

## **Showing Current Law as Amended by H.R. 1676**

[new text highlighted in yellow; text to be deleted bracketed and highlighted in blue]

### **16 U.S. Code §669c - Allocation and apportionment of available amounts**

#### **(e) Wildlife conservation and restoration programs**

(1) Any State, through its fish and wildlife department, may apply to the Secretary of the Interior for approval of a wildlife conservation and restoration program, or for funds from the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Account, to develop a program. To apply, a State shall submit a comprehensive plan that includes-

(A) provisions vesting in the fish and wildlife department of the State overall responsibility and accountability for the program;

(B) provisions for the development and implementation of-

(i) wildlife conservation projects that expand and support existing wildlife programs, giving appropriate consideration to all wildlife;

(ii) wildlife-associated recreation projects; and

(iii) wildlife conservation education projects pursuant to programs under section 669g(a) of this title; and

(C) provisions to ensure public participation in the development, revision, and implementation of projects and programs required under this paragraph.

(D) Wildlife conservation strategy.-Within five years of the date of the initial apportionment, develop and begin implementation of a wildlife conservation strategy based upon the best available and appropriate scientific information and data that-

(i) uses such information on the distribution and abundance of species of wildlife, including low population and declining species as the State fish and wildlife department deems appropriate, that are indicative of the diversity and health of wildlife of the State;

(ii) identifies the extent and condition of wildlife habitats and community types essential to conservation of species identified under paragraph (1);

(iii) identifies the problems which may adversely affect the species identified under paragraph (1) or their habitats, and provides for priority research and surveys to identify factors which may assist in restoration and more effective conservation of such species and their habitats;

(iv) determines those actions which should be taken to conserve the species identified under paragraph (1) and their habitats and establishes priorities for implementing such conservation actions;

(v) provides for periodic monitoring of species identified under paragraph (1) and their habitats and the effectiveness of the conservation actions determined under paragraph (4), and for adapting conservation actions as appropriate to respond to new information or changing conditions;

(vi) provides for the review of the State wildlife conservation strategy and, if appropriate, revision at intervals of not more than ten years;

(vii) provides for coordination to the extent feasible the State fish and wildlife department, during the development, implementation, review, and revision of the wildlife conservation strategy, with Federal, State, and local agencies and Indian tribes that manage significant areas of land or water within the State, or administer programs that significantly affect the conservation of species identified under paragraph (1) or their habitats.

(2) A State shall provide an opportunity for public participation in the development of the comprehensive plan required under paragraph (1).

(3) [If the Secretary]

(A) If the Secretary finds that the comprehensive plan submitted by a State complies with paragraph (1), the Secretary, not later than 180 days after the date on which the State submitted the comprehensive plan, shall approve the wildlife conservation and restoration program of the State and set aside from the apportionment to the State made pursuant to subsection (d)[, as redesignated] an amount that shall not exceed 75 percent of the estimated cost of developing and implementing the program.

(B) If the Secretary finds under subparagraph (A) that a comprehensive plan submitted by a State complies with paragraph (1) and does not approve the wildlife conservation and restoration program of the State under subparagraph (A) within the 180-day period described in that subparagraph, the wildlife conservation and restoration program of the State shall be deemed to be approved by the Secretary under that subparagraph as of the date on which the 180-day period ends and the Secretary shall set aside amounts as described in that subparagraph.