

## **Creating Coastal Habitat and Post-COVID Jobs**

**Virtual ICAST Webinar Hosted by the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership**

**When: July 15, 2020 at 11 a.m. ET**

**Link: (TBD)**

**Speakers:**

- **Congressman Garret Graves (R-La.)**
- **Congressman Jared Huffman (D-Calif.)**
- **Scott Kirkpatrick, President, Coast Builders Coalition**
- **Steve Kline, Chief Policy Officer, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership**

Perhaps the most urgent work for Congress right now is contemplating a host of bills to help create jobs and spur economic growth as the nation contends with the COVID-19 pandemic. This is the perfect opportunity to tackle some of our most pressing conservation challenges, as well.

It's big business to create fish and wildlife habitat and protect communities from floods, hurricanes, and other weather events using natural infrastructure like floodplains, forests, wetlands, and barrier islands. And this work is particularly relevant as Americans are even more grateful for socially distanced outdoor recreation.

This is why conservation organizations are working with elected officials and state and federal agencies to prioritize habitat restoration and natural infrastructure projects within future economic recovery bills.

A commitment of public funds to habitat restoration projects directly creates jobs—for those who design and build projects, manufacture and sell equipment, plant native vegetation and trees, and contribute in other ways.

The investment in quality fish and wildlife habitat also supports economic activity well into the future, as more hunters, anglers, and outdoor enthusiasts are able to utilize improved habitat, which means more money coming to local communities near project sites.

Congressman Jared Huffman is the chair of the Water, Oceans, and Wildlife Subcommittee in the House as well as a member of National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands Subcommittee and Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. He is joined on our panel by fellow House Transportation and Infrastructure and Natural Resources Committee member Rep. Garret Graves, and they will discuss potential and pending legislation to increase economic activity by investing in habitat and natural infrastructure.

They are joined by the TRCP's Chief Policy Officer Steve Kline, who will share his perspective on the efforts by hunting and angling organizations to encourage Congress to invest in habitat right now. Alongside him, Scott Kirkpatrick, president of the Coast Builders Coalition—a group of engineering and construction firms focused on restoring coastal habitats—will provide insight into job creation and economic activity resulting from investments in restoration and community resilience.