

## **The Clinton Campaign Response**

**1. Federal Conservation Funding** – Where does your administration stand on increasing federal funding to programs that protect important bird habitats and conserve wildlife?

Our national parks, forests, oceans, wildlife, and public lands and waters are this country's proud inheritance, and we have a responsibility to protect them for our children and grandchildren. As president, I will ensure that we are keeping our public lands public. I will establish an American Parks Trust Fund, to replace and roughly double the authorized level of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, ensuring that our parks are well maintained, and accelerating efforts at the state, local, and national level to protect at-risk wildlife habitats – including our bird habitats. I will also fully fund the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), which provides flexible funding to communities in part to expand wildlife habitat, and nearly double the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants program to encourage more voluntary conservation of declining and at-risk wildlife. Other federal programs are providing important funding, including the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) and US Forest Service Forest Legacy Program which work to protect our forest and wetlands. If elected, I will work to ensure we support and lift up existing, successful programs.

**2. Endangered Species Act** – What would your administration's view be on the Endangered Species Act, including providing additional resources to recover listed species and to prevent species from needing to be listed?

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) has played a vital role in protecting our wildlife and conserving our natural resources—and has frequently prompted productive cooperation between federal agencies, states, and private landowners, with benefits that are felt far beyond a specific species. But we are facing new challenges in conserving at-risk, threatened and endangered species, from increasing pressures due to development to the impacts of climate change. We should be doing more to slow and reverse the decline of at-risk wildlife species, before they need the protection of ESA. I have proposed increasing the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants program to \$100 million per year, nearly doubling the funds communities across the country can use for voluntary conservation. For those species that have already been listed as threatened or endangered, I will ensure federal agencies are taking full advantage of the tools available under the ESA, including safe harbor agreements, habitat conservation agreements, and other forms of voluntary conservation measures that respect landowners while still protecting these species.

**3. Migratory Bird Treaty Act** – Where does your administration stand on supporting regulations to reduce and mitigate the incidental take of migratory birds?

For nearly 100 years the Migratory Bird Treaty Act has helped protect and preserve the migratory birds that call this country home for at least part of the year. Migratory birds deserve our protection and conservation. As president, I will work to engage a wide range of stakeholders, including conservationists, farmers, and ranchers, to hear their concerns and ideas for how we can protect these species.

**4. Public Land Use** – What would be your administration's view concerning maintaining and restoring of public lands?

Our public lands are the envy of the world, and see over 407 million visits each year. Unfortunately, our national parks have an \$11.5 billion maintenance backlog, and our park system as a whole could do a better job reflecting the diversity and full history of our country. We will seek to address these challenges through the new American Parks Trust Fund and by expanding public access to public lands. Today, an estimated 4 million acres of national forests and other public lands are inaccessible because they are surrounded by private lands. I will set the goal of unlocking half of this land— approximately 2 million acres—by the end of my first term, working with states and private landowners to create voluntary conservation partnerships and establishing new access points, trails, and easements.

I will also fight efforts to privatize our public lands, including efforts to sell off our national forests, monuments, and even national parks. Not only should future generations have the right to enjoy and experience these valuable resources, but we need to protect the wildlife that call them home.

**5. Environmental Protection Agency** – What would be your administration’s view on increased incident reporting of wildlife deaths and increased regulation of neonicotinoids?

Timely and accurate public information is vital to governing. If elected, I will direct federal agencies to increase the amount of information they voluntarily disclose online. I support the Obama Administration’s leadership on pollinators, including working to significantly expand habitat for bees, and the EPA’s decision to review the potential impacts of neonicotinoid pesticides.

**6. Fire and Water Management** – How would your administration ensure wildlife considerations are accounted for in addressing federal management of fire and hydrology?

As a result of climate change, the threat and cost of wildfires is increasing in many areas. I will work to make sure our wildfire budget provides states, communities, and most importantly, our firefighters, the resources they need. We must also prevent transfers of resources away from the initiatives that are helping us reduce the risk of fire, and restore the health of forests that have been impacted by fire.

Climate change is also affecting water quality and availability. I will increase federal investment in water conservation initiatives – launching a coordinated strategy to fund locally-led water efficiency, conservation, and infrastructure modernization. I will increase the federal investment in WaterSMART, a Bureau of Reclamation conservation grant program, to \$100 million per year.

**7. Protection of Wildlife from Renewable Power Development** – How would your administration ensure wildlife impacts are minimized and energy developments are sited appropriately?

I firmly believe we can balance the uses of our public lands and waters so that we are both conserving wildlife and using our abundant federal lands and waters to help power the clean energy economy. We must ensure that we are protecting areas where development is not worth the risk and instead, direct developers to areas with the fewest environmental costs.