



ENTOMOLOGICAL
SOCIETY OF AMERICA
SHARING INSECT SCIENCE GLOBALLY

Science Policy News

News from the intersection of entomology and public policy

March 2023

In This Issue

ESA in DC

- [ESA Science Policy Fellow Applications Now Open](#)
- [ESA Joins Biodiversity Loss Meeting at American Museum of Natural History](#)
- [Submit Comments for 2023 ESA Science Policy Position Statement Updates](#)

Congressional Updates

- [2023 Farm Bill Priorities Begin to Take Shape](#)
- [House Energy and Commerce Committee Seeks Input on Pandemic Preparedness](#)

Federal Agency and Administration Updates

- [NSF Announces New Division of Research, Innovation, Synergies, and Education](#)

- [CDC Announces First Reorganization Actions Following COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- [USDA Highlights Opportunities, Challenges at 2023 Agricultural Outlook Forum](#)

Funding and Engagement Opportunities

- [Agriculture and Food Research Initiative Releases 2023 Requests for Applications](#)
- [2023 'America the Beautiful Challenge' Proposals Sought](#)
- [Survey Requests Input to Inform NSF Specimen Management Plans](#)
- [FFAR Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate to Host Summit](#)
- [NIH Seeks Comments on DEI Efforts, Postdoctoral Workforce, Public Access to Research](#)

ESA in DC

ESA Science Policy Fellow Applications Now Open

Are you interested in helping legislators make better policy? Have you considered applying to become an ESA Science Policy Fellow? [ESA Science Policy Fellows](#) learn the skills and gain the experience needed to build relationships with elected officials and policymakers as well as to see how science informs policy and vice versa. [Applications](#) are now open and are due **April 17**. [Learn more](#) and [apply to be an ESA Science Policy Fellow](#).

ESA Joins Biodiversity-Loss Meeting at American Museum of Natural History

In August 2022, a group of researchers, including several ESA members, received a National Science Foundation Research Coordination Networks grant for "[An International Network to Assess the Status of Insects](#)." In February 2023, the lead researchers and a variety of invited guests, including ESA, were hosted by co-principal investigator and past ESA President Jessica Ware, Ph.D., at the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) in New York. The group explored ways to collectively leverage the domestic and international expertise in research, data coordination, outreach, and education to



advance knowledge and awareness around the ongoing loss of insect biodiversity.

Ware and ESA presented an update on the ESA Presidential Task Force on Biodiversity Loss, a task force looking for ways ESA as a scientific society can improve the status of insects, identify who all among our membership is working on this subject to better coordinate data and knowledge (survey forthcoming), and create educational content and policy recommendations. The task force plans to conclude with a Grand Challenges Agenda for Entomology event in conjunction with the ESA Annual Meeting in Phoenix, Arizona, in 2024.

In addition to meetings, presentations, and breakout discussions, the group also had the privilege to tour the new AMNH [insectarium](#), which is still under construction but due to open in the coming months. Following the meeting, a *New York Times* reporter who was in attendance published an article on the challenges in [classifying insects as wildlife](#) at the state level, a topic that arose during the meeting.

Submit Comments for ESA Science Policy Position Statement Updates

In 2023, ESA will update several of its science policy position statements:

- [Global Climate Change](#)
- [Entomological Collections](#)
- [Pollinator Health](#)
- [Importance of Gene Drive Research](#)
- [Tick-Borne Diseases](#)

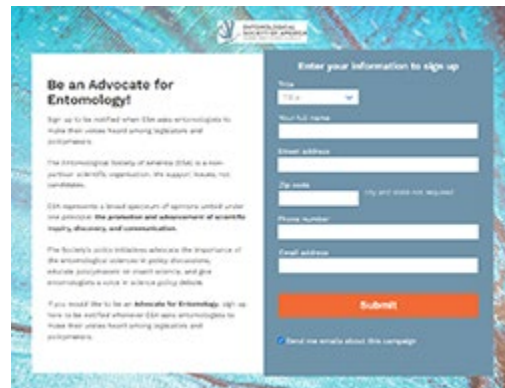
ESA position statements are reviewed every four years, and the ESA Science Policy Committee subcommittee on position statements recently voted to make minor updates to the first four in the list above. However, this group has decided a more thorough rewrite is necessary for the Tick-Borne Diseases statement, because the policy recommendations made in the existing statement have mostly been fulfilled—an encouraging testament to the success of ESA advocacy efforts!

Member input on ESA position statements is critical to ensure they provide current knowledge and forward-thinking policy recommendations. To provide feedback on these position statements and suggest specific updates for the revised versions, please [submit your comments](#).

Advocate for Entomology!

Sign Up for ESA Action Alerts

Be an advocate for entomology! Periodically, ESA issues new topic-specific advocacy alerts, enabling ESA members to easily connect with legislators and offer timely subject-matter expertise. [Sign up now to receive ESA science-policy action alerts.](#) Or, act now to participate in our current open alert, to [tell Congress about the threat of invasive species.](#)

A screenshot of a web form titled "Be an Advocate for Entomology!". The form is set against a background of a blue and green map. On the left side, there is introductory text about the Entomological Society of America (ESA) and its mission. On the right side, there is a registration form with fields for "Name", "Email address", "Phone number", and "Postal address". A "Submit" button is located at the bottom right of the form. A small checkbox at the bottom right of the form is checked and labeled "Send me emails about this campaign".

Congressional Updates

2023 Farm Bill Priorities Begin to Take Shape

Over the last month, the Senate and House Agriculture Committees started to refine their priority areas through hearings, roadshows, and private-sector events for the upcoming Farm Bill, which expires on September 30. Members of the committees have used these events to make the case that investing in agriculture research, development, and innovation is needed to increase yields responsibly without additional burdens to the environment and that the agriculture sector presents a valuable opportunity to reduce emissions through carbon sequestration and other mechanisms.

They have proposed a range of ideas for how to use the Farm Bill to support climate programs at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, including expanding conservation programs to include support for innovative technologies; increasing investment in organic growing practices, carbon sequestration, and no-till farming; and finding ways to reduce U.S. reliance on natural resources. House Agriculture Committee members also took the opportunity to express their priorities for the upcoming Farm Bill reauthorization in a [hearing](#) last week focused on current challenges to the domestic agriculture sector, which spanned a wide range of issues including climate and conservation, supply-chain disruptions, international instability, rising input costs, food insecurity, rural broadband, and support for producers from marginalized communities.

House Energy and Commerce Committee Seeks Input on Pandemic Preparedness

Members of the House Energy and Commerce (E&C) Committee Richard Hudson (R-NC) and Anna Eshoo (D-CA) have [released](#) a [request for information](#) (RFI) to inform the upcoming reauthorization of the *Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act* (PAHPA), which lapses at the end of September. This bill, initially signed into law in 2006, is responsible for coordinating the U.S. public health preparedness and response to emergencies and first authorized relevant agencies at the Department of Health and Human Services including the Administration for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) and the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority.

Previous reauthorizations completed in 2013 and 2019 expanded the legislation to create and strengthen other crisis response programs, such as the Strategic National Stockpile, the Project BioShield Special Reserve Fund, and Public Health Emergency Preparedness cooperative agreements. Congress is looking to consider another reauthorization of this bill this year as many PAHPA programs are set to expire, and legislators are seeking comments from interested stakeholders as part of this process.

The House E&C Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held its first [hearing](#) in February related to PAHPA, focusing on the origins of COVID-19. The hearing centered on a recent Government Accountability Office (GAO) [report](#) detailing the challenges to determining the likely origins of pandemic diseases. Committee Chairwoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA) noted that the goal of the hearing was to inform bipartisan efforts toward reauthorizing PAHPA. Members from both parties stressed the importance of understanding the origins of pandemic viruses in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and agreed that there should be a greater federal effort to support these initiatives.

Federal Agency and Administration Updates

NSF Announces New Division of Research, Innovation, Synergies, and Education

The National Science Foundation (NSF) National Science Board (NSB) held a public [meeting](#) in February to provide updates from the agency. Assistant Director of the NSF Directorate for Geological Sciences (GEO) Alexandra Isern announced that the former GEO Division of Integrative and Collaborative Education and Research will be renamed to the [Division of Research, Innovation, Synergies, and Education](#) (RISE), which will focus on convergent research on topics including resilience and environmental justice.

This change was proposed in the fiscal year (FY) 2023 budget request for NSF, in which the agency stated that RISE will support interdisciplinary "novel, complex, or partnership projects

in both research and education" and will also promote development and diversification of the geosciences workforce. With its new scope, RISE better aligns GEO with the goals of the new NSF Technology, Innovation, and Partnerships (TIP) Directorate, which aims to support and scale use-inspired and translational research to address current and emerging societal challenges.

CDC Announces First Reorganization Actions Following COVID-19 Pandemic

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [announced](#) its first actions to restructure following an extensive review that CDC Director Rochelle Walensky launched in spring 2022. The review focused on the agency's organizational structures, systems, and processes to strengthen its ability to equitably protect the health, safety, and security of Americans. In August 2022, the agency launched the [CDC Moving Forward Initiative](#) that focused on the following top improvement areas:

- Sharing scientific findings and data faster;
- Enhancing laboratory science and quality;
- Translating science into practical, easy to understand policy;
- Prioritizing public health communications;
- Developing a workforce prepared for future emergencies;
- Promoting results-based partnerships to address long-standing challenges highlighted during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The first agency reorganization actions focus on amending existing offices and centers and establishing new ones to modernize the CDC's organizational structure. CDC hopes the new structure will better position its response to future public health threats. Additional CDC reorganization actions are anticipated in the coming months.

USDA Highlights Opportunities, Challenges at 2023 Agricultural Outlook Forum

Last month, the USDA held its annual [Agricultural Outlook Forum](#). This event has traditionally been used to provide an economic preview of commodity markets, but it also provides insight into the current national landscape on a variety of agriculture-related issues. In addition to trade and commodity outlooks, this year's Forum hosted sessions focused on biotechnology, renewable energy, climate adaptation and climate-smart agriculture and forestry, nutrition security, foodborne illness, the agricultural workforce, rural development, and supporting underserved producers.

With "Seeds of Growth Through Innovation" as the theme of this year's event, USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack used his opening keynote address to emphasize the importance of making the agriculture sector more resilient following recent challenges related to COVID-19 and international crises, as well as opportunities that USDA is pursuing to support farmers by providing additional on-farm revenue streams. Vilsack spoke to the potential of biotechnologies and bio-based products to accomplish USDA's goals of making domestic agriculture more sustainable, profitable, productive, and resilient.

The second day of the forum also featured a conversation between Secretary Vilsack and European Union (EU) Agriculture Commissioner Janusz Wojciechowski. The pair discussed common interests in agricultural sustainability and resilience and shared challenges, such as the aging agriculture workforce in the United States and Europe. Their conversation also covered the domestic and international consequences of the war in Ukraine and the responsibilities of both the United States and EU toward sustaining and rebuilding the Ukrainian agriculture sector.

Funding and Engagement Opportunities

Agriculture and Food Research Initiative Releases 2023 Requests for Applications

In February, the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture released a [request for applications](#) (RFA) for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) [Foundational and Applied Science](#) program, which aims to advance fundamental and applied knowledge in agricultural and food sciences to address current and future societal challenges. The fiscal year (FY) 2023 program will distribute \$300 million to support research and extension proposals to advance basic and applied research in agricultural sciences across several disciplines. This year's solicitation contains two new program topics in environmental justice and food loss and waste. Application deadlines and award amounts vary by each priority area.

Another AFRI [RFA](#) for the program on [Sustainable Agricultural Systems](#) (SAS) aims to transform U.S. food and agricultural systems to support increased production while addressing environmental sustainability challenges. The FY 2023 SAS solicitation is focused on local and regional climate-smart products; nutritious, safe, and accessible foods; and rural economic development. Individual award amounts may not exceed \$10 million with a program period of up to five years, with total program funding of \$80 million. Letters of intent are due **April 13**, and applications must be submitted by **July 13**.

2023 'America the Beautiful Challenge' Proposals Sought

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) has released the 2023 America the Beautiful Challenge (ATBC) [request for proposals](#), which it will implement via anticipated cooperative agreements with the Department of the Interior, Department of Defense (DOD), and the USDA's U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

The goal of the ATBC challenge is to support the objectives described in the [Conserving and Restoring America the Beautiful Report](#). \$116 million will be awarded through this solicitation across five grant categories detailed in the RFP. Educational institutions are eligible to lead awards under three of the five grant categories: Sentinel Landscape Grants, supported by the DOD with award sizes of \$250,000 to \$1.5 million; National Forest Grants, supported by USFS with award sizes of \$250,000 to \$1.5 million; and Private Forests, Rangeland and Farmland Grants, supported by NRCS with award sizes of \$200,000 to \$500,000.

Ten percent of funds awarded through the ATBC will be set aside for Tribal and Native Nations, and three percent to U.S. Territories. There is a cost-matching requirement up to 10 percent. Pre-proposals are due **April 20**, with full proposals due **July 20** by invitation only. [Learn more](#).

Survey Requests Input to Inform NSF Specimen Management Plans

A provision in the [CHIPS and Science Act](#) directs the National Science Foundation (NSF) to require specimen management plans for proposals that generate specimens as a part of the data management plan. The Biodiversity Collections Network and the U.S. Culture Collection Network have drafted a [proposal](#) for how NSF may implement this requirement. To ensure the proposal addresses community input before delivering it to the NSF, they have requested individuals who conduct scientific research that generates specimens to [submit comments](#). Learn more via a [recorded community webinar](#) that took place in February.

FFAR Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate to Host Summit

The Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research (FFAR), a foundation supported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), will host an [Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate Summit](#) in Washington, DC, **May 8-10**. The Summit aims to convene policymakers, the private sector, nonprofit organizations, researchers, and other stakeholders to promote support for and investments in climate-related agricultural innovation. Registrations are only

open to FFAR innovation mission partners; however, signing up to become a partner is free. [Learn more, sign up, and register.](#)

NIH Seeks Comments on DEI Efforts, Postdoctoral Workforce, Public Access to Research

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has recently released three requests for information to inform future initiatives at the agency.

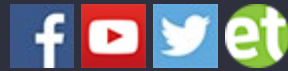
- The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) [seeks input](#) on advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility in its programming to build a more diverse and inclusive scientific workforce. NIAID especially encourages feedback from academic institutions, students, postdoctoral scientists, early career biomedical faculty, Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs), and community partners. [Submit comments](#) by **March 31**.
- The NIH [Advisory Committee to the Director Working Group on Re-envisioning NIH-Supported Postdoctoral Training](#) also [seeks input](#) on drivers and solutions for the recent decline in the postdoctoral trainee workforce. [Submit comments](#) by **April 14**. The Working Group is also hosting [listening sessions](#) on specific topics this month.
- NIH requests [comments](#) on its [proposed plan](#) to enhance public access to the results of NIH-funded research, following the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy [memorandum](#) *Ensuring Free, Immediate, and Equitable Access to Federally Funded Research*. [Submit comments](#) by **April 24**.

Learn More About ESA Science Policy

ESA Science Policy Program Links

- [ESA Science Advocacy Priorities](#)
- [Position Statements](#)
- [Fact Sheets](#)
- [Science Policy Fellows Program](#)
- [Partnerships and Coalitions](#)
- [Advocacy Tools: Get Involved!](#)
- [Tell Us What You Think](#)
- [Sign Up for Advocacy Alerts](#)

© ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA
Sharing Insect Science Globally
[CERTIFICATION](#) | [CHRYSALIS FUND](#) | [CONTACT US](#)



[EDIT MY ESA EMAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS](#)

[UNSUBSCRIBE](#)

Entomological Society of America (ESA), 3 Park Place, Suite 307, Annapolis, MD 21401-3722 USA
(1)-301-731-4535 www.entsoc.org
[Terms & Conditions](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)