

*By simultaneously protecting shorebirds and educating the public, New Jersey is efficiently conserving migrant shorebird populations before they become rare and costly to protect.*

# New Jersey Wildlife Action Plan

## From Vision to On-the-Ground Action

New Jersey's wildlife action plan embodies the collective judgment of the state's conservation professionals regarding which species should receive special attention and what actions should be taken. This ecosystem-based management strategy focuses heavily on habitat and species protection, management, and restoration. The primary threats to state wildlife include habitat fragmentation, invasive species, and contaminants.

### *Working with Partners to Bring Back Wildlife and Natural Areas*

#### **Helping Private Landowners Conserve Vital Habitat**

A major goal of New Jersey's wildlife action plan is to conserve habitat for rare and imperiled wildlife. New Jersey's Habitat Incentive Team, using Landowner Incentive Program funding, has increased landowner participation in private land conservation programs by simplifying

processes and providing funding and technical assistance. A major golf resort in Sussex County is planting native grasses for birds, restoring wetlands for the endangered bog turtle, and protecting a breeding pool for frogs, toads, and salamanders. Overall, nearly 4,000 acres of grasslands are being managed for wildlife so far, 2,000 of which have been restored to native grasses, helping New Jersey fulfill its responsibility to conserve wildlife and the places they live for future generations.



Prescribed burn by Habitat Incentive Team/New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife



Landowners benefiting from the Habitat Incentive Team/New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife



Visitors on a shorebird viewing platform/New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife

**Proactive Efforts that Benefit Wildlife and People**

**Educating Ecotourists and Conserving Migrating Shorebirds**

Protecting, recovering, and enhancing habitat for rare wildlife are important priorities in New Jersey's wildlife action plan. Thousands of migrating shorebirds stop in Delaware Bay to double their body weight on the way to Arctic nesting grounds. Endangered red knots and other migratory shorebirds feed on the eggs from the Western hemisphere's highest concentration of spawning horseshoe crabs. But as crab populations have declined from over-harvest, the birds are increasingly at risk. New Jersey has actively monitored shorebirds, identified causes of decline, and is committed to the recovery of shorebird populations on Delaware Bay. Efforts include protecting important feeding beaches. Since 2003, shorebird stewards have been present at viewing areas and all critical shorebird beaches to educate visitors and protect feeding and resting shorebirds from disturbance by beach walkers and unleashed dogs. By simultaneously protecting shorebirds and educating the public, New Jersey is efficiently conserving migrant shorebird populations before they become rare and costly to protect.

**Protecting Imperiled Land, Water, and Wildlife**  
**Conserving Wood Turtles and Healthy Waters**

New Jersey's wildlife action plan calls for the protection and recovery of threatened and endangered wildlife and for enhancement of their habitats. The health of wildlife is often an early indicator of disease and pollution that affect us all. The state-threatened wood turtle depends on clean water for survival and is often used as an indicator of water quality, including waterways that provide drinking water for New Jersey citizens. Biologists are using radio tracking methods to learn more about the wood turtle's habitat needs and to locate sites to restore populations most in peril. By conserving the wood turtle, New Jersey protects clean waters that benefit wildlife and people.

**Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies**

444 North Capitol St, NW  
Suite 725  
Washington, DC 20001  
202.624.7890  
[www.teaming.com](http://www.teaming.com)  
[www.wildlifeactionplans.org](http://www.wildlifeactionplans.org)

**New Jersey Division of Fish & Wildlife**

P. O. Box 402  
Trenton, NJ 08625  
<http://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/ensp/waphome.htm>



Wood turtle/New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife

*The state-threatened wood turtle depends on clean water for survival and is often used as an indicator of water quality, including waterways that provide drinking water for New Jersey citizens.*