

SUPPORTING HUNTERS & ANGLERS

August 2017

THE SITUATION



Hunters and anglers are some of our most important conservationists. They support programs that benefit fish and wildlife populations as well as their habitats. Unfortunately, the concerns expressed by sportsmen and sportswomen are not being addressed by Congress.

HOW'D WE GET TO THIS POINT?

Since taking control of the House in 2011, the **GOP has failed to build consensus in Congress and the sporting community.** Instead Republicans have made it their mission to give away public land and have worked to advance a divisive, ideological agenda that does not help hunters and anglers or the wildlife and fish they depend upon.

WHY SHOULD AMERICANS CARE?

Programs to conserve fish, wildlife, and habitat create more and better outdoor opportunities for hunters, anglers, hikers, paddlers, and other outdoor enthusiasts. This makes American communities better places to live and drives the outdoor recreation economy.

WHAT'S THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT?

The GOP's push to give away our federal lands and waters **threatens to disrupt the ongoing landscape and ecosystem level conservation efforts and shrink opportunities for hunting and fishing on public lands.**

THE FACTS

~75% of U.S. public lands, including nearly all **Forest Service and BLM lands**, are open to hunting and fishing

More than **30 million** acres of habitat for waterfowl, fish, and wildlife important to hunters and anglers have been **conserved by the North American Wetlands Conservation Act**

WHAT'S CONGRESS DOING?

House and Senate negotiators are trying to resolve differences between competing bills, but if this fails it will be the third consecutive time a GOP-led Congress doesn't send a sportsmen's package to the president's desk.



Dems support **permanent reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)**, along with **renewal of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) and other laws that benefit hunters and anglers.** House Dems have offered legislation along these lines that has been ignored or rejected by the GOP.



The **GOP is fighting against sportsmen's priorities**, as well as important conservation measures to protect elephants, rhinos, and other wildlife. House Republicans have advanced legislation that would make wilderness areas and National Wildlife Refuges more vulnerable to environmental damage, give states veto power over conservation standards in National Parks, and block efforts to limit commercial trade in ivory.



Sporting and conservation groups, like the **National Wildlife Federation** and **Ducks Unlimited**, support Democratic efforts to advance LWCF, NAWCA and other programs.

HOW DO WE MOVE FORWARD?

Republicans need to stop insisting on poison pill provisions that will certainly draw a presidential veto, and instead work with Democrats and stakeholders to find common ground. Unfortunately, it appears that House Republicans will continue to hold hunters and anglers hostage to advance their narrow, anti-conservation agenda.