

# Pennsylvania Game Commission

## State Wildlife Grant (SWG) 2012 Project Priorities

[Pennsylvania's Wildlife Action Plan \(WAP\)](#) provides a comprehensive blueprint for research and actions needed *to conserve the state's diverse wildlife, maintain their role in ecological processes, and protect and enhance species of conservation concern*. These measures are to be proactive, thus preventing costly reactive restoration efforts once species require critical care. In preparation for revision of the Pennsylvania WAP by 2015, the Game Commission has identified the following 2012 State Wildlife Grant project priorities that will help to address [required elements](#) of the WAP revision:

### 1. Data collection and analysis related to [Species of Greatest Conservation Need \(SGCN\)](#) distribution and abundance

Desired Outcome: A systematic assessment of the distribution and abundance of Pennsylvania mammal Species of Greatest Conservation Need. Preferred projects will:

- Develop standardized survey and sampling protocols to collect data efficiently, for poorly known species
- Engage the public (i.e. citizen-science approach) as well as species specialists to employ a wide range of techniques to comprehensively survey the state's mammals
- Leverage SWG funding through support from a wide range of conservation partners

### 2. Research into threats affecting SGCN populations

Desired Outcome: Proactively address emerging threats to SGCN to minimize impacts to priority species populations and/or habitats and develop adaptive management processes to address these threats. For the 2012 SWG call for projects, a priority research area has been identified as [assessing threats and impacts to forest SGCN from stressors including development, climate change, and disease](#). Priority projects might include:

- Identification, and long-term monitoring, of SGCN population/habitat impacts from interior forest development
- Evaluation of genetic diversity among metapopulations or isolated populations of terrestrial species, such as the Allegheny woodrat, that would likely affect viability of the species in Pennsylvania
- Research into threats inhibiting movement of terrestrial species across the landscape
- Evaluation of responses to best management practice (BMP) implementation, leading to refinement of BMPs as needed
- Assessment of population/habitat impacts from forest pests and diseases
- Development of BMPs and adaptive management strategies to reduce the vulnerability of SGCN to environmental stressors, including climate change

**Projects will be prioritized based on the following characteristics:**

1. Specifically address one or both of the topic areas described above
2. With a monitoring component that develops/implements successful adaptive management recommendations and assesses species' response.
3. Designed to provide long-term benefit to species and/or habitats.
4. Focus on multiple species identified in the Wildlife Action Plan as: Immediate Concern, High-Level Concern, and/or Pennsylvania Responsibility (WAP Section 10).
5. Contribute to updates for the Wildlife Action Plan revision.
6. Provide high leveraging of SWG funds with non-federal funds/in-kind contributions and enlist the cooperation of multiple conservation partners. SWG funds can be used to fund a maximum of 65% of project costs.

**Required Products for any 2012 SWG-funded project:**

All projects must include the development of the following materials:

1. *Public Summary Document* – Provide a 1 to 3 page document (illustrated) that summarizes the need, objectives, and findings of the project, presented in a way that will be useful to natural resource managers, citizens, and Congressional funders. This information will be posted on the PGC website.
2. *Management Guidance Document* – This product should summarize, in 1 or 2 pages, the implications gained from the study and provide recommendations for implementation to species or habitat management, or recommended next steps.