

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Ryan Evans

revans@bondmoroch.com

(504) 323-8133

Alliance for America's Fish & Wildlife Combines Leaders in Outdoor Recreation, Energy, Retail, Academia, Conservation & More for 21st-century Wildlife Conservation Funding

Alliance supports the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (H.R. 4647) introduced in Congress this week.


WASHINGTON, DC – December 15, 2017 – An unprecedented alliance of government, business, education and conservation leaders have united to provide a solution for one of America's greatest threats—the decline of our fish and wildlife and their natural habitats, and what this means for people and the economy. Scientists estimate that one-third of wildlife species in the United States are at risk of becoming threatened or endangered without much needed funding for their conservation.

The Alliance for America's Fish & Wildlife's purpose is to create a 21st-century funding model for critically needed conservation of our nation's most precious natural resources, our fish and wildlife. This effort has expanded out of the strong partnership created by the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish & Wildlife Resources, consisting of members representing the outdoor recreation, retail and manufacturing sector, the energy and automotive industries, private landowners, educational institutions, conservation organizations, sportsmen's groups and state and federal fish and wildlife agencies.

The solution to this wildlife challenge is passage of the bipartisan ***Recovering America's Wildlife Act (H.R. 4647)***, introduced this week by Representatives Jeff Fortenberry (R-NE) and Debbie Dingell (D-MI). The bill will redirect \$1.3 billion in existing royalties annually from the development of energy and mineral resources on federal lands and waters to conserve the full array of fish and wildlife. This solution will not require taxpayers or businesses to pay more, but instead allows all Americans to become investors in fish and wildlife conservation.

"This is a very important and creative legislative initiative to enhance wildlife ecosystems across our nation through constructive partnerships in states," stated Rep. Fortenberry.

"It has been proven over the decades that incredible gains in species conservation have been made with dedicated sources of funding," Rep. Dingell said. "The *Recovering America's Wildlife Act* builds off the successes of previous efforts including Pittman-Robertson, Dingell-Johnson, and the Land and Water Conservation Fund by giving



state fish and wildlife agencies additional resources they need to proactively manage at-risk wildlife species. As we work to realize the full promise of these cornerstone programs, I am proud to introduce this legislation to further that commitment with my Republican colleague from Nebraska, Mr. Fortenberry. We both love the outdoors and know we must work hard to protect our natural resources. Together we believe we can get something done that will help bring conservation into the 21st Century and complement the other successful programs that are currently in place.”


“Each of us, as citizens of this country, has the responsibility to ensure diverse fish and wildlife resources are managed for future generations. Fish and wildlife need healthy habitats to thrive—enhancing our lives and providing many other benefits,” stated Johnny Morris, Founder and CEO of Bass Pro Shops. “State fish and wildlife agencies have a solid track record of accomplishing remarkable recovery and restoration successes since the early 1900s. However, enhanced funding is now needed to address today’s fish and wildlife habitat management challenges.”

It currently costs the American public hundreds of millions of dollars each year to restore threatened and endangered species, costs that could be avoided or greatly reduced if proactive conservation measures were implemented first. Proactive conservation is good for wildlife, good for taxpayers, good for business and good for our communities. The *Recovering America’s Wildlife Act* would provide the needed resources for proactive conservation nationwide.

“Our nation’s fish and wildlife are among its most valuable resources, along with clean air, water, healthy forests and agricultural lands that support all of us,” stated Virgil Moore, President of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and Director of Idaho Fish and Game. “Today we find ourselves at a critical crossroads and face a challenge that could alter our children’s and grandchildren’s opportunities to enjoy these resources. By investing in our State Wildlife Action Plans, which serve as a blueprint for restoring and managing the most sensitive imperiled species within our state’s borders, we will be ensuring future generations can enjoy our rich wildlife heritage.”

Not since enactment of the Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson acts, that provided critical funding for fish and wildlife on the brink of extinction, have we had an opportunity to pass legislation of such importance to protecting what is every American’s birthright—our great natural heritage. The *Recovering America’s Wildlife Act* is the most important conservation legislation in a generation.

“America’s hunters, anglers, recreational shooters, and boaters have been the primary funders of state-based conservation efforts to this day,” said Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation President Jeff Crane. “This recommendation simply directs funding for conservation from other sectors that use our natural resources.”



“We thank Representatives Fortenberry and Dingell for introducing the historic Recovering America’s Wildlife Act,” said Collin O’Mara, President and CEO of the National Wildlife Federation. “This bill will help thousands of wildlife species through proactive, collaborative, on-the-ground efforts. The approach is unique because it calls for early action to save struggling wildlife, rather than waiting until species are on the brink of extinction and need expensive ‘emergency room’ measures to recover. When this bill becomes law, we will increase wildlife populations, strengthen America’s economy, and reduce the need for regulatory measures.”

A lot is at stake if we do not act soon. Every American benefits when we have healthy and accessible fish and wildlife. We need to start down a new path where we invest proactively in conservation rather than reactively.

Please visit OurNatureUSA.com and urge your U.S. Representative to support passage of the *Recovering America’s Wildlife Act* so that future generations may enjoy the same abundant fish, wildlife and outdoor recreation opportunities that we have today.

###

About the Alliance for America’s Fish & Wildlife

The Alliance for America’s Fish and Wildlife formed in 2017 to secure funding for much needed conservation of our most precious natural resources, our fish and wildlife. The Alliance was built upon the strong partnership created by the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America’s Diverse Fish & Wildlife Resources. The Alliance consists of members representing millions of individuals in the outdoor recreation retail and manufacturing sector, the energy and automotive industries, private landowners, educational institutions, conservation organizations, sportsmen’s groups and state and federal fish and wildlife agencies. Our goal is to partner with responsible Americans to conserve our natural resources for future generations. Learn more at OurNatureUSA.com.

Follow the Alliance for America’s Fish & Wildlife

- [Facebook – Our Nature. Our Nation. Our Future.](#)
- [Instagram - @OurNatureUSA](#)
- [YouTube – Our Nature USA](#)
- [Twitter – @OurNatureUSA](#)
- [Tumblr – @OurNatureUSA](#)