

A Plan for Georgia's Wildlife

Georgia's State Wildlife Action Plan guides conservation of native animals, plants and habitats before these species and places become rarer and more costly to conserve. This **non-regulatory** plan emphasizes **collaborative conservation**. Georgia created its first Wildlife Action Plan in 2005. The latest major revision is being finished this year.

Species in Need

Using experts' input and the latest data on rarity, trends and threats, the 2025 plan identifies over 1,000 Species of Greatest Conservation Need, called SGCN.

61

BIRDS

30

MAMMALS

266

AQUATICS

482

PLANTS

52

REPTILES &
AMPHIBIANS

143

TERRESTRIAL
INVERTEBRATES

Development

Habitat
Loss

More Data
Needed

Highest
Conservation
Concern

Pollution

**TOP
THREATS**

Moderate
Conservation
Concern

**SGCN
PRIORITIES**

High
Conservation
Concern

Taking Action

More than 100 organizations and an advisory committee developed priority actions aimed at conserving SGCN and habitats over the next 10 years. Those efforts include:

IMPROVING MANAGEMENT PROTECTING HABITAT MONITOR RESULTS

HELPING LANDOWNERS

RESTORING SPECIES

ESA PROGRESS

Since Georgia's first Wildlife Action Plan in 2005, the Endangered Species Act regulatory burden in our state has been decreased through surveys and monitoring that reveal which species are stable and by work with partners to recover listed species and their habitats.

4

**SPECIES
DELISTED**

5

**SPECIES
DOWNLISTED**

72

**AT RISK
SPECIES NOT
LISTED**

ENGAGED PARTNERSHIPS

The Wildlife Action Plan has led to many unique partnerships that are combining resources to effectively meet conservation challenges. Some examples:



Interagency Burn Team

Private, state and federal partners join to pursue prescribed fire goals for wildlife habitat, while reducing wildfire risks statewide. Acres burned each year have surged from less than 70,000 in the early 2000s to over 150,000 in 2024.

Association of Georgia Land Trusts

This private lands forum shares information and contributes to the protection of SGCN habitat. Since Georgia's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan, land trusts have helped protect more than 700,000 acres via voluntary conservation easements.



Georgia Plant Conservation Alliance

The network of agencies, organizations and academia focuses expertise and efforts to conserve plants in flora-rich state. Almost 500 of Georgia's 3,400-plus plant species are SGCN. The alliance has prevented the extinction of several of them.

Georgia Gopher Tortoise Conservation Initiative

Working since 2015 to conserve Georgia's state reptile and keep it off the ESA list, state, federal and private partners teamed with willing landowners to protect 64 viable gopher tortoise populations, decreasing risks to the species and providing habitat for other SGCN. In 2022, USFWS determined the tortoise's eastern populations, including in Georgia, did not warrant federal listing.

