

Table of Contents

- Chapter 1. Wildlife Action Plan Foundation [1](#)**
 - Addressing Climate Change..... 2
 - Audiences 2
 - Goals 3
 - Wildlife Action Plan Approach 3
 - The Habitat Approach 4**
 - Purposes of the Wildlife Action Network..... 5
 - Addressing Large-Scale Stressors 5
 - Increasing the Effectiveness and Efficiency of Conservation Actions..... 6
 - Prioritizing the Work of the Wildlife Action Plan: Conservation Focus Areas 6
 - Caveats about the Wildlife Action Network..... 7
 - The Species Approach 13**
 - Addressing Non-Habitat-Related Issues Limiting SGCN Populations..... 13
 - Improving Knowledge 13
 - References 14
- Chapter 2. Minnesota Species in Greatest Conservation Need [15](#)**
 - Definition 15
 - Methodology for Updating the List of SGCN 15
 - Criteria for Assessing Species as SGCN 15
 - Criteria Used by Experts to Assess SGCN 16
 - Assessing the Status of Each Species 17
 - Minnesota’s 2015–25 SGCN List 18
 - Occurrence and Distribution of SGCN Populations and Richness Hotspots 20
 - Ranking guidelines for SGCN populations..... 21
 - Richness Hotspots 21
- Chapter 3. The Identification of Stressors Contributing to Population Declines of Species in Greatest Conservation Need [26](#)**
 - Stressors 26
 - Life-History Traits..... 27
 - Addressing Stressors at the Species Level 27
 - Summary of Climate Change Impacts on Minnesota’s Habitats 28
 - Introduction 28
 - Forest Ecosystems 29

Forests in the Laurentian Mixed Forest Province.....	29
Forests within the Prairie-Forest Border.....	30
Prairie and Surrogate Grasslands.....	31
Wetland Systems.....	31
Rich Peatland System.....	32
Acid Peatland System.....	32
Aquatic Systems.....	32
Wildlife Vulnerability to Climate Change.....	33
Addressing Stressors: Minnesota’s Wildlife Action Plan’s Goals, Objectives, and	
Conservation Actions	34
Addressing Emerging Issues	36
References	36
Chapter 4. Goals, Objectives, Conservation Actions, and Performance	
Measures	39
Goal 1: Ensure the long-term health and viability of Minnesota’s wildlife,	
with a focus on species that are rare, declining, or vulnerable to decline	39
Objective 1. Within the Wildlife Action Network, maintain and enhance the resilience	
of the habitats upon which Species in Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) and other	
wildlife depend.....	39
Objective 2: Maintain or increase populations for at least three of the SGCN for which	
non-habitat-related issues have been identified.....	41
Objective 3. Improve knowledge of the status, distribution, and conservation needs	
of select wildlife in Minnesota.....	43
Objective 4. Ensure compliance with regulations and provide technical guidance to	
protect SGCN and their habitats.....	46
Goal 2: Enhance opportunities to enjoy Species in Greatest Conservation Need	
and other wildlife and to participate in conservation	47
Objective 1. Increase the number and diversity of people participating in	
wildlife-related outdoor recreation.....	47
Objective 2. Increase the number and diversity of people directly engaged in	
conservation of SGCN.....	47
Goal 3: Acquire the resources necessary to successfully implement the Minnesota	
Wildlife Action Plan	48
Objective 1. Increase and diversify funding and partnerships for implementing the	
Wildlife Action Plan and reporting on the plan’s effectiveness.....	48
Objective 2. Enhance the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources’ capacity to	
provide information needed for effective wildlife conservation.....	48

Chapter 5. Monitoring and Adaptive Management	49
Monitoring and Adaptive Management Framework	49
Monitoring Approach	49
Wildlife Action Network Monitoring	49
Conservation Focus Area Monitoring	52
Species Monitoring	53
Effectiveness Monitoring.....	53
Long-Term Species Population Monitoring.....	54
Data Management and Analysis	56
Minnesota’s Natural Heritage Information System (NHIS).....	57
The Adaptive Management Spatial Database (AMSD).....	57
Grassland Monitoring Team (GMT).....	57
Minnesota DNR Data Governance and Decision Support Program.....	57
References	58
Chapter 6. Implementation of the Minnesota Wildlife Action Plan	59
Introduction	59
Implementation Structures	60
Division of Ecological and Water Resources.....	60
Regional Partnership Meetings.....	60
Division of Ecological and Water Resources Operational Planning.....	61
Additional Implementation Actions	62
Refine and Add to the Wildlife Action Network and Conservation Focus Areas.....	62
Maintain Species Technical Advisory Teams (STATs).....	62
Maintain and Enhance the Capabilities of Minnesota’s	
Natural Heritage Information System (NHIS).....	62
Develop Web-based Resources.....	63
Participate in Multistate, Ecoregional, and International Conservation Partnerships.....	63
Communicate with Groups That Enhance Opportunities for the Public to	
Enjoy Wildlife.....	63
Invest Current Funds and Seek Additional Funding.....	63
Chapter 7. Funding Wildlife Conservation	64
Glossary of Terms and Acronyms	67
Conservation Focus Area Overview Sheets	73

Appendix A. The Eight Required Elements [A1](#)

Appendix B. Minnesota’s Wildlife Action Plan Project Structure and
Partnership Involvement [B1](#)

Appendix C. Species in Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) List for 2015 Update [C1](#)

Appendix D. Minnesota Climate Trends [D1](#)

Appendix E. Methods for Developing the Wildlife Action Network..... [E1](#)

Appendix F. Process for Developing the Species Approach [F1](#)

Appendix G. Species Removed from the 2005 Species in
Greatest Conservation Need List..... [G1](#)

Appendix H. Species Added to the 2005
Species in Greatest Conservation Need List [H1](#)

Appendix I. Sources of Information Used to Determine the Number of Species in
Minnesota by Taxonomic Group..... [I1](#)