



# Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plans

## Quick Facts:

- Under State Wildlife Grants (SWG) Program, any state may submit proposals; distribution of funds is based on land area (1/3) and population (2/3).
- The SWG program goal is to assist states with federal funds for developing and implementing programs to benefit wildlife and habitat (including nongame species), with a focus on species of greatest conservation need.
- Programs are administered by USFWS Federal Assistance Division.

## Management Needs:

- The Service has committed to assisting states with plan development.

## Current Status

Planning is a part of fish and wildlife management and its benefits are many, especially in helping guide future efforts. Comprehensive planning is also a part of two important federal grant programs – the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program and the State Wildlife Grants program. Legislation creating these grant programs requires that states commit to developing comprehensive statewide wildlife conservation plans by October 1, 2005.

These plans, which are already under development in all Midwest states, will address eight elements: distribution and abundance of wildlife; location and condition of habitats; descriptions of problems; descriptions of needed conservation actions; plans for monitoring populations, habitats and effectiveness of conservation actions; procedures for updating the plan in 10 years; coordination with tribes, federal and state agencies; and providing for public participation.

The Service is committed to assisting states as much as possible as plans are developed. A Development Assistance Team is in place in the Midwest Region, and states are encouraged to contact the team or any field office or refuge as plans are developed. States may also request the Service to develop and conduct regional workshops to promote sharing of ideas and information.



## Hot Topics:

States are required to complete plans in order to receive funding through State Wildlife Grants Program and the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program.

States have committed to the development of Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plans by October 1, 2005.