



The Wildlife Society's Conservation Affairs Network

January 2022, Volume 8, Issue 1

On the Horizon

Recovering America's Wildlife Act Set for House and Senate markups – With the U.S. Senate wrapping up a successful hearing on the [Recovering America's Wildlife Act](#) in December, both the House ([H.R. 2773](#)) and Senate ([S. 2372](#)) versions of the bill are now each primed for full committee markups. There is hope that the House Natural Resources Committee will hold a markup early in this second session of the 117th Congress. However, several time-sensitive items, including Fiscal Year 2022 spending, voting reforms, and prolonged discussions on a reconciliation package have kept legislative planning in limbo.

Individuals that missed the December 8 Senate Environment and Public Works Committee hearing on the Recovering America's Wildlife Act can check out the Senate EPW [website](#) and TWS' [coverage](#) of the event. As you continue engaging your members of Congress in support of this legislation, a reminder to make use of TWS' [action center](#) for individual member outreach, and TWS' [Dropbox folder](#) for model letters and other resources that can be used in unit-level outreach. *Staff contacts:* [Kelly O'Connor](#), [Caroline Murphy](#)

CAC Activities

TWS Chapters continue to take action in support of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act – The [Alabama](#), [Maryland-Delaware](#), [Wyoming](#), [Mississippi](#), and [South Dakota](#) chapters of The Wildlife Society all responded to a recent call for action to build support for Recovering America's Wildlife Act leading up to a hearing on the legislation in the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works.

- The Alabama Chapter sent a [letter to Senator Richard Shelby](#) requesting his co-sponsorship of the legislation. *CAC Contacts:* [Mercedes Maddox](#), [Jeff Baker](#)
- The Maryland-Delaware Chapters sent letters to Senators [Thomas Carper](#) (D-DE) and [Benjamin Cardin](#) (D-MD) requesting their co-sponsorship of the legislation. *CAC Contact:* [Rob Gano](#)
- The Wyoming Chapter sent letters to Senators [Cynthia Lummis](#) and [John Barrasso](#), as well as [Representative Liz Cheney](#) requesting their co-sponsorship of the legislation. *CAC Contact:* [Rhiannon Jakopak](#)
- The Mississippi Chapter sent a [letter to Senator Roger Wicker](#) thanking him for his co-sponsorship of the legislation and encouraging his attendance at the EPW hearing. *CAC Contact:* [Kris Godwin](#)

Increasing the Society's effectiveness through communication and collaboration

- The South Dakota Chapter sent letters to [Senators John Thune](#) and [Mike Rounds](#) requesting their co-sponsorship of the legislation. CAC Contact: [Mark Norton](#)

Pennsylvania Chapter comments on proposed Duke Low MOA – The Pennsylvania Chapter of The Wildlife Society [provided comments](#) to the National Guard on a proposed memorandum of understanding that would impact wildlife populations in 6 counties and over 1.4 million acres in north central Pennsylvania. The chapter recommended that additional research on the impacts of low altitude flights on wildlife prior to approval of the MOA, and voiced support for the “No Action” alternative detailed in an Environmental Assessment relating to the MOA until a full Environmental Impact Statement could be prepared. CAC Contact: [Reg Hoyt](#)

Federal Updates

FY 2022 appropriations discussions set for new year – Appropriators returned to D.C. this week with a deadline of February 18th to fund the federal government through the end of Fiscal Year 2022 in September. A deal is far from certain, and discussions of a full-year continuation of FY 2021 funds are not off the table. Continued interparty disagreement on the use of policy riders, or targeted limits on how the federal government can use appropriated funds, remain a sticking point in negotiations. This conflict is aggravated by the many other priorities competing for Congress’ attention at present. If negotiations are able to move forward, many federal conservation programs are [well-positioned](#) to see increases for what would remain of FY 2022. Programs such as the [State and Tribal Wildlife Grants](#) program (\$72.4 M FY 21) have proposed increases in both House-passed (\$82.4 M) and Senate-introduced (\$80.4 M) FY 22 funding bills. Staff contact: [Caroline Murphy](#)

New advisory committee to tackle wildlife conservation, hunting – The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently [announced](#) the [creation](#) of a federal advisory committee that will provide recommendations to the U.S. Departments of the Interior and Agriculture on wildlife and habitat conservation work and the country’s hunting heritage. This new body, known as the Hunting and Wildlife Conservation Council, follows in the footsteps of past federal advisory committees with similar charges, including the Hunting and Shooting Sports Conservation Council established in 2018, the Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council established in 2010, and the Sporting Conservation Council launched in 2006. The Wildlife Society is seeking to engage in the new Council, which will be formally announced alongside a call for nominations in a forthcoming notice in the [Federal Register](#). Staff contact: [Caroline Murphy](#)

Administration opens comment on conservation stewardship atlas – The U.S. Department of the Interior has [announced](#) a public comment period to solicit input on the creation of an atlas to track lands and waters that have been conserved or restored in the U.S. The atlas is being created with the goal of informing progress towards

implementation of the America the Beautiful initiative, which [includes](#) the conservation of 30 percent of America's lands and waters by 2030. **The Wildlife Society will be sending along a briefing document to the CAN over the next couple weeks to solicit input on this comment period from units and members.** Units interested in engaging can also consider participating in a [stakeholder listening session](#) on the atlas, which are taking place throughout the month of January. *Staff contact:* [Caroline Murphy](#)

Updates from Headquarters

New interns set to join TWS team - TWS' headquarters office will have two new interns working with TWS members and staff over the coming six months. Cassie Ferri is being brought on as the Spring 2022 Joe Burns Memorial Wildlife Policy Intern. Cassie is a part-time undergraduate student in her final semester at the University of Maine, where she is pursuing a B.S. in Wildlife Ecology. Cassie currently serves as the President of the UMaine Student Chapter of TWS after holding several chapter positions throughout her undergraduate career. Cassie is also very active in the Maine Chapter of TWS, and serves on the chapter's conservation affairs committee. In addition, Valerie Ramirez is being brought on as the Spring 2022 Operations and Outreach Intern. Valerie received her B.S. in Natural Resources and Environmental Science with a concentration in Fish and Wildlife Conservation from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Some of her previous experience includes working with the Chicago Park District, the Student Conservation Association, and the UIUC Institute for Sustainability, Energy, and Environment. We look forward to having them onboard!

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.

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.