



Endangered Species Act (ESA) Modernization

NACD supports local management of habitat and species, rather than a top-down approach. Legislation is needed to improve and modernize the ESA to reflect current scientific wildlife management principles. ESA recovery plans need to have local public involvement from the outset in order to provide clearly defined goals, objectives and alternative recovery options. Stakeholders have shown that through proactive, collaborative, voluntary, locally-led conservation practices, meaningful achievements can be made in species recovery.

NACD supports the proposed language by Chairman Barrasso (WY) in the 115th Congress to strengthen states' rights and states' input on species management throughout the listing and delisting process. The proposal supports locally-led conservation activities to mitigate the need to list species and provides states the opportunity to lead recovery planning and implementation programs.

Invasive Species Management

The USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) conducts management activities to mitigate damages caused by invasive species like feral swine. NACD encourages full funding both for APHIS Wildlife Services and the national feral swine control program. NACD supported the 2018 Farm Bill's inclusion of \$75 million to create the Feral Swine and Eradication and Control Pilot Project. NACD supports technical and financial assistance for trapping or other removal methods of feral swine and other invasive species.

NACD supports the use of native plant and seed species in recovery efforts and restoration projects and urges the Departments of Agriculture and Interior to develop and disseminate geographically-specific lists of "recommendations on what to plant and what not to plant" to help guide recovery and restoration efforts and to avoid using invasive species. NACD supports NRCS policies to allow for technical and financial assistance for trapping or other removal methods of feral swine and other invasive species.

Wild Horse and Burro Management

The Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971 as amended directs U.S. federal agencies to manage wild herds to "maintain a thriving natural ecological balance and multiple-use relationship" on herd management areas (HMAs). Bureau of Land Management (BLM) scientists have established appropriate management levels (AML) to achieve that balance. Unfortunately, current management efforts including limited gathers, fertility control via PZP, adoptions and sales have failed to control the ever-increasing horse and burro population, which continues to strain the natural resource capabilities of these lands beyond their carrying capacity, resulting in rangelands that in certain areas are already unrecoverable.

NACD urges Congress to support the removal of the Interior Appropriations language that prevents BLM from using all the tools to bring down the horse and burro population to AML provided under the Act and to oppose similar language being applied to the U.S. Forest Service.

Forest Management

The National Forest System (NFS) consists of 232 million acres. There is currently an over-abundance of natural resources on NFS lands. By comparison, private lands are often healthier and more productive than their neighboring federal lands.

NACD supports site appropriate silvicultural techniques and advanced, scientifically-proven forest management practices to promote the growth and maintenance of healthy, diverse forests, reducing their susceptibility to widespread insect or disease outbreaks, wildfire danger and soil erosion. Furthermore, NACD supports the use of additional cross-boundary authorizations and re-authorizations, such as Good Neighbor and Stewardship Contracting Authority, and other opportunities for work to be successful at a landscape scale.