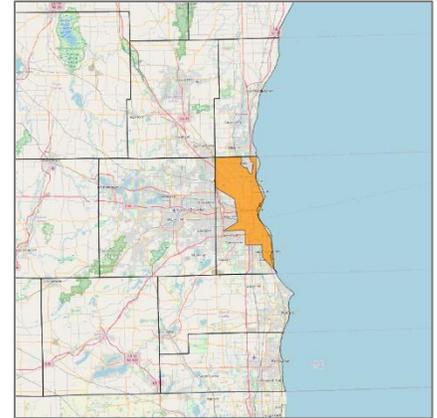


STATE WILDLIFE GRANTS AT WORK

Rep. Gwen Moore, 4th District

Federal **State Wildlife Grants** are the only nationwide program to prevent wildlife from becoming endangered. These grants have been critical for Wisconsin, yet despite many conservation successes, the state has more than 400 Species of Greatest Conservation Need - and more than 100 are endangered or threatened. Once species become endangered, especially at the federal level, they often require costly “emergency room” conservation and regulatory measures which are not sustainable in the long-term.

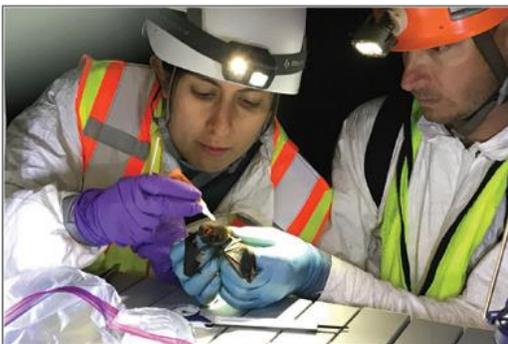
The **Recovering America’s Wildlife Act (HR 2773)** is designed to keep species off endangered and threatened lists. It would provide the most important boost for conservation in decades and would fund the highest priorities in our state using an existing blueprint: Wisconsin’s Wildlife Action Plan. Agencies, organizations, and individuals across the state already do critically important work to conserve fish, wildlife, and our natural areas, and RAWA would help them do more.



Examples of on-the-ground conservation work in 2019-20.

- Reviewed and provided consultation or data that facilitated the completion of 20 different projects within the district, including waterways, wetlands, road construction, and utility projects
- Completed several field visits to follow up on rare species avoidance and habitat management guidance requests

Project Highlights: Conserving Wisconsin’s bats and Recovering and Delisting a Threatened Snake



Bats are a vital part of Wisconsin’s ecosystems, major consumers of agricultural and forest pests, and predators of biting insects. Wisconsin’s four cave bat species are state-threatened and severely impacted by white-nose syndrome, a deadly disease decimating hibernating bats across North America caused by a fungus unknown to occur in the state only 10 years ago. State Wildlife Grants provided critical support for understanding bat populations and establishing baselines for future conservation goals. Also, The Wisconsin DNR has worked with the USGS National Wildlife Health Center, UW-Madison, Mississippi Valley Conservancy and Virginia Tech to develop and evaluate vaccines to help bat populations recover, including undertaking the first vaccine trials in the wild for any disease affecting bats.



State Wildlife Grants can help recover listed species, so they no longer need legal protection from the endangered species act. An example from the 4th district is Butler’s Gartersnake, a formerly WI Threatened species that was delisted in 2014. State Wildlife Grants provided much of the funding needed for the Wisconsin DNR to conduct both extensive surveys and genetic studies, ultimately providing the information needed to de-list.

