

New Mexico Chapter of
The Wildlife Society



Excellence in Wildlife Stewardship Through Science and Education

November 15, 2021

The Honorable Yvette Herrell
1305 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515-3102

Dear Representative Herrell:

The New Mexico Chapter of The Wildlife Society (NMTWS) is writing to request your co-sponsorship and support of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (H.R. 2773), introduced in April by Representative Debbie Dingell (D-MI). The Act currently has bipartisan support with 135 co-sponsors (104 Democrat, 31 Republican). Conservation groups, wildlife management agencies, and numerous sportsmen's associations support passage of the bill which will provide dedicated funding to reverse wildlife population declines. This will help prevent the need to list species under the federal Endangered Species Act, which can curtail landowner and business activities on their property. Passage of this Act benefits not only sensitive wildlife species, but creates jobs and helps prevent 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.

Recovering America's Wildlife Act would provide critical funding for proactive conservation of fish and wildlife at-risk of becoming endangered. The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish has identified 235 Species of Conservation Need in their congressionally-mandated State Wildlife Action Plan. Nationally, conservation efforts for these at-risk species are critically underfunded, and current resources are insufficient to meet the goals of reversing declining trends and precluding the need for federal listing. Passage of Recovering America's Wildlife Act would match an appropriate solution to the scale of this crisis by dedicating \$1.3 billion annually to state wildlife agencies, and \$97.5 million annually to tribal agencies to protect at-risk species. With these funds, wildlife professionals will have the resources needed to hold the nation's wildlife in the public trust for generations to come, and to ensure that landowners and businesses will have fewer restrictions and potential loss of revenue. Further, these funds are estimated to create of 33,000 jobs nationally in the implementation of these conservation actions.

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. 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 twsnewmexico@gmail.com. We thank you for considering this important legislation.

Sincerely,



Elise Goldstein
President, New Mexico Chapter of the Wildlife Society