



National Wildlife Federation Fact Sheet: Recovering America's Wildlife Act

Investing in Conservation to Save Our Nation's Declining Wildlife

America is in the midst of an unprecedented wildlife crisis.

Today, one third of all wildlife species in the United States are at increased risk of extinction. Once abundant populations of fish and wildlife are now facing steep declines because of habitat loss, disease, or other threats.

The bipartisan Recovering America's Wildlife Act (H.R. 4647), introduced by Representatives Fortenberry (R-NE) and Dingell (D-MI), will redirect \$1.3 billion of existing revenue annually to state-led wildlife conservation efforts – the most significant investment in wildlife conservation in a generation.

- **A HISTORY OF SUCCESS.** State fish and wildlife agencies have had great successes in restoring species once on the brink—bald eagles, white-tailed deer, elk, turkey, striped bass, and more.
- **STATE-DRIVEN PROACTIVE ACTION.** These agencies have already identified 12,000 species in need of conservation efforts, such as restoring habitats, reintroducing native wildlife, and fighting invasive species.
- **FUNDING THAT MAKES SENSE.** Currently, 80% of state conservation funding comes from sportsmen's fees such as hunting and fishing licenses. Wildlife not hunted or fished do not have a similar dedicated funding stream – and current conservation funding is less than 5% of what is needed.
- **SCIENCE, PUBLIC INPUT, AND ACCOUNTABILITY.** The states will use the funding on needs identified in the congressionally-mandated State Wildlife Action Plans. The state wildlife agencies incorporate the latest science and public input into these plans, which are approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- **EXISTING ACCOUNT, EXISTING REVENUE.** The bill would allocate funds via the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration subaccount of the Pittman-Robertson Act, passed originally in 1937. The \$1.3 billion would come from existing revenues from energy and mineral fees on federal lands and waters, a small portion of the overall revenue from these sources.



In recent years, monarch butterflies have decreased by 90% in North America since peak populations in the mid-1990s.

Why worry about wildlife at risk? Who wins when wildlife thrive?



Found in America's western grasslands, the **swift fox** now only occupies 40% of its former range.

PEOPLE, WILDLIFE, AND AMERICA'S NATURAL HERITAGE: The value of American wildlife spans economic, ecological, and spiritual realms. Wildlife create jobs and recreation, sustain food and water supplies, and help us develop meaningful bonds with our natural world. Protecting our wildlife is a cause that has long united Americans from all walks of life and political stripes, and has helped define and shape our national character and identity for generations.

TAXPAYERS AND BUSINESSES: Without sufficient funding for proactive conservation, often action is not taken until a species is listed under the Endangered Species Act, a last-resort measure to prevent extinction. Once a species has declined to this point, its recovery becomes much more difficult and significantly more expensive, and there are associated restrictions that can create challenges, delays, and increased risk for local industries.

OUR OUTDOOR RECREATION ECONOMY: Hunters, anglers, birders, hikers, campers, and backyard wildlife watchers have created a rapidly growing outdoor consumer base that depends on healthy wildlife populations. Today, the outdoor economy contributes \$887 billion to our national economy annually, creates 7.6 million direct jobs, and generates \$124.5 billion in federal, state, and local tax revenue.