

STATE WILDLIFE ACTION PLANS

Preventing Wildlife from Becoming

ENDANGERED

A State and Federal Partnership for Conserving Species & Ecosystems

State Wildlife Grants

The **State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program** provides federal money to every state and territory for cost-effective conservation aimed at preventing wildlife from becoming endangered and keeping common species common. For more than a decade, states and their partners have used this program to combat invasive species, protect natural areas, restore habitat, conduct research, and implement monitoring programs that will provide better data on imperiled species and their habitats. The highly accountable program supports an existing infrastructure for addressing wildlife needs and has created thousands of jobs employing biologists, private contractors, and construction workers in rural and urban communities nationwide.

Funding through the **State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program** enables the implementation **State Wildlife Action Plans**.

These plans, which have been developed by every state and territory, are a primary tool for keeping fish and wildlife healthy and off the list of federally threatened and endangered species. **State Wildlife Action Plans** are unique in that they were developed by the nation's top wildlife conservationists in collaboration with private citizens and community partners.

Each state and territory receives on average about \$1.2 million annually in apportioned funds through the program. Competitive grants are made available to tribes and to states for multistate projects. Although **State Wildlife Action Plans** have demonstrated continued successes in conserving fish and wildlife, complete effectiveness is limited without full implementation. **The principal barrier to implementation of the plans is a lack of sustainable funding. It is estimated that full implementation would exceed \$1 billion annually.** Funding for full implementation, however, is unattainable in the current financial climate. **At minimum, restoring funding to \$90 million is needed to maintain the current levels of success for this program.**



TEAMING WITH WILDLIFE
a natural investment

The more than 6,300-member **Teaming With Wildlife Coalition** includes state fish and wildlife agencies, wildlife biologists, hunters, anglers, birdwatchers, hikers, nature-based businesses and other conservationists who support the goal of restoring and conserving our nation's wildlife.

Steering Committee

*American Fisheries Society
Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Association of Zoos and Aquariums
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
Izaak Walton League of America
National Audubon Society
National Wild Turkey Federation
National Wildlife Federation
The Nature Conservancy
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation
Partnership
The Wildlife Society
Wildlife Conservation Society
Wildlife Management Institute*



For more information regarding ongoing efforts to conserve our nation's wildlife visit www.teaming.com





Investing in State Fish & Wildlife Conservation

IMPORTANCE OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

The viability of fish and wildlife populations is essential to the future of the ecosystems to which they contribute and on which we depend for services, such as providing clean water through watershed protection, protecting our communities through flood prevention, and maintaining clean air through carbon sequestration. It is only through diverse representation of wildlife populations and the functions they sustain that our nation's ecosystems remain healthy and productive for future generations.

In the United States, fish and wildlife are a protected public resource, held in trust for all citizens. This is not solely the duty of one level of government; effective and efficient wildlife management requires a strong state and federal partnership.

All entities – ranging from policymakers to biologists – have a responsibility to be stewards of our nation's fish and wildlife and the habitats on which they depend.

PROTECTING OUR NATURAL HERITAGE

At the beginning of the 20th century, Congress recognized its role as stewards of our nation's fish and wildlife and passed the Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson Acts in 1950 and 1963, respectively, dedicating an excise tax on firearms, ammunition, and sport fishing equipment to the conservation of wildlife. These acts have provided state fish and wildlife agencies with over \$10 billion in formula-based funding for the conservation of game species and serve as a model for successful collaboration between federal and state governments.

A MAJOR GAP

Despite the success of these programs, many fish and wildlife species continue to decline. More than 95% of fish and wildlife held in public trust by the states are neither hunted nor fished and have no dedicated source of conservation funding.

While federally listed endangered and threatened species receive coverage, the vast majority of fish and wildlife species are left outside the purview of federal funding. The stewardship of the nation's fish and wildlife therefore falls heavily on the states, creating an imbalance in the state-federal partnership.



BRIDGING THE GAP – STATE WILDLIFE ACTION PLANS

In 2001, Congress created the *Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program* and *State and Tribal Wildlife*

Grants Program, which, for the first time, provided funding to state fish and wildlife agencies for the management of nongame species. The funding was distributed to states with the condition that each state develop a *State Wildlife Action Plan*.

Development of *State Wildlife Action Plans* in every state and territory was a historic accomplishment in 2005. At last, a comprehensive national plan was in place to conserve America's wildlife that opened doors for landscape-level coordination and planning.

The implementation of this national planning strategy to prevent endangered species listings and to keep common species common can only be accomplished if funded. **At minimum, restoring funding to \$90 million is needed to maintain the current levels of success for this program.**



Teaming With Wildlife
444 North Capitol Street, NW Suite 725
Washington, DC 20001
www.teaming.com