



# Our Nature. Our Nation. Our Future.

## The Recovering America's Wildlife Act

Today, we are facing an historic fish and wildlife conservation challenge that could alter future Americans' opportunities to benefit from these resources; a fundamental enhancement in how we finance wildlife conservation is needed.

Introduced by Rep. Jeff Fortenberry (R-NE-1) and Rep. Debbie Dingell (D-MI-12) in the House and Sens. James Risch (R-ID), Joe Manchin, III (D-WV), Lamar Alexander (R-TN), and Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND) in the Senate, the bipartisan Recovering America's Wildlife Act (H.R. 4647/S. 3223) establishes a 21st Century funding model for the proactive conservation of fish and wildlife. This legislation redirects \$1.3 billion annually in revenues from energy development on federal lands and waters to an existing subaccount to facilitate states' ability to proactively conserve at-risk fish and wildlife species in a voluntary, non-regulatory manner with no new taxes.

Healthy, sustainable fish and wildlife populations not only reduce the regulatory burden and uncertainty for businesses, they drive many sectors of our economy, especially the outdoor recreation industry and play a vital role in human health. When wildlife benefits, all Americans benefit. Proactive conservation is good for business, good for taxpayers and good for our communities.

## How Fish and Wildlife Conservation is Currently Funded

Congress requires states and territories to develop a State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) – a proactive, comprehensive conservation strategy which examines health and recommends actions to conserve wildlife and vital habitat before they become more rare and costly to protect. SWAPs identify the more than 12,000 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) and apply proven, science-driven conservation measures, which will help recover thousands of species, and reduce the need for future listings under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) while leveraging additional funds through innovative public/private partnerships. The existing State and Tribal Wildlife Grant program is funded at only a fraction of what states need to implement their plans.

The Recovering America's Wildlife Act ensures a modern solution to how we finance fish and wildlife conservation. This new funding model would provide states, those with the wildlife management authority and a proven track record of success, with dedicated and consistent resources needed to implement plans that are designed to conserve all species of fish and wildlife.

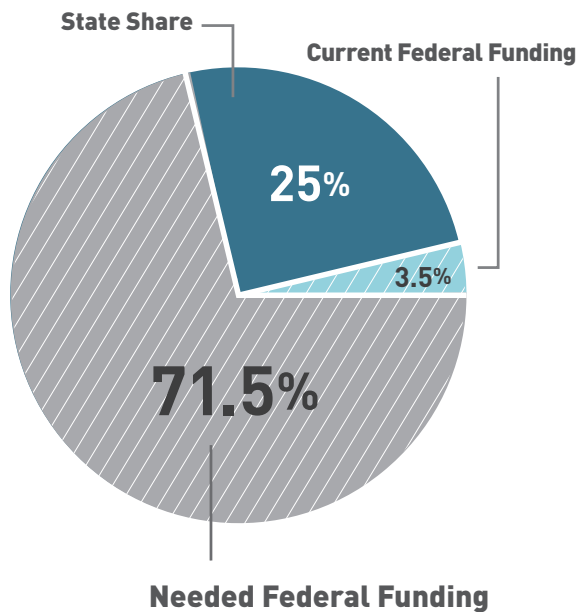
New England Cottontail



Bull Elk



## The Need For Increased Funding



Source: FY 2017 Enacted Budget and Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

## What is the Alliance for America's Fish & Wildlife (AAFW)?

It costs taxpayers and businesses hundreds of millions of dollars each year to restore threatened and endangered species, outlays that might be avoided or greatly reduced if proactive conservation measures were implemented first.

The Alliance for America's Fish & Wildlife's purpose is to secure funding for the conservation of our most precious natural resources, our fish and wildlife. This effort has expanded from the strong partnership created by the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish & Wildlife Resources and consists of members representing the outdoor recreation retail and manufacturing sector, the energy and automotive industries, private landowners, educational institutions, conservation organizations, sportsmen's groups and state and federal fish and wildlife agencies.

A lot is at stake if we don't act now. Our quality of life, outdoor heritage and prosperity are tied to the health and sustainability of our fish and wildlife. For more information, please visit [www.OurNatureUSA.com](http://www.OurNatureUSA.com).



Golden Eagle



Arctic Grayling



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