

- Assist other field offices in pursuing candidate elevation for their species of concern

Communications

Goal: To take advantage of communication opportunities to maximize conservation benefits in areas that present the greatest opportunity to accomplish the greatest amount of conservation for the greatest number of federal trust resources

High priority activities

Media relations:

- Respond to media inquiries

Government official relations:

- Respond to Congressional inquiries
- Meet with Congressional field offices within the AFO work area at least once per year

Other

- Prepare and help implement outreach packages for federal register actions
- Monitor listing, recovery, candidate conservation, Partners for Fish and Wildlife, and federal project review activities to identify potential controversy and develop and implement outreach plans in those instances.
- Coordinate with other AFO programs to develop specific, measurable 5-year conservation targets, and develop IPPs that include steps toward achieving them

Other activities based on habitat priority ranking

Tier 1 habitats

Media relations

- Seek opportunities to gain media coverage of conservation activities and issues in these habitats through the creation and distribution of press releases, public service announcements, news tips, and media advisories, and other media products as well as media field visits

Government official relations

- Work to inform elected officials of the importance of these habitats
- Keep elected officials informed of conservation issues and developments facing these habitats

Environmental education/interpretation

- Seek opportunities to support educator training in support of conserving these habitats
- Seek opportunities to develop and distribute informational materials concerning these habitats and the species found there
- Seek opportunities to support citizen monitoring of these habitats
- As time allows, participate in student field days, public presentations, classrooms visits, etc. in support of these habitats

Partnership development

- Establish partnerships with NGO's and other federal, state, and local agencies working towards the conservation of these habitats and the species that depend on them

Tier 2 habitats

Media relations

- Seek opportunities to gain media coverage of conservation activities and issues in these habitats through the creation and distribution of press releases, public service announcements, news tips, and media advisories, and other media products as well as media field visits

Government official relations

- Work to inform elected officials of the importance of these habitats
- Keep elected officials informed of conservation issues and developments facing these habitats

Environmental education/interpretation

- As time allows, seek opportunities to support educator training in support of conserving these habitats
- As time allows, seek opportunities to develop and distribute informational materials concerning these habitats and the species found there
- As time allows, seek opportunities to support citizen monitoring of these habitats

Partnership development

- As time allows, work to establish partnerships with NGO's and other federal, state, and local agencies working towards the conservation of these habitats and the species that depend on them

Tier 3 habitats

Media relations

- Seek opportunities to gain media coverage of conservation activities and issues in these habitats through the creation and distribution of press releases, public service announcements, news tips, and media advisories, and other media products as well as media field visits

Government official relations

- As time allows, work to inform elected officials of the importance of these habitats
- As time allows, keep elected officials informed of conservation issues and developments facing these habitats

Tier 4 habitats

Media relations

- Take advantage of opportunities to gain media coverage of conservation activities and issues in these habitats through the creation and distribution of press releases, public service announcements, news tips, and media advisories, and other media products as well as media field visits.

Limiting factors

- An understanding of Congressional organizations, including committee make-up, responsibilities, as well as typical Congressional office staff organization; and Congressional process, including introducing legislation and moving it through committee
- Internet capabilities to establish and support our own web site and respond quickly via the web to information needs
- An ongoing assessment of threats, including trends and cumulative impacts, and the most effective means of tracking, analyzing and addressing them

Partners for Fish and Wildlife

Note: The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program has developed a draft strategic plan addressing their program across the Southeast, with specific priorities and actions for each state -- Strategic Habitat Conservation and the Power of Partnerships: Strategic Plan for the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, 2007-2011, Southeast Region, December 2006. This AFO Strategic Plan defers to the existing Partners for Fish and Wildlife strategic plan, adding only the high-priority activities:

- Coordinate private lands activities with recovery, federal project review, and communications programs

- Coordinate private lands activities with external partners including the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, NGOs, N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, appropriate Natural Heritage Programs, and the N.C. Plant Conservation Program
 - Coordinate with other AFO programs to develop specific, measurable 5-year conservation targets, and develop individual work plans that include steps toward achieving them
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GIS/IT Support

High-priority activities

- Make sure all office computers have standardized, up-to-date, IT and GIS software as new versions come available
- Maintain a standard set of up-to-date GIS data for N.C. and acquire other GIS data as requested by biologists
- Maintain and upgrade all IT hardware and peripherals as needed
- Ensure server backups are completed as scheduled and make certain staff is aware of how to back up data
- Provide tech support and advice on the use and acquisition of GIS and IT equipment and software
- Coordinate with other AFO programs to develop specific, measurable 5-year conservation targets, and develop IPPs that include steps toward achieving them

Other activities based on habitat priority ranking

- Complete GIS projects submitted by biological staff (project priority determined during regularly scheduled GIS meetings)
- Provide assistance with field data collection for projects as needed

