

Conversion of the whooping cranes' habitat to farmland and unregulated hunting led to the decline of this species in Louisiana and across the nation. For 60 years, whooping cranes were absent from Louisiana's prairies and wetlands. However, since 2011, LDWF and partners have been reintroducing whooping cranes to help the overall recovery of the species. Funding from Recovering America's Wildlife Act would support crucial conservation efforts to protect whooping cranes.

Jill Utrup/USFWS

# Louisiana & the Recovering America's Wildlife Act

*Louisiana's wetlands and bayous, forested uplands, and coastal prairies support a rich assortment of wildlife. Over fifty-five percent of Louisiana residents participate in outdoor recreation, which generates \$12.2 billion in spending annually. However, threats such as habitat fragmentation and loss, invasive species, and climate change are affecting hundreds of wildlife species in Louisiana. The Recovering America's Wildlife Act will dedicate funding to help at-risk wildlife before they become endangered—creating jobs and helping wildlife continue to thrive in a rapidly changing world.*

## By the numbers:

**362 species**

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) has identified 362 species that need conservation assistance including the Caddo Chimney Crawfish, Wilson's plover, canvasback, paddlefish, and alligator snapping turtle.

**\$15 million**

The Recovering America's Wildlife Act would give LDWF \$15 million annually to help the 362 species in need through targeted conservation actions including habitat restoration, education, species reintroductions, research, and more.

**\$744 thousand**

The current source of federal funding in Louisiana for proactive, locally-led wildlife conservation—state and tribal wildlife grants—is inadequate to help the species at risk.

# Recovering America's Wildlife Act

*America is in the midst of an unprecedented wildlife crisis. Once abundant populations of fish and wildlife are now facing steep declines because of habitat loss, pollution, and other threats. The bipartisan Recovering America's Wildlife Act would dedicate \$1.4 billion annually to state and tribal-led wildlife conservation — helping prevent wildlife from becoming endangered in the first place. Learn more at [www.nwf.org/recoverwildlife](http://www.nwf.org/recoverwildlife)*

## Louisiana Conservation in Action

A small, grayish brown butterfly, the frosted elfin is typically found in open woodlands and occurs in scattered local communities. Habitat alteration, including loss of specific food plants and places to live and grow during critical life stages, has reduced the frosted elfin's range and abundance over the past 30 years. Funding from Recovering America's Wildlife Act would support crucial conservation efforts like proper habitat management to protect these butterflies and help ensure this species remains part of America's natural heritage.

**Frosted elfin**



Pondhawk via Flickr's Creative Commons

**Louisiana pinesnake**



Daniel Saenz/USFS

One of the rarest snakes in North America, Louisiana pinesnakes can reach 4 to 5 feet in length and are non-venomous. These reptiles prefer the sandy soil of longleaf pine forests and spend more than half of their lives belowground. Unfortunately, habitat alteration and fire suppression have resulted in the loss of habitat for these snakes and other wildlife. Funding from Recovering America's Wildlife Act would help support this species by funding critical conservation efforts like restoration of longleaf pine forests.

## Other Louisiana Species of Greatest Conservation Need



**Red-cockaded woodpecker**



**Diamondback terrapin**



**Piping plover**



**Louisiana pearlshell**

Photos: Chuck Hess/USFS, Ryan Hagerty/USFWS, Gene Nieminen/USFWS, Tony Brady/USFWS



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