



RECOVERING AMERICA'S WILDLIFE ACT

Our natural world provides innumerable benefits to human health and economic prosperity. As wildlife and their habitats disappear, these benefits are compromised. Nationwide, experts have identified more than 12,000 Species of Greatest Conservation Need, including 104 here in South Dakota. The majority of these include at-risk fish and wildlife -- like the Greater sage-grouse, Pallid sturgeon, and Swift fox.

Unfortunately, America lacks a dedicated funding stream to conserve vulnerable fish and wildlife. We are in danger of losing the ecological benefits of these species and the tremendous economic value of healthy ecosystems. The **Recovering America's Wildlife Act** offers an incredible opportunity to protect these species and their habitats throughout the country.

The Recovering America's Wildlife Act would provide \$1.3 billion per year to states, and \$97.5 million to tribal nations, from existing revenues to fund conservation, research, habitat restoration, outdoor recreation, and education programs. Of this, **South Dakota would be eligible for more than \$10 million per year** to implement our Wildlife Action Plan and help stabilize the at-risk fish and wildlife in our state.



Doug Backlund



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Good for wildlife. Good for business. Good for South Dakota.

Each state has completed a Wildlife Action Plan designed to help recover species in decline, helping to prevent the need for listing under the Endangered Species Act. The Recovering America's Wildlife Act would provide the funding needed to effectively implement these plans.

This legislation is supported by a wide range of business and conservation interests. Investing in preventative conservation helps avoid regulatory road blocks to development and industry, and the high costs of recovery when species become endangered. It would also fuel our booming outdoor recreation economy, and protect nature's benefits, such as clean rivers, pest control, and pollination services.

A smart investment

The Recovering America's Wildlife Act represents an unprecedented opportunity to sustain the benefits of our natural world - water purification, food production, and our booming outdoor recreation industry. In South Dakota, outdoor recreation results in \$4.7 billion in annual consumer spending, and generates 48,000 jobs amounting to \$1.2 billion in salaries and wages.

The over \$10 million per year in federal funds that South Dakota would be eligible to receive, coupled with a 25% match, would translate into new jobs, increased funding for conservation, support for habitat restoration, and numerous other benefits to South Dakota fish and wildlife.



Sam Stukel

South Dakota benefits

FUNDING FOR SOUTH DAKOTA. The bipartisan Recovering America's Wildlife Act would provide \$1.3 billion per year to states nationally, including more than \$10 million to South Dakota, to recover imperiled fish and wildlife species and restore habitats.

NO TAX INCREASE. The money would come from existing revenues, so there would be no new taxes. Preventative fish and wildlife conservation is a smart investment to protect nature's benefits, which support our economy, agriculture, health, and quality of life.

LOCAL CONTROL. The funds will be administered by South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks to fund qualified projects conducted by South Dakota state agencies, conservation organizations, land trusts, universities, and private landowners.

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

DESPERATE NEED. As many as one-third of species in the U.S. are at increased risk of extinction. Of the 12,000 Species of Greatest Conservation Need, South Dakota is home to 104.



ALLIANCE
FOR AMERICA'S FISH & WILDLIFE

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