

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	iii
Foreword	xv
Acknowledgments	xvi
Acronyms and Abbreviations	xvii
1 Introduction	1
Application of the SWAP	2
How SWG Funds have Benefitted Alaska Wildlife	5
Creating the 2025 SWAP	6
Eight Required Elements	7
Literature Cited	8
2 Road Map to Plan Elements	9
Demographics	10
Major Improvements to the 2025 SWAP	10
Species of Greatest Conservation Need	11
Threats and Conservation Actions	12
The Revision Process	13
Literature Cited	14
3 Alaska Overview	15
People	15
Landscapes	15
Fish and Wildlife	18
Economy	23
Summary	25
Literature Cited	25
4 Species of Greatest Conservation Need	29
Excluded Species	31
Taxonomic Status	33
Criteria for Inclusion as SGCN	34
At-Risk Species	34
Stewardship Species	40
Culturally Important Species	41
Economically Important Species	41
Ecologically Important Species	41

Table of Contents (continued)

Results	41
Literature Cited	42
5 Distribution and Abundance of Wildlife in Alaska	47
Distribution of Species of Greatest Conservation Need.....	47
Northern Alaska.....	48
Western Alaska.....	52
Central Alaska.....	55
Southwest Alaska.....	58
Southcentral Alaska	61
Southeast Alaska	64
Beaufort and Chukchi Seas.....	67
Bering Sea.....	68
Gulf of Alaska.....	70
Species Richness of Terrestrial Vertebrate SGCN.....	71
Abundance of SGCN	75
Literature Cited	75
6 Key Habitats for Wildlife in Alaska	77
Wildlife Species Richness by Habitat.....	80
Terrestrial, Freshwater, and Coastal Habitats.....	85
Forests and Woodlands	85
Floodplain Forests	91
Freshwater Wetlands	94
Shrublands and Grasslands.....	105
Tundra	109
Cliff, Scree, and Rock.....	114
Coastal Habitats	118
Freshwater Aquatic Habitats	128
Glacial Habitats	131
Human-Modified Habitats.....	132
Marine Habitats	135
Mainland and Island Mudflats	135
Mudland and Island Rocky Shores.....	136
Mainland and Island Cliffs and Bluffs	137

Table of Contents (continued)

Mainland and Island Cobble and Sand Beaches	138
Nearshore Waters.....	139
Offshore Shelf Waters	141
Offshore Marine Waters.....	142
Estuarine Waters	143
Literature Cited	144
7 Threats to Wildlife.....	145
Residential, Commercial, and Recreation Areas.....	146
Agriculture and Aquaculture.....	148
Energy Production and Mining.....	150
Transportation, Service, and Security Corridors	154
Biological Resource Use and Control	158
Human Intrusions and Disturbances	163
Natural System Management and Modifications	165
Invasive and Other Problematic Species, Genes, and Pathogens	166
Pollution	170
Natural Disasters.....	175
Climate Change.....	176
Literature Cited	186
8 Conservation Actions	209
Research and Monitoring.....	210
Conservation Designation and Planning.....	211
Land and Water Management.....	213
Species Management	217
Awareness Raising	222
Education and Training.....	224
Legal and Policy Frameworks.....	224
Livelihood, Economic, and Moral Incentives.....	225
Institutional Development.....	226
Literature Cited	227
9 Monitoring and Evaluation	233
Challenges in Alaska.....	234
Current Monitoring Efforts	236

Table of Contents (continued)

Monitoring Plans for the Next 10 Years.....	238
Habitat Monitoring.....	240
Defining Success.....	242
Literature Cited.....	247
10 Alaska Priorities.....	255
Species Priorities.....	255
Partnership and Outreach Priorities.....	258
Habitat Priorities.....	259
Threat Priorities.....	260
Priority Conservation and Management Actions.....	264
Monitoring Vulnerable Populations.....	265
Removing Invasive Species.....	265
Mitigating Losses in High-Use Terrestrial and Marine Areas.....	266
Informing the Alaska Boards of Game and Fisheries Processes.....	267
Informing Federal Regulations and Permits.....	267
Reducing Known Sources of Mortality and Morbidity.....	267
Literature Cited.....	268
11 Plan Development, Implementation and Review.....	273
Part I: 2015 SWAP Evaluation and Development of the 2025 Revision.....	274
Part II: Partner Input and Public Outreach.....	275
Part III: SWAP Implementation.....	283
Part IV: Future Revision of Alaska’s Wildlife Action Plan.....	286
Literature Cited.....	288
12 Appendices.....	289

List of Tables

<i>Table 1.1. Example research projects conducted by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game’s Threatened, Endangered and Diversity Program using State Wildlife Grant funding</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Table 2.1. Locations in this document where the eight required plan elements are addressed</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Table 5.1. Average annual, winter, and summer air temperatures and average precipitation for historical and more recent time periods across Alaska’s biogeographic regions.</i>	<i>49</i>
<i>Table 6.1. Terrestrial, freshwater, and marine habitats in Alaska.</i>	<i>79</i>
<i>Table 6.2. Categorical habitat-value classes used to calculate species richness for birds, mammals, and amphibians in each terrestrial, freshwater, and marine habitat.</i>	<i>81</i>
<i>Table 6.3. Statewide species richness values for wildlife “species of greatest conservation need” by habitat type, richness rankings, and percent areal coverage of the 41 coarse-scale terrestrial, freshwater, and marine habitats assessed in Alaska.</i>	<i>81</i>
<i>Table 9.1. List of at-risk species in Alaska reviewed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or National Marine Fisheries Service a for listing under the federal Endangered Species Act during the current State Wildlife Action Plan period</i>	<i>243</i>
<i>Table 10.1. Examples of high-priority “species of greatest conservation need” from several taxonomic groups.</i>	<i>257</i>
<i>Table 11.1. Organizations and agencies interviewed</i>	<i>275</i>
<i>Table 11.2. Key suggestions by interviewees for improving development of Alaska’s 2025 State Wildlife Action Plan and how these suggestions were addressed in the current revision.</i>	<i>278</i>
<i>Table 11.3. Key implementation activities described in Alaska’s State Wildlife Action Plan eligible for State Wildlife Grant funding</i>	<i>286</i>
<i>Table 11.4. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service requirements for documenting emerging issues</i>	<i>287</i>

List of Figures

<i>Figure 3.1. A map depicting the Lower 48 states overlaid with the State of Alaska.</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>Figure 5.1. Map of the biogeographic regions in Alaska used in this wildlife action plan.</i>	<i>48</i>
<i>Figure 5.2. Statewide heatmap of “species of greatest conservation need” in Alaska, including the distribution of 211 vertebrates across terrestrial environments.</i>	<i>72</i>
<i>Figure 5.3a. Vertebrate species richness heatmaps by taxonomic group across Alaska—amphibian “species of greatest conservation need”.....</i>	<i>73</i>
<i>Figure 5.3b. Vertebrate species richness heatmaps by taxonomic group across Alaska—bird “species of greatest conservation need”.....</i>	<i>74</i>
<i>Figure 5.3c. Vertebrate species richness heatmaps by taxonomic group across Alaska—mammal “species of greatest conservation need”</i>	<i>74</i>
<i>Figure 6.1. Map of the biogeographic regions in Alaska used in this wildlife action plan.</i>	<i>78</i>
<i>Figure 7.1. Climate change effects on processes that influence species, habitats, populations, communities, and ecosystems in boreal and Arctic systems.....</i>	<i>178</i>
<i>Figure 7.2. Recent observed changes in the physical environment related to climate change.</i>	<i>182</i>
<i>Figure 7.3. Recent observed changes in fish and wildlife species related to climate change.</i>	<i>183</i>

List of Appendices

<i>Appendix A. “Species of greatest conservation need” in Alaska by justification—terrestrial vertebrates and marine mammals.a.</i>	<i>291</i>
<i>Appendix B. Subspecies, stocks, and distinct population segments of “species of greatest conservation need” in Alaska by justification—terrestrial vertebrates and marine mammals.....</i>	<i>299</i>
<i>Appendix C. “Species of greatest conservation need” in Alaska by justification—invertebrate and aquatic taxa.....</i>	<i>304</i>
<i>Appendix D. Distribution of “species of greatest conservation need” in Alaska by biogeographic region..</i>	<i>306</i>
<i>Appendix E. Alaska population estimates for “species of greatest conservation need”.....</i>	<i>317</i>
<i>Appendix F. Detailed habitat descriptions and distribution maps for terrestrial habitats in Alaska.</i>	<i>325</i>
<i>Appendix G. Scientific and common names of plant taxa referenced in Chapter 6 and Appendix F, organized by life form.</i>	<i>378</i>
<i>Appendix H. Examples of recent and ongoing habitat and wildlife monitoring efforts in Alaska, 2015–2025.....</i>	<i>388</i>

List of Vignettes

<i>Lesser Yellowlegs</i>	4
<i>Sunflower Sea Star</i>	32
<i>Gray-headed Chickadee</i>	39
<i>Northern Flying Squirrel</i>	40
<i>Northern Fur Seal</i>	70
<i>Polar Bear</i>	140
<i>Cook Inlet Beluga</i>	157
<i>Yelloweye Rockfish</i>	161
<i>Little Brown Bat</i>	170
<i>Spectacled Eider</i>	172
<i>Harbor Porpoise</i>	179
<i>Impact of an invasive species on “species of greatest conservation need”: Northern Pike</i>	215
<i>Alaska Black-backed Woodpecker</i>	217
<i>Golden Eagle</i>	219
<i>Olive-sided Flycatcher</i>	220
<i>Culture and place-based shorebird conservation outreach in schools and communities in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta</i>	223
<i>Pacific Red Knot</i>	225
<i>Insect Pollinators</i>	240
<i>Alaska Hare</i>	244
<i>Collared Pika</i>	262
<i>Hudsonian Godwit</i>	277
<i>Engaging Indigenous partners and knowledge to inform Alaska’s “species of greatest conservation need” research</i>	281
