

CSC Project Proposal - 2013

Project Title: Updating the State Wildlife Action Plan

Goal: To update the State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) by October 1, 2015. The SWAP provides a state-coordinated approach to species and habitat conservation, and must be updated every five years. In order for this new document to be approved, we must demonstrate that the entire previous Action Plan (completed 2005) was examined and that all of the Eight Required Elements (including an up-to-date public review process) were adequately addressed. In addition we must formulate a new climate change adaptation strategy and incorporate that strategy into the revision of the state's Wildlife Action Plan. The format of the new plan will provide much needed improved plan implementation guidance and direction for local communities and conservation organizations. This document must be filed by October 1, 2015 in order to continue receiving federal funds from the State Wildlife Grant Program for the purpose of land acquisition, habitat management and species restoration. Since 2004, Rhode Island has received an annual appropriation that has ranged from \$400,000 to \$800,000 through this State Wildlife Grant Program.

Brief Description: The process to revise the State Wildlife Action Plan began in March 2011 with the hiring Terwilliger Consulting, Incorporated. To date, much has been accomplished including forming a core team to shepherd the process (RIDEM, TNC, and URI), establishing taxa teams (herps, habitats, birds, mammals, fish, and inverts), assembling a new species of greatest conservation need list (GCN), identifying the habitat type for each GCN species, documenting the threats to each GCN species, listing the actions to mitigate these threats and having multiple meetings with experts to review these various lists and finalizing them. Through this process 729 GCN species and their associated habitats, threats and actions have been finalized.

The goal for this year is to write the plan document, complete all maps (general context, species, and habitats) and complete species or suite of species information sheets. Once drafts of these products are completed there will be expert and public review sessions before finalizing the document.

After the document is finalized (early 2015) it will be printed along with an abridged companion guide and a robust web site.

Deliverables: The deliverables of the project for this year are:

1. Draft maps (general context, species, and habitats)
2. Draft GCN species information sheets with threats and actions that have management implications.
3. Draft abridged companion guide

Request and Match: The Nature Conservancy is requesting \$13,422 from the Conservation Stewardship Collaborative to fund staff time to oversee the State Wildlife Plan process, to assist with and review all written products and complete all required maps (will number in the hundreds). Through a cooperative agreement

with RIDEM these funds will be matched leveraging an additional \$40,266 that will be used to pay Terwilliger Consulting, Incorporated work on the project.

The state received a federal grant of \$300,000 through the Division of Fish & Wildlife that requires a \$101,000 nonfederal match. The Rhode Island Foundation has funded the first 2.5 years of the match with a grant of \$50,000.

Total Project and To Date Budget:

GRANT FUNDS

BUDGET CATEGORY		Budget	Project to Date Expenses	Balance
9311	PERSONNEL	\$29,805.00	\$4,033.20	\$25,771.80
9414,5903	TRAVEL	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
5810	EQUIP > \$5,000	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
9315	SUPPLIES & EQUIPMENT < \$5,000	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
9312	CONTRACTUAL	\$270,000.00	\$138,867.25	\$131,132.75
9317,9316,5215,5201,5205	OTHER EXPENSES	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES		\$299,805.00	\$142,900.45	\$156,904.55
ICR	FY12 22.55%; FY13 18%; FY14 14.99%	\$69,344.90	\$27,461.11	\$41,883.79
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$369,149.90	\$170,361.56	\$198,788.34

MATCH FUNDS

BUDGET CATEGORY		Budget	Project to Date Expenses	Balance
9311	PERSONNEL	75,000.00	49,696.19	\$25,303.81
9414,5903	TRAVEL	-	2,730.39	(\$2,730.39)
5810	EQUIP > \$5,000	-	-	\$0.00
9315	SUPPLIES & EQUIPMENT < \$5,000	26,000.00	83.26	\$25,916.74
9312	CONTRACTUAL	-	-	\$0.00
9317,9316,5201,5205	OTHER EXPENSES	-	221.92	(\$221.92)
TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES		101,000.00	52,731.76	\$48,268.24
ICR	FY12 22.55%; FY13 18%; FY14 14.99%	23,361.30	9,663.36	\$13,697.94
TOTAL EXPENSES		124,361.30	62,395.12	\$61,966.18

Payment will be made to: The Nature Conservancy
Rhode Island Chapter
159 Waterman Street
Providence, RI 02906

Project oversight will be done by: Scott Comings, Director of Land and Freshwater Conservation