

Appendix 6.6

Interview Guide 1: Key Existing Partners

Interviewee Name:

Organization:

Title/role:

Date:

Key Takeaways

- Priority interests/concerns
- Intersect with CT DEEP Objectives
- Best way to connect
- Misc.

Quotes

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Introduction:

- Introduce myself
- I am a consultant working with the Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) in their early efforts to engage key partners in the State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) revision that is to be completed in 2025.
- You are being contacted as a key partner that has worked with CT DEEP on development and implementation of the SWAP.
- CT DEEP is interested in understanding your perspectives on the SWAP generally, how it can be most impactful, your priorities, how CT DEEP can engage you more, and any suggestions you might have to enhance the revision process.
- We will be using information gathered through these interviews to help design a broader survey of key partners and potential partners as well as an engagement and outreach strategy related to the SWAP revision process and implementation.
- I will be asking 15 open-ended questions. The interview will take about ½ hour, depending on your responses.
- Your responses will be confidential (i.e., I will not associate your responses with your name).
- Do you have any questions before we begin?

QUESTIONS

Understanding the interviewee and affiliation

My first few questions are to help me understand a little more about you/your organization [insert organization name], the work you do, your organization's interests, and who you serve. Could you give me some more insight about what [insert referent] does specifically and who you serve?

1. Would you please tell me a bit about your [insert referent] and what you do?
2. What do you believe is of greatest interest to your members related to the purpose of your organization?
3. Who are some of the key organizations with whom you partner?

SWAP value/interest

4. What do you think is the greatest value of Connecticut's SWAP? Please describe.
5. Can you give an example of how Connecticut's SWAP has been used to direct monitoring, research, and conservation action within your organization? Examples from outside your organization?
6. What do you believe should be the highest priorities of the SWAP in the revised version?
 - a. Probe as needed-species (taxa?, incl. plants, invertebrates), systems, plants, threats, habitats, environmental change, conservation/management actions, research, monitoring, education.
7. Are there changes to the existing SWAP that you would recommend?
 - a. Probe as needed-mention the representative and critical ecosystems/habitats/species vs traditional approach, SWAP content/structure suggestions.

SWAP involvement

8. Have you or your organization been involved with Connecticut's SWAP in the past/currently?
 - a. Probe as needed: Development of original SWAP, revision in 2015, recipient of SWG money, etc.
9. Can you tell me about your/your organization's past role in Connecticut's SWAP development?
10. Can you tell me about your/your organization's past role in Connecticut's SWAP implementation?
 - a. Has your organization taken action in the last 10 years to enhance the habitat of a wildlife species or in other ways enhance the conservation of a wildlife species? Why or why not (barriers)
11. How would you/your organization like to be engaged in the revision process? At what level?
 - a. Probe as needed-attending in person events, review products, virtual meetings/webinars, email updates. What format would be best for you to engage with? A website? A full PDF? A 2 pager?
12. How would you/your organization like to be engaged in implementation of the SWAP?
 - a. Probe as needed-looking for innovative suggestions beyond just recipient of funding.
13. Are there individuals or organizations that have not been engaged in the SWAP and you would like them to be? If so, who/which ones?
14. Do you have any ideas for how to improve engagement of key partners or potential partners?
15. Considering the upcoming CT Conservation Action Tracker website, would you be willing to report your conservation actions and at what frequency would you be willing to report them?

Wrapping Up

16. Do you have any additional feedback to help CT DEEP's efforts to enhance Connecticut's SWAP or partner engagement in the revision and implementation?
17. Are there other organizations or individuals you think CT DEEP should reach out to?