NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION

RECOVERING AMERICA'S WILDLIFE

William Wiley

Unleashing State & Tribal Conservation Solutions

American Fisheries Society

Native American Fish and Wildlife Society

THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

USFWS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: WILDLIFE NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

America is home to an extraordinary diversity of fish, wildlife, and plant species, all of which contribute to healthy functioning ecosystems and the well-being of communities across the country. Unfortunately, threats like habitat loss, disease, invasive species, and a changing climate are putting the future of these species at great risk, but we have the tools needed to address this crisis. The legacy of conservation successes in the United States demonstrates that with the necessary resources, we can prevent extinctions and protect the future of wildlife populations and their habitats. The **Recovering America's Wildlife Act** is a bipartisan solution to the need for increased funding for State and Tribal conservation. This once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in the future of America's wildlife will help prevent extinctions and ensure that conservation solutions have the funds necessary to be deployed.

State and Tribal wildlife agencies lead our nation in on-the-ground, collaborative conservation planning and implementation, and have developed the tools needed for conservation success at local, regional, and national scales. They conserve species before they require the emergency protections of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and states have identified more than 14,000 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN). The passage of the ESA has been critical in preventing species extinctions, but by the time a species meets listing requirements, heavy regulation and costly conservation programs are needed to recover them.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION

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Despite proven success by states and Tribes in recovering wildlife species and preventing ESA listings, there is not yet a sufficient source of funding for conserving most wildlife species in the United States. The State and Tribal Wildlife Grants program (STWG), along with hunting and fishing licenses and excise taxes on associated equipment, have provided the most consistent federal funding to date for state and Tribal conservation, but the funding levels have not matched the scale of the need. Research increasingly affirms the fact that when we provide focused, sufficient investment in conservation, we can turn the tide for species in decline—even those on the brink of extinction.

The Recovering America's Wildlife Act would not only substantially increase investments in state and Tribal conservation, but it would also address the specific need for Tribes to have consistent, allocated funding. Tribes have had less access to conservation funding from the federal government, including a lack of guaranteed, formula-based allocations that states receive, and must compete for a very small fraction of the STWG funding. This bipartisan legislation would power up the capacity for Tribes to implement their conservation solutions at the scale needed and without the costly interruptions of inconsistent funding.

Passage of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act will mark a historic turn in America's conservation legacy, reflecting our country's willingness to prioritize the species and ecosystems that have long underpinned our communities, economies, and nation. We have invested in our capacity to craft the solutions and tools needed for effective conservation—now is the time to invest in putting them to work.

Joint Statement

The National Wildlife Federation, the American Fisheries Society, The Wildlife Society, and the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society

Recovering America's Wildlife Act is the investment America needs to secure thriving fisheries, wildlife, and ecosystems for generations to come. Our organizations unite behind this historic legislation because it fuels our missions: advancing science-driven conservation, empowering Tribal sovereignty in resource management, and rallying all Americans for resilient habitats amid rapid change.

By channeling funds to the species that need the most conservation attention before it is too late, State and Tribal Wildlife Grants strengthen wildlife populations and help keep species thriving without the need for protection under the Endangered Species Act. These funds connect State Wildlife Action Plans with stable funding to boost efforts on-the-ground, such as restoring habitats and controlling invasive species, and invest in the critical conservation leadership and capacity provided by Tribal nations.

Across the nation, our passion for thriving wildlife and resilient habitats is shared with many Americans, and with our distinct expertise in conservation and ecological stewardship, we know that state and Tribal conservation solutions work. We champion the Recovering America's Wildlife Act as a game-changing investment to boost conservation nationwide.

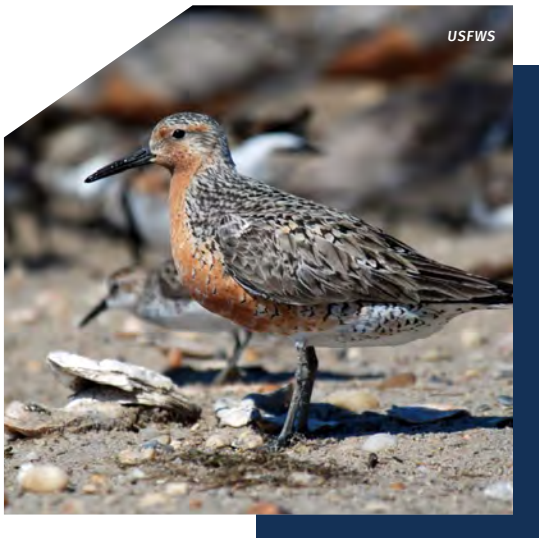
USFWS

RECOVERING AMERICA'S WILDLIFE: THE NEED FOR DEDICATED FUNDING

The United States has been a global leader in conserving species that are hunted and fished. More than a century ago, common species like elk, wild turkey, white-tailed deer, wood ducks, and more, were on the brink of extinction after decades of assuming that wildlife were inexhaustible resources. This crisis brought people together and laid the foundation for the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation, which combines scientific management with a user-pay funding model. State-level funding for conservation was initially provided from hunting and fishing licenses directed back into professional wildlife departments. The federal government began supplementing state license funds through the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act of 1937, which redirected the excise tax on firearms and ammunition into state fish and wildlife management. Later, the Dingell-Johnson Sportfish Restoration Act of 1950 dedicated funds from fishing tackle to fisheries conservation.

Scientific research, and the now common sight of deer, elk, and turkeys in cities and rural areas alike, makes it clear: dedicated, sustained investment in collaborative, science-based conservation works. Furthermore, the benefits of this investment do not stop with wildlife. Investing in conservation benefits wildlife and communities, with all Americans benefiting from cleaner water, enhanced recreational opportunities, and the rewards of a thriving nature-based tourism economy.

Importantly, proven tools to achieve conservation success already exist: robust State Wildlife Action Plans, Tribal conservation leadership, strong public-private partnerships, and advanced scientific methods and expertise. Now is the time to invest strategically in the capacity of state and Tribal wildlife agencies that lead on-the-ground conservation planning and implementation across the country.


USFWS

Currently, Congress has annually appropriated funds for the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program ranging on average between $60 million and $70 million. States and U.S. territories receive funding through this program through a formula allocation, while the Tribal Wildlife Grants program runs through competitive grants. With this small amount of funding, states and Tribes have made an outsized conservation impact on many species in urgent need of conservation efforts, but the level of funding falls far short of the need to recover the thousands of species and their habitats that are in decline.

Furthermore, Tribes are critically important for conservation success; yet they have limited or no access to much of the federal funding available to states, such as state hunting and fishing license revenues. Despite the fact that Tribal citizens pay the Pittman-Robertson/Dingell Johnson excise taxes, and Tribal lands and waters are used to justify state allocations, there is a very limited flow of funds directly to Tribes. But the evidence shows that with adequate funding, states, Tribes, and territories put wildlife on a path to recovery before they reach the point of requiring protection under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

While the ESA has a 99% success rate in preventing the extinction of threatened and endangered species, the best and most cost effective way to save wildlife is recovering them before they need these protections. Funding to support state and Tribal conservation planning and implementation will greatly expand capacity to recover species and their habitats, and effectively engage communities and the general public to advance meaningful conservation outcomes.

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Recovering America's Wildlife Act

The best way to save America's wildlife and habitats is through collaborative, proactive, voluntary efforts before species are in trouble. This simple, but effective, idea is the foundation of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act.

The Recovering America's Wildlife Act will help conserve and recover our nation's wildlife and habitats by dedicating up to $1.3 billion every year to state-level conservation and up to $97.5 million every year to Tribal nations to recover and sustain healthy wildlife populations. The funds will be used to accelerate the recovery of the more than 14,000 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) identified by states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories by implementing the strategies identified in each state's congressionally mandated State Wildlife Action Plan. Similarly, it will help Tribal nations expand conservation efforts on their lands, which provide vital habitat for thousands of wildlife species, including more than 500 species listed as threatened or endangered under the ESA. The bill is also designed to leverage significant outside financial resources, while rewarding innovative solutions that are replicable and scalable.

The Recovering America's Wildlife Act is grounded in the principle that an ounce of prevention is more effective and less expensive than a pound of cure. Once a species is listed under the Endangered Species Act, recovery becomes far more complex, time-consuming, and costly for agencies, landowners, and taxpayers. The ESA serves as a critical safety net for species on the brink of extinction, but it was never intended to be the primary conservation tool for thousands of declining species nationwide. By keeping wildlife populations healthy and stable, the Act will reduce pressure on the ESA, while easing administrative and legal burdens on federal agencies. This proactive approach leads to more effective conservation and improved outcomes for species and ecosystems.

States, Tribes, and territories know how to recover and manage healthy populations of wildlife. The missing piece is dedicated funding at the scale necessary to reverse the wildlife crisis. Passage of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act would be transformative for our nation's fish and wildlife, plants, and their habitats. It's an ambitious solution that matches the magnitude of the crisis we face.

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AMERICA'S EXTRAORDINARY WILDLIFE LEGACY

Scientists have documented more than 200,000 native species across the United States[1], including more than 16,000 species of plants and 10,000 species of animals, many groups of which are exceptionally diverse in the United States relative to the rest of the globe. There are more species of salamanders found in the United States than in any other country on Earth, and the southeastern United States is recognized as the global center of diversity for these amphibians. The United States harbors an exceptional diversity of freshwater fishes, many of which are similarly clustered in the Southeast. In contrast, mammal diversity is highest in the arid western United States, with California alone home to nearly 200 species[2,3]. There are more bird species in Texas than any other state, making it a popular bird-watching destination, and Hawaii has the most unique diversity of bird species. America's extraordinary wildlife also includes the many poorly known, yet essential, species of invertebrates, including insects like bees and beetles, and aquatic species like mussels and other mollusks, all of which are essential to human health and wellbeing.

Elizabeth Baillie

A SOLVABLE WILDLIFE CRISIS

The United States has a legacy of conservation successes that restores wildlife populations and their habitats through collaborative conservation across regions. Wildlife species that once suffered drastic declines, such as elk, wild turkey, and waterfowl, have rebounded thanks to well-funded and coordinated conservation efforts. Today, it is more urgent than ever that we learn from these successes to address the growing crisis facing wildlife, especially those that have not received the same level of resources as those that are hunted or fished. There are currently more than 1,600 native species protected under the ESA[4], nearly 40% of freshwater fish across the country are imperiled,[5] and scientists estimate that across the United States, 40% of animals and over 30% of plant species are at increased risk of extinction[6]. This includes previously widespread species, like the monarch butterfly—now experiencing declines of as much as 90% in recent decades. Dedicated attention and investment are the key to reversing these declines for the benefit of wildlife and the ecosystems we share. Furthermore, the benefits of addressing the wildlife crisis do not stop with wildlife. Communities across the urban to rural gradient rely on and enjoy ecosystems inhabited and supported by wildlife, and will reap the benefits of investing in conservation capacity.

As threats multiply and become more complex, conservation requires a renewed focus on **habitat loss and degradation, diseases, invasive species, pollution, and climate change.**

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What's Threatening America's Wildlife Species and Their Habitats?

Habitat loss due to destruction, fragmentation, and degradation is the primary threat to the survival of fish and wildlife in the United States. When an ecosystem has been dramatically changed by human activities, it may no longer be able to provide the food, water, cover, and places to raise young that wildlife need to survive. Every day there are fewer places left that wildlife can call home. When it comes to habitat, more than half of the nation's wetlands have been lost[7], and quality natural habitat remains on only about one-third of the land area in the contiguous United States[8].

40%
of freshwater fish are imperiled

The emergence of new diseases poses a particularly dire threat to U.S. wildlife. White-nose syndrome, a fungal disease that affects hibernating bats, has already led to the listing of the northern long-eared bat under the ESA. Chronic wasting disease is affecting some of America's most iconic and economically important large-game species, including mule deer, white-tailed deer, moose, and elk. Similar to diseases, invasive species can quickly proliferate if the necessary capacity for management is not in place, resulting in devastating impacts. For example, the emerald ash borer has rapidly spread across the United States, killing hundreds of millions of ash trees and drastically impacting forests in the East and Upper Midwest[9].

Finally, **pollution** and a **changing climate** are growing threats to wildlife and habitat, and their impacts can change substantially over time. The dynamic nature of pollution impacts on wildlife and ecosystems necessitates investment in conservation capacity that allows for research and adaptability as conditions change. Emerging threats like PFAS require strong investment, research, and action to combat the growing risk to wildlife and people. Up to one third of species are threatened with extinction in the worst-case scenarios for future climate conditions, making climate mitigation and adaptation strategies essential for conserving species for generations to come[10, 11].

State Wildlife Action Plans: Blueprints for Conservation

Congress established the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program in 2000 and required state fish and wildlife agencies to develop State Wildlife Action Plans. These science-based blueprints set clear priorities for conservation by identifying the species in greatest need of attention, the habitats on which they depend, and the conservation actions necessary to sustain and restore their populations. Success in crafting and implementing these plans depends on strong science capacity for conducting research and accessing relevant expertise, and strong partnership between states and federal fish and wildlife agencies, Tribes, NGOs, and other states in their regions. Although development of these plans is led by state fish and wildlife agencies, they are crafted in coordination with a wide array of public and private partners and intended to reflect a comprehensive and shared vision for conservation at the local level.

The initial plans were completed in 2005 and have been revised every 10 years. As part of the planning process, experts assess available scientific information about the distribution, abundance, and trends for the species found within their states. These assessments inform the development of state-based lists of Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN), which in turn are eligible for funding under the federal grants program. More than 14,000 species have been identified as SGCN, including terrestrial, freshwater, and marine species[12].

TRIBAL CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP

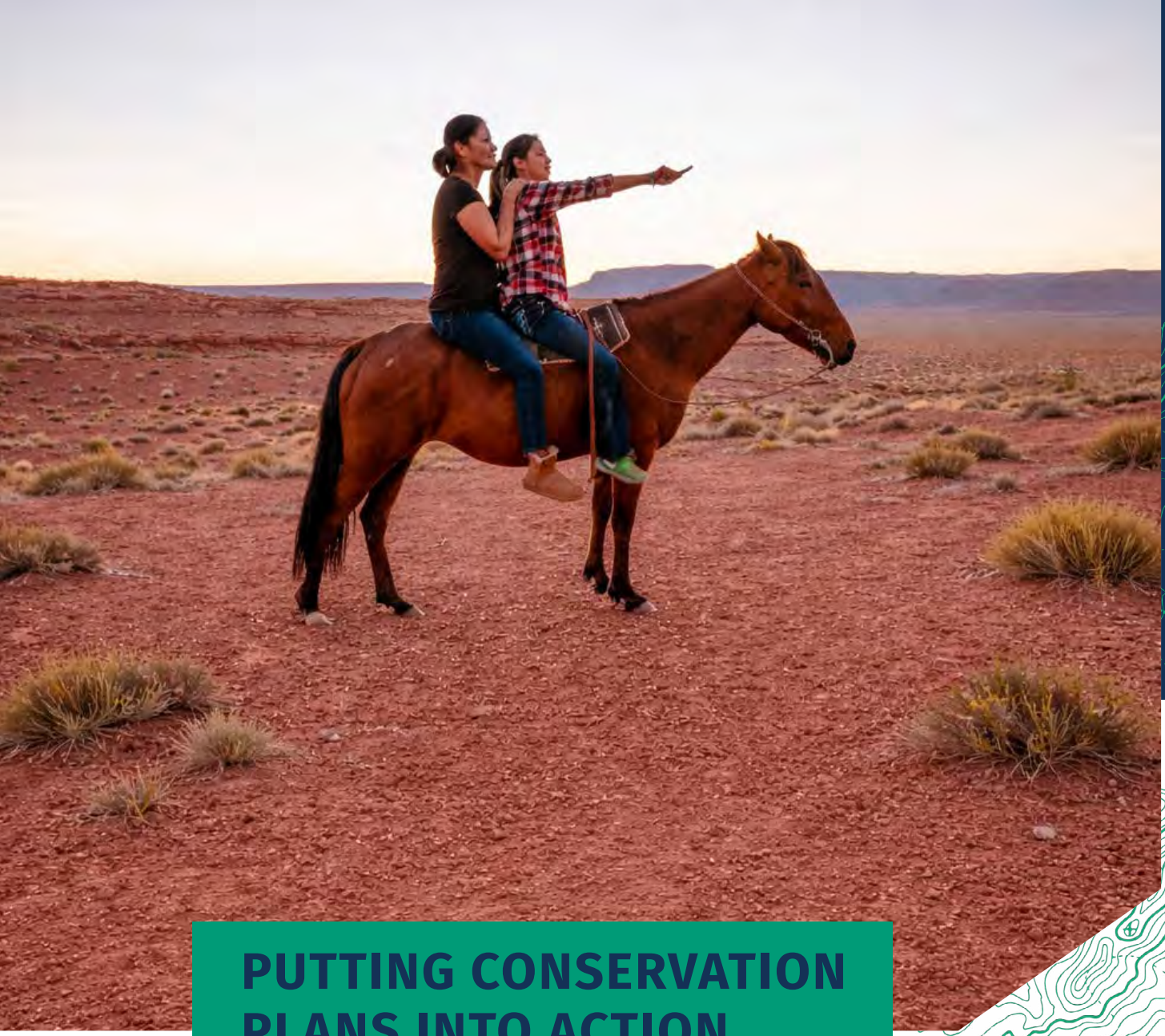
Tribal nations possess inherent authority to manage fish, wildlife, and habitats on Tribal lands, and in many cases, to exercise treaty-reserved rights on ceded lands and waters. Tribes are dedicated to conserving wildlife while participating in collaborative and co-management efforts across private, state, and federal lands, as well as throughout ceded territories. Tribal fish and wildlife management is rooted in sovereignty, treaty rights, and thousands of years of stewardship.

Tribes directly manage or influence tens of millions of acres, including more than 730,000 acres of lakes and reservoirs, 10,000 miles of streams and rivers, and 18 million acres of forests. These lands and waters provide vital habitat for wildlife, including more than 500 species listed as threatened or endangered. Despite their leadership role, Tribal fish and wildlife programs remain chronically underfunded. Unlike states, Tribes do not receive dedicated, recurring wildlife funding through programs such as Pittman-Robertson or Dingell-Johnson. Most Tribal programs rely on short-term grants, competitive federal funding, or contracts that limit long-term planning and staffing, even as Tribes are expected to meet the same conservation and regulatory responsibilities as state governments.

The Tribal Wildlife Grants program has provided essential support, but its funding level and structure fall short of the actual need. Since 2003, approximately $131 million has been distributed to Tribes through this program. Unlike states, Tribes do not receive formula-based allocations and must compete for grants capped at $200,000 — amounts insufficient to build long-term staffing or undertake large-scale projects. Similarly, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which supports conservation and recreation programs with revenues from federal offshore oil and gas leases, treats Tribes largely as subsidiaries of states by requiring them to apply for grants through state agencies.

While Tribal nations hold deep cultural and ecological knowledge essential to managing wildlife, they often lack the resources to fully exercise that stewardship. For example, in a given year, states may receive as much as 10 times the amount of funding per acre of land through federal programs for wildlife conservation than Tribes of similar land bases.

The development of Recovering America's Wildlife Act reflects both the pressing need and the collaboration among Tribes to protect this nation's wildlife and wild places, and underscores the vital role of sovereign Tribal nations in safeguarding our shared natural heritage.



PUTTING CONSERVATION PLANS INTO ACTION

State Wildlife Action Plans and Tribal wildlife agencies have provided a substantially greater understanding of the condition and conservation needs of species across the United States, along with a clear path toward tackling those needs. As a result, states, Tribes, and their partners have had many conservation successes, made possible by the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants program. However, current funding levels have only met a fraction of the need to conserve imperiled species. Increasing the capacity for conservation efforts through dedicated funding for states and Tribes is critical to effectively addressing the mounting conservation needs across the country.

States and Tribes have the plans and the scientific capacity to conserve imperiled species. Now they need sufficient resources to do so.

HIGHLIGHTS: RECOVERING SPECIES AND THEIR HABITATS

At the heart of State Wildlife Action Plans and Tribal conservation are strategies informed by the best available science to stabilize and recover declining species and imperiled ecosystems, and advance collaborative conservation approaches that benefit species and the human communities that share their ecosystems. Increasingly, investments in species and habitat conservation efforts have been extended to both rural and urban landscapes, recognizing that wildlife live and move along the urban to rural gradient, and that successful conservation requires the engagement, investment, and buy-in from communities all across the country.

Restoring Freshwater Mussels

Native mussels are natural filters of the freshwater ecosystems upon which people and wildlife depend, helping to clean our rivers of pathogens and prevent algal blooms[13]. Unfortunately, pollution and invasive species are taking a toll on them. Overall, more than 75% of North America's freshwater mussels are imperiled or already extinct[14]. As a result of this incredible need, Tribes, such as the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe in New York and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation in Oregon, are leading mussel restoration from coast to coast, including the only freshwater mussel propagation facility in the western US; states in the Upper Tennessee River Basin, including Tennessee and Alabama, have been working together with a variety of partners to propagate pale lilliput mussels and Duck River dartersnapper mussels for reintroduction into the Duck River and Bear Creek; and across the Southeast and Midwest, states are leading collaborative efforts to restore these globally important, though little-known, freshwater species.

California Condors

The California condor, an apex scavenger and the largest land bird native to the United States, was historically found as far north as British Columbia and as far south as northern Mexico. Habitat loss and exposure to lead and pesticides caused their populations to plummet, and by 1982, only 23 birds remained worldwide[15]. The Yoruk Tribe is leading critical recovery efforts to reintroduce the California condor to their lands in northern California, where the species is culturally and ecologically sacred[16]. Because of the successful collaborative reintroduction efforts of the Tribe with partners at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Parks Service, 24 condors are flying in northern California skies alone, with the first nest in the region in over 100 years. Across their range, there are now nearly 400 California condors.

Hellbenders

Hellbenders, the largest fully-aquatic salamanders in the eastern United States, live in clean, cool, fast-flowing rivers and streams. Their populations have declined drastically due to habitat loss, degraded water quality from land use alteration, and disease. By 2024, approximately 41% of known historical populations of the eastern hellbender were considered extirpated, with another 36% in decline[17]. As specialized indicators of clean water, their decline signifies broader, critical threats to freshwater ecosystems. Today, the Ozark hellbender is listed as endangered under the ESA, and the eastern hellbender has been proposed for listing. States throughout the hellbenders' range, Tribes, including the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, and their partners are restoring hellbender habitat, and using innovative scientific approaches to conduct stream surveys. Investment in such scientific capacity allows for increasingly targeted management actions, including stream bank restoration, conservation of key land parcels, and hellbender reintroductions.

Monarch Butterfly

Monarch butterfly populations, once widespread across both the eastern and western United States, have declined dramatically due to habitat loss, climate change, and pesticide use[18]. These declines, which have impacted their awe-inspiring migrations, are indicative of the extent of the wildlife crisis, and the potential loss of America's wildlife and cultural heritage. The threats facing monarchs reflect the broader conservation challenge facing insect pollinators across the country and globally. State Wildlife Action Plans that include the monarch and state monarch-focused conservation plans continue to be the key to guiding conservation actions and fostering partnerships among state agencies, Tribal Nations, private partners, nonprofits, and landowners, among others, to create and protect monarch habitats in breeding, migration, and overwintering areas.

Arkansas Oak

Arkansas oaks are scattered across southeastern states, including east Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Mississippi, Georgia and northwest Florida, and represent the imperiled condition of oak tree species across North America. The Arkansas oak—like all oaks—is a keystone species that forms the foundation of local food webs. The presence of Arkansas oaks in the states across their distribution is highly fragmented and isolated, and continues to decline due to drought and rising temperatures intensified by climate change[19]. In 2023, the Arkansas oak was identified as a regional Species of Greatest Conservation Need in the first regional plant list of its kind created in the United States. Conservation efforts, through a diversity of conservation organizations and academic institutions, have included augmenting the species' population through the outplanting of seedlings on state-managed lands, experimental germination studies, and reintroduction initiatives.

White Mountain Apache Trout

The Apache trout, a species sacred to the White Mountain Apache Tribe and one of only two trout species native to Arizona, is native exclusively to the White Mountains of the eastern region of the state[20]. Apache trout experienced sharp declines due to habitat loss and the introduction of invasive species, resulting in its protection under the Endangered Species Act in 1973[21]. The White Mountain Apache Tribe initiated the conservation of this species decades before it was listed by preventing fishing in certain stream habitats important for the species. After listing, the Tribe, Arizona Game and Fish, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and other partners undertook a 50-year conservation effort to restore the species, including reintroductions and the removal of invasive species. In 2024, the Apache trout became the first sportfish and trout to be de-listed from the ESA due to successful recovery.

LANDSCAPE-SCALE AND REGIONAL COLLABORATION

Wildlife and their habitats cross state boundaries, and their successful conservation requires coordinated management efforts across their ranges. Recognizing this, states and Tribes have led collaborative efforts at the regional level to more effectively conserve SGCN and the ecosystems they depend on.

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Wildlife Action Plan

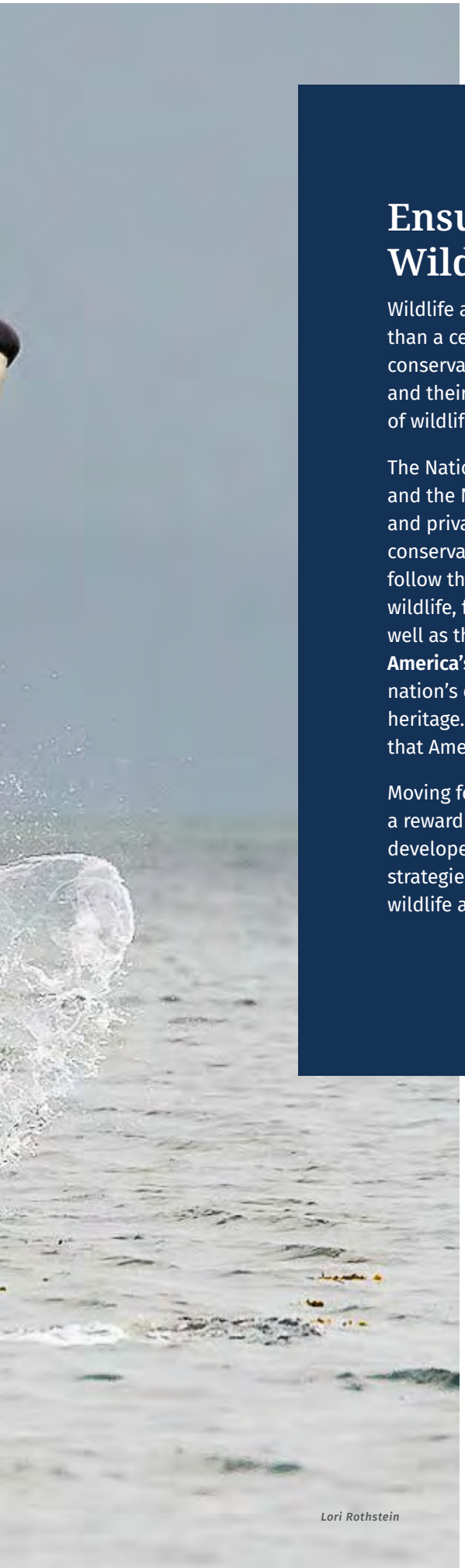
The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) Natural Resources Department is working to build on generations of Cherokee stewardship and manage terrestrial and aquatic species of concern through an EBCI Wildlife Action Plan. Modern-day Cherokee lands located in the southern Appalachians harbor tremendous biodiversity and rare species that receive focused population monitoring and habitat protection efforts from EBCI biologists. These species include three ESA listed bat species, the federally endangered Carolina northern flying squirrel, the eastern elk, and many neo-tropical birds and salamanders. The EBCI is also successfully working with multiple government and non-profit partners to restore native aquatic species to EBCI watersheds, such as the eastern hellbender, sicklefin redhorse, and multiple freshwater mussels. Sustained wildlife conservation efforts within the EBCI aboriginal landscape are critical to preserving ecosystem services, economic resources, and cultural values for future generations.

Regional Coordination to Save the Blanding's Turtle

The Blanding's turtle, a species native to 15 states and maritime Canada, has a native range that overlaps with heavily populated areas around Boston, Chicago, and other cities and towns. During late spring and early summer, adult females leave their wetland homes to look for dry sandy areas to lay their eggs. As roads have increasingly cut through their habitats, the risk of mortality from vehicle collisions — especially during nesting season — has increased, resulting in road mortality emerging as an important driver for the species' decline[22]. To address this urgent threat and ensure the survival of the species, states combined their funding and expertise to identify key areas for land conservation, nesting area restoration, and the development of safe passages under roads, with the hopes of using similar collaborative approaches to conserve species like wood turtles, spotted turtles, diamond-backed terrapins, and more.

Restoring the Longleaf Pine Ecosystem

Longleaf pine forests are woodlands and savannahs known for their open canopy and globally unique diversity of plant and animal species. They once dominated the southeastern United States, but their area has been reduced by over 97% due to conversion to agriculture, plantation forestry, fire suppression, and development, resulting in the decline of numerous wildlife species that have required listing under the ESA[23]. Unique collaborations among southeastern states, private landowners, universities, the Department of Defense, and more, have resulted in the restoration of more than 2 million acres of longleaf ecosystems since 2010, and the downlisting of the red-cockaded woodpecker from "endangered" to "threatened" under the ESA.



Lori Rothstein

Ensuring a Thriving Future for People, Wildlife, and their Habitat

Wildlife and habitat conservation in the United States began in earnest more than a century ago when hunters, anglers, Tribal Nations, scientists, and other conservationists collaborated to address a crisis of decimated game populations and their habitats. These efforts have since evolved into a science-based framework of wildlife management and conservation that benefits all Americans.

The National Wildlife Federation, the American Fisheries Society, the Wildlife Society, and the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society, in partnership with the public and private sectors, continue to support and advance wildlife management and conservation based on the best available scientific information. These approaches follow the blueprints developed by state fish and wildlife agencies to recover all wildlife, from mammals, fish, and birds, to salamanders and insect pollinators, as well as the plant species and vital habitats that supports all of us. The **Recovering America's Wildlife Act** offers a once-in-a-generation opportunity to ramp up the nation's conservation efforts to match the scale of the growing threats to our wildlife heritage. Now is the time to build on past successes and look to the future to ensure that American wildlife and habitats will thrive in perpetuity for generations to come.

Moving forward, recovering and conserving the wealth of America's wildlife will be a rewarding challenge. State, federal, and Tribal agencies and their partners have developed proven strategies that work. Now, they need the resources to put these strategies to work at scale. Our collective efforts can create a thriving future for wildlife and everyone who values and depends on them.

> "I don't believe in magic. I believe in the sun and the stars, the water, the tides, the floods, the owls, the hawks flying, the river running, the wind talking. They're measurements. They tell us how healthy things are. How healthy we are. Because we and they are the same. That's what I believe in."
>
> — BILLY FRANK JR., NISQUALLY TRIBE

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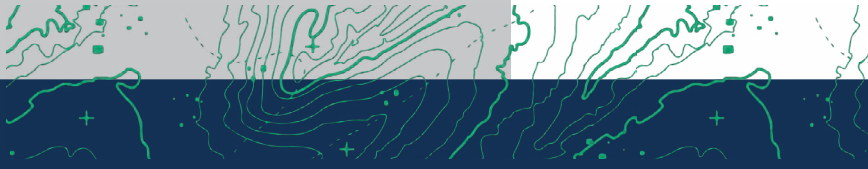

"My love of the outdoors stems from early morning walks into the woods with my dad as we went to hunt. As I grew older, my grandfather and dad would talk for hours about that prince of game birds, the bobwhite quail. But even in the 70's the call of the wild quail grew more and more rare. They're still out there, but oh so few. It's one of the reasons I work in conservation — I want my grandkids to know the thrill of a bobwhite call at evening time…and I selfishly want that thrill again myself."

— MIKE WORLEY, GEORGIA WILDLIFE FEDERATION

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