

# Vermont Wildlife Action Plan

## From Vision to On-the-Ground Action

Vermont's wildlife action plan was developed by and for local, state, and federal agencies, hunter and angler groups, conservation organizations, and the general public. It's chock-full of conservation actions for each of Vermont's species of greatest conservation need, their habitats and surrounding landscapes. By addressing both species-specific and habitat/landscape needs, Vermont can target conservation resources at the appropriate level to strategically conserve all of the state's wildlife.

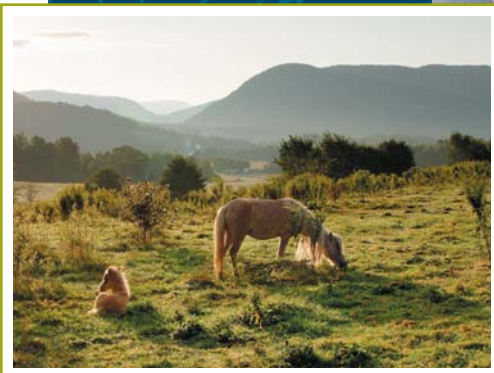
### *Working with Partners to Bring Back Wildlife and Natural Areas*

### **Helping Landowners Conserve Land for Fish, Wildlife and Future Generations**

The restoration and conservation of clayplain forests, wetlands, riparian areas and headwater streams are central to the long-term well-being of Vermont's species of greatest conservation need. The LaPlatte Headwaters Initiative in Hinesburg is a collaborative effort to conserve and restore 577 acres of rich wildlife habitat, public recreational

trails, drinking water, five miles of the LaPlatte River and its tributaries, and the northernmost known maternal colony of the federally endangered Indiana bat. In addition to providing superior habitat for several of Vermont's species of greatest conservation need, Bissonette Farm is also one of the largest undeveloped properties in the state's fastest growing and most sprawl-threatened region. Now, through a combination of conservation easements, federal and state grants, and wetland restoration, this magnificent landscape will be conserved for the benefit of future generations.

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Bissonette Farm and horses/Kurt Budliger, Trust for Public Land



Bissonette Farm/Matt Kiedaisch, Trust for Public Land



Osprey/Steve Costello

### *Gathering Information to Take Action* **Harnessing the Power of Citizen Science for Bird Conservation**

The Vermont Breeding Bird Atlas is the state's most comprehensive review of wild birds. First published in 1985, a second volume will be released in 2008 thanks to more than 25,000 volunteer hours from contributors who walked more than one-sixth of Vermont's land to visit all the habitats Vermont offers. The new Atlas will confirm bald eagles nesting in Vermont after a 60-year absence and will show increases in peregrine falcon, common loon, and osprey. Since development pressures, acid rain, mercury deposition, habitat change, and other problems have increased significantly since 1985, the new Atlas will help identify the many birds whose populations are declining. This will help birders, biologists, the sporting community, and conservationists take action to benefit Vermont's entire array of birds.

### *Proactive Efforts that Benefit Wildlife and People* **Community Wildlife Program**

Helping communities plan for and defuse the pressures that fragment or develop intact wildlife habitat is a principal goal in Vermont's wildlife action plan. The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department's Community Wildlife Program does just that. Only one year old, the program has been warmly received by many Vermont towns for its assistance in helping towns define and achieve their goals for wildlife conservation. The program provides local decision makers with the best-available science, landscape planning tools, and technical support tailored to the communities' specific needs and culture. The outcome in these empowered communities is better habitat for Vermont's species of greatest conservation need and improved quality of life for the town's citizens.

### **Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies**

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[www.wildlifeactionplans.org](http://www.wildlifeactionplans.org)

### **Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department**

103 South Main Street  
Waterbury, VT 05671-0401  
[http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com/SWG\\_CWCS.cfm](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com/SWG_CWCS.cfm)



Vermont Community Wildlife Program Outing/J. Austin

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