

Putting the Pieces Together for the Next Generation of Conservation

Each state strategy will create a dynamic vision for the future of wildlife conservation. To get America's wildlife on sure-footing, the strategy will...

- Address a wide variety of wildlife.
- Be fiscally responsible by proactively conserving wildlife, saving taxpayer dollars, and spurring strategic investments into conservation.
- Create partnerships, so the strategy's broad perspective works through local voluntary actions and builds on past efforts for the benefit of all wildlife.
- Have the long-term goal of keeping common species common for the benefit of all.

How Do I Get Involved?

This is your opportunity to shape the direction of current and future wildlife conservation efforts. State wildlife agencies are coordinating the best thinking about wildlife for their design and they will need your help. Your experience, expertise, and ideas are important.

For information and updates:
www.WildlifeArkansas.com

White River population of Black Bears (Rick Eastridge)



Diana Butterfly
(Herschel Raney)



Eastern Spadefoot Toad
(Suzanne L. Collins)



Designing a Future for Arkansas Wildlife

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Partners



Ivory-billed Woodpecker, by George M. Sutton/Cornell Lab of Ornithology



George M. Sutton

Arkansans Value Wildlife

Many Arkansans are concerned about our wildlife and recognize the need to close the gaps in wildlife conservation. While some wildlife species in Arkansas are prospering, such as white-tailed deer and wild turkey, many others are declining.

Have you seen a change in the landscape, fewer trees and wetlands, more houses and fewer places for wildlife to live? If you have, you're not alone.

This partnership to develop a comprehensive wildlife conservation strategy for Arkansas is seeking to achieve a balanced and practical approach to conserving our natural resources..

We Need to Prevent the Decline of our Wildlife

Conservation efforts, made possible by our state's sportsmen and women, and the federal government have done much, but more needs to be done. Much has been learned from the successes and the challenges of these efforts. We now know to prevent further wildlife declines and endangerment, proactive conservation efforts built upon existing efforts are needed for the broad array of wildlife.

We need Voluntary Actions and Cost-effective Measures

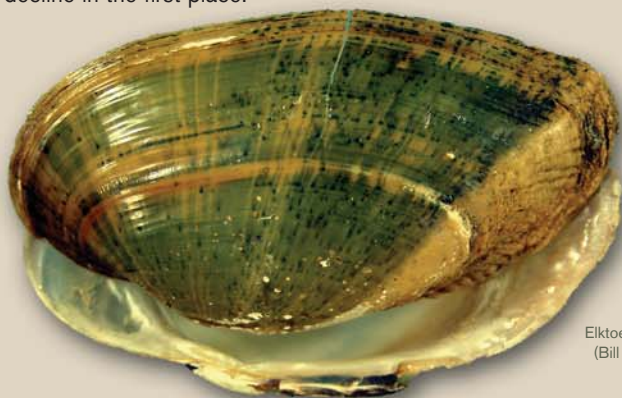
Recovery of imperiled species is expensive and often controversial. It is more cost effective and practical to prevent their decline in the first place.



Ornate box turtle
(Suzanne L. Collins)



Ornate box turtle
(Jason Gunter)



Elktoe mussel
(Bill Posey)



Rusty Blackbird
(US Fish and Wildlife Service)

Innovation and Efficiency through Partnerships Working Together

Through decades of trial and error government agencies, conservation organizations, local businesses and individuals have learned that conservation cannot be achieved alone. With partnerships and cooperation, resources can be pooled and creative solutions forged to confront the complex challenges facing wildlife.

A strategy is needed for long-term wildlife conservation that articulates a clear vision for the future, while remaining locally driven, proactive, flexible, and integrated with the work of others. Today there is a unique opportunity before us to do just this...

Putting America's Wildlife on Sure Footing

The U.S. Congress has responded to the problem facing America's wildlife by enacting a visionary program to keep common species common and chart a future for wildlife conservation – **State Wildlife Grants**. This is one solution to America's wildlife woes, creating a new way of doing conservation business building on the strengths of previous and ongoing efforts.

- The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, along with its partner agencies and organizations, will produce a comprehensive wildlife conservation strategy by October 2005.



Goldstripe Darter
(G.W. Sneegas)

Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy

The intent is to focus on those wildlife species with the greatest conservation need and their habitats.

- The strategy, designed uniquely for Arkansas and its ecoregions, will address the problems facing wildlife with flexible and meaningful solutions. Specific actions with measurable results will be identified.
- Through matching grants, federal state and private resources will be leveraged to focus on local solutions to problems.
- Partnerships will be crucial to these strategies, so the past efforts and plans of agencies and conservation organizations can be integrated to work together and create new efficiencies. For example, the strategies will coordinate on-the-ground conservation research and work from diverse funding sources, including State Wildlife Grants, the Farm Bill and other programs.



Ecoregions

Mississippi Valley
Loess Plains

Where do you fit in?

Partnerships and your input are essential to Arkansas' vision for the future conservation of your wildlife. Together these pieces form a complete picture that is the strategy.

- **Information:** The distribution and abundance of wildlife, the condition of their habitats, the problems facing them.
- **Funding:** Federal, state, and private funding, including a state and private match.
- **Partnerships:** Federal, state, and local agencies, conservation organizations, businesses, and individuals will be involved in the development and implementation of the strategy.