

Louisiana Wildlife Action Plan

From Vision to On-the-Ground Action

Louisiana's wildlife action plan is a habitat-based approach to conserving rare and declining wildlife species, focusing on habitats such as open water marine environments, riverine systems, and 38 terrestrial habitats, including agricultural-crop-grasslands. A variety of partners developed conservation actions for these landscape features on a regional basis. The wildlife action plan also identifies conservation priorities for 240 rare or declining wildlife species.

This proactive effort will help Louisiana implement forest management practices that maximize the habitat quality for resident and migratory birds while still allowing a sustainable timber harvest.

Protecting Imperiled Land, Water, and Wildlife

Managing Diverse Bird Communities

Improving multi-species habitat management practices is a high priority in Louisiana's wildlife action plan.

The Louisiana Division of Wildlife and Fisheries is conducting a ten-year bird study to evaluate the impacts of natural area designations and forestry practices on birds in the Sherburne Wildlife Management Area. Over thirty resident and migratory bird species of conservation concern inhabit this bottomland hardwood forest area. Information gathered will complement other

research efforts on bird reproduction and survival. This proactive effort will help Louisiana implement forest management practices that maximize the habitat quality for resident and migratory birds while still allowing a sustainable timber harvest.

Gathering Information to Take Action

Understanding Amphibian Diversity and Distribution

Fish and wildlife inventories are performance indicators for wildlife conservation in Louisiana's wildlife action plan. A comprehensive inventory of the amphibians and reptiles inhabiting the Loggy Bayou, Bayou Pierre, and Jackson-Bienville Wildlife Management Areas was completed by a researcher from Louisiana State University

–Shreveport using State Wildlife Grants. Important recommendations for improving amphibian and reptile research also resulted. The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries will use this

valuable information to cost-effectively manage its lands for amphibians, reptiles, and other wildlife before they become rare and costly to protect.



Hooded warbler/Louisiana Division of Wildlife and Fisheries



Successfully trapped alligator snapping turtle/Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

Working with Partners to Bring Back Wildlife and Natural Areas **Engaging Private Landowners in Land Conservation**

One wildlife action plan goal is to ensure that each wildlife species or habitat of conservation concern in Louisiana is adequately represented in the Louisiana Natural Areas Registry. Louisiana is home to a rich and beautiful natural heritage of river basin swamps, marshes, chenier woodlands, pine savannahs, and prairies. The Registry was created to conserve the best remaining examples of Louisiana's natural heritage and relies upon citizen-based conservation and the willingness of landowners to safeguard biological diversity on their lands. To date, over 100 landowners have voluntarily registered more than 45,000 acres representing 25 natural communities. This community-

based effort to protect habitat also conserves the rare plants and animals that depend upon these natural areas.

Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies

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Restored prairie site in north Louisiana/Louisiana
Division of Wildlife and Fisheries

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Survey efforts for amphibian and reptiles/Louisiana Division of Wildlife and Fisheries