



The Wildlife Society's Conservation Affairs Network

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CAC Activities

Iowa Chapter Develops Position Statement on Bioenergy – Expansion of biofuel production can lead to unintentional harm to wildlife and wildlife habitats, including conversion of natural systems to support bioenergy crops and introduction of non-native and invasive species. The Iowa Chapter has developed a position statement outlining items for policy-makers to consider on this issue. In addition to outlining items that would reduce the risk of detriment to wildlife in both terrestrial and aquatic systems, the position statement discusses a need for continuing research and monitoring efforts. [Read more about the statement on TWS's website.](#) Iowa Chapter CAC Contact: [Matt Dollison](#)

North Central Section Addresses Wisconsin Budget Proposal – Governor Scott Walker's biennial budget for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources contains several notable proposals that would impact wildlife management within the state. The North Central Section wrote in support of the wildlife profession to Wisconsin state legislators to comment on the proposed changes to citizen oversight and jurisdiction in wildlife policy making, prohibitions on land acquisition, and the loss of research and science related staff within the DNR. [Read more about the issue and Section's letter on TWS's website.](#) North Central Section President Contact: [Mike Larson](#)

TWS Involvement in State & Tribal Wildlife Grant Lobbying –TWS Staff developed a draft template letter for Chapters and Sections to send to legislators requesting that they support the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program by signing onto a "Dear Colleague" letter and submitting programmatic requests to Appropriations Committees in House and Senate. The Southwest Section and Arkansas Chapter both submitted letters to Senators and Representatives. The TWS also issued an Action Alert for all members, which generated 540 messages, reaching 134 Representatives and 86 Senators. [Read more about TWS's involvement in SWG on our website.](#) Staff Contact: [Colleen Hartel](#)

Trends to Watch

Legislation to Amend the Endangered Species Act Introduced – After the House Natural Resources Committee released a [report](#) in December questioning the accountability of decisions related to listing endangered species, a number of legislative items related to the process of determinations and governance of species listed under the Endangered Species Act have been introduced. [S. 855](#), introduced by Senator Rand Paul (R-KY), would amend the ESA to require the consent of governors of states where a proposed species are present to make endangered or threatened determinations. Congresswoman Cynthia Lummis (R-WY) introduced [HR 1667](#), which would add language to the ESA, requiring scientific information used to make species determinations to be publically available on the internet. Legislation has also targeted individual species listings as well. [HR 1589](#), recently introduced by Congresswoman Kristi Noem (R-SD), would prohibit use of funds by the Secretary of the Interior to make a final determination for the

northern long-eared bat. TWS Staff are monitoring the progress of this legislation. Staff Contact: [Keith Norris](#)

Issue Spotlight

Management of Feral Horses on BLM Lands – Congress is currently in the process of reviewing federal agency budgets for Fiscal Year 2016; the Bureau of Land Management’s (BLM) budget proposes the removal of only 2,000 feral horses and burros from federal rangelands despite populations already exceeding appropriate management levels (AML) of 26,684 by over 25,000 animals. Horse and burro populations grow by ~20% each year, doubling every 4-5 years. Under the current management approach, we could have as many as 67,000 horses and burros degrading our nation’s rangelands and impacting the native wildlife by 2016. The National Horse and Burro Rangeland Management Coalition, chaired by TWS, submitted testimony to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies urging appropriators to direct the BLM to remove more horses to achieve AMLs. [Read more about the Coalition’s testimony on TWS’s website.](#) Staff Contact: [Keith Norris](#)

On the Horizon

Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board – April 22- 23 - Columbus, Ohio – The BLM has announced a meeting in Columbus, Ohio on the management of free-roaming horses and burros on public lands. In-person comments can be presented on April 22nd. Instructions for providing both written and in-person comments are included in the [Federal Register notice](#). TWS will be submitting written and oral testimony, and we encourage your chapter and/or section to also submit testimony based on TWS’s [Position Statement](#).

Toolbox

Captive Cervid Letter – As the captive cervid industry continues to expand, many states are facing legislative issues that may result captive deer oversight transferring from state nature resource and wildlife agencies to agricultural departments. The Government Affairs Team used TWS position statements and technical reviews on the [Public Trust Doctrine](#) and [ungulate confinement](#) to develop a draft letter Chapters can modify for state/provincial lawmakers considering legislation related to captive cervids. You can [download the letter as a Word document](#) and tailor it to fit your specific needs, or develop your own letter based on information in TWS’s related technical reviews and [Position Statement](#). Also view these [videos from the IndyStar](#) as another source of information on the subject. Staff Contact: [Keith Norris](#)

REQUEST FOR MATERIAL

The success of the Conservation Affairs Network and TWS’s policy program depends upon your involvement! Send us any relevant policy issue within your region or state that you need assistance addressing. If your CAC has successfully engaged in a policy issue, we want to hear about it! We want to hear your stories, issues, concerns, upcoming policy issues, and action items for inclusion in this bi-monthly newsletter and other Network communications.

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