

# The Wildlife Society's Conservation Affairs Network

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## On the Horizon

**End of continuing resolution nears** – The U.S. Congress is rapidly approaching a [self-imposed November 21 deadline](#) to fund the federal government into the remainder of FY 2020. With the House having wrapped up its [funding bills](#), attention remains on the Senate, [where this week they began consideration of Interior appropriations language](#). Once the Senate language is finalized and passed by the chamber, the legislation will have to be reconciled with the [existing House-passed version](#) of the bill. All of this will almost certainly go beyond the November 21 deadline, and the most likely result will be another continuing resolution. *Staff Contact:* [Caroline Murphy](#)

## Resources

**Scientist sign-on letter in support of Recovering America's Wildlife Act** – The Wildlife Society and partners recently [sent](#) a [letter](#) signed by [over 1,000 scientists](#) supporting the [Recovering America's Wildlife Act \(H.R. 3742\)](#) to all members of the U.S. House of Representatives. This letter is now being used as a tool to engage prospective bill cosponsors on the need to support proactive conservation. We, alongside our partners helping push this legislation, continue to [welcome new signatures on](#) the letter, and ask that you to encourage your unit's membership to sign-on. As of this week, the letter has reached approximately 1,650 signatures. *Staff Contact:* [Caroline Murphy](#)

**TWS endorses Western Weed Action Plan** – The Wildlife Society [endorsed](#) the recently developed [Western Weed Action Plan](#), a product developed jointly by the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Western Association of State Departments of Agriculture, and several non-profit, private, and federal stakeholders. In consultation with TWS' [Invasive Species Working Group](#), TWS determined the plan provides a multifaceted approach to dealing with a significant natural resource challenge at multiple levels of governance. *Staff Contact:* [Caroline Murphy](#)

**Council meeting news and notes** – The Wildlife Society Council held two meetings in Reno prior to and during the joint conference with the American Fisheries Society. The major actions and discussion topics from those meetings are shared in a [web article](#).

## CAC Activities

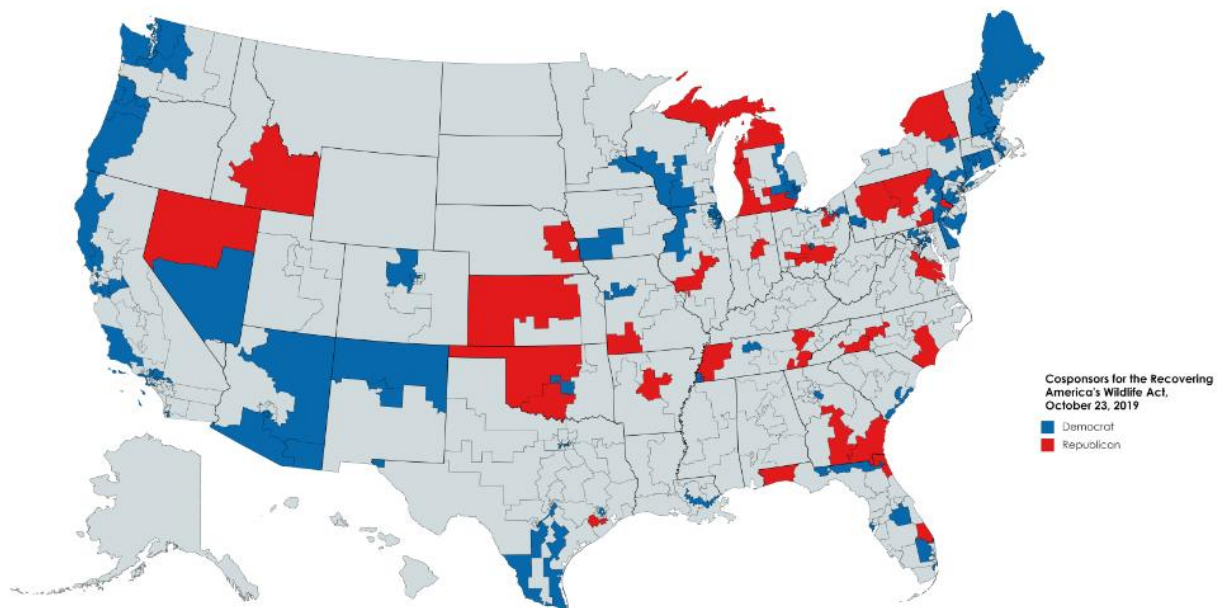
**North Carolina Chapter requests Congress support of RAWA letter** – The [North Carolina Chapter of The Wildlife Society](#) submitted [requests](#) to the state's House delegation requesting support and co-sponsorship of the [Recovering America's Wildlife Act \(H.R. 3742\)](#). If your unit is interested in sending a letter in support of the bill, you can find a TWS form letter to work off of [here](#). *CAC Contact:* [Rachael Urbanek](#)

**SC Chapter sends resources, requests for help to state's membership** – The [South Carolina Chapter of The Wildlife Society](#) sent a [call to action](#) to the chapter membership in support of the [Recovering America's Wildlife Act \(H.R. 3742\)](#). This language is a useful resource for units looking to push messaging out to their membership on available TWS resources and actions. *CAC Contact:* [Beau Bauer](#)

## Federal Updates

**Subcommittee Hearing on the Recovering America's Wildlife Act** – In mid-October the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife held a [hearing](#) to discuss the merits of the [Recovering America's Wildlife Act](#) and another conservation-oriented bill, the [Wildlife Corridors Conservation Act \(H.R. 2795\)](#). The hearing included testimony from several witnesses including Collin O'Mara, CEO of the National Wildlife Federation, who spoke of the need for proactive at-risk species funding, and Stephen Guertin, Deputy Director for Policy at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, who spoke of the Trump Administration's support for the intent of the legislation. The next step in moving the bill forward is a full House Natural Resources Committee markup on the legislation.

See below for a map provided by the Alliance for America's Fish and Wildlife showing the current representative districts that are co-sponsoring the bill. You can check out an up-to-date list of cosponsors [here](#). *Staff Contact:* [Caroline Murphy](#)



Created with mapshort.net

**TWS Council Representative Johansen testifies at CWD hearing** – In mid-October The Wildlife Society’s Northeast Section Representative Paul Johansen [testified](#) to the House Appropriations Committee’s Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies on funding needs to combat the spread of Chronic Wasting Disease. Speaking on behalf of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Johansen [spoke of](#) the urgent need to fund state-based monitoring and research efforts, including but not limited to an increased investment in human dimensions work to better understand how to communicate with hunters and the public on this issue.

**TWS supports removal of sage grouse appropriations rider** – The Wildlife Society alongside several conservation and sportsmen’s organizations sent letters to House and Senate appropriators opposing the inclusion of an [appropriations](#) rider that would prohibit the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from using any funds to determine the listing status of the greater sage-grouse under the [Endangered Species Act](#). This rider has been included in final legislation funding the Department of the Interior since FY 2014. The House-passed version of the FY 2020 DOI funding bill does not include this rider, and it is still unclear if the rider will be retained in the final Senate bill. As stated above, the two chambers will then have to resolve differences between the two pieces of legislation once both bills are completed. *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).