



# The Wildlife Society's Conservation Affairs Network

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## On the Horizon

**Recovering America's Wildlife Act Action Expected After August Recess** - The Wildlife Society and partners are gearing up for Senate action on the [Recovering America's Wildlife Act](#) after the chamber reconvenes in September. **TWS units should [send a letter to their Senators now asking them to support and cosponsor the bill](#)**, and encourage their members to reach out directly to their Senators using constituent email portals provided on the Senators' websites. TWS will continue to distribute engagement resources to units that have high-priority Senate targets for cosponsorship requests. If your unit is interested in coordinating on a virtual visit with your Senate offices over the August recess, please let Kelly know. *Staff Contact:* [Kelly O'Connor](#)

## CAC Activities

**South Carolina Chapter and TWS Headquarters team up to advocate for the Recovering America's Wildlife Act** - TWS staff and the [Southeastern Section's](#) CAC Chair Lisa Lord - participating on behalf of the [South Carolina Chapter of The Wildlife Society](#) where she also serves as an Executive Board member - met with Senator Tim Scott's office in July to advocate for the importance of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act to South Carolina and to encourage the Senator to co-sponsor the legislation. Lisa used her experience as a wildlife professional to speak to the impacts the legislation will have on SC's wildlife, landowners, and economy. *CAC Contact:* [Lisa Lord](#)

## Federal Updates

**Sprawling Climate, Energy Legislation Introduced and Passed in the Senate** – A surprise deal between Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and Senate Energy and Natural Resources Chair Joe Manchin has revived the chances of Congress passing a legislative package to address the U.S. response to climate change. The bill ([H.R. 5378](#)) includes over \$21 billion for climate-smart agriculture practices and conservation technical assistance on private lands, funding for drafting and implementation of Endangered Species Act recovery plans, and funding for maintenance needs on National Wildlife Refuge System and State Wildlife Management Area lands. The bill passed the Senate over the weekend, and is expected to be considered and passed by the House this Friday, August 12. *Staff contact:* [Caroline Murphy](#)

**TWS Supports ESA Experimental Population Rule** – Informed by input from members, Chapters, and Working Groups, The Wildlife Society [provided comments](#) to the US Fish and Wildlife Service in support of a [proposed rule](#) modifying Section 10(j) of the Endangered Species Act, which regulates the designation and management of experimental populations. If

adopted, the proposed rule will remove language restricting the introduction of experimental populations to their known historical range. TWS supports allowing the Service greater flexibility in species recovery efforts in the face of climate change, invasive species, and loss of suitable habitats to human encroachment. Comments also included considerations around implementation and impacts to other elements of the ESA for the Service to evaluate prior to finalizing rulemaking. *Staff Contact:* [Caroline Murphy](#)

**TWS Supports FWS' Efforts to Phase-out Lead Ammunition and Fishing Tackle** - The Wildlife Society submitted [comments](#) to the US Fish and Wildlife Service in response to a [proposal](#) to open 19 National Wildlife Refuge System units to new and expanded hunting and fishing opportunities, while also restricting the use of lead fishing tackle and hunting ammunition. Comments focused on TWS' leading expertise in the impacts of lead on biological systems, and strongly encouraged the Service to advance outreach programs promoting the voluntary use of non-lead ammunition and fishing tackle as they seek to implement the rule. TWS also recommended that the Service support human dimensions research on stakeholder attitudes towards the use of lead and non-lead products, and that TWS' recently-revised [Lead in Hunting Ammunition and Fishing Tackle Position Statement](#) be used as a resource to guide these rulemaking efforts. *Staff Contact:* [Caroline Murphy](#)

**Senate Lays Out Appropriations Priorities** – The U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee have released the drafts of all [12 Senate appropriations bills](#). The Senate bills will not go through committee or chamber deliberation as they did in the House, but rather will serve as a tool in any year-end negotiations between the House and the Senate. The Senate bills [proposed](#) increases to several conservation programs of interest to wildlife professionals, including a \$3.7 million increase in funding for the USDA Wildlife Service's Wildlife Damage Management program and a \$4 million increase to the USGS Cooperative Research Units program. Funding discussions for FY 2023 are expected to extend past the beginning of the fiscal year in October, meaning at least a short-term continuation of the current year's funding levels. *Staff contact:* [Caroline Murphy](#)

## Updates from Headquarters

**New Intern to Join Government Affairs Team** – Madison Chudzik will be joining the TWS' government affairs team in late August as the Fall 2022 Joe Burns Memorial Wildlife Policy Intern. Madison recently graduated from the wildlife program at Colorado State University, and is currently concluding acoustic avian monitoring work at Grand Canyon National Park. Please join us in welcoming Madison to the team!

## 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).