

Don't Be Spooked!

Making Sense of State Wildlife

Action Plans

WILDLIFE FOR ALL



HOUSEKEEPING

- Please note to **use the Q&A function to submit your questions** , rather than the chat.
- During the presentation, **we'll be sharing helpful instructions and resources in the chat** and encourage you to join in dialogue there.





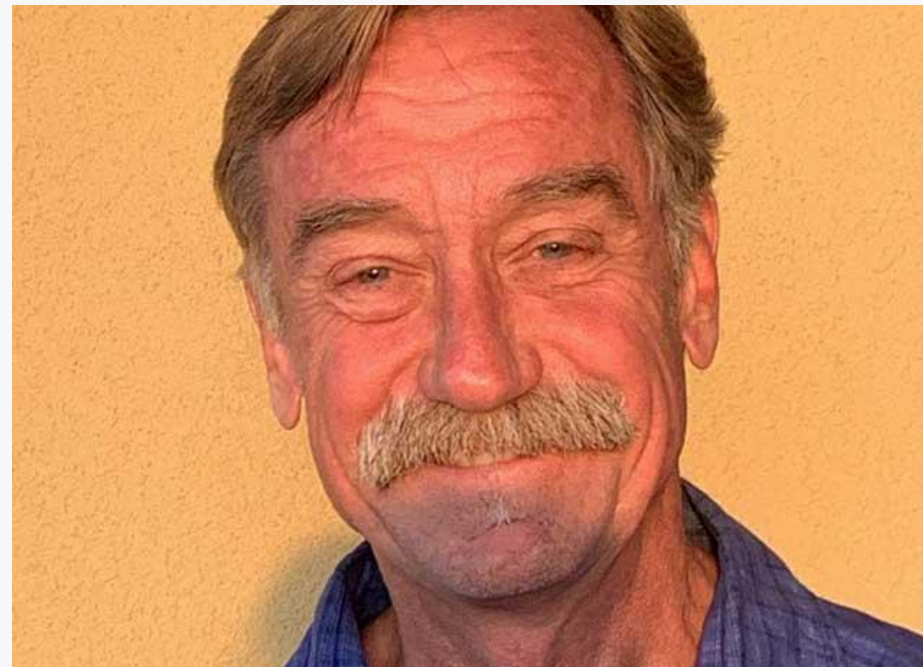
We are leading a movement to reform state wildlife management to be more democratic, just, compassionate, and focused on protecting wild species and ecosystems. We work to elevate the voices of wildlife advocates, promote coexistence policies that go beyond traditional interests, and ensure that all species receive the attention and protection they need to thrive.

DEMOCRATIC



Michelle Lute
Executive Director

JUST



Kevin Bixby
Founder & Senior Advisor

COMPASSIONATE



Mandy Culbertson
Communications Director

FOCUSED ON ECOLOGICAL HEALTH



Delani Delgado
Membership Coordinator

GUEST SPEAKER

Dr. Fred Koontz

Wildlife Conservation Biologist

Former Washington State Fish and Wildlife
Commissioner

Wildlife for All Advisory Committee Member



OBJECTIVES

1. Understand State Wildlife Action Plans (SWAPs) and their significance.
2. Identify opportunities to participate in the SWAP revision process to ensure they incorporate best science and robust public input.
3. Explore ways to leverage SWAPs anytime to advocate for holistic wildlife conservation in your state.

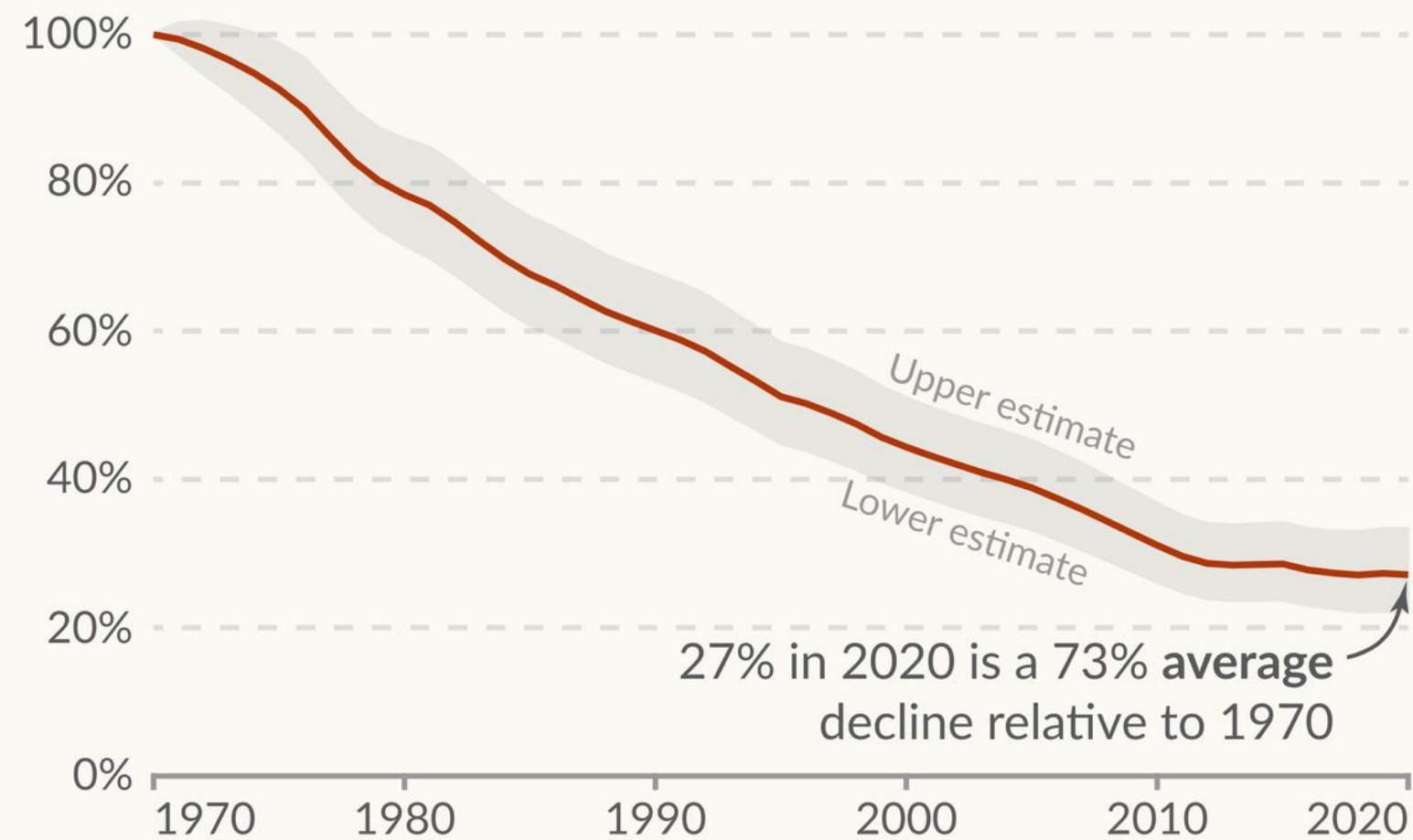


WHAT ARE STATE WILDLIFE ACTION PLANS?



Global Living Planet Index: a 73% *average* decline in wildlife populations

The Living Planet Index (LPI) measures the average change in abundance in 34,836 populations across 5,495 native species relative to the year 1970 (i.e., 1970 = 100%).

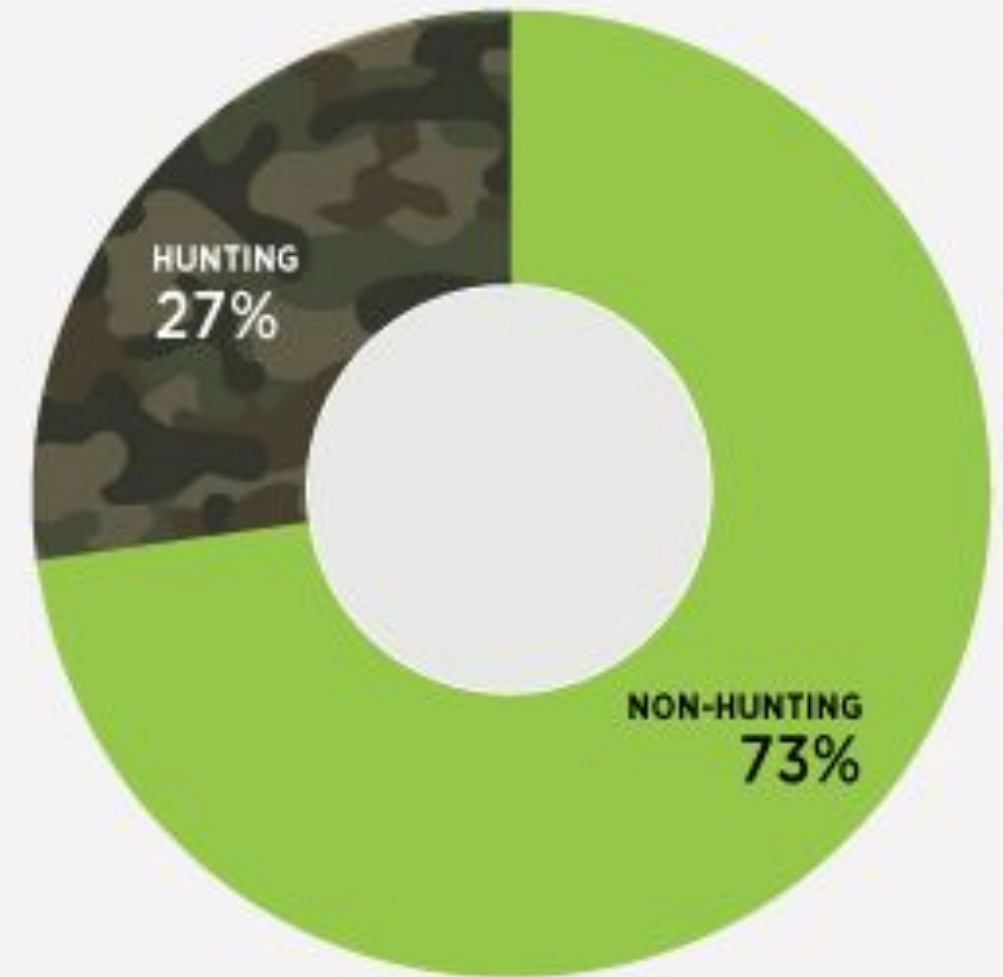


Data source: WWF and Zoological Society of London (2024)
OurWorldinData.org/biodiversity | CC BY

Our World
in Data



State wildlife agencies are failing to restore and protect wildlife because they prioritize the wrong objectives.



Intended use of taxable items

Contrary to popular belief, most Pittman-Robertson funds are generated by taxes on items that are sold for purposes other than hunting (e.g. self-defense, target shooting, law enforcement etc.).

FRONTLINE WORK

SWAPs are the main tool for states to address declines in once abundant animals and the imperilment of other species.

SWAPs are the nation's blueprint for keeping an eye on wildlife species that are in need.



WHAT IS A SWAP?

And why should I care?

- SWAPs began in 2005 after Congress created the State Wildlife Grant program
- One of the few sources of dedicated federal funding for nongame species
- Participation by 50 states and all U.S. territories
- Reviewed every 10 years
- Lists SGCNs, Including insects and invertebrates





MAIN GOALS:

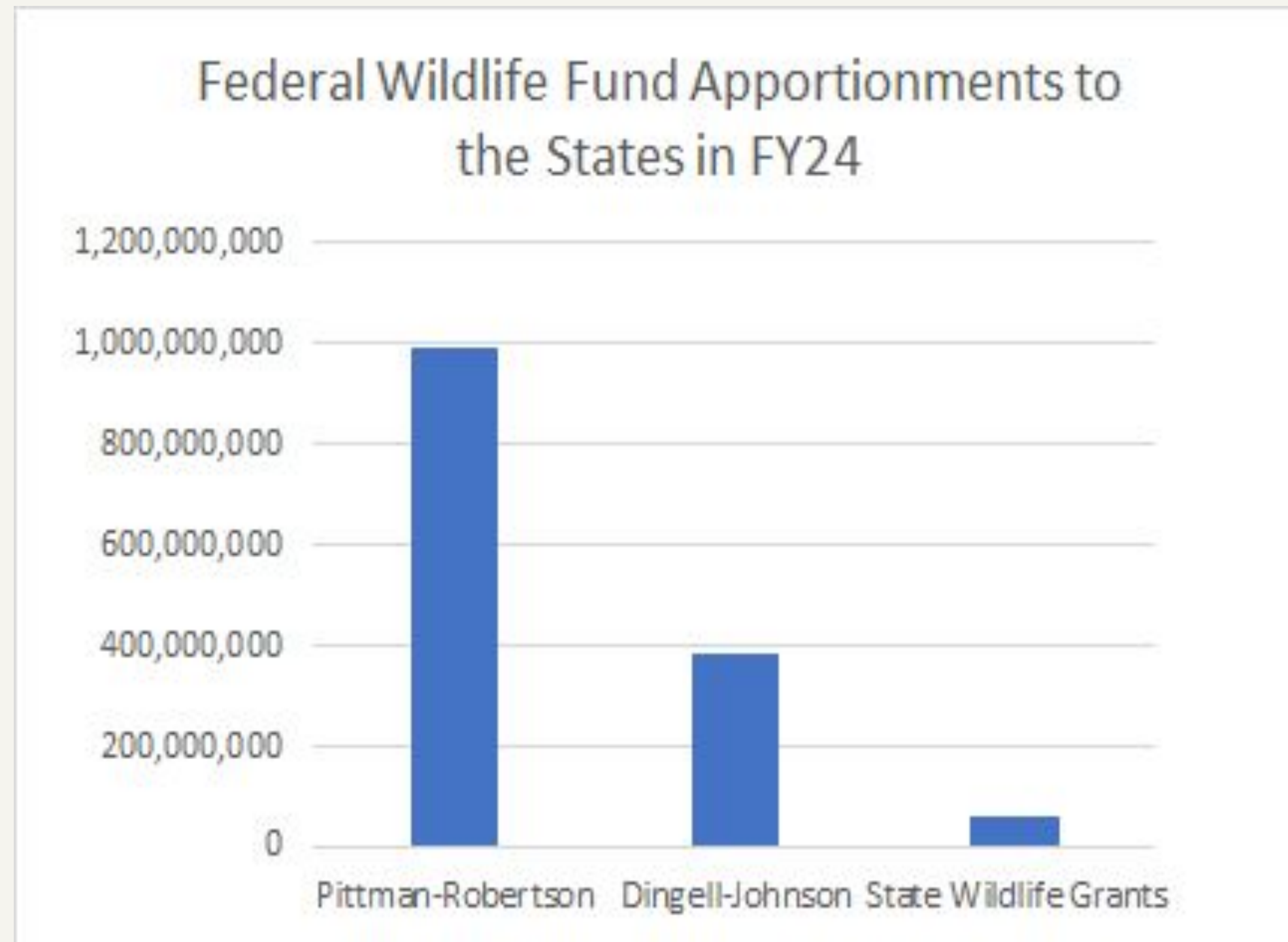
Comprehensive Conservation

-
1. Distribution and Abundance
 2. Key Habitats
 3. Threats and Research Needs
 4. Conservation Actions
 5. Monitoring
 6. Plan Review
 7. Coordination
 8. Public Participation

WHY ARE *SWAPs* IMPORTANT?



SWAPs are an opportunity to upset the power balance of state wildlife politics and shift management priorities



REASON #1

Comprehensive Assessment of All Wildlife Species



REASON #2

Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN)

REASON #3

Blueprint and Resource



REASON #4

Reveal Agency Priorities and Management Conflicts

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADVOCATES

**During the 2025
ongoing SWAP
revision process**

1. Add species to list of SGCN
2. Support agency personnel working on the revision
3. Oppose efforts to limit SGCN additions
4. Call for agency transparency and accountability
5. Raise public awareness of need to shift to authentic conservation



OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADVOCATES

**Anytime! You can take
action on SWAPs even
when they are not
undergoing revisions**

1. Support agency efforts for nonhunted species, always with the message that more is needed
2. Call for agency accountability
3. Raise public awareness about the need to change status quo
4. Advocate for more funding for SWAP implementation



HOW TO ENGAGE WITH SWAPs:

Your Voice is Needed to Shape State Wildlife Priorities



GETTING STARTED

- Find out when your state agency will issue a SWAP for public comment
- Know the SWAP, SCGNS, and the Species Status Assessments (SSAs)



Visit: wildlifeforall.us/state-action-plan-primer



DIFFERENT STAGES, SAME DEADLINE

1. FIND YOUR STATE'S SWAP

Use the quick-start guide on our website to find out where your state is in the process.

2. ENGAGE WITH THE PROCESS

Once you know your state's timeline, look for public meetings, comment periods, or planning workshops.

3. COMMENT, COMMENT, COMMENT

Writing AND submitting comments can help ensure the agency considers ethical and science-based perspectives.



RESEARCH YOUR STATE SWAP COORDINATOR

- This person can be a valuable contact for questions about the plan's process, timeline, and how to participate directly.
- Some states have committees and you might have to do some digging to find out the best contact for comments and ideas.

KEY MESSAGING POINTS

INCLUSION OF NONGAME SPECIES

Historically excluded from funding, these species need equal attention and resources.

SCIENCE-BASED CONSERVATION

Decisions must be based on the latest science prioritizing health and biodiversity.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND TRANSPARENCY

Our voices must be valued in shaping wildlife policies.





OVERCOMING BARRIERS

- You don't have to be an expert to participate
- This process can often seem intimidating or overly bureaucratic, but we're here to help!
- Reach out to WFA for help finding coalition organizations in your state

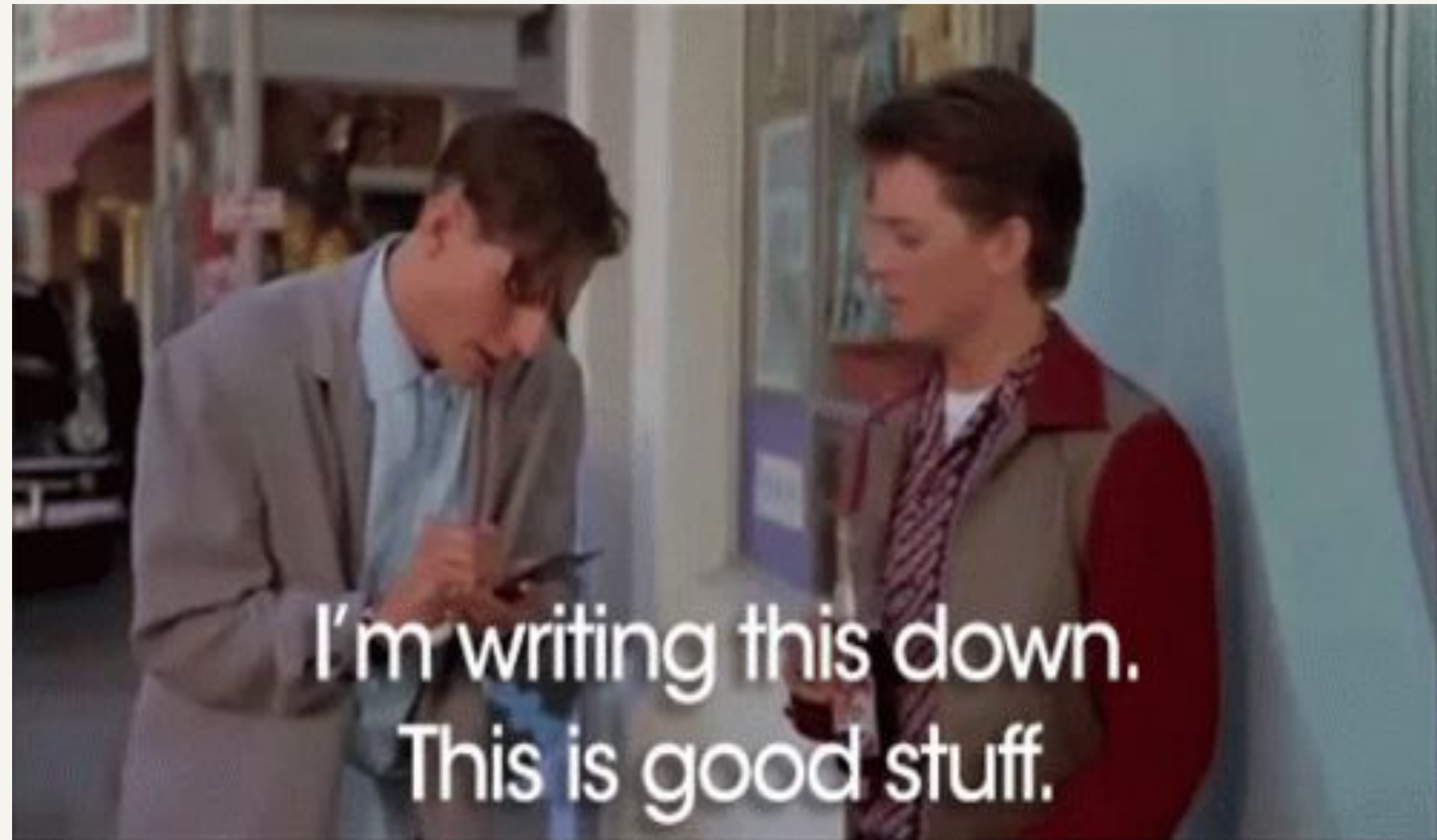
WHAT TACTICS ARE MOST EFFECTIVE?

Fred Koontz, PhD and WFA Advisory Member



Key Takeaways

- **10-Year Cycle:** Identifies and updates SGCN.
- **Advocacy Impact:** Public input can shape species priorities and conservation focus.
- **Funding & Transparency:** Push for better resources and clarity on priorities.



THANK YOU

EXPECT A FOLLOW UP EMAIL FROM US BUT YOU
CAN REACH OUT, TOO: info@wildlifeforall.us



REQUEST
OUR
ADVOCACY
TOOLKIT



SUPPORT
OUR WORK

