

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 20, 2022

The Honorable Chellie Pingree
House Appropriations Subcommittee on

Interior, Environment
Chairwoman
2162 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Joyce
House Appropriations Subcommittee on

Interior, Environment
Ranking Member
2065 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Pingree and Ranking Member Joyce,

We respectfully request you direct at least \$1 million dollars within the U.S. Geological Survey budget to reinstate funding for the USA National Phenology Network (USA-NPN) so they may continue to provide crucial insight into how species and ecosystems are affected by changing climate conditions, including the direct ties to information for resource management, adaptation, human health, agriculture, forecasting, and tourism applications.

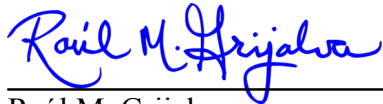
The consequences of rapidly changing climate conditions are far-reaching and touch every aspect of our lives. Among the clearest signs of climate change are shifts in the timing of seasonal events such as leaf-out, flowering, migration, and egg hatch – referred to as phenology. In some regions of the country, spring leaf-out has advanced as much as 4-5 weeks from the mid-nineteenth century, resulting in a cascade of consequences including species loss, mismatches between pollinators and their food sources, and a reduction in the services these ecosystems provide. By engaging audiences from professional scientists to schoolchildren, the USA National Phenology Network is amassing a rapidly growing data resource documenting when plants and animals undergo seasonal transitions across the country.

Observations of seasonal events amassed by the USA-NPN have been used to support invasive species management in dozens of forest and agricultural pests and invasive plants across the country, to establish a real-time indicator of live fuel moisture in fire-prone chaparral in California, to support the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Species Status Assessment monitoring in monarch butterflies and bat species, and in effectively interpreting and communicating the impacts of changing climate conditions in National Parks across the country. Similarly, USA-NPN data and resources are helping tribes to plan for and adapt to changing climate conditions; are foundational in evaluating models and forecasts of carbon uptake and atmospheric chemistry as well as imagery collected by airborne and satellite-borne sensors; and are regularly consulted by regional and news media outlets. Finally, the USA-NPN's phenology observing program provides important opportunities for individuals to become personally acquainted with the seasonal cycles in plants and animals and how they are being impacted at a local level by changing climate conditions.

From the USA-NPN's inception in 2007 through 2019, the effort was funded primarily by the U.S. Geological Survey, and most recently, by the Ecosystems Mission Area of the USGS. In FY20, the agency drastically reduced support, and in FY21, all funding for the USA-NPN was eliminated. The phenology information collected and provided by the USA-NPN is unparalleled. Without the information provided by the Network, science and society would be at a loss for understanding this crucial aspect of climate change or addressing the consequences of these impacts on every aspect of our lives.

It is imperative that Congress demonstrate a clear commitment to supporting the USA National Phenology Network and climate change adaptation. We urge you to include report language that directs *a meaningful investment of at least \$1 million for the USA National Phenology Network within U.S. Geological Survey budget.*

Sincerely,



Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Tom O'Halleran
Member of Congress



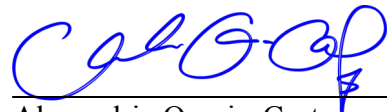
Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



Joe Neguse
Member of Congress



Katie Porter
Member of Congress



Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress



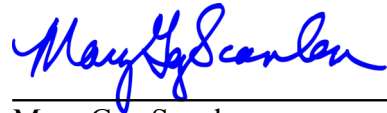
Gwen S. Moore
Member of Congress



Darren Soto
Member of Congress



Ruben Gallego
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Mary Gay Scanlon
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Seth Moulton
Member of Congress