

Call to Action Regarding Proposed Changes to Funding for Conservation Efforts for the Black Footed Ferret

Message From the American Ferret Association:

Recently, executive orders were issued to freeze funding and expenditures including conservation efforts for the Black Footed Ferret (BFF). This animal, a keystone species of the prairie ecosystem, is widely considered the rarest mammal in North America.

To advocate for continued support of conservation efforts for the BFF, we must all take action to raise our voices. *Please share this message widely:*

STEPS TO TAKE:

1. Identify your members of Congress using the links below:

[House of Representatives](#)

Please follow the link above to identify your Member of Congress via zip code. If you have two or more possible Members of Congress, you will be prompted to enter your full address.

Note that you will see an email icon under the picture of your Member of Congress. This icon will take you to the Member of Congress' website where you may have to take additional steps to verify your address before they are able to submit a message.

[Senate](#)

Please follow the link above and select your state from the drop down menu. The page will display both Senators with a link to "contact" the Senators below their photo. This link will take you to the Senator's contact page where you may have to input more information to verify your address before submitting a message.

2. **Use this LETTER TEMPLATE to contact your members of Congress.** Feel free to edit as you wish.

Dear **Insert NAME** of member of Congress,

As a constituent, I urge you to oppose any legislation or executive order that seeks to eliminate or defund the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the National Black Footed Ferret Conservation Center in particular. Such reductions impact conservation efforts for the **Black Footed Ferret (BFF)**. This animal, a keystone species of the prairie ecosystem, is widely considered the rarest mammal in North America.

All but extinct in the 1970's, the Black Footed Ferret's continued survival depends on the work of many individuals who have devoted their lives working with the recovery program via the federal Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Black Footed Ferret Conservation Center. Species specific knowledge and expertise in conservation of the BFF has been slowly and painstakingly developed over the past 40 years. This program has become a true model for other such efforts and demonstrates collaboration and partnership among many states and on tribal-owned lands.

The biologists, conservationists, refuge managers, veterinarians, educators and other specialists have toiled to achieve the depth and breadth of knowledge requisite for success. As with other programs that suffer from the elimination of funding and de-staffing of experts, prospects for the future survival of the BFF, may be rendered fruitless in spite of groundbreaking work and expenditures that have come before.

I urge you to reject any proposals that would eliminate funding and strip away these critical resources, jeopardizing the future survival of this species.

Thank you for your leadership on this critical issue.

Respectfully,

Sign your name HERE

Include your address HERE