

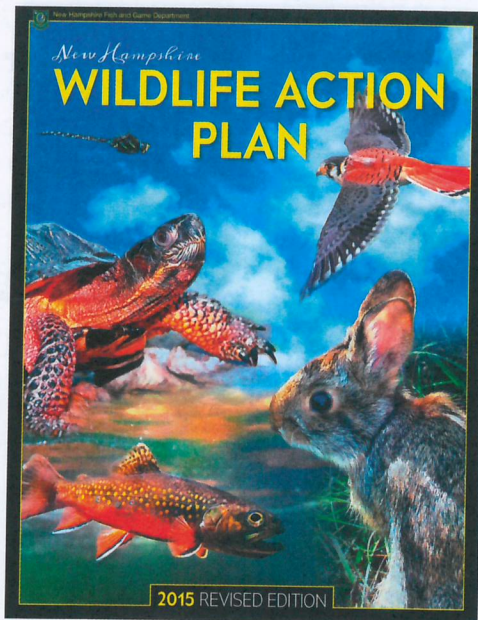
## New Proposed Funding for Wildlife Recovery

H.R. 5650

By Carol Foss, Senior Advisor for Science and Policy

A bill recently introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives would fund management of fish and wildlife species identified by State fish and wildlife agencies in their recently updated Wildlife Action Plans. H.R. 5650 would allocate \$1.3 billion annually from existing energy development on federal lands and the Continental Shelf to a subaccount within the Pittman-Robertson Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act.

Enacted in 1937, the Pittman-Robertson Act authorizes a federal excise tax on sporting arms and ammunition and distributes the funds to State fish and wildlife agencies for wildlife management and restoration. States provide a 25% match of non-federal funds, typically from license fees, to support wildlife restoration projects that focus on game species but also benefit non-game wildlife, including habitat acquisition and improvement, research and monitoring projects, and hunter education. The new funding would be focused on species in greatest of need of conservation action, which are primarily but not exclusively non-game species. State agencies have a proven track record of using these funds effectively, and the new funding will enable states to implement



their congressionally mandated Wildlife Action Plans.

**New Hampshire's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan identifies 165 species in greatest need of conservation action.** Prompt and effective intervention can prevent the need to list these species as threatened or endangered. The Recovering America's Wildlife Act (H.R. 5650), introduced by Representatives Don Young (R-AK) and Debbie Dingell (D-MI), would dedicate annual funding to states to address this conservation challenge.

America has a proud history of bringing wildlife back from the brink. Thanks to restoration efforts of the 20th century, beavers, bald eagles, ospreys, and wood ducks have made strong recoveries in New Hampshire and elsewhere in the United States. Today we face a new conservation crisis as emerging diseases,

invasive species, habitat loss, and extreme weather threaten wildlife at a scale inconceivable just a few decades ago. The Recovering America's Wildlife Act would benefit wildlife populations from American Oysters in

Great Bay to Canada Lynx in Coos County. **Proactive efforts can ensure that iconic species such as American Marten, Ruffed Grouse, Brook Trout, and Monarch Butterfly remain integral members of our State's wildlife heritage.**

We anticipate that a Senate version of this bill will be introduced early in 2017. Stay tuned for updates on the progress of this key legislation!

**"The Recovering America's Wildlife Act would benefit wildlife populations from American Oysters in Great Bay to Canada Lynx in Coos County."**

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