

Since 2002, The Wildlife Diversity Program and our partners have conducted projects on over 100 different species of wildlife. The list below spotlights some of the species receiving our attention:

Waterbirds

- yellow-billed loon
- common loon
- Pacific loon
- red-necked grebe
- horned grebe

Landbirds

- American dipper
- rusty blackbird
- Arctic warbler
- Prince of Wales spruce grouse
- olive-sided flycatcher
- various other songbirds

Marine Mammals

- bowhead whale
- North Pacific right whale
- killer whale
- Steller sea lion
- harbor seal
- bearded seal
- ringed seal
- spotted seal
- ribbon seal
- walrus
- polar bear
- northern sea otter

Mammals

- wood bison
- brown bear, Kenai population
- Alaska marmot
- hoary marmot
- Montague Island marmot
- Glacier Bay marmot
- collared pika
- tundra hare
- least weasel
- little brown myotis
- Keen's myotis
- California myotis
- long-legged myotis
- silver-haired bat
- various other small mammals

Shorebirds

- black oystercatcher
- Eskimo curlew
- Pacific golden-plover
- western sandpiper
- solitary sandpiper
- short-billed dowitcher
- surfbird
- black turnstone
- sandhill crane

Raptors

- golden eagle
- bald eagle
- osprey
- gyrfalcon
- Queen Charlotte goshawk
- American peregrine falcon
- Arctic peregrine falcon
- Peale's peregrine falcon
- northern saw-whet owl
- northern pygmy owl
- northern hawk owl
- western screech owl
- barred owl
- short-eared owl
- boreal owl
- great gray owl
- great horned owl
- long-eared owl

Amphibians

- wood frog
- western toad
- rough-skinned newt
- northwestern salamander
- long-toed salamander

Seabirds

- short-tailed albatross
- marbled murrelet
- Kittlitz's murrelet
- Aleutian tern
- black-legged kittiwake
- common murre
- glaucous-winged gull
- pelagic cormorant
- double-crested cormorant
- tufted puffin
- horned puffin
- parakeet auklet
- pigeon guillemot

Waterfowl

- Steller's eider
- spectacled eider
- Tule white-fronted goose
- Dusky Canada goose
- trumpeter swan



The Wildlife Diversity Program Mission:

To conserve the natural diversity of Alaska's wildlife, habitats and ecosystems.

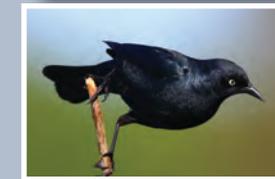
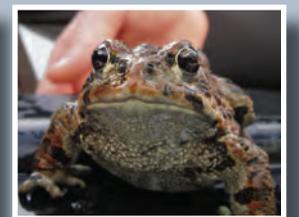


For more information about the ADF&G Wildlife Diversity Program, our staff and projects, please contact the Wildlife Diversity Program Coordinator at 907-465-4190 or visit www.wildlife.alaska.gov.



Photos courtesy of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, ADF&G and our Wildlife Diversity Program partners.

Conserving Alaska's Wildlife Diversity



Working Together for Conservation

Wildlife Diversity Partner Program

Our Wildlife Diversity Program biologists conduct a wide range of research, monitoring and conservation projects. But there is a limit to what we can accomplish alone. Fortunately, a great deal of capacity and expertise exists among our partners throughout Alaska.

The Wildlife Diversity Partner Program provides an exciting opportunity for organizations (including state and federal agencies, Native organizations, nonprofits, universities and individuals) to receive State Wildlife Grant (SWG) funds to work on shared conservation priorities identified in the Alaska Wildlife Action Plan. Partner program recipients must be able to supply qualifying non-federal matching funds (which may include staff time, volunteer time or donated goods or services). These collaborative efforts effectively leverage SWG funding and efficiently combine the resources and expertise of a multitude of organizations to meet the conservation needs of Alaska's diverse wildlife.



We continue to seek out new partners and projects, while working with existing partners, to identify collaborative opportunities. For information about ADF&G's Wildlife Diversity Program, contact the Wildlife Diversity Program Coordinator at 907-465-4190 or visit www.wildlife.alaska.gov.

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The Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Wildlife Diversity Program
Division of Wildlife Conservation



What We Do: A Small Sample

The Wildlife Diversity Program leads wildlife conservation projects throughout the state. Our efforts range from baseline surveys and monitoring to the development of management tools and directed research projects aimed at understanding population movements and distributions, breeding ecology, genetics, habitat use and the factors limiting populations. To demonstrate the nature and breadth of our efforts, here are just a few highlights from more than 120 projects undertaken by the Wildlife Diversity Program and our partners to date.

Understanding the ecology of oystercatchers

The black oystercatcher is one of the rarest shorebirds in North America, and most nest in Alaska. Despite being considered a species of high concern, very little was known about their ecology or population status. ADF&G took the lead on an international, multiagency project to address key aspects of black oystercatcher ecology critical to the conservation of this poorly understood species. The cooperative project drew together the efforts of the U.S.D.A. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Survey, National Park Service, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Oregon State University, Parks Canada, Canadian Wildlife Service, and the Laskeek Bay Conservation Society in British Columbia. The project produced significant new information on distribution and population trends, breeding biology, rangewide productivity, threats, seasonal migration routes and wintering concentrations. As a result of this project, the species is believed to be stable and has been removed from the Audubon Watch List.



Working with whalers on bowheads

The ecology of the endangered bowhead whale remains largely a mystery to science: They are exceedingly difficult to study, but Alaska Natives hold the key to unlock some understanding. A handful of Native villages in the Arctic are still permitted to harvest a small number of these massive animals for subsistence. ADF&G is partnering with the North Slope Borough to investigate the feeding ecology of the bowhead whale by collaborating with local whaling crews to obtain stomach contents and other samples and measurements from harvested whales. This project opens the door to new information on bowhead whale diets and the frequency and intensity of feeding.



Restoring the wood bison

Wood bison once ranged across Alaska and northern Canada, but were driven nearly to extinction like their better known southern cousins, the Plains bison. By 1900, wood bison were extirpated from Alaska and fewer than 300 remained in Canada. ADF&G is partnering with the Wildlife Conservation Society, Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center, the Turner Foundation, Safari Club International and others to reintroduce the wood bison – the largest mammal native to North America – back into their former range in Alaska.

Involving volunteers to help fill data gaps – ADF&G's Citizen Science Program

Because of Alaska's vast size, traditional inventory and monitoring efforts are often cost prohibitive for many species. To help fill these data gaps, the Wildlife Diversity Program created the Alaska Citizen Science Program. The program (1) collects valuable baseline information across large geographic areas at little cost; (2) provides opportunities for volunteer participation and conservation education; and (3) develops a mechanism for citizen-based monitoring in the face of environmental change. The data our citizen scientists collect helps define distributional limits and habitat associations and is building the foundations for directed research. This exciting program allows individuals, families, community organizations and school groups – anyone interested in learning more about our wildlife – a chance to get involved. Ongoing Citizen Science Projects are focused on wood frogs, bats, loons and grebes. For more information, visit www.akcitizenscience.net.



Keeping Common Species Common

ADF&G's Wildlife Diversity Program

The Wildlife Diversity Program works proactively with our state, federal and private partners to conserve wildlife species before they become threatened or endangered, to recover species already imperiled and to keep “common species common.”

Hunters, anglers and trappers have long supported the conservation of game and furbearing species through license fees. But what about conservation efforts for other wildlife species that play important roles in our ecosystems but are not hunted, fished or trapped? Until recently in Alaska, no dedicated source of state or federal funding existed for understanding and conserving the wider diversity of our wildlife.

In 2001, new sources of federal funding became available for this broader scope of conservation. These funding opportunities, known today as the State Wildlife Grant (SWG) program, led to the creation of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's **Wildlife Diversity Program**.

