

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY FOR:**April 16, 2001**

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LAST WEEK

BUDGET DETAILS FOR FY 2002 – On April 9, 2001, the President released the FY 2002 budget request. A summary of request for NRCS is as follows:

Discretionary Programs:

Conservation Operations b/.....	\$773,454,000
Watershed Surveys and Planning.....	10,960,000
Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations.....	100,413,000
Emergency Watershed.....	0
Resource Conservation and Development.....	43,048,000
Forestry Incentives Program a/.....	0

Funded by CCC:

Wetlands Reserve Program.....	0
Environmental Quality Incentives Program.....	174,000,000
Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program	0
Farmland Protection Program	0

a/ Forestry Incentives Program is to be terminated

b/ The FY 2002 President's Budget reflects up to \$44 Million to be used for CRP technical assistance from the CTA appropriation.

SECRETARY NAMES NEW FOREST SERVICE CHIEF - Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman announced the selection of Dale N. Bosworth as the new chief of the Forest Service. Mr. Bosworth succeeds former chief Mike Dombeck who retired from federal service March 31, 2001. Prior to his current assignment, Mr. Bosworth was the regional forester in the Intermountain Region and deputy regional forester in the Pacific Southwest Region of the Forest Service. He also has worked as a forest supervisor and district ranger. A native of California, Mr. Bosworth is also a second-generation forester and Forest Service employee. He graduated from the University of Idaho in 1966 with a bachelor of science degree in forestry. His appointment is effective April 22, 2001.

SENATE FIELD HEARING ON WILDLIFE CONSERVATION – The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee (Acting Chairman, Sen. Harry Reid - NV) held a field hearing in Reno, Nevada on April 9, 2001. The hearing was to provide testimony for Committee’s use in developing the Conservation and Reinvestment Act in the 107th Congress. Nick Pearson, NRCS State Conservationist in Nevada, presented testimony along with three other panels of witnesses from Nevada and Texas. The panelists included Rep. Max Sandlin (TX) and Don Henley, the noted musician and founder of the Caddo Lake Institute, located in Texas. The Caddo Lake Institute was featured as a model for wetland research collaboration with federal and state governments.

The panelists described many locally-led projects in Nevada to protect and restore wildlife habitat on public land. The Texas panelists described similar efforts where private land dominated the landscape. Gary Graham, Division Director, Texas Parks and Wildlife Service, talked about the success of wildlife conservation in Texas. He stated, “the secret to private land conservation is the technical assistance provided to landowners to develop conservation plans”. Don Henley stressed the value of community led efforts and the use of sound science when restoring wetlands. Other testimony supported public programs that encourage habitat conservation.

Sen. Reid questioned all of the witnesses to bring out the importance of locally-led involvement of citizens. He also asked questions and made statements regarding the value of programs such as CRP, WRP and WHIP. He also stated the importance of adequate NRCS field staff to assist landowners.

LOOKING AHEAD

AGRICULTURE NOMINATIONS - The Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee, Chairman Lugar - IN, will hold a hearing on pending agriculture nominations.

April 24

9:30 a.m.

562 Dirksen

