

The Blue Ribbon Panel and The Wildlife Action Plan

Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners' Meeting
May 13, 2016



Director Tony Wasley

Wildlife Diversity Administrator Jennifer Newmark





Blue Ribbon Panel

on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish & Wildlife Resources

Federal Funding History

- 1937 Pittman-Robertson Act
 - 1950 Dingell-Johnson Act
 - 1984 Wallop-Breaux Amendment
- } \$1 Billion Annually
Primarily for Game & Sport Fisheries
- 2001 State and Tribal Wildlife Grants \$50 Million annually

Average amount for Nevada is approximately **\$800,000**

Critical support for some species, but not enough to effectively manage all species.





Blue Ribbon Panel

on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish & Wildlife Resources

Charge: *Recommend a mechanism to sustainably fund the conservation of ALL fish and wildlife*



L-R: - David Freudenthal and John Morris

National Co-Chairs

- **John Morris**, Founder Bass Pro Shops
- **David Freudenthal**, Former Governor Wyoming





Blue Ribbon Panel

on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish & Wildlife Resources



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Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners' Meeting 5.13.2016



Blue Ribbon Panel

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The Panel looked for funding options that:



- Supports conservation of at-risk species and habitats as prioritized in state wildlife action plans.
- Dedicated source of funding
- Sustainable and not reliant on annual appropriations
- New and/or supplemental source of funding that completes the wildlife conservation model

***Two Dozen Funding Options
Examined –
three evaluated in-depth:***

- Excise tax on outdoor recreation products
- Corporate giving
- Energy and mineral royalties





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Excise Tax

- Expansion of Pittman-Robertson & Dingell-Johnson Acts (fee/tax on “non-consumptive” users)
- Attempted in 1990's, supported by several businesses but abandoned for Conservation and Reinvestment Act

Challenges

- new tax
- hard to gain industry support in short timeframe
- too few products directly tied to wildlife to raise sufficient funding





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Energy/Mineral Royalties from Federal Lands and Waters

- Would redirect/dedicate existing source of revenue
- Sufficient revenue available but would require offset (funds now mostly unrestricted to pay for govt. services)
- Would ensure future generations benefit from extraction of nonrenewable resources
- Industry supported





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Funding Target: Implement State Wildlife Action Plans

Nationally

\$1.3 billion annually in new funding

Nevada = \$20,472,324





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- Funding will function in the same way as State Wildlife Grants
- Apportionment is based on 1/3 of the state's land area and 2/3 of the state population
- Funding administered through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Does have a match requirement 75% federal to 25% state funding



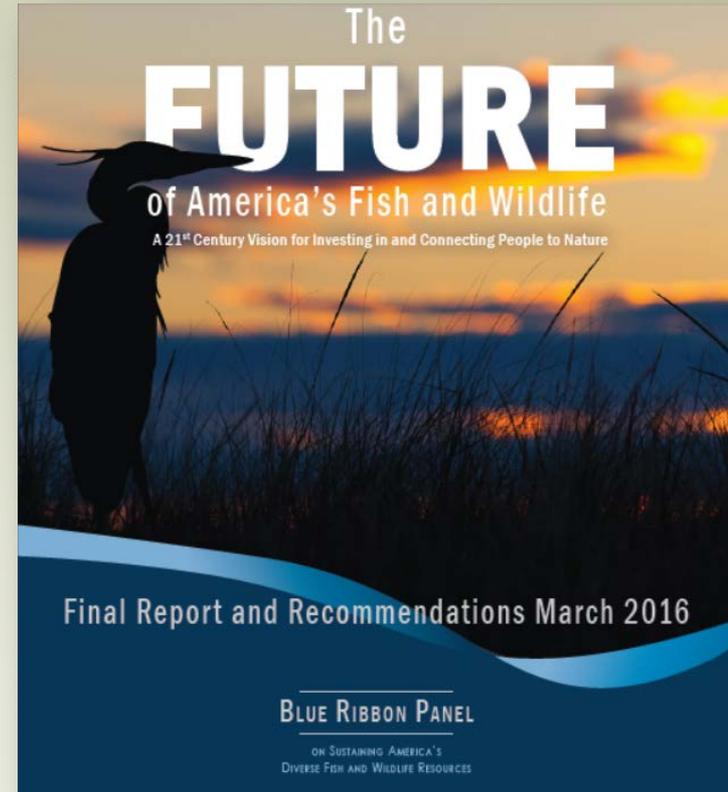


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RECOMMENDATION 1

Congress dedicate up to \$1.3 billion annually in existing revenue from the development of energy and mineral resources on federal lands and waters to the Wildlife Conservation Restoration Program (16 U.S.C. 669b(a)).



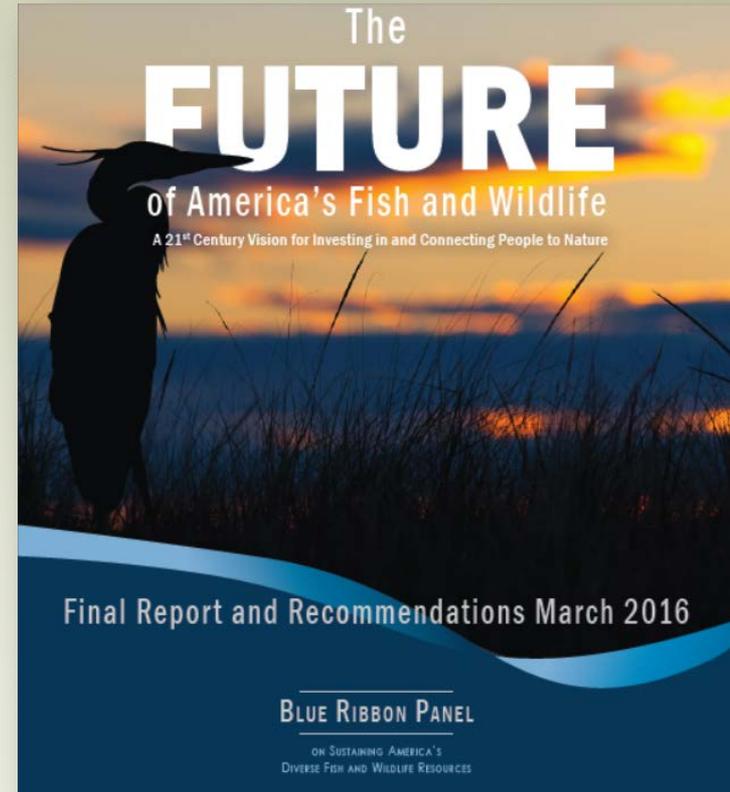


Blue Ribbon Panel

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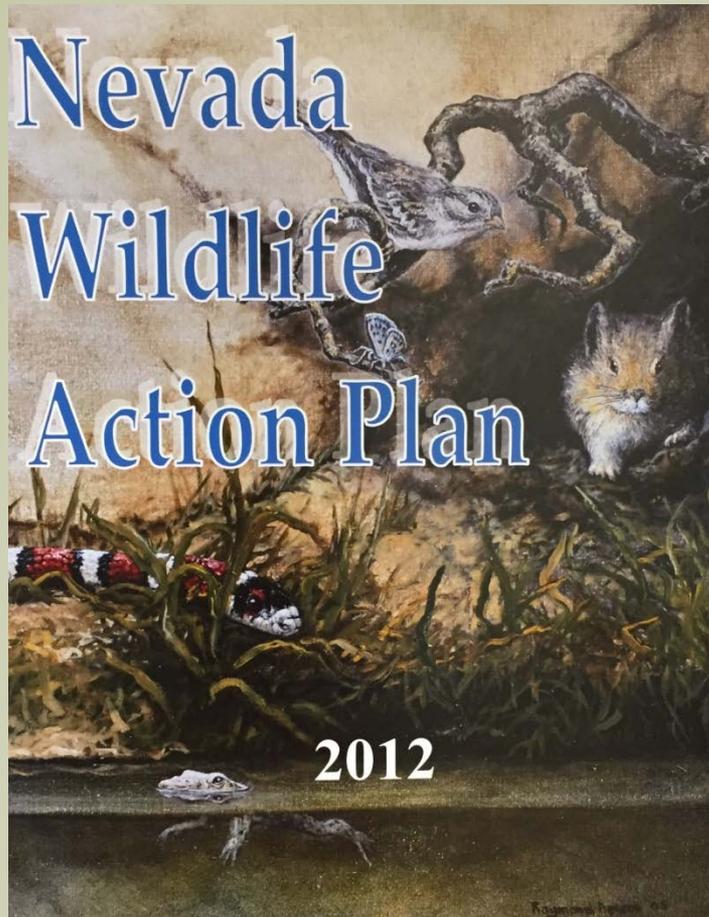
RECOMMENDATION 2

The Blue Ribbon Panel will examine the impact of societal changes on the relevancy of fish and wildlife conservation and make recommendations on how programs and agencies can transform to engage and serve broader constituencies.





Nevada Wildlife Action Plan



Blue Ribbon Panel recommendations are tied to state wildlife action plans





Nevada Wildlife Action Plan

- Nevada's first plan was approved in 2005
- Revised and approved in 2012
- One of the first states to include emerging stressors such as climate change, invasive species and disease





Nevada Wildlife Action Plan

- Keep common species common
- Address declining species' needs BEFORE they are listed
- Proactive rather than reactive
- Based on collaboration and partnerships
- Leverages state funding with federal funding
- Protects wildlife for future generations of Nevadans





Nevada Wildlife Action Plan

Among the 50 states, Nevada is ranked

- 11th in overall diversity of species
- 6th in the number of endemic species
- 3rd in the number of at-risk species

Nevada is uniquely challenged by

- Arid climate
- Mountainous geography
- Limited water sources
- Unique species easily subjected to threats and stressors





Nevada Wildlife Action Plan

Species of Greatest Conservation Need

- Federal and State Endangered, Threatened, and Sensitive Species
- Declining trends
- Restricted ranges
- Serious habitat concerns
- High level of global conservation responsibility in Nevada
- Management priority for the state

Important to remember that SGCN species are not all necessarily in conservation trouble. It's a primary goal of the plan to avoid federal listing and keep common species common.





Nevada Wildlife Action Plan

256 Species of Greatest Conservation Need

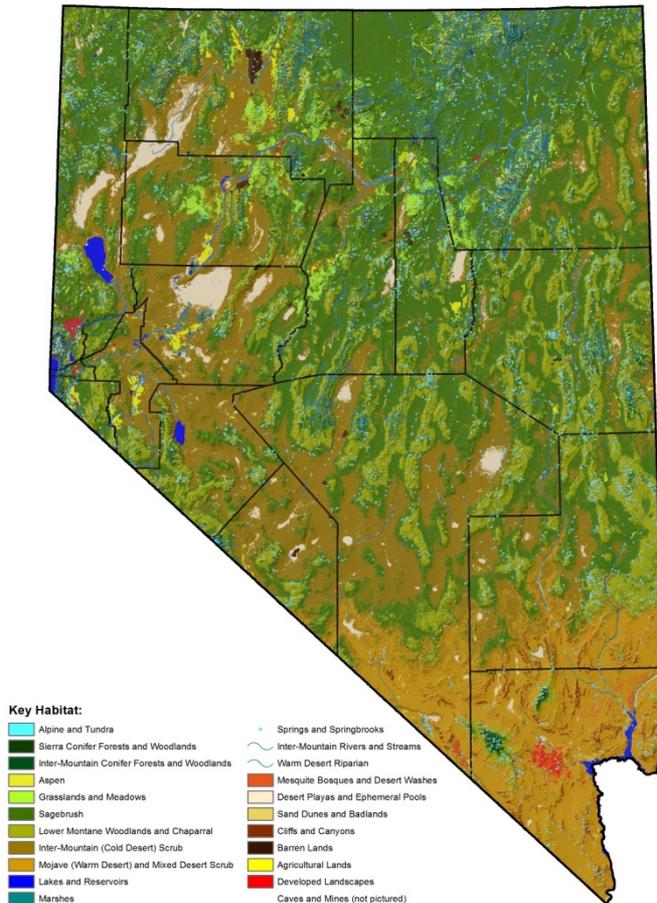
- 1 Mollusk
- 69 Gastropods
- 51 Fishes
- 9 Amphibians
- 26 Reptiles
- 60 Birds
- 40 Mammals





Nevada Wildlife Action Plan

22 Key Habitat Types.....



...tied to species of greatest conservation need





Nevada Wildlife Action Plan

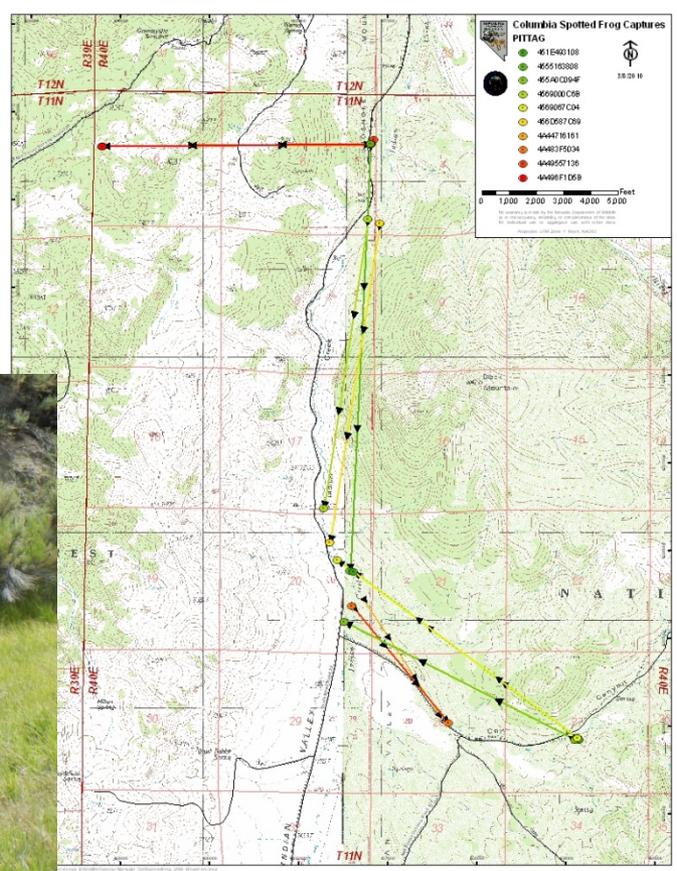
Implementing the Plan





Nevada Wildlife Action Plan

Success! Columbia Spotted Frog





Nevada Wildlife Action Plan

Towards the future

What the blue ribbon panel recommendations could mean for Nevada:

- Better understanding of species and their associated habitats
- Implement more habitat improvement projects
- Broaden education and nature tourism
- Connect people with nature
- Conserve all species for future generations

**State challenge:
Required 25% match.**

