



The Wildlife Society's Conservation Affairs Network

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On the Horizon

Election and Policy Priorities solicitation – Later this month, TWS will request input from Conservation Affairs Network, working group, and organization unit leaders on potential TWS policy priorities for the 117th Congress. Feedback will be sought until early December, and TWS Council will finalize priorities by early January to align with the start of the upcoming Congress. We encourage Conservation Affairs Network representatives to work closely with their organization unit leadership in crafting their recommendations. Any questions on this upcoming process can be sent to Caroline. *Staff contact:* [Caroline Murphy](#)

Opportunities

Two Internship Opportunities Available through TWS Headquarters – The Wildlife Society has two six-month paid internship opportunities available through our headquarters office beginning in January 2021. The Joe Burns Memorial Wildlife Policy Intern will work with TWS' government relations staff to effectively advocate for regulations and legislation that is beneficial to the wildlife profession. The operations and outreach intern will work to advance TWS' professional development programming and organization unit services. Applications for both positions are due by November 10. Check out the [policy](#) and [outreach](#) job postings for more information on application requirements and intern responsibilities. *Staff contacts:* [Caroline Murphy](#) (Joe Burns Memorial wildlife policy internship); [Jamila Blake](#) (operations and outreach internship)

CAC Activities

TWS responds to Executive Order on diversity, equity, and inclusion training – The Wildlife Society recently [responded](#) to a Trump Administration [Executive Order on Combating Race and Sex Stereotyping](#) issued in late September. The [order](#) and its associated [guidances](#) mandate and implement a federal review of all diversity and inclusion training to ensure no promotion of “offensive and anti-American race and sex stereotyping and scapegoating.” The effect of the order has been to delay or cancel trainings related to diversity, equity, inclusion across the federal government. It has also had a chilling effect on federal contractors and grant recipients conducting such trainings. TWS urged the Administration to rescind the order and to reinforce its support for diversity, equity, and inclusion training. *Staff Contacts:* [Caroline Murphy](#), [Jamila Blake](#)

TWS submits invasive species strategic plan comments – The Wildlife Society submitted [comments](#) in response to the Department of the Interior's recently proposed draft [Invasive Species Strategic Plan](#). The plan was [mandated](#) by Congress through the

2019 passage of the Dingell Conservation Act. TWS' comments, drafted with input from TWS' [Invasive Species Working Group](#), thanked the Department for the framework drafted and provides a suite of suggestions to allow for adequate implementation of the plan. These suggestions include more transparency in performance metrics utilized in the plan, a standardized presentation of cost data throughout the plan, and more specific plan implementation strategies on data management and partner coordination. *Staff Contact:* [Caroline Murphy](#)

TWS joins the International Union for the Conservation of Nature – The Wildlife Society was recently approved as a member of the [International Union for the Conservation of Nature](#) (IUCN), an international body of over 1,400 government and non-government organizations that work cooperatively towards conservation and sustainable development goals. As a member of IUCN, TWS will engage with fellow member organizations and vote on motions proposed to the body. *Staff contact:* [Keith Norris](#)

TWS submits comment on critical habitat exclusion analysis rule – The Wildlife Society recently [commented](#) on a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service [proposal](#) to update its process for considering areas to exclude from critical habitat designations for ESA listed species. In its [comments](#), TWS expressed concern with the unclear reasoning provided for promulgation of the rule, the lack of adequate comment period for public input on the rule, and the increased weight given to information provided by third party stakeholders looking to protest a critical habitat designation. USFWS recently responded to TWS on our request for an extension of the rule's comment period, stating that they would not consider additional time for comments before the rule is finalized. *Staff contact:* [Caroline Murphy](#)

Federal Updates

Gray wolf delisted throughout lower 48 – The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has just [published](#) a final rule to delist the gray wolf (*Canis lupus*) from the U.S. [Endangered Species Act](#). This listing decision does not affect the status of the red wolf (*Canis rufus*) in the southeast or Mexican gray wolf (*Canis lupus baileyi*) in the southwest. Lawsuits challenging the decision are expected. For additional information and insights on this development, check out TWS' [statement](#) on the delisting. Additional and potentially controversial listing decisions are expected by the end of the year, including a decision on whether to list the monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*). *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 Beyers at MSimmons@wildlife.org.