

New Mexico Chapter of
The Wildlife Society



Excellence in Wildlife Stewardship Through Science and Education

November 15, 2021

The Honorable Ben Ray Lujan
498 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Lujan:

The New Mexico Chapter of The Wildlife Society (NMTWS) is writing to thank you for your co-sponsorship of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (S. 2372), introduced in July by Senator Martin Heinrich (D-NM). The Act currently has 32 cosponsors (15 Democrat, 16 Republican, 1 Independent). This bipartisan bill has sufficient votes to pass in both Houses and move to the President for his signature. NMTWS encourages you to take those actions necessary to ensure the bill is passed.

The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish has identified 235 Species of Conservation Need in their congressionally-mandated State Wildlife Action Plan. Currently, there is insufficient funding to meet the goals of reversing declining trends and precluding the need for federal listing under the Endangered Species Act. Passage of Recovering America's Wildlife Act would match an appropriate solution to the scale of this crisis by annually dedicating \$1.3 billion to state wildlife agencies and \$97.5 million to tribal agencies to conserve sensitive species. Not only will wildlife benefit from increased conservation efforts, these funds are estimated to create 33,000 jobs nationally, and fewer listings under the Endangered Species act will result in less economic loss in rural communities. Funding wildlife restoration prior to federal listing results in spending less money on litigation, and developing and enforcing regulations, and focuses on collaborative partnerships and restoration efforts.

Founded in 1968, NMTWS is a professional society of approximately 150 New Mexico wildlife biologists who work to sustain wildlife populations and habitat through science-based management and conservation. NMTWS, conservation groups, wildlife management agencies, and numerous sportsmen's associations support passage of Recovering America's Wildlife Act. As increasing numbers of people turn to the outdoors for recreation and well-being, protection of wildlife is a value shared regardless of background or political affiliation. If you have any questions regarding the Recovering America's Wildlife Act or the New Mexico Chapter of The Wildlife Society's support for this legislation, do not hesitate to contact me at 505-310-0961 or twnewmexico@gmail.com.

Sincerely,



Elise Goldstein
President, New Mexico Chapter of the Wildlife Society