Recovering America’s Wildlife Act

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A Paradigm Shift in Nongame Funding
$3.1 Billion Federal, $430 million State
– State Wildlife Action Plans –
Roadmaps to Conservation
National Wildlife Federation -- And Affiliates --
Uniting all Americans to ensure that wildlife thrive in a rapidly changing world
Current State
Wildlife Funding

User Fees from Hunters and Anglers

• State licenses, stamps, permits
• Federal excise taxes from gear (greater than $1 B/year)
• Almost NO state general funds
• Key exceptions (MO, AR, MN)
1937 – Pittman Robertson Act – A banner year for wildlife

$1.1 billion fed’l - $367 million state

Sustained, substantial funding for:

- Research & Restoration
- Habitat Improvements
- Land Acquisition
Investments Pay Off

BIGHORN SHEEP, ELK, PRONGHORN, WILD TURKEY, NATIVE TROUT
BUT NOT FOR ALL WILDLIFE – YET! OUR WILDLIFE CRISIS IS REAL

Two Great Notions In Tandem Can Help

Pittman-Robertson Act of 1937
Wildlife Conservation & Restoration Act of 2000
SWAP AND SWG

STATE WILDLIFE ACTION PLANS

STATE WILDLIFE GRANTS
Current Federal Funding: FIVE PERCENT of $ needed to recover species most at risk

ONLY $70 MILLION / YEAR AND ALWAYS AT-RISK
- NOW -
Bake Sale Approach
License Plates
Tax Check-offs
Stamps
Individual Donors
1/3 of America’s Wildlife At Risk

70% freshwater mussels
42% reptiles and amphibians
40% freshwater fish
33% bird species
25% bumblebees
17% butterflies
Monarchs 90% Decline
Piñon Jay, IUCN Red List ‘Vulnerable’
Recovering America’s Wildlife Act:
18 1/2 times the current federal funding
Would DOUBLE Current Federal Aid Revenues

❖ Current PR distribution: $1.1 billion annually
❖ RAWA adds: $1.3 billion
❖ No new taxes
❖ $650 million: outer continental shelf oil revenues
❖ $650 million: mineral development on fed’l lands
❖ Flows to states through existing system
State Fish and Wildlife Agencies are the key to solving the wildlife crisis

- State wildlife agencies employ thousands of highly qualified biologists
- Have proven track record
- Have SWAP plans in place but lack resources
- Manage wildlife on state, federal & private lands
- Education and Recreation part of mission
Funds are needed for:

- Habitat restoration and acquisition
- Species reintroductions
- Research
- Surveys and Monitoring
- Conservation Education
- Recreation
- Law Enforcement
Campaign

- Elevate Wildlife Crisis
- Build Conservation Army
  Big Tent Coalition
- Pass Legislation
- Federal and State
Federal Funding

Current federal funding is less than 5% ($70 million) of what is necessary to conserve species most at-risk
WILDLIFE ECONOMICS: $157 BILLION NATION-WIDE
PRICE TAG

• $1.3 B to implement 75% of State Wildlife Action Plans
• Recovering America’s Wildlife Act = $1.3 Billion in Federal funds
• 25% state match
How much money for my state?

New Mexico: $850k now - to $27 million

HOW MUCH MATCH?

New Mexico: $9 million
National Sign-On Letter

MORE THAN 1000 ORGANIZATIONS AND BUSINESSES HAVE SIGNED ON!

Including:

• New Mexico Wildlife Federation
• Bass Pro Shops
• Pheasants Forever
• Duke Energy
• Audubon
BIPARTISAN SUPPORT

House Bill 4647
82 co-sponsors
Goal 125

• Senate Bill 3223
Introduced July 2018
Recovering America’s Wildlife Acts: H.R. 4647 & S. 3223

https://www.nwf.org/RecoveringAmericasWildlife