

## Recovering America's Wildlife Act and the Great American Outdoors Act

### Dedicated Wildlife Funding Needed for People and Wildlife Restoring our Economy, our Communities and our Wildlife's Health

Enactment of the Great American Outdoors Act was a **historic conservation accomplishment**, and we applaud this Congress for passing legislation that will protect and enhance our nation's public lands and waters like our national, state and local parks, refuges, and forests. This investment of funds dedicated for these purposes will usher in a new era of expanded outdoor recreation opportunities across the nation. The passage of the Great American Outdoors Act stands as a model for how Congress can take bipartisan, effective action on a national conservation priority. Congress should **build upon this momentum** and **now pass the Recovering America's Wildlife Act**, legislation focused on dedicated funding for the conservation of our nation's **fish and wildlife**.

The **Recovering America's Wildlife Act** would fund proactive efforts led by the **states, territories, and tribes** to address the nation's looming wildlife crisis and to **prevent species from becoming endangered**. Land protection funding in the Great American Outdoors Act will help conserve wildlife habitat. However, dedicated funding to restore wildlife populations through reintroducing species into the wild, enhancing existing habitat on public and private lands, tackling emerging wildlife threats and diseases, determining the status and health of wildlife populations is essential to both ensuring wildlife thrive and a quality, outdoor experience. The chance to see wildlife is one of the reasons millions of Americans recreate on our public lands. This **bipartisan legislation** will **finish the job** started by the Great American Outdoors Act, complementing new public land investments and benefiting all Americans. This will create **hundreds of thousands of jobs** restoring our wildlife and the lands and waters we all depend on, expand outdoor recreation opportunities in every community, and accelerate our nation's economic recovery from COVID-19. The Recovering America's Wildlife Act is a **fiscally responsible, national strategy** to hasten the recovery of more than 12,000 at-risk species throughout the United States. Just like the Great American Outdoors Act, adequate and dedicated funding for **fish and wildlife** conservation has broad **bipartisan** political and public support that transcends partisan politics. The Recovering America's Wildlife Act has more than 182 bipartisan cosponsors in the House and the support of more than 1000 diverse businesses and organizations

The Recovering America's Wildlife Act will **build on the progress** made by the Great American Outdoors Act and **finish the job** by funding additional and necessary conservation elements.

**Not Covered** by the Great American Outdoors Act but **covered** by Recovering America's Wildlife Act:

- **Protecting private lands:** Technical and financial assistance to large and small private landowners from farms to backyards will allow these important lands to become wildlife habitat.
- **Tribal Nations:** Provide funding to tribal nations to manage their more than 500+ threatened and endangered species and millions of acres of land and water.
- **Stewardships of existing habitats:** Many of the challenges facing wildlife demand management actions such as habitat restoration including prescribed fire, elimination of invasive species, and replacement of culverts for fish passage.

- **Species Reintroductions:** Some species have declined to the point that they need supplemental populations to save them from extinction or greatly hasten their recovery. Great successes using this approach include Bald Eagle, Peregrine falcon, New England cottontail rabbit, freshwater mussels, and many more.
- **Health and status of wildlife:** Funds will be available to find out where wildlife live and how they are faring ensuring we can detect declines early and thus take early preventative action.
- **State Wildlife Action Plans:** these funds will allow states to implement their Congressionally mandated State Wildlife Action Plans that identify Species of Greatest Conservation Need and the actions necessary to safeguard them.
- **All 50 states and territories:** The bill would invest \$1.4 billion **annually every state and territory (and tribal nation)** focusing **on local solutions** through **on the ground projects** on public and private lands.