

VI. Procedures for CWCS Review and Revision

The Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy outlined in the preceding sections reflects an assessment of wildlife conservation needs and recommended programs to address those needs based on data available in 2003-2005. This picture of the conservation needs of Georgia's species and habitats may change based on the result of additional surveys, results of monitoring efforts associated with management efforts, or new trends in land uses. In addition, the development of new analytical techniques, funding programs, or legislative mandates may result in a need to reassess some of the conservation priorities described in this document. The essence of adaptive management is the ability to change priorities and approaches in response to new information and/or changing conditions.

The intent of the Wildlife Resources Division is to begin the process of reviewing the current wildlife conservation strategy within the next five years, and to adopt revisions to the strategy as deemed necessary based on this review. In order to do this, we propose to reconvene the technical teams and Steering Committee to assess and address changing conservation needs for species and habitats in Georgia. The procedure for this review is outlined below:

- 1) Compile updated information on the current status of high priority plants and animals, as well as their associated habitats
- 2) Revise lists of high priority species based on updated information on status, condition, and distribution
- 3) Review conservation actions proposed and implemented during the preceding five years and assess the effectiveness of these actions
- 4) Reassess problems affecting high priority species and habitats as well as research and survey needs
- 5) Reevaluate education and outreach needs
- 6) Develop revised strategies for high priority species and habitats based on reassessments of conservation needs and opportunities
- 7) Compile and summarize proposed strategies and submit these to the Steering Committee for review and approval
- 8) Conduct stakeholder meetings as directed by Steering Committee
- 9) Solicit public input via the WRD website and public meetings
- 10) Complete revision of conservation strategy and begin implementation

This review process will begin five years following the completion of this version of the strategy (i.e., October 2010), and the various assessments will be completed within one year. The revision of the strategy will be completed within two years of the start of this assessment (October 2012). In addition, informal annual assessments will be undertaken to assess changes in funding levels, laws and regulations, successes and failures in species recovery efforts, and new research findings in order to determine what changes, if any, are warranted in implementation of this wildlife conservation strategy.