



2025 NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN

With North Carolina’s population on the rise and the state’s growth rate higher than the national average, natural habitats for wildlife are losing ground. Loss of habitat has contributed to a steady decline in species that were once common, like the Golden-winged Warbler and Eastern Box Turtle.

Historically there have been limited resources, especially the availability of funds for conservation efforts to benefit nongame species (those that are not hunted, fished, or trapped). Legislation signed into law in 2002 created the State Wildlife Grants Program and set up federal matching grant funds for states that create and maintain a Wildlife Action Plan (WAP, Plan).

These funds are used by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC) for conservation efforts aimed at preventing wildlife from becoming endangered, in other words, keeping common species common.

Each Plan is required to be comprehensively reviewed and revised at 10-year intervals. The WRC published the state’s first WAP in 2005. Since then, the Plan’s first 10-year revision was published in 2015 and additional revisions were made in 2020 and 2022. Addendum 1 (2020) updated the species of greatest conservation need (SGCN) list and Addendum 2 (2022) added a list of plants to the SGCN list to help align regional conservation priorities.

The WRC has recently started the next 10-year revision process and invites all interested partners, organization, and individuals to participate in revising the Plan.

Visit www.ncwildlife.org/Plan for more information about North Carolina’s Wildlife Action Plan and opportunities to participate during the revision process.



Eastern Box Turtle/WRC