

May 25, 2021

The Honorable Jeff Merkley
Chairman
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and
Related Agencies
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and
Related Agencies
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Merkley and Ranking Member Murkowski:

We are writing to express our support for the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program. We appreciate your past support and hope that you will make funding for this program a priority. The State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program, now in its twentieth year, provides a critical investment that is necessary to sustain our nation's biodiversity. In FY2021, \$72.4 million was appropriated to the program, benefiting every state, territory, the District of Columbia and Indian tribes. These funds leveraged tens of millions in state and private funds. We ask that you provide the most robust funding possible for the program in FY2022.

The State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program is the nation's core program to prevent fish and wildlife from becoming endangered. The program provides funding for priority conservation work aimed at preventing and recovering endangered species. The program is saving taxpayer dollars by supporting interventions before federal listing is required for many species, cutting down on endangered species controversies. Successes in every state, territory and the District of Columbia are highlighted in a new [report](#) by the US Fish and Wildlife Service that documents 20 years of success for the program.

The State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program funds on-the-ground conservation work such as invasive species control, habitat management, land protection, species reintroduction, disease abatement, research, and monitoring needed to conserve over 12,000 animals identified as *Species in Greatest Conservation Need* in State Wildlife Action Plans. These plans were developed by each state, territory and the District of Columbia using the best available science and with input from farmers, ranchers, business-owners, conservationists, and the public.

The State and Tribal Wildlife Grants program directly benefits over 100 million people who depend on healthy fish and wildlife and habitat for birding, hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, photography, hiking and other forms of wildlife-dependent recreation. The program is important to sustaining the \$460 billion outdoor recreation economy and helps states meet their statutory responsibility for conserving fish and wildlife for future generations.

Again, we appreciate the Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies past support for the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program and encourage you to make funding for this program a priority in FY2022. Stronger funding for the program will expand conservation work to a greater number of the species that are in decline. Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,

Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator

Mike Crapo
United States Senator

Benjamin Cardin
United States Senator

Christopher A. Murphy
United States Senator

Tim Kaine
United States Senator

Cory A. Booker
United States Senator

Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator

Mike Rounds
United States Senator

Roger Marshall
United States Senator

Mazie Hirono
United States Senator

Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

Joe Manchin III
United States Senator

Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator

Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator

Ed Markey
United States Senator

Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

Jack Reed
United States Senator

Maria Cantwell
United States Senator

Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator

Brian Schatz
United States Senator

Jacky Rosen
United States Senator

Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator

Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator

James E. Risch
United States Senator

James M. Inhofe
United States Senator

Tina Smith
United States Senator

Robert Menendez
United States Senator

Gary Peters
United States Senator

Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator

Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator

Raphael Warnock
United States Senator

Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator

Alex Padilla
United States Senator

Susan M. Collins
United States Senator

Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

Bernard Sanders
United States Senator

Mark Kelly
United States Senator

Ben Ray Luján
United States Senator

Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator

Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senator

Richard Durbin
United States Senator

Ron Wyden
United States Senator

Jon Tester
United States Senator