



The Wildlife Society's Conservation Affairs Network

June 2019, Volume 5, Issue 6

Opportunities

Gray wolf comment period extended – The deadline to provide comment on the Trump Administration's [proposal](#) to delist the gray wolf (*Canis lupus*) across the lower 48 states has been extended until **July 15**. For units interested in engaging on this comment period, please review TWS' previous issue statement on [Wolf Restoration and Management in the Contiguous United States](#). This issue statement is currently being reviewed by TWS Council committees for potential renewal.

Staff Contact: [Caroline Murphy](#)

On the Horizon

TWS 2019 Annual Conference and CAN Annual Meeting – Registration is now open for TWS' 2019 Annual Conference in Reno, Nevada from September 29 – October 3. The Conservation Affairs Network will meet during the conference – **Monday, September 30 from 8:00 am – 10:00 AM**. Please submit any agenda or discussion ideas to Mariah. Visit the [conference website](#) for more information.

Staff Contact: [Mariah Simmons](#)

Recovering America's Wildlife Act session at Annual Conference – TWS will host a joint strategy session with the American Fisheries Society on the [Recovering America's Wildlife Act](#) at the annual conference. The session will provide insights from NGO and state leaders on the bill's background and trajectory, and include a moderated discussion on the strategy for carrying this legislation forward. The session will take place on **Tuesday, October 1, from 8:00 AM to 9:40 AM**.

Staff Contact: [Caroline Murphy](#)

CAC Activities

Nebraska Chapter submits WOTUS comments – The [Nebraska Chapter of The Wildlife Society](#) 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. The unit's comments requested that ephemeral streams continue to receive protection under the act, and echoed previously distributed comments submitted by the [Arkansas Chapter](#), the [San Francisco Bay Area Chapter](#), and [The Wildlife Society and American Fisheries Society](#). *CAC Contact:* [Eric Zach](#)

New Jersey Chapter letter to editor – The [New Jersey Chapter of The Wildlife Society](#) submitted [a response](#) to a *northjersey.com* opinion article titled, “[NJ deer policy needs more honesty, less schtick.](#)” The Chapter, in a letter jointly signed by the Northeast Section and The Wildlife Society, stated, “contrary to the article’s assertion, membership of TWS, including that of the New Jersey Chapter and the Northeast Section, is not “dominated by state (wildlife) managers”, but rather includes professional wildlife biologists, educators, and technicians from all sectors of the wildlife field, including academia, federal wildlife agencies, non-profit organizations, private (corporate/consulting) organizations, state wildlife agencies, and students.”
CAC Contact: [Lisa Clark](#)

Oregon Chapter comments on state’s draft wolf plan – The [Oregon Chapter of The Wildlife Society](#) submitted [comments](#) to the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission on May 21, expressing their strong support of the draft Oregon Wolf Conservation and Management Plan and recommended its adoption by the Commission.
CAC Contacts: [Meghan Martin](#) and [Leland Brown](#)

Oregon Chapter encourages support of HB 2829 via podcast – The [Oregon Chapter of The Wildlife Society](#) previously [submitted a letter](#) expressing support for [HB 2829](#), which establishes an Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund. The Chapter also aired an episode on their podcast channel [Northwest Nature Matters](#), “[Our conservation legacy: exploring a new legislative solution that needs your support.](#)”
CAC Contacts: [Meghan Martin](#) and [Leland Brown](#)

SF Bay Area Chapter submits comment against the delisting of the gray wolf – The [San Francisco Bay Area Chapter of The Wildlife Society](#) submitted [comments](#) to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on April 10 on the proposal to remove gray wolf (*Canis lupus*) from the list of endangered and threatened wildlife. The Chapter opposes the proposed delisting in the lower 48 states. *CAC Contact: [Jeanne Chinn](#)*

Wisconsin Chapter submits letter to support the delisting of the gray wolf – The [Wisconsin Chapter of The Wildlife Society](#) submitted [comments](#) to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on May 11 on the proposal to remove gray wolf (*Canis lupus*) from the list of endangered and threatened wildlife. The Chapter fully supports the delisting of gray wolves as proposed, listing numerous reasons for this support within their comments. *CAC Contact: [Chuck Pils](#)*

Federal Updates

House appropriations numbers released – The U.S. House of Representative Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies released

their [FY2020 bill](#) and [committee report](#) detailing their proposed funding levels for FY2020. This bill was [passed by the House Appropriations Committee](#), and awaits review by the full House of Representatives. The Senate version of the legislation is expected out shortly after the Senate determines overall spending levels currently being hammered out. See TWS' [Appropriations Policy Brief](#) for more details on the process. *Staff Contact: [Caroline Murphy](#)*

Coalition submits letter in support of National Invasive Species Council – The Wildlife Society led efforts of the National Environmental Coalition on Invasive Species on a [letter](#) to the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, requesting they direct the Department of the Interior to provide base level funding for the National Invasive Species Council in FY 2020. The House Appropriations Committee provided that directive in their [report language](#) (pg. 73). The National Invasive Species Council, currently operated under Department of the Interior discretionary funds, provides coordination and expertise to agencies across the federal government interacting with the prevention and management of invasives. Without relevant report language directing the Department to spend these funds, the program could see a 50% reduction in funding in FY 2020. *Staff Contact: [Caroline Murphy](#)*

Biodiversity crisis gets day on Hill – The summary of a [recent report](#) from the United Nations' Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services [found](#) that approximately 1 million species are presently being put at risk of extinction. The findings of the report have received a lot of buzz on Capitol Hill, with the House Natural Resources Committee holding a [hearing](#) on the report in late May, and the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee slated to hold a [hearing](#) this week. TWS, the American Fisheries Society, and the National Wildlife Federation submitted the three organizations' [Reversing America's Wildlife Crisis](#) report as [testimony](#) for the Natural Resources Committee hearing, which describes in detail how the human-induced impacts laid out in the UN report are affecting species native to the U.S. The Reversing America's Wildlife Crisis report also recommends the passage of the [Recovering America's Wildlife Act](#) as a potential solution for interacting with this crisis. *Staff Contact: [Caroline Murphy](#)*

Tools

Updated TWS Statement on Grizzly Bear Reintroduction released – The Wildlife Society's Executive Committee has reissued the Society's policy on the [Delisting of Grizzly Bears in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem](#). This Issue Statement is part of several policy statements that are currently under review by a Council subcommittee to ensure an understanding of the best available science and current on-the-ground conditions before being considered for renewal. *Staff Contact: [Keith Norris](#)*

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.