



OKLAHOMA ORCHID CONSERVATION  
PROGRAM  
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# What is wildlife Conservation?

- ▣ “Wildlife conservation is the practice of protecting endangered plant and animal species and their habitats. Among the goals of wildlife conservation are to ensure that nature will be around for future generations to enjoy and to recognize the importance of wildlife and wilderness lands to humans”
- ▣ Reference:  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wildlife\\_conservation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wildlife_conservation)

# U.S. Laws:

- ▣ The Endangered Species Act (1973)
  - What does Endangered Species Act protection mean?
    - ▣ Once a species becomes listed as "endangered" or "threatened," it receives special protections by the federal government. Animals are protected from "take" and being traded or sold. A listed plant is protected if on federal property or if federal actions are involved, such as the issuing of a federal permit on private land.
    - ▣ The term "take" is used in the Endangered Species Act to include, "harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct." The law also protects against interfering in vital breeding and behavioral activities or degrading critical habitat

# Oklahoma Orchid Conservation Plan

- ▣ Step 1 - Identifier key stakeholders & resources
- ▣ Step 2 - Educate
- ▣ Step 3 - Inventory Existing Populations
- ▣ Step 4 - Monitor
- ▣ Step 5 - Intervention & Recovery

# Plan Status

- ▣ Step – 1:
  - Communication Plan – established
    - ▣ Stakeholder & resources being identified
    - ▣ Contact being made
- ▣ Step – 2:
  - Conservation Literature being gathered
  - Oklahoma Native Orchids Briefing – Complete
  - Oklahoma Native Orchids Handout – In draft
  - Conservation Handout :”What’s growing in your neighborhood?” – In draft

# Next Steps:

- ▣ Step -1:
  - Continue expanding/refining stakeholder list
- ▣ Step – 2:
  - Email handouts to field offices
  - Build Story Board for Public Display
- ▣ Step – 3:
  - Develop a database for the inventory of native orchids

# Resources:

- ▣ Oklahoma
  - Oklahoma Native Plant Society
  - Oklahoma Biological Survey
  - Oklahoma State Parks
- ▣ National
  - American Orchid Society – Conservation Committee
  - Native Orchid Conference
  - North American Orchid Conservation Center
- ▣ Federal
  - USDA
  - US Fish & Wildlife