

DNR *FACTSheet*



DNR Embarks on Historic Effort to Keep Indiana Wildlife from Becoming Endangered

- The Indiana Department of Natural Resources is developing a comprehensive wildlife strategy—an unprecedented “blueprint” for keeping all wildlife populations healthy by focusing on the habitats they need to thrive.
- The ultimate goal is to keep species off the threatened and endangered list and keep Indiana’s common species common.
- This is a rigorous, science-based process to determine priorities for declining wildlife and habitat.
- This is part of a national effort – Congress has required every state and U.S. territory to develop a comprehensive wildlife strategy by October 2005.
- The Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service must approve the strategy in order for Indiana to continue receiving federal funds for wildlife conservation—continued federal funding will allow DNR and its conservation partners to work together to conserve habitats and provide a balanced management program.
- This is an historic opportunity: this kind of comprehensive effort that involves all fifty states has never been done before in the United States.
- The task of conserving declining wildlife is challenging, but DNR knows success is possible from wildlife conservation success stories like the peregrine falcon, wild turkey and white-tailed deer.
- This effort asks (and begins to answer) the questions: What are the Indiana species and habitats in trouble? Why are they in trouble? Most importantly, what are we going to do about it?
- The DNR is working with a broad cross section of partner organizations in our state to get this done – from wildlife experts to land trusts, to other conservationists, hunters and anglers, wildlife viewers and farmers.
- This effort has emerged through the work of a broad national bipartisan wildlife conservation coalition called *Teaming with Wildlife*. This coalition includes more than 3,000 organizations nationwide.
- Research suggests that habitat quality and quantity are the primary factors affecting the conservation of wildlife throughout the state.
- To find out more visit <http://www.djcase.com/incws>.

Indiana Department of Natural Resources
402 W. Washington St. W255 B
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2748

We're Planning to Keep Indiana's Wildlife

DNR Embarks on Historic Effort to Keep Indiana Wildlife from Becoming Endangered

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Tim Longwell
574-258-0100
cws@djcase.com

Indianapolis, IN – The Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is developing a comprehensive wildlife strategy—an unprecedented “blueprint” for keeping all wildlife populations healthy by focusing on the habitats they need to thrive.

The ultimate goal is to keep species off the threatened and endangered species list and keep our common species common. Working with technical experts and partners throughout the state, DNR is pursuing a science-based approach to identify how to best protect Indiana wildlife at a landscape scale.

In an effort to encourage a more integrated approach to wildlife conservation, Congress has required all states and territories to develop comprehensive wildlife strategies by October 2005. The Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service must approve these strategies in order for states to be eligible for potentially significant federal funds for wildlife conservation. Continued federal funding will allow DNR and other conservation partners to work together to provide more “on the ground” habitat projects.

“Only about 3% of Indiana’s land area is in public ownership, so the vast majority of wildlife species are located on private land,” stated Katie Smith, Chief of the DNR Wildlife Diversity Section. “It is clear that wildlife conservation will be best accomplished in Indiana through partnerships with private landowners and conservation organizations.”

According to Smith, habitat quality and quantity are the primary factors affecting wildlife populations in the United States and this process will help conserve all wildlife species in Indiana.

“This is an historic effort that has never been done before,” said Glen Salmon, Director of the DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife. “Having all fifty states and U.S. territories simultaneously developing these strategies presents a tremendous opportunity for conservation at a landscape scale.”

DNR welcomes input on this historic effort from all Hoosiers. Feedback will help DNR and its partners provide an accurate representation of statewide wildlife and habitat needs. To find out more about this process visit www.djcase.com/incws.

Indiana DNR Comprehensive Wildlife Strategy
Short Article (492 words)
www.djcase.com/incws

State Begins Historic Effort to Keep Wildlife from Becoming Endangered

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is striving to keep species off the threatened and endangered species lists and keep our common species common. Working with technical experts and partners throughout the state, DNR is pursuing a science-based approach to protect Indiana wildlife at a landscape scale.

DNR is developing a comprehensive wildlife strategy—an unprecedented “blueprint” to keep wildlife populations healthy by focusing on habitats they need to thrive.

“This historic effort has never been done before,” said Glen Salmon, director of the DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife. “All fifty states and U.S. territories are simultaneously developing these strategies. It’s a chance to pursue wildlife conservation from a different perspective – at a landscape scale. The strategy provides a common framework to integrate DNR’s efforts with our partners and with other states to have more impact.”

To encourage a more integrated approach to wildlife conservation nationwide, Congress has required all states and territories to develop comprehensive wildlife strategies by October 2005. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service must approve these strategies for states to be eligible for federal funds for wildlife conservation. Continued federal funding could allow DNR and its partners to work together to conserve habitats and provide balanced management programs.

Instead of focusing on individual species after they become threatened or endangered, this strategy encourages conservation of habitats that species need to survive. The strategy will emphasize species that are in greatest need of conservation efforts, but the habitat approach will benefit many other fish and wildlife species as well.

“The biggest threat to wildlife diversity across the country is loss of habitat,” said Katie Smith, chief of the DNR Wildlife Diversity Section. This strategy will identify the status of major Indiana habitat types, threats to habitats, and trends of associated wildlife populations. More importantly, the strategy will recognize current conservation efforts (public and private), gaps in these efforts, and ways that private landowners and other stakeholders can work with the DNR to conserve resources.

“Only about 3 percent of Indiana’s land area is in public ownership, so the majority of wildlife species live on private land,” Smith added. “It is clear that forging partnerships with private landowners and conservation organizations is the best way to conserve Indiana’s wildlife. This strategy will be a great tool to build and enhance partnerships.”

(more)

Appendix I: Informational Materials—Short Article

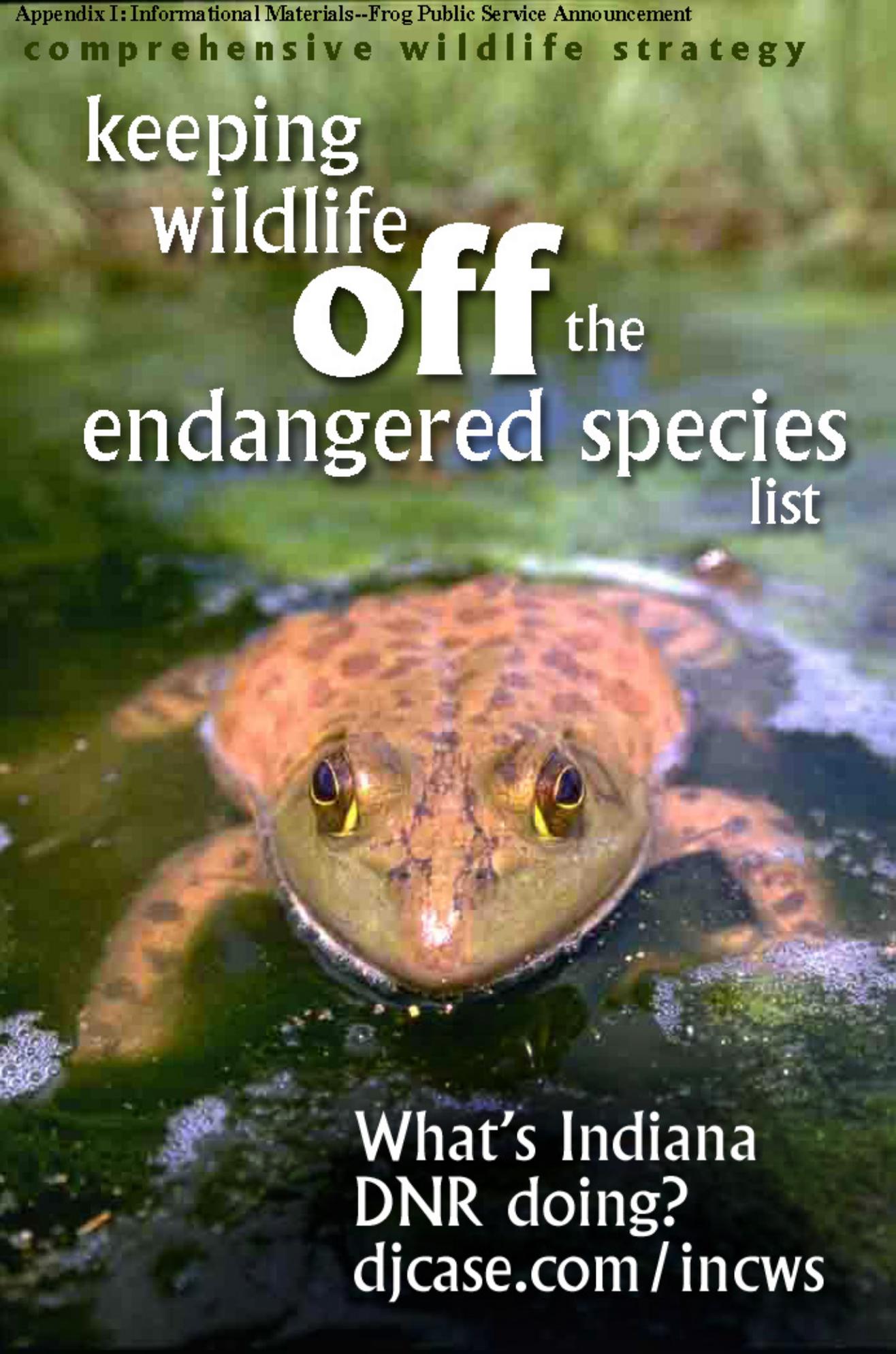
The DNR Wildlife Diversity Section is charged with leading the strategy's development. The goal is to guide conservation efforts through all sectors of the DNR, as well as its private conservation organization partners. Many states and partners also plan to coordinate efforts across state borders, since wildlife don't recognize political boundaries.

A broad cross-section of Hoosiers currently are helping DNR develop this strategy, including scientists, academics, conservation organizations, farmers, hunters and anglers. To find out more about this process and/or or provide input to DNR, visit www.djcase.com/incws.

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comprehensive wildlife strategy

keeping
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off the
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What's Indiana
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