





Advocacy for Nature: Volunteers Can Educate and Advocate Too!

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Every good lawyer needs a disclaimer.....

	501(c)(3) <i>(Public Charities)</i>	501(c)(4), 501(c)(5), 501(c)(6) <i>(Political Orgs) Emily's List, NAACP</i>
Examples	 	 
Tax Treatment	Tax-exempt Tax-deductible contributions	Tax-exempt
Lobbying Activities	Limited	Unlimited
Electoral Activities	Cannot support or oppose candidates for public office	Secondary activity Follow federal & state election law



Advocacy for 501(c)(3)s



DIRECT

Communication

Legislator

Expresses a view
about specific
legislation

GRASSROOTS

Communication

General public

Expresses a view
about specific
legislation

Call to action



legislator
expresses a view about specific
legislation

GRASSROOTS LOBBYING
communication

general public
expresses a view about specific
legislation
call to action



DIRECT LOBBYING

Communication

Legislator

Expresses a view about
specific legislation



Federal legislators and staff



State Legislators and staff



County Commission,
Town Board of
Supervisors, City
Council and staff

Ballot Initiatives—The Public is the Legislator

DIRECT LOBBYING

Communication

Legislator/Legislative Function

Expresses a view about
specific legislation

**Op-Ed: Voting in favor of the 'flood bond' is a step in the
right direction**



**For ballot measure
advocacy,
the general public**

Not legislators*

- School board
- Zoning boards
- Housing authorities
- Sewer and water districts
- Other “special purpose bodies” with limited authority

Still cannot support their candidacy (no support or opposition for someone running for an elected office), but these are not legislators under federal law for lobbying purposes. Could be under state law for disclosure rules.



Calls to action

DIRECT

Communication

Legislator

Expresses a view
about specific
legislation

GRASSROOTS

Communication

General public

Expresses a view
about specific
legislation

Call to action

ASKING TO CONTACT
legislators

PROVIDING ADDRESS,
telephone number, and/or other contact
information of legislators

PROVIDING MECHANISM
to enable communication
with legislators

IDENTIFYING
legislators



25

of 45



100%



Mechanism:

Recovering America's Wildlife Act: A 21st Century Model of Wildlife Conservation Funding

State and tribal wildlife agency professionals and their partners work tirelessly on the conservation and management of wildlife populations for the benefit of the American public. A bill that will match this ethic with adequate financial support is in line for movement this Congress.

The **Recovering America's Wildlife Act (H.R. 2773; S. 2372)**, introduced by Representatives Debbie Dingell (D-Michigan) and Jeff Fortenberry (R-Nebraska) in the U.S. House and Senators Martin Heinrich (D-New Mexico) and Roy Blunt (R-Missouri) in the U.S. Senate, will bring much-needed resources to wildlife professionals tasked with conserving the diversity of America's native species. These resources will fund multi-stakeholder efforts to conserve and monitor these at-risk species, known in states as Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN), in order to work toward reversing population declines.

The previous version of this legislation introduced in the 116th Congress saw over 180 bipartisan House cosponsors. With your help, we can build up additional support to foster movement of this game-changing legislation.

What's at stake

Since 2000, state and tribal wildlife agencies have pulled from a much smaller funding stream known as the **State and Tribal Wildlife Grants** program. This program is vulnerable to the whims of congressional appropriators, and is typically only funded at about \$60-\$70 million annually. Such limited funding only provides state agencies the ability to address a few of the SGCN projects deemed necessary within their conservation action blueprints, known as State Wildlife Action Plans. This problem is amplified in tribal agencies, where no federal fund exists that agencies can utilize annually for long-term conservation

Take Action Now!

Complete this form and click "next" to view customizable messages to engage with your members of Congress in support of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act. You will have the opportunity to edit email content prior to sending. TWS will not use your personal information for anything other than confirming constituency.





501(c)(3)s CAN ENGAGE
IN EDUCATION and
ADVOCACY DURING
ELECTION SEASON

Advocacy During an Election Season is All This (and more....)

- Lobbying!
- Voter registration
- Voter education/issue education (public education)
- Voter mobilization (GOTV)
- Criticizing incumbents/elected officials
- Candidate questionnaires
- Town Halls
- Online events





501(c)(3)s:

Cannot support or
oppose any
candidate for
public office

Remember which hat you have on and when.

Don't use your organization resources (staff time, email, copier, etc.).

Distinguish yourself as an organization representative and you as an individual.

Use disclaimers as appropriate:

"Organization name for identification purposes only."

"I'm not representing my 501(c)(3) right now. I'm at this event as a private

Individual Partisan Political Activity

