Investing in Conservation

Indiana Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee
February 11, 2020
About INCA

Formed in 2004, the Indiana Conservation Alliance (INCA) is a group of organizations sharing a common interest in the protection, stewardship and sustainable use of our natural resources.

How is land, water and wildlife conservation funded?

Federal:
Land and Water Conservation Fund
Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act
Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act
State and Tribal Wildlife Grant Program
Endangered Species Act
How is land, water and wildlife conservation funded?

**State**
- Environmental license plate fees (to President Harrison Conservation Trust)
- General funds: Appropriations to Harrison Conservation Trust
- Dedicated funds: hunting & fishing license fees
- Donations: Indiana Nongame Wildlife Fund
- State and local grants through Land and Water Conservation Fund
Declining support

Share of total state budget for Conservation/Environment

- 2007-2009: 1.4%
- 2019-2021: 0.8%

President Harrison Conservation Trust
- No meaningful general fund appropriation since 2009
- Environmental license plate revenue declined by over 50% in last 20 years
Indiana Outdoor Stewardship Act (2019)

Dedicate the share of existing sales tax revenue generated by the sale of outdoor equipment and sporting goods — i.e., camping equipment, hunting and fishing equipment, hiking equipment, bicycling equipment — to state land, water and wildlife conservation programs.

Programs designated to receive IOSA funds:

- President Harrison Conservation Trust
- State Wildlife Action Plan and Wildlife Diversity Program
- Maintenance and repair of buildings and facilities on DNR properties.
How much money would be raised?

- Texas: $277 million (2018-19 allocation)
- Virginia: Up to $13 million/year ($10.6 million in 2015)
- Georgia: $20 million/year estimated
- Indiana: $29 million to $62 million a year (estimated)
Return on Investment

Harrison Conservation Trust
$61 million state funding leveraged $74 million private/partner funds

Bicentennial Nature Trust
Every $1 in BNT funds leveraged $2.32 in private funding
Started with $20 million in state funds, $10 million from Lilly Endowment
All BNT funds committed
Supporters

Eagle Creek Watershed
Friends of Lake Monroe
Greenways Foundation of Indiana
Hoosier Chapter Soil and Water Conservation Society
Hoosier Environmental Council
Hoosier Hikers Council
Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts
The Indiana Chapter of The Nature Conservancy
Indiana Native Plant Society
Indiana Parks Alliance
Indiana Sportsmen's Roundtable
Indiana Wildlife Federation
Indiana Forest Alliance
Izaak Walton League, Indiana Division
League of Women Voters of Indiana
Marion County Soil and Water Conservation District
NICHES Land Trust
Outdoor Industry Association
Quality Deer Management Association
Save Maumee Grassroots Organization
Shelby-Henke Land Trust
Sierra Club Hoosier Chapter
South Bend-Elkhart Audubon Society
What happened?

• House Bill 1376 introduced in 2019 session—bipartisan sponsorship

• Bill not heard in House Natural Resources Committee

• Fallback effort for general fund appropriations in Budget Bill not successful, except...

• $150 million appropriated for deferred maintenance at state properties including DNR; $29 million allocated to DNR to date
Benefits of Investment in Wildlife Conservation and Outdoor Recreation

Enhances quality of life
Outdoor recreation and tourism
Ecosystem services

INDIANA
STATE OUTDOOR RECREATION GENERATES:

$15.7 BILLION in consumer spending annually
143,000 direct jobs
$4.3 BILLION in wages and salaries
$1.1 BILLION in state and local tax revenue

SOURCE: OUTDOOR INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
Other state-level options for funding conservation of Indiana’s lands, waters and wildlife

Conservation Sales Tax (from new tax)
- Missouri: $190 million/year (from both conservation and soil and parks sales taxes)
- Arkansas: $475 million over first 10 years of program
- Minnesota: $2 billion over 10 years (3/8 of one percent tax rate)
- Indiana (estimated): $133 million/year based on 1/8 of one percent increase

Expansion of Indiana’s Environmental License Plate Program
Sports Wagering for Conservation
Real Estate Transfer Tax
Bonding

INDIANA CONSERVATION ALLIANCE
In Congress.....

• Recovering America’s Wildlife Act
• Land and Water Conservation Fund
• Restore Our Parks
• Annual appropriations

INDIANA CONSERVATION ALLIANCE
Recovering America’s Wildlife Act (RAWA)

...amends the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to make supplemental funds available for management of fish and wildlife species of greatest conservation need as determined by State fish and wildlife agencies, and for other purposes. The bill will fund:

• Implementation of State Wildlife Action Plans.
• Wildlife conservation education and up to 10% of funds on wildlife-associated recreation.
• Recovery of federally-listed species under ESA.
• Manage/control invasive species, nuisance species, diseases, and other threats to State’s SGCN.
• Law enforcement activities that directly address a SGCN or its habitat.
$1.3 Billion Annual Funding Shortfall For Fish And Wildlife Conservation

The Need for Increased Funding

States' Share of Wildlife Funding
$440 Million

Current State and Tribal Wildlife Grant Program Funding
$62 Million

71.5%

25%

3.5%

Needed Federal Funding
$1.3 Billion

America's Fish & Wildlife are in Danger

What will it take to protect our nation's fish and wildlife?

$12,000

Examples of Species at Risk of Becoming Endangered:

- Monarch Butterfly
- Whooping Crane
- Bald Eagle
- Wapiti (Elk)
- Red Wolf

Call or write your representative today to speak up for your fish and wildlife.
Anticipated National Funding: $1.3 billion

INDIANA:

$4.5 million state match to get $18 million
Total: $22.5 million annually (75:25 match)

INDIANA CONSERVATION ALLIANCE
RAWA in Congress

December 5, 2019: Bipartisan vote to report the bill out of House Natural Resources Committee

Committee amendment revises allocation formula to states
Land and Water Conservation Fund

House and Senate bills to fully fund LWCF at authorized level of $900 million/year

HR 3195 – 232 cosponsors

S. 1081 – 50 cosponsors
Acting for Conservation

Indiana Outdoor Stewardship Act

Ask your legislators to support and cosponsor a dedicated conservation funding program.

Key State Legislators (leadership and committee chairs)

Your legislators, and ...

• Senate President Pro Tem Rod Bray (R-Martinsville)
• Sen. Mark Messmer (R-Jasper)
• Sen. Ryan Mishler (R-Bremen)
• Sen. Susan Glick (R-LaGrange)

• Speaker Brian Bosma (R-Indy)
• Rep. Matt Lehman (R-Berne)
• Rep. Todd Huston (R-Fishers)
• Rep. Tim Brown (R-Crawfordsville)
• Rep. Sean Eberhart (R-Shelbyville)

http://iga.in.gov/legislative/find-legislator/
Acting for Conservation

Grassroots Action

• Engage your networks, friends, fishing, hunting, hiking, paddling buddies: letter-writing parties, green drinks events

• Attend an INCA summit in your area

• Recruit support from local outdoor-related businesses you patronize:
  • retailers (bait & tackle, marinas, outdoor gear retailers)
  • businesses frequented by outdoor recreationists
    (brewpubs, coffee shops, bed & breakfast, other trail, park, water-related business)
Acting for Conservation

Indiana Conservation Alliance
www.indianaconservationalliance.org
Indianaconservationalliance@gmail.com

Alliance for America’s Fish and Wildlife
http://ournatureusa.com/

Indiana State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP)
https://www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/7580.htm

Tim Maloney, Hoosier Environmental Council
tmaloney@hecweb.org
www.hecweb.org

INDIANA CONSERVATION ALLIANCE
“We have fallen heirs to the most glorious heritage a people ever received, and each one must do his part if we wish to show that the nation is worthy of its good fortune.”