



Overview

State fish and wildlife and other natural resource agencies are experiencing greatly increased responsibilities as a result of habitat loss and degradation, climate change, invasive species, and increased recreation on state and federal public lands. At the same time, fish and wildlife agencies are facing budget shortfalls due to declining hunting and fishing license sales, which have historically provided significant revenue. States are actively seeking new funding sources and opportunities.

Legislation

- Oregon [HB 2402](#) (2015) - Established a Task Force on Funding Fish, Wildlife and Recreation
- Oregon [HB 2829](#) (2019) -Established the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund: \$1 m with \$1 m match for wildlife conservation, outdoor access, agency funding
- New Mexico [SB 312](#) (2021) – provides \$2 million in funding to update the Fish & Game Department to the Wildlife Conservation Department
- New Hampshire [SB 48](#) (2018) – Required the Fish and Game Commission to study and report on the efficiency



KEY POINTS

- Animals and habitat are stressed as never before because of factors such as development, pollution, and climate change.
- State fish and wildlife and other agencies are losing funding from state, federal, and license sources. Most agencies' budgets have fallen 15-40% in recent years.
- Few funds are designated for nongame wildlife or even endangered species, other than in State Wildlife Action Plans.
- States have begun to examine, recommend and support new funding sources and partners, including a potential federal match for states' work on habitat and species of greatest conservation need.

Other Resources

- [Report](#): Oregon Task Force on Fish, Wildlife and Related Outdoor Recreation and Education
- Recovering America's Wildlife Act [H.R.3742](#) – Federal bill providing funds for the management of species of greatest need as determined by State agencies
- [Fact Sheet](#): Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources
- [Funding for Fish and Wildlife](#) NCEL PowerPoint (2017)
- [Colorado Parks and Wildlife Future Funding Study](#) by Meridian Institute and Earth Economics