



# The Wildlife Society's Conservation Affairs Network

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## Take Action!

**Engage Student Chapters in support of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act** – With the U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources successfully advancing the [Recovering America's Wildlife Act \(H.R. 2773\)](#) at their January [markup](#), the bill is now set for full House consideration. We need TWS units to help get this bill over the finish line! Reach out to your congressional offices to ask for their cosponsorship, and engage your local student chapters in the advocacy effort! Student chapters can engage on the bill through:

- **Individual outreach** – Students can use TWS' Recovering America's Wildlife Act [action center](#) to easily write their members of Congress in support of the legislation.
- **Student chapter unit outreach** – Student chapters can use form letters provided in TWS' [Dropbox](#) folder to draft letters to their members of Congress requesting or thanking them for their support. The cosponsorship status of each member of Congress can be found on [congress.gov](#), and requests for relevant contact information for congressional staff can be sent to Kelly.

TWS staff are exploring mechanisms to directly engage student chapters in support of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act and other wildlife policy issues. Please let staff know if you have thoughts on communications tools and platforms that would assist in directly connecting student chapters to policy engagement opportunities. *Staff Contact:* [Kelly O'Connor](#).

## On the Horizon

**Fiscal Year 2022 appropriations stalled as FY 2023 budget discussions approach**– The U.S. Congress has only a couple weeks left to determine next steps on funding the federal government for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2022, which began Oct. 1. The current continuing resolution that extended FY 2021 funding levels into the current fiscal year expires on February 18, and appropriators have not made any public progress on a final deal to approve new spending. While Congress remains deadlocked on FY 2022, the Administration is preparing to kick off the FY 2023 [appropriations process](#) by presenting their proposed budget to Congress in early March.

TWS will engage with the Administration's FY 23 request and advocate for conservation funding priorities for the coming fiscal year. TWS units that have flagged specific conservation funding needs for FY 2023 should reach out to TWS staff to discuss opportunities for coordination. *Staff Contact:* [Caroline Murphy](#)

**Congressional Briefing: The Wildlife Crisis** – TWS, in partnership with the American Fisheries Society, the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society, and the National Wildlife

Federation, will be hosting a congressional briefing on February 15 highlighting the need for dedicated investment in at-risk species recovery through passage of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act. CACs corresponding with their state's Congressional delegation are encouraged to pass on the [invitation](#) to the briefing to request staff attendance. *Staff Contact:* [Caroline Murphy](#)

## Opportunities

**30 by 30 Atlas feedback due February 10th** – TWS is seeking feedback from Conservation Affairs Committees, working groups, and TWS members on the Administration's recently announced [public comment period](#) to help guide the development of the American Conservation and Stewardship Atlas. The Atlas is intended to track progress towards the goals outlined in the Administration's "[Conserving and Restoring America The Beautiful](#)" report and the initiative to conserve 30 percent of U.S. lands and waters by 2030 (30 by 30). A brief containing additional information on the Atlas and the type of information being solicited by DOI during the public comment period can be viewed [here](#). TWS requests feedback on the Atlas be provided to [policy@wildlife.org](mailto:policy@wildlife.org) by the end of the day on Feb. 10. Input can be informal and may address any of the prompts included in the brief. *Staff Contact:* [Kelly O'Connor](#)

## CAC Activities

**TWS Chapter actions supported a successful markup for Recovering America's Wildlife Act** – The [Southern California](#), [New Mexico](#), [Minnesota](#), and [Idaho](#) Chapters of The Wildlife Society all connected with their state's representatives in Congress in advance of a scheduled markup for the [Recovering America's Wildlife Act](#) (H.R. 2773) in the House Natural Resources Committee.

- The Southern California Chapter sent letters to [Representatives Lowenthal, Napolitano, Brownley, and Levin](#) thanking them for their support of the legislation, and to Representatives [Obernolte](#) and [Porter](#) urging their co-sponsorship of the legislation. *CAC Contact:* [Kiran Stacey](#)
- The New Mexico Chapter continued their correspondence with Representative Herrell's office following a [previous request](#) for the Representative's co-sponsorship. *CAC Contact:* [Brian Hanson](#)
- The Minnesota Chapter helped secure Representative McCollum's co-sponsorship of Recovering America's Wildlife Act with a [letter sent prior to the markup](#). *CAC Contact:* [Brian Hiller](#)
- The Idaho Chapter sent [correspondence](#) to Representative Simpson thanking him for his support of the legislation as an original cosponsor. They also sent requests for co-sponsorship to Representative Fulcher and to Senators Crapo and Risch. *CAC Contact:* [Michael Young](#)

**Western Section CACs plan activities at the Western Section's Annual Meeting** – The upcoming [Annual Meeting of the Western Section of The Wildlife Society](#) will include a number of opportunities for policy engagement.

- The Western Section CAC will meet during the annual meeting, and will also be hosting an outreach table where members can write letters to decision-makers. *CAC Contacts:* [Kelly Holland and Lisa Fields](#)

- The Nevada Chapter CAC is sponsoring a [lunchtime showing](#) of TWS' documentary [Horse Rich, Dirt Poor](#), which will be followed by a panel discussion including biologists and managers working in Nevada and the Great Basin. CAC Contact: [Jan Dudley](#)

**Other policy activities across chapter & section CACs** – CACs continue to make progress on regionally relevant policy items, including regional and national 30 x 30 initiatives, Chronic Wasting Disease and captive cervid management, and Endangered Species Act listing decisions. Look for reports on these activities in future newsletters.

## Federal Updates

**Martha Williams Nomination as Director of USFWS Advances** – The U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public works [advanced](#) Martha Williams' nomination as director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in a 16-4 vote on Jan. 12. Williams previously served as the director of the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, and has been the Principal Deputy Director of USFWS acting in the capacity of the director since Jan. 2021. A timeline has yet to be set for consideration by the full Senate, though Williams is expected to be confirmed with bipartisan support. Staff Contact: [Caroline Murphy](#)

**EPA Updates Policy on ESA Compliance** – The United States Environmental Protection Agency set a new policy last month regarding compliance with the U.S. [Endangered Species Act](#). Effective immediately, the agency will now assess the risks of active ingredient (AI) exposure on ESA-listed species and designated critical habitat, as well as formally consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service, before registering new pesticides for use. Staff Contact: [Caroline Murphy](#)

**Invasive Species Advisory Committee call for nominations** – The U.S. Department of the Interior has [announced](#) a call for nominations to the previously disbanded federal Invasive Species Advisory Committee. The federal advisory committee will provide input to the [National Invasive Species Council](#), a federal interagency body that coordinates Administration efforts to prevent, eradicate, and control the spread of invasive species. The Department is looking for representatives from non-federal government agencies, academia, research institutions, scientific societies, conservation and land management organizations, and education and outreach sectors. Nominations are due by Mar. 28. Staff Contact: [Caroline Murphy](#)

## Updates from Headquarters

**Call for Proposals Open for TWS' 29th Annual Conference** – TWS is now [accepting proposals](#) for symposia, workshops, and panel discussions for TWS' 29th annual conference in Spokane, Washington. TWS staff is currently exploring ideas for CAN member engagement and policy-oriented professional development opportunities at the conference. CAN members with thoughts on sessions to promote or assist in the work of the CAN are encouraged to submit proposals regarding policy issues.

## **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).