



THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY
North Dakota Chapter

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P.O. Box 1442 • Bismarck, ND 58502

18 August 2022

The Honorable John Hoeven
338 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Hoeven,

The North Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society is writing to **request your cosponsorship of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (S. 2372)**, introduced in July 2021 by Senators Martin Heinrich (D-NM) and Roy Blunt (R-MO). This legislation would provide state and tribal wildlife agencies with a vital source of funding needed to conserve America's at-risk wildlife populations proactively and cost-effectively.

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 North Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society represents 237 wildlife and natural resource professionals across the State and is a recognized source for the conservation and management of wildlife. TWS and other professional societies and conservation organizations are excited to support this legislation alongside similar, bipartisan efforts endorsed by dozens of representatives in the U.S. House (H.R. 2773).

North Dakota has 115 at-risk species identified by the North Dakota Game and Fish Department in their congressionally mandated conservation action blueprints, known as State Wildlife Action Plan. This includes species like the Western Meadowlark, our State Bird, which is declining by 1.3% per year due to land use changes and habitat loss. Funding provided by RAWA will not only help maintain a vibrant outdoor recreation economy but will reduce the risk of at-risk wildlife species from being listed under the Endangered Species Act. This proactive measure can help prevent additional burdens on our farmers, ranchers, and private landowners through unwanted regulation.

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.

Thank you for considering this important legislation. If you have any questions regarding the Recovering America's Wildlife Act and the North Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society's support for this legislation, please feel free to reach Rachel Bush at ndctws@gmail.com.

Sincerely,
Rachel Bush, NDCTWS President, ndctws@gmail.com