

Massachusetts Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy

From Vision to On-the-Ground Action

The loss of habitat and the secondary impacts to wildlands and wildlife from increased water use and pollution are the main threats addressed in Massachusetts' wildlife action plan. Whether habitat is lost to development, fragmented into smaller and smaller pieces that cannot support these species, or degraded by pollution and competition from invasive plants, our challenge is to protect enough habitat to support the species in greatest need of conservation before we lose the opportunity.

Working with Partners to Bring Back Wildlife and Natural Areas **Restoring Poland Brook Wildlife Management Area**

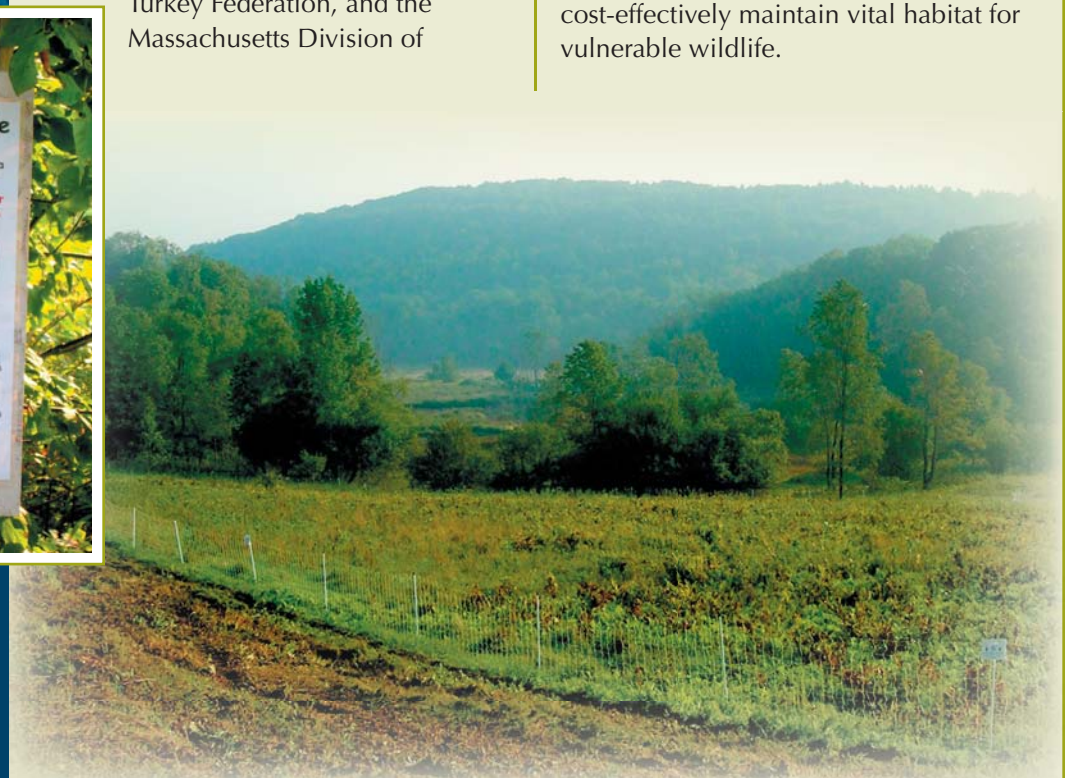
The Massachusetts Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy sets forth a vision for conservation that can be shared between many conservation organizations. The Wildlife Management Institute, National Wild Turkey Federation, and the Massachusetts Division of

Fisheries and Wildlife are working together to restore over 60 acres of abandoned fields in the Poland Brook Wildlife Management Area. Both mechanical treatments (mowing and tree cutting) and prescribed grazing are used to create and maintain nesting and feeding habitat for species of conservation need including the wood turtle, American woodcock, and mourning warbler. These innovative approaches to land management will cost-effectively maintain vital habitat for vulnerable wildlife.

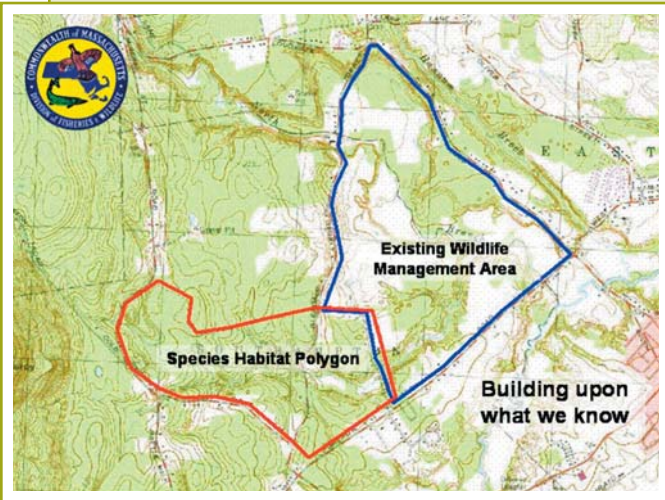
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Working for wildlife/John O'Leary, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife



Poland Brook Wildlife Management Area/John O'Leary, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife



A hypothetical example of using new habitat information to target conservation efforts/John O'Leary, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife

Gathering Information to Take Action Mapping Critical Habitat for Strategic Land Protection

Obtaining better information on species in greatest need of conservation is an important aspect of Massachusetts' conservation strategy. The Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program created new maps that show the current locations and potential habitats for animals on the Massachusetts endangered species list. These maps highlight the need to add onto existing protected property to conserve habitat for imperiled wildlife. The Land Acquisition Program of the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife uses this information to refine the areas targeted for conservation. This improved information helped add over 4,000 acres of habitat to the 160,000 already protected by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife.

Protecting Imperiled Land, Water, and Wildlife Conserving Surrenden Farms Habitat

Loss of habitat is the number one threat to wildlife identified in the Massachusetts conservation strategy. The Petapawag

Area of Critical Environmental Concern contains important habitat for 16 state-listed species, wells that provide 100% of the water supply for two towns, and recreational features like the Nashua River Rail Trail. The Surrenden Farms property in the Petapawag area was purchased in 2006, protecting over 680 acres of riparian, grassland and forest areas and forming a contiguous 1500+ acre block of protected land. Conserving the Surrenden Farms property

is an important element in protecting the entire Petapawag area, which will conserve habitat for species in greatest need of conservation and benefit people by providing outdoor recreational opportunities and protecting a water supply for local residents.

Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies

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Surrenden Farms property/John O'Leary, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife

Conserving the Surrenden Farms property is important to protecting the entire Petapawag area, which will conserve habitat for species in greatest need of conservation and benefit people by providing outdoor recreational opportunities and protecting a water supply for local residents.