



Wildlife Management Issues: State Examples

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Wildlife Management Issues: State Examples

- Trapping Wildlife
- Wanton Waste of Wildlife
- Bear Hounding
- Agency Governance
- Fish and Wildlife Agency Funding

State Laws on Wildlife Trapping

- Nine States ban or restrict trapping:
Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Hawaii, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Rhode Island, and Washington have severely restricted leghold or body-gripping traps, or both
- Roughly 100 countries (108 jurisdictions) have some sort of law or regulation regarding restrictions on trapping

State Restrictions on Trapping (cont.)

State legislatures considering trapping bans during 2021 session:

- **New Mexico** [SB 32](#): Bans trapping, snaring, poisoning on public lands. *Passed, Governor signed April 6.*
- **Alaska** [HB 50](#): Authorizes local regulations for trapping. Introduced 2.21, in House Resources and Judiciary Committees.
- **Massachusetts** [SD 2113/HD 3820](#): Sets restrictions on trapping and bans excessively cruel body crushing traps. Introduced 2.19
- **Connecticut** [HB 5528](#): Bans the use of leghold or body-crushing traps. Introduced 1.26, in Joint Committee on Environment.

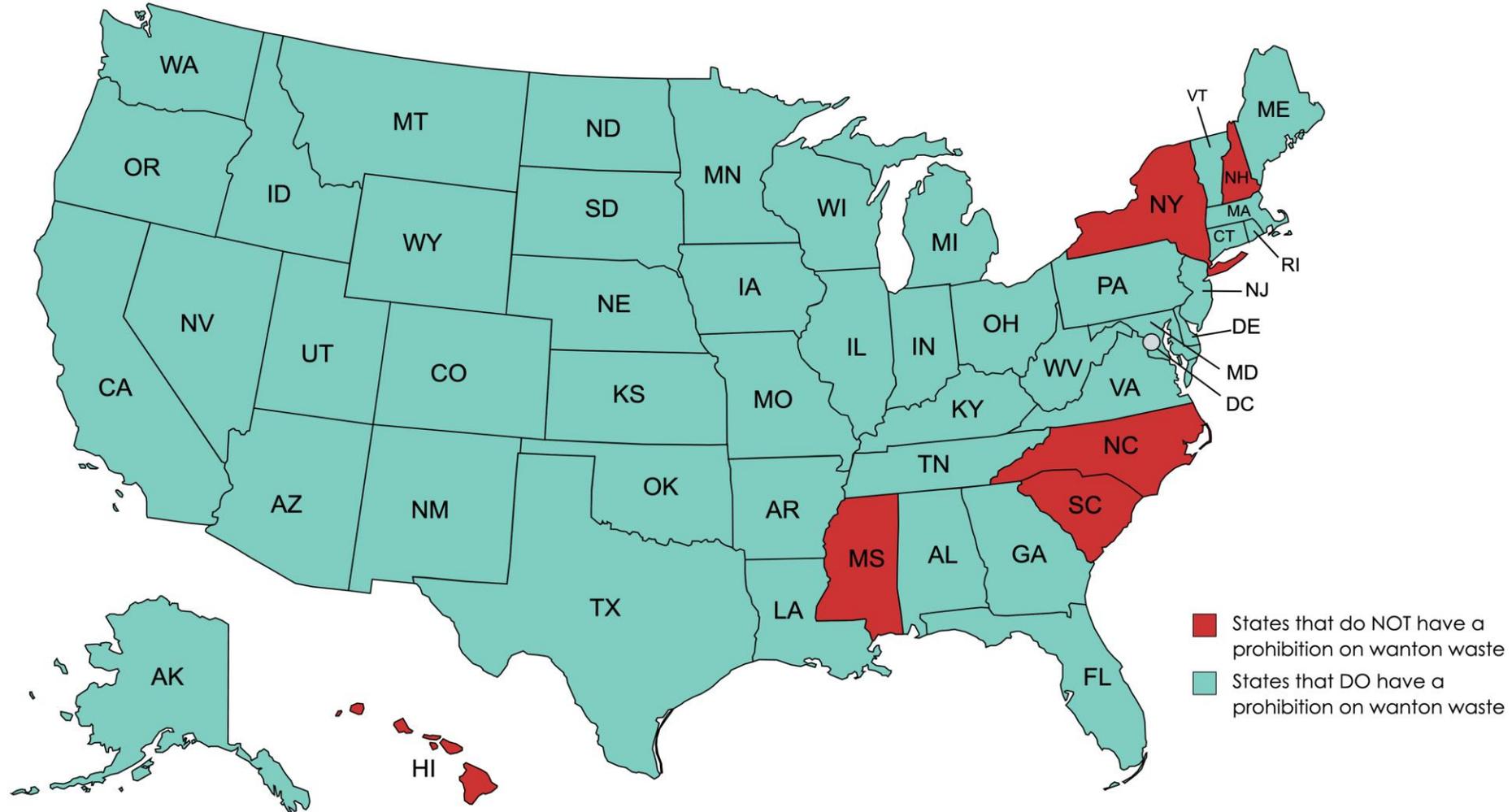
Bear Hounding by States

- Hounding involves hunters and guides using packs of radio-collared hounds to pursue bears until the animals seek refuge in a tree or stand their ground where they are either shot or left
- Commonly hounded species: bear, cougar, coyote, bobcat, fox, raccoon, wild pigs
- Bear Hounding is permitted in 18 states: AK, AZ, NM, NV, UT, ID, WI, MI, KY, WV, VA, TN, NC, SC, GA, VT, NH, and ME
- Hounding of cougars is permitted in 12 states
- Montana [HB 468](#) (2021) - would allow hound hunting and chase seasons for black bears
- Idaho [H 92](#) (2021) - would amend existing law to provide that failure to purchase a hound hunter permit constitutes an infraction

Wanton Waste of Wildlife

- Definitions of wanton waste of wildlife:
 - [MA Regulation 2.17](#): intentionally or knowingly leaving a dead or wounded animal that was hunted/trapped without making a reasonable effort to retrieve the animal and use it as food, pelt, feathers, or taxidermy
 - [Alaska](#): to fail intentionally, knowingly, recklessly, or with criminal negligence to salvage for human use the edible meat or fur of the animal or fowl.
- **44 states** have some form of prohibition on wanton waste of wildlife
- VT has a prohibition on waste of [migratory birds](#)

States with Some Form of Wanton Waste Law



Wildlife Killing Contests as Waste of Wildlife

- Wildlife killing contests (WKC) are sometimes considered waste of wildlife
 - VT and six other states have WKC bans of some kind: AZ, CA, CO, MA, NM, and WA
- States currently considering WKC bans:
 - ✓ Oregon [HB 2728](#) just passed out of House Env. Committee
 - ✓ Maryland [HB 293](#) passed both houses, in conference committee
 - ✓ [NY A5746](#) in Env. Conservation Committee
 - ✓ [NJ A1365](#) in Ag Committee
 - ✓ NV's Fish and Wildlife Commission is taking up to vote this summer
 - ✓ NH bill from 2019 will be reintroduced when possible

Agency Governance and Relevance

Overarching movement since 2016: Fish and wildlife agencies, NGOs moving toward evolving relevance:

- 2016: AFWA “Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America’s Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources” report:

Recommendation 2: To convene a working group to examine the impact of societal changes on the relevancy of fish and wildlife conservation and make recommendations on how programs and agencies can evolve to engage and serve broader constituencies



RELEVANCY ROADMAP FACT SHEET

WHAT IS THE RELEVANCY ROADMAP?

The Relevancy Roadmap will be a practical guide that state and provincial fish and wildlife conservation agencies can use to overcome barriers to broader relevance, public engagement, and support. The roadmap will not be prescriptive. It will provide multiple pathways to respond to the diverse social, economic, demographic, political, and environmental changes that states and provinces face.

WHY SHOULD FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES CARE ABOUT BROADER RELEVANCY?

Fish and wildlife agencies depend on public support to fulfill their essential conservation mission. Historically, these

WHO ASKED FOR A RELEVANCY ROADMAP?

The Directors of state and provincial fish and wildlife agencies called for development of the Relevancy Roadmap. In 2016, the [Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources](#) recommended that states examine societal changes and take action to engage and serve broader constituencies. Building on initial work by the Blue Ribbon Panel's Relevancy Working Group, several state agency directors, the Wildlife Management Institute, and other experts on fish and wildlife relevancy developed a process for building a roadmap to enhance conservation through broader engagement. In September 2018 the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies passed a [resolution](#) supporting the development of the Relevancy Roadmap.

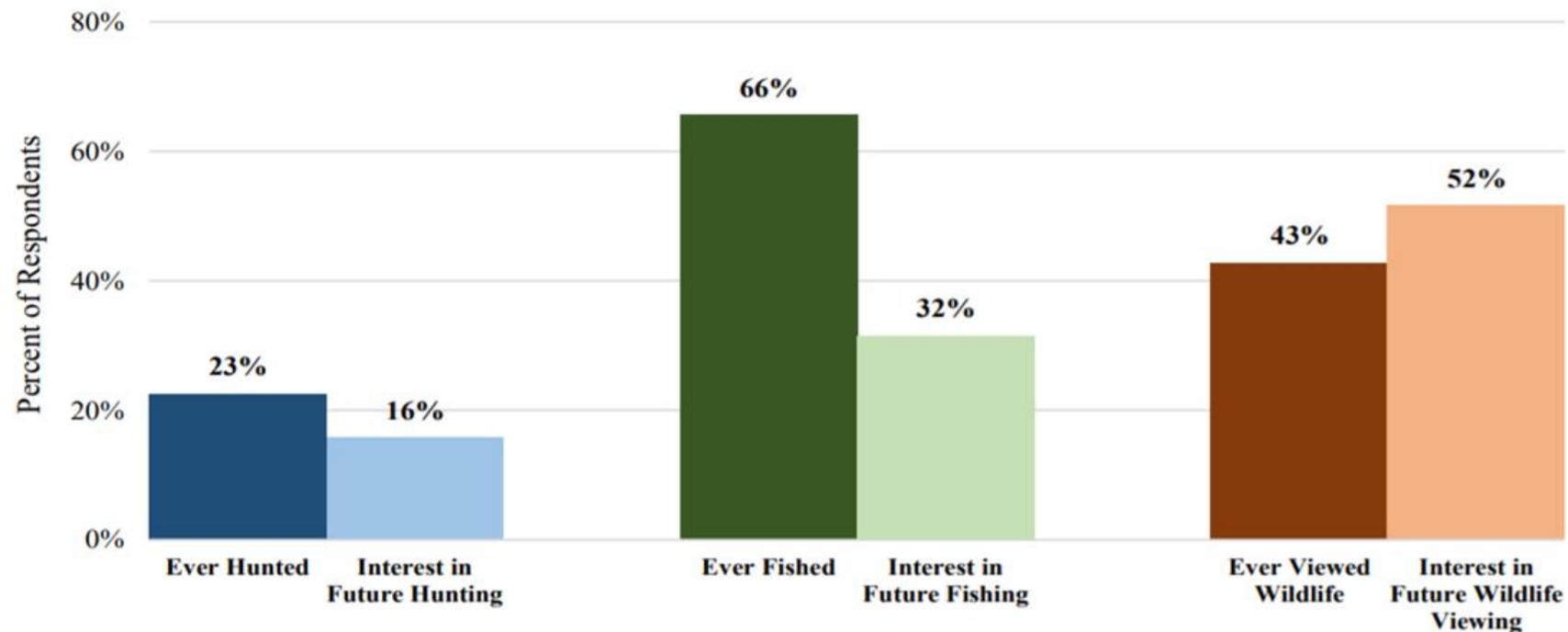
“Relevancy
Roadmap: Enhanced
Conservation
Through Broader
Engagement” (AFWA
2019)

Major
recommendations:

1. Agency leadership should recognize and support the need to evolve as societal conditions change
2. Agency leadership should demonstrate inclusivity for broader fish, wildlife, and recreation interests
3. Agencies should utilize social science to better understand and engage their constituents
4. Agencies should improve and adapt their structures, practices & programs
5. Agencies should collaborate with broader constituencies

“America’s Wildlife Values: The Social Context of Wildlife Management in the U.S.” – (CSU, 2018)

Figure 28: Past participation and future interest in wildlife-related recreation



Past participation = “yes” response.
Interest in future participation = “moderately” or “strongly” interested.

State Action on F/W Agency Relevance

Recent state action:

- **New Mexico** bills 2017, 2019, 2021 would expand mission, agency name, species covered, commission qualifications, funding, etc.
- **Washington** Wildlife Leaders Forum (2017)
 - 4 Priorities: Build trust, raise public awareness, build broad coalition, fund programs
 - Results: Budget and Policy Advisory Council, new strategic plan, Big Tent Committee, legislative funds improving
- **[New Hampshire SB 48](#)** (2018): required the Fish and Game Commission to study and report on the efficiency and effectiveness of Fish and Game operations.

State Action F/W Agency Relevance (cont.)

- **Oregon** bills 2015-2020: task force, funding sources, matching funds
- **Virginia**: legislature renamed Department of Game and Inland Fisheries to Department of Wildlife Resources; Board of Game and Inland Fisheries to the Board of Wildlife Resources (2019)
- **Colorado** HB 1321 (2017): would require the division to create a report on the use of its lands by “non-consumptive users” and how they can contribute to its future
- **California**: renamed Fish & Game Department to Fish & Wildlife Department (2013)

Agency Oversight – State Examples

Colorado SB 237 (2021- Pres. Pro Tem Donovan): Would create a Forest Health Council in the Dept. of Natural Resources to:

“IMPROVE FOREST HEALTH IN COLORADO THROUGH AN INTEGRATED, SCIENCE-BASED, STATEWIDE APPROACH FOCUSED ON COLLABORATION AMONG FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, AND PRIVATE AND NONPROFIT PARTNERS, TO MITIGATE WILDFIRE, RESTORE ECOLOGICAL HEALTH, SAFEGUARD COMMUNITIES AND WATER SUPPLIES, MITIGATE AND ADAPT TO CLIMATE CHANGE, SUPPORT LOCAL ECONOMIES, AND PROTECT RECREATIONAL SETTINGS, AS APPROPRIATE, ACROSS ALL JURISDICTIONAL BOUNDARIES.”

Washington (2017 Governor’s budget proviso): Would create a task force/advisory group of stakeholders to review the four priorities of wildlife leadership and make recommendations.

(2019): Governor Inslee requested regular meetings of all natural resource agency heads to better communicate, collaborate and coordinate.

Other Examples of Agency Oversight

Can take many different forms:

- **New Mexico's** Environmental Improvement Board: Governor- and Senator-appointed members - promulgates rules and standards for environmental management at the state level
- **New Mexico SB 102** (2020): create the Agricultural and Natural Resources Trust Board and the Office of the Agricultural and Natural Resources Trust to administer a Grant Program to conserve wildlife, agricultural and natural resources
- **Oregon HB 2171 A** (2021): would require the Conservation and Recreation Advisory Committee to work with the Office of Outdoor Recreation on recommendations

Local Examples: Environmental Oversight

- City Example: [Orange, California's](#) Environmental Oversight Committee – agencies and citizens recommend allocation of environmental freeway funds and monitors agreement between OCTA and state/federal wildlife agencies
- Town Example: [Mashpee, MA's](#) Environmental Oversight Committee - monitors Mashpee's ecological assets

Funding for Fish & Wildlife Agencies

- ALL state wildlife agencies: more responsibilities because of
 - Climate Change
 - Invasive Species
 - Wildlife Disease
 - Increasing Population and Outdoor Recreation
 - Habitat and Biodiversity Declining
 - Declining Hunting and Fishing
- Trend: State F/W agencies funded less from licenses and fees, more from general funds

Vermont Conservation Funding and Expenditures

Wildlife Conservation Funding as a Percentage of Total Vermont DFW Budget

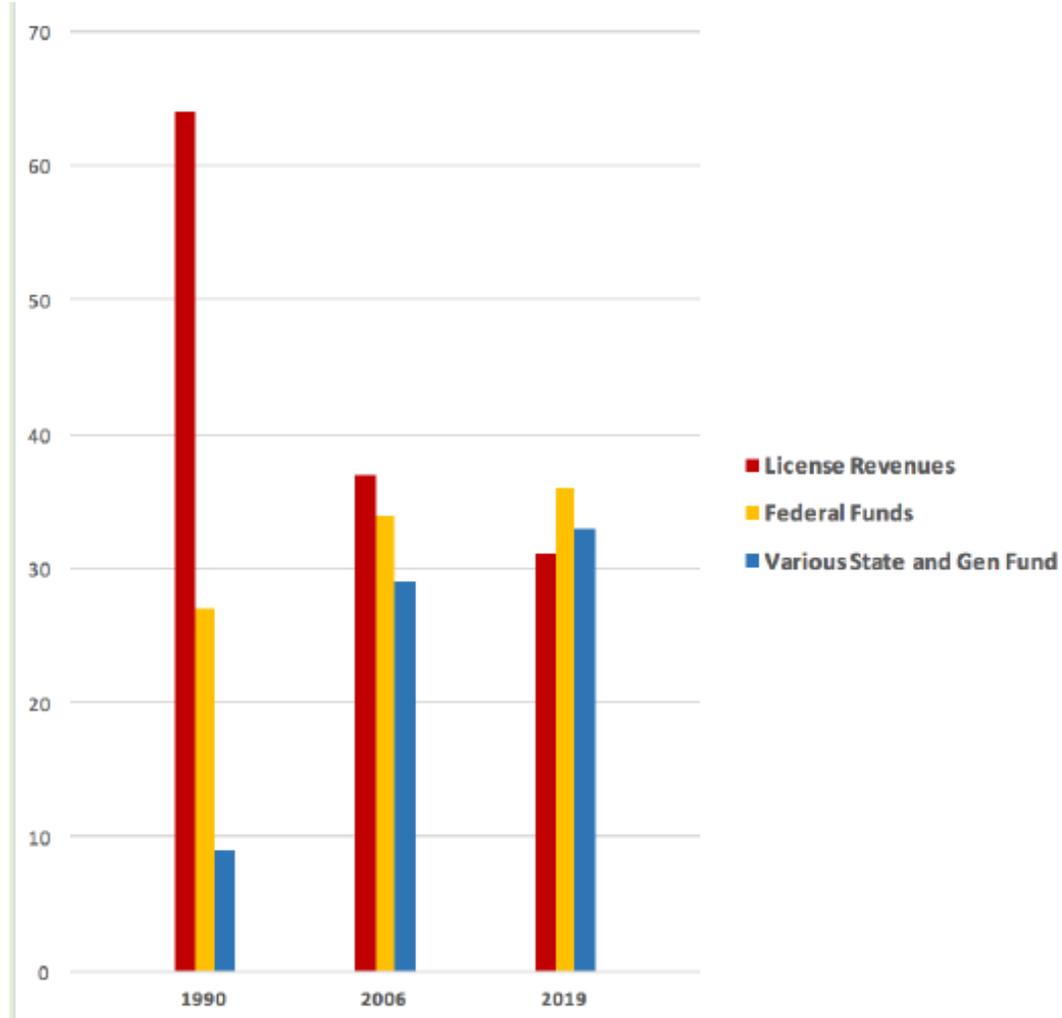
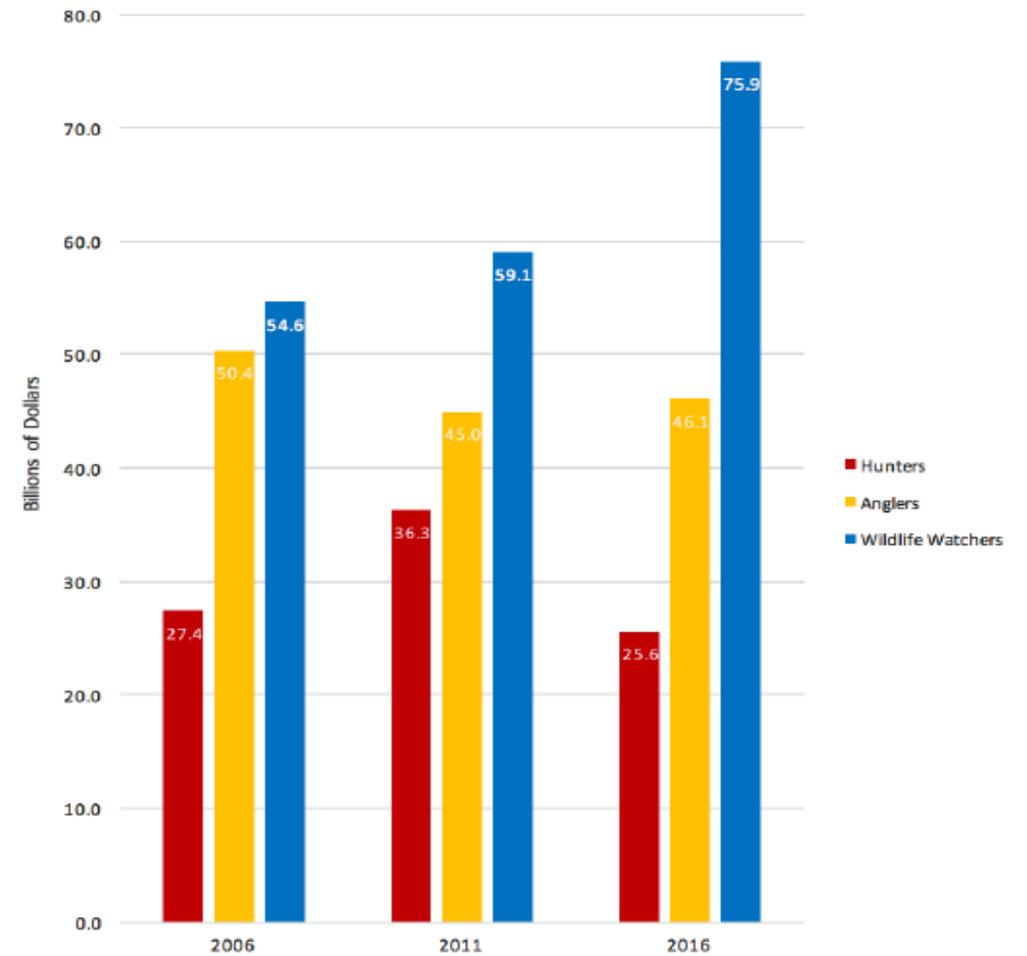


Figure 2: Comparison of revenue streams.

Expenditures



Source: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
2016 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation: National Overview

Figure 3: Graph showing expenditures by consumptives and non-consumptives since 2006.

Current and Potential Federal Funding for State F/W Agencies

- Federal funding of state agencies:
 - ESA, other funds decreasing except for federal excise taxes on hunting, fishing gear (Fed Aid in Wildlife Acts)
- [Recovering America's Wildlife Act \(RAWA\)](#) Reps. Dingell & Fortenberry to reintroduce
 - 75% match federal funds for state wildlife action plans - \$1.3 b
 - Conserve species of greatest conservation need and their habitats
 - Research and management actions to reverse species declines
 - Education and public outreach to foster nature stewardship
 - Recreation projects – hunting/fishing, wildlife viewing, trails

Agency Funding: Recent State Efforts

- **Georgia** [Outdoor Stewardship Act \(2018\)](#) - up to 80% existing sales tax on outdoor sporting goods - constitutional amendment - \$20-40m/year
- **Oregon** Task Force to review needs of F/W, recommend to legislature (2015)
- **Oregon** [HB 2829](#) (2019) Establishes a Conservation & Recr. Fund
- **NM** [SB 33](#) (2019) study agency funding needs and sources to expand authority to include nongame conservation
- **Colorado** [“Future Funding Study”](#) 2018

Long-Term Successes: Agency/Conservation Funding

- **Missouri:** 1/8 of 1% sales tax – since 1976 - \$120 m
- **Arkansas:** 1/8 of 1% sales tax – 1998 – Wildlife, Parks, Heritage, Anti-Litter
- **Minnesota:** 3/8 of 1 cent – 2008 - Wildlife Habitat, Parks and Trails, Clean Water, Arts - \$300 m (\$200 for conservation)
- **Virginia:** Sales tax on outdoor rec gear – 1998 - \$13 m
- **Texas:** Sales tax on gear – 1993 - \$38 m

Citations – Agency Relevance, Funding:

- [*Relevancy Roadmap: Enhanced Conservation Through Broader Engagement*](#) (2019). Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and The Wildlife Management Institute.
- [*America's Wildlife Values: The Social Context of Wildlife Management in the U.S.*](#) (2018). Colorado State Univ. Dept. of Human Dimensions of Natural Resources.
- [*The State Conservation Machine*](#) (2017). Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies and Arizona Game and Fish Department.
- Recovering America's Wildlife Act of 2019, [H.R. 3742](#) (Dingell, 185 cosponsors)
- [*State Toolkit for Wildlife Conservation Leaders*](#), National Wildlife Federation, 2021.

Questions?



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