



PFSC E-News August 13, 2021

[Celebrating the Great American Outdoors Act's First Anniversary](#)

Last week marked the first anniversary of the signing of the Great American Outdoors Act, and the designation of August 4th as Great American Outdoors Day. The law, which passed with strong bipartisan support, makes unprecedented investments in national parks, public lands and American Indian schools.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

PFSC Fall General Session/Board Meeting

September 11, 2021

Mechanicsburg Sportsmen's
Association

Enola, PA

[Download Registration
Form](#)

In the news:

PFSC Bylaws Proposed Amendments

The PFSC Board of Directors gave preliminary approval to the proposed amendments to the bylaws. The proposed changes can be viewed in the Summer Lantern and on the website. [Forms / Resources | Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen and Conservationists \(pfsc.org\)](#)

If you wish to comment on the proposals, send your comments to info@pfsc.org and the comments will be shared with the board of directors. The board will review and vote on the proposed changes during the fall meeting, September 11, 2021.

"Hunting as a means of harvesting high-quality local protein is a message that resonates."

Not only does that message resonate, it has impressive numbers behind it. Based on recent studies, the vast majority of Americans — 75 percent or more — approve of food as a motivation for hunting. The number is considerably lower when hunters are motivated by sport or securing a trophy animal.

This link to food opens the door to a whole new group of hunters: those looking to harvest their own protein close to home and in an ethical way. That hunting dollars fund the lion's share of conservation efforts makes hunting a value-added proposition to these newbies.

WHAT'S OLD IS NEW AGAIN

It's heartening to see that, going forward, securing food and helping to manage land are two ideas that resonate with new hunters and the general public. Just as wildlife must explore new habitats to survive, it's essential for the hunting community to adapt and expand its reach continually.

Interestingly, it could also be argued that food and conservation are also two of the oldest reasons for hunting.

Mentored Hunting Expansion

With the additional opportunities recently approved by the PGC Board of Commissioners, mentored hunters are now able to hunt rabbits, hares, ruffed grouse, mourning doves, bobwhite quail, pheasants, crows, squirrels, porcupines, woodchucks, coyotes, deer, waterfowl, bears and wild turkeys in the coming seasons.



LEGISLATIVE NEWS:

Pennsylvania's General Assembly is still on their summer recess, but we still see the introduction of a few new bills.

The Senate is scheduled to reconvene on September 20 and the House on September 27.

[View PFSC Tracked Legislation](#)

Updated 7/4/2021

PFSC Website Files Password:

PFSC2021

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New Legislation:

HB 1751 By Kirkland. Amends Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses), in firearms and other dangerous articles, requiring identification for the purchase of firearm ammunition.

SB 816 By Kane. The Do-Not-Sell Firearms Registry Act establishes a voluntary online registry to be maintained by the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) which includes personal information of people who are not to be in possession of a firearm. Further provides for registration. Provides that no licensed firearm importer, manufacturer or dealer, or individual dealing in firearms required to perform a background check shall sell or deliver a firearm to a registrant and that a violation shall be a fine up to \$10,000 and no more than one year in prison. Provides for removal from registry. Provides that it is unlawful for an individual or entity to inquire as to whether someone is registered on the registry for any purpose other than firearm eligibility and provides that a violation is a civil fine up to \$10,000. Provides that discrimination of a person who is registered on the registry is unlawful and punishable by a civil fine up to \$10,000. Provides for unlawful disclosure, false information and confidentiality. Provides advertising requirements on the Department of Health.

HB 1786 By Kinsey. Amends Title 18 (Crimes & Offenses), in firearms and other dangerous articles, providing for encoded ammunition, imposing duties on manufacturers, sellers and owners of ammunition, and providing for the powers and duties of the commissioner of the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) A manufacturer shall encode ammunition provided for retail sale for regulated firearms in a manner that the commissioner establishes. Further provides for encoding ammunition and labeling per box. Requires PSP to maintain information via an encoded ammunition database and further provides for the duty of the manufacturer to provide PSP with information regarding ammunition. Further provides for the duty of a seller to disseminate information regarding ammunition purchases to PSP. Imposes a tax of five cents per round of ammunition at retail sale or use of encoded ammunition. Provides a credit of a half percent tax on the gross amount of tax imposed. Provides for the duties of the secretary of revenue. Provides for the Encoded Ammunition Database Fund and duties of the purchaser and seller.

Committee News:

[Senate Environmental Committee Meets Aug. 18 To Vote On Letter Disapproving Final Carbon Pollution Reduction Reg. Covering Power Plants \[RGGI\]](#)

Upcoming Legislative Meetings/Hearings:

TUESDAY - 8/17/21

House Environmental Resources and Energy

11:00 a.m., Room G-50, Irvis Office Building

Public hearing on environmental and economic benefits of pipelines

Federal Legislation:

U.S. Senate Delivers Historic Commitments to Sportsmen and Women in Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill

August 10, 2021 (WASHINGTON, D.C.) – Minutes ago, the U.S. Senate passed a strongly supported bipartisan bill known as the [Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act](#) to fund our nation's surface and water infrastructure systems. This bill includes historic investments in natural infrastructure to enhance conservation and to increase hunting, fishing, trapping, and recreational shooting opportunities for America's sportsmen and women.

Since infrastructure conversations in Congress began well over a year ago, the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation (CSF) has been advocating for the inclusion of investments into conservation and sporting-access programs as part of any infrastructure bill. In May, CSF held a [policy briefing](#) for Members of Congress and their staff to hear directly from the sporting-conservation community about our priorities for future infrastructure packages. Following the briefing, CSF orchestrated a letter that was sent to leaders in both the House and Senate that outlined our community priorities, many of which are contained in this bill including:

- **Reauthorizing the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund:** This investment will ensure that more than \$650 million annually (\$743 million last year) is provided to state fish and wildlife agencies for local fish habitat conservation as well as boating and fishing access through excise taxes generated by anglers and boaters.
- **Establishing an innovative grant program to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions and to enhance habitat connectivity:** This provision will authorize \$350 million over 5 years to help reduce the estimated one to two million annual wildlife-vehicle collisions. In addition to increasing human safety on the road, this legislation will help restore habitat connectivity for the species most cherished by sportsmen and women.
- **Authorizing efforts to restore aquatic organism habitat connectivity:** This bill recognizes the importance of improving and restoring aquatic organism passage by modernizing culverts. As such, this bill authorizes \$4 billion for a competitive grant program to replace, remove, and repair culverts to restore fish passage.
- **Providing increased financial resources to restore our national forests:** By including the Repairing Existing Public Land by Adding Necessary Trees (REPLANT) Act, this bill will help the U.S. Forest Service reduce their 1.3 million acres planting backlog by removing the antiquated cap on the Reforestation Trust Fund.
- **Increasing access to federal lands:** The Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act authorizes over \$2.1 billion over 5 years to improve infrastructure that is owned and maintained by the National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Army Corps of Engineers.

"Our nation's transportation and infrastructure systems are vital to the conservation of our nation's fish and wildlife and access for sportsmen and women," said CSF President and CEO Jeff Crane. "We applaud the Senate for recognizing and supporting our nation's fish, wildlife, and sportsmen and women by including robust investments in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act."

[H.R. 4992: To amend title 18, United States Code, to increase the age at which a rifle or shotgun may be acquired from a federally licensed firearms dealer, and for other purposes.](#)

Sponsor: [Rep. Theodore "Ted" Deutch \[D-FL22\]](#)

News Clips:

CWD:

[Wildlife Feeding Ban Proposed in Allegheny National Forest](#)

A temporary animal-feeding ban is being proposed for the Allegheny National Forest after a captive deer tested positive for [chronic wasting disease](#) (CWD) in nearby Warren County.

Firearms:

Overall Status of 2nd Amendment Legislation Filed to Date in PA and the US:

2021-2022 Session PA State Bills

- Pro-Gun Bills: 25
- Anti-Gun Bills: 60
- Unrated (*Watching*): 11
- Legislative (gun-related) Memos: 118

2021-2022 Session Federal Bills

- Pro-Gun Bills: 42
- Anti-Gun Bills: 89

Unrated (*Watching*): 34

[August: National Shooting Sports Month](#)

America's millions of first-time firearm owners will find National Shooting Sports Month in August a great time to enjoy using their new firearms, whether in a training course, competition or simply having fun shooting targets with friends. NSSF estimates 8.4 million people purchased their first firearm last year, with many of them being non-traditional buyers.

[Firearm Industry Surpasses \\$14 Billion in Pittman-Robertson Excise Tax Contributions for Conservation](#)

NSSF marked a milestone achievement when firearm and ammunition manufacturers topped \$14.1 billion in contributions to the Wildlife Restoration Trust Fund since its inception in 1937.

[Six Olympic Medals for USA Shooting, Best Performance Since 1964](#)

USA Shooting earned a grand total of six medals at the 2020 Summer Olympic Games in Tokyo, Japan, making this their best performance at the Games since the 1964 Tokyo Olympics.

USA Shooting athletes won three gold medals in Men's Air Rifle (William Shaner), Women's Skeet (Amber English), and Men's Skeet (Vincent Hancock), two silvers in Mixed Team Air Rifle (Mary Tucker, Lucas Kozeniesky) and Women's Trap (Kayle Browning), and one bronze in Mixed Team Trap (Maddy Bernau, Brian Burrows).

[NSSF Responds to Mexico's Civil Lawsuit Against U.S. Firearm Manufacturers](#)

NEWTOWN, CT— NSSF, the firearm industry trade association, rejects Mexico's allegations that U.S. firearm manufacturers participated in negligent business practices. All firearms sold at retail within the United States are sold in accordance with federal and state laws, with an FBI background check and forms completed. Allegations of wholesale cross-border gun trafficking are patently and demonstrably false

Misc:

A new study shows the Keystone State is one of the lowest performers in terms of how much outdoor recreation contributes to the state's economy, [the Pennsylvania Capital-Star reports](#).

PARK IT: [Pennsylvania has a new, 25-year plan for promoting and maintaining more than 100 parks](#) in the state park system, per ABC27.

[PA Environmental Defense Foundation Files Petition In Court To Order Commonwealth To Return \\$1.3 Billion In Revenue From State Forest Drilling Unconstitutionally Transferred From Oil & Gas Lease Fund](#)

Following a recent court ruling, a state environmental group is hoping to get \$1 billion returned to a fund dedicated to conservation efforts, [StateImpact Pennsylvania reports](#).

[Poll Finds Support for Holding Natural-Gas Industry Accountable in PA](#)

The Future of Conservation Funding: [Who Pays? Not me!](#)

Results from a significant study of undergraduate students at public universities regarding the future for wildlife showed the students were supportive of conservation funding in general. But the findings, published in *Conservation Science and Practice*, also force another realization: they're all for eight of nine strategies for funding, including industry contributions, state-level funding sources, revenue from oil and gas companies, using revenue from outdoor recreation outfitters, state lottery proceeds (77%), a state sales tax (71%), even state and local bonds (72%), in addition to hunting and fishing license fees (83%). They also liked the idea of an excise tax on hunting and fishing equipment (61%).

But the area where they balked at paying for conservation cuts to the heart of the ongoing debate of "traditional" versus "non-traditional" outdoors participants.

A majority of students surveyed opposed the idea of excise taxes on outdoor recreation equipment like backpacks, tents or binoculars. The equipment *they're most likely to use*.

PGC News:

[GAME COMMISSION LIFTS RECOMMENDATION TO CEASE FEEDING BIRDS](#)

08/13/2021

[DEER HUNTERS ADVISED TO TAKE ROUTINE PRECAUTIONS](#)

08/13/2021

[ELK CAM GOES LIVE](#)

08/12/2021

[GAME COMMISSION TO LAUNCH LEARN TO HUNT WEBINARS](#)

08/11/2021

[PUBLIC CAN COMMENT ON PROPOSED STATUS UPGRADE](#)

08/05/2021

[PUBLIC CAN COMMENT ON GOSHAWK PROPOSAL](#)

08/05/2021

PFBC News:

[ACCESS TO MEADOW GROUNDS LAKE TO BE IMPACTED BY CONSTRUCTION PROJECT](#)

08/13/2021