

Known for their intricate dances and booming calls during the spring mating ritual, the greater prairie chicken is an emblem of native grasslands. However, it has dwindled to dangerously low numbers in Missouri due to loss of habitat. Current conservation funding has not been enough to prevent the continuing decline of the species, and more is needed to restore the prairie chicken and grasslands it depends on.



USFWS

Missouri & the Recovering America's Wildlife Act

Missouri's State Wildlife Action Plan touts the state's guardianship of "nationally significant river and stream systems, some of the largest forested tracts left in the Midwest, a high density of cave and karst features, and some of the largest remnants of the eastern tall-grass prairie." With its unique array of landscapes and rich assortment of wildlife, the opportunity to conserve Missouri's natural heritage is great. Missouri residents and visitors enjoy fishing for smallmouth bass, watching birds, and hunting deer and quail. However, with more than 1/3 of America's wildlife currently at risk of extinction, Missouri could lose much of its beloved wild features. By providing dedicated funding for state and tribal-led wildlife conservation efforts, the Recovering America's Wildlife Act will help wildlife at risk before they need the "emergency room" measures required by the Endangered Species Act.

By the numbers:

603 species

The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) has identified 603 species that need conservation assistance, including the eastern meadowlark, shovelnose sturgeon, and monarch butterfly.

\$23 million

The Recovering America's Wildlife Act would give MDC \$23 million every year to help the 603 species in need by restoring their habitats and conducting other conservation action.

\$1 million

The current source of federal funding in Missouri 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, disease, 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

Missouri Conservation in Action

The pallid sturgeon was listed as federally endangered in 1990 due to habitat loss and fragmentation along the Missouri and Mississippi River basins. Each spring since 2008, the Department's Missouri River Field Station crews, along with local volunteers, have captured wild pallid sturgeon to send to a hatchery in Sweet Springs, MO. They hope these adults will spawn and reproduce to help supplement the dwindling population. Recovering America's Wildlife Act would support further recovery of pallid sturgeon in the Missouri River until the population is once again self-sustaining.

Pallid Sturgeon



Photo: MDC

Northern Bobwhite



Photo: USFWS

The distinctive “bob-WHITE” whistle of this new world quail is a sure sign of spring, and can be heard across the farms and fields of Missouri. While still relatively common, this popular game bird has been declining in recent decades due to the loss of grassland habitat and unfavorable weather during winter and nesting season. With support from Recovering America's Wildlife Act, the Missouri Department of Conservation hopes to reverse the downward trend in bobwhite numbers and improve the statewide population through several initiatives including public education, recreation opportunities, and landowner assistance.

Other Missouri Species of Greatest Conservation Need



Monarch Butterfly



Eastern Hellbender



Cerulean Warbler



American Badger

Photos: Tom Koerner/USFWS; Brian Gratwicke/National Zoo; NPS; Ryan Haggerty/USFWS



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