

18 June 2021

The Honorable Lauren Boebert
1609 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Boebert,

The Colorado Chapter of The Wildlife Society is writing to **request your cosponsorship of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (H.R. 2773)**, introduced in April by Representatives Debbie Dingell (D-MI) and Jeff Fortenberry (R-NE). This legislation would provide state and tribal wildlife agencies with a vital source of funding needed to proactively and cost-effectively conserve America's at-risk wildlife populations.

Founded in 1937, The Wildlife Society and its 15,000 professional and associated members work to inspire, empower, and enable wildlife biologists and managers to sustain wildlife populations and habitat through science-based management and conservation. The Colorado Chapter of The Wildlife Society was established in 1973 as the state affiliate of the international organization. Its 350+ members are educators, students, administrators, research scientists, consultants, resource managers, and wildlife law enforcement officers from all over Colorado.

The states and tribes within Colorado have more than 55 at-risk species as identified by Colorado Parks and Wildlife in their congressionally-mandated conservation action blueprints, known as State Wildlife Action Plans. This includes species like the Gunnison Sage Grouse who have disappeared from 90% of their former range.

Nationally, conservation efforts for these at-risk species are critically underfunded, only receiving about \$60 million annually through the existing [State and Tribal Wildlife Grants](#) program. This is not nearly enough for states and tribes to plan for multi-year conservation and recovery projects or prevent costlier measures, such as Endangered Species Act listings, from occurring.

Passage of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act would match an appropriate solution to the scale of this crisis. By dedicating \$1.3 billion annually for the adequate implementation of State Wildlife Action Plans, and \$97.5 million annually for tribal agencies to plan long-term conservation projects, wildlife professionals will have the resources needed to hold the nation's wildlife in the public trust for generations to come in addition to creating 100,000+ jobs for Americans. For Colorado, that means approximately \$25 million towards conservation efforts across the state and for Colorado workers.

Thank you for considering this important legislation. If you have any questions regarding the Recovering America's Wildlife Act and the Colorado Chapter of The Wildlife Society's support for this legislation, please feel free to reach Erin Blair at erin.blair16@gmail.com or 720-261-6127.

Sincerely,

Erin Blair
Conservation Affairs Network Representative
Colorado Chapter of the Wildlife Society