

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

New Jersey's Wildlife Action Plan

Interim Report for Project Year
September 1, 2017 – September 30, 2018

NJ Department of Environmental Protection

DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

ENDANGERED AND NONGAME SPECIES PROGRAM



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Project: New Jersey's Wildlife Action Plan
Federal Aid Project: T-10-P-3 (State Wildlife Grants)
Segment dates: September 1, 2017 to September 30, 2018

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:

- November 2017 – January 2018, DFW received comments from the public and professionals in the field on a variety of topics. In February – March 2018, DFW staff reviewed each of the submitted comments and identified where revisions were warranted to provide clarification, corrections, and/or address concerns, and revised the Plan as needed. Comments not relevant to the Plan were forwarded to appropriate DFW staff.
- DFW contracted with a database manager who provided ENSP with an organized Access database of threats and actions.
- DFW submitted the Plan to the USFWS for final approval in April, 2018. The Plan received approval on July 26, 2018.
- Staff revised the Wildlife Action Plan page on the DFW website and posted the approved Plan.

Conclusions:

- New Jersey's Wildlife Action Plan has been completed and approved by USFWS.

Recommendations:

- Ideally, New Jersey would employ a Plan Coordinator who would be dedicated to the continued review and revision of the Plan, and who would coordinate with a database manager to maintain the Access database, and work with NJ Department of Environmental Protection and conservation partners to assist with implementation projects.
- NJDFW should continue to revise the Plan as needed and to work with the database manager to update the database and finalize database-derived reports.
- NJDFW should continue to refine CFAs and associated information, and revise and refine the threats and actions to those that apply to the focal wildlife species and the CFAs.
- NJDFW should design future work plans that identify the most important management actions for focal species and all SGCN wildlife.