

Vermont's Wildlife Action Plan*

November 22, 2005

Appendix D CWCS Team and Committee Charters

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

Conservation Partners Charter for the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy

revised 4/28/2004

Public Participation Goal: The Department of Fish and Wildlife (FWD) wishes to create a Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (CWCS) for the state of Vermont—one that meets the needs of all fish and wildlife as well as participating partners and the FWD. Therefore, FWD will collaborate with the CWCS Conservation Partners in each aspect of their charge.

Promise to the Public: The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department will look to the Conservation Partners committee for direct advice and innovation in formulating solutions. We will strive to create a CWCS that Partners can be a part of and we will look to Conservation Partners to help implement the CWCS upon its completion.

Committee Charge

The Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy Conservation Partners committee is established to provide advice to FWD in the development and implementation of the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy for the state of Vermont. The committee will:

- Review federal guidelines and sideboards for developing a CWCS.
- Review CWCS drafts and final report
- Nominate experts for staffing of technical teams.
- Review the interim draft CWCS report and provide constructive and timely feedback to the Steering Committee.
- Review final draft CWCS report and provide constructive and timely feedback to the Steering Committee.
- Help implement the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy upon completion.

Responsibilities

In order to achieve their mission the CWCS Conservation Partners will:

- Meet as needed to develop an understanding CWCS development issues (approximately 3-4 meetings/year).
- Complete assigned tasks and projects by dates specified on the CWCS timeline
- Work together to represent their organizations' views and respect other organizations' views and opinions.
- Provide staff and experts from their organizations to participate as appropriate on the technical teams.
- Serve as a liaison to their respective organizations to keep members informed of CWCS progress.

Committee Members

Members may include representatives of local, state and federal agencies, NGOs, landowners, utilities, wildlife related businesses and others.

Steering Committee Charter for the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy

revised 4/28/2004

Committee Charge

The CWCS Steering Committee meets regularly with the CWCS Coordinator for briefing, guidance, and review of planning efforts. The committee provides leadership and organizational commitment to ensure success of the CWCS, as well as expertise in conservation biology and wildlife management. It champions the CWCS process and ensures that sufficient resources are allocated to the effort. Tasks may include but are not limited to:

- Review of federal guidelines and sideboards for developing a CWCS.
- Review of charters for CWCS teams and committees, as developed by the CWCS Coordinator.
- Introducing the planning effort and team charges to the other committees and teams at initial meetings and to Fish and Wildlife Department staff.
- Suggesting criteria that might be used for identifying species of greatest conservation need.
- Recommending tools and data sets that technical teams will use and providing guidance in the consistent use of the data.
- Suggesting criteria to assist in prioritizing conservation actions.
- Reviewing public involvement materials and drafts of the CWCS as necessary.

Responsibilities

The CWCS Steering Committee:

- Has statutory responsibility for completion of the CWCS and management of State Wildlife Grant funds.
- Encourages meaningful participation and buy-in among partners and the Fish and Wildlife Department staff during CWCS development.
- Appoints members to Species Teams and Integration Team.

Committee Members

Ron Regan FWD Operation Director, Tom Decker FWD Wildlife Director, Eric Palmer FWD Fisheries Director, Scott Darling FWD District Biologist, Steve Parren FWD Nongame and Natural Heritage Program Coordinator, Tom Wiggins FWD Fish Culture Program Chief/Department Planner, Jon Kart CWCS Coordinator.

Conservation Strategy Review Team Charter for the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy

revised 4/28/2004

Public Participation Goal: The Department of Fish and Wildlife (FWD) wishes to create a Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (CWCS) for the state of Vermont—one that meets the needs of all fish and wildlife as well as participating partners and the FWD. Therefore, FWD will collaborate with the Conservation Strategy Review Team in each aspect of their charge.

Promise to the Public: The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department will look to the CWCS Conservation Strategy Review Team for direct advice and innovation in formulating solutions.

Committee Charge

The CWCS Conservation Strategy Review Team is established to provide advice to FWD and Conservation Partners in the development of a comprehensive wildlife conservation strategy for the state of Vermont. The team will:

- Review federal guidelines and sideboards for developing a CWCS.
- Review existing wildlife and conservation plans.

Responsibilities

In order to achieve their mission the CWCS Conservation Strategy Review Team will:

- Complete assigned tasks and projects by dates specified on CWCS timeline
- Review limiting factors and draft strategies developed by the Integration Team.
- Develop additional strategies as needed and prioritize strategies.
- Work together, to bring the team's knowledge and expertise of species, habitats/natural communities and conservation strategies to the development of a statewide Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy.

Committee Members

Conservation Partners as well as designees from the environmental education and wildlife law enforcement communities.

Integration Team Charter for the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy

revised 4/28/2004

Public Participation Goal: The Department of Fish and Wildlife (FWD) wishes to create a Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (CWCS) for the state of Vermont—one that meets the needs of all fish and wildlife as well as participating partners and the FWD. Therefore, FWD will collaborate with the Integration Team in each aspect of their charge.

Promise to the Public: The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department will look to the CWCS Integration Team for direct advice and innovation in formulating solutions.

Committee Charge

The CWCS Integration Team is established to provide advice to FWD and Conservation Partners in the development of a comprehensive wildlife conservation strategy for the state of Vermont. The team will:

- Review federal guidelines and sideboards for developing a CWCS.
- Review existing wildlife and conservation plans.
- Analyze criteria for the identification of “species of greatest conservation need” used by CWCS development teams in others states and in conservation biology literature.
- Advise Species Teams where needed to ensure consistent analysis and application of recommended procedures across taxonomic groups.

Responsibilities

In order to achieve their mission the CWCS Integration Team will:

- Complete assigned tasks and projects by dates specified on CWCS timeline
- Develop criteria for identifying species of greatest conservation need.
- Monitor the progress of Species Teams to ensure deadlines are met.
- Coordinate work and facilitate communication between Species Teams.
- Analyze reports of the Species Teams and identify gaps in existing information.
- Addresses special habitat and natural community needs.
- Synthesizes reports of the Species Teams and strategies developed by the Conservation Strategy Review.
- Consult with the Conservation Strategy Review Teams
- Work together, to bring the team’s knowledge and expertise of species, habitats/natural communities and conservation strategies to the development of a statewide Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy.

Committee Members

Facilitators of the Species Teams and additional Fish and Wildlife Department staff, Conservation Partner staff and other experts as assigned by the Steering Committee.

Species Team Charter for the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy

revised 4/28/2004

Public Participation Goal: The Department of Fish and Wildlife (FWD) wishes to create a Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (CWCS) for the state of Vermont—one that meets the needs of all fish and wildlife as well as participating partners and the FWD. Therefore, FWD will collaborate with the Species Teams in each aspect of their charge.

Promise to the Public: The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department will look to the Species Teams for advice and innovation in formulating solutions.

Team Charge

The Species Teams of the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy are established to provide expertise on various wildlife species. The teams will:

- Review federal guidelines and sideboards for developing a CWCS.
- Review existing wildlife and conservation plans pertinent to the team's work.
- Apply the criteria provided by the Integration Team to create a list "species of greatest conservation need."
- Identify locations and conditions of habitats and natural communities of listed species of greatest conservation need.
- Identify limiting factors to the listed species of greatest conservation need and their habitats.
- Recommend draft strategies for managing species of greatest conservation need
- Develop plans to monitor identified species and effectiveness of conservation strategies.
- Address comments submitted by the Conservation Partners and FWD staff during the interim review and incorporate where appropriate into the Species Team's report to the Integration Team.

Responsibilities

In order to achieve their mission the CWCS Species Team will:

- Meet on a schedule as needed by the team.
- Complete assigned tasks and projects by dates specified on CWCS timeline
- Work together, to bring their knowledge and expertise of species and habitats/natural communities for the development of a statewide CWCS.
- Identify gaps in existing information.

Team Members

Members should have demonstrable training and experience in a taxonomic specialty sufficient to allow them to critically analyze life history requirements, limiting factors to population persistence, and needed conservation actions. Teams include 1) Birds, 2) Fish, 3) Invertebrates, 4) Mammals, 5) Plants, 6) Reptiles & Amphibians.