

Background: Anti-Wildlife Riders in Fiscal Year 2018 Spending Bill

The Ask: “Oppose any policy riders that would weaken the Endangered Species Act or weaken protections for endangered and threatened species in the FY18 spending bill.”

Anti-wildlife members of Congress are once again using a “must-past” federal funding bill to wage war on the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the threatened and endangered species that depend on the ESA for survival.

The current House and Senate FY18 Department of Interior Appropriation bills include numerous riders that would put short-term political gains over sound science, devastate wolves and sage grouse, and make it harder for citizens to hold the government accountable. Politicizing wildlife protections undermines the very foundation of the ESA and jeopardizes the future of every species it protects. **Tell Congress: these damaging riders have no place in a bill to fund the government!**

Call 888-813-5246 to be connected with your representatives in Congress.

Additional background and talking points:

Senate Interior Appropriations “chairmen’s mark”

- Block federal protections for wolves in Wyoming, Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin and prohibit judicial review of those decisions
- Encourage the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to end the red wolf recovery program in NC declare the red wolf extinct
- Block Endangered Species Act protections for the imperiled sage grouse
- Block Endangered Species Act protections for the lesser prairie chicken

House Interior, Environment and Related Agencies appropriations bill (H.R. 3354)

- Block federal protections for wolves in Wyoming, Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin and prohibit judicial review of those decisions
- Block Endangered Species Act protections for the imperiled sage grouse
- Block Endangered Species Act protections for the Preble’s meadow jumping mouse
- End federal protections for every single species that the FWS has failed to complete a timely five-year status review. That’s more than 900 species – or roughly 54% – that would lose their protections under the Endangered Species Act!

Talking Points for Call:

- The Endangered Species Act is the last line of defense for America’s endangered species.
- It is our most effective tool for saving at-risk species, and has saved 99% of listed species from extinction.
- Scientists – not Congress – should be making decisions about which species need protection.
- I urge Sen. ___/ Rep. ___ to oppose all policy “riders” in the FY18 spending bill that weaken protections under the Endangered Species Act or block protections for endangered and threatened species.