

# STRATEGIC PLAN | 2021-2030

THE NEXT GENERATION OF OHIO'S CONSERVATION JOURNEY:

BUILDING ON THE PAST TO PREPARE FOR THE FUTURE

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## **HOW THE PLAN WAS DEVELOPED**

This version of the strategic plan was refreshed with language intended to be more inclusive. The original was created in 2010 by Division of Wildlife employees with input from leaders in Ohio's conservation community, academic experts, and wildlife enthusiasts. This plan reflects a shared vision to address the challenges, issues, and opportunities related to fish and wildlife conservation in Ohio.





## LETTER FROM THE DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

The Division of Wildlife is pleased to present a 2021 update to our strategic plan. We invite all Ohioans to join us on the next generation of Ohio's conservation journey. The plan gives a bird's-eye view of five fundamental principles of Ohio conservation, our desired objective for each, and paths to accomplish these objectives. These include: 1) stewardship of our resources; 2) opportunities for participation in fish and wildlife recreation; 3) connections we make with all fish and wildlife enthusiasts; 4) active public engagement in outdoor recreation and wildlife conservation; and, 5) a standard of excellence in the work we do for you. From this broad perspective, the Division of Wildlife can consider where Ohio's fish and wildlife resources have been, where they are today, and how we can work together to secure their future.

Since our beginning in 1873 as the Ohio Fish Commission, our agency has been at the forefront of Ohio's fish and wildlife conservation through our commitment, passion, and statutory authority. As we consider where we stand today and look to the future, we embrace a rich history of experiences and the strong support of anglers, hunters, and trappers – the historic foundation of our success. We also welcome all conservation enthusiasts who share an appreciation of these resources and the contributions that fish and wildlife make to the quality of life in Ohio. However you appreciate fish and wildlife, we encourage all who care about Ohio's fish and wildlife to travel together on this conservation journey to promote healthy ecosystems, protect recreational opportunities, and ensure that the values we share today will be there for the next generation. Just as you plan your next trip outdoors, this strategic plan helps the Division of Wildlife prepare for the years ahead. It is our hope that everyone who values healthy, natural environments for people and wildlife join us on this journey to conserve and improve Ohio's fish and wildlife and their habitats for sustainable use and appreciation by all.

Sincerely,



Your Ohio Division of Wildlife





## WILDLIFE

- Populations of bald eagles and peregrine falcons have rebounded, bringing these and other species back from the brink of extinction, ensuring their place among Ohio's rich diversity of wildlife.
- Native wildlife species continue to be stressed by non-native invasive species.
   International commerce on Lake Erie and its variety of habitats makes this region particularly vulnerable to invasions.
- Habitat loss, degradation, and fragmentation influences species diversity, population densities, and their susceptibility to disease. Collaboration with partners to help preserve corridors and protect important habitat minimizes impacts to pollinators.
- Ohio has generated record white-tailed deer and walleye harvests in recent years.
- Low-density suburban development increases edge habitat species such as white-tailed deer but can also increase conflict between people and wildlife.
- The Division of Wildlife produces more than 40 million fish that are stocked in Ohio's public waterways annually.





# **HABITAT**

- With nearly 45,000 square miles of land, 2.25 million acres of Lake Erie, 60,000 miles of streams, more than 120,000 surface acres of inland lakes, and 451 miles of the Ohio River, outdoor enthusiasts can explore a diversity of opportunities.
- More than 90% of Ohio's land is privately owned. The Division of Wildlife manages less than 2% of our state's land area to enhance habitat and provide opportunities for fish and wildlife recreation. Habitat quantity and quality are the largest factors influencing wildlife populations.
- Environmental changes could impact many of Ohio's valuable land and water resources in Lake Erie and Ohio River watersheds. Warming temperatures and shifting precipitation patterns may alter habitats, species composition, and ecosystem function. Growing season changes may increase invasive plant species, also impacting Ohio's wildlife.



## **PEOPLE**

- In Ohio, outdoor recreation results in \$24.3 billion in annual consumer spending. This in turn generates 215,000 direct jobs amounting to \$7 billion in salaries and wages as well as more than \$1.5 billion in local and state tax dollars. More specifically, Ohioans annually take part in more than 170 million outdoor recreational trips to Ohio's natural areas, with more than 29 million of these trips directed towards hunting and fishing.
- The most commonly recognized barrier for fishing and hunting participation is time and the associated priorities for family and work commitments.
- Hunting participation nationwide has declined steadily in the last few decades, however, participation in other outdoor-related activities such as wildlife watching, trail running, biking, and hiking is growing.
- Our nation's population has never been more diverse, urban, educated, or dependent on technology.
- Urban areas are home to four out of five Ohioans.
- Many Ohioans are moving to exurban areas, just outside core metropolitan areas, reducing farmland around cities.
- North Americans are more diverse in their values, perspectives, and interests relative to fish and wildlife.







## **OUR VALUES**

#### THE DIVISION OF WILDLIFE BELIEVES THAT:

- Input from a broad public audience and open lines of communication are essential.
- · Fish and wildlife recreation provide essential social, economic, and human health benefits.
- Sustainable consumptive use of fish and wildlife through hunting, fishing, and trapping is vital to
  effective conservation.
- Fish and wildlife management must be based on the best available science.
- Partnerships are necessary for effective fish and wildlife conservation.
- Conservation is our priority when managing lands and waters.
- A dedicated and professional workforce is key to achieving long-term success.
- Diverse fish and wildlife populations benefit everyone.
- Providing quality customer service is critical to achieving our mission.
- Diverse and dedicated funding is necessary for fish and wildlife conservation.
- Fiscal responsibility is crucial to the future of Ohio's fish and wildlife management.

## **OUR VISION**

#### THE DIVISION OF WILDLIFE'S IDEAL FUTURE INCLUDES:

- Healthy ecosystems that support thriving fish and wildlife populations for all to enjoy.
- Recognition as the authority on all fish and wildlife-related issues in Ohio through sciencebased management with strong support from sportsmen and women, fish and wildlife enthusiasts, as well as conservation partners.
- · Stable funding through multiple sources representing all who value fish and wildlife conservation.
- A highly qualified, well trained, and dedicated staff who understand and respect the importance of fish and wildlife conservation in Ohio and seek to build upon it to create a better future.
- Enhanced conservation through broader engagement of the public.



# FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

# STEWARDSHIP

FOSTER HEALTHY ECOSYSTEMS FOR THE BENEFIT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

# **EXCELLENCE**

MAINTAIN EFFECTIVE AND PROFESSIONAL AGENCY OPERATIONS

# THE FUTURE OF OHIO'S WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

# **OPPORTUNITIES**

IMPROVE OPPORTUNITIES FOR FISH
AND WILDLIFE RECREATION

# **ENGAGEMENT**

PRESERVE AND PROMOTE PARTICIPATION IN OUTDOOR RECREATION AND INTEREST IN FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

# CONNECTIONS

CREATE, EXPAND, AND IMPROVE PUBLIC AWARENESS, UNDERSTANDING, AND APPRECIATION OF OHIO'S FISH AND WILDLIFE



## STEWARDSHIP >

#### FOSTER HEALTHY ECOSYSTEMS FOR THE BENEFIT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE:

Protecting and fostering healthy ecosystems to benefit Ohio's fish and wildlife is critical to conservation amid social, political, and economic changes of the 21st century. Ohio faces new and continuing challenges to maintaining healthy ecosystems. With more than 11 million people living in Ohio, balancing the needs of fish and wildlife with impacts from development and economic growth are central to these efforts. The Division of Wildlife must lead by example when managing public land and water and encourage the protection, conservation, and management of private land and water. Threats to healthy ecosystems include habitat loss, invasive and nuisance species, pollution, disease, and other challenges. The Division of Wildlife maintains diverse fish and wildlife populations and habitats while identifying and minimizing threats to ecosystems.

#### STEWARDSHIP > GOALS

- Diverse and sustainable fish and wildlife populations and habitats representative of healthy ecosystems and sustainable use
- Minimize impacts from habitat loss, invasive and nuisance species, pollution, disease, climate change, and other challenges

#### STEWARDSHIP > OBJECTIVES

- Balance the needs of fish and wildlife with the needs of people by mitigating incompatible ecosystem uses
- 2. Manage and evaluate fish and wildlife populations and their habitats through the best available science
- 3. Reintroduce and restore species and habitat where appropriate
- 4. Protect and sustain fish and wildlife resources through regulations, enforcement, partnerships, and education
- 5. Protect land and water resources through strategic acquisitions, easements, and partnerships
- 6. Identify ecosystem- or population-level threats through research, surveillance, monitoring, and inventory
- 7. Strive to prevent the introduction and control the spread of harmful species through legislation, regulation, policy, management practices, education, and partnerships



# STEWARDSHIP MILESTONES

1913 OHIO RESIDENTS FIRST REQUIRED TO PURCHASE A

**HUNTING LICENSE** 

1972 THE CLEAN **WATER ACT** IS ENACTED TO ADDRESS **POINT SOURCE** POLLUTION IN THE U.S.

1996 INITIATED REINTRODUCTION OF TRUMPETER SWAN WITH THE **RELEASE OF 15** BIRDS AT MAGEE MARSH WILDLIFE

AREA

2007 OHIO JOINED **26 OTHER** STATES IN THE INTERSTATE WILDLIFE **VIOLATORS** COMPACT

2012 **OSPREY DELISTED WITH** 105 NESTS PRODUCING 180 CHICKS IN THAT YEAR

2015 THE PEREGRINE FALCON **DELISTED WITH POPULATIONS** STEADILY **GROWING AND** MORE THAN 30 PAIRS AT THIS TIME

**GOVERNOR DEWINE'S H20HIO INITIATIVE WAS LAUNCHED BY THE** OHIO GENERAL **ASSEMBLY** TO SUPPORT **STATEWIDE INITIATIVES FOR CLEAN AND SAFE** WATER

2019

1873

OHIO LEGISLATURE **CREATED THE** OHIO FISH COMMISSION. NOW KNOWN AS THE OHIO **DIVISION OF** WILDLIFE

1925

OHIO'S FIRST FISHING **LICENSE LAW ENACTED** 

1973 THE OHIO **ENDANGERED SPECIES LAW PASSED** WHICH EXPANDED **AUTHORITY FOR THE DIVISION OF WILDLIFE** TO PROTECT AND MANAGE DIVERSE **WILDLIFE SPECIES**  1976

THE GREAT **LAKES FISHERY** COMMISSION INITIATES INTER-AGENCY MANAGEMENT TO REBUILD FISH STOCKING IN THE GREAT LAKES, INCLUDING **RESTORATION OF** THE WALLEYE **FISHERY IN LAKE** ERIE

THE RIVER OTTER **WAS FIRST** MAMMALIAN SPECIES DE-LISTED. THIS **SPECIES WAS** ADDED TO THE FIRST STATE **ENDANGERED SPECIES LIST** IN 1974

2002

2008

THE BALD EAGLE, PEREGRINE FALCON, AND **OSPREY POPULATIONS** REBOUND FROM BEING STATE-ENDANGERED **SPECIES TO STATE-**THREATENED SPECIES 2011

THE BALD EAGLE IS DELISTED AND NOW FOUND **THROUGHOUT** MOST OF THE STATE DURING BREEDING SEASON

2014

**BOBCATS** DELISTED, AND HELLBENDER REPATRIATION **EFFORTS BEGIN** WITH NEARLY **200 ANIMALS** RELEASED INTO THREE **EASTERN OHIO** WATERSHEDS

2018

REMOVAL OF REMOVAL OF SIX-**MILE DAM** 

2020

2018

BALLVILLE

DAM

LONG-TERM **EFFORT** INITIATED TO **RESTORE LAKE** STURGEON IN **LAKE ERIE** 



## OPPORTUNITIES >

#### IMPROVE OPPORTUNITIES FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE RECREATION:

Ohio provides world-class opportunities for fishing, hunting, trapping, bird watching, wildlife viewing, and other forms of outdoor recreation. Diverse populations of fish and wildlife are key to providing these opportunities. However, challenges to ecosystems and fish and wildlife populations limit recreational opportunities. In addition, many barriers to recreation and participation limit the quantity, quality, and accessibility of these opportunities. Many Ohioans are passionate about fish and wildlife recreation, and the Division of Wildlife supports and encourages participation of these pursuits. Opportunities may be improved in a variety of ways, such as carefully managing fish and wildlife populations and their habitats and removing barriers to participation.

#### **OPPORTUNITIES D GOALS**

- Sufficient fish and wildlife populations to accommodate sustainable recreational opportunities
- Minimized barriers to participation in fishing, hunting, trapping, bird watching, wildlife viewing, and other related pursuits
- · Increased participation in fishing, hunting, trapping, bird watching, and other fish and wildlife pursuits

#### OPPORTUNITIES > OBJECTIVES

- 1. Increase and promote opportunities for fish and wildlife recreation near population centers
- 2. Increase and promote urban opportunities for fish and wildlife recreation
- 3. Provide timely, up-to-date, and accurate information about recreational opportunities
- 4. Conduct research to better understand how and why people value wildlife
- 5. Increase access to land and water through purchases, easements, agreements, and partnerships
- 6. Increase, improve, and maintain public access areas
- 7. Use special events to provide unique opportunities and improve wildlife recreation skills
- 8. Implement clear and concise policies and protections that are easily understood and effectively enforced
- 9. Stock fish and wildlife where appropriate to create, enhance, and diversify recreational opportunities
- 10. Use science-based management to maintain and enhance fish and wildlife populations for public use and recreation



# OPPORTUNITIES |

# **MILESTONES**

1918

OHIO'S FIRST **WILDLIFE AREAS ESTABLISHED AS GAME REFUGES.** THE THEODORE ROOSEVELT GAME PRESERVE. **NOW PART OF** SHAWNEE STATE FOREST, WAS **PURCHASED IN** 1920

1966

OHIO'S FIRST MODERN WILD TURKEY **HUNTING SEASON** OPENED AFTER DECADES OF REINTRODUCTION AND RECOVERY **EFFORTS** 

1982

**ACQUIRED HEBRON STATE** FISH HATCHERY FROM USFWS

1987

ACQUIRED **SENECAVILLE** STATE FISH HATCHERY FROM USFWS 1997

**PURCHASED** THE CASTALIA STATE FISH **HATCHERY** TO PROVIDE A **WORLD-CLASS** STEELHEAD FISHERY IN THE **TRIBUTARIES** OF LAKE ERIE

2001

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY CREATED THE WILDLIFE **BOATER-ANGLER FUND TO** SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF BOATING **ACCESS** 

2015

MOBILITY **ACCESSIBLE** WALKWAYS. PARKING LOT, SHOOTING LINES A PURCHASE AND TARGET PATHS ALONG **COURSE WITH 14 TARGETS WERE ADDED** TO THE INDIAN CREEK ARCHERY RANGE

2020

OHIO'S DNR SIGNS **AGREEMENT** WITH AMERICAN WITH A WOODED ELECTRIC POWER TO ACQUIRE 31.000 ACRES IN MORGAN, MUSKINGUM, NOBLE, AND GUERNSEY **COUNTIES IN EASTERN OHIO** 

1956

OHIO'S FIRST MODERN **STATEWIDE** WHITE-TAILED **DEER HUNTING** SEASON OCCURRED AFTER DECADES OF POPULATION RECOVERY

1980

**RESTORATION OF** THE WALLEYE FISHERY LEADS GOV. JAMES A. RHODES PRONOUNCING LAKE **ERIE THE "WALLEYE CAPITAL OF THE** WORLD"

1995

OHIO'S FIRST MODERN MOURNING DOVE HUNTING SEASON

1998

SUNDAY HUNTING IN OHIO LEGALIZED 2005

OHIO **ESTABLISHED APPRENTICE HUNTING AND TRAPPING LICENSES** THROUGH THE **FAMILIES AFIELD PROGRAM** 

2020

TWO CLASS A RANGES AT SPRING VALLEY AND **DELAWARE WILDLIFE AREAS WERE UPDATED** TO ADD SHOOTING **POSITIONS AT VARIOUS DISTANCES FOR GUN AND ARCHERY** TARGET PRACTICE. **INCORPORATED** IMPROVED HEALTH AND SAFETY MEASURES. AND ADDED INDOOR **EDUCATION AND** TRAINING FACILITIES



## CONNECTIONS >

# CREATE, EXPAND, AND IMPROVE PUBLIC AWARENESS, UNDERSTANDING, AND APPRECIATION OF OHIO'S FISH AND WILDLIFE:

The future of fish and wildlife resources depends on informed conservation actions by citizens. As technologies change and channels for outreach and education continue to evolve, the Division of Wildlife must stay at the forefront of these changes to deliver products and programs that connect people with fish, wildlife, and habitat. The Division of Wildlife has the responsibility to educate and inform Ohioans about fish and wildlife resources and promote the values of fish and wildlife recreation. Collectively, these actions can foster awareness, increase understanding, inform decisions, create a desire to participate in fish and wildlife recreation, and enhance skills and behaviors associated with these activities.

#### **CONNECTIONS OOALS**

- Increased public knowledge and understanding of the relationship between people, wildlife, and habitat
- Increased public appreciation of Ohio's fish and wildlife

#### CONNECTIONS > OBJECTIVES

- 1. Expand the Division of Wildlife's role as the source of fish and wildlife information and education
- 2. Provide a variety of fish and wildlife exhibits, programs, and experiences
- 3. Develop and maintain partnerships to better deliver the Division of Wildlife's conservation message and promote opportunities to experience fish and wildlife
- 4. Maintain a corps of partners and Division of Wildlife-trained volunteers to assist, lead, and promote special programs
- 5. Develop and promote educational materials and programs that address fish and wildlife management principles, outdoor skills, and other conservation concepts
- 6. Provide accurate fish and wildlife information using current communication technologies
- 7. Provide information and guidance to reduce conflicts and improve human interactions with fish and wildlife
- 8. Identify and address customers' evolving information needs



# CONNECTIONS | MILESTONES

# 1930s

THE WILDLIFE DISPLAY AT THE OHIO STATE **FAIRGROUNDS** IS ESTABLISHED AS ONE OF THE **DIVISION OF** WILDLIFE'S LARGEST **ANNUAL PUBLIC** INFORMATION

EFFORTS

1990 CREATION OF THE INFORMATION **8 EDUCATION** SECTION OF THE **DIVISION OF** 

WILDLIFE

2003 SEASON

YOUTH HUNTING **ESTABLISHED TO** HELP RECRUIT **NEW HUNTERS** 

2017

2010 **CUSTOMER ENGAGEMENT IS EXPANDED WITH** BUTTERFLIES THE USE OF AND OTHER **SOCIAL MEDIA POLLINATORS** 

**LANDOWNERS** ARE INVITED TO **CREATE HABITAT** FOR MONARCH

2019 THE FIRST INLAND FISH OHIO DAY WAS

**HELD AT COWAN LAKE** STATE PARK

1978

FIRST FISH OHIO DAY TO PROMOTE THE LAKE ERIE **FISHERY** 

1997

THE DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CREATED A WEBSITE

2004

**OHIO BECAME** THE 10TH STATE TO INTRODUCE THE NATIONAL **ARCHERY IN** THE SCHOOLS PROGRAM (NASP) 2010

THE OHIO WILDLIFE **LEGACY STAMP IS** LAUNCHED, PROVIDING A WAY FOR ALL OHIOANS TO INVEST IN WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

2018

**FREE RANGE DAY** ORGANIZED TO ALLOW **NEW SHOOTERS TO GAIN** HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE WITH FIREARMS FROM **CERTIFIED INSTRUCTORS** AT NO COST



# **ENGAGEMENT**

# PRESERVE AND PROMOTE PARTICIPATION IN OUTDOOR RECREATION AND INTEREST IN FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION:

The active engagement in outdoor recreation and support of wildlife conservation in Ohio is an important part of our culture, both socially and economically. However, social, economic, and political changes create potential barriers to outdoor recreation participation, which can create challenges to engaging the public in wildlife conservation efforts. Many Ohioans are at risk of disconnecting from the outdoors because of changing priorities in society. Participation in fishing, hunting, and trapping is decreasing, but more people than ever appreciate wildlife through activities such as bird watching, wildlife viewing, and photography. Guided involvement in recreational pursuits is critical to continued participation, and improved engagement is a necessary link in establishing a lasting conservation ethic. In order to retain and increase Ohio's active support of conservation in future generations, we must continue to promote and engage the public in a variety of outdoor recreation activities and encourage wildlife appreciation.

#### **ENGAGEMENT B** GOALS

- Consistent active participation of fish and wildlife enthusiasts
- Devoted participants and conservation organizations that are the critical link to retaining active support of wildlife conservation

#### **ENGAGEMENT DOBJECTIVES**

- I. Promote customer-oriented events and information to engage participants in fish and wildlife recreation activities
- 2. Partner with conservation organizations to develop conservation engagement programs
- 3. Create skill-building opportunities through mentoring, hands-on participation, and memorable outdoor experiences



# ENGACEMENT MILESTONES

1936 FIRST **PUBLICATION** OF THE OHIO CONSERVATION BULLETIN

THE OHIO WILDLIFE COUNCIL CHANGES **AUTHORITY TO** A DIRECTORY AND ADVISORY **BODY FOR FISH** AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

IN OHIO

1963

1981 INFORMATION **SECTION WAS** CREATED

1990 AND EDUCATION WILD OHIO **MAGAZINE FIRST PUBLISHED** 

2010 **ESTABLISHED A** STAKEHOLDER-BASED **ADVISORY GROUP TO** RECOMMEND HARVEST MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES FOR WALLEYE AND YELLOW PERCH THROUGH A STRUCTURED **DECISION-MAKING PROCESS** 

2020 707 BALD **EAGLE NESTS** CONFIRMED IN 85 OHIO COUNTIES 2020

**HUNTFISH OH** APP LAUNCHED

1956

HUNTER **EDUCATION COURSES WERE** FIRST OFFERED; HUNTER **EDUCATION** BECOME MANDATORY IN 1978

1980

FISH OHIO PIN PROGRAM BEGAN THE WILDLIFE **EDUCATION** CURRICULUM **PROJECT WILD** INTRODUCED TO OHIO

1985

1985

THE FIRST WILDLIFE **DIVERSITY CONFERENCE WAS HELD** 

2008

FIRST WILDLIFE **DIVERSITY PARTNERS MEETING WAS HOSTED** BY THE DIVISION OF WILDLIFE FOR CONSERVATION LEADERS IN THE WILDLIFE DIVERSITY CONSERVATION COMMUNITY

2017

AN ONLINE LEARNING OPTION IS EMPLOYED TO PROVIDE HUNTER **EDUCATION TO ASPIRING** HUNTERS

2017

CONDUCTED A STAKEHOLDER-**BASED ADVISORY PROCESS** TO RECOMMEND STRATEGIES FOR WHITE-TAILED DEER MANAGEMENT THROUGH A STRUCTURED DECISION-**MAKING PROCESS** 



## **EXCELLENCE**

#### MAINTAIN AN EFFECTIVE AND PROFESSIONAL AGENCY:

To ensure effective management of Ohio's fish and wildlife, the Division of Wildlife must maintain secure funding, workforce excellence, and public accountability. It is important to preserve support for the dedicated funds generated from the sale of fishing and hunting licenses, permits, and federal excise taxes on related equipment to sustain agency operations; however, an ever-expanding role in conservation requires additional funding sources.

A work environment that promotes employee satisfaction and productivity attracts, maintains, and retains a diverse, knowledgeable and innovative staff. Ohio's conservation journey requires creative alignment of staff and skills to meet emerging challenges. Career development and quality training also helps ensure professional and dedicated employees and builds leadership, and efficient business practices are critical to responsibly manage programs. The Division of Wildlife continually strives to improve these practices to further strengthen Ohioans' confidence that funds are appropriately spent on conservation priorities.

#### **EXCELLENCE D** GOALS

- · Expand sources of funding dedicated to fish and wildlife conservation
- · Outstanding services provided by a high-performance staff
- Efficient, responsible, and accountable business practices

#### **EXCELLENCE DBJECTIVES**

- 1. Protect Division of Wildlife revenue generated from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses and equipment, while continually seeking new sources of revenue
- 2. Recruit and retain a broad range of fish and wildlife enthusiasts to enhance support for the Division of Wildlife's mission
- 3. Use partnerships to leverage fish and wildlife conservation funding
- 4. Recruit, train, and retain a highly qualified diverse workforce
- 5. Continually improve our business practices to ensure the most efficient use of funds
- 6. Report allocation of fiscal resources annually to provide accountability to the public
- 7. Information technology services that are up-to-date with current private sector standards



# EXCELLENCE | MILESTONES

1886 OHIO'S FIRST **GAME WARDEN** APPOINTED: IN 1888 LEGISLATION **WAS PASSED** CALLING FOR A **GAME WARDEN** IN EVERY COUNTY

1939

THE OHIO WILDLIFE **FUND WAS ESTABLISHED** TO ENSURE THAT HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSE MONIES ARE **USED FOR FISH** AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION 1983

STATE INCOME TAX CHECK-OFF PROGRAM WAS ESTABLISHED TO ALLOW OHIO TAXPAYERS TO DONATE A PORTION OF THEIR TAX REFUND TO THE DIVISION OF WILDLIFE FOR DIVERSE WILDLIFE SPECIES MANAGEMENT **PROGRAMS** 

1993

OHIO'S "WAY OF **DOING BUSINESS"** OR COMPREHENSIVE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM IS APPROVED FOR WILDLIFE AND SPORT FISH RESTORATION **FUNDING BY U.S.** FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

2011

AN IMPROVED FOCUS ON CUSTOMER SERVICE REVAMPS ONLINE LICENSE SALES **TRANSACTIONS** AND RECORD **KEEPING** 

2013

AN ENHANCED **GAME-CHECK** SYSTEM ALLOWS **HUNTERS TO CHECK GAME** WITH THEIR **SMARTPHONES** 

1937

PITTMAN-ROBERTSON LEGISLATION CREATED A FEDERAL EXCISE TAX ON HUNTING AND SHOOTING EQUIPMENT. ANNUALLY **GENERATING** MILLIONS **OF DOLLARS FOR WILDLIFE** CONSERVATION **ACROSS THE** COUNTRY

1950

DINGELL-JOHNSON LEGISLATION CREATED A FEDERAL EXCISE TAX ON FISHING EQUIPMENT. ANNUALLY **GENERATING** MILLIONS OF **DOLLARS FOR** SPORT FISH CONSERVATION **ACROSS THE** COUNTRY

1987

AN EXECUTIVE PLANNING GROUP **COMPRISED OF SENIOR STAFF MEMBERS WAS ESTABLISHED TO** DISCUSS MAJOR **PLANNING ISSUES** AND PROVIDE LEADERSHIP WITHIN THE **DIVISION OF** WILDLIFE

2001

STATE WILDLIFE **GRANT PROGRAM** IS ENACTED. **PROVIDING** FEDERAL FUNDING FOR "SPECIES OF GREATEST CONSERVATION NEED"

2011

**AUTOMATED GAME-CHECK SYSTEM OFFERS OHIO HUNTERS A QUICK** AND EASY WAY TO **CHECK GAME WITH** THEIR TELEPHONES 2018

LAW **ENFORCEMENT EXPANDS** TO ADOPT A WILDLIFE K-9 **PROGRAM** 



## DIVISION OF WILDLIFE STATUTORY AUTHORITY

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Wildlife is responsible for management of fish and wildlife resources as mandated by Ohio law. The specific powers and duties of the Division of Wildlife are found in three documents: 1) the Ohio Constitution; 2) the Ohio Revised Code, Sections 1531 and 1533; and 3) the Ohio Administrative Code.

The Division of Wildlife holds ownership to all wild animals in trust for the benefit of Ohio's citizens. Fish and wildlife management practices, regulations, and enforcement are based on wildlife being a usable and renewable resource.

The chief of the Division of Wildlife has broad authority, with approval of the Ohio Wildlife Council, to adopt rules and regulations for managing lands and waters that ensure sound management of fish and wildlife, to conduct management activities and acquire property to develop and conserve the wildlife resource, and to promote programs to educate Ohio citizens about conservation, fishing, hunting, and trapping.

Revenue from the sale of licenses, permits, and products is deposited into the Wildlife Fund to be used solely for future fish and wildlife management. These funds are protected by state and federal legislation that prevents their diversion for purposes other than fish and wildlife conservation.

