



# The Wildlife Society's Conservation Affairs Network

May 2021, Volume 7, Issue 5

## Take Action!

**Support the Recovering America's Wildlife Act** – With the recent [reintroduction](#) of the [Recovering America's Wildlife Act \(H.R. 2773\)](#) to the U.S. House of Representatives, TWS encourages units and members to contact their U.S. Congressional delegation in support of the legislation. These resources will be helpful in your outreach:

- [Phone call script](#), which individual members can use to contact their U.S. House member office to request support for the bill. Members can find their House representative's contact information by visiting [house.gov](#).
- Action Center: The Wildlife Society's Recovering America's Wildlife Act [action center page](#) enables members to easily reach out to their representative to request support of the bill via email.
- [Form letter](#) that units can adapt with relevant local information to request support from their region's congressional delegation. Units can also check out [congress.gov](#) to see if any House representatives in their region have already cosponsored the legislation, and consider sending them a [thank you letter](#).
- A Recovering America's Wildlife Act [fact sheet](#) for reference and use in congressional and partner outreach.
- National Wildlife Federation's [social media toolkit](#), which provides sample content and ideas for units posting about reintroduction of the legislation. Units can also share TWS' posts ([Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#)) in support of bill reintroduction. Be sure to use the hashtag #RecoverWildlife in any postings.

For additional partner resources, check out the Alliance for America's Fish and Wildlife [toolkit](#). Staff contact: [Caroline Murphy](#)

## Opportunities

**Recovering America's Wildlife Act reintroduction webinar May 4** – The Wildlife Society and the American Fisheries Society will be hosting a webinar on May 4 at 12 p.m. ET to discuss reintroduction of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act and next steps in building support for the bill. This webinar is open to all AFS and TWS members. Registration is available via the [Zoom platform](#). Staff contact: [Caroline Murphy](#)

**Organization unit collaboration meetings** – TWS will be hosting two collaboration meetings this month for organization units. The first will be our Sections and Chapters Collaboration Meeting on **Wednesday, May 5** at 2 p.m. ET and the second will be our All Working Groups meeting on **Monday, May 17** at 3 p.m. ET. Officers and members

will have the opportunity to learn about other section, chapter, and working group activities, share ideas and collaborate. This is also an excellent opportunity to share any suggestions with TWS staff on communication and collaboration between The Wildlife Society and its organization units. Please contact Mariah at [MSimmons@wildlife.org](mailto:MSimmons@wildlife.org) with any questions and to request the Zoom link.

**Upcoming TWS Webinar: Culture & Wildlife** – Join us for a conversation about our cultural backgrounds and experiences as wildlife professionals! A panel of wildlife professionals will share their insights and experiences on Thursday, May 6 from 5-6 p.m. ET. Register [here](#). Submit a question for Q&A using [this form](#) by May 4. Check out the [event flyer](#) to learn more. *Staff contact:* [Akea Cader](#)

## On the Horizon

**More detailed budget requests expected soon as appropriators begin work on Fiscal Year 2022 funding** – In mid-April the U.S. Administration [released](#) top-level budget requests for Fiscal Year 2022 [federal discretionary funding](#). The proposal provided to Congress largely steered clear of specific programmatic funding requests, instead opting for broad, topic-oriented initiatives such as an additional \$200 million to analyze the effects of climate change and associated mitigation strategies. Despite the delay in more specific requests, expected out within the next few weeks, Congress has already kicked off hearings on FY 2022 funding needs. Secretary Deb Haaland recently [testified](#) at a House Interior Appropriations subcommittee hearing to discuss the big picture initiatives laid out on the request. Additional hearings with Secretary Haaland and various agency heads will continue into the spring. *Staff contact:* [Caroline Murphy](#)

## CAC Activities

**Alabama Chapter encourages member engagement on House Bill 599** – The [Alabama Chapter of The Wildlife Society](#) encouraged its members to contact their local representative and share their professional thoughts and perspective regarding the potential impacts of House Bill 599. The bill, if enacted as law, would remove the prohibition of live transport of feral swine.

*CAC contacts:* [Mercedes Barkovitch](#) and [Jeff Baker](#)

**Alaska Chapter submits comments to BLM regarding Central Yukon planning area** – The [Alaska Chapter of The Wildlife Society](#) sent [a letter](#) to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) on March 7 to provide their formal comments on the Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/DEIS) for the Central Yukon planning area. The Chapter commented on strengths of the plan while also expressing concerns. *CAC contact:* [Kim Jochum](#)

**California Chapters encourage 30 x 30 engagement** – The [California Central Coast Chapter](#) and the [San Joaquin Valley Chapter](#) of The Wildlife Society encouraged their members to engage in virtual regional workshops hosted by California Natural Resources Agency’s (CNRA) about the state’s 30 x 30 Initiative. Governor Gavin Newsom signed [Executive Order N-82-20](#), which commits California to protecting 30% of California’s land and coastal waters by 2030, also known as the “30 x 30 Initiative.” This Executive Order directs the state’s CNRA to draw up a plan by Feb. 1, 2022. The virtual workshops will determine project and funding priorities by region in order to ensure that all stakeholders are represented in this process.  
*CAC contacts: [Kevin Cooper](#) (CCCC) and [Skip Moss](#) (SJVC)*

**Canadian Section submits feedback on ‘incidental take’** – The Canadian Section of The Wildlife Society sent a [letter](#) to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change on April 12 providing feedback on proposed changes to the U.S. Migratory Bird Treaty Act regulations to allow ‘incidental take’. “As a result [of these potential changes to U.S. regulations], Canada’s migratory bird species face an increased mortality risk which could exacerbate already identified population declines,” the Section writes in the letter. They requested that the Minister reaffirm his earlier position expressing concerns over proposed regulatory changes to the Act.  
*CAC contact: [Chantal McLean](#)*

**Student chapter encourages university to reduce light pollution** – The [Tarleton State University Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society](#) in Texas sent a [letter](#) to their university president in April encouraging him to implement light pollution reducing policies on the Tarleton State University campuses.  
*Student chapter contact: [Heather Mathewson](#)*

## **Federal Updates**

**TWS submits Interior appropriations testimony** – The Wildlife Society submitted [testimony](#) to the U.S. House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies in support of adequate funding for the U.S. Department of the Interior and U.S. Forest Service in Fiscal Year 2022. TWS funding priorities include \$600 million for the operations and maintenance of the [National Wildlife Refuge System](#), \$27 million for the U.S. Geological Survey’s Cooperative Research Units program, and \$60 million for the USGS Climate Adaptation Science Centers. You can find more information about TWS’ requests and how you can reach out directly to your members of Congress in support of these requests by visiting TWS’ [action center](#). *Staff contact: [Caroline Murphy](#)*

**TWS submits comments on USFS Rangeland Management Directives** – The Wildlife Society recently [submitted comments](#) in response to the U.S. Forest Service’s [proposed changes](#) to the agency’s rangeland management directives. These directives provide the primary source of administrative guidance for USFS rangeland management employees. Through the leadership of TWS’ Rangeland Wildlife Working Group, TWS’ [comments](#) examined several facets of the proposed changes, including a need to more clearly address potential for disease transmission between wild and domestic sheep, and the need to clearly address and recognize existing memorandums of understanding between state wildlife agencies and USFS regional foresters.

*Staff contact:* [Caroline Murphy](#)

**TWS, professional societies comment on USDA 30 x 30 goals** – The Wildlife Society [recently joined](#) the Society of American Foresters and the Association of Consulting Foresters in expressing their commitment to engage with the U.S. Administration’s efforts to conserve 30% of U.S. lands and waters by 2030. In the [letter](#), drafted in response to a U.S. Department of Agriculture [request](#) for information to inform the Department’s implementation of 30 x 30, the societies highlighted natural resource professionals’ role in ensuring science-based management of public and private landscapes across the nation. The comments also stress that 30 x 30 goals must incorporate a broad range of conservation strategies, including actively managed and working landscapes. *Staff contact:* [Caroline Murphy](#)

## **Other News from Headquarters**

**Spring 2021 Joe Burns Memorial Wildlife Policy Internship wraps early** – TWS policy intern Allison Scott wrapped up her time with TWS in late April to take a full-time position with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. We thank Ally for her hard work and dedication to The Wildlife Society’s policy program over these past several months, wish her well in her new role advancing science-based management, and look forward to keeping up with her future accomplishments.

## **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 Beyers at [MSimmons@wildlife.org](mailto:MSimmons@wildlife.org).