



The Wildlife Society's Conservation Affairs Network

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Take Action!

Help bring **Recovering America's Wildlife Act** across the finish line – The [Recovering America's Wildlife Act](#) (S. 2372/H.R. 2773) is still awaiting consideration by the Senate. Now that the continuing resolution has passed in Congress (see details below), TWS and partners are targeting later in this session of Congress for Senate action. Your continued engagement with congressional offices helps to build crucial support for the legislation. Take action now using the resources below.

- Share the Alliance for America's Fish and Wildlife [action alert center](#) with members of your TWS organization unit and encourage them to use this tool to ask their Senators to advance and 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 activities can be logged and shared with TWS staff using this [Google form](#).
- Units can ask their Senators to bring the legislation to the Senate floor using TWS' [letter template](#).

If you have any questions about coordinating engagement with your Senate offices, please let Kelly know. *Staff Contact:* [Kelly O'Connor](#)

CAC Activities

North Dakota Chapter kicks off Policy & Wildlife lunch hour series – The North Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society hosted the first in a series of webinars focused on legislative processes at the state and federal level, and how policy impacts wildlife conservation. The series will continue through December. *CAC Contacts:* [Rachel Bush](#), [Sarah Hewitt](#)

Federal Updates

USFWS hunt-fish rule, including action on lead ammunition, finalized – The U.S Fish and Wildlife Service has [announced](#) the 2022-23 hunting and sport fishing regulations for National Wildlife Refuge System units. After taking public comments in June, the USFWS [final rule](#) largely aligned with the [original proposal](#), taking steps toward the regulation of lead on its lands. Pakota River National Wildlife Refuge will be the first site to phase-out lead ammo and tackle. A handful of others, including Rachel Carson, Eastern Neck, and Great Thicket NWRs are proposing to follow suit, with plans to solicit input in 2023-24. A full phase-out across all affected units will be implemented by fall 2026. Other changes include the opening of two refuges to hunting and fishing for the first time and expanding these opportunities at 16 other refuges. *Staff contact:* [Caroline Murphy](#)

TWS CEO appointed to Federal Advisory Council– TWS CEO Ed Arnett is [now](#) an alternate member of the [Hunting and Wildlife Conservation Council](#). Members of the Council will provide recommendations to the U.S. Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture on policies that aid in the conservation of wildlife while also enhancing hunting opportunities on federal lands. This iteration of the Council will also focus on assisting in the advancement of the [America the Beautiful](#) Initiative, working to increase efforts to conserve wildlife and public lands while connecting more people to them. Arnett will serve on the Council for a three-year term, alongside a variety of resource management stakeholders such as state and tribal agencies, the National Association of Conservation Districts, and the Mule Deer Foundation. *Staff contact:* [Caroline Murphy](#)

Appropriations update – Congress approved a continuing resolution bill that will allow for the federal government to stay open through mid-December. The bill sustains current funding levels for federal programs and also includes an increase in natural disaster relief providing \$18.8 billion towards current and future aid as well as over \$2 billion for communities hit by natural disasters in 2021-2022. Over \$20 million will also now be made available to the city of Jackson, Miss. for water projects. Although the passage of the funding measure avoids a government shutdown, Congress will once again be facing a deadline in mid-December to finalize fiscal year 2023 spending. *Staff contact:* [Caroline Murphy](#)

Updates from Headquarters

Make your plans for Spokane! - It's not too late to make plans to attend The Wildlife Society's [29th Annual Conference](#) taking place Nov. 6-10 in Spokane, Washington. Each year, the conference provides roughly 1,000 educational opportunities for attendees in the form of scientific symposia, workshops, trainings, poster sessions, panel discussions and more. The Conservation Affairs Network annual meeting will be taking place in-person during the conference, and we hope to see you there! *Staff contact:* [Kelly O'Connor](#)

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.