



The Wildlife Society's Conservation Affairs Network

July 2019, Volume 5, Issue 7

Opportunities

Recovering America's Wildlife Act to Be Introduced - Webinar to brief members on reintroduction efforts scheduled – The [Recovering America's Wildlife Act](#) is officially set to launch on the week of July 8. With the bill's introduction, we want to ensure organization units are well-versed on the [latest updates](#) to the legislation and how they can best engage their members of Congress to show support for the bill. **TWS and the American Fisheries Society will host a webinar on July 10 at 2:00 PM eastern.** This webinar is open to all TWS and TWS organization unit members, so please share the [registration link](#) with your networks. To prepare for the reintroduction of the legislation, review TWS and coalition content, including:

- Letters from [Representative Dingell and Fortenberry's offices](#) and [members of the Alliance for America's Fish and Wildlife](#) requesting House offices join as original cosponsors to the new bill.
- [TWS'](#) and [Alliance for America's Fish and Wildlife](#) shared drive resources
- The [Reversing America's Wildlife Crisis](#) report
- Last year's [grassroots engagement webinar](#)
- The National Wildlife Federation's organization [letter of support](#) signed by several organization units

Also be on the lookout for an individual scientist sign-on letter that will be distributed to the network alongside bill introduction. *Staff Contact:* [Caroline Murphy](#)

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 is open 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-AFS Joint 2019 Annual Conference and CAN Annual Meeting – Registration is now open for TWS-AFS 2019 Joint 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](#)*

New Date and Time for 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 has a new date of Wednesday, October 2, from 8:00 AM to 9:40 AM.** *Staff Contact: [Caroline Murphy](#)*

CAC Activities

Oregon Chapter signs letter of support for HB 2829 – The [Oregon Chapter of The Wildlife Society](#), along with numerous other NGOs and stakeholders, signed [a letter](#) in support of [HB 2829](#), the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund. The bill was recently passed by the House and the Senate and is off to be signed by the Governor. Although the bill does not include the funding amount that the Chapter hoped it would, it does represent a significant victory in the quest for alternative funding for conservation in Oregon. *CAC Contacts: [Leland Brown](#) and [Meghan Martin](#)*

Wyoming Chapter letter on migration corridors – The [Wyoming Chapter of The Wildlife Society](#) sent [a letter](#) to the Wyoming Game and Fish Department on May 1 expressing the Chapter's continued support for WGFD's science-based efforts to identify and manage migration movements and corridors for Wyoming's ungulates. The letter specifically focuses on current considerations to designate two new proposed corridors, critical for Sublette pronghorn and Wyoming Range mule deer. *CAC Contact: [Tony Mong](#)*

Federal Updates

House passes Interior and Agriculture funding for FY 2020 – Last week the U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill package that includes Fiscal Year 2020 funding for programs within the U.S. [Department of the Interior](#) and [Department of Agriculture](#). The House-passed bill would provide increases to several conservation programs, including the USGS Cooperative Research Units, [State and Tribal Wildlife Grants](#), and the National Wildlife Refuge System. The House has now crafted and passed 10 of its [12 annual spending bills](#), which now need to be reconciled with Senate interests and signed by the President before October 1. *Staff Contact: [Caroline Murphy](#)*

TWS requests action on two pieces of CWD legislation – The Wildlife Society alongside several other conservation, outdoor recreation, and hunting organizations submitted a [letter](#) to the House Natural Resources Committee requesting their

immediate action in advancing two pieces of legislation that will assist states and the federal government in responding to the spread of Chronic Wasting Disease. The “Chronic Wasting Disease Management Act” ([H.R. 1550](#)) would create new authorizations for federal funding to be provided to state and tribal agencies responding to CWD. The “Chronic Wasting Disease Transmission in Cervidae Study Act” ([H.R. 837](#)) directs the National Academy of Sciences to conduct a study on the pathways and mechanisms for the transmission of CWD, factors contributing to the spread of CWD, and the review of existing best practices and guidance. Both pieces of legislation have yet to receive Committee attention this Congress. *Staff Contact:* [Caroline Murphy](#)

U.S. Forest Service proposes updates to NEPA rule – Last month the U.S. Forest Service published [proposed updates](#) to its [National Environmental Policy Act](#) regulations. The updates would expand the use of categorical exclusions, or instances in which USFS is permitted to deem environmental analysis unnecessary prior to certain forest management projects taking place. The rules are largely targeted at increasing the pace of management in areas with large fuel loads deemed to be at higher risk to wildfire. Public comments on the proposed rule will be accepted until August 12. *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.