

NORTH CAROLINA

the Recovering America's Wildlife Act

Sustaining North Carolina's Diverse Fish & Wildlife Resources



Mark Buckler

The Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA) is a bipartisan bill that, if passed, would dedicate over \$20 million annually to North Carolina to conserve and restore nearly 500 nongame fish and wildlife species of greatest conservation need, as well as their habitats. RAWA would allow North Carolina to invest in proactive, voluntary, incentive-based, non-regulatory conservation on both private and public lands.

With the annual allocation of funds from RAWA, the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, along with partners, volunteers and others, could:

Keep Common Species Common

Preventing species from becoming threatened or endangered is good for wildlife and businesses because it is easier and less costly to address the needs of common species ahead of federal listing.



Jodie Owen

Help Wildlife at Risk

Helping North Carolina's Species of Greatest Conservation Need by expanding and creating multi-species programs that restore populations, address common threats, and enhance disease surveillance and response.



Luke Etchison

Connect People with Nature

Engaging, informing and educating citizens on the benefits of conservation and expanding the availability of recreational access for wildlife enthusiasts and training for educators and conservation partners.



Melissa McGaw



Ken Taylor

Conserve and Restore Priority Habitats

Identifying priority habitats to preserve buffers along riverine systems, reduce fragmentation, support wildlife corridors, and manage and prevent invasive animals and plants, which will benefit not only nongame species but also game species because they share many of the same habitats.



ncwildlife.org/RAWA

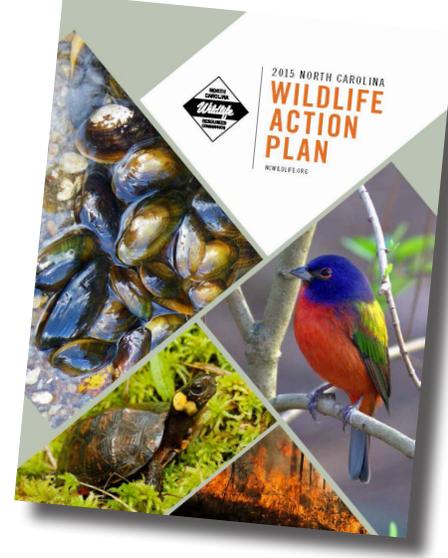
Our Nature. Our Nation. Our Future.

Every state in the nation has created a State Wildlife Action Plan to serve as a conservation blueprint to identify priority actions for the benefit of Species of Greatest Conservation Need and to promote proactive conservation for at-risk species.

The purpose of the Recovering of America's Wildlife Act is secured, dedicated annual funds to fully implement state wildlife action plans.

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) and species experts have identified nearly 500 species of greatest conservation need in North Carolina. Without conservation and management now, many of these species will not get the conservation work needed to keep them common and off the federal list.

Restoration and enhancement of species and their habitats are at the core of North Carolina's Wildlife Action Plan. Below are two examples:



Carolina Pygmy Sunfish Conservation

The Carolina Pygmy Sunfish (*Elassoma boehlkei*) is a small fish found only in streams, swamps and ditches in Columbus and Brunswick counties in North Carolina and counties in northeastern South Carolina. The NCWRC, along with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, S.C. Department of Natural Resources, NOAA Fisheries and Three Oaks Engineering, has been working since 2016 to conserve this sunfish by conducting surveys, protecting much of the land within its range in the state and including the species in a state-wide Safe Harbor/Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurance so the species can be stocked into unoccupied suitable habitat, if necessary, in the future.



Tim Aldridge



Jeff Hall

Gopher Frog Rearing and Releasing

Gopher Frogs (*Lithobates capito*) are specialists of the Longleaf Pine ecosystem and their populations have declined for several decades primarily due to habitat loss. The NCWRC partners with the N.C. Zoo, N.C. Aquariums, NCSU-Center for Marine Science and Technology, and Carteret Community College to captive-rear and release young frogs back to the wild. Since 2011, more than 3,000 frogs have been reared

and released. Captive-rearing frogs, wetland restoration, land conservation, and research are some of the proactive approaches the NCWRC is taking to increase populations of this North Carolina native.

Share your support for RAWA today to secure funding for wildlife tomorrow!

ncwildlife.org/RAWA ♦ OurNatureUSA.com

#RecoverWildlife