



Rhode Island Wildlife Action Plan

Appendices 7a, b, c, d, e, f

Table of Contents

Appendix 7a. RI DEM Administrative and Partner Framework..... 1

Appendix 7b. Rhode Island’s WAP Process Development Plan and Schedule 5

Appendix 7c. List of Rhode Island’s WAP Stakeholders/PAs 7

Appendix 7d. Rhode Island WAP Public Input/Outreach Approach 9

Appendix 7e. Rhode Island WAP Public Input Timeline and Tracking 11

Appendix 7f. Rhode Island WAP Outreach Materials 14

Appendix 7a. RI DEM Administrative and Partner Framework

This appendix describes Rhode Island’s overall wildlife conservation delivery system. The mission of the RI DEM is to preserve environmental quality, maintain the health and safety of the state’s residents, and protect the natural systems of Rhode Island (<http://www.dem.ri.gov/pubs/index.htm>). RI DEM works with many partners to enforce environmental laws, conduct research and develop solutions, and provide assistance (technical and financial) to individuals, businesses and municipalities. The RI DEM administers natural resource conservation through a series of Bureaus and Divisions, each tasked with a separate focus area. The three bureaus are the Bureau of Policy and Administration, the Bureau of Environmental Protection, and the Bureau of Natural Resources.

The Bureau of Policy and Administration contains the Division of Planning and Development, the Division of Strategic Planning and Policy, the Sustainable Watersheds Office, and other divisions (<http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/bpoladm/index.htm>).

The Bureau of Environmental Protection consists of the Office of Air Resources, Office of Water Resources and Office of Waste Management (<http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/benviron/index.htm>).

Finally, the Bureau of Natural Resources contains the Divisions of Agriculture, Coastal Resources, Fish and Wildlife, Forest Environment, and Parks and Recreation (<http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/bnatres/index.htm>).

Bureau of Natural Resources, Division of Fish and Wildlife Programs

The Division of Fish and Wildlife contains three sections that each focus on different faunal groups – Freshwater Fisheries, Marine Fisheries, and Wildlife Management (<http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/bnatres/fishwild/index.htm>).

The RI DEM has created an online, interactive Environmental Resource Map that shows the location and distribution of state-owned areas considered Open Space at <http://www.dem.ri.gov/maps/index.htm#GV>, almost all of which are administered within the Bureau of Natural Resources. The interactive map also illustrates the distribution of areas delineated as Scenic Areas, Industrial Development Potential, Historic Districts, Enterprise Zones, and rare species habitat.

Rhode Map RI

A recent initiative of Statewide Planning that has a specific wildlife component is *Rhode Map RI*. *Rhode Map RI* is a statewide, collaborative effort to bring all Rhode Island residents to the table to devise ways to improve Rhode Island’s economy and livability with transportation, land use, and environmental protection strategies that creatively mobilize state and local assets.

As its name suggests, maps are one of the primary products of *Rhode Map RI*. Specifically, these maps identify important assets from both the built and natural environment (“Green Assets”). Seeing the great value in a partnership approach to identifying and protecting these assets, Statewide Planning incorporated extensive feedback from a team of resource professionals throughout RI DEM, The Nature Conservancy and the University of Rhode Island that resulted in the addition of a habitat component to the State’s Green Assets mapping.

Freshwater Fisheries Section

The Freshwater Fisheries Section of the Division of Fish and Wildlife is responsible for managing the state's freshwater fisheries through public outreach, a trout-stocking program, and maintaining license and capture regulations for freshwater and anadromous fish in the state's fresh waters (<http://www.dem.ri.gov/topics/fwttopics.htm>). Staff biologists regularly monitor the freshwater fish populations (e.g., juvenile shad, herring) in numerous streams, rivers, lakes and ponds. Freshwater Fisheries staff collaborate with the USFWS and other fisheries partners to restore anadromous fish runs to Rhode Island rivers and streams.

Marine Fisheries Section

The Marine Fisheries Section of the Division of Fish and Wildlife manages the state's marine resources, including recreational and commercial fisheries (<http://www.dem.ri.gov/topics/mftopics.htm>). The program has developed management plans for the Finfish, Shellfish and Crustacean Fisheries and coordinates with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC), the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the New England Fisheries Management Council (NEFMC) on the protection and management of numerous marine species

Wildlife Management Section

The Wildlife Management and Hunter Education Section of the Division of Fish and Wildlife manages the state's wildlife hunting programs, educates hunters on safety issues, monitors harvested species populations, and educates the public on wildlife issues (<http://www.dem.ri.gov/topics/wltopics.htm>). The Section recently celebrated the 15 year anniversary of the Rhode Island Waterfowl Conservation Stamp Program, which has raised over \$1.2 million in support of waterfowl research, restoration and management in the state. Section staff were the lead agency in the compilation of this SWAP and coordinated with partners on its development through direct involvement of stakeholders on the RI WAP coordination team, public workshops, written correspondence, and a website (<http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/bnatres/fishwild/swap15.htm>).

Bureau of Natural Resources, Division of Agriculture Programs

The Bureau's Division of Agriculture manages an Animal Health Unit, operates a Mosquito Abatement Coordination Unit, markets and promotes the state's agricultural products, oversees plant nurseries, enforces the proper use of pesticides and runs a Farmland Ecology Unit (<http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/bnatres/agricult/index.htm>). The Farmland Ecology Unit is the most relevant Division of Agriculture program to the RI WAP, as it works with farmers to protect the state's wetland and groundwater resources. The Division also partners with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to implement agricultural preservation, restoration and enhancement programs (see the USDA section below, Table 7.3). The state has acquired the development rights to almost 4,000 acres of farmland through the Agricultural Land Preservation Program (RI DEM 2014).

Bureau of Natural Resources, Division of Coastal Resources Programs

The Division of Coastal Resources oversees the operation of Rhode Island's port at Galilee, several State Piers and waterfront property in Providence; altogether the Division manages 33 piers and docking facilities in the state (<http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/bnatres/coastal/index.htm>).

Bureau of Natural Resources, Division of Forest Environment Programs

The Division of Forest Environment is responsible for managing the state's forest resources, including more than 40,000 acres of state-owned forest areas (Appendix 7c). The Division maintains a statewide forest fire protection plan, provides assistance to rural volunteer fire departments, and conducts forest fire protection activities on state lands (<http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/bnatres/forest/index.htm>). The Rhode Island Forest Asset Management Plan was prepared by the Division of Forest Environment to comprehensively manage the state's forestry assets (RI DEM 2001). The Forest Environment Program also develops forest and wildlife management plans for private landowners seeking to protect fish and wildlife resources and forest habitats on their properties. The program also assists federal agencies in landowner assistance programs related to forest habitats and in monitoring the status of forestland in Rhode Island. Through the federal Forest Legacy Program, the Division partners with the U.S. Forest Service to acquire land or forestry interests (e.g., easements) for preservation, preventing forest fragmentation and conversion to non-forest uses (<http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/bnatres/forest/flpinfo.htm>).

Bureau of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Recreation Programs

The Division of Parks and Recreation manages approximately 15,000 acres of state parks, beaches, trails and bike paths throughout the state (RI DEM 2003n). Park and Recreation's managed lands protect important natural resources in the state while allowing for the public's recreational use and enjoyment of those resources (<http://www.riparks.com/>).

Other RI DEM Programs

Several other conservation programs are within the RI Department of Environmental Management and provide opportunities for enhanced coordination at the state level to implement the RI WAP. The Rhode Island Natural Heritage Program, the Sustainable Watersheds Office, and the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program in particular are existing partners with the Division of Fish and Wildlife in conserving the state's fish and wildlife resources and their habitats.

Rhode Island Natural Heritage Program

The Rhode Island Natural Heritage Program is housed in the Division of Planning and Development within the RI DEM (www.dem.ri.gov/programs/bpoladm/plandev/heritage/index.htm). Established in 1978 as a collaboration between RI DEM and The Nature Conservancy (TNC), the Natural Heritage Program maintains an inventory of the state's rare plants and animals. The Program also manages documentation of the state's rarest and most vulnerable natural features, management and stewardship needs, and threats to critical areas for fish and wildlife resources.

Sustainable Watersheds Office

The Sustainable Watersheds Office, housed under Bureau of Policy and Administration in the RI DEM, assists in the preparation and implementation of Watershed Action Plans, supports the Governor's Growth Planning Council and local communities on sustainable development that is economically and environmentally sound, and provides several natural resource and recreational programs to municipalities and organizations (<http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/bpoladm/suswshed/index.htm>). The Sustainable Watersheds Office undertakes habitat restoration projects, collaborating with partners to restore riparian buffers, eliminate invasive species, reduce impervious surfaces, and enhance environmental stewardship with businesses and local organizations. Under the name of the South County Technical Assistance

Project (<http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/bpoladm/suswshed/sctpap.htm>), RI DEM teamed up with the Rural Lands Coalition to offer communities technical planning assistance to explore new, creative ways to guide commercial and residential growth in a more environmentally-sensitive manner. The result of this project included the production of four documents; South County Design Manual, Model Land Use Ordinances, Rapid Site Assessment Guide, and Farm and Forest Protection Strategies, that demonstrate how communities may better plan for growth without compromising environmental quality and community character. The Scituate Reservoir Greenspace Project is a collaboration between RI DEM Sustainable Watersheds Office and the Providence Water Supply Board (<http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/bpoladm/suswshed/scitgsp.htm>). The project consists of assisting five communities of the Scituate River Watershed in identifying and prioritizing their important natural, cultural, and recreational resources. The result is a compilation of town-wide maps of potential conservation lands illustrating the areas identified as the most important priorities for protecting natural resources, highlighting a regional green space protection strategy. Woonasquatucket River Riparian Buffer Project is a collaboration between the Sustainable Watersheds Office, the USFS and the Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council to restore the riparian buffer along the Woonasquatucket River (<http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/bpoladm/suswshed/rbdp.htm>), providing an opportunity for implementing RI WAP conservation actions in key habitats in this river corridor.

Other projects that fall under the Sustainable Watersheds Office include: Alternative Forest Businesses, Water Quality Restoration Projects, Stormwater Education and Resources, Woonasquatucket Greenspace Project, RI Forest Resource Management Plan, and the Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve.

Narragansett Bay Estuary Program

The Narragansett Bay Estuary Program (NBEP), another component of the RI DEM, coordinates with the Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC), non-profit organizations, and municipalities to identify coastal wetland restoration opportunities, prioritize those wetlands for restoration, and obtain funding to implement restoration (<http://www.nbep.org/>). The mission of the NBEP is to preserve and protect Narragansett Bay by using partnerships to enhance water quality, conserve and restore the watershed's natural resources, and promote community involvement in both. The Program was established in 1985 by the federal government as one of four pilot projects to improve management of the nations' estuaries and bays; the program's success has led to the expansion of the federal program throughout the country. The NBEP collaborates with other agencies and states to implement the Narragansett Bay Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan. The program has worked with partners to map and identify critical coastal resource areas, reduce the impacts of hazardous waste and non-point source pollution in the watershed, minimize nutrient pollution to the bay's waters, survey shellfish and dissolved oxygen in the bay, and establish a monitoring network throughout the bay. NBEP partners include the NASA, EPA, NRCS, USFWS, U.S. ACOE, Save the Bay, Brown University, the University of Rhode Island, Roger Williams University, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and numerous municipalities. Conservation actions for SGCN and key habitats within the Narragansett Bay watershed may be implemented through the NBEP and its existing partnerships.

Appendix 7b. Rhode Island's WAP Process Development Plan and Schedule

This appendix depicts the SWAP process and the project flow chart of major steps identified in the process. It lays out the tasks and stages of Rhode Island's WAP process and lists the timeframe for completion and the key parties leading and/or involved with each stage. Timeframes are presented in quarterly intervals of the calendar year and represent actual completion times in the development process as well as anticipated completion targets for the implementation and revision processes.

For the 2015 RI WAP Revision, a strong and unique partnership has been formed between the RI DEM and the Rhode Island Chapter of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to leverage financial resources and staff expertise. This effort was further enhanced by the University of Rhode Island which is also providing project and technical assistance as a key member of the core team. A consultant, Terwilliger Consulting Inc., assisted RI DEM DFW staff in the development of the process and product. The overall approach was to be as inclusive and comprehensive as possible. This RI WAP was viewed as an opportunity to inventory, poll, and coordinate with the wide array of existing public and private conservation programs and to further provide a common goal and direction for not only RI DEM DFW efforts, but for other public and private conservation efforts in Rhode Island.

The goal of this effort was to chart a course for comprehensive wildlife conservation in Rhode Island for the next decade. Notable objectives were to:

- Complete and approve the WAP by October 1, 2015, so implementation could begin;
- Develop a broader, more comprehensive and effective conservation strategy for wildlife species and habitats in Rhode Island using the SWG SWAP process;
- Develop broader and more effective public/stakeholder support and collaboration for wildlife conservation in Rhode Island;
- Provide for a coordinated, effective wildlife conservation delivery system in the state by charting a scientifically sound strategy supported by the conservation community and beyond; and
- To see implementation and integration of this plan by RI DEM and the conservation community at large.

SWAP Planning Process

The following table summarizes the planning process utilized throughout the development of Rhode Island’s WAP and outlines the anticipated review and revision schedule for the next revision in 10 years.

TIMELINE	2012	2013				2014			2015
TASKS	4 th Qtr.	1 st Qtr.	2 nd Qtr.	3 rd Qtr.	4 th Qtr.	1 st Qtr.	2 nd Qtr.	3 rd Qtr.	2015 thru 2025
Planning- development/ research	X	X							X
Project planning and scoping	X	X							X
Planning Meetings- organization of Technical Committee, Scientific Review Team, Outreach Team	X	X							X
Develop communication/outreach materials and plan		X							X
Research and inventory programs, plans, data, maps		X	X	X					X
Contact/communication staff, stakeholders, public		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Plan Development (8 key elements)									X
ID species / habitats of Greatest Conservation Need									Annual
Research and Compile data SGCN list- TCI provide AFWA, other lists, guidance, Tech team draft list, send to staff for review-draft habitat/ecoregion spp associations, assign habitat associations, refine SGCN list, Staff Refine stakeholder workshop		X	X	X					
Engage DEM staff, other public agencies and stakeholders, experts, workshops/meetings			X	X	X	X	X	X	
Review and refine lists (DFW and Teams)			X	X	X	X			
Engage broader public			X	X	X	X	X		
ID Conservation Actions									Annual
Research and Compile existing data		X	X	X					
Engage agency staff and stakeholders - workshops, meetings			Begin	X	X	X	X	X	
Review and refine lists			Begin	X	X	X			
Engage broader public			Begin	X	X	X	X	X	
Develop monitoring strategy			X	X	X				Annual
Develop maps and materials					X	X	X	X	Annual
Write Plan									2023
Outline and Format			X	X	X	X			2023
Draft Plan Draft revision					X	X	X	X	2024
Review and revise sections every 2-5 years								X	2025
Final Plan submitted								X	2025
Implementation, review, revision								X	Annual

Appendix 7c. List of Rhode Island's WAP Stakeholders/PAIs

This appendix lists Rhode Island's stakeholders that were contacted in the development of this SWAP and that will continue to be contacted with updates during its implementation and next revision. These stakeholders received either email, mail, phone or meeting requests for information and input on the development and implementation of Rhode Island's WAP (Elements 7 and 8). They were invited to attend the key workshops held to incorporate their input on SGCN, key habitat, threat and conservation action development. They were also periodically reminded to visit the web page to see updates.

- Allen's Cove Neighborhood Coalition
- American Fisheries Society
- American Heritage Rivers
- Applied Bio-Systems, Inc.
- Aquidneck Land Trust
- Atlantic States-Rural Waters Association
- Audubon Society of Rhode Island
- Barrington Land Conservation Trust
- Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Commission
- Block Island Bird Banding Station
- Block Island Conservancy
- Block Island Land Trust
- Bonnet Shores Land Trust
- Brown University, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
- Burrillville Land Trust
- Caputo and Wick, LTD
- Charlestown Land Trust
- Coastal Resources Management Council
- Common Fence Point Improvement Association
- Conanicut Island Land Trust
- Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit
- Coventry Land Trust
- Cranston Conservation Commission
- Cranston Land Trust
- Cumberland Land Trust
- Defenders of Wildlife
- East Greenwich Land Trust
- East Providence Land Conservation Trust
- Environmental Council of Rhode Island
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Friends of the National Wildlife Refuges of RI
- Gloucester Land Trust
- Hopkinton Land Trust
- Johnson and Wales University, Department of Science
- Johnston Land Trust
- Land Management Services
- Lincoln Municipal Land Trust
- Little Compton Agricultural Conservation Trust
- Lloyd Center for Environmental Studies
- Mason and Associates
- Metacomet Land Trust
- Mount Hope Neighborhood Land Trust
- Mount Tom Land Trust (Exeter)
- Museum of Natural History, Roger Williams Park
- Napatree Conservancy
- Narragansett Bay Estuary Program
- Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
- Narragansett Conservation Commission
- Narragansett Indian Tribe
- Narragansett Land Conservancy Trust
- Narrow River Land Trust
- Narrow River Preservation Association
- National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory
- National Park Service
- National Wildlife Federation
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- New England Plant Conservation Program
- NIEWPCC
- NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service
- NOAA National Estuarine Research Reserve System
- Northeast Fishery Management Council
- Northeast Organic Farming Association of RI
- North Kingstown Land Conservancy
- North Smithfield Conservation Commission
- North Smithfield Land Trust
- Pheasants Forever
- Pokanoket/Wampanoag Federation

APPENDIX 7c: LIST OF RHODE ISLAND'S WAP STAKEHOLDERS

- Protect Rhode Island Brook Trout
- Providence Water
- Rhode Island College, Department of Biology
- Rhode Island Forest Conservators Organization
- Rhode Island Indian Council
- Rhode Island Lighthouse Foundation
- Rhode Island Natural History Survey
- RI Association of Wetland Scientists
- RI Association of Conservation Commissions
- RI Blueways Alliance
- RI DEM, Division of Agriculture
- RI DEM, Division of Forest Environment
- RI DEM, Division of Planning and Development
- RI DEM, Natural Heritage Program
- RI DEM, Office of Water Resources
- RI Department of Administration, Statewide Planning Program
- RI Department of Transportation
- RI Ducks Unlimited
- RI Geological Survey
- RI Land Trust Council
- RI Marine Fisheries Service
- RI National Wildlife Refuge Complex
- RI Ornithological Club
- RI Resource Conservation and Development Area Council
- RI Sea Grant
- RI Tree Farm Program
- RI Water Resources Board
- RI Wild Plant Society
- Richmond Land Trust
- RIGIS
- Roger Williams Park Zoo
- Roger Williams University
- Roger Williams University, Center for Economic and Environmental Development
- Roger Williams University, Department of Biology
- Salt Pond Coalition
- Save The Bay
- Scituate Conservation Commission
- Scituate Land Trust
- Smithfield Land Trust
- South County Conservancy
- South Kingstown Conservation Commission
- South Kingstown Land Trust
- Southern New England Forest Consortium, Inc.
- The Conservation Agency
- The Nature Conservancy
- The Nature Conservancy, Block Island Program
- The Wildlife Society
- Tiverton Land Trust
- Trout Unlimited, Narragansett Chapter
- University of Connecticut
- University of Rhode Island, Coastal Institute
- University of Rhode Island, Department of Biological Sciences
- University of Rhode Island, Department of Ecology
- University of Rhode Island, Department of Natural Resources Science
- University of Rhode Island, Environmental Data Center
- University of Rhode Island, Graduate School of Oceanography
- University of Rhode Island, Watershed Watch
- US Army Corps of Engineers
- US Department of Defense
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- US Forest Service
- US Geological Survey
- West Bay Land Trust
- Westerly Land Trust
- West Greenwich Conservation Commission
- West Greenwich Land Trust
- What Grows in Rhode Island
- Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association

Appendix 7d. Rhode Island WAP Public Input/Outreach Approach

This appendix summarizes the input plan that was designed for use in Rhode Island’s WAP process to contact Rhode Island’s stakeholders and public (Elements 7 and 8). The input plan identified different tiers of stakeholders and developed appropriate messages, methods, and objectives for each group. The Bleiker Citizen Participation by Objective (CPO) and Systematic Development of Informed Consent (SDIC) techniques and programs were used to develop this plan and they were consulted for follow up during this process in order to develop the most effective methods for outreach to the many “publics” or PAI’s (Bleiker and Bleiker 2000, <http://www.consentbuilding.com/>).

RI’s WAP Bleiker CPO/SDIC worksheet results: Contact Method Type of Promotion	Audiences Targeted			Target Dates during development of WAP and Continuation through implementation of WAP Repeat for next revision 2025
	Tier 1 Stakeholders- DEM, Taxa Fed/state partners Collaborators Goal: Consult and collaborate	Tier 2 Stakeholders- Interested but limited investment Goal: Inform and involve	Tier 3 General Public Goal- Inform	
Direct Mail/email Fact sheets/ program material	Email, mail – began 11/2011	Email, mail- began 01/2012	Unique replies to email/mail	Quarterly (Same as website- see below)
Direct mail/email Flyers/PPTs	Email, mail – began 11/2011 Flyers/PPTs 11/2011	Email, mail- began 03/2012 Flyers/PPTs 03/2012	Unique replies to email/mail (Rlwildlifeacti onplan@gm ail.com)	Initial mailing, then distribute at meetings and presentations throughout 2013-14
Website- Updated quarterly Phase 1- Introductory material Phase -2 SGCN /habitat info Phase 3- Conservation Actions, Threats Phase 4- Conservation Actions Draft Phase 5- Draft Plan update, Phase 6- final plan announcement Implementation updates 2-4/ per year through 2015	maps and threats to help ID conservation Actions	X	X	Jan ’13-’14 Intro materials Jan- Species/Habitats Feb- Threats/ Conservation actions Mar ’13-Oct ’14 - solicit input Mar ’14-Nov ’14 August- September- draft plan Jan ’15 Approved Plan
Core Committee meetings DEM/agency internal memos- In- reach Expert/Taxa consultation/correspondence	X			Meeting- Every month monthly updates monthly emails minimum
Newsletters- put in org newsletters	X	X		Quarterly to every 6 months

APPENDIX 7d: OUTREACH APPROACH

RI's WAP Bleiker CPO/SDIC worksheet results: Contact Method Type of Promotion	Audiences Targeted			Target Dates during development of WAP and Continuation through implementation of WAP Repeat for next revision 2025
	Tier 1 Stakeholders- DEM, Taxa Fed/state partners Collaborators Goal: Consult and collaborate	Tier 2 Stakeholders- Interested but limited investment Goal: Inform and involve	Tier 3 General Public Goal- Inform	
Updates- 2016-2025 letters/emails/website	X	X	X	2x per year minimum
Magazine articles- DEM or state conservation orgs	X	X	X	Quarterly to every 6 months
Public relations: press releases	Quarterly X	X	X	Quarterly with website updates
Workshops	Jan '13 GCN/Hab Mar '13- Actions Jun '14-Prioritize Oct '14-Finalize	X	X	2 for Tier 1 possible invite to Tier 2
Exhibit /poster at Meetings	X	X		Every possible state meeting; set up traveling exhibit
DEM staff and partner briefing/report at all meetings possible	Distribute brochures, and updates	Distribute brochures, and updates	Distribute brochures, and updates	All meetings possible Develop schedule and list
Presentations to Tier 2 and 3 groups	X	X	X	As requested

The Citizen Participation by Objective (CPO) worksheet results identified the following specific techniques as the most effective to meet the communication objectives for the SWG SWAP: Open Meetings and Forums; Content-type Advice-Giving Advisory Committees, Existing Clubs, Groups Organizations and their newsletters; Existing School Systems and Institutions, and finally Electronic Bulletin Boards and Websites.

Appendix 7e. Rhode Island WAP Public Input Timeline and Tracking

This appendix outlines the approach for major workshops held during the WAP development process, each of which solicited input from stakeholders /public/partners at important phases of the document’s development. Although there were many Core and Technical Team meetings and workshops, the first Scientific Review Workshop was held on January 17, 2013, and solicited input on the selection of SGCN and key habitats. The second workshop was held on March 12, 2013, and focused on reviewing the threats and conservation actions identified in the draft document. These two workshops were analogous to the two held in 2004 and 2005 respectively for the first RI CWCS. New for the 2015 revision were the Taxonomic Expert Review and Prioritization Work Session held June 10, 2014 and the third and final Scientific Review Workshop for final review of SGCN and Key Habitat Conservation Actions on October 8, 2014. Appendix 7c lists the stakeholders invited to the three workshops, which were also announced on the web with information posted to allow participant preparation for these workshops. Follow up meetings /correspondence with participants provided for input and comments to be incorporated. Notices for and information from these meetings were posted on the web.

In great part due to the creation of the new RI WAP Community Liaison position, there was a high level of individual communications via email, phone, and in-person meetings. A list of most meetings, workshops, and correspondence is below. The information in this list is not inclusive of all outreach nor is it inclusive of all details of the listed events and correspondence. It is to be assumed that information or events available for the broader audience tiers were also available for more refined participant tiers.

2015 Rhode Island WAP Outreach

Event/Correspondence Type/Title	Date	Participant Tier
TNC RI Board	8-Dec-11	Partners
TNC/EPA Meeting	6-Jan-12	Partners/Stakeholders
RI WAP Outreach Team Meeting	20-Feb-12	Partners
Land and Water Conservation Summit	10-Mar-12	Stakeholders
TNC Staff	18-May-12	Partners
TNC RI Board	21-Sep-12	Partners
TNC Regional Stew Team	7-Oct-12	Partners/Stakeholders
Technical Committee Workshop	16-Nov-12	Partners
National Tribal N R conference - Arizona	12-Dec-12	Stakeholders
Outreach Team Meeting	19-Dec-12	Partners
Scientific Review Workshop (Elements 1 & 2)	17-Jan-13	Partners/Stakeholders
EPA	5-Feb-13	Partners/Stakeholders
NE Synthesis Project	25-Feb-13	Partners/Stakeholders
Green Infrastructure Workshop	1-Mar-13	Partners/Stakeholders/ Public
Scientific Review Workshop	3-Mar-13	Partners/Stakeholders
Land and Water Conservation Summit	9-Mar-13	Partners/Stakeholders
Scientific Review Workshop (Elements 3 & 4)	12-Mar-13	Partners/Stakeholders
NE SWAP Database and Synthesis Project	13-Mar-13	Stakeholders - Regional
Northeast Landscape Conservation Design and State Wildlife Action Plan Revisions	13-Mar-13	Stakeholders
69th Annual Northeast Fish & Wildlife Conference	7-Apr-13	Partners/Stakeholders
NE Regional Synthesis Steering Committee Work Session	8-Apr-13	Partners/Stakeholders
NE Regional Conservation Tools for SWAP Revision	9-Apr-13	Partners/Stakeholders
TNC Staff	21-May-13	Partners
Environmental Council of Rhode Island Annual meeting	3-Jun-13	Stakeholders/Public
Connect, Conserve, and Collaborate In an Era of Changing Landscapes - The Tango of Landscape Conservation	4-Jun-13	Public
Conservation Approach Meeting	11-Jun-13	Partners
Press Release	30-Jul-13	Public

APPENDIX 7e: RI WAP PUBLIC INPUT TIMELINE AND TRACKING

Event/Correspondence Type/Title	Date	Participant Tier
Technical Team Representatives Meeting	1-Aug-13	Partners
Providence Business News - Quote	2-Aug-13	Public
Providence Business News - Quote	26-Aug-13	Public
Habitat Committee Meeting	27-Aug-13	Partners
TNC RI Board	13-Sep-13	Partners/Stakeholders
NEFWDC Annual Meeting	23-Sep-13	Stakeholders/Public
Core Team Conference Call	8-Oct-13	Partners
Northeast Wildlife Administrators Association Fall 2013 Meeting	8-Oct-13	Stakeholders
RhodeMap RI Public Workshop	10-Oct-13	Public
Technical Committee Workshop	24-Oct-13	Partners
RI State Conservation Committee Meeting	13-Nov-13	Partners/Stakeholders
Conservation Stew Collaboration	2-Dec-13	Partners/Stakeholders
Meeting with Habitat Team of the Blackstone Park Conservation District	4-Dec-13	Stakeholders
RILTC - Preparing Baseline Documentation for Your Protected Lands	7-Dec-13	Stakeholders
Communications	16-Dec-13	Stakeholders/Partners
Wildlife Diversity Program Managers	6-Jan-14	Stakeholders
Meeting with Mary Grady	15-Jan-14	Stakeholders/Public
Materials Enhancement and Creation	15-Jan-14	Stakeholders/Partners/ Public
RhodeMap RI Public Workshop	16-Jan-14	Public
Press Release	22-Jan-14	Public
Providence Journal - R.I. updating wildlife, habitat list (article)	23-Jan-14	Public
Narragansett Times - RIDEM continues work on Wildlife Action Plan (article)	24-Jan-14	Public
RI Public Radio - Interview	24-Jan-14	Public
RI Public Radio Article	24-Jan-14	Public
League of Cities and Towns (RILCT) Annual Conference	30-Jan-14	Stakeholders/Partners
Northeast State Wildlife Action Plan Coordinators Meeting	4-Feb-14	Regional
Meeting with Diamond Hill Park (Lincoln)	7-Feb-14	Stakeholders
Save the Bay - 2014 Bay Agenda	10-Feb-14	Stakeholders
Meeting with Deb Smith	7-Mar-14	Stakeholder
Land and Water Conservation Summit	8-Mar-14	Stakeholders/Partners
Winter/Spring 2-14 Wild Rhode Island - Community Liaison on Board for 2015 Revision to RI WAP (article)	19-Mar-14	Public
Feedback email created - Riwildlifeactionplan@yahoo.com	20-Mar-14	Public
Materials Enhancement and Creation	25-Mar-14	Stakeholders/Partners
Web Site Update	27-Mar-14	Public
Rhody Native™ - Exposure Expansion	1-Apr-14	Stakeholders/Public
Materials Enhancement and Creation	1-Apr-14	Public
Email Dinalyn Spears - Narragansett Tribe	3-Apr-14	Stakeholders/Partners
Web Site Update	3-Apr-14	Public
Meeting	10-Apr-14	Partners
Press Release	11-Apr-14	Public
ecoRI News	11-Apr-14	Public
70th Annual Northeast Fish & Wildlife Conference Regional SWAP coordination with Fedl Aid R5	13-Apr-14	Stakeholders/Public
The Effects of SLR on RI's Salt Marshes - Save the Bay Day	16-Apr-14	Stakeholders/Partners
Party for the Planet	25-Apr-14	Public
Web Site Update	26-Apr-14	Public
EcoRI News - Mission Simple: Protect R.I.'s Brook Trout (article)	27-Apr-14	Public
East Farm Spring Festival	10-May-14	Public
Web Site Update	14-May-14	Public
Web Site Update	6-Jun-14	Public
Taxonomic Expert Work Session	10-Jun-14	Partners
Great Outdoors Pursuit	22-Jun-14	Public
Sent First Draft of Companion Document to Core & Outreach Teams	1-Aug-14	Partners

APPENDIX 7e: RI WAP PUBLIC INPUT TIMELINE AND TRACKING

Event/Correspondence Type/Title	Date	Participant Tier
Scientific Workshop Invite Email - Prioritize Conservation Actions	17-Aug-14	Stakeholders
The Westerly Sun - Article	30-Aug-14	Public
NEFWDTC Annual Meeting	2-Sep-14	Stakeholders
Request Publicity for Rally 2014 Booth	8-Sep-14	Public
Sent Updated Copy of Draft Companion Document to Core & Outreach Teams	8-Sep-14	Partners
Sent Advanced Copy of Draft Companion Document to Key Conservation Leaders	8-Sep-14	Stakeholders
Tribal Contact (email/phone)	16-Sep-14	Partners/Stakeholders
Rally 2014 (The National Land Conservation Conference)	18-Sep-14	Stakeholders
Web Site Update	24-Sep-14	Public
Press Release	26-Sep-14	Public
ecoRI News	7-Oct-14	Public
Scientific Review Workshop (Review of SGCN and Key Habitat Conservation Actions) - Open to the Public	8-Oct-14	Stakeholders/Public
Web Site Update	23-Oct-14	Public
NOFA/RI e-news	23-Oct-14	Public
Core Team Meetings	2011-2014	Partners
Monthly NE Coordination Calls	2013-2014	Partners/Stakeholders

Appendix 7f. Rhode Island WAP Outreach Materials

This appendix reprints the agendas for the first and last major workshops held during the WAP development process, to serve as examples of all such workshops, each of which solicited input from stakeholders/public/partners at important phases of the document's development. Also found here are three examples of outreach materials utilized during the revision process: Wildlife Quiz, Survey, and Flyer.

Agendas



Rhode Island's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan

January 17TH, 2013

Scientific Review Workshop Agenda

University of Rhode Island (URI), Kingston Campus
3rd Floor, Galanti Lounge, URI Library

---Identifying Species of Greatest Conservation Need & Key Habitats in RI---

Purpose: To provide information on the Rhode Island (RI) Wildlife Action Plan (WAP) and solicit expert input on RI's Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) and Key Habitats.

MORNING

8:30-8:45 a.m. Arrivals and Informal Coffee/Refreshments

8:45-9:45 a.m. Workshop Introduction

Welcome and Introduction to RI's WAP

- Welcoming remarks

WAP Process and Plan

- Approach to RI WAP development and SGCN and Key Habitats (background, regional context)
- Review of Agenda, Workshop Goals, and Instructions

9:45-11:30 a.m. Break-Out Session – Open Space Format

You are invited to visit each of the Topic Tables at your own pace. The following stations have been set-up to solicit your specific input and review of:

- Birds - Invertebrates - Reptiles and Amphibians - 2015 RI WAP Process
- Fish - Mammals - Key Habitats/Mapping

PLEASE NOTE:

- ✓ We are interested in feedback within your field of expertise.
- ✓ Please review the draft SGCN and/or Key Habitats lists, and provide specific input to the representatives at the each table.

- ✓ Using the 2005 RI WAP SGCN and Key Habitats lists as a foundation, today's lists were updated by DEM staff, their partners, and a Technical Committee of various state taxa and habitat experts.
- ✓ Please make an effort to visit all tables, as your overall input is valuable to the process.

11:30 – 11:45 a.m. Next Steps

Wrap up of morning session and discussion of next steps.

12:00 – 12:45 p.m. Lunch and Learning Session

- Climate Change Presentation by Andrew Milliken, US Fish and Wildlife Service and North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC) Coordinator
- NE Synthesis Project Presentation by Steven Fuller, North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC) and WMI
- Follow-up questions and discussion

AFTERNOON

The afternoon session is for the SWAP Technical Committee to review the morning's input on species and habitat lists and further discuss threats and conservation actions.

1:00 – 1:30 p.m. Introduction to the goals of the afternoon SWAP Technical Committee session

1:30 – 3:00 p.m. Technical Committee Taxa and Habitats/GIS Teams meet to refine/finalize SGCN and Key Habitat lists, and discuss Threats and Conservation Actions

3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Group Discussion

Wrap-up and Next Steps



2015 Rhode Island Wildlife Action Plan
Scientific Review Committee Workshop
Final Review of SGCN and Key Habitat Conservation Actions
URI Bay Campus, 215 S Ferry Rd, Narragansett, RI 02882
October 8, 2014

Agenda 9 a.m. – Noon- Lunch Provided

Purpose: To provide a progress report on the RI WAP revision and solicit final input on the proposed actions to conserve SGCN species and key habitats and input into the RI WAP revision

9:00-9:15 a.m. Welcoming Remarks and Workshop Introduction

- Welcoming remarks
- Update on RI WAP Process and Timeline
- Review of Agenda and Workshop Objectives

9:15- 9:30 a.m. Overview of Actions and Threats identified for SGCN Species and Key Habitats

- Overview of the threats and conservation actions for SGCN and key habitats, etc.
- Clarifying Questions?

9:30- 10:30 a.m. Break out into topic stations and visit each taxa /habitat table to provide input

- *Visit Taxa tables*
Visit each taxa or habitat table and provide your comments to the taxa teams
Provide any updated information or comments you have.

Q and A

10:30-11:30 a.m. Overview and Discussion of Suggested RI WAP Conservation Opportunity Area Approach

The RI WAP uses a landscape conservation approach that uses information on species, habitats and threats to spatially depict areas that offer the best opportunities for SGCN conservation, also known as Conservation Opportunity Areas or COAs.

- Presentations

Kevin Ruddock (TNC) from the Key Habitats Team - summarizes the conservation approach including available maps (e.g., resiliency, connectedness, vulnerability, etc.)

Paul Jordan/Scott Millar (RIDEM) presentation on new Planning information and maps

Q and A

11:30-11:45 am Update on Outreach to Municipalities and Conservation Organizations (e.g., land trusts)

Results from RI WAP outreach to municipalities and conservation organizations (e.g., land trusts) presented. Includes stakeholder input on how proposed plan elements interact with local processes and priorities, and what planning products and tools would be most useful to positively affect wildlife conservation in RI.

11:45 -12:00 pm Wrap-up and Next Steps

Lunch (*lunch will be provided*)

RHODE ISLAND WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN (RIWAP) SURVEY

We would **greatly appreciate** your filling out this brief survey. It will help us understand how we can best serve you and others in your city or town and throughout Rhode Island.

BACKGROUND

Every ten years, all US states and territories must publish a Wildlife Action Plan (WAP) to retain crucial federal funding for non-game species conservation. WAPs are strategic long-term conservation plans. The 2015 RIWAP update aims to help individuals and groups achieve their wildlife conservation (and by association, clean air and water and community preservation) goals. As a guidance document, RIWAP has no regulatory component. All participation is voluntary.

1. Please select the option that best describes your familiarity with RIWAP: not at all familiar with RI WAP
 somewhat familiar with/have read some portions of the plan very familiar with/have read the plan
2. What would help you/your group better understand and/or use the RIWAP document? [*Check all that apply*]
 Training and/or presentations/webinars/teleconferences for my board/commission/organization/class
 Maps of conservation opportunity areas (important habitats, resources, etc.) in my community
 Examples from other municipalities of how to conserve species and habitats (e.g. strategies to incorporate conservation into existing plans, model ordinances, etc.)
 Informational packets/ electronic briefings for you or for distribution to organizations, students, or residents (i.e. simple things homeowners can do, assistance with understanding legislative/policy issues, etc.)
 Informal meetings with RIWAP Community Liaison on specific issues of concern to me/my community
 Updates on grants and other funding opportunities available to me/my community
 Other (*explain*)

Job title: _____

Municipality where you live/work: _____

(Optional) Please provide contact information and indicate your preferred means of communication. This will allow us to provide updates on appropriate technical and financial resources as they become available.

Name: _____ Email: _____
Phone: _____

Address: _____

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR TIME!

RI WAP Fact Sheet



Rhode Island's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan

Background: Making History

In 2005, Rhode Island's first-ever *Wildlife Action Plan* (RI WAP) was adopted by the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RI DEM) and approved by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. It was part of an unprecedented national framework of similar plans by every U.S. state and territory that together presented a national action agenda for preventing wildlife from becoming endangered.

Rhode Island is home to almost 900 vertebrate wildlife species and an estimated 20,000 invertebrates spanning from the scenic coastline to its upland forests. Included in this natural diversity are a suite of mammal, bird, reptile and amphibian, fish and invertebrate species that the State has identified as in greatest conservation need.

2015 RI SWAP: Looking Ahead

By 2015, all states are required to update their original WAPs. RI DEM, with the assistance of the RI Chapter of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the University of Rhode Island (URI), is one of the first states to forge ahead towards its revision, which aims to:

- Reassess priority species and habitats; and provide more detailed mapping of priority conservation areas.
- Analyze threats affecting these fish and wildlife, including those posed from habitat loss, degradation, population growth, and climate change.
- Outline conservation actions to address or alleviate these threats and help effectively conserve RI's valuable wildlife resources.



By updating the WAP, RI DEM not only further develops its strategies to protect wildlife and habitats in the state, but also importantly qualifies for Federal State and Tribal Wildlife Grants (SWG). Established by Congress in 2000, the SWG program helps prevent wildlife from declining to the point of being endangered, with the goal to Keep Common Species Common.

Through this effort, RI DEM hopes to fund priority conservation efforts statewide and maintain RI's diverse natural landscape for its citizens and wildlife.

2015 RI SWAP: A Partnership Approach

A strong and unique partnership has been formed between the RI DEM and TNC to leverage financial resources and staff expertise for the 2015 RI WAP revision. This effort has been further enhanced by URI which is also providing project and technical assistance as a key member of the core team.

To support this collaboration, an organizational structure was created consisting of a:

- Core Steering Team
- Technical Committee
- Outreach Team
- Project liaison



to guide the project towards completion and provide planning and technical expertise.

Our approach has been to engage partners early to foster an inclusive, transparent process, and to promote ownership and future support from a broader constituency in the RI WAP's implementation and funding.

2015 RI WAP: Process

Over the next two years, RI DEM will work with wildlife experts from throughout the state, as well as other key stakeholders, to develop a comprehensive plan that provides direction and coordination of wildlife conservation efforts in RI over the coming decade. This process includes:

- *Planning* the RI WAP's scope, objectives, and process.
- *Identifying* stakeholders, collaborators and partners; and soliciting their participation.
- *Researching* other conservation planning efforts in RI and beyond, as well as existing species and habitat databases and mapping tools.
- *Developing priorities* for species, habitats, and communities for conservation efforts.
- *Facilitating meetings* for staff, stakeholder, and public input.
- *Writing a plan* that allows for responsive adaptation, review and evaluation.

RI DEM has secured a conservation and communication consultant (TCI) to assist in developing an effective plan and process.

Your participation....

You can help shape the direction of wildlife conservation in the state!

As we coordinate the best scientific data for the RI WAP, please lend your expertise & ideas.

For more information, go to www.dem.ri.gov/riwap.

Please send comments to:

RI DEM Division of Fish and Wildlife • 3 Ft. Wetherill Rd. • Jamestown, RI 02879 • www.dem.ri.gov/riwap • riwildlifeactionplan@yahoo.com