

RECOVERING AMERICA'S WILDLIFE ACT OF 2021

Protecting America's plant, fish, and wildlife habitat means saving thousands of vulnerable species, protecting our nation's natural heritage for future generations, and supporting millions of jobs in the outdoor economy.

We are facing a wildlife crisis. Thousands of species are experiencing dramatic habitat loss and facing increased threats from climate change and invasive species. More than 150 U.S. species have already gone extinct, and another more than 500 species have not been seen in recent decades. As many as one-third of America's animal and plant species are vulnerable, and one in five imperiled and at high risk of extinction.

The bipartisan Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA) would be the largest, most significant investment in wildlife and habitat conservation in a generation. The bill invests in proactive, on-the-ground conservation work led by states, territories, and Tribal nations to support the long-term health of fish and wildlife habitat all across America. We urgently need to establish this larger scale and more reliable federal funding stream if we want to effectively confront the accelerating loss of our wildlife.

RAWA is a key tool for States, territories, and Tribes. The recovery work funded by RAWA will be guided by the wildlife conservation strategies and plans developed by states, territories, and Tribes. These science-based strategies would restore populations of species with the greatest conservation need. State, Territorial, and Tribal wildlife agencies have identified more than 12,000 species in need of conservation assistance. Existing federal funding support is severely insufficient and fails to provide the resources required to meet all of these needs.

The RAWA Act of 2021 would:

- Fund conservation efforts for more than 12,000 species of wildlife and plants in need of assistance by providing \$1.3 billion in dedicated annual funding for proactive, on-the-ground efforts across the country.
- Provide Tribal nations \$97.5 million annually to fund proactive wildlife conservation efforts on roughly 140 million acres of land.
- Ensure wildlife recovery efforts will be guided by the Congressionally-mandated State Wildlife Action Plans, which identify specific strategies to restore the populations of species of greatest conservation need.
- Accelerate the recovery of 1,600 U.S. species already listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act.
- Include improvements to ensure funds are appropriately targeted to the areas of greatest need and facilitate additional investments in protecting at-risk plant species.
- In the Senate, RAWA also directs fees and penalties assessed for environmental violations to help fund RAWA, using fee and penalty amounts that aren't already targeted for existing environmental funds.

The RAWA Act of 2021 is supported by a wide array of organizations representing Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Tribes, sportsmen, environmental and conservation advocates, and members of the outdoor recreation industry.