



Recovering America's Wildlife Act

H.R. 4647, the Recovering America's Wildlife Act, offers an incredible opportunity to protect fish and wildlife and the habitats on which they depend, in Texas and throughout the country. This legislation will provide \$1.3 billion per year from *existing* federal revenue to fund state-based wildlife conservation.

Following the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish & Wildlife Resources, a percentage of existing royalties from energy and mineral production on federal lands and waters would be directed to the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program, established in 2000.

Each state has completed a Wildlife Action Plan designed to help stabilize and recover species in decline, keeping them off the endangered species list. This legislation would provide the funding to implement these plans.



WHAT'S AT STAKE

Our natural world provides innumerable benefits to human health and economic prosperity. As species disappear, these benefits are compromised. Fish and wildlife agencies across the nation have identified more than 12,000 wildlife species as *Species of Greatest Conservation Need*, some of which are already listed as threatened or endangered. Of these, 1,310 are in Texas.

An active approach to species protection avoids the high cost of recovery, increases recreational opportunities and ecological benefits, and brings regulatory certainty to the business community.



The Problem:

America lacks a dedicated funding stream to conserve at-risk fish and wildlife species. We are in danger of losing the ecological benefits of these species and the tremendous economic value of healthy ecosystems.

The Solution: The Recovering America's Wildlife Act, introduced by Congress Members Jeff Fortenberry (R-NE) and Debbie Dingell (D-MI), will provide permanent funding to each state to prevent fish and wildlife from becoming endangered.



The bill is supported by a wide range of business, industry, and conservation interests.

WHAT DOES THIS LEGISLATION MEAN FOR TEXAS?

The Recovering America's Wildlife Act represents an unprecedented opportunity to sustain the benefits of our natural world - water purification, pollination, recreation, food and fiber production, air quality, and many others. Texas will be eligible for more than \$63 million per year in federal funds to implement the Texas Conservation Action Plan. Coupled with a 25% non-federal match, this translates into new jobs, increased funding for research, support for habitat restoration, and numerous other benefits to Texas fish and wildlife.



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KEY POINTS

FUNDING FOR TEXAS. The Recovering America's Wildlife Act would provide \$1.3 billion per year nationally and more than \$63 million in Texas each year to recover imperiled fish and wildlife and restore natural habitats.

NO TAX INCREASE. The money will come from existing royalties from energy and mineral production on federal lands and waters. This is a small portion of the overall revenues from these sources.

LOCAL CONTROL. The funds will be administered by each state's fish and wildlife agency.

GOOD FOR BUSINESS. This funding will create jobs, encourage nature tourism, avoid expensive recovery costs when species are listed as threatened or endangered, and increase regulatory certainty.

DESPERATE NEED. One-third of all wildlife species in the U.S. are at increased risk of extinction. Of the 12,000 *Species of Greatest Conservation Need*, Texas is home to 1,310.

POSITIVE BENEFITS. Investments in conservation will have far-reaching positive effects on pollination, air and water quality, recreation, erosion control, and quality of life.



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