



Recovering America's Wildlife Act

Good for Louisiana's wildlife, economy, and people



Our natural world provides innumerable benefits to human health, well-being, and economic prosperity. As wildlife and their habitats disappear, those benefits are compromised. Across the country, experts have identified more than 12,000 Species of Greatest Conservation Need. Unfortunately, we lack a dedicated funding stream to conserve our nation's biodiversity and help prevent thousands of vulnerable species from becoming endangered.

The **Recovering America's Wildlife Act** would be the most significant investment in wildlife conservation in a generation - it would fund proactive, voluntary efforts to address the nation's wildlife crisis. Passage of the Act would stimulate our economy, create more outdoor recreation opportunities, and conserve our natural heritage for future generations.

In FY2020, Louisiana received \$759,325 in State and Tribal Wildlife Grant funding which enabled headway on several priority species. However, **with current funding at less than 5% of what's needed to implement State Wildlife Action Plans**, state wildlife agencies and their partners struggle to keep up with species in decline - to understand all of their unique needs and implement the broad-scale conservation work necessary to stabilize populations.

The following are just a few examples of what Louisiana could achieve with passage of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act. For just these three projects, the estimated budget far exceeds the entire annual State and Tribal Wildlife Grant funding apportionment. Whooping Cranes, Monarch Butterflies, and the Gopher Tortoise would be helped through these examples, but many of the **362 Species of Greatest Conservation Need** may not be so fortunate without adequate funding.

With Recovering America's Wildlife Act, Louisiana would reap substantial benefits by helping to prevent future endangered species listings, creating new jobs, investing in our natural infrastructure, and protecting important wildlife services - such as pollination and water filtration. This legislation would boost our outdoor recreation economy, which depends on healthy fish and wildlife populations. It would ensure more wildlife viewing opportunities, which directly contributes to millions of jobs and billions in annual consumer spending. **With passage of the Act, we could start implementing these projects right away.**



Project Spotlight: Coastal Prairie Stewardship

Conservation Benefits: Having lost **99%** of the historical acreage, coastal prairie is the **most endangered habitat in Louisiana**. This imperiled habitat is important to more than **50 plant and animal Species of Greatest Conservation Need, such as Northern Bobwhite and the federally endangered Whooping Crane**. Coastal prairies are botanically diverse and support many pollinator species. This project will **enhance approximately 2,000 acres of unplowed, remnant coastal prairie** by providing funding for prescribed fire and chemical or mechanical brush control to restore this at-risk habitat. Additionally, these funds will be used to monitor restoration success through a combination of remote sensing and in-person field surveys. Restoration efforts will also benefit the **American Bumblebee and the Monarch**, among many others.

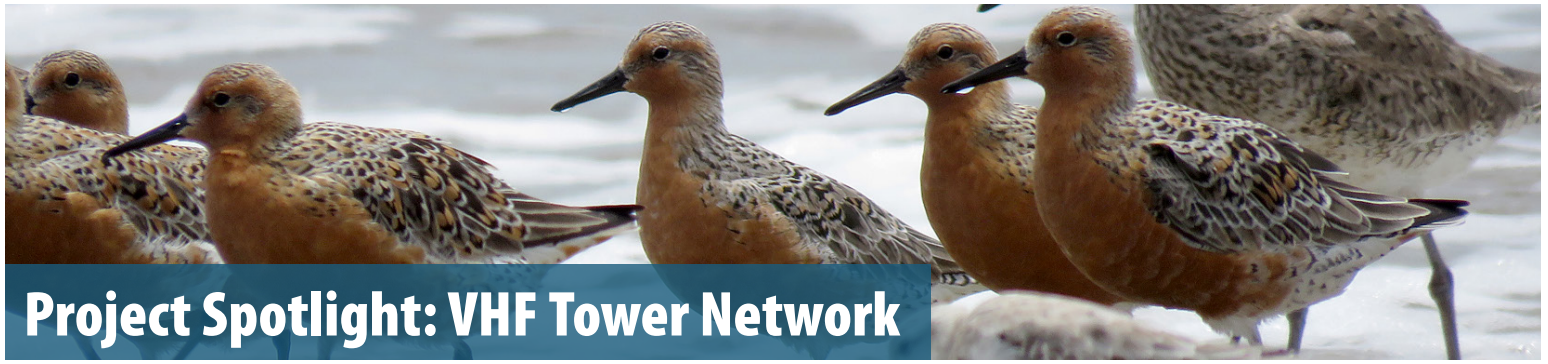
Partners: The EPA, the cattle ranching community, and other private landowners.

Economic & Societal Benefits: Enhance local freshwater quality and quantity for communities in the coastal prairie watershed; sustain recreational wildlife watching opportunities in this unique habitat.

Congressional District: 3

Estimated Budget: \$300,000





Project Spotlight: VHF Tower Network

Conservation Benefits: In 2015, the Louisiana Wildlife Action Plan identified a need to improve knowledge of SGCN landbirds. In response, a **coast-wide network of stations** were built to use VHF signals to track tagged wildlife as they pass nearby. The Louisiana VHF Tower Network is part of a larger network of stations that extends from northern South America through Central America and up to Canada via the eastern United States. This network has already proven to be valuable for tracking **federally threatened Red Knots** from Grand Isle, LA to James Bay in Canada. Preliminary data analysis suggests that Louisiana's stations have detected more than **300 birds of 23 different species**, including **one thrush that was instrumented in Columbia and detected in Louisiana on its way to Canada; a 3,600 mile journey!** The continued deployment of receiver stations will allow LDWF and its partners to track **hundreds of organisms of various taxa at once**. Construction of a network of receiver stations in Louisiana could service all tagged birds that use the Mississippi Flyway and, in part, the Central Flyway, which would **significantly contribute to the goal of full-life cycle monitoring and bird species conservation**.



Partners: Louisiana Audubon, Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program, and various universities.

Economic & Societal Benefits: Due to the passive nature of data collection by the network of stations, LDWF and its partners may have the opportunity to contribute to projects of countless other scientists around the continent. Such a project has almost limitless potential for partnering with other agencies, industry, nonprofits, academia, and others throughout the hemisphere.

Congressional Districts: 1, 3 & 6

Estimated Budget: \$500,000

Project Spotlight: Longleaf Pine Restoration

Conservation Benefits: With a **90% range-wide loss** of Longleaf Pine ecosystems in the southeastern United States, species like the **Red-cockaded Woodpecker, the Gopher Tortoise, and the Louisiana Pinesnake** are counting on the restoration of Longleaf Pine habitat in Louisiana. **Maintaining open pine lands requires significant management** including prescribed burning of open pine stands, tree plantings, and mechanical and chemical fuel reduction. Much of Louisiana's longleaf habitat occurs on private lands. Previous projects working with private landowners have successfully overcome financial limitations to managing Longleaf Pine habitat, reducing reluctance to burn by providing on-site training, and improving knowledge of the benefits of prescribed fire. This work also directly benefits other open pine species such as the **Northern Bobwhite, the Bachman's Sparrow, and the Brown-headed Nuthatch**.

Partners: Private landowners.

Economic Impact: Strengthens public/private landowner partnerships; create local jobs for implementation of technical guidance; reduce wildfire risk.

Congressional Districts: 1,3,4 & 5

Cost: \$350,000

