

Purpose and Scope of the Nevada Wildlife Action Plan

The Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) was charged with the development of a statewide Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan, now called Nevada's Wildlife Action Plan (WAP). This planning process was required of each state to continue to receive federal funds through the State Wildlife Grants program. Nevada's original Wildlife Action Plan was completed and approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in December, 2005. To date, NDOW has received over \$11 million in federal dollars through the State Wildlife Grants program.

NDOW has been coordinating and leading a conservation partner planning team to revise Nevada's WAP to incorporate the potential impacts of emerging and expanding stressors including climate change, accelerated energy development, disease and invasive species on Nevada's fish, wildlife, and habitats. NDOW partnered with the original Wildlife Action Plan team: The Nevada Natural Heritage Program, The Lahontan Audubon Society, The Nature Conservancy, and also The Great Basin Bird Observatory to develop this revision to the plan.

NDOW has been working with multiple stakeholders to assess key habitats and species most likely to be affected by these stressors and are developing effective strategies for managing and mitigating impacts. By identifying key conservation actions, we will be in a stronger position to ensure ecosystem resiliency across the changing landscape for key habitats and species. The benefit will be healthy and diverse wildlife populations across the state of Nevada. Primary focus will center on proactively preventing species from being listed as threatened or endangered as well as the restoration of species already listed. A major project theme will be "keeping common species common" through the constant assessment of the status and needs of wildlife and their habitat and the initiation of responsive action before critical thresholds are crossed.

This WAP sets a strategic vision for wildlife conservation in Nevada. To further clarify the vision, Congress requires addressing these eight elements in the WAP:

1. Information about wildlife species numbers and distribution,
2. Descriptions of key habitats and locations,
3. Descriptions of problems that may affect identified species and research needed to improve the situations,
4. Descriptions of proposed actions for conservation of the identified wildlife and their habitats,
5. Descriptions of how the species and results of the actions will be monitored,
6. Descriptions of how the strategy will be reviewed and updated on a periodic basis,
7. Coordination with federal, state, local agencies and Indian tribes if the plan impacts land managed by these groups, and,
8. Public participation to identify their priorities.

NDOW and the Revision Team have been coordinating with state, federal, and local agencies, and conservation organizations to gather pertinent information for the plan revision.

Public scoping meetings are planned as follows:

The first meeting will be held January 30 at 7 p.m. in Reno at NDOW, 1100 Valley Road. The second meeting will held January 31 at 7 p.m. in Las Vegas at the Nevada Division of Forestry, 4747 Vegas Drive. The last meeting will be held February 6, 2012 at 7 p.m. in Elko at the NDOW Regional Office, 60 Youth Center Rd. Please consider attending one of the workshops or sending your written comments regarding the revised plan by February 27, 2012 to: Laura Richards, Nevada Department of Wildlife, 1100 Valley Road, Reno, NV 89512 or lrichard@ndow.org.

The revised plan is expected to be completed and submitted to the USFWS for approval by spring of 2012. The draft revised Wildlife Action Plan was posted to NDOW's website (ndow.org) for review on January 25. Following the scoping meetings and comment period, the Wildlife Action Plan will be revised based on feedback received. The final revised plan is expected to be completed and submitted to the USFWS for approval by late spring of 2012.

2012 Nevada Wildlife Action Plan Revision Structure

To assist the reader in differentiating between the original Nevada Wildlife Action Plan (2005) and the revised version, Nevada Wildlife Action Plan Revision (2012), we have highlighted the new sections or significant edits in a [light blue font](#).

This Nevada Wildlife Action Plan Revision (2012) is organized into seven major sections: An Introduction, An Overview of Nevada, Nevada's Wildlife Heritage, Challenges in Wildlife Management, Defining Nevada's Landscape for Wildlife, The Conservation Strategies for Nevada's 22 Key Habitats and Their Associated Wildlife (included in this section are the predicted effects of climate change and wildlife responses to those effects, and the Species Accounts that provide status, distribution, and natural history information for each Species of Conservation Priority), and the Implementation, Effectiveness Monitoring, and Adaptive Management section. The sections are intended to complement each other and work together to describe the overwhelming task of comprehensive wildlife conservation in Nevada, the partners expected to participate in its ultimate achievement, and the expectations and methods of implementation.

Also posted separately on this web page are two support documents for the Wildlife Action Plan: The Nature Conservancy report "*Climate Change Revisions to Nevada's Wildlife Action Plan: Vegetation Mapping and Modeling*", and the Great Basin Bird Observatory report "*Bird Population Responses to Projected Effects of Climate Change in Nevada: An Analysis for Revision of the Nevada Wildlife Plan.*"