

# **Backcountry Hunters & Anglers**



Dear MEMBER,

Texas BHA is excited to announce that we're looking for motivated volunteers to join our state board and leadership team. Do you have experience working with nonprofit organizations? Do you have a unique skill set that can help grow the Texas chapter with a group of your peers? Are you passionate about protecting public lands and supporting hunting and angling? Check out the descriptions of each role on [this webpage](#) and fill out a quick online application by July 31 noting which roles you're interested in.

We also need volunteers in and around Lubbock for our [Public Walk-in Access Program](#). BHA members will help local biologists set up hunter check-in stations and keep 11 designated small game sites well marked and free of trash for the 2020 hunting season. This program is an incredible opportunity to build relationships with private landowners and TPWD, and a good way to get more people in the field.

Contact Southwest Chapter Coordinator Katie DeLorenzo with any questions.

Want some extra motivation? [Check out our “Who We Are” video on Youtube.](#)

## **R3 Volunteer Opportunity**

TX BHA has partnered with TPWD's Archery Communications division in order to receive the USA Archery Level 1 Archery Instructor Certification. This will allow the R3 Mentored Hunting Program to expand hunting opportunities to include archery only hunts.

We will be holding certification training on August 1st at TWA Headquarters in New Braunfels. The training will be from 8am to 4:30pm. There are currently 5-7 slots available for those interested in receiving the Level 1 Instructor Certification. If interested, please reach out to the TX BHA R3 Coordinator at [jrsertel@gmail.com](mailto:jrsertel@gmail.com) and he will provide more details. This training will be a prerequisite for our Hunting guides participating in the BHA/TWA Adult Mentored Hunting Program specific to archery only hunts.

### **Senate Passes Great American Outdoors Act**

[The U.S. Senate voted 73-25 last month to pass the Great American Outdoors act](#), bipartisan legislation being called a “once in a generation” opportunity to fund conservation and access in the United States.

The bill would fully dedicate funds to the Land and Water Conservation fund at \$900 million a year and fund maintenance backlogs on public lands and waters at \$9.5 billion over five years. Texas senators John Cornyn and Ted Cruz both voted no to the bill.

Sens. Cory Gardner (R-CO), Joe Manchin (D-WV), Steve Daines (R-MT), Mark Warner (D-VA), Rob Portman (R-OH), Martin Heinrich (D-NM) and 54 other cosponsors introduced the Great American Outdoors Act in March. The bill includes full, dedicated funding for LWCF starting in fiscal year 2021. Maintenance backlog funding in the bill totals \$9.5 billion over five years broken down as follows:

- 70 percent for the National Park Service
- 15 percent for the U.S. Forest Service
- 5 percent for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- 5 percent for the Bureau of Land Management
- 5 percent for the Bureau of Indian Education

[In an opinion column feature on The Hill](#), BHA President and CEO Land Tawney, Sen. Martin Heinrich (D-NM) and Rep. Mike Simpson (R-ID) all urged the House to quickly advance the bill to the desk of President Donald Trump, who has signaled his willingness to sign it into law.

### **Take Action to Support the Great American Outdoors Act!**

Now that the Senate passed the Great American Outdoors Act, it's time to bring the energy to the House! Take five minutes today to contact your representative and tell him or her to vote YES on passage of a clean bill with no amendments.

Your timely effort will help secure full funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund and support the land management agencies that administer our prized public lands.

Call the Capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3121 and ask to be connected to your representative's office. [Or, use our legislator directory to find your representative's direct office number](#). Tell them why this legislation is important to you as a hunter and angler. Here is a call script template:

*My name is [name] and I am a member of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers. I live in [city, state] and am one of your constituents.*

*I'm calling to urge Rep. [Last Name] to stand with his/her constituents by cosponsoring the Great American Outdoors Act, H.R. 7092, and passing it quickly with no amendments. This legislation dedicates \$900 million to the Land and Water Conservation Fund and addresses the maintenance backlogs of our public land management agencies. This is a top priority for hunters and anglers in your district and across the nation!*

If you need talking points, [please see the attached analysis of the economic benefits](#) of the Great American Outdoors Act or a [map of LWCF-funded public access sites](#) in your area.

### **Houston Members kick off Hike to Hunt Challenge**



Members of the Texas Chapter in Houston dusted off their hiking boots on June 13 and hit the trail for the start of the 2020 Hike to Hunt Challenge. An enthusiastic group of five met at the Lone Star Trail northwest of Conroe for a socially distanced morning hike in the beautiful Sam Houston National Forest. Special thanks to Chris Smith and the Houston Public Outreach Committee for putting this together!

### **Help Us Build Our Photo Library**

Texas BHA needs your photos for upcoming newsletters, flyers, brochures, blog posts, and any number of print and digital promotions. If you want your work to be featured, please send your photos (or a Dropbox or Google Drive link) to [texas@backcountryhunters.org](mailto:texas@backcountryhunters.org).