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From the Director's Desk

Mass shootings like the one in Uvalde, TX occur with heartbreaking and depressing frequency in the U.S. And with more guns than people in America, there seems to be no end in sight to such events.

One thing we can do, something that would help protect our wildlife as well as our children, is to **stop using federal tax dollars to persuade more people to buy guns.**

Congress enshrined the gun lobby in wildlife affairs when it passed the Pittman-Robertson Act in 1937. The bill redirected an existing excise tax on guns and ammunition to the states for efforts to restore depleted game populations. These funds became a major source of revenue for state wildlife agencies, which used them mostly to boost populations of species of interest to hunters, such as deer and wild turkeys.

Today, however, PR funds work against wildlife conservation. The dependency of state wildlife agencies on this source of revenues creates an incentive for wildlife managers to take positions that are good for hunters and the gun lobby, but not for wildlife. Examples include: opposing bans on toxic lead ammunition, opposing federal protections for wolves and other species under the Endangered Species Act, and opposing efforts to end wildlife killing contests.

Even worse, after Congress amended Pittman-Robertson in 2019, federal money is now flowing to states and nonprofits (e.g. gun and hunting groups) for efforts to persuade more people to buy guns and take up hunting and "recreational" shooting.

It's time to decouple conservation from guns entirely and find new sources of broad public funding for wildlife protection. The millions of dollars raised by taxes on firearms and ammunition under Pittman-Robertson should be redirected to where they are most appropriately applied: reducing gun violence in America.

For our wildlife,

Kevin Bixby



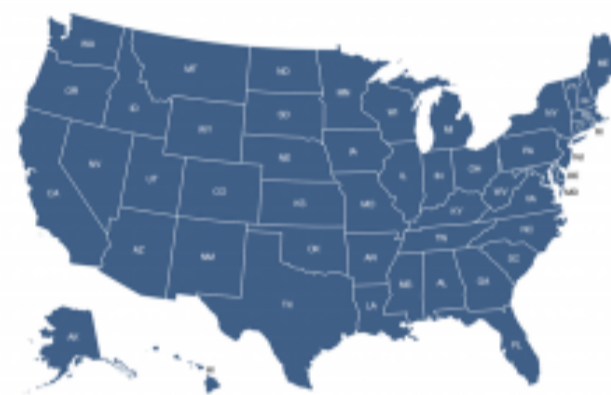
Learn More about the Pittman-Robertson Act

The Pittman-Robertson Act made sense 100 years ago when more people were hunting. Now, with [less than 5% of the American public hunting](#), it is time for change. Read more on [our website](#).

Do you know...

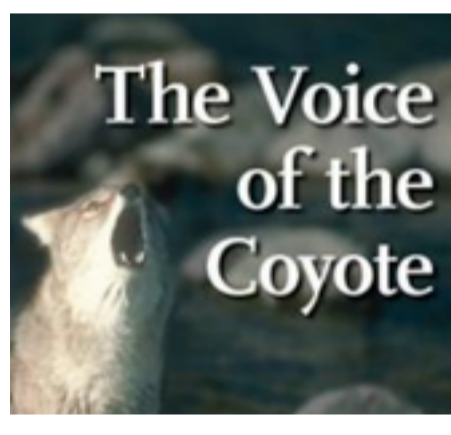
...who is making wildlife decisions in your state? Do you understand the decision making process or know how money is spent? We do!

[Check out our new Find Your State map](#) to learn more.



This Inspires Us

Find ideas for books, movies, articles, documentaries, podcasts, and more suggested by our staff, board and coalition partners!



The Voice of the Coyote

Donald Molde, WFA Advisory Council member and founder of [Nevada Wildlife Alliance](#), says "I was inspired by the tales of persecution and the incredible endurance and charm of coyotes in [The Voice of the Coyote](#)" by J.Frank Dobie.



Plants as People

Kevin Bixby, WFA Executive Director enjoyed learning more about kinship with non-human beings from Robin Kimmerer in the ["Plants As Persons"](#) episode from NPR's podcast, ["To The Best of Our Knowledge."](#)



Our Coalition

Wildlife for All is the organizing body for a nationwide coalition of organizations working together to reform state wildlife management to be more ecologically-focused, democratic and compassionate.

This month's featured coalition partner is [Nevada Wildlife Alliance](#). Formed in 2014, Nevada Wildlife Alliance is dedicated to the idea that wildlife management in Nevada must become more democratic in structure and practice. We thank them for the work they do and for being a part of our coalition!

[Find out more about our coalition partners](#)



We need your support

Wildlife for All is able to do its important work to protect wildlife and create a more democratic, compassionate wildlife management system through the generosity of our members. **Please consider a monthly or annual gift today!**

If you have comments, questions or suggestions for our newsletter email: robyn@wildlifeforall.us

[Click to become a champion for wildlife!](#)

SWEC dba Wildlife for All

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SWEC dba Wildlife for All is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, federal EIN 85-0403860.



Not a member? Please join us! We work to transform state wildlife management to respect the intrinsic value of all species, reform wildlife commissions to be more democratic and inclusive, and replace outdated laws and policies with new ones based on modern science. We've had 30 years of success and we cannot do it without our members. So please join us today by making a secure online donation! Call 575-522-5552 or contact info@wildlifeforall.us for more info.

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