

Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund

HIGH CONSERVATION CONCERN SPECIES, ESA, AND NFWF BUSINESS PLAN SPECIES

Proposals addressing species of high conservation concern, including species designated under state or federal Endangered Species Acts (ESA), state designated Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) or Regional Species of Greatest Conservation Need (RSGCN), or NFWF business plan priority species listed below will be considered most competitive if they incorporate the eligible high-priority actions identified in Table A1 and are consistent with conservation or [recovery plans](#), where applicable, or with actions listed for the species within 2015 and 2025 [state wildlife action plans](#), and [NFWF's Delaware River Watershed Business Plan](#).

Applications should provide narrative, with citations, as to how the proposed activities will contribute toward the improved conservation of the priority species, how efficacy will be measured or monitored, and how any potential adverse impacts will be addressed and mitigated. Letters of support from state wildlife agencies are highly encouraged.

To identify the potential for rare species or ecosystems on project sites, applicants may find the following tools useful for planning purposes (note that formal environmental review may also be required): [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Information for Planning and Consultation \(IPaC\) tool](#), [New York State Environmental Resource Mapper](#), [Pennsylvania Conservation Explorer](#), [New Jersey's Landscape Project](#), and [information about Environmental Review in Delaware](#).

Please reach out to Sandra Cross Sandra.Cross@fws.gov to be connected with FWS field office contacts or state fish and wildlife biologist.

Table A1. Conservation plans and other prioritization tools available for priority species.

Species	Brief Description	Conservation or Recovery Plan Links	Other Resources or Prioritization Tools
SGCN & RSGCN	Actions that benefit SGCN or RSGCN that are consistent with relevant State Wildlife Action Plans. Contact your appropriate state fish and wildlife agency for assistance in aligning projects with SWAP objectives.	Delaware New Jersey New York Pennsylvania	NEAFWA RSGCN list

Species	Brief Description	Conservation or Recovery Plan Links	Other Resources or Prioritization Tools
ESA listed species Red Knot Bog Turtle Black Rail Dwarf Wedgemussel Northern Long-eared Bat Shortnose Sturgeon Atlantic Sturgeon Indiana Bat Piping Plover Roseate Tern	Actions consistent with ESA species recovery plans or other conservation plans.	Red Knot: Recovery Plan Red Knot Conservation Plan for the Western Hemisphere Bog Turtle: Recovery Plan Bog Turtle Conservation Plan for the Northern Population Dwarf Wedgemussel: Recovery Plan Black Rail: Conservation Plan Recovery Plan for the Eastern Black Rail Shortnose Sturgeon: Recovery Plan Atlantic Sturgeon: Recovery Outline Indiana Bat: Recovery Plan Piping Plover: Piping Plover Atlantic Coast Population Revised Recovery Plan Conservation Strategy Roseate Tern: Recovery plan (Northeast US/Canada)	
NFWF Business Plan: Alosine species American Shad Alewife	Actions consistent with NFWF business plan or other conservation plans.	TNC Delaware River Basin Restoration Roadmap Locations: Delaware River Basin Fish Passage Prioritization Tool	Amendment 2

Species	Brief Description	Conservation or Recovery Plan Links	Other Resources or Prioritization Tools
Blueback Herring			State-specific Stock Assessment
NFWF Business Plan: Forest Songbirds Golden-winged Warbler Cerulean Warbler Wood Thrush	Actions consistent with NFWF business plan and/or other conservation plans.	Locations: Forested areas of the upper Delaware River watershed. Golden-winged Warbler Conservation Plan (See Ch. 3) Cerulean Warbler Conservation Action Plan	Breeding habitat management guidelines for Cerulean Warblers Breeding habitat management guidelines for Wood Thrush NRCS Conservation Insight: Golden Wing Warbler
NFWF Business Plan: Saltmarsh Sparrow	Actions consistent with Atlantic Coast Joint Venture (ACJV) restoration priorities , the NFWF business plan , and other planning resources listed to the right	Restoration Priorities - Atlantic Coast Joint Venture (acjv.org) Saltmarsh Sparrow Restoration Priority Mapper	
NFWF Business Plan: Eastern Brook Trout	Actions consistent with NFWF business plan and other planning resources listed to the right	2018 EBTJV Plan	Trout Unlimited Conservation Portfolio
American Black Duck	Promote initiatives that contribute to the expansion of breeding and feeding habitats within the species range.	ACJV American Black Duck Conservation Plan	ACJV Black Duck Decision Support Tool

Species	Brief Description	Conservation or Recovery Plan Links	Other Resources or Prioritization Tools
	High-priority actions encompass safeguarding, maintaining, and restoring critical habitats. This includes reclaiming converted wetlands in cropland and woodland, restoring the natural flow of streams and floodplains, and overseeing riparian buffers. Furthermore, emphasis should be placed on reinstating native wetland vegetation, managing invasive plant species, and restoring tidal marsh hydrology. These measures collectively enhance the overall breeding and feeding environment for the species.	NRCS Working Lands for Wildlife, Black Duck fact sheet.	