

**Wisconsin's Wildlife Action Plan (2005-2015)
Priority Conservation Actions & Conservation Opportunity Areas**

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HIGH PRIORITY SGCN & NATURAL COMMUNITIES

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ American Bittern ➤ American Woodcock ➤ Black Tern ➤ Bobolink ➤ Golden-winged Warbler ➤ Grasshopper Sparrow ➤ Greater Prairie Chicken ➤ Henslow's Sparrow ➤ Northern Harrier ➤ Prothonotary Warbler ➤ Red-headed Woodpecker ➤ Red-Shouldered Hawk ➤ Short-eared Owl ➤ Trumpeter Swan ➤ Vesper Sparrow ➤ Western Meadowlark ➤ Whip-poor-will ➤ Whooping Crane ➤ Gray Wolf ➤ Northern Long-eared Bat | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Prairie Vole ➤ Blanding's Turtle ➤ Bullsnake ➤ Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake ➤ Mudpuppy ➤ Western Glass Lizard ➤ Ash-brown Grasshopper ➤ Barrens Snaketail ➤ Bina Flower Moth ➤ Clamp-tipped Emerald ➤ Dusted Skipper ➤ Frosted Elfin ➤ Henry's Elfin ➤ Hoary Elfin ➤ Jutta Arctic ➤ Karner Blue Butterfly ➤ Leafhoppers (<i>Paraphilaenus parallelus</i>, <i>Limotettix psedudosphagneticus</i>) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Persius Duskywing ➤ Phlox Moth ➤ Olympia Marble ➤ Red-tailed Leafhopper ➤ Ringed Boghaunter ➤ Spatterdock Darner ➤ Spotted-winged Grasshopper ➤ Warpaint Emerald ➤ Central Pine-Oak Forest ➤ Cliffs (Escarpment) ➤ Floodplain Forest ➤ Northern Sedge Meadow ➤ Oak Barrens ➤ Open Bog ➤ Pine Barrens ➤ Sand Prairie ➤ Southern Dry-Mesic Forest ➤ Surrogate Grasslands ➤ White Pine – Red Maple Swamp |
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PRIORITY CONSERVATION ACTIONS

- Protect white pine-red maple swamp hydrology, and promote development of older stands.
- Maintain large blocks of open bog/muskeg habitat and other surrounding wetlands as co-occurring peatland communities by maintaining hydrology and controlling invasive plant species.
- Maintain large blocks of open sedge meadow within a complex of associated wetlands such as open bog, poor fen, emergent marsh, shrub-carr, alder thicket and northern wet forest by maintaining hydrology, tree cutting and harvest, prescribed fire and eradicating invasive plant species.
- Maintain lowland shrub communities like alder thicket and shrub-carr, and manage the surrounding working forest to benefit Golden-winged Warblers by leaving scattered off-site aspen, ash and tamarack in shrub-dominated areas and managing the adjacent upland forest in a shifting mosaic of patch sizes and age classes to provide continuous habitat.

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- Restore oak barrens on sites that will increase effective habitat patch size for area sensitive species, such as upland areas between large wetlands.
- Manage oaks as a large-scale mosaic of patches along a successional gradient that includes oak forest, oak woodland, oak opening, and open wetland.
- Maintain or restore mixed pine-oak forests to represent the full natural range of variability in patch sizes and age classes.
- Identify and restore oak/conifer barrens and shrub-dominated habitats through the application of prescribed fire and timber management.
- Work with private land owners to promote the creation of smaller savanna restorations that provide habitat for Red-headed Woodpeckers.
- Develop educational tools and demonstration/training areas that promote prescribed fire and other oak barrens management practices.
- Develop a practical "toolkit" for maintaining structural and compositional characteristics of oak barrens ecosystems.
- Implement the Wisconsin Whooping Crane Management Plan.
- Increase the effective size of the Buena Vista and Leola Marsh grassland landscapes by promoting the creation/maintenance/protection of surrogate grassland adjacent to existing patches.
- Reintroduce Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake to places along the Yellow River where suitable habitat exists.
- Manage appropriate native sand prairie and sand prairie restoration sites for nesting Blanding's Turtles.
- Maintain and connect large blocks of older floodplain forest to provide habitat for the large number of SGCN that use this habitat while addressing the regeneration difficulties associated with dense stands of reed canary grass.
- Implement the Greater Prairie-Chicken Management Plan.
- Encourage landowner enrollment in federal set-aside programs, especially in the Central Wisconsin Grassland project area.
- Work with private land owners to manage wetland impoundments to conserve marsh-nesting birds.

CONSERVATION OPPORTUNITY AREAS

Pine-Oak Barrens – Global Significance

Upland mosaic of slightly elevated land dominated by poor sandy soils featuring Central Pine-Oak Forest, Southern Dry-Mesic Forest, Oak Barrens, Pine Barrens, Sand Barrens, and Sand Prairie. Embedded wetlands also add significant biodiversity values.

COA(s): Buckhorn (7.04); Robinson Creek (7.06); Black River (7.07); Eau Claire and Clark Barrens Restoration (7.09)

SGCN – Blanding's Turtle, Bullsake, Ring-neck Snake, Western Glass Lizard, Wood Turtle, Yellow-bellied Racer, Black-billed Cuckoo, Brown Thrasher, Blue-winged Warbler, Eastern Meadowlark, Field Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Northern Harrier, Upland Sandpiper, Red-headed Woodpecker, Vesper Sparrow, Whip-poor-will, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Eastern Red Bat, Hoary Bat, Gray Wolf, Northern Long-eared Bat, Prairie Vole, Silver-haired Bat, Short-winged Grasshopper, Spotted-winged Grasshopper, Ash-brown Grasshopper, Sand Locust, Karner Blue Butterfly, Frosted Elfin, Henry's Elfin, Hoary Elfin, Pink-edged Sulphur, Dusted Skipper, Mottled Duskywing, Persius Duskywing, Olympia Marble, Bina Flower Moth, Phlox Moth, Graceful Clearwing, Phyllira Tiger Moth, Sprague's Pygarctia, Limottetix Leafhopper, and Pale Tiger Beetle.

Public Lands – Augusta Wildlife Area, Black River State Forest, Jackson County Forest, Clark County Forest, Eau Claire County Forest, and Buckhorn State Park and Wildlife Area.

Legacy Places – Black River State Forest.

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Important Bird Areas – Fort McCoy-Robinson Creek Barrens.

Large River Corridors – Continental Significance

Main stem of the Black River below the dam at Black River Falls, including stream side communities Floodplain Forest, Northern Dry-Mesic Forest, Oak Barrens, Dry Cliff and Moist Cliff.

COA(s): Lower Black River Corridor (A.29)

SGCN – Blanding's Turtle, Midland Smooth Softshelled Turtle, Pickerel Frog, Wood Turtle, Black-billed Cuckoo, Blue-winged Warbler, Blue-winged Teal, Cerulean Warbler, Least Flycatcher, Louisiana Waterthrush, Prothonotary Warbler, Red-shouldered Hawk, Rusty Blackbird, Solitary Sandpiper, Veery, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Eastern Red Bat, Hoary Bat, Northern Long-eared Bat, Silver-haired Bat, Water Shrew, Water Scavenging Beetles, Purse Casemaker Caddisfly, and Barrens Snaketail.

Public Land – Black River State Forest.

Legacy Places – Black River.

Large Sedge Meadows, Fens and Prairies – Upper Midwest/Regional Significance

Predominantly large wetlands with open bogs, shrub swamps, impoundments and sedge meadows including Northern Wet Forest, Alder Thicket, Shrub Carr, White Pine – Red Maple Swamp, Floodplain Forest, Northern Sedge Meadow, Open Bog, and Impoundments.

COA(s): Cottonville Colburn Wetlands (7.01); Quincy Bluff and Wetlands (7.03); Meadow Valley Sandhill (7.05); Dewey Marsh (7.08)

SGCN – Blanding's Turtle, Four-toed Salamander, Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake, Pickerel Frog, Wood Turtle, American Bittern, American Woodcock, Bald Eagle, Black Tern, Black-billed Cuckoo, Blue-winged Teal, Blue-winged Warbler, Bobolink, Canada Warbler, Connecticut Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Henslow's Sparrow, LeConte's Sparrow, Lesser Scaup, Northern Goshawk, Northern Harrier, Osprey, Rusty Blackbird, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Short-eared Owl, Solitary Sandpiper, Trumpeter Swan, Veery, Whooping Crane, Willow Flycatcher, Wilson's Phalarope, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Yellow Rail, Eastern Red Bat, Gray Wolf, Hoary Bat, Northern Long-eared Bat, Silver-haired Bat, Water Shrew, Spatterdock Darner, Warpaint Emerald, Clamp-tipped Emerald, Ringed Boghaunter, and Jutta Arctic.

Public Land – Dewey Marsh Wildlife Area, Meadow Valley Wildlife Area, Quincy Bluff State Natural Area, Sandhill Wildlife Area, Wood County Wildlife Area, Colburn Wildlife Area, Jackson County Forest, Monroe County Forest, Wood County Forest, Juneau County Forest, Necedah National Wildlife Refuge, and Buckhorn State Park and Wildlife Area.

Legacy Places – Bear Bluff, Black River, Central Wisconsin Forests, Dewey Marsh, Jay Creek Pines State Natural Area, Lower Lemonweir River, Necedah National Wildlife Refuge, Quincy Bluff and Wetlands, Sandhill-Meadow Valley-Wood County Wildlife Area, Yellow River.

Important Bird Areas – Bear Bluff Peatlands, Quincy Bluff, and Necedah National Wildlife Refuge.

Medium-sized Rivers and Streams – Upper Midwest/Regional Significance

Natural communities are cool and warm water streams of Upper Midwest significance due to their diverse invertebrate populations.

COA(s): Eau Claire River (A.39); Robinson (A.30); Hall's (A.31); Morrison (A.32); Wedge's (A.33) Creeks

SGCN – Buckhorn, Fawnsfoot, Salamander Mussel, Tiger Beetles, Aurora Damselfly, Barrens Snaketail, Clio Stripetail, Elusive Clubtail, Lancet Clubtail, Sand Snaketail, Ski-tailed Emerald, Spondid Clubtail, Skillet Clubtail, Green-faced Clubtail, Stygian Shadowfly, Zebra Clubtail, and Water Shrew.

Public Land – Hall's Creek Fishery Area, Black River State Forest, Jackson County Forest.

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Extensive Grassland Communities – State Significance

Features managed surrogate grassland.

COA(s): Central Wisconsin Grassland (7.02)

SGCN – American Golden Plover, Blue-winged Teal, Bobolink, Brown Thrasher, Dickcissel, Eastern Meadowlark, Field Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Greater Prairie-Chicken, Henslow's Sparrow, Northern Harrier, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Short-eared Owl, Upland Sandpiper, Western Meadowlark, Willow Flycatcher, Regal Fritillary, and Ottoe Skipper.

Public Land – Buena Vista Wildlife Area, Leola Marsh Wildlife Area, Central Wisconsin Grassland Conservation Area, and Big Roche-a-Cri Fishery Area.

Legacy Places – Central Wisconsin Grassland.

Important Bird Areas – Buena Vista/Leola State Wildlife Areas and Paul Olson State Wildlife Area.

Diverse Aquatic Communities – State Significance

River systems feature the main stem of those rivers plus a portion of Hemlock Creek, including stream side communities Floodplain Forest, and Emergent Marsh.

COA(s): Lemonweir River (A.23) and Yellow River- Hemlock Creek (A.24)

SGCN – Blanding's Turtle, Four-toed Salamander, Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake, Pickerel Frog, Wood Turtle, Black-billed Cuckoo, Blue-winged Warbler, Blue-winged Teal, Cerulean Warbler, Least Flycatcher, Prothonotary Warbler, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-shouldered Hawk, Rusty Blackbird, Solitary Sandpiper, Veery, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Eastern Red Bat, Gray Wolf, Hoary Bat, Northern Long-eared Bat, Silver-haired Bat, Water Shrew, Ellipse, Rainbow Shell, Salamander Mussel, and Lancet Clubtail.

Public Land – Buckhorn Wildlife Area, Sandhill Wildlife Area, Juneau County Forest, Wood County Forest, Necedah National Wildlife Refuge, Lemonweir Bottomland Hardwood Forest State Natural Area.

Legacy Places – Black River, Lower Lemonweir River, Necedah National Wildlife Refuge, Sandhill – Meadow Valley – Wood County Wildlife Areas, Yellow (Juneau) River.

Important Bird Areas – Necedah NWR and Bear Bluff Peatlands.

Bedrock Communities – State Significance (unmapped)

Most of Wisconsin has the bedrock buried beneath glacial materials. In the Central Sand Plains the influence of Glacial Lake Wisconsin, and especially where its outflow breached – the Dells of the Wisconsin River – resulted in a concentration of cliff communities. Often the most visible portions of this uncommonly flat landscape, these buttes, mesas and other cliff communities provide limited habitat for SGCN and need to be managed as small patches where they are located. Natural Communities – Dry Cliff, Moist Cliff, Northern Dry-Mesic Forest, and Northern Mesic Forest

SGCN – Bullsake, Yellow-bellied Racer Dusted Skipper, Frosted Elfin, Karner Blue Butterfly.

Public Land – Mill Bluff State Park, Jackson County Forest, Black River State Forest, Roche-a-Cri State Park, Mirror Lake State Park, Rocky Arbor State Park, Hulburt Creek State Fisheries Area, Clark County Forest, Quincy Bluff and Wetlands State Natural Area, Dells of the Wisconsin River State Natural Area.

Legacy Places – Black River, Quincy Bluff, Greensand Cuesta, Middle Wisconsin River.

Important Bird Areas – Quincy Bluff.

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High Quality Wetland Communities – State Significance (unmapped)

Coastal Plain Marsh is an unmapped feature found predominantly in this Ecological Landscape. The distribution of this community is limited to a few sites within the sandy beds or margins of extinct glacial lakes, on level or gently sloping glacial outwash sands, and, possibly, in glacial tunnel channels. The lake or pond waters are nutrient-poor and acidic, and all known occurrences of the community are small, or at most, medium-sized. Historically the surrounding vegetation included oak and pine barrens; dry acid forests composed of oaks, pines, or mixtures; sand prairie; and various peatland communities. Periodic wildfire would have been the major disturbance force in all of these communities prior to European settlement and the implementation of fire suppression policies. Need to managed as small patches and not in a landscape context

SGCN – Solitary Sandpiper, Blanding's Turtle, Northern Long-eared Bat, Spatterdock Darner, Ringed Boghaunter, Sand Snaketail, Warpaint Emerald.

Public Land – Jackson County Forest, Quincy Bluff State Natural Area, Sohlberg Silver Lake State Natural Area.

Legacy Places – Quincy Bluff, Black River State Forest.

Important Bird Areas – Quincy Bluff.