

# ALEX PADILLA

U.S. SENATOR *for* CALIFORNIA

## Wildlife Movement Through Partnerships Act

*Sen. Alex Padilla (D-CA)*

*Reps. Ryan Zinke (R-MT-1) and Don Beyer (D-VA-8)*

Wildlife move both daily and seasonally to survive. However, the habitats animals rely on continue to be fragmented by housing, roads, fences, energy facilities, and other infrastructure barriers. Additionally, ecosystem changes, invasive species, and extreme weather fragment home ranges and migration routes, resulting in population declines and biodiversity loss.

Improving habitat connectivity and maintaining intact wildlife corridors for species – big and small - by conserving habitat can benefit both humans and wildlife. The *Wildlife Movement Through Partnerships Act* would improve collaboration across jurisdictions and support States, Tribes, and private landowners in their efforts to improve habitat connectivity and migration corridors.

### What the bill would do:

- Establish the “Wildlife Movement and Migration Corridor Program” at the Department of the Interior and administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to conserve, restore, or enhance habitat, migration routes, and connectivity, with a 50% set-aside for big game movement areas.
- Establish a State and Tribal Migration Research Program at the Department of the Interior to provide funds directly to state fish and wildlife agencies and Tribes for research that improves understanding of terrestrial connectivity, wildlife movement routes, and migration routes.
- Allow for funds from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife’s existing Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program to be used to support terrestrial connectivity, wildlife movement, and migration route conservation and to provide technical assistance to other federal agencies for such purposes.
- Support the U.S. Geological Survey’s Corridor Mapping Team to provide technical assistance to States and Tribes to map priority migration routes, with a 50% set-aside for big game movement areas.
- Direct the Departments of the Interior, Agriculture, and Transportation to coordinate actions and funding across federal agencies for programs established by the bill, and to improve coordination with States, Tribes, and non-governmental partners.
- Guarantee that the legislation will only be applied in a voluntary manner and protect valid existing and private rights, military readiness, private property, public access, and the authority or jurisdiction of states and Tribes.

**Endorsed by:** *Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers, Boone & Crockett Club, Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation, Mule Deer Foundation, National Parks Conservation Association, National Wildlife Federation, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, The Nature Conservancy, Wild Sheep Foundation, Wildlands Network.* For a complete list of endorsing organizations, please click [here](#).