

STATE WILDLIFE GRANTS AT WORK

U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin

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.

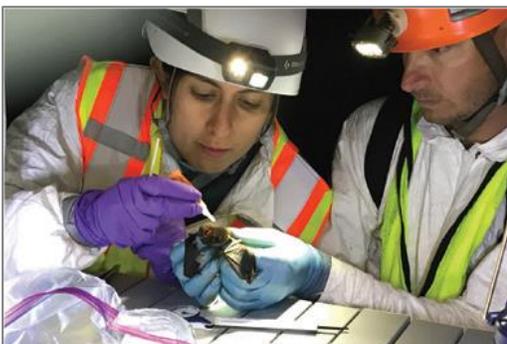
The **Recovering America’s Wildlife Act (HR 2773)** is designed to keep species off endangered and threatened lists. It would provide the most important boost for conservation in decades and would fund the highest priorities in our state using an existing blueprint: Wisconsin’s Wildlife Action Plan. 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.

- Controlled invasive plant species across hundreds of properties. These species cause costly economic and environmental harm to Wisconsin.
- Maintained and restored habitats on thousands of acres of public lands across the state to maintain wildlife populations while fostering public use and enjoyment at these properties.
- Provided guidance on rare species avoidance and habitat management to numerous public and private partners and worked to restore rare animal populations.
- Reviewed and provided consultation or data to facilitate hundreds of projects including waterways, wetlands, timber management, road construction, and utility projects.

Project Highlight: Conserving Wisconsin’s bats



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.

