

Missouri's Plan for Teaming with Wildlife

A CONGRESSIONAL PERSPECTIVE

Since 1937, visionary Congressmen, working with their constituents, have created ways to assist states in their wildlife and sport fish restoration efforts. In 1937, the landmark Pittman-Robertson Act created a user fee concept that taxed hunting equipment and has endured for 60 years. In 1951, the Dingell-Johnson Act added a similar excise tax to fishing gear for sport fish restoration and increased fishing opportunities. Today, all those who participate in these federal grant programs praise their results. In 1980, Congress passed the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act but funds were never appropriated. Teaming with Wildlife is an opportunity for another landmark act that will protect ALL species. Revenues would be generated from user fees collected as excise taxes on equipment and products used by the broad base of citizens who enjoy and appreciate wildlife. Surcharges ranging from .25 to 5 percent would be assessed at the manufacturers' level for camping and outdoor recreation equipment, photographic equipment, bird seed and other wildlife-related products, optics such as binoculars, and recreational and sport utility vehicles. TWW would raise \$350 million annually for wildlife-related conservation, recreation and education programs in all 50 states. More than 1800 organizations and businesses nationally support Teaming with Wildlife. Missouri is ranked seventh in state coalitions with endorsements from 57 organizations and businesses. **YOUR SUPPORT FOR THIS VITAL LEGISLATION IS NEEDED!**



TEAMING WITH WILDLIFE
a natural investment

If Teaming with Wildlife passes, Missourians will directly benefit in many ways. Here are just a few of the proposed projects and programs using the \$7.5 million Missouri would receive each year.

Ozark Trail Completion and Statewide Trail Development

Need: The Ozark Trail is an almost 700-mile route from central Arkansas to St. Louis through the Ozark Mountains. Only about one third of the trail is completed. More trail development is needed throughout the state as hiking is becoming increasingly popular with people who seek quieter opportunities to enjoy nature and see wildlife. Many trails, like the popular Katy Trail, are heavily used.

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS: 1, 3, 8 for Ozark Trail;
Statewide trails: ALL Districts

With TWW Funds:

✓ Complete the Ozark Trail and construct spur trails and loops to provide access to scenic natural features and shorter hikes. Provide detailed guides to trail sections.

Goal: 200 miles of trail plus 100 miles of loops and spur trails

✓ Provide grants to cities for construction and maintenance of hiking and interpretive trails in parks and along greenways. Goal: 5 grants per year

✓ Develop interpretive trails with signs, displays and brochures on Conservation areas close to population centers. Goal: 100 miles of trails on public lands close to people

✓ Develop approved railroad conversion trails as hiking and biking trails with guides and maps. Goal: 50 miles of trails



Birding, Fish and Wildlife Viewing, Nature Appreciation

Need: Most Missourians enjoy watching wildlife. A Department of Conservation survey showed 71-80 percent watch birds or wildlife near home and 61-70 percent feed birds or wildlife. Many communities have brought in tourism dollars from eagle viewing events, prairie days, river festivals and fishing fairs.

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS: All

With TWW Funds:

- ✓ Create interpretive programs and/or additional wildlife viewing opportunities at popular Department of Conservation sites and other public lands in cooperation with cities, counties and private organizations. Goal: 50 sites
- ✓ Enhance Watchable Wildlife Viewing Areas with viewing towers, viewing blinds, boardwalks in marshes and signs. Goal: Viewing developments on 107 public areas
- ✓ Designate and develop regional waterfowl and wetland wildlife viewing sites on existing public lands with emphasis on spring migration wildlife. Examples: Fountain Grove, Bob Brown, Four Rivers, Ted Shanks, Marais Temps Claire, Duck Creek and Otter Slough Conservation Areas. Goal: 6 regional wetland viewing sites

Conservation Education



Need: Missouri has been a leader in Conservation Education for years. Schools and communities that have awakened to the importance of conserving our natural resources want more materials, programs, workshops, information and outdoor classrooms. Grants to schools and new programs will not only benefit Missouri, but serve as a model for other states.

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS: All

With TWW Funds:

- ✓ Create a Conservation Leadership Program through grants to youth organizations such as 4-H or Explorers. Develop conservation-minded youth leaders doing projects across the state. Goal: 250 committed young community leaders
- ✓ Develop an interactive web site to allow students, teachers and the public to access information about conservation and obtain assistance. Link to sites of all conservation partners. Goal: One Internet Web Site accessible throughout Missouri.
- ✓ Provide grants to develop documentaries or stories that exemplify role of minority characters in natural resource use/protection. Goal: 5 documentaries or stories
- ✓ Offer grants for schools to develop outdoor classrooms, construct marshes or ponds or create biology study areas. Goal: 500 outdoor study areas associated with primary and secondary schools
- ✓ Create interactive software for youth to learn about nature. Goal: 5 programs

Continuing Education for Teachers



Need: Teachers are always seeking additional training and are more likely to use materials and ideas they have personally tried. Conservation education workshops are popular. With tightening budgets, scholarships and grants make it more feasible for teachers to attend.

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS: All

With TWW Funds:

- ✓ Subsidize school expenses for teachers to attend environmental science and conservation training. Goal: 100 grants per year
- ✓ Develop week-long workshop for pre-service teachers to provide conservation materials and techniques that can be used in the classroom. Goal: 750 conservation-committed teachers
- ✓ Develop Teacher Resource Centers for instructional materials and evening training sessions. Goal: 6 Resource Centers

Tourism and Community Partnerships

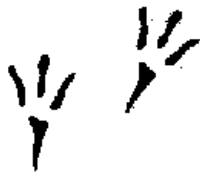


Need: Americans spent \$18.1 billion on "nonconsumptive wildlife recreation" in 1991. For Missouri that amounted to more than \$165 million. Surveys have shown that expenditures for fish and wildlife-related recreation in Missouri have accounted for one-third of all travel-related spending in the state. Local governments often have sites or conditions for wildlife-related recreation, but lack the funds to develop the sites or enhance opportunities. **CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS: All**

With TWW Funds:

- ✓ Provide small grants to community groups to develop trails, wildlife habitat and natural areas that would create local recreational opportunities and promote tourism. Goal: 5 grants annually
- ✓ Grants to communities for outdoor events and festivals that link communities to their natural heritage while building local economies. Goal: 5 grants annually
- ✓ Provide technical assistance to communities and developers to incorporate parks, green space, trails, nature areas and storm water management into new developments and subdivisions and encourage use of native plants and restored natural communities in parks and other urban community landscapes. Goal: 10 community contacts per year

Habitat Restoration & Nature Viewing



Need: Of Missouri's 734 species of birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians and fish, 620 species may occur in the floodplain lands along Missouri's largest rivers. When these lands were converted to agricultural use, habitats were lost. Since the Department of Conservation and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service purchased some of these lands, it's now possible to restore natural vegetation. Other habitats also are in need of being restored to save valued species of wildlife, and important Missouri natural areas face critical management problems. **CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS: All**

With TWW Funds:

- ✓ Restore bottom land hardwood forests, wetlands and aquatic habitats to benefit fish, forest and wildlife resources as well as create outstanding natural viewing sites. Goal: Restore wildlife and forest resources on 75,000 acres of floodplain land
- ✓ Restore emergent marsh wetlands to the habitat suitable for rare birds such as the American and least bittern, black rail, king rail and others. Goal: Restore 25,000 acres of natural wetlands
- ✓ Restore pine-savanna communities in the Ozarks to create habitat for such species as pine warblers and Bachman's sparrows. Goal: 5,000 acres restored
- ✓ Create and manage grassland bird conservation areas to benefit 70 species of grassland birds. Goal: 2 grassland bird conservation areas
- ✓ Control invasive exotic plants that are causing problems in many Missouri natural areas.

Community Urban Lands Acquisition Grants



Need: Undeveloped areas for wildlife and nature appreciation are especially important in urban areas. Green spaces or urban wild acres can be managed for native vegetation with facilities for hiking and wildlife viewing. Often these sites are developed because funds are not available for acquisition. With an expanding urban population in Missouri, green spaces are increasingly important, and we need to anticipate future needs that growth will bring. **CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS: ALL**

With TWW Funds:

- ✓ Provide grants to urban communities to help purchase green spaces or urban wild acres. Goal: 1,500 acres purchased
- ✓ Provide grants to plan for green space in future developments. Goal: 2 grants per year

Fish, Wildlife and Plant Research and Restoration



Need: Missouri is home to an amazing variety of natural life, including some plants and animals that occur nowhere else in the world. Unfortunately, many are in serious decline or in danger of disappearing from our state. To keep these species off the endangered species list, biologists need more information about life needs of birds, fish, mussels, plants and other wildlife. **CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS: All**

With TWW Funds:

- ✓ Work cooperatively with the Missouri Botanical Garden to survey plants and natural areas in the major metropolitan areas. Goal: 5 surveys
- ✓ Provide grants for life history and management studies on Missouri fish and wildlife needing special management emphasis to increase populations including such species as cerulean warbler, gray fox, loggerhead shrike and declining grassland species. Goal: 6 completed studies
- ✓ Initiate studies to collect information for restoration and management. Goal: 2 studies annually

For more information on Teaming with Wildlife
or to share your ideas, contact
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Visit the Department of Conservation Home Page
for more information on Teaming with Wildlife:
<http://www.state.mo.us/conservation/welcome.html>