



ALLIANCE
FOR AMERICA'S FISH & WILDLIFE

Our Nature. Our Nation. Our Future.

Connecticut

All Photos Credit: CT DEEP Wildlife Division

What is the Alliance for America's Fish & Wildlife?

The purpose of the Alliance for America's Fish & Wildlife is to secure funding for the sustained conservation of our precious fish and wildlife resources.

This campaign has expanded out of the strong partnership created by the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish & Wildlife Resources, whose members represent the outdoor recreation retail and manufacturing sector, the energy and automotive industries, private landowners, educational institutions, conservation organizations, sportsmen's groups and state and federal fish and wildlife agencies.

How Our Wildlife is Currently Funded

Congress requires each state to develop a State Wildlife Action Plan – a proactive, comprehensive conservation strategy which examines health and recommends actions to conserve wildlife and vital habitat before they become more rare and costly to protect. License fees and excise taxes help some species and habitat recovery efforts, but without adequate, dedicated funding to implement these plans, Connecticut won't be able to conserve the full array of its treasured fish and wildlife.

America's Fish and Wildlife Heritage

Our nation's fish and wildlife are among its most valuable resources, along with clean air, water, healthy forests and agricultural lands that support all of us. Our quality of life, outdoor heritage and prosperity are tied to the health and sustainability of these treasures. The benefits of connecting Americans with nature include:

- Increasing quality time with family and carrying on traditions through fishing, hunting, birdwatching, camping, biking, boating and various other forms of outdoor recreation.
- Physical and mental health increases when we spend time in nature. Even a short amount of time outdoors each day can improve concentration, reduce stress, lower blood pressure and improve mental health, all of which can help prevent disease.
- Ensuring the next generation understands the important benefits of conservation in their communities.

Americans hold their country's natural resources dear, and our goal is to make sure future generations will have the same available resources and outdoor recreation opportunities.

Wood Turtle



Primary Challenge to Conserving Connecticut's Wildlife

As our nation's population increases, so does the stress we put on our shared natural resources. When a species is pushed to the brink and becomes endangered, society risks losing a piece of our natural environment that we may never get back.

Congress requires each state to develop a State Wildlife Action Plan – a proactive blueprint which details threats and recommends actions to conserve wildlife and vital habitat before they become more rare and costly to protect.

Only a dedicated and consistent funding source will allow Connecticut to conserve our treasured—and amazingly diverse—fish and wildlife. With adequate dedicated funding, the State will work to ensure that our wildlife do not decline to a point where they need to be listed as federally threatened or endangered.

Without sustained and dedicated funding for wildlife conservation, fewer Connecticut residents will benefit from all the opportunities that healthy fish and wildlife bring to our communities. Among the species of greatest conservation need are those familiar to all Connecticut residents including the wood turtle, New England Cottontail and osprey

The New England cottontail – the inspiration for "The Adventures of Peter Cottontail" – is the only rabbit native to New England and east of the Hudson River in New York. Population declines associated with habitat loss and competition from the introduced, non-native Eastern cottontail, resulted in the disappearance of this rabbit from much of its range. Connecticut was home to one of the few remaining populations. In 2006, it was classified as a candidate for federal Endangered Species Act protection.

Partnerships forged among state and federal government, private landowners, conservation organizations, tribes, and businesses helped save this iconic species through proactive research and on-the-ground habitat restoration and enhancement. The resulting Healthy, Young Forest Initiative serves as an example of how business, agriculture, conservation, and private citizens can work together effectively. This partnership helped prevent federal listing and preserved a part of New England's wildlife heritage.



New England Cottontail



American Oystercatcher

Working Together for the Future of all our Precious Resources

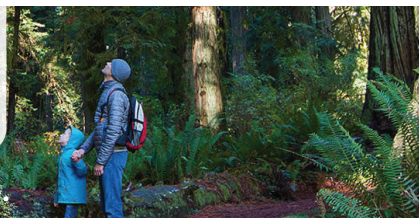
A lot is at stake if we don't act soon. Every American benefits when we have healthy and accessible fish and wildlife. We need to start down a new path where we invest proactively in conservation rather than reactively to avoid contentious endangered species battles that inhibit business, slow the economy and pass on the high cost of species recovery to the next generation.

For more information on the Recovering America's Wildlife Act and the quest to advance a 21st century vision for conservation of our valuable natural resources, please visit OurNatureUSA.com.



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