

Once common in mesquite forest along rivers and saguaro-dominated deserts, the cactus ferruginous pygmy-owl declined substantially due to habitat loss and fragmentation. With help from Recovering America's Wildlife Act, the Arizona Game and Fish Department hopes to restore the cactus ferruginous pygmy-owls across their historic range in the state.



Photo: Arizona Game and Fish Department

# Arizona & the Recovering America's Wildlife Act

Arizona's natural wonders—from the Grand Canyon to its ponderosa pine forests and sandstone buttes—support the third highest species diversity in the country and outdoor recreation contributes \$21 billion to the economy annually. However, Arizona ranks seventh in the country for proportion of all wildlife at risk, and first for proportion of freshwater fish species at risk. The Recovering America's Wildlife Act will dedicate funding to help at risk species before they become endangered—creating jobs and helping wildlife thrive in a rapidly changing world.

## By the numbers:

**531 species**

The Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) has identified 531 species that need conservation assistance, including the jaguar, Gila monster, prairie falcon, and roundtail chub.

**\$31 million**

The Recovering America's Wildlife Act would give AGFD \$31 million every year to help the 531 species in need through conservation action including habitat restoration, outreach, species reintroductions, research, and more.

**\$1 million**

The current source of federal funding in Arizona 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, disease, 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](http://www.nwf.org/recoverwildlife)

## Arizona Conservation in Action

The Apache trout is Arizona's official state fish, and is found nowhere else in the world. Once so abundant in the White Mountains that early settlers could harvest hundreds of fish in a single trip, the Apache trout declined substantially in the 20<sup>th</sup> century due to introductions of non-native trout and early methods of livestock grazing and timber harvest. The White Mountain Apache Tribe acted with prescience, taking the first steps to conserve the species by closing Apache trout streams to angling in the 1940s. Still in danger of extinction in 1969, it became one of the first species to be federally listed as endangered. Recovering America's Wildlife Act would help the tribe and the Arizona Game and Fish Department restore the species through fish stocking and monitoring, with the ultimate goal of delisting.

Apache Trout



Black-footed Ferret



After a 60-year absence in Arizona, AGFD began reintroducing black-footed ferrets in the state in 1996. The black-footed ferret is North America's only native ferret and is considered a key indicator species for the health of prairie and grassland habitat. Solitary animals except during mating season, the black-footed ferret is a highly specialized predator that depends on prairie dogs for food and prairie dog burrows for shelter. The goal of the Arizona reintroduction effort is to establish a free-ranging, self-sustaining population of black-footed ferrets in the Aubrey Valley Experimental Population Area. Funds from Recovering America's Wildlife Act will go toward managing ferrets and their habitat without affecting land use practices like hunting and ranching, and to establish a second reintroduction site in Arizona.

## Other Arizona Species of Greatest Conservation Need



Arizona Tree Frog



Yuma Ridgway's Rail



Sonoran Pronghorn



Sonoran Desert Tortoise

Photos: USFWS



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