



# The Wildlife Society's Conservation Affairs Network

August 2019, Volume 5, Issue 8

## Opportunities

**Recovering America's Wildlife Act work ramps up in the August recess** – Since the [Recovering America's Wildlife Act \(H.R. 3742\)](#) was reintroduced to the U.S. House of Representatives on [July 12](#), the legislation has garnered a significant amount of attention with over 90 congressional cosponsors. Throughout the August recess, TWS and partners at the Alliance for America's Fish and Wildlife are working to increase this cosponsor count. Please see below for some tools that organization unit leadership and organization unit membership can use to get involved in the push for House cosponsors:

- Template [cosponsor request](#) and [thank you](#) letters that can be adapted and sent to members of the House representing your unit's region. Go to [congress.gov](#) to determine what members in your region have already cosponsored.
- An [individual sign-on letter for natural resource scientists and managers](#) to show their support for the bill. This letter should be distributed across your entire unit membership and other professional networks. TWS and other members of the [Alliance for America's Fish and Wildlife](#) will be using this letter on the Hill to show support from the scientific community.
- An [action alert system](#) for you to distribute to all of your unit members. This provides them with an easy way to reach out directly to their House representative and make the request to cosponsor/thank them for cosponsoring.
- The National Wildlife Federation's organization [letter of support](#) already signed by several TWS organization units.

For additional questions on the bill and links to previously distributed resources, please email [cmurphy@wildlife.org](mailto:cmurphy@wildlife.org) or check out TWS' Recovering America's Wildlife Act [webpage](#). *Staff Contact:* [Caroline Murphy](#)

## On the Horizon

**CAN Annual Meeting and Recovering America's Wildlife Act strategy session at TWS-AFS Joint 2019 Conference** – Registration is [now open](#) 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](#)

## CAC Activities

**California North Coast Chapter submits comments on the Humboldt Wind Energy Project** – The [California North Coast Chapter of The Wildlife Society](#) sent a [letter](#) to the Humboldt Wind Project Planner on June 13 in response to the request for comments on Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the [Humboldt Wind Energy Project](#), SCH No. 201872076. The Chapter outlined several concerns, including (1) data on bird species is not adequate for detailed and thorough analysis of potential project impacts and (2) habitat loss from project impacts appears substantial but cannot be fully assessed due to inadequate information. CAC Contact: [Elizabeth Meisman](#)

**Oregon Chapter supports protecting sensitive wildlife location information** – The [Oregon Chapter of The Wildlife Society](#) sent a [letter](#) to members of the House Natural Resources Committee on March 7 requesting that the Committee support [HB 2841](#), which allows Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to refuse or condition disclosure of information relevant to the department's ability to manage or protect described fish or wildlife species or individual members or populations of species. Without the bill, the location of nest sites, breeding grounds, or collared animals may be disclosed and potentially produce irrevocable consequences to vulnerable wildlife populations. CAC Contacts: [Leland Brown](#) and [Meghan Martin](#)

**South Dakota Chapter sends RAWA co-sponsor request letter** – The [South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society](#) sent a [letter](#) to Representative Dusty Johnson on July 29 requesting he cosponsor and support the passage of Recovering America's Wildlife Act ([H.R. 3742](#)). CAC Contact: [Mark Norton](#)

## Federal Updates

**Budget deal clears Congress, awaits President's signature** – Congress passed a two year budget deal that [would raise](#) federal discretionary spending \$320 billion in FY 2020 and 2021. The President is expected to sign the measure, enabling the Senate to move forward with their FY2020 [funding bills](#). The Department of the Interior's funding bill is expected to be drafted and reviewed by Senate subcommittee by the end of September. The bill will likely be packaged with other appropriations bills as occurred in the House [earlier this summer](#). Differences in funding levels for conservation and other

programs are almost certain to exist between the House and Senate bills once both are completed. Congress must resolve differences in funding levels before October 1 when the new fiscal year begins or risk a government shutdown.

Staff Contact: [Caroline Murphy](#)

**TWS supports established federal processes regulating international trophy importation** – The Wildlife Society alongside over 30 conservation and hunting organizations sent a [letter](#) to the House Natural Resources Committee [in opposition to](#) the “Conserving Ecosystems by Ceasing the Importation of Large Animal Trophies (CECIL) Act” ([H.R. 2245](#)). This letter was sent prior to a hearing on the legislation, which would in part require hunters to obtain permits from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for trophy imports of species proposed for Endangered Species Act listing as threatened or endangered. Currently, hunters must obtain permits to import species already listed as threatened or endangered. TWS supports the established processes carried out by USFWS career officials who regulate the importation of listed species in compliance with the Endangered Species Act. 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).