



State Wildlife Grants: The Nation's Core Program for Preventing Wildlife from Becoming Endangered

What Are State Wildlife Grants?

The State Wildlife Grants Program provides federal dollars to every state and territory to support cost-effective conservation aimed at preventing wildlife from becoming endangered. Congress created the program in 2000. Funds appropriated under the State Wildlife Grants Program are allocated to every state according to a formula based on each state's size and population.

America's Wildlife at Stake

United States laws and policies place the primary responsibility for wildlife management in the hands of the states. State fish and wildlife agencies have a long history of success in conserving game species, thanks to the support of hunter and angler license fees and federal excise taxes. But 90 percent of our nation's wildlife is not hunted or fished. The result? There is a serious gap in wildlife conservation funding, and thousands of species are falling through the cracks.

State Wildlife Grants fill that gap by supporting projects that prevent *all wildlife* from declining to the point of being endangered. Projects supported by this program protect and restore important lands and waters, collect information on what kinds of wildlife are in trouble, and develop partnerships with landowners to protect declining species and habitats on public and private lands. By emphasizing a proactive approach, the State Wildlife Grants Program helps us take action to protect wildlife and habitats before they become more rare and more costly to protect.

State Wildlife Action Plans

In order to make the best use of the State Wildlife Grants Program, Congress charged each state and territory with developing a statewide wildlife action plan. These proactive plans, known technically as "comprehensive wildlife conservation strategies," identify species and habitats of greatest conservation need and outline the steps we need to take to conserve all wildlife and vital natural areas for future generations.

Fiscally Responsible Conservation

The State Wildlife Grants Program saves taxpayer dollars. Taking action to conserve wildlife before it becomes endangered is environmentally sound and fiscally responsible. Once a species declines to the point of potential extinction, recovery efforts become risky and expensive. A non-federal match requirement assures local ownership and leverages state and private funds to support conservation. In an era of tight budgets, the State Wildlife Grants Program represents how limited federal funds can be invested to get the most results for taxpayers.

Broad and Bipartisan Support

The State Wildlife Grants Program has broad, bipartisan support. The program is supported by the Teaming with Wildlife coalition, made up of more than 5,000 groups representing sportsmen and environmentalists, fish and wildlife managers, and tourism and nature businesses. The program has strong, bipartisan support in Congress and from the President.

Teaming with Wildlife

A coalition of more than 5,000 groups working together to prevent wildlife from becoming endangered.

c/o Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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