



Photo: Alcides Morales/USFWS

Habitat loss due to coastal development has favored gulls who now outcompete rare terns and other seabirds for nesting space. Recovering America’s Wildlife Act will provide critical funds to protect nesting colonies of these birds on Maine’s islands.

Maine & the Recovering America’s Wildlife Act

Maine’s mountains, forests, wetlands, and rocky coastline support a diverse array of wildlife. Seventy percent of Maine residents participate in outdoor recreation, generating \$8.2 billion in spending annually. However, threats such as pollution, climate change, habitat loss, and invasive species are affecting hundreds of wildlife species in Maine. The Recovering America’s Wildlife Act will dedicate funding to helping at-risk wildlife before they become endangered—creating jobs and helping wildlife continue to thrive in a rapidly changing world.

By the numbers:

378 at-risk species	The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW) has identified 378 species that need conservation assistance, including the Atlantic salmon, Bicknell’s Thrush, moose, Monarch butterfly, and Canada lynx.
\$11.5 million	The Recovering America’s Wildlife Act would give MDIFW \$11.2 million annually to help the 378 species in need through targeted conservation actions including habitat restoration, education, species reintroductions, research, and more.
\$515 thousand	The current source of federal funding in Maine 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, pollution, 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

Maine Conservation in Action

New England Cottontail



Although previously found across most northeastern states, shifts to older woodlands and human development have led to a 75% decline in suitable habitat for New England Cottontails. Proactive management efforts by New England states prevented this species from needing protection under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. While New England cottontails are still listed as endangered in Maine, Recovering America's Wildlife Act could help the species recover. Funding from the Act would support critical conservation efforts for this species, including habitat enhancement and captive breeding.

Moose



A cherished species of the Maine woods, moose are the official state animal and culturally significant to native tribes. While previously imperiled by unrestricted hunting and habitat loss, conservation actions led to the recovery of Maine moose populations from 2,000 individuals in the early 1900s to approximately 64,000 in 2019—the largest population in the contiguous states. However, diseases and parasites are spreading due to milder winters. Moose are especially threatened by winter ticks, which cause life-threatening blood loss, reduced reproductive rates, and lower survival of their young. Funding from Recovering America's Wildlife Act would support crucial conservation efforts to protect Maine's moose population.

Sunapee Trout (locally known as Arctic Char)



The last remaining U.S. populations of the Sunapee trout, a subspecies of Arctic char, can be found in the wild lakes of Maine. The state's past management efforts of these freshwater fish were successful in preventing the Sunapee trout from getting to the urgent point of needing protection under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. Still, Sunapee trout face threats from pollution and competition from nonnative species. Recovering America's Wildlife Act would help support conservation actions to improve water quality, protect key habitats, and fund continued research on the Sunapee trout to help ensure this fish remains part of America's natural heritage.

Other Maine Species of Greatest Conservation Need



Yellow-banded Bumble Bee



Brook Floater



Spotted Turtle



Northern Long-eared Bat

Photos: Denis Doucet/iNaturalist, Ryan Hagerty/USFWS, Todd Pierson/USFWS, Al Hicks/NYDEC



Naomi Edelson
National Wildlife Federation
EdelsonN@nwf.org
202-797-6889

Natural Resources
Council of Maine
nrcm.org


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