

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY FOR:

November 25, 2002

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LAST WEEK

CONTINUING RESOLUTION PASSES- On November 19th, the Senate passed H.J. Res. 124, the fifth resolution to continue appropriations for fiscal year 2002, until January 11, 2003. The President is expected to sign the legislation.

107th CONGRESS ADJOURNED – The 107th Congress, second session, stands in adjournment sine die, under the provisions of S. Con. Res. 160. On November 23, the House adjourned. The Senate had adjourned on November 21.

CONSERVATION LEGISLATION PASSED AT CLOSE OF SESSION - On Wednesday the Senate passed several measures previously approved by the House, that are of interest to NRCS. The following lists the current status of the bills.

Harmful Nonnative Weed Control Act: S. 198, legislation to require the Secretary of the Interior to establish a program to provide assistance through States to eligible weed management entities to control or eradicate harmful, nonnative weeds on public and private land. [Legislation did not pass the House.]

Fallon Rail Freight Loading Facility Transfer Act: The Senate passed H. R. 1870, to provide for the sale of certain real property within the Newlands Project in Nevada, to the city of Fallon, Nevada. [The bill is cleared action by the President.]

Klamath Basin Emergency Operation and Maintenance Refund Act: H.R. 2828, to authorize payments to certain entities in the Klamath Basin adversely affected by water redirection. [The bill is cleared for action by the President.]

Lower Rio Grande Valley Water Resources Conservation and Improvement Act: H. R. 2990 to amend the Lower Rio Grande Valley Water Resources Conservation and Improvement Act of 2000 to authorize additional projects under that Act. [The bill is cleared for action by the President.]

Mni Wiconi Rural Water Supply Project: H. R. 4638 to reauthorize the Mni Wiconi Rural Water Supply Project. [The bill is cleared for action by the President.]

SMALL WATERSHED PROJECT APPROVED- On November 21, 2002, the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee (Chairman, Harkin IA) approved the plans for improvements to protect areas from flooding in the Buena Vista Watershed located in west central Virginia. Since the House Committee on Agriculture had previously approved the project, it is now authorized for implementation.

LOOKING AHEAD

The 108th Congress convenes on Tuesday January 7, 2003.
