



Featured Species for Habitat Management

The Wildlife Division's **Featured Species** are animals that are highly valued, are limited by habitat availability, and have been selected to focus the Division's habitat management efforts. Featured species may include mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, or insects.

The current list of 41 Featured Species was selected by Wildlife Division with input from other DNR Divisions and many stakeholders. The list of featured species places an emphasis on game animals, at-risk species, and species whose habitat management is beneficial to many other species.

Wildlife habitat is the home or environment where an animal or a population of animals lives. It is the total conditions in an animal's surroundings that have a direct bearing on its growth, reproduction, and survival. An animal's habitat is just one of a number of different factors that affect its survival; however the degradation or loss of habitat is the primary cause of wildlife declines worldwide.

The intent of Featured Species habitat management is to address the primary limiting habitat need for the species and provide sufficient abundance of each species to meet specific population goals such as providing hunting opportunities or meeting delisting criteria. Featured Species are not the only wildlife species that the Wildlife Division values, but they are a priority for the Division and resources will be directed towards management of their habitats. Other species, with vegetation cover requirements similar to the Featured Species, will also benefit from these habitat management activities.

Featured Species Habitat Management Guidance documents provide wildlife managers and stakeholders with information on the rationale for selection as a featured species, habitat management needs and objectives, priority landscapes for management, and criteria for evaluating management success. There is one guidance document specific to each featured species. These Guidance documents summarize the habitat management priorities of the Wildlife Division. To remain current, the need for an update to the Guidance documents will be assessed every three years.

The **Priority Geographic Areas** in the Guidance documents are often derived from one or more previous planning efforts. The identification of these areas does not indicate that other areas are unimportant, rather they identify where the Division has previously expressed a desire to focus its limited resources.

For more information about Featured Species, please see the resources on the DNR website at www.michigan.gov/dnr. For questions or comments regarding the Featured Species Program, please contact:

Mike Donovan at DonovanM@michigan.gov or 517-284-6178
Kerry Fitzpatrick at FitzpatrickK@michigan.gov or 517-284-4726.