Maine's Wildlife Action Plan

MDIFW'S Mission

Conserve, protect and enhance fish and wildlife resources

Funding for Nongame Species

- Game species
  - Pittman-Robertson (wild birds and mammals)
  - Dingle-Johnson (sport fish)
- Nongame
  - No stable source

State Wildlife Grants (SWG)

- 2001: Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program
- Restore/enhance at risk wildlife populations and habitats
- Interior Appropriations / Land and Water Conservation Fund
- Funding based on land area and population

Match Sources for SWG

Non-federal match required
(typically 35-25%)

The SWG Program

IS

- Nation's core program to prevent listing
- Supported by > 3,000 groups
  - Strong bipartisan support
- Non-regulatory
- Cooperative effort with partners

IS NOT

- Land use plan
- Land acquisition plan
- New T/E species plan

In order to qualify for State Wildlife Grants, each state must have a Wildlife Action Plan

Scope of Wildlife Action Plans

- Identify and focus on "species in greatest need of conservation" (SGCN)
- Keep common species common
- Supplement, not replace existing programs/projects
- Build/strengthen partnerships

A look back … 2005
Maine's Wildlife Action Plan

- Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy
- Landscape conservation focus
- Single-species planning for those "at risk"

SWG Accomplishments 2005–Present

1. Surveys and inventories
2. Research
3. Population management
4. Habitat conservation
5. Education and outreach

In order to qualify for State Wildlife Grants, each state must have a Wildlife Action Plan

Must be updated every ten years

Revising Maine's Wildlife Action Plan

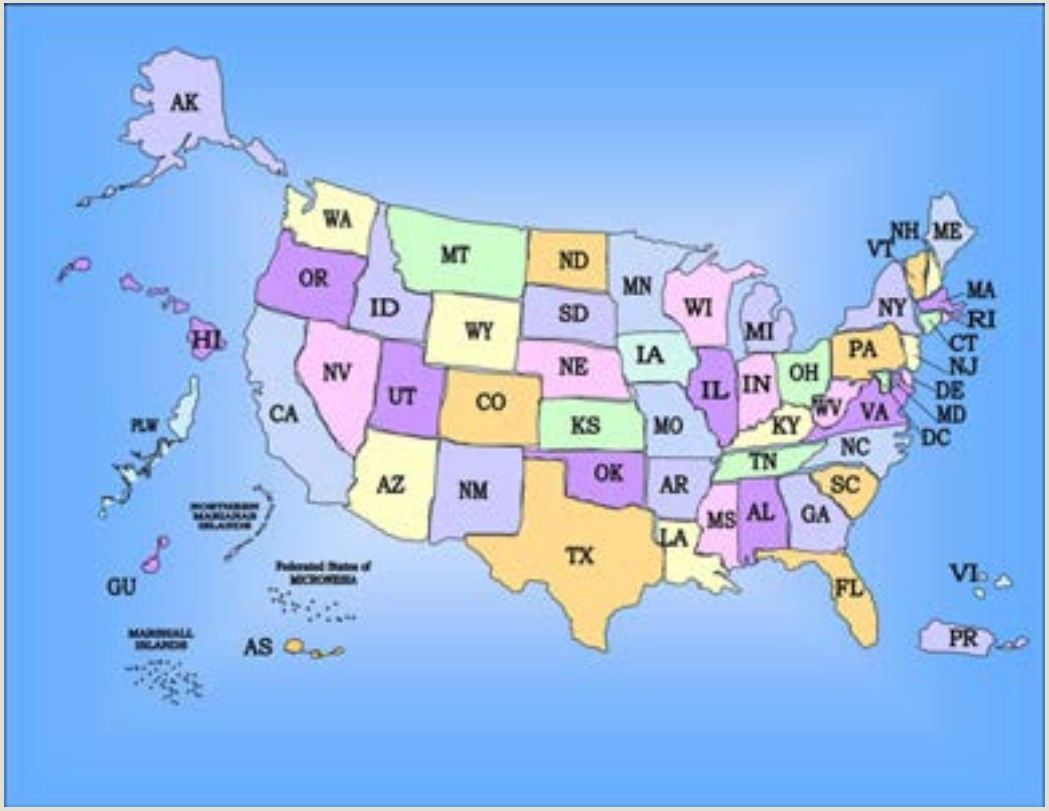
- October 1, 2015 deadline
- Must be approved by USFWS
- New requirements / expectations

A look forward … 2015
National Guidance

- Much more prioritization!!
- Much more collaboration!!
- Strive for succinct plans!
- Performance monitoring standards
- Adaptive management
- Address climate change issues

Why Species Prioritization?
A National Perspective

- 56 states and territories
- 2005: >12,000 SGCN
- 2014: $47.9M
  - $4,000/species



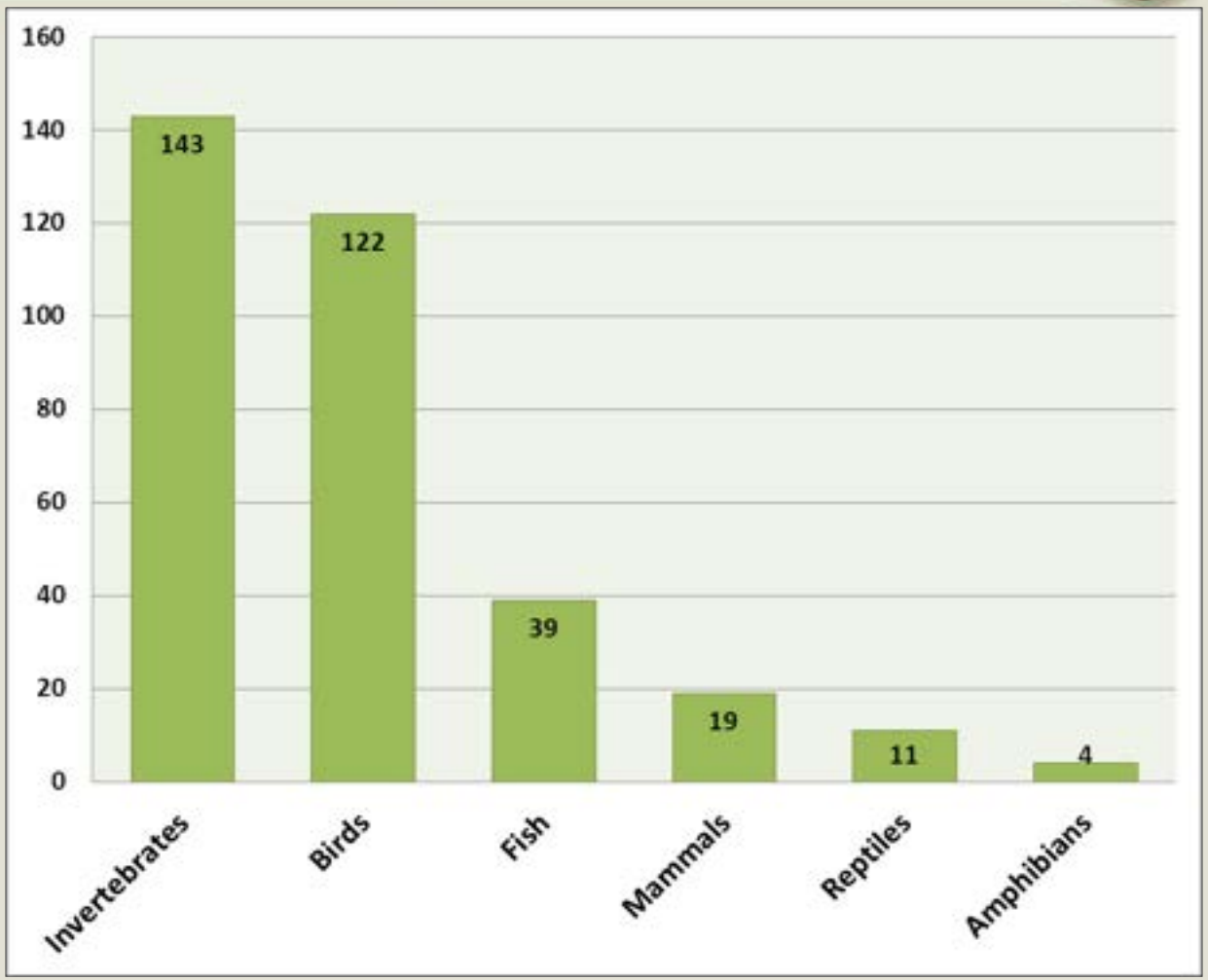
Why Species Prioritization?
Maine's Perspective

Where are we in our revision?

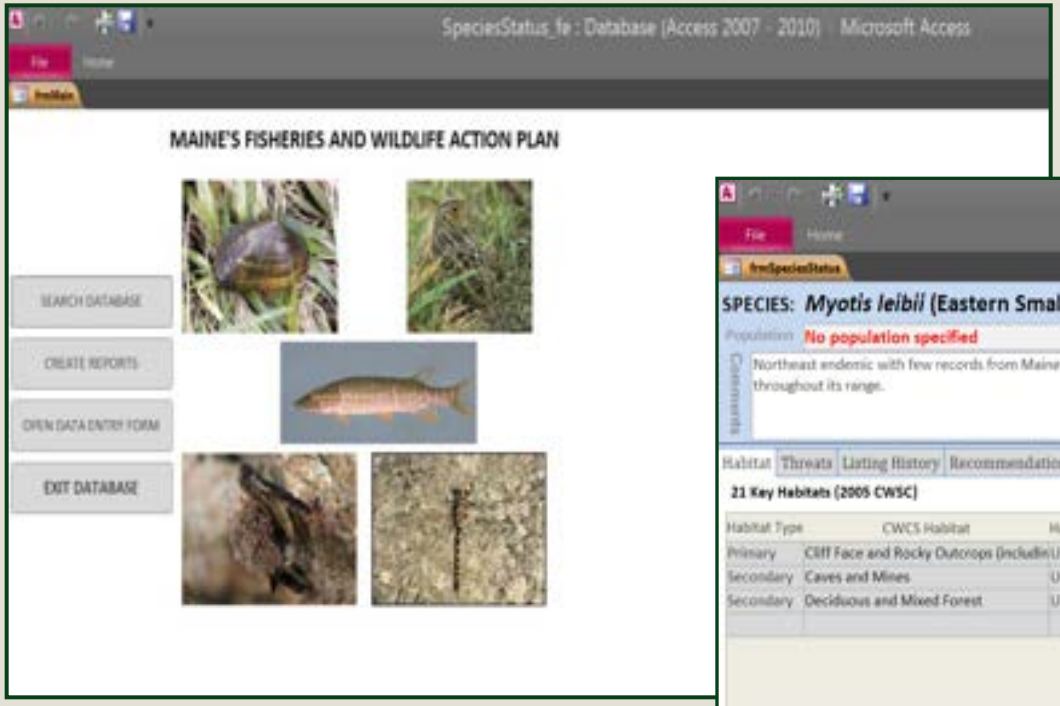
1. SGCN abundance & distribution
2. Location & condition of habitats
3. Management issues / stressors
4. Conservation actions
5. Monitoring & performance standards
6. Procedures to review the plan
7. Coordination with partners
8. Public participation

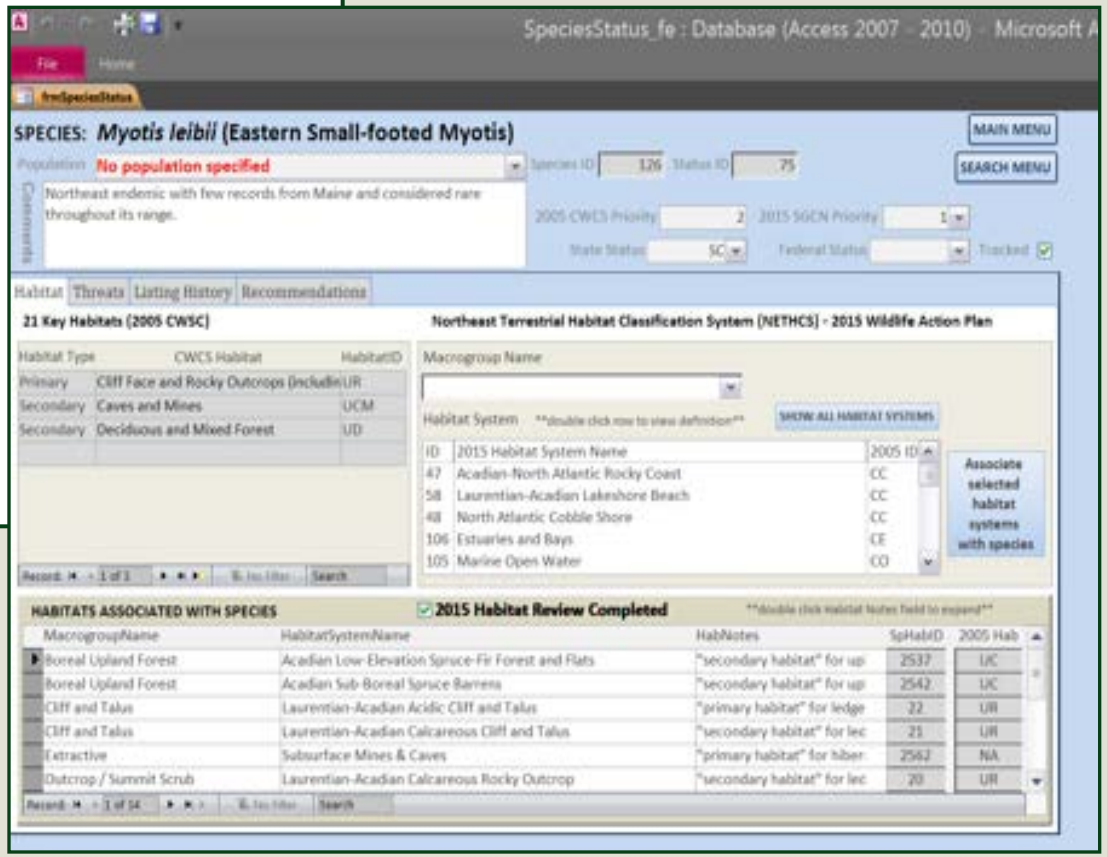
Total Maine Draft SGCN (2015) (Element 1)

2015: 338 spp.
Priority 1: 54 spp.
Priority 2: 116 spp.
Priority 3: 168 spp.

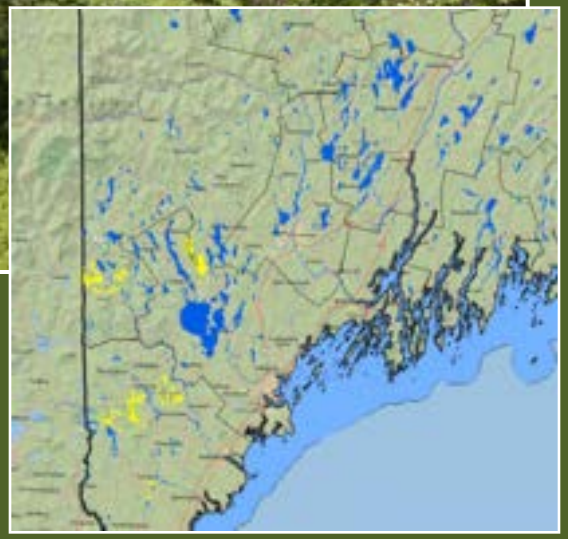


Linking SGCN to Habitats (Element 2)





Northeastern Interior Pine Barrens



9,000 acres, or 1/20th of 1% of the state…

42 SGCN!

Edward's hairstreak

Andy Cutko, Maine Natural Areas Program

Shrublands and Grasslands – 98 SGCN

Upland sandpiper

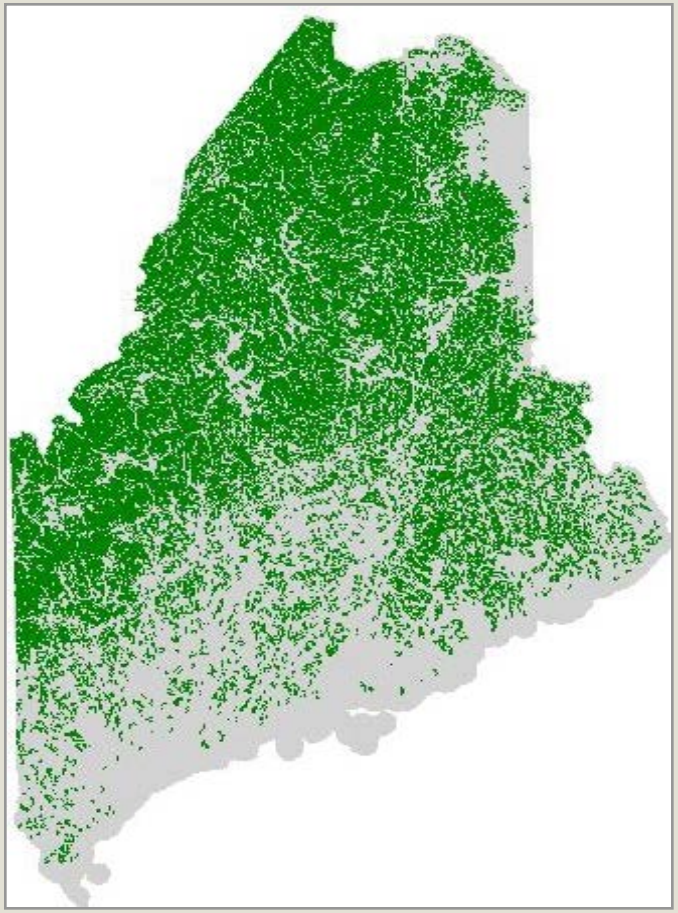
Northern black racer

30,000 acres, or <0.15% of the state

Andy Cutko, Maine Natural Areas Program

2015 Theme: Greater Public Involvement (Elements 7 & 8)

- Not just MDIFW's plan
  - 70 partner organizations



Public Participation

- Conservation Partner Meetings (~5)
- Steering Committee
- Landowner Ad-Hoc

- Public Outreach Committee
  - Website
  - Info Graphics
  - Public Comment Period

Next Steps

- Identify ‘threats’ to SGCN and habitats
- Prioritize threats based on severity and reversibility
- Identify Conservation Actions

Questions?