



## Talking Points

# Recovering America's Wildlife Act

Contact: Naomi Edelson | 202-797-6889 | [edelsonn@nwf.org](mailto:edelsonn@nwf.org)

The bipartisan Recovering America's Wildlife Act will dedicate \$1.4 billion annually to state and tribal conservation efforts to prevent at-risk wildlife from becoming endangered. *If passed, this would be the most significant new investment in wildlife conservation in decades.*

### PROACTIVE EFFORTS TO PREVENT WILDLIFE FROM BECOMING ENDANGERED

- **America's wildlife are at risk.** States have identified more than 8,000 different species in need of proactive efforts to prevent them from becoming endangered. Monarch butterflies, migratory songbirds, salamanders and turtles, and bats are among the species at risk.
- **A stitch in time.** The Recovering America's Wildlife Act will fund conservation efforts for wildlife at-risk before they need the emergency room measures of the Endangered Species Act.
- **Real need for funding.** Estimates of implementing two-thirds of each state's Wildlife Action Plan is \$1.3 billion/year. Current funding (about \$70 million/year) is less than five percent of what is necessary to conserve the species most at-risk. The magnitude of the solution must match the magnitude of the problem.

### GOOD FOR WILDLIFE, GOOD FOR TAXPAYERS AND GOOD FOR BUSINESS.

- **An economic boost.** Americans spend \$140 billion dollars on wildlife-focused recreation every year. An investment in wildlife conservation will result in more outdoor opportunities for all outdoor enthusiasts.
- **Cost-effective.** Once wildlife reaches the point of needing ESA intervention it is harder and much more expensive to recover, and it is more challenging for business. Proactive efforts provide more regulatory certainty for businesses saving them substantial money and time.
- **Benefits people and wildlife.** Diverse fish and wildlife and their habitats provide important contributions like clean water and air, flood prevention, pollination, and carbon capture.

### STATE BASED DECISION-MAKING

- **Money to the states, not the federal government.** The funds from this bill will be spent by state fish and wildlife agencies, in partnership with state-based conservation entities.
- **Science, public input and accountability.** The money can only be used on needs identified within the existing, congressionally mandated State Wildlife Action Plans. These plans are regularly updated to incorporate the latest science and public input, and are approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service ensuring program oversight.

- **Helping wildlife at risk.** Depending on the needs in each state, the money could be spent on efforts such as conserving and restoring wildlife habitats, fighting invasive species, reintroducing native species, and monitoring emerging diseases.
- **Connecting people with nature.** States can use a portion of the funds for recreation efforts such as wildlife viewing, nature photography, and developing trails. States can also use a portion of the funds on wildlife education efforts like nature centers and school programs.

### **PROVEN TRACK RECORD**

- **A history of success.** State fish and wildlife agencies have had great successes in restoring other species that were once on the brink – like bald eagles, peregrine falcons, white-tailed deer, turkey, elk, striped bass, and more. These are all examples of fish and wildlife that now have healthy and thriving numbers thanks to dedicated funding for increased conservation efforts.

### **FAIR FUNDING**

- **Better for hunters and anglers.** Currently, 80 percent of the funding for our state wildlife agencies comes from state hunting and fishing licenses and permits as well as federal excise taxes on hunting and fishing gear. This funding model has worked for decades but has reached its limit. This would expand the funding source to all Americans and modernize conservation funding for the nation.

### **BROAD, DIVERSE SUPPORT**

- **Recommendations by experts.** The Recovering America's Wildlife Act implements the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources.
- **CEOs and sportsmen.** The Blue Ribbon Panel was made up of leaders from many diverse interests: outdoor recreation retailers and manufacturers, the energy industry, hunter and angler groups, and other conservation organizations.
- A broad based coalition of conservation and businesses has worked together for years to try to secure adequate funding to prevent wildlife from becoming endangered.

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