

**NCSE WILDLIFE HABITAT POLICY RESEARCH PROGRAM**  
**Project Overview**  
**Research Project No. 2A**

**Wildlife Funding/Policy Linkages: Using State Wildlife Action Plan Priorities to Shape Policies and Direct Expenditures at Multiple Levels of Government**

**Principal Investigator**  
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To be eligible to receive funds from the State Wildlife Grants Program created by Congress in 2000, every U.S. state and territory was required to develop a comprehensive wildlife conservation strategy, also known as a state wildlife action plan (SWAP).

**Key Issue**

Implementing actions and achieving priorities called for in the SWAPs often require collaborative partnerships among government agencies, nongovernmental organizations and industry.

**Project Objective**

The primary objective of this project was to identify opportunities to implement the SWAPs through collaborative partnerships by:

- describing current collaborative SWAP implementation efforts
- identifying factors that facilitate or inhibit collaborative efforts
- describing roles filled by “catalysts”—key individuals or organizations with the capability and motivation to advance the collaborative process.

**Approach**

The investigators studied existing collaborative SWAP implementation efforts to identify factors that contributed to their success. They documented 144 efforts throughout the United States and selected six of these for intensive case studies. They developed a model of the conservation process that depicts the factors that contribute to collaborative SWAP implementation: funding, labor, information, legitimization, coordination, agreement, dialogue, and relationships.

**Key Findings**

The factors that tended to distinguish more successful efforts from less successful ones included:

- the amount of labor collaborators were able to devote to the effort
- the availability of funding

- the degree to which the key actors involved in the effort were recognized as having a legitimate role (because of land ownership, statutory authority, recognized expertise in conservation, or other factors)
- the availability of a “handle”—a key species or resource that can serve as a foundation for building support and securing resources for conservation work
- the quality of working relationships between collaborators
- reaching agreement on what needed to be accomplished, over both the short and long terms
- a willingness of collaborators to consider other actors’ interests as well as their own
- the flexibility of efforts in adapting and evolving as needs and conditions changed.

### **Deliverables**

A final project report is available on the WHPRP web site:

[http://www.ncseonline.org/00/batch/WHPRP/2008%20Final%20Reports/2A%20Final%20Report\\_Lauber.pdf](http://www.ncseonline.org/00/batch/WHPRP/2008%20Final%20Reports/2A%20Final%20Report_Lauber.pdf)

A practitioner’s guide, *Using State Wildlife Action Plans to Achieve Your Conservation Goals through Collaboration*, also is available on the WHPRP web site:

[http://www.ncseonline.org/00/batch/WHPRP/2008%20Final%20Reports/Practitioner%20Guide\\_Lauber.pdf](http://www.ncseonline.org/00/batch/WHPRP/2008%20Final%20Reports/Practitioner%20Guide_Lauber.pdf)

Both of these publications provide detailed information about the Collaborative SWAP Implementation Model that depicts the elements and processes that contribute to successful collaborative SWAP implementation efforts.