



The Recovering America's Wildlife Act

The bipartisan Recovering America's Wildlife Act, introduced by Representatives Dingell (D-MI) and Fortenberry (R-NE), will be the most significant investment in Tribal wildlife conservation in the history of the United States. This bill represents one of the best opportunities to begin addressing the historical inequities, exclusion, and perpetual underfunding of Tribal wildlife management.

The facts:

\$97.5 million

The Recovering America's Wildlife Act will dedicate \$97.5 million to Tribal Nations and \$1.3 billion to state-level conservation efforts for on-the-ground conservation projects — helping prevent wildlife from becoming endangered in the first place.

Developed by Tribes

The bill's Tribal title was developed with input from Tribes across the nation. It addresses critical issues facing Tribes by creating a stable and consistent funding stream that acknowledges Tribal sovereignty and Indian self-determination. This title is evidence of the critical role that sovereign Tribes play in protecting our nation's wildlife and wild places.

Tribal Conservation and the Impact of Recovering America's Wildlife Act

America is in the midst of an unprecedented wildlife crisis. Once abundant populations of fish and wildlife are now facing steep declines because of habitat loss, disease, and other threats. With the help of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act, Tribal nations stand ready to ensure that wildlife endures for future generations of Native Americans, and for all Americans.

Black-Footed Ferret



Tens of Millions of Acres

Tribal lands and waters are essential for wildlife conservation. Tribes own or influence the management of 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 habitat for fish and wildlife, including more than 500 species listed as threatened or endangered.

Knowledge and Experience

Native people have been successful managers of species and habitats for thousands of years. Preservation and enhancement of species are critical to Tribal culture, sustenance, and exercise of treaty rights, and they are central to Tribal identity. As such, many Tribes have created some of the most innovative and accomplished natural resource programs in the nation. Tribal nations continue to strive for successful fish and wildlife management despite extremely limited financial resources.

Saw-Whet Owls



Bobcat



A History of Underfunding

Tribes proudly carry the responsibility and financial burden of not only conserving fish and wildlife on their lands, but also of participating in collaborative wildlife management processes and activities across federal, state, and private boundaries. Yet, Tribes have been left out of the main federal wildlife funding sources. For example, Tribes are not eligible to receive federal excise tax revenues available through the Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson Acts.



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