



The Wildlife Society's Conservation Affairs Network

August 2015, Volume 1, Issue 4

Take Action!

Land and Water Conservation Fund Reauthorization – The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) is set to expire on September 30. This program provides critical funding to local, state, and federal agencies to set aside land and waterways for conservation. Congress is currently considering several bills that would reauthorize this fund.

- Who should act: U.S. members
- Deadline for Action: September 30
- Action to Take: Use the [TWS Action Center](#) to write a letter to your members of Congress and urge them to support reauthorization of this important program. Enter your zip code to locate your Representative and Senators.
- Resources: [TWS web article](#)
[Policy Brief](#)
[LWCF Coalition website](#)

CAC Activities

Feral Swine Statement being reviewed by NC Section members – The North Central Section has drafted a position statement regarding the impacts and management of feral swine in their region. The statement is currently being reviewed by NC Section members for their approval. The document builds from TWS' [statement on this issue](#) and tailors the policies to the NC Section's region. CAC Contact: [Colleen Hartel](#)

NM Chapter Reviews Bear Regulations – The NM Chapter CAC was asked by the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish to review proposed changes to bear hunting regulations. Members of the CAC met with NMGFD officials in late June to discuss the proposed changes and the nature of the CAC's review. CAC Contact: [Brian Hanson](#)

NM Chapter Addresses Feral Cats in Albuquerque – The NM Chapter CAC sent an email to biologists with the city of Albuquerque concerning Capture, Neuter, and Release programs. The Chapter's message pulled from the policies outlined in TWS' [position statement on feral cats](#). CAC Contact: [Brian Hanson](#)

Statement on Overabundant Deer Management Finalized by Northeast Section – The Northeast Section has finalized a position statement on Managing Chronically Overabundant Deer. The statement identifies a progression of possible management activities that communities should consider to address the deleterious impacts of overabundant deer. CAC Contact: [Tom Serfass](#)

NY Chapter Signs Letter Opposing Feral Cat TNR – A bill was proposed in the New York state legislature that would authorize and fund trap, neuter, and release programs in the state. The NY Chapter CAC worked with partners in the American Bird Conservancy, signing on to a letter in opposition to the bill. CAC Contact: [Valorie Titus](#)

Issue Spotlight

Legislative and Administrative Efforts to Modify the Endangered Species Act – The Fish & Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service proposed changes to the regulations regarding petitions to the Endangered Species Act. The proposed changes would require petitioners to:

- limit a petition to a single species. Multi-species petitions would no longer be accepted.
- coordinate with state agencies, or gather relevant information from state websites, prior to submitting petitions for domestic species.
- provide the petition to state agencies in states which the species occurs at least 30 days prior to submitting a petition.
- provide more information and data regarding species trends and status. The information currently listed as “recommended additional information” would now be mandatory.

Your CAC can submit comments on these proposed changes until 18 September 2015. You can read more about the proposal and [how to submit comments at Regulations.gov](#).

Additionally, a number of bills that would modify the ESA are currently being considered by Congress. The two with the most support aim to cap the amount of costs that can be awarded to parties in litigation, and limit which parties can be awarded costs from litigation. [Read more on TWS’ website](#). Staff Contact: [Keith Norris](#)

On the Horizon

National Horse & Burro Advisory Board – September 2-3 – Oklahoma City, Oklahoma – The National Horse & Burro Advisory Board is a federal advisory council charged with advising the BLM and the Forest Service on the management of horses and burros on public lands in the western U.S. Your CAC is encouraged to submit public testimony to this meeting and provide oral testimony if possible. TWS recently published a [web article](#) on revised population estimates. You can read more about the advisory board meeting and how to submit comments in the [Federal Register](#). Staff Contact: [Keith Norris](#)

CAN Meeting at the TWS Annual Conference – Tuesday, 20 October, 2015, 1:10-3:10pm – Winnipeg, Manitoba – The Conservation Affairs Network will have our annual meeting during The Wildlife Society’s Annual Conference, October 17-21, 2015. More details regarding the specific agenda of the meeting will be announced in the coming months. [Be sure to register for the conference](#) so you can attend our meeting and participate in all of the professional development and networking opportunities that the conference offers. Staff Contact: [Keith Norris](#)

Trends to watch

Efforts to restrict hunting and trapping of select species – There have been several efforts recently to restrict elements of hunting and trapping activities, both at the state and federal level.

The “Conserving Ecosystems by Ceasing the Importation of Large Animal Trophies (CECIL) Act”, or [S. 1918](#), was introduced by Senator Bob Menendez (D-NJ) on August 3 in response to the much-publicized take of Cecil the lion. This legislation seeks to amend the Endangered Species Act by expanding import and export protections for species currently proposed to be listed as threatened or endangered (the African lion is currently one of 32 species proposed for listing).

Additionally, California became the first state to [ban all regulated and commercial](#) trapping of bobcats on August 5. Calls from animal advocacy groups for further restrictions on trapping have increased in the state. At the federal level, TWS sent a [letter](#) co-signed by 32 other organizations in June to the House and Senate Committees on Natural Resources detailing concerns with the “Refuge from Cruel Trapping Act”, which would ban the use of certain traps on Refuge lands.

As controversial hunting stories continue to generate media attention, these efforts to restrict use of wildlife are expected to continue. Staff Contact: [Keith Norris](#)

Toolbox

Feral Swine Fact Sheet Developed – TWS’ Government Affairs & Partnership team has [created a new fact sheet](#) that focuses on the impacts of feral swine on native wildlife and ecosystems. The fact sheet also discusses aspects of management and control efforts. This new document is part of our growing library of [policy resources](#) that can be used to support your CAC’s efforts.

Send information on wildlife policy issues, successful partnerships, CAC activities, or other items you would like to see included in a future issue of the Conservation Affairs Network Newsletter to: Keith Norris, keith.norris@wildlife.org, 301-897-9770 x309