LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY FOR:

May 10, 1999

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LAST WEEK -

THE HOUSE APPROVES KOSOVO FUNDING - On Thursday, May 6, the House passed H.R. 1664, a bill making emergency supplemental appropriations for military operations, refugee relief, and humanitarian assistance relating to the conflict in Kosovo. An amendment to the bill, which was approved by voice vote, added \$106 million to support over \$1 billion in emergency farm loans. Congressional staff have stated that Appropriators will now begin an effort to combine the provisions of the Kosovo legislation with a previously passed emergency supplemental bill, H.R. 1141. The Senate version of H.R. 1141 contains \$100 million for the Emergency Watershed Protection program, and \$28 million to fund technical assistance costs associated with the Conservation Reserve Program.

CONSERVATION AND REINVESTMENT - On Tuesday, May 4, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee held a hearing on Conservation and Reinvestment. Senator Barbara Boxer of California gave testimony on an amendment to the Land and Water Conservation Fund (S. 466) and Dianne Feinstein also of California gave testimony to the Public Land and Recreation Investment Act (S. 532). Senator Boxer encouraged her colleagues to make a commitment to preserve and protect the natural resources. She said urban parks, farms and historic building need to be protected and restored. She stated that nearly 3 million acres of farmland and more than 170,000 acres of wetlands disappear each year. Senator Boxer strongly urged her colleagues to support her bill. Senator Feinstein stressed the need for the federal government to spend more on preserving the environment and recreational resources. She said the Land and Water Conservation Fund helped to preserve nearly 7 million acres, including Yellowstone National Park, Cape Cod National Seashore and the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. Senator Feinstein stated her bill would include money for federal land acquisition, noncompetitive grants to states and funding for urban parks. She urged the Senate to make a commitment to fund the LWCF and the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program.

LEGISLATION OF NOTE -

The following Bills of significance to NRCS and conservation have been introduced:

BILL	MEMBER	PURPOSE
S. 466	Boxer, (CA)	Would provide for the permanent protection of the resources of the United States in the year 2000.
S. 910	Craig, (ID)	"The Noxious Weed and Plant Protection Act of 1999".

THIS WEEK

CONSERVATION AND REINVESTMENT - Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee (Chairman Frank Murkowski, R-AK) will hold a hearing on S. 25, a bill to provide coastal impact assistance to state and local governments, to amend the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 and to establish a fund to meet outdoor conservation and recreation needs.

May 11 9:30 am 366 Dirksen

CLEAN WATER ACTION PLAN - On Thursday, May 13, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee (Chairman Chafee, R-R.I.) will hold a hearing on the Clean Water Action Plan. The Senators will be examining the origins of the plan, how the public has been involved in the process, and also look at the various programmatic authorities and activities that are associated with the plan. USDA Secretary, Dan Glickman and Administrator Carol Browner of the Environmental Protection Agency will be the primary Administration witnesses.

May 13 10:00 am 406 Dirksen

LOOKING AHEAD -

CONSERVATION AND WILDLIFE- Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans Subcommittee (Chairman Jim Saxton, R-N.J.) of House Resources Committee will hold a hearing on H.Con. Res. 63, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress opposing removal of dams on the Columbia and Snake rivers for fishery restoration purposes.

May 27 10:00 am 1334 Longworth Bldg.