

Inviting Elected Officials to Walk for the Wild

Inviting your current US Senators and Representatives, as well as state or city-level elected officials, is a great way to showcase the value of your National Wildlife Refuge and your partnership with the US Fish and Wildlife Service to policy and decision makers.

If you are interested in inviting any of your local representatives, the Public Lands Alliance encourages you to:

- Ensure the invitation comes from your organization, not the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Only make the invitation, however, if you've first informed your Refuge Manager or Project Leader that you will be making this outreach.
- Provide your elected official and their staff with important event details, especially:
 - Location, day, and time;
 - Anticipated crowd size;
 - Whether you've invited any local media;
 - Whether the elected official will have an opportunity to speak.You can also, if sending an email, include a link to your organization's Walk for the Wild landing page.
- State clearly that Walk for the Wild is a free event and is open to the public. Its important they know this to avoid certain ethical issues and reviews.
- State clearly that they are being invited as a current office holder whose position has an interest in the national wildlife refuge and/or the local community.
- Consider including the attached brochure that provides an overview of Walk for the Wild

NOTE: Please do not invite any candidates for elected office who are not currently in such an office; we do not want to give anyone the mistaken impression that the Walk for the Wild 5K Challenge has anything to do with political campaigns.

PLA will appreciate it if you will keep us informed as to whether you have been able to reach out to elected officials in your area and if any accept. We will be in communication with the Service's Office of Legislative and Congressional Affairs to keep them up to date on any developments.

Please let the team at PLA know if you have any questions.