



NATIONAL DEER ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 162305 · Atlanta, Georgia 30321 · phone: 1-800-209-3337 · DEERASSOCIATION.com

NDA Branch Quarterly Policy Update – October - December, 2022

Organizational Update

Another year of deer policy and advocacy is in the books, and it turns out that the books are pretty thick. We engaged on an incredibly broad range of issues at all levels of government. These included county-level advocacy in New York state to the inclusion of conservation priorities in the recently-signed federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

While the changing of the calendar to a new year is certainly a time of reflection, we're looking forward to a busy legislative season in the opening months of 2022. State legislatures will begin (and in some cases, end) with fervor, and the 117th Congress will begin its second session having already identified priorities and challenges. Bipartisanship continues to remain when conservation issues are on the table, and we hope to leverage that support on three giant pieces of federal conservation legislation in 2022.

First, we'll be working tirelessly on the passage of the Chronic Wasting Disease Research and Management Act. Introduced in October 2021 by Reps. Ron Kind (D-WI) and Glenn 'GT' Thompson (R-PA), the Act will support management efforts and research to combat chronic wasting disease (CWD), which is a contagious, neurological disease affecting deer, elk and moose that is always fatal. Specifically, the bill authorizes \$70 million annually from Fiscal Year 2022 through Fiscal Year 2028 for research and management of CWD, with the money to be split evenly between research and management. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) will administer the funds through cooperative agreements. The NDA is proud to endorse the legislation, joining a strong group of conservation and industry organizations.

Second, we'll continue our efforts to gather support for and pass the North American Grasslands Conservation Act. Last fall, the NDA joined a coalition of ten of the nation's leading conservation organizations to unveil the largest grasslands legislative effort in history. Since 2007, more than 50 million acres of grasslands have vanished. Fighting to reverse the precipitous declines of iconic grassland birds (53%) and pollinators (80%), the North American Grasslands Conservation Act creates a clear vision for the future of fish & wildlife, public lands, agricultural & ranching communities, climate resiliency, and ecosystem health. The NDA serves as the sole big game representative of the founding coalition, and we're happy to take the lead on representing the deer and other big game species that rely so heavily on grassland and sage brush ecosystems.

Lastly, we're continuing the enormous effort to finally pass the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA). RAWA, which was introduced in the 116th Congress and again in the 117th, provides significant investments in proactive, on-the-ground conservation work led by states,

territories, and Tribal nations to support the long-term health of fish and wildlife habitat across America. Namely, RAWA provides \$1.3 billion annually for state fish and wildlife agencies to implement congressionally mandated State Wildlife Action Plans, which outline specific, science-based conservation actions necessary to recover and sustain healthy fish and wildlife populations. These plans include strategies to collectively conserve close to 12,000 fish, wildlife, and plant species identified as “at-risk.”

The NDA is dedicated to ensuring the future of wild deer, wildlife habitat and hunting. The continuance of the resource, the quality of our hunting experiences and the perpetuity of places to hunt, recreate and relax all rely on healthy wildlife and healthy, intact habitats and ecosystems. The investments in on-the-ground conservation work of the Chronic Wasting Disease Research and Management Act, the North American Grasslands Conservation Act and RAWA will ensure sufficient, sustainable funding for the continued management of our much-loved wildlife resources and their habitats.

While these federal priorities loom large, we’ll still be digging in at the grassroots level to affect change within state capitals and with state agencies. As always, let us know what you’re hearing with respect to state and local deer policy, and keep an eye out for our Action Alerts and other opportunities to engage throughout 2022.

By the Numbers (through end of Q3):

- 73 Action Alerts/Eblasts to date
 - About one every 4.5 days
 - 26 different states
- 44 pieces of state and federal legislation
 - 23 different states
 - Over 6000 form submissions
- 101 policy letters
 - Signed on 78
 - Authored 23
- 31 policy articles/features
 - CWD Roundup
 - Press releases and other activity updates

Current Projects & Initiatives

- North American Grasslands Conservation Act
 - Modeled after NAWCA
 - Would direct \$350 million in funding to restore and conserve grasslands and sagebrush by providing landowners with voluntary, flexible economic incentives and opportunities
 - NDA is one of 11 founding organizations

- [ActForGrasslands.Org](https://www.actforgrasslands.org)
 - NDA is leading an effort to put together a big game/grasslands highlight video through agency Digital Strategic Services
- Chronic Wasting Disease Research and Management Act
 - Reps. Kind (D-WI) and Thompson (R-PA)
 - NDA was initial stakeholder in helping to outline priorities for the legislation
 - Introduced in October, passed House on December 8
- Maryland Outdoor Access Bill
 - Making outdoors more accessible/inclusive, including expanded Sunday hunting
 - NDA was asked to be serve on a coalition to write legislative language and pitch the idea to lawmakers

Going Forward

- Federal initiatives
 - Recovering Americas Wildlife Act
 - Recent Senate hearing with testimony from our space
 - Expecting a House Natural Resources Committee hearing soon
 - Chronic Wasting Disease Research and Management Act
 - Take up of House version in the Senate or introduction of Senate companion bill
- Advocacy software
 - Have a custom-made suite being made by Strategic Digital Services
 - Much more user-friendly and powerful
 - Will integrate with our website and make metric tracking much easier
 - Should be ready to roll out in early 2022
- Budgeted for quarterly trips to DC, more in-person conferences and travel for 2022

Comments, Initiatives and Coalition Letters

Letter	Authored/Signed	Date Sent
<u>Public Lands Working Group Reconciliation Oil & Gas Sign-On Letter</u>	Signed	10.1.21
<u>Florida Wildlife Commission Deer Carcass Proposed Rules Comments</u>	Authored	10.5.21
<u>Support Letter for \$28 Billion for Ag Conservation Funding in the Build Back Better Act</u>	Signed	10.7.21
<u>Hunt Fish Mining Regulations Letter</u>	Signed	10.7.21
<u>Texas Proposed CWD Rules Comments</u>	Authored	10.12.21
<u>Hunt Fish 30x30 Coalition Recommendations</u>	Signed	10.13.21
<u>Cottonwood Fix Sign-On Letter</u>	Signed	10.20.21
<u>AWCP Support for Bering River Alaska LWCF Line Item</u>	Signed	10.21.21
<u>117th Senate Coalition Letter to Cosponsors of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act</u>	Signed	10.26.21
<u>AWCP Support for Martha Williams</u>	Signed	11.1.21
<u>AWCP Letter in Support of Laura Daniel-Davis Nomination</u>	Signed	11.1.21
<u>Sign-on Letter to Pennsylvania Senate - Commissioner Vacancies</u>	Signed	11.8.21
<u>Policy Council BLM Mitigation Follow-Up Letter</u>	Signed	11.9.21
<u>AWCP Request to Help Restore Hunting to Castle Mountains</u>	Signed	11.9.21
<u>Hook & Bullet letter to EPA - Clean Water Act process for Bristol Bay</u>	Signed	11.24.21
<u>TRCP Policy Council MBTA ANOPR Comments</u>	Signed	12.3.21
<u>AWCP Recovering America's Wildlife Senate sign-on letter</u>	Signed	12.6.21
<u>Critical Minerals Coalition Comments</u>	Signed	12.9.21
<u>Ontario Deer Season Proposal Comments</u>	Authored	12.23.21

Legislation and Resolutions

State	Legislation	Support/Oppose	Action Alert/Letter
Michigan	HB 5358, 5359 & 5960	Support	Submitted a card of support
Federal	HR 5608	Support	Action Alert: Important CWD Legislation Needs Your Support

Other Advocacy/Engagement Opportunities

State/Federal	Opportunity
Florida	Action Alert: Proposed Changes to Florida Carcass Labeling Rules
Iowa	Iowa State University Offering CWD Ambassadors Educational Program
Texas	Action Alert: Support Texas CWD Rule Proposals
Wisconsin	Wisconsin DNR Seeking Comments for CWD Plan Review Process
Federal	Action Alert: Protect the Boundary Waters from Future Mining
Federal	NDA Joins Coalition to Submit Recommendations Concerning the “America the Beautiful” Initiative
Federal	NDA Applauds Conservation Provisions in Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act