

# 2025 Rhode Island Wildlife Action Plan

## Public Review Guide



Thank you for helping review the draft 2025 RI Wildlife Action Plan (RIWAP). This guide will help you understand what's in the online draft database, how it connects to the Wildlife Action Plan, and where to find the information you're looking for. Be sure to watch the [database video tutorial](#) to see how to navigate the database!

### **TAB 1: SPECIES**

The **Species tab** lists all proposed 2025 species, including additions and those needing more information, as well as 2015 species proposed for removal. Two types of species are listed:

- *Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN): Wildlife or plant species with small or declining populations or vulnerabilities likely to benefit from conservation attention.*
- *Assessment Priority Species: Species we need more information about before we can determine whether they should be SGCN. These species often have limited data about their habitats, threats, or recommended actions.*

This tab also includes information about each species like conservation listing status (e.g., U.S. Endangered Species Act), maps, and a side-by-side comparison of 2015 SGCN status and proposed 2025 status (e.g., added, removed, changed to Assessment Priority). Where species are proposed to be added or removed, explanations are provided.

Use the Views panel (left side of screen) to see all species at once (All Data) or grouped by species that are proposed to be added or remain as SGCN, proposed as Assessment Priority, or removed from the list.

### **TAB 2: GUILDS**

Sometimes we know more about groups of species than about each individual species. These groups, called guilds, share similar habitats needs or behaviors. The **Guilds tab** explains each group and lists the species within it.

### **TAB 3: RIWAP KEY HABITATS**

Habitats are the places and natural communities that SGCN rely on. The **Habitats tab** describes each habitat, its current condition, maps (where available), and a list of associated sub-habitats. The RIWAP uses two levels of detail for habitats:

- *Key Habitats: broad categories (e.g., "Oak Forest")*
- *Sub-habitats: more specific types within each Key Habitat (e.g., "Mixed Oak/Hickory Forest")*

### **TAB 4: RIWAP SUB-HABITATS**

The **Sub-habitats tab** provides more detail and shows how Sub-habitats connect to Key Habitats. Most Sub-habitats are based on [Rhode Island's ecological community classifications](#). A few sub-habitats are proposed to be removed in 2025 to eliminate redundancy.

### **TAB 5: SPECIES HABITATS**

This tab shows which Sub-habitats are used by each proposed 2025 SGCN. Use the Views panel (left side of screen) to see all SGCN simply listed with their Sub-habitats (All Data) or grouped by habitat or taxonomic group (e.g., Amphibian, Bird).

### **TAB 6: SPECIES THREATS-ACTIONS**

The RIWAP identifies threats to each proposed SGCN and habitat, and one or more conservation action(s) to address each threat.

- *Threat:* Describes the problems affecting wildlife, plants, and habitats.
- *Action:* Outlines steps to address threats.

Threats and actions are organized into four tiers, from broad to specific:

- Tier 1: Statewide issues
- Tier 2: Issues affecting whole groups of species
- Tier 3: Habitat-specific issues
- Tier 4: Individual species needs

Particularly within the higher tiers, further context might be provided, such as how widespread and severe a threat is and how urgent and likely to succeed an action is.

In the **Species Threats – Actions** tab, threats and actions are presented for each proposed SGCN (Tier 4). Use the Views panel (left side of screen) to see all threats/actions at once (All Data) or grouped by SGCN for easier review (Threats and Actions Grouped by Species).

#### **TAB 7: TAXA THREATS-ACTIONS**

The **Taxa threats-actions tab** describes threats and actions to larger taxonomic groups (Tier 2), such as mammals, birds, or marine fish. These threats and actions apply to *all SGCN* within that taxonomic group.

#### **TAB 8: STATEWIDE THREATS-ACTIONS**

The **Statewide threats-actions tab** describes threats and actions that apply to most or all SGCN and/or Habitats across Rhode Island (Tier 1).

#### **TAB 9: HABITAT THREATS-ACTIONS**

The **Habitat threats-actions tab** describes threats and actions that apply to specific sub-habitats (Tier 3).

#### **TAB 10: MONITORING PROGRAMS**

Lists monitoring programs in Rhode Island that informed the 2025 RIWAP revision and continue to inform management decisions. This tab includes statewide, regional, and federal monitoring efforts that occur in-state; who leads each program; and what species, habitats, or guilds are being monitored.

#### **A NOTE ON HIDDEN TABS**

You may notice that the RIWAP database contains several hidden tabs. For each visible tab, there are often additional, behind-the-scenes tabs with duplicative or supporting information. These hidden tabs help maintain cleaner, more user-friendly views. For example, showing species with their threats and actions in a single tab requires background tabs to map relationships (e.g., species-to-threats, species-to-actions, threats-to-actions) and reference relevant codes.