

Future State Fish & Wildlife Agency

Here are some elements to consider for envisioning your future state fish and wildlife agency.

Please **customize** to best fit your state. In our state we would like to see:

Strong conservation program for all wildlife:

- Focus on preventing wildlife from becoming endangered
- State Wildlife Action Plan recognized as leading blueprint for wildlife planning and implementation.
- State Wildlife Action Plan priorities integrated into other state/local agency and private plans (e.g. transportation, forest, water, parks, land trusts).
- Recover threatened and endangered species.
- Secure and enhance wildlife habitat as identified in State Wildlife Action Plans (via acquisition, easements, restoration).
- Legislative authority to manage all species including invertebrates like butterflies, native plants and endangered species.
- Climate change integrated into agency planning and implementation.
- Wildlife management areas dedicated to conserving all wildlife.
- Citizen science programs established or expanded (e.g. Master Naturalist).
- Urban wildlife programs established in largest cities (e.g. pollinator habitat, assistance to urban planners on connectivity, natural solutions for climate resilience).

A strong recreation program for all citizens:

- Recruit, retain, and reactivate programs for broad range of outdoor enthusiasts from birders to gardeners, to hikers and paddlers, to hunters and anglers, and nature photographers.
- Develop and enhance wildlife viewing sites providing viewing blinds and observation platforms, field guides, self-guided tours, and on-site guides and equipment.
- Provide outdoor skills trainings (how to and where to clinics like [Discover WILD New Hampshire Day](#)) for birding, photography, camping, hunting, fishing, gardening for wildlife.
- Increase access for wildlife viewing and other outdoor recreation through trails, easements, facility development, and land protection.
- Promote ecologically sensitive economic development with strong partnerships on nature-based tourism like birding trails (e.g. John James Audubon Birding Trail in Kentucky).
- Support wildlife festivals, wildlife viewing events, and nature photography contests.
- Partner with recreation based organizations and agencies to provide more wildlife related recreation.

A strong education program for all citizens:

- Connecting children and adults alike to nature and the outdoors experience through formal and informal education programs across urban, suburban, rural areas.

- Expand Project Wild, Project Wet and Project Learning Tree programs to reach more schools.
- Develop additional teacher materials and training to help link environmental literacy to existing curriculum standards from pre-k through high school.
- Recommend curriculum improvements to meet the emerging needs of undergraduate and graduate natural resource professionals.
- Provide outdoor classroom opportunities for urban, suburban and rural youth.
- Provide summer and other camps information on local native wildlife.
- Partner with state and local parks, nature centers, museums, zoos, aquariums and botanical gardens to highlight native wildlife.

Modernize the agency to meet today's demands and culture:

- Elevate wildlife diversity efforts and programs in the agency structure to be part of leadership.
- Ensure representation of the full range of nature-based activities and a growing, changing constituency on governance bodies.
- Assure increased attention to diversity, inclusion and equity for the entire public constituency for wildlife.
- Be as transparent and accountable as the agency serves more diverse stakeholders.
- Greater and more reliable funding for expanded capacity and expertise.
- Public financing to ensure all citizens are contributing to wildlife conservation.