



ASSOCIATION of
FISH & WILDLIFE
AGENCIES

LEGISLATIVE AND FEDERAL BUDGET COMMITTEE

Chair: Tim Schaeffer (PA FBC)

Vice-Chair: vacant

Thursday, March 8, 2017

1:00 – 3:00 PM

**84th North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference
Plaza Ballroom D / Sheraton Denver Downtown
Denver, CO**

DRAFT Agenda

- 1:00 pm Call to order, introductions, review agenda – Tim Schaeffer, chair
- 1:05 Passage of the Natural Resources Management Act (S. 47), highlights:
- Permanent reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund
 - Reauthorization of the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act at \$6.5 million per year through 2023
 - Reauthorization of the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program through 2023
 - Modified version of the Migratory Bird Framework and Hunting Opportunities for Veterans
 - Authorizing the transportation of archery equipment through National Park Service (NPS) Units.
 - Requiring Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) lands to be open for hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting unless specifically closed.
 - Directing the NPS, BLM, USFS, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to develop strategies for providing access to areas where hunting, fishing, target shooting, and other recreation are allowed but cannot be reasonably accessed by the public.
 - Requires a reporting requirement on lawsuits for which federal agencies reimburse legal fees and costs through citizen-suits through the Open Book on Equal Access to Justice provision.
 - Amends the Marine Turtle Conservation Act by adding freshwater turtles, tortoises and their habitats as a purpose of the Act.
- 1:25 Recovering America's Wildlife Act (HR 4647)–Jen Mock Schaeffer, AFWA
- Where we are, suggested changes, what you can do
- 1:40 Modernizing the Pittman-Robertson Funds for Tomorrow's Needs Act (HR 2591)–Jen Mock Schaeffer, AFWA

- Blue slips, where we are, what you can do

- 1:55 AFWA's FY2020 Congressional appropriations process and recommendations
–Jen Mock Schaeffer & Devin DeMario, AFWA & All
- Discuss with federal agency partners the appropriate timing to host AFWA's annual federal budget briefings
 - Discuss in-person and webinar formats to increase participation
 - Discuss plan for managing appropriations recommendations submission deadlines set by Congress vs. release(s) of the President's budget
 - Interior, Environment & Related Agencies deadline: March 15, 2019
 - Analyses of President's budget
 - Action: set dates for the federal budget briefings
- 2:15 Other legislative priorities this Congress
- Chronic Wasting Disease legislation – Abraham/Barrasso; Hyde-Smith; Kind/Tester
 - National Fish Habitat Conservation Through Partnerships Act
 - ACCESS Act (HR1326 by Rep. Mike Thompson)
 - HELP for Wildlife Act
 - Reauthorization of Wallop-Breaux in the Transportation bill
 - Transportation and Infrastructure legislation
 - Opportunities for fish and wildlife corridor conservation work
- 2:35 Wrap-up, next steps and actions for the Business Meeting
- 2:40 Full Committee Adjourns; Chair convenes a meet and greet/listening session with state agency members of the committee – Tim Schaeffer, Chair
- 3:00 Adjourn

Committee Charge:

- *Identify and evaluate bills and policy issues coming before the U.S. Congress having the potential for affecting the needs, interests, role and authority of the Association members.*
 - *Develop and recommend positions on such measures.*
 - *Develop recommendations on the budgets of the federal resource agencies.*
 - *Explore ways of working with Canada and Mexico on significant legislation.*
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