

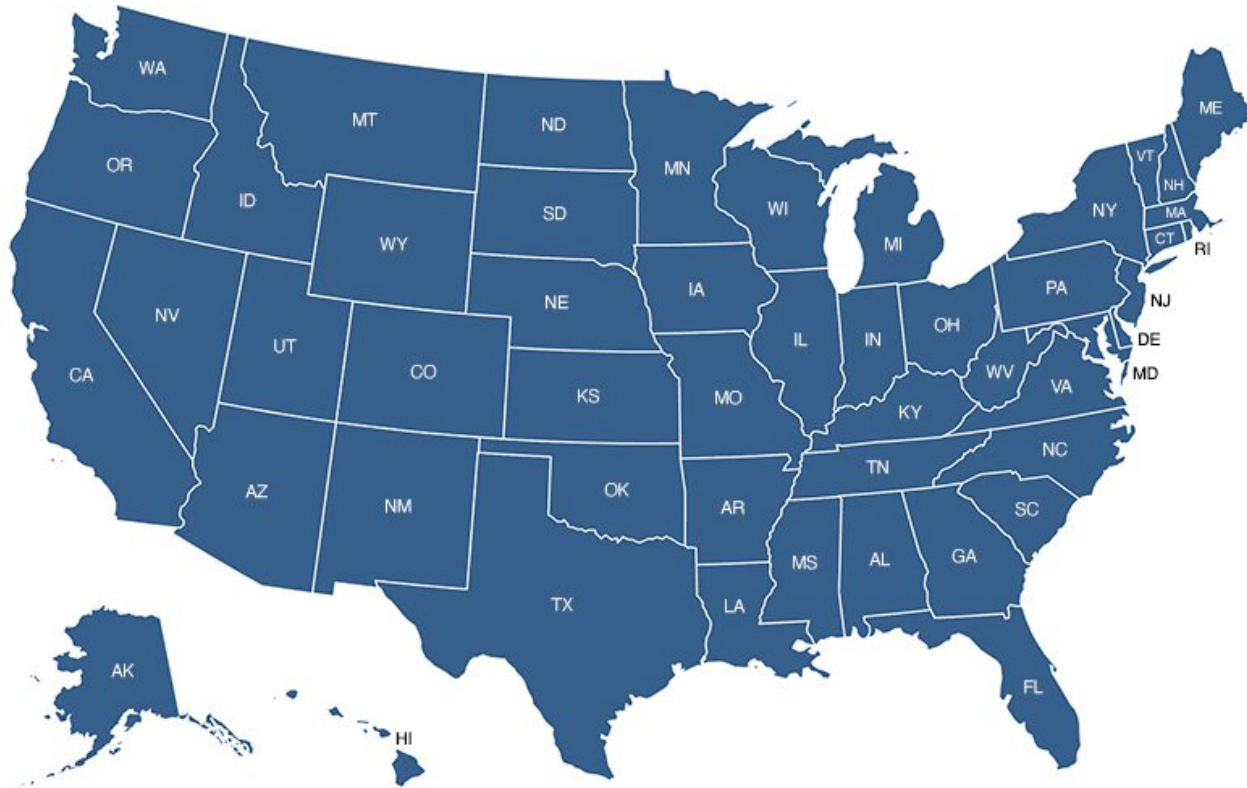


The Crisis of Wildlife Governance in the U.S

How an outdated system of state wildlife management thwarts biodiversity preservation, democracy and coexistence

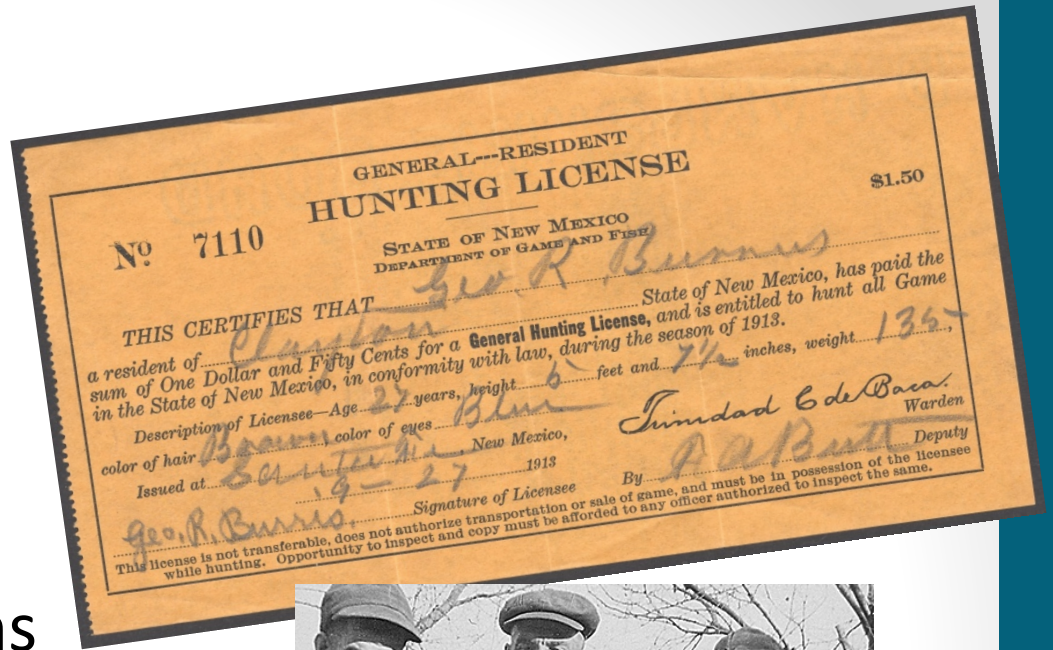
Kevin Bixby, Wildlife for All

The Landscape



The System

- Laws
- Institutions:
 - State agencies
 - State commissions
- Funding:
 - License fees
 - Federal grants (after 1937)



Is the goal conservation?

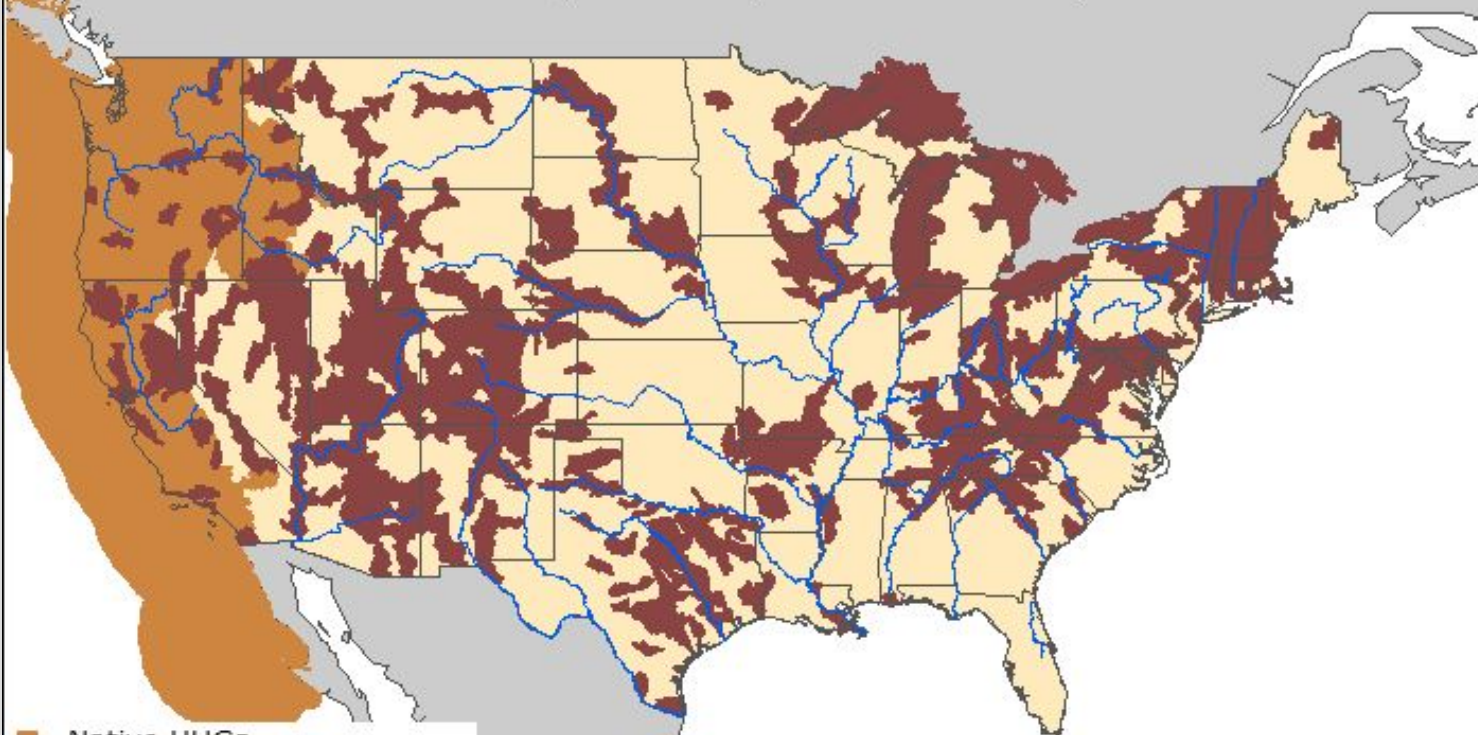
“The protection, care, management and maintenance of ecosystems, habitats, wildlife species and populations, within or outside of their natural environments, in order to safeguard the natural conditions for their long-term permanence.”

--IUCN

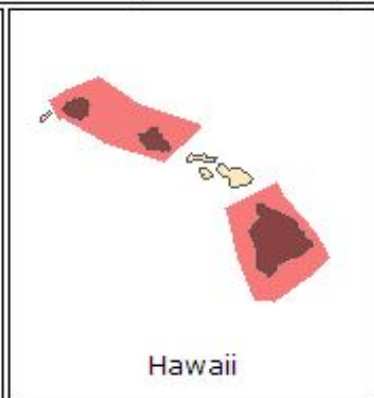
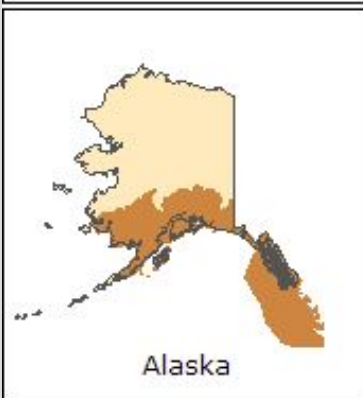
Or something else?

- enforcing hunting regulations
- administering license sales
- providing hunter safety & education programs
- recruiting more hunters and anglers
- securing access for hunting and fishing
- constructing and operating shooting ranges
- operating fish hatcheries and stocking programs
- reducing predators numbers
- acquiring and managing land
- improving habitat
- conducting research and public education
- protecting non-hunted species
- responding to complaints.






- Native HUCs
- HUC 8 Level Record
- HUC 6 Level Record
- Non-specific State Record








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New Mexico Prairie Dog Hunts

Sierra Blanca Outfitters offers excellent New Mexico Prairie Dog Hunting on both private and public land.

LETTER FROM IDAHO APRIL 4, 2022 ISSUE

KILLING WOLVES TO OWN THE LIBS?

The predators were reintroduced to the state in the nineties—and have been the object of political controversy ever since. An aggressive new law allows people to hunt or trap as many as they can.

By Paige Williams
March 28, 2022



Montana, DENNIS FAST / VWPICS / UNIVERSAL IMAGES GROUP VIA GETTY IMAGES

OPINION

America's New War on Wolves and Why It Must Be Stopped

Hunting of wolves is again legal in the Northern Rockies, where running them over with snowmobiles or incinerating them in their dens is now permitted. The Biden administration must stop the slaughter of these wolves and protect their recovery from the brink of extinction.

BY TED WILLIAMS • FEBRUARY 17, 2022

The New York Times

PLAY THE CH

OPINION
GUEST ESSAY

A Slaughter of Wolves Like This Hasn't Been Seen in a Century

Jan. 17, 2022



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ECOLOGY

Wolf Populations Drop as More States Allow Hunting

Repercussions of planned and anticipated wolf hunts and traps could ripple through ecosystems for years to come, scientists say

By Tess Jooose on September 7, 2021



Why aren't state wildlife agencies focused on protecting biodiversity?

- Legal
- Cultural
- Political
- Financial



Who's in charge?

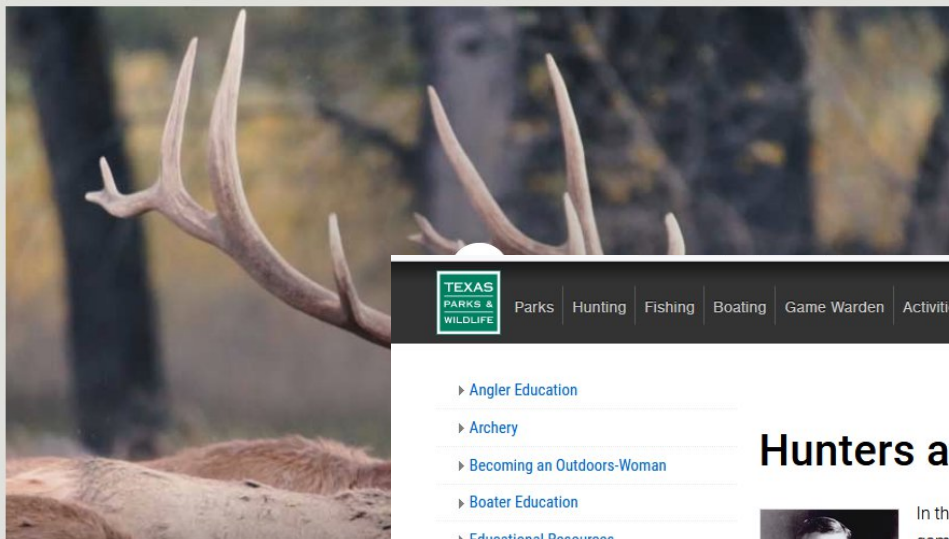
- U.S. population (2016):
 - Hunters = 5%
 - Anglers = 9%
- 47 state wildlife commissions:
 - ~420 seats total
 - Hunters = >70% (mostly men)



ELK NETWORK

HUNTING IS CONSERVATION - PAID
FOR BY HUNTERS

CONSERVATION | MARCH 17, 2017



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Hunters as Conservationists



In the late 1800s and early 1900s, wildlife was in trouble. The demand for wildlife products such as furs, game meat and feathers was at an all-time high.

Hunters supported laws to prevent over-hunting and protect the health of wildlife populations for future generations. Hunters led the way in the restoration of America's wildlife.

Early leaders in conservation, such as Theodore Roosevelt and Aldo Leopold, were hunters. President Theodore Roosevelt established the first national parks, developed conservation programs and started the wildlife preserve program. Aldo Leopold wrote the book on modern wildlife management. His methods are still used today, and conservationists worldwide quote his books.

Conservation groups formed over a hundred years ago, and conservation groups today, support safe and ethical hunting. Many members of conservation groups are hunters. Hunters still lead the way in conservation. Millions of people hunt and also contribute to the welfare of wildlife in America through licenses and taxes on hunting equipment. Responsible hunters follow game laws and a code of ethics. Many hunters belong to conservation organizations and actively contribute time, money and effort to help wildlife populations.

Paying for Wildlife

- Hunters have contributed **over \$5.5 billion** for conservation in less than 60 years.
- Hunters annually pay **over \$372 million a year** for conservation.
- Hunters do more to aid wildlife than any other group in America.

Decline in Hunting Threatens Conservation Funding

January 27, 2021 | [Andrew Moore](#)



Fewer Americans are taking up hunting every year, a trend that has agencies across the country looking for new ways to fund conserva

HUMAN DIMENSIONS OF WILDLIFE
<https://doi.org/10.1080/10871209.2021.1904307>

 **Routledge**
Taylor & Francis Group

 Check for updates

The precarious position of wildlife conservation funding in the United States

Mark Damian Duda^a, Tom Beppler^a, Douglas J. Austen^b, and John F. Organ^c

^aResponsive Management, Harrisonburg, Virginia, USA; ^bAmerican Fisheries Society, Bethesda, Maryland, USA;

^cScientist Emeritus, U.S. Geological Survey, Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Units, Reston, Virginia, USA

ABSTRACT

The Pittman-Robertson Act was established in 1937 to fund state-based wildlife conservation through an existing excise tax on sporting arms and ammunition. Because these items were purchased mostly by hunters at the time, they were the user group primarily funding wildlife conservation. Subsequent amendments to Pittman-Robertson

KEYWORDS

Pittman-Robertson Act; hunting; sport shooting; archery; conservation funding



Sustaining and Connecting People to **FISH AND WILDLIFE**

A Looming Crisis Can be Avoided

A Recommendation of the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining
America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources



Fish and Wildlife Relevancy Roadmap (v1.0)

Enhanced Conservation Through Broader Engagement



*A practical guide to help fish and wildlife agencies
engage and serve broader constituencies*



R3: RECRUITMENT, RETENTION AND REACTIVATION

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R3: Recruitment, Retention and Reactivation

NSSF has been working to increase participation in hunting, target shooting and gun ownership for many years. A popular moniker for this work is “R3” which stands for Recruit, Retain and Reactivate. NSSF’s R3 efforts include working with current members, wildlife organizations, NGO’s and federal and state wildlife agencies. We will continually post findings related to our R3 efforts in this section so be sure to check in occasionally. Please share the contents posted here with your staff.

Featured News

JULY 13, 2022

President Biden’s Ultimate Goal: Ban Guns – a Failed Solution

Despite the gun control law he just signed and the



MOVING TARGET SHOOTERS TO PREDATOR HUNTING



PATHS TO PARTICIPATION

How to help hunters and target shooters try new shooting sports activities.



A New Paradigm

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Wildlife For All is a national campaign to reform state wildlife management to be more ecologically-driven, democratic, and compassionate.

- Ecologically-driven, because that is what is needed to protect species and ecosystems in the face of a global extinction crisis.
- Democratic, because wildlife is a public trust and everyone should have a voice in wildlife decisions.
- Compassionate, because wild animals deserve to be treated humanely and with respect.



Thank you



Kevin Bixby, Executive Director
kevin@wildlifeforall.us

End of Presentation