

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources has removed trees and shrubs to restore wetland habitat for bog turtles at 10 sites, proactively conserving the bog turtle and natural areas for future generations.

Maryland Wildlife Action Plan

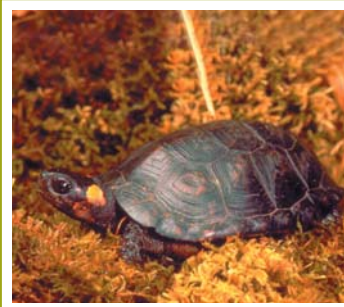
From Vision to On-the-Ground Action

Maryland's wildlife action plan reviews the status and conservation needs of 502 imperiled wildlife species and groups those needs into 35 key wildlife habitats, such as Carolina bays, tidal marshes, grasslands, and old growth forests. Threats and conservation actions, as well as inventory, research and monitoring needs, are recommended for each of the key wildlife habitats. Since both species and habitat-based needs have been considered, Maryland's wildlife action plan will help guide the conservation of all wildlife species.

Proactive Efforts that Benefit Wildlife and People

Restoring Habitat for Threatened Bog Turtles

The threatened bog turtle lives in bog and fen wetlands, which are key wildlife habitats in Maryland's wildlife action plan. Maryland supports a significant portion of the northern bog turtle population. Most of the bog turtle habitat occurs within a rapidly developing area of the state and these wetlands are subject to numerous threats, including invasion by woody vegetation. In collaboration with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Environmental Defense, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources has removed trees and shrubs to restore wetland habitat at 10 sites and is monitoring how well the bog turtles respond to these management efforts. Such proactive efforts will help conserve the bog turtle and natural areas upon which it depends for future generations.



Bog turtle/Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Gathering Information to Take Action

Conserving Old Growth Forests

Old growth forests are key wildlife habitat in Maryland's wildlife action plan. Conserving them is critical since old growth forests take hundreds of years to grow. Maryland's landscape used to be primarily old growth forest, but most has since been logged or converted to other land uses. Recent surveys revealed that over 2,300 acres of old growth forest remain on 40 sites, located mostly on state-owned land in western Maryland. The Big Savage and South Savage Wildlands of Savage River State Forest contain more than 770 acres of old growth forest. Guidelines for the conservation of old growth forests were also developed, which will help Maryland conserve these important forests before they become more rare and costly to protect.

***Working with Partners to Bring Back
Wildlife and Natural Areas
Conserving Important
Bird Areas***

Identifying and conserving the areas essential for sustaining native birds are vital since more than a quarter of Maryland's 500 species of greatest conservation need are birds. Conservation efforts focused on birds will also benefit many other wildlife species. As part of an international effort, The Maryland Department of Natural Resources has partnered with the National Audubon Society and the birding community to identify Important Bird Areas in the state. An Important Bird Area provides essential habitat for vulnerable birds, including nesting areas, migration resting sites, and wintering grounds. To date, 20 Important Bird Areas have been designated in

Maryland, which will help make good management decisions to effectively conserve Maryland's rich array of birds.

Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies

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Canvasbacks/Larry Hindman, Maryland Department of Natural Resources

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Measuring old-growth forests/Maryland Department of Natural Resources