

Ohio Wildlife Action Plan

From Vision to On-the-Ground Action

Ohio's wildlife action plan is an extension of Ohio's larger planning system, which includes a long-term strategic plan to address the threats and opportunities for Ohio's fish and wildlife resources. The wildlife action plan focuses on wildlife, their habitat, and people of the state. It approaches fish and wildlife conservation with diverse strategies that involve not only the Division of Wildlife, but also private landowners, conservation organizations, and other governmental agencies.

Working with Partners to Bring Back Wildlife and Natural Areas

Restoring the Lake Erie Water Snake

The Lake Erie water snake has one of the smallest ranges of any vertebrate in the world. It is only found on the islands of Lake Erie, which comprise one of four unique habitats identified in Ohio's wildlife action plan. To conserve this state endangered reptile, the Lake Erie Islands Chapter of the Black Swamp Conservancy and the Division of Wildlife have

established permanent Lake Erie water snake conservation easements on the islands. Annual surveys have indicated a population of 7000 snakes, significantly more than the 5555 snakes needed for population recovery as defined in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Recovery Plan. Ongoing educational programs garner support for the protection of the snake and demonstrate its value as an island-dependent species. These proactive efforts will conserve the Lake Erie water snake before it becomes more rare and more costly to protect.

The Lake Erie Islands Chapter of the Black Swamp Conservancy and the Division of Wildlife have established permanent Lake Erie water snake conservation easements on the islands of Lake Erie to conserve this state endangered reptile.



Lake Erie water snake/Kristin Stanford



Cave salamander/Jim McCormac

Proactive Efforts that Benefit Wildlife and People

Working with Citizen Scientists for Wildlife

Ohio's wildlife action plan involves numerous partners, including Ohio citizens. The Ohio Division of Wildlife sponsors volunteer-based statewide survey efforts through the Frog and Toad Calling Survey, Breeding Bird Survey, Long-term Butterfly Monitoring Program, Winter Bird Survey, Salamander Monitoring Program, Wetland Breeding Bird Survey, and the Ohio Spider Survey. These endeavors engage hundreds of wildlife enthusiasts in meaningful data collection to provide seasonal, annual, and long-term changes in wildlife populations, both in response to natural processes and habitat modifications. Ohio's citizen scientists help the Division identify vulnerable species and observe declines before species become imperiled. They also document species-rich habitats to target for conservation. These collaborative efforts will conserve Ohio's wildlife and vital natural areas for future generations.



Protecting Imperiled Land, Water, and Wildlife **Conserving the Appalachian Foothills**

Managing habitat to benefit species of greatest conservation need is a major strategy in Ohio's wildlife action plan. Conservation efforts in the Appalachian Foothills Focus Area benefit over 50 species of greatest conservation need, including the bobcat, Indiana bat, cerulean warbler, red-shouldered hawk, eastern box turtle, and timber rattlesnake. Studies are in progress to determine wildlife responses to management activities. The results will be used to appropriately alter activities to provide the greatest benefit to the area's wildlife. Other efforts include reintroducing the endangered American burying beetle where high-quality beetle habitat exists. The Ohio State University Terrestrial Ecology Laboratory has been collaborating with the Division of Wildlife on numerous projects that will be used to develop sustainable timber management. Conserving these wildlife and natural areas enhances the quality of life for Ohio's residents.

Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies

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

Ohio Division of Wildlife

2045 Morse Rd., Bldg. G
Columbus, OH 43229
<http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/Home/tabid/4414/Default.aspx>

Conservation efforts in the Appalachian Foothills Focus Area benefit over 50 species of greatest conservation need, including the bobcat, Indiana bat, cerulean warbler, red-shouldered hawk, eastern box turtle, and timber rattlesnake.



Red-shouldered hawk/Tim Daniel