National Wildlife Federation

Uniting all Americans to ensure that wildlife thrive in a rapidly changing world
Wetlands are IMPORTANT TO WILDLIFE AND TO US
Farm Bill Swampbuster Program

- Eligibility for crop insurance subsidies re-linked to no draining
- Rectify use of USDA pre-1966 wetland maps - inaccurate
Protect Clean Water Act
CWA 401 & CWA 404(c)
Protect NEPA
Urge Nationwide Permit program improvements
Army Corps’ civil works program
Urge use of natural infrastructure to reduce flood and storm damages
Working for large-scale restoration of the Everglades and Louisiana’s coastal wetlands.
Recovering America’s Wildlife Act proactive conservation solution that will prevent wildlife from becoming endangered - in every state.
H.R. 3742

- Dedicated, annual funding towards proactive, collaborative conservation efforts for wildlife at risk
- $1.3 billion annually for state wildlife agencies
- $97.5 million for tribes
Monarch DECLINE
America’s wildlife are at risk

• 1/3 of species at risk of extinction
• 1,600 species listed under ESA
• 12,000 species of greatest conservation need

Karner blue butterfly
2.9 billion birds gone since 1970

3 in 4 eastern meadowlarks lost since 1970
Cerulean Warbler: 74% Decline
ALL ACROSS NATION
ALL 50 STATES
ALL GROUPS OF WILDLIFE

Figures based on 2015 NatureServe extinction risk assessments
About 42% Amphibians declining
Salamanders = USA
70% Freshwater Mussels Extinct or imperiled Southeast = USA
40 percent
Freshwater Fish At risk
• HABITAT LOSS
• INVASIVE SPECIES
• CLIMATE CHANGE
SOLUTION: Proactive conservation

• America’s wildlife are at risk. States have identified more than 12,000 species in need of proactive efforts to prevent them from becoming endangered.

• A stitch in time. The Recovering America’s Wildlife Act will fund conservation efforts for wildlife at-risk BEFORE they need the emergency room measures of the Endangered Species Act.
Proactive conservation

• Species re-introduction
• Habitat restoration and acquisition
• Abundance and distribution surveys
• Research on threats
• Invasive species removal
• Disease detection and eradication
Species Re-Introductions

- Karner Blue Butterfly
- Texas Horned Lizard
- Peregrine Falcon
- California Condor
- Fisher
- Arctic Grayling
Investment leads to SUCCESS

- Bald Eagle
- Kirtland's Warbler
- New England Cottontail
- Pronghorn
- Wild Turkey
- Striped Bass
State Wildlife Action Plans

• In 2000, Congress mandated that state wildlife agencies develop State Wildlife Action Plans

• Plans identify priorities for species, habitats, and the actions needed to sustain them

• 12,000+ Species of Greatest Conservation Need
Current Funding

- Current federal funding for state-led proactive conservation is less than 5% ($70 million) of what is necessary, estimated need is $1.3 billion/YEAR.
- State funding is mostly bake-sale approach
State Funding

- Vanity License Plates
- Income Tax Check off
- Donations
- Lottery Dollars

Sales Tax (AR, MO, MN, VA, TX only)
SAMPLE
WILDLIFE
Overview

• A once in a lifetime opportunity
• Prevent species from extinction or being listed
• **Dedicated funding** – allocated to states annually
• $1.3 billion to State fish and wildlife agencies
• $97.5 million to Tribal Nations
STATE BY STATE FUNDING

• Alabama $791K to $18M
• Arizona $1.3M to $31M
• Iowa $625K to $15M
• Oregon $929K to $24M
• Texas $2.6M to $54M
• West Virginia $515K to $11.5M
Tribal Title

- Protect species and their cultural ties to them
- Tribal lands provide vital habitat for > 525 federally listed species and manage >140 million acres
- Will help remedy past inequity in conservation funding for Tribes
- Help Tribes play a leadership role in recovering America’s wildlife
Funding Provisions

• At least 15% to state and federally listed endangered species
• 10% in competitive grants
• Up to 15% for wildlife associated recreation and education
• 25% match by states
“Shall be Used for…”

- “..to recover and manage Species of Greatest Conservation Need and the key habitats and plant community types essential to the conservation of those species..”
- Develop, revise and implement a wildlife conservation strategy
- Assist in the recovery of state and federally listed species
Habitat Conservation

- Create, enhance and restore wetlands and other habitat
- Public and Private Stewardship and Acquisition
- Voluntary conservation actions
How, where and why?

Surveys
Monitoring
Research
Partnerships

- Technical assistance to public and private entities
- (e.g. towns, land trusts, gardeners)
- Rare species research (Universities)
- Biological monitoring (citizen science and others)
- Stewardship and Acquisition of Habitat
“May be used for…”

- Wildlife conservation education
- Wildlife-associated recreation
- Species whose range overlaps with another state or country
- Invasive species, disease, and other risk to rare species
- Law enforcement
Recreation & Engagement

- Photo/birdwatching blinds
- Paddling & Hiking Trails
- Canoe/Kayaks access
- Skills Training (e.g. how to birdwatch)
- Lands and Waters
Recreation & Engagement
• Nature Centers
• K-12 Nature programming
• Children in Nature network
Chiricahua leopard frog (Arizona)

- Translocated tens of thousands of frogs, tadpoles & egg masses to 149 sites
- Eliminated bull frogs from hundreds of square miles
- 400% increase in site detections
NH stream restoration

• Creek to Bay Culvert Replacement
• Fish blocked by undersized perched culvert
• Flooding contributed to excess sediments and nutrients into bay
• State Wildlife Action Plan identified as high priority restoration
Sitka Tribe of Alaska partnered with 14 tribes for Shellfish Conservation
Arkansas Darter

- Kansas, Oklahoma, Colorado, and Arkansas = SGCN
- Monitoring and Surveys
- Captive rearing
- Invasive tree removal = increased stream flow
- Invasive vines and others = opened canopy in prairies
Louisiana Black Bear

- 80% of habitat lost
- Listed in 1992
- 10 years of State Wildlife Grants
- Restored 800 acres bottomland hardwood forest
- Delisted in 2016
Recovering America’s Wildlife Act

CAMPAIGN

Elevate Wildlife Crisis

Secure Bill Passage

Build Conservation Army
Elevate Wildlife Crisis
Figures based on 2015 NatureServe extinction risk assessments
Economic Recovery
Nature is an economic driver
WANT IS ACTION

WE DESERVE AT LEAST AS MUCH ATTENTION AS THE MOSQUITO'S?

FORESTERS AND WATER EXPERTS

FOUR H CLUBS FOR CONSERVATION

SOIL CONSERVATION DELEGATES

FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS, WOMEN'S CLUBS, AND OUTDOOR GIRLS

14 MILLION SPORTSMEN WHO BUY HUNTING OR FISHING LICENSE

WOMEN SPORTSMEN AND CONSERVATION
- Birders
- Gardeners
- Hunters & Anglers
- Hikers
- Paddlers
- Outdoor Retailers and Manufacturers
- Bed and Breakfasts
- Energy Companies and MORE

LEADERS LIKE YOU
WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP
What you can do to help

STAY IN THE KNOW!

ADD YOUR NAME TO EMAIL LIST FOR UPDATES

EDELSONN@NWF.ORG
A history of success. State wildlife agencies restored species that were once on the brink – like bald eagles, peregrine falcons, white-tailed deer, turkey, elk, striped bass, and more.
Magnitude of Solution Must Match Magnitude of the Problem
Persistence
Leadership
Taking Action
Just DO IT
Recovering America’s Wildlife Act

NAOMI EDELSON
EMAIL: EDELSONN@NWF.ORG
PHONE: 202-797-6889