

Wildlife Division

The Wildlife Division is responsible for the conservation and management of all wildlife, plants, and their habitat throughout Vermont for the people of the state.



Division staff are engaged in a variety of activities including:

- Monitoring populations of rare, threatened and endangered plant and animal species;
- Monitoring populations of species hunted and trapped;
- Preparing harvest recommendations for wildlife species with open regulated hunting or trapping seasons;
- Participating in the protection of critical wildlife habitat through regulatory processes such as Act 250;
- Land acquisition and management of 133,000 acres on the department's 89 Wildlife Management Areas;
- Monitoring wildlife diseases and the importation of wildlife into Vermont;
- Technical assistance, planning and outreach to wildlife observers, landowners, hunters, school children, municipal officials, and natural resources professionals regarding wildlife in Vermont; and
- Conducting research in support of management actions and decisions.

Division staff coordinate with a variety of partner organizations to accomplish these broad responsibilities.

The diversity of job duties is immense and accomplished with 28 permanent wildlife scientists and approximately 10 seasonal employees. Part of this staff includes four fish and wildlife specialists: Joel Flewelling, Toni Mikula, Tony Smith and Ryan Smith. They all serve key roles in assisting both the wildlife and fisheries division in all biological efforts. The division also administers several different permits ranging from scientific collection to takings for threatened and endangered species. Jon Kart oversees this effort.

All staff are located in five district offices throughout the state and the central Montpelier Office. Each district office host administrative staff to provide front-line customer service to the public, as well as to assist biologists in their work.

[Staff Locator](#)

Use this link to look up the phone or email address of department personnel, by Name, Division, Town, or Phone Number.

[meet the wildlife staff](#)

Use this link to learn more about our wildlife staff or click on the individual's name.

Director of Wildlife: Mark Scott

Secretaries: [Melissa Currier](#), Michele Eynon, [Tammy Gratton](#), Jaine Kellogg, Patty Malenfant

Wildlife Diversity Program

Wildlife Management Program

Lands and Habitat Program

Wildlife Diversity Program

The Wildlife Diversity Program includes the Natural Heritage Inventory. The program is responsible for monitoring, managing, and conserving nongame wildlife (animals that are not fished or hunted). Special focus is given to the protection of endangered and threatened species, including listing, permitting, and the drafting and implementing recovery plans.

The Natural Heritage Inventory documents the diversity of native plants, animals and natural communities in the state. The Natural Heritage Inventory maintains a robust spatial (GIS) database of species and natural community observations used in conservation and regulatory planning.

Program Manager: [Steve Parren](#)

Natural Heritage Information Manager: [Everett Marshall](#)

Assistant Natural Heritage Information Manager: [Jodi Shippee](#)

Natural Communities Ecologist: [Eric Sorenson](#)

Assistant Ecologist: Emma Stuhl

Botanist: [Bob Popp](#)

Assistant Botanist: [Aaron Marcus](#)

Zoologist: [Mark Ferguson](#)

Wildlife Biologist/Snake Project Leader: [Doug Blodgett](#)

Wildlife Biologist/Nongame Bird Project Leader: [John Buck](#)

Wildlife Biologist/Small Mammals: [Alyssa Bennett](#)

Fish & Wildlife Specialist: [Toni Mikula](#)

Wildlife Management Program

The Wildlife Management Program conducts research in support of management actions and decisions on Vermont's game species.

This program also prepares harvest recommendations for hunting on four big-game species – wild turkey, black bear, white-tailed deer and moose; six small game species – ruffed grouse, gray squirrel, snowshoe hare, cottontail rabbit, American woodcock, and common snipe; and three species of geese and up to 25 species of ducks, along with trapping and hunting of 14 different furbearers.

Program Manager: [Scott Darling](#)

Moose Project Leader: [Cedric Alexander](#)

Black Bear Project Leader: [Forrest Hammond](#)

Migratory Game Bird Project Leader: [David Sausville](#)

Furbearer Project Leader: Chris Bernier

Wild Turkey Project Leader: [Amy Alfieri](#)

Deer Project Leader: [Nick Fortin](#)

Fish & Wildlife Specialists: [Ryan Smith](#), [Tony Smith](#)

Lands and Habitat Program

The Lands and Habitat Program is responsible for the protection of critical wildlife habitat through regulatory processes such as Act 250 and Act 248 (Public Service Board).

[wildlife division contacts for regulatory review](#)

The program also oversees the conservation/acquisition of land in addition to the management of more than 133,000 acres on 89 Wildlife Management Areas.

Program staff also work with other state and federal land managers, such as the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, U.S. Forest Service, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, to provide expertise for the management and conservation of wildlife and ecosystems on those public lands. Program staff also provide technical assistance to private landowners for the benefit of wildlife habitat management, enhancement and restoration through federal Farm Bill Programs, Vermont's Use Value Appraisal program, and other avenues. Additionally, the program oversees conservation planning assistance to Vermont municipalities, regional planning commissions, and other organizations.

Program Manager: [John Austin](#)

Wildlife Biologist / State Lands Habitat Specialist: [Paul Hamelin](#)

Land Acquisition Coordinator: [Jane Lazorchak](#)

Conservation Planning Biologist: [Jens Hilke](#)

Wildlife Biologist / Wildlife Habitat Specialist: [David Adams](#)

Wildlife Biologist / Environmental Review, State Lands Management: [John Gobeille](#), [Tim Appleton](#)

State Lands Ecologist: [Bob Zaino](#)

Wildlife Biologist / State Lands Planning: [Doug Morin](#)

Wildlife Biologist / Regulatory Review: [Noel Dodge](#)

Private Lands Habitat Biologist: [Andrea Shortsleeve](#)