



November 26, 2019

TO: Arizona Congressional Delegation

RE: Support for Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA), H.R.3742

Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation (AZSFWC) and 30 of our Member groups would like to express our support for H.R. 3742, the Recovering America's Wildlife Act. This bipartisan bill was introduced by the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus (CSC) Vice-Chair Representative Debbie Dingell (D-MI) and CSC Member Representative Jeff Fortenberry (R-NE) as well as 61 other original bipartisan cosponsors. There are now 155 cosponsors supporting the bill.

AZSFWC would respectfully ask that you cosponsor and support this strongly bipartisan legislation too!

Our nation is blessed with a diverse array of fish, wildlife, and plants however; these species are facing a daunting crisis. More than one-third of all species in the United States are at risk of becoming threatened or endangered. Additionally, state fish and wildlife agencies have identified more than 12,000 species in the greatest need of conservation in their congressionally mandated State Wildlife Action Plans (SWAPs), which serve a strategic blueprint to identify the unique conservation needs of each state and territory.

Currently, states and territories only receive 5-10 percent of the funds that are necessary to address the conservation challenges identified in each specific SWAP. Of the more than 800 wildlife species in Arizona alone, there are 531 species of birds, amphibians, mollusks, reptiles, fish, crustaceans and mammals that are identified as species of greatest conservation need, including the Chiricahua Leopard Frog, Bald Eagle, Gila Monster, Gould's Turkey, Apache (Arizona) and Gila Trout, Ocelot, Mexican Gray Wolf, Sonoran Pronghorn, Mojave Desert Tortoise, Jaguar, Desert Bighorn Sheep and many other iconic species.

H.R. 3742 would provide \$1.3 billion annually for proactive, on-the-ground fish, wildlife, and plant recovery efforts of the 12,000 species of greatest conservation need as collectively identified from each state/territory's SWAP. This legislation would also provide \$97.5 million annually to Tribal nations to conduct conservation and management programs on Tribal lands and waters that provide habitat for

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more than 525 threatened and endangered fish, wildlife, and plants. This funding would complement the [American System of Conservation Funding](#) – a program funded by sportsmen and women through sporting related excise taxes and license purchases under the Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson Acts, which currently provide the majority of funding for state fish and wildlife agencies.

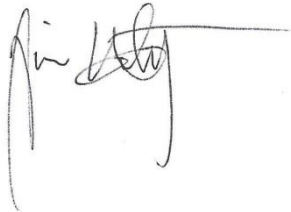
This proactive, non-regulatory legislation will provide adequate funding to state fish and wildlife agencies and tribal nations to take conservation measures to recover species before more costly “emergency room” measures are necessary such as federal listing under the Endangered Species Act. This collaborative approach to conservation is good for wildlife, good for taxpayers, good for private landowners, and good for businesses.

RAWA comes in response to the recommendations developed by the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America’s Fish and Wildlife Resources (BRP), which is co-chaired by former Wyoming Governor David Freudenthal, and John L. Morris, founder of Bass Pro Shops. The [Alliance for America’s Fish and Wildlife](#) now represents the broad coalition developed by the BRP with other representatives from a diversity of industries.

To cosponsor the *Recovering America’s Wildlife Act*, please contact Tim Huebner (Rep. Dingell) at Timothy.Huebner@mail.house.gov, or at 202-225-4071.

Thank you in advance for your support!

Yours in Conservation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Unmacht", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Jim Unmacht
Executive Director

Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation (AZSFWC) is a 501c-3 non-profit organization dedicated to wildlife conservation, habitat work, youth recruitment and retention, as well as educating sportsmen and women on issues important to their passions. AZSFWC consists of 41 member, affiliate, and associate groups that reach across the spectrum of hunting, angling, shooting, outdoor recreation and businesses from all across Arizona. Our member groups represent in excess of 10,000 sportsmen and women from Arizona.



AZSFWC Member Groups Supporting H.R.3742

**Anglers United
AZ Antelope Foundation
AZ Bass Federation Nation
AZ Big Game Super Raffle
AZ Bowhunters Association
AZ Chapter National Wild Turkey Federation
AZ Chapter Safari Club International
AZ Deer Association
AZ Desert Bighorn Sheep Society
AZ Elk Society
AZ Flycasters Club
AZ Houndsmen's Association
AZ Outdoor Adventures
AZ Outdoor Sports
AZ Predator Callers
AZ Shooting Sports Education Foundation
AZ State Council of Trout Unlimited
Christian Hunters of America
Kahuna's Kids
Mohave Sportsman Club
Outdoor Experience 4 All
South Eastern AZ Sportsmen Club
Southern AZ Quail Forever
Southwest Wildlife Foundation (Yuma Valley Rod & Gun Club)
SRT Outdoors
The BASS Federation AZ
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
Valley of the Sun Quail Forever
Xtreme Predator Callers
1.2.3.Go...**

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