



The Wildlife Society's Conservation Affairs Network

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On the Horizon

Fiscal Year 2023 U.S. Federal Budget Details and TWS advocacy – This spring, the Biden Administration will be releasing their funding requests to Congress for Fiscal Year 2023, which begins in October. TWS members can check out TWS' [appropriations action center](#) in the coming weeks for updates on the Administration requests as well as TWS' positioning on FY 23 funding. FY 2022 funding discussions, which have remained unresolved by Congress since the fiscal year began last October, are expected to wrap up by March 11. *Staff Contact:* [Caroline Murphy](#)

CAC Activities

North Carolina Chapter takes action in support of the Migratory Bird Protection Act – The [North Carolina Chapter of The Wildlife Society](#) submitted [letters](#) requesting support for the Migratory Bird Protection Act of 2021 ([H.R. 4833](#)) to all 12 of the state's Representatives who are not currently [cosponsors](#) of the legislation. One member of the state's Congressional delegation, Representative Ross, is a current cosponsor. CACs interested in building support for the MBPA can visit [TWS' MBPA Action Center](#) for additional resources, including a [form letter](#) that can be used in congressional outreach. *CAC Contact:* [Rachael Urbanek](#)

TWS Western Section engages with California's 30x30 Initiative – The Western Section of The Wildlife Society submitted [comments](#) to the California Natural Resources Agency on the Draft Pathways to 30x30 Strategy released for public comment at the end of 2021. The Section's comments emphasized support for the state's participation in global efforts to conserve 30% of lands and waters by 2030. The comments also highlighted considerations for the final strategy including the importance of protecting biodiversity, climate change mitigation and resilience needs, means of achieving Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) in the conservation fields, and more. *CAC Contact:* [Kelly Holland and Lisa Fields](#)

Federal Updates

Martha Williams Confirmed as USFWS director – The U.S. Senate [confirmed](#) Martha Williams' nomination as director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on Feb. 17. Williams has led the USFWS as its principal duty director since January 2020 and was [nominated](#) as its director last October. Prior to her appointment, she served as director of the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, taught law as an assistant professor at the University of Montana, and served as the Department of the Interior's deputy solicitor for parks and wildlife under the Obama administration. *Staff Contact:* [Caroline Murphy](#)

DOI to Distribute Record Funding to State Wildlife Agencies – The U.S. Department of the Interior will [distribute](#) a record \$1.5 billion in Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration (WSFR) program funding to state wildlife agencies this fiscal year. WSFR funding is allocated to each state fish and wildlife agency using a formula that accounts for the respective state's land and water area and their hunting and fishing license sales. Once these funds are allocated, state agencies submit individual grant proposals for USFWS approval, with each proposal detailing how the WSFR money will be used for an agency's project. Federal funding covers up to 75% of state wildlife agency project costs, with each state supplementing the federal allotments with state hunting and fishing license revenues or funds from partner organizations. State-by-state listing of the Service's final distribution of WSFR program funds for fiscal year 2022 can be found on USFWS' [apportionment webpage](#). *Staff Contact:* [Caroline Murphy](#)

Gray wolf ESA listing reinstated – In a Feb. 10 [decision](#), U.S. District Judge Jeffrey White struck down the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's 2020 rule to delist the gray wolf (*Canis lupus*) from the Endangered Species Act in the contiguous U.S. The decision rested on the USFWS review of Great Lakes and Northern Rockies populations, which the agency used as an indicator of health for all wolf populations across the lower 48. White ruled that the Service did not adequately consider threats to wolves outside of these core populations. As a result of the decision, gray wolves are once again listed as threatened under the ESA, returning the canids to federal management in nearly the entire continental United States, excluding Montana and Idaho populations. *Staff Contact:* [Caroline Murphy](#)

TWS and coalition support BLM wild horse and burro removal – The Wildlife Society, along with the 33 other organizations in the American Wildlife Conservation Partners coalition, [sent a letter](#) of support for the Bureau of Land Management's increased use of gathers and fertility controls for wild horse and burro management. Currently there are an estimated 86,000 wild horses and burros on public rangelands; a population that exceeds BLM's ecologically-determined management levels by over 320 percent for the ecologically feral species. The coalition's [letter](#) to the BLM expresses support for the prioritization of significant and frequent horse and burro population reduction efforts amidst recent [challenges](#) to the [BLM's management plan](#) from animal rights groups. *Staff Contact:* [Caroline Murphy](#)

Updates from Headquarters

TWS co-hosts wildlife crisis briefing – The Wildlife Society, American Fisheries Society, National Wildlife Federation, and Native American Fish and Wildlife Society jointly [hosted](#) a congressional briefing on the Recovering America's Wildlife Act in mid-February. Moderated by TWS and AFS staff, the briefing informed legislators and staffers about the need for immediate action to tackle species decline through passage of the [Recovering America's Wildlife Act \(H.R. 2773, S. 2372\)](#). The Wildlife Society staff and partners will continue to work on increasing support, momentum, and co-sponsorship for the legislation in preparation for consideration by the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee this coming spring. Wildlife professionals are encouraged to visit TWS' Recovering America's Wildlife Act [action center](#) to learn more. View a [recording](#) of the briefing here. *Staff Contact:* [Caroline Murphy](#)

Approaching Deadline for TWS' 29th Annual Conference Proposals – The [proposal submission](#) deadline for symposia, workshops, and panel discussions for TWS' 29th annual conference in Spokane, Washington is **March 11th**. CAN members are encouraged to submit proposals regarding policy issues or policy-oriented professional development opportunities at the conference. Visit twsconference.org for details.

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.