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To: "dwbernhardt@ios.doi.gov" dwbernhardt@ios.doi.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] WCF'S December Newsletter - NFR Winter Policy Trip, New Chair, plus more...
Date: Fri, 18 Dec 2020 20:17:42 +0000

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2020 December Newsletter

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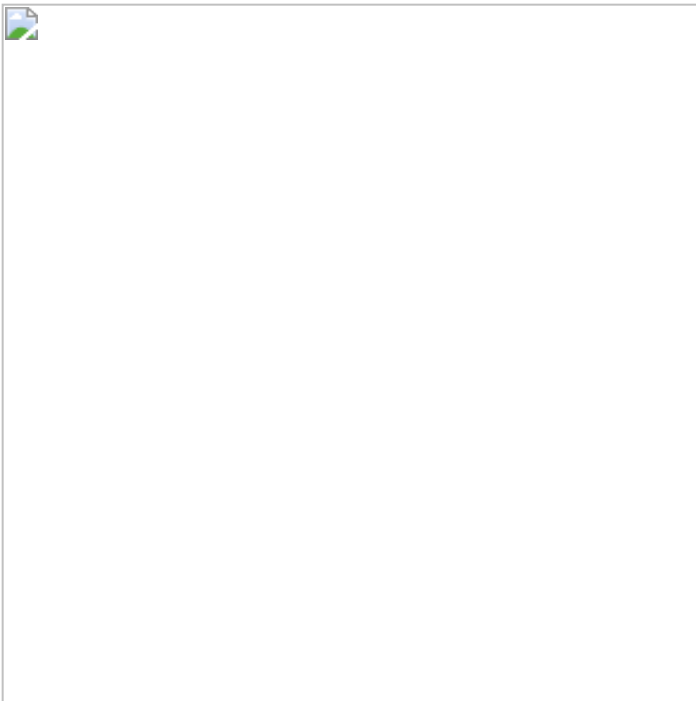
- Winter Western Policy Roundtable & Field Tours
- ICYMI: New Congressional Western Caucus Chairman
- Western Caucus Members in Key Leadership Roles
- News & Updates

Read on to find out what we've been up to...

Winter Western Policy Roundtable & Field Tour:

In early December, WCF headed down to Ft. Worth, Texas, for the Nationals Finals Rodeo and our annual Western Winter policy roundtable and field tour. Our field tours included a demolition demonstration at a local aggregates quarry, and a facility tour of a natural oil and gas well.

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Our policy roundtable included keynote speakers DOI Secretary David Bernhardt, and USFWS Director Aurelia Skipwith, as we discussed our accomplishments in this congress, and our priorities as we face a new administration.

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With additional safety and caution, we were so glad to be able to return to our favorite winter event. Thank you to all of our attendees!

If you weren't able to watch the roundtable, you can find it here: <https://www.facebook.com/westerncaucusfoundation>

[You can find a full recap of our trip here.](#)

ICYMI: New Congressional Western Caucus Chairman

The Western Caucus Foundation congratulates the newest Congressional Western Caucus Chairman: **Representative Dan Newhouse** from Washington's 4th district!

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Rep. Newhouse has been a valued leader and advocate for the West. Having truly worked the land as a farmer, he knows firsthand the detriment of federal overreach on the people who live, work, and recreate in rural America. The Foundation is excited to work closely with him as the new Chairman of the Caucus. [Read the press release here.](#)

[Read Chairman Newhouse's message to members and his agenda for the caucus here.](#)

Western Caucus Members: Key Leadership Roles

Congratulations to our Western Caucus Members on their recent committee elections and assignments for the 117th Congress.

House Leadership

Rep. Kevin McCarthy (CA-23), Republican Leader

Rep. Steve Scalise (LA-01), Republican Whip

Rep. Liz Cheney (WY-AL), Republican Conference Chair

Rep. Tom Emmer (MN-06), National Republican Congressional Committee

Committee Leadership

Rep. Glenn Thompson (PA-15), Ranking Member, Agriculture Committee

Rep. Jason Smith (MO-08), Ranking member, Budget Committee

Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (WA-05), Ranking member, Energy and Commerce Committee

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Rep. Bruce Westerman (AR-04), Ranking member, Committee on Natural Resources

Rep. Jim Banks (IA-03), Chairman, Republican Study Committee

Rep. Blaine Luetkemeyer (MO-03), Ranking member, Committee on Small Business

News & Updates:

DOE Extends Third Set of LNG Export Authorizations



The Department of Energy has extended key natural gas export authorizations through 2050. This extension will help to further solidify America's role as a global leader in energy production, and energy independent at home.

[Read the press release here.](#)

USFWS and NMFS Finalize Definition of "Habitat" Under ESA

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As part of this Administration's efforts to improve the Endangered Species Act, The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) have finalized a regulatory definition of the term "habitat" that will be used for designating critical habitat under the ESA.

2021 Calendar of Events Schedule

Keep an eye out for our 2021 calendar of events! As we continue to persevere in the face of Covid-19, our events will reflect both live, digital content and in-person events. You can expect a copy in your mailbox soon.

Seasons Greetings!

As this year comes to a close, we'd like to wish you all a safe and happy holiday season. It's been a weird year for us all, and we're thankful that 2020 is finally (almost) over. Thanks to our members, stakeholders and our supporters, and you, the Foundation is able to continue our mission to educate on the Western way of life. From our family to yours, have a happy Hanukkah, very merry Christmas, a Happy New Year, and a well deserved winter break.

Cheers!

-The WCF Team

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