



RECOVERING AMERICA'S WILDLIFE ACT BENEFITS MILITARY READINESS

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 would provide **\$1.3 billion per year from existing federal revenue** to fund state-based wildlife conservation.

The Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish & Wildlife Resources recommended that a portion of the existing royalties from energy production on federal lands and waters be directed to the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program, established in 2000, to fund Wildlife Action Plans adopted by each state.

Wildlife Action Plans are designed to help stabilize and recover species in decline, keeping them *off* the endangered species list. **This legislation would provide funding to implement these plans, thus reducing potential restrictions on training exercises and maneuvers. Keeping species healthy improves military readiness.**



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 (SGCN)**, some of which are already listed as threatened or endangered. Of these SGCN species, 1,310 occur in Texas.

The Problem: America lacks a dedicated funding stream to conserve at-risk fish and wildlife species. We are in danger of losing the ecological and economic benefits of these species and having them become threatened or endangered.

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

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

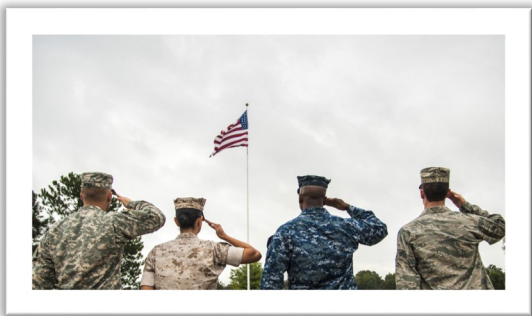
An active approach to species protection avoids the high cost of recovery, increases recreational opportunities, provides ecological benefits, and brings regulatory certainty to military activities.



WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR TEXAS?

Texas would receive more than \$63 million per year in federal funds to implement the Texas Conservation Action Plan (our wildlife action plan), which is designed to keep at-risk fish and wildlife populations off the threatened and endangered species list. Stabilizing these species now will avoid the high costs of listing and recovery later.

Coupled with a 25% non-federal match, this funding would translate into new jobs, fewer problems for developers, and increased habitat conservation, for the benefit of Texas fish and wildlife, the military, and future Texans.



BENEFITS TO THE MILITARY

Currently, the federal government collects royalties from energy production on federal lands and waters, and deposits the money into the General Treasury. The Recovering America's Wildlife Act would direct a portion of these royalties back to the states to fund State Wildlife Action Plans.

- Funds generated by the Recovering America's Wildlife Act would be available through cost share programs for wildlife habitat enhancement activities. These programs would be beneficial to military installations in improving habitat health through habitat management and other practices.
- The Recovering America's Wildlife Act would fund "preventive maintenance," to help avoid the regulatory uncertainties, costly delays, and litigation that can be associated with endangered species listings. Such reduction in regulatory complexity would facilitate the training and exercises required to maintain military readiness.
- Recovering America's Wildlife Act funds could be partnered with Army Compatible Use Buffer funds to help maintain open space and insulate facilities from incompatible uses.
- The Recovering America's Wildlife Act would provide these benefits without creating a new tax.



www.txwildlifealliance.org

512-327-4119

info@txwildlifealliance.org