



North American Grouse Partnership

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Williamsport, Md. – The North American Grouse Partnership, along with 16 other wildlife conservation organizations, has called on Congress to support the Federal Energy Natural Resources Enhancement Fund Act of 2005 [Act]. This legislation has been offered by the House Committee on Resources. The wildlife conservation community wholeheartedly endorses the sensible solutions contained in Sec. 6514 of the Committee's recommendations for budget reconciliation.

The letter to Congress reads in part, "The development of domestic sources of energy is fundamentally important to the Country's security and economy. The challenge before us is to accommodate the equally important natural resources that are affected by such development. Fish and wildlife resources are the mainstay of many western local economies. These resources will sustain those economies long after extraction of energy reserves is completed, but only if we exercise proper care and stewardship during this period of development. It is critical that adequate investments are made now to assure a healthy future for fish and wildlife populations and their habitats."

The Act designates a small percentage of receipts from energy development activities to fund very specific purposes. These purposes include monitoring and management of wildlife and fish, and their habitats; environmental studies, planning, development, monitoring, and post-development management of wildlife and fish and their habitats; pertinent research, surveys, and environmental analyses; projects to maintain, improve, or enhance wildlife and fish populations; and research, surveys, environmental analyses, and projects that assist in managing, including mitigating either onsite or offsite, or both, the impacts of energy and mineral activities on wildlife and fish.

"Passage of this Act is critically important to our fish and wildlife resources." noted James Mosher, NAGP Executive Director. "These resources have been and are increasingly being affected by the development of energy in its many forms. We need this energy, but we also need to sustain our wildlife populations."

Our mission is to promote the conservation of grouse and the habitats necessary for their survival and reproduction.