



The Wildlife Society's Conservation Affairs Network

November 2022, Volume 8, Issue 11

Take Action!

Sign on to urge action for Recovering before the end of the year – The [Alliance for America's Fish and Wildlife](#) is seeking signatures from interested partners and organizations on a letter to Senate and House leadership asking for passage of the [Recovering America's Wildlife Act \(S. 2372/H.R. 2773\)](#) before the end of the year. Interested TWS units should sign on to the letter by **COB Tuesday, November 29th** using this [online form](#).

Social media tools in support of Recovering – While the Recovering America's Wildlife Act is awaiting Senate consideration, now is an important time to engage and build support. Check out the newly created social media toolkit and current resources to take action. TWS staff will be reaching out to CAN leads over the next couple of weeks with updates on the timing of a Senate vote.

- Voice your support on social media using the Recovering America's Wildlife newly revamped [social media guidance](#). Choose from a pre-made script or create your own informative post using the provided graphic design templates.
- Share the Alliance for America's Fish and Wildlife [action alert center](#) with members of your TWS organization unit and encourage them to use the tool to ask their Senators to pass the Recovering America's Wildlife Act.
- Tell members to call offices in their congressional delegation and share their support for the legislation using TWS' [phone call script](#). Call activity can be logged and shared with TWS using this [Google form](#).
- Encourage your unit's Senators to bring the legislation to the Senate floor using [TWS' letter template](#)

Staff contact: [Kelly O'Connor](#)

Engagement Opportunities

TWS 2023-2024 Policy Priorities – The TWS Council's Policy Priorities ad hoc Committee is seeking input to inform TWS' policy priorities for 2023-2024. CAC Chairs and TWS unit leaders are encouraged to work together to identify one or two key policy topics which TWS should engage with over the next two years. Suggestions for how to engage unit members to solicit feedback on priority policy issues can be found in [Chapter 2.3 of the CAN Policy Toolkit](#). Written feedback should be provided via [Google Form](#) or by emailing policy@wildlife.org by **November 28, 2022**.

TWS staff will also be hosting a virtual discussion session on 2023-2024 policy priorities on **November 18, 2022 from 12-1pm ET**. Staff will provide a brief overview of the process of identifying policy priorities at the start of the meeting, but the majority of this time will be available for participants to ask questions about this process and provide suggestions on policy priorities. Any members interested in participating can register for the event [here](#). *Staff contact:* [Kelly O'Connor](#)

CAC Activities

Updates from the Conservation Affairs Network annual meeting in Spokane – CAN participants and TWS members with an interest in policy engagement met during TWS' annual conference to share policy updates from across North America, learn more about TWS' federal policy engagement and practice identifying policy priorities for chapters and sections. Thank you to everyone who was able to join the meeting! You can access notes on updates provided by participating sections, chapters, and working groups [here](#). A copy of the handouts used during the group policy priority activity is also available for download [here](#); if you have any questions about adapting this resource for use with your CAC/unit membership please reach out to Kelly. *Staff contact:* [Kelly O'Connor](#)

North Dakota Chapter Wildlife Policy Webinar Series available online – The [North Dakota Chapter of the Wildlife Society](#) continues to host monthly webinars focused on the impacts of policy on wildlife and wildlife professionals. You can access the first two webinars in the series highlighting state political processes in North Dakota and federal political processes in the U.S. on the [NDCTWS website](#). *CAC contacts:* [Rachel Bush](#), [Sarah Hewitt](#), [Bob Newman](#)

Federal Updates

Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act Regulatory Updates Proposed – The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced [proposed rule changes](#) to the implementation of the [Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#). The amendments aim to increase participation in the permitting process to improve compliance and bald and golden eagle conservation. The proposal includes the creation of general permitting programs for four activities: wind energy projects, power line infrastructure, disturbance of breeding bald eagles, and bald eagle nest take. Under the proposal, each permit would be obtained through registering the applicable project with USFWS and certifying compliance with the permits conditions. TWS is currently reviewing the proposed rule, and welcomes input from TWS membership on its potential impacts to wildlifers and bald and golden eagle populations. Comments on the proposed rule are due to the Service by November 29. *Staff contact:* [Caroline Murphy](#)

TWS submits testimony on Wild Horse and Burro Management – The Wildlife Society recently [submitted](#) comments to the [National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board](#), which advises the U.S. Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture on federal wild horse and burro management. In the [written testimony](#), TWS stressed the importance of reducing free-roaming horses and burros on federal lands and encouraged the exploration of permanent fertility control alongside the continued use of gathers to decrease on-range populations on the ecologically

feral species. During the meeting, the Bureau of Land Management announced the permanent removal of a record 19,011 animals. Based upon testimonies received, the advisory board released a set of six [recommendations](#) at the conclusion of the meeting, including one encouraging the creation of measurable objectives outlining fertility control practices. *Staff contact: [Caroline Murphy](#)*

TWS Policy Program and USGS team up for special session – During TWS’ 2022 annual conference, TWS teamed up with the U.S. Geological Survey to host a session highlighting [USGS’ Ecosystems Mission Area](#) research tackling humanity’s biggest challenges such as climate change, wildlife and zoonotic disease, and the renewable energy transition. Other talking points highlighted the [Ecosystems Mission Area](#) expansion of cooperative research projects to include indigenous ecological knowledge and the exploration of at-risk species conservation and management tools USGS provides for state, tribal, and NGO stakeholders. The session wrapped up with an audience Q&A that allowed members to engage and learn more about the EMA. *Staff contact: [Caroline Murphy](#)*

Updates from Headquarters

TWS staff coordinate with TRCP staff on regional policy engagement – TWS staff recently met with staff from the [Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership](#) to promote the Conservation Affairs Network, and to highlight our participating CACs as a source of expertise in wildlife science and the impacts of policy on wildlife and conservation professionals. TRCP field staff voiced an interest in collaborating with CAC members to engage with local conservation policy in the future. Stay tuned for more information. *Staff contact: [Kelly O’Connor](#)*

CAC Activity and Contact Update

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.