

Appendix 6.8

Partner Survey 1

Start of Block: Default Question Block

Q1 Connecticut's State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) ([Connecticut SWAP](#)) is a resource that charts the vision for collaborative conservation in the state. Every ten years, Connecticut's SWAP is revised to reflect the goals for species of greatest conservation need in Connecticut. Connecticut's last SWAP revision was in 2015, so the next revision is due to be completed by July 2025. The SWAP is intended to be a plan for all residents of the state, with conservation actions not just for Connecticut's Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (CT DEEP), but also for non-governmental organizations, academics, municipalities, corporations, and private individuals. Conserving Connecticut's wildlife is the responsibility of all.

CT DEEP is in the early stages of gathering information from key representatives of organizations and agencies to learn about your priorities, obtain your suggestions for making the revised plan most useful to you, and ascertain the best ways to include you in revision and implementation. In addition to updating the SWAP with current information, CT DEEP wants to make the information in the SWAP easier to access and to introduce a Conservation Action Tracker to record our collective accomplishments.

This survey is being conducted by an independent survey research specialist. Your participation is **voluntary and confidential, and your responses will not be associated with your name.** Note: There will be an opportunity to provide your contact information at the end of the survey if you want to engage in other opportunities related to the SWAP revision.

Q2 YOUR BACKGROUND

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Q3 How long have you worked for/with your current organization?

- ☐ Less than 2 years
 - ☐ 2-5 years
 - ☐ 5-10 years
 - ☐ More than 10 years
-

Q4 What is your current position with this organization (Please select one that most closely aligns with what you currently do.)

- ☐ Upper-level leader for overall organization
 - ☐ Mid-level leader for overall organization
 - ☐ Leader of a program
 - ☐ Program staff
 - ☐ Administrative staff
 - ☐ Technical staff
 - ☐ Field staff
 - ☐ Member of governing or advisory board/council/committee for organization
 - ☐ Other (please specify in the box below)
-

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Q6 Which of the following best describes the **primary** focus of **your work within your organization?** (Check only one.)

- ☐ Conservation/environmental advocacy
- ☐ Fish/wildlife management
- ☐ Fish/wildlife disease or health
- ☐ Regulatory/statutory compliance
- ☐ Conservation/environmental education (non-formal)
- ☐ Science education (e.g., biology, natural resources, environmental) (formal)
- ☐ Land acquisition
- ☐ Land management/restoration
- ☐ Research and/or monitoring
- ☐ Our work is not related to conservation/environmental work
- ☐ Technical assistance to other organizations or private citizens
- ☐ Other (please specify in the box below)

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Q7 FAMILIARITY AND USE OF CONNECTICUT'S STATE WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN (SWAP)

Q8 Before receiving this survey, how familiar were you with Connecticut's SWAP?

- ☐ Not at all familiar
- ☐ Somewhat familiar
- ☐ Very familiar

Skip To: Q16 If Before receiving this survey, how familiar were you with Connecticut's SWAP? = Not at all familiar

Q9 How often has your organization **used Connecticut's SWAP** as a resource to help fulfill its mission/purpose?

- ☐ Never used
- ☐ Rarely
- ☐ Occasionally
- ☐ Used often
- ☐ Don't know

Skip To: Q10 If How often has your organization used Connecticut's SWAP as a resource to help fulfill its mission... = Never used

Skip To: Q10 If How often has your organization used Connecticut's SWAP as a resource to help fulfill its mission... = Rarely

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Q11 Please indicate which of the following SWAP components you have found useful to your organization in fulfilling its mission? (Check all that apply.) [Click here to link to the CT SWAP.](#)

- ☐ Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) list
- ☐ List of habitats associated with SGCN
- ☐ List of threats to SGCN
- ☐ List of Conservation Actions to benefit SGCN
- ☐ The proposed monitoring plan for SGCN
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____

Display This Question:

*If Please indicate which of the following SWAP components you have found useful to your organization...
= Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) list*

Q12 How has the Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) list been useful?

Display This Question:

*If Please indicate which of the following SWAP components you have found useful to your organization...
= List of habitats associated with SGCN*

Q13 How have habitats associated with SGCN been useful?

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Display This Question:

*If Please indicate which of the following SWAP components you have found useful to your organization...
= List of threats to SGCN*

Q14 How has the list of threats to the SGCN been useful?

Display This Question:

*If Please indicate which of the following SWAP components you have found useful to your organization...
= List of Conservation Actions to benefit SGCN*

Q45 How has the list of conservation actions to benefit SGCN been useful?

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Display This Question:

*If Please indicate which of the following SWAP components you have found useful to your organization...
= The proposed monitoring plan for SGCN*

Q15 How has the proposed monitoring plan for the SGCN been useful?

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Display This Question:

If How often has your organization used Connecticut's SWAP as a resource to help fulfill its mission... = Never used

Or How often has your organization used Connecticut's SWAP as a resource to help fulfill its mission... = Rarely

Q10 Why do you believe that the Connecticut SWAP **has never or rarely been used** by your organization to help fulfill its mission/purpose? (Check all that apply.)

- ☐ We were unaware that the SWAP was available as a resource.
- ☐ It is not particularly relevant to the mission of our organization.
- ☐ The goals, objectives, actions and evaluation metrics are not specific enough for our needs.
- ☐ It does not contain information that is useful for our purposes.
- ☐ The geographic scale is too large for our purposes.
- ☐ It is unclear how our organization would use the existing SWAP.
- ☐ I have difficulty finding information in the SWAP.
- ☐ Other (Please specify in the box below.)

Q16 **CONNECTICUT'S STATE WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN (SWAP) REVISION**

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Q17 Please indicate your general level of interest in providing input in the SWAP **revision** process.
(Please select one.)

- ☐ Not at all interested
- ☐ Slightly interested
- ☐ Moderately interested
- ☐ Very interested

*Skip To: Q29 If Please indicate your general level of interest in providing input in the SWAP revision process.
(... = Not at all interested*

Q18 Please indicate your preferences regarding how you would like to participate in the SWAP **revision** process. (Select all that apply.) [Click here to link to the CT SWAP](#). I prefer to:

- ☐ Visit CT DEEP's website to get updates and to provide input on topics of interest.
 - ☐ Receive email updates from CT DEEP with opportunities to provide input.
 - ☐ Participate in a CT DEEP workshop in my area.
 - ☐ Participate in an interactive webinar.
 - ☐ Receive social media posts with opportunities to provide comments.
 - ☐ Provide input only on the part of the SWAP that relates to my organization's work.
 - ☐ Provide input on a draft version of the entire SWAP.
 - ☐ NOT participate in any way in Connecticut's SWAP revision process.
 - ☐ Other (Please specify in the box below.):

-

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Q19 ANTICIPATED USE OF STATE WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN (SWAP) PRODUCTS

The following series of questions are about how your organization would likely use the 2025 SWAP content and functions.

Q20 What is the likelihood that your organization will use the following SWAP components?

	Very unlikely	Somewhat unlikely	Somewhat likely	Very likely	Don't know
The Species of Greatest Conservation Need list.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Information and status of key habitats and ecosystems.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Prioritized threats for the State of Connecticut.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Recommended conservation actions and strategies.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Monitoring plans.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Q22 Are there other SWAP components not listed above that your organization is likely to use? (please specify in the box below):

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Q21 How important is having the following functions in the online version of the 2025 SWAP?

	Not at all important	Slightly important	Moderately important	Very important	Don't know
Ability to filter information by species, ecosystem, threat, or conservation strategy.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Ability to access relevant maps or spatial information.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Ability to find the conservation strategies and actions that align with my organization's priorities.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
High-level overviews of conservation challenges and opportunities.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Identification of key species that help tell a story.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
List of regional monitoring plans.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
List of statewide monitoring plans.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Q23 Are there other important functions in the online version not mentioned above? (please specify in the box below):

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Q24 CONSERVATION ACTION TRACKER

CT DEEP is building a Conservation Action Tracker to help implement the 2025 SWAP. The goals of the tracker are:

1. Facilitate collaboration between groups
2. Increase the public visibility of conservation projects
3. Help assess the progress implementing the SWAP

The Conservation Action Tracker would give organizations a user ID that allows them to input and manage their projects using a map and a brief (less than 5 minute) set of questions about the project. The map would be publicly accessible and searchable. The Conservation Action Tracker is based on a similar tracker being used by Maine <https://www.mainewildlifeactionplan.com/>. We are interested in learning how likely it is that you would provide input into the Conservation Action Tracker, barriers to your use of the Conservation Action Tracker and ways that CT DEEP could make it easier for you to use.

Q25 How likely it is that you would use the Conservation Action Tracker: (Please select one.)

- ☐ Very unlikely
- ☐ Somewhat unlikely
- ☐ Somewhat likely
- ☐ Very likely
- ☐ Don't know

Display This Question:

If How likely it is that you would use the Conservation Action Tracker: (Please select one.) = Very unlikely

Or How likely it is that you would use the Conservation Action Tracker: (Please select one.) = Somewhat unlikely



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Q26 Why do you believe that you would be **somewhat or very unlikely** to use the Conservation Action Tracker? (Select up to 3 that are most important to you.)

☐

Our organization does not have the capacity (e.g., staff available, time) to participate.

☐

Our organization does not formally track our work.

☐

It is unlikely that the variables we use to track progress will align with what is being asked for in the Conservation Action Tracker.

☐

It is our organization's policy not to share the outcomes of our work.

☐

Our organization would not place a high priority on this task.

☐

I do not believe our organization would benefit from participation in tracking outcomes using the Conservation Action Tracker.

☐

Other (please describe in the box below):



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Q27 What would increase the likelihood of you **providing input** to the Conservation Action Tracker?
(Select up to 3 that are most important to you.):

- ☐ The metrics being asked for are those we are already measuring.
- ☐ Reminders are sent so we remember to provide information.
- ☐ The program is easy to use.
- ☐ It doesn't take much time to enter information.
- ☐ The aggregate information at a statewide or regional level arising from the metrics being requested will be useful to my organization.
- ☐ The publicity and public visibility would be helpful to my organization and members.
- ☐ Other (please describe in the box below):



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Q28 What would increase the likelihood of you **accessing data** available via the Conservation Action Tracker? (Select up to 3 that are most important to you.):

☐

The information being collected is useful to our organization.

☐

If the Conservation Action Tracker made it possible to link to other groups doing similar work in other areas of the state

☐

If the Conservation Action Tracker made it easy to find needed information.

☐

If the Conservation Action Tracker could help us see how the efforts of our collective actions were resulting in effective conservation actions.

☐

If the Conservation Action Tracker is easy to use.

☐

Other (please describe in the box below):

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Q29 ENHANCING STATE WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN (SWAP) IMPLEMENTATION

The next series of questions are about **implementation** of Connecticut's 2025 SWAP. Implementation is defined broadly to include species and habitat management, research and monitoring, education and outreach, advocacy, volunteering, and other activities that will help or promote Connecticut's conservation targets.

Q30 In general, what is the likelihood that your organization will want to be involved in **implementation** of the revised Connecticut SWAP?

- ☐ Very unlikely
- ☐ Somewhat unlikely
- ☐ Somewhat likely
- ☐ Very likely
- ☐ Don't know

Skip To: Q31 If In general, what is the likelihood that your organization will want to be involved in implementat... = Very unlikely

Skip To: Q31 If In general, what is the likelihood that your organization will want to be involved in implementat... = Somewhat unlikely

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Q32 How important will each of the following be in your organization's decision to participate in the **implementation** of the 2025 SWAP?

	Not at all important	Slightly important	Moderately important	Very important	Don't know
The SWAP has specific goals, objectives, actions and evaluation metrics that are relevant to my organization's mission.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
There is a clear role for my organization to play in the implementation of actions.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Partners are interested in working together effectively to achieve shared goals.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Partners agree on the information, expertise, and resources they are able to contribute to implementation of actions.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The extent to which our members/constituents would want us to be involved in implementing the conservation action under consideration.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The SWAP includes information to facilitate collaboration among key organizations.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Partners are interested in finding needed resources to implement actions.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Q33 Are there other factors not mentioned above that are important in your organization's decision to participate in the **implementation** of the SWAP? (please specify in the box below):

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Q34 How interested would your organization be in participating in the following activities related to the 2025 SWAP **implementation**?

	Not at all interested	Slightly interested	Moderately interested	Very interested	Don't know
Coordinating implementation projects among multiple organizations with similar priorities.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Participating in implementation teams for projects of interest.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Participating in efforts to find funding to implement projects.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Sharing relevant information and updates with our members/constituents.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Providing our members/constituents with opportunities to participate in implementation (e.g., volunteer opportunities, outreach, restoration activities).	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Participating in a project to manage or restore habitat for SGCN.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Q35 Are there other SWAP implementation activities not mentioned above your organization would be interested in participating in? (please specify in the box below):

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Q36 COLLABORATION ON STATE WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN (SWAP) IMPLEMENTATION

The final series of questions asks you to rate the importance of various considerations regarding collaborations to effectively implement Connecticut's SWAP.

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Q37 How important do you believe the following factors are for **effective implementation** of Connecticut's SWAP?

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	Not at all important	Slightly important	Moderately important	Very important	Don't know
Collaborators agree on goals and objectives for the collaboration.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The collaborative process is inclusive of interested stakeholders.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The collaborative work builds on strengths of each collaborator.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Collaborators agree on a process and timeline to achieve goals.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
A mechanism exists for regular communication among collaborators.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Collaborators work together to find resources (e.g., funding, capacity) to achieve goals.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

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There are agreed-upon methods, metrics and a timeline for assessing progress toward goal achievement.

☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
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A lead coordinator is agreed upon and specific responsibilities are delegated to each collaborator.

☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
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Periodic meetings are held so collaborators can give progress reports and share relevant information.

☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
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Q38 Are there other important factors for effective implementation not mentioned above? (please specify in the box below):

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Display This Question:

If In general, what is the likelihood that your organization will want to be involved in implementat... = Very unlikely

Or In general, what is the likelihood that your organization will want to be involved in implementat... = Somewhat unlikely

Q31 Why do you believe your organization is **somewhat or very unlikely** to participate in **implementation** of the 2025 SWAP? (Check all that apply.)

- ☐ Our organization does not have the capacity (e.g., staff available) to participate.
- ☐ Our members/constituents would not consider our involvement in SWAP implementation to be of high priority.
- ☐ Our organization does not do the types of work likely involved in SWAP implementation.
- ☐ Other work of our organization takes precedence over SWAP-related work.
- ☐ Our organization does not focus on wildlife or habitat.
- ☐ Other (please specify in the box below):

Q5 Where does your organization do most of its work?

- ☐ In specific towns/cities (please type them in the box below)

 - ☐ Statewide
 - ☐ Other (please specify in the box below)

-

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Q39 Are there other people in your organization that CT DEEP should contact to participate in Connecticut's SWAP revision and implementation? If so, please provide the name and contact information if you have it.

Q40 Do you have any additional input to help CT DEEP enhance the SWAP or improve partner engagement in the SWAP revision and/or implementation?

Q41 Would your organization like to receive email updates about the revision process and opportunities to participate?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Display This Question:

If Would your organization like to receive email updates about the revision process and opportunitie... =
Yes

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Q42 Please enter your email address (it will not be associated with your responses):

Q43

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THIS SURVEY.

Please click the right arrow button below to record your answers. If you have any questions about the survey, please contact Dr. Cynthia Jacobson at c.jacobson@innovativeoutcomes.net

If you would like to contact CT DEEP regarding this survey, please contact Brian Hess
Brian.Hess@ct.gov

End of Block: Default Question Block
