



# The Wildlife Society's Conservation Affairs Network

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## Take Action!

### Help the Recovering America's Wildlife Act reach 200 House cosponsors –

Now is the time for TWS units to engage their U.S. House representatives to build more support for the [Recovering America's Wildlife Act \(H.R. 2773; S. 2372\)](#). The legislation currently has support of over 25% in both chamber of Congress, with 119 supporters in the House and 25 in the Senate. TWS and partners are working to reach a goal of 200 bipartisan cosponsors in the House to set the stage for a successful House Natural Resources Committee markup of the legislation expected in early October. **Letters sent now from TWS chapters and sections to their U.S. House delegation requesting their support will be most 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 letters can be directed to TWS staff. Units can check out [congress.gov](#) for an up-to-date list of current cosponsors. *Staff Contact:* [Caroline Murphy](#)

## Opportunities

### Oct. 12 Webinar on Recovering America's Wildlife Act engagement, 11:30 eastern

- Learn from staff at The Wildlife Society and the American Fisheries Society on ways that you, as natural resources students and professionals, can elevate the need for at-risk species funding and promote passage of the [Recovering America's Wildlife Act](#). Join us to learn how you can take action to support this game-changing proposal at a time when it is needed most. **Please note this webinar has a new date (10/12), as the originally advertised date appears likely to overlap with a scheduled House Natural Resources Committee markup of the legislation.** This 30-minute webinar presentation will be followed by an open session for TWS and AFS members to ask any questions. [Register here](#) to secure your spot! *Staff Contact:* [Caroline Murphy](#)

## CAC Activities

### Pennsylvania Chapter writes in support of Recovering America's Wildlife Act –

The Pennsylvania Chapter of The Wildlife Society sent letters to their U.S. [House](#) and [Senate](#) delegations requesting co-sponsorship of Recovering America's Wildlife Act. So far nine Pennsylvania representatives and Pennsylvania Senator Bob Casey have signed on as co-sponsors. The Pennsylvania Chapter recently engaged in a [press release](#) thanking Senator Casey for his support of the bill. *CAC Contact:* [Reg Hoyt](#)

**North Carolina Chapter engages delegation in support of Recovering America's Wildlife Act** – The North Carolina Chapter of The Wildlife Society sent letters to their U.S [House Representatives](#) and [Senators](#) requesting co-sponsorship of Recovering America's Wildlife Act. Senators Burr and Tillis have since signed on as co-sponsors of the bill. The North Carolina Chapter leadership and the TWS government affairs team had a meeting with Senator Burr's office thanking them for the support, and the chapter has sent letters of thank you to other offices for their co-sponsorship. *CAC Contact:* [Rachael Urbanek](#)

## Federal Updates

**Migratory birds gain back protections through new regulations** – A final rule revoking the [January 2021 regulation](#) limiting the scope of the [Migratory Bird Treaty Act](#) by allowing incidental take has been [published](#) by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. An Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking has also been [published](#), providing a 60-day public comment period to solicit information on a potential incidental take permitting program. Alongside this significant regulatory progress, TWS and partners are continuing to urge the passage of the [Migratory Bird Protection Act](#) in order to ensure the enforcement of incidental take is codified into law and resilient to changes in Administration. This legislation continues to see an increase in support in the U.S House, with 68 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 co-sponsorship of the legislation. *Staff Contact:* [Caroline Murphy](#)

**USFWS to complete status review of western gray wolves** – The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will complete a [comprehensive status review](#) of the gray wolf (*Canis lupus*) in the western U.S. This decision was made after the USFWS [reviewed](#) two petitions, concluding that petitioners presented substantial and credible information to indicate re-listing of the species in the western U.S. may be warranted. Both petitions referenced recent changes to wolf hunting laws in [Idaho and Montana](#), pointing to potential threats the changes may have on wolf populations. Now, the USFWS will conduct an in-depth status review and analyses to arrive at a 12-month finding on whether listing is warranted. The USFWS is requesting [input from the public](#) for any new information or data on the status of the species across the western U.S. *Staff Contact:* [Caroline Murphy](#)

**Congress passes a Continuing Resolution** – Both chambers of Congress approved a continuing resolution bill that will allow for federal agencies to remain open through early December, avoiding a government shutdown as the country enters Fiscal Year 2022. Funding levels from [FY 2021](#) will remain steady through Dec. 3. Although passage of

this funding measure averts a government shutdown, Congress still faces a significant amount of upheaval over efforts to increase the debt limit, pass a bipartisan infrastructure bill, and work through a Democratic-led reconciliation bill containing party priorities – all of which have provisions and potential impacts on wildlife programs and wildlife professionals. *Staff Contact:* [Caroline Murphy](#)

## **Updates from Headquarters**

**Kelly O'Connor is the new CAN Fellow** – Our new Conservation Affairs Network fellow Kelly O'Connor will be joining the headquarters team October 11. Kelly is coming to TWS from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, where she served as a stakeholder engagement coordinator. The Network will be hearing more from Kelly in the coming weeks as she transitions into this new role.

## **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 [Caroline](#) Murphy at [cmurphy@wildlife.org](mailto:cmurphy@wildlife.org).