stabilization, stream cleaning, shoreline stabilization, etc., on critical habitats and wildlife.		
2. Endangered, Threatened, and Rare Wildlife			
	42) Maintain viable populations of all rare and nongame wildlife species to ensure their long- term participation in the ecosystems of New Jersey. Restore populations of endangered and threatened wildlife to stable levels that allow their delisting.		
	43) Pursue habitat restoration and enhancement to benefit wildlife species.		
	44) Identify summer distribution, habitat use, and migratory corridors for inter- and intrastate migratory wildlife species of conservation concern (birds, bats, marine mammals, fish) and develop and implement strategies to protect these areas.		

Topic	State-level Goal	Prioritization (total: 5 high and 10 medium priority goals)	Comments
3. The Landscape Project			
	45) Identify and protect landscapes and habitats essential for long-term viability of wildlife and fish populations of conservation concern.		
4. Migratory Stopover and Important Bird Areas Planning			
	46) Identify, monitor, conserve, and improve key migratory corridors and stopover locations for migratory birds.		
	47) Conserve sites critical to breeding and wintering birds.		
5. Freshwater Riparian and Aquatic Species			
	48) Pursue habitat restoration and enhancement to benefit wildlife species.		
a. Freshwater Mussels			
	49) Protect freshwater mussel species through long-term monitoring, stream classification upgrades and the development of management plans.		
b. Nongame Fish Species			
	50) Determine species status for unregulated fishes using the Delphi Status Review and revise New Jersey nongame wildlife lists (Act, N.J.S.A. 23:2A-1 et. seq; N.J.A.C. 7:25-4.17) through state rulemaking process to include endangered and threatened species.		
	51) Protect listed freshwater species through identification of critical areas, stream classification upgrades, and/or development of management plans with the NJ Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Fish and Wildlife's Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries (BFF) that include long-term monitoring.		

Topic	State-level Goal	Prioritization (total: 5 high and 10 medium priority goals)	Comments
b. Nongame Fish Species (continued)			
	52) Incorporate occurrence information into the Riparian Landscape Project, develop species models and identify critical areas.		
c. Odonata (Dragonflies and Damselflies)			
	53) Protect listed Odonata through long-term monitoring, stream classification upgrades, and development of management plans.		
6. Game Species of Regional Priority and Concern			
	54) Restore declining populations of game species to viable levels.		
	55) Maintain sustainable populations of all current game species of conservation concern in New Jersey.		
	56) Pursue habitat restoration and enhancement to benefit wildlife species.		
7. Long-term Population Monitoring			
	57) Document distribution, relative abundance, and population trends of wildlife of conservation concern through statewide surveys, atlases, and monitoring programs conducted by professionals and non-professional citizen scientists.		
	58) Review and analyze management efforts focused on the restoration of unique ecosystem processes.		

Topic	State-level Goal	Prioritization (total: 5 high and 10 medium priority goals)	Comments
8. Adaptive Management Practices			
	59) Apply best management practices (BMP) for wildlife and habitat resources in the state, monitor effectiveness and modify BMPs as necessary.		
	60) Maintain Landscape Map database and species based models; improve models as more data become available.		
	61) Monitor research and data evaluation techniques and modify as needed.		
9. Review of Wildlife Action Plan			
	62) Wildlife Action Plan (WAP) is an on-going, dynamic document, to be reviewed every five years.		
	63) Ensure that management plans for federal and state lands are consistent with the NJ WAP and regional goals are implemented in a manner that achieves the overall state and regional goals.		

List of Participants Who Submitted Rankings of 63 State-Level Goals

1. Joanna Burger, Rutgers University and Endangered and Nongame Species Program Advisory Committee
2. Chris Sturm,NJ Future
3. Tim Dunne, Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service
4. Nancy Wittenberg, NJ Builders Association Representative
5. Stephen Atzert, Edwin B Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge
6. Annette Scherer, US Fish and Wildlife Service
7. Doug Adamo, National Park Service
8. George Howard, NJ State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs
9. Leann Foster-Sitar, Esq., American Littoral Society
10. Robert Jennings, Morris County Parks Commission
11. Bill Koch, Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge
12. Bob Allen, The Nature Conservancy
13. Camille Crichton-Sumners, Department of Transportation, Div. of Project Planning & Development
14. David Smart, Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service
15. John Bunnell, Pinelands Commission
16. Emile DeVito, NJ Conservation Foundation and Endangered and Nongame Species Program Advisory Committee
17. NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife, Endangered and Nongame Species Program's (ENSP) Pinelands biologists
18. ENSP Delaware Bay biologists
19. ENSP Piedmont Plains biologists
20. ENSP Skylands biologists
21. ENSP Coastal biologists

The following stakeholders submitted comments, however they were received after the cutoff for inclusion in the February 23rd Stakeholder Meeting ranking results.

1. Janet Bucknall, Department of Agriculture-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
2. Troy Ettel, NJ Audubon Society
3. Andrea Bonette, Sourland Planning Council
4. Howard Schlegel, Cape May Refuge

State-Level Conservation Objectives

Section I. below outlines the top 15 state-level coservation goals identified by stakeholders in advance of the Febraruy 23rd meeting. Section II. includes the five additional state-level goals that participants felt warranted inclusion on the list. In total, the 20 state-level goals listed below are those which participants discussed at length at the First Stakholder Meeting.

I.   TOP PRIORITY GOALS IDENTIFED IN ADVANCE
Stakeholders were asked, in advance, to identify the top priority state-level goals. The 15 goals listed below received the highest ranking.

1. Addressing National, Inter-state, and Statewide Threats

Invasive Terrestrial and Aquatic Species and Exotic Pathogens
3. Reduce the adverse impacts of invasive, exotic and over-abundant native species on critical wildlife, natural communities, and habitat quality.
4. Identify and restore unique ecosystem processes through the control and/or removal of invasive and exotic species.

Suburban Sprawl and Large-acre zoning:
5. Identify and protect breeding, migration, wintering habitats and landscapes essential for long-term viability of wildlife populations.
6. Maintain connectivity of habitats at the landscape scale.

Subsidized Predators:
11. Reduce impact on wildlife populations of subsidized predator populations, including free-roaming and feral cats.

Direct Human Impacts on Native Wildlife and Ecosystem Health
18. Identify, protect and minimize human disturbance at sensitive locations (nests, hibernacula, breeding pools, critical concentration or feeding areas, etc.).

Development
26. Identify and protect breeding, migration, wintering habitats and landscapes essential for the long-term viability of endangered, threatened and declining wildlife populations.
28. Conduct long-term monitoring to evaluate population viability, protection and restoration efforts of both wildlife and their habitats.

High Deer Densities
37. Identify and restore more natural vegetative communities through sustainable, area-specific deer densities.

Unsustainable Land Management Practices on both Private and Conserved Lands and Waters
    39. Improve communication between farmers, state and private foresters and land stewards of private, local, state and federal lands to develop silviculture plans that enhance habitats for species of conservation concern and maintain or improve the ecological integrity of the natural community.

2. Endangered, Threatened, and Rare Wildlife
    42. Maintain viable populations of all rare and nongame wildlife species to ensure their long-term participation in the ecosystems of New Jersey. Restore populations of endangered and threatened wildlife to stable levels that allow their delisting.
    43. Pursue habitat restoration and enhancement to benefit wildlife species.

3. The Landscape Project
    45. Identify and protect landscapes and habitats essential for long-term viability of wildlife and fish populations of conservation concern.

4.   Migratory Stopover and Important Bird Areas Planning
    46. Identify, monitor, conserve, and improve key migratory corridors and stopover locations for migratory birds.

7. Long-term Population Monitoring
    57. Document distribution, relative abundance, and population trends of wildlife of conservation concern through statewide surveys, atlases, and monitoring programs conducted by professionals and non-professional citizen scientists.

II.   **ADDITIONAL TOP PRIORITY GOALS**
    Stakeholders were asked at the meeting, to identify any top priority state-level goals that dropped out of the initial selection, that they felt were essential to consider. The 5 goals listed below reflect those additions.

1. Addressing National, Inter-state, and Statewide Threats

Motorized Recreational Vehicles
    8. Identify and actively protect public natural lands with rare wildlife and heaviest illegal ORV and personal watercraft use.

Contaminants (Point and Non-Point Source)
    15. Restore and maintain wildlife populations through the collaborative protection of species and habitats.

Direct Human Impacts on Native Wildlife and Ecosystem Health
    23. Promote public awareness and conservation.

8. Adaptive Management Practices

    59. Apply best management practices (BMP) for wildlife and habitat resources in the state, monitor effectiveness and modify BMPs as necessary.

9. Review of Wildlife Action Plan

    63. Ensure that management plans for federal and state lands are consistent with the NJ WAP and regional goals are implemented in a manner that achieves the overall state and regional goals.

ConserveWildlife
FOUNDATION OF NJ

First Wildlife Action Plan Stakeholder Meeting

February 23, 2006
9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Duke Farms
Coach Barn

RANKING FORM

In the chart below, please identify the top TEN high priority state-level goals. Please number the top five goals from 1 – 10, with 1 being the highest.

GOAL NUMBER	GOAL RANK	NOTES
3.		Invasive Terrestrial and Aquatic Species and Exotic Pathogens: Reduce the adverse impacts of invasive, exotic and over-abundant native species on critical wildlife, natural communities, and habitat quality. [*non-native invasives*]
4.		Invasive Terrestrial and Aquatic Species and Exotic Pathogens: Identify, restore, and control unique ecosystem processes through land management practices, including the control and/or removal of invasive and exotic species.
5./26./45.		Suburban Sprawl/ Development/ Landscape Project: Identify and protect breeding, migration, wintering habitats and landscapes essential for long-term viability of wildlife and fish populations of species of conservation concern.
6.		Suburban Sprawl and Large-acre zoning: Maintain connectivity of habitats at the landscape scale.
11.		Subsidized Predators: Reduce impact on wildlife populations of subsidized predator populations such as raccoons, red fox, American crow, and free-roaming and feral cats.

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18.		Direct Human Impacts: Identify, protect and minimize human disturbance at sensitive locations (nests, hibernacula, breeding pools, critical concentration or feeding areas, etc.).
28./ 57.		Development/ Long-term monitoring: Conduct long-term monitoring to evaluate population viability through statewide surveys, atlases, & monitoring programs; and monitor the effectiveness of restoration efforts of both wildlife and their habitats.
37.		High Deer Densities: Identify, maintain, and restore natural vegetative communities through sustainable, area-specific deer densities.
39.		Unsustainable Land Mgmt. Practices: Improve communication between farmers, state and private foresters and land stewards of private, local, state and federal lands to develop habitat management plans that enhance habitats for species of conservation concern and maintain or improve the ecological integrity of the natural community.
42./43.		Endangered, Threatened & Rare Wildlife: Maintain viable populations of all rare and nongame wildlife species to ensure their long- term participation in the ecosystems of New Jersey. Restore populations of endangered and threatened wildlife to stable levels that allow their delisting by pursuing habitat restoration & enhancement and protecting critical habitat to benefit wildlife species.
46.		Migratory Stopover & Important Bird Areas: Identify, monitor, conserve, and improve key migratory corridors and stopover locations for migratory birds.
8.		Motorized Recreation Vehicles: Identify and actively protect public natural lands and water w/ rare wildlife and heaviest ORV and personal watercraft use.
15.		Contaminants (point and nonpoint sources): Restore & maintain wildlife populations through the collaborative protection of species and habitats by eliminating or reducing exposure to point and nonpoint source contamination.
63.		Review of WAP: Ensure that management plans for federal, state, county, municipal, and private lands (NGOs) are consistent with the NJ WAP and regional goals are implemented in a manner that achieves the overall state and regional goals.

APPENDIX G

APPENDIX G: Wildlife Action Plan: Implementation Prioritization - INTERIM RESULTS

The following high-priority state-level goals were valued 1-10 (1 = Highest Priority). In order to determine the prioritization, those goals NOT selected by stakeholders were given a value of 14 (the "lowest" value possible).

Topic	State-level Goal	Prioritization for DFW/DPF as a Group	Bill Koch	Steve Atzert	Tom Gravel	Tom Niederer	Kerry Miller	Liz Semple	Howard Schleger	Doug Adamo	Emile DeVito	Troy Ettel	John Bunnell	Andrea Bonnette	David Smart	Bob Allen	Annette Scherer	Robert Jennings	Jaclyn Rhoads	Bill Sheehan	No name 1	No name 2	No name 3	Totals
	5/26/45) Identify and protect breeding, migration, wintering habitats and landscapes essential for long-term viability of wildlife and fish populations of species of conservation concern.	2	4	3	3	14	1	1	1	8	4	2	6	7	2	1	1	10	1	10	1	14	1	97
	42/43) Maintain viable populations of all rare and nongame wildlife species to ensure their long- term participation in the ecosystems of New Jersey. Restore populations of endangered and threatened wildlife to stable levels that allow their delisting by pursuing habitat restoration and enhancement and protecting critical habitat to benefit wildlife species.	1	3	14	6	10	7	14	2	3	2	1	10	6	4	2	2	9	4	14	2	14	4	134
	4) Identify, restore, and control unique ecosystem processes through land management practices, including the control and/or removal of invasive and exotic species.	14	2	1	10	3	5	3	6	2	10	5	2	4	14	5	7	7	10	2	14	3	14	143
	46) Identify, monitor, conserve, and improve key migratory corridors and stopover locations for migratory birds.	4.5	10	5	7	8	2	5	10	6	9	9	9	2	5	3	8	5	6	3	14	10	6	146.5
	39) Improve communication between farmers, state and private foresters and land stewards of private, local, state and federal lands to develop habitat management plans that enhance habitats for species of conservation concern and maintain or improve the ecological integrity of the natural community.	7	9	6	2	1	6	4	14	14	5	8	14	1	1	14	4	4	5	6	3	14	10	152
	3) Reduce the adverse impacts of [non-native] invasive, exotic and over-abundant native species on critical wildlife, natural communities, and habitat quality.	8	1	2	14	5	14	14	3	5	3	4	3	14	9	14	14	6	14	9	4	1	2	163
	18) Identify, protect and minimize human disturbance at sensitive locations (nests, hibernacula, breeding pools, critical concentration or feeding areas, etc.).	4.5	8	10	14	6	4	2	14	14	8	10	5	10	3	6	3	14	2	1	14	14	5	171.5
	6) Maintain connectivity of habitats at the landscape scale.	6	7	4	1	14	14	14	7	10	14	6	1	9	6	4	9	2	3	14	14	2	14	175
	28/57) Conduct long-term monitoring to evaluate population viability through statewide surveys, atlases, & monitoring programs; and monitor the effectiveness of protection and restoration efforts of both wildlife and their habitats.	3	5	14	9	14	9	9	8	7	7	7	7	14	14	8	10	3	8	14	5	6	3	184
	37) Identify, maintain, and restore more natural vegetative communities through sustainable, area-specific deer densities.	14	6	7	14	2	3	6	14	14	1	3	4	3	8	7	14	8	14	14	14	4	14	188
	15) Restore and maintain wildlife populations through the collaborative protection of species and habitats by eliminating or reducing exposure to point and nonpoint source contamination.	14	14	8	4	9	14	14	9	1	14	14	14	8	10	9	5	14	14	5	14	9	8	225
	8) Identify and actively protect public natural lands and water with rare wildlife and heaviest ORV and personal watercraft use.	10	14	14	8	7	8	14	4	9	6	14	14	14	14	10	14	7	4	14	5	9	14	227
	11) Reduce impact on wildlife populations by subsidized predator populations such as raccoons, red fox, American crow, and free-roaming and feral cats.	14	14	9	14	4	10	7	5	4	14	14	8	5	14	14	6	14	14	8	14	7	14	227
	63) Ensure that management plans for federal, state, county, municipal, and private (NGOs) lands are consistent with the NJ WAP and regional goals are implemented in a manner that achieves the overall state and regional goals.	9	14	14	5	14	14	8	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	63	14	14	14	7	14	8	7	317

State-Level Conservation Objectives
Prioritization Results

The following state-level conservation goals have been selected as implementation priorities from the New Jersey Wildlife Action Plan. On Thursday, February 23, 2006 the First Wildlife Action Plan Stakeholder Meeting was held at Duke Farms in Hillsboro, New Jersey. The primary goal of the meeting was to solicit stakeholder input into prioritizing the top ten priority statewide conservation goals among the 63 listed in the New Jersey Wildlife Action Plan. The goals listed below reflect the input of stakeholders prior to and at the meeting. This final list of priority state-level goals has been edited slightly by ENSP staff to more accurately reflect the issues raised by stakeholders at the meeting. They are listed in order of the priority assigned by stakeholders.

Stakeholders stressed that the following four issues should be a critical component to meeting the top priority goals.

1. Public education and outreach should be an integral tool for meeting all of the priority goals;
2. Conservation efforts designed to meet these priority goals should include conservation strategies specific to urban and suburban areas;
3. Adaptive management techniques should be used to meet the priority goals. Monitoring will be critical to determining the appropriate adaptive management strategies; and
4. The priority goals are explicitly designed to address threats to all species of greatest conservation concern.

Ranking (1-10; 1=highest priority)	Main Topic/Issue (may include combinations of issues)	Goal (may include combinations of goals)
1	Addressing National, Inter-state, and Statewide Threats AND The Landscape Project	Identify and protect breeding, migration, wintering habitats and landscapes essential for long-term viability of wildlife and fish populations of species of conservation concern.
2	Endangered, Threatened, and Rare Wildlife	Restore populations of endangered and threatened wildlife to stable levels that allow their delisting by population management, protecting critical habitat, and habitat restoration and enhancement.

Ranking (1-10; 1=highest priority)	Main Topic/Issue (may include combinations of issues)	Goal (may include combinations of goals)
3	Addressing National, Inter-state, and Statewide Threats	Identify, restore, and protect unique ecosystem processes including the control and/or removal of invasive and exotic species, fire management, and delayed and alternate patch mowing.
4	Migratory Stopover and Important Bird Areas Planning	Identify, monitor and conserve, key migratory corridors and stopover locations for migratory birds.
5	Addressing National, Inter-state, and Statewide Threats	Improve communication between farmers foresters and land stewards of private, local, state and federal lands to develop habitat management plans that enhance habitats for species of conservation concern and maintain or improve the ecological integrity of the natural community.
6	Addressing National, Inter-state, and Statewide Threats	Reduce the adverse impacts of non-native invasive species, subsidized predators, and over-abundant native species on critical wildlife, natural communities, and habitat quality.
7	Addressing National, Inter-state, and Statewide Threats	Identify, protect and minimize human disturbance at sensitive locations (nests, hibernacula, breeding pools, critical concentration or feeding areas, etc.).
8	Addressing National, Inter-state, and Statewide Threats	Maintain connectivity of habitats at the landscape scale.
9	Addressing National, Inter-state, and Statewide Threats AND Long-Term Monitoring	Conduct long-term monitoring to evaluate population viability through statewide surveys, atlases, and effectiveness of protection and restoration efforts of both wildlife and their habitats.
10	Addressing National, Inter-state, and Statewide Threats	Identify, maintain, and restore natural vegetative communities through sustainable, area-specific deer densities.

Ranking (1-10; 1=highest priority)	Main Topic/Issue (may include combinations of issues)	Goal (may include combinations of goals)
11	Addressing National, Inter-state, and Statewide Threats	Restore and maintain wildlife populations by eliminating or reducing exposure to point and nonpoint source contamination.
12	Addressing National, Inter-state, and Statewide Threats	Identify and actively protect public natural lands and water with rare wildlife from ORV and personal watercraft use.
13	Review of Wildlife Action Plan	Ensure that conservation activities of federal, state, county, municipal, and private (NGOs) lands affecting species of conservation concern are consistent with the NJ WAP.