

# NJ State Wildlife Action Plan

Where are we now and where are we going?

NJ Endangered and Nongame Species Program; ENSAC mtg, 09/16/09



# Where are we now?

➔ Most current version SWAP (01/23/08) on-line; available for public comment (and use).

➔ Extracted "Ocean Conservation Zone" from Atlantic Coastal Reg. Landscape to create "Marine" Regional section. Section still under review; to be integrated into next publicly available version of Plan.

➔ Regional brochures in print (excluding new Marine).

➔ ENSP/CWF staff working with Public Advisory Committee to identify difficulties working with the Plan & possible methods to make it user-friendly.



## SWAP Public Advisory Committee:

➔ ~12 members + M. O'Gorman (CWF) + D. Jenkins & K. Schantz (ENSP)

- Recruited active participants (at a grassroots level) in all aspects of wildlife and habitat conservation.

➔ Objective: To determine how to improve accessibility and usability of the Plan.

➔ 2 meetings (Dec. & Feb.) focused on understanding the needs of partners and their barriers to using the Plan.

- Future mtgs: Focus on main objective...



# Where are we going?

- ➔ Make the SWAP user-friendly and accessible.
- ➔ Assist in guiding statewide implementation.
- ➔ Complete updates: Marine Region & revised SGCN list (requires public comment).
- ➔ Continue to work towards addressing urban issues more directly within SWAP.
- ➔ Integrate Climate Change issues into SWAP.



## Make the SWAP user-friendly and accessible:

➔ SWAP Public Advisory Committee - hold 2 more meetings over the next 4 - 5 months to:

- Target potential methods to further the use of the SWAP,
- Improve its accessibility to partners and the public, and
- Develop strategies to make it more user-friendly.

➔ Review and expand upon ideas & implement the strategies to achieve a user-friendly SWAP.

➔ Develop appendix that provides detailed examples of implementing actions (e.g., reference of host & nectaring plants for specific butterflies).



## Assist in guiding statewide implementation:

➔ Hold local workshops with interested parties and grantors to:

- Provide hands-on guidance in maneuvering through the SWAP,
- Address/revise/develop projects to ensure they implement SWAP objectives,
- Develop partnerships b/w "neighbors", and
- Highlight potential funding sources and the role of SWAP in seeking grants.

➔ Continue to provide guidance as requested.



## Complete updates to Marine Region & revised SGCN list:

- ➔ Complete review of Marine Region text.
- ➔ Develop/print Marine Region brochure.
- ➔ Update SGCN list prior to next release regardless of status of Delphi reviews.
  - Update marine mammals and possibly, birds (emergency listings) - at this time.
    - Terrestrial mammals are currently undergoing Delphi; likely results will not be considered for next SWAP version due to timeline for acceptance of results.
  - Considered "major revision" and therefore, requires public comment.



## Continue to work towards addressing urban issues more directly within SWAP:

### ➔ REVISIT & REFOCUS our (ENSP/CWF) game plan!

- Hold additional and more focused meetings. (2009-10)
- Revise SWAP to more directly identify and convey urban issues and conservation objectives/actions. (2010-11?)
- Develop urban-focused brochure. (2011?)



## Integrate Climate Change issues into SWAP :

- ➔ Requirement for next "formal" SWAP revision.
- Currently, NJ SWAP briefly addresses and "passes the buck."
  - NJ formal revision slated for 2015, but if climate change legislation passes, it may need to be integrated into SWAPs by 2013.
- ➔ Will require time, research and development with partners & experts...but we want to get people thinking about this asap, so...



# Integrate Climate Change issues into SWAP :

## ➔ "Quick fix":

- Identify goals and actions currently in the SWAP that address climate change issues.
  - Restructure SWAP to clearly identify such goals/actions.
  - Provide brief statement/explanation of how the goal/action address climate change such as connectivity for population shifting (response to change), invasive species removal (resistance to change), etc.

➔ "Quick fix" revision would piggy-back Marine region integration and SGCN update; **ONLY** Marine and SGCN update would undergo public comment period to meet USFWS requirements for the revisions.



# "Quick fix" ("rough" example): Original document

## d. Conservation Goals

- Identify, protect, maintain, enhance, and restore large contiguous tracts of forest and forested wetlands as identified by the Landscape Project for the long-term viability of forest-dwelling, area-sensitive and interior-nesting wildlife as the primary goal for this zone. Included in this group are such species or suites as the bobcat, Indiana and other forest-dwelling bats, the barred owl, red-shouldered hawk, northern goshawk, interior forest passerines, cavity nesting birds, the timber rattlesnake, and wood turtle.

## e. Conservation Actions

The actions below are identified as primary (1<sup>o</sup> or priority) and secondary (2<sup>o</sup>). Prioritization was determined by the Skylands Regional Landscape stakeholders during a meeting held on January 10, 2007 (see *Attachment G*). These actions, with a focus on the priority actions, should be incorporated in planning and project development in conjunction with the priority state-level objectives (goals) and strategies (actions).

Priority	Conservation Actions
<b>Protect critical forest and forested wetland habitats identified in the Landscape Project</b>	
1 <sup>o</sup>	Increase the effective size and connectivity of forests on permanently protected public lands and surrounding private lands through incentive programs and targeted land acquisition. Use GIS measures, other remote sensing tools, and surveys to identify important corridors that connect large, contiguous tracts of forest and target these areas for acquisition to maintain a system of large, connected tracts of forest within and between conservation zones. Where possible, enhance and restore forested habitat through afforestation and revegetation. <i>(Enhance habitat – private lands; Corridors – sprawl, migratory birds; Protect habitat – Landscape Project)</i>

# "Quick fix" ("rough" example): Revised document

The priority habitat(s) within the Upper Delaware River Valley and Kittatinny Ridge Conservation Zone are forests, wetlands and riverine (?) habitats... ETC... CLEARLY IDENTIFY THE PRIORITY HABITAT AND/OR SPECIES FOR EACH ZONE



Goal	Action Priority	Action	Addressing Climate Change
Identify, protect, maintain, enhance, and restore large contiguous tracts of forest and forested wetlands as identified by the Landscape Project for the long-term viability of forest-dwelling, area-sensitive and interior-nesting wildlife as the primary goal for this zone. Included in this group are such species or suites as the bobcat, Indiana and other forest-dwelling bats, the barred owl, red-shouldered hawk, northern goshawk, interior forest passerines, cavity nesting birds, the timber rattlesnake, and wood turtle.	1°	Increase the effective size and connectivity of forests on permanently protected public lands and surrounding private lands through incentive programs and targeted land acquisition. Use GIS measures, other remote sensing tools, and surveys to identify important corridors that connect large, contiguous tracts of forest and target these areas for acquisition to maintain a system of large, connected tracts of forest within and between conservation zones. Where possible, enhance and restore forested habitat through <u>afforestation and revegetation</u> . ( <i>Enhance habitat - private lands; Corridors - sprawl, migratory birds; Protect habitat - Landscape Project</i> )	Connectivity of similar landscapes/habitats allows ecosystems and their inhabitants to respond to change such as the need for minor population distribution shifting as currently suitable habitats are altered.
	2°	Use GIS measures, other remote-sensing tools, and surveys to identify forested stopover areas important for migrant forest raptors, passerines and bats during spring and fall migration.	

## "Quick fix" ("rough" example): Revised document

### Addressing Climate Change

Connectivity of similar landscapes/habitats allows ecosystems and their inhabitants to respond to change such as the need for minor population distribution shifting as currently suitable habitats are altered.

*Questions?*

