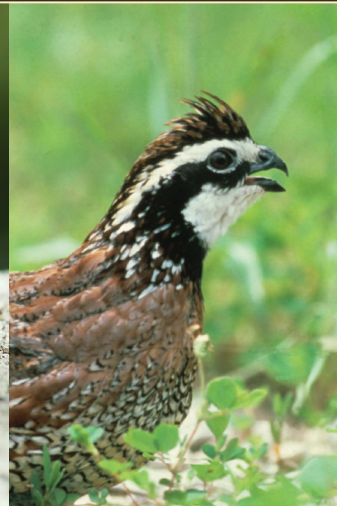
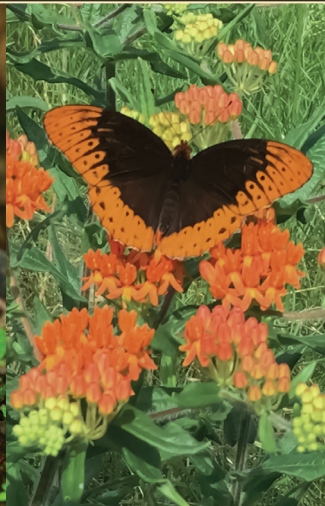




Arkansas Wildlife Action Plan



DESIGNING

A FUTURE for Arkansas Wildlife

www.WildlifeArkansas.com

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Purpose

The Arkansas Wildlife Action Plan (AWAP), formerly known as the comprehensive wildlife conservation strategy (CWCS), serves as a guiding document for the conservation community in identifying those species that are at risk of becoming further imperiled and the actions needed to conserve those species.

Acknowledgments

The preparation of Arkansas' original Plan involved the input and participation of a wide variety of individuals, including staff within multiple divisions of the Commission, as well as from other state and federal agencies, conservation organizations, private industry, and academia. The 2015 revision of the Plan involved many of those same partner organizations, a testament to the continued strength of conservation partnerships within Arkansas.

We extend our warmest thanks to everyone who has contributed their support, knowledge, time and energy in the development of the Plan.

We are also especially thankful for the following individuals for their efforts toward the revision of the plan: Dr. Bill Baltosser, Wes Cleland, Cindy Osbourne, Tony Davis, Tom Foti, Bill Holimon, Kelly Irwin, Scott Lane, Allan Mueller, Bill Posey, Jeff Quinn, Kory Roberts, Karen Rowe, Blake Sasse, Samantha Scheiman, Don Shepard, Jason Throneberry, Brian Wagner, and Doug Zollner.

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A Century of Conservation

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

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1 October 2015

Mike Piccirilli
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Division of Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program
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Atlanta, GA 30345

Dear Mr. Piccirilli,

Nearly eight years have passed since the original Arkansas Wildlife Action Plan (AWAP) was approved. In that time, the state has received over \$10 million dollars in state wildlife grant funding to implement the Plan. We have made many accomplishments as a result, including expanding our knowledge on the status and life history of many species and putting much needed habitat on the ground.

Over the past 3 years, we have worked diligently with our conservation partners to review and update the required elements within the Plan. The largest change is an update to the NatureServe state ranks for many species. The revised Plan includes 377 species of greatest conservation need (SGCN) for which all information has been updated.

We feel that the AWAP remains useful and relevant and is an important document, not only for our agency, but for all conservation agencies in the state. This is evidenced by the continued support and involvement of our conservation partners in updating the plan, serving on committees, and implementing the Plan.

Enclosed you will find a summary of the major changes to the Plan, two hard copies of the revised Plan for the regional review team, and a thumb drive with electronic copies of the Plan and the AWAP database. Should you have any questions, please contact Allison Fowler, Wildlife Diversity Program Coordinator, at 501-223-6366.

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Mike Knoedl'.

Mike Knoedl, Director

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The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's mission is to conserve and enhance Arkansas's fish and wildlife and their habitats while promoting sustainable use, public understanding and support.