

# State Wildlife Action Plan: 2025 Revision





# State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program

## Funding Source

- For broad array of fish and wildlife
- Federal grants to states
- Congress appropriates funds annually
- Based on a formula using population and geographic area

## Required Plans

- Eligibility for SWG funds
- Must be comprehensively reviewed and revised at 10 year intervals
- 8 required elements which have remained the same for 25 years
- Reviewed and approved by FWS Regional Review Teams

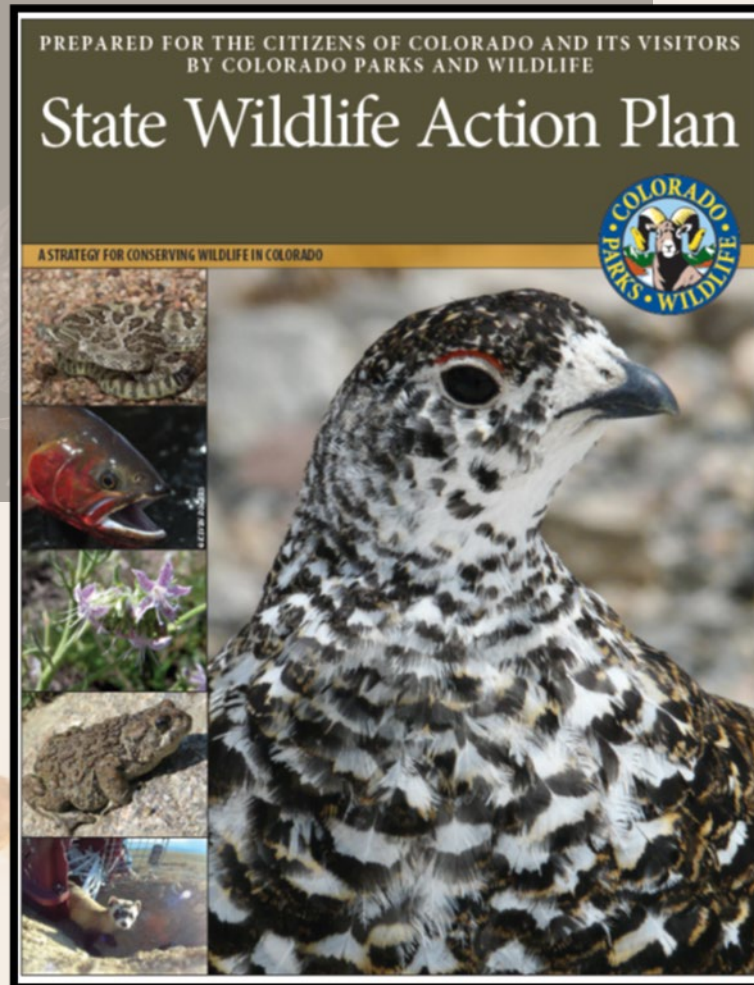
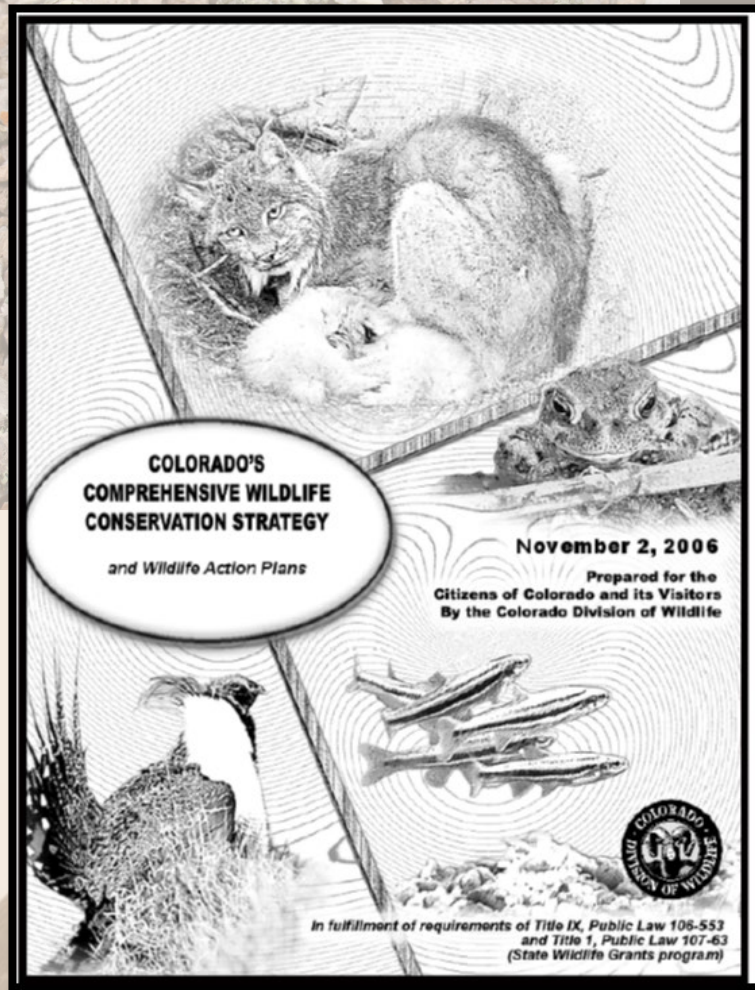


# Required Elements

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Element 1 | Identify distribution, abundance and status of species of greatest conservation need (SGCN)           |
| Element 2 | Identify location and condition of key habitat types essential to the conservation of SGCN            |
| Element 3 | Identify problems and threats that affect SGCN and their habitats                                     |
| Element 4 | Determine and prioritize actions to conserve SGCN and their habitats                                  |
| Element 5 | Provide for periodic monitoring and adaptive management of SGCN and their habitats                    |
| Element 6 | Provide for review and revision of the State Wildlife Action Plan                                     |
| Element 7 | Coordinate development and revision with appropriate federal, state, local agencies and tribes        |
| Element 8 | Provide for necessary public involvement in the development, revision, and implementation of the SWAP |



# History of Colorado's State Wildlife Action Plans



# 2025 State Wildlife Action Plan



## 2025 SWAP Planning Process Guiding Philosophy

- Use the planning process to raise awareness internally and externally
  - Consider how to bridge the implementation gap between planning and action
  - Equity in process - ask those closest to the decisions for solutions & involve those we have not before
- Make each Element more robust by more meaningful inclusion of additional taxa (e.g., plants, invertebrates) and emerging threats (i.e., climate change)
- Compliment and leverage other conservation planning initiatives
- Create implementation friendly products



## Planning Teams

### Project Management

- Colorado Natural Heritage Program contract

Steering Committee: *sounding board*

Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) Work Group:  
*developed Criteria and scoring species*

Habitat Work Group: *determining appropriate definitions, land cover layers for spatial analysis*



## Element 7&8 – Outreach Highlights

- ✓ Colorado Chapter of The Wildlife Society
- ✓ Statewide Northern Leopard Frog working group
- ✓ Rare Plant Technical Committee
- ✓ Colorado Natural Heritage Program partners meeting
- ✓ Partners in the Outdoors Conference
- ✓ Jefferson County Open Space Advisory Board
- ✓ Colorado Natural Areas Council
- ✓ Stakeholder Engagement via Engage CPW
- ✓ Colorado Outdoor Partnership
- ✓ Wildlife and Habitat Roundtable



## 2025 SWAP Purpose

- To what degree is the SWAP a Call to Action or CPW Work Plan?
- How does CPW currently use the SWAP?
- How do conservation partners currently use the SWAP ?
- What do we not want to lose in how people use the SWAP? What is most important to keep?
- What are new ways we want CPW to use the SWAP?
- What are new ways we want partners to use the SWAP?
- What is CPW's decision space? Initially? Throughout the process?



## 2025 SWAP Purpose – Historic Context

- Limited funding for nongame
- No dedicated staff to develop SWAP
- Lack of internal/external awareness of the plan
- Seen as a “state of affairs” rather than planning document
- Put all ideas in - long lists of species, threats, actions
- But, some staff and partners use it to guide work, cite for grants, rank projects/funding - **those that use it value its information and the list of species and consider it to be a critical resource**



## 2025 SWAP Purpose – What to retain for 2025

- SWAP is authority on SGCN for Colorado
- Collective action for SGCN - coordination and partnerships
- Allow our work to stay adaptive to emerging threats (ex, WNS) or species of concern (ex., petitioned species, legislative or other political pushes)
- Focus on species lacking historic support/program focus



## 2025 SWAP Purpose – What to change for 2025

- SWAP is elevated in CPW programs and as a “Call to Action”
- Increase relevancy by building more robust Elements
- More proactive planning document - specific and actionable
  - move from SWAP represents our work to SWAP drives our work
- Identifying Species of Greatest Information Need (SGIN)
  - a subset of SGCN (no difference in “importance”)
  - current knowledge is insufficient to fully evaluate conservation status
  - close the data gaps by identifying appropriate questions critical to understanding the species status



## 2025 SWAP Purpose – What are we hearing?

- ❖ Staff and partners very excited to hear about intended purpose, increased inclusion of plants, invertebrates, climate change and adding SGIN
- ❖ Strong desire by ALL for more detailed Actions that will drive our work
- ❖ Be clear: The suite of species covered in the SWAP does not include all species CPW and our partners work on.
- ❖ Partners appreciate opportunities to learn about the process early on





# 2025 Species of Greatest Conservation Need



# Selecting SGCN

Vertebrate  
Species of  
Greatest  
Conservation  
Need (SGCN)  
selection

Identify Potential SGCN  
*Native species on existing  
lists of conservation concern*

Stakeholder Input  
*What did we miss?*

Assessment of Potential SGCN  
*Using definitions, criteria, "scoring"  
iterative testing*

Not SGCN

SGCN  
*Tier 1, Tier 2, SGIN*

Develop other  
SWAP Elements



# SGCN Criteria – Ecological Factors Vulnerability Scores

| <b>Key Factor of Vulnerability</b> | <b>Abundance</b><br>To what extent is species vulnerable in Colorado due to low numbers of individuals or few populations? | <b>Distribution</b><br>To what extent is species vulnerable in Colorado due to distribution patterns? | <b>Trend</b><br>To what extent is species vulnerable in Colorado due to declining trends? |
|------------------------------------|--|---|---|
|------------------------------------|--|---|---|

3 – Species is extremely vulnerable  
1 – Species is somewhat vulnerable  
0.5 – Not enough information to score  
0 – Species is not vulnerable

Tier 1: 4+  
Tier 2: 2-3.5  
Not SGCN: <1.5

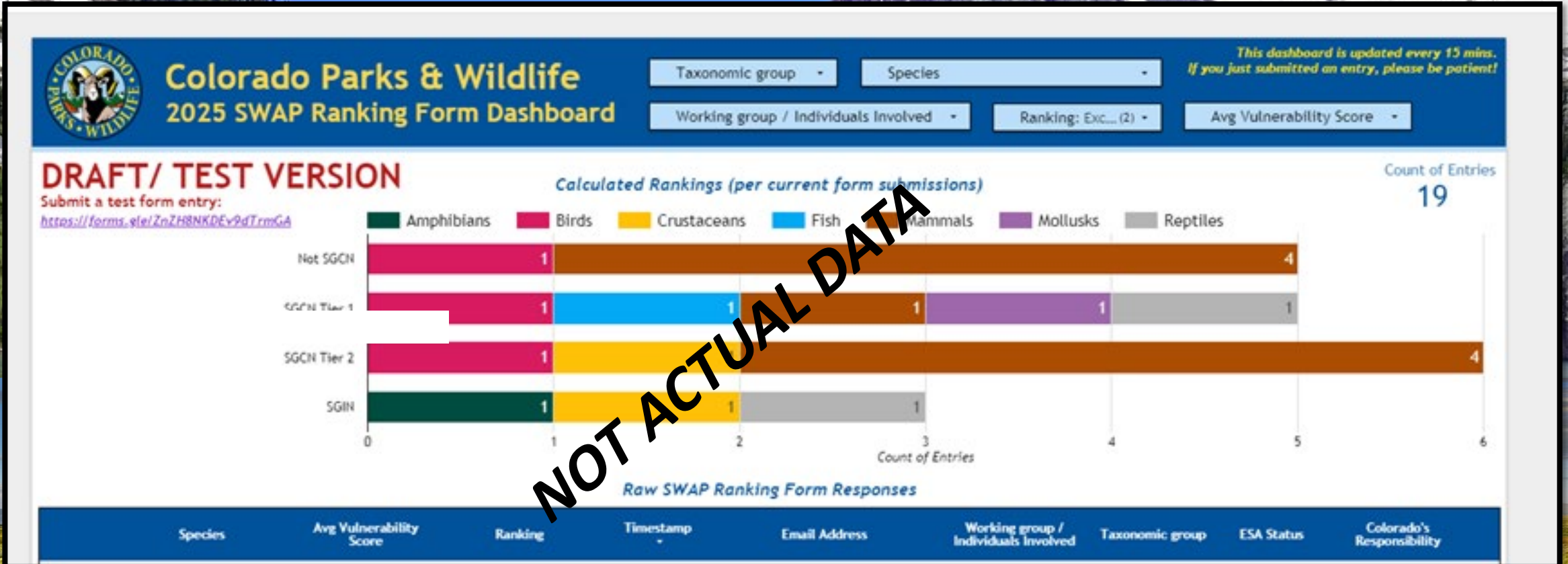


## SGCN Criteria – Modifiers

- Endangered Species Act status
- Colorado's ecological responsibility
- Primary issue is lack of scientific knowledge
- Existing Threat(s) are severe and likely to significantly increase in scope and severity within 10 years?
- There is a specific, severe Threat that has the potential to critically imperil the species in Colorado in the foreseeable future?



# SGCN Dashboard



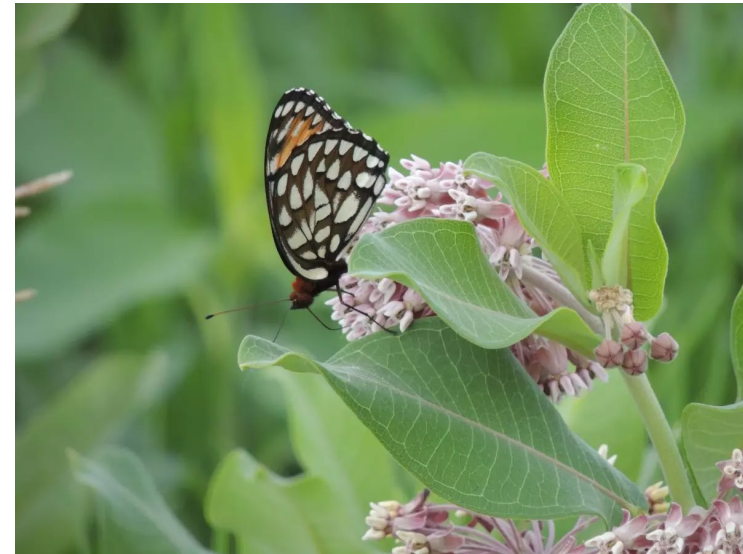


# Invertebrate SGCN

- Pending
- Hiring staff with expertise



Turnbull NWR – Western Bumblebee and Vetch, Carlene Hardt/USFWS, Public Domain, <https://www.fws.gov/media/turnbull-nwr-bumblebee-and-vetch>



Regal Fritillary on Milkweed, Kimberly Emerson/USFWS, Public Domain, <https://www.fws.gov/media/regal-fritillary-milkweed>



