



The Wildlife Society's Conservation Affairs Network

May 2019, Volume 5, Issue 5

CAC Activities

Arkansas Chapter supports solar bill – The [Arkansas Chapter of The Wildlife Society](#) encouraged its members to sign a petition in support of [SB145](#), which would amend the Arkansas Renewable Energy Development Act of 2001 in order to allow for expansion of the solar industry within the state. The bill passed the legislature and was signed into law. *CAC Contact:* [Virginie Rolland](#)

Canadian organization units submit joint letter on Rocky Mountain Park Management Planning – The [Alberta](#) and [British Columbia](#) Chapters and [Canadian Section of The Wildlife Society](#) submitted [a letter to Parks Canada](#), providing their input on management planning for the Rocky Mountain national parks. The Chapters and Section urged Parks Canada to include the roles of visitation, human-wildlife conflict, adaptive management and science in their discussions and subsequent planning documents. *CAC Contacts:* [Mark Boyce](#), TWS Alberta Chapter; [Tyler Muhly](#), TWS British Columbia Chapter; [Chris Smith](#), TWS Canadian Section

Manitoba Chapter submits letter on sustainable fisheries management – The [Manitoba Chapter of The Wildlife Society](#) sent [a letter](#) to the Manitoba Government relative to sustainable fisheries management on Lake Winnipeg. The Chapter thanked the government for their continued commitment to maintaining sustainable fisheries and also requested an update on “a functional and effective standardized database with which to better manage data on commercial production and stock monitoring.”
CAC Contact: [Brian Kiss](#)

Minnesota Chapter encourages support of the joint fire science program – The [Minnesota Chapter of The Wildlife Society](#) encouraged its members to sign on to a letter of support for the U.S. Department of the Interior and Department of Agriculture's Joint Fire Science Program. The President's FY 2020 budget again proposes to zero out and permanently cancel the Joint Fire Science Program. The Chapter urged members to sign on to this letter requesting continued and increased funding for the Joint Fire Science Program and the Fire Science Exchange Networks. *CAC Contact:* [Styron Bell](#)

Oregon Chapter engages on several pieces of legislation – The [Oregon Chapter of The Wildlife Society](#) submitted several letters regarding state legislation during the month of March:

- [March 12, 2019](#): Support for [HB 2829](#), establishes Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund
- [March 12, 2019](#): Support for [SB 5510](#), appropriates moneys from General Fund to State Department of Fish and Wildlife for certain biennial expenses
- [March 14, 2019](#): Support for [HB 2834](#), requires State Department of Fish and Wildlife, in cooperation with Department of Transportation, to develop Wildlife Corridor Action Plan for use by state agencies
- [March 26, 2019](#): Support for [HB 3058](#), requires State Department of Agriculture to review current scientific data regarding safety of pesticide products containing chlorpyrifos
- [March 26, 2019](#): Opposition to [HB 3227](#), establishes excessive elk damage pilot program
- [March 26, 2019](#): Support for [SB 853](#), prohibits sale, purchase or use of pesticide chlorpyrifos

CAC Contacts: [Leland Brown](#) and [Meghan Martin](#)

TWS organization units gather Senate support for State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program – Several organization units worked in concert with TWS headquarters staff to request Senators sign a [Dear Colleague Letter](#) in support of adequate funding for the [State and Tribal Wildlife Grants](#) program. This effort and the engagement of partner organizations such as the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and the National Wildlife Federation resulted in 46 Senators encouraging robust funding for the program. Some organization units including the [South Dakota Chapter](#) also followed up with House offices [thanking them](#) for their support of the program on the previously circulated [House Dear Colleague Letter](#).

Staff Contact: [Caroline Murphy](#); CAC Contact: [Mark Norton](#)

TWS organization units submit comments on WOTUS – Several organization units including the Western Section, the [Arkansas Chapter](#), and [San Francisco Bay Area Chapter](#) submitted comments to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in response to the [proposed modification](#) of the 2015 definition of Waters of the United States (WOTUS) under the Clean Water Act. TWS Headquarters staff also worked alongside the American Fisheries Society to [submit comments](#) expressing concern about the proposed rule. CAC Contacts: [Virginie Rolland](#), TWS Arkansas Chapter; [Jeanne Chinn](#), TWS San Francisco Bay Area Chapter; [Kelly Holland](#), TWS Western Section; Staff Contact: [Caroline Murphy](#)

Federal Updates

TWS comments on Farm Bill conservation practice standards – The Wildlife Society, alongside 85 other organizations, provided [comments](#) to the Natural Resources Conservation Service requesting the creation of stronger guidance prioritizing native plants use in Farm Bill conservation practices. These comments were submitted in response to the NRCS' solicitation of comment on potential updates to conservation practice standards made necessary by the passage of the [2018 Farm Bill](#).

Staff Contact: [Caroline Murphy](#)

Updates to Recovering America's Wildlife Act – A new iteration of the [Recovering America's Wildlife Act](#) is in the final stages of drafting for reintroduction to the U.S. House of Representatives. Changes being explored in the new iteration of the legislation include a broader funding base, reporting requirements for state agencies, and additional resources to support recovery efforts of threatened and endangered species. TWS headquarters staff will keep organization units up-to-date on reintroduction. *Staff Contact:* [Caroline Murphy](#)

TWS responds to USGS travel policy – The Wildlife Society, with 10 other member organizations of the USGS Coalition, [commented](#) on a new [internal memo](#) circulated by USGS Director James Reilly that would restrict the ability of USGS employees to attend and engage in professional conferences. The new policy is reportedly on hold pending further review by the Survey. *Staff Contact:* [Caroline Murphy](#)

TWS submits FY2020 Agriculture appropriations requests – The Wildlife Society submitted [testimony](#) to House and Senate appropriators [in support of](#) adequate funding in Fiscal Year 2020 for programs within the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The testimony also urged appropriators to maintain mandatory funding for Farm Bill Title II conservation programs. The annual appropriations process and its associated hearings will begin to pick up steam during the month of May, with a hearing on the [Interior appropriations](#) bill scheduled for May 7. All funding bills must be passed and signed into law by the end of September for the new Fiscal Year on October 1. Check out TWS' [policy toolkit](#) or [appropriations policy brief to learn more about the U.S. appropriations process](#). *Staff Contact:* [Caroline Murphy](#)

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 with the new contact information to ensure continuity of communications in the Network.