

[House Committees To Hold 2nd Hearing On Endangered Species Bill Sept. 17](#)

The House Game and Fisheries and Environmental Resources and Energy Committees will hold a second hearing September 17 in Indiana, Pa on [House Bill 1576](#) (Pyle-R-Armstrong) which fundamentally changes the way threatened and endangered species are listed and changes the designation process for waters as wild trout streams.

Letters of opposition to the bill were submitted by the Game Commission, Fish and Boat Commission, PA Council of Trout Unlimited and the PA Environmental Council at the first hearing. [Click Here](#) for more information of the opposition of the Commissions and Trout Unlimited. [Click Here](#) for PEC's letter of opposition. [Click Here](#) for a summary of the first hearing.

The hearing will be held at Indiana University- Northpointe, 167 Northpointe Blvd., Building 167, Room 129, Indiana, Pa starting at 10:00.

PFSC will be testifying in opposition to the bill.

[More Articles on HB 1576:](#)

[PA May Lose \\$19M Over Endangered Species Legislation](#)

[Battle On The Horizon Over Endangered Species Changes To PA Endangered Species Laws Proposed](#)

[Endangered Species Bill Threatens Federal Funds](#)

[Letter: Changing Endangered Species System, Rep. Causer](#)

From Audubon:

Pennsylvania's endangered and threatened species program is in trouble! House Bill 1576 would force unnecessary bureaucratic red tape into Pennsylvania's endangered and threatened species program, taking the program out of the hands of biologists and giving it to politicians.

Many species will lose their current protection, and new species in peril will have an impossible time getting added to the list. In addition, millions of dollars received each year from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for species conservation work could be in jeopardy.

Email your state representative to stop this bill and keep our current endangered and threatened species protection program safe and strong. [TAKE ACTION](#)

Hundreds of other species will be impacted by this really bad legislation. Examples include the northern flying squirrel, Indiana bat, small-footed bat, bog turtle, blue-spotted salamander, and Atlantic sturgeon. Additional birds impacted include: Blackpoll Warbler, Black Tern, Common Tern, Dickcissel, King Rail, Least Bittern, Loggerhead Shrike, Sedge Wren, Upland Sandpiper, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Piping Plover, Bald Eagle, Long-eared Owl, Northern Harrier, and Osprey. We can't let these birds or other animals disappear from Pennsylvania!

Please take a few moments to email your state representative now and demand strong protections for endangered species in Pennsylvania. Ask him or her to vote NO on HB 1576.

Thank you,
Phil Wallis
Vice President and Executive Director, Audubon Pennsylvania

TUESDAY - 9/17/13

House Environmental Resources and Energy and House Game and Fisheries (New)

10:00 a.m., Indiana University of PA - Northpointe, 167 Northpointe Boulevard, Building 167, Room 129, Indiana

Joint public hearing on: [HB 1576](#) Pyle, Jeff Act re species designation

MONDAY - 9/30/13

Joint Legislative Conservation Committee

12:00 p.m., Room G-50, Irvis Office Building

Environmental Issues Forum with presentation by Dr. David J. Nowak, PhD for the USDA Forest Service's Northern Research Station on the i-Tree program, a suite of software tools helping users assess & manage urban tree populations

MONDAY - 10/21/13

Joint Legislative Conservation Committee

12:00 p.m., Location TBA

Environmental Issues Forum featuring hydro-geologist Bruce Leavitt to discuss "trompe" technology that he has rediscovered and is using to remediate acid mine drainage in an energy saving, cost-efficient and effective way.

CWD TO BE DISCUSSED IN YORK COUNTY

Sept. 17 meeting the first of four to discuss the deer disease, rules pertaining to hunters.

The Pennsylvania Game Commission will host a meeting Tuesday at Central York High School to discuss chronic wasting disease in Pennsylvania and the special rules that will apply to deer hunters this year in the areas where the disease has been detected.

Doors will open at 6 p.m. with the meeting to begin at about 6:15 p.m.

The high school is located at 601 Mundis Mill Road in York, York County.

Similar meetings are scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 25 at Spring Cove Middle School, 185 Spring Cove Drive in Roaring Spring, Blair County; Tuesday, Oct. 22 at Bermudian Springs High School, 7335 Carlisle Pike in York Springs, Adams County; and Monday, Oct. 28 at Northern Bedford High School, 152 NBC Drive in Loysburg, Bedford County.

The anticipated start time for each meeting is the same.

The Game Commission soon will release a detailed explanation of rules that will apply to hunters within the state's two Disease Management Areas (DMAs) during the upcoming deer seasons. DMA 1 includes parts of York and Adams counties. DMA 2 includes parts of Blair, Bedford, Huntingdon and Cambria counties.

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) has been detected in either captive or free-ranging deer in each of those areas. CWD attacks the brain of deer, elk and moose and is always fatal to the animals it infects, but it is not known to be transmitted to humans.

Public Workgroup Meeting Scheduled for Big Spring Creek

HARRISBURG, Pa. (Sept. 13) - The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) has scheduled a public workgroup meeting on Monday, Sept. 23. This meeting is anticipated to set the course for the future, long-term management of Cumberland County's Big Spring Creek.

The meeting will be held from 6-8 p.m. in the Large Group Room at the Big Spring High School, located at 100 Mount Rock Road, Newville, PA 17241. Guests should enter the facility through the auditorium entrance.

The purpose of this facilitated workgroup meeting is to gather information from the public as it pertains to the future fisheries management and habitat management of Big Spring Creek.

PENNFUTURE DISCUSSES CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT ON STATE FISH

By Matt Hess, PLS
9/5/13

PennFuture held a conference call recently to discuss a new report, *Swimming Upstream: Freshwater Fish in a Warming World*, from the National Wildlife Federation that highlights the effects of climate change on Pennsylvania's state fish, the brook trout. Dr. Douglas Inkley, Senior Scientist for National Wildlife Federation, discussed the findings in the study. "The problem that we are facing here is that climate change can affect our fisheries in a number of different ways," he stated. "Of course the most obvious to all of us is warming; the warming affect that is already taking place and will continue to place on our rivers and streams. What this means is that, especially for cold water species, there will be loss of habitat. The second concern is that there are already existing stressors on our steams: habitat loss, polluted water, invasive species, and disease. In fact, 37 percent of all of our fresh water animals across the country are already considered at risk. That is a much higher percentage than the terrestrial animals and the reason is that we have treated our nation's waters

like our sewers."

Dr. Inkley noted that extreme weather events will increase with climate change and have a negative impact on aquatic life and cited Lake Erie as an example. "Fish may not be able to have the tolerances to survive this as they have in the past when the events were more within the normal parameters," he stated. "With the extreme events, it's causing much more runoff of the fertilizers in the agricultural areas. This is putting a huge surge of these nutrients into Lake Erie. Once again, the algae are growing and we are having hypoxia and we are having the problem all over again."

[Read More....](#)

News Clips, etc: (Note: Many of the below links are opinion pieces and/or blogs)

Firearm/Hunting/Fishing/Boating Issues:

[Deer illegally transferred to CWD-contaminated farm](#)

[Climate Change To Blame For Fish Problems Across PA](#)

Marcellus Shale:

[StateImpactPA: Legislation In The Works To Address Gas Royalty Concerns](#)

[PA Gas Industry: Change Endangered Species Laws](#)

[Editorial: Endangered Species Law Endangered](#)

[State Impact: Marcellus Shale Industry Lobbies For New Endangered Species Laws](#)

Misc.:

[Op-Ed: Farm Bill Promotes Clean Waters, Vibrant Farms](#)

[Bald Eagle Makes A Comeback](#)

[DCNR Forest Managers Want Public Input](#)

[Electronics Waste Ban Stirs Worries Of TV Wasteland](#)

[StateImpactPA](#): Pennsylvania's Climate Change Future: Read The Missing Report

NRA/ILA News:

[Major Milestone for Families Afield-1 Million New Hunters!](#)

This impressive number demonstrates that interest in hunting remains high, and that what's needed to spark a lifelong passion for hunting is a proper introduction enabled by state regulations. With success in hand, Families Afield's call to action is this: If your state offers an apprentice hunting license, make it a point to bring a newcomer along this hunting season; or if you've never gone hunting before, seek out a mentor and give it a try.