

Implementation

This chapter addresses Elements 6 and 7 of the NAAT Guidelines. Element 6 requires, “descriptions of procedures to review the strategy at intervals not to exceed ten years.” Element 7 asks for, “Plans for coordinating the development, implementation, review, and revision of the plan with Federal, State, and local agencies and Indian tribes that manage significant land and water areas within the State or administer programs that significantly affect the conservation of identified species and habitats.” Described here is our expected approach to implementing the New Hampshire WAP. Implementation will involve department staff, other agencies, and the many partners that assisted in the plan’s development. Partners who have helped write, review, and edit the plan have a good understanding of its components and have a vested interest in its successful implementation.

We recognize that having the resources to implement the plan will be critical. We will need major support from future federal funding, such as the State Wildlife Grants that provided money to generate this Plan. While we will ask partners to support the WAP’s goals in many ways, it will be difficult for NHFG to play the leadership role that is expected absent significant funding.

YEARS 1-2

To foster awareness and support for implementing the plan, initial actions will focus on internal and external outreach regarding plan strategies, and the prioritization of strategies and objectives into operational work plans. NHFG staff from many divisions

and program areas will be engaged in these efforts to ensure a coordinated agency approach to strategy implementation.

The NHFG public affairs division will disseminate information about the WAP. A major public release of the plan will be developed for the early part of 2006, in coordination with national WAP promotion strategies. The intent is for target groups to understand how they can assist in strategy implementation to achieve conservation of species at risk. A component of this is likely to be a Wildlife Summit II, where partners from the conservation community, landowners, businesses, and agencies will be brought together to discuss the WAP and provide their input on implementation.

Internal discussions with NHFG staff will also be occurring. Many NHFG divisions, including wildlife, fisheries, marine, and law enforcement have important roles to play in the implementation of the WAP. Administrators and staff need to understand these roles, identify available resources, and commit to the successful implementation of plan strategies. Partners who participated in developing the WAP should also be engaged—their continued involvement and assistance is as important now as it was at the beginning of the planning process.

A principal need is the prioritization of WAP strategies and objectives. This task will be aided by the risk assessment scores and feasibility ranking forms developed as part of the WAP. Priority strategies and objectives will be reviewed by partners and revised as appropriate. Further, agencies and organizations need to be identified that have the interest and ability to

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take on leadership roles in the four broad conservation focus areas: local land and water conservation, regional air and water quality, statewide biodiversity stewardship and conservation science, and information management. NHFG will be a leader on many strategies, but others may lend their leadership as appropriate. Specific coordinators should be established for the implementation and monitoring of conservation strategies.

Contact with state and federal agencies will be made to integrate the priorities and strategies of the WAP into their plans and operations. Agencies and their existing plans include but are not limited to:

State Agencies/Organizations

- NHDFL including the NH Forest Resources Plan due to be revised in 2006
- NH Estuaries Project Management Plan due to be revised in 2010
- Office of Energy and Planning including the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) to be updated in 2008
- NHDOT, including the Long Range Statewide Transportation Plan due to be completed Spring 2006

Federal Agencies

- USFS including the WMNF Land and Resource Management Plan due to be updated September 2005
- USFWS including all recovery plans for federally threatened and endangered species that occur in New Hampshire
- USFWS including conservation and management plans for all National Wildlife Refuges that occur in New Hampshire

YEARS 1-3

NHFG will work with lead implementation organizations and personnel to develop specific, measurable targets to monitor achievement of WAP goals. While some performance indicators were developed as a part of the WAP, additional detail is needed. Working groups may be organized at the level of the four focus areas or at the strategy level, to develop specific work plans and performance monitoring strategies. Work plans for top priorities will be developed in Year 1, while lower priority work plans may not be developed until Years 2-3.

YEARS 2-10

Progress toward WAP goals will be measured, and allowances will be made for adaptive management. Details on measuring and monitoring progress are described in detail in the Monitoring chapter.

YEAR 10

We will conduct a major plan review in 2015. The public will be involved in the review process through a "Wildlife Summit" type meeting, and other forums similar to those outlined in our public participation process described in this document. We will provide information on progress toward our goals to date, and facilitate a reassessment of WAP priorities and strategies.