Recovering America’s Wildlife Act

JOHN CRENSHAW
NM WILDLIFE FEDERATION
A Paradigm Shift in Nongame Funding
$3.1 Billion Federal, $430 million State
– State Wildlife Action Plans –
Roadmaps to Conservation
National Wildlife Federation -- And Affiliates --
Uniting all Americans to ensure that wildlife thrive in a rapidly changing world
Current State Wildlife Funding

User Fees from Hunters and Anglers

- State licenses, stamps, permits
- Federal excise taxes from gear (greater than $1 B/year)
- Almost NO state general funds
- Key exceptions (MO, AR, MN)
1937 – Pittman Robertson Act – A banner year for wildlife

$1.1 billion fed’l - $367 million state

Sustained, substantial funding for:

• Research & Restoration
• Habitat Improvements
• Land Acquisition
Investments Pay Off

BIGHORN SHEEP, ELK, PRONGHORN, WILD TURKEY, NATIVE TROUT
BUT NOT FOR ALL WILDLIFE – YET!
OUR WILDLIFE CRISIS IS REAL

Two Great Notions In Tandem Can Help

Pittman-Robertson Act of 1937
Wildlife Conservation & Restoration Act of 2000
SWAP AND SWG

STATE WILDLIFE ACTION PLANS

STATE WILDLIFE GRANTS
Current Federal Funding: FIVE PERCENT of $ needed to recover species most at risk

ONLY $70 MILLION / YEAR AND ALWAYS AT-RISK
- NOW -

Bake Sale Approach
License Plates
Tax Check-offs
Stamps
Individual Donors
1/3 of America’s Wildlife At Risk

- 70% freshwater mussels
- 42% reptiles and amphibians
- 40% freshwater fish
- 33% bird species
- 25% bumblebees
- 17% butterflies
Monarchs 90% Decline
Piñon Jay, IUCN Red List ‘Vulnerable’
Recovering America’s Wildlife Act: 18 1/2 times the current federal funding
Would DOUBLE Current Federal Aid Revenues

- Current PR distribution: $1.1 billion annually
- RAWA adds: $1.3 billion
- No new taxes
- $650 million: outer continental shelf oil revenues
- $650 million: mineral development on fed’l lands
- Flows to states through existing system
State Fish and Wildlife Agencies are the key to solving the wildlife crisis

- State wildlife agencies employ thousands of highly qualified biologists
- Have proven track record
- Have SWAP plans in place but lack resources
- Manage wildlife on state, federal & private lands
- Education and Recreation part of mission
Funds are needed for:

- Habitat restoration and acquisition
- Species reintroductions
- Research
- Surveys and Monitoring
- Conservation Education
- Recreation
- Law Enforcement
Campaign

- Elevate Wildlife Crisis
- Build Conservation Army
  Big Tent Coalition
- Pass Legislation
- Federal and State
Federal Funding

Current federal funding is less than 5% ($70 million) of what is necessary to conserve species most at-risk
WILDLIFE ECONOMICS:
$157 BILLION NATION-WIDE
PRICE TAG

- $1.3 B to implement 75% of State Wildlife Action Plans
- Recovering America’s Wildlife Act = $1.3 Billion in Federal funds
- 25% state match
How much money for my state?

New Mexico: $850k now - to $27 million

HOW MUCH MATCH?

New Mexico: $9 million
National Sign-On Letter

MORE THAN 1000 ORGANIZATIONS AND BUSINESSES HAVE SIGNED ON!

Including:

• New Mexico Wildlife Federation
• Bass Pro Shops
• Pheasants Forever
• Duke Energy
• Audubon
BIPARTISAN SUPPORT

House Bill 4647
82 co-sponsors
Goal 125

- Senate Bill 3223
Introduced July 2018
Recovering America’s Wildlife Acts: H.R. 4647 & S. 3223

https://www.nwf.org/RecoveringAmericasWildlife