










# AMERICA'S WILDLIFE HABITAT CONSERVATION ACT

*RECOVERING SPECIES BY RESTORING HABITAT*

Introduced by Chairman Bruce Westerman (R-Ark.) the America's Wildlife Habitat Conservation Act makes strategic investments in state-led conservation and promotes necessary Endangered Species Act reforms for the betterment of species and their habitat.

-  Makes strategic investments in state wildlife habitat conservation by investing \$300 million yearly in grant funding to state governments to enact their congressionally mandated state wildlife action plans.
-  Funds activities such as habitat restoration projects, forest management projects, and promotes collaboration with private partners to conserve habitat for at-risk and listed species.
-  Invests in tribal habitat restoration and conservation efforts by funding habitat restoration projects and forest management projects on tribal lands.
-  All spending in the bill is completely offset and will sunset after five fiscal years.
-  Addresses the challenge of recovering species listed under the ESA by requiring the federal government to establish objective, incremental recovery goals for listed species.
-  Empowers states by allowing them to develop recovery strategies for species that are listed as threatened or are candidates to be listed, which could then be used as the basis for regulations managing that species if it is listed.
-  Provides an off-ramp for states to manage listed species as recovery goals for the species are met.
-  Contains provisions giving congressional backing to private, voluntary conservation efforts, as well as a fix to the detrimental Cottonwood vs. U.S. Forest Service U.S. 9th Circuit Court decision.
-  Provides Good Neighbor Authority for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, allowing the agency to partner with states, tribes, and counties to better manage their lands, placing it on par with other federal land management agencies.

Provides ESA  
regulatory  
opportunities to  
states and private  
landowners

**\$320 M**  
in offset funding provided to states  
and tribes