



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 practices that not only support their businesses and families but also protect critical wildlife species and habitats.

Invasive and Noxious Species:

Invasive and noxious species threaten native wildlife, destroy ecosystems, and cause significant harm to local economies. Invasive species are estimated to cause approximately \$120 billion in damages per year across the United States. The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) supports practical, economically feasible, and science-based approaches to effectively manage invasive and noxious species and urges Congress to provide:

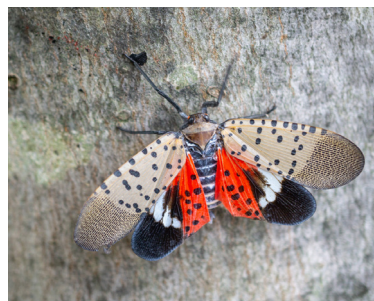
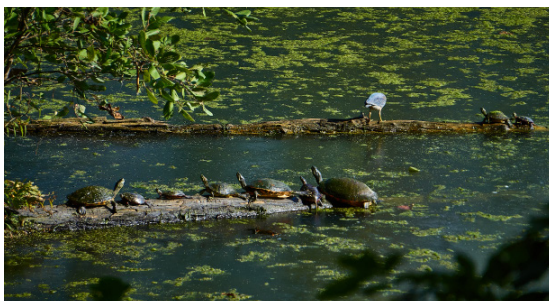
- Strong support for the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to administer the National Feral Swine Damage Management Program.
- Strong support for the Bureau of Land Management’s (BLM) Wild Horse and Burro Program. Free-roaming horse and burro populations have more than doubled in the past decade. BLM requires adequate funding and 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.
- Support for virtual fencing with regional and local flexibility.
- Increased technical and financial assistance for agencies to conduct trapping and other removal practices.
- Federal disaster relief for damages caused by invasive and noxious 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 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 and their state/territory associations, 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.

Contact

Chris Young, Director of Government Affairs
chris-young@nacdnet.org