

Chapter 9: Review, Coordination, and Public Participation

Review and Updates to the SWAP

Guidance provided by USFWS and the AFWA *Best Practices for State Wildlife Action Plans* document for updating SWAPs distinguishes between major revisions and minor revisions. Major revisions include any change to the SGCN list or the threats assessment, or any change that could result in changes to conservation actions or their priority. We have generated our SGCN list and the subsequent analyses with an eye to potential changes in conservation issues over the next decade. Thus, we do not anticipate the need to conduct major revisions over the 10-year life of this plan. If that need were to occur, we would follow USFWS guidance in conducting major revisions. Meanwhile, as new information becomes available relative to required SWAP elements, it will be incorporated into the SWAP database for use in the next scheduled SWAP update.

Partner Coordination & Public Participation

Development of the 2006 SWAP was a multi-pronged approach that engaged technical experts and general stakeholders separately. This was an appropriate approach at the time because SWAPs were a new concept that required a greater level of philosophical exploration and understanding by all parties than is needed today. Also, the 2006 SWAP was the first statewide, strategic wildlife conservation plan intended for use by all relevant parties ever developed for Colorado.

Over the past decade, familiarity with and use of the SWAP has become routine by many agencies, conservation partners, and stakeholders. Colorado is fortunate to have a relatively well-connected community of conservation practitioners, with a great deal of cross-over in terms of scientific and/or land management expertise among agencies and NGOs. This, combined with the fact that the development of the 2015 SWAP was a revision of an existing document, as opposed to a “starting from scratch” effort, negated the need to distinguish between technical experts and other stakeholders. Thus, we focused the majority of our public participation efforts on improving the scientific content rather than conducting in-person general public information activities. To better facilitate involvement by all interested parties, we organized our collaboration efforts around online participation, as described below.

Stakeholder Identification

During the SWAP revision process, we developed a list of almost 400 stakeholders that included representatives from all levels of government, as well as non-governmental organizations, Native American tribes, the private sector, interest groups, and private citizens (Table 17). This list included all those who participated in the development of the 2006 SWAP, agency and NGO scientists and land managers identified by CPW staff as important collaborators, members of the Colorado Sportsmen's Roundtable, and many others. On May 9, 2014, a press release was published notifying the public of the SWAP revision process, and inviting participation. All who responded to this notice with a request to be added to the stakeholder list were included. Table 17 presents a tally of the number of stakeholder representatives by organization type. A full list of stakeholder agencies and organizations is included in Appendix H.

Table 17. Summary of stakeholders by organization type.

Partner/Stakeholder Category	Number of Representatives
Federal Agencies	79
State Agencies (not including CPW)	13
Local Governments	27
Native American Tribes	2
Non-governmental Organizations	135
Universities	48
Private Consulting Firms	28
Private Citizens	61
Industry	1

Stakeholder Comment Opportunities

To support broad public participation, CPW created a dedicated webpage on the Colorado Parks and Wildlife homepage²⁵ as well as a dedicated email address for direct communication with stakeholders. The SWAP webpage hosted background information on the SWAP, and instructions for stakeholder involvement in the revision process. All review drafts of SWAP

²⁵<http://cpw.state.co.us/aboutus/Pages/StateWildlifeActionPlan.aspx>

components were posted for public access, and emailed directly to all stakeholders on the SWAP distribution list.

On June 9, 2014, an email was sent to all stakeholders inviting them to join a SWAP revision kick-off webinar. The purpose of the webinar was to introduce the revision process, to alert stakeholders to the scheduled comment periods, and to explain the procedures for submitting comments. The webinar was recorded and posted to the SWAP webpage for stakeholders who were unable to attend the original webinar.

Stakeholders had four opportunities to provide comments on draft components of the SWAP, and one opportunity to provide final comments on the draft SWAP in its entirety, according to the schedule presented in Table 18. The emails inviting stakeholder input for each comment period are included in Appendix I. After each review period, stakeholder comments were compiled and summarized, along with CPW responses to each comment. These summaries were then posted on the SWAP webpage to allow stakeholders to track the development of each SWAP chapter.

Colorado's 2015 State Wildlife Action Plan

Table 18. Schedule of SWAP revision milestones and stakeholder comment opportunities.

Colorado's SWAP Revision Process	2014										2015								
	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	
Element 1: SGCN																			
CPW review	■	■																	
Draft chapter prep		■	■	■															
Stakeholders comment				■	■														
Element 2: Habitats																			
CPW review			■	■															
Draft chapter prep				■	■	■													
Stakeholders comment						■	■												
Elements 3 and 4: Threats and Conservation Actions																			
CPW review					■	■	■	■											
Draft chapter prep								■	■	■	■								
Stakeholders comment										■	■								
Element 5: Monitoring & Measures of Success																			
CPW review											■	■							
Draft chapter prep												■	■						
Stakeholders comment													■	■					
Draft SWAP Prep																			
DRAFT SWAP prep		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■					
CPW LEADERSHIP REVIEW													■	■					
FINAL DRAFT prep													■	■	■				
CPW review															■	■			
Stakeholders comment															■	■			
Finalization Phase																			
FINAL SWAP prep																■	■		
CPW Leadership Approval																		■	
Delivery to USFWS																		■	