



## Legislative Bulletin.....April 29, 2008

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### **Summary of the Bills Under Consideration Today:**

**Total Number of New Government Programs:** Numerous

**Total Cost of Discretionary Authorizations:** \$381 million over the FY 2009 through FY 2013 period

**Effect on Revenue:** \$0

**Total Change in Mandatory Spending:** \$0

**Total New State & Local Government Mandates:** \$0

**Total New Private Sector Mandates:** 0

**Number of Bills Without Committee Reports:** 4

**Number of Reported Bills that Don’t Cite Specific Clauses of Constitutional Authority:** 0

**S. 2457—bill to provide for extensions of leases of certain land by  
Mashantucket Pequot (Western) Tribe (*Lieberman, I-CT*)**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, April 29, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** S. 2457 would allow the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe to renew leases of tribal land to private entities for a period of up to 75 years. Under current law, such leases may only be made for 25 years. The bill would stipulate that the U.S. is not liable for any losses suffered by the tribe as a result of a lease renewal. The bill would also prohibit any leasing entity from conducting gaming activities on tribal land that is leased with an option to renew.

**Additional Information:** The Mashantucket Pequot Tribe has inhabited the Mashantucket area of Southeast Connecticut since before the arrival of European colonists in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. According to the tribe's Website, the Mashantucket Pequot Reservation, which is located on the Thames River in Connecticut, was initially given to the tribe in 1666. The reservation is currently 1,250 acres.

**Committee Action:** S. 2457 was introduced on December 12, 2007, and referred to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, which discharged the bill by unanimous consent on February 5, 2008. That same day, the Senate passed S. 2457, as amended, by unanimous consent. On February 7, 2008, the bill was received in the House and referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, which held a mark-up and reported the bill by unanimous consent on April 17, 2008.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** According to CBO, H.R. 2457 would have no effect on the budget and would not affect spending.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?** No.

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** A Committee Report citing compliance with rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits was not available. Such a report is not required because the bill is being considered under a suspension of the rules.

**Constitutional Authority:** A Committee Report citing constitutional authority was not available.

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**H.R. 3522—To ratify a conveyance of a portion of the Jicarilla Apache Reservation to Rio Arriba County, State of New Mexico, pursuant to the settlement of litigation between the Jicarilla Apache Nation and Rio Arriba County, State of New Mexico, to authorize issuance of a patent for said lands, and to change the exterior boundary of the Jicarilla Apache Reservation accordingly, and for other purposes (*Udall, D-NM*)**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, April 29, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.R. 3522 would ratify an agreement between the Jicarilla Apache Nation and the County of Rio Arriba, New Mexico, concerning a county road on the tribe's reservation. The agreement would require the county to permanently abandon the disputed land in exchange for a 70 acre tract of settlement land on the reservation. The agreement between the two parties requires ratification by Congress to have the force of law.

**Additional Background:** According to findings listed in the bill, a lawsuit is now pending between the County of Rio Arriba and the Jicarilla Tribe regarding a county road that passes through a 1988 addition to the tribe's reservation. The two parties have been involved in a legal dispute over the road (which was slated to be built before the addition to the reservation's land) for over 15 years. In 2003, the two parties came to an agreement in which the county would abandon the land in return for the conveyance of a difference tract of land from the tribe. In order for the agreement to be legally authorized, it must be ratified by Congress.

**Committee Action:** H.R. 3522 was introduced on September 10, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, which held a mark-up on April 17, 2008, and reported the bill by unanimous consent.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** According to CBO, H.R. 3522 would have no effect on the budget and would not affect spending.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?** No.

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** A Committee Report citing compliance with rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits was not available. Such a report is not required because the bill is being considered under a suspension of the rules.

**Constitutional Authority:** A Committee Report citing constitutional authority was not available.

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**H.R. 3490—Tuolumne Me-Wuk Land Transfer Act of 2007  
(Radanovich, R-CA)**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, April 29, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.R. 3490 would transfer approximately 66 acres of land adjacent to the Tuolumne Rancheria of California (the federally recognized reservation of the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians) from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to be held in trust by the U.S. government for the benefit of the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians. The bill would stipulate that land held in trust would be used for non-gaming purposes.

H.R. 3490 would also extend the reservation's boundaries by approximately 357 acres by adding portions the transferred BLM land and other adjacent land that is currently owned by the tribe but not recognized as a portion of the reservation.

**Additional Background:** The Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians of the Tuolumne Rancheria is an recognized American Indian Tribe in northern California. The tribe's reservation was established in 1910 and has been managed by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) since that time. According to findings listed in the bill, the BIA manages three tracts of land adjacent to the tribe's reservation, which is known as the Tuolumne Rancheria of California. The land held in trust is used for an ancestral cemetery, a cultural center, agricultural land, and housing. Two additional tracts of land were purchased by the tribe and have been approved for transfer into the reservation by the BIA. According to their Website, the BIA is responsible for the "administration and management of 55.7 million acres of land held in trust by the United States for American Indians."

**Committee Action:** H.R. 3490 was introduced on September 6, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, which held a mark-up on April 17, 2008, and reported the bill by unanimous consent.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** According to CBO, H.R. 3490 would cost less than \$500,000 over the FY 2009—FY 2013 period (subject to appropriation) for the transfer of certain land from BLM to the BIA.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?** No.

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** A Committee Report citing compliance with rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits was not available. Such a report is not required because the bill is being considered under a suspension of the rules.

**Constitutional Authority:** A Committee Report citing constitutional authority was not available.

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**H.Res. 1043—Honoring the life and legacy of Chief Standing Bear, a pioneer in civil rights for Native Americans, on the 100th anniversary of Chief Standing Bear’s death (Fortenberry, R-GA)**

**Order of Business:** H.Res. 1043 is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, April 29, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Res. 1043 would express the sense that the House “honors the life, legacy, and contributions to civil rights of Chief Standing Bear.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “Chief Standing Bear was born on Ponca land in what is now Nebraska;
- “Chief Standing Bear became chief of the Ponca Tribe at a young age because of his leadership abilities;
- “In 1878, Chief Standing Bear and the Ponca Tribe were forced by a Federal treaty to leave their home for Indian Territory in what is now Oklahoma;
- “The hardship of travel, illness, and the inhospitable conditions of Indian Territory caused many members of the tribe to perish including Chief Standing Bear’s son;
- “Chief Standing Bear, determined to bury his son in his homeland, led 30 members of his tribe back to their home in Nebraska;
- “Chief Standing Bear and the 30 members of his tribe were arrested by the Department of the Interior upon their return;
- “Chief Standing Bear enlisted the help of Thomas Tibbles of the predecessor to the Omaha World-Herald and 2 attorneys to petition the Federal court to rule on the Ponca Tribe’s treatment by the Government;
- “The Ponca won their freedom and eventually were able to return to their home in Nebraska;
- “Chief Standing Bear would spend the next 4 years touring the Eastern United States promoting Native American rights;
- “Chief Standing Bear demonstrated the highest level of courage and determination;
- “Chief Standing Bear made a vital contribution to civil rights for Native Americans; and
- “2008 is the 100th anniversary of Chief Standing Bear’s death.”

**Committee Action:** H.Res. 1043 was introduced on March 12, 2008, and referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, which took no official action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution does not authorize expenditures.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?** No.

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### **S. 2739—Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 (*Bingaman, D-NM*)**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, April 29, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** S. 2739 is an omnibus federal lands bill that would authorize the Secretary of Interior to study, establish, and redesignate numerous National Parks, National Wildernesses, National Heritage Areas, National Trails, and National Scenic River designations. S. 2739 would also authorize land conveyances, federal boundary adjustments, memorials, museums, reclamation projects, and commissions. Additionally, the bill would include a provision to federalize the government of the Northern Mariana Islands and grant them a non-voting delegate to the House of Representatives. In all, S. 2739 includes over sixty individual bills with a combined authorization level of \$380 million over the FY 2009—FY 2013 period.

The specific bills included in S. 2739 are summarized below with possible concerns listed in *italics*.

#### **Wild Sky Wilderness Act (H.R. 886, Larsen D-WA)**

- H.R. 886 would designate 106,000 acres in the state of Washington as the Wild Sky Wilderness, which would be added to the National Wilderness Preservation System.
- *According to dissenting views from [House Report 110-089](#), “The U.S. Forest Service testified that 90,000 acres of the proposed area would be appropriate for wilderness. It also concluded that 16,000 acres were not well-suited for wilderness because it included previously harvested and roaded areas, private land and vital roads.”*

#### **Jim Weaver Trail renaming (H.R. 247, DeFazio D-OR)**

- H.R. 247 would designate a 19.4-mile U.S. Forest Service trail in the Willamette National Forest in Lane County, Oregon, as the “Jim Weaver Loop Trail.”

#### **Piedras Blancas Historic Light Station (H.R. 276, Capps D-CA)**

- H.R. 276 would establish the Piedras Blancas Historic Station Outstanding Natural Area as a part of the National Landscape Conservation System. The bill exempts the land from appropriation, disposal, mining, and mineral and geothermal leasing

### **Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse (H.R. 1922, Mahoney D-FL)**

- H.R. 1922 would establish the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse and 126 acres surrounding the area in Jupiter, Florida, as an Outstanding Natural Area, managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The purpose of the designation would be to protect and conserve natural, scenic, and recreational use of the federal land surrounding the lighthouse.

### **Nevada National Guard land conveyance (H.R. 815, Porter R-NV)**

- H.R. 815 would allow the conveyance of 35 to 50 acres of land from Clark County, Nevada, to the Division of State Lands, to be used by the Nevada National Guard.

### **Cooperative agreements with National Park Service (H.R. 658, Porter R-NV)**

- H.R. 658 would allow the Secretary of the Interior to enter into cooperative agreements with state, local or tribal governments, other federal agencies, other public entities, educational institutions, private nonprofit organizations, or participating private landowners, for the purpose of “protecting natural resources of units of the National Park System through collaborative efforts on land inside and outside of National Park System units.”

### **Carl Sandburg Home land acquisition (H.R. 1100, Shuler D-NC)**

- H.R. 1100 would authorize the Secretary to Interior to purchase, from willing sellers, 115 acres of land, water, or interests in land and water, to be added to the Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site.
- *According to dissenting views from [House Report 110-157](#), twelve minority Members on the Natural Resources Committee stated that “We have seen no evidence that this augmentation of the immense federal estate will in any way enhance the visitor experience or even protect the National Historic Site.”*

### **Lowell National Historic Park land acquisition (H.R. 299, Meehan D-MA)**

- H.R. 299 would adjust the boundaries of the Lowell National Historical Park to include five parcels of land located in the City of Lowell, Massachusetts.

### **Minidoka National Historic Site (H.R. 161, Inslee D-WA)**

- H.R. 161 would adjust the boundary of the Minidoka Internment National Monument (hereafter referred to as the Monument) located in Idaho, and provide various federal assistance and federal grants in support of the Monument and the Nidoto Nai Yoni Memorial (hereafter referred to as the Memorial).

### **Acadia National Park amendments (H.R. 2251, Michaud D-ME)**

- H.R. 2251 would amend the federal government's land conveyance authority within the Acadia National Park, located on Mt. Desert Island in Maine. The bill would also increase the maximum amount of funds authorized for the Secretary of the Interior to expand the park.
- *Would increase the maximum amount of money that the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to use to acquire land for the Acadia National Park by nearly \$20 million.*

### **Newtonia Civil War Battlefields study (H.R. 376, Blunt R-MO)**

- H.R. 376 would direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a resource study relating to the First and Second Battles of Newtonia in Missouri to determine the feasibility of adding the battlefields and related sites as part of Wilson's Creek National Battlefield or the National Park System.

### **Soldiers' Memorial Military Museum study (H.R. 1047, Clay D-MO)**

- H.R. 1047 would direct the Secretary of Interior to determine the suitability and feasibility of designating the Soldiers Memorial Military Museum in St. Louis, Missouri, as a unit of the National Park System.

### **Wolf House study (H.R. 442, Berry D-AR)**

- H.R. 442 would direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to determine whether it is suitable and feasible to designate [the Wolf House](#) located on Highway 5 in Norfolk, Arkansas as a part of the NPS.

### **Space Shuttle Columbia study (H.R. 807, Gohmert R-TX)**

- H.R. 807 would direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a feasibility study to add at least four parcels of land in Texas to the National Park System as memorials to the Space Shuttle Columbia disaster.

### **Cesar Chavez park study (H.R. 359, Solis D-CA)**

- H.R. 359 would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of significant sites in the life of Cesar Chavez and the farm labor movement. The results of the study would be used to determine the best method for preserving such sites, and whether those sites meet the criteria for designation as a national historic landmark or listing in the National Register of Historic Places.
- *The bill uses federal funds to finance a study that could eventually lead to the establishment of federally designated historic sites, or a National Park, for a historical figure who is accused, by some, of encouraging violence and intimidation as tools to organize laborers.*



### **Taunton, MA park study (H.R. 1021, Frank D-MA)**

- H.R. 1021 would direct the Secretary of Interior to conduct a special resources study regarding the suitability and feasibility of designating certain historic buildings and areas in Taunton, Massachusetts, as a unit of the National Park System.

### **Rim of the Valley corridor study (H.R. 1835, Schiff D-CA)**

- Would direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to determine whether it is suitable and feasible to designate the Rim of the Valley Corridor, in the San Fernando, La Crescenta, Santa Clarita, Simi, and Conejo Valleys in and around Los Angeles, California, as a part of the NPS.
- *The vast scope of the designation coupled with the high cost of property in the area could lead to land rights issues and huge federal expenses while acquiring land in the area. Also, certain property rights advocates have suggested that the designation could be used as a means to stop private development in the area.*

### **Gen. Francis Marion Memorial (H.R. 497, Wilson R-SC)**

- H.R. 497 would authorize the Marion Park Project, a committee of the Palmetto Conservation Foundation, to establish a commemorative work on federal land in the District of Columbia (or its environs) to honor Brigadier General Francis Marion.

### **Dwight Eisenhower Memorial Commission (H.R. 2094, Moore D-KS)**

- H.R. 2094 would expand the powers of the [Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission](#), which was created in the Department of Defense Appropriations Act of 2000 to plan and create a monument to Dwight D. Eisenhower, and authorize “such funds” for carrying out the next phase of the project.

### **Museum of the American Latino study (H.R. 512, Becerra D-CA)**

- H.R. 512 would establish a new commission to study the potential creation of a National Museum of the American Latino Heritage to develop a plan of action for the establishment and maintenance of this museum in Washington, D.C.
- *Outside organization, such as the National Coalition to Save Our Mall, have opposed recent additions on the National Mall, arguing that the Mall is becoming overcrowded with museums and memorials and confusing to navigate.*

### **Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Quadricentennial Commission (H.R. 1520, Hinchey D-NY)**

- H.R. 1520 would establish two commissions to coordinate with New York and Vermont to ensure that there is a suitable national observance of Henry Hudson, Robert Fulton, and Samuel de Champlain in 2009.

### **National Quilt Museum (H Con Res 116, Whitfield R-KY)**

- H.Con.Res. 116 would express the sense of the House of Representatives “that the National Museum of Wildlife Art, located at 2820 Rungius Road, Jackson, Wyoming, shall be designated as the ‘National Museum of Wildlife Art of the United States.’”

### **Ellis Island Library renamed for Bob Hope (H.R. 759, Engel D-NY)**

- H.R. 759 would redesignate the Ellis Island Library on the third floor of the Ellis Island Immigration Museum, as the “Bob Hope Memorial Library.”

### **Star Spangled Banner Trail (H.R. 1388, Sarbanes D-MD)**

- H.R. 1388 would establish the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail, which would consist of 290 miles of land and water routes in Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia.

### **Lewis and Clark National Trail Center (H.R. 761, Fortenberry R-NE)**

- H.R. 761 would authorize the Secretary of Interior to transfer certain federal land and a visitor’s center associated with the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail in Nebraska to the Missouri River Basin Lewis and Clark Interpretive Trail and Visitor Center Foundation Inc.

### **Lewis and Clark National Trail extension (H.R. 3616, Emerson R-MO)**

- Would direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to determine whether it is suitable and feasible to designate [“Eastern Legacy” sites](#) on the “Lewis and Clark Trail”, including sites in Virginia, the District of Columbia, Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, Indiana, Missouri, and Illinois as a part of the NPS.

### **Eightmile Wild and Scenic River (H.R. 986, Courtney D-CT)**

- H.R. 986 would designate a 25 mile stretch of the Eightmile Wild River, in south-central Connecticut, as a part of the Nation Park System’s National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, to be administered by the Secretary of Interior.
- *During the subcommittee markup, an amendment was offered that would have strictly prohibited the NPS from obtaining land through condemnation, but allowing for the Park Service to purchase or accept donated land, but failed on a party-line vote.*
- *In light of potential property rights concerns, a letter in opposition to the bill was drafted and signed by all 14 Republican members of the subcommittee and 172 Members voted against final passage of the bill under a rule.*

### **Denali National Park and Alaska Railroad Exchange (H.R. 830, Young R-AK)**

- H.R. 830 would allow the Secretary of Interior to exchange up to 25 acres of federal land in the Denali Wilderness with up to 25 acres of non-federal adjacent land owned by the Alaska Railroad.

### **National Underground Railroad amendments (H.R. 1239, Hastings D-FL)**

- H.R. 1239 would re-authorize \$2.5 million annually for the National Park Service's (NPS) National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom program.

### **Grand Canyon National Park subcontractors (H.R. 1191, Renzi R-AZ)**

- H.R. 1191 would authorize the National Park Service to pay for services rendered by subcontractors under an Indefinite Quantity Contract issued for work to be completed at the Grand Canyon National Park.

### **Journey Through Hallowed Ground (H.R. 319, Wolf R-VA)**

- H.R. 319 would establish the Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area comprised of a 175 mile stretch through four different states (VA, MA, PA, and WV).
- *Rep. Roscoe Bartlett and Rep. Virgil Goode, whose district would be included in the designation, attempted to offer an amendment in committee to have their districts removed from the heritage area, but it was rejected by the majority.*
- *The Heritage Foundation referred to H.R. 319 as "a badly flawed bill that would give a handful of environmentalists and wealthy landowners extraordinary powers over the use of private property along the Route 15 corridor."*
- *The National Center for Public Policy Research referred to H.R. 319 as "the Kelo decision and earmarks rolled into one."*

### **Niagara Falls National Heritage Area (H.R. 713, Slaughter D-NY)**

- H.R. 713 would establish the Niagara Falls National Heritage Area in New York.

### **Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area (H.R. 1625, Lahood R-IL)**

- H.R. 1625 would establish the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area in Illinois.

### **Heritage Area Authorization Extensions (H.R. 1483, Regula R-OH)**

- H.R. 1483 would reauthorize the following Heritage Areas (listed with the amount of money each has received since 1996):
  - National Coal Heritage Area in West Virginia (\$1.9 million)
  - Tennessee Civil War Heritage Area in Tennessee (\$2.1 million)
  - Augusta Canal National Heritage Area in Georgia (\$4.7 million)

- Steel Industry American Heritage Area in Pennsylvania (\$9.4 million)
- Essex National Heritage Area in Massachusetts (\$9.3 million)
- South Carolina National Heritage Corridor in South Carolina (\$7.9 million)
- America's Agricultural Partnership in Iowa (\$5.1 million)
- Ohio & Erie Canal National Heritage Corridor (redesignated as the Ohio & Erie National Heritage Canalway) in Ohio (\$9.4 million)
- Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area in New York (\$6 million)

**Columbia-Pacific National Heritage Area study (H.R. 407, Baird D-WA)**

- H.R. 407 would direct the Secretary of Interior to commission a study to determine the feasibility of designating an area along the Columbia River, in Washington State, as the Columbia-Pacific National Heritage Area.

**Alaska Water Resources study (H.R. 1114, Young R-AK)**

- H.R. 1114 would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study that includes a survey of accessible water supplies, including aquifers, on the Kenai Peninsula and in the Municipality of Anchorage, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, the city of Fairbanks, and the Fairbanks Northstar Borough.

**Redwood Valley County Water District (H.R. 235, Thompson D-CA)**

- H.R. 235 would allow the Redwood Valley County Water District to enter into finance agreements to fund new water improvements.

**American River Pump Station project transfer (H.R. 482, Doolittle R-CA)**

- H.R. 482 would authorize the transfer of the ownership of the American River Pump Station Project, located at Auburn, California, which includes a pumping plant, to the Placer County Water Agency, in accordance with the terms of an agreement made between the U.S. and the Water Agency.

**Arthur V. Watkins Dam Enlargement (H.R. 839, Bishop R-UT)**

- H.R. 839 would authorize the Secretary of the Interior (through the Bureau of Reclamation) to conduct a feasibility study on raising the height of the Arthur V. Watkins Dam to provide additional storage to meet water supply needs within the Weber Basin Project area and the Wasatch Front, Utah.

**New Mexico water planning assistance (H.R. 1904, Wilson R-NM)**

- H.R. 1904 would authorize \$3 million for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012 for the Secretary of the Interior, upon request of a state governor, to provide non-reimbursable technical assistance and non-reimbursable grants for the development of comprehensive state water plans.

### **Yakima Project land conveyance (H.R. 386, Hastings R-WA)**

- H.R. 1564 would direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District (Yakima County, WA) all U.S. right, title, and interest in and to the buildings and lands of the Yakima Project, WA.

### **Juab County water project (H.R. 1736, Cannon R-UT)**

- H.R. 1739 adds Juab County, Utah to the current list of Utah counties eligible to receive federal funding in a current \$10 million study and development project by the Utah Division of Water Resources of systems to allow ground water recharge, management, and the conjunctive use of surface water resources with ground water resources.

### **A&B Irrigation District construction repayment (H.R. 467, Simpson R-ID)**

- H.R. 467 would allow landowners within the A&B Irrigation District in Idaho to repay their portion of the construction costs of the District project facilities at any time. Once a landowner discharges his debt, the land would no longer be subject to the full-cost pricing limitations under federal reclamation law.

### **Oregon water resources (H.R. 495, Walden R-OR)**

- H.R. 495 would authorize the Secretary of the Interior, through the Bureau of Reclamation, to participate in the design, planning, and construction of several water recycling and distribution facilities in Oregon at a cost of \$17 million.

### **Republican River Basin feasibility study (H.R. 1025, Moran R-KS)**

- H.R. 1025 would authorize the Secretary of the Interior, along with the states of Nebraska, Kansas, and Colorado, to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of implementing a water supply project in order to improve water supply reliability in the Republican River Basin.

### **Eastern Municipal Water District (H.R. 30, Issa R-CA)**

- H.R. 30 would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to cooperate with the Eastern Municipal Water District, California, in the planning, design, and construction of the permanent facilities for operational pressure zones to provide recycled water in the district.

### **Bay Area Regional water recycling (H.R. 1526, Miller D-CA)**

- H.R. 1526 would authorize \$30 million for the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the design, planning, and construction of several water recycling and distribution facilities in California's San Francisco Bay area.

### **Bureau of Reclamation Site Security (H.R. 1662, Napolitano D-CA)**

- H.R. 1662 would cap the amount of reimbursements that the Bureau of Reclamation could receive from customers for added site security at \$18.9 million, adjusted annually for inflation.

### **More Water, More Energy and Less Waste Act (H.R. 902, Udall D-CO)**

- H.R. 902 would authorize \$5 million for the Secretary of the Interior and the Director of the U.S Geological Survey to conduct a study to identify the technical, economic, environmental, legal, and other obstacles to increasing the extent to which produced water can be used for irrigation and other purposes.

### **Platte River Recovery program (H.R. 1462, Udall D-CO)**

- H.R. 1462 would authorize the Secretary of Interior, through the Commissioner of Reclamation and in partnership with the States, to implement the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program for threatened and endangered species in the Central and Lower Platte River Basin without creating Federal water rights or requiring the grant of water rights to Federal entities.

### **Central OK Master Conservatory District study (H.R. 1337, Cole R-OK)**

- H.R. 1337 would authorize the appropriation of \$900,000 for the Bureau of Reclamation to conduct a three year feasibility study of possible alternatives to enhance the water supplies of the Central Oklahoma Master Conservatory District.

### **Energy Technology Transfer (H.R. 85, Biggert R-IL)**

- H.R. 85 would expand a current grant program that provides grants to nonprofit institutions, state and local governments, and other entities, for geographically dispersed network of Advanced Energy Technology Transfer Centers, located in areas determined by the Secretary of Commerce, to have the greatest need of the services offered by the Centers.

### **Steel and Aluminum energy conservation and technology (H.R. 1126, Lipinski D-IL)**

- H.R. 1126 would reauthorize, at \$60 million over five years (\$12 million each year from FY 2008 through FY 2012), the Steel and Aluminum Energy Conservation and Technology Competitiveness Act of 1988. This Act funds research and development of energy-efficient manufacturing of steel and aluminum.

### **Northern Mariana Islands (H.R. 3079, Christensen D-VI)**

- H.R. 3079 would extend U.S. immigration laws to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) and grant the CNMI a non-voting delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives.
- *H.R. 3079 would result in a \$2 million increase in mandatory spending to pay for the salary and benefits of a new delegate over ten years. Because the increase is not offset, the bill technically violates PAYGO rules implemented in the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress. However, because the bill is being considered under a suspension of the rules, all PAYGO requirements are waived.*

### **Compacts of Free Association Amendments (H.R. 2705, Christensen D-VI)**

- H.R. 2705 would amend the Compact of Free Association Act of 2003, which defines the United State's relationship with Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, Palau, and the Northern Mariana Islands. Specifically, the bill would transfer responsibility of America's disaster aid from FEMA to USAID and allow the two agencies to transfer certain unobligated funds toward disaster relief. The bill would also forgive a \$3 million payment owed by Palau if the nation deposits the funds into a trust fund controlled by the Republic of Palau in order to fund its own economic development.

**Additional Information:** A House Report and CBO score for S. 2739 has not been made available as of press time. However, when each authorization is added individually, the total cost of the bill is \$380.4 million over five years.

**Possible Conservative Concerns:** Some conservatives may be concerned that many of the land designations included in S. 2739 limit private property rights. Conservatives may be concerned that Heritage and Wilderness area designations can lead to restrictive federal zoning and land-use planning. The management plan could restrict how residential and commercial property owners utilize their private property without any notice or warning. Furthermore, some conservatives may be concerned because numerous designations in S. 2739 would not allow property owners to escape inclusion in the heritage area. Conservatives may also be concerned that S. 2739 would authorize \$380 million for local land designations and projects.

In addition, some conservatives may be concerned that S. 2739 couples non-controversial land bills with contentious federal designations that limit land use and are opposed by some residents and Members within the designations. Some conservatives may be concerned that these non-controversial land bills are attached to S. 2739 in order to garner votes for disputed designations that would not likely pass the House under a suspension of the rules.

**Committee Action:** S. 2739 was passed in the Senate on April 10, 2008, by a recorded vote of 91-4. The same day the bill was received in the House, which took no official action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** A CBO score for S. 2739 was not available at press time. However, the combined amount of authorizations in S. 2739 is \$380.4 million over the FY 2009 through FY 2013 period.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** Yes, the bill creates new federal land designations and authorizes numerous government assistance projects.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?** No.

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** A Committee Report citing compliance with rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits was not available. Such a report is not required because the bill is being considered under a suspension of the rules.

**Constitutional Authority:** A Committee Report citing constitutional authority was not available.

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## **H. Res. 1079—Supporting the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month 2008, and for other purposes (*Hinojosa, D-TX*)**

**Order of Business:** H. Res. 1079 is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, April 29, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H. Res. 1079 would express the sense that the House of Representatives:

- “Supports the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month, including raising public awareness about financial education;
- “Recognizes the importance of managing personal finances, increasing personal savings and reducing indebtedness in the United States; and
- “ Requests that the President issue a proclamation calling on the Federal Government, States, localities, schools, nonprofit organizations, businesses, other entities, and the people of the United States to observe the month with appropriate programs and activities with the goal of increasing financial literacy rates for individuals of all ages and walks of life.”

H. Res. 1079 lists several findings, including the following:

- “Personal financial literacy is essential to ensure that individuals are prepared to make informed financial choices, as well as manage money, credit, debt, and risk and become responsible workers, heads of households, investors, entrepreneurs, business leaders, and citizens;



- “Personal financial management skills and lifelong habits begin to develop during childhood;
- “A study completed in 2006 by the Jump\$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy found that high school seniors know less about principles of basic personal finance than did high school seniors 7 years earlier, and the average scores in both years were failing grades;
- “The 2007 Survey of the States by the National Council on Economic Education found that 49 States include the subject of economics and 40 States include the subject of personal finance in their elementary and secondary education standards, up from 48 and 31 States, respectively, in 2002;
- “55 percent of college students acquire their first credit card during their first year in college, and 92 percent of college students acquire at least 1 credit card by their second year in college, yet only 26 percent of people between the ages of 13 and 21 reported that their parents actively taught them how to manage money;
- “The personal savings rate in the United States was zero percent at the end of the fourth quarter of 2007, which puts it among the lowest since the government began collecting the data in 1959;
- “The average baby boomer has only \$50,000 in savings apart from equity in their homes;
- “A study by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants found that 55 percent of people between the ages of 25 and 34 maintain an interest-bearing account or other savings instrument, a decrease of 10 percent since 1985;
- “The April 2007 National Foundation for Credit Counseling consumer financial literacy survey found that only 39 percent of American consumers keep close track of their expenses; less than half have ordered their credit report; and one-third do not know where to go for financial advice;
- “Studies show that as many as 10,000,000 households in the United States are ‘unbanked’ or are without access to mainstream financial products and services;
- “Staff from America’s credit unions will make presentations to young people at local schools on financial topics such as student loans, balancing a checkbook, and auto loans during National Credit Union Youth Week, which will be held April 20-26, 2008;
- “The National Council on Economic Education, its State Councils and Centers for Economic Education, the Jump\$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy, its State affiliates, and its partner organizations, and JA Worldwide have designated April as Financial Literacy Month to educate the public about the need for increased financial literacy for youth and adults in the United States.”

**Committee Action:** H. Res. 1079 was introduced April 3, 2008, and referred to the House Committee on Financial Services, which took no official action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** H Res. 1079 does not authorize any funds. A CBO score was not available at press time.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?** No.

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## **H. R. 4332—Financial Consumer Hotline Act of 2007(*Maloney, D-NY*)**

**Order of Business:** H. R. 4332 is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, April 29, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.R. 4332 would amend the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council Act of 1978 to require that federal financial institution regulatory agencies, coordinating through the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council, establish:

- A single, toll-free telephone number for consumer complaints and inquiries concerning institutions under their jurisdiction; and
- A system for routing such calls to the federal financial institution regulatory agency that primarily supervises the financial institution, or that is otherwise the appropriate agency to address the subject of the complaint or inquiry.

H.R. 4332 cites circumstances under which state agencies may receive appropriate call transfers from such federal systems.

**Background Information:** The following is a statement from the sponsor's office:

A number of different governing bodies currently regulate banks, which can make it difficult for consumers to figure out who they should contact with concerns and complaints. Maloney's bill would also establish a corresponding informational website.

"Most consumers have no idea who regulates their local bank. If they have a problem and want to talk with someone, it's confusing to even know where to begin. One, toll-free number will cut down on the confusion and help put consumers in quicker contact with the appropriate regulator who can help them," said Maloney.

Maloney's bill would amend the "Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council Act of 1978," and direct the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council (FFIEC), a formal interagency body empowered to prescribe uniform principles and standards for financial institutions, to set up the toll-free number and website.

The Federal Reserve, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA), the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC), and the Office of Thrift Supervision (OTS) are the various governing bodies charged with regulating banks, credit unions, and other financial institutions.

**Committee Action:** H.R. 4332 was introduced December 6, 2007, and referred to the House Committee on Financial Services, which took no official action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** No CBO score exists, but the legislation does not authorize any funds.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** Yes, the bill would require that federal financial institution regulatory agencies set up a new toll-free telephone number for consumer complaints and a system for routing such calls to the federal financial institution regulatory agency.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?** No.

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** Currently, no House Report exists.

**Constitutional Authority:** Currently, no House Report exists.

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## **H. Res. 578—Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that there should be established a National Watermelon Month (Putnam, R-FL)**

**Order of Business:** H. Res. 578 is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, April 29, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H. Res. 578 would express that it is the sense of the House of Representatives that there should be established a National Watermelon Month to recognize the health benefits of watermelon and the importance of watermelon to the agriculture industry of the United States.

H. Res. 578 lists several findings, including the following:

- “Watermelon production constitutes an important sector of the agricultural industry of the United States;
- “According to the January 2006 statistics compiled by the National Agricultural Statistics Service of the United States Department of Agriculture, the United States produces 4,200,000,000 pounds of watermelon annually;
- “Watermelon is grown in 49 States, is purchased and consumed in all 50 States, and is exported to Canada;
- “Evidence indicates that eating 2.5 to 5 cups of fruits and vegetables daily as part of a healthy diet will improve health and protect against diseases such as cancer, high blood pressure, stroke, and heart disease;
- “Proper diet and nutrition are important factors in preventing diseases such as childhood obesity and diabetes;
- “Watermelon is a heart-healthy food that has qualified for the heart-check mark from the American Heart Association;
- “Watermelon has been a nutritious summer favorite from generation to generation;
- “It is important to educate citizens of the United States regarding the health benefits of watermelon and other fruits and vegetables; and

- “July 2007 would be an appropriate month to establish as National Watermelon Month.”

**Committee Action:** H. Res. 578 was introduced July 26, 2007, and referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which held a markup of the bill on March 13, 2008 and ordered the bill reported, as amended, by voice vote.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** H Res. 578 does not authorize any funds. A CBO score was not available at press time.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?** No.

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### **H. Res. 892—Expressing support for designation of March 11, 2008, as “National Funeral Director and Mortician Recognition Day” (*Wilson, D-OH*)**

**Order of Business:** H. Res. 892 is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, April 29, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H. Res. 892 would express that it is the sense of the House of Representatives:

- “Takes this opportunity to pay the Nation’s collective debt of gratitude for all the hours and all the times they have put someone ahead of themselves by serving the living while caring for the dead;
- “Urges every American of every walk of life to embrace each of these special individuals with heartfelt thanks for their dedication to their profession; and
- “Supports the designation of a ‘National Funeral Director and Mortician Recognition Day’.”

H. Res. 892 lists several findings, including the following:

- “The death of a family member, friend, or loved one is a devastating emotional event;
- “The memorialization and celebration of the decedent’s life is the fabric of today’s funeral service;
- “The family of the decedent has traditionally looked to funeral directors and morticians for consolation, strength, and guidance in the planning and implementation of a meaningful funeral ceremony;
- “Funeral directors and morticians have dedicated their professional lives to serving the families of their communities in their times of need for generations with caring, compassion, and integrity;

- “These special men and women see their chosen profession as a higher calling, a sacred trust, in serving every family regardless of social standing, financial means, or time of day or day of the year, whenever a death occurs; and
- “March 11, 2008, would be an appropriate day to designate as ‘National Funeral Director and Mortician Recognition Day’ to pay tribute to these funeral directors and morticians who, day in and day out, assist our Nation’s families in their times of sadness and grief and help families mourn a death and celebrate a life.”

**Committee Action:** H. Res. 892 was introduced December 18, 2007, and referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which held a markup of the bill on March 13, 2008 and ordered the bill reported, as amended, by voice vote.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** H Res. 892 does not authorize any funds. A CBO score was not available at press time.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?** No.

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**H. Res. 1073—Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that public servants should be commended for their dedication and continued service to the Nation during Public Service Recognition Week, May 5 through 11, 2008 (Davis, D-IL)**

**Order of Business:** H. Res. 1073 is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, April 29, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H. Res. 1073 would express that it is the sense of the House of Representatives:

- “Commends public servants for their outstanding contributions to this great Nation during Public Service Recognition Week and throughout the year;
- “salutes government employees for their unyielding dedication and spirit for public service;
- “Honors those government employees who have given their lives in service to their country;
- “Calls upon a new generation to consider a career in public service as an honorable profession; and
- “Encourages efforts to promote public service careers at all levels of government.”

H. Res. 1073 lists several findings, including the following:

- “Public Service Recognition Week provides an opportunity to recognize and promote the important contributions of public servants and honor the diverse men and women who meet the needs of the Nation through work at all levels of government;
- “Millions of individuals work in government service in every city, county, and State across America and in hundreds of cities abroad;
- “public service is a noble calling involving a variety of challenging and rewarding professions;
- “Federal, State, and local governments are responsive, innovative, and effective because of the outstanding work of public servants;
- “The United States of America is a great and prosperous Nation, and public service employees contribute significantly to that greatness and prosperity;
- “the Nation benefits daily from the knowledge and skills of these highly trained individuals;
- “Members of the uniformed services and civilian employees at all levels of government make significant contributions to the general welfare of the United States, and are on the front lines in the fight against terrorism and in maintaining homeland security;
- “Public servants alert Congress and the public to government waste, fraud, abuse, and dangers to public health;
- “The men and women serving in the Armed Forces of the United States, as well as those skilled trade and craft Federal employees who provide support to their efforts, are committed to doing their jobs regardless of the circumstances, and contribute greatly to the security of the Nation and the world;
- “Public servants have bravely fought in armed conflict in defense of this Nation and its ideals and deserve the care and benefits they have earned through their honorable service;
- “May 5 through 11, 2008, has been designated Public Service Recognition Week to honor America’s Federal, State, and local government employees; and
- “Public Service Recognition Week is celebrating its 24th anniversary through job fairs, student activities, and agency exhibits.”

**Committee Action:** H. Res. 1073 was introduced April 2, 2008, and referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which held a markup of the bill on April 16, 2008 and ordered the bill reported by voice vote.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** H Res. 1073 does not authorize any funds. A CBO score was not available at press time.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?** No.

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**H. Res. 49— Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that there should be established a National Letter Carriers Appreciation Day (Camp, R-MI)**

**Order of Business:** H. Res. 49 is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, April 29, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H. Res. 49 would express that the House of Representatives supports the goals and ideals of a National Letter Carriers Appreciation Day to recognize the unique contributions made by letter carriers of the United States Postal Service to the well-being and prosperity of the Nation.

H. Res. 49 lists several findings, including the following:

- “The commercial activity and economic vitality of the Nation is significantly enhanced by the timely and efficient service of letter carriers of the United States Postal Service;
- “Letter carriers of the United States Postal Service provide mail delivery service to over 144,000,000 households across the Nation;
- “Letter carriers of the United States Postal Service deliver more than 43 tons of mail per year, averaging approximately 2,300 letters, cards, magazines, and circulars per carrier a day;
- “Letter carriers of the United States Postal Service delivered approximately 212,000,000,000 pieces of mail in 2005;
- “Letter carriers of the United States Postal Service handle over 44 percent of the world’s mail volume, more than any other national postal service; and
- “The United States Postal Service employs over 705,000 career letter carriers and 98,000 noncareer employees, making it the 3rd largest employer in the Nation.”

**Committee Action:** H. Res. 49 was introduced January 10, 2007, and referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which held a markup of the bill on April 16, 2008 and ordered the bill reported by voice vote.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** H Res. 49 does not authorize any funds. A CBO score was not available at press time.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?** No.

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**H.R. 5631—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1155 Seminole Trail in Charlottesville, Virginia, as the “Corporal Bradley T. Arms Post Office Building” (Goode, R-VA)**

**Order of Business:** H.R. 5631 is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, April 29, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.R. 5631 would designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1155 Seminole Trail in Charlottesville, Virginia, as the “Corporal Bradley T. Arms Post Office Building.”

**Additional Background:** According to the sponsor’s office,

Marine Corporal Bradley Arms died in combat at the age of 20 in the Anbar Province of Iraq on November 19, 2004 in service to his country. Originally from Charlottesville, Virginia, “Brad” attended the University of Georgia until he was called into service with the Marine Corps Reserve.

Friends and family described Brad as a friendly, caring, optimistic, patriotic and purposeful person. The three personal items he brought to Iraq appropriately illustrate his personality: a Bible, a picture of his family, and a University of Georgia flag. Brad was also a member of the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity at the University of Georgia. Family members recalled that Brad greatly enjoyed his fraternity brothers, friends, music, and faith in God.

While in Iraq, Brad often wrote to friends and family, displaying his positive attitude toward his mission in the military and demonstrating how proud he was to serve and defend his country. He said that his experiences in the military, “strengthened his resolve to live the life of a balanced man and lead by example.”

Connor Rund, a young man who attends the same high school that Corporal Arms graduated from, contacted me suggesting that the Charlottesville Post Office be dedicated in Brad’s honor. Since then, I have received several communications from members of the Charlottesville community in support of this tribute to Brad.

**Committee Action:** H.R. 5631 was introduced on March 13, 2008, and referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which held a mark-up and reported the bill by voice vote on April 9, 2008.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** A CBO score for H.R. 5631 is unavailable, but the only costs associated with a U.S. post office renaming are those for sign and map changes, none of which significantly affect the federal budget.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?** No.



**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** A Committee Report citing compliance with rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits was not available. Such a report is not required because the bill is being considered under a suspension of the rules.

**Constitutional Authority:** Although no committee report citing constitutional authority is available, Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the Constitution grants Congress the authority to establish Post Offices and post roads.

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