

# Section 6. Informing and Engaging the Public

## Continuing Efforts for Informing and Engaging the Public

Since the approval of the first version of the Wildlife Action Plan, Arkansas has continued to foster public and scientific community involvement in planning and implementation in a number of ways.

### Engaging the Scientific Community

**Continued Representation by Partners on the Steering Committee, Implementation Committee, and Taxa Teams.** The process of developing the Arkansas Wildlife Action Plan resulted in strong partner relationships and support for implementing the plan. Partners from various agencies serve on committees and taxa teams that determine the highest priority actions and select projects for state wildlife grant funding. Input from the scientific community is requested on all state wildlife grant project proposals. In addition, partners were instrumental in the 2015 revision and updating of the Plan.

**Table 6.1 AWAP Implementation Committee Members.** The Implementation Committee reviews project proposals and makes recommendations for funding.

Name	Association
Allison Fowler	Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
Ricky Chastain	Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
Brad Carner	Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
Chris Racey	Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
Melvin Tobin	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Scott Simon	The Nature Conservancy
Chris Colclasure	The Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission

**Table 6.2. AWAP Steering Committee Members.** The Steering Committee reviews the priority lists provided by the taxa and habitat teams and determines the highest priorities to be included in a request for proposals for state wildlife grant funding.

Name	Association
Allison Fowler	Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
A.J. Riggs	Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
Eric Brinkman	Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
Chris Davidson	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Dan Schieman	Audubon Arkansas
Doug Zollner	The Nature Conservancy
Bill Holimon	The Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission
Betty Crump	U.S. Forest Service

**Table 6.3. Taxa and Habitat Team Members.** The taxa and habitat teams review the needs and status of SGCN and their habitats every two years and develop a list of funding priorities for each taxonomic group and habitat category. Names listed here include those who attended taxa team meetings from 2010-2015. Members with an asterisk (\*) contributed to the 2015 AWAP revision by providing information, writing species or habitat accounts, and/or reviewing accounts.

<b>Mammal Team</b>	
Blake Sasse*, Chair	Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
Raymond Benjamin	National Park Service
Jacob Bokker	Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
Allen Cathey	Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
Matthew Connior	Southern Arkansas University
Betty Crump	U.S. Forest Service
Jason Honey	Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
Melissa Lombardi*	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Tom Nupp	Arkansas Tech University
Roger Perry*	U.S. Forest Service
Tom Risch*	Arkansas State University
David Saugey*	U.S. Forest Service
Renn Tumlinson*	Henderson State University
Don White	University of Arkansas-Monticello
<b>Bird Team</b>	
Karen Rowe*, Chair	Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
Leif Anderson*	U.S. Forest Service
Dick Baxter*	Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
Than Boves*	Arkansas State University
Michael Budd*	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Brad Carner	Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
Garrick Dugger*	Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
Steve Duzan*	U.S. Forest Service
Allison Fowler*	Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
Steven Fowler	Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
David Graves	Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
Bubba Groves	Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
Bill Holimon*	Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission
Brad Hufhines	Beaver Water District
Clifton Jackson	Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
Chris Kellner*	Arkansas Tech University
Erin Knoll*	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
David Kremetz*	USGS Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Unit
Matt Mourot	Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
Allan Mueller*	Citizen; retired U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Luke Naylor*	Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
Douglas Osborne*	University of Arkansas-Monticello
Seth Pearson	The Nature Conservancy
Dan Scheiman*	Audubon Arkansas
Doyle Shook	Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture

Kim Smith*	University of Arkansas
<b>Fish Team</b>	
Jeff Quinn*, Chair	Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
Ginny Adams*	University of Central Arkansas
Reid Adams	University of Central Arkansas
Eric Brinkman*	Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
Lindsey Bruckerhoff	University of Arkansas
Steve Filipek	Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
Brook Fluker	Arkansas State University
Charlie Gagen	Arkansas Tech University
Cory Gallipeau	The Nature Conservancy
Jessie Green*	Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality
Shawn Hodges	National Park Service
John Jackson	Arkansas Tech University
Lindsey Lewis*	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Dustin Lynch*	University of Arkansas
Dan Magoulick	University of Arkansas
Mark Oliver	Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
Cindy Osborne	Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission
Todd Slack	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Tim Snell	The Nature Conservancy
Rich Standage	U.S. Forest Service
Justin Stroman	Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
Jason Throneberry*	Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission
Brian Wagner*	Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
Nathan Wentz*	Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality
Jim Wise	Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality
Jonathan Young	Audubon Arkansas
<b>Mussel Team</b>	
Bill Posey*, Chair	Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
Chris Davidson	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
John Harris*	Arkansas State University
Josh Seagraves	Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department
Ben Thesing	Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department
<b>Crayfish Team</b>	
Brian Wagner*, Chair	Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
Daniel Magoulick	University of Arkansas
<b>Herpetofauna Team</b>	
Kelly Irwin*, Chair	Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
Ben Cash	University of Central Arkansas
Matthew Gifford	University of Central Arkansas
Glenn Manning	University of Arkansas-Monticello
Don Shepard	University of Central Arkansas
John Willson	University of Arkansas
<b>Insects/Other Invertebrates Team</b>	
William Baltosser*	University of Arkansas-Little Rock

Van Brahana	University of Arkansas
Charles Ely	Retired
Scott Longing	University of Arkansas
Craig Rudolph	U.S. Forest Service
Samantha Scheiman*	Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission
Brian Wagner	Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
Stephen Yanoviak	University of Arkansas-Little Rock
<b>Aquatic Habitat Team</b>	
Joy DeClerk	The Nature Conservancy
Sally Entreklin	University of Central Arkansas
Michelle Evans-White	University of Arkansas
Steve Filipek	Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
Charlie Gagen	Arkansas Tech University
Brian Haggard	University of Arkansas
Ethan Inlander	The Nature Conservancy
Doug Leasure	University of Arkansas
Matt Lindsey	The Nature Conservancy
David Long	Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
Daniel Millican	The Nature Conservancy
Jason Milks	The Nature Conservancy
Stephen O'Neal	Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
Jennifer Sheehan	Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
Jason Throneberry	Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission
Keith Whalen	U.S. Forest Service
<b>Terrestrial Habitat Team</b>	
A.J. Riggs, Chair	Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
Jennifer Akin	Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission
Martin Blaney*	Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
Brad Carner	Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
Ricky Chastain	Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
James Foster	Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
Tom Foti*	Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission
Allison Fowler	Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
Daniel Greenfield	Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
Clint Harris	The Nature Conservancy
Jason Honey	Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
Mark Hutchings	Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
Clifton Jackson	Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
Clint Johnson	Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
Joe Krystofik	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Terri Lane	Northwest Arkansas Land Trust
Katherine Larson	University of Central Arkansas
Karen Rowe*	Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
Carl Scott	National Park Service
Jeffrey Taverner	Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
Ray Wiggs	Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

Barbara Wilson	National Park Service
Ted Zawislak	Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
Doug Zollner*	The Nature Conservancy
<b>Karst Habitat Team</b>	
Mike Slay*, Chair	The Nature Conservancy
Chuck Bitting	National Park Service
Levi Horrell	Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
Trevor Mills	Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
Ron Redman	Mitigation Surveying Services, LLC
Brian Wagner	Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
Mitch Wine	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**Biennial Wildlife Action Plan Symposium.** Since 2006, a Wildlife Action Plan Symposium has been held every 2 years to bring partners together for collaboration. At the Symposium, results from state wildlife grant funded projects are presented. Also, the taxa teams and habitat teams meet to review the top needs for species and habitats. They select the highest conservation actions, research, and monitoring priorities to be funded with state wildlife grant dollars. Attendance at the symposium has increased each time and a number of partners from state and federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, and universities are represented.



*2014 AWAP Symposium*

**Wildlife Arkansas Website.** The Arkansas Wildlife Action Plan website serves as the primary clearinghouse for wildlife action plan information and news ([www.wildlifearkansas.com](http://www.wildlifearkansas.com)). State wildlife grant apportionment amounts and requests for proposals are available on the website. Final reports from state wildlife grant funded projects are also distributed on the website. In addition, digital versions of the Wildlife Action Plan and AWAP database are available for download.



## Engaging the Public

**Use of Media.** Every opportunity to relay information on species of greatest conservation need to the public is taken. Presentations on SGCN have been given to Boy Scout troops, school groups, and master naturalist groups. Success stories for SGCN as a result of state wildlife grants are disseminated as often as possible, typically through AGFC's weekly Arkansas Outdoors newsletter.



*Arkansas Outdoors newsletter story on successful SWG project*

**2015 AWAP Revision Conservation Partner Input.** Input from conservation partners was requested for the revision of the Plan at the beginning of the revision period. Specifically, at the 2012 AWAP Symposium, the needs for review and revision were presented to the group and they were tasked with beginning the review for their taxa and/or habitat. After the Symposium, all teams held meetings or conference calls to finish updates and revisions. All teams had representatives from multiple agencies (see Table 6.3). In addition to reviewing species and habitat information, partners were asked to review and provide comments on the draft Plan in its entirety summer of 2016. An email with a link to the draft Plan was sent out to the entire mailing list of partners.

**2015 AWAP Revision Public Input.** As part of the required public input process for the revision of the Plan, a draft of the updated plan was made available to the public via the Arkansas Wildlife website. A notice of the review/comment period was disseminated via the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette newspaper, which is distributed statewide. The notice ran from August 13 through August 27, 2016. Requests for public comments were also distributed on the AGFC website, the AGFC Facebook page, and the AGFC Arkansas Outdoors newsletter. The wildlife diversity program coordinator also conducted a radio interview on the Plan revision, which aired on public radio channels in northwest and central Arkansas. A period of 31 days was given for the public to provide suggestions and comments for the Plan. Arkansas does not have any federally recognized Native American tribes, so no specific contacts were made to this group.

Comments received were few. Comments were reviewed and changes were incorporated into the Plan, where necessary.