



National Association of Conservation Districts

Wildlife Management Issue Paper

The health of wildlife in the United States is directly tied to the management and productivity of our working lands.

For many animal species, private lands managed by America's farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners comprise the majority of their native habitats. Producers and land managers across the country prioritize conservation and management practices that not only support their businesses and families, but also protect critical wildlife species and habitats.

Invasive and Disruptive Species:

Invasive and disruptive species threaten native wildlife, destroy ecosystems, and cause significant harm to local economies. Since 2010, invasive species are estimated to have caused more than \$26 billion in damages per year across North America. NACD supports practical, economically feasible, and science-based approaches to effectively manage invasive and disruptive species and urges Congress to provide:

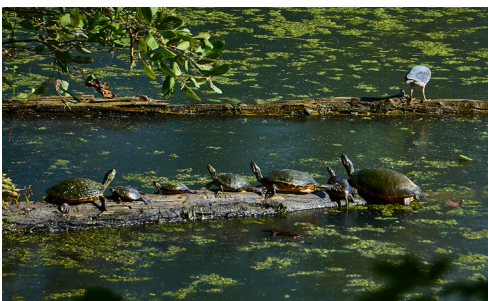
- Strong support for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to administer the National Feral Swine Damage Management Program.
- Strong funding for the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Wild Horse and Burro Program. Free-roaming horse and burro populations have more than doubled over the past decade and BLM needs support and the proper tools to effectively manage these disruptive herds.
- Support for BLM to use sound, scientific rangeland health practices to ensure the protection and preservation of critical wildlife habitats, while maintaining multiple land use.
- Increased technical and financial assistance for agencies to conduct trapping and other removal practices.
- Federal disaster relief for damages caused by invasive and disruptive species.
- Direction for federal agencies to coordinate with local partners to enhance information sharing and education supporting the identification, monitoring, and management of invasive species populations.
- Support for state government inspection and decontamination stations and rapid response abilities to prevent the movement of invasive species and control outbreaks.
- Support for federal agencies to develop and disseminate geographically specific planting recommendations for producers to guide restoration efforts and to avoid introducing invasive species.



Endangered Species:

NACD and conservation districts are committed to protecting threatened and endangered species and believe that voluntary, locally led restoration and conservation efforts are critical to successful species recovery. We urge Congress to:

- Ensure that Endangered Species Act (ESA) recovery plans incorporate local, public input from the outset and provide clearly defined goals, objectives, and alternative recovery options.
- Support legislation to improve and modernize the ESA to reflect current scientific wildlife management principles.
- Encourage the Department of the Interior to work with and consider input from state and local governments, including conservation districts, throughout ESA listing and delisting processes.



About NACD

The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) represents a nationwide network of 3,000 conservation districts, working with millions of landowners and farmers to manage and protect private and public working lands in the United States. Districts are local units of government that help put locally-led, voluntary, and incentive-based conservation programs into action.

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