



Conservation Affairs Network Newsletter

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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.

Requests for Member Input

Proposed revisions to BLM grazing regulations – The BLM is [proposing to revise](#) regulations governing grazing and land health management on approximately 155 million acres of public lands. TWS staff are seeking input from members to inform our response to the rulemaking proposal. This feedback includes, but is not limited to:

- Ways in which the proposed changes would/would not impact the management of native wildlife and their habitats on public lands;
- Ways in which the proposed changes would support or diminish the role of conservation professionals on public lands;
- The extent to which the proposed changes allow for the incorporation of peer-reviewed science and public input in decision making;
- Whether the proposed monitoring and data-collection frameworks outlined in the proposal would provide wildlife professionals with sufficient information to manage wildlife and their habitats on public lands.

Members interested in providing input or learning more about the proposed rulemaking can contact policy@wildlife.org by **June 10, 2026**.

Impacts of Forest Service reorganization – TWS is seeking member input on the impacts of USFS closures on wildlife professionals and science programs across the country. We're especially interested in information on:

- Impacts to specific research stations and laboratory facilities, and the fate of ongoing and/or long-term research projects;
- Specific scientific or technical expertise based at the regional level that will be lost if staff relocate or leave the agency;
- Wildlife management, habitat restoration, and biodiversity-focused programming that will be minimized or stopped in favor of other administrative priorities.

Members interested in providing input or learning more about the proposed rulemaking can contact policy@wildlife.org at any time.

CAC and Working Group Activities

ACTWS Meets Virtually with Congressman Robert Aderholt – The Alabama Chapter of The Wildlife Society met virtually with Mr. George Plaster, Legislative Assistant to



Congressman Robert Aderholt, to discuss the benefits of the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program to Alabama's natural resources. The Alabama Aquatic Biodiversity Center is the most notable accomplishment completed through SWTG funding. The AABC is the nation's largest non-game recovery facility, restoring Alabama's rare freshwater mollusks and fish to improve water quality and reverse decades of species losses. Since its inception, it has reintroduced 41 mollusk species to our waterways. Chapter representatives requested the Congressman to support the highest possible funding level for the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program in FY27. ACTWS also sent a letter to each of the state's federal delegates requesting their support of the SWTG program. CAC contact: [Ray Metzler](#)

Activity updates, success stories, and contact information – Does your CAC or working group 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

TWS speaks up on the planned US Forest Service reorganization – TWS and other conservation partners warn Congress that the planned changes to the Forest Service could weaken the agency's scientific capacity, disrupt long-term ecological research and undermine science-based land management decisions. [Read the sign on letter.](#)

House passes 'skinny' Farm Bill – The U.S. House of Representatives passed the Farm, Food, and National Security Act with bipartisan support. The bill reauthorizes major conservation programs, including the Conservation Reserve Program, maintains wildlife funding requirements within the Environmental Quality Incentives Program and establishes a new Forest Conservation Easement Program. [Read more in our coverage online.](#)

TWS supports Migratory Bird Program – TWS alongside other conservation organizations, including Ducks Unlimited, National Audubon Society and National Wildlife Federation, urged Congress to provide strong Fiscal Year 2027 funding for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Migratory Bird Program and related bird conservation initiatives. [Read our letter online.](#)

TWS staff in DC to request support for proactive conservation funding – The Wildlife Society took on Capitol Hill, engaging with partners and policymakers to elevate the importance of proactive state and tribal conservation funding and wildlife crossings for both wildlife and communities. Staff met with congressional offices and participated in briefings focused on reinforcing the need for sustained, science-driven investment in conservation. [Find out more about the event.](#)

BLM repeals the Public Lands Rule – After months of debate and roughly 140,000 public comments, the Bureau of Land Management has officially rolled back a landmark rule that



elevated conservation alongside grazing, drilling and other uses of public lands. Officials eliminated the 2024 rule because it “threatened to restrict productive use of the public lands and introduced uncertainty and unnecessary burdens in planning and permitting.” [Read more in our coverage online.](#)

More migratory bird funding – The Department of Interior approved funding to help conserve or restore 190,457 acres of critical wetland and bird habitat. Some of this will go towards purchasing land for national wildlife refuges. [Learn more about the approved funding.](#)

BLM rules against bison grazing – The U.S. Bureau of Land Management has revoked grazing permits for American Prairie bison herds in Montana. The BLM argued the animals do not qualify as “domestic livestock” under the Taylor Grazing Act of 1934 because they are for ecological restoration rather than production, leaving bison grazing in question. [Read more in our coverage online.](#)

A bipartisan transportation bill boosts wildlife crossings – Wildlife crossings are poised for a major boost under a new [bipartisan transportation bill](#) that would extend and expand federal investment in projects designed to reduce wildlife–vehicle collisions across the country.

The Sporting Goods Excise Tax Modernization Act sign on letter – In a letter sent to the House Committee on Ways and Means, TWS and more than 40 organizations urged Congress to advance H.R. 1494, the Sporting Goods Excise Tax Modernization Act. They argued that it would protect a critical source of wildlife conservation funding in the United States from a tax loophole. [Read the sign on letter.](#)

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

Tools and Resources

TWS policy office hours – Join us to continue the conversation and highlight policy efforts across our organization units and working groups for the second session at **2:00 p.m. ET on June 15**. This is an informal, come-and-go space to ask questions, share topics, highlight policy work or simply listen in. Register [here](#).

Updates from Headquarters

Cast your vote! – The Wildlife Society’s Council election is open! This year’s ballot includes nominees for the positions of vice president, Central Mountains and Plains representative



and Northeast representative. Voting will be open through June 30. [Log in to your member portal](#) and navigate to the election tab to vote today.

Call for featured artists in Des Moines – This year’s conference plenary theme will be centered on “the role of the arts in conservation.” We look forward to spotlighting several artists in Des Moines this November. Please complete [this art submission form](#) by August 31 if you’re interested in being featured.