



# The Wildlife Society's Conservation Affairs Network

November 2021, Volume 7, Issue 11

## Take Action!

**Continue engaging your Representatives on Recovering America's Wildlife Act –** TWS and partners are working to generate 200 bipartisan cosponsors in the U.S. House of Representatives in support of the [Recovering America's Wildlife Act \(H.R. 2773; S. 2372\)](#). This will help set the stage for advancing the bill through the House Natural Resource Committee later this year. The legislation continues to see increased support in both chambers of Congress, with 132 supporters in the House and 30 in the Senate – more than 30% of the entire Congress. **Letters sent now from TWS chapters and sections to their U.S. House delegation requesting support will be extremely helpful to TWS and coalition efforts.** A template request letter is in TWS' [Dropbox folder](#), and TWS staff are available to help with crafting or distributing letters. Check out [congress.gov](#) for an up-to-date list of current cosponsors. *Staff Contact:* [Caroline Murphy](#)

## Resources

**Migratory Bird Protection Act co-sponsor request letter and fact sheet available –** TWS' [Action Center](#) now includes a template [request letter](#) for units to ask their House Representatives to cosponsor the [Migratory Bird Protection Act \(H.R. 4833\)](#). TWS and partners are continuing the push for passage of this legislation in order to ensure the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has the authority to regulate incidental take of MBTA-listed species. A [fact sheet](#) on the bill is also available, for use as a supplement to any letters distributed. Send questions on the legislation or requests for assistance on reaching congressional offices to [policy@wildlife.org](mailto:policy@wildlife.org). *Staff Contact:* [Caroline Murphy](#)

## Opportunities

**Joe Burn's Memorial Policy Internship Position –** TWS has an [opening](#) for a paid wildlife policy intern with an interest in federal natural resource policy issues. This will be a six-month appointment running from early January to late June 2022. Interns learn how to work cooperatively with TWS members, fellow professional societies, and conservation organizations to push for U.S. federal-level policies of importance to the profession. *Staff Contact:* [Caroline Murphy](#)

**TWS seeks member input on proposed changes to NEPA regulations** – The White House’s Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) is [proposing](#) to modify regulations that implement the National Environmental Policy Act. The goal of these revisions is to restore regulatory provisions that were in effect prior to [changes](#) made in 2020. A [briefing memo](#) prepared by TWS staff provides more details on the proposed revisions, which CEQ expects to prepare in two phases. TWS staff plan to submit comments on these phase one proposals, and are requesting input from the CAN. Please provide feedback on the proposed regulatory changes to [policy@wildlife.org](mailto:policy@wildlife.org) by **Monday, November 15**. Additionally, TWS staff are seeking members that are interested in providing further input on revisions that are coming during the second phase of CEQ rulemaking. If you are interested, or know someone who may be a good contact, please reach out to [policy@wildlife.org](mailto:policy@wildlife.org).

**TWS seeks member input on proposed MBTA permitting framework** – The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has [published](#) an Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to solicit feedback on a regulatory framework allowing a limited authorization of incidental take of species listed under the [Migratory Bird Treaty Act](#). A [briefing memo](#) prepared by TWS staff summarizes the proposed framework and the factors on which USFWS is requesting public comment and information. TWS staff are seeking feedback from units and members to incorporate into comments on the proposal. Please submit input by **EOD Thursday, November 18** to [policy@wildlife.org](mailto:policy@wildlife.org).

## CAC Activities

**Maine Chapter engages delegation in support of Recovering America’s Wildlife Act** – The Maine Chapter of The Wildlife Society coordinated with TWS’ government affairs team to create an [Action Center](#) requesting Representative Golden’s (D-ME) co-sponsorship of Recovering America’s Wildlife Act. If your unit is interested in exploring a similar opportunity, please reach out to Kelly. CAC Contact: [Joe Roy](#); Staff Contact: [Kelly O’Connor](#)

## Federal Updates

**Senate has released final FY 2022 appropriations bills** – The Senate Appropriations Committee has [released](#) their remaining nine Fiscal Year 2022 [spending bills](#), including funding levels for Department of the Interior and U.S. Forest Service conservation programs. The bill proposes \$80.4 million for the [State and Tribal Wildlife Grants](#) program, just shy of the House’s proposed \$82.3 million. The Senate bill also proposes \$555.3 million to the National Wildlife Refuge System’s Operations and Maintenance account, with the House proposing \$582 million. Now, the Senate and the House must reach a compromise on spending. Existing FY 2021 funding expired on Sept. 30 and a [continuing resolution](#) was enacted to avoid a government shutdown and provide

temporary funding for government programs through Dec. 3. If Congress does not come to an agreement by this time, another continuing resolution will be required to prevent a government shutdown. You can keep up-to-date on the latest with appropriations by visiting TWS' [Action Center](#). *Staff Contact: [Caroline Murphy](#)*

**Tracy Stone-Manning confirmed as BLM director, Martha Williams nominated for USFWS** –The Senate recently confirmed [Tracy Stone-Manning](#) as the new director for the Bureau of Land Management. Stone-Manning previously worked as the senior adviser for conservation policy at the National Wildlife Federation and is the first confirmed director of the BLM since January 2017. The Wildlife Society looks forward to working with Director Stone-Manning as the BLM goes through new changes, including a proposed move of BLM headquarters back to Washington, D.C. The Administration has also recently nominated [Martha Williams](#) as director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Williams has been serving as principal deputy director and acting in the capacity of the director since January 2020. These announcements leave the U.S. Geological Survey as one of the few remaining DOI agencies without a nominee. *Staff Contact: [Caroline Murphy](#)*

**USFWS proposes new ESA regulations for 'critical habitat'** – The USFWS has proposed to rescind two 2020 [Endangered Species Act](#) implementation rules that had limited the scope of application of critical habitat designations. The new proposals aim to rescind the [definition of critical habitat](#) provided by the previous administration and revise the process for considering [critical habitat exclusions](#). TWS previously [commented](#) on the 2020 rulemaking and staff is currently reviewing these new proposals. The USFWS is accepting comments on the proposed rule changes until Nov. 26. *Staff Contact: [Caroline Murphy](#)*

## Updates from Headquarters

**TWS welcomes new CEO Ed Arnett** – TWS Council has hired [Ed Arnett](#) to serve as the organization's new Chief Executive Officer. Arnett began the position on Nov. 1, taking over the seat most recently held by Ed Thompson, who retired in August. A longtime TWS member, Arnett has a broad background in wildlife conservation and management, including work with federal agencies, the private sector, conservation nonprofits, and universities. He has spent the last nine years working with the [Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership](#). *Staff Contact: [Caroline Murphy](#)*

**Conservation Affairs Network annual meeting at TWS annual conference** – The annual meeting of the Conservation Affairs Network will be during TWS' virtual conference **today, November 3 from 3-5 pm eastern**. This meeting provides CAC representatives and other conference attendees with an opportunity to network and discuss current policy issues and activities. *Staff contact: [Kelly O'Connor](#)*

**Section and Chapter CAC policy materials available in the TWS Policy Library –** [TWS' Policy Library](#) is updated and includes all policy communications from section and chapter CACs. This tool allows you to see how other organization units are engaging with local wildlife conservation policy issues. If your CAC has submitted any comments, letters, or recommendations recently, be sure to let us know so we can include them in the Policy Library. *Staff contact:* [Kelly O'Connor](#)

## **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 Kelly O'Connor at [koconnor@wildlife.org](mailto:koconnor@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 Kelly O'Connor at [koconnor@wildlife.org](mailto:koconnor@wildlife.org).