

RC 26

ALASKA BOARD OF GAME  
2017-XXX-BOG

**A Resolution Supporting the Recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Panel on  
Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources**

**WHEREAS**, Congress passed the Pittman-Robertson, Dingell-Johnson and Wallop-Breaux Acts to establish funds financed by hunters, recreational shooters, anglers, and boaters to support conservation and science-based management of game and sport fish species; and

**WHEREAS**, this system of funding from the contributions of hunters, trappers, and anglers has supported the most effective wildlife management system in the world, to the benefit of our most treasured game and sport fish species; and

**WHEREAS**, a dedicated and sustainable funding mechanism to protect and enhance the many species of fish and wildlife which are not ordinarily hunted, trapped, or fished has been established by conservationists of this nation; and

**WHEREAS**, Alaska is home to more than 1,200 species of fish and wildlife, the vast majority of which are not hunted, trapped, or fished; and

**WHEREAS**, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has the primary responsibility for the management of all fish and wildlife in the state and has adopted a Wildlife Action Plan that addresses the needs of the state's diverse fish and wildlife species, including species of greatest conservation need; and

**WHEREAS**, limited financial resources are available to fully implement Alaska's Wildlife Action Plan to help prevent future endangered species listings and provide for the needs of all fish and wildlife species; and

**WHEREAS**, States have long recognized the need for more comprehensive fish and wildlife programs to conserve all species; however, adequate funding has remained elusive; and

**WHEREAS**, the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources, composed of 26 business and conservation leaders from across the United States and convened by the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies, recommends that that a reliable and assured funding mechanism be established for state fish and wildlife conservation and management for current and future generations;

**WHEREAS**, securing dedicated federal funding is likely to require a nonfederal match similar to that in place for the Pittman-Robertson, Dingell-Johnson and Wallop-Breaux Acts.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the Board supports the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources' recommendation that Congress dedicate \$1.3 billion dollars annually in existing revenue from the development of energy and mineral resources on federal lands and waters to the Wildlife Conservation Restoration Program to diversify funding and management of all fish and wildlife; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, to recognize and commend the bi-partisan leadership of Congressman Don Young and Congresswoman Debbie Dingell in introducing legislation in July 2016 to enact this recommendation (HR 5650 – Recovering America's Wildlife Act); and

**Submitted by ADF&G**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, to respectfully encourage the Alaska Congressional Delegation to continue its leadership on funding wildlife conservation by supporting federal legislation that would implement this; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, in the event new dedicated federal funding should be secured, the Board supports collaborative efforts to locate and establish the required nonfederal match funding mechanisms for wildlife conservation and the implementation of the state's Wildlife Action Plan.

Vote: \_\_\_\_\_  
Adopted March XX, 2017  
Glennallen, Alaska

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ted Spraker, Chairman  
Alaska Board of Game

# Montana Fish & Wildlife Commission

Resolution of the Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission

August 11, 2016

'Recovering America's Wildlife Act of 2016'



Steve Bullock, Governor

Dan Vermillion, Chairman  
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Look for the Montana  
Fish & Wildlife Commission  
web page at  
[fwp.mt.gov](http://fwp.mt.gov)



Montana Fish,  
Wildlife & Parks

*WHEREAS*, Montana is home to more than 700 species of wildlife and fish, and

*WHEREAS*, out of the 700 species of wildlife and fish in Montana only 102 are harvestable game or sport fish, and

*WHEREAS*, out of the 700 species of wildlife and fish, 120 species are considered species of conservation concern; and

*WHEREAS*, Congress passed the Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson Acts that established a fund to support conservation and science-based management of harvestable game and sport fish species financed by hunters, recreational shooters, fishermen and boaters; and

*WHEREAS*, a dedicated and sustainable funding mechanism is lacking for many of these species of birds, mammals, fish, amphibians and reptiles that are not hunted or fished; and

*WHEREAS*, across the nation, the number of species petitioned for federal *endangered* species listing has increased by more than 1,000% over the last five years; and

*WHEREAS*, in Montana there are currently five species listed under federal *endangered* species protection, 10 more listed as federally threatened, and 3 more species are currently under consideration for listing; and

*WHEREAS*, Montana has a statutory responsibility to sustain and conserve all species of fish and wildlife native to Montana; and

*WHEREAS*, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks created a Wildlife Action Plan (2005, revised in 2015) focused on the conservation of all species including those species not listed as game or sport fish; and

*WHEREAS*, there is a recognized need to expand the funding base for wildlife conservation in Montana and throughout the Nation to implement Wildlife Action Plans and conserve species not listed as game or sport fish; and

*WHEREAS*, the recent Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources, made up of 26 business and conservation leaders, was tasked with recommending a new funding mechanism to support state fish and wildlife conservation to ensure the sustainability of all fish and wildlife for current and future generations; and

*WHEREAS*, Congressman Don Young (R-AK) and Congresswoman Debbie Dingell (D-MI) introduced the bipartisan 'Recovering America's Wildlife Act (HR5650)' in July 2016 calling for annual dedication of \$1.3 billion in existing revenue from the development of energy and mineral resources on federal lands and waters to state fish and wildlife agencies to conserve species of conservation need as recommended by the Blue Ribbon Panel; and

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED*, that on August 11, 2016, the Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission endorsed the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Panel and the 'Recovering America's Wildlife Act' recommending Congress dedicate \$1.3 billion dollars annually in existing revenue from the development of energy and mineral resources on federal lands and waters to the Wildlife Conservation Restoration Program to diversify funding and management of all wildlife; and

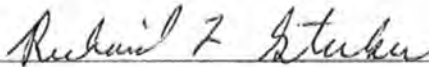
*THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED*, the Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission encourages other Wildlife Commissions throughout the West to do the same; and

*THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED*, the Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission respectfully requests the Montana Congressional Delegation support federal legislation (HR5650) and/or future legislation that would implement this recommendation; and

*THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED*, the Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission supports state policy and legislation that would broaden dedicated funding mechanisms for wildlife conservation and implementation of the Montana Wildlife Action Plan, and encourages the Montana state legislature to allocate the necessary 25% non-federal match in the event that new dedicated federal funding is secured.



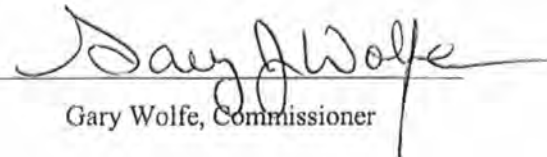
Dan Vermillion, Chairman



Richard Stuker, Vice Chairman



Matt Tourtlotte, Commissioner



Gary Wolfe, Commissioner



# Sustaining and Connecting People to **FISH AND WILDLIFE**

A Looming Crisis Can be Avoided

## A Recommendation of the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources

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Our nation is facing a conservation crisis. Despite successes like the recovery of bald eagles and arctic graylings, thousands of species of birds, mammals, fish, frogs, turtles and insects have been slipping through the cracks for decades. Unless we start investing in proactive conservation measures, our nation's rich natural heritage and vital natural resource-based economy will face an uncertain future. New dedicated funding is needed now to ensure the long-term health of all fish and wildlife.

In 1937, Congress passed the Pittman-Robertson Act that established a conservation fund financed by hunters and recreational shooters to conserve game species. This funding model was later expanded to include sport fish with passage of the Dingell-Johnson Act. These two Acts enabled states to make long-term investments

in science-based management, resulting in the restoration of once depleted white-tailed deer, elk, wood ducks, striped bass and many other game species. This remarkably successful funding mechanism can be replicated to address the urgent conservation needs of all fish and wildlife and expand the number of citizens who invest in nature.

This conservation crisis also extends to people. More Americans than ever before are becoming disconnected from nature and the outdoors. This change is having profound implications on our citizens' health and well-being and the relevancy of fish and wildlife conservation. **To safeguard the future of our country's fish and wildlife, we must expand access and opportunities to bring the benefits of nature to all Americans.**



## WHAT IS AT STAKE?

Our system of fish and wildlife funding is incomplete. State fish and wildlife agencies have identified thousands of species that are in immediate need of conservation, but only a small fraction are being addressed because of limited financial resources. As species decline and habitats deteriorate, benefits provided by nature such as water purification, pollination, recreation and food and fiber production that are essential to human health and economic prosperity are being compromised.

Without a change in the way we finance fish and wildlife conservation, we can expect the list of federally threatened and endangered species to grow from nearly 1,600 species today to perhaps thousands more in the future. In addition to the tragedy of placing our country's natural heritage at risk, such increases will impact business by raising costs for regulatory compliance, delaying deployment of capital and creating less regulatory certainty.

At the same time as people have become more urban, plugged-in, and over-scheduled, time spent in nature and the outdoors has significantly declined. Today, children spend over 50 hours a week using electronic media, leaving little time to participate in nature-based activities. This lost connection to nature denies significant physical and mental benefits to many Americans and threatens the relevance of state fish and wildlife agencies.

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**The nation behaves well if it treats the natural resources as assets, which it must turn over to the next generation increased, and not impaired in value.**

**- Theodore Roosevelt**

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## THE BENEFITS TO PEOPLE AND SOCIETY

**Increased** investment in fish and wildlife conservation is vital to sustaining our natural infrastructure. Nature provides a host of indispensable benefits such as pollination, water purification, erosion control, flood control, recreation, food production and cultural amenities. Globally, these ecosystem services are minimally valued at \$18 trillion dollars per year.

**Increased** investment in fish and wildlife conservation makes fiscal sense. Proactive conservation saves tax payer dollars by addressing species' needs early so that costly "emergency room" interventions are avoided. Preventing threatened and endangered species listings helps business by averting project delays and losses from forfeited opportunities due to land use regulations.

**Increased** investment in fish and wildlife conservation is important to the nation's economy. Healthy fish and wildlife populations are critical to supporting the \$646 billion outdoor recreation economy and its 6.1 million jobs. The 90 million people who participate in wildlife-related recreation alone spend \$145 billion per year.

**Increased** investment in fish and wildlife conservation is needed to keep people of all ages and walks of life connected with nature. A growing body of evidence demonstrates that regular contact with nature adds quality to our lives and improves our physical and emotional health. State fish and wildlife agencies are well positioned to be leaders in delivering services that provide quality experiences in nature to people in both rural and urban environments.





# THE SOLUTION

The Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources, comprised of national business and conservation leaders, was convened to evaluate and recommend a more sustainable funding approach to avert a fish and wildlife conservation crisis. The Panel completed its work in December 2015 and recommends:

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**Congress dedicate up to \$1.3 billion annually in existing revenue from the development of energy and mineral resources on federal lands and waters to the Wildlife Conservation Restoration Program (16 U.S.C. 669b(a)).**

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This funding would provide the states, territories and the District of Columbia with new critically needed financial resources to effectively implement State Wildlife Action Plans to conserve 12,000 species in greatest need of conservation. Additionally, this funding would allow states to provide the public with more access to open spaces; giving people more opportunities to have meaningful contact with nature.

Historically, when fish and wildlife have faced a crisis, the nation has responded. We can create a more optimistic future for our nation's rich natural heritage through dedicated and sustained investment. State fish and wildlife agencies have a proven track record of success when given adequate financial resources. We need to act now to build a safety net for all fish and wildlife, create regulatory certainty for business and address the growing disconnect between people and nature. Failure to do so will mean that our generation will leave the nation's rich natural assets impaired, rather than increased in worth.

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# BLUE RIBBON PANEL

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ON SUSTAINING AMERICA'S  
DIVERSE FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES

## ABOUT THE BLUE RIBBON PANEL

The Blue Ribbon Panel includes 26 business and conservation leaders and two ex officio members. The Panel was charged with recommending a new funding mechanism to support state fish and wildlife conservation to ensure the sustainability of all fish and wildlife for current and future generations.

## MEMBERS AND THEIR AFFILIATIONS

- NATIONAL CO-CHAIRS** **John Morris**, Noted Conservationist and Founder, of Bass Pro Shops  
**David Freudenthal**, Former Governor, State of Wyoming; Senior Counsel, Crowell & Moring
- MEMBERS** **Kevin Butt**, Regional Environmental Director, Toyota Motor Engineering & Manufacturing, NA, Inc.  
**Richard Childress**, CEO & Chairman, Richard Childress Racing Enterprises; Board Member NRA  
**Jeff Crane**, President, Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation  
**Bruce Culpepper**, Executive Vice President, Shell Americas  
**John Doerr**, President & CEO, Pure Fishing, Inc.  
**Jim Faulstich**, Vice Chair, Partners for Conservation; Owner Daybreak Ranch  
**John Fitzpatrick**, Director, Cornell Lab of Ornithology  
**Greg Hill**, President & COO, Hess Corporation  
**Becky Humphries**, Executive Vice President, National Wild Turkey Federation  
**Stephen Kellert**, Professor Emeritus, Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies  
**Jennifer Mull**, CEO, Backwoods Equipment, Inc.; President Outdoor Industry Association  
**John Newman**, Board Member, Ducks Unlimited, Inc.  
**Mike Nussman**, President & CEO, American Sportfishing Association  
**Margaret O'Gorman**, President, Wildlife Habitat Council  
**Glenn Olson**, Donal O'Brien Chair in Bird Conservation and Public Policy, National Audubon Society  
**Collin O'Mara**, President and CEO, National Wildlife Federation  
**Connie Parker**, CEO, 12 North Capital LLC; Board Member Teddy Roosevelt Conservation Partnership  
**Charlie Potter**, CEO, Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation  
**Steve Sanefi**, President & CEO, National Shooting Sports Foundation  
**John Tomke**, Chair, Wildlife & Hunting Heritage Conservation Council  
**Jeff Trandahl**, Executive Director & CEO, National Fish & Wildlife Foundation  
**James Walker**, Board Vice Chairman, EDF Renewable Energy; Board Member American Wind Wildlife Institute  
**Steve Williams**, President, Wildlife Management Institute  
**Bob Ziehm**, Director, Missouri Department of Conservation
- EX OFFICIO MEMBERS** **Michael Bean**, Principal Deputy Asst. Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks, US Department Interior  
**Ronald Regan**, Executive Director, Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies



Publication Designed by:  
the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Division.  
Partially funded through the Multistate Conservation Grant Program with  
funds from the WSFR program of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.



*Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission*  
*Resolution – 16-02*

*Regarding Support for the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's  
Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources*

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WHEREAS, Congress passed the Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson Acts that established a fund financed by hunters, recreational shooters, fishermen, and boaters to support conservation and science-based management of game and sport fish species, and

WHEREAS, this system of funding from the contributions of hunters and anglers has supported the development of the most effective wildlife management system in the world, recovering many of our most treasured game and sport fish species, and

WHEREAS, the need to protect and enhance the many species of native wildlife which are not ordinarily taken for sport, fur, or food has been clearly established by conservationists of this nation, and

WHEREAS, it is in the national interest of the United States to retain for present and future generations the opportunity to observe, understand, and appreciate a wide variety of wildlife, and to prevent wildlife from declining to the point of requiring federal protection under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), and

WHEREAS, the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife has created a State Wildlife Action Plan that was approved in 2015 by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and

WHEREAS, the Wildlife Action Plan prioritizes Species of Greatest Conservation Need and key habitat types that require prescriptive actions to ensure persistence for future generations, and

WHEREAS, States have long recognized the need for more comprehensive fish and wildlife programs to conserve all species; however, adequate funding has remained elusive, and

WHEREAS, the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources, made up of conservation and business leaders, was convened by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies to provide recommendations for securing reliable and assured funding to advance the national interest in conserving all species of wildlife, and

WHEREAS, the Blue Ribbon Panel has called for the enactment of federal legislation to provide critically needed \$1.3 billion in dedicated annual funding for the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program from existing revenue from development of energy and mineral resources on federal lands and waters to effectively implement State Wildlife Action Plans and conserve thousands of species in greatest need of conservation, and

WHEREAS, the culmination of these efforts must be to establish a permanent funding mechanism at the national level which will provide financial and technical assistance to the states,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission recognizes and appreciates the valuable contributions of the Blue Ribbon Panel's deliberations, considerations, and recommendations to secure long-term, dedicated funding to protect fish and wildlife resources; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED to support the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Panel in recommending Congress dedicate up to \$1.3 billion annually in existing revenue from the development of energy and mineral resources on federal lands and waters to the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program to diversify funding and management of all wildlife.

Adopted August 12, 2016



Chris Castilian, Chairman



# IDAHO FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

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C.L. "Butch" Otter  
Governor

Virgil Moore  
Director

Commissioners:

Brad Corkill  
Panhandle Region  
Cataldo, Idaho

Daniel Blanco  
Clearwater Region  
Moscow, Idaho

Blake Fischer  
Southwest Region  
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Greg Cameron  
Magic Valley Region  
Rupert, Idaho

Lane Clezie  
Southeast Region  
Pocatello, Idaho

Derick Attebury  
Upper Snake Region  
Idaho Falls, Idaho

Jerry Meyers  
Salmon Region  
North Fork, Idaho

## RESOLUTION OF THE IDAHO FISH AND GAME COMMISSION SUPPORTING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE BLUE RIBBON PANEL ON SUSTAINING AMERICA'S DIVERSE FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES:

THAT CONGRESS DEDICATE UP TO \$1.3 BILLION ANNUALLY IN EXISTING REVENUE FROM THE DEVELOPMENT OF ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES ON FEDERAL LANDS AND WATERS TO THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION RESTORATION PROGRAM

**WHEREAS**, Idaho is home to unique populations of a tremendously diverse array of wildlife species, some of which are found nowhere else on earth; and

**WHEREAS**, the Idaho State Wildlife Action Plan prioritizes species of greatest conservation need and the habitats upon which they depend for survival; and

**WHEREAS**, of the 205 species of greatest conservation need identified in the State Wildlife Action Plan, only 20 are classified as game species; and

**WHEREAS**, Congress passed the Pittman-Robertson, Dingell-Johnson, and Wallop-Breaux Acts that established user pay, user benefit funds to support conservation and science-based management of wildlife and sport fish species financed by hunters, recreational shooters, fishermen and boaters; and

**WHEREAS**, a similar dedicated and sustainable funding mechanism is lacking for species of greatest conservation need that are not hunted, fished, or trapped; and

**WHEREAS**, Idaho has a statutory responsibility to protect, preserve, perpetuate and manage all species of fish and wildlife in Idaho; and

**WHEREAS**, proactive conservation actions for species of greatest conservation need are necessary to maintain healthy, sustainable populations and prevent federal listing under the Endangered Species Act; and

**WHEREAS**, the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources, made up of 26 business and conservation leaders, was tasked with recommending a new funding mechanism to support state fish and wildlife conservation to ensure the sustainability of all fish and wildlife for current and future generations.

*Keeping Idaho's Wildlife Heritage*

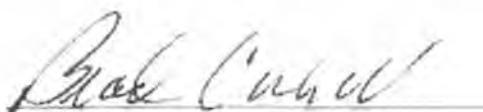
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**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Idaho Fish and Game Commission supports the recommendation of the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources that Congress dedicate up to \$1.3 billion annually in existing revenue from the development of energy and mineral resources on federal lands and waters to the Wildlife Conservation Restoration Program to diversify funding and management of all wildlife; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Idaho Fish and Game Commission respectfully requests that the Idaho Congressional Delegation support federal legislation, including HR5650 entitled "Recovering America's Wildlife Act of 2016" that would implement this recommendation by amending the Pittman-Robertson Act to make additional dedicated federal funding available for management of fish and wildlife species of greatest conservation need as determined by State fish and wildlife agencies; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that because securing dedicated federal funding is likely to require a non-federal state match similar to that in place for the Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson Acts, the Idaho Fish and Game Commission encourages efforts that would enable funding mechanisms to support State contribution for wildlife conservation and implementation of the Idaho State Wildlife Action Plan.

Adopted November 17, 2016.



Brad Corkill, Chairman



Virgil Moore, Secretary / Director