

STRATEGY REVIEW AND REVISION (*ELEMENT 6*)

The IDFG viewed the submission to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on October 1, 2005 as the beginning rather than the end of the development of the Idaho CWCS. This was the first time we attempted to bring all the information on at-risk species together and organize it in a useful format. Putting the Strategy together was a complex undertaking, and like all first-time endeavors it could undoubtedly be improved. We will continually update and improve the Strategy, so it is truly a living and useful document.

Revising the CWCS

The CWCS is available on the IDFG Web site. The Web site has a comment form to gather information, questions, and suggestions from users of the CWCS. The IDFG Web site also has a subscription service that will automatically notify subscribers every time a change is made to the CWCS. Users of the CWCS will be able to make suggestions to improve the CWCS as well as receive responses to questions. They will receive updates on changes in the CWCS.

The first year the CWCS is in use, the IDFG will solicit input from cooperating agencies, entities, and others who have used the Strategy. This review will take place at both the field level and the management level. The purpose of this review is to determine how the Strategy is being used, if it has been useful, and to identify inaccuracies, omissions, or other problems. Problems that significantly limit the use or effectiveness of the document will be addressed at the end of the first year.

Every five years, an in-depth review of the CWCS will be undertaken with the assistance of our cooperators. A revision team will be established to review and revise the CWCS. The team will be composed of representatives of agencies and entities that have been involved in using or implementing the strategy.

This review will include an assessment of the results and adequacy of monitoring programs for species and habitats, inventory and review of conservation plans and/or actions implemented during the previous five years, analysis of information collected in inventory, monitoring, and research efforts, and evaluate the questions, suggestions and comments received from users of the CWCS. The purpose of the review will be to: (1) review the conservation status of species of greatest conservation need and revise the list, (2) determine if the issues and actions for habitats and species need to be modified to reflect current conditions or new findings, and (3) revise or modify the organization, structure, or methodology of the CWCS based on suggestions from users and the revision team.

Updating CWCS Component Data

Species, habitats and conservation actions will be monitored (see Monitoring and Adaptive Management section). Monitoring information will be stored in databases and used in the review and revision process. The Idaho Fish and Wildlife Information

System (IFWIS) at the IDFG is a comprehensive information system for standardizing data on fish and wildlife in Idaho. IFWIS is a framework built to capture data at or near its origin and store it in standardized databases and applications which are geo-referenced to a common coordinate system. IFWIS is readily accessible via the Web, geographic information systems (GIS) and commonly used desktop software programs.

The IDFG has developed a nongame database as part of the IFWIS in conjunction with the development of the CWCS. In addition, IDFG maintains other databases for game species. These databases are populated with information gathered by IDFG personnel, cooperating agencies, educational institutions, citizen scientists and the general public. They will be used to update the species conservation status databases and element occurrence records of the Idaho Conservation Data Center's Biotics database.

The conservation status of species will be evaluated annually as new information becomes available on population size, range extent, area of occupancy, trend, threats, vulnerability, environmental specificity, and other considerations. The results will be used to update the species of greatest conservation need conservation status database.

Our long-term goal for disseminating the CWCS is to develop a Web-based interactive mapping application similar to the Idaho Hunt Planner on the IDFG Web site. This dynamic format will allow the user to relate to the CWCS in the direction that interests them, be it in the standard species-by-species summaries or a specific location-based query to identify what species are located in a user's area of interest. While the information behind the Web site will be the same information contained in the CWCS, the structure of the Web site will configure to the visitor's needs providing a limitless combination of maps, reports and summaries on demand. This system is database driven, so as databases are updated the Web site is automatically updated as well. The structure of this site will also enable the CWCS to reach beyond the boundaries of the report. Data from the database will be able to be incorporated into existing and future Web applications, reports and analyses.