



# The Wildlife Society's Conservation Affairs Network

August 2021, Volume 7, Issue 8

## Take Action!

**Recovering America's Wildlife Act introduced to U.S. Senate** – TWS members and units have a new opportunity to build up support for the Recovering America's Wildlife Act thanks to the recent [introduction](#) of a Senate companion bill ([S. 2372](#)). The bill, introduced in late July by Senators Martin Heinrich (D-NM) and Roy Blunt (R-MO), would provide much-needed funds to state, territory, and tribal governments to work on at-risk species conservation efforts. Please consider sharing TWS' updated Recovering America's Wildlife Act [Action Center](#) with your memberships to promote their direct outreach to members of the Senate. TWS units can also check out updated Senate cosponsor request form letters and other outreach resources in TWS' [Dropbox folder](#).  
*Staff Contact:* [Caroline Murphy](#)

**Migratory Bird Protection Act introduced to U.S. House** – Legislation that would strengthen protections for migratory bird species under the century-old Migratory Bird Treaty Act has been reintroduced to the U.S. House of Representatives by Representatives Lowenthal (D-CA), Fitzpatrick (R-PA), and dozens of their congressional colleagues. Members can learn more about the Migratory Bird Protection Act ([H.R. 4833](#)) and its goal of codifying take protections for MBTA-listed species through TWS' [Action Center](#). While there, members can write directly to their House representative to request their cosponsorship of the bill. *Staff Contact:* [Caroline Murphy](#)

## Opportunities

**Position Announcement: Conservation Affairs Network Fellow** – The Wildlife Society is hiring a [full-time, term-limited Conservation Affairs Network Fellow](#) to support the work of the network. This position provides an opportunity to learn about wildlife policy issues and advocacy practices while supporting you all in your efforts to advance policies that empower, enable and assist wildlife professionals. **Applications for the position are due by August 15.** If you have any thoughts on the position description please let Caroline know. As we work to stand up this new position, we want to make sure the role will be effective in serving unit needs. *Staff Contact:* [Caroline Murphy](#)

**AFS seeking member input on instream water conservation center** – Our partners at the American Fisheries Society are requesting member input of the feasibility of establishing a national U.S. center dedicated to training and support services for

instream flow and water level conservation studies. For nearly two decades, instream flow conservation principles were provided under the direction of the federal Cooperative Instream Flow Service Group (CIFSG) in Fort Collins, Colorado. Since that group ceased to exist in 2001, no substitute centralized source of training and support services has been established. AFS requests that interested members and parties fill out a [questionnaire](#) to help assess the needs and support for a new National Center no later than August 6. The survey should take approximately 10 minutes to complete.

## CAC Activities

**Hawaii Chapter writes in support of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act** – The Hawaii Chapter of The Wildlife Society sent letters to [Representative Ed Case](#) and [Representative Kaiali'i Kahele](#) requesting their co-sponsorship of Recovering America's Wildlife Act. CAC Contact: [Patrick Chee](#)

**North Dakota Chapter provides testimony on Outdoor Heritage Fund** – The [North Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society](#) provided two testimonies in March. The first was regarding [HB 1009](#), the Agriculture Commissioners budget, which was amended to include a \$200,000 appropriation from the Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF) for defraying the expenses of the soil health cover crop grant program. The Chapter strongly opposed this amendment, and urged its removal. The second was [joint testimony](#) that the Chapter signed, alongside several other organizations in the state, to express their concerns regarding [HB 1215](#), which would direct portions of the Outdoor Heritage Fund to the Bank of North Dakota to provide for a loan program. CAC Contact: [Jesse Beckers](#)

**Western Section comments on local free-roaming cat management policy** – The [Western Section 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. The remarks were delivered by Western Section President-elect Dr. Katie Smith. CAC Contact: [Kelly Holland](#)

## Federal Updates

**Recovering America's Wildlife Act gains momentum in U.S. House** – Alongside Senate introduction, recent House action on the Recovering America's Wildlife Act ([H.R. 2773](#)) has kept the legislation top of mind for lawmakers. Last week the House Natural Resources Water, Oceans, and Wildlife Subcommittee held a hearing on the Recovering America's Wildlife Act and several other measures targeting the biodiversity crisis. A recording of the hearing can be found on the [committee's website](#). The House bill also reached [100 cosponsors](#) last week, thanks in large part to efforts from TWS units and partners. Units interested in thanking their House members that have signed

on in support can consider sending a [thank you letter](#). Any questions on appropriate points of contact in congressional offices can be sent to Caroline.

Staff Contact: [Caroline Murphy](#)

**MBTA economic analysis open for public comment** – The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has opened a [comment period](#) on two economic analysis documents prepared during development of a [May 2021 proposed rule](#) that would revoke a [January 2021 rule](#) excluding the regulation of incidental take under the [Migratory Bird Treaty Act](#). Comments are due August 19. TWS is coordinating with other conservation organizations on review of the documents to determine any comments that may be warranted. Please let TWS staff know if your unit is considering drafting comments or has any thoughts on these documents. Staff Contact: [Caroline Murphy](#)

**U.S. House moves on FY 2022 funding** – Last week, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a “minibus” Fiscal Year 2022 spending package that included several of the [12 funding bills](#) Congress needs to send to the President’s desk before FY 2021 wraps at the end of September. Within this [package](#) were several funding increases for federal conservation programming, including programs like the U.S. Geological Survey’s Cooperative Research Units program (+\$2 million) and [North American Wetlands Conservation Act](#) grants (+\$3.5 million). While not yet law, the House package will serve as a negotiating tool when the U.S. Senate decides to take up FY 2022 spending. As of late, the Senate has largely been consumed with negotiations over a \$1 trillion bipartisan infrastructure package. No movement on Senate FY 2022 funding proposals is expected until after the August recess.

Staff Contact: [Caroline Murphy](#)

## Updates from Headquarters

**New interns begin their work with TWS** – TWS’ headquarters office has two new interns to work with TWS members and staff over the coming six months. Brielle Manzolillo is being brought on as the 2021 Joe Burns Memorial Wildlife Policy Intern. Brielle received a B.A. in Environmental Studies from Pace University, and recently completed an M.S. in Forest Sciences with an emphasis in Natural Resource Policy from Colorado State University. Brielle’s Masters work focused on policy strategies to promote effective wolf reintroductions. Brielle is also an active TWS member, and currently serves as the student representative to the TWS Urban Wildlife Working Group. Alexia Yau is also joining us as the Society’s new Operations and Outreach Intern. Alexia recently finished her B.S. in Forest Resources and Conservation and is currently pursuing an M.S. in Environmental Science and Policy at George Mason University. During her undergraduate career she served as a researcher in the UF Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Department, co-writing a research paper with Dr.

Marcus Lashley on the use of social media as an effective approach in the presentation of scientific findings. She also served as Recruitment and Marketing Director and then President of the UF Lucha Latina Organization, as well as Vice President of Hispanic Student Association. We look forward to working with them both!

## **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).