

PREVENTING WILDLIFE FROM BECOMING ENDANGERED



Support the Teaming With Wildlife Act

Millions of American birdwatchers, hikers, anglers, hunters and outdoor enthusiasts want at-risk fish and wildlife conserved in their states before they become rare and more costly to protect.

In 2008, Senators Tim Johnson (SD) and Debbie Stabenow (MI) introduced the *Teaming With Wildlife Act*. The Act would provide \$350M annually for six years through the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program to assist state fish and wildlife agencies with the conservation of at-risk fish and wildlife to prevent future endangered species listings. The Act would help states implement congressionally mandated State Wildlife Action Plans in every state and territory. *The Teaming With Wildlife Act has the support of more than 5,900 organizations and businesses which represent millions of birdwatchers, hikers, anglers, hunters and other outdoor enthusiasts across the country.*

BACKGROUND

At the beginning of the 20th Century, America's once numerous game species were largely depleted due to habitat loss and unregulated hunting. In 1936, Congress passed the Pittman-Robertson Act, which dedicated an excise tax on firearms and ammunition to the conservation of wildlife. In 1950, the Dingell-Johnson Act placed a similar excise tax on sport fishing equipment and in 1984, the Wallop-Breaux amendment dedicated fuel taxes attributed to motorboats to conservation purposes.



These legislative acts have provided state fish and wildlife agencies with more than \$10 billion in formula-based funding for the conservation of game species and serve as a model for successful collaboration between federal and state governments.

Despite the success of these programs, many species of fish and wildlife continue to decline. More than 95% of fish and wildlife held in public trust by the states are not hunted nor fished and are left out of the safety net.

In 1980, Congress passed the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, encouraging states to develop conservation plans for non-game fish and wildlife. However, the Act was not funded and many states lacked the resources to do the planning alone.

In 2001, Congress created the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program and State Wildlife Grants program, which, for the first time, provided funding to state fish and wildlife agencies for the management of nongame species. The funding was distributed to states with the condition that each state develop a Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (*State Wildlife Action Plan*). States have received an average of \$1 million per state per year to manage thousands of nongame species.





Support the Teaming With Wildlife Act



STATE WILDLIFE ACTION PLANS

Development of State Wildlife Action Plans in every state and territory was an historic accomplishment. At last, there was a national plan in place to conserve the nation's wildlife.

State Wildlife Action Plans are a primary conservation tool for keeping fish and wildlife healthy and off the list of threatened and endangered species. The plans are

unique in that they were developed by the nation's top wildlife conservationists in collaboration with private citizens.

Each plan identifies the species that are in greatest need of conservation and the actions needed to conserve those species and the full array of wildlife in each state. The principal barrier to implementation of the plans is a lack of sustainable funding.



PROVISIONS OF THE TEAMING WITH WILDLIFE ACT

The *Teaming With Wildlife Act* would amend the Pittman-Robertson Act to ensure adequate funding for the conservation and restoration of all species through funding of the *Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program*.



A total of \$350 million would be deposited in the account annually for five years deriving 50% of the revenue from existing royalties on outer continental shelf drilling and 50% from existing revenues collected under the Mineral Leasing Act.

Since drilling and mining use an irreplaceable natural resource, investment of some of these royalties to fund fish and wildlife conservation will ensure there are long-term benefits to future generations who enjoy fish and wildlife.



TEAMING WITH WILDLIFE
a natural investment

Teaming With Wildlife
444 North Capitol Street, NW
Suite 725
Washington, DC 20001
202/624-7890
www.teaming.com

Teaming with Wildlife, a national coalition of 5,900 conservation organizations and nature-based businesses—including state fish and wildlife agencies, wildlife biologists, hunters and anglers, birdwatchers, hikers and other conservationists—is working to prevent wildlife from becoming endangered by supporting increased state, federal and private funding for wildlife conservation.