



Wildlife Movement Through Partnerships Act

Supporting Programs that Maintain Wildlife Movements & Migrations



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Removing old or unneeded barbed wire fencing is one of many strategies to help wildlife move through a landscape.

Migrations are one of nature's great spectacles, and those that remain in North America rival any in the world. Wildlife also need to move daily and seasonally to survive. However, the habitats animals rely on to move around continue to be fragmented - by roads and trails, fences, energy facilities, and other man-made barriers. As a result, wildlife are struggling more and more to reach food, water, shelter, and breeding sites.

At the same time, the need for wildlife to be able to move may be greater than ever. The expanding U.S. population is bringing more people and development into conflict with wildlife and their historic habitats. And climate change is fundamentally altering landscapes, forcing many animals to relocate.

Wildlife Movements Through Partnerships Act: A Key Part of The Solution

States, Tribes, landowners, researchers, federal agencies, and non-governmental groups have been working together for decades, in increasingly coordinated programs, to make sure the big game migrations that inspire us, and less spectacular but equally important wildlife movements, will be there for future generations to appreciate. The purpose of this bill is to provide policy, technical, and financial support and coordination for continuing, and expanding, this important work, specifically including the [Western Big Game Seasonal Habitat and Migration Corridors Fund](#); the [Migratory Big Game Initiative](#); and the [Wildlife Crossings Program](#).

- **Wildlife Movement & Movement Area Grants:** This grant program will support projects to lease habitat, modify fences, reduce collisions, and conserve lands to reduce barriers to wildlife movements in areas recognized as important by a state or Tribe. Grants will be awarded competitively, with preference given to national or regional priorities, and

to projects involving partners. A bare minimum of 50% of funds will go to help big game such as deer, elk, pronghorn, wild sheep, and moose.

- **State and Tribal Migration Research Program:** States and Tribes are doing important research into how to identify and manage wildlife migrations and movements. This program will provide direct support for these important studies.
- **Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program:** The US Fish & Wildlife Service supports wildlife migration and habitat connectivity work through this popular program, which would be reauthorized by this bill.
- **Corridor Mapping Team:** The US Geological Survey supports wildlife movement work by states, Tribes, and other federal agencies by applying science and mapping expertise to corridors and migrations. This bill would ensure this essential work continues.

Congress took a historic first step to support wildlife movements in 2021 by creating the first Wildlife Crossings Program, a bipartisan achievement that has proven very popular and effective.

Congress has yet to pass any legislation to maintain wildlife migrations and other movements away from roads – across private lands, public lands, and Tribal lands. The bipartisan Wildlife Movements through Partnerships Act takes a smart, strategic approach by expanding upon existing, proven programs and partnerships.

We urge Congress to pass the Wildlife Movements Through Partnerships Act!



Tom Koerner, US Fish and Wildlife Service