**ACTION 4 WORKSHEET: SECURE ROBUST FUNDING**

State fish and wildlife agency budgets fall vastly short of the needs of wildlife. Nearly all agencies still rely on hunting and fishing user fees, instead of support from all citizens who all benefit. It is time for greater and more diversified funding. Only then can our agencies fully meet the needs of all wildlife and all its citizens.

This worksheet focuses on helping you assess how much funding your agency has and where it comes from. It also helps you assess state-based funding opportunities and political champions.

**Agency Budget**

* What is your full agency budget and what are the funding sources?

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* Which of these are dedicated to a particular purpose? What is the dedicated purpose?
	+ Hunting licenses:

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* + Fishing licenses:

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* + Federal sportfish restoration funds (Dingell-Johnson and Wallop-Breaux):

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* + Federal wildlife restoration funds (Pittman-Robertson):

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* + Federal State Wildlife Grants funds:

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* + - What is the match source for State Wildlife Grants?

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* + Other federal sources (transportation, mitigation, etc.)

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* + Lottery dollars:

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* + State sales tax:

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* + Wildlife license plate:

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* + Private donations:

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* + Other?

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Does any funding come from public financing (general funds from state legislature)? If so, how much and is it targeted for any purpose?

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* Is there any agency foundation, such as a 501(c)(3)?

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* What are your agency’s wildlife diversity budget and sources?

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* + How much is from federal State Wildlife Grants?

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* + ESA Section 6?

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* + Other Federal grants?

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* + Wildlife license plate?

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* + Tax check off?

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* + Other

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**Funding Opportunities**

* Has your state identified what it could cost to fully implement its State Wildlife Action Plan?

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* What is the estimated amount of funds from the federal Recovering America’s Wildlife Act for your state?

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* Does your state allow ballot initiatives? YES or NO
* Is there polling available on public support for increased funding and particular funding options?

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* Are you interested in developing a wildlife funding task force? YES or NO
	+ Which funding task force best suits your state (task force guide under “Making the Funding Case – Leading a Campaign” in toolkit [here](http://statewildlifetoolkit.nwf.org/secure-wildlife-funding/))?
		- Independent?
		- Governor established?
		- State legislature established?
* What individuals would you recommend to be on a task force?

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* What is your state’s history of seeking additional funding?

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* Are there past successful state or local ballot initiatives for other conservation purposes (e.g., land acquisition) (see TPL list here)?

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* Identifying political champions:
	+ Which is the key state legislative committee(s) on fish and wildlife and/or funding?

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* + Who chairs the key committees in your state legislature?

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* + Which state legislators already are wildlife or environmental champions?

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* + Do you have any state legislators that are members of the National Caucus of Environmental Legislators or Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation?

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* + Is your Governor a member of the National Governors Association’s Natural Resources Committee or a regional version? Is your Governor a member of the Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation Governors Sportsmen’s Caucus?

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This worksheet comes from the National Wildlife Federation’s Strengthening State Wildlife Agencies Toolkit, the first-ever toolkit for wildlife conservation leaders to strengthen state fish and wildlife agencies and reverse America’s wildlife crisis: <http://statewildlifetoolkit.nwf.org/>