

THE STATE OF THE BIRDS 2019

Supplement

THE RECOVERING AMERICA'S WILDLIFE ACT

A Bold Idea for Solving America's Wildlife Crisis

One-Fourth of America's birds have disappeared in the last 50 years. In 2016 the **Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Wildlife**—chaired by former Wyoming Governor Dave Freudenthal and

Bass Pro Shops founder John Morris—studied the crisis of America's declining wildlife populations. The panel of executives from conservation groups and industry concluded that a new, sustainable funding model is needed to ensure healthy wildlife and fish populations for future generations.

The Problem:

A Funding Model That's Inadequate

Our state wildlife agencies are expected to keep all species populations healthy, yet they don't receive dedicated funding for the vast majority of species they must manage. State agencies rely on hunters and anglers for nearly 60% of conservation funding (through user fees and excise taxes), yet game species are less than 1% of all the wildlife species that states are responsible for safeguarding. Agencies in all 50 states have State Wildlife Action Plans ready to go that will rescue birds and wildlife of greatest conservation need. But current funding is not adequate (less than 5% of what is needed) to implement states' plans to restore wildlife populations.

79 bird species have dedicated funding as game species

More than 500 nongame bird species have no dedicated funding

The Solution:

Activating the Blue Ribbon Panel Proposal

The panel's final report recommended that \$1.3 billion in existing federal revenue be directed to funding State Wildlife Action Plans. Democrat and Republican co-sponsors in Congress have introduced a bipartisan bill called the **Recovering America's Wildlife Act** that follows the panel's proposal. The bill proposes a reliable, dedicated revenue stream to strengthen state conservation programs for thousands of wildlife species—including 500+ species of birds—at no additional cost to the American consumer, taxpayer, and business owner.



Presented by the Alliance for America's Fish & Wildlife, representing the strong partnership created by the Blue Ribbon Panel, and a national coalition committed to securing dedicated funding for the conservation of our nation's fish and wildlife. Go to OurNatureUSA.com for more information and to take action today.

THE RECOVERING AMERICA'S WILDLIFE ACT IS A 21ST-CENTURY CONSERVATION MODEL THAT:



CERULEAN WARBLER BY TODD MITCHELL/MACAULAY LIBRARY

Saves money by preventing ESA listings.

The Endangered Species Act is an emergency-room measure to stop extinctions, but it should be a measure of last resort. Preventive action is far easier and cheaper. The Recovering America's Wildlife Act would fund proactive conservation that prevents ESA listings and fosters recovery of imperiled species.

Makes green infrastructure investments.

The Recovering America's Wildlife Act would benefit more than just wildlife, with investments in grasslands and wetlands that yield clean water, flood prevention, and carbon capture. Such habitat restoration work generates \$2.50 in local economic activity for every \$1 invested and boosts outdoor recreation opportunities.

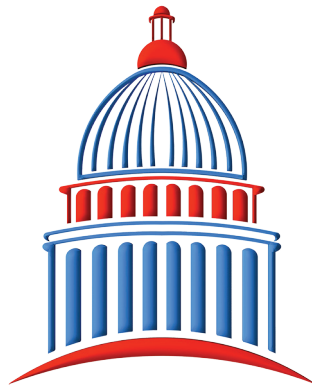


KELLY FIKE/USFWS

Is favored by most Americans.

"Preservation of our environment is not a partisan challenge; it's common sense ... our economic well-being will be sustained only by all of us working in partnership as thoughtful, effective stewards of our natural resources."

—PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

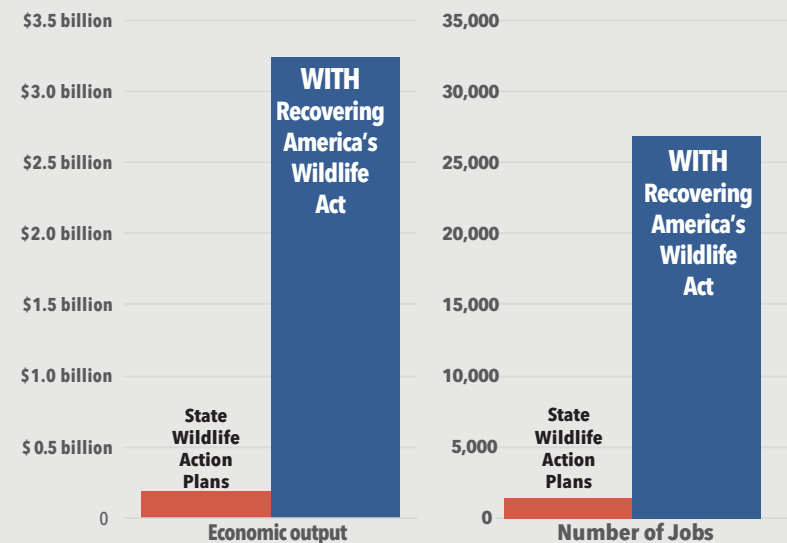


95% of voters favor setting aside a portion of existing fee-driven federal revenue to fund State Wildlife Action plans.

Source: Polling by Public Opinion Strategies

100%

Grows local economies by billions of dollars and thousands of jobs.



KEY

- Current economic impact and jobs supported by State Wildlife Action Plans
- Projected economic impact/job creation with Recovering America's Wildlife Act