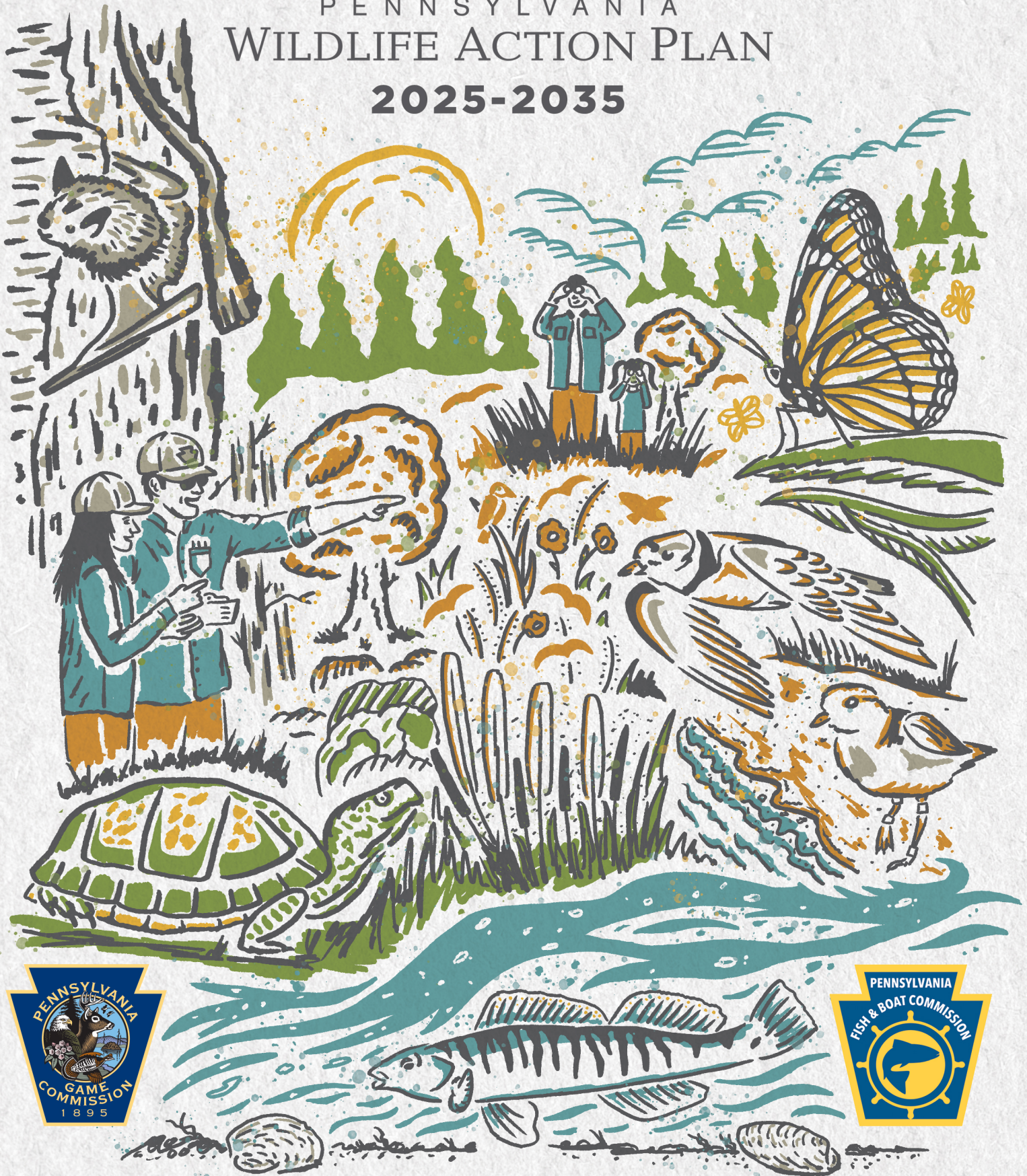




PENNSYLVANIA
WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN
2025-2035





P E N N S Y L V A N I A W I L D L I F E A C T I O N P L A N

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Executive Summary

Highlights

The 2025-35 Pennsylvania Wildlife Action Plan (PA WAP) builds upon the more than 20-year conservation legacy achieved since the PGC and PFBC published the first Plan in 2005. With its Purpose *to conserve Pennsylvania's native fish and wildlife, maintain resilient habitat, and protect and enhance Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN)*, this third PA WAP will continue to protect and recover Pennsylvania's vulnerable species. Of the **2,137 native species assessed**, we identified **858 SGCN**, along with **over 590 conservation actions**, often with multispecies benefit. Despite great strides, data deficiencies remain in understanding Pennsylvania's fish and wildlife, as reflected in the **604 Data Deficient** species - primarily invertebrates – determined to need more information to evaluate their conservation status (i.e., data deficient species).



Chapter 1 summarizes the primary Required Elements (e.g., Species, Habitat, Threats) and is accompanied by a species-specific emphasis in the Species Accounts (Chapter 1-Appendix 1.4). These documents succinctly summarize the status, threats, conservation actions, monitoring, survey and research needs for each SGCN.

Environmental threats and stressors prominently impact fish and wildlife population sustainability, and through species threats assessments (Chapters 1, 3) we provide substantial attention to these factors. **57% of vertebrate SGCN threats** fall into **4** threat categories:

1. *Residential and Commercial Development* (17%)
2. *Invasive and Other Problematic Species, Genes and Diseases* (14%)
3. *Energy Production and Mining* (13%) and *Pollution* (13%)

64% of invertebrate SGCN threats are also associated with **4** threat categories:

1. *Residential and Commercial Development* (20%)
2. *Agriculture and Aquaculture* (16%)
3. *Pollution* (14%), and *Climate Change and Severe Weather* (14%)

Countering influence of this broad threat array requires expansive conservation actions. For all SGCNs, we identified a total of **590** conservation actions, with **80%** of vertebrate actions grouped into three categories:

1. *Design and Plan Conservation* (34%)

Species of Greatest Conservation Need Box Score	
	Total
Birds	86
Mammals	21
Fishes	47
Amphibians	19
Reptiles	21
Invertebrates	667
Grand Total	858



- (e.g., development of best management practices or specific species plans)
2. *Direct Habitat Management* (30%)
(e.g., forest structure management, dam removal, invasive species control)
 3. *Outreach* (15%)

Top aquatic and terrestrial invertebrate conservation actions are similar, with a greater emphasis on habitat:

1. *Direct Habitat Management* (55%)
2. *Design and Plan Conservation* (25%)
3. *Outreach* (16%)

These categorical classifications, coupled with prioritized conservation actions in this Plan, will guide SGCN recovery and habitat management. Environmental conditions are dynamic, however, and resource managers must remain vigilant for emerging threats and species needs. To maintain this adaptability, we will monitor species, their habitats, as well as our progress towards implementing this Plan (Chapter 5). This monitoring can provide early detection helpful to resource managers for discerning conservation actions to enhance resiliency and protect species and habitats in environmentally dynamic conditions.

Changing environmental conditions may not only pose threats to wildlife and their habitats but can contribute to knowledge gaps. The benefits of monitoring cannot be overstated, though some questions require in-depth analyses to more fully understand their implications, or to fill long-standing data deficiencies. For these information needs, taxonomic experts identified research and survey needs. Collectively, across all taxa, **707 research needs** and **631 survey priorities** were identified and prioritized (Chapter 1, Research, Survey and Monitoring Needs).

