



Teaming with Wildlife is a national coalition of more than 5,000 groups working together to prevent wildlife from becoming endangered. Together, the coalition works to support increased funding for wildlife conservation and associated recreation and education in every state. The Teaming with Wildlife Coalition includes state fish & wildlife agencies, wildlife biologists, hunters & anglers, birdwatchers, hikers, nature-based businesses and other conservationists.

At the beginning of the 20th Century, America's once numerous birds, mammals, and fish were largely depleted. In the 1930s, the situation started to improve with an infusion of funding for game and fish species. Wildlife areas were created, habitat actively managed, and wildlife populations were augmented or restored with transplanted animals. Despite these successes, many other species continue to decline, as evidenced by the staggering fact that more than 1,000 species are listed under the federal Endangered Species Act. Our nation needed a program to conserve wildlife *before* they became endangered.

Five years ago, at the urging of the Teaming with Wildlife Coalition, Congress and the President made an important decision to invest in wildlife and vital natural areas by creating the State Wildlife Grants Program. State Wildlife Grants provide federal money to every state for conservation aimed at preventing wildlife from becoming endangered. Since its inception, more than \$400 million in federal funding has been matched by at least \$200 million in state and private funds to provide more than \$600 million for wildlife conservation across all 50 states and six territories. Gale Norton, Secretary of the Department of the Interior, recently recognized the State Wildlife Grants Program as "our nation's primary conservation program for keeping species healthy and off the list of threatened and endangered species."

In order to make the best use of funds provided through the State Wildlife Grant Program, Congress charged each state and territory with developing a statewide wildlife action plan. These proactive plans will help conserve wildlife and vital natural areas before they become more rare and costly to protect. Under the leadership of state wildlife agencies, the wildlife action plans provide a strategy for conservation across the nation, importantly shaped to the needs of each state.

The Teaming with Wildlife Coalition is now building momentum to ensure state wildlife agencies and their conservation partners have the funding they need to fully implement their state wildlife action plans. The State Wildlife Grant Program is a great start but much more funding will be needed to ensure a national approach to preventing wildlife from becoming endangered. Teaming with Wildlife is committed to securing this funding from federal, state and private sources.

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