

Chapter 2. Species of Greatest Conservation Need

Relevant Required Elements:

- #1 – Information on the distribution and abundance of species of wildlife, including low and declining populations that are indicative of the diversity and health of the State’s wildlife.
- #3 – Descriptions of problems that may adversely affect SGCNs and their habitats, and priority research and survey efforts needed to identify factors that may assist in restoration and improved conservation of these species and habitats.
- #4 – Descriptions of conservation actions proposed to conserve the identified species and habitats.
- #8 – Congress also affirmed through this legislation, that broad public participation is an essential element of developing and implementing these plans, the projects that are carried out while these plans are developed, and the Species in Greatest Need of Conservation that Congress has indicated such programs and projects are intended to emphasize.

Focus of Chapter 2:

In this chapter, we describe the procedures followed for the review and revision of the state list of plant and animal SGCNs, including involvement of internal and external taxonomic experts and the opportunity for the public, other agencies, and Native American tribes to review the revised draft list. One minor modification was made to the selection criteria, with the addition of a subcategory for species with significant information or data needs. The 245 SGCNs are sorted by the selection criteria.

New species profiles were generated for this revision. A sample profile is presented with an explanation of the content. The full set of SGCN species profiles are presented as appendices (Appendices D-I) in this plan.

2.1 List Development, Review, and Criteria

A primary element of every state wildlife action plan is the identification of SGCNs. Guidance for SGCN list preparation is found throughout the description of the [Eight Required Elements](#) for state wildlife action plans (link to list in Chapter 1). Plans must identify and address SGCNs, which may be rare or declining, while addressing the “full array of wildlife.” SGCNs should also represent the “diversity and health of the State’s wildlife.” Additional requirements for SGCNs in wildlife action plans include describing their distribution and abundance, locations and conditions of habitats essential to SGCN conservation, conservation challenges that may affect SGCNs, research and survey efforts to determine how to restore and improve status of SGCNs and the habitats they rely on, conservation actions for SGCN conservation, and species and habitat monitoring plans to assess the effectiveness of conservation actions. If these requirements are met, specific criteria for designating SGCNs are left to the discretion of the submitting state.

This document and related information sources represent a review and revision of the previous major revision (SDGFP 2014). SDGFP completed a minor revision of the SDWAP in 2022 using internal expertise. During the minor revision process, 11 bird species, 4 mammal species, 4 amphibian or reptile species, 7 fish species, and 2 freshwater mussel species were added. The most significant change during the minor revision was the addition of 32 plant species. The SGCN list from the 2022 minor revision was reviewed and updated, using the process described below.

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Table 2.1 lists 245 plant and animal SGCNs for the SDWAP of 2025. Appendix D includes concise species accounts for most of these species. For certain taxonomic groups that are understudied in the state, information is summarized in a different format (Appendices E-I), pertaining to aquatic insects, gastropods, and terrestrial insects, aside from butterfly and tiger beetle species, which are covered in individual species accounts.

SGCN list revision process

- Members of the Science Team reviewed the SGCN list from the 2022 minor revision and made necessary updates for legal status, taxonomic changes, and global and state ranks.
- Members of the Science Team developed a list of internal and external taxonomic experts with knowledge of plant and animal groups.
- Taxonomic experts were contacted and invited to suggest concurrence with existing SGCNs as well as recommend additions and deletions.
- Science Team members reviewed suggestions from taxonomic experts, particularly related to compliance with South Dakota's established SGCN criteria.
- The revised list was shared with Native American tribes, major land and resource management agencies, and the public during a designated comment period.
- All comments received were reviewed for suitability as additions to the draft SGCN list or for necessary corrections.
- SGCN list was finalized and served as the basis for the remaining content of the SDWAP.

SGCN list criteria

Species were included on the 2025 SGCN list based on meeting one or more of the following criteria, although only one criterion is identified in Table 2.1 for each species:

1 = State or federal listed species for which the state has a mandate for recovery (listed as threatened or endangered);

2a = Species that are regionally or globally imperiled and for which South Dakota represents an important portion of their remaining range;

2b = Species that are regionally or globally secure and for which South Dakota represents an important portion of their remaining range; or

3 = Species with characteristics that make them vulnerable, including any of the following:

- are indicative of or depend on a unique or declining habitat in South Dakota;
- require large home ranges/use multiple habitats;
- depend on large habitat patch sizes;
- depend on an ecological process (such as fire) that no longer operates within the natural range of variation;
- are limited in their ability to recover on their own due to low dispersal ability or low reproductive rates;
- have a highly localized or restricted distribution (endemics);
- concentrate their populations during some time of the year; or
- have significant information or data needs.

Globally imperiled or secure status in criteria 2a and 2b was based, in part, on NatureServe conservation status ranking (<https://www.natureserve.org/explorer/index.htm>).

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Criteria 2a and 2b focus on the responsibility of each state to provide habitat for species viability to help avoid future endangered species listings. Species included on the SGCN list under criteria 2a, 2b, and 3 illustrate that not all SGCN are rare species within South Dakota. These criteria also demonstrate the increasing importance of working across political boundaries to better conserve and restore species and habitats.

NatureServe's global and state ranks represent a standardized method of describing a species' abundance and a generalized vulnerability description. Global ranks describe the species' status throughout its range. State ranks are assigned by state Natural Heritage Programs to describe abundance and vulnerability within the state's borders (<https://gfp.sd.gov/natural-heritage-program/>). The system also includes various descriptors to represent uncertain, historical, extirpated, or accidental status. Some SGCNs, particularly invertebrate species, are not assigned a state rank because of a lack of information. State and global ranks are revised with improved information. Prior to beginning the wildlife action plan revision process, SDGFP staff associated with the South Dakota Natural Heritage Program reviewed and updated state heritage ranks.

NatureServe and the SD Natural Heritage Program

NatureServe is a nonprofit organization dedicated to identifying and encouraging conservation and recovery of biodiversity across North America. NatureServe's tools include online resources to help members of the public and resource managers better understand the distribution, abundance, and conservation challenges for species and natural communities. This organization also taps into its experts and information sources to share summary reports and conservation assessments. It leads an international network of partners through natural heritage or biodiversity programs. These local programs, including the South Dakota Natural Heritage Program, use standardized methodology to track species and plant communities to assist with conservation planning, habitat and species management, and environmental review.

Although not a legal status, 58 (28%) of South Dakota's 205 animal SGCNs are designated as Midwest Regional Species of Greatest Conservation Need (RSGCN). The MLI of MAFWA conducted a review of more than 1800 SGCNs from 13 MAFWA states for certain taxonomic groups to determine which species would benefit most from regional collaboration. A total of 340 species are included on the Midwest RSGCN list. An additional category called Watchlist SGCN is not indicated in this column on the South Dakota SGCN list. Plant species were not considered during the MAFWA RSGCN development process.

SGCN categorization by criteria

Fourteen SGCNs are presently listed as federal threatened or endangered in South Dakota, with an additional 2 species proposed for federal threatened status and one species proposed for federal endangered status. For species listed as SGCNs because they are state and/or federal threatened or endangered species, recovery is mandated by state and/or federal laws. SDGFP is committed to assisting in recovery of federal listed, proposed, and candidate species through a Cooperative Agreement with the USFWS for the Conservation of Endangered and Threatened Animals, first approved on June 30, 1977, and renewed annually. A separate Cooperative Agreement for the Conservation of Endangered and Threatened Plants was first approved on February 11, 1986, and is also renewed annually.

Twenty SGCNs are presently listed as state threatened or endangered species. South Dakota's endangered species law mandates that state listed species must be restored to the point that state protection as a

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threatened or endangered species is no longer necessary.

Criteria 2a and 2b were used to justify listing of 51 SGCN. These criteria apply to species for which South Dakota represents an important portion of the species' remaining range. Use of these criteria does not necessarily mean these species are rare in South Dakota. For species that have state heritage ranks of S1, S2, or S3, the conservation goal is to improve the species' abundance and distribution to justify a higher state rank. For species with more secure state ranks of S4 or S5, the conservation goal is to maintain or improve that status by addressing species-specific threats, unique habitat needs, and future conservation challenges to assure that these more common species maintain healthy populations in keeping with the preventive and proactive theme of state wildlife action plans.

The remaining SGCN were listed because of one or more characteristics that make them vulnerable, which may be life history characteristics; unique habitat needs; lack of sufficient disturbance regimes to maintain important habitats; or lack of basic information on distribution, habitat needs, or abundance. Additional information on data and information needs is found in other parts of this plan, such as species profiles and analyses of conservation threats and recommended conservation actions.



Bobolink (male) Owen McElroy



Bloodroot Owen McElroy

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Table 2.1. Species of Greatest Conservation Need List for South Dakota Wildlife Action Plan Revision of 2025.

This list is organized alphabetically by taxonomic groups. Within each group, species are organized alphabetically by common name.

Taxonomic groups:

- Amphibians
- Aquatic insects
- Birds
- Crayfish
- Fishes
- Freshwater mussels
- Gastropods
- Mammals
- Plants
- Reptiles
- Terrestrial insects

Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status ^a	State Status ^b	Midwest RSGCN ^c	Global Rank ^d	State Rank ^e	SD SGCN Criterion ^f
AMPHIBIANS (5 species)							
Blanchard's Cricket Frog	<i>Acris blanchardi</i>			✓	G5	S2	3f
Cope's Gray Treefrog	<i>Hyla chrysoscelis</i>				G5	S2	3e
Great Plains Toad	<i>Anaxyrus cognatus</i>				G5	S5	2a
Plains Spadefoot	<i>Spea bombifrons</i>				G5	S5	3h
Wood Frog	<i>Lithobates sylvaticus</i>				G5	S1	3a
Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status ^a	State Status ^b	Midwest RSGCN ^c	Global Rank ^d	State Rank ^e	SD SGCN Criterion ^f
AQUATIC INSECTS (10 species)							
A Small Square-gilled Mayfly	<i>Sparbarus nasutus</i>				G3	SNR	3h
Dakota Stone	<i>Perlesta dakota</i>				G3	SNR	2a
Dot-winged Baskettail	<i>Epitheca petechialis</i>				G4	SNR	3h
Elusive Clubtail	<i>Stylurus notatus</i>				G3	SNR	3h
Extraordinary Bow-legged Minnow Mayfly	<i>Analetris eximia</i>				G3	SNR	3h
Fox Small Square-gilled Mayfly	<i>Cercobrachys fox</i>			✓	G3	SNR	3h
Plains Emerald Dragonfly	<i>Somatochlora ensigera</i>			✓	G4	SNR	2b
Riverine Clubtail	<i>Stylurus amnicola</i>			✓	G4	SNR	3h
White Sand-river Mayfly	<i>Pseudiron centralis</i>			✓	G5	SNR	3h
White Small Minnow Mayfly	<i>Centroptilum album</i>			✓	G5	SNR	3h

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Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status ^a	State Status ^b	Midwest RSGCN ^c	Global Rank ^d	State Rank ^e	SD SGCN Criterion ^f
BIRDS (52 species)							
American Dipper	<i>Cinclus mexicanus</i>		T		G5	S2	1
American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>				G5	S4	3h
American Goshawk	<i>Accipiter atricapillus</i>				G5	S2	3a
American Three-toed Woodpecker	<i>Picoides dorsalis</i>				G5	S2	3d
Baird's Sparrow	<i>Centronyx bairdii</i>				G4	S2	2a
Bald Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>				G5	S4	3a
Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>			✓	G4	S3	2a
Black-billed Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus erythrophthalmus</i>			✓	G5	S4	3a
Black-billed Magpie	<i>Pica hudsonia</i>				G5	S4	3a
Black-backed Woodpecker	<i>Picoides arcticus</i>				G5	S2	3d
Bobolink	<i>Dolichonyx oryzivorus</i>			✓	G5	S4	2b
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	<i>Calidris subruficollis</i>			✓	G4	SNR	3g
Burrowing Owl	<i>Athene cunicularia</i>				G4	S3	3d
Chestnut-collared Longspur	<i>Calcarius ornatus</i>				G5	S4	2a
Chimney Swift	<i>Chaetura pelagica</i>			✓	G4	S4	3a
Clark's Grebe	<i>Aechmophorus clarkii</i>				G5	S2	3a
Ferruginous Hawk	<i>Buteo regalis</i>				G4	S3	3b
Franklin's Gull	<i>Leucophaeus pipixcan</i>				G5	S5	2b
Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>				G5	S3	3b
Grasshopper Sparrow	<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>			✓	G5	S4	2b
Greater Prairie-Chicken	<i>Tympanuchus cupido</i>			✓	G4	S4	2a
Greater Sage-Grouse	<i>Centrocercus urophasianus</i>				G3	S2	3a
Horned Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>				G5	S5	2b
Hudsonian Godwit	<i>Limosa haemastica</i>				G4	SNR	3g
Lark Bunting	<i>Calamospiza melanocorys</i>				G5	S5	2a
Le Conte's Sparrow	<i>Ammospiza leconteii</i>			✓	G5	S2	3a
Least Tern	<i>Sternula antillarum</i>		E	✓	G4	S3	1
Lewis's Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes lewis</i>				G4	S2	3d
Loggerhead Shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>				G4	S3	3a
Long-billed Curlew	<i>Numenius americanus</i>				G5	S3	2a
Marbled Godwit	<i>Limosa fedoa</i>			✓	G5	S5	2a
Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>				G5	S2	3a

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Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>		T		G5	S3	1
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>		T		G4	S1	1
Pinyon Jay	<i>Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus</i>				G3	S3	3a
Piping Plover	<i>Charadrius melanotos</i>	T	T	✓	G3	S3	1
Red-headed Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i>			✓	G5	S5	3b
Rock Wren	<i>Salpinctes obsoletus</i>				G5	S4	3a
Ruffed Grouse	<i>Bonasa umbellus</i>				G5	S4	3a
Semipalmated Sandpiper	<i>Calidris pusilla</i>				G5	SNR	3a
Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>			✓	G5	S3	3a
Sprague's Pipit	<i>Anthus spragueii</i>			✓	G3	S2	2a
Thick-billed Longspur	<i>Rhynchophanes mccownii</i>				G4	SH	2a
Trumpeter Swan	<i>Cygnus buccinator</i>				G4	S3	2b
Upland Sandpiper	<i>Bartramia longicauda</i>			✓	G5	S5	2b
Virginia's Warbler	<i>Leiothlypis virginiae</i>				G5	S2	3a
Western Grebe	<i>Aechmophorus occidentalis</i>				G5	S4	2b
White-winged Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis aikeni</i>				G5T4	S4	2b
Whooping Crane	<i>Grus americana</i>	E	E	✓	G1	S1	1
Willet	<i>Tringa semipalmata</i>				G5	S5	2b
Wilson's Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus tricolor</i>				G5	S4	2b
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>				G5	S3	3h
CRAYFISH (4 species)							
Calico Crayfish	<i>Orconectes immunis</i>				G5	SNR	3h
Devil Crayfish	<i>Cambarus diogenes</i>				G5	SNR	3h
Ringed Crayfish	<i>Faxonius neglectus</i>				G5	SNR	3h
Virile Crayfish	<i>Orconectes virilis</i>				G5	SNR	3h
FISHES (28 species)							
Banded Killifish	<i>Fundulus diaphanus</i>		E		G5	S1	1
Blacknose Shiner	<i>Notropis heterolepis</i>		E	✓	G5	S1	1
Blackside Darter	<i>Percina maculata</i>				G5	S3	3d
Blue Catfish	<i>Ictalurus furcatus</i>				G5	S5	3b
Blue Sucker	<i>Catostomus elongatus</i>				G3	S3	3d
Burbot	<i>Lota lota</i>				G5	S5	3h
Carmine Shiner	<i>Notropis percobromus</i>				G5	S2	3f
Central Mudminnow	<i>Umbra limi</i>				G5	S1	3f

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Finescale Dace	<i>Chrosomus neogaeus</i>		E	✓	G5	S1	1
Flathead Chub	<i>Platygobio gracilis</i>			✓	G5	S5	2a
Hornyhead Chub	<i>Nocomis biguttatus</i>				G5	S3	3f
Lake Chub	<i>Couesius plumbeus</i>				G5	S1	3f
Lake Sturgeon	<i>Acipenser fulvescens</i>				G3	S2	3b
Logperch	<i>Percina caprodes</i>				G5	S2	3d
Longnose Sucker	<i>Catostomus catostomus</i>		T		G5	S2	1
Northern Pearl Dace	<i>Margariscus nachtriebi</i>		T		G5	S2	1
Northern Redbelly Dace	<i>Chrosomus eos</i>		T		G5	S3	1
Paddlefish	<i>Polyodon spathula</i>				G4	S4	3b
Pallid Sturgeon	<i>Scaphirhynchus albus</i>	E	E	✓	G2	S2	1
Plains Sucker	<i>Pantosteus jordani</i>				G5	S3	3e
Plains Topminnow	<i>Fundulus sciadicus</i>			✓	G4	S4	2a
Sauger	<i>Sander canadensis</i>				G5	S5	3d
Shovelnose Sturgeon	<i>Scaphirhynchus platorynchus</i>	T			G4	S3	1
Sicklefin Chub	<i>Macrhybopsis meeki</i>		E	✓	G3	S1	1
Southern Redbelly Dace	<i>Chrosomus erythrogaster</i>				G5	S1	3e
Sturgeon Chub	<i>Macrhybopsis gelida</i>		T	✓	G3	S3	1
Topeka Shiner	<i>Minniellus topeka</i>	E		✓	G3	S3	1
Trout-perch	<i>Percopsis omiscomaycus</i>				G5	S2	3h
Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status ^a	State Status ^b	Midwest RSGCN ^c	Global Rank ^d	State Rank ^e	SD SGCN Criterion ^f
FRESHWATER MUSSELS (11 species)							
Black Sandshell	<i>Ligumia recta</i>			✓	G4	S2	3e
Creek Heelsplitter	<i>Lasmigona compressa</i>			✓	G5	S2	3e
Elktoe	<i>Alasmidonta marginata</i>			✓	G4	S1	3e
Flat Floater	<i>Utterbackiana suborbiculata</i>				G5	S1	3h
Hickorynut	<i>Obovaria olivaria</i>				G4	S1	3e
Higgins Eye	<i>Lampsilis higginsii</i>	E		✓	G1	S1	1
Mapleleaf	<i>Quadrula quadrula</i>				G5	S2	3e
Pimpleback	<i>Cyclonaias pustulosa</i>				G5	S2	3e
Rock Pocketbook	<i>Arcidens confragosus</i>				G4	S1	3e
Scaleshell	<i>Leptodea leptodon</i>	E		✓	G1	S1	1
Yellow Sandshell	<i>Lampsilis teres</i>			✓	G5	S2	3e

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Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status ^a	State Status ^b	Midwest RSGCN ^c	Global Rank ^d	State Rank ^e	SD SGCN Criterion ^f
GASTROPODS (5 species)							
Callused Vertigo Snail	<i>Vertigo arthuri</i>				G5	SU	3h
Cooper's Rocky Mountainsnail	<i>Oreohelix cooperi</i>				G3	SU	2a
Frigid Ambersnail	<i>Catinella gelida</i>				G1	SU	3h
Mystery Vertigo	<i>Vertigo paradoxa</i>				G4	SU	3h
Striate Disc	<i>Discus shimekii</i>				G5	SU	3h
Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status ^a	State Status ^b	Midwest RSGCN ^c	Global Rank ^d	State Rank ^e	SD SGCN Criterion ^f
MAMMALS (28 species)							
Black-footed Ferret	<i>Mustela nigripes</i>	E	E		G1	S1	1
Black Hills Red Squirrel	<i>Tamiasciurus hudsonicus dakotensis</i>				G5TNR	SNR	2b
Eastern Red Bat	<i>Lasiurus borealis</i>			✓	G3	S3	3e
Franklin's Ground Squirrel	<i>Poliocitellus franklinii</i>			✓	G5	S5	3a
Fringed Myotis (Fringe-tailed Myotis)	<i>Myotis thysanodes pahaspensis</i>			✓	G4T3	S2	2a
Little Brown Bat (Little Brown Myotis)	<i>Myotis lucifugus</i>			✓	G3	S3	3e
Long-eared Myotis	<i>Myotis evotis</i>				G5	S1	2b
Long-legged Myotis	<i>Myotis volans</i>				G4	S4	3e
Northern Flying Squirrel	<i>Glaucomys sabrinus</i>				G5	S3	2b
Northern Hoary Bat	<i>Lasiurus cinereus</i>			✓	G3	S3	3e
Northern Myotis	<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>	E		✓	G2	S2	1
Plains Spotted Skunk	<i>Spilogale interrupta</i>			✓	G3	S3	3h
Richardson's Ground Squirrel	<i>Urocitellus richardsonii</i>				G5	S5	2b
Silver-haired Bat	<i>Lasionycteris noctivagans</i>			✓	G3	S3	3e
Swift Fox	<i>Vulpes velox</i>		T		G3	S3	1
Townsend's Big-eared Bat	<i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i>				G4	S2	3e
Tricolored Bat	<i>Perimyotis subflavus</i>	PE		✓	G3	SNR	3e
White-tailed Jackrabbit	<i>Lepus townsendii</i>			✓	G5	S4	2a

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Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status ^a	State Status ^b	Midwest RSGCN ^c	Global Rank ^d	State Rank ^e	SD SGCN Criterion ^f
PLANTS (40 species)							
Autumn Willow	<i>Salix serissima</i>				G5	S1	3a
Barr's Milkvetch	<i>Astragalus barrii</i>				G3	S3	2a
Big Sagebrush	<i>Artemisia tridentata</i>				G5	SNR	3a
Bloodroot	<i>Sanguinaria canadensis</i>				G5	S4?	3a
Blue Cohosh	<i>Caulophyllum thalictroides</i>				G5	S3	3a
Colorado Birchleaf Mountain-mahogany	<i>Cercocarpus montanus</i>				G5	S3	3a
Compass Plant	<i>Silphium laciniatum</i>				G5	S3	3a
Dakota Buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum visheri</i>				G3	S3	2a
Downy Gentian	<i>Gentiana puberulenta</i>				G4	S4	3a
Elegant Sedge	<i>Carex bella</i>				G5	S1	3f
Fendler's Whitethorn	<i>Ceanothus fendleri</i>				G5	S2	3f
Giant Helleborine (Stream Orchid)	<i>Epipactis gigantea</i>				G4	S1	3a
Kalm's Lobelia	<i>Lobelia kalmii</i>				G5	S2	3a
Leedy's Roseroot	<i>Rhodiola integrifolia</i> ssp. <i>leedyi</i>	T			G5T1	S1	1
Loesel's Twayblade	<i>Liparis loeselii</i>				G5	S1	3a
Long-leaved Lousewort	<i>Pedicularis procera</i>				G4	S2	3f
Marsh Marigold	<i>Caltha palustris</i>				G5	SNR	3a
Mountain Huckleberry	<i>Vaccinium membranaceum</i>				G5	S2	3d
Nodding Trillium	<i>Trillium cernuum</i>				G5	S2	3a
Paper Birch/ Hazel Forest	Beaked Hazel (<i>Corylus cornuta</i>) as representative species				G2	SNR	3f
Prairie Dunewort	<i>Botrychium campestre</i>				G3	S2	2a
Prairie Violet	<i>Viola pedatifida</i>				G5	SNR	3a
Quaking Aspen	<i>Populus tremuloides</i>				G5	SNR	3a
Rydberg's Twinpod	<i>Physaria brassicoides</i>				G5	S3	2a
Sage Willow	<i>Salix candida</i>				G5	S1	3a
Sand Lovegrass	<i>Eragrostis trichodes</i>				G5	S4	3a
Sand Sagebrush	<i>Artemisia filifolia</i>				G5	SNR	3a
Silver-mounded Candleflower	<i>Cryptantha cana</i>				G5	S2	2a
Small-flower Sand-verbena (Sand Puffs)	<i>Tripterocalyx micranthus</i>				G5	S1	3a
Small Fringed Gentian	<i>Gentianopsis procera</i>				G5	S2	3a

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Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status ^a	State Status ^b	Midwest RSGCN ^c	Global Rank ^d	State Rank ^e	SD SGCN Criterion ^f
Small White Lady's-slipper	<i>Cypripedium candidum</i>				G4	S1	3a
Smooth Goosefoot	<i>Chenopodium subglabrum</i>				G3	S2	3a
Snow Trillium	<i>Trillium nivale</i>				G4	S2	3a
Trailing Clubmoss (also known as groundcedar)	<i>Lycopodium complanatum</i>				G5	S2	3a
Two-form Pussytoes (also known as Low Pussytoes)	<i>Antennaria dimorpha</i>				G5	S1	3a
Western Porcupinegrass (formerly Canadian Needlegrass)	<i>Heterostipa curtiseta</i> (formerly <i>Stipa curtiseta</i>)				G5	SNR	3a
Western Prairie Fringed Orchid	<i>Platanthera praeclara</i>	T			G3	SH	1
White Spruce/Grouseberry Forest (<i>Pinus glauca</i> , <i>Vaccinium scoparium</i>)	Grouseberry (<i>Vaccinium scoparium</i>) as representative species				G5	SNR	3a
White Spruce/Twinflower Forest (<i>Pinus glauca</i> , <i>Linnaea borealis</i>)	Twinflower (<i>Linnaea borealis</i>) as representative species				G5	SNR	3a
Woolly Milkweed	<i>Asclepias lanuginosa</i>				G4	S2	3a

REPTILES (17 species)

Black Hills Red-bellied Snake	<i>Storeria occipitomaculata pahasapae</i>			✓	G5T4Q	S3	2b
Common Lesser Earless Lizard	<i>Holbrookia maculata</i>				G5	S2	3a
Common Sagebrush Lizard	<i>Sceloporus graciosus</i>				G5	S2	3a
Eastern Hog-nosed Snake	<i>Heterodon platirhinos</i>		T		G5	S2	1
False Map Turtle	<i>Graptemys pseudogeographica</i>		T		G5	S3	1
Greater Short-horned Lizard	<i>Phrynosoma hernandesi</i>				G5	S3	3a
Lined Snake	<i>Tropidoclonion lineatum</i>		E		G5	S2	1
Many-lined Skink	<i>Plestiodon multivirgatus</i>				G5	S2	3a
Milksnake	<i>Lampropeltis triangulum</i>				G5	S4	3h
Ornate Box Turtle	<i>Terrapene ornata</i>				G4	S3	3a

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Plains Hog-nosed Snake	<i>Heterodon nasicus</i>			✓	G5	S5	2a
Prairie Skink	<i>Plestiodon septentrionalis</i>				G5	S5	3f
Six-lined Racerunner	<i>Aspidoscelis sexlineata</i>				G5	S2	3a
Smooth Greensnake	<i>Opheodrys vernalis</i>			✓	G5	S3	3f
Smooth Softshell	<i>Apalone mutica</i>				G5	S3	3a
Spiny Softshell	<i>Apalone spinifera</i>				G5	S3	3a
Western Foxsnake	<i>Pantherophis ramspotti</i>				G5	S2	3f
Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status ^a	State Status ^b	Midwest RSGCN ^c	Global Rank ^d	State Rank ^e	SD SGCN Criterion ^f
TERRESTRIAL INSECTS (45 species)							
A Dieunomia Bee	<i>Dieunomia triangulifera</i>				G3	SNR	3h
A Leafcutter Bee	<i>Megachile dakotensis</i>				G2	SNR	2a
A Nomia Bee	<i>Nomia universitatis</i>				G3	SNR	2a
American Bumble Bee	<i>Bombus pensylvanicus</i>			✓	G3	SNR	2a
American Burying Beetle	<i>Nicrophorus americanus</i>	T			G3	S2	1
Beautiful Tiger Beetle	<i>Cicindela pulchra pulchra</i>				G4T4	SU	3a
Blue Shining Mason Bee	<i>Osmia cyaneonitens</i>				G3	SU	3f
Carlinian Snapper Grasshopper	<i>Circotettix carlinianus</i>				G5	SU	3h
Contrasting Spur-throat Grasshopper	<i>Melanoplus discolor</i>				G4	SU	3h
Dakota Skipper	<i>Hesperia dacotae</i>	T		✓	G2	S2	2a
Eastern Veined White	<i>Pieris oleracea</i>				G5	SNR	3a
Garita Skipperling	<i>Oarisma garita</i>				G4	SNR	3h
Ghost Tiger Beetle (Little White Tiger Beetle)	<i>Cicindela lepida</i>				G3	S1	3a
Great Plains Giant Tiger Beetle	<i>Amblycheila cylindriformis</i>				G4	S1	3a
Indian Creek Tiger Beetle	<i>Cicindela nevadica makosika</i>				G5T1	S1	2a
Iowa Skipper	<i>Atrytone arogos iowa</i>			✓	G2T2	S3	3a
Krauth's Sulphur	<i>Colias christina krauthii</i>				G5TNR	SNR	3f
Large Marble	<i>Euchloe ausonides</i>				G4	SNR	3h
Long's Ruddy Copper	<i>Tharsalea rubidus longi; aka Lycaena rubidus longi)</i>				G4TNR	SNR	2b
Marsh Firefly	<i>Photinus aquilonius</i>				GU	SNR	3h
Monarch	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>	PT		✓	G4	SNR	2a
Morrison's Bumble Bee	<i>Bombus morrisoni</i>				G3	SNR	3h
Mottled Duskywing	<i>Erynnis martialis</i>			✓	G3	SNR	3d
Nine-spotted Lady Beetle	<i>Coccinella novemnotata</i>				G5	SNR	2b
Northern Sedge Locust	<i>Stethophyma gracile</i>				G5	SNR	3f

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Occidental Digger Bee	<i>Anthophora occidentalis</i>				G4	SNR	3h
Ottoe Skipper	<i>Hesperia ottoe</i>			✓	G3	S2	3a
Pahasapa Fritillary	<i>Speyeria atlantis</i> <i>pahasapa</i>				G5T3	S2	3a
Pahaska Skipper	<i>Hesperia pahaska</i>				G5	SNR	3h
Poweshiek Skipperling	<i>Oarisma poweshiek</i>	E			G1	SX	1
Regal Fritillary	<i>Argynnis idalia</i>	PT		✓	G3	S3	2a
Robust Sunflower Leafcutter Bee	<i>Megachile fortis</i>				G2	SNR	2a
Rocky Mountain Sprinkled Locust	<i>Chloeaaltis abdominalis</i>				G5	SNR	3f
Sagebrush Buck Moth; aka hera sheepmoth	<i>Hemileuca hera</i>				G5	SNR	3f
Sandy Tiger Beetle	<i>Cicindela limbata</i> <i>nympha</i>				G5T4	S4	3f
Southern Plains Bumble Bee	<i>Bombus fraternus</i>			✓	G3	SNR	3h
Southwestern Dusky Grasshopper	<i>Encoptolophus subgracilis</i>				G5	SNR	3f
Spiny-legged Leafcutter Bee	<i>Megachile dentitarsus</i>				G3	SNR	3h
Suckley's Cuckoo Bumble Bee	<i>Bombus suckleyi</i>				G2	SNR	2a
Tamarack Lady Beetle; aka mountain lady beetle	<i>Coccinella monticola</i>				GNR	SNR	3h
Tawny Crescent	<i>Phyciodes batesii</i>			✓	G3	S1	2a
Variable Tiger Beetle	<i>Cicindela terricola</i>				G5	SNR	3f
Western Bumble Bee	<i>Bombus occidentalis</i>				G3	SNR	2a
Yellow-banded Bumble Bee	<i>Bombus terricola</i>			✓	G3	SNR	3h
Yellow Bumble Bee	<i>Bombus fervidus</i>				G3	SNR	3h

^a **Federal Status** - E= Endangered, a species in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range; T = Threatened, a species likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future; C = Candidate for federal listing; PT = proposed threatened; PE = proposed endangered

^b **State Status** - E= Endangered, a species in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range in South Dakota; T = Threatened, a species likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future in South Dakota

^c **Midwest RSGCN**. A check in this column means the MLI of the MAFWA determined this species meets criteria as a regional SGCN. An additional category called Watchlist SGCN is not indicated in this column. <https://www.mlimidwest.org/midwest-regional-species-of-greatest-conservation-need/>

^{d,e} **Global/State Rank Definition** (applied rangewide for global rank and statewide for state rank; these may change with new information)

G1 S1 = Critically imperiled because of extreme rarity (5 or fewer occurrences or very few remaining individuals or acres) or because of some factor(s) making it especially vulnerable to extinction.

G2 S2 = Imperiled because of rarity (6 to 20 occurrences or few remaining individuals or acres) or because of some factor(s) making it very vulnerable to extinction throughout its range.

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G3 S3 = Either very rare and local throughout its range or found locally (even abundantly at some of its locations) in a restricted range, or vulnerable to extinction throughout its range because of other factors; in the range of 21 of 100 occurrences.

G4 S4 = Apparently secure, though it may be quite rare in parts of its range, especially at the periphery. Cause for long term concern.

G5 S5 = Demonstrably secure, though it may be quite rare in parts of its range, especially at the periphery.

GU SU = Possibly in peril, but status uncertain, more information needed.

GH SH = Historically known, may be rediscovered.

GX SX = Believed extinct, historical records only.

GNR SNR = Not yet ranked or not ranked at the state level because species is not monitored by SD Natural Heritage Program

_T = Rank of subspecies or variety

_Q = Taxonomic status is questionable, rank may change with taxonomy

SP = Potential exists for occurrence in the state, but no occurrences

SR = Element reported for the state but no persuasive documentation

fSGCN Criteria -

1 = State or federally listed species for which the state has a mandate for recovery (listed as threatened or endangered);

2a = Species that are regionally or globally imperiled* and for which South Dakota represents an important portion of their remaining range;

2b = Species that are regionally or globally secure* and for which South Dakota represents an important portion of their remaining range; or

3a – 3 h = Species with characteristics that make them vulnerable, including any of the following:

3a are indicative of or depend on a unique or declining habitat or resource in South Dakota;

3b require large home ranges/use multiple habitats;

3c depend on large habitat patch sizes;

3d depend on an ecological process (such as fire) that no longer operates within the historical range of variation;

3e are limited in their ability to recover on their own due to low dispersal ability or low reproductive rates;

3f have a highly localized or restricted distribution (endemics);

3g concentrate their populations during some time of the year; or

3h have significant information or data needs.

*Based, in part, on NatureServe conservation status ranking:

<https://www.natureserve.org/nsexplorer/about-the-data/statuses/conservation-status-categories>

2.2 Species Profiles

Individual SGCN profiles were developed for most of these species using a one-page template (Appendix D). A variety of information sources were consulted for these species' overviews. A rare species database called Biotics, developed and maintained by NatureServe, was an important source of distribution information for species monitored by the South Dakota Natural Heritage Program. Table 2.2 highlights the most important sources of species images and map content. Figure 2.1 presents an example of an SGCN profile.

The species template contains the following information:

Scientific and common names

A four-letter code is included for use in summary tables, if needed.

These names generally follow taxonomic suggestions from NatureServe, with some exceptions.

- The taxonomic reference for amphibians and reptiles is the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles ([9th edition of the Checklist of the Standard English Names of Amphibians and Reptiles](#)).
- Freshwater mussels followed taxonomic suggestions from Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Biology (FMCS 2023).

Image of species

Conservation Profile

TSN: taxonomic serial number. A unique and standardized species or subspecies identifier assigned by the Integrated Taxonomic Information System (ITIS).

Global Rank: Assigned for species and subspecies by NatureServe. See previous description in Section 2.1.

State Rank: Assigned for species and subspecies by South Dakota Natural Heritage Program staff.

RSGCN: Midwest Regional SGCN. See previous description of this process in Section 2.1.

The last line of the Conservation Profile may also include state and/or federal legal designations of threatened or endangered status.

Description

A general physical description of the species.

Distribution & Habitat

Most species accounts describe these characteristics at regional and state levels. The most critical habitat needs are presented. The state or regional distribution is also presented in distribution maps. How distribution is depicted varies by taxonomic groups.

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Conservation Threats

The most important known or expected causes of concern based on our best knowledge of the species. The CMP and the IUCN developed a standardized conservation threats assessment tool that is periodically updated. This assessment was added to the 2025 South Dakota revision. A link to the compiled list of SGCNs analyzed with this standardized system is included in each species profile. Information at that link contains the complete matrix and relevant version used in this revision. More detailed information about conservation threats at the species and habitat levels are presented in later portions of this plan.

Conservation Actions & Needs

The most critical actions are listed. The CMP developed a standardized conservation actions assessment tool. This assessment was added to the 2025 South Dakota revision. A link to the compiled list of SGCNs analyzed with this standardized system is included in each species profile. Information at that link contains the complete matrix and relevant version used in this revision. More detailed information about conservation actions at the species and habitat levels are presented in later portions of this plan.

Conservation Highlights

This section may feature highlights from projects conducted or funded by SDGFP, interesting life history features, management enhancement suggestions, relevant laws or regulations, or descriptions of important partnerships that serve to improve the status of the SGCN or the habitats it needs to thrive. In some cases, additional images are provided in this section.



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Table 2.2. Sources of Maps and Images for Species of Greatest Conservation Need Species Accounts, SD Wildlife Action Plan Revision of 2025.

Taxonomic Group	Sources of maps	Sources of images
Amphibians	Amphibians and Reptiles of South Dakota (https://www.sdherps.org/)	Images are individually credited within species accounts.
Aquatic Invertebrates	Maps not generated due to unknown status and limited data.	
Birds	<p>https://science.ebird.org/en/status-and-trends</p> <p>Maps are generally “Range Map (all seasons).” Individual maps include legend information for season dates. The following information applies to these maps.</p> <p><u>Range</u> – the range map depicts the boundary of the species’ range, defined as the areas where the species is estimated to occur within at least one week within each season.</p> <p>Fink, D., T. Auer, A. Johnston, M. Strimas-Mackey, S. Ligocki, O. Robinson, W. Hochachka, L. Jaromczyk, C. Crowley, K. Dunham, A. Stillman, I. Davies, A. Rodewald, V. Ruiz-Gutierrez, C. Wood. 2023. eBird Status and Trends, Data Version: 2022; Released: 2023. Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, New York. https://doi.org/10.2173/ebirdst.2022</p> <p>In a few cases, space allowed only for displaying North American breeding range. The map legend indicates that only breeding season distribution is shown.</p> <p>For more detailed maps for bird species that nest in South Dakota, consult results of the South Dakota Breeding Bird Atlas II project:</p> <p>https://gfp.sd.gov/breeding-bird-atlas/</p>	Images are individually credited within species accounts. All are public domain images.
Fishes	Fishes of the Dakotas Schlafke, K. E., M. D. Wagner, and C. A. Pasbrig. 2024. Species Accounts. In Fishes of the Dakotas (pp. 85-499). Springer.	SDGFP images
Freshwater Mussels	Biotics – NatureServe, iNaturalist (research grade)	SDGFP images or from the Field Guide to the Freshwater Mussels of Minnesota (photographs by Deborah Rose)
Gastropods	General distribution depicted for Black Hills.	
Mammals	Most mammal species maps depict state distribution in a general way. In many cases, the previous Wildlife Action Plan maps were reused. Exceptions were maps for black-footed ferret, swift fox, northern myotis, and plains spotted skunk. Black-footed ferret reintroduction	Images are individually credited within species accounts. All are public domain images or used with permission, such as for the

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	sites map taken from a USFWS website. Swift fox and northern myotis counties were those documented in the South Dakota Natural Heritage Database. Plains spotted skunk records were derived from a recent research project conducted by Kara White, PhD, at SDSU	image of Franklin's ground squirrel, where use was permitted by the Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources.
Plants	Biotics – NatureServe, Plants USDA database at SDSU	Images are individually credited within species accounts
Reptiles	Amphibians and Reptiles of South Dakota (https://www.sdherps.org/)	Images are individually credited within species accounts as well as public domain images.
Terrestrial Invertebrate: Bumble Bees	SDSU Severin-McDaniel Insect Research Collection. Access was allowed by Abigail Martens, PhD, Assistant Professor of Entomology and Curator, Severin-McDaniel Insect Research Collection, SDSU, Brookings, SD	
Terrestrial Invertebrates: Coleoptera	Spomer, S. M., M. L. Brust, D. C. Backlund, and S. Weins. 2008. Tiger beetles of South Dakota & Nebraska. Dept. of Entomology, University of Nebraska, NE.	Matthew Brust, PhD, Professor in Dept. of Biology, Chadron State College, Chadron, NE. Dr. Brust kindly allowed use of images available on his flickr account: https://www.flickr.com/photos/24608578@N00/
Terrestrial Invertebrates: Lepidoptera	Marrone, G. M. 2023. Field Guide to Butterflies of South Dakota – Second Edition. South Dakota Dept. of Game, Fish and Parks, Pierre, SD. County maps based on database maintained by Marrone.	Marrone, G. M. 2023. Field Guide to Butterflies of South Dakota – Second Edition. South Dakota Dept. of Game, Fish and Parks, Pierre, SD. Images are individually credited within species accounts. Majority of images by Marrone, SDGFP. Additional image permissions previously granted for use in field guide.

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Figure 2.1. Sample Species of Greatest Conservation Need Profile.

