



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Oregon State Wildlife Action Plan is a blueprint for conservation in Oregon.

Oregon is home to a rich tapestry of ecosystems, from coastal estuaries and temperate rainforests to high desert and alpine environments. Yet the biodiversity in these ecosystems is increasingly under threat. Habitat loss, climate change, invasive species, and other human-driven pressures have accelerated the decline of native species across the state. At this moment, species are going extinct faster than any time in human history. A recent report by NatureServe ranked Oregon 5th worst in the U.S. for the percentage of animals in the state that are at-risk. Species at risk include over half of our 32 amphibian species, approximately 10% of our bird species, and nearly 20% of our reptile species. In the face of alarming loss and daunting conservation challenges, we need a tool to inform how to effectively and efficiently use our limited resources to make the best conservation decisions. The Oregon State Wildlife Action Plan is our mechanism to provide the information needed to guide and prioritize this work.




BACKGROUND

The Oregon State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP, previously referred to as the Oregon Conservation Strategy (OCS) and Oregon Nearshore Strategy (ONS)) is Oregon's comprehensive strategy for conserving fish and wildlife. The goals of the SWAP are to maintain healthy fish and wildlife populations by maintaining and restoring functioning habitats, and to address limiting factors to prevent or reverse declines of at-risk species.

It provides a set of priorities for addressing Oregon's conservation needs, creating a broad vision and conceptual framework for long-term conservation of Oregon's native fish, wildlife, invertebrates, plants, and algae.

A photograph of an American Avocet, a long-necked bird with a distinctive black and white plumage and a long, thin, downward-curved bill, standing in shallow water. Its reflection is visible in the calm water below.


American Avocet

A photograph of a Sockeye Salmon, showing its vibrant red body and silvery scales, swimming in clear water over a rocky riverbed.

Sockeye Salmon

A close-up photograph of a Gentner's Fritillary flower, featuring pink petals with prominent yellow and red spots and a yellow center.

Gentner's Fritillary

A photograph of a Northern Sagebrush Lizard, a small, spotted lizard with a mottled pattern of dark spots on its light-colored body, resting on dry, sandy ground.

**Northern
Sagebrush Lizard**

The SWAP emphasizes proactive, voluntary conservation of declining species and habitats to reduce the possibility of future federal or state listings. While not a regulatory document, it outlines key issues, opportunities, and recommended voluntary actions to improve the effectiveness of conservation across Oregon. It fosters a shared understanding of the challenges facing the state's fish and wildlife by all Oregonians and sets common priorities for addressing these needs.

The future for many species will depend the willingness of individuals, organizations, to voluntarily take action to protect and improve fish and wildlife habitat. The SWAP provides the tools and resources for all Oregonians, including professionals and individuals new to wildlife conservation, to get started.

The State Wildlife Action Plan is a required document for funding through the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) State and Tribal Wildlife Grants program and must be revised every ten years. The SWAP was initially drafted and published in 2006, updated in 2016, and is currently being updated for the third iteration. The final, revised SWAP is due to USFWS on Oct 1, 2025. Following submission, USFWS will develop a technical review team that will approve the revision in 2026.

Major updates in the third iteration include the addition of Pollution as a new Key Conservation Issue (KCI), changes to naming structures to match national terminology, and complete integration of the ONS and OCS in recognition of the need to present consolidated information on all ecosystems. Additionally, all components of the SWAP were re-evaluated and updated with the latest information, including a full assessment of the status of all sensitive, at-risk, or declining species or other species of concern. Oregon's Conservation Opportunity Areas were revised to incorporate updated, new, and finer resolution spatial data and the Conservation Toolbox was restructured to empower all Oregonians to take conservation actions.

SWAP COMPONENTS

Like its predecessor, the SWAP is organized into seven sections that start broad at the state level and narrow in focus all the way down to the species level. Each section provides information to support understanding of conservation concerns in the state by a broad audience.

1.



KEY CONSERVATION ISSUES
are landscape-scale threats that impact species and habitats throughout the entire state.

2.



ECOREGIONS
are geographic areas of the state with similar climate and vegetation. General characteristics, limiting factors, and recommended conservation actions are described for each of the nine ecoregions in Oregon.

3.



CONSERVATION OPPORTUNITY AREAS
help focus conservation efforts and financial investments in specific areas to increase the likelihood of long-term success over larger landscapes.

4.



KEY HABITATS
are native habitats of conservation concern that are essential to many Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) within the state.

5.



SPECIES OF GREATEST CONSERVATION NEED
SGCN are defined as being at risk due to factors describing their rarity, population trends, and threats. SGCN include wildlife, fish, invertebrates, plants, and algae.

6.



MONITORING
includes information and guidance on monitoring strategies, community science, and recommendations for data management for SGCN and Key Habitats statewide.

7.



THE CONSERVATION TOOLBOX
provides information and resources for all Oregonians on how to engage in conservation action as individuals. The Toolbox identifies goals for agencies and other organizations to use outreach and education to support and encourage individual Oregonians to take conservation action.



MAJOR UPDATES

In recognition of all that has changed and all that we have learned since the last revision of the SWAP in 2015, all components were reviewed and revised for the third iteration, incorporating new science, data, tools, and resources. This ensures that our SWAP creates a comprehensive picture of the current challenges and opportunities for conservation, and what we anticipate for the next 10 years. We also updated available resources and tools to ensure that all participants, from individuals to large organizations, can execute projects and take actions that will directly benefit Oregon's natural resources.



1. NAME CHANGES

For the 2025 revision, we have updated the name of the plan (previously the ***Oregon Conservation Strategy*** and ***Oregon Nearshore Strategy***). The name change will ensure that Oregon aligns with national terminology and will help facilitate use of our plan by partners that work across state boundaries. Additional terminology changes are also aligned with national terms, including Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN), Species of Greatest Information Need (SGIN), and Key Habitats.



2. OREGON NEARSHORE STRATEGY INTEGRATION

Oregon doesn't stop at the shore, and in recognition of the magnitude of impacts that the ocean has on terrestrial environments and vice versa, the ONS and OCS were integrated to provide a holistic view of conservation needs in our state. ODFW's Marine Resources Program spearheaded the effort to update and integrate all information and ensure that marine threats were well represented throughout the revised SWAP.



3. KEY CONSERVATION ISSUES

We have integrated the threats identified in the 2016 ONS and the OCS into a single, more comprehensive framework. This consolidation provides a clearer and more accessible overview of the broad threats affecting Oregon's fish, wildlife, and habitats—both marine and inland. Addressing these threats together allows for a more complete understanding of large-scale, landscape-level impacts.

All Key Conservation Issues (KCIs) were reviewed and revised for clarity and consistency, and threat descriptions were standardized using the Direct Threats Classification system to align with other states' wildlife action plans. All KCIs were revised with updated information, taking into consideration any changes, new data, or improved understanding of threats since the previous revision. There are several notable updates in the revision of KCIs:

- **A new Key Conservation Issue: Pollution** was added to reflect its growing impact on ecosystems.
- **Content from "Challenges and Opportunities for Private Landowners"** was relocated to the Conservation Toolbox to elevate its visibility and improve accessibility.
- The **Climate Change KCI** has been extensively updated in collaboration with the Northwest Climate Adaptation Science Center to ensure it reflects the most current data and science.



4. SPECIES

Our Species of Greatest Conservation Need, or SGCN, are the species that we've identified as having imperiled conservation status and are what we previously referred to as **Strategy Species**. For the revision, staff led a comprehensive process to revise the criteria for selection of SGCN. The conservation criteria developed were based on the criteria used in the 2015 revision, with changes to make them more inclusive of all taxa. The result was four criteria that were used to evaluate all sensitive, at-risk, or declining species or other species of concern. To be included as SGCN, species assessed must meet two or more of the four criteria.

The revised SWAP also includes Species of Greatest Information Need (**SGIN**, previously **Data Gap Species**), which are species that may be of conservation concern but lack sufficient data to confirm their status in Oregon.

Additional species important to guiding conservation efforts are included throughout the Plan, either within Key Habitats, Key Conservation Issues, or through targeted conservation actions.



5. KEY HABITATS

Key Habitats (formerly **Strategy Habitats**) were reviewed and information updated. No new Key Habitat types were added, as existing categories remain inclusive and relevant. However, the five habitat types in the Nearshore ecoregion are now presented collectively as the 12th Key Habitat, Nearshore Habitats. Instead, the focus was on revising the status and trends of these habitats over the past 25 years. A priority for the 2025 revision was reanalyzing habitat loss, which was last conducted statewide in the late 1990s, to inform our understanding of how habitats of conservation concern have changed in the last 25 years.



Updates also include revised information on threats and conservation actions for each habitat, with specific emphasis on the role of American beaver and beaver-modified habitats in wetlands and riparian areas. Additionally, the Key Habitat map is being refined using updated data and field verification to improve accuracy in the extent and distribution of Key Habitats throughout the state.



6. ECOREGIONS

For the 2025 revision, ecoregion profiles were revised to ensure all information is up-to-date and relevant. Additionally, ecoregion-specific information on climate change impacts were added to each profile. While the broad effects of climate change may be similar across the state, discrete impacts are variable, with climate trends that vary region to region.



7. CONSERVATION OPPORTUNITY AREAS

For the 2025 revision, Conservation Opportunity Areas were reviewed and revised, incorporating updated datasets describing costs (e.g., development, invasive species) and targets (e.g., climate refugia, Key Habitat presence, environmental justice information) for conservation. Draft COAs are presented in a public-facing web map to solicit public input in the finalization of geographic scope. Feedback included local knowledge of landscape suitability not already reflected in the draft, known restoration plans, and known development plans.



8. CONSERVATION TOOLBOX

In 2024, when ODFW surveyed the public and partners about the use and utility of the OCS and ONS, the component that was most in need of improvement was the Conservation Toolbox. The Toolbox, intended to provide information on how to engage all Oregonians in conservation, was completely overhauled with the help of internal and external partners to increase relevancy to all Oregonians.

The Toolbox is built to provide flexibility over the next 10 years. The Goals and Actions for Agencies section will remain static once approved by the Commission and USFWS, while the Actions by Oregonians and Resources sections may be updated and revised without returning to the USFWS or the Commission to ensure continued relevancy to communities in our state. We recognize that resources, opportunities, and knowledge evolve more rapidly than the 10 year revision cycle, and anticipate continuing to update content, spotlights, and language over time that reflects the conservation priorities of all Oregonians in the sections on actions each audience can take.





PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

ODFW began revising the State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) in July 2023 by reaching out to partners and the public for feedback on how the SWAP is used and what areas need improvement. Input from the public, partners, and ODFW staff helped shape draft content in 2024, which was shared for technical review during **16 meetings** in early 2025. A dedicated **SWAP Revision web page** was regularly updated with key documents and meeting recordings. To raise broad awareness and drive traffic to the site for more detailed information, ODFW promoted the revision process through events, social media, press releases, and presentations across the state.

The draft content presented to the Commission reflects input gathered through July 2025 from technical reviewers, partners, and public engagement. The final draft is scheduled for submission to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on October 1, 2025.



LOOKING FORWARD

All components of the revised SWAP were made available for public review and comment in July of 2025. Comments submitted by July 31 will be considered and incorporated as appropriate into the draft submitted to the Commission in advance of the August 15 Commission meeting. The final submission to the USFWS is on October 1, 2025. The next full revision is anticipated for fall of 2035 following the ten-year required revision timeline.

The OCS website is currently heavily used, with over 120,000 unique visitors annually. Once the content of the revised SWAP is reviewed and approved by the USFWS in early 2026, updates to the current website will be published. We anticipate that the OCS website will be sunset in 2027 and replaced as a part of the Agency-wide website update process to make sure information is accessible, navigable, and can connect individuals interested in conservation in Oregon with the resources they need.

