



The Wildlife Society's Conservation Affairs Network

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Take Action!

Engage your U.S. Senators in support of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act – TWS units should act now to build support for the [Recovering America's Wildlife Act \(H.R. 2773; S. 2372\)](#) in the U.S. Senate. The U.S. Senate will be back in session in mid-September, and now is a key time to secure their support for dedicated funding for at-risk species conservation. **Letters from TWS chapters and sections to their U.S. Senate delegation requesting their support will be helpful to TWS' and coalition efforts.** A template request letter can be found in TWS' [Dropbox folder](#), and any requests for assistance in crafting or distributing Senate letters can be directed to TWS staff. Units can check out [congress.gov](#) for an up-to-date list of current Senate cosponsors. *Staff Contact:* [Caroline Murphy](#)

On the Horizon

End of the fiscal year in sight with little progress in Congress – This year the U.S. House of Representatives has passed 9 of the 12 Fiscal Year 2022 [spending bills](#) needed to keep the government operating beyond September, including [packages](#) for the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of Interior. As we approach the end of the Congressional recess, the Senate will be playing a significant amount of catch-up in drafting and passing their own versions of the 12 spending packages. As a result of this lag and the compounding effects of infrastructure initiatives competing for floor time, the House and Senate are very unlikely to reach an agreement before the fiscal year expires. A continuing resolution to keep the government operating into the fall is expected.

Visit TWS' [action center on appropriations](#) to learn more about the appropriations process and how you can reach out to your Senators in support of conservation funding. *Staff Contact:* [Caroline Murphy](#)

Conservation Affairs Network Fellow set to join Headquarters in coming weeks – The Wildlife Society's headquarters office is in the process of hiring a Conservation Affairs Network Fellow to support the work of the network. The goal of this position is to support TWS and chapter and section efforts to advance policies that empower, enable and assist wildlife professionals. Please let us know if you have any ideas on coordinating efforts and initiatives we should consider as we bring on this additional

capacity.

Staff Contact: [Caroline Murphy](#)

Opportunities

Register for The Wildlife Society annual conference – Registration for the 2021 annual TWS conference is [now open](#). The conference will be held virtually from November 1-5. This year our goal is to expand student engagement at the conference through increased opportunities for student professional development, networking, and engagement. Please check out our [page on student engagement](#) to find out how you can help us continue to support students at our conferences. Staff Contact: [Mariah Beyers](#)

CAC Activities

British Columbia Chapter creates a new survey – The [British Columbia Chapter of The Wildlife Society](#) Executive Board has prepared a survey to get a better understanding of wildlife professionals in British Columbia. The survey results will help inform BCTWS in prioritizing what issues should be highlighted when engaging with agencies responsible for wildlife management in British Columbia. CAC Contact: [Bill Harrower](#)

Federal Updates

TWS and partners request adoption of mitigation policies – TWS and other members of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership's Policy Council [sent a letter](#) to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Acting Director Martha Williams on the adoption and implementation of balanced, durable agency mitigation policies. The mitigation policies recommended include those that work to reduce conflict between conservation and land use activities, ensure project success, and support private land stewardship. This letter was a follow-up to a [similar letter](#) sent to the Department of the Interior early in the Biden Administration. Staff Contact: [Caroline Murphy](#)

Bipartisan infrastructure bill and reconciliation package making progress in U.S. Congress – The U.S. Senate has passed a \$1.2 trillion [bipartisan infrastructure bill](#) that includes TWS-supported investments in funding for wildlife migration corridors and public lands access. The bill must now pass through the U.S. House before it can get final approval from the Administration. Thanks to an agreement between factions of the House Democratic Party, a vote on the bill will be scheduled for no later than Sep. 27. Meanwhile, committees in both chambers of Congress continue work on language for a separate \$3.5 trillion reconciliation package, with committee markups in the House expected early this month. Congressional leadership has provided the House Natural Resources Committee with \$25.6 billion in funding for committee members to draft language for consideration in the broader package. However, committee leadership

notes that DOI programing was largely omitted from the funding distribution, and plans to promote the inclusion of additional DOI funds for initiatives such as the [Civilian Climate Corps](#), endangered species recovery, and climate adaptation planning. *Staff Contact:* [Caroline Murphy](#)

Migratory Bird Protection Act continues to build support in the House – TWS and partners are continuing the push for passage of legislation that will strengthen protections for migratory bird species under the [Migratory Bird Treaty Act](#) by codifying protections from incidental take of MBTA-listed species. The legislation has seen an increase in support in the U.S. House, with 60 members of Congress currently signed on in support. For more information on the Migratory Bird Protection Act ([H.R. 4833](#)), visit the TWS' [Action Center](#) where members can directly write to their House representative to request their cosponsorship of the legislation. *Staff Contact:* [Caroline Murphy](#)

WOTUS rulemaking overturned in court – A U.S. federal judge in Arizona has scrapped the Clean Water Act's Navigable Waters Protection Rule finalized in the last administration. The NWPR had significantly limited the scope of the Clean Water Act, restricting the types of wetlands and streams regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency. [According to Judge Rosemary Márquez](#), the EPA's interpretation of WOTUS was significantly flawed and did not include relevant science. Earlier this year the agency began a [rulemaking process](#) on a proposal to replace the NWRP, which is expected to continue. TWS alongside many units [opposed](#) the NWPR rulemaking, and will be monitoring future changes to implementation of the Act. *Staff Contact:* [Caroline Murphy](#)

Updates from Headquarters

TWS CEO Ed Thompson has retired – After serving four years as CEO and three years as Chief Operating Officer, Ed Thompson recently [announced](#) his retirement from The Wildlife Society. Thompson's last day leading TWS was Aug. 31. Carol Chambers, the current TWS President, will serve as interim CEO as TWS Council continues the [search](#) for a new CEO.

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.