



The Wildlife Society's Conservation Affairs Network

June 2022, Volume 8, Issue 6

Take Action!

June 7 Recovering America's Wildlife Act Call-In Day – TWS is working with our conservation partners to organize a congressional call-in drive in support of the [Recovering America's Wildlife Act \(H.R. 2773, S. 2372\)](#) on Tuesday, June 7. To participate **TWS members should call their House offices and urge them to vote yes on the legislation when it comes to the floor later this month.** Please consider sharing with your memberships the [event sign-up form](#) along with a [call-in script](#) and instructions for the event. TWS staff will be reaching out to those that sign-up to offer support and additional updates before the event. *Staff Contact:* [Kelly O'Connor](#)

Resources

New edition of the TWS CAN Policy Toolkit available now – The Wildlife Society's Government Affairs Program has released a revised edition of the Conservation Affairs Network Policy Toolkit [available now for download](#). The Toolkit has been a foundational resource for TWS' members, especially those engaged with the CAN, since it was introduced nearly a decade ago. The second edition of the Toolkit incorporates the expertise and experiences of members taking action on wildlife policy. More details on the new and revised content found in the Toolkit can be found in TWS' coverage of the release on [wildlife.org](#). *Staff Contact:* [Kelly O'Connor](#)

CAC Activities

Hawaii Chapter works with conservation partners to oppose tax check-off legislation that would contribute to spay and neuter funding for free-roaming cats – The [Hawaii Chapter of The Wildlife Society](#) engaged with partners including the Kauai Conservation Alliance, Conservation Council for Hawaii, the Toxoplasmosis and At-large Cat Technical Working Group (TACT), and Sierra Club Hawaii to urge their legislators to oppose [SB 2837](#). As written, the bill would have introduced a tax check-off option for taxpayers that would contribute funds towards spay, neuter, and release efforts for free-roaming cats in Hawaii. It would have also required the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources to conduct a survey of outdoor cats in the state, but did not provide a funding mechanism for that survey. Communications with legislators focused on the impacts of releasing spayed/neutered cats back onto the landscape. The bill ultimately failed in the conference committee. *CAC Contact:* [Patrick Chee](#)

TWS supports Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge in federal policymaking – Guided by TWS' [Native Peoples' Wildlife Management Working Group](#), The Wildlife Society recently provided [suggestions](#) on the inclusion and implementation of [Indigenous Traditional](#)

[Ecological Knowledge](#) in U.S. federal policy making. TWS' [comments](#) were in response to the U.S. Administration's [request for feedback](#) to inform the creation of federal guidance on the subject. The comments recommended the Administration recognize each tribes' unique body of knowledge and relationship with the federal government; avoid using the term "best available science" when soliciting broad public input of ecological and cultural significance; train federal employees on new federal guidance and implementation of existing agency guidance; and support tribal engagement with the [National Climate Assessment](#) development process. TWS also spoke to the need for funding to recruit the next generation of tribal wildlife professionals and Indigenous knowledge holders. *Staff Contact:* [Caroline Murphy](#)

Federal Updates

TWS continues to engage in the federal appropriations process – The Wildlife Society recently [requested](#) Congress provide robust funding in Fiscal Year 2023 for U.S. Department of Agriculture programs that support wildlife professionals and their work. TWS' written [testimony](#), which is in addition to [previous testimony](#) on other federal programs, emphasized key funding needs to support implementation of Farm Bill Conservation programs and public-private partnerships that have been effective in managing habitat on private lands. Congressional appropriations have [begun consideration](#) of FY 2023 funding levels, with the goal of having [appropriations bills](#) drafted and considered in Committee before the August recess. Members can check out TWS' [Action Center](#) for updates on House and Senate funding proposals as they become available. *Staff Contact:* [Caroline Murphy](#)

Newly introduced bill would expand migratory bird protections – The Migratory Birds of the Americas Conservation Enhancements Act ([S.4187](#)), [introduced](#) by Senators Ben Cardin (D-Md.) and Rob Portman (R-Ohio), aims to improve upon the migratory bird protection programs and funding established by the [Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act](#) (NMBCA). The bill proposes lowering the required cost-sharing for grant recipients from 3:1 to 2:1, making conservation programs more accessible to smaller organizations. The bill would also increase the amount of funding that can be provided to the program annually from \$6.5 million to more than \$20 million. This news comes as USFWS [announced](#) the distribution of \$21 million in NMBCA grants for 28 conservation projects in 18 countries across the Americas this year. *Staff Contact:* [Caroline Murphy](#)

Interior distributes \$56 million in State and Tribal Wildlife Grants – The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently [awarded \\$56 million](#) to states and territories through the [State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program](#) for Fiscal Year 2022 to help conserve imperiled species and their habitats. This announcement comes as TWS and partners have been reaching out to Congressional offices to stress the importance of funding State and Tribal Wildlife Grants in FY 2023. A recently circulated letter to Senate offices supporting program funding received sign-on from 46 members of the chamber. *Staff Contact:* [Caroline Murphy](#)

Updates from Headquarters

TWS will launch a public certification database – As part of The Wildlife Society's [collaboration](#) with [Bird Strike Committee USA](#) to expand TWS' Wildlife Biologist Certification Program's current opportunities, TWS will be launching a [public certification database](#). Current TWS members who hold designation as an Associate Wildlife Biologist®, Certified Wildlife Biologist®, and/or a Qualified Airport Wildlife Biologist will be able to opt-in to be included in the publicly accessible database. As a default setting, certified members will not be displayed in the database until they have granted TWS permission. More details on this process will be revealed in the coming months. *Staff Contact:* [Jamila Blake](#)

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.