2020-2023



STRATEGIC PLAN 2020-2023





CHAT is an Initiative of THE Western Association of fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA)

Member Agencies

Alaska Department of Fish and Game Arizona Game and Fish Department Colorado Parks and Wildlife Idaho Department of Fish and Game Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Nebraska Game and Parks Commission Nevada Department of Wildlife New Mexico Department of Game and Fish Oklahoma Dept. of Wildlife Conservation Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks Texas Parks & Wildlife Department Utah Division of Wildlife Resources Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife Wyoming Game and Fish Department

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WAFWA's Crucial Habitat Assessment Tool

mission is to deliver data-driven solutions as a non-regulatory, decision support system of state fish and wildlife agency priorities to aid proactive decision-making during the preplanning stages of land-use projects that could affect crucial habitats.

wafwachat.org



Texas Parks and Wildlife

STRATEGIC GOALS

GOAL 1 WAFWA's Crucial Habitat Assessment Tool (CHAT) is the most credible data source on crucial wildlife habitats and important wildlife corridors across the western North American landscape.

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GOAL 2 CHAT delivers a wildlife conservation tool designed to provide the public easy access to location-based information on State fish and wildlife agency conservation priorities by offering a geospatial decision support system to aid proactive land-use planning.

GOAL 3 Utilization of CHAT promotes the incorporation of statebased wildlife conservation values in large-scale land use planning to provide healthy and productive landscapes.

Decision Support for Crucial Habitat Across the West

Goal 1 WAFWA's Crucial Habitat Assessment Tool (CHAT) is the most credible data source on crucial wildlife habitats and important wildlife corridors across the western North American landscape.

In 2013, state wildlife agencies and their partners across the western landscape implemented CHAT as a shared vision of providing the public with a non-regulatory, online tool to relay credible and consistent information about crucial wildlife habitats and important wildlife corridors. This unique collaboration of subject matter experts and policy leaders made a long-term commitment to provide CHAT with the best science available.

OUTCOME 1.1 - Participating western states and territories are committed to ensuring CHAT reflects best available scientific data, state-vetted on crucial wildlife habitats and important wildlife corridors.

Actions

Data Credibility

1.1.1 Foster **collaboration** between WAFWA and participating state wildlife agencies to ensure CHAT remains a coordinated, state-led effort.

- 1.1.2 Ensure **consistency** in CHAT messaging (vision/goals/services), data, terminology, and processes.
- 1.1.3 Provide **transparency** with funding, supporters, data sources and methodology.

1.1.4 Promote understandability of complex scientific data and processes for easy use by the public.

1.1.5 Ensure relevancy by striving to deliver the best state-vetted scientific data available.

OUTCOME 1.2 - Expand CHAT's membership and geographic coverage by adding western states and provinces. Currently, 15 states within WAFWA actively participate in the CHAT initiative.

Actions

Expand

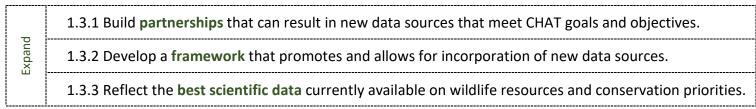
1.2.1 Actively engage potential members through outreach and collaborative efforts.

1.2.2 Develop a **strategy** and onboarding process to facilitate new member states and provinces.

1.2.3 Celebrate success with internal and external media announcements.

OUTCOME 1.3 - Expand crucial wildlife habitat and important wildlife corridor data sources by working with WAFWA and Federal Partners, Land Trusts or NGOs involved in landscape conservation.

Actions





Goal 2

CHAT delivers a wildlife conservation tool designed to provide the public easy access to location-based information on State fish and wildlife agency conservation priorities by offering a geospatial decision support system to aid proactive land-use planning.

OUTCOME 2.1 - The CHAT user-interface matches the extent of our customer's technological expertise to stay on pace with them and with advancements in technology.

Actions

	Deliver	2.1.1 Routinely monitor and evaluate CHAT's user experience to guide improvements and new features.
		2.1.2 Ensure easy access and utilization of CHAT decision support features and data sources.
-		2.1.3 Foster technological advancements to the web-interface to keep up with emerging technology.
		2.1.4 Seek new and creative funding sources to provide for technology advancement and growth.



Goal 3

Utilization of CHAT promotes the incorporation of state-based wildlife conservation values in large-scale land use planning to provide healthy and productive landscapes.

OUTCOME 3.1 – Widespread and effective use of CHAT results in increased health and productivity of crucial habitats across the western landscape.

Actions

Implement

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	3.1.1 Improve visibility of CHAT through in-reach and outreach to strengthen utilization.
	3.1.2 Develop case studies of implementation to showcase successes from traditional and non-traditional uses of the decision support tools and its data.
	3.1.3 Track and promote successes to demonstrate the effectiveness of the Crucial Habitat Assessment Tool in meeting its goals and objectives.



Burrowing Owl, OR Oregon Dept of Fish and Wildlife - Keith Kohl



WAFWA's Vision for CHAT

WAFWA's vision for the future of the west includes healthy and productive landscapes with interconnected networks of large natural areas supporting viable populations of fish and wildlife (crucial habitats). WAFWA's vision includes the incorporation of CHAT into all landscape scale project planning across the west, realizing the goal of keeping common species common and improving the status of federally listed threatened and endangered species. WAFWA's goal for CHAT is to support, promote, and enhance a nationally recognized and widely used, state-based wildlife conservation tool that provides a roadmap for developing the west in an economically and environmentally viable way using the most up-to-date, credible, and defensible wildlife data and analysis. In addition, CHAT is a tool that provides guidance for priority conservation investment. WAFWA believes it is essential that the CHAT continue to advance in terms of technology, service, data, and content improvement.



CONTACT

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To learn more and support our work, please visit: WAFWACHAT.ORG

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