

# TECHNICAL NOTES

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE    STATE OF COLORADO    NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

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**BIOLOGY TECHNIAL NOTE NO. 40**

**March 6, 2009**

**To:**     Area Offices  
           Field Offices

**From:**  Terri Skadeland  
           State Biologist

**Re:**     Wildlife Species Models

This Technical Note contains information about use of the Wildlife Species Models (WSMs). For additional help with the models, contact your Field or Area Office Biologist.

1) When writing a conservation plan with a customer and animals-wildlife is an identified resource concern, the appropriate WSM may be used to determine which habitat factors need improvement. After filling out the WSM to reflect conditions on the planning unit, the planner reviews it and identifies the lowest values in the before or current condition. The planner then writes a conservation plan that includes practices to raise the lowest WSM values and the overall score in the after or planned condition. The after or planned condition should meet Quality Criteria for one of the animals-wildlife resource concerns. Quality criteria are found in Section III of the electronic Field Office Technical Guide.

2) National and Colorado wildlife management practice standards, e.g. 645 – Upland Wildlife Habitat Management and 644 – Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management, require a score of 0.5 or higher on a species or habitat assessment model in order to report the practice.