



# Recovering America's Wildlife Act

**JOHN CRENSHAW**  
**NM WILDLIFE FEDERATION**



# A Paradigm Shift in Nongame Funding



**\$3.1 Billion Federal, \$430 million  
State**



**– State Wildlife Action Plans –  
Roadmaps to Conservation**

National Wildlife Federation  
-- And Affiliates --  
Uniting all Americans  
to ensure that wildlife thrive  
in a rapidly changing world



# Current State Wildlife Funding



## User Fees from Hunters and Anglers

- State licenses, stamps, permits
- Federal excise taxes from gear (greater than \$1 B/year)
- Almost NO state general funds
- Key exceptions (MO, AR, MN)

# 1937 – Pittman Robertson Act – A banner year for wildlife



\$1.1 billion fed'l - \$367 million state  
Sustained, substantial funding for:

- Research & Restoration
- Habitat Improvements
- Land Acquisition



# Investments Pay Off

**BIGHORN SHEEP, ELK,  
PRONGHORN, WILD  
TURKEY, NATIVE TROUT**



# **BUT NOT FOR ALL WILDLIFE – YET! OUR WILDLIFE CRISIS IS REAL**



**Two Great Notions In Tandem Can Help**

**Pittman-Robertson Act of 1937**

**Wildlife Conservation & Restoration Act of  
2000**



Department of Game and Fish



## STATE WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN for New Mexico

22 November 2016



# SWAP AND SWG

## STATE WILDLIFE ACTION PLANS

## STATE WILDLIFE GRANTS

**Current Federal Funding:  
FIVE PERCENT of \$ needed  
to recover species most at  
risk**



**ONLY \$70 MILLION / YEAR  
AND ALWAYS AT-RISK**



- NOW -  
Bake Sale Approach  
License Plates  
Tax Check-offs  
Stamps  
Individual Donors

# 1/3 of America's Wildlife At Risk



70% freshwater mussels  
42% reptiles and amphibians  
40% freshwater fish  
33% bird species  
25% bumblebees  
17% butterflies



# Monarchs 90% Decline



**Piñon Jay,  
IUCN Red List  
*'Vulnerable'***



**Recovering America's  
Wildlife Act:  
18 1/2 times the current  
federal funding**



# Would DOUBLE Current Federal Aid Revenues



- ◆ Current PR distribution: \$1.1 billion annually
- ◆ RAWA adds: \$1.3 billion
- ◆ No new taxes
- ◆ \$650 million: outer continental shelf oil revenues
- ◆ \$650 million: mineral development on fed'l lands
- ◆ Flows to states through existing system



# State Fish and Wildlife Agencies are the key to solving the wildlife crisis



- ◆ State wildlife agencies employ thousands of highly qualified biologists
- ◆ Have proven track record
- ◆ Have SWAP plans in place but lack resources
- ◆ Manage wildlife on state, federal & private lands
- ◆ Education and Recreation part of mission

# Funds are needed for:



- Habitat restoration and acquisition
- Species reintroductions
- Research
- Surveys and Monitoring
- Conservation Education
- Recreation
- Law Enforcement

# Campaign



- Elevate Wildlife Crisis
- Build Conservation Army  
Big Tent Coalition  
Pass Legislation
- Federal and State



# Federal Funding

Current federal funding is less than 5% (\$70 million) of what is necessary to conserve species most at-risk

# WILDLIFE ECONOMICS: \$157 BILLION NATION-WIDE



# PRICE TAG



- **\$1.3 B to implement 75% of State Wildlife Action Plans**
- **Recovering America's Wildlife Act = \$1.3 Billion in Federal funds**
- **25% state match**



## How much money for my state?

New Mexico: \$850k now - to \$27 million

## HOW MUCH MATCH?

New Mexico: \$9 million



# National Sign-On Letter

**MORE THAN 1000 ORGANIZATIONS AND  
BUSINESSES HAVE SIGNED ON!**



Including:

- New Mexico Wildlife Federation
- Bass Pro Shops
- Pheasants Forever
- Duke Energy
- Audubon



# **BIPARTISAN SUPPORT**

**House Bill 4647**

82 co-sponsors

Goal 125

• **Senate Bill 3223**

Introduced July 2018



# Recovering America's Wildlife Acts: H.R. 4647 & S. 3223)

<https://www.nwf.org/RecoveringAmericasWildlife>