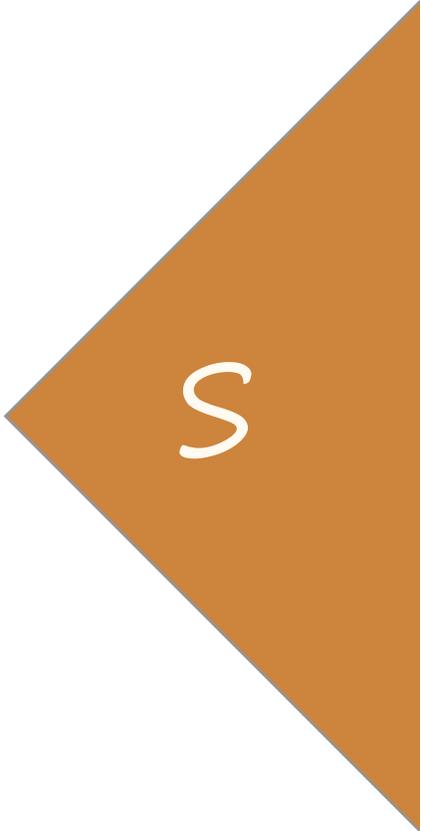


# ADDENDUM 2



S

## Public Review Comments

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Media contact: [Mindy Wharton](#)  
919-410-2111

## **Wildlife Commission Seeks Public Comments on 2015 Wildlife Action Plan Addendum**

*Plants will be added to Species of Greatest Conservation Need*

**RALEIGH, N.C. (April 20, 2022)** – The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission is seeking public comments through May 20 on a major revision to the 2015 Wildlife Action Plan that will add plants to the list of North Carolina’s Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SCCN). The addendum documents and comment portal are [available online](#).

Addendum 2 to the Plan will add plant SGCN as a component of the state’s natural communities, add a new natural community description for Piedmont and Coastal Plain Oak Forests, and provide habitat associations between plant SGCN and the natural communities described in the Plan.

The addendum is in preparation for the anticipated passage of the [Recovering America’s Wildlife Act](#) (RAWA), proposed federal legislation with wide bi-partisan support, which will include provisions for plant conservation. As currently proposed, RAWA will provide a new source of federal matching grant funds to states that include plants as SGCN in their Wildlife Action Plans. The Wildlife Commission will join 15 other state wildlife agencies that already include plants in their Wildlife Action Plans.

“Conservation is critical to preserve genetic diversity and seed sources, especially for rare plants limited to small, isolated or fragmented populations,” said Cindy Simpson, the Wildlife Commission’s Wildlife Action Plan coordinator. “In comparison to wildlife species that are able to move across the landscape, plants are at greater risk to direct impacts from threats because they are rooted within their landscape position.”

The Wildlife Commission developed Addendum 2 through collaboration with the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Plant Conservation Program and the N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, Natural Heritage Program.

“Plant species represent a very large proportion of our state’s total biodiversity,” said Lesley Starke, program administrator for the NC Plant Conservation Program at the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. “Adding plants into the Wildlife Action Plan will expand the scope and impact of this conservation strategy. By identifying conservation needs and enacting conservation programs earlier for at-risk species, we hope to reduce the need to list species.”

“Adding plants to the list of SGCN will help promote wider recognition of the role of native plants in wildlife habitats and will help increase federal funding for plant conservation in North Carolina,” said Misty Buchanan, deputy director for Natural Heritage Program. “This habitat-based approach will benefit native plants, wildlife, and the habitat that supports them.”

The N.C. Plant Conservation Program manages plant conservation in the state, including adopting a state list of protected plant species, adopting and enforcing regulations that protect, conserve and enhance those listed species, and developing conservation programs for the benefit of listed species. The Plant Conservation Program is also responsible for managing more than 14,500 acres of conservation preserve properties across the state which provide critical conservation for listed plant species in North Carolina.

The N.C. Natural Heritage Program maintains a statewide inventory of native plant species that are rare, in decline, believed to have been extirpated or presumed extinct. The Natural Heritage Program works with the Plant Conservation Program to maintain inventory information on plant species that are listed as Endangered, Threatened, Special Concern or Significantly Rare. The

inventory is maintained with current data and an updated [Rare Plant List](#) is published every two years.

### ***About the N.C. Wildlife Action Plan***

The [2015 N.C. Wildlife Action Plan](#) is a non-regulatory program that identifies fish and wildlife Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) and other species for which there are research or management priorities. In North Carolina, SGCN have been defined as species that are currently rare or have been designated as at-risk of extinction; those for which we have knowledge deficiencies; and those that have not received adequate conservation attention in the past. The conservation priorities outlined in the Plan allows the Wildlife Commission and conservation partners statewide to consider management options within essential habitats that support conservation.

### ***About the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission***

Since 1947, the [N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission](#) has been dedicated to the conservation and sustainability of the state's fish and wildlife resources through research, scientific management, wise use and public input. The Commission is the state regulatory agency responsible for the enforcement of fishing, hunting, trapping and boating laws and provides programs and opportunities for wildlife-related educational, recreational and sporting activities.

Purchase or a renew a [fishing, trapping and hunting license](#) and [renew a vessel registration](#) online at [ncwildlife.org](#).

Get [N.C. Wildlife Update](#) — news including season dates, bag limits, legislative updates and more — delivered free to your Inbox from the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission.



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Elkin Tribune/Yadkin Ripple	Surry
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Shelby Shopper	Cleveland
Shelby Star	Cleveland
Smoky Mountain Living Magazine	
Smoky Mountain News	Haywood
Smoky Mountain Times	Swain
Sneads Ferry Village News	Onslow
Southern Pines Pilot	Moore
Spectrum News - Central NC	
Spectrum News - Charlotte	
Spectrum News - Coastal NC	
Spectrun News - Triad	
Spring Hope Enterprise	Nash
Stanly News and Press	Stanly
State Port Pilot	Brunswick
Statesville Record and Landmark	Iredell
Stokes News	Stokes
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Tabor-Loris Tribune	Columbus
Tara Moore	
Taylorsville Times	Alexander
Teri Boggess	
The Charlotte Ledger	Mecklenburg
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WXII	
WXLV - ABC	
Yancey Common Times Journal	Yancey
<b>TOTAL NO. OF MEDIA OUTLETS = 223</b>	

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## Responses

2015 Wildlife Action Plan Addendum Proposal  
Addendum 2 Plant SGCN 30-day Public Review  
Comment Submittal Form (Survey Monkey)  
**Q1 Please provide your information**

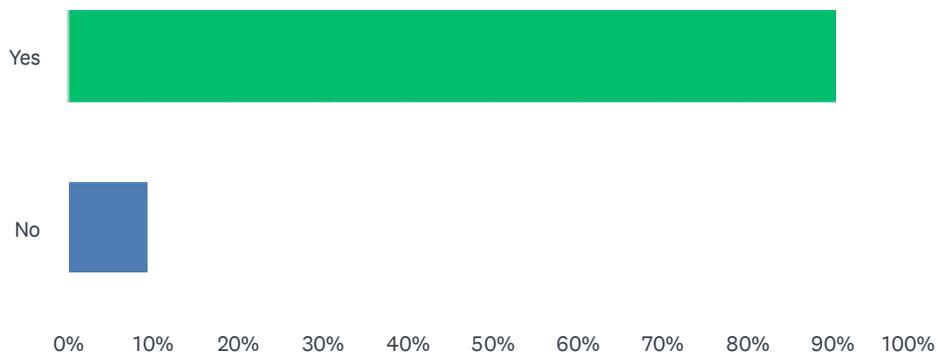
Answered: 28 Skipped: 0

ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Name (first & last)	Required	100.00%	168
WRC #		0.00%	0
Address		0.00%	0
Address 2		0.00%	0
COUNTY of Residence	Required	100.00%	168
State/Province	Required	100.00%	168
ZIP/Postal Code		0.00%	0
Country		0.00%	0
Email Address	Required	100.00%	168
Phone Number		0.00%	0

RESPONSE REQUIRED

## Q2 Are you familiar with the NC Wildlife Action Plan?

Answered: 168 Skipped: 25



**ANSWER CHOICES**

Yes

No

TOTAL

**RESPONSES**

90.48%

9.52%

152

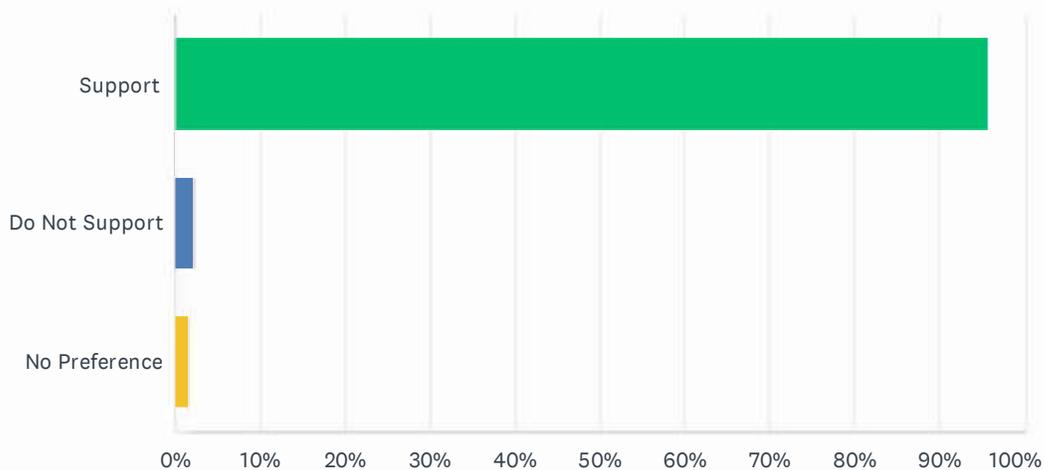
16

168

RESPONSE REQUIRED

Q3 Do you support the changes to the Wildlife Action Plan? Please choose one.

Answered: 168 Skipped: 25



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Support	95.83%	161
Do Not Support	2.38%	4
No Preference	1.79%	3
TOTAL		168

## RESPONSE REQUIRED

## Q4 Please state why you support or do not support the changes to the Wildlife Action Plan.

Answered: 168 Skipped: 25

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	As an enthusiastic naturalist and member of many botanical circles and groups, I've come to know North Carolina as a hotspot of botanical diversity here in the United States, and in North America! I've visited the state on numerous occasions to see its rare and range-restricted plants, including several regional endemics. I've put money into local businesses--hotels, stores, restaurants, etc.--as a result of my pursuit of interesting plants in the state, and know many who have done so, or who would love to. Conserving these plants would ensure that ecotourists like us keep visiting the state. I've had the privilege of traveling internationally throughout much of my life, and almost everywhere I've been, I've seen environmental devastation and misuse. One of the many things that sets the US apart from other countries is its level of dedication to conservation; I would love to see protection extended to plants in NC as an affirmation of this.	5/24/2022 10:25 AM
2	Plants represent a large part of the diversity across this state and they are essential for wildlife species to provide forage or sustenance, provide cover, provide host species for pollinators, as well as other services. Plants respond to natural or man-made disturbances that can enhance many desirable animal species. By adding plants the action plan will ensure a more complete ecological analysis.	5/22/2022 8:59 PM
3	Plants are the basis of ecological communities throughout the great state of North Carolina, and are the foundation for our foodweb. In addition, North Carolina boasts many unique plants like Fraser Fir and Venus Flytraps which tourists from around the country will pay money to come visit, thus helping the tourist economy in remote rural areas of North Carolina. I think supporting the changes to the Wildlife Action Plan are a good idea.	5/20/2022 4:42 PM
4	I support the changes to the Wildlife Action Plan. North Carolina is fortunate to have many species of unique and distinctive plants. Many rare plants, like Venus Flytraps, are culturally significant and represent important biological communities. Plants define so many of our signature landscapes, from the fraser firs and rhododendrons of the mountains to the longleaf pine savannas and beach dune communities near the coast. I am an avid naturalist who has gone on several trips to see rare plants, including to Morehead City, Raleigh, and the Smoky Mountains, providing a unique economic contribution to the communities. I believe that drawing attention to and providing funding for conservation of rare plants supports the biodiversity, economy, and culture of our great state, and for all these reasons and more I support adding rare plants to the Wildlife Action Plan.	5/20/2022 4:33 PM
5	Strongly support the addition of Plants (specifically imperiled plant species) as inclusive in the revised NC Wildlife Action Plan	5/20/2022 11:52 AM
6	Plant species represent a very large proportion of our state's total biodiversity. Adding plants into the Wildlife Action Plan will expand the scope and impact of this conservation strategy. By identifying conservation needs and enacting conservation programs earlier for at-risk species, reducing the need to list species.	5/20/2022 11:34 AM
7	I will always support protection of native plants. These should be considered just as valuable as animal species. We all know that ecosystems can not exist without plants. Honestly, I wish even more was being done to protect them!	5/20/2022 5:41 AM
8	North Carolina is developing at an unprecedented rate. Invasive species, wildlife decline and climate change have substantially changed the landscape and the nature of the challenges facing people and the wild. The mounting threats facing NC's public trust natural resources and the emergence of new conservation funding, along with increasing public interest in the value and protection of these resources, make this an ideal time to improve the plan, making it more comprehensive and inclusive of emerging data, climate change, and the increasing need to bolster the resiliency of communities in tandem with nature. We must strengthen the	5/19/2022 11:38 PM

## 2015 Wildlife Action Plan Addendum Proposal

framework to protect ecosystems, people, communities, the economy and the incomparable NC wild.

- 9 I am for any changes that will support habitats - plants and wildlife, as they are interconnected. Especially if it increases federal funding! 5/19/2022 10:43 PM
- 10 We need to reflect the current situation in our state, especially as we grapple with the loss of habitat for plants due to intense development and habitat loss. I see this where I live in central NC especially. 5/19/2022 10:35 PM
- 11 We need to include plants in this plan. 5/19/2022 10:14 PM
- 12 I very much support the effort to add NC native plant species to the Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN). Native plants play a crucial role in maintaining the diversity of the unique ecosystems across our beautiful state. Especially with the explosive population growth in many NC counties, we need to protect our plant species now more than at anytime in the past. 5/19/2022 8:52 PM
- 13 We need to take care of the wildlife and habitat that they depend on. 5/19/2022 8:46 PM
- 14 More plants should be listed as endangered under this plan. Liliium Grayi is currently not protected under the plan, and is in danger of becoming extinct. 5/19/2022 2:52 PM
- 15 Looks like the team hit all the marks save my comment 5/19/2022 1:07 PM
- 16 We need to add the plant SGCN component to the state's natural communities and the new natural community descriptions for the Piedmont and Coastal Plain Oak Forests because the state is receiving rampant development pressure from the ever-increasing influx of people, even to our rural areas. Many of the new people have little or no knowledge of our native plants and try to reproduce yards and landscapes like those they had in the cities. The expansion of utilities and roads to provide for the increased population also has a destructive effect on the landscape: mowing, blowing and spraying. There are few programs to encourage better and more appropriate landscape practices that incorporate native plants and conserve wildlife habitat. Adding Addendum 2 is only a start. We need more programs like the "Woodland Owner Short Course" that I attended during the summer of 2007. This course promoted a healthy environment by educating landowners about land management. There was a component on Native Landscaping, one on landscaping for fire prevention, one on conservation and even construction of various wildlife habitats, among much other useful information about living in close proximity to our national forests and among wildlife habitats. 5/19/2022 12:15 PM
- 17 This adds plants to the conservation list which just needs to happen. 5/19/2022 10:38 AM
- 18 Plants represent and support a large proportion of the state's total biodiversity. Insects (which renowned biologist E. O. Wilson called "the little things that run the world") sustain the earth's ecosystems by sustaining the plants and animals that run those ecosystems. 90% of insects can complete their life cycle only on the native plants they evolved with. To continue to have a functioning ecosystem, it is imperative that the state include plants most in need of conservation in the plan. Conserving plants conserves ecosystems and all the insects, birds and fauna that live there. The Wildlife Action Plan's goal is to keep common species common. Historically, this goal has applied only to animals. The time has come to include our native North Carolina plants in the list of species in greatest need of conservation in order to protect them before they become endangered, threatened, or of special concern. Helping conserve plants also helps us to conserve birds and other species. Native plants are a major component of the earth's ecosystems, and they play a crucial role in sustaining the animals that are part of those ecosystems. It only makes sense to include in the plan the plants that wildlife depend on. 5/19/2022 7:54 AM
- 19 Addendum 2 in particular would provide an important tool for leveraging federal funds to preserve North Carolina's natural heritage. Plants are the primary producers of the terrestrial ecosystem and the loss of plant biodiversity affects myriads of other species that depend upon them. As a professional biologist, I am strongly in favor of that feature of Addendum 2, in particular. 5/19/2022 7:43 AM
- 20 Conserving plants, a dominant component and critical habitat for animal species, is imperative. Doing so through the State Wildlife Action Plan will further enable us to leverage federal dollars for critical conservation. Wildlife species are always tied to critical habitat, and habitat is defined as plant communities and forests. It just makes good sense to broaden the SGCN to include plants. For example, if you are trying to conserve Carolina Northern Flying Squirrels, 5/18/2022 11:27 PM

## 2015 Wildlife Action Plan Addendum Proposal

you better make provisions for their specific habitat needs, at the boundary of yellow birch and red spruce forests.

21	NC's incredible biodiversity is anchored by plant species, and adding them into the NC Wildlife Action Plan add greatly to the scope and longterm effects of the plan. The plan identifies conservation needs, and allows us to address them earlier for at-risk species. That can be more effective and ultimately reduce the need to list species. Including plants is a habitat-based approach that should benefit the native plants and the creatures they support.	5/17/2022 2:18 PM
22	Our native plants are the foundation for our native ecosystems. They feed the insects that feed the birds and mammals. They are beautiful, fascinating, and they evolved here and have every right to exist. We are losing native plant habitats at an alarming rate -- as just one example, I visited New Hanover County last week, the county where I grew up, and I was absolutely stunned at the human development, and thus habitat destruction between Wilmington and Carolina Beach. We must act now to preserve what we can of our native state. There is so much rich beauty and diversity in our native habitats, but once it's gone it may be irretreivable.	5/17/2022 11:35 AM
23	Native plants are a major component of the earth's ecosystems, and they play a crucial role in sustaining the animals that are part of those ecosystems. It only makes sense to include in the plan the plants that wildlife depend on.	5/17/2022 10:32 AM
24	The NC chapter of The Nature Conservancy's mission is to conserve the land and waters on which all life depends. Rare plants are a part of wildlife habitat and the specialist species that rely on them. Recognition of them in the WAP will not only help wildlife, but will also improve protection and management of these rare plants. We fully support the incorporation of plants in the list of NC's Species of Greatest Conservation Need of the Wildlife Action Plan.	5/17/2022 9:04 AM
25	Native plants are a major component of the earth's ecosystems, and they play a crucial role in sustaining the animals that are part of those ecosystems. It only makes sense to include in the plan the plants that wildlife depend on.	5/14/2022 5:41 PM
26	Plants represent and support a large proportion of the state's total biodiversity. Insects (which renowned biologist E. O. Wilson called "the little things that run the world") sustain the earth's ecosystems by sustaining the plants and animals that run those ecosystems. 90% of insects can complete their life cycle only on the native plants they evolved with. To continue to have a functioning ecosystem, it is imperative that the state include plants most in need of conservation in the plan. Conserving plants conserves ecosystems and all the insects, birds and fauna that live there. The Wildlife Action Plan's goal is to keep common species common. Historically, this goal has applied only to animals. The time has come to include our native North Carolina plants in the list of species in greatest need of conservation in order to protect them before they become endangered, threatened, or of special concern. Helping conserve plants also helps us to conserve birds and other species. Native plants are a major component of the earth's ecosystems, and they play a crucial role in sustaining the animals that are part of those ecosystems. It only makes sense to include in the plan the plants that wildlife depend on.	5/14/2022 4:57 PM
27	Protecting native plants should always be a central part of any wildlife action plan. I strongly support all actions designed to protect NC flora and fauna.	5/14/2022 12:13 PM
28	Please add plants to the list	5/14/2022 11:05 AM
29	Our Native plants are a critical part of the ecosystem that supports us and all other life. Restoring habitat , removing invasive species and education for the benefit of us all.	5/14/2022 9:50 AM
30	As an ecologist, I know that plants play a major role in supporting the animals that are generally considered 'wildlife'. In fact, plants are the structure without which animals could not survive. And we are losing many species of keystone plants and their associated 'animal' species. The ecosystem needs to be protected, not just particular species, in order for them all to thrive.	5/14/2022 7:38 AM
31	Plants represent and support a large proportion of the state's total biodiversity. Insects (which renowned biologist E. O. Wilson called "the little things that run the world") sustain the earth's ecosystems by sustaining the plants and animals that run those ecosystems. 90% of insects can complete their life cycle only on the native plants they evolved with. To continue to have a functioning ecosystem, it is imperative that the state include plants most in need of conservation in the plan. Conserving plants conserves ecosystems and all the insects, birds and fauna that live there. The Wildlife Action Plan's goal is to keep common species common.	5/13/2022 6:00 PM

## 2015 Wildlife Action Plan Addendum Proposal

Historically, this goal has applied only to animals. The time has come to include our native North Carolina plants in the list of species in greatest need of conservation in order to protect them before they become endangered, threatened, or of special concern. Helping conserve plants also helps us to conserve birds and other species. Native plants are a major component of the earth's ecosystems, and they play a crucial role in sustaining the animals that are part of those ecosystems. It only makes sense to include in the plan the plants that wildlife depend on.

- 32 NC Needs to benefit from federal efforts to protect native plants. 5/13/2022 1:37 PM
- 33 Native plants are a major component of the earth's ecosystems, and they play a crucial role in sustaining the animals that are part of those ecosystems. It only makes sense to include in the plan the plants that wildlife depend on. 5/13/2022 11:24 AM
- 34 Everything depends upon plants. They require support as much as anything else. 5/13/2022 10:58 AM
- 35 The addition of native plants is ultimately necessary to protect habitat and food sources for beneficial native insects and birds. 5/13/2022 9:50 AM
- 36 Plants represent and support a large proportion of the state's total biodiversity. Conserving plants conserves ecosystems and all the insects, birds and fauna that live there. The Wildlife Action Plan's goal is to keep common species common. Historically, this goal has applied only to animals. The time has come to include our native North Carolina plants in the list of species in greatest need of conservation in order to protect them before they become endangered, threatened, or of special concern. Helping conserve plants also helps us to conserve birds and other species. Native plants are a major component of the earth's ecosystems, and they play a crucial role in sustaining the animals that are part of those ecosystems. It only makes sense to include in the plan the plants that wildlife depend on. 5/13/2022 9:12 AM
- 37 Native plants are a major component of the earth's ecosystems, and they play a crucial role in sustaining the animals that are part of those ecosystems. It only makes sense to include in the plan the plants that wildlife depend on. 5/13/2022 8:50 AM
- 38 Please fully include native plants to the plan 5/13/2022 8:18 AM
- 39 The Wildlife Action Plan's goal is to keep common species common. Historically, this goal has applied only to animals. The time has come to include our native North Carolina plants in the list of species in greatest need of conservation in order to protect them before they become endangered, threatened, or of special concern. Helping conserve plants also helps us to conserve birds and other species. 5/13/2022 7:55 AM
- 40 I respectfully urge the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission to revise the 2015 Wildlife Action Plan to add plants to the list of North Carolina's Species of Greatest Conservation. It is essential to the wellbeing of all of us that species biodiversity is maintained. Helping conserve native plants will allow all fauna, from insects to humans to thrive. Thank you. 5/13/2022 7:52 AM
- 41 The Wildlife Action Plan's goal is to keep common species common. Historically, this goal has applied only to animals. The time has come to include our native North Carolina plants in the list of species in greatest need of conservation in order to protect them before they become endangered, threatened, or of special concern. Helping conserve plants also helps us to conserve birds and other species. Native plants are a major component of the earth's ecosystems, and they play a crucial role in sustaining the animals that are part of those ecosystems. It only makes sense to include in the plan the plants that wildlife depend on. 5/13/2022 7:18 AM
- 42 My browser will not open the plan, but expansion of native plants, as opposed to non-native and invasive species, will sustain the health of our environment. Also, I hope Wildlife Mgmt will increase efforts to support native ecosystems to insure survival of insects and animals crucial to human survival. 5/13/2022 7:17 AM
- 43 Seems like a good idea. 5/13/2022 5:07 AM
- 44 Plants represent and support a large proportion of the state's total biodiversity. Insects (which renowned biologist E. O. Wilson called "the little things that run the world") sustain the earth's ecosystems by sustaining the plants and animals that run those ecosystems. 90% of insects can complete their life cycle only on the native plants they evolved with. To continue to have a functioning ecosystem, it is imperative that the state include plants most in need of conservation in the plan. Conserving plants conserves ecosystems and all the insects, birds and fauna that live there. The Wildlife Action Plan's goal is to keep common species common. 5/13/2022 1:32 AM

## 2015 Wildlife Action Plan Addendum Proposal

Historically, this goal has applied only to animals. The time has come to include our native North Carolina plants in the list of species in greatest need of conservation in order to protect them before they become endangered, threatened, or of special concern. Helping conserve plants also helps us to conserve birds and other species. Native plants are a major component of the earth's ecosystems, and they play a crucial role in sustaining the animals that are part of those ecosystems. It only makes sense to include in the plan the plants that wildlife depend on.

45	Plants represent and support a large proportion of the state's total biodiversity. Insects (which renowned biologist E. O. Wilson called "the little things that run the world") sustain the earth's ecosystems by sustaining the plants and animals that run those ecosystems. 90% of insects can complete their life cycle only on the native plants they evolved with. To continue to have a functioning ecosystem, it is imperative that the state include plants most in need of conservation in the plan. Conserving plants conserves ecosystems and all the insects, birds and fauna that live there. The Wildlife Action Plan's goal is to keep common species common. Historically, this goal has applied only to animals. The time has come to include our native North Carolina plants in the list of species in greatest need of conservation in order to protect them before they become endangered, threatened, or of special concern. Helping conserve plants also helps us to conserve birds and other species.	5/13/2022 12:13 AM
46	Native plants are a major component of the earth's ecosystems, and they play a crucial role in sustaining the animals that are part of those ecosystems. It only makes sense to include in the plan the plants that wildlife depend on.	5/12/2022 10:32 PM
47	It is crucial to provide habitat and support for our treasured wildlife, which will help residents also live a better life.	5/12/2022 10:23 PM
48	Native plants are a major component of the earth's ecosystems, and they play a crucial role in sustaining the animals that are part of those ecosystems. It only makes sense to include in the plan the plants that wildlife depend on.	5/12/2022 10:15 PM
49	I support the addition of native plants to the action plan	5/12/2022 10:12 PM
50	Native plants are vital for our ecosystems and supporting wildlife.	5/12/2022 10:05 PM
51	1. The Wildlife Action Plan's goal is to keep common species common. Historically, this goal has applied only to animals. The time has come to include our native North Carolina plants in the list of species in greatest need of conservation in order to protect them before they become endangered, threatened, or of special concern. 2. Native plants are a major component of the earth's ecosystems, and they play a crucial role in sustaining the animals that are part of those ecosystems. It only makes sense to include in the plan the plants that wildlife including birds depend on. 3. Plants represent a large proportion of the state's total biodiversity. Insects (which renowned biologist E. O. Wilson called "the little things that run the world") sustain the earth's ecosystems by sustaining the plants and animals that run those ecosystems. 90% of insects can complete their life cycle only on the native plants they evolved with. To continue to have a functioning ecosystem, it is imperative that the state include plants most in need of conservation in the plan. 4. Having plants as part of the plan should increase federal funding for plant conservation in North Carolina. The more funding the state has, the more plants, birds and other wildlife are saved and the healthier our ecosystems are.	5/12/2022 10:53 AM
52	Seeing that NC is being bulldozed at a disturbing rate for the greed of people and developers who have no regard for our natural resources that make this state so special, any little bit of attention toward our plants that could potentially lead to their conservation is a good thing.	5/11/2022 11:07 PM
53	Plants are the underpinning of our ecosystems and native plants face myriad threats including development, climate change, and invasive species	5/11/2022 4:02 PM
54	I specifically support adding native plants. These resources are as much a part of our outdoor environment as animals. Our native plants have been disappearing due to development and changed farming practices and so need more active protection. Our birds, bees, butterflies and moths depend on native plants, and so do we.	5/11/2022 11:48 AM
55	Adding plants to the list of SGCN will help promote wider recognition of the vital role native plants play in creating wildlife habitats that all other life depends on.	5/11/2022 10:26 AM
56	Wildlife needs protection for the future	5/10/2022 6:18 PM

## 2015 Wildlife Action Plan Addendum Proposal

57	Because plants have been added to the plan. Without a rich diversity of plants, avian and mammalian biodiversity plummets.	5/10/2022 11:52 AM
58	It seems rather short-sighted to try and conserve "wildlife", defined strictly as animals, without also trying to conserve and preserve the plants with which they co-evolved, and in some cases depend on heavily. Just as we can't say "we could do without this bird, but not that one", we may not know which plants are absolutely vital. "To keep every cog and wheel is the first precaution of intelligent tinkering".	5/10/2022 11:13 AM
59	In the wake of increasing development and encroachment of invasive species, we need more protection for native plants (and animals).	5/10/2022 10:13 AM
60	Protecting native plants is necessary for a sustainable future.	5/9/2022 8:09 PM
61	Using the conservation need approach will benefit native plants, particularly ones at-risk, protect their habitat and the wildlife that depends on this, which ultimately benefits us	5/9/2022 8:03 PM
62	This broad approach to recovering and sustaining wildlife is urgently needed.	5/9/2022 4:41 PM
63	Plants should be protected too, not just animals.	5/9/2022 4:32 PM
64	The Raleigh office of USFWS supports the revisions to the 2022 NC Wildlife Action Plan related to adding plants to the Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN). The inclusion of plants and their habitats in the SWAP will help promote the awareness and conservation of rare species. The NC Protected Plant List (Addendum 2) is well vetted as it was developed with professionals from various agencies and represents the rarest plant species of NC. Their inclusion in the SWAP will help prioritize surveys for these species and promote their conservation and management through better planning. The inclusion of plants in the SWAP will allow all conservation agencies and organizations to better prioritize and plan for the conservation of all species (plants and animals). We also support the addition of the Piedmont and Coastal Plain Oak Forests section to Chapter 4 as these communities occupy a significant portion of our state and are important to many conservation decisions made in NC.	5/9/2022 12:41 PM
65	It's impossible to benefit "wildlife" without considering the entire complex of plants, animals, geographical features, climate-- the total environment. Therefore I support adding plants to the Wildlife Action Plan.	5/9/2022 11:09 AM
66	Native plants are the basis of the food pyramid of life. Insect populations are WAY down which has affected bird populations as a result. Life is connected. Native plants are important to the balance of nature of which humans are a part of (and have drastically changed). Here is our chance to re-balance what we have affected.	5/9/2022 9:44 AM
67	Wildflowers are an important part of ecosystems. They should be part of any wildlife conservation plan	5/8/2022 11:49 AM
68	Adding endangered native plants to the plan is a great step forward toward preserving the ecology to support wildlife.	5/8/2022 11:01 AM
69	I support protection of our native plants and animals as part of preservation of our natural heritage.	5/8/2022 10:46 AM
70	Killing to much wildlife. None left for non hunters to see and enjoy. One week ago a hunter killed four doe and their fawn with seven shots. I've only ever seen five deer up Jonathon Creek And not hunting season!!!!	5/7/2022 10:14 PM
71	Periodic review is needed for all plans to ensure the plan addresses the needs originally identified, and also to address new needs as they arise.	5/7/2022 6:50 PM
72	Depends upon the nature of the action plan.	5/7/2022 6:47 PM
73	In most habitats in the mountains, fire destroys understories. It is strictly a timber management tool.	5/7/2022 6:10 PM
74	We need native plants back. We have too many non-native species in our yards and gardens creating sterile landscapes that do not benefit our wildlife. Some of these species have become invasive such as bradford pear and nandina. I have personally seen them in places where they shouldn't be. I raise monarchs and their habitat too is declining. Please include native plants in the wildlife action plan.	5/7/2022 4:04 PM
75	The plants make the habitat. Without that we don't have conservation. This is a necessary	5/7/2022 10:23 AM

## 2015 Wildlife Action Plan Addendum Proposal

addition.

76	If like to see more native plants added to the plan	5/5/2022 10:10 PM
77	Plants are	5/5/2022 10:08 PM
78	Plants are a fundamental component of our State's biodiversity and ecology.	5/5/2022 9:18 PM
79	Our environment is important and the protection of native plants is important to our ecosystem and the health of our great state's natural beauty	5/5/2022 8:54 PM
80	Preservation of North Carolina's indigenous plants is very important to our future and I will always be in favor of more protections for them.	5/5/2022 7:08 PM
81	The vast biodiversity of North Carolina plants is an important part of our unique ecology, and completely inseparable from protecting state wildlife as a whole. I am fully in favor of the stated changes by the Commission that will help raise awareness of plant conservation and open doors for new sources of conservation funding.	5/5/2022 5:32 PM
82	Adding native plants to the list is essential to protect and promote biodiversity in both plants and the animals they feed and shelter. The fact that the 2020 addendum listed nearly 500 species is heartbreaking. With all of the new construction and increased population, the pressure to save our biodiversity is even more dire.	5/5/2022 4:21 PM
83	North Carolina is home to unique, native, species not found anywhere else. And, our local pollinators and birds do best with local plant life, as research has shown. Additionally, as NC is exploding in growth, we are losing our wild spaces and local woods at a fast pace due to development. This represents a unique time in our history where we can move proactively to protect and preserve our gorgeous bounty proactively and for many generations to come to enjoy it.	5/5/2022 2:57 PM
84	Plants are integral components of ecosystems, supporting ecological communities and providing vital ecological services. Also, adding these species will open more avenues for future funding.	5/5/2022 1:26 PM
85	Plants are an integral part of all ecosystems and are greatly threatened and need to have SGCN status.	5/5/2022 12:56 PM
86	Plants are a vital part of the total wildlife biosphere. They should be added to the Plan to protect the endangered plant species and enhance the efficacy of the total wildlife protection plan. The interconnectedness of flora and fauna is obvious in their dependence on each other and the networking of all relationships in nature. It would enhance the efficacy of the Wildlife Action Plan to include plants.	5/5/2022 12:43 PM
87	Natural resources are a valuable economic commodity to North Carolina. These resources attract tourism, hunting, and commercial dollars that support our economy. Many of these natural resources could provide cures or medicines to current and future ills and diseases. In addition, these resources also provide nonquantifiable benefits, such as, religious/spiritual, green wealth, pollution control, buffer against storms/climate change, and education. When these resources are lost, our State loses value both economically and spiritually. Many of these resources are irreplaceable, it would be short sighted to not preserve them for the future. We have so many wonderful natural treasures, it is our responsibility to preserve them for the future economic and spiritual needs of the State. With pragmatic and responsible planning, there is no reason that both of these needs, economic and spiritual, cannot be met for today's and tomorrow's uses.	5/5/2022 11:55 AM
88	As a former 60-year resident of Orange County, NC, and most of that residence devoted to professional work as Assistant Director of the North Carolina Botanical Garden, I strongly support these changes to the 2015 Wildlife Action Plan including addition of plants to the SGCN and inclusion of designation of protection of HABITATS! county	5/5/2022 10:06 AM
89	I've become increasingly concerned with the impact of our human planting choices and am in favor of anything that brings more attention to the need for maintaining native plant diversity.	5/5/2022 9:49 AM
90	I support it since it does include plants.	5/5/2022 9:45 AM
91	1. Adding plants to the list of SGCN will help promote wider recognition of the role of native plants in wildlife habitats and will help increase federal funding for plant conservation in North	5/5/2022 9:05 AM

## 2015 Wildlife Action Plan Addendum Proposal

Carolina. 2. This habitat-based approach will benefit native plants, wildlife, and the habitat that supports them.

92	Native plants are vital to a healthy ecosystem and deserve our protection. I'm adding many to my garden and large farm and removing non-natives and invasive species. The time is now to help save our pollinators, birds, plants, trees and all other parts vital to a healthy ecosystem!	5/5/2022 8:28 AM
93	Plants are very important components of an ecosystem and represent a large portion of North Carolina's total biodiversity.	5/4/2022 10:06 PM
94	Plants should definitely be included! Including plants will allow us to better identify what areas need protection sooner. Animals rely on plants for habitat and food; if there are no native plants, there won't be any animals either.	5/4/2022 5:10 PM
95	Plants are an integral part of all ecosystems, and including plant species in the NC Wildlife Action Plan will heighten the recognition of their importance; and increase federal funding for their conservation.	5/4/2022 3:42 PM
96	Plants are the basis for all animals species and are key to any ecosystem.	5/4/2022 2:34 PM
97	x	5/4/2022 2:33 PM
98	I Support adding plants to the list of species. This will heighten awareness of the critical part native plants rare or common, play in wildlife habitats. This, in turn, will help bring federal funding for plant conservation in North Carolina. The habitat-based approach will benefit wildlife and people as habitats can be reframed to include urban, suburban and agricultural lands as well as the increasingly elusive wild spaces.	5/4/2022 1:42 PM
99	Adding Plan species is important as plants are important part of wildlife and our natural resources. Over time I/we have learned the important roll plants play in our overall natural world and that many animals rely on them for their own survival and the survival of our natural world.	5/4/2022 1:13 PM
100	I believe plants, trees need a voice of advocacy	5/4/2022 12:29 PM
101	A habitat-based approach including native plants will benefit the plants, wildlife, and the habitat that supports them. At the bottom of the food-chain are the photosynthesizers. They must be protected to protect the invertebrates and vertebrates.	5/4/2022 11:28 AM
102	I support the action plan to protect Wildlife because the health of our ecosystems is vital to our life and well being.	5/4/2022 10:24 AM
103	It is urgent that we INCLUDE PLANTS in the SGCN list. They are the foundation of our native ecosystems and conserving other wildlife can't happen without saving the base of the food web.	5/4/2022 8:46 AM
104	See comment below.	5/4/2022 7:50 AM
105	Adding plants into the Wildlife Action Plan will expand the scope and impact of this conservation strategy. By identifying conservation needs and enacting conservation programs earlier for at-risk species, it will hopefully reduce the need to list species.	5/4/2022 7:13 AM
106	plants are important to me and deserve conservation action	5/4/2022 6:19 AM
107	Native plants support bees, birds, butterflies and other wildlife and should be protected Too many invasive exotics abound crowding out native plants. Native plants need to be protected from being destroyed or taken out of their natural habitat.	5/4/2022 5:38 AM
108	Our native plants need protection to prevent their being lost to development.	5/4/2022 5:12 AM
109	Invasives such as Autumn Olive, Chinese Wysteria, Vinca, and Garlic Mustard along with an abnormally high deer population that eats natives but does not eat invasives is causing a huge ecological problem and loss of biodiversity. All one has to do is go to one of the few local natural areas such as the whitewater center, Reedy Creek, or Brown Mills Mtn Bike trail and they will see the invasive wasteland.	5/3/2022 8:52 PM
110	Biodiversity in plants is crucial to maintaining a healthy ecosystem and the web of life. Developers clear cut trees and native plants with no concern about subsequent effects on the environment or the health of the land, increasing pollution, drought and flooding.	5/3/2022 8:41 PM
111	Plants are foundational for healthy wildlife habitats. It's imperative to maintaining biodiversity	5/3/2022 8:30 PM

## 2015 Wildlife Action Plan Addendum Proposal

that plant species have protection.

112	Due to the importance of the different species of plants to animal and insect life survival	5/3/2022 8:00 PM
113	I am currently planting as many native plants as possible on my property. Adding native plants to the plan will help increase usage of native plants which are necessary for a healthy ecosystem.	5/3/2022 5:49 PM
114	More plant protection the better	5/3/2022 5:09 PM
115	On behalf of Conserving Carolina, a land trust nonprofit whose mission is to protect, restore, and inspire appreciation of the natural world. I am writing to express our full support of Addendum 2 of the 2015 Wildlife Action Plan, that will add plants to the list of North Carolina's Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN). Conserving Carolina strongly supports this project because it will improve biodiversity, provide habitats, and help protect native plants in North Carolina. Plant species represent a very large proportion of our state's biodiversity. Adding more plants into the Wildlife Action Plan will expand the plan's scope and impact by identifying conservation needs and enacting conservation programs earlier for at-risk species. At Conserving Carolina, we hope that the list of endangered and threatened plants decreases moving into the future. This addendum to the plan is a positive step towards that goal. At Conserving Carolina, we are aware that protecting and restoring native plants is integral to both a flourishing plant and animal community. This habitat-based approach will not only benefit the native plants that are being added to the list, it will also support North Carolina's wildlife populations. Adding plants to the list of SGCN will help promote wider recognition of the role of native plants in wildlife habitats and will help increase federal funding for plant conservation in North Carolina. This benefits Conserving Carolina during our grant writing processes, especially when we are protecting fragile areas of plant and animal biodiversity. Taking into account everything stated above, Conserving Carolina and its members strongly encourage support of Addendum 2 to the 2015 Wildlife Action Plan. We appreciate the steps the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission is taking to provide a healthier and happier quality of life for our state's special native plants and wildlife species.	5/3/2022 4:30 PM
116	Including plants will raise awareness of protecting native plants.	5/3/2022 4:29 PM
117	It is important to take a habitat/ecosystem based approach in conservation, including plants.	5/3/2022 3:39 PM
118	Adding plants to the list of SGCN will help promote wider recognition of the role of native plants in wildlife habitats and will help increase federal funding for plant conservation in North Carolina. This habitat-based approach will benefit native plants, wildlife, and the habitat that supports them.	5/3/2022 3:39 PM
119	Adding plants will help promote understanding of the role of native plants in wildlife habitats and may increase federal funding for plant conservation in North Carolina." This habitat-based approach will benefit native plants, wildlife, and the habitat that supports them. Wildlife depends upon plants to live. It must be recognized the interconnectedness of the animal and plant relationships.	5/3/2022 3:35 PM
120	Plants are an important part of habitat for all wildlife. And they deeply enrich our State's biodiversity.	5/3/2022 2:34 PM
121	Adding plants into the Wildlife Action Plan will expand the scope and impact of this conservation strategy (the plan). By identifying conservation needs and enacting conservation programs earlier for at-risk species, we hope to reduce the need to list species.	5/3/2022 2:30 PM
122	Since plants make up a large portion of NC's biodiversity they should be included and protected in the plan. Focusing on plant conservation now will only benefit the future.	5/3/2022 2:18 PM
123	We need to support native plant and species diversity	5/3/2022 1:59 PM
124	Native plants are a huge part of our biodiversity and need all the protection we can give them.	5/3/2022 1:58 PM
125	Things that are measured get acted on.	5/3/2022 1:57 PM
126	We need more native plants and to preserve native habitats, in part so that native pollinators can feed on them.	5/3/2022 1:57 PM
127	Adding plants into the Wildlife Action Plan will expand the scope and impact of this conservation strategy.	5/3/2022 1:46 PM
128	If we do not act we will lose our plant heritage	5/3/2022 1:44 PM

## 2015 Wildlife Action Plan Addendum Proposal

129	We need more native plants and need to conserve our wild spaces. It is what makes NC beautiful	5/3/2022 1:42 PM
130	As a botanist and past Chair of the NC WRC Nongame Wildlife Advisory Committee and contributor to the original WAP it was obvious to me then that plants were being left out then. For reasons appropriate at the time. Now is the time to make that correction. Please add the plants and habitats necessary to make the plan a complete representation of our states needs.	5/3/2022 9:04 AM
131	North Carolina's Natural Heritage Program supports the proposed changes to the Wildlife Action Plan because of the importance of recognizing plants as a fundamental element of North Carolina's biodiversity. North Carolina's wildlife species depend on native plants and intact plant communities for their survival. By recognizing the role of plants, plant conservation, and plant communities, the Wildlife Resources Commission can help ensure North Carolina's natural heritage can continue to thrive for future generations.	5/3/2022 8:43 AM
132	Because plants are habitat for animals. Without plants there would be no animals. It is crucial to implement plans to protect listed species of plants and other uncommon plants so that they don't have to become listed species.	5/2/2022 5:07 PM
133	Plants need to be added the Wildlife Action Plan because plants are the food sources for wildlife. Some species are specific to the plants they either eat or use for reproduction. If those plants disappear, those animals will disappear. Biodiversity of plants and animals are essential to a healthy ecosystem.	5/1/2022 2:56 PM
134	- Keep common species common. - Manage and restore North Carolina's Species of Greatest Conservation Need - Create, enhance and preserve North Carolina's priority habitats - Connect people with nature (Also what I do as a Landscape Architect) - Expand conservation education and stewardship (We are all "Stewards of the Earth") - My #1: ADD North Carolina native plants in the SGCN list - Action on the sale of invasive plant species	5/1/2022 11:30 AM
135	The more support we provide for native plants, the healthier plants and wildlife become through their symbiotic relationship.	5/1/2022 9:51 AM
136	We have to include our broad diversity of plants in North Carolina for a complete, inclusive plan.	5/1/2022 9:23 AM
137	I am very much in support of making changes to the "Plan" to add plants to the list of NC's SCCN and to incorporate the concept of a habitat-based approach to protecting our state's rich biodiversity of plants, wildlife, and ecosystems.	5/1/2022 9:03 AM
138	Very concerned about need to conserve plant diversity that is threatened by rapid development, habitat destruction, poaching, and invasive species.	4/30/2022 1:57 PM
139	Plant conservation is a key component for protecting the great biodiversity still found in NC.	4/30/2022 1:31 PM
140	Native plants are being lost at unsustainable rates simply through ignorance of their importance to healthy ecosystems. These changes to the Wildlife Action Plan could be a turning point. Simple actions could save critical habitats especially here on the coast where the flatness of the land makes the unintended eradication of critical plants so easy.	4/29/2022 10:18 AM
141	I wholeheartedly support the addition of plant species of greatest conservation concern to the Wildlife Action Plan. They are the foundation of all our wildlife communities and the extra support will provide research and other conservation support to help understand and protect them.	4/28/2022 9:29 AM
142	Plant species represent a very large proportion of our state's total biodiversity. Adding plants into the Wildlife Action Plan will expand the scope and impact of the WAP. By identifying conservation needs and enacting conservation programs earlier for at-risk species, we can reduce the need to list species. Adding plants to the list of SGCN will help promote wider recognition of the role of native plants in wildlife habitats and will help increase federal funding for plant conservation in North Carolina.	4/27/2022 8:55 PM
143	Plants make up a large part of NC's biodiversity, so by enacting conservation in their habitats, wildlife will also benefit. The Wildlife Action plan will allow conservation strategies to be enacted sooner, preventing species from reaching the brink of extinction before conservation efforts are made. Adding plants to the list of SGCN will bring attention to the important role native plants play in unique habitats in NC, creating opportunities for increased funding for plant conservation in the future.	4/27/2022 4:06 PM

## 2015 Wildlife Action Plan Addendum Proposal

144	Preserving and protecting native plant species is a crucial element in the efforts to protect wildlife. Native plants provide food, shelter and beauty in a changing and challenging environment, as well as playing a crucial role in agriculture. Please pass these changes to the Plan.	4/27/2022 10:02 AM
145	Plants are our greatest source of biodiversity, and native plants the most crucial for ecosystem health.	4/25/2022 6:48 AM
146	Absolutely necessary to sustain fragile wildlife environments	4/23/2022 7:57 AM
147	I support the changes in the Wildlife Action plan through the inclusion of Plants 3.15, addendum 2. Plants are essential to creating a diverse habitat for wildlife/insects and face continuous threats due to factors related to habitat modification, development, encroachment of invasives and more. I find it vastly important to fund and support efforts related to plant conservation and preservation.	4/22/2022 9:45 PM
148	Plants are key elements of the state's biodiversity, critical to the maintenance of wildlife populations, and deserving of conservation protection measures.	4/22/2022 3:28 PM
149	Plants will be destroyed with all the new construction.	4/22/2022 3:27 PM
150	Plants are an essential part of our states biodiversity. They should absolutely be included in our action plan and should receive the same benefits for conservation action	4/22/2022 11:17 AM
151	Plants	4/22/2022 10:13 AM
152	I believe that plants are foundational members of every ecosystem and should be protected at levels similar to the state's fauna.	4/21/2022 7:34 PM
153	I support because it is equally important to protect our native plant species. In order to support out native fauna, we must also conserve our native flora as fauna depends on flora to survive.	4/21/2022 6:41 PM
154	Protecting the state's wildlife is largely contingent on protecting plant biodiversity as it plays a monumental role in providing animal habitat, food, energy transfer mechanism, and possibly medicine to wildlife. Leaving this critical ecosystem member out of the plan would be a huge mistake.	4/21/2022 5:26 PM
155	Plants are vital to ecosystem health and deserve to be protected to benefit all.	4/21/2022 4:58 PM
156	100% in support of adding all of the listed plants. Long overdue, but also inspiring that these changes are even under consideration, I wish that my home state (MS) and others were not so far behind. Our southeastern hotspot for vascular plant biodiversity and endemism seems poised to become an extinction hotspot. Lack of recognition of rare plants under formal designations like SGCN and state endangered and threatened species lists is as much a cause as lack of funding. The addendum would be a great step forward for North Carolina and I can only hope other states will follow suit.	4/21/2022 12:55 PM
157	Plant species and plant communities are integral to the continuance of wildlife. The habitat in which rare and common plants provide for rare, threatened, and endangered wildlife species is entirely dependent upon plant conservation. While many wildlife action plans have focused on a more top-down approach (wildlife, then plants), it will be revolutionary to place a higher value on plants and plant communities, and place them at the foundation of wildlife and habitat conservation. Without plant habitat, wildlife conservation would not be possible. In particular, rare plants have consistently received a disproportionate level of funding compared to wildlife. In fact, federal funding for animal species often outweighs plant species funding by a ratio of 4:1. Please implement plants into the wildlife action plan to ensure their conservation, which will have clear indirect (positive) consequences for wildlife.	4/21/2022 11:44 AM
158	I believe plants should be included in the Wildlife Action Plan, as management of diverse and endangered plant species is imperative to maintaining a functioning ecosystem	4/21/2022 10:35 AM
159	Plants are foundational members of ecosystems and communities and should be protected at levels similar to the state's fauna. Plants are important and should be included in the new wildlife action plan for the state.	4/21/2022 10:03 AM
160	Why aren't plants already included? Plants are drivers of diversity, provide energy to ecosystems, and uptake carbon. They need to be protected on levels equal to that of the state fauna.	4/21/2022 9:37 AM
161	I can't imagine why plants haven't already been included, but they are an essential part of the	4/21/2022 9:12 AM

## 2015 Wildlife Action Plan Addendum Proposal

ecosystem. I strongly favor the addendum to include plants on the action plan!

162	Plants MUST be added to the revised plan for reasons outlined by NC Heritage and others.	4/21/2022 8:52 AM
163	I support the proposed changes because plants form a large part of NC's biodiversity. Plants provide habitat and food for wildlife, and plants deserve recognition and conservation because they are inherently awesome.	4/21/2022 8:39 AM
164	Adding native endangered plants is common sense. Local wildlife need local native plants. Many plant/animal communities are specific in their needs (like monarchs and milkweeds) so the whole plant/animal community should be taken into consideration.	4/21/2022 8:14 AM
165	Plants are critical for biodiversity, both in their own right and in the roles they play in support of animal species. These changes are long overdue.	4/20/2022 10:00 PM
166	I haven't read it yet.	4/20/2022 6:20 PM
167	Plants are a substantial component of most habitats.	4/14/2022 5:33 PM
168	no	4/14/2022 4:04 PM

## Response Optional

## Q5 Additional comments/concerns

Answered: 52 Skipped: 141

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	on behalf of Southern Conservation Partners, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the protection, restoration, and recognition of natural heritage assets across the southern U.S. [Chuck Roe was the "founding" director of the NC Natural Heritage Program (for its first 15 years) and an original member of WRC Nongame Advisory Committee.]	5/20/2022 11:52 AM
2	- Development increases disturbed habitats and creates ideal conditions for rapid spread of invasive species. - native landscapes are being erased - is anyone cataloging these areas before they are developed in a case we want to or need to restore ecosystems or recreate native landscapes later? - Why does DOT/ROW work happen during peak wildlife activity? If one nest requires thousands of caterpillars then why are these entities able to cut down old growth hardwoods in spring? How many broods die? A position needs to be established to coordinate municipal and industrial activities in conjunction with natural systems. - protecting snags and other trees/landscape features that are of special value to wildlife.	5/19/2022 11:38 PM
3	We really need to identify the species of greatest conservation need. We don't have enough resources to just conserve everything that might be in front of us. We need to use the information that is gathered to preserve truly struggling plants before it's too late--biodiversity is a resource as well as individual specimens themselves! Also, we should move on this now while there are matching RAWA funds. It speaks well of this effort that it is the result of collaboration between N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Plant Conservation Program and N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, Natural Heritage Program. Following the advice/science of our trained experts is an efficient way to use limited resources.	5/19/2022 10:35 PM
4	Thank you for the opportunity to comment.	5/19/2022 8:52 PM
5	I would love to see a progress report card of what has transpired since the plan was first drafted. I think the public would appreciate that status report and the assessment of your tech team. It appears that the changes and threats are increasing in an unprecedented manner and I see that few places in my cursory read through where that comes through sufficiently, imo. I have been a WRC supporter at the sportsman level for 3 decades or more.	5/19/2022 1:07 PM
6	I am writing as a propagator of native plants. I collect seed from my property and that of my neighbors, with their permission. I live in a rural location in the mountains in western NC. Over the last 20 years that I have lived in this location, I have seen a decline in bio-diversity and a decline in the populations of various species of flora and fauna. The bumble bees are one of the most obvious examples. I have seen people remove Spicebush because they think they have no landscape value. Spicebush not only produces the Spicebush Swallowtail butterfly, but it is also an indicator of Ginseng habitat. And Ginseng has all been poached out of this neighborhood. The poachers I used to see don't come here anymore! I have seen a neighbor remove, with a dozer, all of the vegetation along 1/2 mile of stream bank, on both sides, going back approx. 100 feet on each side. He didn't like the Rhododendron maximum that covered the slopes and held the earth in place. Every time it rains now, his run-off silts up the fish hatcheries of his down stream neighbor. In the past few years we have had a large influx of people move in from urban areas and they are busy recreating the urban/suburban yards they left behind, even if its 10 acres large, or more: constant mowing, blowing and spraying. The utility companies and the NCDOT are doing the same thing to keep up with the growing needs of the community in all their ROWs, even when a fair number of property owners are willing and capable of maintaining their own, given permission and guidelines. Where are the hedgerows that used to grow up between fields and along the roads? There is no selectivity to what they destroy. We also have a lot of new "farmers", keeping a few animals for fun or to reduce their taxes, or trying to produce their own food. They are given concessions and permission to destroy wildlife habitat, to overgraze their pastures, degrade the stream beds and water quality by allowing livestock in the streams. Many of the mast trees have been cut as preferred hard woods for many a wood stove/furnace. Where are the berry shrubs? What do we expect the bear to eat? The deer do seem to graze on the grass yards, making sure to take care of the	5/19/2022 12:15 PM

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hostas and other native and non-native landscapes! Unfortunately, they don't seem fond of multi-flora rose! So, I urge you to add the Addendum 2 Plant SGCN to the 2015 Wildlife Action Plan. We need to not only conserve and protect wildlife habitats and the plants therein, but we need to look forward to improving them, with better maintenance practices in our ROW's and programs by the DOT and public utilities to promote the preferred landscapes. Thank you.

7	Plants can live without us but we can't live without them.	5/19/2022 10:38 AM
8	This is a great action and long overdue!	5/18/2022 11:27 PM
9	Please try to get the word out the to general public about the NC Wildlife Action Plan. I care about the topic deeply, and belong to groups such as NC Native Plant Society, and Piedmont Land Conservancy, but only heard about it last week in an email newsletter from NC Audubon.	5/17/2022 11:35 AM
10	Plants represent and support a large proportion of the state's total biodiversity. Insects (which renowned biologist E. O. Wilson called "the little things that run the world") sustain the earth's ecosystems by sustaining the plants and animals that run those ecosystems. 90% of insects can complete their life cycle only on the native plants they evolved with. To continue to have a functioning ecosystem, it is imperative that the state include plants most in need of conservation in the plan. Conserving plants conserves ecosystems and all the insects, birds and fauna that live there. The Wildlife Action Plan's goal is to keep common species common. Historically, this goal has applied only to animals. The time has come to include our native North Carolina plants in the list of species in greatest need of conservation in order to protect them before they become endangered, threatened, or of special concern. Helping conserve plants also helps us to conserve birds and other species. Native plants are a major component of the earth's ecosystems, and they play a crucial role in sustaining the animals that are part of those ecosystems. It only makes sense to include in the plan the plants that wildlife depend on.	5/14/2022 12:13 PM
11	Plants represent and support a large proportion of the state's total biodiversity. Insects (which renowned biologist E. O. Wilson called "the little things that run the world") sustain the earth's ecosystems by sustaining the plants and animals that run those ecosystems. 90% of insects can complete their life cycle only on the native plants they evolved with. To continue to have a functioning ecosystem, it is imperative that the state include plants most in need of conservation in the plan. Conserving plants conserves ecosystems and all the insects, birds and fauna that live there. The Wildlife Action Plan's goal is to keep common species common. Historically, this goal has applied only to animals. The time has come to include our native North Carolina plants in the list of species in greatest need of conservation in order to protect them before they become endangered, threatened, or of special concern. Helping conserve plants also helps us to conserve birds and other species. Native plants are a major component of the earth's ecosystems, and they play a crucial role in sustaining the animals that are part of those ecosystems. It only makes sense to include in the plan the plants that wildlife depend on.	5/14/2022 11:05 AM
12	As we lose native plants, we lose the insects and then the birds that depend on them.	5/13/2022 1:37 PM
13	With our high level of plant diversity in NC, we should be eager to protect those plants to North Carolina's Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN).	5/13/2022 11:24 AM
14	Why hasn't this been done sooner?	5/13/2022 10:58 AM
15	Plants represent and support a large proportion of the state's total biodiversity. Insects (which renowned biologist E. O. Wilson called "the little things that run the world") sustain the earth's ecosystems by sustaining the plants and animals that run those ecosystems. 90% of insects can complete their life cycle only on the native plants they evolved with. To continue to have a functioning ecosystem, it is imperative that the state include plants most in need of conservation in the plan. Conserving plants conserves ecosystems and all the insects, birds and fauna that live there. The Wildlife Action Plan's goal is to keep common species common. Historically, this goal has applied only to animals. The time has come to include our native North Carolina plants in the list of species in greatest need of conservation in order to protect them before they become endangered, threatened, or of special concern. Helping conserve plants also helps us to conserve birds and other species. Native plants are a major component of the earth's ecosystems, and they play a crucial role in sustaining the animals that are part of those ecosystems. It only makes sense to include in the plan the plants that wildlife depend on.	5/13/2022 8:18 AM
16	Please help us save these important species to help sustain our planet!	5/13/2022 7:55 AM

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17	What is the list of plants? Are you using both common and scientific names?	5/13/2022 5:07 AM
18	It is also important to place a priority on planting native plants wherever possible, so that our native birds, animals and also native insects can thrive. This plant-wildlife food chain is well-understood and supporting it should be a priority.	5/12/2022 10:23 PM
19	Native Plants that support our wildlife & native bugs are vital for the well-being of birds as well as humans, fish, etc, etc	5/12/2022 10:15 PM
20	Native plants are a major component of the earth's ecosystems, and they play a crucial role in sustaining the animals that are part of those ecosystems. It only makes sense to include in the plan the plants that wildlife depend on.	5/12/2022 10:12 PM
21	I would like to see some protection of these conservation areas in local land use planning - protection across the state.	5/12/2022 10:53 AM
22	Adding plants into the Wildlife Action Plan is a recognition that wildlife *depends* on plants. In our Appalachian Counties that are receiving an influx of new people exiting riskier areas, it will be especially important to monitor our keystone species to ensure wildlife can still get what it needs.	5/10/2022 11:52 AM
23	As president of the Fallon Park Garden Club and member of the Native Plant Society, I can state for us all the key role that plant species play in our state's total biodiversity. We are located in an area that is particularly blessed with rich plant diversity. Adding plants into the Wildlife Action Plan will expand the scope and impact of this conservation strategy that must be holistic by its very intent. By identifying conservation needs and enacting conservation programs earlier for at-risk species, we hope to reduce the need to list species. Additionally, adding plants to the list of SGCN will help promote wider recognition of the role of native plants in wildlife habitats and will help increase federal funding for plant conservation in North Carolina. 2. "This habitat-based approach will benefit native plants, wildlife, and the habitat that supports them."	5/9/2022 4:41 PM
24	Coastal wildflowers are especially critical, as coastal habitats are under the most threat from development and climate change effects.	5/8/2022 11:49 AM
25	I may have missed this but I did not see anything about habitat loss due to feral hogs. Expansion of trapping programs would be beneficial for many of our endangered wildflowers.	5/8/2022 11:01 AM
26	So much killing and the population keeps growing, its unsustainable	5/7/2022 10:14 PM
27	Fungi should also be added !	5/5/2022 9:18 PM
28	I am pleased North Carolina is trying to be proactive.	5/5/2022 4:21 PM
29	We need to protect biological systems, not just focus on individual species. They are all connected!!	5/5/2022 10:06 AM
30	I intend to learn more about it to better information but yes plants please	5/5/2022 9:45 AM
31	I think the state of NC should plant natives along our highways and interstates instead of annual plants. There's a vast amount of acreage that could be used to benefit wildlife!	5/5/2022 8:28 AM
32	Adding plants to the list of SGCN will help promote wider recognition of the role of native plants in wildlife habitats and will help increase federal funding for plant conservation in North Carolina.	5/4/2022 10:06 PM
33	NC has magnificent plant biodiversity, worth every effort to conserve.	5/4/2022 3:42 PM
34	- Plant species represent a very large proportion of our state's total biodiversity. - Adding plants into the Wildlife Action Plan will expand the scope and impact of this conservation strategy (the plan). By identifying conservation needs and enacting conservation programs earlier for at-risk species, we hope to reduce the need to list species. - "Adding plants to the list of SGCN will help promote wider recognition of the role of native plants in wildlife habitats and will help increase federal funding for plant conservation in North Carolina." - "This habitat-based approach will benefit native plants, wildlife, and the habitat that supports them."	5/4/2022 2:33 PM
35	Exotic invasive plants should be energetically discouraged in the commercial and retail nursery trade in NC.	5/4/2022 1:42 PM
36	Please consider: 1. Plant species represent a very large proportion of our state's total	5/4/2022 1:13 PM

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biodiversity. 2. Adding plants into the Wildlife Action Plan will expand the scope and impact of this conservation strategy (the plan). By identifying conservation needs and enacting conservation programs earlier for at-risk species, we hope to reduce the need to list species. 3. "Adding plants to the list of SGCN will help promote wider recognition of the role of native plants in wildlife habitats and will help increase federal funding for plant conservation in North Carolina." 4. "This habitat-based approach will benefit native plants, wildlife, and the habitat that supports them."

37	I hope this includes the preservation of some of our larger legacy trees. There is an urban oak 20' in diameter that is currently in the way of a large development project. The developer is not saving it.	5/4/2022 12:29 PM
38	I support the addition of plants to the action plan because plants are the basis for all the wildlife: animals and insects eat plants and need them to survive. Adding them recognises the importance of the inter relatedness of our ecosystems and the importances of protecting habitats, not just a specie.	5/4/2022 10:24 AM
39	Please add plants to the protection provided in this plan!	5/4/2022 7:50 AM
40	Education in schools about protecting natural habitats, better understanding of importance wildflowers, native habitats by HOAs and local government who have ordinances against wild and native gardens.	5/4/2022 5:38 AM
41	Please do all you can to protect biodiversity and reduce the growth of invasives the growth of which is compounded by an abnormally high level of deer as a result of their predators being killed.	5/3/2022 8:52 PM
42	Thank you for all efforts to conserve our native habitats that are quickly disappearing.	5/3/2022 1:57 PM
43	Adding Plant Species of Conservation Concern should also include any habitats/natural communities that they occur in if not already in the WAP	5/3/2022 9:04 AM
44	Adding Piedmont and Coastal Plain Oak Forests is important for recognizing the value of this forest type as habitat for many species of native plants and animals.	5/3/2022 8:43 AM
45	We must add plants to the Wildlife action Plan in order to obtain the additional habitat protection funding.	5/2/2022 5:07 PM
46	Stewardship, Education, and Habitat (wildlife and home) are my priorities	5/1/2022 11:30 AM
47	I am very excited about the opportunities to make great conservation strides with the passage of RAWA. Let's all work together to leave a legacy for future generations to reflect with gratitude upon.	5/1/2022 9:03 AM
48	Plant species represent a very large portion of our treasured biodiversity in NC plus there is a need to control invasive plants and to conserve plant biodiversity in order to protect the bird and animal life that people more often notice.	4/30/2022 1:31 PM
49	I also support expansion to include more arthropods that are less well documented in order to better understand their status and conservation needs.	4/28/2022 9:29 AM
50	Our native plants most in need of conservation are also a keystone part of the habitat needed to restore NC's native wildlife. While the current WAP is well intentioned, it is short-sighted. If we ignore plants(and fungi, for that matter) by not including them in the SGCN, we only dig ourselves into a bigger hole. The entire ecosystem needs to be included.	4/27/2022 8:55 PM
51	I hope incentives for landowners to retain native plants will be utilized.	4/25/2022 6:48 AM
52	This will provide extra conservation opportunities.	4/14/2022 5:33 PM