

## **WILDLIFE AND WILDLIFE HABITAT** **(1988, R2000, R2001, R2007)**



### **Policy Statement**

The American Society of Landscape Architects supports the protection of wildlife and wildlife habitats. Stewardship of the land through the integration of the principles of land use planning and design with the principles of wildlife and wildlife habitat protection promotes ecosystem biodiversity.

Landscape architecture, allied design professions and wildlife management apply similar principles to planning for the beneficial use of the land and support an awareness of and appreciation for wildlife, wildlife habitat and their value to the planet. The Society therefore urges the identification and application of planning and design principles that promote the enhancement, protection and management of landscapes that support wildlife.

### **Rationale**

The future of wildlife and wildlife habitat in wild, rural, suburban and urban settings depends upon an environmentally responsible strategy of land management and land development that emphasizes a mix of human spaces and healthy wildlife populations across the landscape. The landscape mosaic is often created through a vast array of independent land use decisions, creating fragmented wildlife habitats. Habitat modification leads to changes in diversity with most ecosystems. Wildlife and wildlife habitat values should be considered early in the development process, bringing sound ecology and land management principles into consideration when designing for landscape changes to protect wildlife habitats. In addition, the long-term ecological health and fitness of the growing mosaic created by landscape changes should be considered. Biodiversity of local ecosystems has the most realistic chance for positive change. The integration of ecological information with the design process will create a more constructive order between land use and the natural environment and will increase the public awareness of wildlife, wildlife habitats and their value to human welfare.