



# Joint News Release



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## **Alaska Department of Fish and Game to Receive Nearly \$2.5 Million to Support Conservation of Wildlife, Habitat, and Imperiled Species**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently announced that nearly \$2.5 million in new funding will be available to the State of Alaska through the State Wildlife Grant program. State Wildlife Grants provide funds for conservation work across the state, including more than \$680,000 for work to reintroduce the endangered wood bison to Alaska.

“The successful reintroduction of wood bison in 2015 is an excellent example of the State Wildlife Grant Program having a significant impact on conservation in Alaska,” said Geoffrey Haskett, Regional Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Alaska.

Currently in Alaska, there are 53 projects underway, supported by \$8 million of State Wildlife Grant funding. The State Wildlife Grant program awards funds for conservation of species identified in State Wildlife Action Plans. All 50 states and territorial wildlife agencies have action plans, which collectively provide a nationwide blueprint to conserve species for future generations. Proactively conserving species helps local communities, agencies, and taxpayers avoid potentially greater conservation costs when species become rare. Alaska’s action plan is being used to conserve species, habitats, and ecosystems, including non-game species.

“The State Wildlife Grant program funds meaningful research that contributes directly to the conservation of fish and wildlife species of concern and prevents listings of species under the federal Endangered Species Act,” said Commissioner Sam Cotton. “The essential research supported with State Wildlife Grant funding also provides basic information on little studied species to better inform sustainable management and helps ensure subsistence, recreation, and development can continue while maintaining Alaska’s natural heritage.”

These funds are allocated to states and territories based on population and geographic area. Grant funds must be used to address conservation needs, such as research, wildlife surveys, species and habitat management, and monitoring, identified within a State’s Wildlife Action Plan. These funds may also be used to update, revise or modify a state’s plan.

View Alaska's Wildlife Action Plan at: <http://www.teaming.com/wildlife-action-plan/alaska>.

For more information on the State Wildlife Grant program, visit <http://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/Subpages/GrantPrograms/SWG/SWG.htm>.

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*The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service works with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. For more information, visit [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov), or connect through social media at <http://www.fws.gov/home/socialmedia/index.html>.*

*The Alaska Department of Fish and Games' mission is to protect, maintain, and improve the fish, game, and aquatic plant resources of the state, and manage their use and development in the best interest of the economy and the well-being of the people of the state, consistent with the sustained yield principle. For more information, visit [www.adfg.alaska.gov](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov).*