



# The Wildlife Society's Conservation Affairs Network

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*The Wildlife Society's Conservation Affairs Network supports communication, collaboration, and coordination on policy engagement across our organization and participating chapters, sections, and working groups. The monthly CAN Newsletter highlights policy issues occurring at local, regional, and national levels, and provides opportunities for wildlife professionals to engage with those issues.*

## Engagement Opportunities

**Help identify TWS policy priorities** – A [formal request for input](#) on TWS' upcoming policy priorities was sent to all CAC Chairs, Chapter and Section Presidents, and Working Group Chairs on October 8. TWS Council's Policy Priorities Committee seeks member feedback to help identify the most important issues facing wildlife and/or wildlife professionals for TWS to engage with in the coming years.

Please join us for a virtual discussion about TWS policy priorities on **November 14, 12 - 1 pm ET**. You can register for the discussion [here](#). Staff will provide an overview of the process of developing policy priorities and accept feedback on priority issues. You can also email [policy@wildlife.org](mailto:policy@wildlife.org) with questions and suggestions for policy priorities until November 18.

## On the Horizon

**Building relationships with new decision makers** – As of November 12, nearly 150 newly-elected members of Congress will be taking office in the new year. This means there are nearly 150 opportunities to begin developing relationships between new members and their constituents with expertise in wildlife conservation. TWS staff will begin reaching out to CACs in the coming months to assist with writing letters of introduction and facilitating meet and greets with congressional offices. If your TWS unit has target offices that you'd like support engaging with, please reach out for assistance. *Staff contact:* [Kelly O'Connor](#)

## CAC Activities

**Alaska Chapter reaffirms position on intensive management of big game in the state** – The Alaska Chapter of The Wildlife Society issued an updated version of its Position Statement on Intensive Management (IM) of Big Game in Alaska without changes to the original 2013 text, reaffirming the science, management implications, and associated recommendations outlined in the original statement. The statement establishes the Chapter's position that management of ungulates and predators in Alaska "should be based on objective decisions supported by science". The statement includes recommendations for management practices, legislation, and education to ensure that IM is effective and science-based. *CAC contact:* [Tim Fullman](#)

**Leadership opportunity in Section Conservation Affairs Committee – The Northwest Section** seeks a member interested in serving as Section Conservation Affairs Committee Chair. Section CAC Chairs communicate policy engagement activities and issues of interest from across the section's jurisdiction to the section's board, provide coordination and support to chapter CACs, and meet every other month with TWS staff and other section CAC Chairs to coordinate on regional and national policy issues. Please reach out to Kelly if you have any questions about this opportunity or are interested in serving as a Section Chair. *Staff contact:* [Kelly O'Connor](#)

*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 [koconnor@wildlife.org](mailto:koconnor@wildlife.org)*

## Federal Updates

**Looking forward following the 2024 U.S. election** – Progress in the policy arena is likely to be limited as we look towards the end of the 118th Congress and the transition to a new administration. TWS staff will continue to monitor for opportunities to engage and advance our society's existing and future policy priorities.

**Migratory Bird Protection Act introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives** – Representative Jared Huffman (D-CA) introduced the Migratory Bird Protection Act of 2024 ([H.R. 9971](#)) in mid-October in honor of World Migratory Bird Day. The legislation, which TWS has [supported](#) during previous sessions of Congress, would amend the [Migratory Bird Protection Act](#) to codify an incidental take permitting framework for migratory birds. TWS endorsed the legislation upon its introduction; CEO Ed Arnett [noted](#) the clear need for congressional action to protect migratory bird species given the loss of more than 3 billion birds from the U.S. in the past 50 years.

**TWS supports bipartisan package of conservation legislation** – The Wildlife Society joined with other American Wildlife Conservation Partners coalition members in a recent [set of letters](#) to congressional leadership. In the letters, TWS and other organizations called for the passage of several important pieces of legislation impacting wildlife conservation and land management before the close of this Congress. The package would include bills impacting public land access, enhancements to National Parks, fish and wildlife habitat management, wildlife migration corridors, and conservation partnerships between federal agencies and non-federal partners.

**BLM releases Final Environmental Impact Statement for Greater Sage-Grouse Rangewide Planning** – The Bureau of Land Management published its [Greater Sage-Grouse Rangewide Planning Proposed Resource Management Plan Amendment and Final Environmental Impact Statement](#) (RMPA/EIS). TWS joined with sections, chapters, and working groups to provide [comments](#) to the BLM on the draft RMPA/EIS earlier this year. TWS staff are assessing the final plan to determine how those comments were addressed.

Questions on any items covered in this month's Federal Updates can be sent to [Kelly O'Connor](mailto:Kelly.O'Connor@wildlife.org)



**Toolkit Tip of the Month**

Connect the public with your CAC's policy engagement by issuing a press release.

If you don't already have media contacts to send a press release to, connect with local partners who may have contacts or resources to leverage. You could also develop a joint press release.

Download the Conservation Affairs Network Policy Toolkit for more tips on effective policy engagement for wildlife professionals



## Updates from Headquarters

**Complete our conference survey** – Did you attend TWS' 31st annual meeting in Baltimore? We would love to hear about your conference experience. Please consider completing our [anonymous two-question survey](#).



*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 [policy@wildlife.org](mailto:policy@wildlife.org)*