

Texas Conservation Action Plan 2011: Conservation Action Types and Definitions

Note: See also Measuring Progress section in the Overview Handbook. Table is formatted 8-1/2" x 11", landscape orientation

Conservation Action	Definition	Examples
Direct management of natural resources	Stewardship of terrestrial and aquatic species, habitats and/or natural processes to maintain populations or restore ecological functions.	Conduct controlled burns Manage invasive species Remove dams and other barriers
Species restoration	Reintroduction, relocation or stocking of native animals or plants or translocation of animals to an area where they are not currently found.	Translocate/breed in captivity black-footed ferrets to establish new populations in suitable habitat Restore mussel assemblages to historically occupied stream stretches
Creation of new habitat	The creation or establishment of <i>new</i> habitats, including necessary natural processes, habitat structures, and biotic components, to mitigate loss of ecological functions elsewhere.	Establish prairie communities where crop land currently exists The creation of new breeding habitat for gopher frog reintroduction and due to a climate adaptation strategy and recovery plan
Acquisition / Easement / Lease	Protection of land or water real property or rights through fee title acquisition, permanent easement, lease, contract, or a related means.	Purchase land in a corridor connecting a Wildlife Management Area and a National Wildlife Refuge A perpetual easement restricting land conversion and development is placed on a remnant tall grass prairie A 20-year term contract is placed on a privately-owned Pennsylvania wet meadow for protection and recovery of bog turtles
Conservation area designation	Designation of a site or landscape as having unique and important value to wildlife with or without legal protections.	Designate an area as an Important Bird Area Designate an area as an Important Reptile/Amphibian Area Add an area to a State Natural Area registry

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Environmental review	Review of agency and private sector policies, projects and plans (primarily related to development and potential adverse impacts to natural resources) to help ensure potential impacts to fish and wildlife are avoided, minimized and/or compensated/mitigated.	<p>Review of proposed new landfill siting alternatives to recommend which alternative(s) will least impact natural resources immediately (direct) and over time (indirect, cumulative); and where mitigation activities and dollars would be best spent to compensate for unavoidable resource impacts.</p> <p>Review new highway route alternatives and make recommendations for resource protection from planning through implementation.</p> <p>Review of new road salt application policy to ensure timing, periodicity, and intensity avoid or limit potential impacts to natural resources.</p>
Management planning	Development of management plans for species, habitats and natural processes.	<p>Develop a management plan for migration corridors</p> <p>Develop a management plan for longleaf pine habitat</p> <p>Develop a management plan for endangered mussels</p>
Land use planning	Leading or participating in land use planning for rural, urban, or agricultural lands.	<p>Develop county-wide zoning plans</p> <p>Participate in workgroup regarding low impact development siting</p> <p>Develop city plan for implementing best management practices for stormwater management</p>

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<p>Training & technical assistance</p>	<p><u>Training</u> is skills development for professionals, key stakeholders, or others to facilitate needed management activities and techniques.” It does not include training that is minor or routine component of implementing another action. It usually includes certification or apprenticeship of some sort.</p> <p>It is <i>not the same as information delivery (education or outreach)</i>, although training could lead to an education or outreach conservation action for threat reduction.</p> <p><u>Technical Assistance</u> is tangible, practical support (skills, knowledge, recommendations) delivered by experts to professionals or key stakeholders for the purpose of helping them implement specific conservation actions.</p>	<p>Provide training for agency staff in reptile and amphibian assessment techniques</p> <p>Provide classroom training in elements of prescribed fire qualifications (e.g. planning, tool familiarity, weather) to resource professionals who will eventually take “next steps” to become site-based Fire Operators and Leaders (e.g. Crew Leaders, Burn Bosses)</p> <p>Provide qualified prescribed fire operators with “apprenticeship” in field skills (e.g. leading crews, ignition, fire management, safety and emergency response) leading toward Fire Leader (Burn Boss) certification or qualification</p> <p>Provide technical assistance in successful techniques to assess (field surveys, boundary document reading, conservation value rapid assessment), write successful terms and conditions, and monitor (timeframes, techniques, etc.) a conservation easement</p> <p>Provide technical assistance in the form of one-on-one engineering consultation for dam removal</p>
<p>Data Collection / Analysis / Management</p>	<p>Collecting data about species and habitats and the threats to them to fill information needs; includes compilation, management, synthesis, analysis, and reporting of spatial and nonspatial data.</p>	<p>Gather data on the Shenandoah salamander to define current distribution, survey methodologies and understand habitat use, and threats</p> <p>Conduct surveys & genetic assessments of three North American minnow SGCNs to determine baseline population data to assist in the establishment of conservation units</p>

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Education	Actions or efforts to increase knowledge or understanding and encourage practices in support of SGCN conservation through instruction or distribution of materials or to provide general information in response to inquiries from the public or partners about SGCN conservation programs, actions, or activities. Includes both formal (classroom) and non-formal education efforts.	<p>Implement a timber rattlesnake educational program that includes developing educational materials, conducting workshops on conservation efforts, and conducting habitat management demonstration tours to NGO's interested in implementing timber rattlesnake conservation projects</p> <p>Conduct outreach to landowners to implement land management practices to benefit species</p> <p>Providing decision makers with data about pollution impacts on at-risk aquatic species to help them set water quality standards for key water bodies</p>
* Incentives <i>(see note at end of table)</i>	Development and delivery of economic incentives to private landowners to influence responsible stewardship of land/water and specific species	<p>Tax breaks</p> <p>Stewardship payments to landowners (doing the right thing, continue to do the right thing)</p> <p>Management infrastructure & practices incentives (\$ to build a fence, infrastructure, delay hayfield)</p> <p>Restoration incentives (\$ to restore wetland)</p> <p>Regulatory streamlining</p> <p>Technical assistance</p>
* Stakeholder Involvement <i>(see note at end of table)</i>	Engaging state and federal agencies, tribal entities, the NGO community and other partners to achieve shared objectives and broader coordination across overlapping areas.	<p>Establish decision making processes with state agencies</p> <p>Outreach with tribal governments</p> <p>Convene an advisory committee to assist with implementation of a State Wildlife Action Plan</p>

* "Stakeholder involvement" and "Incentive Programs" are conservation actions which were considered in the original list of Actions; however, these actions are most often components of other actions – we do not do these as stand-alone actions, but rather to help implement other conservation actions. That said, they are listed and defined here because they are frequently used tools.

Content for this table was excerpted from AFWA TWW (2011)