

**Vermont's  
Wildlife Action Plan\*  
November 22, 2005**

**Chapter 6  
Glossary & Acronym Key**

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*\*formally the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (CWCS)*



## Chapter 6: Vermont Wildlife Action Plan Glossary & Acronym Key

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This glossary contains definitions to many of the terms used in this document.

**Actively managed:** For wildlife this means that a management plan for the species or a suite of species exists. (E.g. an osprey plan, waterfowl plan, spruce grouse plan.)

**Anthropogenic:** Conditions that result from human activities. “Anthropo-” meaning human and “-genic” meaning produced from.

**Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (CWCS):** This Wildlife Action Plan was developed under the working title of Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (CWCS). Upon federal approval the name was changed to Wildlife Action Plan (Action Plan). The Action Plan/CWCS sets a plan of action for conserving Vermont's wildlife by addressing conservation issues, management needs, and priorities. It is intended to be used by anyone with an interest in wildlife conservation.

**Conservation:** Plans and actions that will help restore and/or sustain Vermont's wildlife populations, with a focus on Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN), and utilizing the full array of traditional conservation tools such as management (e.g. habitat manipulation, restoration (e.g. acquisition, fee-simple easements), landowner education and incentives.

**Conservation Opportunity Areas:** areas of land and water where the likelihood of successful conservation is strongest and the conservation needs of wildlife and their habitats would be best met.

**Conservation Partners:** The wildlife biologists, ecologists, sportsmen and other conservationists, non-governmental organizations, business leaders, colleges and universities and state and federal agencies representing more than 60 entities (table 1-1) that worked with the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department to create Vermont's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy. When implementation of the Action Plan begins, any and all individuals, organizations, agencies and other entities wishing to participate will be considered conservation partners.

**Conservation Reserve Program (CRP):** provides annual land rental payments up to 15 years and cost sharing assistance to install water quality enhancement practices on environmentally sensitive land.

**Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP):** State and Federal partnership allowing incentive payments to landowners who set aside environmentally sensitive land along streams or field boundaries.

**Common Species:** "Keeping Common Species Common" is a phrase Congress used to describe its goal for the SWG program and the Action Plan. Common in this situation refers to any species that is not on the federal Endangered Species List (Threaten or Endangered).

**Contiguous Forest:** An area of forested land with either no roads or low densities of class IV roads, and little or no human development (buildings, parking areas, lawns, gravel pits). Contiguous forest may have various age classes of forest cover and include other habitat types such as wetlands or grasslands that are part of the overall contiguous habitat complex.

**Corridor:** A route that permits the direct travel or spread of animals or plants from one area or region to another, either by the gradual spread of a species' population along the route or by the movement of individual animals, seeds, pollen, spores, or microbes.

**Cultural Habitat:** (sometimes referred to as anthropogenic habitat) communities and sites that are either created and/or maintained by human activities or are modified by human influence to such a degree

that the physical condition is substantially different from what existed prior to human influence (e.g. old mines, hayfields used by grassland birds, buildings and structures used by bats).

**Data Gap:** A clear data need identified in the Action Plan as important to the conservation of a species or habitat.

**Ecosystem:** A complex array of organisms, their natural environment, the interactions between them, and the ecological processes that sustain the system. Ecosystems can be defined at any scale, from rotting logs, to Lake Champlain, to the Green Mountains.

**Endangered Species:** A species in danger of becoming extinct that is protected by either the federal Endangered Species Act or the Vermont Endangered Species Act.

**Endemic species** Found only in a certain place. For the purposes of this document endemic refers to species found *only* in Vermont. There are no known endemic species in Vermont. The most likely possibilities are invertebrates.

**Exotic Invasive & Pest Species:** An invasive species is defined by the as a species that is 1) non-native (or alien) to the ecosystem under consideration and 2) whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.

**Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP):** provides cost sharing payments to participants who install enduring conservation practices to help control soil erosion and improve water quality.

**Forest Cover Type:** A descriptive classification of forestland based on present occupancy of an area by tree species (Society of American Foresters).

**Game Species:** Wildlife species that are subject to legal hunting, fishing or harvesting.

**Habitat:** A place where a plant or animal lives. A place where an organism lives. Habitat is generally thought of in terms of single species such as bear or calypso orchid habitat.

**Herp:** an abbreviation for herptile, which includes both amphibian and reptile species.

**Herptile:** amphibian and reptile species

**Indicator species:** A species, or community whose presence in an area indicates the presence of certain environmental conditions.

**Indicators:** Indicators are measures that track inputs, outputs, and outcomes by stating them in specific and observable terms. They are also used to monitor natural resource conditions and the threats that can degrade natural ecosystems (.e.g. the number lakes infested with Eurasian watermilfoil; the distribution of lakes infested with Eurasian watermilfoil # of boat checks conducted; % of boaters aware of exotic species laws)

**Landscape:** A heterogeneous area of land containing groups of natural communities and clusters of interacting ecosystems. These can be of widely varying scales, but normally include a range of elevations, bedrock, and soils.

**Life-history traits:** Examples include be species with low fecundity, that take a long time to reach sexual maturity, that take a long time between reproductive events (sturgeon, wood turtle)

**Limiting factor:** The factor that limits the growth, abundance, or distribution of a population of organisms or a habitat.

**Metadata:** Definitional information that provides information about or documentation of other data

**Metapopulation:** A small number of relatively isolated populations that may occasionally exchange individuals

**Mosaic:** A pattern of vegetation in which two or more different plant communities are interspersed in patches.

**Natural Community:** An interacting assemblage of plants and animals, their physical environment, and the natural processes that affect them.

**Neotropical Migrants:** Birds especially songbirds, that summer and breed in North America but migrate to the tropics for the winter. Neotropical refers to the region south of the Tropic of Cancer that includes southern Mexico, Central and South America, and the West Indies

**Nongame Wildlife:** Wildlife species that are not subject to legal hunting, fishing or harvesting.

**Pathogen:** Any disease producing microorganism or material

**Problem:** A force causing a negative impact at the species, population, habitat and landscape levels (e.g., habitat conversion, pollution, illegal pet trade). A problem can also be the lack of information or a data gap vital to the successful management of a species. Because this report addresses an extremely broad range of problems affecting species and their habitats, the term "problem" may not always be the most appropriate term: threat, stress, stressor, issue, concern and limiting factor may at times be more accurate.

**Regulated Hunting/Fishing/Trapping:** The harvest of wildlife under regulations stipulating setting of seasons, time frame of lawful harvest, open and closed zones, methods of take, bag limits, possession limits, and reporting or tagging of species.

**Responsibility Species:** Species for which Vermont has a long-term stewardship responsibility because they are not doing well regionally, even if populations are stable in Vermont. E.g. bobolink

**SGCN:** see Species of Greatest Conservation Need

**Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN):** According to federal legislation and guidance from the USFWS on the development of Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategies, "each State will determine these species in the context of developing its [Wildlife Conservation Strategy]. These species must be fauna, and not flora, and may include aquatic species and invertebrates. A State's list of "species of the greatest conservation need" may include currently listed Federal and State wildlife species and other species of concern. We anticipate that the composition of this list will change over time as the status and conservation need of species changes within the State." The term Species of Greatest Conservation Need is not a statutory designation similar to the terms "endangered" or "threatened" codified by federal and state Endangered Species Acts.

**Take/Taking:** "Take" and "Taking" mean pursuing, shooting, hunting, killing, capturing, trapping, disturbing, harrying, worrying, or wounding snaring and netting fish, birds and quadrupeds and all lesser acts including placing, setting, drawing or using any net or other device commonly used to take fish or wild animals, whether they result in taking or not. It includes every attempt to take and every act of assistance to another person in taking or attempting to take fish or wild animals.

**Threatened Species:** Any species which is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range that is protected by either the federal Endangered Species Act or the Vermont Endangered Species Act

**Wildlife:** According to State Wildlife Grants legislation, wildlife is any species of wild, free-ranging fauna including fish, and invertebrates and also fauna in captive breeding programs the object of which is to reintroduce individuals of a depleted indigenous species in a previously occupied range.

**Wildlife Action Plan (Action Plan)** The Action Plan sets a plan of action for conserving Vermont's wildlife by addressing conservation issues, management needs, and priorities. It is intended to be used by anyone with an interest in wildlife conservation. It was developed under the working title of Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (CWCS).

## Acronym Key

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This key includes many of the acronyms used in this document. Please let the authors know if additional entries are warranted. A full list of the Conservation Partners collaborating on the development of this report can be found in Chapter 1: Introduction.

- AFS:** American Fisheries Society  
**AMP:** Acceptable Management Practice  
**ANR:** Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (comprised of VFWD, DEC, FPR)  
**AOT:** Vermont Agency of Transportation  
**AVCC:** Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions  
**BBS:** Breeding Bird Survey  
**BCR:** Bird Conservation Region  
**BMP:** Best management practice  
**CBC:** Christmas Bird Count  
**CITES:** Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna  
**CRASC:** Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Commission  
**CRJC:** Connecticut River Joint Commission  
**CRP:** Conservation Reserve Program (a program of FSA)  
**CWCS:** Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy, the original name for the Wildlife Action Plan. The name change occurred when the CWCS received federal approval.  
**DEC:** Vermont Department of Environmental Quality, also VDEC  
**DJ:** Dingell-Johnson Act of 1950, Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act  
**EO:** Element Occurrence  
**EQIP:** Environmental Quality Incentives Program (a program of NRCS)  
**ESC:** Endangered Species Committee  
**FIA:** Forest Inventory Analysis  
**FIP:** Forest Incentives Program (USFS)  
**FPR:** Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation  
**FSA:** Farm Service Agency (a USDA agency) ([www.fsa.usda.gov/vt/](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/vt/))  
**FWD:** Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department  
**GIS:** Geographic Information Systems  
**GRP:** Grassland Reserve Program  
**HAT:** Hunters, Anglers & Trapper of Vermont  
**HAT:** Hunters, Anglers & Trappers Assoc of Vermont  
**IAFWA:** International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies  
**IBA:** Important Bird Areas  
**LCBP:** Lake Champlain Basin Program  
**LCC:** Lake Champlain Committee  
**LCLT:** Lake Champlain Land Trust  
**LIP:** Landowner Incentive Program (a USFWS program, managed in Vermont by VFWD)  
**MBTA:** Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1940  
**NABCI:** North American Bird Conservation Initiative  
**NASA:** National Aeronautical and Space Administration  
**NEPCoP:** New England Plant Conservation Program (<http://www.newfs.org/>)  
**NNHP:** Nongame & Natural Heritage Program (of the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department)

**NRCS:** Natural Resources Conservation Service (a USDA agency)  
**NRCS:** U.S. Natural Resource Conservation Service (habitat programs include WHIP, EQIP, CRP)  
**NWI:** National Wetlands Inventory  
**NWR:** National Wildlife Refuge  
**NWTF:** National Wild Turkey Federation  
**PARC:** Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation  
**PIF:** Partners in Flight  
**PR:** Pittman-Robertson Act of 1937, the Federal Aid to Wildlife Restoration Act  
**RGS:** Ruffed Grouse Society  
**RPC:** Regional Planning Commissions (see <http://www.vapda.com/>)  
**SAF:** Society of American Foresters  
**SGCN:** Species of Greatest Conservation Need  
**SWG:** State Wildlife Grants  
**TNC:** The Nature Conservancy  
**TU:** Trout Unlimited  
**USACE:** United States Army Corps of Engineers  
**USDA:** United States Department of Agriculture  
**USEPA:** United States Environmental Protection Agency  
**USFS:** United States Forest Service  
**USFWS:** United States Fish & Wildlife Service  
**USGS:** United States Geological Service  
**VCGI: VDHCA:** Vermont Department of Housing & Community Affairs  
**VFS:** Vermont Forum on Sprawl  
**VFWD:** Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department  
**VHCB:** Vermont Housing & Community Board  
**VINS:** Vermont Institute of Natural Sciences  
**VLCT:** Vermont League of Cities & Towns  
**VLT:** Vermont Land Trust  
**VLT:** Vermont Land Trust  
**VNRC:** Vermont Natural Resources Council  
**VT Coop:** Vermont Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit (of the US Geological Service)  
**VT A:** Vermont Trappers Association  
**VTFSC:** Vermont Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs  
**VWA:** Vermont Woodlands Association  
**VTrans:** Vermont Agency of Transportation (also AOT)  
**WHIP:** Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (a program of NRCS)  
**WMA:** Wildlife Management Area (managed by VFWD)  
**WRP:** Wetland Reserve Program (NRCS)