Our Wealth Maintained: A Strategy for Conserving Alaska's Diverse Wildlife and Fish Resources



A Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy
Emphasizing Alaska's Nongame Species

April 2006



Development of this Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy was funded by the State Wildlife Grants (SWG) Program. This program consists of funds from the U.S. Department of Interior offshore oil and gas leasing receipts. A portion of the receipts are designated annually by Congress and apportioned among the states and territories through a formula based on each state's geographic area and population. Alaska receives a maximum 5% of the funds available each year. The funds are administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. One of the primary purposes of SWG is to focus on conservation actions that benefit species of greatest conservation need while taking into consideration the relative level of other funding available for the conservation of those species.

Cover photo: Snow Bunting in winter plumage; C. Lensink, USFWS.

This document should be cited as:

Alaska Department of Fish and Game. 2006. Our Wealth Maintained: A Strategy for Conserving Alaska's Diverse Wildlife and Fish Resources. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Juneau, Alaska. xviii+824 p.

Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Planning Team, Alaska Department of Fish and Game

<u>Task Force</u>: Ellen Fritts, CWCS Project Coordinator, Division of Wildlife Conservation (DWC); Mark Burch, Statewide Planner, Sport Fish Division (SF); Mary Rabe, Nongame Program Coordinator, DWC; James Schwarber, Statewide Planner, SF; Betsy McCracken, Fisheries Biologist, SF

<u>Key Technical Support</u>: Cathy Brown, Publications Specialist, DWC; Erica Sigurdsson, Student Intern, SF

Acknowledgements

As with any large, complex, multiyear project, preparation of this Strategy involved a variety of state agency staff and other partners who collectively made the impossible possible. Their efforts have contributed greatly to our understanding of the needs of wildlife resources in Alaska.

Many agencies and organizations provided hours of in-kind support. We would like to especially thank Doug Alcorn and Al Havens, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; John Schoen, Audubon Alaska; Randy Hagenstein and Amalie Couvillion, The Nature Conservancy; and Keith Boggs and Tracey Gotthardt, Alaska Natural Heritage Program, for leveraging their resources and lending their staff to this project.

Information and data from many existing reports and plans were used to develop this document; these sources are cited in numerous places. We would like to recognize this contribution and also acknowledge all the "silent" partners in Alaska and across the nation who knowingly or unknowingly helped provide inspiration and materials for our efforts.

This Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (CWCS) document is only the most visible result of our multiyear planning effort. Of even greater value is the web of crossorganizational and cross-disciplinary networks that is being developed. The ultimate test of usefulness for the CWCS will rest in our ability to develop collaborative efforts and address priority needs for the conservation of Alaska's unique habitats and wildlife species. The material generated in the CWCS planning process is already being used in ways we could not have predicted. We are confident that the final effects of our planning process will outlive individual participants' careers, as others embrace the task of implementing and updating needed approaches for conserving Alaska's wealth of wildlife and fish resources. For wildlife and fisheries managers, and for Alaskans, there is no better legacy than that.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game administers all programs and activities free from discrimination based on race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, marital status, pregnancy, parenthood, or disability. The department administers all programs and activities in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.

If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility, or if you desire further information please write to ADF&G, P.O. Box 115526, Juneau, AK 99811-5526; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4040 N. Fairfax Drive, Suite 300 Webb, Arlington, VA 22203 or O.E.O., U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington DC 20240.

For information on alternative formats for this and other department publications, please contact the department ADA Coordinator at (voice) 907-465-6077, (TDD) 907-465-3646, or (FAX) 907-465-6078.