

AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY • THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

September 13, 2018

Chairman Rob Bishop
House Natural Resources Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Ranking Member Raul Grijalva
House Natural Resources Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
1329 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Bishop and Ranking Member Grijalva,

On behalf of the American Fisheries Society and The Wildlife Society and our more than 18,000 members, we urge you to consider funding for **proactive fish and wildlife conservation** as you seek to address the maintenance backlog on our national parks, wildlife refuges, and other public lands.

The Wildlife Society and American Fisheries Society are dedicated to development of natural resource professionals, advancing science, and conserving fish and wildlife. Our organizations work to advance science-based policies that empower fish and wildlife professionals on the front lines of conservation in order to hold our nation's fish and wildlife in the public trust.

Many fish and wildlife professionals are tasked with managing species on our country's national parks, national wildlife refuges, and BLM public lands. The "Restore our Parks and Public Lands Act" provides resources to ensure current and future generations of Americans can enjoy the unrivalled landscapes, wildlife, cultural heritage, and recreational opportunities throughout our National Parks and public lands.

Unfortunately, more than one-third of all U.S. wildlife species are at-risk and in need of proactive conservation action. Habitat loss and degradation, invasive species, disease, and pollution all pose threats to our wildlife. Without adequately managed, healthy populations of fish and wildlife on our public lands, the benefits provided through the improvement of recreational access and enhancement to these special places will be diminished.

The Recovering America's Wildlife Act (H.R. 4647) would meet this need by proactively funding conservation of at-risk fish and wildlife species. Like the Restore Our Parks and Public Lands Act, the **Recovering America's Wildlife Act** (H.R. 4647) would dedicate a portion of existing energy and mineral royalties from federal lands and waters to fund the conservation and monitoring of state-identified at-risk species, known as Species of Greatest Conservation Need, which will allow Congress to adequately fund an existing proactive conservation funding model in a collaborative, non-regulatory manner. This legislation has attracted broad bipartisan support, as well as the support of non-traditional partners from industry to conservation organizations.

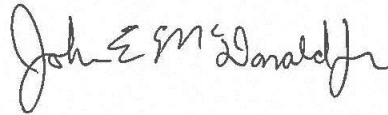
America's public lands and wildlife are inextricably linked—and we are confident Congress can address the significant challenges facing both. As the House Natural Resources Committee considers passage of H.R. 6510, we urge members to consider the importance of adequate fisheries and wildlife conservation funding within a comprehensive natural resources federal funding policy.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Doug Austen', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Douglas J. Austen, Ph.D.
Executive Director
American Fisheries Society

A handwritten signature in black ink, clearly legible as 'John E. McDonald, Jr.', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr. John E. McDonald, Jr.
President
The Wildlife Society