



The Wildlife Society's Conservation Affairs Network

December 2019, Volume 5, Issue 12

Resources

Story Map on State Success Stories Released – In alignment with the recent movement in the [Recovering America's Wildlife Act](#), the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies released a new [story map tool](#) detailing state-based conservation success stories of at-risk species. If you have any conservation success stories that you would like to share for consideration in inclusion in the story map, please email Kristin Hall, Conservation Area Focus Coordinator at Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Contact: [Kristin Hall](#)

New Scientist Sign-on Letter with over 1,700 signatures – The recently distributed individual [scientist sign-on letter](#) in support of the [Recovering America's Wildlife Act](#) has been updated to reflect the support of over 1,700 scientists. This letter continues to be used as a tool with congressional offices to show support from the scientific community for this legislation. We, alongside our partners helping push this bill, continue to [welcome new signatures](#) on the letter. Staff Contact: [Caroline Murphy](#)

Policy Library Now Publically Available – The [TWS policy library](#) cataloging previously distributed TWS letters, testimonies, and administrative comments is now publically available online. This library also includes TWS unit policy documents received by headquarters staff. If your unit has distributed a policy document that you do not see listed on the library, please email Mariah. Staff Contact: [Mariah Simmons](#)

CAC Activities

California North Coast Chapter submits letter on wind energy project – The [California North Coast Chapter of The Wildlife Society](#) submitted a [formal comment letter](#) on November 14 on the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) for the Humboldt Wing Energy Project. The Chapter expressed concerns over the operational impacts to wildlife, particularly marbled murrelets and raptors. Chapter members also attended the second public hearing on the proposed project and commented publicly on the FEIR. CAC Contact: [Lizzi Meisman](#)

Mississippi and Ohio Chapters requests Congress support of RAWA – The [Mississippi Chapter of The Wildlife Society](#) and the [Ohio Chapter of The Wildlife Society](#) sent letters to their congressional delegation requesting their cosponsorship 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 use [here](#).

- [Mississippi Chapter letter](#)
- [Ohio Chapter letter](#)

CAC Contacts: [Chris Ayers](#) (MS) and [Kendra Wecker](#) (OH)

Federal Updates

Recovering America's Wildlife Act Clears Major Hurdle – The House Natural Resources Committee held a successful full-committee markup of the [Recovering America's Wildlife Act \(H.R. 3742\)](#) on Thursday, December 5. This is a major step forward for the legislation, and TWS and [Alliance for America's Fish and Wildlife](#) partners are excited about its passage out of the committee and onto the House floor.

You can check out a list of the 26 members that voted for the bill from the states of MD, HI, MO, CA, SC, CO, MI, AZ, NM, CO, CNMI, FL, NJ, TX, PR, AS, AR, and VA [here](#). Please consider sending along thank yous to those members that voted in favor of the legislation in committee. The House Natural Resources Committee has agreed to keep the record of hearing open indefinitely, which means we are still seeking co-sponsors in the House. **TWS units should continue garnering additional cosponsors on the legislation.** The bill advanced in the committee due in large part to the more than [160 cosponsors](#) on the bill, just shy of our goal of 175 cosponsors by the end of the year. Please email Caroline if your unit is looking for assistance in finding the appropriate contacts in a congressional office to reach out to, or if your unit has received feedback from a congressional office as a result of prior engagement.

Staff Contact: [Caroline Murphy](#)

Congressional leaders hopeful they can break funding logjam – US Congressional leaders are hopeful that they will be able to reach a consensus on all [12 federal funding bills](#) before the self-imposed December 20 deadline passes. House and Senate leaders have agreed on top-level spending for each of the twelve bills, though little public-facing progress has been made on drafting consensus packages. Both the [House](#) and [Senate](#) have already vetted versions of their own Department of the Interior spending bill, but it remains unclear if they will move to resolve differences between the two Interior bills individually or as part of a larger spending package. The most likely scenario is at least one additional short-term funding bill that continues Fiscal Year 2019 funding into the New Year. Staff Contact: [Caroline Murphy](#)

Bureau of Land Management takes next steps in move west – Career professionals at the Bureau of Land Management recently received notice that they have until December 12 to decide if they will accept a relocation of their position to a BLM office in the Western US. If they do not accept, they risk expulsion from the agency. In a [letter](#) sent in late November to the agency and the Department of the Interior, The Wildlife Society detailed [several concerns](#) regarding the effects of the relocation effort to the livelihoods and morale of career employees, along with associated undue political influence of western states that may result. TWS is monitoring the relocation, and will be working to ensure no funding is pulled from key conservation programs during this process. 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.

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.