

**LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY FOR:****June 24, 2002**

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**LAST WEEK**

**LAND AND RESOURCES BILLS SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING** – On Tuesday, June 18, the Public Lands and Forests Subcommittee (Chairman Wyden, D-OR) of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee held a hearing on six bills pending before the committee. The bills under consideration included several land conveyance measures and other items under the purview of the Department of Interior. Witnesses involved local stakeholders and constituents providing views on the pending bills. Among the bills under consideration, is S. 198 which requires the Secretary of the Interior to establish a program to provide assistance through states to eligible weed management entities to control or eradicate harmful, non-native weeds on public and private lands. Testimony and comments were heard regarding the high costs in dollars and acres of land rendered useless to wildlife and agriculture because of the spread of non-native weeds. Witnesses testified that passing and funding S. 198 would be a great help in solving the weed problem in western states. The balance of the hearing involved oil and gas drilling, the results of the 30-mile fire investigation and land management. At this time, no date has been set for further action on the pending legislation.

**SOUND SCIENCE AND THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT FULL COMMITTEE HEARING** - The House Resources Committee (Chairman Hansen, UT) held hearings on June 18 and June 19, 2002, on H.R.4840, a bill that would require the Secretary of the Interior, when making determinations under the Endangered Species Act, to “give greater weight to any scientific or commercial study or other information that is empirical or has been field-tested or peer-reviewed.” Members of Congress provided testimony on the first day, while administration witnesses testified the second day. Witnesses from the USFWS and NOAA expressed support for the legislation, especially providing more weight to peer-reviewed studies when assessing potential listing of endangered species. The Klamath River was used as an example where new information is being used to revise and improve these decisions.

**INVASIVE AQUATIC SPECIES SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING** – On June 20, the Environment, Technology and Standards Subcommittee (Chairman Ehlers, MI) of the House Science Committee held a hearing on research priorities to support the National Invasive Species Act (NISA). Members of Congress and others testified regarding the importance of tracking the proliferation of invasive species, distinguishing between various species, how to improve barriers to stop the spread of invasive species as well as the need for better coordination among federal agencies.

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**THIS WEEK**

**CONFIRMATION HEARING** - The Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee (Chairman Harkin, IA) will hold a confirmation hearing on pending nominations. Nominations are Phillis K. Fong for USDA Inspector General, Walter Lukken, for Commissioner, Commodity Futures Training Commission, Sharyn Brown-Hruska, Commissioner, Commodity Futures Trading Commission and Douglas L. Flory, Member, Farm Credit Administration Board.

June 25                                      10:00 a.m.                                      328A Russell Building

**PROTECTING CORAL REEFS OVERSIGHT HEARING** – The Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans Subcommittee (Chairman Gilchrest, MD) of the House Resources Committee will hold an oversight hearing on various measures being taken to protect coral reefs.

June 27                                      10:00a.m.                                      1324 Longworth Building

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**LOOKING AHEAD**

**FISCAL 2002 SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS** – The House and Senate conferees will meet to consider legislation that would make supplemental appropriations for fiscal 2002. The date and time has not been determined. The Senate conferees are Sen. Byrd, (WV), Sen. Inouye, (HI), Sen. Hollings, (SC), Sen. Leahy, (VT), Sen. Harkin, (IA), Sen. Milkulski, (MD), Sen. Reid, (RI), Sen. Kohl, (WI), Sen. Murray, (WA), Sen. Dorgan, (ND), Sen. Feinstein, (CA), Sen. Durbin, (IL), Sen. Johnson, (SD), Sen. Landrieu, (LA), Sen. Reed, (RI), Sen. Stevens, (AK), Sen. Cochran, (MS), Sen. Specter, (PA), Sen. Domenici, (NM), Sen. Bond, (MO), Sen. McConnell, (KY), Sen. Burns, (MT), Sen. Shelby, (AL), Sen. Gregg, (NH), Sen. Bennett, (UT), Sen. Campbell, (CO), Sen. Craig, (ID), Sen. Hutchinson, (AR), Sen. DeWine, (OH).

The House conferees are: Rep. Young (FL), Rep. Regula, (OH), Rep. Lewis (CA), Rep. Rogers (KY), Rep. Skeen (NM), Rep. Wolf (VA), Rep. Kolbe (AZ), Rep. Callahan (AL), Rep. Walsh (NY), Rep. Taylor (NC), Rep. Hobson (OH), Rep. Istook (OK), Rep. Bonilla, (TX), Rep. Knollenberg (MI), Rep. Obey (WI), Rep. Murtha (PA), Rep. Dicks (WA), Rep. Sabo (MN), Rep. Hoyer (MD), Rep. Mollohan (WV), Rep. Marcy Kaptur (OH), Rep. Visclosky (IN), Rep. Lowey (LA), Rep. Serrano (NY), and Rep. Olver (MA).

**FISCAL 2003 AGRICULTURE APPROPRIATIONS** – The Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA and Related Agencies Subcommittee (Chairman Bonilla, TX) of the House Appropriations Committee will mark up draft legislation that would make fiscal 2003 appropriations for programs under its jurisdiction. The date for the mark up has not been determined.

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