



# The Wildlife Society's Conservation Affairs Network

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## Resources

**Tools and resources for Recovering America's Wildlife Act congressional engagement tools** – The Wildlife Society and our partners with the [Alliance for America's Fish and Wildlife](#) have a suite of updated educational resources that can be used when reaching out to members of Congress in support of the [Recovering America's Wildlife Act](#). These materials can be accessed via [Google Drive](#). Check out the June 2021 Recovering America's Wildlife Act fly-in [messaging training](#) (begins at 11:45 mark), hosted by the National Wildlife Federation, to learn tips and tricks for engaging congressional offices. Units and members interested in supporting the legislation through written correspondence can check out TWS' [Dropbox resources](#) and TWS' [Action Center](#). *Staff Contact: [Caroline Murphy](#)*

## CAC Activities

**TWS Units engage in Recovering America's Wildlife Act fly-in event** - Members of the [Southern California Chapter](#), [Wisconsin Chapter](#), [Michigan Chapter](#), and [North Central Section](#) of The Wildlife Society met with their members of Congress last week to request cosponsorship of the [Recovering America's Wildlife Act](#). TWS unit representatives alongside TWS staff and state agency and NGO partners participated in ten virtual meetings during the fly-in week, speaking to their state's on-the-ground conservation efforts and associated funding needs. Since last week's coalition effort, 17 cosponsors have been added in support of the bill. Reach out to Caroline to learn how your unit can also connect with your congressional delegation in support of the bill. *Staff Contact: [Caroline Murphy](#)*

**Colorado Chapter writes in support of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act** – The [Colorado Chapter of The Wildlife Society](#) sent letters to Representative [Lauren Boebert](#) and Representative [Joe Neguse](#) requesting their co-sponsorship of Recovering America's Wildlife Act. The Chapter also sent letters to Representative [Jason Crow](#) and Representative [Diana DeGette](#) thanking them for signing on in support of the bill. *CAC Contact: [Erin Blair](#)*

**Nebraska Chapter submits letter on 30x30 plan** – The [Nebraska Chapter of The Wildlife Society](#) sent a [letter to the editor](#) regarding the [America the Beautiful report](#), due to ongoing misinformation being spread in the state about the conservation

initiative. The letter has been published in six newspapers so far across Nebraska, including the [Lincoln Journal Star](#). CAC Contact: [Eric Zach](#)

**TWS, Southern California Chapter, Western Section comment on MBTA –** [TWS headquarters and partners](#), The [Southern California Chapter of The Wildlife Society](#) and the [Western Section of The Wildlife Society](#) submitted comments to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding its [proposal](#) to [revoke a January 2021 rule](#) prohibiting the regulation of incidental take for species listed under the [Migratory Bird Treaty Act](#). These comments were supplemental to those submitted by units earlier this year in response to an [initial review](#) of the January 2021 rule. View the national coalition comments [here](#), the Chapter's comments [here](#), and the Section's comments [here](#). Staff Contact: *Caroline Murphy*; CAC Contacts: [Lisa Fields](#) (SoCal Chapter), [Kelly Holland](#) (Western Section)

**SFBA Chapter comments on local free-roaming cat management policy –** The [San Francisco Bay Area Chapter of The Wildlife Society](#) provided [oral public comment](#) at the East Bay Regional Parks District board meeting, supporting their revised free-roaming cat management policy. CAC Contact: [Patricia Valcarcel](#)

**Virginia Chapter letters on predator hunting contests –** The [Virginia Chapter of The Wildlife Society](#) submitted [comments](#) to the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) regarding proposed regulation on coyote and furbearer hunting contests. The Chapter supports the proposed amendments, stating that it “appropriately strengthens and supplements the existing hunting regulations and further demonstrates the agency’s commitment to sound wildlife management”. The Chapter informed their membership that the [public comment period](#) is open until July 30, 2021. CAC Contact: [Nelson Lafon](#)

## Federal Updates

**TWS seeks member input on cooperative conservation activities notice –** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently published a [notice](#) seeking comment on the types of information collected from third parties when evaluating voluntary conservation agreements in the [Endangered Species Act](#) listing process. TWS is reviewing the proposal to determine appropriate next steps for comment, and encourages any wildlifers, particularly those with familiarity on the [Policy for Evaluation of Conservation Efforts When Making Listing Decisions](#) (PECE), to reach out to [knorris@wildlife.org](mailto:knorris@wildlife.org) with thoughts on the proposal. The deadline to submit comment is July 19. **Members should provide their input to TWS no later than July 12.** Staff Contact: [Keith Norris](#)

**Fiscal Year 2022 appropriations taking shape** – The House Appropriations Committee has released several proposed FY 2022 [funding bills](#) over the past week, including those that would fund the [U.S. Department of the Interior](#) and the [U.S. Department of Agriculture](#). The bills propose several increases for federal conservation programming, including for the [State and Tribal Wildlife Grants](#) program (\$82.4 million) and the [National Wildlife Refuge System](#) (\$582 million). The report language for the Department of the Interior bill, which will provide additional program-specific funding proposals, had not been released upon the drafting of this newsletter. This language will likely be made available on the House’s [appropriations website](#) in preparation for Thursday’s (7/1) [full committee markup](#) of the bill. *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 Beyers at [MSimmons@wildlife.org](mailto:MSimmons@wildlife.org).