

## **TURNING THE FARM BILL INTO AN ATTACK ON WILDLIFE AND BEDROCK PROTECTIONS**

Passed: 213-211

### **SUMMARY:**

The House passed a Farm Bill that included attacks on Endangered Species Act (ESA) consultations for potentially lethal pesticides, sweeping and dangerous rollbacks of national forest protections and cuts to conservation programs. (*June 21, 2018, Roll Call No. 284*)

### **BACKGROUND:**

The House Farm Bill represented one of the greatest threats to wildlife and the environment in the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress. It was replete with provisions that undermine bedrock environmental laws, including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), ESA, and Roadless Area Conservation Rule (Roadless Rule) as well as vital conservation farm programs. These provisions would have harmed wildlife on both public and private lands across the country for decades to come.

Among other things, the bill would have allowed logging and grazing projects up to 10 square miles in size without standard environmental review or disclosure of potential harms. It could have caused irreparable harm to our federal forests, which are home to iconic animals such as grizzly bear, wolf, mountain lion, bighorn sheep, and wolverine as well as to over 400 threatened or endangered species, including one-third of the nation's listed bird species and two-thirds of our imperiled fish.

The bill also targeted the ESA. Wild pollinators like bees, bats and butterflies play a critical role in supporting agriculture, but instead of protecting them, the House Farm Bill included a poisoned pollinator provision which allows toxic pesticides to be approved for use without consultation by the endangered species experts at Fish and Wildlife Service.

In addition, H.R. 2 included an 800million dollar cut to conservation programs on farm land. As private land makes up two-thirds of our country, engaging private landowners to participate in conservation is vital to wildlife survival. These programs improve water quality and soil health, reduce erosion, and conserve wildlife habitat.

### **OUTCOME:**

On June 21, 2018, the House passed Agriculture and Nutrition Act of 2018 (H.R. 2), 213-211. "No" was the pro-conservation vote. The Senate passed a Farm Bill without anti-environmental riders and the final bill signed into law (P.L. 115-334) was free of the anti-wildlife House bill revisions.