



# The Wildlife Society's Conservation Affairs Network

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## Opportunities

**Scientist Sign-on Letter: Help us reach 1,000 sign-ons!** – TWS and other members of the [Alliance for America's Fish and Wildlife](#) are building signatures for a scientist [sign-on letter](#) in support of the [Recovering America's Wildlife Act](#). This is your opportunity as an individual scientist to show your support for Recovering America's Wildlife Act with your signature. We are asking TWS units to distribute this letter to their network in order to reach 1,000 sign-ons before the [AFS/TWS Joint Conference](#) begins on September 29. A robust signature list of scientists will allow us to show to support of the scientific community behind this legislation. *Staff Contact:* [Caroline Murphy](#)

## On the Horizon

**CAN Annual Meeting and Recovering America's Wildlife Act strategy session at TWS-AFS Joint 2019 Conference** – Online registration is [now open](#) through September 13 for the TWS-AFS 2019 Joint Annual Conference in Reno, Nevada taking place September 29 – October 3. The Conservation Affairs Network will meet during the conference on **Monday, September 30 from 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM**.

TWS and AFS will also host a joint strategy session on the **Recovering America's Wildlife Act on Wednesday, October 2, from 8:00 AM to 9:40 AM**. 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.

Please submit any agenda items and questions regarding these sessions to Caroline. *Staff Contact:* [Caroline Murphy](#)

## Federal Updates

**Recovering America's Wildlife Act reaches 100 cosponsors** – The [Recovering America's Wildlife Act](#) has surpassed the 100 cosponsor mark, with 105 House cosponsors expressing official support of the legislation. The rapid rise in cosponsor count for a bill that was first introduced on July 12 is a result of hard work from groups across the conservation community, including several TWS chapters and sections. Please let us know if your unit has taken action in support of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act such as [writing a letter](#), doing an in-district visit, or distributing [engagement materials](#) to members. *Staff Contact:* [Caroline Murphy](#)

**House and Senate returning from recess with funding deadline looming** – With the summer recess wrapping up next week, Congress will be returning to DC in hopes of avoiding a government shutdown on October 1. The Senate has [not advanced](#) any of its FY 2020 [spending bills](#) out of subcommittee, opting to instead wait for Congress and the White House to reach an agreement on top-level discretionary and non-discretionary funding levels. With a budget deal on top-level numbers struck right before the recess, the Senate now has to work to draft language and reconcile differences with the [House-passed bills](#) in order to avoid a shutdown at the end of the month.

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

**Endangered Species Act regulations finalized** – The Trump Administration [finalized](#) regulations first proposed in summer 2018 that modify the [Endangered Species Act's](#) listing, delisting, critical habitat designation, and interagency consultation processes. With the help and input of many TWS units, TWS detailed [several concerns](#) with the regulatory proposals. This included the Administration's proposal to remove the "blanket 4(d) rule" from regulation, which had acted to automatically provide threatened species with the same protections from "take" as endangered species unless otherwise specified by USFWS. TWS is monitoring the implementation of the new regulations and any associated litigation. *Staff Contact:* [Caroline Murphy](#)

## **CAC Activity and Contact Updates**

***Policy consultation*** – Do you want assistance with a wildlife conservation policy issue? Curious as to the various ways your organization unit can support federal efforts by TWS or engage on local level issues? Contact [policy@wildlife.org](mailto:policy@wildlife.org).

***Activity updates, success stories, and CAC Contact information*** – Does your CAC have a success story to tell? Is a new partnership developing at your organization unit? Do you have a new CAC Chair? Send it in! Let the CAN hear about it and help you in your work. Email Mariah Simmons at [MSimmons@wildlife.org](mailto:MSimmons@wildlife.org).