

Arkansas Wildlife Action Plan

From Vision to On-the-Ground Action

The Arkansas wildlife action plan addresses the needs of 369 species of greatest conservation need in terrestrial habitats and aquatic habitats across seven ecoregions in Arkansas. Habitat fragmentation and groundwater depletion are among the threats facing wildlife identified in the wildlife action plan.

Protecting Imperiled Land, Water, and Wildlife

Restoring Ozark Highlands

Restoration of woodland systems is a high priority in Arkansas' wildlife action plan. Fire suppression in the Ozark

highlands has allowed non-native plants to invade and tree density to exceed historic levels, crowding out natural understory plant diversity. The Arkansas Game & Fish and Natural Heritage Commissions and the Missouri Department of Conservation are working together to restore pine-oak woodlands. In Arkansas, over 4,500 acres of pine and oak woodland savanna, glades, and woodlands were restored using controlled burns, cedar removal from glades, and forest thinning. Restored understory will benefit many species of greatest conservation need,

including eastern tiger salamanders, bobwhite quail, Bewick's wrens, painted buntings, and more. This proactive management will conserve wildlife and vital natural areas for future generations.

Proactive Efforts that Benefit Wildlife and People

Conserving Imperiled Prairie Wildlife

Henslow's sparrows and other grassland wildlife are species of greatest conservation need in Arkansas' wildlife action plan. A State Wildlife Grants project revealed several unknown populations of breeding Henslow's sparrows in northwest Arkansas, with the largest in Cherokee Prairie Natural Area. This area falls within the Arkansas Valley Prairie and Woodland Focal Area where the Natural Resources Conservation Service will focus funding to restore native grassland habitat for northern bobwhite quail and Henslow's sparrows. In addition, new information on wintering Henslow's sparrows in Warren Prairie Natural Area, home to 30 other wildlife and plant species of concern, helped guide restoration efforts

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Fire crew in the Ozarks/Keith Stephens, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission



Henslow's sparrow/Bill Holimon, Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission

on pine barrens and focused acquisition projects in southern Arkansas. This vital information will help biologists, land stewards, and conservation planners throughout the southeastern U.S. conserve important grassland habitat and wildlife before they become more rare and more costly to protect.

Working with Partners to Bring Back Wildlife and Natural Areas
Restoring Wetlands at the Clinton Presidential Library

Restoring wetlands to benefit imperiled wildlife is an important priority in Arkansas' wildlife action plan. Working with many local, state, and congressional partners, the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and Audubon Arkansas are leading an effort to restore wetlands along the Arkansas River in downtown Little Rock. The restoration will turn a degraded, littered wetland into a wildlife haven for many species of greatest conservation need. The aquatic wetlands

will be restructured and native plants will be restored to better suit the needs of spawning fish and other wildlife. These restored wetlands will provide clean water for wildlife and people, while enhancing Little Rock's quality of life with urban wildlife watching opportunities.

Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies

444 North Capitol St, NW
Suite 725
Washington, DC 20001
202.624.7890
www.teaming.com
www.wildlifeactionplans.org

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

2 Natural Resources Drive
Little Rock, Arkansas 72205
<http://www.wildlifearkansas.com/>



Cherokee Prairie/Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission



Former President Bill Clinton announces the William E. Clark Presidential Park Wetlands Project/Keith Stephens, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

Working with many local, state, and congressional partners, the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and Audubon Arkansas are leading an effort to restore wetlands along the Arkansas River in downtown Little Rock.