



SPECIES PROTECTION ACCOUNT

PREVENTING LISTINGS UNDER THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

SPECIES PROTECTION ACCOUNT

- Established during the 1997 Utah Legislative Session (now Utah Code § 23A-3-214)
- Original purpose was “to protect any plant or animal species identified as sensitive by the state or threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act of 1973”



SPECIES PROTECTION ACCOUNT GOALS

- Recover species already listed under the Endangered Species Act
- Prevent new Endangered Species Act listings



ESA LISTINGS: WHY SHOULD WE CARE?

Wildlife is found everywhere, on properties owned by all types of landowners.
Listings under the Endangered Species Act:

- Increase federal oversight
- Increase economic restrictions
- Impact all Utahns (because animals have no boundaries)



SUCCESS IN ESA DOWNLISTING AND DELISTING



**DESERET
MILKVETCH**

Delisted
in 2018



**JUNE
SUCKER**

Downlisted
from
endangered
to threatened
in 2021



**KANAB
AMBERSNAIL**

Delisted
in 2021



**HUMPBACK
CHUB**

Downlisted
from
endangered to
threatened in
2021



**RAZORBACK
SUCKER**

Proposed for
downlisting from
endangered to
threatened in
2021



**UTE LADIES'
TRESSES**

Proposed for
delisting
(anticipated
in fall 2024)

ESA LISTINGS PREVENTED

From 2002–2023, a total of **27 Utah animal and plant species** were either found **not warranted** for ESA listing or were withdrawn from consideration for listing.

Amphibians and Lizards

- Boreal toad
- Columbia spotted frog
- Northern leopard frog
- Gila monster

Mammals

- American bison
- American pika
- Gunnison's prairie dog
- Pygmy rabbit
- White-tailed prairie dog

Fish and Mollusks

- Bonneville cutthroat trout
- Colorado River cutthroat trout
- Least chub
- Northern leatherside chub
- Virgin spinedace
- Yellowstone cutthroat trout
- Bifid duct pyrg
- Subglubose snake pyrg

Birds

- Greater sage-grouse

Plants

- Cisco milkvetch
- Goose Creek milkvetch
- Frisco buckwheat
- Frisco clover
- Graham's beardtongue
- Isley's milkvetch
- Ostler's peppergrass
- Stage station milkvetch
- White River beardtongue

ESA PETITION REQUESTS ARE INCREASING

Species name	Group	ESA decision (federal fiscal year)
Monarch butterfly	Insect/pollinator	FY24
Western bumblebee	Insect/pollinator	FY24
Goodding's onion	Plant	FY25
Canada lynx	Mammal	FY25
Arizona toad	Amphibian	FY26
Little brown bat	Mammal	FY26
Mojave poppy bee	Insect/pollinator	FY26
Pipe Springs cryptantha	Plant	FY27
Pygmy rabbit	Mammal	FY28
Navajo bladderpod	Plant	FY28
Hoary bat	Mammal	FY28
Pinyon jay	Bird	FY28
Wilson's phalarope	Bird	Not scheduled

RECOVERY PROGRAMS

- Recovery programs allow for continued economic growth in the face of ESA listings.
 - Streamlined ESA compliance for projects
- Federal funding can be unpredictable.
- Becoming more self-reliant as a state will help us ensure the benefits of recovery programs continue, even if federal funding is reduced.



FISH RECOVERY PROGRAM COSTS ARE INCREASING

Program name	Current annual costs	Current Utah contributions	Future (10 years) minimum Utah contributions	Unfunded projects (FY2024)
Virgin River Program	\$3,300,000	\$730,000	\$730,000	\$580,000
June Sucker Recovery Implementation Program	\$1,500,000	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$500,000
Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program	\$8,655,000	\$180,000	\$450,000	\$1,134,448
San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program	\$3,800,000	\$0	\$76,000	N/A
TOTALS	\$17,255,000	\$1,210,000	\$1,556,000	\$2,214,448

UTAH WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

- The Utah Wildlife Action Plan is an ESA listing-prevention plan specifically for Utah.
- The 2015 version of the plan identifies:
 - **169 species** in need of conservation attention
 - **13 key habitats** those species rely upon
 - **11 priority threats** to those species and habitats



UTAH WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION (CONT.)

Our current funding levels:

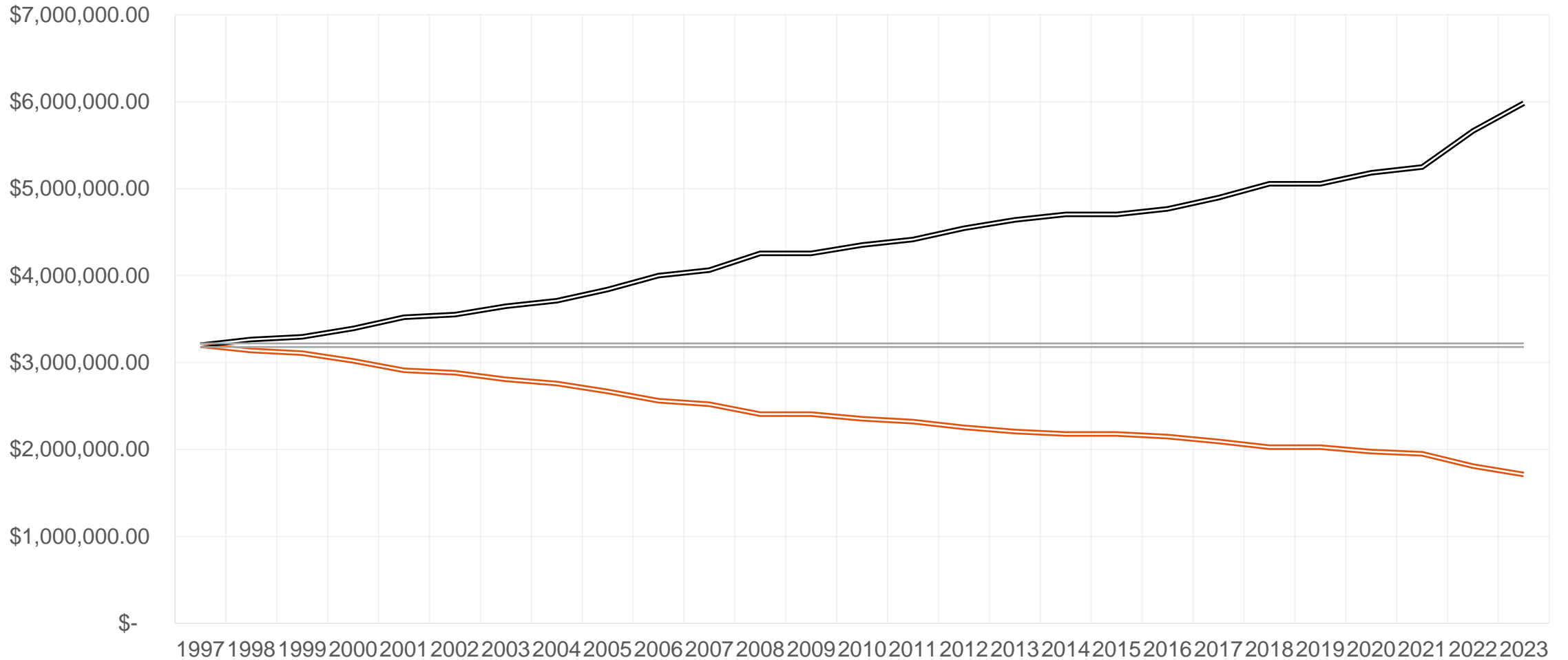
- Fund five DWR biologists that work on non-listed species
- Fund a portion of fiscal and data-management support positions
- Provide effective conservation for **25-30 species**
- Require triage management that prioritizes ESA-petitioned species



SPECIES PROTECTION ACCOUNT FUNDING

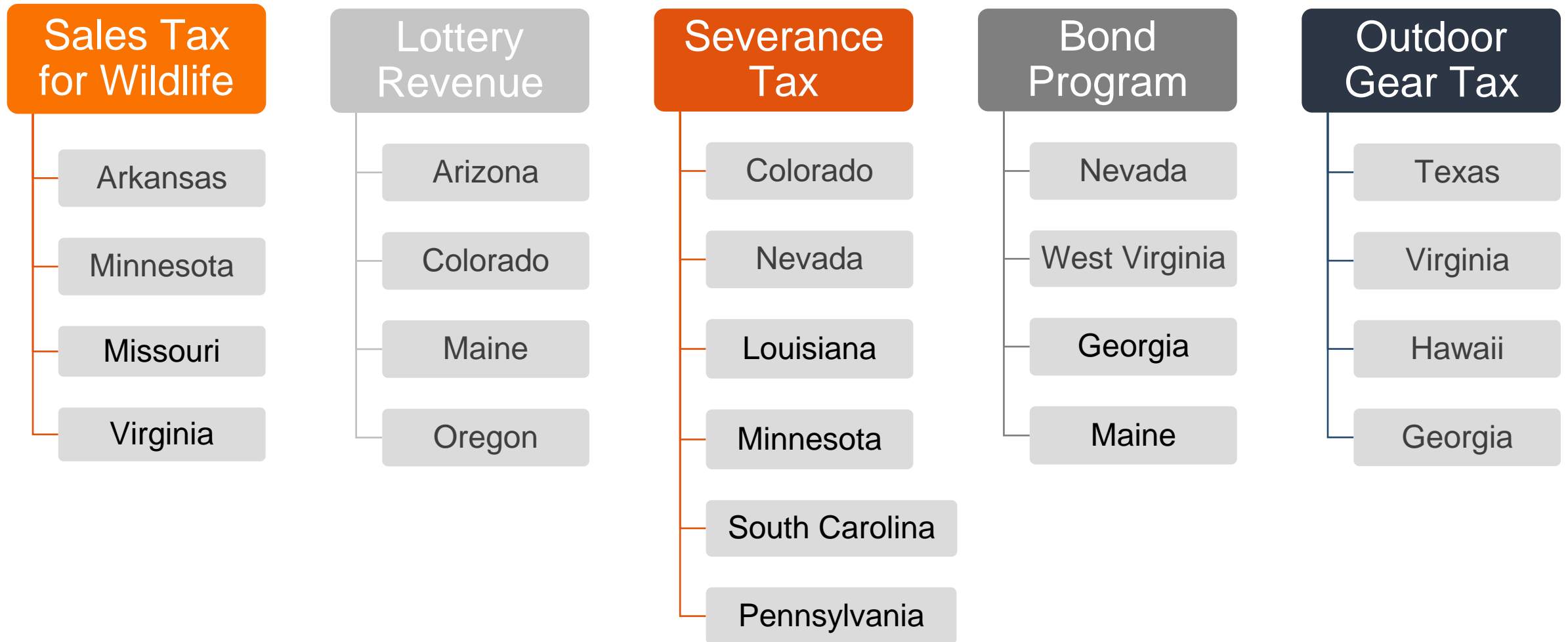
BUYING POWER OVER TIME

Buying Power Equivalent Value Current Funding



FUNDING NATIVE SPECIES CONSERVATION

Seventeen states are pursuing 2025 legislation to fund native species conservation efforts.



THANK YOU



Utah Division of
Wildlife Resources

