



# The Wildlife Society's Conservation Affairs Network

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## Opportunities

**Take action! Support the Recovering America's Wildlife Act** - TWS members can now write directly to their House representatives to thank them for passage of authorizing language for the Recovering America's Wildlife Act ([H.R. 3742](#)) through TWS' easy-to-use [action center](#). Authorizing language for the bill [passed](#) the U.S. House of Representatives in July. The action center provides messaging thanking members of the House for their support of the bill, while also requesting the office continue to work towards the goal of dedicated funding in the legislation. Please consider sharing this advocacy tool with your unit membership. *Staff Contact:* [Caroline Murphy](#)

## Resources

**TWS DEI resource and engagement page launches** – The Wildlife Society launched a [web page](#) highlight existing TWS and partner resources on diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts within the conservation field. The page additionally provides a list of opportunities for engagement on DEI discussions within TWS. We are also interested in hearing from you on what more we can do to strengthen our diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts. If you have any suggestions, please let us know [here](#). *Staff contact:* [Jamila Blake](#)

## CAC Activities

**British Columbia Chapter develops position statement on glyphosate-based herbicides in forest management** – The [British Columbia Chapter of The Wildlife Society](#) developed a [position statement](#) on routine and widespread use of glyphosate-based herbicides in forest management. The Chapter sent this position statement to the Ministers of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development and Environment & Climate Change Strategy on July 17 to highlight the issue of aerial application of glyphosate as a silvicultural practice in forest operations. *CAC Contacts:* [Bill Harrower](#) and [Rod Davis](#)

**Canadian Section requests stimulus for wildlife students and new professionals** – On June 3, the Canadian Section of The Wildlife Society sent a [letter](#) and associated [background information](#) regarding the need for stimulus funding to support the wildlife profession in light of COVID-19 impacts to Prime Minister Trudeau. *CAC Contact:* [Chris Smith](#)

**Headquarters, Organization units submit comments on MBTA DEIS** – [The Wildlife Society](#), the [Southern California Chapter of TWS](#), and the [Western Section of TWS](#) each responded to the [request for public comments](#) from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife

Service regarding the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) for new regulations governing the take of migratory birds. The DEIS was drafted to evaluate regulations proposed in [February 2020](#) that, if finalized, would codify this Administration's interpretation that the "take" provision in the law does not include incidental take of listed species. Each of the comments emphasized that the DEIS' review of this approach is inappropriate and inadequate. View the Southern California Chapter's comments [here](#), the Western Section's [here](#), and headquarters' [here](#). CAC Contacts: [Lisa Fields](#) (Southern CA) and [Kelly Holland](#) (Western Section); Staff Contact: [Caroline Murphy](#)

## Federal Updates

**Great American Outdoors Act signed into law** – The Great American Outdoors Act was signed into law this week, after several years of effort to secure dedicated funding for the [Land and Water Conservation Fund](#). This landmark conservation legislation [combines](#) the "Restore Our Parks and Public Lands Act" ([H.R. 1225](#)), which would provide five years of funding for federal land and resource management agencies to perform deferred maintenance on federal lands, with dedicated, permanent funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund. You can watch the signing ceremony for the legislation [here](#). Staff Contact: [Caroline Murphy](#)

**Interior, Agriculture funding bills pass House** – Funding bills for the Departments of Agriculture and Interior have [passed](#) the U.S. House of Representatives through a set of "minibus" packages, which is a combination of two or more funding bills into a single legislative package aimed at expediting passage of the bills. The bills included modest increases to several programs TWS advocates for, including a \$1 million increase to the USGS Cooperative Research Units program, an \$8 million increase to the National Wildlife Refuge System, and an \$11 million increase to the [State and Tribal Wildlife Grants](#) program. You can learn more about these TWS requests by visiting TWS' [Action Center on Appropriations](#). There has yet to be any movement on FY 2021 funding bills in the U.S. Senate, meaning the likelihood of a continuing resolution to continue FY 2020 funding into FY 2021 beginning on October 1 continues to grow. Staff contact: [Caroline Murphy](#)

**USFWS release definition of "habitat" under ESA** – The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has [just released](#) a proposed rule to define "habitat" under the [Endangered Species Act](#). This new definition intends to narrow past interpretation of the term, and require that only habitat that can presently be deemed suitable for the species is considered within a critical habitat designation. TWS headquarters is currently drafting a briefing to distribute to units to solicit their feedback on the proposed regulation. Comments on the proposal are due to USFWS by September 4. Staff contact: [Caroline Murphy](#)

**Wildlife in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Report released** – The [American Wildlife Conservation Partners](#), a coalition of conservation, sportsmen and women, shooting sports organizations and professional societies, just [released](#) their [Wildlife for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Volume VI Report](#). This report is intended as a set of recommendations for the incoming U.S. Administration. The recommendations are divided into ten sections, and include securing permanent and dedicated funding for conservation, improving implementation of the Endangered Species Act, and supporting states in dealing with wildlife diseases such as chronic wasting disease. TWS is a steering committee member of the coalition and assisted in the drafting of recommendations. *Staff contact:* [Caroline Murphy](#)

## **TWS Responses to COVID-19 Pandemic**

**TWS provides updated guidance to units on event planning** – TWS leadership has released updated guidance to organization units evaluating the feasibility of holding in-person events going forward. You can review the new guidance and the associated waivers mentioned in the guidance [here](#). *Staff contact:* [Mariah Simmons](#)

## **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).