

Public Participation

Public involvement and support are critical to the success of Wyoming's State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) and to the state's ability to meet the requirements of Element 7 of the Congressional SWAP guidelines, which requires each state's SWAP to have "an effective public participation process."

Public involvement in the SWAP has been divided into three components:

- 🌿 Public outreach since the 2010 SWAP revision.
- 🌿 Public involvement in the 2017 revision of the SWAP.
- 🌿 Future public involvement in SWAP.

Public Outreach since the 2010 SWAP Revision

Public Access to Wyoming's SWAP

Wyoming's SWAP, has been posted on the WGFD's website since its completion in 2010. The SWAP, along with information on how to access it on the Internet, is commonly referenced in WGFD articles on SGCN and SWAP implementation projects.

WGFD Outreach Tools

The WGFD distributes information to the public through its website; its monthly *Wyoming Wildlife* magazine; monthly regional newsletters; radio and television news releases; emails; and social media including Facebook, YouTube, and Twitter. These sources have been used to feature articles about the SWAP, SWAP projects, leading conservation issues, and Wyoming SGCN.

Annual Sensitive Species Funding Reports

Information about work on individual wildlife species including SGCN is provided in the WGFD's Annual Report. SWAP projects and other sensitive-species work for birds and mammals are available in the WGFD's annual Nongame Annual Completion Report. These

reports are available on the WGFD's website <https://wgfd.wyo.gov/Hunting/Job-Completion-Reports>.

Public Involvement in the 2017 SWAP Revision

In November 2015, a presentation to the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission was given about Wyoming's SWAP, SGCN, and the WGFD's intentions to revise its SWAP. Commission meetings are open to the public, and time is allocated for questions and comments from the audience on each subject discussed. Meeting agendas are posted on the WGFD's website three weeks prior to meetings.

At a Commission meeting in January 2016, the Commission approved a revised list of SGCN. In March 2016, a press release was distributed and posted on the WGFD's website which explained SWAP revision plans and changes to Wyoming's SGCN list. The website posting provided a place for public comment on Wyoming's 2010 SWAP. The comment link was maintained throughout the revision process.

Website Posting of Revised SWAP

A draft of Wyoming's revised 2017 SWAP was posted on the WGFD's website on March 21, 2017. This posting was accompanied by a press release and website announcement regarding completion of revisions, changes that were made, where to view document, and how to provide comments on the Department's website. The comment period lasted for 30 days.

Public comments were incorporated and a final document was presented to the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission in July. This meeting provided an additional opportunity for the public to make comments on the 2017 SWAP prior to it being formally approved by the Commission and submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Coordination with Partners

Numerous agencies, organizations, and individuals participated in the 2010 and 2017 revision of Wyoming's SWAP by providing input and reviewing draft documents. These individuals are listed at the end of sections within each chapter. Additionally, member organizations of the SWAP Interagency Advisory Team which was active throughout the 2010 revision process were contacted again by letter in April 2016 for input on improvements for the 2017 revised plan. Participants in the revision process brought varying perspectives from their organizations and constituencies.

Public Involvement in the Implementation of the SWAP and Future Revisions

Wyoming's 2017 SWAP was organized and written specifically to be accessible to the public. The selection of terrestrial and aquatic habitat classification units, the design of maps, the inclusion of background information on threats and current conservation initiatives, and the avoidance of jargon were all intentional strategies, chosen to enhance public understanding of wildlife threats and recommended conservation actions.

The WGFD's website will continue to have a page dedicated to the SWAP where the revised plan will be permanently housed along with articles and links to information on SWAP projects and SGCN. The USFWS is also creating a Wildlife TRACS (Tracking and Reporting on Actions for Conservation of Species) website which will visually display the location and results of State Wildlife Grant projects.

Through the SWAP interagency Advisory Team and in regards to specific species and issues, the WGFD will regularly engage stakeholders and partners to coordinate SWAP associated activities. The public will be notified about proposed updates to the SWAP prior to its next revision through WGFD publications, and opportunity will be provided for public input.