

CARNIVORE CONSERVATION TRUST: A MODEL FOR JOINT PRIVATE-GOVERNMENT FUNDING TO CONSERVE AND MANAGE CARNIVORES IN NORTH AMERICA^{TWS}

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Support for restoring and conserving carnivores within wildland areas of Canada, the U.S., and Mexico is significant, and many citizens value carnivores as an integral part of ecosystems. Despite this support, cost of recovery and management of carnivores is increasingly difficult for federal, provincial, and state wildlife agencies, and discretionary funds for wildlife including imperiled species have declined. Firearm sales proceeds allocated for traditional big game management and research on harvestable populations used for non-game wildlife including protected carnivores has met resistance from wildlife officials, and hunting constituencies in states and provinces where large wildland enclaves for managing wide-ranging and rare carnivores remain intact. For carnivore conservation to succeed, we believe funding must be consistent and comprehensive in scope, address practical problems and solutions that sustain and conserve both humans and carnivores, be capable of shaping and improving management policies over time, and be equitable to diverse community interests. To enjoin public support with federal, provincial, and state efforts for carnivore research, management, and public education, we propose a joint private-government stamp for meeting carnivore conservation costs. We suggest this effort be modeled similar to the conservation program for waterfowl in Canada and the U.S., e.g. North American Waterfowl Management Program, and be international in scope. We use geographically separate wolf conservation efforts across the United States, Canada, and Mexico to elucidate how funds from a Carnivore Trust and Conservation Stamp could be generated from joint private-public investments and applied to carnivore conservation and management in North America.