

The LAMP Act
Rep. Don Young (AK-At Large)
Incorporate Talents of States into Species Recovery Efforts

The LAMP Act would brighten the prospects for state and local involvement in management plans

Dear Colleague:

Local governments, tribes and states have been successful players in species conservation and recovery since passage of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in 1973. Despite their strong track record, the Act itself contains a relatively weak framework for facilitating interaction amongst these players and federal species conservation-responsible agencies.

More than that, the Act failed to include provisions that would utilize the full talents and abilities of states, local governments and tribes contributing and leading on species conservation. As the concerning modest species recovery statistics of the Act over the last half-century indicate, unintentionally marginalizing such entities with a top-down federal approach has proven to be a severe oversight which has seriously hindered achievement of the original goals and intentions of the ESA.

Done properly, empowering on the ground stakeholders in species conservation will improve this process by injecting local interest and local knowledge, thereby reducing the volume of erroneous bureaucratic errors and more quickly correcting faulty top-down assumptions.

The Localizing Authority of Management Plans Act, also known as the LAMP Act, accomplishes all of the foregoing by permitting the Secretary of the Interior to enter into cooperative management agreements with states local governments, tribes and other non-federal persons in order to better manage species and improve habitat conservation.

Further, this bill empowers states with robust species conservation programs already in place to take the lead in managing and preserving such species when meeting certain qualifying conditions.

The **net effect** of these provisions will be **greater flexibility to allocate responsibilities to those most capable of executing them effectively**. Top-down decision-making is a decisively worse approach when it generates inefficiencies and acts on faulty assumptions which would otherwise be weeded out under a local-centric model.

With the LAMP Act, the Secretary will finally have the authority to collaborate with local stakeholders to decide how best to make use of their talents, interest and expertise for the benefit of species recovery and habitat preservation.

Click [here](#) to see the text of the bill. With questions or to support this bill, contact martha.newell@mail.house.gov (Young) and jeff.small@mail.house.gov (Western Caucus).

Sincerely,

Don Young
Member of Congress

Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.
Member of Congress