

# Modernizing Wildlife Governance in the U.S.

Democratizing state commissions will protect biodiversity, strengthen democracy and promote coexistence

Michelle Lute, PhD  
Co-Executive Director



# The “North American Model”

is a barrier to effectively addressing biodiversity loss and climate change

# Changing Public Values

Source: Manfredo, M.J. et al., 2018. *America's Wildlife Values: The Social Context of Wildlife Management in the U.S.*

# Policy Options

1. Revise outdated statutes
2. Democratize governance
3. Diversify funding

# Revise Outdated Statutes

- prioritize recovery and long-term conservation of all wildlife and ecosystems
- recognize ecological and intrinsic value of all species, including invertebrates
- align with public trust principles

*Sample policy statement:*

*“It is the purpose of this act to provide for the long-term protection of the state’s wildlife as a public trust with intrinsic and ecological value, for the equitable benefit, use, and enjoyment of all, including future generations.”*

# Democratize Governance

- Abolish state wildlife boards
- Revise statutory requirements to ensure broad representation
- Make sure confirmation hearings occur, are meaningful
- Review public input rules

# Diversify Current Funding

Source: Assn. of Fish & Wildlife Agencies, and AZ Dept. of Game and Fish, 2017



# Thank you

Michelle Lute  
[michelle@wildlifeforall.us](mailto:michelle@wildlifeforall.us)