



Recovering America's Wildlife Act

Good for Michigan's wildlife, economy, and people



Our natural world provides innumerable benefits to human health, well-being, and economic prosperity. As wildlife and their habitats disappear, those benefits are compromised. Across the country, experts have identified more than 12,000 Species of Greatest Conservation Need. Unfortunately, we lack a dedicated funding stream to conserve our nation's biodiversity and help prevent thousands of vulnerable species from becoming endangered.

The **Recovering America's Wildlife Act** would be the most significant investment in wildlife conservation in a generation—it would fund proactive, voluntary efforts to address the nation's wildlife crisis. Passage of the Act would stimulate our economy, create more outdoor recreation opportunities, and conserve our natural heritage for future generations.

In FY2019, Michigan received \$1,380,117 in State and Tribal Wildlife Grant funding which enabled headway on several priority species. However, **with current funding at less than 5% of what's needed to implement State Wildlife Action Plans**, state wildlife agencies and their partners struggle to keep up with species in decline—to understand all of their unique needs and implement the broad-scale conservation work necessary to stabilize populations.

The following are just a few examples of what Michigan could achieve with passage of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act. For each one of the projects, the estimated budget exceeds the entire annual State and Tribal Wildlife Grant funding apportionment. At-risk butterflies, birds, and mussels would be helped through these examples, but many of **Michigan's 310 Species of Greatest Conservation Need** may not be so fortunate without adequate funding.

Recovering America's Wildlife Act would reap benefits tenfold by helping to prevent future endangered species listings, creating new jobs, investing in our natural infrastructure, and protecting important wildlife services—such as pollination and water filtration. This legislation would boost our outdoor recreation economy, which depends on healthy fish and wildlife populations. It would ensure more wildlife viewing opportunities, which directly contributes to millions of jobs and billions in annual consumer spending. **With passage of the Act, we could start implementing these projects right away.**

Project Spotlight: Supporting pollinator diversity and preventing the extinction of three federally endangered butterflies.



Conservation benefits: Bees and butterflies provide a critical function in helping to maintain plant diversity, as well as supporting important agricultural crops. Michigan has three federally endangered butterflies, the **Mitchell's satyr**, **Poweshiek skipperling**, and **Karner blue**. For the Poweshiek skipperling, there are only six populations left on the planet and two of them are in Michigan. We will work collaboratively with our partners to recover these endangered butterflies from the brink of extinction, while supporting other pollinators to keep them from becoming listed. For example, the Monarch butterfly was recently listed as a candidate species and our project will directly benefit this species. Working with partners, we have demonstrated successful recovery efforts for multiple species, including the recently delisted Kirtland's warbler. Conservation efforts will include programs and strategies designed to minimize known threats to pollinators and improve their habitats, increase knowledge to inform management, and expand propagation efforts to supplement existing populations and introduce new ones.

Partners: Michigan Nature Association, Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy, Michigan Natural Features Inventory, The Nature Conservancy, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Economic Impact: Create jobs for our partners and for contractors to implement on-the-ground conservation actions and improved pollination of important agricultural crops.

Congressional District: Statewide

Estimated Budget: \$3,000,000/year



Project Spotlight: Rare bird conservation

Conservation Benefits: This project will benefit high priority birds in Michigan, and we will focus our efforts on species like **Piping Plover**, **Common Tern**, **Kirtland's Warbler**, and **Golden-winged Warbler**. Michigan will work with our partners to implement on-the-ground conservation, including controlling invasive species at nesting sites, habitat management, predator management, and captive rearing orphaned eggs and chicks. Conservation efforts will be implemented on private and public lands. Michigan will continue to conduct surveys to ensure these conservation-reliant species continue to thrive. We will support and promote the Southern Wings Program, to conserve state-priority birds on their wintering grounds.

Partners: Ducks Unlimited, Michigan Nature Association, Michigan Natural Features Inventory, National Audubon Society, American Bird Conservancy, The Nature Conservancy, Huron Pines, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Economic Impact: Create jobs for our partners and for contractors to implement on-the-ground conservation actions, and local tourism from bird watchers.

Congressional District: 1, 2, 4, 5

Estimated Budget: \$2,000,000/year



Project Spotlight: Mussel conservation

Conservation Benefits: **Freshwater mussels** are one of the most endangered groups of animals in North America and have undergone significant declines in range and status over the past century. Mussels have a unique life history, are important to aquatic ecosystems, and can be used as indicators of water quality. Mussels play a significant ecological role in both rivers and lakes. Live individuals and empty shells provide habitat for aquatic insects and are a key link in the food chain between aquatic microorganisms they feed on, such as algae and bacteria, and large animals like mink, otter, raccoons, turtles, and birds that eat mussels. Mussels are useful habitat and water quality indicators because most species are long-lived, generally sessile, and spend most of their lives within a small section of a stream. Because they are filter feeders, mussels are sensitive to – and tend to accumulate – contaminants. Michigan will conduct a comprehensive state-wide survey to gain an understanding of mussel range and distribution. We will develop a mussel propagation program to restore populations of state and federally listed species. Lastly, Michigan will implement stream habitat projects to improve mussel habitat.

Partners: Central Michigan University, Huron River Watershed Council, Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy, Michigan State University, The Nature Conservancy, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Michigan Natural Features Inventory

Economic Impact: Create jobs for our partners and for contractors to implement comprehensive survey and in-stream conservation actions.

Congressional District: Statewide

Estimated Budget: \$13,000,000