



The Nature Conservancy  
Arkansas Field Office  
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Little Rock, AR 72205

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nature.org

September 16, 2005

Mr. Scott Henderson, Director  
Arkansas Game and Fish Commission  
2 Natural Resources Drive  
Little Rock, AR 72205

Dear Mr. Henderson:

The Nature Conservancy has dedicated itself to the long-term survival of all viable native species and community types through conservation activities that restore and conserve ecological processes needed to ensure their long-term persistence. To accomplish this vision, TNC staff is charged with identifying the species, communities, and ecological systems that will serve as targets for conservation action in ecoregions of the United States. The CWCS SWG program has provided support to TNC in accomplishing our goal of site conservation planning and in determining conservation data gaps.

Further, CWCS administered through Arkansas Game and Fish Commission has provided a coordinated approach that has pooled the resources of a larger group of conservation partners to fund research and improvements for “species of greatest conservation need.”

Thank you to the AGFC for your key efforts in working towards meetings the goals and objectives of the CWCS.

Sincerely,

Kay McQueen  
Director of Conservation Programs



File Code: 1500

Date: September 15, 2005

Dear Scott Henderson, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Director

You and your Staff are to be commended for your leadership in developing the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (CWCS). The Arkansas CWCS is a unique tool that represents all wildlife species, not just demand species, and I believe it represents an ideological shift to comprehensive management for ecosystem health.

Native ecological communities across the Southern Region are increasingly threatened by fragmented land ownership and development, disrupted natural disturbance regimes, and non-native invasive species. In response to these threats, conservation agencies and organizations have been devoting considerable resources to developing a consistent framework for conservation plans. These plans include the Ecoregional Conservation Plans of The Nature Conservancy, Physiographic Area Conservation Plans by Partners in Flight, Revised National Forest Land and Resource Management Plans, and Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategies (CWCS) of State agencies.

The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC) has demonstrated a high level of commitment to this effort by providing leadership in the CWCS initiative. As a result of partnership efforts, conservation targets, key factors, and measurable ecological indicators, have been developed for habitat relative to over 370 aquatic and terrestrial wildlife species. The AGFC Staff and key partners including the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission, the Arkansas Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, the Audubon Society, Conservation Southeast, Inc., Natural Resource Conservation Service, USDA Cooperative Extension Service, USDI Fish and Wildlife Service, the Ouachita and Ozark-St. Francis National Forests, as well as many local academic scientific experts throughout the State, have cooperatively developed and populated this database.

The process and database developed through this partnership have spread beyond this original application and are currently being utilized in plan development and revisions in other national forests, as well as by other agencies. The Forest Services appreciates and commends the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's dedication and commitment to the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy. Together, all who have contributed have helped craft a balanced strategic plan appropriate to the times and the challenges in managing lands for the benefit of all.

Sincerely,

/s/ Alan G. Newman  
ALAN G. NEWMAN  
Forest Supervisor





The Department of  
**Arkansas  
Heritage**

Mike Huckabee, Governor  
Cathie Matthews, Director

Arkansas Arts Council

Arkansas Historic  
Preservation Program

Delta Cultural Center

Historic Arkansas Museum

Mosaic Templars  
Cultural Center

Old State House Museum



Arkansas Natural  
Heritage Commission

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<http://naturalheritage.com>

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September 19, 2005

Scott Henderson  
Arkansas Game and Fish Commission  
2 Natural Resources Drive  
Little Rock, AR 72205

Dear Mr. Henderson,

The Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission would like to thank you for the opportunity to assist in the development of the Arkansas Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy. We appreciate the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission for providing the leadership for this extensive, cooperative vision for conserving the wildlife species in greatest need of conservation in Arkansas.

The Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission is committed to providing additional assistance as needed. We look forward to working with you and other partners in the execution of this important strategy.

Sincerely,

Tom Foti  
Research Chief



# Audubon ARKANSAS

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[www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org)

September 21, 2005

Scott Henderson  
Director  
Arkansas Game and Fish Commission  
#2 Natural Resources Drive  
Little Rock, AR 72205

Dear Scott:

I am writing in support of the Comprehensive State Conservation Wildlife Strategy (CSCWS) program as implemented in Arkansas. The Arkansas CSCWS is making possible today a wildlife program that was only a dream two decades ago. With the exception of excellent hunting and fishing programs designed to manage game species, no intentional effort was made to study, to protect, and to manage non-game species, unless those species were listed as endangered or threatened by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The state conservation tax brought greater equity to wildlife management, but the State Wildlife Grants (SWG) available through the CSCWS has finally brought full equity for all animal species in the state.

Not only is the health of smallmouth populations closely watched, but now stream darters and mussels are accorded status and valued as indicators of aquatic habitat health. Not only are ducks and geese monitored, but raptors and warblers are counted each year with great interest and precision. Indeed, it feels like a new day has arrived in the Natural State.

In closing, I wish to call attention to the exceptional people you have gathered to guide the CSCWS program. John Sunderland, Doyle Shook, Jane Anderson, and David Goad are outstanding and a credit to the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. I have total confidence in their management and administrative abilities.

I sincerely hope this program survives the budget axe in Washington, D.C. The future health of our nation depends on healthy ecosystems and a balance between the built and natural communities. The CSCWS helps to assure that balance. Thank you for this opportunity to write in support of the CSCWS.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Kenneth L. Smith  
State Director

cc: John Sunderland  
Jane Anderson

September 26, 2005

Scott Henderson, Director  
Arkansas Game and Fish Commission  
2 Natural Resources Drive  
Little Rock, AR 72205

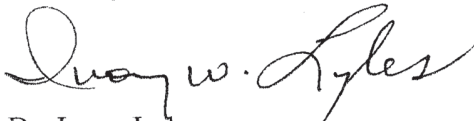
Dear Mr. Henderson:

The University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service was pleased to partner with Arkansas Game and Fish Commission to fulfill the requirements for public involvement as part of the Arkansas Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (CWCS).

Our county Extension agents and specialists were engaged in facilitating the five regional meetings with farmers and private landowners held throughout the state. The input reported from the meetings, the website, and the statewide survey not only contributed to the CWCS plan, but also benefited our natural resource program. In our 2005 strategic plan, one objective was to aid citizens, farmers, and natural resource managers with understanding the complex of natural resource interests and management alternatives. The CWCS provided a perfect venue for addressing that need.

We look forward to continued opportunities to work with your agency in developing an informed constituency regarding our wildlife resources in Arkansas.

Sincerely,



Dr. Ivory Lyles  
Associate Vice President of Agriculture  
Cooperative Extension Service  
University of Arkansas

Cc: Milo Shult, Tom Riley, Becky McPeake

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University of Arkansas, United States Department of Agriculture and County Governments Cooperating  
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