



31 July 2015

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
Attention: Ms. Cindy Carr
1721 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, N.C. 27699-1721

Dear Ms. Carr:

The North Carolina Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (NC AFS) is a 104-member society of scientists representing state and federal regulatory and resource agencies, academic institutions, and private institutions. The American Fisheries Society (AFS) was founded in 1870 and is the oldest and largest professional society representing fisheries scientists from across North America. The AFS promotes quality scientific research and enlightened management of aquatic resources for optimum use and enjoyment of the public.

The NC AFS is offering this letter in support of the NCWRC's State Wildlife Action Plan (draft dated July 23, 2015) and commends you and all of the contributors for their expertise and efforts addressing this critically-needed conservation and restoration plan. This in-depth and exhaustive document, which took more than five years to develop, identified existing and future threats to aquatic and terrestrial communities and provides a detailed road map for the next 10 years regarding protection and restoration of species, populations, communities and habitats. Ultimately, the success of the plan will depend upon the cooperative workings of a multitude of resource and regulatory agencies and non-governmental organizations. By having this plan in place, the NCWRC will be positioning itself to focus dedicated funds on those species where the need is the greatest and where successes can reasonably be achieved.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to comment on this very well-written report. We urge its finalization and adoption as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Sparks, President
The North Carolina Chapter of the American Fisheries Society
<http://nc.fisheries.org/>