Summary of revisions to NJ Wildlife Action Plan

VERSION DATED JANUARY 23, 2008

The remaining three of the five region-based stakeholders' meetings were held between March, 2007, and September, 2007. As such, the Wildlife Action Plan (Plan) has been reviewed, discussed, and revised for refinement and clarification over the course of the past two years by both state-level and region-focused stakeholders' and conservation partners.

Throughout the Plan, numerous revisions have been made to refine and further clarify conservation goals and strategies (actions). The overall focus of these goals and actions, excluding those listed below, maintained the overarching objective and focus described in previous versions of the Plan and therefore, were not identified has being "substantive revisions" or considered "noteworthy." Interested parties can review the stakeholders' implementation meetings' reports (Attachments F, G, H, I, and J) to review many of these edits.

The following substantive revisions have been made to the NJ Wildlife Action Plan between February 16, 2007, and January 23, 2008:

Item	Date of revision	Section	Page(s) and	Revision
			Paragraph(s)	
1	March 1, 2007 January 2008	Outline of Contents	Pages vi - ix	Reformatted such that the regional reports are in consecutive order, (Attachments $F - J$) and the regional pamphlets, to be developed, will be found within Attachments K-O
2	March 1, 2007 January 2008	Overview; The Unprecedented Challenge Facing Wildlife Conservation in New Jersey	Pages 6-7	Some language has been revised to reflect more recent activities in Plan development and revisions and the formerly planned 2007 public meetings that are now planned to occur in 2008.
3	March 1, 2007 January 2008	Section V.F. (Overview), State-level Conservation Objectives, Under Addressing National, Interstate, and Statewide Threats	Page 40 (Unsustainable Land Management Practices on both Private and Conserved Lands and Waters; Suburban Sprawl and Large-acre zoning; Development; Conservation Strategies)	Per comments and recommendations received at the regional stakeholders' meetings held September 2006 through September 2007, added conservation strategy, "Enact legislation amending New Jersey's Freshwater Wetlands Protection Act to provide larger, more ecologically sound wetlands buffers based upon findings in recent peer-reviewed scientific literature."

(Continu	(Continued: Substantive revisions to Plan between the February 16, 2007, and the January 25, 2008, versions)					
4	March 1, 2007 January 2008	Section V.F. (Overview), State-level Conservation Objectives, Under Freshwater Riparian and Aquatic Species	Pages 46 and 48 (Freshwater mussels; Odonata; Conservation Strategies)	Per comments and recommendations received at the regional stakeholders' meetings held September 2006 through September 2007, added conservation strategy, "Enact legislation amending New Jersey's Freshwater Wetlands Protection Act to provide larger, more ecologically sound wetlands buffers based upon findings in recent peer-reviewed scientific literature."		
5	March 1, 2007 January 2008	Section V.F. (Overview), State-level Conservation Objectives, Under Addressing National, Interstate, and Statewide Threats	Page 25 (Invasive species; Conservation Strategies)	Conservation strategy, "Enact legislation to regulate the sale of invasive plants for ornamental or restoration use," was revised to, "Enact legislation to regulate the sale of invasive plants (both native and <u>exotic-native</u>) for ornamental or restoration use."		
6	March 1, 2007 January 2008	Section V.F. (Overview), State-level Conservation Objectives, Under Addressing National, Interstate, and Statewide Threats	Page 27 (Suburban Sprawl and Large-acre zoning; Conservation Strategies)	Conservation strategy, "DFW will collaborate with municipal and county planners to identify critical wildlife habitats for sensitive species and natural systems within their borders," was revised to, "NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) will lead in the training of municipal and county planners to use the Landscape Map to identify critical wildlife habitats for sensitive species and natural systems within their borders."		

(Continu	Continued: Substantive revisions to Plan between the February 16, 2007, and the January 23, 2008, versions)					
7	March 1, 2007 January 2008	Section V.F. (Overview), State-level Conservation Objectives, Under Addressing National, Interstate, and Statewide Threats	Page 31 (Oil spills; Conservation Strategies)	 Per comments and recommendations received at the regional stakeholders' meetings held September 2006 through September 2007, two new conservation strategies were added to the Plan. <i>"Evaluate and reduce threats to marine mammals and sea turtles posed by catastropic oil spills, contaminants, and persistent marine debris."</i> <i>"Ensure marine mammals and sea turtles adequately/appropriately considered in the state's spill response plan."</i> 		
8	March 1, 2007 January 2008	Section V.F. (Overview), State-level Conservation Objectives, Under Addressing National, Interstate, and Statewide Threats	Page 37 (Road mortality of wildlife; Conservation Strategies)	Conservation strategy, "Increase the number of large DOT projects that are reviewed for impacts to threatened and endangered species," was revised to, "Increase the <u>number of DOT projects</u> that are reviewed for impacts to <u>road-</u> <u>vulnerable</u> threatened and endangered species."		
9	March 1, 2007 January 2008	All applicable conservation zones	All applicable conservation zones	Per comments and recommendations received at the regional stakeholders' meetings held September 2006 through September 2007, the following conservation strategy has been revised from, "Reclaim degraded rare species habitats by working with land management agencies to determine the appropriate actions needed to restore habitat value for the documented species. Appropriate actions might include the control of harmful, invasive, vegetation, restoring natural stream flows, revegetation with native plants or restoring habitat structure," to "Identify, prioritize, and reclaim degraded rare species"		

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10	March 1, 2007 - January 2008	Section V.F. (Overview), State-level Conservation Objectives, Under Endangered, Threatened, and Rare Wildlife	Page 42; (Conservation Strategies)	 Per comments and recommendations received at the regional stakeholders' meetings held September 2006 through September 2007, the following conservation goal and strategies were added to the Plan. Goal: "Identify critical wildlife habitat to protect or buffer to accommodate sea-level change." Strategies: "Reduce state regulatory impediments to improving beach, dune, and coastal wetland habitats for beach nesting birds." "Work with Rutgers University's Center for Remote Sensing and Spatial Analysis to develop predictive modeling and GIS mapping to identify areas along the coast that need protection and/or buffering in the event of significant sea-level rise." "Initiate and/or work with other agencies or organizations to research the effects of offshore energy projects (wind turbines) on avian species and marine mammals." "Enact legislation amending New Jersey's Freshwater Wetlands Buffers based upon findings in recent peerreviewed scientific literature."
11	January 2008	Appendix I, New Jersey's Most Vulnerable Wildlife	Page 673 and 674	The bald eagle is no longer a federal listed species. As such, it has been removed from the table of federal endangered and threatened species and placed within the table of state endangered species.

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12	January 2008	All applicable conservation zones	All applicable conservation zones	Per comments and recommendations received at the regional stakeholders' meetings held between March 2007 and September 2007, the term "USFWS Special Agents" within the conservation action, " <i>Recruit and educate local law</i> <i>enforcement of endangered species laws by</i> <i>developing and hosting a training seminar</i> . <i>Develop a partnership between local law</i> <i>enforcement, USFWS Special Agents, and</i> <i>the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife's</i> <i>Bureau of Law Enforcement to enforce</i> <i>protection of native wildlife from illegal</i> <i>collection (northern pine snakes, corn</i> <i>snakes, timber rattlesnakes), and human</i> <i>disturbance (off-road vehicles)</i> " has been revisited within all appropriate conservation zones. Where bog turtles exist, "Special Agents" remains in the text and other appropriate law enforcement and/or managers have been incorporated. Where bog turtles do not exist, "Special Agents" has been replaced by the appropriate law enforcement and/or management (e.g., National Wildlife Refuge officers, National Park Service Rangers, US Army and Navy Natural Resource Managers).		
13	January 2008	Throughout Plan, within all regional landscape wildlife tables, "Prioritized List of Wildlife of Greatest Conservation Need and their Location in the Landscape"	Pages 58, 184, 292, 407, and 504	The bald eagle is no longer a federal listed species. As such, it has been removed from the table of federal endangered and threatened species and placed within the table of state endangered species.		
14	January 2008	Atlantic Coastal Regional Landscape; Northern and Great Bay Conservation Zones	Pages 116, 119, and 121 (Conservation Actions)	Goals and actions pertaining to the protection, management, and/or recovery of bald eagles within these zones have been added to the table of Conservation Actions.		

(Continued: Substantive revisions to Plan between the February 16, 2007, and the January 23, 2008, versions)

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15	January 2008	Atlantic Coastal Regional Landscape wildlife tables, "Prioritized List of Wildlife of Greatest Conservation Need and their Location in the Atlantic Coastal Landscape"	Page 58 (Table C2)	Within the regional landscape wildlife tables of state endangered species (Table C2), bald eagle status was added within the cell pertaining to the Cape May Conservation Zone as they frequently forage in this zone and may potentially nest.
16	January 2008	Atlantic Coastal Regional Landscape; the Cape May Conservation Zone	Page 67 (Table C10)	Within the Cape May Conservation Zone wildlife table of state endangered species (Table C10), bald eagle was added as a species of concern as they frequently forage in this zone and may potentially nest.
17	January 2008	Within the conservation actions' tables throughout all conservation zones within the Plan excluding the Ocean (Atlantic Coastal Region).	Pages 75, 97, 118, 140, 162, 199, 219, 240, 241, 259, 278, 313, 339, 364, 391, 424, 445, 467, 488, 526, 551, 575, 598, 599, 618, 638, and 659	 Per further review, DFW staff agreed that surveys pertaining to colonial waterbirds were remised. As such, the following actions have been added to all conservation zones' conservation actions' tables (under the goal, "Inventory" and given a priority status of secondary as they did not undergo the stakeholders' prioritization process: "Continue ground surveys of all known great blue heron rookeries every 3-5 years. Improve census methods to capture population and reproductive success metrics at a finer scale." "Establish a formal ground survey for inland colonies of colonial waterbirds, with a particular emphasis on black and yellow-crowned night herons. Once the survey is instituted, continue on a rotation of once every other year."

(Continued: Substantive revisions to Plan between the Februar	y 16, 2007, and the Januar	y 23, 2008, versions)

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18	November 2007 - January 2008	Atlantic Coastal Regional Landscape; all Conservation Zones except Ocean	Pages 73, 81, 95, 103, 117, 124, 139, 146, 160, 167, 177, and 178 (Conservation Actions)	 Per comments and recommendations received at the regional stakeholders' meetings held on March 29, 2007, the following conservation actions were added to the Conservation Actions Tables within the Atlantic Coastal Regional Landscape: <i>"Protect water quality through the enforcement of Clean Vessel Act regulations. Boaters to observe pumpout and no discharge zone designations."</i> <i>"Provide public education and outreach efforts focused on NJ's Clean Marina Program and encourage marina owners, boaters, etc. to adopt voluntary practices aimed at preventing adverse impacts to water quality."</i>
19	November 2007 - January 2008	Piedmont Plains Regional Landscape; all conservation zones	Pages 316-317, 341- 342, 366-367, and 393- 394 (Conservation Actions)	Priority action "Develop and implement, through regulation or legislation, programs that require anyone receiving preferential tax treatment based on land-management practices to achieve deer management goals, including harvest quotas, to qualify for farm tax assessment or farmland preservation programs" located within the Conservation Action Tables under the heading "Maintain natural biodiversity, community integrity" has been deleted from this region as it is considered a state- level priority within Section F of the <i>Overview</i> .

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20	March 1, 2007 - January 2008	All regional landscapes; all conservation zones	All Conservation Actions' Tables throughout the five regional landscapes	Per the stakeholders' meetings held on March 27, June 13, and September 12, 2007, prioritization of conservation actions in addition to minor revisions of language for refinement and/or clarification have been completed for the Atlantic Coastal, Pinelands, and Delaware Bay Regions. Revisions to actions in these regions were also applied to the Piedmont Plains and Skylands Regions where appropriate. (Note: The results of the Piedmont Plains' and Skylands' meetings were first shown in the February 16, 2007, version of the Plan.)

<u>VERSION DATED FEBRUARY 16, 2007</u> The following substantive revisions have been made to the NJ Wildlife Action Plan since its resubmittal to the US Fish and Wildlife Service (July 26, 2006) and February 16, 2007:

Item	Date of revision	Section	Page(s) and	Revision
1	08/25/06	Pinelands Regional Landscape	Paragraph(s)Page numbers no longer applicable (formerly pages 385 and 418)	Maps showing Western and Northern Pinelands conservation zones had mistakenly been switched. This has been corrected.
2	09/11/06 – 02/16/07	Piedmont Plains Regional Landscape, Conservation Goals and Actions	Page numbers no longer applicable (formerly pages 265-278, 292- 302, 315-326, 339-354)	All goals and actions were revised and re- prioritized per the outcome of the Piedmont Plains Regional Landscape Stakeholders' Meeting for Implementation of the Plan (see Attachment F). Additional revisions to clarify goals and actions were also made after meeting with the Skylands Regional Landscape stakeholders. In addition, all conservation actions were revised to include measurable outcomes where possible.
3	09/11/06 – 02/16/07	Attachment D, Summary of State-level Goals (Objectives) and Strategies (Actions)	Page numbers no longer applicable (formerly pages 1-8)	Added to Plan as revisions were made to clarify and refine some of the actions selected as priority state-level items. (<i>Note: This version's text is slightly</i> <i>different than the list found within</i> <i>Attachment C, Appendix E, therefore this</i> <i>list should be used in planning and</i> <i>proposal development.</i>)

(Contint	(Continued: Substantive revisions to Plan between the July 26, 2006, and the February 16, 2007, versions)					
4	09/11/06 – 02/16/07	Master introductory section, State-level Objectives and Strategies	Page numbers no longer applicable (formerly pages 24-52)	Revisions to state-level objectives and strategies were made for further clarification and refinement per comments and recommendations received at the Piedmont Plains and Skylands Regional Landscape Stakeholders' Meetings (9/7/06 and 1/10/7, respectively) and per internal (NJ DEP) discussions. In addition, priority state-level objectives and strategies have been identified within the text in addition to Attachment D.		
5	12/11/06	Appendix IV, Definitions	Page numbers no longer applicable (formerly page 622)	Added definition for <i>Species occurrence area</i> .		
6	01/11/07-02/16/07	Skylands Regional Landscape, Conservation Goals and Actions	Page numbers no longer applicable (formerly pages 454-468, 479- 492, 503-515, 525-535, 544-555, 564-574, 583- 593)	Goals and actions were revised per the outcome of the Piedmont Plains Regional Landscape Stakeholders' Meeting for Implementation of the Plan (see Attachment F) and both revised and re- prioritized per the Skylands Regional Stakeholders' Meeting. In addition, all conservation actions were revised to include measurable outcomes where possible.		
7	01/11/07-02/16/07	Attachment F, Summary Report of the Piedmont Plains Regional Landscape Stakeholders' Meeting for Implementation of the Wildlife Action Plan	29 pages	Added to Plan.		

(Continued: Substantive revisions to Plan between the July 26, 2006, and the February 16, 2007, versions)

VERSION DATED JULY 26, 2006

The following substantive revisions had been made to the NJ Wildlife Action Plan after September 1, 2005, submittal and prior to resubmittal to the US Fish and Wildlife Service on July 26, 2006:

Item	Date of revision	Section	Page(s) and Paragraph(s)	Revision
1	October 2, 2005 – July 26, 2006	Section I.A. and I.B., Prefaces	i	Prefaces from former DEP Commissioner Campbell and former DFW Director McHugh have been moved to Appendix VII.
2	October 2, 2005 – July 26, 2006	Section I.A. and I.B., Prefaces	ii	Prefaces from current DEP Deputy Commissioner of Natural Resources, Jay S. Watson, and current DFW Acting Director David Chanda have been inserted within this section.
3	October 2, 2005 – July 26, 2006	Section V.A. (Overview), The Unprecedented Challenge Facing Wildlife Conservation in New Jersey	Page numbers no longer applicable (formerly page 5, para. 5 through page 6, full para. 4)	Added to describe the public comment review process and process for planning the implementation of the Wildlife Action Plan.
4	October 2, 2005 – July 26, 2006	Section V.A. (Overview), The Unprecedented Challenge Facing Wildlife Conservation in New Jersey	Page numbers no longer applicable [formerly page 7 (<i>Partner</i> <i>Summit</i> , Para. 2)]	Added to clearly identify the timeline for formal review of the Wildlife Action Plan.
5	October 2, 2005 – July 26, 2006	Section V.A. (Overview), The Unprecedented Challenge Facing Wildlife Conservation in New Jersey	Page numbers no longer applicable [formerly page 7 (<i>Online</i> , Para. 1 & 2)]	Last statement within the first paragraph and the second paragraph were added to clearly notify our citizens that comments may be submitted at any time and that comments are reviewed for incorporating into this dynamic document.
6	October 2, 2005 – July 26, 2006	Section V.A. (Overview), The Unprecedented Challenge Facing Wildlife Conservation in New Jersey	Page numbers no longer applicable [formerly page 7 (Public Forums and Open-house Opportunities)]	Revised to specifically outline future participation opportunities for NJ's citizens and outreach efforts to include citizens in the implementation of the Wildlife Action Plan.
7	October 2, 2005 – July 26, 2006	Section V.E. (Overview), Threats to Wildlife and Habitats	Page numbers no longer applicable [formerly page 17 (Para. 1 & 2)]	Added to address global threats.

Item	Date of revision	Section	Page(s) and	Revision
			Paragraph(s)	
8	October 2, 2005 – July 26, 2006	Section V.E. (Overview), Threats to Wildlife and Habitats	Page numbers no longer applicable [formerly page 18 (Para. 2, <i>National and Interstate</i> <i>Threats</i>)]	Revised to refocus the state's approach to this issue which formerly highlighted cats as a major threat to native wildlife and to incorporate the requirement for responsible management of colonies impacting native wildlife.
9	October 2, 2005 – July 26, 2006	Section V.F. (Overview), State-level Conservation Objectives	Page numbers no longer applicable (formerly pages 24 – 52)	All conservation strategies have been revised and refined to address measurable outcomes.
10	October 2, 2005 – July 26, 2006	Section V.F. (Overview), State-level Conservation Objectives	Page numbers no longer applicable (formerly pages 24 – 52)	Conservation goals throughout this section have been added, revised, and/or refined per public comments received and discussions held during the First and Second Implementation Meetings in Spring 2006.
11	October 2, 2005 – July 26, 2006	Section V.F. (Overview), State-level Conservation Objectives, Under Addressing National, Interstate, and Statewide Threats,	Page numbers no longer applicable [formerly page 29, (Subsidized Predators)]	Heading has been revised to <i>Subsidized</i> <i>Predators (formerly Free-roaming Feral</i> <i>Cats and Other Subsidized Predators)</i> to refocus the state's approach to the issue of all subsidized predators.
12	October 2, 2005 – July 26, 2006	Section V.F. (Overview), State-level Conservation Objectives, Under Addressing National, Interstate, and Statewide Threats,	Page numbers no longer applicable [formerly page 29, (Subsidized Predators)]	Conservation Goals: the first bulleted goal has been revised to identify and refocus on all subsidized predators (formerly focused on feral and free-roaming cats) and the second bulleted goal has been added to focus on proper management of subsidized and natural predators.
13	October 2, 2005 – July 26, 2006	Section V.F. (Overview), State-level Conservation Objectives, Under Addressing National, Interstate, and Statewide Threats,	Page numbers no longer applicable [formerly page 30, (Subsidized Predators)]	Conservation Strategies: all have been revised to refocus the state's approach to the management of subsidized predators and to improve communication between organizations.

(Continued: Substantive revisions to Plan between the September 29, 2005, and the July 26, 2006, versions)

Item	Date of revision	Section	Page(s) and Paragraph(s)	Revision
14	October 2, 2005 – July 26, 2006	Section V.F. (Overview), State-level Conservation Objectives, Under Addressing National, Interstate, and Statewide Threats,	Page numbers no longer applicable [formerly page 30, (Subsidized Predators)]	Potential Partnerships to Deliver Conservation: the first bulleted item has been revised to include animal welfare organizations and local animal control officers/agents.
15	October 2, 2005 – July 26, 2006	Section VI.C. (Piedmont Plains Landscape)	Page numbers no longer applicable (formerly pages 263 – 340)	Some conservation actions within the September 29, 2005, Wildlife Action Plan had inadvertently been placed <i>under</i> different goals between conservation zones. This mistake has been corrected.
16	October 2, 2005 – July 26, 2006	Section VI.E. (Skylands Landscape)	Page numbers no longer applicable [formerly page 477 (Northern Highlands Conservation Zone)]	Replaced incorrect critical habitat map (Figure 30) with correct version.
17	October 2, 2005 – July 26, 2006	Section VI.E. (Skylands Landscape)	Page numbers no longer applicable [formerly page 491 (Northern Highlands Conservation Zone)]	The public outreach component and associated actions were added to Section e (Conservation Actions).
18	October 2, 2005 – July 26, 2006	Section VI.E. (Skylands Landscape)	Page numbers no longer applicable [formerly page 441 - 559 (Conservation goals and Conservation Actions)]	Throughout all of the Skylands Conservation Zones, the goal to "Maintain and enhance[populations of rare wildlife]" has been revised to focus on specific species in peril in each zone, where appropriate, and associated actions have been incorporated into the Conservation Actions' table (e). In addition, the goal to "Prevent, stabilize, and reverse declines of[populations of rare wildlife and fish]" and associated actions have been added to each zone. This goal (and its actions) address broader issues focusing on habitat types and their associated species.

(Continued: Substantive revisions to Plan between the September 29, 2005, and the July 26, 2006, versions)

Item	Date of revision	Section	Page(s) and	Revision
			Paragraph(s)	
19	October 2, 2005 – July 26, 2006	Section VII: Appendices	Page numbers no longer applicable [formerly pages 597 - 600 (VII.F., Appendix VI)]	Added to share the summary of the public comments that were received from September 21, 2005, through January 15, 2006.
20	October 2, 2005 – July 26, 2006	Section VII: Appendices	Page numbers no longer applicable [formerly pages 601 - 606 (VII.G., Appendix VII)]	Contains prefaces from former DEP Commissioner Campbell and former DFW Director McHugh.
21	October 2, 2005 – July 26, 2006	Section VIII: Attachments	VIII. Attachment A	The Landscape Project brochure has been moved from the appendices (formerly Appendix VI) to the attachments (Attachment A) to appropriately organize the documents.
22	October 2, 2005 – July 26, 2006	Section VIII: Attachments	VIII. Attachment B	Summary report of the First Stakeholder Implementation Meeting, February 23, 2006, was added to share the events and decisions made during the meeting.
23	October 2, 2005 – July 26, 2006	Section VIII: Attachments	VIII. Attachment C	Summary report of the Second Stakeholder Implementation Meeting, April 6, 2006, was added to share the events and decisions made at the meeting.

(Continued: Substantive revisions to Plan between the September 29, 2005, and the July 26, 2006, versions)