

The Recovering America's Wildlife Act

The Recovering America's Wildlife Act (S-1149) was introduced in March of 2023. Audubon is urging members and others committed to conservation to contact their Senators in support of this bill.

According to National Audubon:

“The Recovering America's Wildlife Act (S-1149) will help thousands of wildlife species, including more than 800 bird species. The bill will direct \$1.4 billion annually to states and Tribal Nations to fully implement their Wildlife Action Plans, which help species of greatest conservation need. These plans are needed to keep species from becoming endangered, but are severely underfunded. The Recovering America's Wildlife Act will ramp up support for declining species, like Red-headed Woodpeckers and Golden-winged Warblers, to conserve them before they become endangered.

The bill also expands funding to recover threatened and endangered species. If passed, investments will be made in actions across the country to bring birds back—bolstering on-the-ground conservation, recovery of bird populations, and protection and restoration of the habitats they need to thrive.

Congress has the opportunity not only to help birds and other wildlife, but also to create jobs in communities across the country. In addition to providing annual support for proactive, on-the-ground conservation projects, studies project that the Recovering America's Wildlife Act could create more than 30,000 jobs and generate over \$93 billion in total economic activity.”

According to Congress.gov:

“Specifically, the bill establishes and funds through FY2027 a sub-account of the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Account, which was established under the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act. The sub-account must be used to support efforts of states, territories, or the District of Columbia to recover and manage wildlife and plant species of greatest conservation need.

The Department of the Interior must use a portion of the funding from the subaccount for grants that may be used by state fish and wildlife departments or other specified entities for innovative recovery efforts for species of greatest conservation need, species listed as endangered or threatened species, or the habitats of such species.

The bill also establishes and funds a Tribal Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Account to support Indian tribes' efforts to recover and manage wildlife and plant species of greatest conservation need.

In addition, the bill establishes and funds through FY2027 the Endangered Species Recovery and Habitat Conservation Legacy Fund. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

must use the fund to (1) implement an Endangered Species Recovery Grant Program; (2) address its interagency consultation responsibilities under the Endangered Species Act of 1973; (3) work with nonfederal entities to conserve wildlife habitat and certain at-risk species; or (4) address the development and permitting of voluntary conservation agreements under such act.”