

Foreword



Brooks Range. © M. Emery, used with permission.

Alaska is home to an incredible diversity of fish and wildlife species, many of which are unique to our great state. These species are foundationally important to our ecosystems and many are valued commercially, recreationally, and culturally.

The founders of our Alaska constitution wisely recognized the importance of sustaining these resources for future generations. They embedded into the constitution, yes our constitution, a requirement for common use of these resources and to sustainably manage them under the sustained yield principle. We take this responsibility seriously.

Based on this, Alaska has developed a robust management program that ensures the conservation of our fish and wildlife and their habitats. And we have been successful in our efforts. Our resource management programs are recognized as some of the best in the world.

I want to highlight the word “conservation.” Our programs are not built on “protection,” rather conservation of our resources, recognizing that wise use is an element of our management. People are part of the equation. This is our home, and we take pride in caring for it.

Alaska’s State Wildlife Action Plan is a conservation plan for those species that we have identified as species needing focus. It is not a suggestion that these species are critically imperiled and need to be listed under the Endangered Species Act, rather it is a blueprint to identify threats facing these species and their habitats to sustain and conserve them for future generations.

I want to thank my staff and all those that contributed to this plan, recognizing that it is a living document that will evolve over time.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game is entrusted to be good stewards of our resources. But conservation is a team effort. We are in this together.

—Doug Vincent-Lang, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Fish and Game

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ADF&G STAFF AND LEADERSHIP

Development of this revised action plan was coordinated by Julie Hagelin, Division of Wildlife Conservation, and Kristine Dunker, Division of Sport Fish, both within the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G). They were assisted by staff of the Division of Wildlife Conservation's Threatened, Endangered, and Diversity (TED) Program, including Lindsey Nietmann (program coordinator), Eva Allaby, Travis Booms, Karen Blejwas, Katie Christie, Moira Ingle, Jenell Larsen Tempel, Mykenzee Munaco, Tory Rhoads, Arin Underwood, and Jeff Wagner, as well as former staff who initiated the revision (Tracey Gotthardt, Audrey Taylor). The Division of Sport Fish Research (Jeff Nichols, Tim McKinley, James Savereide) and Invasive Species (Tammy Davis) programs also contributed to this document, as did the Division of Subsistence (Liliana Naves). Additional input was received from many sources within ADF&G's Division of Wildlife Conservation, including research biologist Chris Barger, the Waterfowl Program (Jason Chamber, Tyler Lewis), the Marine Mammal Program (Lori Polasik, Lori Quakenbush), the Small Game Program (Cameron Carroll) and ADF&G leadership (Chris Krenz, Ryan Scott, Sky Brandt, Israel Payton, Lisa Holt-Blair, Forrest Bowers, Rachel Baker, Dani Evenson). June Younkins (ADF&G Publications) improved the clarity of writing and formatting.

CONTRACTORS, EXTERNAL PARTNERS, AND THE PUBLIC

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