# Scientists Support Dedicated At-Risk Species Funding

The undersigned natural resource scientists and managers working in partnership with state and tribal fish and wildlife agencies stand in support of dedicated funding for the conservation of America's at-risk fish and wildlife. We urge Congress to take up measures that work towards this goal, including **the Recovering America's Wildlife Act**.

America harbors a remarkable array of fish and wildlife species, many of which face increased risk of extinction due to threats such as habitat alteration, invasive species, disease, and other problems exacerbated by the impacts of a changing climate. Over one third of these species are in need of immediate conservation action from these human-induced threats, including up to 40 percent of freshwater fish species, 42 percent of amphibian species, and 18 percent of bat species. On a global scale, a recent United Nations report detailed over 1 million species at risk of extinction, with approximately 680 vertebrate species already having gone extinct since the 1500s.

State fish and wildlife agencies operating on the front lines of this crisis have spent the past several years working to identify at-risk species and define appropriate conservation strategies to address their declines through the creation of State Wildlife Action Plans. Unfortunately, since first mandated by Congress nearly two decades ago, State Wildlife Action Plans have remained chronically underfunded. Today, nearly 12,000 species are in need of urgent action in order to avoid costly scenarios such as Endangered Species Act listing.

Sufficient, dedicated funding for Wildlife Action Plans would provide states and tribes with the resources and certainty needed to plan long-term conservation and monitoring. This problem is exacerbated in tribal agencies, where tribal professionals have no reliable funding mechanism to work with partners on at-risk species conservation or the creation of action plans.

The passage of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act would dramatically change this dynamic by providing state and tribal agencies with the funding needed to promote voluntary and cost-effective on-the-ground conservation work. By providing states, tribes and partner biologists funds to conserve these species today, we can avoid Endangered Species Act listings tomorrow.

Sincerely,

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#### Oklahoma

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## Washington

Bruce C. Thompson - Wildlife Scientist (Retired) - Past President (The Wildlife Society) Ed Henry - Biologist - Member, American Fisheries Society Ed Styskel - Certified Wildlife Biologist - Retired Edward W Styskel - Certified Wildlife Biologist - Member, The Wildlife Society Eleanor P. Gaines - Director - Oregon Biodiversity Information Center Felipe Amezcua – Professor - EcoWB Gail Olson – Member, The Wildlife Society Gary J. Wiles - Wildlife Biologist - Retired George R Carlson - Wildlife Biologist - Retired Heidi Newsome - Certified Wildlife Biologist - Member, The Wildlife Society Hope Rieden - Fish and Wildlife Biologist Jesse Brunner - Associate Professor - Washington State University John F. Lehmkuhl - Research Wildlife Biologist (retired) - USDA Forest Service Kelsey King - Graduate student - Washington State University Kevin White - Certified Wildlife Biologist - Whitetail Environmental, LLC Laura Heironimus - Fish and Wildlife Biologist - Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Leslie Parks - Wildlife science technician - Swinomish tribe Lynda Hofmann - Fish and Wildlife Biologist - Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Matt Betts - Professor - Oregon State University

Michael Saxton - Wildlife Biological Technician - Katmai National Park Neala Kendall - Research Scientist - Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Nikolas Novotny - Fisheries Biologist - American Fisheries Society Patricia Townsend - Assistant Professor - University Rebecca Windell - Graduate Research Assistant and PhD Student - University of Washington Staci Amburgey - Postdoctoral researcher - University of Washington Stefanie Bergh - Wildlife Biologist - Member of The Wildlife Society Steve Desimone - Wildlife Ecologist - Washington Dept of Fish and Wildlife Susan Waters - Rare Species Ecologist

#### West Virginia

Susan Olcott - WV Project Leader for Monarch and Lepidoptera Conservation - WV Div Natural Resources

Frank Jernejcic - District Fishery Biologist - Retired

#### Wisconsin

Adrian P. Wydeven - Certified Wildlife Biologist - Wisconsin Green Fire, Timber Wolf Alliance Benjamin Olsen - Wildlife Biologist - Member, The Wildlife Society Bob Wright - Wildlife GIS Specialist - Minnesota IT Services Bradley Ray - Fisheries Team Supervisor - Member, American Fisheries Society Bruce R. Bacon - Wildlife Biologist - retired WI Dept. Natural Resources Cassandra Graikowski - Tribal Historic Preservation Officer - Sokaogon Chippewa Tribe Charles M. Pils - Wildlife Biologist-Wisconsin DNR (Retired) Christopher D. Tyrrell - Research Curator & Dir. of Informatics - Milwaukee Public Museum Daniel Robert Dessecker - Certified Wildlife Biologist - Retired Darren M Ladwig - Wildlife Biologist - Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Donald M. Waller - former Professor of Botany & Environmental Studies - University of Wisconsin - Madison Elise Couillard - Science Communicator - Ducks Unlimited Fred Strand - Wildlife Biologist - Private Consultant Jonathan Gilbert - Director, Biological Services Division - Great Lakes Indian Fish and Willdife Commission Karl Martin - Dean, Division of Extension - University of Wisconsin-Madison Keith R. McCaffery - Natural Resource Scientist - Wis Dep Nat Resour (retired) Mark Martin - Manager Goose Pond Sanctuary - Madison Audubon Society Michael D. Samuel - Emeritus Professor - University of Wisconsin-Madison Nathaniel LaHue DVM, MPVM – Member, The Wildlife Society Nick Jaeckels - Water Resources Engineer Ollie Torgerson - Executive Secretary - Midwest Assn. of Fish & Wildlife Agencies Pat Conrad - Watershed Planner - Emmons & Olivier Resources Ronald G. Eckstein - Wildlife Biologist (retired) - Wisconsin Chapter, The Wildlife Society Rosalind Russell - Environmental Scientist - Emmons and Olivier Resources Samantha Hauser - Postdoctoral Fellow - University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Thomas M Hauge - Retired Wildlife Management Program Director - Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Timothy Van Deelen - Professor of Wildlife Ecology - University of Wisconsin at Madison Tom Howard - Certified Wildlife Biologist - Wisconsin Chapter TWS William T Route - Ecologist (retired) - Certified wildlife biologist, The Wildlife Society

## Wyoming

Embere Hall - Adjunct Assistant Professor - Wyoming Chapter of The Wildlife Society Jeffrey Baldock - Graduate Research Assistant - Wyoming Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit

Dr. Anna Chalfoun - Associate Professor - University of Wyoming

Robert P Lanka - Wildlife Biologist - Wyoming Game and Fish Department - Retired

Tony Mong - Wildlife Biologist - Wyoming Chapter of the Wildlife Society

Charles R. Neal – Ecologist - US Dept. of Interior (retired)

Dana Nelson - Nongame Biologist - Wyoming Game and Fish Department

Andrea Orabona - Nongame Bird Biologist - The Wildlife Society Central Mountains and Plains Section

James F. Wright - Wildlife Biologist - Member, The Wildlife Society

Gwyn McKee - President/Principal Biologist - Great Plains Wildlife Consulting, Inc.

Jennifer Feltner - PhD Candidate/Grad Student Researcher - University of Montana

David Gustine - Supervisory Wildlife Biologist - Grand Teton National Park, National Park Service