



# The Wildlife Society's Conservation Affairs Network

September 2018, Volume 4, Issue 9

## CAC Activities

**TWS 2018 Annual Conference and CAN Annual Meeting** – Registration is still open for TWS' 2018 Annual Conference in Cleveland, Ohio from October 7-11. The Conservation Affairs Network will have a meeting during the conference – Monday, October 8 from 8:00 am – 10:00 am. Download the draft agenda [here](#) and if there are items your organization unit would like included for discussion on the agenda please let Mariah know. Visit the [conference website](#) for more information. *Staff Contact:* [Mariah Simmons](#)

**TWS Chapters submit letters on S. 3223 to Senate delegation** – The [North Carolina Chapter of TWS](#), the [South Dakota Chapter of TWS](#), and the [Maine Chapter of TWS](#) have submitted letters to their Senators on the recently introduced [Senate version](#) of the [Recovering America's Wildlife Act \(S. 3223\)](#). Unlike the [House version \(H.R. 4647\)](#), the proactive conservation funding identified within the Senate version would need to go through the [annual appropriations process](#) to determine how much of the \$1.3 billion would be appropriated and distributed to states each year. While expressing support for the legislation, the chapters also requested the inclusion of a dedicated funding mechanism as identified within the House version. You can check out form [organization unit](#) and [individual member](#) letters that can be adapted for your use in correspondence with offices on the importance of dedicated funding.

*CAC Contacts:* [Rachel Urbanek \(NC\)](#), [Mark Norton \(SD\)](#), [Rodney Kelshaw \(ME\)](#)

**TWS Org Units, Headquarters continue push for H.R. 4647** – TWS Headquarters staff is continuing to meet with House offices requesting cosponsorship of the House version of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act ([H.R. 4647](#)) – with an internal goal of reaching 100 cosponsors by the November elections. [Organization unit letters](#) have been enormously helpful in this effort – and are cited in TWS' direct engagement with congressional staff. The [Virginia Chapter of TWS](#) and the [New York Chapter of TWS](#) are both working hand in hand with headquarters staff to engage these offices on the state and federal level, which has directly assisted in the addition of at least one new cosponsor in recent weeks – Representative John Faso of New York.

*CAC Contacts:* [Peter Iacono \(NY\)](#), [Scott Klopfer \(VA\)](#); *Staff Contact:* [Caroline Murphy](#)

**TWS compiling ESA org unit comments** – The Wildlife Society has solicited member and organization unit comments in response to the USFWS and NOAA Fisheries publication of [three proposed rules](#) that would [modify the implementation](#) of the [Endangered Species Act](#). These proposed changes include modifications to the listing and delisting processes, the recession of

the [blanket 4\(d\) rule](#) – which automatically extended take restrictions to all listed species, and revisions to how agencies consult with USFWS and NOAA Fisheries on projects that may impact listed species. TWS headquarters staff is now working to collate member input into comments reflective of TWS membership expertise. TWS will be submitting comments to the Administration on the proposed rules prior to the September 24 deadline.

*Staff Contact:* [Caroline Murphy](#)

## Federal Updates

***New RAWA House cosponsors*** – At least five new House cosponsors have been added to the [Recovering America's Wildlife Act \(H.R. 4647\)](#) over the House's August recess – bringing the cosponsor total to 86:

Rep. Faso John (R-NY)

Rep. Gaetz, Matt (R-FL)

Rep. Jenkins, Lynn (R-KS)

Rep. Kaptur, Marcy (D-OH)

Rep. Welch, Peter (D-VT)

The full list of cosponsors is available on [Congress.gov – which will be updated](#) when the House is back in session in early September. We encourage organization units to thank their members of Congress via [email](#) and social media (hashtags #RAWA, #RecoverWildlife) once they have officially been added to Congress.gov. TWS staff is available to provide contact information for relevant congressional staff. *Staff Contact:* [Caroline Murphy](#)

***Several expirations set for October 1*** – U.S. federal funding, the 2014 Farm Bill, and the [Land and Water Conservation Fund](#) are all set to expire at the end of September. There is growing uncertainty if any of these programs will see a long-term package passed before the deadline. None of the [12 appropriations bills](#) for FY2019 have reached the President's desk, House and Senate conferees for the Farm Bill are [meeting in person](#) for the first time this week, and several attempts to get [permanent LWCF reauthorization](#) passed the Senate chamber have failed on procedure. If LWCF is allowed to expire at the end of September, projects with already appropriated funds will still be funded under the current program structure.

Both the House and Senate are getting back to work on these packages with the House back in session after its August recess. There are now just 11 working days with both chambers in session before the end of September. A likely scenario for any of these three packages is a short-term extension. Discussions surrounding the Farm Bill have been slightly more hopeful, with House and Senate conference committee staffers working through the August recess in the hopes of having draft bill language prepared for conference committee in early September.

*Staff Contact:* [Caroline Murphy](#)

## **Tools**

*TWS RAWA website updated* – The Wildlife Society’s Recovering America’s Wildlife Act [webpage](#) has been updated to reflect the recent [Senate action](#) and [TWS engagement](#) on this legislation. Check out the website for helpful tips on how to engage and links to the latest news updates from TWS staff. *Staff Contact:* [Caroline Murphy](#)

## **Member and Organization Unit Opportunities**

*Climate Academy 2019 registration is now open* – [Registration](#) for the 8-week online course, [Climate Academy](#), is open now through September 14. Climate Academy is offered through U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) and is developed each year through the work of partner organizations — USFWS’ NCTC, The Wildlife Society, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, National Park Service, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Northeast Climate Adaptation Science Center and America Adapts Climate Change podcast. Learn more [here](#).

## **Request for Submissions**

Do you need assistance with a wildlife conservation policy issue? Does your CAC have a success story to tell? Is a new partnership developing at your organization unit? Send it in! Let the CAN hear about it and help you in your work. *Staff Contact:* [Mariah Simmons](#)

## **CAC Contact Information**

*Update TWS HQ on Conservation Affairs Committee Point of Contacts* – As your Sections and Chapters have new elections and appointments of officers, board members, and other organization unit volunteers, be sure to update TWS staff of your new CAC Chairs. Email Mariah Simmons at [MSimmons@wildlife.org](mailto:MSimmons@wildlife.org) with the new contact information to ensure continuity of communications in the Network.