

The Sportsmen's Act of 2012

What is this amendment?

This amendment is a compilation of over twenty bills important to the sportsmen's community to support access and conservation of habitat and species. The bill focuses on two core issues: 1) Increasing access for recreational hunting and fishing and; 2) habitat conservation.

Why is it important?

Economic and Social Impact: Sportsmen and women have a long history of species and public lands conservation and this bill embraces that legacy. As of the last national survey in 2011, [90.1 million people](#) participated in hunting, fishing, and wildlife watching, [or 38 percent of the U.S. population](#). According to the Western Governors Association, outdoor recreation contributed [\\$646 billion in direct spending to the U.S. economy in 2011](#). It supports 2.3 million jobs throughout the Western U.S, with nearly \$110 billion in payroll.

Improves Access: Nearly 35 million acres of existing public land have no or restricted access. Sportsmen cite the loss of access as the number one reason they quit hunting or fishing. This bill reauthorizes Federal Lands Transaction Facilitation Act, which uses "land for land" approach to improve access. It also creates a 1.5% set aside from LWCF to specifically address access issues by purchasing in holdings in existing public lands and securing easements to access-restricted acreage.

Supports Habitat Conservation: Sportsmen and women are significant financial contributors to habitat conservation. Since 1934 Duck Stamps have generated \$750 million dollars to protect wetland habitat. Ninety-eight cents of every dollar go directly to preserving wetlands. This amendment allows the Secretary of Interior to reevaluate the price of Duck Stamp every three years and permanently offer an electronic duck stamp, assuring the stamp price can match inflation. The amendment also continues other critical habitat investment programs which are, or have expired, including [NAWCA](#), [Partners for Fish and Wildlife](#), and [Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act](#). These programs all leverage four dollars of private investment for each dollar from the program.

Who supports it?

This package is the work of the Co-Chairs of the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus and is a compilation of the priorities of the sportsmen's community. This package is supported by over 50 groups, including:

American Fisheries Society	Catch-A-Dream Foundation
American Fly Fishing Trade Association	Center for Costal Conservation
American Sportfishing Association	Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
Archery Trade Association	Conservation Force
Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies	Costal Conservation Association
B.A.S.S., LLC	Dallas Safari Club
Berkley Conservation Institute	Delta Waterfowl Foundation
Boone and Crockett Club	Ducks Unlimited
Bowhunting Preservation Alliance	Houston Safari Club
Campfire Club of America	Isaac Walton League

International Game Fish Association
Mule Deer Foundation
National Marine Manufacturers Association
National Rifle Association
National Wildlife Refuge Association
National Wildlife Federation
National Shooting Sports Foundation
National Trappers Association
National Wild Turkey Federation
North American Bear Foundation
North American Grouse Partnership
Orion – the Hunter’s Institute
Pheasants Forever
Pope and Young Club
Public Lands Foundation
Quail Forever

Quality Deer Management Association
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
Ruffed Grouse Society
Shimano Sport Fisheries Initiative
Texas Wildlife Association
The Conservation Fund
The Nature Conservancy
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
TreadLightly!
Trout Unlimited
Trust for Public Lands
U.S. Sportsmen’s Alliance
Wild Sheep Foundation
The Wilderness Society
Wildlife Forever
Wildlife Management Institute