



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.

Take Action

Show your support for USGS Co-Op Units – The USGS Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Program (CRU) plays a significant role in advancing applied scientific understanding and conservation efforts for fish and wildlife across the United States. In response to the recent loss of CRU staff and ongoing cuts to federal funding for the program, TWS has compiled resources for individuals and organization units interested in voicing support for the program. Access CRU support tools [here](#) and contact your members in Congress to tell them to support this critical program. *Staff contact:* [Kelly O'Connor](#)

CAC Activities

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

Federal Updates

What the DOGE is happening? – TWS Chief Program Officer Cameron Kovach offers his insight and expertise on impacts to the wildlife community resulting from executive orders issued in the first months of the new Trump administration in this [TWS web article](#).

Professional societies issue joint statement on the importance of federal employees and their critical work for conservation – The Wildlife Society, the American Fisheries Society, the Society of American Foresters, and the Society for Range Management [issued a joint statement](#) expressing deep concerns relating to recent cuts to the federal workforce and subsequent

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impacts on science, habitat management, restoration, and natural resource conservation in America.

CEQ issues Removal of National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Regulations – In response to Executive Order 14154 (Unleashing American Energy), the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) issued an [interim final rule and request for public comment](#) removing the existing implementing regulations for the [National Environmental Policy Act of 1969](#) (NEPA). The regulations slated to be rescinded guide how federal agencies assess environmental impacts under NEPA, including requirements around Environmental Assessments (EA) and Environmental Impact Statements (EIS).

TWS highlights the importance of wildlife professionals in letters to Secretaries Burgum and Rollins – The Wildlife Society recently sent letters to the new administration's Secretaries of [Interior](#) and [Agriculture](#) welcoming them to their posts, introducing TWS, and providing supporting language for our wildlife professionals that deliver science and conservation in the U.S.

Former director of Wyoming Game and Fish Department selected to lead US Fish and Wildlife Service – The Trump Administration has [selected](#) a former Wyoming Game and Fish Department director to be the director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Brian Nesvik was nominated to lead the Service after serving in the Wyoming agency for 29 years. Nesvik will undergo a Senate confirmation hearing for the new position.

Questions on any items covered in this month's Federal Updates can be sent to [Kelly O'Connor](#)



Tools and Resources

TWS Policy Brief: The Hatch Act and Policy Engagement for Federal Employees – Wildlife professionals can learn more about the Hatch Act and its implications for federal employees interested in policy engagement with this [new TWS Policy Brief](#).

Video tutorial: Call Your Members of Congress – TWS staff have produced this [video tutorial](#) for members interested in calling members of Congress and other elected officials. Your voice matters, and calls to offices are an easy and effective way to engage with decision-makers.

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Updates from Headquarters

Check out The Wildlife Society's job board – From grad assistantships to internships to seasonal and full-time positions, TWS' Job Board has you covered! Hiring? Add positions to find your next candidate. Visit careers.wildlife.org or reach out to advertising@wildlife.org with questions.

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